सत्यमेव जयते

The Gazette of Meghalaya

EXTRAORDINARY

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 136 **Shillong, Monday, August 24, 2026** **2nd Bhadra, 1948 (S. E.)**

PART-V

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION

The 24th August, 2026.

No.LB.99/LA/2026/2. – The International Open University (Repealing) 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 INTERNATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY (REPEALING) BILL, 2026

(As passed by the Assembly)

A

Bill

to repeal the International Open University Act, 2011.

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

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the International Open University (Repealing Act, 2026.

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

Repeal and Savings.

2. The International Open University Act, 2011 (Meghalaya Act No. 1 of 2013) is hereby repealed:

Provided that such repeal shall not:-

(i) affect the previous operation of the Act so repealed, or anything duly done or suffered thereunder; or

(ii) affect any right, privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under the Act so repealed.

STATEMENT OF OBJECT AND REASONS

The International Open University Act, 2011 was enacted in 2011 and assented by Hon'ble Governor on 17th January 2013 but no progress on esablishment and start of the University have been shown by the sponsor. Further, only in 2022, application for opening the campus of the University from the Attorney of the sponsor namely MERIT (Millenium Educational and Research Initiatives Trust) was received. However, the Government directed the sponsor to deposit the Endowment Fund amounting to ₹ 2 crore as per provision in Section 41, sub-section (1) of the IOU Act, 2011, which the sponsor failed to comply with. Subsequently, it was further detected that there was internal dispute between the founder Trustee named Mr. Lawrence Malik and the holder of power of Attorney named Shri Jay Murat Kumar and till date their dispute has not been resolved. Although POA to Shri Jay Murat Kumar was revoked by the Trust with effect from 20th February, 2024 but Shri Jay Murat Kumar signed 2 (Two) MOU's with Gautam Buddha Research Foundation for transfer of sponsorship from MERIT, one on 22nd December, 2023 and another on 23rd February, 2024, accordingly validity of the MOU signed on 22nd December, 2023 cannot be disregarded which may lead Government of Meghalaya to be involved in their disputes if University is allowed to be set up. Therefore, the Government has decided to repeal the Act.

Hence, this Bill.

LAHKMEN RYMBUI
Minister,
I/c Education, Law, Revenue &
Disaster Management & IPR

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

No fnancial expenditure will be involved from the consolidated fund of the State or from any other fund of the Government for passing this enactment.

SHILLONG: Printed and Published by the Director, Printing and Stationery, Meghalaya, Shillong.
(Extraordinary Gazette of Meghalaya) No. 271 - 680 + 10 – 24 – 8 - 2026.
website:- http://megpns.gov.in/gazette/gazette.asp.