

अंडमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन
(पर्यावरण एवं वन विभाग)
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
(DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS)

NOTIFICATION

No. A-26/1/2023-O/o AdO(Forest)-EnvF AN-Part(1) - In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to article 309 of the Constitution of India, all other powers enabling him in this behalf and in supersession of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest Service Rules 1991 & its amendments made time to time, the President of India hereby proposes the following Rules.

Claims and Objections are invited from stake holders/persons to be affected thereby. The Claims and Objections(if any), should reach the Office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A&N Islands within 30 days from the date of its publication.

1 Short Title and commencement:-

(1) These Rules may be called the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest Service Rules, 2024.

(2) They shall come into force with effect from the date of their Publication in the Official Gazette.

2 Definition

(1). In these rules unless the context otherwise requires of :-

(a) "Administrator/ Lt. Governor" means the Administrator appointed under article 239 of the Constitution for the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(b). "Commission" means the Union Public Service Commission

(c). "Duty posts" means any posts specified in the schedule and include a temporary post carrying the same designation and scale of pay as any of the posts specified in that schedule and any other temporary post declared as duty post by the Administrator

(d). "Committee" means the Selection Committee referred to in rule 13 of these Rules.

(e). "Member of the Service" means a person appointed in a substantive capacity to either grade of the service and includes a person appointed on probation to the either grade of the service

(f). "Schedule" means the schedule attached to these rules

(g). "Service" means the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest Service

(h). "Scheduled Castes. Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward

Classes” shall have the same meaning as are assigned on the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled tribe and Other Backward Classes respectively in the Constitution of India or Acts of Parliament.

3 Constitution of Service and its Classification

(1). On and from the date of commencement of these Rules there shall be constituted a Central Service to be known as the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest Service.

(2). The service shall have two grades, namely:-

- (a). The Time Scale
- (b). Selection Grade

(3). The posts in Selection Grade shall be Central Civil Group ‘A’ posts and these in time scale shall be Central Civil Group ‘B’ posts.

Part –II :-

Authorized permanent strength of Service

4. Strength of the Service-

(1) The authorized permanent strength of the service and posts included therein shall be specified in the schedule.

Provided that the Administrator subject to such conditions and limitations as may be prescribed in this behalf, may by order, create duty posts for such period as may be specified therein.

Part –III

5. Method of Recruitment:-

(1). The appointment to the service shall be made by the following methods namely.

- (a). 25% of the vacancies which occur from time to time in authorized permanent strength of the service shall be filled by direct recruitment in the manner as the Commission may deem fit, and

(b). The remaining vacancies shall be filled in by promotion by selection in the manner specified in Part V of the rules from amongst:-

(i). Officers who have completed not less than 8 years of regular service in the category of Rangers provided that the period spent under forestry training in Forest Ranger's Colleges shall be counted while completing the period of 8 years of service in the category of Rangers.

Provided that nothing in this rules shall preclude the Administrator from holding a vacancy in abeyance, or filling it on an officiating basis in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

(ii). If the exigencies of public service so require the Administrator may in consultation with the Commission, vary the percentage of vacancies to be filled by each method specified in sub-rule(1).

Part –IV

6. Educational Qualifications:- The direct recruits should hold a Bachelor's Degree with atleast one of the subjects viz, Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics and Zoology or a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture, Forestry or Engineering from a recognized University.

Note 1 :- Qualifications are relaxable at the discretion of the UPSC in case of candidates otherwise well qualified.

7. Upper Age Limit:- The age limit for direct recruits to the post ACF(Time Scale)-30 years. (Relaxable for Government Servant upto 5 years in accordance with the Instructions or orders issued by the Central Government).

Note :-The crucial date for determining the age limit shall be as advertised by the UPSC.

- 8 Decision of the Commission to be Final :- The Decision of the Commission on the eligibility or otherwise of a candidate to call for interview is final.

- 9 (1). Subject to the provision of sub rule (2) of this rule, the Commission shall forward to the Administrator a list arranged in

order of merit of the candidates who have qualified by such standards as the Commission may determine.

(2). Candidates belonging to any of the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes or the other Backward classes may, to the extent the number of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes cannot be filled on the basis of the general standard, be recommended by the Commission by a relaxed standard to make up the deficiency in the reserved quota, subject to the fitness of these candidates for selection to the service, irrespective of their ranks in the order of merit at the selection

- 10 (1). Physical Fitness:- Candidates appointed under clause (a) sub-rule (1) of rule 5 shall be of sound health both mentally and physically and shall be free from organic defects or bodily infirmities which are likely to interfere with the efficient performance of their duties. These candidates must possess the minimum physical standards measurement which area as follows:-

| For Men | For Women |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Height – 163 cm | Height – 150 cm |
| Chest – Minimum 84 cms and minimum expansion 5 cm on inhalation . | Chest – Minimum 79 cms and minimum expansion 5 cm on inhalation |

(152.5 cm in case of Nicobarese and other Scheduled Tribal Communities of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Nagas, Manipuris, Mikirs, Garos, Nepalis, Gorkha, Assamese, Meghalays, Ladakh, NEFA, Garhwalis, Kumaoni, Sikkimese, Bhutanese).

(2). Physical Endurance Test : The Candidate must pass Physical test consisting of a walk of 25 KM and 16 KM to be completed in 4 hours by male and female candidates respectively.

- 11 Inclusion in the List not to confer right to appointment :-

The inclusion of a candidate name in the list referred to in rules 9 shall confer no right to appointment unless the Administrator is satisfied after such enquiry as may be considered necessary that the candidate is suitable in all respects for appointment to the service and an actual offer of appointment is made to the candidate.

- 12 (1). Subject to the provisions of these Rules, the candidates included in the list referred to in rule 9 shall be appointed to the Service in order of merit.

(2). In filling the vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes respectively candidate belonging to these Communities shall be considered for appointment to the available vacancies in the order in which their names appear in the list referred to in rule 9.

Part V :- Recruitment by Selection

- 13 The Constitution of Selection Committee

Recruitment under clause (b) of sub rule (1) of rule 5 shall be made on the recommendation of the Selection Committee (hereinafter referred to as Committee) consisting of:

For Selection Grade –Group A Post

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Chairman/Member of the UPSC | Chairman |
| 2. Chief Secretary, A&N Admn | Member |
| 3. PCCF, A&N Islands | Member |

For Time-scale-Group B Post (for promotion /confirmation)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Chief Secretary, A&N Admn | Chairman |
| 2. Finance Secretary, A&N Admn | Member |
| 3. PCCF, A&N Islands | Member |

- 14 Conditions of Eligibility & Procedure for Selection:-

(1). The Committee shall consider from time to time the cases of

officers eligible under clause (b) of sub -rule (1) of rule 5 and prepare a list of officers recommended for appointment after taking into account the actual vacancies at the time of selection and those likely to occur during a year. The selection for inclusion in the list shall be based on merit and suitability in all respect for appointment to the service with due regard to seniority.

(2). The names of persons included in the list shall be arranged in order of merit.

(3). The list so prepared shall be forwarded by the Committee to the Administrator.

15 Consultation With The Commission

(1). The list prepared under Rule 14 together with the relevant records shall be forwarded by the Administrator to the Commission, where consultation with the Commission is necessary or where the Chairman of the Committee desires that a reference be made to the Commission along with the relevant records.

(2). If the Commission considers it necessary to make any changes in the list received from the Administrator the Commission shall inform the Administrator of the changes proposed by it.

(3). The list shall finally be approved by the Administrator after taking into account the changes, if any, proposed by the Commission.

(4). The list thus finally approved shall be in force until a fresh list is prepared for the purpose in accordance with these rules.

16 Appointment to the Service :-

Appointment to the Service shall be made in order of merit in the list referred to in sub –rule (4) of rule 15 with due regard to the proportion specified in rule 5.

Part VI Appointment, Probation, Training & Confirmation

17 Appointment – All appointment to the service shall be made to time scale or selection grade of the service and not against any specified post included in the service.

18 Disqualifications:- No Person

- (1). who has entered into or contracted a marriage with a person having a spouse living or
- (2). who, having a spouse living, has entered into or contracted a marriage with any person shall be eligible for appointment to the service.

Provided that the Administrator may, if satisfied that such marriage is permissible under the personal law applicable to such person and the party to the marriage and there are other grounds for so doing exempt any person from the operation of this rule.

19 Special Provision for the Members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

Appointment to the service made by direct recruitment shall be subject to the orders regarding special representation in the services for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes issued by the Central Government from time to time.

20 Period of Probation

- (1). Every Officer on appointment to the service, either by direct recruitment or by Promotion, shall be on probation for a period of two years.
- (2). The Administrator may, in the case of any person, extend the period of probation.
- (3). A probationer who has no lien on any post under any State Government or Administration of a Union Territory shall be liable to be discharged from the service at any time without notice, if

(a). On the basis of his performance, or conduct during probation, he is considered unfit for further retention in the service or.

(b). If on the receipt of any information relating to his nationality, age, health or antecedents, the appointment authority is satisfied that he is in-eligible or other-wise

unfit for being a member of the service

(4). A probationer who holds a lien on a post at any State Government or Administration of a Union Territory may be reverted to such posts at any time in any of the circumstances as specified in sub rule(3).

(5). A probationer who is not considered suitable for confirmation at the end of the period of probation prescribed in sub rule (1) or the end of the extended period of probation, if any, under sub rule(2) shall be discharged or reverted in accordance with the sub rule (3) or sub rule(4) as the case may be.

(6). As regards other matters relating to probation the members of the service will be governed by the instructions issued by the Administrator from time to time.

21 Execution Of Agreement –

A probationer who is required to undergo training shall be on appointment to the service execute an agreement in such form as may be prescribed by the Administrator, from time to time, binding himself and one surety, jointly and severally, in the event of his failing to comply with any of the provisions of these rules to the satisfaction of the Administration to refund any moneys paid to him consequent on his appointment as a probationer.

22 Training And Departmental Examination

A person appointed under rule 12 or rule16 to the Service shall undergo such training and pass during the period of probation such departmental examinations, as the Administrator from time to time prescribes:-

Provided that the Administrator may exempt the Forest Rangers, who had already received Forest Ranger Training at any of the Forest Rangers Colleges and passed the prescribed examination, on their promotion as Assistant Conservator of Forests either wholly or partly from undergoing further training or departmental examination.

23 Confirmation in Service :-

A person who has been declared to have satisfactorily completed his period of probation may be confirmed In the service subject to availability of substantive vacancies.

Part VII Officiating Appointments

24 Officiating Appointment to Duty Post of the service

(1). If a member of the service is not available for holding a duty post, the post may be filled in on officiating basis by the appointment of an officer included in the list referred to in the Sub Rule (4) of rule 15.

(2). Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules if the exigencies of public service so require, a duty post for which a member of the service is not available may be filled in on an officiating basis, by appointing with prior consultation with the Commission, an officer belonging to a State Forest Service, on deputation, for such period or periods ordinarily not exceeding three years, if the Administrator may consider necessary.

(3). Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules where appointment to a duty post is to be made by the Administrator from persons who are included in the list prepared under sub-rule (4) of Rule 15 or who are eligible for inclusion in such list.

Part VIII Miscellaneous

25 Posting of the member of the Service.

Every member of the service shall, unless he is appointed to an ex-cadre post, or is otherwise not available for holding a duty post owing to the exigencies of service be posted against duty post by the Administrator.

26 Duty Post To be held by a member of the service:

Every duty post shall be held by a member of the service or an officer appointed to officiate under Part VII of these Rules

Provided that a duty post may be held by an officer in the Time Scale of the IFS Cadre of the Union Territory for such period as may be necessary

27 Seniority:- the Administrator shall prepare a list of member of the service arranged in order of seniority as determined in the manners specified below:-

(1) Seniority of persons appointed to the service under rule 12 or rule 16 shall be determined by the order in which appointments are made to the service.

Provided that:

(a). Persons directly recruited as Assistant Conservator of Forests in any year shall be ranked interse in the order of merit in which they are placed on selection by the Commission.

(b). The relative seniority interse of persons recruit by selection shall be determined in basis of the order on which their names are arranged in the list prepared under rule 13, those recruited on the basis of an earlier selection being ranked senior to those recruited on the basis of a later selection.

(c). The relative seniority of direct recruits and of promotees shall be determined according to the rules/orders issued by the Govt. in this regard, from time to time.

28 Pay & allowances:-

(1). The Level in Pay Matrix attached to the service shall be as follows:

(a). Time Scale Pay level 8 Rs. 47600- 151100/-

(b). Selection Grade –Pay level 11 Rs. 67700-208700/-

(2) A person directly recruited on appointment to the service, draw pay at the minimum of time scale.

Provided that if he held a permanent post, other than a tenure post in a substantive capacity prior to his appointment to the service shall be regulated under the provisions of Fundamental Rule 22-B (I). The pay and increment in the case of persons appointed to the service shall be regulated in accordance with the Fundamental Rules.

Provided that, it shall be open to the Administrator deems if special circumstances of his case requires.

(3). Dearness and other allowances shall be paid to persons holding duty posts at such rates as may be determined by the President from time to time.

29 Appointment To Selection Grade :-

(1). Appointments of members of Service to the Selection Grade shall be made in consultation with the Commission on the basis of merit with due regard to seniority

(2). An officer with the minimum 8(eight) years of service in Assistant Conservator of Forests (in the time scale) shall be eligible for being considered for appointment to the post of Assistant Conservator of Forests (Selection Grade).

Provided that service in a duty post or higher post under Central Government, Govt of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, or in State Forest Service, shall count towards eight year period.

30 The Officers appointed to the time scale of pay for the service shall be designated as Assistant Conservator of Forests and those appointed to Selection Grade as Assistant Conservator of Forests(Selection Grade).

31 Regulation:-

The Administrator may make regulations or issue instructions, not inconsistent with these Rules, to provide for all matters for which provisions is necessary of expedient for the purpose of giving effect to these rules.

32 Residuary Matters:-

In regard to matters not specifically covered by these rules or by regulations or orders issued thereunder or by special orders, the members of the Service shall be governed by the rules, regulations and orders applicable to corresponding officers serving in connection with the affairs of the Union.

33 Interpretation :-

If any question arises as to the interpretation of these rules, the same shall be decided by the Administrator.

**Part IX
Repeal & Savings**

34 (1). The Andaman Nicobar Islands Forest Service Rules, 1991 is hereby repealed.

(2). The repeal of the said Rules shall not affect:

(a). The previous operations of the said rules so repealed or anything duly done or suffered thereunder: or

(b). Any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired or incurred under the said Rules: or

(c). Any investigation, legal procedure or remedy in respect of which such right, privilege, obligation, liability, forfeiture or punishment as aforesaid on any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced and any such penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed as if this Rule had not been repealed.

(d). Nothing in these rules shall effect reservations and other concessions required to be provided for scheduled Castes, Schedule tribes and Other Backward Classes and other special categories or persons in accordance with the orders issued by the Central Government from time to time in this matter.

35 **Power to relax:-**

Where the Administrator is of the opinion that it is necessary or expedient so to do, he may, by order for reasons to be recorded in writing and in consultation with the Commission relax any of the provisions of these rules with respect to any class or category of persons or post.

**SCHEDULE
(see Rule 4)**

The authorized strength of the service and the nature of the post included in it are as follows:-

(1) Specific duty post under Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands 33

Total 33

(2) Post in the Time Scale

(a). Assistant Conservator of Forests (Selection Grade Pay level 11 Rs. 67700-208700/- 6

(b). Assistant Conservator of Forests (Time Scale) Pay level 8 Rs. 47600- 151100/- 27

Total 33

Note: The total number of appointments in the Selection Grade shall not exceed 20% of the total posts in the time scale

RESERVE

(1). Deputation reserve 10%

(Admiral D K Joshi)
PVSM, AVSM, YSM, NM, VSM (Retd.)
Lieutenant Governor
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

By order and seal in the name of Lieutenant Governor.

Secretary (Environment & Forests)
Andaman & Nicobar Administration
File No.: A-26 /1 /2023 -O/o AdO(Forest)-EnvF AN-Part(1)
(F. No. 14(E)/15)