लक्षद्वीपसंघशासितक्षेत्रप्रशासन/ADMINISTRATION OF THE
UNION TERRITORY OF LAKSHADWEEP
सामाजिक कल्याण और जनजातीय मामले के निदेशालय
(DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE & TRIBAL AFFAIRS)
कवरत्ती- ६८२५५५/ KAVARATTI – 682 555

F.No.F-23019/2/2024-TECH-UT-LKS **Dated: /10/2026**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Draft Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026 – Invitation of comments and suggestions from the public – reg.

The draft *Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026*, proposed to be made under Section 22 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, is hereby made available for public consultation.

Comments and suggestions, if any, on the draft Rules may be submitted in writing or by email to the address given below within **30 days from the date of publication of the draft notification**, in accordance with the approved publication procedure.

Address for submission:

The Director
Department of Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs
Union Territory Administration of Lakshadweep
Kavaratti – 682555
Email: lk-dsw@nic.in

The draft Rules are available on the official website of the UT Administration of Lakshadweep. All interested persons and stakeholders are invited to examine the draft Rules and submit their comments and suggestions within the stipulated period.

The comments and suggestions received within the prescribed period will be examined before further action is taken towards finalisation of the Rules.

Digitally signed by
Sushitha Biju
Date: 27-10-2026
14:01:23

(SUSHITHA BIJU, DANICS)
Director, Social Welfare & Tribal Affairs
Email ID: lk-dsw@nic.in

UT ADMINISTRATION OF LAKSHADWEEP
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE & TRIBAL AFFAIRS
KAVARATTI

NOTIFICATION

Dated:

F. No. _____/SW&TA/2026: The following draft rules, which the Administration of Union Territory of Lakshadweep proposes to make in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 22 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, are hereby notified, as required for information of all persons likely to be affected thereby and the notice is hereby given that the said draft notification will be taken into consideration after the expiry of a period of 30 days from the date on which the copies of the Official Gazette in which this notification is published are made available to the public. Objections and suggestions, if any, may be addressed to Director, Social Welfare and Tribal Affairs, UT of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti or by e-mail –lk-dsw@nic.in.

The Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026.

Rules

1. Short title and commencement:-

(1) These rules may be called the Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026.
(2) These rules shall extend to the whole of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
(3) They shall come into force on the date of this final publication in the Official Gazette of Lakshadweep.

2. Definition:-

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,

(a) "Act" means the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019;
(b) "any official documents" include all documents listed in Annexure - 1, which the Government may revise, by notification in the Official Gazette;
(c) "applicant" means a transgender person who submits an application under rule 3;
(d) "application" means the application form as provided in Form-1;
(e) "certificate of identity" means a certificate issued by the District Magistrate under section 6 or section 7 of the Act as in Form-3 or Form-4 respectively;
(f) "form" means a Form annexed to these rules;
(g) "Government" means Administrator of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep appointed by the President under Article 239 of the Constitution;
(h) "identity card" means a photo identity card issued in Form-5 to a transgender person under section 6 or issued in Form 6 to a transgender person on change of gender under section 7 on the basis of "certificate of identity" issued by the District Magistrate or an identity card to a transgender person issued by Authorised Authority prior to the coming into force of these rules;
(i) "Medical institution" means any medical institution whether hospital or clinic, private or public, in rural areas or urban or overseas;
(j) "Medical intervention" includes any gender affirming medical intervention undertaken by an individual to facilitate the transition to their self-identified gender, including but not limited to counselling, hormonal therapy and surgical intervention, if any;
(k) "Health Services" means Lakshadweep Medical and health Department;
(l) "section" means a section of the Act;
(m) "Transgender person" means a person as defined under section2 (k) of the Act, 2019.
(n) all other words and expressions used herein but not defined herein and defined in the Act shall have the same meaning assigned to them in the Act.

3. Application for issue of certificate of identity under section 6 or section 7:

(1) A transgender person desirous of obtaining a certificate of identity shall make an application as prescribed in Form -1.

3. Application for issue of certificate of identity under section 6 or section 7:

(1) A transgender person desirous of obtaining a certificate of identity shall make an application as prescribed in Form -1.

(2) The application shall be submitted to the District Magistrate in person or by post till online facilities are developed by the Government of Lakshadweep and thereafter the application shall be made by online only through lk-dsw@nic.in

Provided that the UT of Lakshadweep Administration may undertake measures, as it deems appropriate, the Department of Medical and Health Services to facilitate the submission of applications for certificate of identity by transgender persons living in remote areas or disadvantaged conditions till the Lakshadweep Health Department supported under Targeted Intervention (TI) project;

Provided further that in case of a minor child, such application shall be made by a parent or guardian of such minor child and in the case of a child in need of care and protection, by the Competent Authority under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 (Act.No.2 of 2016).

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, Transgender persons who have officially recorded their change in gender, whether as male, female or transgender, prior to the coming into force of the Act shall not be required to submit an application for certificate of identity under these rules and all such persons shall enjoy all rights and entitlements conferred on transgender persons under the Act: provided that any such person may submit application for issue of certificate of Identity.

4. Procedure for issue of certificate of identity under Section 6:

(1) The District Magistrate shall, subject to the correctness of the applicant's particulars, get the application processed based on the affidavit submitted declaring the gender identity of any person in Form-2, without any medical or physical examination, and thereafter issue an identification number to the applicant, which may be quoted as proof of application.

(2) For the purpose of determination of the place of residence, the applicant shall have to reside in the area under the jurisdiction of District Magistrate as on the date of application and an Affidavit to this effect shall be submitted in Form-2.

5. Issue of certificate of identity for a transgender person under section 6:

(1) The District Magistrate shall issue to the applicant, a certificate of identity in Form-3 following the procedure provided in rule 4 indicating the gender of such person.

(2) The said Certificate of Identity shall be issued within Forty Five(45) days of receipt of duly filled in application along with the affidavit.

(3) The Certificate of Identity issued under sub-rule (1) shall be the basis to change the gender as well as the name and the photograph, if so necessitated, of the transgender person in all such official documents as provided in Annexure I, in accordance with the gender specified in the said Certificate of Identity.

(4) The District Magistrate shall, at the time of issuance of the Certificate of Identity under sub-rule (1), issue a Transgender Identity Card in Form-5 to the applicant.

(5) The District Magistrate shall maintain a register for the issuance of certificate of identity and the Transgender Identity Card.

(6) The Authority who issued the official document, on an application made by an applicant under rule 3, shall change the name or gender or photograph or any of this information of the applicant in the official documents within 45 days of making of such application.

(7) Any official document wherein gender, name and the photograph of transgender are revised based on the said certificate of identity, shall bear the same serial or reference number as in the original official document of such transgender person who seeks change in the name or gender or both in the official documents:

Provided that all benefits that a transgender person was entitled to based on an Identity Card, if any, issued by UT of Lakshadweep Administration shall continue to be enjoyed by that transgender person based on the Certificate of Identity issued under these rules.

(8) **The Medical and Health Service, UT of Lakshadweep**, shall coordinate with District Magistrate to issue of Transgender Identity Card in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

6. Procedure for issue of a certificate of identity for change of gender:

1. If a transgender person undergoes medical intervention towards a gender affirming procedure, either as a male or female, such person may apply in Form - 1, along with a certificate issued to that effect by the Medical Superintendent or Chief Medical Officer of the Medical Institution in which that person has undergone the said medical intervention, to the District Magistrate for the issue of a revised certificate of identity.

2. The District Magistrate shall, on receipt of an application referred to in sub-rule (1) shall verify the genuineness of the said medical certificate, which shall not include any physical examination.

3. The applicant shall be currently residing in the area under the jurisdiction of the District Magistrate as on the date of application and an Affidavit to this effect shall be submitted along with the application in Form-1 and no additional evidence shall be called for.

7. Issue of certificate of identity under section 7:

(1) The District Magistrate shall issue a revised certificate of identity in Form 4 to the applicant seeking change in gender, indicating the gender of such a person as male or female, as the case may be.

(2) The District Magistrate shall issue the revised certificate under sub-rule (1), within 45 days of its receipt of the application.

(3) The certificate of identity issued under sub-rule (1), shall entitle the applicant to record or change the gender, as well as photograph and name, if so necessitated of transgender person in all such official documents provided in the Annexure 1, in accordance with the gender specified in the said certificate of identity as male or female, as the case may be.

(4) The District Magistrate while issuing the certificate of identity for change of gender shall simultaneously issue an identity card in Form-6 to the applicant.

(5) The Authority that issued the official document, on an application made by an applicant under sub-rule (3), shall change the name or gender or photograph or any of this information of the applicant in the official documents within 45 days of making of such application.

(6) Any official document wherein gender, name or photograph of transgender person is revised based on the said certificate of identity shall bear the same serial or reference number as in the original official document of such transgender person who seeks change in the name or gender or both in the official documents.

8. Communication of rejection of application:

(1) In case of rejection of application made under rule 3, the District Magistrate shall inform the applicant the reason or reasons for such rejection within 45 days from the date of receipt of such application.

(2) The District Magistrate may review the decision of rejection of the application based on the reply submitted by the applicant regarding the reason for rejection communicated in sub-rule (1) of rule 8 within sixty days from the date of such rejection.

9. Right to appeal:

The applicant shall have a right to Appeal, within ninety days from the date of intimation of the rejection of the application, to the Appellate Authority as designated by the UT of Lakshadweep Administration by notification for a final order.

10. Welfare measures, education, social security and health of transgender persons by Government:

(1) The Government shall constitute a Welfare Board for the transgender persons for the purpose of protecting their rights and interests of, and facilitating access to schemes and welfare measures framed by the Government.

(2) The Government shall review all existing educational, social security, health schemes, welfare measures, vocational training and self-employment schemes to include transgender persons to protect their rights and interests and facilitate their access to such schemes and welfare measures framed by that Government.

(3) The Government shall formulate educational, social security, health schemes and welfare schemes and programmes as specified in Annexure II in a manner to be transgender sensitive, non-stigmatizing and non-discriminatory to transgender persons.

(4) The Government shall take adequate steps to prohibit discrimination in any Government or private organization, or private and public educational institution under their purview, and ensure equitable access to social and public spaces, including burial grounds.

(5) The Government shall create institutional and infrastructure facilities, depending on the number of Transgenders, including but not limited to, rehabilitation centre referred to in sub-section (3) of section 12 of the Act, separate human immunodeficiency virus sero-surveillance centres, separate wards in hospitals and washrooms in the establishment, within

two years from the date of coming into force of these rules to protect the rights of transgender persons.

(6) The Government shall carry out an awareness campaign to educate, communicate and train transgender persons to avail themselves of the benefits of welfare schemes, educate and train transgender persons on their rights; eradicate stigma and discrimination against transgender persons and mitigate its effects.

(7) The Government shall also provide for sensitization of Institutions and Establishments under their purview, including:-

(a) sensitization of Teachers and faculty in Schools and Colleges, changes in the educational curriculum to foster respect for equality and gender diversity:

(b) Sensitization of healthcare professionals;

(c) Sensitization programmes in workplaces;

(d) Sensitization programmes for complaints officers.

(8) All educational institutions shall have a Committee which shall be accessible for transgender persons in case of any harassment or discrimination, with powers to ensure that transgender students do not have to be affected by the presence of the persons bullying them, including Teachers.

(9) The Government shall create institutional and infrastructure facilities as per the number of Transgender identified, including but not limited to, temporary shelters, short-stay homes and accommodation, choice of male, female or separate wards in hospitals and washrooms in the establishment within two years from the date of coming into force of these rules to protect the rights of transgender persons.

11. Provisions for non-discrimination:

(1)The Government shall take adequate steps to prohibit discrimination in any Government or Private Organization or Establishment including in the areas of education, employment, healthcare, public transportation, participation in public life, sports, leisure and recreation and opportunity to hold public or private office.

(2) The Government shall within two years from the date of coming into force of these rules, formulate a comprehensive policy on the measures and procedures necessary to protect transgender persons in accordance with the provisions of the Act

(3) The policy formulated under sub-section (2) shall include preventative administrative and police measures to protect vulnerable transgender communities.

(4) The Government shall be responsible for the supervision of timely prosecution of individuals charged under section 18 of the Act, or under any other Law for similar offences committed against the transgender persons.

(5) The Government shall set up a Transgender Protection Cell under the charge of the District Magistrate in each District and under Director General of Police in Union Territory of Lakshadweep to monitor cases of offences against transgender persons and to ensure timely registration, investigation and prosecution of such offences.

12. Equal opportunities in employment:

(1)Every establishment shall implement all measures for providing a safe working environment and to ensure that no transgender person is discriminated in any matter relating to employment including, but not limited to, infrastructure adjustments, recruitment, employment benefits, promotion and other related issues

(2) Every establishment shall publish an equal opportunity policy for transgender persons.

(3) The establishment shall display the equal opportunity policy, including the details of the complaints officer, preferably on their website, failing which, at conspicuous places in their premises.

(4) The equal opportunity policy of an establishment shall, inter alias, contain details of-

(a) Infrastructural facilities (such as unisex toilets), measures put in for safety and security (transportation and guards) and amenities (such as hygiene products) to be provided to the transgender persons so as to enable them to effectively discharge their duties in the establishment.

(b) Applicability of all Rules and Regulations of the establishment regarding service conditions of employees;

(c) Confidentiality of the gender identity of the employees;

(d) Complaint of the officers.

13. Grievance Redressal:

(1) The Government shall ensure that every establishment designates a complaint officer based on the transgenders identified, in accordance with Section 11 of Act, within 45 days from the date of coming into force the notification of these rules.

(2) The complaint officer shall enquire into the complaints received within 45 days from the date of receipt of such complaints.

(3) The head of the establishment shall take action on the enquiry report submitted by the complaint officer within 45 days from the date of submission of the report.

(4) The head of the establishment shall take action forthwith in all cases where action has not been taken in accordance with the above time limits.

(5) The Government shall also set up within one year a Grievance Redressal mechanism, operating through a helpline and outreach centres, for ensuring proper implementation of the provisions of Chapter V of the Act with special reference to sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 12 of the Act.

(6) The Grievance Redressal system shall ensure resolution of grievances within 45 days from the date of bringing of such grievance to the helpline, and imposing of penalties as laid down in section18 of the Act.

(7) The Government shall put in place a monitoring system for tracking the number of complaints filed, enquired and action taken of all the establishments in their jurisdiction.

Form-1

[See rules 2(đ), 3(1) and 6(1)]

Application form for issue of transgender certificate of identity under Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026 read with Section 6/7 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 Strike out whichever is not applicable

Lakshadweep Administration
Office of the District Magistrate
Kavaratti

Application form for issue of a transgender certificate of identity under the Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026
(read with Section 6*/7* of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019
***Strike out whichever is not applicable)**

1	**Name**	
i)	Given name (in capital letters)	
ii)	Changed/Chosen name (in capital letters)	
iii)	Out of (i) and (ii), name to be printed in the certificate of identity and in the identity card	
2	**Gender**	
i)	Assigned at birth	
ii)	Requested in the application	
3	Date of birth dd/mm/yyyy	
4	Educational Qualification	
5	Present Address	
6	Permanent address	
7	In there is a source of income, the annual income:	
i)	Under Rs.1,00,000	Yes/ no
ii)	Between Rs. 1,00,001 and 3,00,000	Yes/ no
iii)	Above rs. 3,00,000	Please specify the amount:
8	Do you have any of the following documents? If so, please submit self-attested photocopies of the certificates stated below.	
i)	Date of birth certificate	YES/NO
ii)	Aadhaar card	YES/NO
iii)	PAN card	YES/NO
iv)	Election Voter Identity Card	YES/NO
v)	Ration card	YES/NO

vi)	Passport	YES/NO
vii)	Bank passbook	YES/NO
viii)	MNREGA Card	YES/NO
xi)	Caste certificate (SC/ST/OBC/Others)	YES/NO

[See rules 4(1) and 4(2))

Format of affidavit to be submitted **by a person applying for certificate of identity for transgender persons under Rule 4 of the Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026 read with section 6 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act,2019.**

(Affidavit should be on Non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 10/-) Competent Notary Civil, District (Name of the District), (Name of the State)

I.....(Name), son/daughter/ward/spouse of..... (name of the parent/guardian/spouse),aged.....(in completed years), residing at .... (Address), (Tehsil), (District), (State) (Pin code) do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. I am currently residing in the above address.

2. I perceive myself as a transgender person whose gender does not match with the gender assigned at birth.

3. I declare myself as transgender.

4. I am executing this affidavit to be submitted to the District Magistrate for issue of certificate of identity as transgender person under Section 6 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 under the Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026.

*strike out whichever is not applicable.

Deponent

(Signature of the Applicant)

Verification

I, (Name) hereby state that whatever is stated here in above serial Nos. 1 to 4 are true to the best of my knowledge.

Deponent

(Signature of the Applicant)

Tehsil
Date
Identified by me
Advocate
Public

Form-3

[See rules 2(e) and 5(1)]

Form of certificate of identity to be issued by District Magistrate under Rule 5 of the Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2024 read with section 6 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

Photograph of the certificate holder District District Magistrate to attest the photograph

1. On the basis of the application dated .....(dd/mm/yyyy) to the undersigned it is certified that Shri/ Smt/ Km/ Ms.....(name) son/daughter/ward of Shri. / Smt/..... (name of the parent or guardian/spouse) of .....(complete residential address of the applicant) is a transgender person.

2. His/her birth name is.

3. This certificate is issued in terms of the provisions contained under Rule 5 of the Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026 read with section 6 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

4. It is also certified that Shri/Smt/Ms. is ordinarily a resident at the address given above.

5. This certificate entitles the holder to change name and gender in all official documents of the holder.

Date:
Place:

Signature of the District Magistrate
(Seal)

[See rules 2(c) and 7(1)]

Form of certificate of identity for change of gender to be issued by District Magistrate under rule 6 of the Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026 read with section 7 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

Photograph of the certificate holder District Magistrate to attest the photograph

1. On the basis of the application submitted to the undersigned along with a medical certificate from the Medical Superintendent or Chief Medical Officer .....(name of the Hospital and complete address), it is to certify that Shri. /Smt./Km/ Ms/..... (name) son/daughter/ward of Shri/Smt.....(name of the parent or guardian) of ..... (complete residential address of the aaplicant) has undergone medical intervention to change gender.

2. His/Her birth name is.

3. This certificate is issued in terms of the provisions contained under rule 6 of the Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2026 read with section 7 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

4. It is also certified that Shri / Smt/Ms..... is ordinarily a resident at the address given above.

5. This certificate entitles the holder to change name and gender in all official documents of the holder.

6. Such change in name and gender and the issue of this certificate shall not adversely affect the rights and entitlements of the holder of this certificate.

Date:
Place:

Signature of the District Magistrate
Seal

Form-5

[See rules 2(h) and 5(4)) Form of Identity Card Front side of identity card

Lakshadweep Administration
Office of the District Magistrate

Transgender Identity Card

Identity card number :

Photograph of the Card holder

Name :

Mother's name@ :

Father's or Guardian's name @ :

Gender : Transgender

Date of birth : (dd/mm/yyyy)

Age as on the date of application for issue of.....years Identity card
Reference number of certificate of
authority on the basis of which this card is issued

Back side of the identity card

Present address

Card issue date

Signature of the issuing Authority Designation

Seal of the issuing authority

Issued under section 6*/7* of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 and under Rule of.....of the Lakshadweep Transgender Persons (Protection Rights) Rules, 2026.

Strike out whichever is not applicable @
only in case the applicant is a minor child

Form-6

[See rules 2(h) and 7(4)) Form of Identity Card Front side of identity card

UT of Lakshadweep Administration
Office of the District Magistrate

Identity Card

Identity card number :

Photograph of the Card holder

Name :

Mother's name@ :

Father's or Guardian's name @ :

Gender : Transgender

Date of birth : dd/mm/yyyy

Age as on the date of application for issue of..... years Identity card

Reference number of certificate of authority on the basis of which this card is issued

Back side of the identity card

Present address

Permanent address

Card issue date

Signature of the issuing Authority Designation

Seal of the issuing authority

@only in case the applicant is a minor child

Annexure-I

[see rule 2(b), 5(3) and 7(3)]

Illustrative list of official documents referred to in.....

Sl. No.	Name of the official document
1	Birth certificate
2	Caste/ Tribe certificate
3	Any education certificate issued by a school, board, college, university or any such academic institution
4	Election Photo Identity Card
5	Aadhaar Card
6	Permanent Account Number (PAN)
7	Driving License
8	BPL ration card
9	Post Office bank/ Bank Pass book with photo
10	Pass port
11	Kisan Pass book
12	Marriage certificate
13	Electricity/water/ gas connection paper
14	Property papers,
15	Vehicle registration
16	Service book, employment papers
17	Identity card related to bar,
18	Policy papers

Annexure - II
[See rule 10(3)]

List of Welfare Schemes

1. Access to health:

(a) At least 1 Government Hospital in every Union Territory be equipped to offer safe and free gender affirming surgery, counselling and hormone replacement therapy to the transgender community, including all Male to Female (MTF) and Female to Male (FTM) procedures.

(b) State Medical Insurance shall cover procedures of SRS, hormonal therapy, laser therapy, counselling and other health issues of transgender persons at private hospitals.

(c) Medical insurance/ Arogyashri cards,

(d) All healthcare facilities should ensure that that there are separate wards for transgender persons.

2. Access to education:

(a) Scholarship for transgender students

(b) Inclusive and equitable quality education in schools that fosters respect for equality and gender diversity.

(c) Protection against ragging in the educational institutions with provisions for grievance redressal.

(d) Facilitation of accommodation and schooling for transgender, gender non conforming and intersex children in residential Government Schools and Universities.

3. Access to housing:

(a) Affordable housing

(b) Shelters and community centres for at risk transgender youth that provide nutritious food and counselling

(b) Access to sanitation facilities and safe drinking water

4. Welfare measures:

(a) Universal access to Food security schemes and provision of ration cards.

(b) Pension for aged, disabled or other vulnerable transgender persons.

(c) Old age and retirement homes for transgender persons facing housing exclusion.

(d) Public transport to have harassment-free zones for transgender persons.

5. Economic support:

(a) Universal coverage of Life Insurance.

(b) Access to banking and financial services including loans.

(c) Explicit inclusion of transgender persons in employment guarantee schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) and all Social Security Schemes.

(d) Formation into self help groups for livelihood activities.

(e) Provisions of zero-interest and other micro-finance schemes.

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