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PART-V

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

The 8th September, 2025.

No.LB.82/LA/2025/3. – The Meghalaya Heritage (Amendment) Bill, 2025 introduced in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly on the 8th September, 2025 together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons is published under Rule 71 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly for general information.

THE MEGHALAYA HERITAGE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

A

BILL

to amend the Meghalaya Heritage Act, 2012.

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

- Short title and Commencement** 1. (1) This Act may be called the Meghalaya Heritage (Amendment) Act, 2025.
- (2) It shall come into force from the date of Notification in the Official Gazette.
- Amendment of Section 2** 2. In section 2 of the Meghalaya Heritage Act, 2012 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), the existing sub-clause (j) shall be marked as Sub-clause (j) (a) and a new Sub-clause (j) (b) shall be inserted as below:
- "2 (j)(b) 'Living heritage' refers to cultural practices, knowledge, and skills that are passed down from generation to generation. It includes oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and the knowledge and skills related to craftsmanship."
- Amendment of Section 4** 3. In section 4 of the principal Act, after the existing section 4 a new section 4(a) shall be inserted as follows, namely:-
- "4(A) Government may however, exempt acquisition of land or possession of the Living Heritage sites provided the same is vested with the Community or society."
- Amendment of Section 6** 4. In section 6 of the principal Act, after the existing sub-section 4 a new sub-section (5) shall be inserted as follows, namely:-
- "6(5) For the purpose of declaration of 'Living Heritage' of any particular area, the Authority shall co-opt at least two Community Representatives of that particular Living Heritage site or community as Members of the Authority."
- Amendment of Section 7** 5. In Section 7 of the principal Act, after the existing sub-section (x) of section 7, a new Subsection (xi) shall be inserted as follows:-
- " 7 (xi) For the purposes of Research, preservation and strengthening of traditional culture concerning particular Living Heritage, the Authority shall constitute a Sub-committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner/SDO (Civil) of that particular District, where the Living Heritage is located and comprising of members of departments and Society Members, Scholars as deemed fit by the concern Deputy Commissioner/SDO (Civil)."

Amendment of Section 9

6. In Section 9 of the principal Act, after the existing sub-clause (h) of sub-section (2), a new sub-clause (i) shall be inserted as follows, namely:-

"9(2)(i) Notwithstanding any provisions contained in this Act, Government may exempt acquisition of land or possession of the Living Heritage sites provided the same is vested with the Community or Society."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Meghalaya Heritage Act, 2012 was enacted to provide for the identification, protection, conservation, and promotion of heritage sites within the State.

In recent years, there has been growing recognition of *Living Heritage*, which includes cultural practices, knowledge, and traditions passed down through generations. The Ordinance promulgated on the 29th July, 2025, sought to provide statutory recognition of Living Heritage and enable community participation in its management.

This Bill seeks to replace the **Meghalaya Heritage (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 (Ordinance No. 9 of 2025)**.

The amendments specifically:

- o Insert the definition of ***Living Heritage***;
- o Provide for exemption from acquisition of community-owned heritage sites;
- o Ensure participation of community representatives in the Authority; and
- o Empower the Authority to constitute sub-committees for research and preservation.

The Bill is thus intended to strengthen the framework for protection of both tangible and intangible heritage of Meghalaya.

Hence this Bill.

S. DHAR,
Minister, I/c Urban Affairs etc.
Government of Meghalaya.

ANDREW SIMONS,
Commissioner & Secretary,
Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The provisions of this Bill do not involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State, except for incidental administrative expenses which can be met from the existing budgetary provisions of the concerned department.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

The Bill does not confer any new rule-making power upon the Government beyond those already provided in the principal Act.