

Hon'ble Governor's Address
Budget Session of Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, 2026

16th February, 2026

Hon'ble Members of the Meghalaya State Legislative Assembly,

1. It is my privilege to address this August House on its first sitting for the year 2026. My greetings to the Hon'ble Speaker and the Hon'ble Members. As we continue our ambitious journey towards Vision 2032, with the goal of tripling Meghalaya's economy from 2022, this moment allows us to renew our collective commitment to the progress and prosperity of our magnificent State. Today, we stand united in upholding the Constitution and ensuring that progress reaches every citizen of Meghalaya. Let us move forward together with purpose and conviction, guided by our shared vision of 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. Meghalaya today stands as the second fastest growing State in India after Tamil Nadu, recording an impressive 9.66% real GSDP growth in the financial year 2024-25. It is worth noting that we are the only State to sustain an average 10% growth for three consecutive years after the Covid pandemic. Our economy has nearly doubled in just seven years, from ₹ 29,508 crore in 2018 to ₹ 59,626 crore in 2025, a testament to the resilience and potential of our people.

4. The Government envisions Meghalaya that truly delivers on the promise of making our State magnificent with better service delivery, building sustainable infrastructure and opportunities for all the citizens. To achieve the long term vision, the Government has developed the Meghalaya Excellence Framework, the State's strategic roadmap to be among India's top 10 States in per capita income and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2032.
5. The State is strengthening key sectors including agriculture, roads, power, water supply, investment promotion, IT & communications, and tourism, which act as major catalysts for the State's economic growth. Simultaneously, targeted interventions in healthcare, education, livelihood generation, social security, and citizen centric governance are ensuring holistic wellbeing and overall welfare of every citizen of Meghalaya.
6. I will now enumerate the policies and programs being implemented by the various departments of the State Government.

Home (Police) and Home (Political)

7. The primary objective of the government is to promote peace, security, and wellbeing of our citizens. During the last year, the overall law and order situation in the State has remained peaceful. All festivals, including National Day celebrations, and State festivals were conducted peacefully.
8. We are committed to strengthening our police force, recruitment for almost 3,000 vacancies is nearing completion. In the past year, the various proposals to strengthen police infrastructure have been taken up under Police Infrastructure Renovation Fund. The construction work of 14 police housing

projects is progressing swiftly which will strengthen the overall efficiency of the police force across the State.

9. The newly inaugurated Counter Insurgency & Jungle Warfare School in Baghmara strengthens the State's ability to train specialised forces for high risk counter insurgency and anti terror operations. The installation of boundary pillars along the Assam-Meghalaya border is a significant step towards implementing the Memorandum of Understanding between Assam and Meghalaya for six areas of difference. The process of demarcation of the boundary pillars is ongoing. 54 pillars have been erected in Hahim area and 83 in Gizang area. The State has also heightened security along the Indo Bangladesh border through close coordination with the BSF by boosting intelligence efforts and tightening surveillance.
10. The implementation of the three new Criminal Laws—Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam are modernizing the criminal justice system in the State. Rules for digital evidence (e-Sakshya), e-summons and community services punishment guidelines have been notified. Mobile Forensic Vehicles have been procured for every district, and forensic teams sanctioned for every district will strengthen investigations.

Planning, Investment Promotion and Sustainable Development

11. To achieve the target of making our State magnificent, the Government is presently implementing several externally aided projects (EAPs) across key sectors, including roads, power, agriculture, water conservation, and tourism, supported by multilateral development agencies. Meghalaya is currently implementing 15 EAPs, with 2 additional projects under loan negotiation. The cumulative value of these projects stands at

₹ 12,166 crore. These EAPs are huge advantage for creating infrastructure in Meghalaya, and 72% of the funding under these projects is a grant by Government of India, while the balance is contributed by the State Government. To further boost progress, the State has approved ₹ 6 crore in CM catalytic fund to accelerate SDG performance across twelve districts.

12. The Government is also leveraging support for core infrastructure projects from the Ministry of Development of the North-Eastern Region through various schemes to accelerate tourism, water supply and connectivity projects across the State. Under the PM-DevINE, seven projects with a total outlay of over ₹ 773 crore are currently under implementation. Notably, the ₹ 234 crore Integrated Sohra Circuit Development project will further help place Sohra on the global tourism map. Other key projects include the Shillong Peak Ropeway and the Unity Mall in New Shillong, which are strengthening visitor experience and enhancing urban growth.
13. The recently released Economic Survey 2025–26 by the Government of India has commended Meghalaya's community driven development model for climate resilience and environmental safeguarding. This model showcases how grassroots participation is driving sustainable progress through large scale ecosystem based water security initiatives such as MegARISE, Spring Mapping Initiatives, and the Climate Adaptive Community Based Water Harvesting Projects. Meghalaya has mapped over 55,000 springs and implemented more than 500 community led water interventions across 8,430 hectares, significantly enhancing long term ecological stability.
14. The Government remains firmly committed to attracting private investment through the Public Private Partnership model to drive economic growth and create employment for all the

citizens. In recent years, State initiatives have catalysed over ₹ 1,800 crore in private investment, with a target of mobilising more than ₹ 8,000 crore by 2032 and generating over 50,000 direct and indirect jobs. This momentum is reflected in flagship projects such as the ₹ 330 crore Varun Beverages world class bottling facility in North Garo Hills, which is providing over 500 jobs in the area. Recently, the foundation stone was laid for the ₹ 300 crore Taj Umiam Resort and Spa, which will be the largest hospitality project in the North-Eastern region.

15. To further enhance citizen access and streamline service delivery, the Government is integrating its processes through digital platforms such as the Meghalaya One Portal, CM Connect, Village Data Volunteers, DC Connect, and real time departmental dashboards. Collectively, these initiatives are driving more transparent, efficient, and citizen friendly governance, reinforcing Meghalaya's commitment to inclusive growth.
16. Meghalaya has secured third rank in Compliance Reduction and Deregulation 1.0. successfully completing and implementing all 23 priority areas, by enacting the Meghalaya Decriminalization (Amendment of Provisions & Repealing) Act, 2025. This is also facilitated by our ease of doing business initiatives including the Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy 2024, the Meghalaya Investment Promotion Authority and single window clearances for investors.

Commerce & Industries

17. The Government is committed to ensuring opportunities for all our citizens by fostering industrial growth across Meghalaya. To this end, three factory complexes are being developed at Bynihat, Matchakolgre, and Shillong to provide plug and play facilities for micro and small enterprises. In addition, a Mega

Food Park covering more than 55 acres is being established at Mendipathar, along with two primary processing centres in South Garo Hills and East Garo Hills, strengthening agri value chains, enhancing farmer participation and generating employment while promoting balanced regional development.

18. Recently, the Government hosted the Reverse Buyer Seller Meet 2026, an initiative that boosts the State's global trade presence, strengthens Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), and showcases indigenous products to international markets. It lays a solid foundation for sustainable exports, long term growth, and a distinctive global identity.
19. Complementing these efforts with strong academic and policy support, the foundation stone for the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, North East Regional Campus was laid in Shillong in 2025, marking a major step toward building a robust ecosystem for governance, corporate affairs, and entrepreneurship in the region.

Public Works

20. The Government remains firmly committed to strengthening road and bridge infrastructure, recognising its critical role in improving connectivity and economic growth in the State. Meghalaya's road network spans over 13,000 km, including 1,181 km of National Highways. Over 2960 kms of road length developed post 2018 at a cumulative expenditure of over ₹ 5,000 crore. Through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), in the last 5 years 1,180 road schemes have been completed at a total expenditure of over ₹ 3,200 crore and connected around 300 habitations. Now under PMGSY IV 258 villages will be connected, each with a population of over 250. An additional ₹ 260 crore from the Central Road Fund is also being invested

to strengthen rural roads. The ₹ 22,000 crore Shillong–Silchar Greenfield High Speed Corridor will be a great boost to regional connectivity and improving logistical efficiencies.

Transport

21. The State is undertaking a comprehensive upgradation of the State's transport and connectivity infrastructure, with a focus on safety, efficiency and sustainability. Major strides are being made in air connectivity, with the government acquiring 22 acres of land for the expansion of Shillong airport and work is underway to operationalise Baljek airport in Tura. Construction of heliports is also underway in New Shillong Township and Tura.
22. Vehicle safety and environmental standards have been enhanced through the commissioning of Automated Testing Stations, integration of emission testing with the VAHAN portal, implementation of Vehicle Location Tracking Systems, and notification of the Meghalaya Vehicle Scrappage Policy 2025. Furthermore, rental transport services are now streamlined under clear regulations through the introduction of Meghalaya Rent A Motorcycle Operational Rules, 2025.

Power

23. The Government is committed to providing reliable power supply across the State. In the last two years, there has been no scheduled load shedding in the State. The bold reforms undertaken by the 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 10.5%. 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.

IT & Communications

24. To ensure improved service delivery and opportunities for all the people, the Government is strengthening digital infrastructure across the State. To promote the growth of the ITeS sector initiatives are being implemented to ensure universal internet access in all villages. As a result, 97% of villages now have mobile network coverage, and 6,932 villages are equipped with broadband connectivity.
25. The Shillong Technology Park is now fully operational and has already created more than 1,200 jobs. Phase 2 of the park is nearing completion and along with the upcoming Tura Technology Park, these projects are expected to provide employment for over 2,500 young people.
26. In the run up to the India AI Impact Summit scheduled for February 2026, the State hosted the first Regional AI Impact Conference positioning itself as an emerging hub in the field of artificial intelligence in the North-Eastern region. This forum launched initiatives including the BHASHINI Hackathon, which will advance Khasi and Garo language models for AI based language translation.

Urban Affairs

27. As part of our commitment to building sustainable infrastructure across urban centers, the Government has prioritized strengthening key facilities. To decongest Shillong and address persistent challenges of waterlogging and inadequate amenities in Lewduh and Khyndailad, redevelopment measures have been initiated. Under the Chief Minister's Urban Livelihood Grant, 672 small businesses have received support up to ₹ 20,000.
28. New Shillong City is rapidly taking shape with major projects such as IT Park Phase II, the Unity Mall, the Skills and Innovation Hub, the Heliport, and a Working Women's Hostel. The upcoming

Meghalaya Secretariat Complex will make New Shillong the administrative centre and help decongest the old city. Under the Shillong Smart City initiative, the Polo Shopping Complex was inaugurated in 2025. In addition, the Integrated Command and Control Centre in New Shillong now uses AI driven video analytics, supported by 328 cameras and advanced facial recognition systems, to strengthen surveillance and ensure safer and smarter traffic management across the city.

Public Health Engineering

29. As part of our efforts to build sustainable infrastructure, we are working towards realising our vision of universal access to safe drinking water under the Jal Jeevan Mission. The State has achieved over 83% rural household coverage, with more than 5.42 lakh rural households now equipped with functional household tap connections. The government is aware of the challenges of sustainability of the water sources including the operation and maintenance of these projects and is working towards addressing these issues.
30. The Government is implementing major water supply projects across the State to ensure a reliable and sustainable supply of drinking water. The long awaited Greater Shillong Water Supply Scheme has been completed, along with the Greater Baghmara Phase I, Greater Mairang and Greater Sohra Water Supply Schemes are already providing water supply to these areas. Additionally, the New Shillong Water Supply Scheme Phase I and Tura Water Supply Scheme are also nearing completion. To monitor quality of water in the State, we now host the first NABL-accredited State level water testing laboratory in the region, supported by a network of district and sub-divisional laboratories, several of which have already achieved NABL accreditation.

Community & Rural Development

31. The Government continues the highest priority to rural infrastructure development and livelihood enhancement to improve incomes and quality of life in villages. During the past year, MGNREGA generated over 2.13 crore person-days of employment, benefiting more than 4.4 lakh households. The scheme has now been revamped by the Central Government as the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), increasing the annual employment guarantee from 100 to 125 days.
32. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) over 1.55 lakh homes have already been completed, with beneficiaries additionally receiving wage support through convergence with MGNREGA.
33. Women's empowerment has been significantly strengthened through the National Rural Livelihoods Mission. More than 53,000 Self Help Groups have been formed, bringing over 5.38 lakh households into the SHG network. To support this progress, SHG households have received over ₹ 94 crore through financial assistance, credit linkages, and livelihood investments. These efforts have helped women expand their enterprises, build assets, and diversify their income sources. Together, these initiatives are creating a strong pipeline of four lakh 'Lakhpatti Kongs/Abis' over the next four years.
34. To ensure good governance, block offices are being built in all the 56 C&RD blocks to improve the last-mile public service delivery in the State. The Micro ATM's are strengthening last mile financial inclusion by enabling citizens to withdraw and deposit cash and update passbooks in their local languages, Khasi and Garo, making banking services more accessible and user friendly.

Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare

35. Farmers are the backbone of society, and the State is guided with the objective of more than doubling farmers' incomes. To work towards this goal, the Government has extended support to 1.96 lakh farmers under PM KISAN, while the State has covered insurance premiums for smallholders to ensure broad participation. CM FARM+ has brought 3,300 hectares under high value crops such as black pepper, coffee, cocoa, and cashew, benefiting more than 13,000 farmers. Through CM ASSURE, ₹ 53 crore has been disbursed to protect over 13,000 broom grass farmers from price fluctuations.
36. Across the State, farmer collectives are enabling producers to move from subsistence to value creation. Mission mode programmes continue to deepen value chain development. The Lakadong Mission now supports 6,500 farmers with dedicated processing infrastructure, while the Floriculture Mission aimed at high value global markets is set to generate over 12,400 jobs. The Mushroom Mission, including advanced Shiitake cultivation techniques, is improving productivity statewide, and through LIFCOM, ₹ 96 crore of working capital has supported 477 collectives, creating over 7,500 jobs. Organic agriculture is also expanding rapidly, with 12 Farmer Producer Companies and 16 Farmer Producer Organisations covering 14,000 hectares and nearly 10,000 farmers, positioning Meghalaya as a key supplier of certified organic produce.

Animal Husbandry & Veterinary

37. The Government has made significant progress in strengthening livestock health, productivity, and farmer livelihoods across the State. Through sustained vaccination drives, Meghalaya has achieved a 20% reduction in disease outbreaks over the last year.

The State has also launched Mobile Veterinary Units across all the districts, extending doorstep veterinary services to farmers. Further, livestock insurance coverage has been extended to around 25,000 pigs, reducing risk and improving income security for rural households.

38. Under schemes such as CM Elevate, nearly 2,000 farmers have received subsidy support across piggery, poultry and goatery sectors. The Meghalaya Piggery Mission, with a budget of almost ₹ 58 crore, has supported 367 cooperative societies, sanctioning over 7,200 breeding and fattening units and building a strong base of livestock assets.

Fisheries

39. Meghalaya's fisheries sector continues to expand as an important component of the primary economy. In recent years, fish production reached 20,456 metric tons, marking an increase over the previous year, though demand continues to exceed supply. To bridge this gap, the State is promoting modern aquaculture practices alongside the effective implementation of schemes including Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and the Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission 2.0.

Textiles

40. Sericulture and weaving play a vital role in poverty alleviation, women's empowerment and preservation of Meghalaya's cultural heritage, particularly in the traditional Eri and Muga sectors. Together, the silk and handloom industry supports over 50,000 households, including 47,430 sericulture families and 25,157 weaver families, reinforcing its position as a powerful driver of inclusive growth and cultural pride.
41. A major milestone was achieved with the inauguration of the Integrated Textile Tourism Complex at Nongpoh in December

2025, integrating textiles with tourism and value addition. This was further strengthened by securing GI registration of Meghalaya Ryndia Textiles and Meghalaya Khasi Handloom Products, enabling national recognition for the State's unique handloom traditions.

Cooperation

42. Meghalaya, as a community led society, continues to reinforce the cooperative movement as a catalyst for inclusive growth, self employment, and rural entrepreneurship. The State has 3,277 registered cooperative societies with a membership of around 2.5 lakh, operating across sectors such as agriculture, dairy, fisheries, tourism and agri-processing.

Tourism

43. Tourism in our State has been a key sector in creating livelihood opportunities for the citizens. Since 2022, tourist footfalls have grown by nearly 60%, reflecting the State's rising profile as a premier destination in India. This surge has translated into an increase in local livelihood opportunities for over 75,000 individuals till 2025, thereby strengthening community participation in the tourism economy.
44. As part of the State's emphasis on Homestays 877 applications have been sanctioned with disbursals of ₹ 123 crore, enabling local entrepreneurs to offer authentic hospitality experiences and generating over 6,000 new jobs. Meghalaya is emerging as one of the top five festival destinations along with Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru and concert economy continues to thrive and generate jobs across the State. The Chief Minister's Meghalaya Grassroots Music Programme has created more than 6,500 direct and indirect livelihood opportunities for our young artists. Under the Meghalaya Film Tourism Policy, 2025, projects have been approved for film shooting in the State. These films

will create jobs and help promote Meghalaya as a popular destination for film and creative productions. We are also promoting our local content creators through our State's very own OTT platform Hello Meghalaya, which offers high-quality films and music videos in the local languages that reflect our rich culture.

Social Welfare

45. As part of our efforts to ensure inclusive development, the Government continues to implement a wide range of programmes to support women, children, senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Under CM Care more than 1.23 lakh vulnerable citizens across the State are assured financial assistance with over ₹ 300 crore disbursed in the last four years.
46. A network of 2,148 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) has been redesigned with child friendly features, while 1,000 AWCs are being strengthened under the *Palna* Scheme, ensuring better care and support for children and families. The Meghalaya Early Childhood Development (ECD) Mission puts young children at the centre of human development, with the new ECD Fellowship in Ri-Bhoi deploying trained young professionals to support Anganwadi Workers in delivering stronger early childhood services.
47. The DREAM Mission has advanced through a holistic, community driven approach, with outreach programmes across districts involving community leaders and youth groups. Partnerships with leading skill development institutions have integrated vocational training into rehabilitation centres, and collaboration with the Meghalaya State Skills Development Society will expand these opportunities further. New rehabilitation centres have been established in Mawkyrwat and in Tura, and plans are underway to create at least one centre in every district.

48. The State has made significant progress in advancing the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, supported by the Meghalaya Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules and the State Policy for their empowerment by promoting entrepreneurship and skilling for the people.

Food & Civil Supplies

49. The Government continues to prioritise food security, consumer protection and efficient delivery of essential services. Through the implementation of the National Food Security Act, nearly two-thirds of Meghalaya's population now receives subsidised food grains, ensuring that no family is left behind. To strengthen transparency and efficiency, all 4,743 Fair Price Shops have been equipped with e-PoS devices and electronic weighing scales, complemented by route optimisation and real-time vehicle tracking to ensure timely delivery. The Government has also enhanced market surveillance through the Price Monitoring Cell to improve end-to-end digital governance of the Public Distribution System.

Housing

50. Housing remains at the heart of our vision for dignity and opportunity for every citizen. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), 3,377 houses have been taken up, with 1,978 already completed and linked to convergence schemes such as Ujjwala, Ujala, Ayushman Bharat and Saubhagya. With the launch of AWAAS+ 2024 in December 2024, more than 2,85,900 households were surveyed to identify beneficiaries for sanctioning new houses. The Chief Minister's Housing Assistance Programme has been instrumental in extending housing support to the most vulnerable sections of society, with an allocation of ₹ 70 crore in 2025-26 and a target to benefit approximately 13,000 families across the State.

Health

51. By expanding access and improving delivery, Meghalaya has advanced health services with tangible results for every household. This reflects our unwavering commitment to the well-being of every mother, every child, and every family. While the national average health expenditure is about ₹ 3,169 per capita, our State has committed ₹ 7,690 per capita. This is more than double the national figure and the highest in the country. Health now constitutes 9.06% of our total budget, the highest share among all Indian States.
52. Sustained investments in infrastructure, human resources, and system strengthening have transformed the sector. Over the past year, 51 new health facilities have been constructed, 544 facilities upgraded, and 2,500 healthcare professionals added to the workforce. A major milestone was achieved with the launch of Meghalaya's first government medical college, Shillong Medical College, which welcomed its inaugural batch in September 2025, strengthening the long-term availability of doctors and improving access to tertiary care within the State.
53. Financial protection and digital transparency have further reinforced public trust in the health system. Meghalaya remains one of the few States in India to provide OPD coverage under PMJAY–MHIS, offering insurance coverage of ₹ 5.3 lakh per family, including ₹ 30,000 for OPD services, with the State bearing a premium of nearly ₹ 3,000 per family. As a result, over 92% of the population is now covered, benefiting more than 21 lakh citizens across Meghalaya. Initiatives such as Mother App have enabled 100% antenatal care checkups in select blocks, while 6,786 Village Health Councils and 7,041 ASHAs continue to anchor community-led healthcare delivery.

54. Meghalaya has achieved a major milestone in quality healthcare. For the first time, our health facilities have earned National Quality Assurance Standards certification, the same benchmark followed by leading private hospitals in India. Until early 2025, not a single facility was certified. Today, we have one District Hospital, one CHC, 12 PHCs, and 91 Health & Wellness Centres delivering care at nationally recognized standards. Recently 5 District Hospitals and 4 PHCs have already been assessed and 36 more facilities are ready for national assessment by January 2026.

Education

55. The Government remains steadfast in its commitment to improving learning outcomes and ensuring quality education across Meghalaya. Public investment in the education sector has increased substantially, rising from ₹ 2,045 crore in 2018 to ₹ 3,654 crore today, reflecting a strong focus on strengthening both access and quality.

56. Central to this effort is Mission Education, a flagship programme transforming more than 2,000 schools through upgraded classrooms and modern facilities, supported by an investment of ₹ 360 crore. Implementation has progressed rapidly, with 97% of schools completed across all three phases, and Phase IV now approved to further expand infrastructure upgradation across the State. In 2025, the Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination recorded a 96.08% pass rate, a 40.27% improvement over the previous year, while the Higher Secondary Examination achieved an 82.8% average pass rate across all streams. The State also deployed nearly ₹ 12 crore to upgrade IT and related infrastructure in schools.

57. The State Cabinet has approved the State Curriculum Framework for the foundational stage, introducing a redesigned syllabus

for preschool, Classes I and II. Under the new framework, Khasi and Garo language learning has been made mandatory for all children, promoting linguistic inclusivity and preserving indigenous languages from an early age. The revised curriculum places strong emphasis on holistic development, including personality building, value-based education, and cultural and historical awareness, supported by updated syllabi and newly developed textbooks.

58. Higher education in Meghalaya is witnessing unprecedented expansion. The first academic session of Captain Williamson Sangma State University commenced in 2025 with 14 departments and 568 students, marking a defining milestone in the State's academic landscape. The Shillong Government College of Engineering has become operational, while the College of Architecture and Urban Planning at Tura is scheduled to admit its inaugural batch in academic year 2026–27. 38 Eklavya Model Residential Schools are being developed across the State to support tribal education, with the schools in Samanda and Pahamsyiem already operational.
59. Recently, the Government approved the establishment of the Meghalaya Teacher Training Academy to strengthen teacher education, continuous professional development, and instructional leadership.

Labour, Employment and Skill Development

60. Aligned with the vision of inclusive growth, the State continues to uphold workers' rights and strengthen labour welfare through effective enforcement of labour laws and regulatory reforms. During the last year, minimum wages were revised across all skill categories to enhance income security. The Meghalaya Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board has registered

over 1.08 lakh workers, providing pensions, scholarships, medical aid, housing support, and insurance. Regular inspections under the Factories and Boilers framework have improved safety, reduced accidents, and strengthened compliance.

61. The Meghalaya State Skill Development Society is driving a comprehensive human capital strategy through 119 training providers and 681 training centres, targeting 35,000 youth across 149 trades in the last year. The Chief Minister's Skills Mission and the Meghalaya Skills and Innovation Hub will further accelerate high skill training, entrepreneurship and international mobility. Complementing this, PRIME Meghalaya continues to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem, having supported 480 entrepreneurs, incubated 277 startups, and generated over 5,000 jobs, reinforcing youth-led innovation and inclusive economic growth across the State. More than 60 nurses have received language training and secured placements in Japan and Singapore. They have emerged as ambassadors who inspire other youth while contributing remittances nearly ₹ 1 lakh per person each month.

Sports & Youth Affairs

62. Meghalaya is rapidly emerging as a sporting hub in the country. In 2027, the State will proudly host the 39th National Games, welcoming 10,000 athletes, including Olympians. Over ₹ 40 crore has already been sanctioned to prepare our teams, creating hundreds of jobs and new opportunities. Through the STAR Programme, 24,500 athletes have been assessed, 400 shortlisted for elite training pathways, and 12 super-elite athletes identified in weightlifting and athletics who are being groomed for national and international competitions. To support this growth, sports facilities are being developed across districts to ensure the holistic development of our sportspersons.

63. To improve access to high-quality sports infrastructure for all, over 240 facilities are being constructed across the state at both block and district levels, with many of these already operational. These include marquee projects such as the Mawkhanu Football Stadium, at a cost of ₹ 732 crore, which is going to be the largest dedicated football stadium in the country. It is aimed that by 2028, there will be equitable access to sporting infrastructure for every citizen across the state.
64. Our sports ecosystem is being strengthened through a comprehensive mix of scholarships, programmes and cash awards that encourage talent development and athletic excellence. The overall investment in youth-centric policies since 2021-22 in the state is ₹ 63.46 crore. Under the Chief Minister's Sports Scholarship Scheme alone, more than ₹ 8 crore has been disbursed to support over 900 athletes across the state. The Meghalaya Outstanding Sportspersons Direct Appointment Policy 2025 further supports and incentives highly achieving sportspersons who bring laurels to the state at prestigious national and international level tournaments by providing them with direct appointment to government jobs.
65. Each year, more than 3,500 young people participate in State-supported sporting events, and Meghalaya has hosted 14 major national and international tournaments since 2022, including the Durand Cup, ISL matches and several national championships, firmly establishing the State as a rising powerhouse in Indian sports. We are also engaging our young people through the Youth Engagement through Empowered Youth Organisations initiative, referred to as YES Meghalaya, which has supported over 1,500 organisations representing 10,000 members with funding of ₹ 6 crore.

Arts & Culture

66. The Government remains deeply committed to the promotion and celebration of Meghalaya's rich arts, culture, and heritage. The newly expanded Captain Williamson Sangma State Museum now offers immersive and contemporary exhibits covering geology, philately, textiles, cartography, and digital heritage, significantly enhancing the visitor experience and cultural education.
67. Across the State, local communities preserve their cultural heritage by living in harmony with nature. Reflecting this tradition of conservation, the dossier on Meghalaya's Living Root Bridges, known as Jingkieng Jri, has been formally submitted to UNESCO in Paris by India's Ambassador for consideration for inclusion in the World Heritage List for 2026–27.

Forest & Environment

68. Meghalaya is uniquely positioned to safeguard livelihoods while protecting nature. With more than 90% of forests owned and managed by communities, our stewardship reflects generations of tradition and responsibility. Equally significant is our financial commitment to climate action. Meghalaya's climate budget has witnessed a compounded annual growth rate of 30% over the last three financial years. Today, approximately 18% of the State Budget is dedicated to climate action, reflecting our resolve to integrate sustainability into every aspect of governance.
69. Flagship programmes such as GREEN Meghalaya and GREEN Meghalaya+ have transformed conservation into tangible value. Over 3,000 beneficiaries are conserving more than 51,000 hectares of forest, supported by ₹ 77 crore released through rigorous performance-based verification, ensuring accountability and rewarding stewardship.

Water Resources

70. The Government continues to focus on expanding assured irrigation, protecting agricultural land from floods and erosion, and promoting integrated water resources management. Meghalaya's irrigation potential is estimated at 2.18 lakh hectares, of which over 88,000 hectares has been created so far. Flood control and anti-erosion works have been undertaken under the State Plan at a cost of ₹ 46 crore, benefiting over 3,100 farming families, while 77 ongoing projects across the State are currently under implementation to safeguard agricultural land and livelihoods. These initiatives reflect our commitment to building sustainable infrastructure that strengthens water resources while securing the future of our farmers.

Soil & Water Conservation

71. The State continues to safeguard Meghalaya's core natural resources by promoting sustainable management of soil, water and vegetation through strong community participation. Meghalaya is also advancing the Climate Adaptive Community Based Water Harvesting Project which will construct 532 multipurpose reservoirs to enhance water security and rural livelihoods. In addition, coffee cultivation is being expanded across all regions, with over 22.87 lakh seedlings raised to support farmers during the year.

Mining & Geology

72. Since the NGT ban on rathole coal mining, upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, thousands of people who depended on coal mining have lost their livelihoods. The State has been working tirelessly to transition the sector toward scientific and sustainable mining practices. As a result, three applicants have

now received final approval and have begun scientific mining operations, with coal being transported across the country by road and rail. Additionally, 20 more applications have been forwarded and are currently in advanced stages of clearance, marking steady progress toward restoring livelihoods while ensuring environmental responsibility. In light of the recent tragic mining incident in Mynsngat–Thangsko area in East Jaintia Hills, the government has decided to constitute a Judicial Inquiry Commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act to investigate the incident.

Revenue & Disaster Management

73. The government is cognizant of the fact that when disaster strikes timely and efficient relief is of utmost importance. The newly launched Disaster & Relief Monitoring System ensures faster and transparent processing of relief cases, while approved projects under the Preparedness & Capacity Building and State Disaster Mitigation Fund aim to further strengthen community resilience and hazard mitigation across Meghalaya. Additionally, a National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) project on lightning hazard mitigation will be implemented to address rising lightning risks and enhance community safety.

CM Secretariat

74. Over the past year, the Chief Minister's Secretariat implemented key development initiatives through the Chief Minister's Special Development Fund (CMSDF) and the Chief Minister's Special Grant to support communities, youth, and institutions across the State. Under the CMSDF more than ₹ 50 crore was utilised for various constituency and community-level work including, construction and repairs of schools, hospitals, community halls, support to self-help groups, and the promotion of

entrepreneurship among women and marginalised groups. Due to the increased demand for work, an additional ₹ 15 crore was released from the Contingency Fund. Further, under the Chief Minister's Special Grant, more than ₹ 10 crore was disbursed to various organizations, educational institutions, local entrepreneurs, musical artists and individuals from other disciplines as financial assistance for various purposes.

Legal Metrology

75. The State remains committed to safeguarding consumer interests by ensuring that all goods sold are accurate in quantity and volume as declared. To promote ease of doing business, the State has robust online services enabling manufacturers and dealers to apply for and renew their weights and measures licences digitally. An online system for the registration of manufacturers, packers and importers has also been operationalized, through which eight Registration Certificates have been issued. Additionally, the State has approved online verification and stamping services for initial verification, benefitting 50 traders and further streamlining regulatory processes.

Information & Public Relations

76. The Government continues to strengthen transparent and citizen centric communication, including the observance of World Press Freedom Day and National Press Day, alongside capacity building initiatives. Financial assistance has also been extended to six veteran journalists of the State through the monthly special support provided under the Meghalaya Journalists Welfare Scheme. To further enhance public communication, the Meghalaya Public Communication Policy ensures uniform messaging across Government departments

and effectively counters misinformation, supported by the establishment of a dedicated Digital Media Cell to monitor digital platforms and respond to misinformation.

Law

77. The State continues to strengthen the justice delivery system by providing infrastructural support in the form of child friendly courts, vulnerable witness centres, juvenile courts and alternate dispute redressal centres in all district and sub-division courts. Major initiatives include driving digital transformation through the e-Courts project, with virtual hearings and enabling access to judgments and orders on the online portal. As mandated by the new criminal laws, the Video Conference Rules (Nyay Shruti) have been notified, and Hybrid e-Courts have been set up, enabling the Courts to be accessed by the litigants and all stakeholders without physical presence before the Court. The Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority is offering free legal aid to eligible citizens, including SC/ST, women and those unable to afford counsel.

Home Guard & Civil Defense

78. 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 2,191 trained home guard volunteers who are engaged by various agencies and government departments. Training in disaster management was given to 3,594 volunteers.

Prisons & Correctional Services

79. 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. The Government has recently issued a notification on the Remission Policy, enabling consideration for the release of elderly, life-term, or disabled prisoners on medical grounds. The construction of a new Prison and Correctional Home at Nongstoin is underway and nearing completion.

General Administration

80. To strengthen governance across the State, iconic projects such as the Meghalaya Secretariat Complex in New Shillong, the Additional Secretariat Complex in Tura, and the Integrated Administrative Complex in Jowai have already been initiated, which are bringing governance closer to the people.
81. New Civil Sub-division offices and Mini Secretariats at Raksamgre and Chokpot are nearing completion, while similar facilities at Pynursla have been completed, significantly strengthening governance at the grassroots. The government is also working on creating new integrated office infrastructure in all civil sub-divisions of the State, bringing administration closer to citizens and improving access to public services across the State.
82. The Government has also prioritised citizen centric infrastructure, including setting up of a new Meghalaya House at Bengaluru, Karnataka. The completion of the State Guest House at Shillong enhances the capacity to host official visitors and dignitaries.

Personal & Administrative Reforms

83. The Government remains committed to ensuring the timely and transparent filling of vacancies across all departments. To

prevent delays and ensure timely declaration of results, standard operating procedures for time bound recruitment have been introduced in the Meghalaya Public Service Commission (MPSC) and District Selection Committees (DSC). MPSC has also started taking action based on the recommendations of the MPSC Reforms Committee. Reforms relating to regular casual workers and amendments to strengthen DSC have also been approved. Under the Meghalaya Right to Public Services Act, 2020, 212 services have been notified across Government departments, with 200 services made available online.

District Council Affairs

84. The State Government continues to support the Autonomous District Councils in fulfilling their administrative and developmental responsibilities. Under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme, land surveys have begun in various villages across the State actively monitored by the three autonomous districts councils. This programme will empower the district councils in land and revenue administration.
85. To address financial challenges in the Councils and to suggest reforms in recruitment, procurement and financial management a State level Committee and district level sub committees were constituted. The GHADC and the JHADC have accepted the recommendation of these committees, as a result of which the government provided a bailout package of ₹ 115 crore to GHADC and almost ₹ 27 crore to JHADC to clear backlog salaries and pensions. This amount was released as an advance from their share of royalties and was released to an escrow account.

Excise Registration Taxation & Stamps

86. 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

State Lottery has also been modernised with the launch of India's first fully digital lottery platform last year, which has generated significant public participation and contributing ₹ 27 crore to State revenues.

Finance

87. The State has continued to make significant progress in advancing financial inclusion. Almost 27 lakh Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana accounts have been opened, expanding access to basic banking services across Meghalaya. Under the MUDRA (PMMY) scheme, loans amounting to ₹ 224 crores have been sanctioned, benefiting 14,176 individuals.
88. The State's economic performance reflects steady growth, with the Gross State Domestic Product estimated at ₹ 59,625 crore for financial year 2025 at current prices, growing at over 12% from the previous year. The primary, secondary and tertiary sectors registered a year-on-year growth of 14.7%, 10.2% and 10% respectively, in the year 2025-26.
89. Hon'ble Members, I have outlined several key achievements of the State Government over the past year, accomplishments made possible through a collaborative and participatory approach involving all stakeholders. As I conclude my address, I trust that the matters placed before this August House will receive thoughtful deliberation and constructive discussion.

Khublei! Mitela! Jai Hind!