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PART-V

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

The 24th August, 2026.

No.LB.98/LA/2026/2. – The Meghalaya Official Languages Bill, 2026 introduced in the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly on the 24th August, 2026 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 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES BILL, 2026

(As passed by the Assembly)

A

Bill

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.

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

The Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005 provides for English as the official language of the state, while Khasi and Garo are recognised as associate official languages for limited use only in Districts and Sub-Divisions. Article 345 of the Constitution empowers States to adopt one or more official languages. Repeal of the 2005 Act will remove inconsistencies and enable for adoption of Khasi and Garo languages as Ofcial languages of the State in addition to English language.

In view of the above, since the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya was not in Session, the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya has promulgated the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, on the 27th April, 2026 repealing the Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005 under Article 213 (1) of the Consitution of India.

Therefore, the above said Ordinance is now required to be replaced by a Bill, namely, the Meghalaya Official Languages Bill, 2026.

Hence the Bill.

CONRAD K. SANGMA
Chief Minister,
Government of Meghalaya.

MALTHUS S. SANGMA
Secretary,
Meghalaya Legislative Assembly.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

There will be no additional expenditure required from the Consolidated Fund of the State for implementing this Bill.

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