The Meghalaya Official Languages Act, 2026

Act No. 16 of 2026

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PART-IV

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
LAW (B) DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 21st September, 2026.

No.LL(B).36/2005/144.– The Meghalaya Official Languages Act, 2026 (Act No. 16 of 2026) is hereby published for general information.

MEGHALAYA ACT NO. 16 OF 2026

(As passed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly)
Received the assent of the Governor on the 17th September, 2026
Published in the Gazette of Meghalaya Extra-Ordinary issue dated 21st September, 2026

THE MEGHALAYA OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT, 2026

An

Act

to provide for the languages to be used for the official purposes of the State of Meghalaya and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Meghalaya in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:-

Short title extent and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Meghalaya Official Languages Act, 2026.

(2) It extends to the whole of the State of Meghalaya.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "Garo Hills Division" shall include the districts of West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills, South Garo Hills, North Garo Hills and South West Garo Hills and the civil sub-divisions and blocks contained therein;

(b) "Government" means the Government of the State of Meghalaya;

(c) "Khasi and Jaintia Hills Division" shall include the districts of East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, Ri-Bhoi, South West Khasi Hills, Eastern West Khasi Hills, West Jaintia Hills and East Jaintia Hills and the civil sub-divisions and blocks contained therein;

(d) "Notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette; and

(e) "Official Gazette" means the Gazette of Meghalaya.

Official languages of the State

3. With effect from such date as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf, the English, Khasi and Garo languages shall be the official languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State of Meghalaya:

Provided that the English language shall continue to be used in all Civil and Criminal Courts in the State:

Provided further that the business in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly shall be transacted as per the provisions of the Meghalaya State Legislature (Continuance of the English Language) Act, 1980 (Act No. 8 of 1980).

Use of Official languages

4. The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, provide for the use of any one or more of the official languages for such official purposes, at such levels of administration, and in such areas, as may be specified.

Protection of linguistic rights

5. Nothing in this Act shall affect the rights of various linguistic groups in respect of medium of instruction in educational institutions as laid down in the Constitution of India.

Power to make rules

6. The State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

Repeal and saving

7. (1) The Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005 (Meghalaya Act No. 10 of 2005) and the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance 2026 (Meghalaya Ordinance No. 1 of 2026) are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the repealed Act or Rules or the said Ordinance shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act.

A. K. SANGMA,
Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Law Department.

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