

# Hassle Over, You Can Attest Your Documents now

## Express News Service

**Chennai:** In an administrative reform that will ease the lives of millions of common public, the Tamil Nadu government has decided to do away with the practice of attestation for all departments and all purposes.

From now on, a person herself can vouch for the genuineness of the document without having to go through the cumbersome process of getting it green inked from a competent official.

This comes close on the heels of the recommendation by the Centre to move forward, prompted by the success of Punjab and Kerala in this regard.

"The public, especially the poor and those residing in remote rural areas, are put through a lot of hardship just to get a seal and signature on the copy of a document. This is also a waste of time for officials, too," a senior State government official told *Express*.

According to the official, attestation by gazetted officers serves no purpose, as the final verification is completed only after the originals are produced. "It just does not make any sense to make it mandatory when the applicant has to necessarily present all original documents during interviews. On the other hand, doing away with it would reduce

the burden and simplify the procedures. So we decided to review the procedure," he added.

Based on this review, the State government has issued an omnibus Government Order to all departments to do away with attestation of certificates. "...The government directs all the departments to do away with the practice of attestation of certificates by Government officers of Group B and above and instead to provide for self-attestation of certificates by the individuals them-

---

**People can now attest their own documents and produce the originals during the time of interview or appointments**

---

selves and they shall produce the originals at the time of interview or final appointments to the post as the case may be," reads the order.

"Over and above the fact that this would prevent an avenue for petty corruption, this is an important step to give dignity to the citizens. This should have been done at the time of Independence itself," said retired bureaucrat MG Devasahayam about the measure that was first introduced in Punjab. **MORE: P4**