

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. UGC Expert Committee visited CMJ University on 01.08.2013 along with the nominees from AICTE and NCTE.
6. 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 (Now 2016).

7. The Deputy Secretary to the Governor of Meghalaya, Raj Bhavan, Shillong has informed the UGC that the Governor Secretariat has already taken up the matter with the State Government of Meghalaya as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
  8. The Principal Secretary, Government of Meghalaya Education Department Vide letter No EDN. 222/2013/316 dated 05.06.2014 informed the UGC that the C.M.J University has been dissolved by the Government of Meghalaya under section 48 (2) of C.M.J University Act. Regarding validity of Degrees, it is informed that hearing on representation by students have been completed keeping in view various parameters including those indicated by UGC. A total of 1643 students attended hearing and 4803 were absent. A total of 1479 cases the degrees were found to be invalid and they are being intimated separately. The list of the valid students may be available with the State Government of Meghalaya.
  9. The Director of Higher and Technical Education Government of Meghalaya vide letter no CE/GA/3/CMJ/2015/63 dated 29.03.2016 informed that the Hon'ble High Court of Meghalaya set aside the dissolution order dated 31.03.2014 citing legal technicalities. Hon'ble High Court had not made any observation/judgement about the validity or otherwise of the CMJ degrees and whether they were issued in conformity of the UGC Act.
  10. The Government of Meghalaya appealed against the above Judgement of the Hon'ble High Court of Meghalaya in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
  11. The Appeal filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court was withdrawn and dismissed vide order of the Hon'ble Apex Court dated 21.10.2016.
  12. The State Government of Meghalaya vide its letter No. EDN. 222/2013/491 dated 29.11.2016 informed that the State Government has started proceedings to appeal before the High Court of Meghalaya and the same is under process.
  13. The State Government of Meghalaya has also informed that the CMJ University had informed the State Government that consequent upon the cancellation of the order dated 31.03.2014 of the Government of Meghalaya vide judgement and order dated 16.07.2015, The CMJ University had started functioning at their permanent campus at Jorabat, Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya.
  14. The name of CMJ University is still included in the UGC list.
  15. The Validity of the degrees awarded by CMJ University is concerned, the same cannot be verified by the UGC. The validity of the degree can only be confirmed either by the State Government of Meghalaya as per the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court or by the CMJ University.
  16. UGC has requested to the State Government of Meghalaya to provide the present status of CMJ University Meghalaya and also whether the State Government has filed appeal before the Hon'ble High Court of Meghalaya vide UGC letter no 8-21/2010 (CPP-I/PU) dated 29.03.2017, 30.05.2017, 06.07.2017 and 17.10.2017. Response from the State Government of Meghalaya is still awaited.
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