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Shillong, Monday, April 27, 2026

7th Vaisakha, 1948 (S. E.)

PART-IV
GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
LAW (B) DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 27th April, 2026.

No.LL(B).36/2005/139 – The Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026 (Ordinance No. 1 of 2026) is hereby published for general information.

MEGHALAYA ORDINANCE NO. 1 OF 2026

Promulgated by the Governor on the 27th April, 2026

Published in the Extra-Ordinary Gazette of Meghalaya dated 27th April, 2026

THE MEGHALAYA OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ORDINANCE, 2026

An
Ordinance

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.

Whereas, the Legislative Assembly of the State of Meghalaya is not in session and the Governor is satisfied that circumstances exist which render it necessary for him to take immediate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of article 213 of the Constitution of India, the Governor of Meghalaya is pleased to promulgate in the Seventy-seventh Year of the Republic of India, the following Ordinance, namely:-

Short title, extent and commencement.-

- (1) This Ordinance may be called the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 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.-

- In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires,-
 - "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;
 - "Government" means the Government of the State of Meghalaya;

Official languages of the State.-

(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;

(e) "Official Gazette" means the Gazette of Meghalaya;

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.

Use of official languages.-

4. (1) 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.

(2) The Government may provide for the use of English and Khasi in District, Sub-Divisional and block level offices in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills Division and the use of English and Garo in the District, Sub-Divisional and block level offices in the Garo Hills Division:

Provided that the English language shall continue to be used for inter-district communications.

Protection of linguistic rights.-

5. Nothing in this Ordinance 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.-

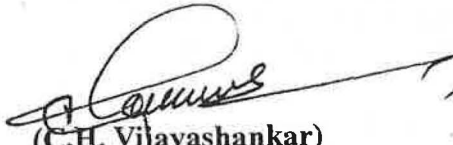
6. The State Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Ordinance.

Repeal and savings.-


7. (1) The Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005 (Meghalaya Act No. 10 of 2005) is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the repealed Act or Rules made thereunder shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Ordinance.

Dated: Lok Bhavan,
Shillong, the 27th April, 2026.


(C.H. Vijayashankar)
Governor of Meghalaya

Dated: Shillong,
The 27th April, 2026.


M. M. SANGMA,
Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Law (B) Department.