
**THE KERALA UNIVERSITY OF DIGITAL SCIENCES,
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025**

©
Kerala Legislature Secretariat
2025

**THE KERALA UNIVERSITY OF DIGITAL SCIENCES,
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025**

Fifteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly

Bill No. 273

[Translation in English of the "2025-ലെ കേരള ഡിജിറ്റൽ ശാസ്ത്ര സാങ്കേതിക നൂതനവിദ്യ സർവ്വകലാശാല (ഭേദഗതി) ബിൽ" published under the authority of the Governor]

**THE KERALA UNIVERSITY OF DIGITAL SCIENCES,
INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025**

A

BILL

to amend the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology Act, 2021.

Preamble.—WHEREAS, it is expedient to amend the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology Act, 2021 (10 of 2021) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

BE it enacted in the Seventy-sixth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of Section 11.*—In the Kerala University of Digital Sciences Innovation and Technology Act, 2021 in section 11,—

(1) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) The Chancellor shall appoint the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of Search-cum-Selection Committee, constituted by the Government by notification which shall be comprised by the following members, namely:—

(a) a member who is a distinguished academician in the sphere of Electronics and Information Technology nominated by the Kerala State Higher Education Council - Convener;

(b) a member nominated by the University Grants Commission;

(c) a member who is a distinguished academician in the sphere of electronics and information technology nominated by the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment;

(d) an eminent member in the sphere of study and research selected by the Board of Governors;

(e) a distinguished academician in the sphere of higher education nominated by the Government.

The members so nominated shall not be persons associated in any manner with the University or its colleges.”.

(2) for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(4) The Government shall issue notification to constitute a committee as per sub-section (3) at least three months prior to the date on which the vacancy of the post of Vice-Chancellor is likely to arise and the committee so constituted shall, within two months from the date of its constitution, prepare a panel of three names for the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor, either unanimously or by a simple majority and submit it to the Chancellor, and the Chancellor shall appoint a person as the Vice-Chancellor, from the panel so submitted.”.

(3) for sub-section (6), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(6) The term of office of the Vice-Chancellor shall be four years from the date of his appointment or until he attains the age of seventy years, whichever is earlier.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

As per sub-section (3) of section 11 of the Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology Act, 2021, the Vice- Chancellor of the University shall be appointed by the Chancellor on the recommendation of the Search-cum-Selection Committee consisting of the Chief Secretary of the State as the Convener. Another member of the Committee is an Industrialist from the field of Electronics and Information Technology. Moreover, as per sub-section (4), if the committee fails to furnish a unanimous panel, each member can furnish the name of one person each to the post. In addition to this, the age of the person to be appointed is Sixty One years. These provisions are against provisions of the U.G.C. Regulations 2018, and it creates much difficulty in preparing panel and appointment. In a case of the constitution of Search-cum- Selection Committee under the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technological University, the recommendation of the committee that only one person to the post of Vice-Chancellor and appointing him by the Chancellor, the Supreme Court had quashed the said appointment in Civil Appeal No.7634-7635, 2022 stating that the formulation of the said Selection Committee and the subsequent appointment were not in accordance with the U.G.C. Regulations and against the previous judgment of the said court in this regard. In the said judgment, the court also examined and upheld the effect of the U.G.C. Regulations over the State Laws. The post of the Vice-Chancellor in Kerala University of Digital Sciences, Innovation and Technology is vacant for several months and temporarily appointed hand hold the said post. The process of selection to the post is initiated, but challenged before the Hon'ble court. If the selection is done as per existing provisions there is every chance to challenge the same, because it is not in conformity with U.G.C. regulations and verdict of the Hon'ble apex Court in this regard. Hence the Government have decided to make suitable amendments in the Act in conformity with the U.G.C. regulations.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above object.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

The Bill if enacted and brought into operation, would not involve any additional expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Sub-section (3) of section 11 proposed to be substituted in the principal Act by clause 2 of the Bill seeks to empower the Government to constitute Search-cum-Selection committee by notification in the Gazette.

PINARAYI VIJAYAN.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RELEVANT PORTION OF THE KERALA
UNIVERSITY OF DIGITAL SCIENCES, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
(AMENDMENT) ACT, 2021

(ACT 10 OF 2021)

**

**

**

**

11. *The Vice-Chancellor.*— (1)

(3) The Vice-Chancellor shall be appointed by the Chancellor on the recommendation of the Search-cum-Selection Committee appointed by him, consisting of the following members, namely:—

(a) Chief Secretary to State, he shall be the Convener of the committee;

(b) one expert member from Electronics and Information Technology Industry;

(c) one expert member from Academia selected by the Board of Governors;

(d) one nominee of the University Grants Commission; and

(e) one nominee of the State Government.

**

**

**

**

(4) The process of preparing the panel shall begin atleast three months before the probable date of occurrence of the vacancy of the Vice-Chancellor and shall be completed within the time-limit fixed by the Chancellor. The Chancellor, may however extend such time-limit, if, in the exigency of the circumstances, it is necessary to do so. However, the process of preparation of the panel shall be completed within a period of three months, including the period so extended. In case the search-cum-selection committee fails to make a unanimous recommendation as provided, each member of the committee may submit the name of one person each to the Chancellor. The non-submission of the name by any member of the Committee shall not invalidate the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor.

**

**

**

**

(6) No person who is more than sixty one years of age shall be appointed as Vice-Chancellor and after the appointment, he shall, subject to the terms and conditions of his appointment, hold office for a period of four years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty five years, whichever is earlier.

**

**

**

**
