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THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT, 1860 WITH STATE AMENDMENT OF TRIPURA.

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THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT, 1860

INDRODUCTION

For improving the legal condition of societies established for the promotion of literature, science, or the fine arts, or for the diffusion of useful knowledge, or for charitable purposes the then Government decided to bring out an exhaustive legislation on the subject. To achieve this objective a Bill was introduced in the Legislature.

ACT 21 OF 1860

The said Bill having been passed by the Legislature received its assent on 21st May, 1860. By the Indian Short Titles Act, 1897(14 of 1897) the title was changed and now it stands as THE SOCIETIES REGISTRATION ACT. 1860 (21 OF 1860).

List of amending acts and adaptation orders

- 1.The Indian Short Titles Act, 1897 (14 of 1897).
2. The repealing Act, 1874 (16 of 1874).
3. The Societies Registration (Amendment) Act, 1927 (22 of 1927).
4. The Government of India (Adaptation of Indian Laws) Order, 1937.
5. The Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950.

Preamble.

Whereas it is expedient that provision should be made for improving the legal condition of societies established for the promotion of literature, science, or the fine arts, or for the diffusion of useful knowledge, 2 [the diffusion of political education] or for charitable purposes; It is enacted as follows:—

1. Societies formed by memorandum of association and registration :-Any seven or more persons associated for any literary, scientific, or charitable purpose, or for any such purpose as is described in section 20 of this Act, may, by subscribing their names to a memorandum of association, and filing the same with the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies 2[***] form themselves into a society under this Act.

In Section 1 of the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Central Act 21 of 1860), as in force in the State of Tripura (herein after referred to as the Principal Act), the following proviso shall be inserted **by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** , as follows:-

“Provided that the State Government may also, by notification, appoint persons to be called “Deputy Registrar of Societies” and “Assistant Registrar of Societies”, for such areas and empower them to exercise all or any such power or powers, and to perform any such duties and functions, under this Act, as may be specified in the notification.”

2. Memorandum of association:-The memorandum of association shall contain the following things, that is to say,-

The name of the society;

The objects of the society;

The names, address, and occupation of the governors, council, directors, committee, or other governing body to whom, by the rules of the society, the management of its affairs is entrusted.

A copy of the rules and regulations of the society, certified to be a correct copy by not less than three of the members of the governing body, shall be filed with the memorandum of association

Section 2 of the Principal Act, shall be substituted by **the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** with the following –

“2. Memorandum of Association:-

(1) The memorandum of association shall contain the following things, that is to say, -

(a) The name of the society;

(b) The place of situation of the registered office of the society with supporting documents;

(c) The address and occupations of the persons who have subscribed their names to the memorandum of association;

(d) In case of employee of the Government or Public Sector Undertaking, no objection certificate from the employer or controlling authority;

(e) The object of the society;

(f) The names, addresses, and occupations of the governors, council, directors, committee, or other governing body to whom, by the rules of the society, the management of its affairs is entrusted;

(g) A copy of the rules and regulations of the society, certified to be a correct copy by not less than three of the members of the governing body, shall be filed with the memorandum of association;

(h) A copy of the record of proceeding of the first meeting of the proposed society taking the decision to form a society;

(2) A society may, by a special resolution passed by the majority of not less than three-fifth of the total membership of the society, after its memorandum of association, may alter the memorandum of association.

(3) The alteration of the memorandum of association after the registration shall not effect until, and unless it is sent to the Registrar of societies who shall satisfy himself that the alteration is not otherwise contrary to the original Memorandum of Association or is of such nature which is beyond the provision of any law for the time being in force.”

3. Registration and fees: - Upon such memorandum and certified copy being filed, the Registrar shall certify under his hand that the society is registered under this Act. There shall be paid to the Registrar for every such registration a fee of fifty rupees, or such smaller fee as 1[the state government] may, from time to time, direct and all fees so paid shall be accounted for to 1[the State Government]. Section 3 of the Principal Act, shall be substituted by **the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** with the following –

“3. (1) Upon such memorandum and certified copy being filed, along with the particulars of the proposed registered address of the society’s office which shall be its registered address, by the Secretary of the Society on behalf of the persons subscribing to the memorandum, the Registrar may make an enquiry before registration and shall certify under his hand and seal that the society is registered under this Act;

(2) There shall be paid to the Registrar for every such registration, such fee as the State Government may by notification fix, in respect of any class of societies from time to time;

Provided that the Registrar may, at his discretion, issue public notice or issue notice to such person, as he thinks fit, inviting objection, if any, against the proposed registration and consider all objections that may be received by him before registering the society;

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Registrar may refuse to register a society if, after giving reasonable opportunity of showing cause against such refusal, he is satisfied that –

(a) the name of the society is identical with that of any other society previously registered under this Act;

(b) the name of the society sought to be registered using any of the words, namely, ‘union’, ‘State’, ‘Land Mortgage’, ‘Land Development’, ‘Cooperative’, ‘Gandhi’, ‘Reserve Bank’ or any words expressing or implying the sanction, approval or patronage of the Central or any State Government or any word which suggests, or is calculated to suggest, any connection with any local authority or any corporation or body constituted by or under any law for the time being in force, or is such as is otherwise likely to deceive the public or the members of any other society previously registered under this Act;

(c) any one or more of the objects of the society sought to be registered is not an object mentioned in sections 1 and 20; or

(d) its objects are contrary to any public policy or any other law for the time being in force.”

Insertion of new Section 3A:-

In the principal Act, after section 3, following section shall be inserted **by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:-

“3A. Renewal of certificate of registration:—

(1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), a certificate of registration issued under section 3 shall remain in force for a period of two years from the date of issue:

Provided that a certificate issued before the commencement of the amendment shall remain in force for a period of two years from the date of commencement of the amendment.

(2) A society registered under section 3, whether before or after the commencement of the said amendment shall, on application made to the Registrar before one month of the expiration of the period referred to in sub-section (1) and on payment of rupees five hundred, be entitled to have its certificate of registration renewed for two years at a time:

Provided that , in the case of a society registered before the commencement of the amendment, the Registrar shall refuse to renew the certificate of registration if, after giving an opportunity of showing cause against such refusal, he is satisfied that any of the grounds mentioned in sub-section (3) of section 3 exist in respect thereof.

(3) There shall be paid to the Registrar with every application for renewal of the certificate of registration

(a) a fee of Rs.500/- payable under section 3, if such application is filed within the period specified in sub-section (2) ;

(b) an additional fee of fifty rupees, if such application is filed within one month of the date of expiration of the period specified in sub - section (2); and

(c) an additional fee at the rate of fifty rupees per month or part thereof, if such application is filed beyond one month of the expiration of the period specified in sub-section (2).

(4) Every application for renewal of the certificate of registration shall be accompanied by the certificate sought to be renewed unless dispensed with by the Registrar on the ground of its loss or destruction or other sufficient cause.

(5) A society which fails to get its certificate of registration renewed in accordance with this section within one year from the expiration of the period for which the certificate was operative, shall become an unregistered society

Provided that the Registrar may, for sufficient cause, allow an application for renewal more than one year after the expiration of the period for which the society was operative, on payment of a fee of five hundred rupees.

If a certificate of registration is renewed in accordance with such sub- section (5), such renewal shall operate from the date of registration to the period for which the certificate was operative.”

4. Annual list of managing body to be filed :- Once in every year, on or before the fourteen day succeeding the day on which, according to the rules of the society, the annual general meeting of the society is held, or, if the rules do not provide for an annual general meeting, in the month of January, a list shall be filed with the Registrar of Joint-Stock Companies, of the names, addresses and occupations of the governors, council, directors, committee, or other governing then entrusted with the management of affairs of the society.

Insertion of new Section 4A :-

In the principal Act, after Section 4, a new section 4A shall be inserted by **the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:-

“4A. Changes in managing body –

(1) Together with the list mentioned in Section 4, there shall be sent to the Registrar of Societies a statement showing changes during the year to which the list relates in the personnel of governors, council, directors, committee or other governing body to whom the management of the affairs of the society is entrusted and also a copy of the rules of the society corrected up to date and certified to be a correct copy, by not less than three of the members of the governing body.

(2) A copy of every alteration made in the rules of the society, certified to be a correct copy by not less than three members of the governing body shall be sent to the Registrar of Societies within fifteen days of making such alteration.

Insertion of new Section 4B the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025:-

4B. Balance sheet and auditor’s report be forwarded to Registrar –

(1) Within thirty days after the holding of every annual general meeting, there shall be filed with the Registrar of Societies a copy each of the balance-sheet and auditor’s report certified by the auditor along with copy of up to date Membership Register certified by Secretary and President which shall be identical in the line of previous year, under sub-section (2) of sec. 5A.

(2) If the President, Secretary or any other person in this behalf by a resolution of the governing body of the society fails to comply with the provisions of sub-section (1), he shall be punishable with fine of **Rs. Five Hundred** at the minimum, which may extend to **five thousand rupees**.

(3) If the society failed to deposit the fine money within the stipulated period as ordered by the Registrar, the registration of the society shall be cancelled by the Registrar with a show-cause notice.”

5. Property of society how vested:-The property, movable and immovable, belonging to this society registered under this Act, if not vested in trustees, shall be deemed to be vested for the time being, in the governing body of society, and in all proceedings, civil and criminal, may be described as the property of the governing body of such society for their proper little.

Insertion of new Section 5A:-

In the Principal Act, after Section 5 a new section 5A shall be inserted **the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:-

“5A. Books of account and audit.

(1)Every society shall keep at its registered office proper books of account in which shall be entered accurately:-

(a) All sums of money received and the source thereof and all sums of money expended by the society and the object or purpose for which such sums are expended;

(b) The assets and liabilities of the society.

(2) Every society shall have its account audited once in every year by a duly qualified auditor and have a balance sheet prepared by him. The auditor shall also submit a report showing the exact state of the financial affairs of the society. Three copies of the balance sheet and the auditor's report shall be certified by the auditor. One copy of audited report along with copy of up to date Membership Register certified by Secretary and President which shall be identical in the line of previous year, to be sent to the Registering Authority immediately after Audit.

Explanation – A duly qualified auditor means a Chartered Accountant and auditor of the cooperative department within the meaning of societies in this behalf. Audit fees for the auditor of the cooperative department shall time to time be declared by the Registrar of the societies and the said audit fees shall be treated as state Government revenue.

(3) If the President, Secretary or any other person authorized in this behalf by resolution of the governing body of the society fails to comply with the provisions of sub- section (1) or sub-section (2) shall be punishable with fine which may extend to hundred rupees for every day after the detection of the default during which the default continues.”

6 Suits by and against society:-Every society registered under this Act may sue or be used in the name of the president, chairman, or principal secretary, or trustees, as shall be determined by the rules and regulations of the society and, in default of such determination, in the name of such person as shall be appointed by the governing body for the occasion.

Provided that it shall be competent for any person having a claim, or demand against the society, to sue the president or chairman, or principal secretary or the trustees thereof, if on application to the governing body some other officer or person be not nominated to be the defendant.

7. Suits not to abate:-No suit or proceeding in any Civil Court shall abate or discontinue by reason of the person, by or against whom such suit or proceeding shall have been brought or continued, dying or ceasing to fill the character in the name whereof he shall have sued or been sued, but the same suit or proceeding shall be continued by the name of or against the successor of such person.

8. Enforcement of judgment against society:-If a judgment shall be recovered against the person or officer named on behalf of the society, such judgment shall be put in force against the property, movable or immovable, or against the body of such person or officer, but against the property of the society.

The application for execution shall set forth the judgment, the fact of the party against whom it shall have been recovered having sued or having been sued, as the case may be, on behalf of the society only, and shall require to have the judgment enforced against the property of the society.

9. Recovery of penalty accruing under bye-law :-

:-Whenever by any bye-law duly made in accordance with the rules and regulations of the society, or, if the rules do not provide for the making of bye-laws, by any bye-law made at a general meeting of the members of the society convened for the purpose (for the making of which the concurrent votes of three-fifths of the members present at such meeting shall be necessary), any pecuniary penalty is imposed for the breach of any rule or bye-law of the society, such penalty, when accrued, may be recovered in any Court having jurisdiction where the defendant shall reside, or the society shall be situated, as the governing body thereof shall deem expedient.

In the Principal Act, in Section 9 the expression:-

“in any court having jurisdiction where the defendant shall reside, or the society shall be situated, as the governing body thereof shall deem expedient”

Shall be substituted by **the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** with the expression: -

“by Registrar of Societies within such time, as may be fixed by the Registrar of Societies and in case of failure to pay the imposed penalty, the Registrar of Societies may take any action against the Society including cancellation of the registration ”.

10.Members liable to be sued as strangers :-Any member who may be in the arrear of a subscription which according to the rules of the society he is bound to pay, or who shall possess himself of or detain any property of the society in a manner or for a time contrary to such rules, or shall injure or destroy any property of the society, may be sued for such arrear or for the damage accruing from such detention, injury, or destruction of the property in the manner hereinbefore provided.

Recovery by successful defendant of costs adjudged:-But if the defendant shall be successful in any suit or other proceeding brought against him at the instance of the society, and shall be adjudged to recover his costs, he may elect to proceed to recover the same from the office in whose name the suit shall be brought, or from the society, and in the latter shall have process against the property of the said society in the manner above described.

11.Members guilty of offences punishable as strangers :-Any member of the society who shall steal , purloin or embezzle any money or other property, or willfully and maliciously destroy or injure any property of such society, shall forge any deed, bond, security for money, receipt, or other instrument , whereby the funds of the society may be exposed to loss, shall be subject to the same prosecution, and, if convicted, shall be liable to be punished in like manner, as any person not a member would be subject and liable to in respect of the like offence.

In the principal Act, after section 11 new Section 11A shall be inserted by **the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:-

“11A. Penalty for contravening section 4B –

- (i) If any authorized officer of a society who is required to furnish any information or return under sub-section (1) of section 4B;
- (ii) (ii) Willfully furnishes or causes to be furnished any information or necessary for obtaining any information required to be furnished under section 4B;

Such authorized officer shall, on conviction, be punished for each such offence with fine which may extend to **two thousand Rupees**.

Insertion of new Sections 11B by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025:-

11B. Penalty for improper disclosure of information or return. – If Registrar or any person duly authorized by him in connection with the collection of any information or returns under this Act willfully discloses any information of the contents of any return given or made under this Act otherwise than in the execution of his duties under this Act or for the purposes of the prosecution for an offence under this Act or under the Indian Penal code, he shall, on conviction, be punished for such offence with fine which may extend to **two thousand rupees**.

Insertion of new Sections 11C by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025:-

11C. sanction for prosecution. – No prosecution for an offence under section 11B shall be instituted except by, or with the consent of the State Government.”

12. Societies enabled to alter, extend, or abridge their purposes .—Whenever it shall appear to the governing body of any society registered under this Act, which has been established for any particular purpose or purposes, that it is advisable to alter, extend, or abridge such purpose to or for other purposes within the meaning of this Act, or to amalgamate such society either wholly or partially with any other society, such governing body may submit the proposition to the members of the society in a written or printed report, and may convene a special meeting for the consideration thereof according to the regulations of the society;

but no such proposition shall be carried into effect unless such report shall have been delivered or sent by post to every member of the society ten days previous to the special meeting convened by the governing body for the consideration thereof, nor unless such proposition shall have been agreed to by the votes of three-fifths of the members delivered in person or by proxy, and confirmed by the votes of three fifths of the members present at a second special meeting convened by the governing body at an interval of one month after the former meeting.

Insertion of new Sections 12A:-

In the principal Act, after section 12 new Section 12A, shall be inserted **by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:-

“12A. Registration of change of name -

(1) where a proposition for change of name has been agreed to and confirmed in the manner prescribed by section 12, a copy of the proposition so agreed to and confirmed shall be forwarded to the Registrar for registering the change of name. If the proposed name is identical with that by which any other existing society has been registered or in the opinion of the Registrar so nearly resembles the name of such other society as is likely to deceive the public or members of either society, the Registrar shall refuse to register the change of name.

(2) Save as provided in sub section (1), the Registrar shall, if he is satisfied that the provisions of this Act in respect of change of name have been complied with, register the change of name and issue a certificate of registration altered to meet the circumstances of the case. On the issue of such a certificate the change of name shall be complete.

(3) The Registrar shall charge for any copy of certificate or bye – law of a society issued under sub-section (2) a fee of rupees 10 (Ten) per impression and all fees so paid shall be accounted for to the State Government. The clauses may be revised time to time by notification of the Government.

Insertion of new Sections 12B by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025:-

12B. Effect of change of name: - The change in the name of a society registered under this Act shall not affect any right or obligations of the society or render defective any legal proceeding by or against the society, and any legal proceeding might have been continued or commenced by or against it by its new name.

Insertion of new Sections 12C by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025:-

“12C. Registrar’s power to cancel registration in certain circumstances:-

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Registrar may, by order in writing, cancel the registration of any society whether it is registered before or after this amendment, on any of the following ground :-

(a) that the registration of the society or of its name or change of name was contrary to the provisions of this Act or of any other law for the time being in force;

(b) that its activities or proposed activities have been or are or will be subversive of the objects of the society or opposed to public policy:

Provided that no order of cancellation of registration of any society shall be passed until the society has been given a reasonable opportunity of altering its name or object or of showing cause against the action proposed to be taken in regard to it.

(2) An appeal against an order made under sub-section (1) may be referred to the State Government within one month from the date of communication of such order.

(3) The decision of the State Government under Sub-section (2) shall be final and shall not be called in question in any court.”

13. Provision for dissolution of societies and adjustment of their affairs .—Any number not less than three-fifths of the members of any society may determine that it shall be dissolved, and thereupon it shall be dissolved forthwith, or at the time then agreed upon, and all necessary steps shall be taken for the disposal and settlement of the property of the society, its claims and liabilities, according to the rules of the said society applicable thereto, if any, and, if not, then as the governing body shall find expedient provided that, in the event of any dispute arising among the said governing body or the members of the society, the adjustment of its affairs shall be referred to the principal Court of original civil jurisdiction of the district in which the chief building of the society is situate; and the Court shall make such order in the matter as it shall deem requisite:

Provided that no society shall be dissolved unless three-fifths of the members shall have expressed a wish for such dissolution by their votes delivered in person, or by proxy, at a general meeting convened for the purpose:

Provided that 1[whenever any Government] is a member of, or a contributor to, or otherwise interested in any society registered under this Act, such society shall not be dissolved 2[without the consent of the Government of the State of registration].

In the Principal Act, in Section 13 the following words and a proviso shall be inserted by **the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:-

“(i) Insert the words, “or special committee appointed by the Registrar to replace the governing body in respect of all matters affecting the winding up of the affairs of the society,” after the words “as the governing body”

(ii) Insert the words “should it not have been replaced by the aforesaid special committee in respect of all matters affecting the winding up of the society, or the said special committee” after the words “the said governing body”.

(iii) Insert the following as proviso after section 13 by **the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025**:

Provided that any matter decided by three-fifths of those present either in person or by proxy at any meeting of the members of the society or of the governing body thereof or of any special committee appointed by the Registrar for the purpose of winding up of the affairs of a society shall not be deemed to be a matter of dispute within the meaning of this section”

14. Upon a dissolution no member to receive profit .—If upon the dissolution of any society registered under this Act there shall remain after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the said society or any of them, but shall be given to some other society, to be determined by the votes of not less than three-fifths of the members present personally or by proxy at the time of the dissolution, or, in default thereof, by such Court as aforesaid

Clause not to apply to Joint-stock Companies.—provided, however, that this clause shall not apply to any society which shall have been founded or established by the contributions of shareholders in the nature of a Joint-stock Company.

Insertion of new Sections 14A by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025:-

In the principal Act, after section 14 new Section 14A shall be inserted as follows:-

“14A. Disposal of property of dissolved society

Notwithstanding anything contained in section 14 it shall be lawful for the members of any society dissolved under Sec.13 to determine by a majority of the votes of the members present personally or by proxy at the time of the dissolution of such society that any property whatsoever remaining after the satisfaction of all the debts and liabilities shall be given to Government to be utilized for any of the purposes referred to in section 1.”

15. Member defined. Disqualified members .—For the purposes of this Act a member of a society shall be a person who, having been admitted therein according to the rules and regulations thereof, shall have paid a subscription, or shall have signed the roll or list of members thereof, and shall not have resigned in accordance with such rules and regulations; but in all proceedings under this Act no person shall be entitled to vote or be counted as a member whose subscription at the time shall have been in arrear for a period exceeding three months.

Insertion of new Proviso after Section 15:-

In the Principal Act, after section 15 the following proviso shall be inserted by **the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025**as follows:

“**Provided that** any dispute or differences touching to this section may refer to the Registrar by filling an application with the fees rupees five hundred either by the society or any member of the society and the Registrar on hearing the parties shall pass an order in writing and that order shall be final & bindings upon the parties.”

16. Governing body defined .—The governing body of the society shall be the governors, council, directors, committee, trustees or other body to whom by the rules and regulations of the society the management of its affairs is entrusted.

Insertion of new Sections 16A by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025:-

In the principal Act, after section 16 new Section 16A shall be inserted as follows:-

“16A. Disqualification for holding office in society:-

A person who is an un discharged insolvent or who has been convicted of any offence in connection with the formation, promotion, management or conduct of the affairs of society or of a body corporate, or an offence involving moral turpitude, shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of the governing body or the president, secretary, or any other office-bearer of a society.”

17. Registration of societies formed before Act.—Any company or society established for a literary, scientific, or charitable purpose, and registered under 1Act 43 of 1850, or any such society established and constituted previously to the passing of this Act but not registered under the said 3Act 43 of 1850, may at any time hereafter be registered as a society under this Act;

Subject to the proviso that no such company or society shall be registered under this Act unless an assent to its being so registered has been given by three-fifths of the members present personally, or by proxy, at some general meeting convened for that purpose by the governing body.

In the case of a company or society registered under 3 Act 43 of 1850, the directors shall be deemed to be such governing body. In the case of a society not so registered, if no such body shall have been constituted on the establishment of the society, it shall be competent for the members thereof, upon due notice, to create for itself a governing body to act for the society thenceforth.

18. Such societies to file memorandum, etc., with Registrar of Joint-stock Companies.—In order to any such society as is mentioned in the last preceding section obtaining registry under this Act, it shall be sufficient that the governing body file with the Registrar of Joint-stock Companies 2 *** a memorandum showing the name of the society, the objects of the society, and the names, addresses and occupations of the governing body, together with a copy of the rules and regulations of the society certified as provided in section 2, and a copy of the report of the proceedings of the general meeting at which the registration was resolved on.

Insertion of new Sections 18A by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025:-

In the principal Act, after section 18 new Section 18A shall be inserted as follows:-

“18 A. Power of Registrar to refuse registration in certain cases:

(1) The Registrar shall refuse to register-

- (a) A society under section 3,
- (b) The change of names made under section 12A, or
- (c) A society under section 17,

if the proposed name of such society is undesirable or identical with that by which any other existing society has been registered or in the opinion of the Registrar so nearly resembles such other name as to be likely to deceive the public or the members of either party.

(2) If any two or more societies have been registered with identical names or with names which, in the opinion of the Registrar, so nearly resemble each other as to be likely to deceive the public or the members of such society, the society which so registered first of all continue to function under its original name and other such societies shall change and may be required by the Registrar to change their name suitably within a period of six months from the date of commencement of this amendment.”

19. Inspection of documents, Certified copies.—Any person may inspect all documents filed with the Registrar under this Act on payment of a fee of one rupee for each inspection; and any person may require a copy or extract of any document or any part of any document, to be certified by the Registrar, on payment of two annas for every hundred words of such copy or extract; and such certified copy shall be prima facie evidence of the matters therein contained in all legal proceedings whatever.

In the Principal Act, in Section 19 the following words shall be substituted **by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:-

For the words, “on payment of a fee of one rupee for each inspection”, shall be substituted the words, as follows; - **“on payment of Rs. 50 or such fees as the State Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, fix from time to time.”**

AND

For the words, “on payment of **two annas** for every hundred words of such copy or extract”, shall be substituted the words, as follows :- **“ on payment of Rs. 10 (Ten) per impression or such fees as the State Government may, by notification in official Gazette fix from time to time”**

20. To what societies Act applies .—The following societies may be registered under this Act:— Charitable societies, the military orphan funds or societies established at the several presidencies of India, societies established for the promotion of science, literature, or the fine arts,

for instruction, the diffusion of useful knowledge,¹[the diffusion of political education] the foundation or maintenance of libraries or reading-rooms for general use among the members or open to the public, or public museums and galleries of paintings and other works of art, collections of natural history, mechanical and philosophical inventions, instruments, or designs.

Insertion of new Proviso after Section 20:-

In the Principal Act, after section 20 the following proviso shall be inserted **by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:

“Provided that whether a society is a Charitable Society or not such question shall be decided by the Registrar.”

21. Insertion of new Section 21:-

In the principal Act, after section 20, new Sections 21 shall be inserted **by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:-

“Section 21. Investigation of affairs of a society –

(1) where an information received in writing from any Government offices or individual person or organization, the Registrar is of opinion – that there is apprehension that the affairs of a society registered under this Act are being so conducted as to defeat the objects of the society, or

That the society or its governing body by whatever name called, or any officer thereof in actual effective control of the society is guilty of mismanaging its affairs or of any breach of Judiciary or other like obligations,

The Registrar may either himself or by any person appointed by him in that behalf, inspects or investigates into the affairs of the society or inspects any institution managed by the society.

(2) It shall be the duty of every officer of the society when so required by the Registrar or other person appointed under sub-section (1) to produce any books of account and other records of or relating to the society, which is in his custody and to give him all assistance in connection with such inspection or investigation.

(3) The Registrar or other person appointed under sub-section (1) may call upon and examine on oath any officer, member or employee of the society in relation to the affairs of the society, and

It shall be the duty of every officer, member or employee, when called upon, to appear before him for such examination.

(4) On the conclusion of the inspection or investigation, as the case may be, the person, if any, appointed by the Registrar to inspect or investigate shall make a report to the Registrar on the result of his inspection or investigation.

(5) The Registrar may, after such inspection or investigation, give such directions to the society or to its governing body or any officer thereof, as he may think fit, for the removal of any defects or irregularities within such time as may be specified and

In the event of default in taking action according to such directions, the Registrar may proceed to take action under Sec. 12-C of the proposed amendment.”

Insertion of new Sections 21A by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025:-

“Section 21A The Registrar of society may cause inspection of any society either by himself or by his authorized agent if and when he felt it necessary. On the basis of this inspection report, Registrar may take any action under section 21 of this Act on due notice to the parties.”

22. Insertion of new Sections 22.

In the Principal Act, after Section 21A of the proposed amendment, new section 22 shall be inserted **by the Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025** as follows:-

“Section 22. Dispute regarding election of office-bearers

(1) The prescribed authority may,

On a reference made it by the Registrar or by at least one fourth of the members of a society registered in the state of Tripura, hear and decide in a summary manner any doubt or dispute in suspect of the election or continuance in office of an officer-bearer of such society, and may pass such orders in respect thereof as it deems fit:

Provided that the election of an office bearer shall be set aside where the prescribed authority is satisfied –

(a) that any corrupt practice has been committed by such office bearer; or

(b) that the nomination of any candidate has been improperly rejected; or

(c) that the result of the election in so far as it concerns such office bearer has been materially affected –

(i) by the improper acceptance of any nomination, or

(ii) by the improper reception, refusal or rejection of any vote or the reception of any vote which is void, or

(iii) by any non- compliance with the provisions of any rules of the society.”

Explanation (I) – A person shall be deemed to have committed a corrupt practice who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person,-

(i) induces, or attempts to induce, By fraud, intentional misrepresentation, coercion or threat of injury,

Any person/voter to give or to refrain from giving a vote in favour of any candidate or any person to stand or not to stand as, or to withdraw or not to withdraw from being, a candidate at the election;

(ii) with a view to inducing any voter to give or to refrain from giving a vote in favour of any candidate, or to inducing any person to stand or not to stand as, or to withdraw or not to withdraw from being, a candidate at the election,

Offers or gives any money, or valuable consideration, or any place of employment, or holds out any promise or individual advantage or profit to any person;

(iii) abets (within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code) the doing of any of the acts specified in Clause (i) and (ii);

(iv) induces, or attempts to induce, a candidate or elector to believe that he, or any person in whom he is interested, will become or will be rendered an object of divine displeasure or spiritual censure;

(v) canvasses on grounds of caste, community, sect or religion;

(vi) Commits such other practice as the State Government may by rule prescribe to be corrupt practice.

Explanation II. - A 'promise of individual advantage or profit to a person' includes a promise for the benefit of the person himself, or of any one in which he is interested.

Explanation III. – The state Government may, by rules, prescribe the procedure for hearing and decision of doubts or disputes in respect of such elections and make provision in respect of any other matter relating to such elections for which insufficient provision exists in this Act or in the rules of the society.

(2) Where, by an order made under sub-section (1), an election is set aside or an office- bearer is held no longer entitled to continue in office, or

Where the Registrar is satisfied that any election of office – bearers of a society has not been held within the time specified in the rules of that society,

He may call a meeting of the general body of such society for electing such office- bearer or office-bearers,

and

Such meeting shall be presided over and be conducted by the Registrar or by any officer authorized by him in this behalf, and the provisions in the rules of the society relating to meetings and elections shall apply to such meeting and election with necessary modifications.

(3) Where a meeting is called by the Registrar under sub-section (2), no other meeting shall be called for the purpose of election by any other authority or by any person claiming to be an office-bearer of the society.

Explanation. – For the purposes of this section, the expression 'prescribed authority' means an officer authorized or appointed in this behalf by the State Government by notification published in the official Gazette.

23. Insertion of new Sections 23.

In the Principal Act, after Section 22 of the proposed amendment, new sections 23 shall be inserted by the **Societies Registration (Tripura Amendment) Act, 2025**, as follows:-

“Section 23. Power to make rules –

- (1) The state Government may make rules for carrying out the purpose of the Act.
- (2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rule may prescribe –
 - (a) The maintenance of the registers and other books of societies, if any, by the Registrar;
 - (b) the forms under which the Registrar shall issue certificate of registration, change of name etc.;
 - (c) the forms and notices under which every society shall intimate the Registrar regarding the amendments to its memorandum or rules and regulations: and
 - (d) any other matter which is to be or may be prescribed.
- (3) All rules made under this Act shall, as soon as may be after they are made, be laid before the Tripura Legislative Assembly, while it is in session for a total period of fourteen days which may be comprised in one session or on two successive sessions, and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, the assembly makes any modification in the rule or decides that the rule should not be made, the rule there after have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so however, that any such modification, or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under the rule.”