



MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

ADDRESS

BY

**SHRI GANGA PRASAD**

GOVERNOR OF MEGHALAYA

16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

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

1. I am indeed honoured to address for the first time to the newly elected Members of this newly constituted August House after the General election of the State Legislative Assembly and I extend my warm greetings to all the distinguished Members.

2. I am immensely happy to learn that the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly has an admirable tradition of maintaining high degree of decorum and dignity in the conduct of its proceedings. I urge upon all of you to carry this tradition forward and maintain the legacy of this August House.

3. As we are ushering of new term of this August House, many new initiatives and programmes will be embarked and manifested in the coming years. The policies and programmes of my government will be highlighted and also of how it will be carried forward setting a new benchmark for development and prosperity. I am sure that through our collective efforts, our State would be able to make rapid strides towards empowering its people in realizing their dreams.

**Political**

4. The law and order situation in the state is, by and large, peaceful. All major festivals were celebrated with traditional fervor and gaiety and without any untoward incidents. The internal security situation has also significantly improved in the State. The State Police in collaboration with Central Forces have done a commendable job despite facing constraints of difficult terrain and poor communication infrastructure. This has led to a large number of arrests and surrender of militants and other criminal gangs as well as recovery of huge cache of arms and ammunition. Recently on 12-03-2018 eight senior cadres of GNLA have surrendered. The Government's recent approach to facilitate surrendered cadres of

different militant organizations to take advantage of the government rehabilitation package and assimilate in the national mainstream by involving the Church and community leaders with the aid of the District Administration and Police have yielded positive results.

5. The areas of differences along the Assam-Meghalaya border are being monitored continuously. Efforts are on to solve these differences and effective mechanisms at the level of Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of both the States have been created for securing a permanent solution to the issue. The administrations at the district and local levels of both the States have on many occasions actively resolved problems along the inter-state border thereby ensuring peace and order in the areas of differences.

6. The situation in the international border remained peaceful due to improved relations with the neighboring country. The State is committed to complete the remaining fencing on the international Border at a fast pace by taking people into confidence to effectively contain influx of Bangladeshi nationals and trans-border movement and activities of militants and anti-social elements. The State Government is also in the process of implementing a new initiative of creating facilitation centers at various entry and exit points on the interstate border with Assam to check the entry of illegal migrants and other suspicious persons into Meghalaya.

## **Home**

7. Capacity and competence building programmes have been organized to equip Investigating Officers for professional handling of cases on crime against women and children. Workshops and programmes on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act & Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act and Gender sensitization were conducted for Investigating Officers and cadre course personnel. Awareness Campaigns have also been conducted by the District Superintendents of Police on laws relating to crime against women and children.

8. Special Juvenile Police Units have been set up in all the District Headquarters headed by the Superintendents of Police of

the concerned Districts. Special Police Officers under the provisions of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 have been notified. The Special Superintendent of Police, CID has been notified as the Nodal Officer on trafficking of Women and Children and all the Superintendents of Police in the Districts have been notified as Nodal Officers for the purpose in their respective District. The Anti Human Trafficking Unit has been set up in the Districts of East Khasi Hills, Ri Bhoi, West Jaintia Hills and West Garo Hills. The State Police website regularly posts useful safety tips for women. The 181 Women Helpline is functional in the State with its head office at the Directorate of Social Welfare, Meghalaya. Track the Missing Child Portal has also been implemented in the State. One Stop Crisis Centre has been set up at the Ganesh Das Hospital for victims of sexual assault.

9. To address crime in society and to bring the police closer to the people, the Government of Meghalaya has created 18 (eighteen) new Police Stations. To ensure supervision of crime at close quarters, in particular crime against women and children four post of Sub-Divisional Police Officers for the newly created Civil Sub-Divisions have been sanctioned by the Government and officers have been put in place. The Government has also taken steps to strengthen the Forensic Science Laboratory and funds have been sanctioned for the procurement of equipment required for the DNA Lab.

## **Law**

10. To ensure expeditious and fair trial of cases Judiciary has been separated from the Executive in 7 (seven) Districts. The permanent Court building at Nongstoin has been inaugurated and construction of the permanent Court buildings at Tura and Williamnagar is in the final stage of completion. In remaining 4 (four) Districts where separation is yet to take place, Court Rooms have been made ready that is at Resubelpara, Baghmara, Khliehriat and Mawkyrwat. Construction of permanent court buildings and residential quarters for Judicial Officers at Mairang, Amlarem, Sohra, Mawkyrwat and

Ampati has started. In respect of Jowai, land will be finalized shortly.

11. The Foundation stone for the Meghalaya Judicial Academy has been laid to build permanent infrastructure and training facilities for imparting training and other functions by the Academy.

### **Planning**

12. The assistance received from the North Eastern Council under the NEC Regional Plan Scheme was Rs. 45.98 crore during 2017-18 as against the release of Rs. 41.96 crore during 2016-17. The funds received from the Ministry of DoNER under the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources was Rs. 84.85 crore in 2017-18 as against Rs. 76.98 crore in 2016-17.

13. Under the Externally Aided Project (EAP), two projects, namely, the Community Led Eco-System Management Project (CLEMP) which aims at management of micro-sheds that are not covered under Integrated Watershed Management Programme to reverse progressive deforestation, unscientific quarrying and mining and stabilize critically important hydrological services at the village level in the State and the Integrated Transport Sector Development Project for Improvement of Livelihood and Empowerment of Women in Remote Tribal Areas which stressed upon road connectivity have been cleared by the Ministry for implementation in the State.

14. During 2016-17 the advance estimate for the Gross State Domestic Product at current market price was Rs. 25,765.96 crore showing an increase growth of 9.28 % over previous years. Primary sector accounts for 20.60%, secondary sector contribution accounts for 27.92% while the contribution of the service sector stands at 51.49%. The per capita GSDP of the State at current price for the year 2016-17 (Adv) stood at Rs. 77,121.

15. Under Science & Technology, the construction of Innovation Hub and Digital Planetarium is expected to be completed by 2018-19.

## **Statistics, Programme Implementation & Evaluation**

16. The State is constantly giving importance of monitoring and evaluation of various schemes and projects for benefit of the masses. The entire work of monitoring is being carried out through review meetings and conduct of field inspections. Different Committees have also been constituted at the State level to monitor the programmes. Evaluation Studies were undertaken on some selected programmes by outsourcing external agency.

17. The Meghalaya Community Participation and Public Services Social Audit Act, 2017 was enacted which is the first of its kind in the Country. The objectives of the said Act are to facilitate "Concurrent Audit" of development programmes and public services and to establish a systematic concurrent audit system by involving the trained Civil Society Organizations. Under the Act the State Government shall have the overall responsibility to take follow up action on the findings of social audit. The Act provides for public hearing for effective redress of the grievances raised therein and for initiating time bound corrective measures on the findings.

## **Finance**

18. Government has implemented the Fifth Meghalaya Pay Commission recommendations for the State Government Employees w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2017. On-line Computerization of Treasuries has been operationalized in all the State Treasuries under e-Governance Programme. Initiatives have also been taken by the Government on e-Payments through "Meg e-Payment" portal, which is available to the public anytime and anywhere. The Public Financial Management System (PFMS) is being implemented, which is a web based online transaction system for fund management and e-payment to implementing agencies and

beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). After the implementation of Cyber Treasury, Government Receipts of taxes etc. can be paid online without going to Treasury Offices.

19. The ADB assisted project "Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya" to improve the quality, delivery and access to Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and Technical and Vocational Skill Development Training in the State has been progressing steadily. The project envisages creating and upgrading education infrastructure in 117 schools to Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) standard and introducing smart classrooms and digital content, upgradation of 8 ITIs, skilling of 45,800 youths for better employability in various job oriented sectors and training of 3,500 teachers.

### **Excise. Registration. Taxation & Stamps**

20. The major milestone is the successful implementation of the Goods and Services Tax from 1.7.2017 alongwith the rest of the Country. This will usher in a tax payers' friendly regime and provide a more efficient tax administration which will play a pivotal role in bringing the much needed revenue for the State exchequer. Taxation check gates have been de-notified to provide seamless movement of goods across the inter-State border as envisaged in the new tax regime.

21. To achieve the targeted revenue collection and to generate additional collection to the exchequer, my Government has been pro-active in tax planning and has identified areas that needed more focus and improvement including taking remedial steps like direct verification of records of major tax payers which act as a deterrent mechanism in tax evasion. Taxation authorities were instructed to lay more stress on scrutiny and assessment of tax returns filed by dealers to unlock revenue.

22. The Department has also introduced various measures to increase revenue collection by raising the rate of license fee of wine shops, bars, bottling plants, brewery, distilleries and late closing fee.

## **Water Resources**

23. My Government will continue to give attention on the Integrated Water Resources Management. Under this initiative climate change adaptation through spring shed development, capacity building, training and awareness programme monitoring and evaluation, impact assignment are being promoted.

24. There will also be the initiative which is likely to get upscaled substantially in the coming year supported Jalkund Programme, a new project proposed under Externally Aided Project. Multipurpose Reservoirs are being promoted as these will have multiple impact in Agriculture, Pisciculture and other uses like domestic purpose, Tourism etc.

25. Under the scheme 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana' whose moto is 'Har Khet Ko Pani' and per drop more crop the department is trying its best to implement the scheme for bringing much more to the desired rural prosperity.

26. It is also proposed to implement the National Hydrology Project with 100% Central assistance from the Centre from this current financial year, where the Hydrology data and information can be made available in the State.

27. The importance and contribution of Ground Water has gone up in the recent years with increased demand for water for drinking, irrigation and industrial use. To comprehend the complex nature of occurrence of Ground Water, its scientific monitoring, exploration and management is required where setting up of a Ground Water Cell under Water Resources Department is needed in the State. The Government will also frame appropriate policy on rain water harvesting.

## Agriculture & Horticulture

28. *In an effort to address food security in the State, the Department is focusing on increasing production and productivity of foodgrains, pulses etc; and double farmers' income by supporting schemes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana etc; for effective harvesting and management of rain water and its delivery mechanism. Latest technical know-how on seed production, compost production, marketing and agriculture production etc; through various schemes such as State Rice Mission, National Food Security Mission, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and other plan schemes etc; have also been put into place and efforts are on to bring fallow lands under other winter crops. The use of Agricultural Machineries such as Power Tillers, Power Pumps, and Paddy Threshers etc; has also been popularized at subsidized rate to bring farm machinery within the reach of small and marginal farmers of the state. The Agriculture Technology Management Agency is being operationalized across the State to strengthen the extension network and bring improved agriculture practices to the farmers' doorstep. The Department has recently launched the evacuation and facilitation service called "Integrated Technology Enabled Agri Management System or ITEAMS" to address the critical issues for marketing of farmers produce in the most transparent and effective manner.*

29. *Focus is also given to organic farming to mitigate health related problems and to help farmers tap into the growing organic market through popularization of bio-fertilisers compost making and bio-control practices for plant health management through the method of "Berkeley Method of 18 days Compost making" technique aimed at covering as many farmers across the State as possible in convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.*

30. The Horticulture potential and economic viability of crops can be demonstrated through various developmental programmes implemented by the Directorate of Horticulture. High value crops like strawberry, dragon fruit, kiwi, etc; have been identified through the Special Plan Fund, and farmers have been motivated to cultivate such crops to uplift their economic status. The State Mission Organic scheme implemented since 2013 2014 envisages that by 2020, a physical target of 2,00,000 ha is expected to be converted to organic farming. This target has been initiated by Organic adoption and Organic Certification of a cluster of 40,000 ha area in which a total of 41,212 farmers have been benefited. This concept and technology will eventually halt and even reverse the trend of migration from rural areas to urban centers. Thus the main drivers to empower the rural economy would be organic culture, food processing and eco-tourism. The scheme Mission Organic Value Chain Development which aims to link growers with consumers in a certified organic plantation in value chain mode-starting from the inputs like seeds, certification to creation of facilities for collection, aggregation processing, marketing and brand building. The Centrally sponsored scheme National Mission for Oilseed and Oil Palm aims to enhance production of edible oil source from Tree-Borne Oilseed by utilizing wastelands, watersheds and fallow land enabling the farmers to have a supplementary source of income. Under Rahtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana scheme, area expansion of two major crops, turmeric and black pepper has been undertaken at specific location and farmers are given technical guidance to maximize their yield, thereby uplifting their economic condition. The Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States, in Meghalaya this scheme were implemented since 2011-12 with a target area for protected cultivation like green house structure and shade is 4.0 ha. During the current year, 2017-18, 291 nos. of Post - harvest Management units and 19 nos. of Functional Packing houses have been implemented so far. My Government also plans to come up with a policy to promote food processing sector by setting up Mega Food Parks and Clusters to ensure that our farmers get better price and added value to their produce.

## **Soil & Water Conservation**

31. The Soil & Water Conservation Department is implementing various schemes to conserve the natural resources and to uplift the livelihood of the rural poor through various schemes. Various projects aim to conserve the natural vegetation, restoration and improvement of land and water. It also focuses of rejuvenation of natural resources and ecosystem and involving community.

Under the 'Har Khet Ko Pani' component of PMKSY (Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana), 42 numbers of Minor Irrigation Projects are being implemented.

## **Fisheries**

32. The Fisheries Department under the Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission (MSAM) has been able to generate a fish production of approximately 12,300 MT annually. The Department thrives its best to improve the fish seed production as well. Greater thrust has been made in this sector with the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Blue Revolution". Various programmes viz., establishment of sanctuaries, renovation of ponds of Flood Affected Farmers, training and capacity building, Establishment of units of fish seeds and fish feed production, value chain and marketing linkages are in the pipe line. The most important programme under the Blue Revolution is the establishment of the Re-circulatory Aquaculture System which will be taken up within this year itself.

## **Animal Husbandry & Veterinary**

33. Animal Husbandry and Veterinary sector will endeavour the production, processing and marketing of Livestock and Poultry products i.e meat, milk and egg; animal Health Care and prevention of animal diseases. Besides, it will continue to provide the training and extension support to all Livestock and Poultry farmers and also create awareness programmes at the village level.

34. The growth of this sector depends on Animal Health Care and to strengthen this area, health camps under National Livestock Mission will continue to be conducted in all Blocks of the State with further enhancement in supply of vaccines.

35. To increase production and meet the shortage of protein from animal origin, this Sector has taken up activities like strengthening of Poultry Farm at Masighat and Pig Farm at Baghmara under National Livestock Mission. Activities like strengthening of Pig Farm at Pynursla and Pig Farm at Nongpiur including conservation of local indigenous pigs under National Livestock Mission are being taken up.

36. The Officers and para-vets of the Department were sent for specialized Training. New Vocational Training Centres at Manai will start shortly, and whereas in Upper Shillong and Williamnagar has started Training and Skill Development classes from 2017 and Veterinary Field Assistant, Training Institute, Kyrdemkulai will be upgraded in infrastructure and Technology.

37. Under the Meghalaya State Livestock Mission 2017-22, in convergence with MGNREGS and C&RD Department, a total of 1.95 lakh households in the State have been benefited from this project. 50,000 households will be covered in the first year of the Mission. This Mission will not only address the demand and supply gap in meat production but will improve the livelihood of the rural populace and to some extent reduce rural to urban migration.

### **Forests & Environment**

38. The Forest Survey Report 2017 indicates that 76.45% of Meghalaya is under forest and tree cover. In 2016-17, State Sector development schemes amounting to Rs. 2,570.17 lakh, and various Centrally Sponsored Schemes with an outlay of Rs. 400.50 lakh were implemented.

39. Steps have been taken to restructure the administrative set up. A new Forest Division has been established at Williamnagar for more effective protection of forests in East and North Garo Hills. The West Khasi Hills Social Forestry Division has been reorganized to also function as a Territorial Division for the West and South West Khasi Hill Districts.

40. Community participation in scientific wildlife management is on the increase with the number of Wildlife Community Reserves increasing to 63 (sixty three) covering 61.56 sq. kms.

41. A web portal for online submission of applications seeking 'Consent to Establish' and 'Consent to Operate' has been launched by the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board. To ensure strict compliance with the environmental norms, the Board has initiated real-time online monitoring of 15 highly polluting industries in the State. With financial assistance from the Central Pollution Control Board, a network of 10 ambient air quality monitoring stations and 54 water quality monitoring stations has also been established. This network is proposed to be further expanded to cover other areas.

42. To ensure sustainable harvesting of timber, Working Schemes for 32 private & community forests in Jaintia Hills have been prepared in collaboration with the Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council and have received approval of the Central Government. Comprehensive Forest Inventory has been completed for the Khasi Hills Districts. GPS mapping of 125 Sacred Groves has been done and spatial database created in GIS. Forest inventory work of first set of 20 Sacred Groves has also been completed and a report of the same has been published.

43. To preserve the unique natural and cultural wealth, after consultation with the locals it is proposed to include about 337 Km<sup>2</sup> areas under UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

### **Sericulture & Weaving**

44. To enhance the raw silk & seed production in the seed farm, the department will continue to take up schemes benefitting

sericulture farmers & for areas expansion of nurseries, expansion of host plantation and maintenance of existing plants. Assistance for construction of Technical building in muga seed farms at Garobadha is assisted under RKVY scheme.

45. Assistance under NERTPS i.e. (IBSDP & ISDP) to farmers is being assisted to 3 districts East Garo Hills for Eri, West Garo Hills for Muga and West Jaintia Hills for Mulberry that is, under ISDP (Integrated Sericulture Development Project) for Eri and Muga while under IBSDP (Intensive Bivoltine Sericulture Development programme) for mulberry. The components assisted to farmers under the Central Silk Board are for a host of activities.

46. In handloom sector, the Department is implementing various on- going State Plan schemes which focus on modern techniques and technologies available. The Department is implementing the scheme "Income Generation for Handloom Weavers" which will provide assistance to the deserve weavers on raw materials and technological upgradation. Almost 15,000 numbers of weavers will be covered under this scheme.

47. In this Five Year Plan, 72 small handloom clusters and 3 nos. of Block Level Handloom Clusters under centrally sponsored scheme is being implemented. About 150 Textile Designers and Cluster Development Executives have been engaged for the period of 3 years and more than 5,000 weavers will be benefitted. Various strategies are being adopted to popularize the Handloom products through e-commerce, product diversification, fashion shows etc.

### **Community & Rural Development**

48. The Department has witnessed many developmental activities through various programmes. MGNREGA is one of the important scheme which aims to provide Livelihood Security for the rural poor through creation of durable assets on individual land. The selection of beneficiaries for creation of such assets is being done through the bottom 20 approach. Steps have been taken to identify VECs with 300 or more households which will provide multiple

works orders in order to generate more employment and assets which will also bring more income to the poor families.

49. Agriculture activities and Natural Resource Works such as, minor irrigation, plantation, soil and water conservation, ground water recharge, farm ponds, drainage, etc. are taken up under MGNREGA to improve the ecological balance in the rural areas. These activities are also converged with concerned Departments like Agriculture, Soil & Water Conservation, Public Health Engineering, Fisheries, Social Welfare, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary, Horticulture, Forest Department, MBDA and Sericulture Departments.

50. Under this scheme, all Job Card holders are also encouraged to form Self Help Groups (SHGs) within the VEC separately for men and women. Strengthening of village institutions are being taken up under Department's initiative called Community Leadership and Institutional Building and Promotion Programme.

51. Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) which aims to provide pucca house to all houseless households and households living in kutchha and dilapidated houses in rural areas by 2022 will continue with convergence of SBM and MGNREGA and also with PMUY.

52. National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) is being implemented in 21 blocks to reduce poverty by enabling the poor households to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities so as to improve their livelihoods on a sustainable basis. Another 18 Blocks are covered under Livelihood Intervention For Entrepreneurship (LIFE) of the State Government. Special fund for promoting young entrepreneurs in Meghalaya will be created.

53. Other flagship programmes of GOI which are Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission will continue.

54. The Social Security Schemes such as Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS), Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS), Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme (IGNDPS) and National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) are also being given priority by the Department. The assistance under IGNOAPS has been enhanced from Rs.250/- to Rs.500/- per month per beneficiary for beneficiaries below 80 years of age. Further, pension for IGNWPS and IGNDPS beneficiaries has been enhanced from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/- per month per beneficiary. Other State schemes like SRWP and CMSRDF will also continue to be implemented.

### **Cooperation**

55. The Cooperation Department is striving towards making the Cooperative Movement in the State stronger and more vibrant. Presently, there are 1,545 numbers of registered Cooperative Societies as on 31-03-2017 with a membership strength of 1.80 lakhs. Cooperative Societies are undertaking various economic livelihood activities ranging from agriculture, allied-agricultural activities, processing, marketing and presently Rural Tourism projects at the grassroots level. The total paid up capital of all the 1,545 registered Cooperative Societies stood at Rs. 10,835.59 lakh as on 31-03-2017 with a working capital of Rs.3,26,998.18 lakh and a business turnover of Rs. 35,471.71 lakh.

56. In addition, in collaboration with the Meghalaya Village Development and Promotion Tourism Cooperative Society Ltd at the State Level, the Department has taken step to promote Rural Tourism through the Primary Cooperative Societies at the grassroots level with the objective of tapping the eco-friendly nature of the State and expose the indigenous activities through tourism. Nearly 25 (twenty five) Cooperative societies have taken up development and promotion of Rural Tourism. To strengthen the base level institutions, the Department in collaboration with the MeghaLAMP, an IFAD Funded Project has taken up promotion of Integrated village Cooperative Societies for Financial Inclusion and access to Market Linkages. Out of the target for 200IVCS,

altogether 54 (fifty four) IVCS have already been organized and registered in the State.

57. The Department has also facilitated the registered Cooperative Societies for availing funds under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the North Eastern Council. Government will continue its contribution to Share Capital of registered Cooperative Societies to strengthen their Capital base for diversification of their business activities. Convergence mode with line Departments is being taken up by the Department to facilitate the Primary Cooperative Societies for availing financial support to sustain their activities.

### **Border Area Development**

58. The Border Areas Development Department is 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 being implemented are to improve road connectivity, Livelihood, provide desired infrastructure, Community facilities, play grounds, market stalls etc. in the International border as well as in the inter-state border. The Special Central Assistance (SCA) and the Inter-State Border Areas Development Programme (BADP) were and will be implemented in a focused manner reflecting the priorities of the people.

59. The Department constructed village roads with the aim and objective to improve road connectivity to enable the people to transport their agricultural products, to improve their economic activities and raise their standard of living. The schemes of scholarships and stipends will also continue to be provided to students hailing from international border villages.

## **District Council Affairs**

60. The State Government shall continue to support the Autonomous District Councils in discharging their Constitutional obligation and duties under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India to meet the needs and aspirations of the indigenous tribal population of the State. Grant-in-aid of Rs. 71.66 crore sanctioned by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure for the year 2017-2018 for areas not covered under Part IX and IXA of the Constitution of India has been released to the 3 (three) Autonomous District Councils. According to the Ministry of Finance's guidelines the grant is to be used to support and strengthen the delivery of basic civic services including water supply, sanitation including septic management, sewage and solid waste management, storm water drainage, maintenance of community assets, maintenance of roads, footpaths, street-lighting, burial and cremation grounds and any other basic service within the functions assigned to the District Councils. Many Schemes of the District Councils are now being taken up with funds received under such grants.

## **Public Health Engineering**

61. The Government is committed to provide adequate safe drinking water and sanitation facilities to all the inhabitants of the State. In 2016-17, 82 slipped back habitations, 23 schools and 15 ICDS were covered with drinking water supply while 20 Rural Water Supply Schemes covering 66 habitations were sanctioned under State Plan and works are in progress. As for 2017-18, the Government is striving hard to provide water supply to all targeted habitations and schools.

62. In the urban areas, the Government is implementing the following Schemes viz; Greater Shillong water supply project (Phase III) sanctioned under JNNURM (now AMRUT); Nongstoin Urban Water Supply Scheme for augmentation of Water Supply to Nongstoin under State Plan; Augmentation of Tura Phase I and II

Water Supply Scheme under 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Award and Greater Ampati water supply scheme under State Plan.

63. The Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) Programme was launched in the State along with the rest of the Country on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2014, which aims at improving the overall quality of life of the people in Rural Villages by ensuring accessibility to Safe Sanitation through provision of adequate and affordable sanitation facilities and targeting at converting them into Open Defecation Free (ODF) Villages. All the 11 districts of the State have become Open Defecation Free (ODF) districts and soon Meghalaya will be declared as an Open Defecation Free (ODF) State.

### **Public Works Department**

64. Roads infrastructure in the State is the lifeline and the main attribute that contributes significantly towards sustaining economic development and overall growth of the State. The Government of India had sanctioned various projects during the successive years for improvement of existing National Highways and construction of newly declared NHs. 2(two) Highway projects have been completed, i.e 2- lane of Shillong - Nongstoin up to Tura and Construction of two lane Jowai Bypass. Construction of Roads to unconnected Rural habitations as well as providing blacktopping of the existing earthen and graveled road are taken up under State Plan, Centrally Sponsored schemes and Central Sector Schemes.

65. The State receives fund from Central Government for development of Road infrastructure in the State under NEC schemes, Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR), Ministry of DONER, Central Road Fund (CRF), Inter State Connectivity (ISC) from MORT&H as well as from Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MOTA).

66. Under programme to 2012-2013. an amount of Rs.272.28 crore was sanctioned to connect 227 eligible habitations having a total road length of 634.85 Km. Till date 217 habitations have been connected with a completed road length of 621.13 Km. Under

World Bank funded PMGSY Rural Roads Project of Rs.810.42 crore for construction of 290 Nos. road projects of length 1,112.839 Km of roads including bridges with a target to connect 262 eligible habitations has been received. Till date 107 Nos. of road works have been completed covering a total length of 525.577 Km and 79 Nos. of habitations have been connected.

67. 61 Nos. of road projects for a total length of 267.593 Km including bridges have sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 200.12 crore to connect 23 Nos. of eligible habitations. 77 nos. of proposals under Batch - II of 2017 - 18 have been submitted to the Ministry of Rural at the estimated cost of Rs. 261.65 crore.

68. One Asian Development Bank funded project for Improvement and Upgradation of road from. Garobadha to Dalu under North Eastern Roads Investment Program amounting to Rs. 201.14 crore is nearing completion. The Building Wing of the Public Works Department (Buildings) is the main executing agency of different Departments' buildings construction in the State of Meghalaya. It also under takes maintenance of important Government buildings.

## **Transport**

69. Connectivity is a vital link to progress and development of the State. A memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the State Government with the Government of India under the Regional Connectivity Scheme - UDAN for the un-served Umroi (Shillong) airport and the under-served Baljek (Tura) airport is also under active consideration of the Government of India for up-gradation. Land had also been identified at Mawdiangdiang, Shillong and Tura for construction of a civil helipad, in order to safeguard the safety and road users, the State has constituted the State Council for Road Safety and a corpus fund of Rs.1.00 crore has been approved to enhance the safety on the National Highways and State Highways. Road Safety Week will be observed throughout the year with active involvement of schools, colleges, civil society and other stakeholders through awareness campaign in seminars, workshops, road show, short films, etc. The Meghalaya Transport Corporation

(MTC) will be comprehensively revamped. Test Pollution Centres will be set up along the major State Highways and National Highways to reduce pollution. Motor driving and testing institute has been proposed under this current year. Revision of rates on new registration and renewal of vehicles has been notified. On-line payment gateway and dealer point registration has been upgraded with introduction of Vahan-4 and Sarthi in the transport network.

## **Power**

70. After the Completion and Commissioning of the New Umtru (2x20 MW) in July, 2017 there are at present 2(two) Hydro Projects being taken up namely, Lakroh SHP (1.5 MW) expected to be completed by September, 2018 and Ganol HEP (3x7.5MW) expected to be completed by March, 2019. The State Government has also accorded Administrative Approval for construction of the Riango SHP (3 MW) which is expected to be implemented soon. The Government is in the process of tying up funding for the Renovation, Modernisation and Upgradation of the 2x30 MW Umiam Stage III Power Project under the Externally Aided Project Scheme for Implementation during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan period. With the ultimate aim of achieving 100 % village and rural household electrification in the State, the Government is augmenting and strengthening the Power Distribution network in rural areas with the implementation of Projects under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY). 1,084 villages will be electrified through Grid and off-Grid solution in the State of Meghalaya. The Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) being implemented in urban areas will improve the services to consumers with the application of Information Technology (IT) and strengthening of the 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 substations under the North Eastern Region Power System Improvement Project (NERPSIP) with funding from the World Bank and the Government of India. The Inter State connectivity is at 400 KV, 220 KV and 132 KV level.

71. Under the New and Renewable Energy component, Electrification of 28 remote villages through SPV Home Lighting System (LED Based) and SPV Street Lighting System (LED Based) have been completed. 1,000 nos. and along with 5 nos. of 50 Kwp each of SPV Power Plant have been installed under Amlarem Civil Sub- Division and 700 nos. of SPY Street Lighting System along with 5 nos. of 50 Kwp each SPY Power Plant have been installed under Dadenggre Civil Sub-Division. Under Saubhagya Scheme of the Government of India, my Government will work towards providing power connectivity to all.

### **Health & Family Welfare**

72. Government provides Health Care Services to the people of the State through the institutions of Hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHCs), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Sub-Centres and Dispensaries. The coverage under quality health care services has been upgraded by the commissioning of Ampati 100 bedded Hospital, Mawphlang Community Health Centre, Wahkaji PHC, Khonjoy PHC, Damas PHC, Manikganj PHC. Other institutions for which foundation stones have been laid are Shillong Medical College on PPP mode, 50 bedded Maternity College and Child Hospital at Umniangbyrnai Parila, Ri Bhoi District, 50 bedded Maternity and Child Hospital at Mahendraganj, South West Garo Hills and Umsaw Nongbri PHC in Ri Bhoi District.

73. AMRIT (Affordable Medicines & Reliable Implant Treatment) Pharmacy has been set up at Civil Hospital, Shillong during September 2017. This enable patient to procure medicines at very affordable rates thereby reducing the strain of out of pocket expenses on Health Care Services.

74. The National AIDS Control Programme (NACP- Phase IV) is being implemented since 2013, with the objective of halting and reversing the incidence of the disease by integrating programmes for prevention, care support and treatment. There is one Integrated Counseling and Testing Centre (ICTC) at Shillong covering the

Khasi and Jaintia Hills Districts and the other is at Tura covering all the Districts of Garo Hills region.

75. The Meghalaya State Vector Borne Diseases Control Society has been instituted to address the Mortality and Morbidity of Vector Borne Diseases. There has been a decrease in Malaria Cases by 48.41%. Bivalent Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kits have been introduced to facilitate diagnosis of Malaria cases on the spot with prompt and complete treatment. ASHAs have been trained to perform the Bivalent RDT.

76. Programmatic management of Drug Resistant TB for the treatment of Multi-Drug Resistant TB continues to be implemented. The rising trend of Multi-Drug Resistant TB is alarming with more than 500 patients detected since it launching in 2012.

77. The General Laboratory at Pasteur Institute, Shillong consisting of the departments of Pathology, Microbiology, Biochemistry and Virology Section shall continue to perform different clinical tests for specimens received from Hospitals and private clinics.

78. The Regional Blood Bank at Pasteur Institute which is the first licensed blood bank (Mother Blood Bank) in the state will continue to provide round the clock services to cater to the requirement of all government and private hospitals. The Regional Blood Bank, Pasteur Institute conducts Voluntary Blood Donation Camps in collaboration with various organizations to be able to meet the demand and maintain adequate stock of blood.

79. Government will continue to implement the National Health Mission with greater focus on the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child health and Adolescent Services (RMNCH + A) and control of Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases. Some new programmes have been taken up under the National Health Mission such as, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishore Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), Nutritional Rehabilitation Centre (NRCs), Infant & Young Child Feeding (ICYF), National Urban Health Mission (NUHM) and National

Programme for Control & Prevention of Diabetes, Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Strokes (NPCDS).

80. To reduce Maternal Mortality significantly, a new initiative has been launched under the name of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA). This new initiative is being implemented in the State to ensure that no high risk pregnancy goes undetected and if needed referral is made to Tertiary Health Care Services.

81. To encourage quality assurance, Government implements the key initiative for building quality culture through "rewards and recognition" and towards this objective; handholding support from the State and District Administration by way of incentive money is provided.

82. KAYAKALP is being implemented in order to promote cleanliness, hygiene and infection control practices in public health care facilities and to inculcate a behaviour related to clean environment. This includes the KAYAKALP Award of Rs. 50,00,000/- and another will get the commendation award of Rs. 3,00,000/-.

83. Megha Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) is a universal health insurance scheme (UHIS) in the State of Meghalaya, designed in convergence mode with the Government of India's existing health insurance scheme - Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) including existing categories of RSBY beneficiaries but excluding state and central government employees. The launch of MHIS III is however, boosted by improvements highlighted as follows viz; Increase in the Insurance Cover from Rs. 2,00,000/- to Rs. 2,80,000/-. Maximum one time hospitalization for critical care has been increased to Rs. 2,50,000/- from Rs. 1,70,000/-, Introduction of the additional senior citizen cover of Rs. 30,000/- for each senior citizen in an RSBY Beneficiary Family Unit, Utilizing the electoral database of January 2016 and integrating latest MGNREGA, Building and other Construction Workers (BoCW) and Domestic Workers' database, Introduction of the Reinsurance concept for Insurance Company, Enhancement in package rates by 10% in order to ensure reduction of out-of-pocket expenditure of patients,

Increase in the accountability of Insurance Company towards increasing IEC/Awareness activities across the state by mandating the Insurance Company to spend 2% of Premium on IEC/awareness and Training Activities. Enrolment under MHIS Phase 3 concluded on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017.

## **Education**

84. My Government will continue to take steps to improve quality in educational system by introducing pre-service teacher's training and training to all untrained teachers as per the latest amendment to the Right to Education Act. Under the Supporting Human Capital initiative in Meghalaya, Government Aided Secondary and Higher Secondary schools are being upgraded by providing new classrooms, toilets, smart classrooms and more than 3,500 teachers will also undergo training in improved pedagogy methods to make classroom learning more interesting. Similarly under RMSA partnership with various NGOs from the Education space has been made to provide innovative teaching methods. The Seven District Institute of Education and Training (DIET)s are conducting pre service Diploma in Elementary Education (D.EL.Ed) to all interested youths and a stipend of Rs. 5,000/-per month is also granted to them.

85. The Government is providing Computer, Scanners, Printers with educational content software under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Programme to Government Aided Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools in order to promote Computer Literacy amongst the students and to enable them to utilize latest technology teaching aids. Under the Education Facility Improvement Intervention, the Government Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools are being provided with quality classroom furniture and science laboratory equipment to create a better learning environment.

86. The Government is in the process of setting up Residential schools and girls hostels at educationally backward blocks as well as rural hostels in selected district headquarters to encourage rural

boys and girls to pursue higher studies by offering them subsidized accommodation. The Government has been able to reduce the drop-out rate through the intervention under SSA, RMSA and Mid-Day Meals programme. The State is also developing a School Improvement Plan (SIP) in line with the National Programme on School Standards and Evaluation (NPSSE) to evaluate each school as an Institution and to create a culture of self-progress and accountability for better performance.

87. The Government will continue to shoulder the responsibilities in management of Pine Mount School Shillong, the three Public Schools and the three Polytechnics at Shillong, Tura and Jowai respectively. One more Polytechnic at Williamnagar have been sanctioned and inaugurated and the academic session will commence soon. The setting up of Polytechnics in other districts is also being initiated by the Government.

88. Under RUSA, two new professional colleges, the Shillong Government college of Engineer, Shillong and the college of Architecture and Urban planning Tura, have been set up recently and all the NAAC accredited colleges have been improved under RUSA funding in the State. The Government will work for setting up of Community Colleges and strengthening the existing ones across the State. Government will also examine the matter relating to bringing up the new education policy.

### **Sports & Youth Affairs**

89. Government has taken active steps to facilitate the development of Sports and youth activities, through nurturing and channelizing of the youth for full realization of their potential. Sports Policy & Youth Policy of the State are under active consideration.

90. The State has taken up infrastructure projects in stadiums, playfields, Sports Hostels etc; across the state which will be a lasting legacy for future national and international sporting activities, training and coaching camps, as well as to build up the sporting talent in the State.

91. The Government of Meghalaya, Indian Olympic Association and Meghalaya State Olympic Association signed the Host City Contract for National Games 2022 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 in Shillong. Preparations for holding the National Games are in progress. The Government is committed that the National Games are held in a grand and successful manner which coincides with the celebration of 50 Years of our Statehood.

92. The Government is committed that this fund is mobilized to provide sports infrastructure in rural areas at the District and Block level and also set up training institutes in different sports discipline.

### **Social Welfare**

93. Government welfare programs for women, children, the aged and infirm including the persons with disabilities have been continued in a war-footing. In this regard, construction of the working women's hostels under Special Plan Assistance at Shillong and Tura had been undertaken. The construction of 3 (three) girls' hostels under Special Plan Assistance under Resubelpara, Betasing and Mawsynram are also nearing completion including the girls' hostel at Mendipathar, Nongstoin, Mawkyrwat and Tura.

94. The Chief Minister Social Assistance Scheme was extended to 30,284 single mothers, 53,573 infirms and 11,695 persons with disabilities. The wedding assistance scheme to 340 orphan girls of marriageable age with a financial assistance of Rs. 15,000/-as a onetime grant is still continuing. Financial assistance for medical treatment of the aged is being provided to 681 destitute aged persons and financial assistance for child welfare to eligible voluntary organizations involved in orphanage and creches to the State Government Employees Children are being continued.

95. Under the Accessible India Campaign, 24 Government buildings have been identified for creation of barrier-free environment for persons with disabilities. Early Diagnostic Intervention Centres at Shillong, Nongstoin, Jowai and Tura have been set up and 2,695 beneficiaries with hearing impairment have benefited from these centres.

96. The State of Meghalaya has started with the generation of UDID disability certificates and UDID cards to provide a unique disability ID across the country. Various activities on seminars, workshops and training for the persons with disabilities were taken up during 2016-17.

### **Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs**

97. With the implementation of the National Food Security Act, (NFSA), 2013 with effect from February 2016, subsidized food grain has been delivered to approximately two-thirds of the State population. The NFSA population coverage is 50.87 % for Urban and 77.79 % for Rural and is based from the Socio-Economic and Caste Census 2011. To ensure transparency data of eligible beneficiaries as per NFSA has already been digitized and is displayed on the Department's website.

98. The Consumer related disputes and complaints will be redressed and continue to be addressed disposed as per the provisions of the law. For Consumers awareness of their various Rights as enshrined in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, wide publicity has been given through Consumers Campaign including holding of Consumer Awareness Programmes, observations of World & National Consumer Rights' Day involving NGOs in the programmes and through Advertisement.

99. The End-to-End Computerization of TPDS is a Plan Scheme of Government of India on cost sharing 90:10 basis with the State Government. The focus of the scheme is to address challenges such as leakages and diversion of foodgrains, fake and bogus ration cards, lack of transparency, weak grievance Redressal mechanism, etc; under 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan (2012-17).

100. Rice is also supplied to the inmates of ST/SC Hostels and vocational Training at the scale of 15 kgs per inmate per month to the SC/ST Hostels and 5 kgs per inmate per month to the Vocational Training Centre.

## **Urban Affairs**

101. The policies and programmes of Urban Affairs Department are focused 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, Special Urban Works Programme as well as Chief Minister's Special Urban Development Fund, National Urban Livelihood Mission is a Government of India scheme being implemented by the department solely with the aim of uplifting the welfare of urban poor including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

102. To address the need of proper sanitation and environment under the newly launched programme of AMRUT, fund has been approved and sanctioned for development of a Septage Management System as well as a decentralized sewerage system for two subzones in Shillong City. The improvement of Green Spaces will be initiated under the programme. Swacch 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 DPR on Housing for All Plan of Action for Shillong City has been approved. This programme is being extended in all others statutory towns.

## **Labour**

103. Modernization and up-gradation of 10 ITIs in the State are being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and ADB funded Project "Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya". The Institutional tie-up with CRISP was signed for procurement of tools and equipment of ITIs capacity building and institutional arrangement for ITI mentorship. A "State-of-the-Art" automotive centre at Government Industrial Training Institute, Tura in collaboration with TATA motors will be set up shortly once the

new building constructed under the ADB Project is completed. For the two new ITIs sanctioned by Government of India, the ITI at Ampati will commence classes in 2018 session and construction of ITI Building at Mawkyrwat will commence soon.

104. The Skill Challenge Fund (SCF) of the ADB assisted project "Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya" was established under the Meghalaya State Skill Development Society (MSSDS) to provide a flexible modality to incentivize private and public providers, and facilitate PPPs for providing quality skills training for wage employment and self-employment. Twenty-Eight procurement packages with a value of \$12.76mn were approved under the procurement plan by ADB. The packages under SCF are aimed towards generating local (self) employment within Meghalaya as well as North East Region utilizing local competency, strengths and aptitudes and opportunities. Unique skill training sectors such as integrated agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, rural technicians, market linked handloom, local tourism and native craft training along with demand-driven industrial trades have been identified. The procurement has been completed for one package for training 7,000 trainees in industrial trades for wage employment. Training will be offered in 19 centres across the 11 districts. Training in two centres has already commenced in January 2018. The other 17 centres will be operationalized in a phased manner.

105. Under the Meghalaya Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (MBOCWFB), registered construction workers are being extended maternity benefit, funeral assistance, death benefit, medical assistance, educational scholarships, assistance for marriage, etc. Insurance cover under AABY and RSBY has also been provided.

### **Mining & Geology**

106. My Government is serious on regulation of mining in the State by introducing scientific approach to protect ecology, environment and the interest of the people in accordance with the central mines and mining regulations, taking into account the

special features of the State in respect of the land tenure system and the local traditional practice of the people. To this effect, the State Government had sought exemption from the operations of Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 and Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 under Para 12A (b) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India so that these Acts do not apply in the State.

107. The State Government has framed guidelines on coal mining so that mining activities can be taken up in line with the directions of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) with an aim to ensure protection of forests, water resources and bodies, environment including the health and safety of workers.

108. The Department also continues to sponsor students in Earth Science by granting of Scholarship etc; to create interest in pursuing career related to Geology & Mining. It also caters to the requests of Universities, Colleges and Scholars from other States during their Geological field tours to the State of Meghalaya.

### **Commerce & Industries**

109. My Government is promoting and developing Industries and Enterprises. Total of 457 nos. of new units were promoted thereby generating an employment of 1,982 persons. Four new centres have been sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 1,199.00 lakh for promotion of rural based industries under the name of Rural Entrepreneurship Centres. These centres are in the development stage in four districts of West Khasi Hills, South Garo Hills, East Garo Hills and North Garo Hills to uplift rural areas and develop the skills of the rural youth and effort will be made to cover other districts also.

110. Under the Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy, 2012 a number of units have been sanctioned for assistance to enhance their sustainability and further growth both in the Micro & Small sector as well as the Large & Medium sectors.

111. Under the state award scheme, five local Handicraft Artisans have been selected and financial assistance on seed money and training has been provided to them.

112. And under the ongoing scheme of Master craftsman and the training inside and outside the state 670 nos. of artisans and 948 nos. of youths have undergone training to enhance their Skill Development under self-employment ventures.

113. Construction of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) will be completed this year. Under the continuing scheme Entrepreneurship Promotion for Women and Youth, 400 Women and 386 youth have been trained in the manufacturing of Meghalaya Souvenir and Mementos. 640 nos. of artisans and 948 nos. of youths have been trained during the year.

114. Under Apiculture Mission 5,862 bee keepers have undergone Skill Upgradation Training in collaboration with the Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship (MIE) Shillong. Bee boxes and other bee keeping equipment were distributed to 3,072 bee keepers in the State.

## **Tourism**

115. Meghalaya is gifted with immense natural beauty and rich cultural diversity. The Department had embarked on a policy to promote and develop these natural gifts keeping in mind conservation of the environment and sustainability that will percolate to all strata of society ensuring a pro people approach to tourism. Community participation in tourism projects will be encouraged to give tourists a true local feel of the tradition & culture of the State.

116. The Tourism Department provides financial assistance every year to districts for celebration of important local festivals to promote local culture to preserve & maintain their way of life. To augment the availability of rooms for tourists, the Government also provides assistance under the Meghalaya Tourism Development & Investment Promotion Scheme 2012, for setting up homestays and

resorts. The department provides scholarships to students to pursue hospitality studies in IHM Shillong and also imparts skill training programmes by partnering with professional stakeholders in the State. The trainings have been taken up in Institute of Hotel Management Shillong, Food Craft Institute, Tura and Meghalaya Tourism Development Corporation.

117. We will make concerted efforts to further market the brand of the State through focused publicity in electronic and print media and participation in fairs and festivals in different States of the country. All these efforts will bring in sustainable tourism with livelihood opportunities for the local communities.

### **Housing**

118. Under this sector, 3(three) bundles of roofing materials will be provided to improve the existing houses to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) families. Dwelling houses will be provided to the Low Income Group families in which beneficiaries will get Rs.75,000/- as financial assistance from the Government and the balance amount will have to be contributed either by the beneficiary or converged with some other schemes. During the current financial year altogether 29,406 nos. of beneficiaries will be receiving 3 (three) bundles of aluminium roofing sheets each under the scheme.

119. Besides, the Housing Department is also constructing LIG and MIG Rental Houses under the Rental Housing Scheme in the District Offices for providing accommodation to Government employees.

120. Houses on EWS Hire Purchase Scheme were constructed at Nongmynsong in Phases since 1984. These houses are meant for allotment to the EWS of the community. In first phase of the Scheme 64 nos. of houses and in second phase 36 nos. of houses were provided.

## Arts & Culture

121. Government has always taken keen interest in the task of preservation, conservation, documentation, research, promotion, development and augmentation of the rich cultural heritage of the State and the various vibrant and colourful art forms existent in its talented population. The schemes of Intensive Art and Culture Development Programme (IACDP), Development of Traditional Folk Music (DTFM), Production of Folk Literature, Literary Award continue to be implemented.

122. The construction of Shillong International Centre for Performing Arts and Culture at Mawkasiang is progressing rapidly and scheduled to be completed soon. The Cultural Complex-cum-District Library in Nongpoh is completed and functioning. Work has started on the scheme for providing Show-cases, Galleries, Lighting etc; in the New Building of Williamson Sangma State Museum, Shillong.

123. In the ongoing project of "Centre of Excellence for Indian and Western Music" in Shillong and Tura, so far, 530 participants & students have applied and classes for 100 students are on since 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2016 under different Gurus or Mentors in all the three modules namely (1) the Budding Talent Group (BTG) (2) Special Talent Group (STG) (3) Musical Star Development Programme (MSDP).

124. Projects being implemented under Article 275(1) are: (a) "Centre of Knowledge for Indigenous Arts at Betasing", South West Garo Hills, (b) Kiang Nangbah Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Centre-cum-Tribal Museum, Jowai (c) Pa Togan Sangma Indigenous Knowledge Cultural Centre-cum-Tribal Museum, Williamnagar, East Garo Hills and (d) U Tirot Sing Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural-cum-Tribal Museum at Nongkhlaw, West Khasi Hills.

125. State Central Library, has been digitized with internet facilities and intends to enhance with Wi-Fi connectivity to establish a network of Libraries throughout the State.

126. Further, the Government will also frame policies and work towards promoting fine arts including music and film making to encourage local films makers and artists. A Coffee Table Book and Picture Story along with 10 (ten) documentaries were also brought out by the Department. Government continues to encourage Authors, Artists, performers, Institutions, Cultural Organizations, Researchers etc; to take up programmes and activities under various Central and State Schemes.

### **Information Technology & Communication**

127. Through the implementation of e-District project, essential government services are now available closer to the citizens' doorsteps. More than 68,000 applications were received in electronic form by the district administrations from citizens. Six end-to-end services are now available to citizens of all Districts in the State and three Sub Division Offices. More services are in the pipeline and are being added in phases.

128. The first phase of construction of the Technology Park at New Shillong has already been initiated wherein the first phase, the park will have a seating capacity to at least 1,500 persons.

129. Besides the above, the department will continue to implement the Capacity Building and Training Programmes partnering with different institutions in the State to strengthen the IT talent pool and make them more employable.

130. To provide a platform for students of Meghalaya to improve their chances of getting selected in Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) & National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET), the Department has partnered with M/s Think and Learn Pvt Ltd. (Byju's) to provide digital coaching to 60 students of Class-XI of Meghalaya, known as Super-60, to prepare them for the IIT-JEE & NEET 2019 examinations.

## **Legal Metrology**

131. Legal Metrology Department in Meghalaya regulates and enforces the provisions of the Legal Metrology Act & Rules thereby maintaining uniformity and accuracy in all weights and measures, weighing and measuring instruments used by traders etc. Surprise raids and inspections are conducted regularly and periodically by the Enforcement Officers to protect the rights and interest of the consumers.

132. Construction of Working Standard Laboratories at Khliehriat and Mawkyrwat has been completed. Civil construction work is going on at Ampati, Resubelpara and the Secondary Standard Laboratory at Tura. Matter relating to construction of Research and Development Centre alongwith a Working Standard Laboratory at Nongpoh is under process. Further, for generating additional revenue, the matter for revision of verification and stamping fees is under process.

## **General Administration**

133. Construction of Governor's Guest House at Tura is one of the important Schemes being taken up and the work is in progress till date. Creation of Infrastructure Development of new Districts at Resubelpara, Khliehriat, Mawkyrwat and Ampati is in progress.

134. 65% of Construction of Composite Residential Building for Resubelpara, North Garo Hills, District and South West Garo Hills District, Ampati has been achieved. The State Government has approved sanction of a Zila Sainik Welfare Office at Tura to cater to the needs of ESM, Widows and dependents of Garo Hills District.

## **Revenue & Disaster Management**

135. The task of doing survey and preparing maps of Government land & village lands and also the work of survey and restoration of boundary pillars along the Indo-Bangladesh boundary continues to be done by the Revenue & Disaster Management Department.

136. During the last 2 (two) years plot wise survey of Williamnagar Township, Government lands at Motinagar, Abdul Hamid's land and Cleve Colony in Shillong has been taken up and completed. The Department will continue to conduct awareness programmes during 2018-19 on the benefit of having proper records of land.

137. Training has been conducted during 2017 on Mass Casualties and Hospital Management during Disaster (including fire safety). 3 (three) important publications of State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) relating to Emergency Education in Disaster Management, activity report of SDMA for 2015 and Directory of important telephone numbers of SDMA were released.

138. A one day Awareness Program on Landslide - Risk Mitigation was held in collaboration with Soil & Water Conservation Department. Special Training on Search and Rescue for Home Guards & Civil Defence and Police Personnel was held. Other activities were also taken up such as Community Outreach Programme, Mock Drill in the Meghalaya Civil Secretariat, a City Level Consultation Workshop in collaboration with USAID-Ministry of Home Affairs-UNDP-Partnership Project - II on Developing Resilient Cities through risk reduction in the context of disaster and climate change.

139. Several other programmes for Training of State and District Disaster Management Professionals and Training of State Incident Response System (IRS) Team were also taken up.

140. Training of Community on Disaster Management and Prevention of Un-Scientific Mining, Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Risk: Nabhas Rahat and training on Early Warning System (EWS) were organized. State level workshops were held on Seismic Safety Assessment of Building in Rapid Visual Screening and Retrofitting and also on Public-Private Partnership in Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. Training in disaster management was also held for differently abled people.

## **Personnel**

141. Being the Apex Training Agency of the State, Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute (MATI) has been imparting training through Induction and In- Service training programmes to all levels of Government functionaries to build capacities, knowledge, and aptitude for effective public service delivery.

142. With the aim of making administration more efficient and outcome oriented, the Institute has been imparting training to Officers and others. Training on Right to Information (RTI) Act 2005 has been conducted right up to the block level, not only to Government officials but also to Civil Society groups, the NGOs, Traditional Heads, School Teachers and Students.

143. Training on Leadership Skills was also held in November, 2017 at State Convention Centre, where National Facilitator on Leadership Skill were called which was well-appreciated by the participants.

144. The Disaster Management (DM) Cell of the Institute has been imparting training on Disaster Management to the Government officials, School & College Students, Teachers, Principals, Vice Principals, village communities, Youth Volunteers & NGOs etc; on various subjects.

145. During the year 2017, the Department has notified the adoption of self-attestation in lieu of attestation by Gazetted Officers and self-declaration in lieu of affidavit as an initiative for citizen centric governance.

## **Information & Public Relations**

146. The Information and Public Relations plays a pivotal role in highlighting the positive image of the State and projecting the schemes and policies of the Government for better understanding and participation of the people in governance, thus bringing about greater transparency and accountability.

147. In an effort to showcase the potential resources of the State of Meghalaya, various Government Departments and skilled entrepreneurs from across the State participated at the India International Trade Fair (IITF) held from 14<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

148. The Department continues to maintain and run the Meghalaya Integrated Information System (MIIS), an innovative and unique venture; the first of its kind in the country which leverages upon the Government to Citizens interface in an active and participative manner through dissemination of important Government information to the people. The MIIS also, through its Call Centre, registers grievances and queries of the people on various issues pertaining to Government Departments and channelizes them to the concerned authorities for disposal and clarification.

149. The Journalist Welfare Fund is implemented through which financial assistance is extended to Accredited Journalists of the State. The Government will also make efforts and work towards strengthening the Journalist Welfare Fund.

150. To ensure that Administration is brought closer to the people particularly at the grass root level, periodic Special Interactive Programmes were held in which participating Departments highlight their schemes and activities and also interact with the public.

151. The Government is also pursuing to the constitution of the Meghalaya Media Society and also the proposal for provision of accommodation facility to Accredited Journalists of the State; both the interventions aimed at the welfare of Journalists in the State.

### **Civil Defence & Home Guards**

152. The Civil Defence and Home Guards Department has assumed a crucial role and is at the forefront in responding to disasters within the state. The State Disaster Response Force is at the vanguard in this important task and has responded very efficiently to various disasters in the past.

153. The department is also mandated with imparting training to both Civil Defence & Home Guards Volunteers and with the Central Training Institute, Civil Defence & Home Guards, being recognized as the Nodal Training Institute for Disaster Management, the Civil Defence & Home Guards Department is poised to assume an even more crucial role in imparting trainings in Disaster Management subjects.

154. Through the Plan Scheme of mainstreaming of Civil Defence in Disaster Response Force, the department has been able to procure the much needed specialized vehicles and equipments, thus enabling it to perform its mandated tasks efficiently and with the development of infrastructure in the districts of Ri-Bhoi, West Khasi Hills, East Garo Hills and South Garo Hills, the Civil Defence & Home Guards Department is poised to augment its spread and presence across the entire state.

### **Election**

155. The State Election Department undertakes comprehensive activities pertaining to conduct of Elections, registration of voters, preparation of electoral rolls and the other related programmes as mandated, under the direct supervision of the Election Commission of India. There has been a 3.38% rise in voter enrolment at the end of the exercise.

156. The National voters Day was observed with a variety of youth oriented events like Democracy Marathon, Kite flying, Voters Pledge and other meaningful and interesting programmes.

157. A number of innovative campaigns and outreach activities were initiated under Systematic Voter's Education and Electoral Participation Programme to motivate all eligible voters to enroll themselves in the electoral rolls. There has been an upswing in the number of voters registered due to intensive campaigns.

158. The President of India presented the National Award on the National Voters Day 2017 to the Office of the Chief Electoral

Officer for undertaking innovative & meaningful SVEEP campaign for the young and future voters.

159. Awareness on the use of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail is also being conducted throughout the State by means of street plays at various village market places, demonstration at the blocks and villages. SVEEP materials like audio-video materials has been produced and aired on AIR, online news channels, youtube, facebook, Hoardings, posters, handouts, etc. The SVEEP music video has also gone viral on social media.

160. The general election to the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly has been successfully conducted in February 2018.

### **Prisons**

161. For ensuring proper and effective prison management, installation and procurement of CCTVs, VHF sets, mobile phone jammers, X-ray machines, binoculars, etc; have been put in place in 5 (five) District Jails in the State. Jail Security Audit Committees constituted for the purpose of safety and security of the jail inmates were held regularly to enhance the security of prisons in the State. To ease congestion and over-crowding in existing jails, new district jail at Ri-Bhoi district had been commissioned and construction of new district jails at Khliehriat, Ampati and Nongstoin have also been taken up. With separation of judiciary from executive for speedy trial of cases to inmates in jails, video conferencing was introduced in Shillong jail and the remaining districts will be completed shortly.

### **Printing & Stationery**

162. The modernization process is being undertaken in a phased manner. As such, plants and machineries required to be incorporated in the government presses at Shillong, Tura and Jowai in the current financial year and Digital Printers were procured. One Braille Embosser machine in connection with the establishment of the Braille Press at Govt. Press, Shillong has been successfully installed in 2017-18.

163. Hon'ble Members, I have endeavoured to highlight the various initiatives, programmes and achievements of the State Government. I am confident that the Hon'ble Members of this August House will reflect and fruitfully discuss all pertinent issues for the growth and development of the State and the betterment and welfare of all its citizens.

**Khulei  
Mitela  
Jai Hind**