

Fifteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly

Bill No. 282

THE UNIVERSITY LAWS (AMENDMENT) (No.4) BILL, 2025

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THE UNIVERSITY LAWS (AMENDMENT) (No.4) BILL, 2025

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further to amend the Cochin University of Science and Technology Act, 1986, the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies Act, 2010, the Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayala University Act, 2013, the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University Act, 2015, the Sreenarayanaguru Open University Act, 2021.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Cochin University of Science and Technology Act, 1986 (31 of 1986), the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies Act, 2010 (5 of 2011), the Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayala University Act, 2013 (24 of 2013), the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University Act, 2015 (17 of 2015), the Sreenarayanaguru Open University Act, 2021 (1 of 2021) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

BE it enacted in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the University Laws (Amendment) (No.4) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of Act 31 of 1986.*—In the Cochin University of Science and Technology Act, 1986 (31 of 1986), after section 18, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“18A. *Meeting of the Syndicate.*—The Vice Chancellor shall convene a meeting of the Syndicate at least once in two months.

Provided that the Vice-Chancellor shall convene a meeting of the Syndicate within seven days if one-third of the total number of its members request it in writing.”.

3. *Amendment of Act 5 of 2011.*—In the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies Act, 2010 (5 of 2011), in sub-section (1) of section 15, the words “more than” shall be omitted.

4. *Amendment of Act 24 of 2013.*—In the Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayala University Act, 2013 (24 of 2013), in section 14, after sub-section (6), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(7) The Vice-Chancellor shall convene a meeting of the Executive Committee at least once in two months:

Provided that the Vice-Chancellor shall convene a meeting of the Executive Committee within seven days if one-third of the total number of its members request it in writing.”.

5. *Amendment of Act 17 of 2015.*— In the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University Act, 2015 (Act 17 of 2015), in section 28, after sub-section (1) the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided that the Vice-Chancellor shall convene a meeting of the Syndicate within seven days if one-third of the total number of its members request it in writing.”.

6. *Amendment of Act 1 of 2021.*— In the Sreenarayanaguru Open University Act, 2021 (1 of 2021), in section 27, after the proviso to sub-section (1), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:—

“Provided further that the Vice-Chancellor shall convene a meeting of the Syndicate within seven days if one-third of the total number of its members request it in writing.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Government have decided to make amendments in the Cochin University of Science and Technology Act, 1986 (31 of 1986), the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies Act, 2010 (5 of 2011), the Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayala University Act, 2013 (24 of 2013), the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University Act, 2015 (17 of 2015), the Sreenarayanaguru Open University Act, 2021 (1 of 2021) to insert a new provision to enable the Vice-Chancellors of the respective Universities to convene meetings of the Syndicate/Governing Council/Executive Committee, as the case may be, on the request of one-third of its total members in writing.

2. The Bill seeks to achieve the above object.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Bill, if enacted and brought into operation, would not involve additional expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

DR. R. BINDU.

EXTRACT FROM THE COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY ACT, 1986

(31 OF 1986)

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18. *Powers of the Syndicate.*—Subject to the provisions of this Act and the Statutes, the executive powers of the University including the general superintendence and control over its institutions shall be vested in the Syndicate and subject likewise the Syndicate shall have the following powers, namely:—

(i) to so manage the University that its objectives are fulfilled;

(ii) to admit an institution to the University as a Recognised Institution in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed by the Ordinances;

(iii) to make Statutes for the consideration of the Chancellor;

(iv) to make Ordinances and Rules and to amend or repeal the same

(v) to hold, control and administer the properties and funds of the University including investment of money in such stocks, funds, shares or securities as deemed fit;

(vi) to provide buildings, premises, furniture, apparatus and other requisites for carrying on the work of the University, and to that end enter into, vary, carry out and cancel contracts on behalf of the University;

(vii) to direct the form, custody, and use of the common seal of the University;

(viii) to arrange for and direct the inspection of hostels and other institutions and to constitute a Board of Inspection for that purpose;

(ix) to establish, maintain and manage departments and institutes of research and other advanced centres of learning as it may from time to time deem necessary;

(x) to appoint teachers and other employees of the University of and above the rank of an Assistant Registrar and prescribe their duties;

(xi) to create teaching, technical, administrative, ministerial and other necessary posts;

(xii) to suspend, discharge, dismiss or otherwise take disciplinary action against teachers and other employees of the University of and above the rank of Assistant Registrar;

(xiii) to entertain, adjudicate upon, and if thought fit, to redress any grievances of the officers of the University, the teaching staff, the students and other employees of the University who may, for any reasons, feel aggrieved;

(xiv) to fix and regulate the fee payable by the students;

(xv) to create academic fellowships, honorary or otherwise;

(xvi) to create research fellowships, scholarships, student-ships, bursaries, medals and prizes with the prior concurrence of the Finance Committee;

(xvii) to exercise supervision and control over the residence and discipline of students;

(xviii) to consider and pass the Financial Estimates, the Annual Accounts, together with the Audit Report, and the Annual Report of the University in accordance with the provisions of the Statutes made in this behalf;

(xix) to conduct examinations and approve and publish the results thereof;

(xx) to appoint members to the Faculties and Boards of Studies;

(xxi) to approve panels of examiners and to fix their remuneration;

(xxii) to delegate any of its powers to the Vice-Chancellor;

(xxiii) to arrange for the inspection of recognised institution to ensure compliance with the conditions of recognition and to decide on the continuance of recognition;

(xxiv) to withhold or cancel the result of any candidate at any examination;

(xxv) to accept grants, endowments, bequests, donations and transfers of movable and immovable properties to the University on its behalf;

(xxvi) to negotiate with other Universities for the recognition of the examinations of the Univerisity;

(xxvii) to establish, in collaboration with industries, research facilities and service training for the students; and

(xxviii) to exercise such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this Act, and the Statutes and the Ordinances, made thereunder.

EXTRACT FROM THE KERALA UNIVERSITY OF FISHERIES
AND OCEAN STUDIES ACT, 2010

(5 OF 2011)

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15. *Meetings of the University Governing Council.*—(1) The University Governing Council shall meet at least once in every two months, on a date to be fixed by the Vice-Chancellor, after giving due notice to all its members. If the Governing Council does not convene the meeting in this manner, the Vice-Chancellor shall give a satisfactory explanation at the next meeting and obtain the approval of the Governing Council. But, on a request in writing signed by more than one-third of the members of the Governing Council, the Vice-Chancellor shall convene the meeting within seven days from the date of receipt of the request.

(2) More than half of the total number of members of the University Governing Council shall be the quorum for a meeting of the Council:

Provided that such quorum shall not be required for convocation of the University or a meeting of the University Governing Council held for the purpose of conferring degrees, titles or other distinctions.

(3) When a special meeting is convened by the Vice-Chancellor, no subject other than that is shown in the requisition shall be considered at the meeting.

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EXTRACT FROM THE THUNCHATH EZHUTHACHAN
MALAYALA UNIVERSITY ACT, 2013

(24 OF 2013)

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14. *Term of office of the Executive Committee.*—(1) An elected member of the Executive Committee shall hold office for one year from the date from which he is elected.

(2) A member nominated to the Executive Committee by the Vice-Chancellor Shall hold office for one year from the date of nomination.

(3) A member nominated to the Executive Committee by the Chancellor shall hold office for one year from the date of nomination.

(4) The term of the Executive Committee shall be co-terminus with the term of the General Council.

(5) No person other than the Ex-officio members shall be eligible to hold the office as member of the Executive Committee for more than two terms in succession.

(6) The quorum of the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be nine members.

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EXTRACT FROM THE A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY ACT, 2015

(17 OF 2015)

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28. *Meetings of the Syndicate.*—(1) The Syndicate shall meet as often as decided by the Vice-Chancellor but at least once in two months on the dates to be fixed by the Vice-Chancellor. The quorum for a meeting of the Syndicate shall be five.

(2) The Registrar shall convene the meetings of the Syndicate at such place and on such date and time as may be directed by the Vice-Chancellor.

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EXTRACT FROM THE SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN
UNIVERSITY ACT, 2021

(1 OF 2021)

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27. *Meetings of the Syndicate.*—(1) The Syndicate shall meet once in two months:

Provided that, the Vice-Chancellor shall have the authority to convene a meeting of the Syndicate at any time.

(2) The Vice-Chancellor shall preside over the meetings of the Syndicate:

Provided that, in the absence of the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor shall preside over the meeting with the permission of the Vice-Chancellor.

(3) The Registrar shall convene the meeting of the Syndicate at such place, date and time upon the direction of the Vice-Chancellor.

(4) The quorum for the meeting of the Syndicate shall be six.

(5) The procedures for the meeting of the Syndicate shall be as may be prescribed by Statutes.

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