



MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ADDRESS

BY

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GOVERNOR OF MEGHALAYA

3RD MARCH, 2017

Mr. Speaker and the Members of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly,

1. I am privileged and honoured to address this August House and I extend my warm greetings to all the distinguished Members. The reputation for maintaining the dignity and the decorum of the House forms the rich tradition of this August House and I commend all the distinguished members, both present and past, for preserving this.

I urge upon all the Members to carry forward this healthy democratic tradition.

2. In its collective efforts to fulfil the promises made to the people, my government has taken up many initiatives and programmes which are in the process of fructification with the desired result of progress in all spheres. We will continue to strive hard, with full commitment and sense of accountability, to see that these programmes and initiatives are carried forward for the welfare and prosperity of our people and the State as we march ahead.

Home & Political

3. The State Government has taken a number of measures to strengthen the internal security apparatus to create a safe and secure environment for the overall growth in the State. With different interventions from the State Government the internal security situation in our State, is, by and large, peaceful. Despite certain challenges on account of my Government's multipronged strategy to deal with these challenges, we are seeing very positive results. Police personnel have been augmented and posted in the interior areas of the State to instil confidence among the local people and to check the movements and activities of these militant groups. For public convenience and better administration, 18 Police Stations are being created. Salmanpara Police Station in South West Garo Hills District and Mawngap Police Out Post which was upgraded to a full-fledged Police Station were inaugurated recently. Very soon, the remaining new Police Stations will be created and dedicated to our people. The Special Force- 10 consisting of Meghalaya Police commandos has been inducted for anti-militancy operations in the State. This SF-10 is a highly motivated, well trained and well equipped Force.
4. A strategy of sustained operations coupled with active support of the general public has been adopted. Civic action programmes on a massive scale have been launched in

the remote villages to bring the common people closer to the police. As a result many militant cadres were neutralized. Huge cache of weapons and ammunitions were seized and a large number of militants have surrendered. The Government's recent approach to facilitate surrendered cadres to take advantage of the Government's rehabilitation package and to assimilate into the national mainstream involving the Church and community leaders with the aid of District Administration and police has been very successful. The most significant event in 2016 was the surrender of 117 militants and insurgent outfits. Another significant event is the disbanding of one insurgent outfit in June, 2016 at Tura. My Government has created an enabling environment to create a conducive atmosphere to facilitate surrendering of the cadres of militant and insurgent outfits and assimilate themselves into the national mainstream which is yielding positive results.

5. Meghalaya shares a 443 kms. long international border with Bangladesh along which fencing is being erected. In certain pockets, fencing work is still pending. Government is committed to complete the border fencing at a fast pace. The situation on the international border with Bangladesh remained peaceful. The situation on the inter-State border with Assam, especially in Block-I and Block-II areas, also remained peaceful. Disputed pockets along the Assam-Meghalaya border are being continuously monitored. Efforts are on to solve the boundary dispute with Assam at the level of the Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of both the States by way of a permanent solution. Comprehensive measures to tackle illegal immigration and influx are being put in place. Serious efforts to ensure this and to complete various interventions in this regard are being made.

Law

6. Separation of Judiciary from the Executive in 6 Districts has been completed. Government has taken steps for separation of judiciary in the remaining 5 districts. Recently on 24.2.2017 the temporary Court of the District and Session Judge at Ampati was inaugurated. Separation at Resubelpara, Baghmara, Mawkyrwat and Khliehriat will take place very shortly. All requisite infrastructure for separation of Judiciary is being provided by way of construction of new Judiciary buildings in all the Districts.

Planning

7. A holistic approach of my Government to ensure growth which is inclusive and sustainable has set a new momentum of economic activities and development. Various developmental interventions embarked upon by my Government, in the last few years, are creating a positive impact on the lives of people across the state. A special focus is being given to address the challenges of both infrastructural gaps and disparities in the social sector. The flagship program of my Government, the Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Promotion Programme (IBDLP) is creating an enabling environment to bring in convergence, promote entrepreneurship, sustainable livelihood and sustainable ecology which is crucial in our collective endeavour to mitigate and adapt to the Climate Change Effects.
8. During 2016-17, the State Government had undertaken several initiatives aimed at promoting the agenda of inclusive growth and Sustainable development. These include providing low-cost & rapid diagnostic services in remote rural areas, promotion of entrepreneurship of women and youth, skill development in photography and film making, improvement of basic amenities in urban areas, promotion of eco-tourism and agri-business partnerships, improvement of sports facilities and infrastructure under Mission Football, language skills and overall entrepreneurship development.
9. Several initiatives which were taken up by the Government in the preceding years such as promotion of nutritional security, sustainable livelihoods, construction of farmers' markets and lay-bye markets, cultivation of ramie, agar and bamboo, promotion of zardozi craft, income generation programme for weavers, etc. were also given importance during 2016-17.
10. The state flagship programme, the Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion Programme (IBDLP) was initiated as part of our abiding commitment to the development of green economy. With a view to ensure further consolidation of this important programme of government, a special project, namely, 'Community based agri-business partnership' has been taken up to foster partnerships between communities, government institutions and other stake holders to promote mutually beneficial business ventures. This will pave the way for non-disruptive, inclusive and ecologically sustainable economic development.

11. Two Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), namely, the Meghalaya Livelihoods and Access to Markets project (Megha LAMP) and Human Capital Development Project were launched recently by the State Government. The Meghalaya Livelihood & Access to Markets Project (Megha: LAMP) focuses on market access development, financial services delivery, women empowerment, promotion of entrepreneurship, development of Integrated Village Cooperative Societies, and Knowledge Management. Besides focusing on upgradation of infrastructure in the schools, the Human Capital Development Project aims at enhancing the employability of the youth with the help of improvement in education service delivery and by way of providing vocational skills to students in various trades. Interventions under the Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion Programme are being made more effective with the help of these EAPs.
12. The State Government had taken up several initiatives during the last few years which provide base for accelerating action under the sustainable development framework. These include setting up of Entrepreneurship Facilitation Centres, Mission Green, Mission Organic, setting up of the Institute of Natural Resources, Institute of Entrepreneurship and Institute of Governance, Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme, steps for promoting livable cities and towns, affordable housing schemes, operationalisation of Public Health Centres (PHCs) under PPP, climate change management intervention, etc.

Statistics & Programme Implementation & Evaluation

13. Monitoring and evaluation of various schemes and projects have been given due importance. Monitoring is being done through review meetings and conduct of field inspections. Evaluation Studies were undertaken on some selected programmes by outsourcing to external agency.

Finance

14. My Government has undertaken various efforts to increase Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion and to reach the uncovered areas. The State Government flagship scheme 'Women Economic Empowerment through Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship (WEEFIE)' has further strengthened these efforts, yielding positive results and creating an enabling environment in bringing more and more citizens within the ambit of banking system.

15. Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), more than 3,80,000 (Three Lakh Eighty Thousand) bank accounts have been opened, covering mostly the unbanked households. Social security schemes namely, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and the pension scheme, Atal Pension Yojana (APY) have also received good response from people. This will ensure greater social security cover in the State.
16. The Government has been facilitating individuals especially the young entrepreneurs in taking up various entrepreneurial activities by involving the Enterprise Facilitation Centres (EFCs) through the Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship (MIE) under the IBDLP Programme.
17. These efforts of the Government have resulted in sanction of loans of more than 72 crore by the banks to about 14,000 (fourteen thousand) individuals during the current financial year, under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), which aims to fund the unfunded. Linking of these schemes through the formal banking system has helped in promoting financial inclusion and will ensure greater transparency and accountability.

Excise. Registration. Taxation & Stamps

18. The Taxation Department is fully geared up for the smooth implementation of the Goods & Services Tax. This new indirect tax regime will be the most significant indirect tax reform in the country which will merge the two spheres of indirect taxation currently collected under the Central Sales Tax Act. The State will, however, retain the taxation power on sale of high speed diesel, motor spirit and alcohol for human consumption. Tax collection under MVAT Act is expected to increase by about 15% annually. E-Services have been successfully implemented which are in line with the ease of doing business initiative of the Central Government. The status of tax payment under the Meghalaya Passenger & Goods Taxation Act of any taxable vehicle crossing the taxation check gates in the State can now be viewed online. This system is expected to augment revenue collection.
19. The Excise Department has taken steps towards generating more revenue even while complying with the restriction imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on opening of

wine shops along the National and State Highways. The rate of tax as well as the rate of Transport Pass Fee and Import Pass Fee for IMFL, Beer, wine etc., has been increased.

Water Resources

20. My Government continues to attach high priority to the agenda of Integrated Water Resource Development. The Progress made in terms of expanding the irrigation potential during last few years has been very encouraging as the irrigation potential created has been doubled between the year 2011 and 2015. Efforts are on to ensure that the entire cultivable area in the State gets covered with sustainable irrigation facilities by the year 2022. Efforts have been stepped up for survey and investigation of projects and for mobilizing investments needed for their implementation.
21. Convergence initiatives in the water sector are yielding very positive results and several projects for community water reservoirs and spring shed rejuvenation are in the process of formulation and implementation. The scheme for Jal Kunds has given encouraging results and will be upscaled.
22. The initiatives creation of Multi-purpose Reservoirs, promoting water use efficiency and capacity building of water users will continue to receive priority attention. Center for Water Resources set up under the aegis of Integrated basin Development & Livelihood Promotion Programme will be further strengthened to enable it generate knowledge resources for planning and implementation of programmes relating to water sector.

Agriculture & Horticulture

23. The focus of my Government is on increasing the productivity of food grains for food security and reducing the gap between production and demand through better cultivation techniques and capacity building. Emphasis is being given to organic farming to mitigate health related problems and to help farmers tap into the growing organic market through popularisation of bio-fertilisers, compost making and bio-control practices for plant health management. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, which aims to promote organic farming in the country, is also being implemented in the state. The scheme provides for adoption of organic village by cluster approach and Participatory Guarantee System certification. Due to prevalence of large areas of waste land, due attention has been given

towards oil palm cultivation. Further, tree borne oilseeds crops such as Neem, Jatropha, and Olive are also being promoted.

24. To enhance the income and livelihood opportunities for the rural people, my Government has taken up organic plantation of Bamboo and Agar. Organic strawberry cultivation in selected locations has also been introduced to benefit the cultivators in the state. Ramie, a textile fibre crop of great potential, which can be grown in a wide range of agro ecological conditions, is also being promoted. For promotion of cultivation of Lakadong Turmeric, steps have been initiated to improve post harvest management.

25. The State Rice Mission is being implemented to ensure both food and nutritional security. State Organic Mission under the Horticulture Mission will enable the consumers to have access to residue free food ingredients and provide more remunerative returns to the farmers.

Soil & Water Conservation

26. The Soil & Water Conservation Department has taken various initiatives to conserve natural resources through an integrated approach. Schemes for promoting natural resource rejuvenation and ecosystem based livelihoods that were introduced in the past years are being upscaled.

Fisheries

27. Several economic opportunities have been created under various programmes of the State Aquaculture Mission. Steps are being taken to increase fish and fish seed production. Marginal farmer having small water areas will be assisted under the Integrate Development and Management of Fisheries programme. The commissioning of the cold water fish hatcheries will be done during the breeding season of Mahseer which will commence from this March onwards. The creation of fish sanctuaries to preserve the germplasm of the natural and indigenous species has also enhanced rural tourism. Entrepreneurship has been developed in the sector of ornamental fisheries. Fish markets are being developed for sale of fresh and hygienic fish. All steps are thus being taken to transform the fisheries sector as a modern industry with special focus on new technology and processes.

Animal Husbandry & Veterinary

28. Animal Husbandry sector aims at self sufficiency in production of meat, milk and eggs. Due emphasis is being given to crucial areas such as health care of livestock and birds, providing quality germ-plasm of livestock and birds, disease surveillance and skill development of stakeholders. Programmes were initiated for artificial insemination in pigs as a step to bring sustainability in breeding programme and more profitability to the farmers. Cross breeding in cattle through artificial insemination will be given more thrust for better production and economic benefit. A Mini- Mission on dairy farming is under implementation to increase the availability of milk and dairy products. Modern abattoirs at Shillong and Jowai are under construction.

Forests & Environment

29. My Government asseverates its intention to ensure environmental stability to the State. The State has been maintaining more than two-third of its geographical area under forest cover which among other benefits to its people, also protects the land from erosion, degradation and provides stability to the ecosystem. The Green India Mission and the National Afforestation Programme are being implemented with community participation to improve the quality of degraded forests inter alia. Tissue culture laboratories and Hi-Tech nurseries equipped with modern facilities are being established in Garo Hills and Khasi Hills regions to provide quality planting material of indigenous forest species. Community participation in scientific wildlife management is being encouraged and the area under the Community Reserves has now increased to 4039 hectares (40.39 sq. km.) comprising of 44 nos. of such Community Reserves. The Meghalaya Biodiversity Board has taken up various activities to empower people at the grass root level to manage biodiversity. 190 Biodiversity Management Committees comprising of local stakeholders have been constituted in the State so far under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Eco-friendly Crematoria have been constructed and are being commissioned to encourage eco-friendly practices in different parts of the State. This will reduce the fuel consumption substantially. Meghalaya has bagged prestigious India Biodiversity Award, 2016 in the category of “Sustainable Use of Bio-Resources” for protecting and promoting living root bridges.

30. The State has ambient air quality well within national parameters except for slightly high concentration of suspended particulate matter in the form of dust particles caused by both natural and human factors in certain areas. The water quality of the State is also relatively

good and can be utilized for various purposes, except in certain streams in urban areas and near mines. The India Today Group in the conclave of State of the States held on 4th November, 2016 at New Delhi adjudged Meghalaya as the best small State in the category of environment which bears eloquent testimony to the provision of environmental services derived as a bonus from the existing green forest cover in the State.

31. The State has taken initiatives to combat Climate Change under the “State Action Plan for Climate Change” (SAPCC). Apart from wide spread awareness activities from different stakeholder groups, adaptation actions have also been initiated to build resilience and minimise adverse impacts of Climate Change. A State wide project on rejuvenation of springs with the support from “National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change” (NAFCC) is a significant initiative towards adaptation to climate change.
32. With over 76% of forest cover, the State’s Carbon Footprint is among the lowest in the country. However, in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement, the State is determined to improve stocking of degraded forests and further expand forest cover by afforestation activities to make its contributions towards the global goal of keeping the increase in temperature well below 2°C by the turn of the century.

Sericulture & Weaving

33. My Government is also adopting various strategies to popularize handloom products through e-commerce, product diversification and fashion shows. 150 Textile Designers and Cluster Development Executives have been engaged for a period of 3 years who will train more than 5,000 weavers in design and marketing skills. Under the Income Generation for Handloom Weavers scheme, 10,000 weavers will be assisted with raw materials for weaving and technology upgradation. Area specific programmes have been taken up to develop Eri in East Garo Hills, Muga in West Garo Hills and Mulberry in West Jaintia Hills. Income generation program being implemented for traditional weavers is designed to both preserve and promote the rich traditional skills.

Community & Rural Development

34. 6 new Community and Rural Development Blocks have been created namely, Mawlai and Sohiong in East Khasi Hills, Bhoirymbong in Ri Bhoi, Demdema in West Garo Hills, Rerapara in South West Garo Hills, and Bajengdoba in North Garo Hills Districts. To

bring more benefits to the rural poor, Village Employment Councils with 300 or more households will be eligible to get multiple works and all the Job Card holders can participate. Bottom 20 Approach for selection of households has been initiated where the bottom 10% of the poor households in a village will be eligible for individual assets for livestock rearing. IAY has now been restructured to Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY-G). It aims to provide pucca house to all rural households by 2022. The implementation in our State has started with initial coverage of 12,732 beneficiaries. Under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) efforts are being made to promote the existing 1560 SHGs and strengthen them to function as grassroot level village institutions to bring economic development in rural areas. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is also being implemented to enhance skill development of rural youth and provide them with jobs. The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission aims to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services and create well planned Rurban clusters. Chisim Apal cluster in North Garo Hills district has been approved by the Centre in the first phase. 2 more clusters i.e. Mawlangwir in South West Khasi Hills and Amlarem in West Jaintia Hills district have been recommended. Government will continue to implement various Social Security Schemes along with other State schemes such as SRWP (Special Rural Works Programme) and CMSRDF (Chief Minister Special Rural Development Scheme).

Cooperation

35. My Government is striving towards making the Cooperative Movement in the State stronger and more vibrant. The registered Cooperative Societies are undertaking varied business such as credit, handloom, handicrafts, fishery, dairy, livestock, processing and marketing of agricultural produce to enhance the livelihood options of people. To strengthen the Cooperative sector, a Cooperative Skill and Excellence Centre at Tura is proposed to be set up.

Border Areas Development

36. Special attention has been given to the development of border areas along the international and inter-State borders by implementing the Border Areas Development Programme (BADP) and the Inter State Border Areas Development Programme (ISBADP) to supplement the schemes being implemented by other Government Departments in the State. The Schemes are being implemented to improve connectivity, livelihood, provide desired infrastructure, community facilities, playgrounds, market

stalls etc. The Special Central Assistance (Border Areas Development Programme) and the Inter State Border Areas Development Programme (ISBADP) will be implemented in a focused manner reflecting the priorities of the people. Scholarship and stipend for students residing in the border villages from post-matric up to university level including technical and diploma courses has been of great help to the students coming from poor and most vulnerable families.

District Council Affairs

37. The State Government will continue to support and work in close coordination with the Autonomous District Councils to enable them to discharge their duties in safeguarding the traditional heritage, customs, practices, usages and economic security of the local indigenous tribal people in accordance with the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India and the Acts and Regulations and Rules framed there under. Special assistance to the Autonomous District Councils by Government of India will enable Councils to strengthen and upgrade their standards of administration while also contributing to greater acceleration in development, besides making the councils more responsive to the welfare of the tribal people.

Public Health Engineering

38. My Government is committed to provide adequate safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to all the inhabitants of the State. In 2015-16, 230 Rural Habitations, 253 Schools and 100 ICDS centres were covered with drinking water supply. Whereas in 2016-17, 110 Rural Habitations, 150 Schools and 83 ICDS centres would be covered with adequate safe drinking water.

39. In the urban areas, implementation of the Greater Shillong Water Supply Project (Phase-III), augmentation of Tura Phase-I & II scheme are in progress. Additionally, the New Shillong Township Water Supply Project and Greater Ampati Water Supply Scheme have been initiated.

40. The Nongstoin Urban Water Supply Scheme for augmentation of water supply to Nongstoin town is in progress. DPRs for augmentation of water supply to Resubelpara, Williamnagar and Greater Dalu have been submitted. For rural sanitation, out of 4,11,610 rural households, 3,59,176 households were provided with toilets. Also, out of 10,475

rural habitations, 3,104 habitations were declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF). Achievement of full sanitation along with the rest of the country within the deadline of October 2, 2019 has been set in motion.

Public Works Department

41. Roads are the only means of communication in the hilly State of Meghalaya. At present, the State has a total road length of 9,667 Km and a road density of 43.10 Km/100 Sq Km. In the National Highway sector, the important ongoing projects such as construction of 2-lane Jowai Bye-pass under SARDP-NE Phase - A has been completed, which will address substantially the traffic congestion in Jowai town, with all heavy loaded vehicles proposed to be diverted along this Bye pass. 2-Laning work of Shillong – Nongstoin - Tura road also under Phase-A of SARDP-NE is about 96% completed. Besides, improvement of NH-40 between Shillong and Dawki covering a length of 80 Km and construction of Dawki bridge, improvement of NH-62 between Assam/ Meghalaya border to Dalu via Baghmara for a length of 161 Km and 2-laning of Tura-Dalu NH - 51 covering a length of 48 Km will be taken up under Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funding. Under inter state connectivity, upgradation to double lane with paved/hard shoulder of Garobadha - Mankachar road has been sanctioned. The implementation of 4 (four) Central Road Fund schemes namely; reconstruction of washed away RCC Bridge No.37/3 over Chidrang on Songsak. Mendipathar road improvement including metalling and blacktopping of Moosachram - Sonaro-Lapangap Road via Chebnai Strengthening and widening of Bhoirymbong - Mawlasnai - Sabuda road into intermediate lane and improvement including construction of Bridges on Pynursla-Myllat-Lyting Lyngdoh road are at initial stages of implementation with work progressing well Work on upgradation of Garobadha to Dalu (NH-51) road is about 54 % completed.
42. Meghalaya is one of the eight States selected under World Bank funded PMGSY Rural Roads Project-II. Sanction amounting to Rs. 810.42 crore have been accorded. This includes 290 road works for a length of 1112.839 Kms and 36 long span bridges covering 297 eligible habitations. So far the Department has completed 7 road works covering 318 Km, connecting 48 habitations.

43. Under the State Plan, during 2016-17, 17 roads project have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs.22.588 Crore. Additionally, 28 road and bridges have been cleared by the NABARD in different part of the State.
44. The Government has also taken up an important project namely “Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya”. This is a Rs.775 crore project for improving the education scenario in the state by upgrading 117 Government aided schools to national standards. This Project also aims to enhance the employability of Meghalaya’s youth, hence improving the existing infrastructure of the 8 existing Industrial Training Institutes, has also been included under the programme. So far, the civil infrastructure works for 15 (fifteen) schools have been completed.
45. Under Special Plan Assistance, 1 (one) residential school is being constructed in each of the 20 (twenty) Community & Rural Development Blocks of the state. The ongoing Phase I has the Administrative & Instructional block housed in the same building. In the Second Phase, Hostels for girls & boys & accommodation for teaching & non-teaching staff & auditorium are proposed. A sports activity infrastructural indoor stadium is also being proposed.
46. Other activities include creation of infrastructure development for the newly created Districts such as Deputy Commissioner’s office complexes at District headquarters at Ampati, Resubelpara, Khliehriat and Mawkyrwat.

Transport

47. The State now figures on the rail map of the country with the commencement of the train service between Duhnoi-Mendipathar-Gauhati in the North Garo Hills, while the work on Tetalia-Byrnihat line is in progress and is likely to be commissioned by March, 2018. Under rural transport connectivity, bus services are being operated in all the Districts. Construction of Inter-State bus terminals in Shillong and Tura have commenced and likely to be operationalized soon at Tura. Under the ambit of Regional Connectivity Scheme, an MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) between Government of India and Government of Meghalaya has been signed to encourage private airlines to operate flights from Umroi and Baljek airports to connect other State capitals in the region, with tax exemption granted on aviation turbine fuel as added incentive. A Road Safety Council

had been constituted in the State and Districts to administer safety protocols for road users to avoid accidental deaths, etc.

Power

48. The 40 megawatts New Umtru Hydro Electric Project with 2 unit of 20 megawatts each is set to be commissioned within 2017-18 with the first unit expected to go for trial run in the last week of March 2017. The other power projects under implementation are the 22.5 MW Ganol HEP with three units in West Garo Hills and 1.5 MW Lakroh Small HEP in East Jaintia Hills. The Government is in the process of tying up funding for the renovation, modernisation and up-gradation of the 2x30 MW Uiam Stage-III Power Project under the Externally Aided Project scheme. This will extend the life of the project, which was commissioned in 1979, by another 35 years. The Government has also signed MOUs (Memorandum of Understandings) with M/S North Eastern Electric Power Corporation and other independent power producers to set up power projects to utilise the power potential available in the State. With the ultimate aim of achieving 100 village and rural household electrification in the State in the near future, the Government is augmenting and strengthening the power distribution network in the rural areas with the implementation of projects under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Jyoti Yojana. The villages will be electrified through grid where feasible and solar stand-alone systems in remote and inaccessible areas. The Integrated Power Development Scheme, being implemented in the urban areas, will improve the services consumers with the application of information technology a strengthening of power network. The power transmission network in the State is also being augmented and strengthened with the construction of new 220 KV and 132 KV lines and sub-stations under the North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project with funding from the World Bank and the Centre.
49. Under the new and renewable energy component, 1,067 KW of solar power plants have been installed in the State till date. Work is in progress to install up to 500 KW solar plants in Government buildings and 1,700 street lighting systems in Amlarem Civil Subdivision, and Dadenggri Civil Subdivision. Under solar thermal application programme, 150 solar water heating systems of various capacities from 100 litres per day to 2,000 litres per day are also being installed at different locations in the State. The Government is examining proposals to install grid-connected rooftop solar power plants in private and Government buildings in line with the Central Government policy to harness solar energy.

Health & Family Welfare

50. The Government is providing priority to promotion of health care by strengthening and upgrading the existing health care facilities.
51. The National Health Mission (NHM) continues to strengthen and support health care activities in rural and urban areas through the existing health programmes so as to achieve universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care services. Other Programmes that have been launched and implemented are Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram, Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram, Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre, Infant and Young Child Feeding, National Urban Health Mission and the National Programme for Control & Prevention of Diabetes, Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke. The Flag-ship programme Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) launched for the Welfare and Benefit of pregnant mothers is being conducted on the 9th day of every month through various designated Health Institutions. The gap between the demand and supply of Medical Specialist and Professionals remains a challenge and measures to address the same are on.
52. The Megha Health Insurance Scheme Phase III is under process of being launched soon.

Education

53. Our State was recently recognized as the most improved small State in education and awarded by India Today in its latest Study of the States.
54. My Government has taken major initiatives under the Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya project for up gradation of 117 Government Aided Secondary/Higher Secondary schools including renovation of existing buildings, and construction of new classrooms, toilets, computer laboratories, library, activity rooms etc. The project is currently in the third year, 68 schools are under construction, with remaining schools expected to be covered soon. Additionally, teaching facilities will be greatly improved with up gradation of 2 Teacher training centres, and 4 DIET's.
55. Pre-service teacher training and training for all the untrained teachers has been initiated to improve quality of teaching. As part of the "Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya" project, the Government is putting emphasis on training of untrained teachers, covering 3,500 Secondary and Higher Secondary teachers including master

teachers, head teachers and Principals. Under RMSA about 1,700 secondary school teachers of mathematics, Science, Social Science and Language have been trained in collaboration with several institutes of national importance such as National Institute of Technology (NIT), North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), North East Regional Institute of Education (NERIE), Centre of Creative Arts. Block Institute of Education and Training (BIET) and District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) are being established for strengthening teacher training programmes to improve the quality of education.

56. In order to attract talents towards General Science Education, my Government has launched Basic Science Scholarship scheme from this year.
57. My Government will continue to shoulder its responsibilities of administering the management of Pine Mount School, Shillong, as well as three Public Schools of Shillong, Tura and Jowai, through the Directorate of Higher and Technical Education, besides initiating the process of setting up of three Pine Mount International Schools in West Jaintia Hills, West Khasi Hills and West Garo Hills Districts.
58. The process of establishing Model Schools and Girl's hostels in the 9 Educationally Backward Blocks is making good progress with construction being completed in two schools.
59. Twenty Educationally Backward Blocks have been identified for establishing residential schools on the pattern of Jawahar Novodaya Vidyalaya for providing affordable and quality education for the economically weaker sections. Construction works are in progress and are at various stages of completion.
60. To strengthen Shillong's reputation as the "Education Hub", Education Department is also considering the establishment of Degree Engineering College in Shillong and College of Architecture and Urban Planning in Tura. The presence of Central institutes such as North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health & Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), College of Home Science Tura, Indian Institute of Management(IIM) etc. has enhanced the educational status of the state.
61. The three existing polytechnics at Shillong, Jowai and Tura are offering three years AICTE approved Diploma Courses in various disciplines. In order to bring technical education

closer to the youth of our state, my Government has taken upon itself the task of initiating the process of establishing more polytechnics in other districts of the state.

62. To provide better accommodation to rural students migrating to cities for higher education, Rural Hostel scheme has been initiated. Construction of such hostels is nearing completion at Chirangre in West Garo Hills and Nongstoin in West Khasi Hills, with work at advance stage in Jowai in West Jaintia Hills.
63. Schools will be provided with quality classroom furniture and science laboratory equipments to improve learning environment, and presently 23 Government Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools are proposed to be covered.
64. 48 (forty eight) RMSA schools in the State enjoy benefits ranging from school grant and sports material, to laboratory support and teachers' training, besides supporting the disabled in the Secondary schools. Under Mid Day Meal programme, 11,716 schools are covered with 6.06 lakh children enrolled. 9,491 schools have been provided with kitchen sheds and 17,556 cooks have been appointed till date. Efforts are on to reduce drop-out rate through innovative interventions under SSA and RMSA. Through continuous efforts under SSA, the annual average drop-out rate in the State under both lower primary and upper primary has been brought down.

Sports & Youth Affairs

65. In the domain of sports and youth development, my Government is taking active steps to improve sports stadia and play fields, promote sports competitions and coaching, support vibrant sports associations, clubs and educational institutions, equip and upgrade various skills, besides facilitating participation of youth and sports persons in both national and regional tournaments, while proactively empowering youth.
66. An international standard football stadium at Ampati, South West Garo Hills has been approved by the Ministry of DoNER at a cost of Rs.38.21 crore and preparatory works have commenced in right earnest.
67. With active support of the State Government, the Meghalaya State Olympic Association successfully submitted the bid documents to the Indian Olympic Association for securing

the rights to host the National Games 2022 to coincide with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the State, coming close on the heels of the States successful co-hosting of the 12th South Asian Games in 2016.

68. So as to encourage effective participation at a young age and to facilitate sports for healthy lifestyle, and with a view to impart basic skills for preparation of future champions, setting up of grass root coaching centres for 7-11 years old has been initiated by the Department with the theme “Catch Them Young”, in domain disciplines such as football, karate, lawn tennis and boxing, etc.
69. Several schemes and programmes continue to be initiated for promoting sports activities and motivating the sports persons and youth which include the Chief Minister Youth Development Schemes, Intensive Sports Youth Development Programme and Chief Minister Youth for Green Campaign. The Chief Minister Career Guidance and Counselling Scheme facilitates youth in taking up coaching for examinations at all levels including coaching for job aspirants in civil services and other professions by tying up with the reputed coaching institutes, where youth are provided free training and coaching to equip them better for facing competition. 132 sports persons were recognized and incentivized with cash incentives for their achievements at the regional and national events.
70. Infrastructure projects, both indoor and outdoor are being taken up through NLCPR and NEC to enable the State to host future national and international events with a view to provide a legacy for future sporting activities, establish training/coaching camps, with an overall objective of building up sporting talents, who can be groomed to be future medal prospects for our State and country.
71. The Sports Policy of the State is also being finalized with a view to provide a road map and direction for all future sporting endeavours in the State.

Social Welfare

72. Social Welfare Department is implementing numerous welfare programmes for women, children, physically handicapped, juvenile delinquents, the aged and infirm in all the Districts and ICDS project centres. Keeping in view aspects of nutrition and health management, including school drop-out children, the Government is according special

attention to providing basic welfare amenities through the implementation of the Integrated Child Development Services. With an aim to provide basic welfare amenities, it has also made schemes accessible online through the Government websites to persons with disabilities to enable them to navigate, interact and contribute through the web. The District Disability Rehabilitation Centres / District Resource Centres at Shillong, Jowai, Nongstoin and Tura have been activated at the respective Civil Hospitals. Early Diagnostic & Intervention Centres have also been set up in the four district Headquarters of Shillong, Nongstoin, Jowai and Tura. Under the Chief Minister's Social Assistance Scheme 33,614 infirm, 21,095 widows and 9,020 physically disabled have benefitted. Similarly, under the Wedding Assistance Scheme to orphan girls, 249 beneficiaries have benefitted during 2016-17. Under the Special Plan Assistance construction of Hostels at Resubelpara, Betasing and Mawsynram were also approved and sanctioned. The new scheme of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was also implemented during 2015-16 as a pilot project in the Ri Bhoi District. The One Stop Centre set up at the Ganesh Das Hospital Complex in Shillong is fully functional and another One Stop Centre will be set up at Tura, West Garo Hills District during the current year.

Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs

73. With the implementation of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) with effect from February 2016, subsidized food grains have been delivered to approximately two-thirds of the State population.
74. Under NFSA, 20,64,073 beneficiaries of PHH (Priority Household) category and 85,022 beneficiaries of AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana) category have been covered. The NFSA coverage in the urban areas is 50.87% of the urban population and in the rural areas it is 77.79% of the rural population. The beneficiary data base has been digitized and is available on the website of the Department. Claims and objections in connection with the list of beneficiaries are being examined by the Deputy Commissioners.
75. Under NFSA, the cost of intra-State transport, handling and profit margin to Fair Price Shop dealers and Wholesalers, is being paid as per norms and eligibility. To make consumers aware of their rights as per the Consumer's Protection Act, 1986, wide publicity has been carried out through consumers campaign. As far as end-to-end computerization is concerned, Phase I of the project is nearly completed. Details of Wholesalers, list of

godowns, list of towns and villages, list of FPS (Fair Price Shops) have been digitized and placed on the portal. Digitisation of Ration Cards has also been completed.

76. Grievance Redressal Officers have been notified and are functioning in all Districts and Subdivisions. A toll free number “1967” is in place, with Call Centre Attendants in order to receive grievances from consumers.
77. The Meghalaya State Food Commission Rules have been framed and are being further amended to include additional enabling provisions.
78. Data digitization of wholesalers and wholesale depots, fair price shops and beneficiaries has been completed, and database information of entry list of wholesalers, list of godowns, list of towns/villages, and list of FPSs (Fair Price Shops) is placed on the Departmental website. Furthermore, digitization of ration cards as per the data of SECC (Socio Economic Caste census), 2011 is completed and the database of the same is placed on the website.
79. For ensuring transparency and grievance redressal, toll free number “1967” is in place, with call centre attendants to address the grievances of the citizens. For addressing public Grievances, a grievance Redressal Officer and Assistant Grievance Redressal Officer are in position in each District and Subdivision.
80. The Meghalaya State Food Commission Rules are also being formulated.

Urban Affairs

81. The policies and programmes of Urban Affairs Department are focussed towards the development and proper management of urban areas in the State. Priority is being given on improvement of civic amenities, development of urban infrastructure and ensuring better living conditions of urban poor by implementing the schemes viz. Infrastructure Development, Environmental Improvement of Urban Slum (EIUS), Special Urban works Programme (SUWP) as well as Chief Minister’s Special Urban Development Fund (CMSUDF). National Urban Livelihood Mission which is only scheme being implemented by the Department that is aimed towards the welfare of Urban Poor including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. With regards to the ongoing projects sanctioned under the erstwhile Flagship Programme of JNNURM, the Water Supply Project (GSWSS Ph-III) the

last and final instalment of Central fund has now been released and completion of the project will be expedited. For improving the public transport system in Shillong and other Urban Centres, supply of another 104 Buses is under process and will be put for public service very soon.

82. Under 10% Lumpsum Fund for development of North Eastern State, important projects which have been completed and will be inaugurated soon are Re-development of Parking Lot at Akhonggre, Tura and Inter State Bus Terminus at Tura. A new project viz. Construction of Parking-cum-Commercial Facility Centre near Inter District Bus Terminus at Akhonggre has been sanctioned during the year 2015-16 and the work on the project will be starting shortly.
83. Under SPA, the work on new roads in New Shillong Township is in progress. Under Special Central Assistance, construction of Multi-Purpose Utility Centre at Mawkhar, Shillong is nearly completed and will be put to use shortly. Under ADB Funding, the work for Solid Waste Management in towns outside Shillong Municipal Jurisdiction and extension of the landfill work at Marten are in progress and steps have been taken to extend the programme in areas outside Municipals jurisdictions also.
84. To address the uses of proper sanction and environment, under the newly launched Programme of AMRUT fund has been approved and sanctioned for development of a Septage Management System for shortly as well as a decentralised Sewerage System for two subzone in Shillong City. Steps are being taken to start the works. Swachh Bharat Mission is being implemented in 10 statutory towns in the State and works on construction of Individual Household Latrine and Community Toilets as well as improvement of Solid Waste Management in the towns are being taken up under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). DPR and Housing for All Plan Action for Shillong City has been approved with a total proposal cost of Rs. 108.78 lakhs where beneficiary let construction with a subsidy amount of Rs. 1.50 lakhs as per house and credit linked subsidy schemes with an interest subsidy of 6.5 percent is being implemented with financial assistance from Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. This programme is being extended to all other statutory towns. The Department has also framed Rules and Schemes under the Meghalaya Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014 and notified for public opinion and suggestion. The same will be implemented in the days to

come and measures are being taken to address their problems.

Labour

85. Upgradation of all 10 ITIs in the State is being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the Project Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya. The institutional tie-up to improve service delivery in ITIs will be completed by March 2017. National Skills Qualification Framework compliant curricula for all Government ITIs will be taken up during 2017-18. A State of-the-Art Model Career Centre at Shillong for career guidance and counselling for the youth of the State and 2 new ITIs at Ampati and Mawkyrwat will be made operational during 2017-18.
86. Under the Meghalaya Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, registered construction workers are being extended maternity benefit, funeral assistance, death benefit, medical assistance, educational scholarships, assistance for marriage, personal protective equipments. Insurance cover under Aam Admi Bima Yojana has also been provided.

Mining & Geology

87. Meghalaya is blessed with tremendous natural resources and mineral rich soils with huge deposits of economically valuable minerals viz, coal, limestone, uranium, granite, kaolin, clay and sand glass. The Meghalaya Mines and Minerals Policy, 2012 was notified to facilitate systematic, scientific, planned and optimum utilization of mineral resources for meeting the objectives of streamlining mineral based development of the State, in the context of protection of environment, land, health and to ensure safety of the people inhabiting in the proximity of mining areas.
88. The Meghalaya Minor Minerals Concession Rules was notified on the 12th September, 2016 to regulate mining of minor minerals in the State. For this purpose, the Mining & Geology Department has notified the empanelment of experts who are qualified to prepare Mining Plans for Mines and Minerals under Rule 19 (2) of the aforesaid Rules on 1st March, 2017.

89. Many issues and complexities have surfaced with regard to mining of major minerals such as coal and lignite as the Central laws relating to development and regulation of mines and minerals would be applicable to Meghalaya, unless a specific exception is provided by specific legislation.
90. With the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal directing immediate stoppage of rat-hole mining, illegal mining and unauthorized transportation of coal, the State is formulating a proper framework as required under the relevant laws for safe and scientific mining. However having regard to the peculiar circumstances in the context of Meghalaya, and the manner in which mining of coal has been undertaken, unless the application of the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 is withdrawn in relation to Meghalaya, it may not be feasible to carry on coal mining in the State.
91. Accordingly, in pursuance to the Resolution passed by this August House a proposal was submitted by the State Government requesting the Central Government to issue a notification invoking paragraph 12(A)(b) of the Sixth Schedule to the effect that the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 shall not be applicable in the areas falling within the purview of Sixth Schedule in Meghalaya, so that coal mining can resume as its discontinuance has severely impacted the livelihoods and the finances of the State Government. Further, to facilitate expeditious approvals and clearances and keeping in view the relatively small nature of coal deposits, a proposal for certain amendments in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was also submitted to the Government of India.

Commerce & Industries

92. In commerce and industrial sector, my Government has been able to focus on various development activities concerning MSME (Micro Small And Medium Enterprises) sectors for generation of employment and impart training for skill development and motivate youth to take up self employment ventures. As far as commerce sector is concerned, the Department has been able to focus on creation of infrastructures for exports.

93. The foundation stone of the Integrated Check Post at Tamabil was laid on the 24th January, 2017 covering an area of 22 acres. The Land Ports Authority of India has allotted the construction work to be completed by September 2018.
94. Under the Scheme Entrepreneurship Promotion for Women and Youth, 400 women and youth have been trained on Zardozi Craft and 200 have been trained in manufacturing Meghalaya specific souvenirs and mementos.
95. Under Master craftsman Training, 762 artisans are to be trained in different trades. Under the Scheme Training Inside and Outside, 899 unemployed youths have been accommodated for training to be completed by March 2017. A new State Award Scheme for handicraft artisans was initiated and five artisans were selected for the said award.
96. Under Apiculture Mission, during the second phase of implementation, about 280 beekeepers in Garo Hills have been imparted skill training in collaboration with the Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship, Shillong. Business interactive sessions and bee boxes and beekeeping equipments were distributed to about 1,012 trained beekeepers in the State.

Tourism

97. Meghalaya offers a variety of tourism experience to suit different categories of tourists. The focus of the government has been to promote destinations, showcase various festivals of the State, build capacities and enhance skills of the local people in the hospitality sector and at the same time work on augmenting the accommodation facilities in the State. The Meghalaya Tourism Development and Investment Promotion Scheme is specifically designed to work together with entrepreneurs by providing assistance to them for creation of homestays and resorts. The Scheme, while giving such entrepreneurs a means to earn a decent livelihood, has also helped in providing suitable accommodation to the tourists. To enhance skills and build on capacities of the local populace, programmes are being organized in collaboration with the Institute of Hotel Management, Shillong, Food Craft Institute, Tura and training partners like Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Education, etc. Publicity to promote the State as a Tourism Destination is being undertaken through the print and electronic media and through participation in fairs and festivals. The aim is to develop a brand

focusing on unique products aimed at attracting visitors to the State while, at the same time, promoting it as a distinct destination, different from its neighbours. While the Government continues to play a major role as facilitator, all stakeholders and the community as a whole are involved and associated in tourism development that is sustainable, taking care to conserve the State's rich bio-diversity and natural resources.

Housing

98. My Government focused on a new Housing Scheme called the Chief Minister's Housing Assistance Programme replacing the existing scheme. Under the Scheme, 3 bundles of roofing materials will be provided for the EWS families, dwelling houses to the LIG families and decent houses to the poor families. This programme will be implemented during the current fiscal year. LIG and MIG rental houses were constructed under the Rural Housing Scheme for providing accommodation to Government employees.

Arts & Culture

99. With the vision of enhancing arts and culture, my Government has started in Shillong and Tura the Project "Centre of Excellence for Indian and Western Music". Hundreds of students have attended the courses under different Gurus or Mentors in three modules depending on their qualification and talent.
100. The Shillong International Centre for Performing Arts and Culture at Mawkasiang, will be completed by this year. The Cultural Complex-cum-District Library in Nongpoh, Ri-Bhoi District is completed and functional. Other important initiatives taken include improvement of Shillong Golf-course and Golf-Club and Institution of Music and Fine Arts at 15 centers. Work has started for providing show-cases, galleries, lighting etc. in the Williamson Sangma State Museum, Shillong.
101. We will continue to take steps for preservation, conservation, documentation, promotion, and augmentation of the rich cultural heritage of the State.

102. Research projects for documentation, publication, indigenous music, dance and musical instruments on the traditions and cultures of the different tribes of Meghalaya are progressively going on.
103. The State Central Library has been digitized with internet facilities to enhance Wi-Fi connectivity to establish a network of libraries throughout the State.
104. My Government is constantly encouraging authors, artists, institutions, cultural organisations, and researchers etc. to take up programmes and activities under various Central and State schemes or programmes.

Information Technology & Communication

105. Giving thrust to make information and technology a platform for growth in the State to improve governance and administration, the State Government have successfully launched 6 e-services applications under the e-District Mission Mode Project. The citizens can apply for these certificates from home and they can receive the digitally signed certificates at home, thereby eliminating or minimizing citizens' visits to the Deputy Commissioner's office.
106. The Cloud Infrastructure was commissioned at the State Data Center in 2016. Digital India Outreach Campaign has been launched in September, 2016 in the Ri-bhoi District and aims to create awareness and sensitize people on the various products launched under the Digital India programme.
107. The Centralization of Geographical Information System has already been started with the aim of helping Departments to access, process, and view spatial data pertaining to them.
108. Under the Digital Literacy project, in partnership with the Basix Academy for Building Lifelong Employability (B-ABLE), 800 citizens are under training in the rural areas through the Common Service Centres.
109. Under the Chief Minister's Digital Learning Aid scheme, about 50,000 Class XII students have been given Tablet PCs in the years 2013 and 2014. These Tablet PCs have

been pre-loaded with Educational Content covering Class XI and XII MBOSE syllabus and interactive study materials for JEE and NEET Entrance Examinations. This scheme is being continued this year as well.

110. Awards are being given to meritorious students who have excelled in their Class X and XII Board Examinations.
111. In order to give impetus to connectivity in Meghalaya and to ensure last mile connectivity, the State Cabinet had accorded approval for providing free Right of Way to the National Optical Fibre Network (NoFN) project of the Central Government. The project envisaged providing high-speed internet connectivity to 1208 villages in Meghalaya. Already more than 280 km of Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) have been laid under the project. A tri-partite agreement was executed between the Ministry of Communication-Department of Telecom-GoI, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) and the Government of Meghalaya in the year 2013. M/s Railtel is the executing agency for the project.

Legal Metrology

112. Legal Metrology Department enforces the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act and Rules in relation to the mandatory technical and legal requirements, for ensuring security and accuracy of weighment and measurement. The Centre has sanctioned grants- in-aid for construction of Working Standard Laboratories and Secondary Standard Laboratory. Construction of Working Standard Laboratory at Khliehriat has been completed. Civil Construction work at Mawkyrwat, Resubelpara, Ampati and Secondary Standard Laboratory at Tura are being carried out. Construction of a Research and Development Centre along with a Working Standard Laboratory at Nongpoh is under process.

General Administration

113. Steps to strengthen the infrastructure development in the headquarters of newly created Districts are being taken through construction of permanent office buildings and composite residential complexes in every District Headquarter.

114. Construction of the Governor's Guest House in Tura is also progressing. Construction and maintenance of Meghalaya Houses in cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Vellore and Guwahati is also being undertaken.
115. To ease the problems of the people of the State and also the students while visiting Bengaluru, my Government has decided to acquire a plot of land in the city for constructing a Meghalaya House.
116. My Government has been contributing for the welfare of Ex-servicemen, veterans, widows and their dependants and also destitute Ex-servicemen and other important issues for welfare of Ex-servicemen.
117. Raising of an Ecological Battalion and a Home & Hearth Battalion (Territorial Army) is being worked out as it will improve the ecology and environment in our State and help in combating insurgencies.

Revenue & Disaster Management

118. The works relating to restoration and maintenance of boundary pillars along the Indo-Bangladesh international border and also realignment of boundary pillars as a result of the Land Swap deal between India and Bangladesh, are being carried out. Survey and settlement works for Government land and also for private lands wherever required are being done.
119. The State Disaster Management Plan and the District Disaster Management Plans have been approved by the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). The SDMA and DDMA's (District Disaster Management Authorities) have been carrying out awareness activities through posters, stickers, charts on incident response systems and first aid book manuals have been printed and distributed to all Districts. Mega Mock Drills have been organized in East Khasi Hills District and West Garo Hills District, other mock drills are also being organized in other Districts. Trainings for Rapid Visual Screening have been imparted to engineers and architects. Teachers have been trained under the National School Safety Programme at Nongpoh and Williamnagar.

Personnel

120. Administration has to evolve with the times and respond to the high expectations of the people. With the society becoming more aware and informed, comes challenges that requires great resilience in governance and public service delivery. The importance of evolving a responsive administrative system was realized as far back as the early 1990s with the establishment of the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute to develop a work-force equipped with the requisite knowledge, capacity and attitude to perform the functions they are entrusted with and to sensitise them on important issues through focus on ethics, commitment to duty and empathy for the vulnerable sections.
121. Hence, Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute, as an agency to impart training and capacity building in the State has conducted 143 training programmes in 2015-16 on various thematic subjects to build the capacity of Government officials at all levels of governance. In its effort to enhance leadership, productivity and administrative capabilities, the institute functions in close collaboration with national organizations and is updated on the developments taking place in the area of emerging training techniques and on the policy changes at the State and national level.

Information & Public Relations

122. Showcasing the potential resources of the State of Meghalaya, our State participated at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) held every year at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. In 2016, the Meghalaya Pavilion at the IITF was awarded the Gold Medal for best display in the North East category.
123. For promoting film appreciation among the youth through cinema and the art of film making in the State, the Government of India organised the 4th Edition of the Indian Panorama Film Festival at Shillong in 2016. Besides screening of films by film makers of the country, the youth of the State had an opportunity to interact with these personalities in the festival.

124. In collaboration with the Children's Film Society of India Central Government and Cinedarbaar, the Children's Film festivals were organized at Tura, Jowai and Shiliong in September 2016 where hundreds of school children attended which not only entertained the young minds but were also found to be highly educative.
125. The Meghalaya Integrated Information System, which is a innovative and unique venture and the first of its kind in the country, will be continued as it leverages upon Government to Citizens interface by disseminating Government information. Through its Call Centre, grievances and queries of the people on various issues pertaining to Government Departments are registered and channelized to the concerned authorities for disposal.
126. To bring Administration closer to the people, the periodic Special Interactive Programmes were organized in all levels in which various government Departments participated and interacted with the public on the schemes and activities.
127. Documenting the activities and achievements of the Government the Meghalaya Chronicle, a quarterly magazine is published and distributed to all free of cost.

Civil Defence & Home Guards

128. Home Guards and Civil Defence is assuming a more crucial role in assisting civil administration in disaster management activities. To ensure efficiency, steps are taken to augment training capacities and quality. Towards this end, the Central Training Institute, Mawdiangdiang is being developed to function as a hub for Disaster Management Training for the entire State. Through the ongoing Plan Schemes of Mainstreaming Civil Defence in disaster risk reduction the dedicated specialized vehicles, rescue and training equipments have been procured. Infrastructure is being developed in Nongstoin, Williamnagar and Nongpoh to further augment the presence and reach of the organization across the State.

Election

129. The State Election Department undertakes a comprehensive set of activities pertaining to conduct of elections, registration of voters, preparation of electoral rolls, Voters education and other critical programmes under the close supervision of the Election Commission of India.

130. The National Voters Day which is celebrated regularly on the 25th January every year, endeavours to raise awareness amongst citizens about inclusive participation in election process, with the current year focusing on Empowering Young and Future Voters. Voters' awareness under the flagship programme Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) continues to be strengthened. Several innovative SVEEP campaigns and outreach activities were organized to motivate all eligible voters to enroll themselves with a view to making democracy more meaningful and participative. In 2016, Bye-Election to the Lok Sabha from 2 - Tura (ST) Constituency was successfully conducted and First five early voters in each Polling station were honoured and recognized with election medals to encourage higher voter turnout, an exercise which contributed to a high voting percentage. Electronic Stock taking of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and tracking of EVMs using mobile phone technology for better management were also initiated. State also received a National award from ECI in recognition of innovative SVEEP campaigns undertaken for raising enrolment by 3.38% in 2016.

Prisons

131. A new District Jail at Nongpoh was inaugurated in July, 2016 and construction of jails at Khliehriat, Ampati and Nongstoin also started. For speedy trial of cases to inmates in jails, video conferencing was introduced in Shillong to be followed in the remaining Districts. To improve security measures in the Shillong District Jail, CCTV were installed. SPV (Solar Photo Voltage) Power plant were proposed to be constructed in all the district jails, to reduce consumption of electricity.

Printing & Stationery

132. Under the modernization process, the ongoing phasing out of the old and redundant machineries in the Government Presses at Shillong, Tura and Jowai is being continued by replacing with the digital production machines to cope up with the printing requirement of the Government offices of the State.
133. Hon'ble Members, I have come to the conclusion of my Speech before this august House. This privilege has been exercised by me as per the Constitutional obligation that is bestowed upon me. I have highlighted various initiatives and interventions, programmes and achievements of my Government and I wish that these will be diligently deliberated upon by the Hon'ble Members of this august House ushering new hope upon the citizens and driving development of the State to a bright future.

Jai Hind

Khublei

Mitela