



# BUDGET SPEECH 2025 – 2026

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CHIEF MINISTER I/C FINANCE

5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2025

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

With your permission, I rise to present the Budget for the financial year 2025-26.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. Sir, it's a great honour to be standing in this august House to present my eighth consecutive budget. As we all are aware, the State budget is the most comprehensive statement on the Government's policies and developmental priorities. This year's budget making exercise was special in several ways. We invited citizen participation through a formal pre-budget consultation with engaged citizens, leaders, academicians and civil society members. This engagement enriched my understanding of the hopes, dreams, and aspirations of the different sections of our society and strengthened the budgeting exercise.
- 1.2. The Government has also placed the State's vision document for 2032 in public domain and has conducted regional and sectoral consultations over the last six months. This budget has benefitted from the feedback gathered through this exercise. Meghalaya's vision is to become a \$10 billion economy by 2028 and to be amongst the top ten States in the country, both in terms of per capita GDP and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by 2032, when we celebrate the diamond jubilee of Statehood. This vision has been translated into an actionable plan called 'Meghalaya Mission 10.' The Mission is centered around leveraging 10 opportunity sectors which will drive growth and create employment for our youth. I have also made 10 commitments to ensure that every Meghalayan benefits from the growth story. I am grateful to all the citizens who have provided inputs to finalize the Meghalaya Mission 10. I am proud to say that the Mission 10 is by the people, of the people and for the people.
- 1.3. Another defining feature of this year's budget is that it builds on the learnings from the ongoing consultations with the Sixteenth Finance

Commission. All States and the Union are engaging with the Sixteenth Finance Commission, which is mandated to make recommendations inter alia on the sharing of taxes between the Union and the States and amongst the States for the period 2026-31. The Commission visited Meghalaya in September 2024, and I had the privilege of making a detailed submission on the State's development journey over the last decade and our aspirations for 2032. The 250-page Memorandum submitted to the Commission is in the public domain and has a detailed analysis of the State's priorities, challenges and the way forward.

- 1.4. Sir, the long run analysis of Meghalaya's economy and development indicators vis-à-vis other Northeastern and Hilly States clearly shows that the period 2010-18 was a time of crisis for State finances. This meant that we were unable to make critical investments in sectors like health, education and core infrastructure like roads, water supply and power. Meghalaya's growth during this period was slower, compared to the Northeastern region's steady progress. For instance, a comparative analysis of the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) of Assam and Meghalaya shows how both States had similar poverty rates at the start of the period, and how Assam reduced its multidimensionally poor population by 13%, whereas Meghalaya reduced by only 4.8%.
- 1.5. I am very proud to inform this august House that the MDA government has been able to achieve a reversal of fortunes for Meghalaya and its people since 2018. We have achieved an impressive 11 percent economic growth over the last 7 years. The growth is fueled by expanding public investments due to increase in tax devolutions and State's own revenues, leveraging Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Externally Aided Projects (EAPs), and new schemes like the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI).

- 1.6. Despite losing two years to the COVID pandemic, we have been able to streamline State finances, improve governance, strengthen service delivery, protect the rights of the indigenous people, maintain peace and harmony and make transformative investments across sectors. The results of these investments are already visible in sectors like Health, Water Supply, Tourism, Women empowerment, Entrepreneurship, Information Technology and Power. However, the indicators in sectors like agriculture, nutrition and education need longer turnaround times. The Government is committed to work harder and strengthen collaborations to ensure improvement in every sustainable development goal.
- 1.7. The Meghalaya model of development is built on principles of strengthening traditional community institutions, investing in citizens, leveraging technology, and forging national and international partnerships. We are one of the front runner States in the country in terms of direct investment in citizens and traditional institutions. We are providing multi-crore investments to cooperative societies for building large agri-processing units, multi-million investment support to individual entrepreneurs for setting up businesses and grants to communities to build infrastructure. The Village Employment Councils and Village Health Councils are the State's institutional partners in delivering programs like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Health Mission and PM- Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission at the grassroots.
- 1.8. I firmly believe, and the results bear witness to the wonderful things that we can collectively achieve in our quest to make Meghalaya a developed State by 2032. This budget will provide the framework for growth, job creation and improving citizen wellbeing.

## 2. STATE FINANCES

- 2.1. In 2023, when MDA 2.0 Government was formed, we announced the target of making Meghalaya a \$ 10 billion economy and doubling the State's GDP from the then ₹42,697 Crore to ₹85,000 Crore by 2028. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation approved GSDP numbers for 2023-24 is ₹53,057 Crore and the projected GSDP for 2025-26 is at an impressive ₹66,645 Crore. The annual growth rate for the period 2023-26 stands at 12.7% and we are certain to achieve our target for 2028.
- 2.2. Sir, the total estimated transfers from the Centre to Meghalaya are expected to rise to ₹20,568 Crore in 2025-26, up from revised estimates of ₹19,242 Crore in the current year. This growth is largely driven by India's robust economic performance. Notably, the share of central taxes is projected to increase by 10.5% to ₹10,910 Crore in 2025-26, up from ₹9,870 Crore in the current year. I would like to thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for steering the country's growth over the last decade.
- 2.3. My Government has made strong efforts to improve Tax and Non-tax revenues - State's own tax revenue has witnessed a significant surge, reaching ₹4,041 Crore in the current year, marking almost a 3-fold increase from ₹1,450 Crore in 2017-18. I am projecting the State's own tax revenue to reach ₹4,226 Crore in 2025-26, comprising of GST of ₹2,094 Crore, Taxes on Sales and Trade of ₹1,180 Crore and Excise of ₹682 Crore.
- 2.4. State's own non-tax revenue collection has been unpredictable in the recent past due to various judgements of Honorable courts and long drawn transition to scientific mining. However, the outlook is optimistic with 3 mining licenses being awarded and 20 more at different stages of approval. I am projecting a non-tax revenue of ₹797 Crore in 2025-26.

- 2.5. I estimate the total expenditure for 2025-26 to be ₹30,003 Crore given the increased transfers from the Centre and projected State receipts. This is a 3-fold increase in expenditure over the 8-year period, which is one of the highest growth rates in the country – expenditure in 2017-18 was only ₹9,858 Crore; Country's expenditure during the same period has increased by 2.3 times.
- 2.6. The total expenditure of ₹30,003 Crore comprises of ₹23,353 Crore State expenditure and ₹6,650 Crore CSS expenditure. Total revenue expenditure for the year is ₹20,556 Crore and capital expenditure is ₹9,447 Crore. Notably, the projected capital expenditure is a seven-fold increase from 2017-18 levels of ₹1,435 Crore.
- 2.7. I will move to the second part of my speech deliberating on the Meghalaya Mission 10 - **The Ten Opportunities and the Ten Commitments.**

### **3. TEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR 'MISSION 10'**

- 3.1. Our beautiful State is a land of many strengths and possibilities. The Government has identified ten key opportunities that are driving growth and employment. We are making steady progress in unlocking each of these opportunities.

### **4. INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT**

- 4.1. Sir, to achieve our GSDP target we need substantial private sector investments amounting to at least \$1 billion, or approximately ₹8,500 Crore.
- 4.2. The Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (MIIPP) 2024 has been notified in March 2024. The policy aligns with the Government of India's Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI)

2024 for Northeastern States, providing incentives on capital investment, interest subvention, GST reimbursement, and green incentives for driving sustainability. A customized package of incentives is also available for investments above ₹100 Crore and for industries with green patents.

- 4.3. The policy emphasizes employment opportunities for our local population. It mandates that 90% of non-managerial positions and 50% of managerial positions be filled by local people within three years of commercial operations by industrial units.
- 4.4. The Meghalaya Investment Promotion Authority (MIPA), established last financial year, is now dedicatedly managing the investment promotion ecosystem. The State has further created a business-friendly environment through “Ease of Doing Business” initiatives, implementing 280 Business Reforms Action Plan reforms in 2025, up from zero in 2018. The Single Window approval system has been revamped to streamline the setup of industries by decentralizing processes at various levels. The Authority is also creating new land banks and developing State-of-the-Art industrial parks. The first such Industrial Park spread over 633-acre land is being developed in Tikrikilla block of West Garo Hills.
- 4.5. A major player in the beverages industry, Varun Beverages, is investing around ₹300 Crore in a new plant for carbonated soft drinks and fruit-based beverages in Mendipathar, North Garo Hills. This investment will create approximately 500 jobs and boost local suppliers and transportation companies.
- 4.6. Lemon Tree Hotels has been awarded a project of about ₹124 Crore to build, operate, and transfer the Orchid Hotel in Shillong under a Public-Private Partnership. This project will create numerous employment opportunities for the youth.

- 4.7. Four new 5-star hotels and luxury resorts with a total investment of around ₹900 Crore at Umiam, Sohra, Mawdiangdiang and Khanapara are under finalization through PPP mode. Furthermore, two projects to develop luxury cottages with a total investment of around ₹52 Crore have been finalized. With these, investments amounting to ₹1,400 Crore have already been grounded, and investments worth ₹2,000 Crore in sectors such as bamboo, hydropower, and tourism are in the pipeline for the next financial year.
- 4.8. Sir, the Government has reached a consensus with all stakeholders and approved the closure of Mawmluh Cherra Cements Limited (MCCL). A one-time financial package of ₹98.25 Crore has been sanctioned to safeguard the interest of the employees. The initial tranche of about ₹40 Crore is being released this financial year. I am allocating the balance amount of about ₹58.25 Crore for the next financial year. We also plan to develop additional tourism infrastructure in and around Mawmluh to further benefit all the stakeholders.

## **5. AGRICULTURE AND HIGH VALUE HORTICULTURE**

- 5.1. Over the past seven years, we have been investing in targeted interventions towards meeting the goal of more than doubling our farmers income. Several of these interventions are bearing results, leading to increase in income by 30% to 80% for the beneficiary farmers participating in government programs on mushroom, floriculture, strawberry, passion fruit, ginger, turmeric and more.
- 5.2. The area under many high-value crops has increased significantly in the last 5 years. Area under Black Pepper has increased from 2,083 Ha in 2020 to 3,254 Ha, coffee has increased from 337 Ha to 785 Ha, for Mushroom, the production has grown from 27 MT in 2018 to 171 MT at present. A total of

10,718 hectares of area expansion has been achieved in the last 5 years benefitting more than 50,000 farmers.

- 5.3. Under the CM FARM+ initiative farmers are provided with quality planting material for selected crops and trained in good agricultural practices. I am allocating ₹40 Crore to CM FARM+ for 2025-26 and target to increase 10,000 hectares of area in the next three years.
- 5.4. Under the Floriculture Mission, we are supporting farmers to cultivate high-value flowers like orchids, enabling them to earn supplementary incomes of up to ₹1 lakh per annum. So far, 469 farmers have been supported through this mission and 1,000 farmers will be supported next year. I am allocating ₹86 Crore for the Floriculture mission.
- 5.5. The State's capacity for value-addition has also been greatly enhanced in the last few years. A total of 164 small processing units and 13 large processing units, PRIME HUBS, have been set up in the last 2 years for various crops. These units have a cumulative capacity to process over 8,000 MT of Agri-produce and are benefiting over 10,000 farmers annually. We will ensure that every block in the State has at least one functioning PRIME HUB by 2028.
- 5.6. We are also promoting establishment of post-harvest storage structures like warehouses, cold storages and pack houses. In the last 5 years, 44 cold storages and 202 pack houses have been set up. Eighty-seven warehouses, with a total capacity of over 19,000 MT are under construction under CM-ELEVATE program.
- 5.7. To address the issue of distress selling of crops which are susceptible to market-price volatility, I launched the CM ASSURE program. This year, over 22,000 small and marginal broom and areca nut farmers will be able to sell their produce at a notified price to the Meghalaya State Agriculture

Marketing Board. Under this initiative, I am allocating a sum of ₹50 Crore for the year 2025-26.

- 5.8. For the next financial year, overall allocation for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Department stands at ₹618 Crore, including ₹450 Crore from State resources, which is almost a 43% increase over this year's allocation.

## **6. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND LIVESTOCK**

- 6.1. Animal Husbandry is important, both for providing nutritional security and additional income for our rural households. Piggery sector, in particular, is crucial for livelihoods of many of our citizens. Under the Piggery Mission, ₹52 Crore of interest free loans have been provided to 330 cooperatives for setting up breeding and fattening units. Under the CM-ELEVATE program, 1,357 individual beneficiaries have been sanctioned 50% credit linked subsidy for rearing pigs.
- 6.2. Given the large number of people who are engaged in the livestock sector, improving extension and other veterinary services is paramount. The Government has initiated the process of setting up a State-of-the-Art veterinary hospital at Upper Shillong.
- 6.3. The Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission 3.0 will be launched soon. The Mission will target production of 19,000 MT of fish and will benefit 50,000 fish farmers. Part of the Mission will be implemented under the banner of CM ELEVATE, with the same 50% subsidy structure as other livestock initiatives. I am allocating ₹30 Crore for implementation of Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission 3.0 in 2025-26.

## 7. SPORTS AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

- 7.1. Sir, since the formation of the State of Meghalaya, no Government at any period of time has encouraged sports like ours. I believe that sport is the way to channelize our youth towards a better future.
- 7.2. Since 2018, about ₹1,500 Crore of State funds have been committed towards Sports Infrastructure development compared to only about ₹100 Crore during the period 2001-18.
- 7.3. We have also hosted over ten national and international sports events since 2022, including the Indian Super League, the Durand Cup, the Elite Men's Boxing Championship, and the ICF World Cup Qualifiers for India.
- 7.4. The cumulative investment in sports has resulted in the success of the athletes at regional and national level. The 38<sup>th</sup> National Games saw Meghalaya achieve its joint highest medal tally in the Games' history, bagging five medals.
- 7.5. I am delighted that the 39<sup>th</sup> National Games will be held in Meghalaya in 2027. Despite interest from larger States such as Chhattisgarh and Assam, the dedication and preparedness of our State was the deciding factor in our favour.
- 7.6. This is certainly a time for celebration and reaffirming our commitment to sports development. The Meghalaya Sports Action Plan was recently released. In the next three years, close to ₹1,900 Crore is estimated to be spent on sports, including for hosting of the 39<sup>th</sup> National Games.
- 7.7. Access to Sports Infrastructure shall be the largest component of this investment. The construction of ₹732 Crore Mawkhanu Football Complex, a 40,000-capacity dedicated football stadium will commence in the next financial year. This stadium shall be the epicenter of Meghalaya's aspiration to be the "Football Capital of India". We are also developing the overall

ecosystem with grassroots infrastructure development including 25 new artificial turfs, and 140 grassroot centers and providing grants to local clubs, hosting large events, and engaging fans. The CM's Football Mission which was recently launched will enable these initiatives. I am allocating ₹10 Crore for this purpose.

- 7.8. Major ongoing projects like the J.N. Stadium, the P.A. Sangma Sports Complex, the Ampati Stadium and the Jongksha Indoor Stadium will be completed soon. I am allocating ₹236 Crore for completing ongoing projects and implementing new projects in 2025-26.
- 7.9. The Government has recently notified the Meghalaya Outstanding Sportspersons Direct Appointment Policy under which jobs are guaranteed for athletes winning medals at national and international level in International Olympics Committee recognized sports.
- 7.10. I believe in better exposure for our youth at regional, national, and international levels to broaden their horizons. The Meghalaya Games is providing a platform both for sporting excellence and for youth to discover different regions of the State. To further this discovery, the Chief Minister's Youth Exchange Program shall be reimagined and scaled many-fold. Youth selected through talent identification programs will be sent for exposure visits and learning programs to different parts of the country and even internationally. We target 30,000 youth over the next three years, and I am allocating ₹10 Crore for this purpose.
- 7.11. The creative industries in Meghalaya are witnessing unprecedented transformation. The State-owned OTT platform, Hello Meghalaya, offers financial incentives of up to ₹5 lakh per film and ₹18,000 per month for digital content creators. This novel initiative is providing a platform for content creation and dissemination in Khasi, Garo, Pnar and other local languages. Meghalaya Grassroot Music Program is a State supported

initiative for musicians under which an amount of ₹18 Crore has been disbursed to local artists and event managers. For these novel programs, I am budgeting ₹35 Crore in 2025-26.

## **8. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SKILLING**

- 8.1. Sir, entrepreneurship holds the key for large scale job creation in a growing economy like ours. Meghalaya today has the most robust support mechanisms for entrepreneurs amongst smaller states in the country.
- 8.2. Under the PRIME program, 200 high-potential startups have been incubated over the last five years, another 400 entrepreneurs have been provided funding support, and 280 new rural businesses have been handheld from concept to market stage. The Urban PRIME Hubs at Shillong and Tura have become vibrant spaces that support entrepreneurship and innovation. New Hubs are being set up at Nongpoh and Jowai.
- 8.3. Under the CM-ELEVATE program, the Government is providing support ranging from 35% to 75 % for setting up businesses across sectors. In the current year 2,840 projects have been approved with a total cost of ₹146 Crore, which includes a government subsidy of ₹86 Crore.
- 8.4. The cumulative impact of the PRIME and CM-ELEVATE programs is 10,000 direct and indirect jobs and a vibrant ecosystem involving 8000+ entrepreneurs, 25 educational institutions and 30+ national and international partners.
- 8.5. I am targeting to support 5,000 beneficiaries under the CM-ELEVATE for 2025-26. I am increasing the government subsidy under CM-ELEVATE for sports, entertainment and wellness businesses from the current 35 % to 50 %. I am also increasing the support ceiling under PRIME start up grants from ₹25 lakh to ₹35 lakh and for scale up loans from ₹50 lakh to ₹75 lakh.

Mini start up grants of upto ₹50,000 will also be provided. I am allocating an amount of ₹70 Crore for the PRIME and CM-ELEVATE programs in 2025-26.

- 8.6. Sir, entrepreneurship and skilling complement each other and will together amplify the employment impact. In 2024-25, under the Skills Meghalaya initiative, we have trained 18,800 individuals across 190 trades, onboarded 68 training providers and established 347 training centers. So far, 1,777 trained individuals have secured jobs, earning an average additional income of ₹1 lakh per year. A State-of-the-Art Skills and Innovation Hub is being constructed at New Shillong at a cost of ₹82 Crore. A similar Hub will be constructed at Tura at a cost of ₹50 Crore in 2025-26.
- 8.7. The Government has successfully facilitated overseas placement of 60 nurses in countries like Japan, Singapore and UK. The salaries of these nurses range from ₹2-3 lakh per month and they are able to remit upto ₹1 lakh per month to their families back home in Meghalaya. The success of these individuals has captured the imagination of our youth, and more are now aspiring to work abroad.
- 8.8. The State Government will implement a comprehensive skilling initiative from 2025-26 called the Chief Ministers Skills Mission. The Mission will target skilling of one lakh youth for the local economy, 10,000 youth for national economy and 5000 youth for the global economy over the next three years. In addition to skilling, we will also provide tool kits, seed capital funding and other end-to-end support. I am allocating an amount of ₹100 Crore for the first year of the CM Skills Mission.
- 8.9. As Artificial Intelligence and deep tech continue to transform the world, investments in innovation, skilling and entrepreneurship will give the highest dividends.

We will create a separate Department of Entrepreneurship and Skilling to institutionalize and implement the various State and Central Government programs in a coordinated manner.

## **9. TOURISM, ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE**

- 9.1. The tourist footfall in the State in 2024 stood at 16 lakh, a 33% increase from the pre COVID levels of 12 lakh. To cater to the growing numbers and to extend the tourist stay in our State, we need to build more rooms. Under the Meghalaya Tourism Homestay Scheme, 622 projects have been sanctioned in the last two years and about 2000 rooms are under construction. The scheme provides 70% subsidy in rural areas, 35% of which is borne by the State Government and balance 35% is leveraged from Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program. To further support the homestay entrepreneurs, I am increasing the State Government subsidy from 35% to 45% to benefit 2000 new homestay entrepreneurs from 2025-26.
- 9.2. A second key thrust area is the strengthening of existing tourist destinations and developing newer ones. This year alone, the Government has initiated new tourism projects worth ₹450 Crore. These include the Redevelopment of Umiam lake, MICE tourism destination at Mawkhanu, Tourist Hub and Skywalk at Dympep, Umngot riverfront development at Dawki, Waterfall Trails Experience at Sohra, Adventure Park at Dom Jynru, Kynshi, and Hospitality Complexes at Nongmahir, Mawsynram and Pelga.
- 9.3. In the next financial year, projects costing ₹600 Crore will be taken up. These include the Rain and Bamboo Interpretation Centre at Mawsynram, the Wari Chora Cultural Centre, the Living Root Museum at Wahlyngkhat, the Coffee Experience Centre at Marngar, Luxury Resorts at Adokgre, Sohiong, Nongnah, and Tourist experiential hub at Nartiang. Convention

cum hospitality centers will be built in district headquarters of East Garo Hills, Eastern West Khasi Hills, North Garo Hills, West Khasi Hills, South Garo Hills, East Jaintia Hills, Southwest Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi.

- 9.4. Grants in aid of upto ₹25 lakh is being provided to communities to build and upgrade tourism infrastructure. For 2025-26 we will take up 100 new projects through community participation.
- 9.5. Over the last six years we have leveraged the State's strength of Nature, Music, Culture and People to brand Meghalaya as one of the 'Country's most desired tourist destination'. The many festivals and concerts organized and supported by the government have created hundreds of employment opportunities, strengthened brand Meghalaya and demonstrated the possibilities of concert economy.
- 9.6. We have made significant strides in preserving Meghalaya's natural and cultural heritage. The comprehensive dossier for nomination of the Jingkieng Jri/Lyu Chrai – Living Root Bridges cultural landscape as a world heritage site has been submitted to the Archaeological Survey of India.
- 9.7. For the year 2025-26, infrastructure projects worth ₹100 Crore will be implemented to further arts, crafts and culture. These include the construction of indigenous cultural center of Seng-Khasi Kmie at Shillong, the Traditional Music Centre at Wahkhen, Khasi Cultural Heritage Center at Sohra, and the Garo Cultural Heritage Center at Mandalgre.

## **10. CLIMATE RESILIENT GREEN ECONOMY**

- 10.1. Meghalaya's growth and employment potential is interconnected with its rich forest cover, biodiversity and water resources. The Government places utmost importance on climate proofing livelihoods and in mitigating the adverse impact of climate change.

- 10.2. Under the GREEN Meghalaya program 3,300 communities and individuals who are protecting 54,000 Ha. of forest are being provided annual cash incentives in lieu of Ecosystem Services. This program has been expanded and relaunched this year as Green Meghalaya+ targeting the conservation of an additional 50,000 hectares. The incentive structure has been enhanced from ₹8,000 per hectares to ₹10,000 per Ha. at the base level. Ceiling for incentives is fixed at ₹20,000 per hectares for dense forest areas and eco-sensitive zones. For the year 2025-26, I am allocating ₹100 Crore for implementation of Green Meghalaya+, country's largest payment for Ecosystem Services program. Ongoing afforestation programs spreading over 30,000 hectares will continue to be supported.
- 10.3. Meghalaya's susceptibility to natural disasters, including cyclonic storms, floods, landslides and earthquakes, poses significant threats to life, property and infrastructure. The Government has taken various steps to streamline and decentralize the distribution of disaster relief. We will further shorten the administrative processes to support people in distress. I am allocating an amount of ₹186 Crore for disaster management out of which ₹90 Crore is from State resources.
- 10.4. Over the last 6 years, Meghalaya has significantly expanded its irrigation infrastructure and watershed management initiatives. Area under irrigation has increased from 1 Lakh Ha. in 2018 to over 1.54 lakh hectares today. By 2028, an additional 59,000 hectares will be brought under irrigation, ensuring water security for farmers and households. The construction work on 295 small multi-purpose reservoirs has been initiated this year at a cost of ₹205 Crore. To strengthen irrigation and water Conservation initiatives, I am allocating a budget of ₹559 Crore for Soil and Water conservation and Water Resources Departments, including ₹338 Crore from the State resources which is almost a 16% increase over this year's allocation.

## 11. URBAN TRANSFORMATION

- 11.1. As urbanization accelerates, 43% of India's population will live in cities by 2035, our State too is poised for change. To prepare for this growth, the Government is proactively planning future-ready cities.
- 11.2. The development of New Shillong City is a major milestone. In this year projects worth more than ₹2,000 Crore have been initiated at Umsawli. These include Meghalaya New Secretariat, Unity mall, development of trunk road network, Meghalaya Skills and Innovation Hub, Prime Hub, Heliport and Working Women's Hostel. The proposed new secretariat is an iconic project that symbolizes the aspirations of the State, and it will serve as a center of public service and improved governance. The Knowledge City is being developed at Mawkhanu with tourism, sports, IT and education as the growth drivers. The construction of an iconic monument, reflecting the rich cultural heritage of Meghalaya will be taken up in the next financial year.
- 11.3. New Shillong is being developed as a model Non-Motorized City. To ensure seamless connectivity within the city, a comprehensive internal road network is being implemented, featuring a 20 kms stretch of wide footpaths and cycle tracks. This will make New Shillong one-of-a-kind futuristic city. To strengthen connectivity between Shillong and New Shillong, three road projects of 16 kms are under construction. Additional new roads will be taken up in the next financial year, these include Polo to Bellefonte, Mawpat to Nongkohlew, Lumdiengsai to Shillong Bypass, and three segments of the southern bypass from Mawlyngad to Mawkasiang via Mawshbuit and Mawlynrei.
- 11.4. The detailed blueprint for decongesting Shillong is being implemented. This includes measures such as redevelopment of junctions and roads, regulation of street vending, increasing parking capacity, improving public transportation and technological integration through the newly

inaugurated Integrated Command and Control Centre. The proposal for relocating the police reserve and the central jail from the heart of the city to New Shillong is being finalized. The plan for the comprehensive redevelopment of Khyndailad and Iew Duh is finalized and will be implemented in 2025-26. All these initiatives will enhance the State's readiness for hosting the National Games in 2027.

- 11.5. Initiatives to enhance urban amenities in Tura are ongoing. The installation of streetlights and first phase of beautification have been completed. The second phase of beautification including redevelopment of Najing Bazaar is estimated at ₹70 Crore. The construction of Tura integrated administrative complex at a cost of ₹170 Crore will be initiated in 2025-26. Work on the integrated administrative complex and the lawmusiang market at Jowai are ongoing.
- 11.6. Waste management in urban areas is a key focus. As promised in the last budget, a significant step has been taken by initiating biomining of legacy waste in Marten at a cost of ₹30 Crore. As of now, 36% of the total legacy waste, amounting to 1.26 lakh MT has been cleared. I am certain that Marten will be clear of all legacy waste by the end of next financial year. Similar efforts of legacy waste management through biomining are ongoing at Tura. New landfill sites are being planned for Jowai, Williamnagar, Nongstoin and other towns.
- 11.7. Government's efforts to collaborate with local bodies and Shnongs through My city campaign have shown success. To further strengthen this partnership, I am announcing a new scheme called CM Urban Revitalization Scheme. Under this scheme, communities and Shnongs will be given grants for infrastructural developments.

11.8. For the financial year 2025-26, I am allocating an amount of ₹957 Crore for the capital works in Urban Sector, out of which ₹707 Crore is from State resources.

## **12. REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND BORDER TRADE**

12.1. Enhanced regional connectivity and border trade is a significant economic lever for Meghalaya. The 19 km long iconic Dhubri- Phulbari bridge connecting Assam and Meghalaya is under construction. We will initiate the construction of NH 127B from Phulbari to Goeragre sanctioned at a cost of ₹1,241 Crore next year. These two projects along with Tura-Dalu Road implemented by National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) will facilitate the seamless movement of goods and people in the Garo hills.

12.2. I have also taken up the proposal for development of a comprehensive Border Economic Corridor from Dalu to Sonapur with the Ministries of DoNER and Road Transport and Highways. The Corridor of 450 kms provides access to 9 Land Custom Stations and 1 Border Haat at Balat. This corridor has 25 dilapidated bridges and is missing multiple links which hinders the movement of high-capacity freight and passenger vehicles. We will initiate the construction of some of the priority missing links and bridges in the next year. Other infrastructure at Border Haats and Land Custom Stations will also be strengthened.

12.3. The Hili-Mahendraganj transnational economic corridor is aimed at enhancing connectivity between Meghalaya and rest of India through Bangladesh. From Meghalaya's perspective, this 100 km route has the potential to shorten travel time and cost by 25-60% from Kolkata to growth centers such as Tura, Baghmara, Dalu, and Dawki. Presently, road alignment analytics prepared by NHIDCL are shared with Bangladesh for conducting a

feasibility study for the project. I am very optimistic about the Hili-Mahendraganj Corridor and believe it will be transformative for the entire region in the coming years.

- 12.4. The Inter State Border Area Development Program will continue to be implemented to improve basic infrastructure like schools, playfields, community halls, roads and bridges in the villages bordering Assam. I am allocating an amount of ₹29 Crore for this program in 2025-26.

### **13. INCREASED PUBLIC INVESTMENTS**

- 13.1. Public investments play a critical role for driving economic growth, in the absence of strong private sector. The Government has embarked on a strategy of maximizing the fiscal space provided under the FRBM Act and leveraging all available grants and low-cost funds from the Government of India. Most of these funds are merit based and are allotted to States which have higher absorption and better implementation capacity.
- 13.2. Meghalaya's performance in accessing reform-based funding under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) in the recent past has been noteworthy. We will be able to leverage ₹2,450 Crore in the current financial year under this program and the estimate for 2025-26 is ₹2,695 Crore. Most of the large capital projects in the sectors of roads, water supply, tourism, power and urban are being funded through this program. I extend my deepest gratitude to the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India for the SASCI program that supports progressive small States like us.
- 13.3. Meghalaya has also achieved 19% compounded annual growth in Centrally Sponsored Schemes in last 8 years. We are consistently amongst the best performing States in accessing funds under national flagship programs like Jal Jeevan Mission, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee

Scheme, National Health Mission, National Rural Livelihood Mission and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Grameen.

13.4. Externally Aided Projects is another funding window that the State has availed quite successfully. EAPs are performance and merit-based funding provided by agencies like World Bank, ADB and JICA. For Northeastern and hilly States, 90% of the amount is repaid by the Union Government. In 2018, Meghalaya was implementing 5 such projects with a total funding support of ₹2,502 Crore. Over the last 7 years, 13 new projects have been approved at ₹7,427 Crore. I am estimating the expenditure under EAPs to reach a record high of ₹1,426 Crore in 2025-26.

#### **14. TEN COMMITMENTS OF 'MISSION 10'**

14.1. Every Meghalayan and every region of our beautiful State should reap the benefits of higher economic growth. As Abraham Lincoln said, "Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality". Our government's ten commitments reflect this dedication, and we will achieve these by 2032 when the State celebrates its diamond jubilee.

#### **15. IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY AND MOBILITY**

15.1. Sir, we recognize connectivity as the backbone for socio-economic growth. Over the past 7 years, we have sanctioned nearly ₹4,000 Crore of road projects including ₹1,000 Crore in the current Financial Year itself. This is a huge improvement compared to only ₹659 Crore worth of roads sanctioned from 1991 to 2018, in the 3 decades prior to our Government. While this is a substantial increase, more work is needed given our difficult terrain and dispersed habitations.

- 15.2. All the ongoing 12 NHIDCL projects costing more than ₹5,000 Crore are progressing well. I am happy to apprise this august House that the work on the 3 packages of the 38 kms Shillong Western Bypass costing over ₹1,800 Crore has been initiated.
- 15.3. In addition to the State Schemes and National Highways, we have developed crucial road corridors through the Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project (MITP), with support from World Bank. This project is on the verge of successful completion. Consequently, the Government of India has sanctioned the Meghalaya Economic Growth Accelerator project for development of roads and growth centers, with an investment of ₹2,460 Crore.
- 15.4. Augmentation of 3,500 kms of rural network has been sanctioned since 2018 under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The last 7 years account for nearly 70% of the total funds sanctioned under PMGSY Scheme since its inception in 2000.
- 15.5. The State has approximately 1,700 unconnected habitations, and our goal is to connect all of them by 2032. Nearly half of these habitations shall be considered in the next phase of PMGSY, while the remaining habitations will be connected through the Chief Minister's Rural Connectivity Program. In the next financial year, we will connect around 100 habitations and construct 100 new suspension foot bridges across the State. The overall budget for the Public Works Department is ₹2,873 Crore of which ₹2,122 Crore is from the State resources, almost a 15.6% increase over this year's allocation.
- 15.6. During my interactions with the people in CM Connect program, internal road connectivity is a recurring grievance. To resolve this, we will create a new component of blacktopping of existing rural roads under the Chief Minister's Rural Connectivity Program. I target to upgrade 200 kms of such

roads in the next financial year in convergence with MGNREGS and other schemes. I am allocating a budget of ₹60 Crore for this initiative.

- 15.7. The Government's persistent efforts towards augmentation of Shillong Airport are now coming to fruition. Additional land of 22 acres has been identified for expansion of the runway from the current 1,829 meters to 2,400 meters to enable the landing of larger commercial jets, thus improving direct connectivity with major Indian cities. Deliberations are underway to secure the additional land required from the Defense authorities and communities.
- 15.8. The plans for operationalization of Baljek Airport and establishing regular air connectivity from Shillong to Tura are being finalized. Heliports have been sanctioned for New Shillong and Tura and the construction will begin soon. I am allocating an amount of ₹63 Crore for improving air connectivity in 2025-26.

## **16. PIPED DRINKING WATER FOR ALL**

- 16.1. Providing every household with safe and reliable drinking water remains one of the foremost commitments of the Government. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), number of functional tap water connections has increased from 4,550 in 2019 to 5.32 lakh households today. We expect to achieve full coverage of 6.5 lakh households in the next financial year.
- 16.2. The Government realizes that some of the water sources feeding the JJM schemes are under various levels of stress. About 800 critical water sources have been identified for rejuvenation in Phase-1 and DPRs for 67 sources at a cost of ₹33 Crore are finalized. Over 60,000 springs have been mapped, and nearly 2,000 springsheds are being protected. I am allocating an amount of ₹50 Crore for taking up various source sustainability and

catchment protection measures in 2025-26. The Government has also approved the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) policy for water supply schemes to put in place a framework for long-term sustainability.

- 16.3. Several large ongoing water supply projects will be completed in the next financial year. These include the Greater Shillong Water Supply Scheme, Nongstoin Urban Water Supply Scheme, Greater Ampati Water Supply Scheme, and Williamnagar Urban Water Supply Scheme. The New Shillong Water Supply Scheme with an outlay of ₹590 Crore is progressing well.
- 16.4. The Greater Tura Urban Water Supply Scheme, with an investment of ₹400 Crore has been initiated recently. This scheme will secure Tura's water supply until 2050, supporting households, institutions, businesses, and the town's emerging tourism sector. I am allocating an amount of ₹866 Crore for capital works in water supply sector of which ₹700 Crore is from State resources, an increase of 54% over this year's allocation.

## **17. RELIABLE AND QUALITY POWER SUPPLY**

- 17.1. The power scenario in the State is seeing a turnaround. Financial support in the form of grants, takeover of losses, pension contributions and equity infusion to the tune of ₹2,762 Crore has been provided to MeECL from 2018-25, compared to ₹312 Crore provided from 2012-18. The support has been instrumental to revive the corporation and to resolve the legacy issues including settlement of power purchase dues to central sector PSUs and contribution to the employee pension fund.
- 17.2. In the last five years the AT&C losses have reduced from 32% to 17% and zero-defect billing has improved from 65% to 90%. The average power supply in 2023-24 was 22.21 hours per day in rural areas and 23.14 hours per day in urban areas.

- 17.3. The power infrastructure has undergone significant modernization and expansion. This includes the construction of 31 new sub-stations, installation of 2,676 new distribution transformers, and the addition of 2,207 ckt kms of high-tension lines, 1,255 ckt kms of 3-phase low-tension lines, and 2,359 ckt kms of single-phase low-tension lines.
- 17.4. New 132/33 KV sub stations are being built at Nongpoh and Mawkhanu and the augmentation of 132KV Bus at Nangalbibra is being taken up. Plans to augment the generation capacity are being implemented and DPRs for projects of 70 MW capacity are ready.
- 17.5. I expect the MeECL and its three subsidiaries, especially the DISCOM to become profitable in the next three years and to be on a self-sustaining path. For the next financial year, I am allocating ₹1,088 Crore from the State resources for the power sector, out of which ₹606 Crores is capital contribution.
- 17.6. The CM Solar Mission was launched to benefit 3,500 households and provides standalone power systems for households at 90% subsidy. The procurement and other administrative processes are completed, and the installation of power systems will begin next year. I am allocating an amount of ₹50 Crore for this important initiative.

## **18. HIGH SPEED INTERNET CONNECTIVITY**

- 18.1. The State has designated IT/ITeS as a priority sector under the Meghalaya Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy 2024. This policy incentivizes companies with ₹3,000 per employee per month for three years, for the first 15,000 jobs created.
- 18.2. The phase -2 of Shillong Tech Park is nearing completion, and it will be operationalized this calendar year. The construction of Tura Tech Park is

progressing well. The 2 new tech parks will cumulatively lead to the creation of additional 4,000 direct employment and 11,000 indirect employment opportunities. To keep pace with the State's evolving IT landscape, a partnership with International Internet Gateway (IIG) project is being worked out, which will ensure reliable and high-speed internet connectivity via Bangladesh.

18.3. Digital inclusion remains central to our efforts. The Government has managed to complete the construction of 98% of the planned telecom towers, ensuring 4G connectivity even in the remotest parts of our State. Today, nearly 89% of villages are connected through at least one telecom technology and we aspire to cover the balance villages and improve the bandwidth in the coming years. Last mile connectivity and broadband services are being strengthened in partnership with PowerTel using the transmission network of MePTCL.

18.4. I am allocating ₹132 Crore for the IT sector for 2025-26.

## **19. HOUSING**

19.1. Over the past year, the Government has made significant progress in both rural and urban housing, bringing the dream of home ownership closer to thousands of families across Meghalaya.

19.2. Under the PMAY-G, we achieved an impressive 73% completion rate, with 1.37 lakh houses already built out of the target of 1.88 lakh. In 2025-26, we will complete the remaining 50,000 houses, ensuring that every eligible family has a pucca house.

19.3. With the five-year extension of PMAY-G, we hope to provide housing to all unregistered beneficiaries who were previously left out of the scheme. I expect that in the next 3 years, we will be able to achieve saturation of

housing in the rural areas of the State. Additional amenities like toilet, electricity and gas connections will also be ensured for all PMAY-G beneficiaries.

19.4. I am happy to inform the house that from 2025-26 PMAY-Urban 2.0 will be expanded to cover four new towns- Sohra, Khliehriat, Ampati, and Mawkyrwat.

19.5. I am allocating an amount of ₹70 Crore for the Chief Minister's Housing Assistance Program.

## **20. AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL**

20.1. I am pleased to share that Meghalaya is the only State in the country spending close to 8% of its budget on health, as recommended by Fifteenth Finance Commission. The State's health budget has almost doubled from ₹1,071 Crore in 2018-19 to ₹1,971 Crore in 2024-25. In the last five years, significant progress has been made in health infrastructure - 916 construction and renovation works have been taken up compared to only 123 projects between 2013 to 2018. These efforts have increased capacity with 770 additional beds across various health facilities.

20.2. The challenge of human resources has been substantially addressed through the recruitment of approximately 2,500 healthcare professionals over the past six years, including 457 Medical and Health Officers, 274 Staff Nurses, 217 Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, and 393 Mid-Level Health Providers.

20.3. Improving maternal and child health and saving lives of mothers and infants has been a personal mission. Under the Chief Minister's Safe Motherhood Scheme free transportation and accommodation at health facilities are provided to high-risk pregnant women. This has resulted in a heartening reduction of 50% in maternal deaths and 32% in infant deaths between 2020

and 2024. I am allocating ₹21 Crore for the continued implementation of the Chief Minister's Safe Motherhood Scheme.

20.4. My Government has comprehensively reformed the system of procurement, distribution and supply of essential medical drugs at government facilities. The Meghalaya Medical Drugs and Services Limited (MMDSL) has procured 832 drugs, 12 endoscopy units, 24 X-ray machines, and installed ultrasound machines in over 30 facilities. Over 11,500 medical deliveries have been made to 244 facilities, including 566 by drone.

20.5. In a remarkable achievement, the stock position of drugs at any health facility can be seen online on the MMDSL website by every citizen. I am allocating an amount of ₹197 Crore for procurement of drugs, equipment and other activities under MMDSL, for 2025-26.

20.6. The Megha Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) has been streamlined with increased household and insurance coverage. The insurance coverage under the scheme has increased from ₹1.6 lakhs to ₹5.3 lakhs, and registration has grown from 50% to 90% in the last decade. The government is paying a premium of ₹2,576 for every registered household. I am allocating an amount of ₹180 Crore for the continued implementation of MHIS in 2025-26; out of this ₹5 Crore is earmarked for financial assistance to citizens needing support beyond the standard MHIS coverage.

20.7. The overall allocation to Health and Family Welfare Department for 2025-26 is ₹2,176 Crore, including ₹1,664 Crore from the State resources which is almost a 13% increase from this year.

## **21. NUTRITION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**

21.1. The first six years of a child's life are foundational to lifelong learning and development. The State currently has 6,090 Anganwadi Centres for

ensuring early childhood development - only 55% of these are housed in government buildings. Under Early Childhood Development Mission and in convergence with other ongoing schemes, we will construct and upgrade Anganwadi Centres in more than 2,000 locations in the next three years.

- 21.2. Our Anganwadi Centres provide supplementary nutrition through hot cooked meals and take-home rations. Self Help Groups are delivering nutritional services to 44,078 children and 9,533 mothers in 1,500 uncovered villages. Mid-day meals are being provided in 11,000 schools and benefiting more than 6 lakh learners.
- 21.3. The State has managed to remarkably increase the percentage of schools having School Nutrition Garden from a modest 9% to 80% in just one year. I am allocating an amount of ₹100 Crore for Early Childhood Development Mission and amount of ₹342 Crore to strengthening nutrition for the next financial year.

## **22. JOYFUL AND QUALITY LEARNING AT ALL LEVELS**

- 22.1. The Government remains resolute in its commitment to building human capital. In the new phase of supporting human capital project, about ₹150 Crore will be invested to improve school infrastructure. Renovations and new building construction in 37 senior secondary schools and construction of 4 DIET hostels will be taken up.
- 22.2. To promote digital learning and revolutionize education delivery, we are constructing 750 digital libraries across the State at an estimated cost of over ₹162 Crore.
- 22.3. Meghalaya's school administration ecosystem is a complex web with multiple types of schools with different governance models. A comprehensive exercise to identify schools with zero- and single-digit

enrolment has been undertaken - 2,475 number of schools out of the total of 14,582 fall in this category. We are formulating a strategy to streamline the administration of Government supported schools.

22.4. Under Mission Education, we have committed ₹326 Crore and undertaken phase wise upgradation, renovation and reconstruction work in 2044 Government schools. All balance works of the first 3 phases will be completed and Phase IV of Mission Education will be launched in 2025-26. The focus of this phase will be to provide 100% assured minimum facilities at all government schools.

22.5. The higher education system has been strengthened with setting up of two professional colleges, two model degree college and three polytechnics. We have upgraded twenty-nine government and government aided colleges under phase I and phase II of RUSA and converted three existing government aided colleges to model degree colleges. These investments have led to a 20% improvement in enrollment in higher and technical education in the State.

22.6. The overall allocation to Education department for next financial year is ₹3,654 Crore, including ₹2,770 Crore from the State resources; out of this ₹1,403 Crore is for grant-in-aid salaries and ₹170 Crore is for taking up capital works.

### **23. EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY AND GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL**

23.1. Sir, effective use of digital technology and e-governance is the way forward to improve service delivery in our remote villages.

23.2. Meghalaya One portal has been built as a one-stop simplified digital gateway for all Government-to-Citizen interactions. Through this platform, citizens can access around 200 State and Central government schemes,

including flagship schemes such as CM ASSURE and FOCUS. A cadre of 1,300 Village Data Volunteers are now in place to help citizens access digital services and register grievances.

- 23.3. Our government's CM CONNECT initiative has helped citizens report concerns via the 1971 toll-free helpline in English, Khasi, or Garo. In less than a year 1,300 grievances of citizens have been resolved. I have conducted 6 block level CM CONNECT public hearings. Hundreds of citizens and community leaders could directly report their grievances and get quick resolution.
- 23.4. The Meghalaya One platform also enables efficient government to government transactions. Today all financial transactions in the government, from the origin of proposal to the release of funds are done digitally. Average file processing time has been reduced from 26 days to just 2.5 days.
- 23.5. Another aspect of digital governance is increased transparency and accountability. We will make information related to all government programs and projects available online so that every citizen is empowered to engage with and question the government.
- 23.6. Access to banking and credit services is another unmet need in rural areas. Meghalaya has pioneered a unique interoperable Micro ATM technology that facilitates banking services in local languages—Khasi, Pnar, and Garo. This innovation ensures cash transactions and passbook updates at the doorstep of every citizen. In 2025-26, we will scale up this initiative and make these micro-ATMs available to all Customer Service Points and Business Correspondents.
- 23.7. While prioritizing digital governance, we recognize the importance of improving physical administrative infrastructure. Construction of 32 block offices is ongoing, and I am allocating ₹50 Crore for completing these

projects. The creation of Police Infrastructure Renovation Fund has contributed towards better infrastructure at various police stations and battalions. Police housing is being improved at a cost of ₹50 Crore and the works are nearing completion.

23.8. In 2025-26, we will initiate the construction of 10 new Community and Rural Development block offices and office buildings for the newly created subdivisions at Chokpot, Raksamgre, Mawshynrut, Ranikor, Jengjal, Dalu, Rongjeng and Patharkmah. New buildings for offices of Superintendents of Police and other infrastructure will also be taken up.

#### **24. CARING AND EMPOWERING STATE - STRENGTHENING YOUTH, WOMEN AND THE VULNERABLE**

24.1. Sir, one of the first tasks that the MDA Government undertook 7 years ago was streamlining of pension payments for senior citizens, single mothers and differently abled people. The CM CARE program now benefits 1,18,000 citizens. I am allocating an amount of ₹114 Crore for continuation of this program in 2025-26.

24.2. The Public Distribution System is being continuously improved through induction of technology and equipment like e-weighing scales and optimized operations. The price monitoring system of essential commodities is being strengthened.

24.3. The State is systematically addressing the pressing issue of substance abuse. Under the DREAM program all stakeholders are being mobilized and we are in the process of establishing a network of community based de-addiction centers.

24.4. Increasing women participation in the workforce is a priority for the Government. To ensure safe accommodation space for our women, along

with day care facilities for their children, four Working Women Hostels with a combined capacity of 1,000 beds have been sanctioned and will be constructed in New Shillong, Tura, Jowai and Byrnihat.

- 24.5. The States youth, women, farmers certainly benefit from the range of development programs implemented by Government. Direct benefit transfer programs, which put money in the hands of individuals and communities are complementary tools to empowerment.
- 24.6. The FOCUS and FOCUS+ programs are the State's flagship DBT programs for producer groups of farmers and individual farmers. The cash support allows farmers to solve their immediate local problems and improve production and productivity. I am increasing the annual support under FOCUS+ from ₹5,000 to ₹6,000 per household. I am allocating ₹175 Crore for implementation of FOCUS and FOCUS+ program in 2025-26.
- 24.7. Women empowerment through Self Help Group movement has been transformative in the last five years, growing from 5,000 SHGs in 2018 to over 52,000 in 2024. This year over ₹100 Crore has been provided as funding support to the SHGs, Village Organizations and Cluster Level Federations. We are forming an apex level cooperative federation, Pla Tangka Cooperative Society, to provide credit for our SHG women to build businesses. In the next three years the government will further expand the SHG movement to include and empower additional five lakh women.
- 24.8. The YESS Meghalaya program empowers youth organizations to drive social change. I am allocating ₹21 Crore for this program.
- 24.9. Sir, as I conclude the government's commitments section, I would like to announce the Chief Minister's Scholarship Scheme, a new flagship program that will benefit 80,000 youth from the next financial year. A grant of ₹6,000 per annum will be provided to all post matriculate students to enable them to cover educational expenses.

## **25. BUDGET ESTIMATES: 2025-26**

25.1. Sir, for 2025-26, I have estimated the total receipts at ₹30,415 Crore, of which the revenue receipts are estimated at ₹25,591 Crore and capital receipts at ₹4,824 Crore. Excluding borrowings of ₹4,788 Crore, the total receipts are estimated to be ₹25,627 Crore.

25.2. On the expenditure side, I have estimated the total expenditure at ₹30,003 Crore, of which the revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹20,556 Crore and Capital expenditure at ₹9,447 Crore. Excluding repayment of loans of ₹2,406 Crore, the estimated total expenditure is ₹27,597 Crore.

25.3. Interest payments for 2025-26 are estimated at ₹1,347 Crore and pension payments at ₹1,824 Crore.

25.4. I am, therefore, presenting the budget for 2025-26 with a fiscal deficit of ₹1,970 Crore, which is around 2.96% of the GSDP. I am delighted to highlight that the fiscal deficit has been maintained below the permissible limit of 3.5%.

25.5. Sir, along with the main budget document I am presenting the Climate, Youth, Gender and SDG Budgets. The size of the climate budget for 2025-26 is ₹5,421 Crore, an increase of 20% over 2024-25; Youth Budget stands at ₹3,329 Crore, an increase of 16.6%; Gender Budget stands at ₹6,219 Crore, an increase of 25%.

## **26. CONCLUSION**

26.1. Sir, in conclusion, I would like to reiterate that this is a people's budget and all our interventions and program are citizen centric. While there is more work to be done, the Government's performance is evident in the many

development projects and State DBT programs that are being implemented and the opportunities that are being provided to Youth, Women and Farmers. I would like to thank the citizens, the community leaders, government employees, the uniformed forces and grassroots functionaries whose support inspires me. Together, we can all make Meghalaya a developed State by 2032 and achieve the Meghalaya Mission 10.

26.2. Mr. Speaker Sir, with these words, I now commend the Budget to this august House.

Khublei! Mitela! Jai Hind!

