

Hon'ble Governor's Address
Budget Session of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, 2025

28th February, 2025

Hon'ble Members of the Meghalaya State Legislative Assembly,

Nga ai khublei ia phi baroh;

Na·simang pilaknan namgipa salamko on·chengna ska.

1. It is my privilege to address this August House on its first sitting for the year 2025. My greetings to the Hon'ble Speaker and the Hon'ble Members. As we continue our ambitious journey to transform Meghalaya into a 10-billion-dollar economy by 2028, we recognize this moment as an opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to the development of our great state. Today, we reiterate our constitutional duty to work together towards a brighter future for the people of Meghalaya. Let us unite in our pursuit of progress, driven by our shared vision for a prosperous and thriving Meghalaya.
2. This house has an outstanding legacy of maintaining the highest standards of parliamentary decorum, debate, and discussion. I would urge the Hon'ble members to carry forward this tradition, which we are all proud of.
3. The Government envisions a Meghalaya which caters to the distinct needs and ambitions of the local communities. To achieve this, the State is building a development model that embodies the Meghalayan spirit - one of collaboration, bold action, and innovation. The Government is developing a framework which seamlessly integrates traditional knowledge with modern innovations, to achieve scale and impact.
4. The Government is dedicated to driving holistic growth in Meghalaya, showcasing its rich culture, and enhancing services for citizens. We have made significant advances in the past year, introducing innovative initiatives like CM CONNECT and Hello Meghalaya. These efforts have leveraged technology to help put

Meghalaya's vibrant cultural heritage in the spotlight and ensure effective governance for our citizens.

5. Improvements in sectors like roads, power, water supply, investment promotion, IT&C, tourism, and agriculture will drive the economic growth in the State. Interventions in the fields of healthcare, education, livelihood generation, social security and citizen-centric governance will ensure holistic welfare of every citizen.
6. I will now enumerate the policies and programs being implemented by the various departments of the State Government.

Home (Political) & Home (Police)

7. The State Government's first objective is to promote peace, security, and well-being of its citizens. During the last year, the overall law and order situation in the State remained peaceful. The successful conduct of the Lok Sabha Elections in 2024 and the District Council Elections in 2025 was ensured through the effective measures taken by the District Administration and Police.
8. In the year 2023-24, the three new Criminal Laws—Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam— were enforced with effect from 1st July 2024. However, the Autonomous District Council Courts will continue to function under the provisions of the Sixth Schedule. Extensive efforts have been undertaken to ensure that all officers and personnel are thoroughly trained and well-versed in the new Criminal Laws.
9. In line with the three new criminal laws, the Directorate of Prosecution has been operationalized with the appointment of a Director and Assistant Public Prosecutors. The Forensic Sciences Laboratory has been upgraded to a full-fledged Directorate of

Forensic Sciences and crime scene infrastructure like Mobile Forensic Science Units have been sanctioned.

Planning

10. The State is currently implementing multiple externally aided projects, in the sectors of roads, power, agriculture, water conservation and tourism. These projects are funded by multilateral agencies like the World Bank, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the New Development Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Asian Development Bank. 72% of the funding under these projects is a grant by Government of India, while the balance is contributed by the State Government.
11. The Government is leveraging funding support from the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region through various schemes. Under the PM DeVINE program, 4 projects have been sanctioned this year, at a total Cost of almost ₹ 395 Crore. These include construction of roads at New Shillong City, construction of IT Park at Tura, development of Skywalk and Tourist Hub at Dympep, and construction of Passenger Ropeway at Shillong Peak.
12. The flagship entrepreneurship and employment scheme of the State – CM ELEVATE – is a big success. Under this program, subsidies ranging from 35-75% are being provided to set up various businesses in agriculture, livestock, tourism, sports, wellness and mobility. The scheme has positively impacted over 2,800 beneficiaries through 12 specialized sub-schemes.

Public Works

13. Meghalaya's extensive road network is playing a crucial role in the State's development. Several important road projects have been sanctioned this year to improve connectivity to remote and far-flung areas. The Shillong-Dawki Highway and Tura-Dalu Road projects are progressing well, with approval granted for a new alignment of the Pynursla Bypass. Additionally, key projects such

as the Shillong Western Bypass are also making steady progress. The Ministry of Finance, Government of India, has sanctioned an amount of ₹ 2,460 Crore for improvement of road connectivity and building growth centers in the State under the Meghalaya Economic Growth Corridor (MEGA) project.

14. Conversion of SPT bridges to steel bridges is also being prioritized. This year alone, 484 running meters of RCC bridges have been sanctioned. Under the PMGSY-3, the State has got a sanction for 88 new road projects, covering 782 kms and 55 long span bridges, costing around ₹ 1,056 crores.

Urban Affairs

15. To enhance urban liveability, the Government is prioritizing upgrading civic amenities, urban infrastructure, and living conditions through state and central schemes. The New Shillong City is at the forefront of innovative and inclusive city development. Notable initiatives include the New Secretariat in Mawdiangdiang, for which the foundation was laid on Meghalaya Day this year. Other key projects like Skills Hub, Unity Mall and New Shillong Water Supply Scheme are being implemented. Under the Smart Cities Mission, the Integrated Command and Control Centre was completed and inaugurated in Shillong.
16. The Government is implementing programs to improve solid and liquid waste management in all the urban areas of the State. More than 1 lakh metric tons of legacy waste has been cleared at Marten and 15,000 metric tons at Rongkon Songittal landfill in Tura. Additionally, to tackle the long-standing issues of solid waste management, bio-mining of legacy waste is currently underway in Shillong and Tura, with completion expected by December 2025.

Commerce & Industry

17. To ensure sustained economic growth in the State, the Government is promoting investments through public-private

partnerships. To this end, Meghalaya State Investment Promotion & Facilitation Act 2024 has been enacted. Further, the Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy 2024 has been rolled out through which attractive incentives are being provided and priority is being given to important sectors including tourism, hotels and hospitality, IT, biotechnology, food processing, music, films and entertainment. To safeguard the interests of indigenous people of Meghalaya and to ensure that these investments generate employment for local youth, 90% of the non-managerial jobs in new industries are reserved for local people. To upgrade the skills of local enterprises, there is a target of training 1,800 MSMEs under the RAMP scheme, in the trades like bakery, handloom, and electronics. A new Innovation and Research Centre is being established in Shillong, in collaboration with NIT Shillong, which aims to enhance handloom and handicraft designs.

Power

18. The Government is committed to providing reliable power supply across the state. In 2024, there has been no scheduled load shedding. It is expected that in 2025, the State will remain free from scheduled load shedding, ensuring uninterrupted power for all by augmenting the infrastructure at the sub-station level. The bold reforms undertaken by the State government in the distribution sector in the last 5 years are showing results – the Aggregated Technical and Commercial Losses have been reduced from 32% to 17%. Major strides are also being made in the renewable energy sector with large scale usage of solar power for community health infrastructure and for small and medium food processing units.

Information Technology & Communications

19. The Government is building digital infrastructure in the state to improve citizens' lives, boost the ITeS sector, and create jobs for young people. The Government is working with the Department

of Telecommunications, Government of India, to bring internet connectivity to all villages. So far, 6,346 villages have mobile network coverage, and 6,272 villages have broadband connectivity.

20. The Phase-2 of the Shillong Technology Park and the Tura Technology Park is under construction. The IT Policy, 2024 has been unveiled in the State, which provides a framework for the sector to thrive and aims to create employment for 15,000 youth in the IT and ITeS sector in the next 5 years.

Community & Rural Development

21. As we strive for inclusive growth, the State is dedicated to empowering communities and promoting rural development. Through innovative rural development initiatives, the State is engaging communities at village level. Various developmental projects are being taken up under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Over the period of last 5 years, 3.5 crore person days of employment have been generated on average annually. The scheme has supported over 5 Lakh households, providing them with employment for at least 69 days annually.
22. Additionally, under MGNREGA, at least 60% of funds are mandated to be utilized for natural resource management and water conservation. To support this effort, 5,716 Natural Resource Management Committees have been formed at the VEC level. These committees will enhance community participation and generate awareness on the importance of the natural resource management.
23. The government is committed to saturate the target under Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Grameen). With an aim to provide pucca house to all beneficiaries, 1,86,188 houses have been sanctioned by the government during the current financial year.

24. To improve livelihood and reduce poverty, the government has mobilized 51,674 Self Help Groups with 1,17,725 Lakhpati Didis under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, where more than 5 lakh households have been covered.

Public Health Engineering

25. To make safe drinking water available to all, more than 5.2 Lakhs rural households have been provided with Functional Households Tap Water Connections under Jal Jeevan Mission. In just a few years, Meghalaya has made tremendous progress. From only 0.72% coverage in 2019, the state government has covered 81% houses till January 2025, which is above the national average. Further, a total of 4,024 villages are provided with 100% household tap water connections making them 'Har Ghar Jal' villages. In areas where water sources are drying up due to climate change, the government is taking steps to rejuvenate them and create more reservoirs.
26. A key pillar of the Jal Jeevan Mission is ensuring the quality of water supplied to citizens. The State's first NABL-accredited State Level Water Quality Testing Laboratory is at Mawiong, East Khasi Hills. Further, a network of 30 laboratories have been established, at district and sub-divisional levels, to ensure improved quality of drinking water.
27. Large Water Supply Schemes are being implemented in Shillong, New Shillong, Williamnagar, Nongstoin, Ampati, and Tura.

Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

28. The Government is dedicated to enhancing the livelihoods of farmers, with a clear goal of doubling their income while simultaneously ensuring the sustainable management and conservation of State's biodiversity, soil, and water resource. The government is prioritizing farm-to-table interventions in high-value crops like turmeric, ginger, oranges, pineapple, herbs, spices and

honey in mission mode, benefitting more than 43,000 farmers and covering almost 11,000 hectares of land. Under these missions, farmers are provided with planting materials, capacity building, value addition infrastructure and market linkages.

29. The State Government's interventions in food processing have increased the ability to regularly export large consignments of horticultural produce. In 2024, 3,100 Kg of Khasi Mandarin and 5,000 Kg of Pineapples have been sent to Dubai and Mumbai respectively. Recently, the state also exported its first ginger shipment of 15 metric tons to Dubai. Steps are being undertaken by the government to ensure that more of our products are exported to other markets.
30. A hub and spoke network of agriculture processing units are being set up across the State. 34 PRIME hubs have been sanctioned out of which 8 are fully operational. These hubs are able to produce value added products and increase the shelf-life of the State's high value produce. A new market intervention scheme called 'CM Assure' has been recently launched to support Arecanut and broom grass farmers. Under this scheme, the government through the State Agriculture marketing board will intervene to protect farmers from falling market prices. This scheme is likely to benefit more than 22,000 arecanut and broom grass farmers this year.

Animal Husbandry & Veterinary

31. Our government is committed to promote animal husbandry to create rural livelihoods and increase milk and meat production. A 45% subsidy on unit costs for piggery, goatery, and poultry is being offered under the CM ELEVATE scheme. The highest demand has come from the animal husbandry sector in the CM ELEVATE scheme. To ensure that the sector positively contributes towards boosting entrepreneurship and income of livestock farmers, 1300 beneficiaries have been supported from the piggery sector.

32. Under the piggery mission, 367 cooperative societies have benefitted, which are operating more than 7,000 breeding and fattening units. More than 1,100 dairy farmers under 103 Dairy Cooperatives Society and 4 Milk Unions have availed interest-free loans under the Meghalaya Milk Mission, worth ₹ 51 Crore.

Fisheries

33. Meghalaya's fish production increased by 834 metric tons in 2024, reaching approximately 20,208 metric tons. The state is taking further steps to reduce the demand-supply gap by introducing advanced spawning and culturing techniques like Re-circulatory Aquaculture System and Integrated Cage Culture. In collaboration with local communities, 83 fish sanctuaries have been successfully established, playing a crucial role in conserving and protecting the rich biodiversity of indigenous fish species.

Cooperation

34. The Government is dedicated to use cooperative societies as an effective instrument for socio-economic growth via voluntary participation of the people. Integrated Village Cooperate Societies set up across the State are taking up agri-processing and value addition businesses at a scale. Tourism cooperative Societies are operating several successful accommodation and other rural tourism projects. The project for computerization of the 500 primary agriculture credit societies is expected to be completed this year.

Textiles

35. The textile and handloom production infrastructure are being augmented under multiple Central and State Government schemes. The State is actively supporting the application of the Meghalaya Ryndia Producers Association, Ri-Bhoi District, for obtaining GI tag for Ryndia. The efforts of the state government were recognised when a special award was conferred to the state

for contributions to heritage textile revival at Bharat Tex 2025 Global Textile Expo in New Delhi.

Social Welfare

36. The government is committed to promote the welfare of children, women, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The CM Care Scheme provides financial assistance to more than 67,000 senior citizens, 37,000 single mothers and 15,000 PwDs. The Early Childhood Development Mission is being implemented to lay a strong foundation for children's mental and physical development. Under the mission Anganwadi services are being strengthened and extended to villages which do not currently have an Anganwadi centers.
37. To reduce the cases of substances abuses, the government has introduced DREAM - a program focused on reduction of substance abuse and improvement of rehabilitation initiatives and facilities. Through collaborative effort and actively engaging with local communities, faith-based organizations, and civil society groups, the initiative aims to amplify awareness on prevention of substance abuse. It also seeks to establish a network of comprehensive, community-based de-addiction centers throughout the state, in partnership with NGOs.

Housing

38. During 2024-25, the government allocated ₹ 70 crore under the Chief Minister's Housing Assistance Program. This initiative aims to benefit 13,000 Low-Income Group and Economically Weaker Section households, enabling them to upgrade their living conditions and access better housing facilities.

Health & Family Welfare

39. The Chief Minister's Safe Motherhood Scheme (CM-SMS) launched in 2022, aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality by promoting

institutional deliveries and comprehensive antenatal care. With a strong emphasis on community participation, the initiative has significantly improved maternal and child health outcomes.

40. A key component of the scheme is the establishment of 144 transit homes across Primary Health Centers and Community Health Centers, offering essential services such as transportation, accommodation, and medical care. These transit homes have provided critical support to a large number of pregnant women. About 1.35 Lakh pregnant women have availed themselves of transportation services. More than 22,000 high-risk pregnant women have benefited from transit home facilities. 3,408 children suffering from Severe or Moderate Acute Malnutrition have received transportation assistance. 11,003 trained birth attendants or escorts who accompanied pregnant women to transit homes were incentivized for their support.
41. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), Meghalaya is expanding its primary healthcare network by constructing 151 sub-centers at ₹ 55.5 lakh per unit, with 60 already completed and 21 fully functional. Built by Village Health Councils, these centers bring essential healthcare services closer to rural communities. Additionally, 10 Integrated Public Health Labs are being established at ₹ 1.25 crore per unit to enhance disease surveillance and response, further strengthening the state's healthcare preparedness. As a result of these interventions, the state recorded a 49% reduction in maternal deaths and a 32% decline in infant mortality in 2024 compared to 2020 marking a significant improvement in maternal and child health.
42. The Megha Health Insurance Scheme and Ayushman Bharat PMJAY provide ₹ 5.30 lakh per family in comprehensive coverage, benefiting almost 7 Lakh households, including 3.8 Lakhs under PMJAY. The latest phase MHIS 6 launched in September 2023 expands coverage for maternity, childcare, and chronic diseases.

Education

43. The government remains committed to providing quality education and improving learning outcomes at all levels. To upgrade the existing infrastructure in the State, 38 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) have been approved for Meghalaya. EMRS Pahamsyiem has been completed and EMRS Samanda will be completed soon. 13 EMRSs are under construction, DPRs for 16 EMRSs have been approved for tendering process and for the remaining 7 EMRS, land identification process is ongoing. Further, infrastructure of more than 2,000 schools is being upgraded by the state government, under the Mission Education initiative. Meghalaya is at the forefront of implementing NEP 2020. The distribution of the Meghalaya Future Ready TLM Kit (Jadui Pitara) has commenced and it is benefiting around 92,000 students across 3,925 schools.
44. Under Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) previously known as Mid-Day Meal Programme in the State, the number of schools covered during 2024-25 is 11,109. Provision of meals has led to an increase in enrolment and has ensured students come to school regularly. In 2024, 7,000 schools adopted and observed the School Nutrition Garden (SNG) Day program that boosted the coverage of SNGs from 9% to 80%. This initiative is playing a pivotal role to enhance nutrition and to sensitize the students about balanced diet and agriculture.
45. With support from Ministry of Education, Government of India, the Government has launched the Meghalaya Vidya Samiksha Kendra, which is a command-and-control center to track school education outcomes. This has enabled the state to track online teacher attendance, which has now increased from 30% to nearly 85%. It has improved the mid-day meal reporting from 5% to 95%.
46. Captain Williamson Sangma State University has been inaugurated recently, making it the first state university to be recognized by the University Grants Commission. Affiliation with the State

university will ensure that the students will not be required to appear for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for under-graduation and post-graduation courses.

47. The government is actively implementing a range of Central and State scholarship schemes to support students from Class IX to Ph.D. levels across all districts in Meghalaya. These programs, which include both Centrally Sponsored and State schemes, aim to assist a diverse group of students through online application processes via the National Scholarship Portal and Service Plus. Last year, approximately 88,539 students benefited from these scholarships, totaling ₹ 104.50 crore.

Labour, Employment & Skill Development

48. To ensure the welfare of the workers in the State, the floor rates of the Meghalaya Minimum Wages have been revised. The new rates are ₹ 525, ₹ 565, ₹ 605, ₹ 645 for Unskilled, Semi-skilled, Skilled and Highly Skilled workers respectively, with effect from 1st January, 2025. Meghalaya has one of the highest floor rates in the unskilled category among the North-Eastern states. Under the Meghalaya Building & Other Construction Worker's Welfare Board, the government has enhanced various benefits including maternity benefits, welfare pension, disability pension, family pension, medical benefits and scholarships. Further, a portal for the Welfare Board was launched and more than 10,000 benefits were disbursed last year, as a result of a special drive.
49. The government through 'Skills Meghalaya' scheme has an ambitious target of skilling 1 lakh youth in the next four years. In the current financial year alone, about 25,000 candidates are completing their training. These trainings are being provided in sectors like tourism and hospitality, IT enabled services, Beauty and Wellness, Electronics and Food Industry, and Handicrafts and Carpets etc. More than 60 nurses have been provided with

language training and have been placed in Japan and Singapore. These nurses have become our ambassadors to inspire other youth and are sending remittances upto ₹ 1 Lakh per person per month.

Sports & Youth Affairs

50. The concerted efforts of the government to promote sports development and provide world-class training infrastructure have borne fruit. The state's impressive sporting talent was on full display at the 38th National Games, where five homegrown athletes won medals. The medal winners included - Vikash Rana, who claimed Gold and Elizabeth Vincent, who won Silver in Kayak Cross Extreme Slalom; Indra Sharma, who secured Silver in Slalom C1 Event, Pynshngain Kurbah, who bagged Bronze in Slalom k1 Event and Kiran Devi and B. Anandhi, who together won Bronze in Double Sculls.
51. The State successfully revived the Meghalaya Games, hosting its 6th edition in Jowai, which brought together more than 3,500 athletes who competed in 29 sporting disciplines. 350 athletes have received scholarships amounting to approximately ₹ 3.5 crore.
52. Meghalaya also hosted the 133rd edition of the prestigious Durand Cup Trophy, along with other sporting events including the 3rd Sohra International Half Marathon and Khelo India University Games 2024. Taking a major step towards realizing the vision of 'Meghalaya as the Football Capital of India', the state successfully hosted its inaugural Indian Super League (ISL) match and is gearing up to welcome the national team next month. As a recognition of state government's efforts to promote sports and improve and invest in sports infrastructure, Meghalaya has been selected to host the 39th National Games in 2027.

Tourism

53. The Government has accorded industry status to tourism under the Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy, 2024.

Local entrepreneurs now have access to subsidies and attractive incentives. To further promote the sector's growth and employment opportunities, efforts have been made by the government to increase the availability of accommodations and develop experiential and niche tourism as well as adventure tourism.

54. Till date, 710 entrepreneurs from across the state have availed assistance from the Meghalaya Home Stay Scheme, which provides 70% subsidy to entrepreneurs. To promote high value tourism for Meghalaya, 100 vehicles have been sanctioned under the Prime Vehicle Tourism Scheme. As part of the Meghalaya Eco Tourism Infrastructure Development Project, multiple initiatives, like construction of accommodation units in various strategic locations, development of tourist circuit and Shillong Ropeway Project are being undertaken.
55. The Public-Private Partnership model is extensively being utilised in the State for development of tourism infrastructure including setting up of 5-star luxury resorts at Sohra, New Shillong and Umiam. Recently, the government has laid the foundation stone for the re-development of the Orchid Hotel, Shillong into a 5-star Aurika Hotel by the Lemon Tree Group.
56. The government is also leveraging the State's cultural and musical heritage to take forward Meghalaya as a premium tourist destination. Musical extravaganzas like the Cherry Blossom and Me'gong festivals, along with Shillong Literary festival have made Meghalaya attractive to tourists.
57. In 2024, Meghalaya launched a mobile-first platform, Hello Meghalaya, beginning a new chapter for Khasi, Garo and Pnar cinema and digital storytelling. The OTT platform brings entertainment to citizens' fingertips, bridging the gap between creators and consumers. It empowers local filmmakers and

content creators with income-generating opportunities using their creative potential.

Arts & Culture

58. The government has adopted and introduced the State Anthem which is reflective of our rich arts, culture and history. The government also launched the Meghalaya Arts & Craft village portal in November 2024. To ensure preservation of the local culture, as the first step, 12 villages were recognized as Arts and Crafts Villages for their role in protection, preservation and promotion of Meghalaya's cultural heritage.

Transport

59. The government has taken several steps to extend the air transport infrastructure of the State. The process of expansion of Shillong airport to accommodate larger aircrafts has been initiated. The government is engaging with the Ministry of Defence and the Airport Authority of India to make the land available for the expansion of the runway. Efforts are also being made to integrate Garo Hills into the regional air connectivity by operationalizing Baljek Airport. Additionally, to strengthen helicopter connectivity, heliports are being developed in New Shillong and Tura.

Chief Minister's Secretariat

60. Under the CM Special Development Fund more than ₹ 25 crore was spent on the construction of CC footpaths, retaining walls, water pumps, waiting sheds, CC motorable roads, construction of school buildings, construction of community halls and purchasing of ambulances and school buses, during the current financial year 2024-25 across the State.
61. To improve citizen service delivery and grievance redressal, the Government launched CM Connect, a dedicated helpline for citizens. More than 20,000 calls have been received and grievances are being resolved. Further, through CM Connect, the Hon'ble

Chief Minister regularly holds interactive public meetings at block headquarters where citizens can directly voice their concerns.

Forest and Environment

62. The Government has recently inaugurated the first ever state of art modern Zoo i.e. Meghalaya Biological Park at Umtrew, Ri-Bhoi District. Under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, 109 Community Reserves have been notified in the State up till December 2024 and are being managed by the government with the assistance of local communities.
63. The State runs India's largest Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme, known as Green Meghalaya, helping conserve over 54,000 hectares of forests, benefiting 3,400 households to combat overgrazing, logging, and poaching.

Water Resources

64. To boost irrigation infrastructure, number of projects are currently underway. This year, an area of 15,716 hectares is covered under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The Government is also implementing the National Hydrology Project (NHP), a 100% Central Sector Scheme with funding from the World Bank at a cost of ₹ 21.5 crore. Under the NHP, real time Data Acquisition System of 25 River Stations, 5 Automatic Weather Stations and 18 Ground Water Monitoring Stations are being installed in the State.

Soil & Water Conservation

65. Large scale water harvesting is also being taken up through the Climate-Adaptative Community-based Water Harvesting Project. The project involves the construction of around 532 water harvesting structures and small multipurpose reservoirs across the state. This project will create a network of ponds covering 413 hectares, storing 10 million cubic meters of water. The contract

for construction of 295 water structures costing ₹ 205 crore has been awarded.

Revenue & Disaster Management

66. To enhance disaster preparedness and response, Meghalaya implemented the Common Alerting Protocol Based Alert System in 2022. This system swiftly disseminates alerts to the public and responders *via* SMS through Telecom Service Providers and the Meghalaya SDMA, which serves as the Alert Authorizing Agency. Since inception, over 17 crore SMSs have been sent and over 2 lakhs notifications were notified on Sachet App for dissemination of urgent alerts. Under Aapda Mitra Scheme, 703 volunteers were successfully trained in the state, at a total budget outlay of ₹ 3 crore.

Home Guards & Civil Defence

67. The home guards, including the home guard volunteers, assist the civil administration in times of emergency or natural calamities, and act as an auxiliary to the Police in the maintenance of internal security. At present there are 1,977 trained home guard volunteers who are engaged by various agencies and government departments. Training on disaster management was imparted to 3,594 volunteers.

Prisons & Correctional Services

68. The State has initiated a series of measures to enhance its correctional services, adopting a more holistic approach to reformation and rehabilitation. To achieve this, the government has appointed craft and carpentry instructors to provide vocational training. Additionally, women prisoners are receiving training in sewing and stitching. Further, coaching is being provided in volleyball and carrom.

Law

69. Construction of Permanent Court buildings has been completed in all districts and are fully functional. For East Khasi Hills district, a

new court complex will be constructed in New Shillong with a sanction of ₹ 49 crore. The digitization of all court cases has been successfully implemented, in compliance with Ministry of Law guidelines to improve efficiency, access to case information, reduce delays and enhance the overall functioning of the judiciary.

General Administration

70. The government is committed to upgrade existing buildings of deputy commissioners and sub-divisional officers. A new office building for the Office of the Deputy Commissioner, South Garo Hills, Baghmara at the cost of almost ₹ 15 crore, has been sanctioned. The foundation stone for the building was laid by the Hon'ble Governor. The Government of Meghalaya has also sanctioned an amount of ₹ 4.8 crore for construction of a Sainik Rest House in Shillong for the Ex-Servicemen, Widows and Dependents of this State, construction of which is nearing completion.

Personnel & Administrative Reforms

71. Citizens can now avail time-bound delivery of notified citizen-related services through the integrated web portal of Meghalaya State Public Service Delivery Commission, under the Meghalaya Right to Public Services Act, 2020. The number of services has increased from 72 in 2022 to 190 as on date.
72. The government is also committed to ensure that all vacancies in various departments are filled in a timely manner. In the Education Department, a total of 1,091 teacher posts were advertised and the recruitment process has been completed. The process for recruiting nearly 800 more teachers is underway. Since the formation of the Meghalaya Medical Services Recruitment Board in 2023, a total of 468 vacancies of doctors and dental surgeons have been filled and the process of recruitment of nurses is also nearing completion. In Meghalaya Police, recruitment of over

3,000 vacancies is in the process of completion. Further, various District Selection Committees are also in the process of completing the recruitments. The government has issued standard operating procedures for time bound recruitment in Meghalaya Public Service Commission (MPSC), to avoid delays in intimation of vacancies and declaration of results. A committee has also been notified to look into the functioning of MPSC and recommend reforms.

Excise Registration Taxation and Stamps

73. The government has undertaken several reform measures to increase the state's own tax base. These reforms are showing results with a steady increase in tax and non-tax collections. The Government of Meghalaya has also launched India's First Digital Lottery 'Janata One' and is expected to garner significant number of participants and ₹ 8 crore in revenue have been generated till date.

Mining & Geology

74. Since the ban on rat-hole coal mining was imposed in the State by the NGT and upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the livelihoods of lakhs of people dependent on coal mining directly or indirectly have been severely impacted. The government has been working relentlessly to transition to scientific mining in the state. Three applicants have now received final approval from the Ministry of Coal to begin scientific mining operations. An additional 20 applications have been forwarded to the Ministry and are in the advanced stages of approval.

Food & Civil Supplies

75. The government is concerned about the issue of price rise of food items. The government has initiated a Price Monitoring Cell (PMC)

dashboard, which captures daily prices of essential commodities across districts and subdivisions. However, since certain food items like meat and fish are not part of the dashboard, the government has setup two committees headed by the respective commissioners of division to monitor the reasons for price rise and suggest effective measures to address the issue. These Committees have representations from various stakeholders.

76. Meghalaya has made significant strides in providing clean cooking fuel to households through the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. At the start of 2023, Meghalaya had the lowest LPG coverage in the country, at just 56%. Recognizing the challenges faced by beneficiaries due to the lack of key documents, the State Government took proactive measures to simplify the documentation process. As a result of these efforts, Meghalaya has successfully achieved its target of one lakh new connections and has increased LPG penetration to 75%. By reducing the dependence on traditional cooking methods, this scheme has not only empowered women but also contributed to environmental sustainability.

Legal Metrology

77. The government is committed to safeguard the interest of the consumers by ensuring that goods sold and bought are correct in quantity and volume, as claimed. To promote ease of doing business, the government has introduced online services for the benefit of manufacturers and dealers to apply for and renew licenses in weights and measures.

Information & Public Relations

78. In recognition of the vital role played by journalists in society and the need to protect them from vulnerabilities, the government has notified the 'Meghalaya Journalists Welfare Scheme 2024,'

replacing the similar scheme introduced in 2009. Under this new scheme, the financial assistance provided in the event of a journalist's death has been increased from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 5 lakhs. Financial assistance towards permanent disability and for the treatment of major ailments has been raised to ₹ 3 lakhs.

79. The Government has also notified the 'Meghalaya Public Communication Policy 2024,' emphasizing the importance of a uniform communication strategy across all Government Departments to ensure clarity and consistency of information. Furthermore, a dedicated Digital Media Cell has been established under the DIPR to address issues of misinformation and disinformation. Given the low newspaper penetration in rural areas, the Government is distributing copies of the 'Meghalaya Chronicle' newsletter each month.

District Council Affairs

80. As per the recommendation of the Fifteenth Finance Commission, ₹ 27 Crore of untied grants received from the Government of India for 2021-22, was released to the three Autonomous District Councils for various developmental programs. The elections for the District Councils of KHADC and JHADC were successfully conducted and completed in February 2025.
81. The Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme is being implemented by the government through the three Autonomous District Councils. The Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 41.58 crore for this program. The process of survey and digitization of land records has been initiated in the state, which will be undertaken after due consultation with the autonomous district councils and the local authorities like the Dorbar Shnongs and Nokmas.

Finance

82. The State has been actively working to improve financial inclusion in Meghalaya, and more than 8.5 Lakhs Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan

Yojana accounts have been opened. Almost ₹ 186 Crore has been sanctioned under MUDRA (PMMY) loan benefitting more than 14,000 individuals.

83. Additionally, the Government in collaboration with Meghalaya Rural Bank is leveraging a new Interoperable MICRO ATM technology. These Micro ATM allows people to operate these devices in their local dialect - Khasi, Pnar and Garo to withdraw or deposit cash.
84. Meghalaya's GSDP for the current financial year is projected to be ₹ 59,228 crore which is 11.6% more than the previous year. The primary, secondary and the tertiary sectors registered a growth of 16.6%, 10.7% and 10% respectively, in the current year.
85. Hon'ble Members, I have highlighted some of the many achievements of the State Government over the last year. These achievements have been possible through a collaborative model of development involving all the stakeholders. I will now conclude my address with the hope that the points I have raised will be deliberated upon by this August House.

Khublei! Mitela! Jai Hind!