

THE UNIVERSITY LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2021

(As passed by the Legislative Assembly)

A

BILL

further to amend the Kerala University Act, 1974, the Calicut University Act, 1975, the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985, the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994, the Kannur University Act, 1996 and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005) for the purposes hereinafter appearing ;

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

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the University Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021.

(2) In this Act,—

(a) clause (c) of section 2, clause (c) of section 3, clause (c) of section 4 and clause (c) of section 6 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 5th day of October, 2020;

(b) item (ii) of clause (a) and clause (d) of section 5 shall be deemed to have come into force on the 24th day of February, 2021; and

(c) the remaining provisions shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st day of March, 2021.

2. *Amendment of Act 17 of 1974.*—In the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) clause (1) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (4A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4A) “Autonomous College” means a college conferred with autonomous status by the University Grants Commission and declared as such by the University by notification;”;

(iii) for clause (4B), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4B) “autonomy” means a privilege given to a college to conduct programmes of study, to develop its curriculum and syllabus, to devise teaching, learning and evaluation and assessment methods, to conduct examinations leading to the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University and publication of the results of the respective programmes of study in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(iv) for clause (5A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(5A) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College constituted under section 69G;”;

(v) after clause (7), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(7A) “Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69 LB;

(7B) “Course” means one of the subjects which comprises a programme in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(vi) after clause (9), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(9A) “Expert Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69 LC;”;

(vii) for clause (10A), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(10A) “Finance Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69 LD;

(10B) “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of an Autonomous College ;”;

(viii) after clause (12), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(12A) “Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College” means the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69 LA;

(12B) “Inter University Consultative Committee” means the Inter University Consultative Committee constituted under section 65A;”;

(ix) after clause (17), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(17A) “Programme” means higher education programme pursued for the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University of specified duration conducted in an Autonomous College in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(x) after clause (19), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(19A) “re-structured programme” means a programme approved by the University by incorporating or substituting inter disciplinary or multi disciplinary courses to the programme;”;

(xi) after clause (25), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(25A) “Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 69 LE;”.

(b) in section 5,—

(i) for clause (ia), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ia) to declare by notification conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college which has been conferred or extended by the University Grants Commission;”;

(ii) clause (ib) shall be omitted.

(c) after the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 56, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A). Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the Statutes made thereunder, the Syndicate may receive and consider application for affiliation of a new course in an affiliated college for the academic year 2020-21 within one month from the date of commencement of the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (72 of 2020).”.

(d) for section 65, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“65. *Appellate Tribunal*.—(1) The Government shall constitute an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act at such place notified by the Government.

(2) The Government shall appoint a person who has been a Judge of the High Court or who has been a Judicial Officer not below the rank of District Judge as the Appellate Tribunal.

(3) The term of office of the Appellate Tribunal shall be three years from the date of its appointment.

(4) The Appellate Tribunal shall have the power to make regulation consistent with the provisions of this Act, with the previous sanction of the Government for regulating its procedure and disposal of its business. The regulations so made shall be published in the Gazette.

(5) The remuneration and other conditions of service of the Appellate Tribunal shall be such as may be fixed by the Government.

(6) The Government shall provide such facilities for the establishment and functioning of the office of the Appellate Tribunal including creation of required posts and appointment thereto.

(7) The Appellate Tribunal shall have the jurisdiction to adjudicate dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.

(8) The decision of the Appellate Tribunal on a question as to whether a matter coming under this Act or not, shall be final.

(9) The Appellate Tribunal shall, for the purpose of exercising the powers conferred by or under this Act, have all the powers of a Civil Court while trying a suit under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Central Act 5 of 1908), in respect of the following matters, namely:—

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) requiring the discovery and production of any document;

(c) receiving evidence on affidavit;

(d) issuing commission for the examination of witnesses or for local investigation;

(e) inspecting any property or thing concerning with any decision to be taken;

(f) requisitioning of any public record or copy thereof from any court, authority or office;

(g) any other matter which may be prescribed.”.

(e) after section 65, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“65A. *Inter University Consultative Committee.*—(1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (a) The Pro-Chancellor | - Chairman; |
| (b) The Vice-Chancellor | - Member; |
| (c) The Vice-Chancellors of other Universities established by State law nominated by the Pro-Chancellor | - Member |
| (d) The Secretary to Government in charge of the Higher Education Department | - Member. |

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”.

(f) section 69A shall be omitted.

(g) section 69B shall be omitted.

(h) in section 69C, in the marginal heading and in the section for the words “academic autonomy” the word “autonomy” shall be substituted.

(i) in sub-section (1) of section 69D,—

(i) in item (iii), for the words, “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) after item (iii), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iv) The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College;

(v) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vi) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vii) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College;

(viii) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.”.

(j) in section 69E,—

(i) in sub-section (2),—

(a) for item (c), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff, of whom two shall be nominated by the Principal of the college based on seniority and rotation and two shall be elected by the regular teachers of the college from among themselves;”;

(b) for item (d), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(d) four experts from the field of industry, commerce, law, education, medicine, engineering, administration and finance, nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(c) for item (e), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(e) three Professors who are academic experts nominated by the University;”;

(d) in item (f), the words, “with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education” shall be omitted;

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three years:

Provided that, a person who has become a member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of his tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier.”;

(iii) after sub-section (4), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall be two-third of its total members.

(6) The Member Secretary of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(7) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College within seven clear days, by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(k) in section 69F,—

(i) in item (ii), the words “subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be” shall be omitted;

(ii) in items (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(l) for section 69G, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69G. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department offering the programme concerned - Chairman;

(b) One of the faculty members teaching the course of the programme concerned nominated by the Chairman;

(c) Two experts in the programme concerned from outside the University to be nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(d) One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts in the programme concerned recommended by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(e) One representative from the field of industry, corporate sector or allied field related to the student placement, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(f) One meritorious alumnus who has completed the Post Graduation of the University, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(g) One representative of the Board of Studies of the University in the related or allied programme, nominated by the Syndicate;

(h) Special invitees, from the following categories co-opted by the Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College with the approval of the Principal of the Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the Autonomous College whenever special or new programme are to be designed;

(ii) teachers from other departments of the Autonomous College who are experts in the programme concerned.

(2) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College shall decide the programme or group of programmes to be brought under a Board of Studies.

(3) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College may decide whether separate Board of Studies shall be constituted for programme or group of programmes at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate level.

(4) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three academic years:

Provided that, in the case of a teacher who is a member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall cease to be a member on the date of retirement.

(5) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for different departments.

(6) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary:

Provided that, it shall meet at least twice in an academic year.

(7) The Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College within seven clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(9) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall

examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.

(10) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.”.

(m) in section 69H,—

(i) for item (i) the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(i) to prepare curriculum and syllabus for programmes conducted in the Department of the Autonomous College keeping in view of the objectives of the college, interest of the stake holders of the programme and requirements of the nation and the State in particular and submit it for the consideration and approval of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College:

Provided that, the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that all existing programme, revision of existing programme and proposal for commencing new programme or restructured programme are in conformity with the duration of the programme, total credits for the programme, number of semester, minimum required credit for each semester and letter grading system prescribed for similar, allied or core programme approved by the University:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for new or restructured programme shall not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the discretion to distribute the percentage of marks between continuous assessment and end semester examination but however the percentage of marks for the end semester examination shall not be lower than sixty per cent of the total marks.”;

(ii) in item (iv), for the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners; and” the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners and question paper setters;” shall be substituted;

(iii) after item (v), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(vi) to evaluate academic outcome of the assessment methods or tools adopted for each programme in respect of every batch of students admitted to the programme as and when such batch of students complete the programme;

(vii) to prepare continuous assessment methods or tools in respect of a programme in the Autonomous College before the commencement of the programme;

(viii) to review and to suggest any modification as required on the basis of the academic outcome and submit a report thereon to the Academic Council of the college for the consideration and approval.”.

(n) in section 69 I,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in sub-section (1) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) The Governing Body of a Government College conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Three eminent persons of proven academic excellence who shall be an educationist, industrialist and professional nominated by the Government, of whom one shall be designated by the Government as the Chairman of the Governing Body;

(b) One teacher of the college nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(c) One teacher of the college elected from among themselves;

(d) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(e) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(f) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(g) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, nominated by the Government;

(h) One representative of the University, nominated by the Syndicate;

(i) The Chairman of the College Union;

(j) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(iv) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Governing Body of a private college conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Manager, Chairman, Director or President of the Educational Agency- Chairman;

(b) Four renowned academicians nominated by the Educational Agency;

(c) One teacher of the college nominated by the Principal of the private college on seniority by rotation;

(d) One teacher of the private college elected from among themselves;

(e) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Educational Agency;

(f) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(g) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(h) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(i) One representative of the University nominated by the Syndicate;

(j) The Chairman of the College Union;

(k) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”.

(o) for section 69J, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69 J. *Tenure of office of the Governing Body.*—The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Body shall be for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term:

Provided that, member of the Governing Body, nominated by the University Grants Commission shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of nomination:

Provided further that a person who has become a member of the Governing Body by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the date he ceases to hold such office or on the completion of tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier:

Provided also that a student who has become a member of the Governing Body shall cease to be such member on cessation of the term of college union or cease to be a student of the college, whichever is earlier.”.

(p) for section 69K, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69K. *Meeting of the Governing Body.*—(1) The Governing Body shall normally meet at least twice a year:

Provided that, the meeting of the Governing Body shall be convened by the Chairman within ten clear days on receipt of a written request of not less than one third members of the Governing Body.

(2) Two third of the members shall constitute the quorum of a meeting of the Governing Body.

(3) The Member Secretary of the Governing Body shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(4) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Governing Body within ten clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(5) A member of the Governing Body who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(q) in section 69 L,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in the section, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for item (v) and proviso the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(v) to issue migration certificate and provisional degree certificate with the approval or concurrence of the University.”.

(r) after section 69 L, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“69LA. *Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College in accordance with the rules, orders, regulations and guidelines of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council.

(2) There shall be an external peer team for the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College under the jurisdiction of the University constituted by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(i) An eminent academician nominated by the Governing Body of the Autonomous College - Chairman;

(ii) Two academic experts nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.

(3) The term of External Peer Team shall be four years.

(4) The External Peer Team shall devise its own procedures for exercising its powers and performing its duties.

(5) The External Peer Team shall review the comprehensive performance of the Autonomous College in various fields of academic activities such as teaching-learning process, conduct of examination and achievement of academic outcomes. The External Peer Team shall send its report to the University. The University shall forward it along with its recommendation to the University Grants Commission within one month of the receipt of the report. The review shall be conducted by the External Peer Team in every Autonomous College under its jurisdiction at least once in a year.

(6) The powers, duties and functions of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College shall be as laid down by the University from time to time.

69 LB. *Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute a Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College for the purpose of Chapter VIII B of the Act consisting of the following members, namely:—

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| (a) The Vice-Chancellor | - | Chairman; |
| (b) The Secretary to Government,
Higher Education Department
or his nominee not below the rank
of Joint Secretary to Government | - | Member; |
| (c) A member of the Executive Body
of the Kerala State Higher Education
Council nominated by the Vice-
Chairman of the Kerala State Higher
Education Council | - | Member; |

(d) One Manager of an Autonomous - Member.

College affiliated to the University
nominated by the Vice-Chancellor

(2) The term of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years from the date of its constitution.

(3) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be competent to hear and dispose of complaints relating to admission and fee in Autonomous Colleges affiliated to the University.

(4) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall devise its own procedures for the conduct of its business and proceedings.

(5) The decisions and orders of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be binding on the parties.

69 LC. *Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) The University shall constitute an Expert Committee of an Autonomous College with the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) Two members of the Syndicate elected from among themselves;

(c) Head of the department of the related or allied programme conducted by the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitee;

(d) Dean of the Faculty concerned of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College as special invitee nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(e) Two members of the Board of Studies of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitees;

(f) Three experts related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as special invitees;

(g) The Registrar of the University who shall be the convenor of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the members of the Syndicate in the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be co-terminus with the term of the Syndicate which elected them.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members other than special invitees.

69LD. *Finance Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) There shall be a Finance Committee of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College - Chairman;

(b) Two persons of the Governing Body elected from among themselves;

(c) A teacher nominated by the Principal of the College;

(d) Finance Officer of the University.

(2) The term of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years. The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet at least twice a year. The Chairman of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(3) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College within ten clear days.

(4) A member of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on draft

minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate to the members.

(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(6) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and duties, namely:—

(a) to advise the Governing Body on such matters brought to its notice;

(b) to prepare budget estimates relating to the grants and other amounts received from the University Grants Commission, University and the Government;

(c) to prepare, scrutinize and approve audited statement of accounts pertaining to the college.

69LE. *Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College - Chairman;

(b) Three senior teachers of the College, nominated by the Principal, of whom one shall be a woman;

(c) The Chairman of the College Union;

(d) One parent nominated by Parent Teacher Association of the Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two years. The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet during the first month of every academic year.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(4) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall follow the procedures as laid down by the University from time to time by its regulations for redressal of grievances of students.

(5) The recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be considered by the Principal of the College and shall take appropriate decision and communicate to the aggrieved student within a period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The report and recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon by the Principal shall be communicated to the Vice-Chancellor.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the order under sub-section (5) may prefer an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within fourteen days from the date of receipt of such order. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall take decision in such appeal within sixty days after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.”.

(s) for section 69M, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69M. *Procedure for conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college.*—(1) Where a college intends to change its status to an autonomous one, it shall make an application to the University at any time during the year in the format specified by the University Grants Commission.

(2) On receipt of the application, the Syndicate or Executive Council shall constitute a committee consisting of five members of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within seven days of receipt of the application. The committee shall verify whether the college satisfies the eligibility criteria fixed by the University Grants Commission from time to time, its academic performance, availability of infrastructure facilities, qualified faculty facilities for the conduct of assessment and evaluation with confidentiality and transparency, functional existence of various statutory committees under the Act and Statutes and the Committee shall submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within seven days.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall consider the report of the Committee and forward the application to the University Grants Commission within thirty days of

the receipt of application with such documents as required. Where the application is rejected by the Vice-Chancellor, his decision shall be communicated to the college and the University Grants Commission. The decision of the University shall be reported to the Government also.

(4) The University and the Government shall provide their nominees to the University Grants Commission Expert Committee for an on-spot visit as and when required by the University Grants Commission.

(5) Where the application of a college for the conferment or extension of autonomous status is rejected for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to re-apply within one year from the date of such rejection of its earlier application.

(6) An Autonomous College shall apply in the format prescribed by the University Grants Commission for extension of autonomous status, six months prior to the expiry of the autonomy cycle.

(7) In case of expiry of accreditation cycle fixed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation, the college seeking extension of autonomous status shall submit a proof of having applied for accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation to be eligible for extension of autonomy status.

(8) Where an Autonomous College desires to surrender its autonomous status, it shall follow the due process of forwarding the resolution by the Governing Body through the University to the University Grants Commission for consideration of such resolution.”.

(t) in section 69N, for sub-section (1) and proviso, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Principal of the college shall constitute an examination cell for every Autonomous College headed by a teacher of the college.”.

(u) after section 69 O, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“69 OA. *Powers and duties of an Autonomous College.*—(1) An Autonomous College shall continuously maintain the academic quality and standards in accordance with the statutory guidelines, orders and regulations issued by the University Grants Commission or the University from time to time.

(2) The Autonomous College shall without fail, upload in its website information regarding the live accreditation status, national ranking, programmes offered by it, prospectus for admission to programmes, the fee and all other amounts payable by students for the programmes, the profile of the faculty, the admission procedures, the details of relevant infrastructure, research activities of the college and hostel facilities.

(3) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the constitution of the authorities referred in section 69 D and the profile of the members of the respective authorities. The approved minutes of the authorities and the action taken on the same shall be also put in its website.

(4) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the detailed audited statement of accounts, annual budget and institution development plans.

(5) The Autonomous College may review existing courses or programmes and restructure, redesign and determine its courses, programmes of study and syllabus, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(6) The Autonomous College may formulate new courses or programmes within the nomenclature specified by the University Grants Commission as per the Specification of Degrees, 2014 subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(7) The Autonomous College may evolve methods of assessment of students performance, conduct of examination and notification of results, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(8) The Autonomous College may announce results, issue mark sheets and other certificate, however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(9) The Autonomous College shall pay one-time affiliation fee and such other amounts to the University at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status, in accordance with the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(10) The Autonomous College shall constitute the Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Finance Committee, Students Grievance Redressal Committee and Internal Quality Assurance Cell required to be constituted under this Chapter.

(11) The Autonomous College shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Committee as required under the University Grants Commission Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.

(12) The Autonomous College shall constitute a Committee as required under the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.

(13) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Autonomous College shall appoint teachers and other academic staff as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018.

(14) The Autonomous College shall continue to receive funds as being done before the grant of autonomous status, subject to the provisions of this Act, Statutes, rules and regulations made thereunder and agreements executed with the Government or the University.

(15) The autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. offered by the college and shall include the programmes introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status.

(16) The students enrolled in the Autonomous College at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status shall also be covered under autonomous status.”.

(v) in section 69 P,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “rules made thereunder” the words “rules made under this Chapter” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-sections (2) to (17), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) To fix and demand from an Autonomous College, the one-time affiliation fee and other fees under specific head or item payable by an Autonomous College for the period of autonomous status granted by the University Grants Commission or for the extended period of autonomous status, as the case may be.

(3) Where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College has approved and submitted a proposal for the commencement of a new programme in the college to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College for consideration and appropriate decision:

Provided that, every such proposal shall be submitted to the University on or before the 31st day of October of every year.

(4) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall within ninety days of receipt of the proposal by the University, take a decision, approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor who shall communicate the decision to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College as the decision of the University:

Provided that, the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider the proposal with reference to the duration of the programme, number of semesters, minimum required credits for each semester, total credits for the programme, letter grading systems fixed for similar programme conducted by the University and also ensuring that the proposal does not have the effect of lowering the academic standards or is against the interest of the nation or the State before approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor for communicating it to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College:

Provided further that, where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University within ninety days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(5) Where the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College returns the proposal for resubmission to the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the same to be returned to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College for resubmitting the proposal after rectifying the defects pointed out by the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within forty five days.

(6) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall on receipt of the resubmitted proposal, either approve or reject the proposal within thirty days:

Provided that, where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College which resubmitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University by the Vice-Chancellor within thirty days from the date of resubmission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(7) The Vice-Chancellor shall place the report of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon before the Syndicate.

(8) The Syndicate shall have the power to inspect and verify whether a college that has been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission has violated any of the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomous status.

(9) For the purpose of sub-section (8), the Syndicate may constitute a committee with such members as it deems fit, to inspect the college, verify its relevant records and collect evidence relevant to the purpose of the inspection, for which all information and documents called for by the committee shall be provided by the Autonomous College on the appointed date and time fixed by the committee:

Provided that, such enquiry shall extend only to complaint or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and

administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(10) The committee constituted under sub-section (9) shall finalise its report only after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.

(11) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said committee, is of the opinion that the autonomous status conferred on the college has to be suspended or revoked, it shall communicate the same to the University Grants Commission as the recommendation of the University.

(12) If any complaint or information in writing is received by the Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the content of the complaint and information, refer it to the University for necessary action if it deems so:

Provided that, such reference shall extend only to complaint or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying of fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(13) The procedure and action provided in sub-sections (8), (9) and (10) shall be followed in respect of a reference made by the Government under sub-section (12).

(14) Every Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual of Examinations within sixty days of such submission. The Autonomous College shall incorporate the modifications required to be made by the University in their Manual of Examinations and report the same to the University.”.

(w) in sub-section (3) of section 69Q, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(x) for section 69R, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69R. *Communications with Autonomous Colleges.*—All correspondences by the Government and the University with the Autonomous College or a College applying for autonomous status shall be made with the Principal.”.

(y) for section 69S, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69S. *Vacancies in the authorities of an Autonomous College under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*—No decision of any authority of an Autonomous College under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such authority not having been filled up.”.

3. *Amendment of Act 5 of 1975.*—In the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) clause (1) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (4A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4A) “Autonomous College” means a college conferred with autonomous status by the University Grants Commission and declared as such by the University by notification;”;

(iii) for clause (4B), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4B) “autonomy” means a privilege given to a college to conduct programmes of study, to develop its curriculum and syllabus, to devise teaching, learning and evaluation and assessment methods, to conduct examinations leading to the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University and publication of the results of the respective programmes of study in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(iv) for clause (5A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(5A) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 H;”;

(v) after clause (7), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(7A) Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 MB;

(7B) “Course” means one of the subjects which comprises a programme in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(vi) after clause (9), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(9A) “Expert Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 MC;”;

(vii) for clause (10A), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(10A) “Finance Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 MD;

(10B) “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(viii) after clause (12), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(12A) “Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College” means the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 MA;

(12B) “Inter University Consultative Committee” means the Inter University Consultative Committee constituted under section 65A;”;

(ix) after clause (17), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(17A) “Programme” means higher education programme pursued for the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University, of specified duration conducted in an Autonomous College in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII B of the Act;”;

(x) after clause (19), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(19A) “re-structured programme” means a programme approved by the University by incorporating or substituting inter disciplinary or multi disciplinary courses to the programme;”;

(xi) after clause (25), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(25A) “Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 68 ME;”.

(b) in section 5,—

(i) for clause (ia), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ia) to declare by notification conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college which has been conferred or extended by the University Grants Commission;”;

(ii) clause (ib) shall be omitted;

(c) after the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 56, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A). Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the Statutes made thereunder, the Syndicate may receive and consider application for affiliation of a new course in an affiliated college for the academic year 2020-21 within one month from the date of commencement of the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (72 of 2020)”;

(d) for section 65, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“65. *Appellate Tribunal*.— (1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the

Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.

(e) after section 65, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“65A. *Inter University Consultative Committee.*— (1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

- (a) The Pro-Chancellor - Chairman;
- (b) The Vice-Chancellor - Member;
- (c) The Vice-Chancellors of other Universities - Member;
established by State law nominated
by the Pro-Chancellor
- (d) The Secretary to Government in charge of - Member.
the Higher Education Department

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”.

(f) section 68 B shall be omitted.

(g) section 68 C shall be omitted.

(h) in section 68 D, in the marginal heading and in the section for the words “academic autonomy” the word “autonomy” shall be substituted.

(i) in sub-section (1) of section 68E,—

(i) in item (iii), for the words, “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) after item (iii), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iv) The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College;

(v) Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vi) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vii) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College;

(viii) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.”.

(j) in section 68F,—

(i) in sub-section (2),—

(a) for item (c), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff, of whom two shall be nominated by the Principal of the college based on seniority and rotation and two shall be elected by the regular teachers of the college from among themselves;”;

(b) for item (d), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(d) four experts from the field of industry, commerce, law, education, medicine, engineering, administration and finance, nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(c) for item (e), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(e) three Professors who are academic experts nominated by the University;”;

(d) in item (f), the words, “with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education” shall be omitted;

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three years:

Provided that, a person who has become a member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of his tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier.”;

(iii) after sub-section (4), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall be two-third of its total members.

(6) The Member Secretary of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(7) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College within seven clear days, by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(k) in section 68G,—

(i) in item (ii) the words “subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be” shall be omitted;

(ii) in items (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(l) for section 68 H, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68 H. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department offering the programme concerned-Chairman;

(b) one of the faculty members teaching the course of the programme concerned nominated by the Chairman;

(c) Two experts in the programme concerned from outside the University to be nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(d) One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts in the programme concerned recommended by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(e) One representative from the field of industry, corporate sector or allied field related to the student placement, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(f) One meritorious alumnus who has completed the Post Graduation of the University, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(g) One representative of the Board of Studies of the University in the related or allied programme, nominated by the Syndicate;

(h) Special invitees, from the following categories co-opted by the Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College with the approval of the Principal of the Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the Autonomous College whenever special or new programmes are to be designed;

(ii) teachers from other departments of the Autonomous College who are experts in the programme concerned.

(2) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College shall decide the programme or group of programmes to be brought under a Board of Studies.

(3) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College may decide whether separate Board of Studies shall be constituted for programme or group of programmes at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate level.

(4) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three academic years:

Provided that, in the case of a teacher who is a member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall cease to be a member on the date of retirement.

(5) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for different departments.

(6) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary:

Provided that, it shall meet at least twice in an academic year.

(7) The Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College within seven clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(9) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.

(10) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.”.

(m) in section 68 I,—

(i) for item (i) the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(i) to prepare curriculum and syllabus for programmes conducted in the Department of the Autonomous College keeping in view of the

objectives of the college, interest of the stakeholders of the programme and requirements of the nation and the State in particular and submit it for the consideration and approval of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College:

Provided that, the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that all existing programme, revision of existing programme and proposal for commencing new programme or restructured programme are in conformity with the duration of the programme, total credits for the programme, number of semester, minimum required credit for each semester and letter grading system prescribed for similar, allied or core programme approved by the University:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for new or restructured programme shall not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the discretion to distribute the percentage of marks between continuous assessment and end semester examination but however the percentage of marks for the end semester examination shall not be lower than sixty percent of the total marks.”;

(ii) in item (iv), for the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners; and” the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners and question paper setters;” shall be substituted;

(iii) after item (v), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(vi) to evaluate academic outcome of the assessment methods or tools adopted for each programme in respect of every batch of students admitted to the programme as and when such batch of students complete the programme;

(vii) to prepare continuous assessment methods or tools in respect of a programme in the Autonomous College before the commencement of the programme;

(viii) to review and to suggest any modification as required on the basis of the academic outcome and submit a report thereon to the Academic Council of the college for the consideration and approval.”.

(n) in section 68 J,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in sub-section (1), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) The Governing Body of a Government College conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Three eminent persons of proven academic excellence who shall be an educationist, industrialist and professional nominated by the Government, of whom one shall be designated by the Government as the Chairman of the Governing Body;

(b) One teacher of the college nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(c) One teacher of the college elected from among themselves;

(d) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(e) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(f) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(g) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, nominated by the Government;

(h) One representative of the University, nominated by the Syndicate;

(i) The Chairman of the College Union;

(j) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(iv) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Governing Body of a private college conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Manager, Chairman, Director or President of the Educational Agency- Chairman;

(b) Four renowned academicians nominated by the Educational Agency;

(c) One teacher of the college nominated by the Principal of the private college on seniority by rotation;

(d) One teacher of the private college elected from among themselves;

(e) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Educational Agency;

(f) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(g) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(h) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(i) One representative of the University nominated by the Syndicate;

(j) The Chairman of the College Union;

(k) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”.

(o) for section 68 K, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68 K. *Tenure of office of the Governing Body.*— The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Body shall be for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term:

Provided that, member of the Governing Body, nominated by the University Grants Commission shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of nomination:

Provided further that a person who has become a member of the Governing Body by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the date he ceases to hold such office or on the completion of tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier:

Provided also that a student who has become a member of the Governing Body shall cease to be such member on cessation of the term of college union or cease to be a student of the college, whichever is earlier.”.

(p) for section 68 L, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68 L. *Meeting of the Governing Body.*— (1) The Governing Body shall normally meet at least twice a year:

Provided that, the meeting of the Governing Body shall be convened by the Chairman within ten clear days on receipt of a written request of not less than one third members of the Governing Body.

(2) Two third of the members shall constitute the quorum of a meeting of the Governing Body.

(3) The Member Secretary of the Governing Body shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(4) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Governing Body within ten clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(5) A member of the Governing Body who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(q) in section 68 M,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in the section, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for item (v) and proviso the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(v) to issue migration certificate and provisional degree certificate with the approval or concurrence of the University. ”.

(r) after section 68 M, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“68 MA *Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College*.— (1) There shall be an Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College in accordance with the rules, orders, regulations and guidelines of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council.

(2) There shall be an External Peer Team for the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College under the jurisdiction of the University constituted by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(i) An eminent academician nominated by the Governing Body of the Autonomous College- Chairman;

(ii) Two academic experts nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.

(3) The term of External Peer Team shall be four years.

(4) The External Peer Team shall devise its own procedures for exercising its powers and performing its duties.

(5) The External Peer Team shall review the comprehensive performance of the Autonomous College in various fields of academic activities

such as teaching-learning process, conduct of examination and achievement of academic outcomes. The External Peer Team shall send its report to the University. The University shall forward it along with its recommendation to the University Grants Commission within one month of the receipt of the report. The review shall be conducted by the External Peer Team in every Autonomous College under its jurisdiction at least once in a year.

(6) The powers, duties and functions of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College shall be as laid down by the University from time to time.

68 MB. *Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) The University shall constitute a Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College for the purpose of Chapter VIII B of the Act consisting of the following members, namely:—

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (a) The Vice-Chancellor | - Chairman; |
| (b) The Secretary to Government,
Higher Education Department or
his nominee not below the rank of
Joint Secretary to Government | - Member; |
| (c) A member of the Executive Body
of the Kerala State Higher Education
Council nominated by the
Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State
Higher Education Council | - Member; |
| (d) One Manager of an Autonomous
College affiliated to the University
nominated by the Vice-Chancellor | - Member. |

(2) The term of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years from the date of its constitution.

(3) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be competent to hear and dispose of complaints relating to admission and fee in Autonomous Colleges affiliated to the University.

(4) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall devise its own procedures for the conduct of its business and proceedings.

(5) The decisions and orders of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be binding on the parties.

68 MC. *Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.*— (1) The University shall constitute an Expert Committee of an Autonomous College with the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) Two members of the Syndicate elected from among themselves;

(c) Head of the department of the related or allied programme conducted by the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitee;

(d) Dean of the Faculty concerned of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College as special invitee nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(e) Two members of the Board of Studies of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitees;

(f) Three experts related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as special invitees;

(g) The Registrar of the University who shall be the convenor of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the members of the Syndicate in the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be co-terminus with the term of the Syndicate which elected them.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members other than special invitees.

68 MD. *Finance Committee of an Autonomous College*.— (1) There shall be a Finance Committee of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

- (a) The Principal of the College - Chairman;
- (b) Two persons of the Governing Body elected from among themselves;
- (c) A teacher nominated by the Principal of the College;
- (d) Finance Officer of the University.

(2) The term of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years. The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet at least twice a year. The Chairman of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(3) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College within ten clear days.

(4) A member of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate to the members.

(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(6) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and duties, namely:—

- (a) to advise the Governing Body on such matters brought to its notice;
- (b) to prepare budget estimates relating to the grants and other amounts received from the University Grants Commission, University and the Government;

(c) to prepare, scrutinize and approve audited statement of accounts pertaining to the college.

68 ME. *Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College - Chairman;

(b) Three senior teachers of the College, nominated by the Principal, of whom one shall be a woman;

(c) The Chairman of the College Union;

(d) One parent nominated by Parent Teacher Association of the Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two years. The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet during the first month of every academic year.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(4) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall follow the procedures as laid down by the University from time to time by its regulations for redressal of grievances of students.

(5) The recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be considered by the Principal of the College and shall take appropriate decision and communicate to the aggrieved student within a period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The report and recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon by the Principal shall be communicated to the Vice-Chancellor.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the order under sub-section (5) may prefer an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within fourteen days from the date of receipt of

such order. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall take decision in such appeal within sixty days after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.”.

(s) for section 68 N, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68N. *Procedure for conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college.*—(1) Where a college intends to change its status to an autonomous one, it shall make an application to the University at any time during the year in the format specified by the University Grants Commission.

(2) On receipt of the application, the Syndicate or Executive Council shall constitute a committee consisting of five members of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within seven days of receipt of the application. The committee shall verify whether the college satisfies the eligibility criteria fixed by the University Grants Commission from time to time, its academic performance, availability of infrastructure facilities, qualified faculty facilities for the conduct of assessment and evaluation with confidentiality and transparency, functional existence of various statutory committees under the Act and Statutes and the committee shall submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within seven days.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall consider the report of the Committee and forward the application to the University Grants Commission within thirty days of the receipt of application with such documents as required. Where the application is rejected by the Vice-Chancellor, his decision shall be communicated to the college and the University Grants Commission. The decision of the University shall be reported to the Government also.

(4) The University and the Government shall provide their nominees to the University Grants Commission Expert Committee for an on-spot visit as and when required by the University Grants Commission.

(5) Where the application of a college for the conferment or extension of autonomous status is rejected for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to re-apply, within one year from the date of such rejection of its earlier application.

(6) An Autonomous College shall apply in the format prescribed by the University Grants Commission for extension of autonomous status, six months prior to the expiry of the autonomy cycle.

(7) In case of expiry of accreditation cycle fixed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation, the college seeking extension of autonomous status shall submit a proof of having applied for accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation to be eligible for extension of autonomy status.

(8) Where an Autonomous College desires to surrender its autonomous status, it shall follow the due process of forwarding the resolution by the Governing Body through the University to the University Grants Commission for consideration of such resolution.

(t) in section 68 O, for sub-section (1) and proviso, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Principal of the college shall constitute an examination cell for every Autonomous College headed by a teacher of the college.”.

(u) after section 68 P, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“68 PA. *Powers and duties of an Autonomous College.*— (1) An Autonomous College shall continuously maintain the academic quality and standards in accordance with the statutory guidelines, orders and regulations issued by the University Grants Commission or the University from time to time.

(2) The Autonomous College shall without fail, upload in its website information regarding the live accreditation status, national ranking, programmes offered by it, prospectus for admission to programmes, the fee and all other amounts payable by students for the programmes, the profile of the faculty, the admission procedures, the details of relevant infrastructure, research activities of the college and hostel facilities.

(3) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the constitution of the authorities referred in section 68E and the profile of the members of the respective authorities. The approved minutes of the authorities and the action taken on the same shall be also put in its website.

(4) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the detailed audited statement of accounts, annual budget and institution development plans.

(5) The Autonomous College may review existing courses or programmes and restructure, redesign and determine its courses, programmes of study and syllabus, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(6) The Autonomous College may formulate new courses or programmes within the nomenclature specified by the University Grants Commission as per the Specification of Degrees, 2014 subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(7) The Autonomous College may evolve methods of assessment of students performance, conduct of examination and notification of results, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(8) The Autonomous College may announce results, issue mark sheets and other certificate, however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(9) The Autonomous College shall pay one-time affiliation fee and such other amounts to the University at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status, in accordance with the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(10) The Autonomous College shall constitute the Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Finance Committee, Students Grievance Redressal Committee and Internal Quality Assurance Cell required to be constituted under this Chapter.

(11) The Autonomous College shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Committee as required under the University Grants Commission Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.

(12) The Autonomous College shall constitute a Committee as required under the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.

(13) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Autonomous College shall appoint teachers and other academic staff as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018.

(14) The Autonomous College shall continue to receive funds as being done before the grant of autonomous status, subject to the provisions of this Act, Statutes, Rules and Regulations made thereunder and agreements executed with the Government or the University.

(15) The autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. offered by the college and shall include the programmes introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status.

(16) The students enrolled in the Autonomous College at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status shall also be covered under autonomous status.”.

(v) in section 68Q,—

(i) in sub-section (1) for the words “rules made thereunder” the words “rules made under this Chapter” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-sections (2) to (17), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) To fix and demand from an Autonomous College, the one-time affiliation fee and other fees under specific head or items payable by an Autonomous College for the period of autonomous status granted by the University Grants Commission or for the extended period of autonomous status, as the case may be.

(3) Where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College has approved and submitted a proposal for the commencement of a new programme in the

college to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College for consideration and appropriate decision:

Provided that, every such proposal shall be submitted to the University on or before the 31st day of October of every year.

(4) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall within ninety days of receipt of the proposal by the University take a decision, approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor who shall communicate the decision to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College as the decision of the University:

Provided that, the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider the proposal with reference to the duration of the programme, number of semesters, minimum required credits for each semester, total credits for the programme, letter grading systems prescribed for similar programme conducted by the University and also ensuring that the proposal does not have the effect of lowering the academic standards or is against the interest of the nation or the State before approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor for communicating it to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College:

Provided further that where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University within ninety days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(5) Where the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College returns the proposal for resubmission to the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the same to be returned to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College for resubmitting the proposal after rectifying the defects pointed out by the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within forty-five days.

(6) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall on receipt of the resubmitted proposal, either approve or reject the proposal within thirty days:

Provided that, where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College which resubmitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University by the Vice-Chancellor within thirty days from the date of resubmission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(7) The Vice-Chancellor shall place the report of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon before the Syndicate.

(8) The Syndicate shall have the power to inspect and verify whether a college that has been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission has violated any of the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomous status.

(9) For the purpose of sub-section (7), the Syndicate may constitute a committee with such members as it deems fit, to inspect the college, verify its relevant records and collect evidence relevant to the purpose of the inspection for which all information and documents called for by the committee shall be provided by the Autonomous College on the appointed date and time fixed by the committee:

Provided that, such enquiry shall extend only to complaint or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(10) The committee constituted under sub-section (9) shall finalise its report only after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.

(11) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said committee, is of the opinion that the autonomous status conferred on the college has to be suspended or revoked, it shall communicate the same to the University Grants Commission as the recommendation of the University.

(12) If any complaint or information in writing is received by the Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the content of the complaint and information, refer it to the University for necessary action if it deems so:

Provided that, such reference shall extend only to complaint or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying of fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(13) The procedure and action provided in sub-sections (8), (9) and (10) shall be followed in respect of a reference made by the Government under sub-section (12).

(14) Every Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual of Examinations within sixty days of such submission. The Autonomous College shall incorporate the modifications required to be made by the University in their Manual of Examinations and report the same to the University.”.

(w) in sub-section (3) of section 68R, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(x) for section 68S, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68S. *Communications with Autonomous Colleges.*— All correspondences by the Government and the University with the Autonomous College or a College applying for autonomous status shall be made with the Principal.”.

(y) for section 68T, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“68T. *Vacancies in the authorities of an Autonomous College under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*— No decision of any authority of an Autonomous College under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such authority not having been filled up.”.

4. *Amendment of Act 12 of 1985.*— In the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) clause (1) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (4A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4A) “Autonomous College” means a college conferred with autonomous status by the University Grants Commission and declared as such by the University by notification;”;

(iii) for clause (4B), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4B) “autonomy” means a privilege given to a college to conduct programmes of study, to develop its curriculum and syllabus, to devise teaching, learning and evaluation and assessment methods, to conduct examinations leading to the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University and publication of the results of the respective programmes of study in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IX of the Act;”;

(iv) for clause (5A), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(5A) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College constituted under section 109;”;

(v) after clause (7), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(7A) “Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114 B;

(7B) “Course” means one of the subjects which comprises a programme in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IX of the Act;”;

(vi) after clause (9), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(9A) “Expert Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114C;”;

(vii) for clause (10A), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(10A) “Finance Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114D;

(10B) “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(viii) after clause (12), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(12A) “Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College” means the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114A;

(12B) “Inter University Consultative Committee” means the Inter University Consultative Committee constituted under section 69A;”;

(ix) after clause (19 A), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(19B) “Programme” means higher education programme pursued for the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University, of specified duration conducted in an Autonomous College in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IX of the Act;”;

(x) after clause (21), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(21A) “re-structured programme” means a programme approved by the University by incorporating or substituting inter disciplinary or multi disciplinary courses to the programme;”;

(xi) after clause (27), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(27A) “Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 114E;”.

(b) in section 5,—

(i) for clause (ia), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ia) to declare by notification conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college which has been conferred or extended by the University Grants Commission;”;

(ii) clause (ib) shall be omitted.

(c) after the second proviso to sub-section (2) of section 58, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the Statutes made thereunder, the Syndicate may receive and consider application for affiliation of a new course in an affiliated college for the academic year 2020-21 within one month from the date of commencement of the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (72 of 2020)”;

(d) for section 69, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“69. *Appellate Tribunal*.— (1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.”.

(e) after section 69, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“69 A. *Inter University Consultative Committee*.—(1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| (a) The Pro-Chancellor | - Chairman; |
| (b) The Vice-Chancellor | - Member; |
| (c) The Vice-Chancellors of other Universities established by State law nominated by the Pro-Chancellor | - Member; |
| (d) The Secretary to Government in charge of the Higher Education Department | - Member. |

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”.

(f) section 103 shall be omitted.

(g) section 104 shall be omitted.

(h) in section 105, in the marginal heading and in the section for the words “academic autonomy” the word “autonomy” shall be substituted.

(i) in sub-section (1) of section 106,—

(i) in item (iii), for the words, “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) after item (iii), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iv) The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College;

(v) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vi) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vii) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College;

(viii) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.”.

(j) in section 107,—

(i) in sub-section (2),—

(a) for item (c), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff, of whom two shall be nominated by the Principal of the college based on seniority and rotation and two shall be elected by the regular teachers of the college from among themselves;”;

(b) for item (d), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(d) four experts from the field of industry, commerce, law, education, medicine, engineering, administration and finance, nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(c) for item (e), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(e) three Professors who are academic experts nominated by the University;”;

(d) in item (f), the words, “with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education” shall be omitted;

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three years:

Provided that, a person who has become a member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of his tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier.”;

(iii) after sub-section (4), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall be two-third of its total members.

(6) The Member Secretary of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(7) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College within seven clear days, by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(k) in section 108,—

(i) in item (ii), the words “subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be” shall be omitted;

(ii) in items (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(l) for section 109, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“109. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department offering the programme concerned-Chairman;

(b) One of the faculty members teaching the course of the programme concerned nominated by the Chairman;

(c) Two experts in the programme concerned from outside the University to be nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(d) One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts in the programme concerned recommended by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(e) One representative from the field of industry, corporate sector or allied field related to the student placement, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(f) One meritorious alumnus who has completed the Post Graduation of the University, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(g) One representative of the Board of Studies of the University in the related or allied programme, nominated by the Syndicate;

(h) Special invitees, from the following categories co-opted by the Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College with the approval of the Principal of the Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the Autonomous College whenever special or new programme are to be designed;

(ii) teachers from other departments of the Autonomous College who are experts in the programme concerned.

(2) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College shall decide the programme or group of programmes to be brought under a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.

(3) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College may decide whether separate Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be constituted for programme or group of programmes at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate level.

(4) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three academic years:

Provided that, in the case of a teacher who is a member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall cease to be a member on the date of retirement.

(5) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for different departments.

(6) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary:

Provided that, it shall meet at least twice in an academic year.

(7) The Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College within seven clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(9) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall

examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.

(10) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.”.

(m) in section 110,—

(i) for item (i) the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(i) to prepare curriculum and syllabus for programmes conducted in the Department of the Autonomous College keeping in view of the objectives of the college, interest of the stake holders of the programme and requirements of the nation and the State in particular and submit it for the consideration and approval of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College:

Provided that, the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that all existing programme, revision of existing programme and proposal for commencing new programme or restructured programme are in conformity with the duration of the programme, total credits for the programme, number of semester, minimum required credit for each semester and letter grading system prescribed for similar, allied or core programme approved by the University:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for new or restructured programme shall not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the discretion to distribute the percentage of marks between continuous assessment and end semester examination but however the percentage of marks for the end semester examination shall not be lower than sixty percent of the total marks.”;

(ii) in item (iv), for the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners; and” the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners and question paper setters;” shall be substituted;

(iii) after item (v), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(vi) to evaluate academic outcome of the assessment methods or tools adopted for each programme in respect of every batch of students admitted to the programme as and when such batch of students complete the programme;

(vii) to prepare continuous assessment methods or tools in respect of a programme in the Autonomous College before the commencement of the programme;

(viii) to review and to suggest any modification as required on the basis of the academic outcome and submit a report thereon to the Academic Council of the college for the consideration and approval.”.

(n) in section 111,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in sub-section (1), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) The Governing Body of a Government College conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Three eminent persons of proven academic excellence who shall be an educationist, industrialist and professional nominated by the Government, of whom one shall be designated by the Government as the Chairman of the Governing Body;

(b) One teacher of the college nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(c) One teacher of the college elected from among themselves;

(d) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(e) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(f) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(g) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, nominated by the Government;

(h) One representative of the University, nominated by the Syndicate;

(i) The Chairman of the College Union;

(j) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(iv) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Governing Body of a private college conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Manager, Chairman, Director or President of the Educational Agency- Chairman;

(b) Four renowned academicians nominated by the Educational Agency;

(c) One teacher of the college nominated by the Principal of the private college on seniority by rotation;

(d) One teacher of the private college elected from among themselves;

(e) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Educational Agency;

(f) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(g) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(h) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;

(i) One representative of the University nominated by the Syndicate;

(j) The Chairman of the College Union;

(k) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”.

(o) for section 112, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“112. *Tenure of office of the Governing Body.*—The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Body shall be for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term:

Provided that, member of the Governing Body, nominated by the University Grants Commission shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of nomination:

Provided further that, a person who has become a member of the Governing Body by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the date he ceases to hold such office or on the completion of tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier:

Provided also that, a student who has become a member of the Governing Body shall cease to be such member on cessation of the term of college union or cease to be a student of the college, whichever is earlier.”.

(p) for section 113, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“113. *Meeting of the Governing Body.*—(1) The Governing Body shall normally meet at least twice a year:

Provided that, the meeting of the Governing Body shall be convened by the Chairman within ten clear days on receipt of a written request of not less than one third members of the Governing Body.

(2) Two third of the members shall constitute the quorum of a meeting of the Governing Body.

(3) The Member Secretary of the Governing Body shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(4) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Governing Body within ten clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(5) A member of the Governing Body who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(q) in section 114,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in the section, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for item (v) and proviso the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(v) to issue migration certificate and provisional degree certificate with the approval or concurrence of the University. ”.

(r) after section 114, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“114A *Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College in accordance with the rules, orders, regulations and guidelines of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council.

(2) There shall be an External Peer Team for the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College under the jurisdiction of the University constituted by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(i) An eminent academician nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College - Chairman;

(ii) Two academic experts nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.

(3) The term of External Peer Team shall be four years.

(4) The External Peer Team shall devise its own procedures for exercising its powers and performing its duties.

(5) The External Peer Team shall review the comprehensive performance of the Autonomous College in various fields of academic activities such as teaching-learning process, conduct of examination and achievement of academic outcomes. The External Peer Team shall send its report to the University. The University shall forward it along with its recommendation to the University Grants Commission within one month of the receipt of the report. The review shall be conducted by the External Peer Team in every Autonomous College under its jurisdiction at least once in a year.

(6) The powers, duties and functions of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College shall be as laid down by the University from time to time.

114B. *Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute a Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College for the purpose of Chapter IX of the Act consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Vice-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government - Member;

(c) A member of the Executive Body of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Vice-Chairman of the Kerala State Higher Education Council - Member;

(d) One Manager of an Autonomous College affiliated to the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor- Member.

(2) The term of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years from the date of its constitution.

(3) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be competent to hear and dispose of complaints relating to admission and fee in Autonomous Colleges affiliated to the University.

(4) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall devise its own procedures for the conduct of its business and proceedings.

(5) The decisions and orders of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be binding on the parties.

114C *Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute an Expert Committee of an Autonomous College with the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) Two members of the Syndicate elected from among themselves;

(c) Head of the department of the related or allied programme conducted by the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitee;

(d) Dean of the Faculty concerned of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College as special invitee nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(e) Two members of the Board of Studies of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitees;

(f) Three experts related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as special invitees;

(g) The Registrar of the University who shall be the convenor of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the members of the Syndicate in the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College be co-terminus with the term of the Syndicate which elected them.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members other than special invitees.

114D *Finance Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Finance Committee of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College- Chairman;

(b) Two persons of the Governing Body elected from among themselves;

(c) A teacher nominated by the Principal of the College;

(d) Finance Officer of the University.

(2) The term of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years. The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet at least twice a year. The Chairman of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(3) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College within ten clear days.

(4) A member of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate to the members.

(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(6) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and duties, namely:—

(a) to advise the Governing Body on such matters brought to its notice;

(b) to prepare budget estimates relating to the grants and other amounts received from the University Grants Commission, University and the Government;

(c) to prepare, scrutinize and approve audited statement of accounts pertaining to the college.

114E. *Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College - Chairman;

(b) Three senior teachers of the College, nominated by the Principal, of whom one shall be a woman;

(c) The Chairman of the College Union;

(d) One parent nominated by Parent Teacher Association of the Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two years. The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet during the first month of every academic year.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(4) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall follow the procedures as laid down by the University from time to time by its regulations for redressal of grievances of students.

(5) The recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be considered by the Principal of the College and shall take appropriate decision and communicate to the aggrieved student within a period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The report and recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon by the Principal shall be communicated to the Vice-Chancellor.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the order under sub-section (5) may prefer an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within fourteen days from the date of receipt of such order. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall take decision in such appeal within sixty days after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.”.

(s) for section 115, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“115. *Procedure for conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college.*—(1) Where a college intends to change its status to an autonomous one, it shall make an application to the University at any time during the year in the format specified by the University Grants Commission.

(2) On receipt of the application, the Syndicate or Executive Council shall constitute a committee consisting of five members of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within seven days of receipt of the application. The committee shall verify whether the college satisfies the eligibility criteria fixed by the University Grants Commission from time to time, its academic performance, availability of infrastructure facilities, qualified faculty facilities for the conduct of assessment and evaluation with confidentiality and transparency, functional existence of various statutory committees under the Act and Statutes and the committee shall submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within seven days.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall consider the report of the committee and forward the application to the University Grants Commission within thirty days of the receipt of application with such documents as required. Where the application is rejected by the Vice-Chancellor, his decision shall be communicated to the college and the University Grants Commission. The decision of the University shall be reported to the Government also.

(4) The University and the Government shall provide their nominees to the University Grants Commission Expert Committee for an on-spot visit as and when required by the University Grants Commission.

(5) Where the application of a college for the conferment or extension of autonomous status is rejected for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to re-apply within one year from the date of such rejection of its earlier application.

(6) An Autonomous College shall apply in the format prescribed by the University Grants Commission for extension of autonomous status, six months prior to the expiry of the autonomy cycle.

(7) In case of expiry of accreditation cycle fixed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation, the college seeking extension of autonomous status shall submit a proof of having applied for accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation to be eligible for extension of autonomy status.

(8) Where an Autonomous College desires to surrender its autonomous status, it shall follow the due process of forwarding the resolution by the Governing Body through the University to the University Grants Commission for consideration of such resolution.”.

(t) in section 116, for sub-section (1) and proviso, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Principal of the college shall constitute an examination cell for every Autonomous College headed by a teacher of the college.”.

(u) after section 117, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“117A. *Powers and duties of an Autonomous College.*—(1) An Autonomous College shall continuously maintain the academic quality and standards in accordance with the statutory guidelines, orders and regulations issued by the University Grants Commission or the University from time to time.

(2) The Autonomous College shall without fail, upload in its website information regarding the live accreditation status, national ranking, programmes offered by it, prospectus for admission to programmes, the fee and all other amounts payable by students for the programmes, the profile of the faculty, the admission procedures, the details of relevant infrastructure, research activities of the college and hostel facilities.

(3) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the constitution of the authorities referred in section 106 and the profile of the members of the respective authorities. The approved minutes of the authorities and the action taken on the same shall be also put in its website.

(4) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the detailed audited statement of accounts, annual budget and institution development plans.

(5) The Autonomous College may review existing courses or programmes and restructure, redesign and determine its courses, programmes of study and syllabus, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(6) The Autonomous College may formulate new courses or programmes within the nomenclature specified by the University Grants Commission as per the Specification of Degrees, 2014, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(7) The Autonomous College may evolve methods of assessment of students performance, conduct of examination and notification of results, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(8) The Autonomous College may announce results, issue mark sheets and other certificate, however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(9) The Autonomous College shall pay one-time affiliation fee and such other amounts to the University at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status, in accordance with the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(10) The Autonomous College shall constitute the Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Finance Committee, Students Grievance Redressal Committee and Internal Quality Assurance Cell required to be constituted under this Chapter.

(11) The Autonomous College shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Committee as required under the University Grants Commission Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.

(12) The Autonomous College shall constitute a Committee as required under the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.

(13) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Autonomous College shall appoint teachers and other academic staff as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in

Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018.

(14) The Autonomous College shall continue to receive funds as being done before the grant of autonomous status, subject to the provisions of this Act, Statutes, rules and regulations made thereunder and agreements executed with the Government or the University.

(15) The autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. offered by the college and shall include the programmes introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status.

(16) The students enrolled in the Autonomous College at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status shall also be covered under autonomous status.”.

(v) in section 118,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “rules made thereunder” the words “rules made under this Chapter” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-sections (2) to (17), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) To fix and demand from an Autonomous College, the one time affiliation fee and other fees under specific head or items payable by an Autonomous College for the period of autonomous status granted by the University Grants Commission or for the extended period of autonomous status, as the case may be.

(3) Where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College has approved and submitted a proposal for the commencement of a new programme in the college to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College for consideration and appropriate decision:

Provided that, every such proposal shall be submitted to the University on or before the 31st day of October of every year.

(4) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall within ninety days of receipt of the proposal by the University, take a decision, approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor who shall communicate the decision to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College as the decision of the University:

Provided that, the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider the proposal with reference to the duration of the programme, number of semesters, minimum required credits for each semester, total credits for the programme, letter grading systems fixed for similar programme conducted by the University and also ensuring that the proposal does not have the effect of lowering the academic standards or is against the interest of the nation or the State before approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor for communicating it to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College:

Provided further that, where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University within ninety days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(5) Where the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College returns the proposal for resubmission to the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the same to be returned to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College for resubmitting the proposal after rectifying the defects pointed out by the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within forty five days.

(6) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall on receipt of the resubmitted proposal, either approve or reject the proposal within thirty days:

Provided that, where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College which resubmitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University by the Vice-Chancellor within thirty days from the date of resubmission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(7) The Vice-Chancellor shall place the report of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon before the Syndicate.

(8) The Syndicate shall have the power to inspect and verify whether a college that has been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission has violated any of the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomous status.

(9) For the purpose of sub-section (8), the Syndicate may constitute a committee with such members as it deems fit, to inspect the college, verify its relevant records and collect evidence relevant to the purpose of the inspection, for which all information and documents called for by the committee shall be provided by the Autonomous College on the appointed date and time fixed by the committee:

Provided that, such enquiry shall extend only to complaint or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(10) The committee constituted under sub-section (9) shall finalise its report only after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.

(11) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said committee, is of the opinion that the autonomous status conferred on the college has to be suspended or revoked, it shall communicate the same to the University Grants Commission as the recommendation of the University.

(12) If any complaint or information in writing is received by the Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the content of the complaint and information, refer it to the University for necessary action if it deems so:

Provided that, such reference shall extend only to complaint or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or

unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying of fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(13) The procedure and action provided in sub-sections (8), (9) and (10) shall be followed in respect of a reference made by the Government under sub-section (12).

(14) Every Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual of Examinations within sixty days of such submission. The Autonomous College shall incorporate the modifications required to be made by the University in their Manual of Examinations and report the same to the University.”.

(w) in sub-section (3) of section 119, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(x) for section 120, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“120. *Communications with Autonomous Colleges.*—All correspondences by the Government and the University with the Autonomous College or a College applying for autonomous status shall be made with the Principal.”.

(y) for section 121, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“121. *Vacancies in the authorities of an Autonomous College under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*—No decision of any authority of an Autonomous College under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such authority not having been filled up.”.

5. *Amendment of Act 5 of 1994.*—In the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) after clause (j) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ja) “Inter University Consultative Committee” means the Inter University Consultative Committee constituted under section 15A.”;

(ii) for clause (t), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

"(t) "teacher" means a Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor or such other person appointed as per University Grants Commission norms for the purpose of imparting instruction or conducting and guiding research in the University;”;

(b) in section 11, after item (i) the following item shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ia) Inter University Consultative Committee;”;

(c) after section 15, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“15A. *Constitution of Inter University Consultative Committee.*- (1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

- | | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| (a) The Pro-Chancellor | - | Chairman; |
| (b) The Vice-Chancellor | - | Member; |
| (c) The Vice-Chancellors
of other Universities
established by State law
nominated by the
Pro-Chancellor | - | Member; |
| (d) The Secretary to
Government in charge
of the Higher Education
Department | - | Member. |

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”;

(d) in section 19 for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Academic departments shall constitute the basic units of the academic studies of the University headed by a Professor or in the absence of a Professor, by an Associate Professor of that department on rotation basis for a period of three years. In the absence of both, the senior most teacher may discharge duties as ‘Teacher-in-charge’.”;

(e) for section 22A, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“22A. *Appellate Tribunal*.—(1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.”.

6. *Amendment of Act 22 of 1996*.—In the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996),—

(a) in section 2,—

(i) clause (i) shall be omitted;

(ii) for clause (ivA) the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ivA) “Autonomous College” means a college conferred with autonomous status by the University Grants Commission and declared as such by the University by notification;”;

(iii) for clause (ivB), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ivB) “autonomy” means a privilege given to a college to conduct programmes of study, to develop its curriculum and syllabus, to devise teaching, learning and evaluation and assessment methods, to conduct examinations leading to the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University and publication of the results of the respective programmes of study in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIIIA of the Act;”;

(iv) for clause (vA), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(vA) “Board of Studies of an Autonomous College” means the Board of Studies for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College constituted under section 74G;”;

(v) after clause (vii), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(viiA) Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74LB;

(viiB) “Course” means one of the subjects which comprises a programme in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIIIA of the Act;”;

(vi) after clause (ix), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ixA) “Expert Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74LC;”;

(vii) for clause (xA), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:—

“(xA) “Finance Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74LD;

(xB) “Governing Body” means the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(viii) after clause (xii), the following clauses shall be inserted, namely:—

“(xiiA) “Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College” means the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74 LA;”;

“(xiiB) “Inter University Consultative Committee” means the Inter University Consultative Committee constituted under section 72A;”;

(ix) after clause (xvii), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(xviiA) “Programme” means higher education programme pursued for the award of a degree, diploma, certificate and such other titles and distinctions by the University, of specified duration conducted in an Autonomous College in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII A of the Act;”;

(x) after clause (xx), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(xxA) “re-structured programme” means a programme approved by the University by incorporating or substituting inter disciplinary or multi disciplinary courses to the programme;”;

(xi) after clause (xxvi), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(xxviA) “Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College” means the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College constituted under section 74LE;”.

(b) in section 5,—

(i) for clause (ia), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(ia) to declare by notification conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college which has been conferred or extended by the University Grants Commission;”;

(ii) clause (ib) shall be omitted.

(c) after the proviso to sub-section (2) of section 61, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:—

“(2A). Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act and the Statutes made thereunder, the Syndicate may receive and consider application for affiliation of a new course in an affiliated college for the academic year 2020-21 within one month from the date of commencement of the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (72 of 2020)”;

(d) for section 72, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“72. *Appellate Tribunal.*—(1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act.”.

(e) after section 72, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“72A. *Inter University Consultative Committee.*—(1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------|
| (a) The Pro-Chancellor | - | Chairman; |
| (b) The Vice-Chancellor | - | Member; |
| (c) The Vice-Chancellors | - | Member; |
- of other Universities
established by State law
nominated by the
Pro-Chancellor

(d) The Secretary to - Member.
 Government in charge
 of the Higher Education
 Department

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”.

(f) section 74A shall be omitted.

(g) section 74B shall be omitted.

(h) in section 74C, in the marginal heading and in the section for the words “academic autonomy” the word “autonomy” shall be substituted.

(i) in sub-section (1) of section 74D,—

(i) in item (iii) for the words, “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) after item (iii), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(iv) The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College;

(v) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vi) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College;

(vii) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College;

(viii) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.”.

(j) in section 74E,—

(i) in sub-section (2),—

(a) for item (c), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(c) four teachers of the college representing different categories of teaching staff, of whom two shall be nominated by the Principal of the college based on seniority and rotation and two shall be elected by the regular teachers of the college from among themselves;”;

(b) for item (d), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(d) four experts from the field of industry, commerce, law, education, medicine, engineering, administration and finance, nominated by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College;”;

(c) for item (e), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(e) three Professors who are academic experts nominated by the University;”;

(d) in item (f), the words, “with the approval of the Director of Collegiate Education” shall be omitted;

(ii) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three years:

Provided that, a person who has become a member of the Academic Council by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the termination of such office or on the completion of his tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier.”;

(iii) after sub-section (4), the following sub-sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall be two-third of its total members.

(6) The Member Secretary of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(7) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College within seven clear days, by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) A member of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all members by registered post or by electronics means;”.

(k) in section 74F,—

(i) in item (ii), the words “subject to the criteria and conditions prescribed by the Autonomy Approval Committee which shall be” shall be omitted;

(ii) in items (v), (vi), (vii) and (viii) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(l) for section 74 G, the following section shall be substituted, namely:-

“74G. *Board of Studies of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for a programme or group of programmes conducted by an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) Head of the Department offering the programme concerned-Chairman;

(b) One of the faculty members teaching the course of the programme concerned nominated by the Chairman;

(c) Two experts in the programme concerned from outside the University to be nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College;

(d) One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six experts in the programme concerned recommended by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(e) One representative from the field of industry, corporate sector or allied field related to the student placement, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(f) One meritorious alumnus who has completed the Post Graduation of the University, nominated by the Principal of the Autonomous College;

(g) One representative of the Board of Studies of the University in the related or allied programme, nominated by the Syndicate;

(h) Special invitees, from the following categories co-opted by the Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College with the approval of the Principal of the Autonomous College, namely:—

(i) experts from outside the Autonomous College whenever special or new programme are to be designed;

(ii) teachers from other departments of the Autonomous College who are experts in the programme concerned.”.

(2) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College shall decide the programme or group of programmes to be brought under a Board of Studies.

(3) The Governing Body of an Autonomous College may decide whether separate Board of Studies shall be constituted for programme or group of programmes at the Under Graduate and Post Graduate level.

(4) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall hold office for a period of three academic years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for another term of three academic years:

Provided that, in the case of a teacher who is a member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall cease to be a member on the date of retirement.

(5) The Principal of the college shall draw up the schedule for meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College for different departments.

(6) The Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary:

Provided that, it shall meet atleast twice in an academic year.

(7) The Chairman of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(8) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College within seven clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(9) A member of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.

(10) The quorum for a meeting of the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.”.

(m) in section 74 H,—

(i) for item (i), the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(i) to prepare curriculum and syllabus for programmes conducted in the Department of the Autonomous College keeping in view of the objectives of the college, interest of the stake holders of the programme and requirements of the nation and the State in particular and submit it for the consideration and approval of the Academic Council of an Autonomous College:

Provided that, the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that all existing programme, revision of existing programme and proposal for commencing new programme or restructured programme are in conformity with the duration of the programme, total credits for the programme, number of semester, minimum required credit for each semester and letter grading system prescribed for similar, allied or core programme approved by the University:

Provided further that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall ensure that the proposal for new or restructured programme shall not have the effect of lowering the academic standards prescribed by the University:

Provided also that the Board of Studies of an Autonomous College shall have the discretion to distribute the percentage of marks between continuous assessment and end semester examination but however the percentage of marks for the end semester examination shall not be lower than sixty per cent of the total marks.”;

(ii) in item (iv), for the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners; and” the words and symbol “for appointment of examiners and question paper setters;” shall be substituted;

(iii) after item (v), the following items shall be inserted, namely:—

“(vi) to evaluate academic outcome of the assessment methods or tools adopted for each programme in respect of every batch of students admitted to the programme as and when such batch of students complete the programme;

(vii) to prepare continuous assessment methods or tools in respect of a programme in the Autonomous College before the commencement of the programme;

(viii) to review and to suggest any modification as required on the basis of the academic outcome and submit a report thereon to the Academic Council of the college for the consideration and approval.”.

(n) in section 74I,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in sub-section (1) for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) The Governing Body of a Government College conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) Three eminent persons of proven academic excellence who shall be an educationist, industrialist and professional nominated by the Government, of whom one shall be designated by the Government as the Chairman of the Governing Body;

(b) One teacher of the college nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(c) One teacher of the college elected from among themselves;

(d) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Director of Collegiate Education or the Director of Technical Education, as the case may be;

(e) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(f) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;

(g) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council, nominated by the Government;

(h) One representative of the University, nominated by the Syndicate;

(i) The Chairman of the College Union;

(j) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”;

(iii) in sub-section (3), for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(iv) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Governing Body of a private college conferred with autonomous status shall consist of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Manager, Chairman, Director or President of the Educational Agency Chairman;

(b) Four renowned academicians nominated by the Educational Agency;

(c) One teacher of the college nominated by the Principal of the private college on seniority by rotation;

(d) One teacher of the private college elected from among themselves;

- (e) One educationist or industrialist nominated by the Educational Agency;
- (f) One person nominated by the University Grants Commission;
- (g) The Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department or his nominee not below the rank of Joint Secretary to Government;
- (h) One representative of the Kerala State Higher Education Council nominated by the Government;
- (i) One representative of the University nominated by the Syndicate;
- (j) The Chairman of the College Union;
- (k) The Principal of the College, who shall be the *ex-officio* Secretary of the Governing Body.”.

(o) for section 74J, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74J. *Tenure of office of the Governing Body.*— The term of office of the nominated members of the Governing Body shall be for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-nomination for one more term:

Provided that, member of the Governing Body, nominated by the University Grants Commission shall hold office for a period of five years from the date of nomination:

Provided further that, a person who has become a member of the Governing Body by virtue of his office shall cease to be a member of the same on the date he ceases to hold such office or on the completion of tenure of nomination, whichever is earlier:

Provided also that, a student who has become a member of the Governing Body shall cease to be such member on cessation of the term of college union or cease to be a student of the college, whichever is earlier.”.

(p) for section 74K, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74K. *Meeting of the Governing Body.*—(1) The Governing Body shall normally meet at least twice a year:

Provided that, the meeting of the Governing Body shall be convened by the Chairman within ten clear days on receipt of a written request of not less than one third members of the Governing Body.

(2) Two third of the members shall constitute the quorum of a meeting of the Governing Body.

(3) The Member Secretary of the Governing Body shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(4) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all the members of the Governing Body within ten clear days by registered post or by electronic means.

(5) A member of the Governing Body who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on the draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate the finalised minutes to all the members by registered post or by electronic means.”.

(q) in section 74 L,—

(i) in the marginal heading and in the section, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted;

(ii) for item (v) and proviso the following item shall be substituted, namely:—

“(v) to issue migration certificate and provisional degree certificate with the approval or concurrence of the University. ”.

(r) after section 74L, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

“74 LA. *Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be an Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College in accordance with the rules, orders, regulations and guidelines of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council.

(2) There shall be an External Peer Team for the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College under the jurisdiction of the University constituted by the Governing Body of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(i) An eminent academician nominated by the Governing Body of the Autonomous College - Chairman;

(ii) Two academic experts nominated by the Academic Council of an Autonomous College.

(3) The term of External Peer Team shall be four years.

(4) The External Peer Team shall devise its own procedures for exercising its powers and performing its duties.

(5) The External Peer Team shall review the comprehensive performance of the Autonomous College in various fields of academic activities such as teaching-learning process, conduct of examination and achievement of academic outcomes. The External Peer Team shall send its report to the University. The University shall forward it along with its recommendation to the University Grants Commission within one month of the receipt of the report. The review shall be conducted by the External Peer Team in every Autonomous College under its jurisdiction at least once in a year.

(6) The powers, duties and functions of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of an Autonomous College shall be as laid down by the University from time to time.

74LB. *Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute a Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College for the purpose of Chapter VIII A of the Act consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Vice-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) The Secretary to Government, - Member;

Higher Education Department
or his nominee not below the
rank of Joint Secretary to
Government

- (c) A member of the Executive - Member;
 Body of the Kerala State
 Higher Education Council
 nominated by the Vice-Chairman
 of the Kerala State Higher
 Education Council
- (d) One Manager of an - Member.
 Autonomous College
 affiliated to the University
 nominated by the Vice-Chancellor

(2) The term of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years from the date of its constitution.

(3) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be competent to hear and dispose of complaints relating to admission and fee in Autonomous Colleges affiliated to the University.

(4) The Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall devise its own procedures for the conduct of its business and proceedings.

(5) The decisions and orders of the Complaint Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be binding on the parties.

74 LC. *Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) The University shall constitute an Expert Committee of an Autonomous College with the following members, namely:—

- (a) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor - Chairman;
- (b) Two members of the Syndicate elected from among themselves;
- (c) Head of the department of the related or allied programme conducted by the University nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitee;

(d) Dean of the Faculty concerned of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College as special invitee nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;

(e) Two members of the Board of Studies of the University, related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College, nominated by the Vice-Chancellor, as special invitees;

(f) Three experts related or allied to the new programme proposed by the Autonomous College nominated by the Vice-Chancellor as special invitees;

(g) The Registrar of the University who shall be the convenor of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the members of the Syndicate in the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be co-terminus with the term of the Syndicate which elected them.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members other than special invitees.

74 LD. *Finance Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Finance Committee of an Autonomous College for every Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College - Chairman;

(b) Two persons of the Governing Body elected from among themselves;

(c) A teacher nominated by the Principal of the College;

(d) Finance Officer of the University.

(2) The term of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be three years. The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet at least twice a year. The Chairman of the Finance

Committee of an Autonomous College shall intimate the members the place, date and time of the meeting along with the detailed agenda notes fourteen clear days in advance by registered post or by electronic means.

(3) The draft minutes of the meeting shall be prepared by the Chairman and communicate to all members of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College within ten clear days.

(4) A member of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College who attended the meeting shall be entitled to suggest such modification on draft minutes within ten clear days of receipt of the same and the Chairman shall examine and take appropriate decision thereon and communicate to the members.

(5) The quorum for a meeting of the Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(6) The Finance Committee of an Autonomous College shall have the following powers and duties:—

(a) to advise the Governing Body on such matters brought to its notice;

(b) to prepare budget estimates relating to the grants and other amounts received from the University Grants Commission, University and the Government;

(c) to prepare, scrutinize and approve audited statement of accounts pertaining to the college.

74 LE. *Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College.*—(1) There shall be a Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Principal of the College - Chairman;

(b) Three senior teachers of the College, nominated by the Principal, of whom one shall be a woman;

(c) The Chairman of the College Union;

(d) One parent nominated by Parent Teacher Association of the Autonomous College.

(2) The term of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two years. The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall meet as and when necessary, but shall meet during the first month of every academic year.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be two third of its total members.

(4) The Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall follow the procedures as laid down by the University from time to time by its regulations for redressal of grievances of students.

(5) The recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College shall be considered by the Principal of the College and shall take appropriate decision and communicate to the aggrieved student within a period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of the complaint. The report and recommendation of the Students Grievance Redressal Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon by the Principal shall be communicated to the Vice-Chancellor.

(6) Any person aggrieved by the order under sub-section (5) may prefer an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor within fourteen days from the date of receipt of such order. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall take decision in such appeal within sixty days after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.”.

(s) for section 74 M, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74 M. *Procedure for conferment or extension of autonomous status to a college.*—(1) Where a college intends to change its status to an autonomous one, it shall make an application to the University at any time during the year in the format specified by the University Grants Commission.

(2) On receipt of the application, the Syndicate or Executive Council shall constitute a committee consisting of five members of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within seven days of receipt of the application.

The committee shall verify whether the college satisfies the eligibility criteria fixed by the University Grants Commission from time to time, its academic performance, availability of infrastructure facilities, qualified faculty facilities for the conduct of assessment and evaluation with confidentiality and transparency, functional existence of various statutory committees under the Act and Statutes and the committee shall submit its report to the Vice-Chancellor within seven days.

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall consider the report of the committee and forward the application to the University Grants Commission within thirty days of the receipt of application with such documents as required. Where the application is rejected by the Vice-Chancellor, his decision shall be communicated to the college and the University Grants Commission. The decision of the University shall be reported to the Government also.

(4) The University and the Government shall provide their nominees to the University Grants Commission Expert Committee for an on-spot visit as and when required by the University Grants Commission.

(5) Where the application of a college for the conferment or extension of autonomous status is rejected for any reason whatsoever, the college shall be eligible to re-apply within one year from the date of such rejection of its earlier application.

(6) An Autonomous College shall apply in the format prescribed by the University Grants Commission for extension of autonomous status, six months prior to the expiry of the autonomy cycle.

(7) In case of expiry of accreditation cycle fixed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation, the college seeking extension of autonomous status shall submit a proof of having applied for accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council or National Board of Accreditation to be eligible for extension of autonomy status.

(8) Where an Autonomous College desires to surrender its autonomous status, it shall follow the due process of forwarding the resolution by the Governing Body through the University to the University Grants Commission for consideration of such resolution.

(t) in section 74N, for sub-section (1) and proviso, the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(1) The Principal of the college shall constitute an examination cell for every Autonomous College headed by a teacher of the college.”.

(u) after section 74O, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“74 OA. *Powers and duties of an Autonomous College.*—(1) An Autonomous College shall continuously maintain the academic quality and standards in accordance with the statutory guidelines, orders and regulations issued by the University Grants Commission or the University from time to time.

(2) The Autonomous College shall without fail, upload in its website information regarding the live accreditation status, national ranking, programmes offered by it, prospectus for admission to programmes, the fee and all other amounts payable by students for the programmes, the profile of the faculty, the admission procedures, the details of relevant infrastructure, research activities of the college and hostel facilities.

(3) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the constitution of the authorities referred in section 74D and the profile of the members of the respective authorities. The approved minutes of the authorities and the action taken on the same shall be also put in its website.

(4) The Autonomous College shall put in its website the detailed audited statement of accounts, annual budget and institution development plans.

(5) The Autonomous College may review existing courses or programmes and restructure, redesign and determine its courses, programmes of study and syllabus, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(6) The Autonomous College may formulate new courses or programmes within the nomenclature specified by the University Grants Commission as per the Specification of Degrees, 2014 subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(7) The Autonomous College may evolve methods of assessment of students performance, conduct of examination and notification of results, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(8) The Autonomous College may announce results, issue mark sheets and other certificates however, the degree shall be awarded by the University with the name of the college on the degree certificate, subject to the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(9) The Autonomous College shall pay one-time affiliation fee and such other amounts to the University at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status, in accordance with the provisions contained in this Chapter.

(10) The Autonomous College shall constitute the Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Finance Committee, Students Grievance Redressal Committee and Internal Quality Assurance Cell required to be constituted under this Chapter.

(11) The Autonomous College shall constitute an Anti-Ragging Committee as required under the University Grants Commission Regulations on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009.

(12) The Autonomous College shall constitute a Committee as required under the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.

(13) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Autonomous College shall appoint teachers and other academic staff as per the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment of Teachers and other Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2018.

(14) The Autonomous College shall continue to receive funds as being done before the grant of autonomous status, subject to the provisions of this Act, Statutes, rules and regulations made thereunder and agreements executed with the Government or the University.

(15) The autonomy granted to the college is at the institutional level and is not partial and shall cover the programmes at all levels such as Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph.D. offered by the college and shall include the programmes introduced by the college after the conferment of autonomous status.

(16) The students enrolled in the Autonomous College at the time of conferment or extension of autonomous status shall also be covered under autonomous status.”.

(v) in section 74P,—

(i) in sub-section (1), for the words “rules made thereunder” the words “rules made under this Chapter” shall be substituted;

(ii) for sub-sections (2) to (17), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—

“(2) To fix and demand from an Autonomous College, the one-time affiliation fee and other fees under specific head or items payable by an Autonomous College for the period of autonomous status granted by the University Grants Commission or for the extended period of autonomous status, as the case may be.

(3) Where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College has approved and submitted a proposal for the commencement of a new programme in the college to the University, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the proposal to be placed before the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College for consideration and appropriate decision:

Provided that, every such proposal shall be submitted to the University on or before the 31st day of October of every year.

(4) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall within ninety days of receipt of the proposal by the University, take a decision, approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor who shall communicate the decision to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College as the decision of the University:

Provided that, the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall consider the proposal with reference to the duration of the programme, number of semesters, minimum required credits for each semester, total credits for the programme, letter grading systems fixed for similar programme conducted by the

University and also ensuring that the proposal does not have the effect of lowering the academic standards or is against the interest of the nation or the State before approving or rejecting the proposal or returning the proposal for resubmission, to the Vice-Chancellor for communicating it to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College:

Provided further that, where the Autonomous College which submitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University within ninety days from the date of submission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(5) Where the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College returns the proposal for resubmission to the Vice-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor shall cause the same to be returned to the Governing Body of an Autonomous College for resubmitting the proposal after rectifying the defects pointed out by the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College within forty-five days.

(6) The Expert Committee of an Autonomous College shall on receipt of the resubmitted proposal, either approve or reject the proposal within thirty days:

Provided that, where the Governing Body of an Autonomous College which resubmitted the proposal has not been informed of the decision of the University by the Vice-Chancellor within thirty days from the date of resubmission of the proposal to the University, the proposal shall be deemed to have been approved by the University.

(7) The Vice-Chancellor shall place the report of the Expert Committee of an Autonomous College and the decision taken thereon before the Syndicate.

(8) The Syndicate shall have the power to inspect and verify whether a college that has been granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission has violated any of the conditions specified for the grant of such autonomous status.

(9) For the purpose of sub-section (8), the Syndicate may constitute a committee with such members as it deems fit, to inspect the college, verify its relevant records and collect evidence relevant to the purpose of the inspection, for which all information and documents called for by the committee shall be provided by the Autonomous College on the appointed date and time fixed by the committee:

Provided that, such enquiry shall extend only to complaint or information in writing regarding the violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower the quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status was granted.

(10) The committee constituted under sub-section (9) shall finalise its report only after affording an opportunity of being heard to the parties concerned.

(11) The Syndicate shall, after consideration of the report of the said committee, is of the opinion that the autonomous status conferred on the college has to be suspended or revoked, it shall communicate the same to the University Grants Commission as the recommendation of the University.

(12) If any complaint or information in writing is received by the Government with respect to an Autonomous College, the Government may, after due consideration of the content of the complaint and information, refer it to the University for necessary action if it deems so:

Provided that, such reference shall extend only to complaint or information received in writing, with respect to violation of the conditions of autonomy, poor academic and administrative practices that lower quality of higher education or unethical practices in the matter of admission, levying of fee and conduct of examination adopted by the college for which autonomous status has been granted.

(13) The procedure and action provided in sub-sections (8), (9) and (10) shall be followed in respect of a reference made by the Government under sub-section (12).

(14) Every Autonomous College shall submit a Manual of Examinations to the University within six months before the date of the first set of examinations that it proposes to conduct in the college and the University shall offer its remarks on the Manual of Examinations within sixty days of such submission. The Autonomous College shall incorporate the modifications required to be made by the University in their Manual of Examinations and report the same to the University.”.

(w) in sub-section (3) of section 74Q, for the words “Governing Council” the words “Governing Body” shall be substituted.

(x) for section 74R, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74R. *Communications with Autonomous Colleges.*—All correspondences by the Government and the University with the Autonomous College or a College applying for autonomous status shall be made with the Principal.”.

(y) for section 74S, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

“74S. *Vacancies in the Authorities of an Autonomous College under this Chapter not to invalidate any action.*—No decision of any Authority of

an Autonomous College under this Chapter shall be rendered invalid on account of a vacancy in such Authority not having been filled up.”.

7. *Amendment of Act 27 of 2005.*— In the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005),-

(a) in section 2, after clause (9) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

“(9A) “Inter University Consultative Committee” means the Inter University Consultative Committee constituted under section 16A;”;

(b) in section 11, after item (i) the following item shall be inserted, namely:—

“(ia) Inter University Consultative Committee;”;

(c) after section 16, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“16A *Constitution of Inter University Consultative Committee.*— (1) There shall be an Inter University Consultative Committee consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) The Pro-Chancellor - Chairman;

(b) The Vice-Chancellor - Member;

(c) The Vice-Chancellors of - Member;

other universities established

by State law nominated by the

Pro-Chancellor

(d) The Secretary to Government - Member.

in charge of the Higher Education

Department

(2) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall meet as decided by the Chairman.

(3) The Inter University Consultative Committee shall consider matters to be resolved at Government level in respect of matters mutually affecting the Government and the University.”;

(d) after section 25, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

“25A. *Appellate Tribunal*.—(1) There shall be an Appellate Tribunal for the purpose of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Appellate Tribunal constituted under section 65 of the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974) shall function as the Appellate Tribunal for adjudicating dispute on any of the matter provided in this Act. “.

8. *Repeal and saving*.—(1) The Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 (96 of 2021), the University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021(97 of 2021) and the University Laws (Amendment) (No. 2) Ordinance, 2021 (99 of 2021) are hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or deemed to have been done or any action taken or deemed to have been taken under the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005) as amended by the said Ordinances shall be deemed to have been done or taken under the Kerala University Act, 1974 (17 of 1974), the Calicut University Act, 1975 (5 of 1975), the Mahatma Gandhi University Act, 1985 (12 of 1985), the Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Act, 1994 (5 of 1994), the Kannur University Act, 1996 (22 of 1996) and the National University of Advanced Legal Studies Act, 2005 (27 of 2005) respectively as amended by this Act.