

Assam Govt Excludes Hindu Bengalis from Foreigner Case Withdrawal, Sparking Protests



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Assam government has refused to withdraw foreigner verification cases against Hindu Bengalis, sparking fierce protests and accusations against Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The recent modification of a government directive excludes Hindu Bengalis from the withdrawal of such cases, unlike other communities like Koch-Rajbongshi and Gorkhas. This has led to strong condemnation from Bengali Hindu organizations.

The BTAD Bengali Youth Federation accused the Assam Chief Minister of conspiring to marginalize Hindu Bengalis in the state. Ahead of the BTAD elections, they held a press conference in Goreswar, alleging that the directive amendment is a political maneuver to suppress the Hindu Bengali community. They demanded that the government reverse the decision and treat all communities equally.

On July 22, the Assam government initially ordered the withdrawal of foreigner cases against all non-Muslim communities. However, after protests by groups like the All Assam Students Union, the directive was amended to exclude Hindu Bengalis. This selective withdrawal has intensified ethnic and political tensions in Assam, especially since Hindu Bengalis form a significant voter base.

The protests gained momentum in Binothpur, Tamulpur, where hundreds of Hindu Bengalis took to the streets. Slogans condemned the state government and BJP, accusing them of injustice and conspiracy against the Bengali community. The BTAD Bengali Youth Federation called on Hindu Bengali leaders in BJP to clarify their stance and threatened to boycott BJP if demands are not met.

Furthermore, the leaders emphasized that the BJP has repeatedly sought votes from Bengalis but now appears to be sidelining them through discriminatory policies. The Hindu Bengali community vowed to continue protests and build a stronger movement demanding citizenship rights and fair treatment under the law. They condemned the state government's decision and warned of intensified agitation ahead.

The Assam government led by Himanta Biswa Sarma has taken similar measures against foreigner cases for other communities while continuing the exclusion of Hindu Bengalis. The issue remains a flashpoint in Assam's complex socio-political landscape, with significant implications for the 2026 elections. The community demands equal rights and opposes attempts to bar them from citizenship benefits under the amended Citizenship Act.

This ongoing dispute highlights the persistent ethnic and political challenges in Assam regarding migration, citizenship, and identity that continue to shape the state's future. The situation remains tense as both sides prepare for upcoming electoral battles.

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