

**L. C. BILL No. XIII OF 2025.**

*A BILL*

*further to amend the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961.*

5 ( **As passed by the Legislative Council on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. )**

**WHEREAS** both Houses of the State Legislature were not in session ;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Governor of Maharashtra was satisfied that III of 10 circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate 1959. 10 action further to amend the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act and the Mah. V of 1962. Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, for the purposes hereinafter appearing ; and, therefore, promulgated the Maharashtra Village Ord. XII of 2025. *Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025*, on the 3rd November 2025 ;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to replace the said Ordinance, by an Act of the State Legislature; it is hereby enacted in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows :-

## CHAPTER I

### PRELIMINARY.

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Short title  
and  
commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra Village *Panchayats* and Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads* and *Panchayat Samitis* (Amendment) Act, 2025.
- (2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 3rd November 2025.

## CHAPTER II

### AMENDMENTS TO THE MAHARASHTRA VILLAGE PANCHAYATS ACT. 10

Amendment  
of section  
10-1A of III  
of 1959.

2. In section 10-1A of the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act (hereinafter, in this Chapter, referred to as "the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act"), for the existing provisos, the following provisos shall be substituted, namely :—

III of  
1959.

"Provided that, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers, but who has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,—

- (i) a true copy of the application submitted by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee ; and
- (ii) an undertaking that he shall submit the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee, within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected :

Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a member.”.

Amendment  
of section  
30-1A of III  
of 1959.

3. In section 30-1A of the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act, for the existing provisos, the following provisos shall be substituted, namely :—

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"Provided that, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers, but who has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,—

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- (i) a true copy of the application submitted by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee; and
- (ii) an undertaking that he shall submit the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee, within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected:

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Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a *Sarpanch*.”.

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### CHAPTER III

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE MAHARASHTRA ZILLA PARISHADS AND PANCHAYAT SAMITIS ACT, 1961.

Mah. V  
of 1962.

4. In section 12A of the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act*, 1961 (hereinafter, in this Chapter, referred to as “the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act*”), for the existing provisos, the following provisos shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment  
of section  
12A of Mah.  
V of 1962.

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“Provided that, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers, but who has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,—

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(i) a true copy of the application submitted by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee ; and

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(ii) an undertaking that he shall submit the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee, within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected :

Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a Councillor.”.

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5. In section 42 of the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act*, in sub-section (6A), for the existing provisos, the following provisos shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment  
of section 42  
of Mah. V of  
1962.

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“Provided that, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers, but who has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,—

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(i) a true copy of the application submitted by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee ; and

(ii) an undertaking that he shall submit the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected :

Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a President.”.

Amendment of section 67 of Mah. V of 1962. **6.** In section 67 of the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis* Act, in sub-section (7A), for the existing provisos, the following provisos shall be substituted, namely :—

“Provided that, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers, but who has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,—

(i) a true copy of the application submitted by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee ; and

(ii) an undertaking that he shall submit the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee, within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected :

Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of six months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a Chairman.”.

**7.** (1) The Maharashtra Village *Panchayats* and the Maharashtra *Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis* (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, is hereby repealed. Mah. Ord. XII of 2025.

*saving.*

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken (including any notification or order issued) under the corresponding provisions of the Maharashtra Village Panchayats and Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, as amended by the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done, taken or issued, as the case may be, under the corresponding provisions of the relevant Acts, as amended by this Act.

*Mah. Ord. XII of 2025.*

*25 III of 1959.  
Mah. V of 1962.*

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Sections 10-1A and 30-1A of the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act (III of 1959) and sections 12A, 42 and 67 of the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayats Samitis Act, 1961 (Mah. V of 1962) provides that, every person desirous of contesting election to a seat of member or Councillor or post of *Sarpanch*, President or Chairman reserved for persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or, as the case may be, Backward Classes of Citizens, shall submit, alongwith the nomination paper, Caste Certificate issued by the Competent Authority and the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (*Vimukta Jatis*), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000 (Mah. XXIII of 2001) and the rules made thereunder.

2. In the year 2025-2026 elections to local bodies are to be held in the State on a large scale. The Caste Scrutiny Committees will receive large number of application for issuing Validity Certificates from candidates who desire to contest such election to reserved seats. Therefore, the Caste Scrutiny Committees may get overburdened with the work of scrutiny of such applications, before filing of nominations for such elections and such situation may arise after every five years before such elections.

The prospective candidates may get deprived of the opportunity to contest such elections for the reserved seats because of the non-issuance of the Caste Validity Certificate by the Caste Scrutiny Committee in time. Therefore, the Government considered it expedient to amend the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961 suitably with a view to allow the persons contesting elections for reserved seats and who have applied to the Caste Scrutiny Committee for obtaining Caste Validity Certificate to submit the Validity Certificate within six months from the date on which they are declared elected, and also to provide that if they fail to produce the Validity Certificate within such six months, their elections shall be deemed to be terminated retrospectively.

3. As both Houses of the State Legislature were not in session and the Governor of Maharashtra was satisfied that circumstances existed which rendered it necessary for him to take immediate action further to amend the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961, for the purposes aforesaid, the Maharashtra Village Panchayats and Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 (Mah. Ord. XII of 2025), was promulgated by the Governor of Maharashtra on the 3rd November 2025.

4. The Bill is intended to replace the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature.

Mumbai,  
Dated the 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2025.

JAYKUMAR GORE,  
Minister for Rural Development.



**ANNEXURE TO THE L. C. BILL No. XIII OF 2025—  
THE MAHARASHTRA VILLAGE PANCHAYATS AND  
MAHARASHTRA ZILLA PARISHADS AND PANCHAYAT SAMITIS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025.**

*(Extracts from the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act, 1958)*

**(Mah. III of 1959)**

**1. to 10.**

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**10-1A.** Every person desirous of contesting election to a seat reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or, as the case may be, Backward Class of Citizens, shall be required to submit, alongwith the nomination paper, Caste Certificate issued by the Competent Authority and the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000 :

Person  
contesing  
election for  
reserved seat  
to submit  
Caste  
Certificate.

Provided that, for the General or bye-elections for which the last date of filing of nomination falls on or before the 31st December 2023, in accordance with the election programme, declared by the State Election Commission, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers but who has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,—

(i) a true copy of the application preferred by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee; and

(ii) an undertaking that he shall submit, within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee:

Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a member.

**10A.**

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**11. to 30.**

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**30-1A.** Every person desirous of contesting election to the office of the Sarpanch reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or, as the case may be, Backward Class of Citizens, shall be required to submit alongwith the nomination paper, Caste Certificate issued by the Competent Authority and the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000 :

Person  
Contesting  
election for  
reserved office  
of Sarpanch to  
submit Caste  
Certificate  
and Validity  
Certificate.

Provided that, for the elections for the post of Sarpanch for which the last date of filing of nomination falls on or before the 31st December 2023, in accordance with the election programme declared by the State Election Commission, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers but who

has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,

(i) a true copy of the application preferred by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee; and

(ii) an undertaking that he shall submit, within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee :

Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a Sarpanch.

**30A.** \* \* \* \*

**31. to 188.** \* \* \* \*

**SCHEDULES** \* \* \* \*

*(Extracts from the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961)*

**(Mah. V of 1962)**

**1. to 12.** \* \* \* \*

Person  
contesting  
election for  
reserved seat to  
submit Caste  
Certificate  
and Validity  
Certificate.

**12A.** Every person desirous of contesting election to a seat reserved for Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes or, as the case may be, Backward Class of citizens, shall be required to submit, alongwith the nomination papers. Caste Certificate issued by the Competent Authority and the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000.

Provided that, for the General or bye-elections for which the last date of filing of nomination falls on or before the 31st December 2023, in accordance with the election programme declared by the State Election Commission, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers but who has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,—

(i) a true copy of the application preferred by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee; and

(ii) an undertaking that he shall submit within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee:

Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a Councillor.

**13. to 41.** \* \* \* \*

**42. (1) to (6)** \* \* \* \*

**(6A)** Every person desirous of contesting election to the office of the President. President reserved for the Schedule Castes, Schedule Tribes or, as the case may be, Backward Class of citizens, shall be required to submit alongwith the nomination paper, Caste Certificate issued by the Competent Authority and the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000.

Election  
of President  
and Vice  
President.

Provided that, for the elections for the post of President for which the last date of filing of nomination falls on or before the 31st December, 2023, in accordance with the election programme declared, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers but who has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,—

(i) a true copy of the application preferred by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee; and

(ii) an undertaking that he shall submit within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee :

Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a President.

**(7)** \* \* \* \*

**43. to 66.** \* \* \* \*

**67. (1) to (7)** \* \* \* \*

**(7A)** Every person desirous of contesting election to the office of the Chairman reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes or, as the case may be, Backward Class of citizens, shall be required to submit alongwith the nomination paper, Caste Certificate issued by the Competent Authority and the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000.

Procedure for  
election of  
Chairman of  
Panchayat  
Samiti.

Provided that, for the elections for the post of Chairman for which the last date of filing of nomination falls on or before the 31st December 2023, in accordance with the election programme declared, a person who has applied to the Scrutiny Committee for verification of his Caste Certificate before the date of filing of the nomination papers but who has not received the Validity Certificate on the date of filing of the nomination papers shall submit, alongwith the nomination papers,—

(i) a true copy of the application preferred by him to the Scrutiny Committee for issuance of the Validity Certificate or any other proof of having made such application to the Scrutiny Committee; and

(ii) an undertaking that he shall submit within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, the Validity Certificate issued by the Scrutiny Committee:

Provided further that, if such person fails to produce the Validity Certificate within a period of twelve months from the date on which he is declared elected, his election shall be deemed to have been terminated retrospectively and he shall be disqualified for being a Chairman.

**(8)** \* \* \* \*

**68. to 290.** \* \* \* \*

**SCHEDULES** \* \* \* \*



**MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATURE  
SECRETARIAT**

**[ L. C. BILL No. XIII OF 2025.]**

**[ A Bill further to amend the  
Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act  
and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads  
and Panchayat Samitis Act, 1961. ]**

**[ JAYKUMAR GORE,  
Minister for Rural Development. ]**

**[ As passed by the Legislative Council  
on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2025. ]**

**DR. VILAS ATHAWALE,  
Secretary (III),  
Maharashtra Legislative Council.**