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THE ANDHRA PRADESH GAZETTE

PART IV-B EXTRAORDINARY

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 29] AMARAVATI, TUESDAY, 8th AUGUST, 2026.

ANDHRA PRADESH ACTS, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS Etc.,

The following Act of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature received the assent of the Governor on the 7th September, 2026 and the said assent is hereby first published on the 8th September, 2026 in the Andhra Pradesh Gazette for general information :

ACT No. 29 of 2026

AN ACT FURTHER TO AMEND THE ANDHRA PRADESH PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES (ESTABLISHMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 2016.

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

Short title and commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called as the Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Act, 2026.

(2) Save as otherwise provided in this Act,-

(a) section 2 (except section 2 (II) (ii)) to section 12 shall come into force on the 24th day of April, 2026;

(b) section 2 (II)(ii) and Sections 13 and 14 shall come into force on the 7th day of July, 2026

(c) under section 15, in the table, the entries,-

(i) against Sl.No.15 shall come into force on the 22nd day of June, 2026;

(ii) against SI.Nos.16 and 17 shall come into force on the 5th day of August, 2026;

(iii) against SI.Nos.18 and 19 shall come into force on such date as the Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

Amendment of Section 2.

2. In the Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2016 (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act), in section 2, -

Act No.3 of 2016.

(I) sub-section (2) shall be omitted.

(II) in sub-section (3-A),-

(i) for clause (i), the following shall be substituted, namely,-

"(i) located in a geographically contiguous area in an extent of land not less than,—

(a) 10 Acres, if located within the Core Capital Area of the APCRDA;

(b) 10 Acres, within limits of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation orTirupati Municipal Corporation;

(c) 15 Acres, if located in any other area not specified above.".

(ii) in clause (iii), for the expression "at least 3.2 CGPA", the expression "at least 3.01 CGPA" shall be substituted.

(iii) for clause (iv), the following shall be substituted, namely,-

"Willing to make such financial investment for establishing a University, as per the guidelines issued by the Government within such timelines, on the recommendations of the Expert Committee based on the evaluation of the Detailed Project Report.".

(III) after sub-section (3-A) including the provisos there under, the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely,-

"(3-B) "Brownfield Women's University" means a University established under this Act, dedicated exclusively to the higher education and empowerment of women, and formally declared as such by the Government upon satisfying the criteria specified in section 3-A, over and above the criteria for Brownfield University under section 2(3-A).".

(IV) in sub-section (13), for clauses (i) and (ii), the following shall be substituted, namely,-

"(i) located in a geographically contiguous area in an extent of land not less than,—

(a) 10 Acres, within Core Capital Area of APCRDA;

(b) 10 Acres, within limits of Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation, Vijayawada Municipal Corporation or Tirupati Municipal Corporation;

(c) 15 Acres, in any other area.

(ii) willing to make such financial investment for establishing a university, as per the guidelines issued by the Government within such timelines, on the recommendations of the Expert Committee based on the evaluation of the Detailed Project Report.".

(V) after sub-section (13) including the provisos there under, the following sub-section, shall be inserted, namely,-

"(13-A) "Greenfield Women's University" means a University established under this Act fresh for the first time without reference to any existing educational institution, and which satisfies the parameters specified in section 3-B over and above the criteria mentioned for Greenfield University as defined in section 2(13) of this Act.".

(VI) for sub-section (23), the following shall be substituted, namely,-

"(23) "Regulatory Authority" means such authority or body as the Government may, from time to time, by notification, designate for the purposes of this Act or for

such specific purposes under this Act as may be specified therein:

Provided that the Government may designate different authorities for different purposes under this Act, and such designation shall be effective from the date specified in the notification.".

(VII) after sub-section (23), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely,-

"(23-A) "Recognized Women's University" means an existing Private University established under this Act that has been formally granted the status of a Women's University by the Government under section 3-A, upon satisfying the parameters specified therein.".

(VIII) after sub-section (34), the following sub-sections shall be added, namely,-

"(35) "University" means, Greenfield, Greenfield Women, Recognized Women, Brownfield, Brownfield Women University established under sections 3 and 3-A of this Act.

(36) "Women's University" means a University established under this Act dedicated exclusively to the higher education, skill enhancement, and holistic empowerment of women.".

Amendment of section 3.

3. In the Principal Act, in section 3, in sub-section (3), for the words "Greenfield or Brownfield", the following words, shall be substituted, namely,-

"Greenfield or Greenfield Women or Recognized Women or Brownfield or Brownfield Women".

4. In the Principal Act, after section 3, the following new section shall be inserted, namely, - Insertion of new Section 3-A.

"3-A (1) Any Sponsoring Body desirous of establishing a Greenfield (or) Brownfield Women's University, or any existing Private University desirous of being recognized as a Recognized Women's University, shall make an application in the manner prescribed under sections 6 and 7, in addition to satisfying the mandatory criteria set out in sections 2(3-A), 2(13) and 3.

(2) The Government may permit the establishment of Women University, provided the Sponsoring Body demonstrates satisfaction of the following parameters to the Expert Committee constituted under section 8:

(a) Governance: The University shall ensure that - (i) the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor are women;

(ii) not less than fifty percent (50%) of the members of the Board of Management and of the Academic Council are women; and

(iii) not less than fifty percent (50%) of the Teachers (as defined in section 2(33) of this Act) are women.

,, *

(b) Enrolment: The University shall guarantee that one hundred percent (100%) of its total student enrolment across all undergraduate, postgraduate,

and doctoral programs is reserved exclusively for women.

(3) Additional Criteria for establishment of a Brown Field Women's University —

(a) Every application shall be accompanied by a integration and transition plan setting out the planned achievement of Governance norms within 2 years and enrolment norms within 3 years.

(b) An existing Private University applying for recognition as a Recognized Women's University shall comply with the governance requirements under clause (a) of sub-section (2) within a period of two years from the date of grant of recognition; and achieve the enrolment threshold under clause (b) of subsection (2) in a phased manner over a period not exceeding three academic years from the date of grant of recognition, as may be approved by the Regulatory Authority.

(4) Recognized Women's University shall not be required to invest fresh base capital, provided that all obligations at the time of its original establishment under this Act have been duly fulfilled.

(5) In a transition period, Greenfield/ Brownfield/ College(s)/Institution(s) converted as Brownfield Women's University/Recognized Women's University,

the procedure for enrolment and Governance may be prescribed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.".

5. In the Principal Act, in section 8,- Insertion of new clause.

(i) in sub-section (3), after clause (e), the following shall be inserted, namely,- «

"(f) Investment Capacity: the adequacy of the total investment proposed, the credibility of the phased investment milestones, and the sustainability of funding sources relative to the long-term operational requirements of the University.".

(ii) for sub-section (5), the following shall be substituted, namely,-

"(5) The Expert Committee shall endeavor to present its recommendations to the Government within 60 days of its receipt of the application from the Government, including, the total investment required and a year-wise phased investment milestone schedule,".

6. In the Principal Act, in section 10, after sub-section (3), the following sub-section, shall be inserted, namely,- Insertion of new sub-section.

"(3-A) The Letter of Intent issued under sub-section (2) shall,based on institution-specific conditions recommended by the Expert Committee, include a Milestone Schedule setting out investment milestones the amounts to be invested and the purposes for which each tranche is to be deployed with year-wise deadlines from the date of issuance of the Letter of Intent.".

Insertion of new provisos.

7. In the Principal Act, in section 13, after sub-section (1), the following provisos, shall be inserted, namely,-

"Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall apply to or be construed to prohibit a Women's University being a Greenfield Women's University, Brownfield Women's University, or Recognized Women's University established or recognised under this Act from restricting admission of students exclusively to women: Provided further that such a Women's University shall not, on the ground of sex alone, exclude any person from holding any office or post in the University, from membership of any of its authorities or bodies, or from appointment as a teacher or employee, except as otherwise expressly required by the criteria prescribed under section 3-A of this Act for governance composition.".

Amendments to sub-sections (1) and (11) of section 32.

8. In the Principal Act, in section 32,-

(i) for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely,-

"(1) The Government may, by notification, designate one or more authorities or bodies to serve as the Regulatory Authority for the following purposes in respect of Private Universities:

(i) Fixing fee structure for Government Quota seats in Private Universities;

(ii) Grant accreditation to private Universities in the manner as prescribed under the rules provided further that the parameters for accreditation shall not be in derogation of the existing regulations

framed by various Centra! Authorities/Agencies such as UGC, AICTE, NCTE, MCI, PCI, NAAC, ICAR, DBT, DST, CSIR, BCI etc;

Provided that different authorities may be designated for different purposes under this sub-section, and such designation shall be effective from the date specified in the notification.".

(ii) in sub-section (11), for clause (c), the following shall be substituted, namely,-

"(c) notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force to ensure that Private Universities collect such fees and other charges which cover the cost of education imparted by them and also give a reasonable surplus to enable them to maintain assets and carry out further expansion or increase endowment & other funds for future growth and expansion of the University.".

9. In the Principal Act, in section 33, after sub-section (1), the following shall be inserted, namely,- Insertion of a proviso.

"Provided that a Women's University established or recognized under this Act shall, notwithstanding the autonomy conferred by this sub-section, restrict admissions in all its programmes of study exclusively to women candidates, with effect from the academic year immediately following the date on which the University is established, declared, or recognised as a Women's University under Section 3-A, as the case may be.".

Amendment of sub-section (3) of section 33.

10. In the Principal Act, in section 33, in sub-section (3), for the words, "the Andhra Pradesh Higher Education Regulatory and Monitoring Commission", the words "such authority as notified by the Government", shall be substituted.

Amendment of sub-section (1) of section 37.

11. In the Principal Act, in section 37, for sub-section (1), the following shall be substituted, namely,-

"The Sponsoring body shall establish an Endowment Fund for the University with a fixed amount of Rupees Five Crores.".

Insertion of new section.

12. In the Principal Act, after section 41, the following new section shall be added, namely,-

"41-A. Gender and Safety Audit: Every University established or recognized under this Act shall undergo an annual Gender and Safety Audit, conducted by an independent external agency empanelled by the Government for this purpose.

The Gender and Safety audit shall be conducted as per such conditions and guidelines prescribed by the Government from time to time.".

Insertion of new section 43-A.

13. In the Principal Act, after section 43, the following new section shall be inserted, namely,-

"43-A De-notification of University consequent on its declaration as an Institution Deemed to be University:

(1) Where a University established under this Act, or a constituent unit of such University, proposes to apply, or has applied, to be declared as an

Institution Deemed to be University, or as an off-campus centre of an Institution Deemed to be University, under the University Grants Commission (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, as amended from time to time, the Sponsoring Body shall intimate the Government of such proposal.

(2) The Government may, on the application of the Sponsoring Body and after such verification as it considers necessary, issue a no objection certificate to the effect that the Government shall de-notify the University, or the constituent unit, as the case may be, in the event of its being found eligible to be granted the status of an Institution Deemed to be University or of an off-campus centre of an Institution Deemed to be University.

(3) Where the University, or a constituent unit thereof, is granted the status of an Institution Deemed to be University, or of an off-campus centre of an Institution Deemed to be University, by the Central Government under section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (Central Act 3 of 1956), the Government shall, by notification, de-notify the University to that extent; and the entry relating to the University in the Schedule shall be omitted or amended accordingly by duly amending the Schedule of the Act through the Andhra Pradesh State Legislature.

(4) The University, or the constituent unit, as the case may be, shall be permitted to admit students or to

function as an Institution Deemed to be University, or as an off-campus centre thereof, only after the de-notification by notification under sub-section (3) takes effect; and until such de-notification, it shall continue to be governed by the provisions of this Act.

(5) The de-notification of a University under this section shall not affect the interests of the students admitted to the University before the date on which such de-notification takes effect. Notwithstanding such de-notification, the University shall be deemed to continue in existence as a Private University for the limited purpose of enabling every such student to complete the programme of study to which he or she has been admitted and to be conferred the degree, diploma or other qualification by the University, until the last batch of such students has completed the programme (such period being referred to as the "transition period"). During the transition period, the credits and academic records of such students shall be duly maintained and transferred.

(6) The students admitted on or after the date on which the de-notification takes effect shall receive their degrees, diplomas or other qualifications from the Institution Deemed to be University.

(7) The Government may, for the purpose of giving effect to this section, impose such conditions and follow such procedure as may be prescribed.".

14. In the Principal Act, in section 45, in sub-section (2), after clause (f), the following shall be inserted, namely,- Insertion of new clause.

"(g) matters relating to the de-notification of the University under section 43-A.".

15. In the Principal Act, in the Schedule, after Serial No.14, the following shall be added in Columns (1), (2), (3) and (4) respectively, namely,- Amendment of Schedule.

Act No. 3 of 2016.

Sl. No.	Name and location (address) of the Private University	Name and address of the Sponsoring Body	Details of the Registration of the sponsoring body
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
"15.	Sricity International University, Sri City, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh-517 646	Sricity Education Foundation, 2880 Central Expressway, Sri City, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh – 517 646	Reg.No. 118456, Corporate Identity No. (CIN) No.U85499AP2025NPL118456, dated: 22.03.2025
16.	Vishnu Women's University, Green Meadows Campus, Vishnupur, Bhimavaram, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh–534 202.	Sri Vishnu Educational Society, Sitha Nilayam, Plot No.153, Dwarakapuri Colony, Panjagutta, Hyderabad-500 082.	Reg.No:2118/1992 Dated:03.06.1992.
17.	Chalapathi University, AR Nagar, Mothadaka, Guntur District –522016.	Chalapathi Educational Society, Chalapathi Nagar, Lam, Guntur –522 034.	Reg.No:610/1995 Dated:29.12.1995.
18.	RVS University, RVS nagar, Chittoor District-517127.	Srinivasa Educational Academy, RVS Nagar, Chittoor District-517127.	Reg.No:152/1998, Dated:03.03.1998.
19.	Pragati University, D.No. #3-180, ADB Road, Surampalem (V), near Peddapuram, Kakinada District – 533437.	Gayatri Educational Society, D.No. #3-180, ADB Road,Surampalem (V), near Peddapuram, Kakinada District – 533437.	Reg.No:255/1993 Dated:20.03.1993.".

Repeal of Ordinance Nos.3, 5, 7 and 8 of 2026 and savings.

16. (1) The Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (A.P. Ordinance No.3 of 2026) is hereby repealed.

(2) The Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (A.P. Ordinance No.5 of 2026) is hereby repealed.

(3) The Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Third Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (A.P. Ordinance No.7 of 2026) is hereby repealed.

(4) The Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Fourth Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 (A.P. Ordinance No.8 of 2026) is hereby repealed.

(5) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinances shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act.

GOTTAPU PRATIBHA DEVI,
Secretary to Government,
Legal and Legislative Affairs & Justice,
Law Department.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Act, 2016 was enacted to facilitate the establishment and regulation of Private Universities in the State while ensuring quality, transparency and accountability in higher education.

In view of the Government of India's **Deregulation and Compliance Reduction – Phase-II** and the evolving regulatory framework of the UGC, it has become necessary to rationalize certain provisions of the Act and reduce restrictive input-based requirements. The proposed amendments seek to simplify the regulatory framework by, inter alia, removing minimum land requirements, reducing endowment fund norms and providing flexibility in infrastructure and equipment requirements, while maintaining appropriate standards of quality and accountability in the Private Universities in the State.

The amendments also seek to align the State Act with the **UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Amendment Regulations, 2026**, particularly in respect of the eligibility criteria for Private Universities, de-notification of a University upon its transition to Deemed University status, and other related regulatory requirements.

Further, it is proposed to introduce provisions for the establishment of **Women's Universities**, including Greenfield and Brownfield Universities, and for conversion of existing Universities into Women's Universities, with suitable provisions relating to governance, admissions and transition.

The proposed amendments are intended to provide a flexible and facilitative regulatory framework, promote quality higher

education, research, innovation, entrepreneurship, skill development and global academic collaboration, and support the development of Andhra Pradesh as a knowledge-driven economy in alignment with the National Education Policy.

As the Legislature was not in session, the Government gave effect to the above objectives through the Andhra Pradesh Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) (Amendment) Ordinances, 2026 (AP Ordinances Nos. 3, 5, 7 and 8 of 2026), promulgated on 24.04.2026, 22.06.2026, 07.07.2026 and 05.08. 2026 respectively. The present Bill seeks to replace and consolidate the said Ordinances and to make further amendments to the Schedule of the said Act, 2016.

The proposed legislation is intended to give effect to the above objectives immediately.

GOTTAPU PRATIBHA DEVI,
Secretary to Government,
Legal and Legislative Affairs & Justice,
Law Department.

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