

## **STATUS OF CMJ UNIVERSITY, SHILLONG (MEGHALAYA)**

C.M.J. University, Modrina Mansion, Laitumkhrah, Shillong (Meghalaya) was established vide Act No. 04 of 2009 (Notification No. LL(B)42/09/80 dated 20.07.2009) of the State Legislature of Meghalaya as a Private University and was empowered to award degrees as specified by the UGC under Section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956 at its main campus in regular mode with the approval of statutory bodies/councils, wherever required. CMJ University was not authorized to open off-campus centre(s)/study centre(s) beyond the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Meghalaya as per the judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of Prof. Yashpal vs. State of Chhattisgarh. This University was not even allowed to open any centre(s) even within the state of Meghalaya as per the provisions contained in UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 without the approval of UGC. The University was allowed to conduct M.Phil/Ph.D programmes in regular mode at its main campus at Shillong (Meghalaya) but only as per the provisions contained in the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulations, 2009.

His Excellency the Governor of Meghalaya in his capacity as visitor initiated certain actions against CMJ University for irregularities committed by it. His Excellency also recommended to the State Government of Meghalaya for dissolution of this University in terms of Section 48 of the CMJ University Act, 2009.

UGC has been receiving complaints about the courses run by CMJ University outside its territorial jurisdiction and also in the off-campus/study centres established by the University without the approval of UGC and the State Government. Some of the complaints were about Ph.D. programmes run by this University. These complaints were about back dated registration, no entrance examination and about not following UGC M.Phil/Ph.D./ Regulations.

UGC constituted an Expert Committee for the following purposes:-

- (i) To assess fulfilment of criteria in terms of programmes, faculty, infrastructural facilities, financial viability, etc. as laid down from time to time by the UGC and other concerned statutory bodies, and
- (ii) To look into the violations as reported by the Governor Secretariat, Meghalaya and various complaints received by the UGC.

UGC Expert Committee visited CMJ University on 01.08.2013 along with the nominees from AICTE and NCTE.

The report of the UGC Expert Committee was placed before the Commission at its 495<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 01.10.2013. The Commission considered the report and approved the same.

UGC vide letter No. F. 8-21/2010(CPP-I/PU) dated 22.10.2013 forwarded a copy of the report to the Governor Secretariat, Meghalaya and Chief Secretary, Meghalaya Government with the request to take appropriate action against CMJ University as per the provisions of the University Act or any other law as the Governor Secretariat/State Government deems fit. The Governor Secretariat/Meghalaya Government were also requested to take a decision about the validity of the degrees already awarded by CMJ University in the past keeping in view that only those degrees can be termed as valid for which courses were conducted by CMJ University in regular mode at its main campus at Shillong and that too with the prior approval of Statutory Council(s) concerned, wherever, required. It was also informed that M.Phil/Ph.D. can be conducted by any University in regular mode at the main campus and as per the provisions contained in the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Awards of M.Phil/Ph.D. Degree), Regulations, 2009.

The Governor Secretariat and Government of Meghalaya have been requested to inform the decision taken as the UGC is receiving lot of queries about CMJ University and validity of degrees already awarded by it.

The UGC is yet to receive any response from Governor Secretariat (Meghalaya) and Government of Meghalaya.