



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF GOA

The Goa Public Universities Bill, 2025

(Bill No. 34 of 2025)

(To be introduced in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Goa)

GOA LEGISLATURE SECRETARIAT
ASSEMBLY HALL, PORVORIM
JULY, 2025

The Goa Public Universities Bill, 2025

(Bill No. 34 of 2025)

A

BILL

5 *to provide for the establishment and incorporation of the Public Universities in the State of Goa for implementing the goals of National Education Policy, 2020, including multidisciplinary education, imparting quality and industry-relevant world-class higher education, for transforming Higher Education Institutions into Multidisciplinary Institutions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.*

10 BE it enacted by the Legislative Assembly of Goa in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

15 **1. Short title, extent and commencement.**— (1) This Act may be called the Goa Public Universities Act, 2025.

(2) It shall extend to the whole of the State of Goa.

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

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

(a) “authorities” means the authorities of the Public University as specified by or under this Act;

(b) “Chancellor” and “Vice-Chancellor” means respectively, the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor of the Public University;

25 (c) “cluster college” means a college whose management has voluntarily agreed to be part of the Public University;

(d) “Director of Higher Education” and “Director of Technical Education” means, respectively, Director of Higher Education of the Directorate of Higher Education, Government of Goa and Director of Technical Education of the Directorate of Technical Education, Government of Goa;

(e) “fee” means tuition fees, other fees and charges, including developmental charges approved by the Public University;

(f) “Government” means the Government of Goa;

(g) “Government college” means a college that is established, managed, maintained, and funded by the Government;

(h) “Government autonomous college” means a college that is declared as autonomous by the University Grants Commission, and which is established, managed, maintained, and funded by the Government;

(i) “Government-aided college” means a college that is established, managed, and maintained by the management but funded by the Government in terms of salaries of the teaching and non-teaching staff and grants for the maintenance of the college as per the pattern of assistance issued by the Government from time to time;

(j) “Government-aided autonomous college” means a college that is declared as autonomous by the University Grants Commission and established, managed and maintained by the management but funded by the Government in terms of salaries of the teaching and non-teaching staff and grants for the maintenance of the college as per the pattern of assistance issued by the Government from time to time;

(k) “higher education” means the pursuit of knowledge beyond learning at the stage of higher secondary school education;

5 (l) “inter-disciplinary studies” means the academic studies combined with research in different dependent disciplines as prescribed by statutes;

(m) “management” means the administrative body of cluster college;

(n) “multi-disciplinary studies” means the academic studies combined with research in different areas of a particular discipline as prescribed by Statutes;

(o) “prescribed” means prescribed by Rules or Statutes or Ordinances or Regulations, as the case may be, made by or under this Act;

(p) “Public University” means the Public University incorporated and established under sub-section (1) of section 3 of this Act;

(q) “Statutes”, “Ordinances” and “Regulations” means, respectively, the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations of the Public University made by or under this Act;

(r) “student” means an individual who is admitted and registered for an academic discipline of the Public University with the cluster college;

(s) “teacher” means full-time approved Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Principal, and also includes the College Director of Physical Education and Sports and the College Librarian in any cluster college of the Public University;

(t) “University Grants Commission” means the University Grants Commission established under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (Act No. 3 of 1956).

CHAPTER II

Public Universities

3. Establishment and Incorporation of Public University.— (1) The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish a Public University comprising of a cluster of colleges as agreed to by the management of such colleges by notification in the

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Official Gazette and such cluster of colleges may include any Government college, Government autonomous college or Government-aided college or Government-aided autonomous college, fulfilling such norms or guidelines as laid down by the Government, from time to time.

(2) The Public University established under sub-section (1) shall be notified by such name for such Public University, and with effect from such date as may be specified in the notification published in the Official Gazette by the Government.

(3) The Public University shall comprise of such authorities and shall exercise such powers and perform such functions of the Public University as may be specified in the notification published in the official Gazette by the Government.

(4) The Public University shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal with powers to acquire, own, and dispose of property and to contract by its name:

Provided that no lease, sale, or transfer of such property shall be made without the prior consent of the Government.

(5) The Public University shall sue and be sued in its name. In all suits or other legal proceedings by or against such Public University, the pleadings shall be signed and verified by the Registrar. All processes in such suits and proceedings shall be issued and served on the Registrar.

4. Objects of Public University.— The object of the Public University, in general, shall be to disseminate, create and preserve knowledge and understanding by teaching-learning, research and development, skill development, training and education, extension and service to society and, in particular, the object shall be to,—

(i) carry out its responsibility of creation, preservation, and dissemination of knowledge;

(ii) integrate Indian knowledge systems, languages, arts and culture into the curriculum, thereby promoting national identity and heritage;

(iii) provide holistic and multidisciplinary world-class education by integrating arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, technology, vocational studies, education and other disciplines of study to create a well-rounded learning experience;

(iv) leverage digital technology and online learning tools to enhance access to education, support blended learning, and improve pedagogical practices;

(v) promote discipline and the spirit of intellectual inquiry and to dedicate itself as a fearless academic community to the sustained pursuit of excellence and developing human resources fulfilling global aspirations;

(vi) facilitate enrolment of a large number of international students in the Public University by creating internationally relevant curricula in the sciences, social sciences and other disciplines of study and by providing meaningful opportunities for social engagement and setting up quality residential facilities and giving on-campus support;

(vii) encourage individuality and diversity within a climate of tolerance and mutual understanding;

(viii) promote freedom, secularism, equality, social justice, and scientific temper as enshrined in the Constitution of India, and be the catalyst in patriotic socio-economic transformation by promoting basic attitudes and values of essence to national development;

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(ix) promote equity conducive environment for ensuring social harmony, co-existence, integral humanism, and upliftment of the poorest of the poor;

(x) promote inclusive education by ensuring equitable access for socially and economically disadvantaged groups, including women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and persons with disabilities;

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(xi) extend the benefits of knowledge and skills for the development of individuals and society by associating the Public

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University closely with local, regional, and national problems of development;

(xii) carry out social responsibility as an informed and objective critic, to identify and cultivate talent, to train the right kind of leadership in all walks of life, and to help the younger generation to develop the right attitudes, interests, and values;

(xiii) promote equitable distribution of teaching, learning, training, and other support services facilities of higher education;

(xiv) provide for efficient and responsive administration, scientific and technology management, and develop organisation of teaching, learning, training, research, and extension;

(xv) devise motivational systems to ensure that individual cognitive abilities are not constrained but rather the innovative spirit and desire to make true contributions and realise self-achievement is nurtured;

5 (xvi) promote the acquisition of knowledge in a rapidly developing and changing society and continually offer opportunities for upgrading knowledge, training, and skills in the context of innovations, research, and discovery in all fields of human endeavour by developing a higher educational network with the use of modern communication media, information and communication technology and other emerging and future technologies appropriate for a learning society;

10 (xvii) foster a culture of high-quality research, innovation, and knowledge creation across diverse disciplines to address national and global challenges and provide greater mobility to students in India who wish to visit, study at, transfer credits to, or carry out research at institutions abroad;

15 (xviii) engage in global academic partnerships, faculty exchange programs, and research collaborations to enhance the quality and impact of education and research;

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(xix) facilitate opportunities for lifelong learning, professional development, and adult education to support continuous personal and professional growth;

(xx) promote national integration, fraternity and preserve cultural heritage and inculcate respect towards different religions and diverse cultures of India through the study of different religions, literature, history, science, art, civilisations and cultures;

(xxi) undertake initiatives that contribute to environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical leadership in line with sustainable development goals and national development goals;

(xxii) develop work culture and promote the dignity of labour through applied components in the syllabi;

(xxiii) build up financial self-sufficiency by undertaking academic teaching, learning, training and allied programmes, research and development activities for public and private industries, Governmental organisations at local, regional, national and global levels and resource generative services in a cost-effective manner;

(xxiv) develop industry-relevant skills among students through vocational education, internships, apprenticeships, and collaboration with industry partners;

(xxv) ensure transparent and effective governance structures, uphold academic integrity, and continuously improve educational standards in accordance with national and international benchmarks; 5

(xxvi) promote better interaction and coordination among different cluster colleges in the given Public University, other universities in the State, in the region, in the nation and at the global level by all such means generally to improve the governance of the Public University and the facility it provides for higher education; 10

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(xxvii) generate and promote a sense of self-respect and dignity amongst all sections of society and build a knowledge-driven society;

(xxviii) promote gender equality and sensitivity in society;

(xxix) strive to promote competitive merit and excellence as the sole guiding criterion in all academic and other matters relating to students.

5. Powers and duties of Public University.— The Public University shall have the following powers and duties, namely:—

(i) to provide for instructions, extension, teaching, learning and training in such branches or courses or disciplines and academic programmes, including any system that may emerge in future, as the Public University may, from time to time, determine;

(ii) to make provision for research and for the advancement and dissemination of knowledge, and generally to cultivate and promote all the branches of learning and culture and their multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary areas;

5 (iii) to make provision for integrated programmes in natural and physical sciences, mathematics, statistics, and computer applications, library, information, and media sciences, commerce and management, humanities, social sciences, engineering, technology, and other disciplines of study and for their multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary areas with a thrust on frontier areas of knowledge;

10 (iv) to evolve appropriate strategies and frameworks for curricular development, teaching-learning and evaluation, research and consultancy, development and sustenance of innovative practices in teaching, learning, training, and research, providing for the alignment of the Public University's objectives with quality concerns, global standards and those of the National Education Policy 2020;

15 (v) to develop academia-industry collaborations and to establish close linkage with industry to make teaching-learning

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and research relevant to the needs of the economy at the national and global level and for enhancing the employable skills of the students;

(vi) to determine the criterion for admission in the cluster colleges under its jurisdiction, which may include examination, evaluation or any other method of testing, including testing by the electronic mode;

(vii) to demand and receive payment of such fees and other charges from students as may be authorised it to receive;

(viii) to hold examinations and to grant and confer degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions on persons who have pursued disciplines in the cluster colleges;

(ix) to confer honorary degrees or other distinctions on approved persons in the manner laid down in the Ordinances;

(x) to collaborate with other Universities and authorities in such manner and for such purposes as the Public University may determine;

(xi) to institute Chairs in the Public University and establish such specialised centres or laboratories or other units for research and instruction as, in the opinion of the Public University, are necessary for the furtherance of its objectives;

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(xii) to establish and maintain research departments/institutions in the Public University and make provision for research, advisory, and consultancy services;

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(xiii) to collaborate with other National and International institutions in conducting research and higher education subject to the provisions of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (Act 3 of 1956), and the regulations made thereunder;

(xiv) to institute awards, fellowships and scholarships for the students of the Public University;

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(xv) to inspect the facilities and academic infrastructure of the cluster colleges and take measures to ensure proper standards of instruction;

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(xvi) to supervise and ensure proper conduct and discipline of the students in the Public University and cluster colleges;

(xvii) to make arrangements for counselling and promoting the health and general welfare of the students in the Public University and cluster colleges;

(xviii) to give special attention to the improvement of the economic and social conditions and welfare of the students and their educational and cultural development;

(xix) to make special arrangements in respect of the residence, discipline and teaching of women students;

(xx) to provide access to higher education for students with disabilities by way of making special provisions;

5 (xxi) to make grants from the funds of the Public University for assistance to forms of extra-mural teaching and extension services;

(xxii) to seek collaboration with other institutions on mutually acceptable terms and conditions in different branches of learning;

10 (xxiii) to enter into Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with national and international institutions, industries, research organisations, and Governmental bodies for academic, research, training, and knowledge-sharing purposes with an aim to promote faculty and student exchange programs, joint research initiatives, curriculum development, skill enhancement, and
15 capacity-building activities;

(xxiv) to institute/take over/maintain/outsource hostels and hostel services;

20 (xxv) to institute Professorship, Associate Professorship, Assistant Professorship and any other teaching or academic posts as required by the Public University with the approval of the Government;

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(xxvi) to create administrative and ministerial and other necessary posts and to make appointments thereto with the approval of the Government;

(xxvii) to lay down conditions of service for all categories of employees, including their code of conduct as per norms specified by the Government and the University Grants Commission from time to time;

(xxviii) to maintain such bodies as are declared by the Statutes to be the Authorities of the University;

(xxix) to acquire, hold, manage and dispose of property for the purposes of the Public University;

(xxx) to create and provide access to the state-of-the-art facilities;

(xxxi) to participate in world institutional ranking in order to have global reputation;

(xxxii) to borrow, on the security of Public University property, money for the purposes of the Public University with the approval of the Government; 5

(xxxiii) to receive donations, endowments, grants, and contributions from individuals, corporate entities, philanthropic organisations, and other sources, which shall be utilised solely for academic and research activities, scholarships, infrastructure development and student welfare; 10

(xxxiv) to frame Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations for carrying out the objects of the Public University in accordance with the provisions of this Act; 15

(xxxv) to do all such other acts and things, whether incidental to the powers aforesaid or not, as may be requisite in order to further the objects of the Public University as a teaching and examining body and to cultivate and promote all branches of learning in the Public University. 20

6. Public University to be non-affiliating and State funded.— (1)

The Public University shall function as a non-affiliating university

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7. Public University to provide equal opportunities to all.— No person shall be excluded from holding any office in the Public University or from the membership of any of the authorities of the Public University or from admission to any degree, diploma, or other distinction or academic programme on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them, and the Public University shall not adopt or impose on any person any test whatsoever of religious belief or profession in order to entitle him to be admitted thereto as a teacher or student or to hold any office therein or to qualify for any degree, diploma, or other distinction or to enjoy or exercise any of the privileges of the Public University:

15 CHAPTER III

8. Officers of the Public University.— The following shall be the Officers of the Public University:

- 20 (i) the Chancellor;
- (ii) the Vice-Chancellor;
- (iii) the Deans;
- (iv) the Principals of Cluster Colleges;
- (v) the Registrar;
- 25 (vi) the Heads of Departments in Cluster Colleges;
- (vii) the Finance Officer;

- (viii) the Controller of Examinations; and
- (ix) such other Officers as may be declared by the Statutes to be the Officers of the University.

9. Chancellor and his powers.— (1) The Governor of the State of Goa shall be the Chancellor of the Public University established under this Act.

(2) The Chancellor shall, by virtue of his office, be the Head of the Public University and shall, when present, preside at the Convocation of the Public University for conferring degrees, diplomas, charters, designations or certificates.

(3) The Chancellor shall, on receiving a reference from the Government or may, in any matter suo motu or otherwise, call for a report or an explanation or such information and record relating to such matter or any matter or affairs of the Public University or cluster college, and shall, after considering such report or explanation, or information or record, issue such directions thereupon as may be deemed fit in the interest of the Public University, cluster college or student or larger interest of the public, and his directions shall be final and shall be complied with by the Public University forthwith.

(4) The Chancellor may, by order in writing, annul any proceeding of the Public University which is not in conformity with this Act, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations:

Provided that before making any such order, the Chancellor shall give notice calling upon the Public University to show cause why such an order should not be made, and if any cause is shown within the time specified therefor in the said notice, shall consider the same.

(5) The Chancellor may initiate proceedings, consistent with the provisions of this Act, against any officer of the Public University for violation and/or endorsing the violations of the statutory provisions of this Act, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

(6) The Chancellor shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be conferred on or vested in him by or under the provisions of this Act, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

10. The Vice-Chancellor.— (1) The Vice-Chancellor shall be a person of proven competence, integrity, morals, and institutional commitment and the qualifications for the post shall be as per the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission.

(2) The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor in consultation with the Government. The Vice-Chancellor shall be a full-time salaried Officer of the Public University.

5 (3) The appointment of the Vice-Chancellor shall be as per the procedure laid down under the statutes.

(4) The Vice-Chancellor shall, subject to the pleasure of the Chancellor, hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office but not beyond sixty-five years of age.

10 (5) If at any time, upon the representation made or otherwise, and after making such inquiry, as may be deemed necessary, the situation so warrants and if the continuance of the Vice-Chancellor is not in the interest of the Public University, the Chancellor with the prior approval of the Government, may by an order in writing,
15 remove the Vice-Chancellor from his office from such date as may be specified in the order:

Provided that before taking an action under this subsection, the Vice-Chancellor shall be given an opportunity to be heard:

20 Provided further that the Chancellor may suspend the Vice-Chancellor pending such enquiry if the situation so warrants.

(6) The Vice-Chancellor shall be the principal executive and academic officer of the University and shall exercise powers of general superintendence over the University;

25 (7) The Vice-Chancellor, in the absence of the Chancellor, shall preside at the Convocation of the University for conferring Degrees, Diplomas, Charters, Designation or Certificates.

(8) The Vice-Chancellor shall exercise general control over all the affairs of the Public University, officers, teaching and non-teaching staff and shall be responsible for the due maintenance of discipline.

(9) The Vice-Chancellor shall ensure the faithful observance of the provisions of this Act, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations and shall exercise all such powers as may be necessary in this behalf.

(10) The Vice-Chancellor shall exercise such other powers and discharge such other duties as may be provided by this Act, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations. 5

11. The Deans.— The Deans shall be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor in such manner and shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be specified by Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations. 10

12. The Principals of Cluster Colleges.— (1) The Principals of cluster colleges shall be appointed by the respective Management of the cluster colleges with the approval of the Vice-Chancellor as per the procedure prescribed by the Statutes. 15

(2) The Principals of cluster colleges shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall be eligible for re-appointment for another term of five years.

(3) The Principals of cluster colleges shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Statutes. 20

13. The Registrar.— (1) The Registrar shall be appointed in such manner, and the term of the office shall be such as may be specified by the Statutes. 25

(2) The Registrar shall have the power to enter into agreements, sign documents and authenticate records on behalf of the Public University as may be specified by the Statutes.

(3) The Registrar shall be responsible for the due custody of the records and the common seal of the Public University and shall 30

be bound to place before the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor or any other authority all such information and documents as may be necessary for the transaction of their business.

5 (4) The Registrar shall be the ex-officio Member - Secretary of the Executive Council and the Academic Council and shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be specified by Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

10 **14. The Heads of Departments in Cluster Colleges.**— The Heads of Departments in Cluster Colleges shall be appointed by Principals of cluster colleges in such manner and shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be specified by Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

15 **15. The Finance Officer.**— (1) The Finance Officer shall be an officer of the Public University appointed by the Executive Council from out of a panel of three officers recommended by the Government and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Statutes:

20 Provided that the officers recommended by the Government shall be persons having at least 7 years of experience in any Government Department in maintaining accounts, preparing estimates and expenditures and handling other connected matters related to accounts, establishment and administration and must have served at least 3 years out of 7 in a position in any Government Department not below the pay level 10.

25 (2) The Finance Officer shall maintain the accounts of the Public University and advise the Public University on all matters relating to the income and expenditure of the Public University.

30 (3) The Finance Officer shall act as the Member-Secretary of the Finance Committee and participate in the discussions thereof but shall not be entitled to vote.

(4) The Finance Officer shall exercise such powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Statutes.

16. The Controller of Examinations.— The Controller of Examinations shall be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor in such

manner and shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be specified by the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

17. Other Officers.— The manner of appointment, terms and conditions of service and powers, duties and functions of other officers of the University shall be such as may be specified by Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

CHAPTER IV

Authorities of The Public University

18. Authorities of the Public University.— The following shall be the Authorities of the Public University:

- (1) The Governing Body;
- (2) The Executive Council;
- (3) The Academic Council;
- (4) The Finance Committee;

(5) Such other Body, Council and Committee as may be declared by the Statutes to be the authority of the Public University.

19. The Governing Body.— (1) The Constitution of the Governing Body shall be as follows:—

- (i) The Chancellor, who shall be the Chairperson;
- (ii) The Vice-Chancellor;
- (iii) The Secretary in the Department of Education, Government of Goa;
- (iv) The Secretary in the Department of Finance, Government of Goa;
- (v) Management representatives of each Cluster College;
- (vi) Principals of each Cluster College;
- (vii) Five outstanding academicians or persons having outstanding research work in various disciplines to be

nominated by the Government, three of whom shall be from outside the State of Goa;

(viii) Three industry experts or industrialists nominated by the Government;

(ix) One Member from amongst the retired judicial officers of the State nominated by the Government who shall also be a member of the Executive Council;

(x) Any three Deans of the Public University to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(xi) The Finance Officer of the Public University;

(xii) The Controller of Examinations of the Public University;

(xiii) The Registrar of the Public University shall be the Member Secretary.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Governing Body shall discharge the following functions, namely:—

(a) to review, from time to time, the broad policies and programs of the Public University and suggest measures for the working, improvement and development of the Public University;

(b) to consider and pass resolutions on the annual report and annual accounts of the Public University and audit report of such accounts;

(c) to advise the Chancellor in respect of any matter which may be referred to it for advice;

(d) to perform such other functions and in such manner as may be specified by the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

(3) The quorum, term of office of members of the Governing Body shall be such as may be specified by the Statutes.

(4) The Governing Body shall meet at least once in a calendar year at such time and place as the Chancellor deems fit.

20. The Executive Council.— (1) The Executive Council shall be the principal executive body of the Public University.

(2) The Constitution of the Executive Council shall be as follows:—

- (i) The Vice-Chancellor, who shall be the Chairperson;
- (ii) The Secretary in the Department of Education, Government of Goa;
- (iii) The Secretary in the Department of Finance, Government of Goa;
- (iv) The Vice-Chairperson of Goa State Higher Education Council;
- (v) The Chairperson of Goa State Research Foundation;
- (vi) The Director of Higher Education, Government of Goa;
- (vii) The Director of Technical Education, Government of Goa;
- (viii) Any three Management representatives of Cluster Colleges other than Government Colleges to be nominated by the Government, preferably on rotation basis;
- (ix) Any three Principals of Cluster Colleges to be nominated by Vice-Chancellor, preferably on rotation basis;
- (x) Five outstanding academicians from various disciplines to be nominated by the Government, three of whom shall be from outside the State of Goa;
- (xi) Three senior scientists/fellows from reputed research institutions to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;
- (xii) Three persons of eminence representing professional fields like medicine, engineering, business, law, banking, etc. or industry nominated by the Government;
- (xiii) One Member from amongst the retired judicial officers of the State nominated by the Government who shall also be a member of the Executive Council;

(xiv) Any three Deans of the Public University to be nominated by Vice-Chancellor;

(xv) One College Director of Sports and Physical Education from Cluster Colleges to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, preferably on rotation basis;

(xvi) One Librarian from Cluster Colleges to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, preferably on rotation basis;

(xvii) The Finance Officer of the Public University;

(xviii) The Controller of Examinations of the Public University;

(xix) The Registrar of the Public University shall be the Member Secretary.

(3) The quorum, the term of office of its members, its powers and functions shall be such as may be specified by the Statutes.

21. The Academic Council.— (1) The Academic Council shall be the principal academic body of the Public University, and it shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, the Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations, co-ordinate and exercise general supervision over the academic policies of the Public University.

(2) The constitution of the Academic Council, the term of office of its members and its powers and functions shall be such as may be specified by the Statutes.

22. The Finance Committee.— (1) The Finance Committee shall be the principal financial body of the University to take care of all financial matters.

(2) The constitution, the term of office of its members and its powers and functions shall be such as may be specified by the Statutes.

23. Other authorities.— The constitution, the term of office of members and powers and functions of such other authorities of the Public University which may be declared by the Statutes to be

authorities of the Public University, shall be such, as may be specified by the Statutes.

24. Disqualification from membership of the authority.—A person shall be disqualified from holding an office or being a member of any authority of the Public University if that person:—

- (i) is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;
- (ii) is an undischarged insolvent;
- (iii) has been convicted of any offence involving moral turpitude;
- (iv) has been punished for indulging in or promoting unfair practice in the conduct of any examination, in any form, anywhere;
- (v) has any profit motive from the University; and
- (vi) uses University fund for his personal benefits.

25. Vacancies not to invalidate the proceedings of any authority or body of the University.— No decision, act or proceeding of any authority or body of the Public University shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy or defect in the constitution thereof.

26. Filling up of Vacancies.— Any vacancy arising in the office of a member of any authority or body of the Public University due to the death, resignation or removal of a member or due to a change of capacity in which he/she was appointed or nominated shall be filled up as early as possible by the person or the body who had appointed or nominated such a member:

Provided that such person shall remain member of such authority or body, for remainder of the term of such member.

27. Committees.— The authorities or officers of the Public University may constitute such committees with such terms of reference as may be necessary for specific tasks to be performed by such committees. The constitution of such committees and their

duties shall be such as may be determined by the authority or officers constituting the Committee.

CHAPTER V

Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations

28. Statutes.— Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Statutes may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the appointment, powers and duties of the officers of the Public University, their emoluments, and their terms and conditions of service;

(b) the constitution, powers and functions of the authorities and other bodies of the Public University as may be constituted from time to time;

(c) the appointment and continuance in office of the members of the said authorities and bodies, the filling of vacancies of members, and all other matters relating to those authorities and other bodies for which it may be necessary or desirable to provide;

(d) the conferment of honorary degrees;

(e) the procedure for resolving disputes between the Public University and its officers, faculty members, employees and students;

(f) the appointment of the teachers of the Public University and other academic staff and the emoluments and other terms and conditions of their service;

(g) the appointment of teachers and other academic staff working in Public University or organisation for a specified period to undertake a joint project;

(h) the creation, abolition, or restructuring of departments and faculties;

(i) the conditions of service of employees, including provision for pension and provident fund, the manner of termination of service and disciplinary action;

(j) the procedure for appeal to the Executive Council by any employee or student against the action of any officer or authority of Public University;

(k) the establishment of Centres of studies, Board of studies, Special centres, Specialised Laboratories, and other centres;

l) the establishment and recognition of the Students Council or other associations of teachers, academic staff, or other employees;

(m) participation of the students in the affairs of the Public University;

(n) the withdrawal of degrees, diplomas, certificates, and other academic distinctions;

(o) the institution of fellowships, scholarships, studentships, medals and prizes;

(p) the maintenance of discipline amongst students;

(q) the delegation of powers vested in the authorities or officers of the Public University;

(r) the manner of cooperation with other Universities or Institutions of higher learning;

(s) the fee chargeable from students for various programmes of studies, and

(t) all other matters which by this Act are to be, or may be, provided by the Statutes.

29. How Statutes are made.— (1) The Executive Council shall make the Statutes and seek the approval of the Chancellor for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) The Executive Council may, from time to time, make new or additional Statutes or may amend or repeal such Statutes:

5 Provided that the Executive Council shall not make, amend, or repeal any Statute affecting the status, powers, or constitution of any authority of the Public University until such authority has been given an opportunity to express an opinion in writing on the

proposed changes and any opinion so expressed shall be considered by the Executive Council.

(3) Every new Statute or addition to the Statutes or any amendment or repeal of such Statutes shall require the approval of the Chancellor, which may assent thereto or withhold assent or remit the same to the Executive Council for consideration.

(4) A new Statute or a Statute amending or repealing such Statutes shall have no validity unless it has been assented to by the Chancellor and further approved by the Government.

(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing subsections, the Government shall have the power to prescribe uniform Statutes on various subjects through publication in the Official Gazette, which shall be binding on the Public universities.

30. Ordinances and Regulations.— (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Ordinances and Regulations may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the admission of students to the Public University and their enrolment and continuance as such;

(b) the academic programmes to be laid down for all Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates, Charters and other academic distinctions of the Public University;

(c) the award of degrees, diplomas, certificates and other academic distinctions of the Public University, the qualifications for the same and the means to be taken relating to the granting and obtaining of the same;

(d) the accounting policy and financial procedure;

(e) the conditions of the award of fellowships, scholarships, studentships, medals and prizes;

(f) the conduct of examinations and the conditions and mode of appointment and duties of examining bodies, examiners, invigilators, tabulators and moderators;

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(g) the fees to be charged for academic programmes in the Public University and for admission to the examinations for Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates, Charters and other academic distinctions of the Public University, including the revision thereof;

(h) the alteration of the number of seats in different programmes;

(i) the maintenance of discipline among the students of the Public University;

(j) the conditions of residence of the students at the Public University;

(k) the special arrangements, if any, which may be made for the residence, discipline and teaching of female students and the prescribing of special programmes of studies for them;

(l) the appointment and emolument of employees other than those whom provision has been made in the Statutes;

(m) the manner of co-operation, collaboration or association with other Universities or authorities;

(n) the creation, composition and function of any other body which is considered necessary for improving the academic life of a Public University;

(o) such other terms and conditions of service of teachers and other academic staff as are not prescribed by the Statutes;

(p) the management of cluster colleges of the Public University;

(r) the management of departments of the Public University.

5 (2) The authorities of the Public University may make Regulations consistent with this Act, the Statutes and the Ordinances for the conduct of their own business and that of the committees appointed by them and not provided for by this Act, the Statutes or the Ordinances in the manner prescribed by the Statutes.

31. How Ordinances and Regulations are made.— (1) The Vice-Chancellor shall make the first Ordinance and first Regulations

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with the prior approval of the Governing Body, and the Ordinances and Regulations so made may be amended, repealed, or added to at any time by the Executive Council in the manner prescribed by the Statutes.

(2) The Academic Council may propose new or additional Ordinances and Regulations.

(3) Every New Regulation or addition to the Ordinances or any amendment or repeal of a Regulation or Ordinance shall require the approval first of the Executive Council and finally of the Governing Body.

32. Publication of Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.— (1) Every Statute or Ordinance or Regulation made under this Act shall be made available in the public domain.

(2) Each New Statute or Ordinance or Regulation made under this Act shall be enforced as soon as it is made by the competent authority of the Public University.

CHAPTER VI

Transitional Provisions

33. First Appointment of Officers and Authorities.— Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the Statutes—

(a) the first Vice-Chancellor, first Registrar and first Finance Officer shall be nominated by the Government for a term of two years;

(b) the first Deans and the first Controller of Examinations shall be nominated by the Chancellor with the approval of the Government for a term of two years;

(c) The Principals of the Cluster Colleges holding office at the time of issuance of the notification under sub-section (1) of section 3 of this Act shall be deemed to be the first Principals of the Cluster Colleges.

(d) The first Executive Council, the first Academic Council and the first Finance Committee shall be constituted by the

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Governing Body with the approval of the Government for a term of two years.

34. Teaching staff of Cluster colleges.— (1) The teaching staff of the Cluster Colleges upon establishment of the Public University shall be deemed to be the staff of the Public University:

Provided that the terms and conditions in force at the time of the commencement of this Act, relating to teaching staff, including superannuation, removal or termination, salaries, and pension except career advancement or promotion, shall continue to be in effect and these matters shall continue to be with the management of the Cluster Colleges.

(2) The provisions as regards career advancement or promotion of the teaching staff of such cluster colleges shall be as specified by the Statutes of the Public University.

35. Non-Teaching staff of Cluster colleges.— (1) The non-teaching staff of the Cluster Colleges upon establishment of the Public University shall be deemed to be the staff of the Public University:

Provided that the terms and conditions in force at the time of the commencement of this Act relating to non-teaching staff, including superannuation, removal or termination, salaries, and pension except financial upgradation or promotions, shall continue to be in effect and these matters shall continue to be with the management of the Cluster Colleges.

(2) The provisions as regards financial upgradation or promotions of the non-teaching staff of the cluster colleges shall be governed by rules, regulations, office memorandum or circulars issued by the Government from time to time.

36. Students of Cluster colleges.— Students of cluster colleges who were studying for a degree, diploma or certificate, as the case may be, in accordance with the regulation in force under the respective Act under which the Goa University was established, immediately prior to the establishment of the Public University

shall continue to be the students of the Goa University for the period required for the completion of the said academic program.

37. Assets and liabilities of Cluster colleges.— (1) The assets and liabilities of the cluster colleges shall continue to be with the management of the cluster colleges, and it shall be deemed that the management has permitted the use of its buildings and ancillary structures to the Public University for administrative and academic purposes only.

(2) All suits and legal proceedings in the name of the management of the cluster colleges which are pending immediately prior to the establishment of Public university under sub-section (1) of section 3 of this Act shall continue to be the suits and legal proceedings of the management of the cluster colleges.

38. Disaffiliation of Cluster Colleges.— The cluster colleges shall stand disaffiliated from Goa University, Goa, upon establishment of Public University under sub-section (1) of section 3 of this Act except until the batches of the students or students who have been admitted and enrolled for the various academic programmes offered by the Cluster colleges affiliated to Goa University, Goa has completed that duration of years for completion of the academic programmes under which they have been admitted and enrolled.

CHAPTER VII

MISCELLANEOUS

39. Annual Accounts.— (1) The annual accounts and balance sheet of the Public University shall be prepared under the directions of the Executive Council and shall, at least once every year and at intervals of not more than fifteen months, be audited by an experienced and qualified Chartered Accountant.

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(2) A copy of the annual accounts, together with the audit report thereon, shall be submitted to the Governing Body and the Chancellor along with the observations of the Executive Council.

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(3) Any observations made by the Chancellor on the annual accounts shall be brought to the notice of the Governing Body and the Executive Council, and the observations, if any, shall, after

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review by the Executive Council, be submitted to the Chancellor and shall be put in the public domain.

40. Annual Report.— (1) The annual report of the Public University shall be prepared under the directions of the Executive Council and shall be submitted to the Governing Body on or after such date as may be specified by the Statutes and the Governing Body shall consider the report in its annual meeting.

(2) The Governing Body shall submit the annual report to the Chancellor along with its comments, if any.

41. Convocation.— The convocation of the Public University shall be held every academic year in the manner as may be specified by the Statutes and Ordinances for conferring Degrees, Diplomas, Charters, Designation, Certificates or for any other purpose.

5 **42. Accreditation of the Public University.**— The Public University shall obtain accreditation from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bengaluru and inform the Government about the grade provided by NAAC to the Public University and the Public University shall get renewed such accreditation from time to time.

10 **43. Mode of proof of Public University records.**— A copy of any receipt, application, notice, order, proceeding, resolution of any authority or Committee of the Public University or other documents in possession of the Public University, if certified by the Registrar, shall be received as prima facie evidence of such receipt, application, notice, order, proceeding or resolution, document or the existence of entry in the register and shall be admitted as evidence of the matters and transactions therein where the original thereof would, if produced have been admissible in evidence.

15 **44. Conditions of service of employees.**— Every new employee of the Public University shall be appointed under a written contract, which shall be kept in the Public University and a copy thereof shall be furnished to the employee concerned.

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45. Disciplinary action.— Disciplinary action against the students or employees shall be governed by such procedure as may be prescribed in the statutes.

46. Right to appeal.— Every employee or student of the Public University shall, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, have a right to appeal, within such time as may be prescribed to the Executive Council against the decision of any officer or authority of the Public University and the Executive Council may confirm, modify or vary such decision.

47. Disputes as to the constitution of Public University Authorities and bodies.— If any question arises as to whether any person has been duly appointed or is entitled to be a member of any authority or other body of the Public University, the matter shall be referred to the Chancellor of the Public University, whose decision on such question shall be final.

48. Constitution of Committees.— Where any authority of the Public University is given power under this Act or the Statutes to appoint Committees, such Committees shall save as otherwise provided, consist of the members of the authority concerned and of such other persons as the authority in each case may think fit.

49. Powers of the Government to inspect the Public University.—
(1) For the purpose of ascertaining the standards of teaching, learning, examinations and research or any other matter relating to the Public University, the Government may cause an assessment to be made in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The Government shall communicate to the Public University its recommendations in regard to the result of such assessment for corrective action and the Public University shall take such corrective measures as are necessary so as to ensure the compliance of the recommendations.

(3) If the Public University fails to comply with the recommendations made under sub-section (2) within a reasonable time, the Government may give such directions as it deems fit, which shall be binding on the Public University.

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50. Dissolution of University.— (1) If the Governing Body proposes the dissolution of the Public University, it shall make such proposal at least three months in advance in writing to the Government.

(2) On identification of mismanagement, maladministration, indiscipline, failure in the accomplishment of the objects of the Public University and economic hardships in the management systems of the Public University, the Government may, subject to and in accordance with the relevant law, if any, for the time being in force, issue directions to the Governing Body of the Public University and if the directions are not followed within such time as may be prescribed, the right to take decision, for dissolution of the Public University, shall vest in the Government.

(3) The manner of dissolution of the University would be such as may be prescribed by the Government in this behalf.

(4) If the Government considers it necessary to suspend the Executive Council, it shall, by notification published in the Official Gazette, order suspension of the Executive Council and shall make such arrangement in consultation with the Governing Body for the
5 administration of the business of the Public University till the completion of investigation as it may consider necessary:

Provided that no such action to be initiated without affording a reasonable opportunity of being heard.

(5) On receipt of the proposal under sub-section (1) or on a
10 decision to dissolve under sub-section (2), the Government shall in consultation with the University Grant Commission, and other concerned Regulatory Bodies of Central or State Government make such arrangements for administration of the Public University
15 from the proposed date of dissolution or winding up of the Public University until the last batch of the students in regular programmes of studies of the Public University complete their programmes of studies in such manner as may be prescribed.

51. Expenditure of the Public University during dissolution.— (1)
20 The expenditure for the administration of the Public University

during the takeover period of its management shall be met out of the funds of the Public University and the Cluster colleges.

(2) If the funds referred under sub-section (1) are not sufficient to meet the expenditure of the Public University during the takeover period of management, such expenditure may be met by disposing of the properties or assets of the Public University by the Government.

52. Status of Assets/Liabilities on dissolution/de-recognition.— All assets and properties, including funds of the Public University and also the liabilities of the Public University, shall belong to the Government and respective management of the cluster colleges in case of dissolution of the Public University.

53. Protection of action taken in good faith.— (1) No suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against any officer or other employee of the Public University and cluster colleges for anything which is done in good faith or intended to be done in pursuance of the provisions of this Act, the Statutes, the Ordinances or the Regulations.

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(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall be a bar for filing suits, prosecutions or other legal proceedings for anything done in contravention of the provisions of this Act, the Statutes or the Ordinances made thereunder, and any other law for the time being in force.

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54. Power to issue Directions.— It shall be competent for the Government to issue directions to the Public University from time to time for the purpose of carrying out the objectives of this Act.

55. Power to make rules.— (1) The Government may, by notification, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

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(2) Every rule made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before the Legislative Assembly of Goa.

56. Power to remove difficulties.— If any difficulty arises in giving effect to any of the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by order not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, remove the difficulty:

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Provided that no such order shall be made after the expiration of a period of three years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall, as soon as may be after it is made, be laid before the Legislative Assembly of Goa.

57. Act to have overriding effect.— The provisions of this Act shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other similar law for the time being in force.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment and incorporation of the Public Universities in the State of Goa for implementing the goals of National Education Policy 2020, including multidisciplinary education imparting quality and industry-relevant world-class higher education and for transforming higher education institutions into multidisciplinary institutions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

This Bill seeks to achieve the aforesaid above object.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 6 of the Bill provides that the Public University shall be funded through the Consolidated Fund of the State. However, the extent of financial implications towards the establishment of public universities cannot be quantified at this stage.

A provision for Rs. 25,00,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty-Five Crores) is to be made for expenses towards the establishment of the Public Universities in the State of Goa for the initial stage.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 1 (3) of the Bill empowers the Government to issue notification for appointing the date to bring into force the Act.

Clause 3 (1) of the Bill empowers the Government to issue a notification to establish a Public University comprising of cluster of colleges, including any Government college, Government autonomous college, Government-aided college or Government-aided autonomous college, fulfilling such norms or guidelines as laid down by the Government, from time to time.

Clause 49 of the Bill empowers the Government to frame rules for specifying the manner in which assessment to be made for ascertaining the standards of teaching, learning, examinations and research or any other matter relating to the Public University.

Clause 50 of the Bill empowers the Government to frame rules for specifying the time within which the directions issued by the Government to the Governing Body of the Public University are to be followed and also to frame rules for specifying the manner of dissolution of the Public University and the manner in which the last batch of students in regular programmes of studies of the Public University complete their programmes of studies.

Clause 55 of the Bill empowers the Government to frame rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act.

Clause 56 of the Bill empowers the Government to make Order for removing difficulty while implementing the provisions of the Act.

These delegations are of normal character.

Place: Porvorim-Goa.
Dated: 01st August, 2025

Dr. Pramod Sawant
Hon'ble Minister for Education

Assembly Hall
Porvorim-Goa.
Dated: 01st August, 2025

NAMRATA ULMAN
Secretary to the
Legislative Assembly of Goa.

**Governor's recommendation under Article 207 of the
Constitution of India**

In pursuance of Article 207 of the Constitution of India, I, Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju, the Governor of Goa, hereby recommend the introduction and consideration of the Goa Public Universities Bill, 2025, by the Legislative Assembly of Goa.

Raj Bhavan
Date: 01st August, 2025

Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju
Governor of Goa