

My Dear Citizens,

1. It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt felicitations to you on India's 77th Independence Day. It is a solemn occasion for us to reflect upon the many struggles and sacrifices of our freedom fighters. As proud Indians, we remember with respect, the contributions of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. We also remember the freedom fighters from our own soil - U Tirot Sing, U Kiang Nangbah and Pa Togan Sangma.
2. Let us also respectfully remember the sacrifices made by martyrs from the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the police forces who have laid down their lives in protecting the rule of law. We recently honoured the martyrs from the State Police at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi.
3. This year finds us at a unique juncture of history. As we emerge from the jubilations of the 75th anniversary of our independence, India is providing leadership to the community of G20 nations. I take this opportunity to thank our Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his leadership and vision.
4. India is on the verge of becoming the world's third largest economy and grow to a size of 5 trillion US Dollar in the next five years. In resonance with that prediction, the Government of Meghalaya has set a target of making the State a 10 billion US Dollar economy by 2028, thereby doubling our GDP. I am grateful to the 38 lakh people of the State who have reposed faith in my government and have trusted us with governing the State for the next five years. This period of 2023-28 is a watershed period for all of us. Together, we will consolidate the good work of the last five years, and redouble our efforts to build a model hill State in governance, ease of living and citizen happiness- a Magnificent Meghalaya.
5. Maintenance of Law and Order is the foundation for all economic and social activity. The overall Law and Order situation in the State has been by and large peaceful. The

formal peace talks between the HNLC, Government of India and the State government are making steady progress. I urge all citizens and organizations to continue to collaborate with the government in preserving the peace and harmony in our beautiful State.

6. Last year, we signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding with the state of Assam in the presence of the Union Home Minister as a first step towards resolving the Meghalaya-Assam interstate boundary dispute. Our government is committed to resolving the dispute in the remaining six areas of difference: Langpih, Borduar, Nongwah-Mawtamur, Desh Doomreah, Block 1 & Block 2, and Psiar-Khanduli. Regional Committees constituted for these six areas of difference have already conducted multiple meetings and have met their Assam counterparts to take the talks forward.
7. Meghalaya's greatest strength today is its young population. Seventy two percent of our population is below the age of 35 and about 165 young Meghalayans are entering the workforce every day. It is my foremost responsibility to greet these youth with opportunities for employment and empowerment. We have set a target of creating at least 5 lakh employment opportunities in the next five years.
8. The government will continue to strengthen the primary sector of the economy comprising of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sericulture and Fisheries. There is a potential to create up to 3 lakh employment opportunities in the primary sector alone. The high value products of the State like Lakadong Turmeric, Khasi Mandarin and Pineapples are now being exported to overseas markets of Europe and Middle East.
9. In the current pineapple season, our farmers have seen a 50 to 100 percent increase in prices thanks to our marketing interventions. Pineapples from Meghalaya have been put on shelves in international malls at Abu Dhabi and Kuwait and closer home at Reliance Fresh outlets across Assam. This achievement is a result of continuous handholding and support provided to farmers' collectives like Jamge Integrated Village Cooperative Society in East Garo Hills, and Tomonpo Anglong and Jirang Organic farmer producer organizations in Ri Bhoi. We are providing average grants of

about 50 lakh rupees to these collectives to setup food processing units, cold storages and other aggregation infrastructure. Vehicles for transportation of agriculture produce are being provided at 50 percent subsidy.

10. Another crop where we have successfully intervened is potato. The government has partnered with the International Potato Center in Peru for the last two years with the objective of making the state self-sufficient in potato seed production. The technology for production of low-cost apical root cuttings is now established in farmers' fields. With this intervention, we will be able to provide high-quality, disease-free seeds to all the 50,000 potato farmers of the State. In the coming years, Meghalaya will become the region's leader in potato seed production, thus creating a revolutionary impact in one of our primary crops.
11. In addition to traditional crops, we are introducing new crops like cinnamon, cocoa, lavender, vanilla, saffron and buckwheat at scale. This will increase farmers income by taking advantage of the diverse agro-climatic zones that our State is blessed with.
12. Programs like the Piggery Mission, Aquaculture Mission and Milk Mission have been successful. Under the Piggery Mission alone, support has been provided to about 7,000 breeding and fattening units spread over 362 cooperative societies. A shining example of the transformative impact of the mission comes from Sohphoh Integrated Village Cooperative Society in West Jaintia Hills district. The society got an interest free loan of 20 lakh rupees under the mission and distributed it to 21 piggery entrepreneurs. This capital has helped farmers in increasing their business fourfold and piggery has now become a fulltime economic activity for many families.
13. While our programs have substantially increased meat production, the State still has a shortage of 9,000 metric tonnes of pork, 6,000 metric tonnes of chicken, 16,000 metric tonnes of beef and 20,000 metric tonnes of fish. The government is finalizing a comprehensive blueprint for making the state self-sufficient in meat and fish production. This will create employment opportunities, improve nutrition and contribute to economic growth.

14. The textile sector provides employment opportunities to the hardworking women of the state. To support these women, a program for building common facility centres and providing inputs and machinery in all sericulture clusters is being launched. These clusters will be connected to entrepreneurs who will support in building the sericulture value chain and in marketing the products. For instance, we have now decided to run the Apparel and Garment making unit at Hatisil, South West Garo Hills in partnership with a local entrepreneur.

15. The State's flagship program for supporting farmers, livestock rearers, fish farmers and weavers - FOCUS - will benefit all the 6.5 lakh rural households. The program, so far, has supported more than 3.5 lakh farming households organized into 18,000 producer groups. The government provided about 176 crore support to producer groups and individuals over the last two years. I have personally seen and heard several heart-warming success stories under the program. The case of 19 farmers of Ngingdang Producer group, from Nongmensong village, East Khasi Hills is worth sharing. The farmers distributed the 95,000 rupees they received from the program amongst themselves to procure vegetable seeds and manure. With this they increased their production and are now producing almost 16 metric tonnes of potatoes, tomatoes, French beans and cabbage and earning more than two lakh rupees. This shows how our hardworking producers are able to multiply the money that is provided under the FOCUS program and improve their lives and livelihoods.

16. Another hugely successful initiative of my government is the women Self Help Group movement. We now have more than 44,000 SHG groups, compared to less than 6,000 in 2018. Several of these women groups have set up successful businesses and are improving the wellbeing of their families and communities. For instance, SHGs from Mawkyrwat, South West Khasi Hills and Rongram, West Garo Hills have successfully set up affordable sanitary napkin manufacturing units, thus supporting hundreds of local adolescents and women.

17. Women members of SHGs are finding employment as Bank Sakhis and Business Correspondents and are providing financial services in remote areas. One such inspiring story is that of Ms. Ridahunshisha Lynshiang from Pongtung village of Pynursla block, East Khasi Hills. Armed with an e-POS device she travels around all the villages in the area conducting financial literacy camps, facilitating loans, disbursing cash, opening savings accounts and enrolling beneficiaries under social security schemes. Through this meaningful work she is able to earn an average income of 19,000 rupees per month. The government will further strengthen the SHGs and village organizations and empower the 4 lakh women who are part of this collective.
18. The second large scale employment generator for our State is the Tourism sector. Our goal is to transform Meghalaya into India's most preferred tourist destination. We now have one of the most attractive Homestay Schemes in the country, providing a subsidy of up to 7 lakh rupees per homestay. About 300 homestays were sanctioned in the last year. We target to build another 2,000 homestays in the next five years. The luxury vehicles scheme is another success and is being diversified to include mini-buses and caravans. The program has come as a huge support to the beneficiaries, some of whom were driving vehicles on contract for years and now have a chance to own and drive their own vehicles. One of the inspiring entrepreneurs under the program is Raynauld Pasi, from East Khasi Hills who worked various odd jobs like tourist guide and contract driver for years. He is now a proud owner of a luxury Innova vehicle which he can call his own.
19. The Government will also build new infrastructure like large accommodation units, experiential centres, amusement parks and viewing galleries in about 100 new villages to expand tourism beyond the established clusters. Some of the approved new clusters include Kynshi in West Khasi Hills, Sohiong, Mawsynram, Shella in East Khasi Hills, Amlarem in West Jaintia Hills, Mandalgre in East Garo Hills, and Siju in South Garo Hills.
20. A new program of Green Villas will be launched for entrepreneurs to take up construction of sustainable and high-value tourist accommodation. Given the success of Vivanta Shillong and Courtyard Marriot hotels, we are inviting private sector

investments for setting up more luxury hotels and resorts. We estimate the tourism sector to create about 1 lakh employment opportunities in the next five years.

21. Other critical priorities for promoting growth and generating employment are development of Urban areas, Border Trade, Industries and Information technology. We will make planned investments in the urban areas of Shillong, Tura and Jowai. We are collaborating with the Dorbars and Local Development Committees to ensure holistic and participatory development.
22. For Shillong city, a plan for redevelopment of about 100 acres of government land for expanding roads, footpaths, building green spaces, markets, parking lots and Effluent Treatment Plants is being finalised. We also introduced a shared school bus system, which should ease the challenges faced by children and parents and reduce the traffic congestion during peak hours. A plan for treatment of legacy waste at Marten landfill in East Khasi Hills is finalised and I expect this process to be completed in the next 2-3 years.
23. The Master planning for the New Shillong City at Umsawli and Mawdiangdiang is ongoing. We expect to start first phase of the construction including the new secretariat building, a unity mall and sports infrastructure in the next 6 months. The planning for building the Mini Secretariat complex at Tura has started and the construction will begin soon. All these interventions will increase the overall ease of living for the urban residents and lead to a boom in the services sector.
24. Border trade is an important component of the state's aspiration to double the economy to USD 10 billion. We are working with government of India to strengthen the border infrastructure including border haats, Land Customs Stations and Integrated Check Points. The government is also engaging with various stakeholders including business and multilaterals to promote regional economic integration and connectivity. The construction of the Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge has already started. The proposal for a strategic road connecting Mahendraganj in Meghalaya and Hilli in West Bengal via Bangladesh is under consideration.

25. My government is working on comprehensive policies for Industrial development and for promoting IT and IT enables Services. The process for creation of more industrial estates and land banks has begun. The new industrial policy will incentivise employment generating, and sustainability-focussed industries.
26. We are all aware of the opportunities and the success of the IT sector in our State. The first phase of the Shillong Technology Park has created employment for 1,500 youth. We expect to create another 2,500 jobs in the next two years with the completion of the second phase of the Tech Park. The next phase of development of Infrastructure for IT enabled services in Shillong will be taken up through private sector investments. The planning for the construction of a tech and knowledge park at Tura is in an advance stage.
27. Skill building and Entrepreneurship promotion are cross cutting interventions for growth and employment. The State's short-term skill development initiatives under skills Meghalaya are showing encouraging results. Youth trained under the program in the sectors like integrated framing, apparel making, hospitality, masonry and solar technician, for just one to six months, are earning an average monthly income of 10,000 rupees. We target to skill about 1.5 lakh people in the next five years making Meghalaya a national leader in Skill Development.
28. Our State has already been recognized as having the best start-up ecosystem amongst smaller states. In the last three years, we supported about 1,500 entrepreneurs through providing incubation, funding, and marketing support under the PRIME program. A few star entrepreneurs supported by the program include Khrawborbha Kharpuri who runs a chicken wagon business in Shillong employing 18 people directly and benefiting more than 100 people indirectly. Similarly, Andrina and Dashembha Thabah are running 3 footwear outlets in Pynthor, Police Bazar and Laitumkhrah employing 18 people. Their turnover increased from fifty lakhs in 2020 to more than 2 crores in the current year. James Evariantis Dkhar from East Khasi Hills is a handloom entrepreneur who set up the first Flying 8 Loom training centre in the country. A decade ago, he was a school dropout and local taxi driver. Today, he is a certified master trainer in weaving, organic dyeing methods and product diversification.

Coretta Sangma from West Garo Hills was passionate about merchandising handcrafted products from local artisans. She has converted her passion into an enterprise and is running a successful boutique in Tura.

29. I am very pleased to announce a new flagship program of the State Government for Engagement, Employment and Empowerment of the youth. This program will be called Chief Minister's ELEVATE program and will be a single window for all business needs of our entrepreneurs. Under this program, the government will provide support to the tune of 35 to 75 percent to individual entrepreneurs, collectives, village organizations and traditional institutions to take up businesses. This initiative covers procurement of agriculture vehicles including mini trucks and refer vans, tourism vehicles including caravans, luxury cars, electric cars and minibuses, construction of warehouses, common facility centres, green tourism villas, building of polyhouses for horticulture, and setting up of piggery, poultry, goatery and dairy units. Projects like construction of cinema halls, health clubs, music studios, Sports and youth engagement related businesses can all be taken up under the CM- ELEVATE program. The government will provide the subsidy and complete handholding support to businesses in collaboration with the banks. We target to support about 20,000 business under this program in the next five years.
30. Friends, while Agriculture, Tourism, Urban, Border trade, Industries and IT are the core economic growth drivers, the enablers of growth are good quality physical and social infrastructure. Accordingly, my government will strive to provide quality infrastructure and services in ten critical areas.
31. Roads and bridges including last mile connectivity benefit all sections of the society- farmers, women, youth, tourists, and children. The government is working on a comprehensive plan to repair and maintain all existing roads and to convert the old Semi-Permanent Timber Bridges to Steel and RCC bridges. I am launching a new program called the Chief Minister's Rural Connectivity Program for providing last mile connectivity to about 1,000 unconnected villages and for building bridges across rivers and streams. These interventions are very critical in remote areas. For instance, every

monsoon, 13 villages in Rerapara Block, South West Garo Hills would be cut off due to surge in the Ganol River. Children missed school, deliveries got impeded and livelihoods got jeopardized. The block office, with support from the community, constructed a bridge costing about rupees 4 crore. The iconic Jewilgre bridge today provides all-year easy access to the 5,000 people of the area and has also become a local tourist attraction.

32. Providing tapped water supply to every household in the State has been a mission for my government. Today 3.6 lakh households across the state have tapped water supply, compared to 4,500 in 2018. This spectacular performance has made us the second-best performing State under the Jal Jeevan Mission. We intend to saturate all the 6.5 lakh rural households under the mission in the coming months.
33. Quality power supply is essential for everyday activities, both in rural and urban areas. We will continue our efforts at solving long-standing issues in the power sector. The 22.5-megawatt Ganol power project is now commissioned and is adding 60 million units to the power generation capacity of the State. A comprehensive strategy for increasing generation, reducing losses, and improving reliability is being implemented. Solar power is being deployed strategically to power health centres, agri-processing units, and households in remote villages. I launched the CM solar mission to provide subsidized solar solutions to households and businesses at 70 percent and 50 percent subsidy respectively.
34. As the whole world becomes a digitally connected village, internet connectivity becomes as important as roads, water, and power. Despite remoteness of terrain, 85% of the villages in the State are now covered with mobile network, thanks to our continued efforts over the last five years. We will ensure that the remaining 1,062 uncovered villages will have 4G Mobile Network in the next two years.
35. Providing housing in both rural and urban areas is a big priority for this government. Under the Government of India's PMAY-Grameen program we have already constructed 37,000 houses, providing an amount of 1.9 lakhs per household. In this year alone, we have an ambitious target to construct another 1.5 lakh houses. In the

Urban areas, we are exploring options for increasing the availability of housing through construction of affordable housing and rental housing projects.

36. My government has prioritized human development like never before. We follow a life-cycle approach intervening at various critical junctures in an individual's life from pre-natal to adolescence. State Government's interventions like the MOTHER program and the Chief Minister's Safe Motherhood Scheme have helped in reducing maternal and infant mortality. Institutional deliveries have improved dramatically. Mothers like 35 years old Prindilla Shira, from Silki village in Kharkutta block of North Garo Hills district are now visiting the PHCs. All her previous four deliveries were at home as the PHC was located 7 kms away from the village in the hills. Since the introduction of Chief Minister Safe Motherhood Scheme, the villagers are more willing to come to PHC for delivery and for seeking other health services. In the last three years, there has been a 48 percent decrease in maternal deaths and our efforts have saved the lives of about 200 mothers. We will continue our endeavours to improve maternal and child health and further reduce the mortality rates to below national levels.
37. Improvement of health infrastructure from the sub-centres upwards is being taken up in a mission mode. About 81 new health facilities are being constructed and another 31 are being repaired. We target to comprehensively improve all the 639 government health facilities in the next five years and to provide adequate personnel to deliver services.
38. Meghalaya is one of the few States in the country that has a focussed and well-funded Early Childhood Development Mission. Under this mission we are expanding the Anganwadi services to about 1500 villages, which do not have an Anganwadi centre. We are also increasing the protein and nutrition content in the food provided to children as remedy for reducing stunting and wasting. This will be done by providing poultry units, fishery ponds and vegetable gardens at each Anganwadi centre. Further, Anganwadi centres will be transformed into early childhood education centres through convergent efforts of education and social welfare departments. All

these initiatives will give our children the best start in life laying the strongest foundation for their future success.

39. Under Mission education, we have taken up construction and renovation of school buildings in about 2,000 locations. These works will be completed soon, and our children will have the opportunity of learning in improved environments. We also notified 21 people's colleges and are constructing and upgrading several higher education institutions. In the next five years, my priority is to improve the quality of education at all levels through emphasizing on teacher training, technology, and regular standardized testing of children. We will also prioritize vocational education and strengthen our Industrial Training Institutes. We will increase the number of ITIs from the current 12 to 15, with participation of the private sector.
40. Creating opportunities for children and young people to excel in sports is a deep commitment of my government. The revival of the Meghalaya Games, the successful organization of the North East Olympic Games, the support being provided to sports organizations and the huge investments for sports infrastructure are all testament to our commitment. New construction and upgradation of Iconic infrastructure like the JN Stadium and Indoor Stadium at Polo Grounds Shillong, PA Sangma Integrated Sports Complex at Tura and Wahiajer Stadium at West Jaintia Hills will be completed soon. In the next five years, we will build multipurpose indoor halls, synthetic tracks, artificial and natural football turfs at every district, sub-divisional and block headquarters. We will immediately start the construction of 8 synthetic tracks, 10 multipurpose indoor halls, 30 artificial turfs, and 5 natural turf grounds.
41. I launched the STAR program last year with a dream that a young woman or man from our state will represent India in the 2032 Olympics. We are working systematically to achieve this ambitious and uphill task. Talent identification programs are being conducted at every block and about 15,000 children in the 13-20 age group have been tested on globally recognised tests - the 10 m ladder run, vertical jump, 20-meter sprint and compass drill. Some of the results are extraordinary and highly encouraging. 19-year-old Everroy Myrsing from East Khasi Hills ran 20 meters in just 2.7 seconds. This time is faster than all the players in the Norway Division One Football League, to put it

in perspective. Kasanchi Donesha Marak, a 13-year old girl from South Garo Hills completed the 10-meter ladder run in only 2.43 seconds, making her the best performer in this category across ages. Based on the test results, about 200 children are now channelled into the elite pathway program and the 9 highest potential children into a super elite pathway program. The government has decided to invest about 75 lakhs on each of the super elite potentials. We have shifted these children to Shillong and providing world class training under the guidance of international coaches.

42. The government is also working on a plan to build Sport specific Academies and grassroot centres. I am certain that all these interventions will inspire our children to excel in sports and for sports to become a way of life.
43. Our youth also have tremendous potential in music, craft, and other creative arts. The Meghalaya Grass Roots Project has been successful in providing platforms to young musicians across the State. We are now expanding the program to benefit a much larger number of artists and to provide pathways for further growth. Craft entrepreneurs are being supported to adopt clusters and create employment in rural areas. Some of the notable ones include, Fabian Marbaniang from West Jaintia Hills, a black-terracotta artist, Stamina G. Sangma from South West Garo Hills, who produces sand pots and blocks, Blastin T Sangma from South Garo Hills, a bamboo handicraft artist and Ibalarihun Mallai from Ri Bhoi, who has recently opened her own boutique store in Shillong selling world class Eri silk clothing line.
44. Under the revamped Chief Minister's Youth Development Program, district level competitions in various creative arts will be conducted annually culminating in a State Youth Summit. Selected youth will be provided mentoring support and pathway programs for further advancement in their fields. The 2022 Annual Youth Summit saw the showcasing of incredible talent from across the State. 19-year-old First Colour Lathong from West Jaintia Hills enthralled the audience at the summit playing the Guitar, harmonica, and the tambourine, all at once. Rida L. Nonglait from Eastern West Khasi Hills is another example whose musical talent has been recognized through the summit. Fastrossing Kharsyntiew and Pynshaibor Wahlang are student-inventors from

West Khasi Hills who share a vision to help improve quality of life in their community through their science-based experiments and prototypes.

45. The YESS Meghalaya program has been expanded to provide more than 1 lakh grant support to youth organizations. Several organizations who benefitted from the program have taken up awareness campaigns relating to social, economic and environmental issues like substance abuse, mental wellbeing, and career counselling. We will continue to support all the 3,000 youth clubs and associations in the State through the YESS Meghalaya program.
46. The government's plans in the human and social development sector over the next five years can be synthesized into ten promises. Better roads and connectivity, Tap water supply to all households, Quality power supply everywhere, Internet connectivity in all villages, Improved housing to all eligible households, Early childhood services to every child, Substantially improved quality of education, Healthcare for all, Sports infrastructure at all levels and Expanded cultural and youth engagement infrastructure. We are working very systematically with all stakeholders and partners, including Government of India, Multilateral funding agencies, our communities, non-governmental organizations, and the media to convert these promises into reality.
47. The foundation of all our growth-promoting efforts is good governance. We had been implementing several initiatives to improve governance through decentralization and technology enablement. One of my dreams is to ensure that government services are delivered at the doorstep of every citizen at the right time, even in the remotest village. To achieve this, we will deploy Village Community and Data Facilitators in every village of the state. These individuals will be from the local area and will function as a single point of contact for all citizen services and grievances. All these citizen-centric interventions will be implemented under the banner of a new program, called CM-CONNECT.
48. Another powerful tool to improve service delivery is to have a strong citizen registry for the state. This registry will enable the government departments to identify program beneficiaries and deliver assistance in a seamless manner. To achieve this, we

will launch a Family ID program, under which every citizen and family of the state will be enumerated. Support offered under flagship programs like FOCUS, YESS Meghalaya will be delivered to eligible beneficiaries through the Family ID.

49. The second facet to our focus of governance is 'Green Governance'. Meghalaya is blessed with 76% forest cover and more than 50,000 springs. However, the perils of climate change threaten the delicate equilibrium of our ecosystems and could have serious impact on farming patterns and on the lives of agrarian communities. To mitigate these risks, the Government has initiated several afforestation programs and the country's largest Payment for Ecosystem Services program, called Green Meghalaya. Communities are now paid an annual grant of up to 15,000 rupees per hectare for conserving the forest cover. So far 1,500 communities have been supported for preserving almost 27,000 hectares of natural forest cover. One such community is Lura village, Saipung block, East Jaintia Hills. The village got an incentive of about four lakh rupees for protecting the 52 hectares of forests. The community is utilizing a part of the money for taking up works like demarcation of forest, gap filling plantations, drawing fire lines, and assisting natural regeneration. In partnership with such inspiring communities, the Government aims to preserve 2 lakh hectares of forest cover over the next 5 years.
50. Water conservation initiatives are being taken up in both rural and urban areas to harness the bountiful water resources the state is blessed with. Works are approved for creating new pondage area of almost 1,000 hectares. Construction of water harvesting structures will be mandated and incentivise in the urban areas.
51. Friends, I have outlined the Government's vision for the next 5 years detailing the growth drivers, enablers, and foundations. I would like to once again reiterate that the period 2023-28 is a watershed time for our State. We must prepare for global phenomena like Climate Change, technological disruptions, and the emergence of Artificial Intelligence. We must think and act, both locally and globally. My government remains committed to securing the future of every citizen of the state. We will make every effort to double the State's GDP and to create 5 lakh job opportunities. We will strengthen the implementation of Government of India programs and various

externally aided projects. We will also expand our State's programs like FOCUS, PRIME, YESS Meghalaya, MOTHER, PROGRESS, and the Home Stay Scheme. New programs like CM-ELEVATE will unleash additional opportunities for the youth and entrepreneurs.

52. In the next five years, we will build a Meghalaya in which farmer cooperatives will regularly export their produce to national and international markets; a Meghalaya which is rated as the best tourist destination in the country; a Meghalaya where most villages are covered with the basic services of schools, healthcare, roads, water supply, quality power, internet connectivity, housing, sports and cultural infrastructure; a Meghalaya where every child gets the best chance in life through support from pre-natal to adolescent stage; a Meghalaya which is a national leader in green interventions like payment for eco-system services and accessing carbon markets; a Meghalaya where women are equal participants in economic life; a Meghalaya where youth are skilled and entrepreneurial opportunities abound; a Meghalaya with vibrant urban centres; in short- a Magnificent Meghalaya.
53. I would like to conclude by urging all citizens to contribute their best efforts in accomplishing this mission. Let us all be more enterprising, empathetic, and socially and environmentally conscious. Let us uphold the lofty ideals that inspired our freedom struggle and our leaders.

Once again, I wish all my fellow citizens a very Happy Independence Day.

KHUBLEI! MITELA! JAI HIND!