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Eviction Plans in Assam Forest Land Raise Human Rights Concerns

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Authorities in Assam have begun identifying unauthorized settlers occupying forest land in Guwahati, as part of an upcoming eviction drive aimed at reclaiming protected areas. Officials state that these occupations are in violation of environmental regulations and hinder state-led forest conservation efforts.

The identification process, conducted by local authorities, reportedly focused on individuals and families living without legal authorization on designated forest land. Eviction notices are expected to be issued in the coming days. The operation forms part of Assam's broader initiative to safeguard ecologically sensitive zones from encroachment.

Government representatives have emphasized that the process will follow due legal procedures. "Our objective is to restore forest land while ensuring that the process remains fair and lawful," one official said. They also indicated that basic humanitarian protocols will be followed in line with legal standards.

While some groups have raised concerns over the potential impact of the evictions, particularly on families who may lack formal documentation, officials have stated that each case will be reviewed thoroughly. State authorities have reiterated their intention to act within the law, ensuring that only unauthorized occupations are removed.

Under Indian law, forest lands are protected to maintain ecological balance and prevent unregulated development or settlement. Past eviction drives in various states have occasionally drawn scrutiny when not accompanied by clear rehabilitation plans or when enforcement actions were contested. However, Assam officials have stated that this operation is being planned with legal oversight to avoid such issues.

Local community representatives have urged the state to take care in distinguishing between recent encroachments and long-term residents who may have settled decades ago. However, the government maintains that protecting forest land is essential for environmental stability and public interest.

As eviction plans proceed, the operation in Guwahati may serve as a reference point for similar actions across other forested areas. The situation remains under observation as the state prepares to move forward with enforcement measures in the coming days.