In pursuance of clause (3) of article 348 of the Constitution of India, the following translation in English of the Maharashtra Village Panchayats (Amendment and Continuance) Act, 2014 (Mah. Act No. XVIII of 2014), is hereby published under the authority of the Governor.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

H. B. PATEL,
Principal Secretary to Government, Law and Judiciary Department.

MAHARASHTRA ACT No. XVIII OF 2014.

(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor in the "Maharashtra Government Gazette", on the 25th June 2014).

An Act further to amend the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act.

WHEREAS the Governor of Maharashtra promulgated the Maharashtra Ord. II Village Panchayats (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014, on the 30th January of 2014;

AND WHEREAS upon the re-assembly of the State Legislature on the 26th February 2014, the Maharashtra Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (L. C. Bill No. I of 2014), for replacing the said Ordinance by an Act of the State Legislature was passed by the Maharashtra Legislative Council on the 28th February 2014, and transmitted to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly;

Mah. Act No. XVIII of 2014
AND WHEREAS thereafter, as, the session of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly was prorogued on the 28th February 2014, the said Bill could not be passed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS as provided by article 213 (2) (a) of the Constitution of India, the said Ordinance would have ceased to operate at the expiration of six weeks from the re-assembly of the State Legislature, that is, after the 6th April 2014;

AND WHEREAS 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 to continue the operation of the provisions of the said Ordinance, for the purposes hereinafter appearing; and, therefore, promulgated the Maharashtra Village Panchayats (Amendment and Continuance) Ordinance, 2014, on the 5th April 2014;

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

1. (1) This Act may be called the Maharashtra Village Panchayats (Amendment and Continuance) Act, 2014.

   (2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 30th January 2014.

2. In Chapter III-A of the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act III of 1999 (hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act"), before section 54-A, the following section shall be inserted, namely:—

"54-1A. Notwithstanding anything contained in sections 4, 5 or any other provisions of this Act, in the Scheduled Areas,—

   (a) a habitation or a group of habitations or a hamlet or a group of hamlets comprising a community and managing its affairs in accordance with traditions and customs, and which is declared as a village in the prescribed manner shall be the village for the purposes of this Chapter;

   (b) every village, so declared under clause (a), shall have a Gram Sabha consisting of persons whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the panchayat at the village level and a panchayat may comprise of one or more than one of such villages."
3. (1) The Maharashtra Village Panchayats (Amendment and Repeal) Of 2014 is hereby repealed.

2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the provisions of the principal Act as amended by the said Ordinance (including any notification issued) shall be deemed to have been done, taken or issued, as the case may be, under the corresponding provisions of the principal Act as amended by this Act.