

HONBLE GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS TO MCS OFFICER TRAINEES OF 2021 BATCH AT DORBAR

HALL, RAJ BHAVAN, SHILLONG

27th of JULY, 2021

I am very glad to meet the new batch of thirty eight (38) Meghalaya Civil Services Officer Trainees here today. Every new batch brings in a ray of hope for the State. It is heartening to see that officers have come from different walks of life from Engineers, Doctor, Post graduates and people with experiences from other services of Government.

Civil Services form the Executive pillar of our Democracy. A dedicated and sincere executive has the potential to increase the happiness of its Citizens. Executive meets the common citizen on a day to day basis. This interaction helps build the credibility of the Idea of State in the minds of the people.

State is built on trust and credibility. It exists only through various institutions that the State has endeavors to build. One such institution for Meghalaya is the Meghalaya Civil Service. You form the cream of the State Service who will play an extremely crucial role in ideating, framing and implementing various policies of the State in the next three decades. I would like to stress the seriousness and gravity of this task in this 21st century.

We have already crossed the infancy of Digital Era in our lives and we live in artificial Intelligence, Big Data Era today. Governance must constantly compete with the services provided by the private players. Expectation of people towards Government Services is fast changing. When expensive products and delicious foods can be delivered at doorstep, the common man's ask is why Should anyone visit a Government office for a piece of paper. We need to think about these changing expectations and fast adapt to it else the resentment in the public will become very tough to answer to.

In recent months we have seen a global pandemic that has killed several thousand lives and livelihoods. In a more interconnected world, the speed of the spread is much faster than what we could presume. There has been another silent killer in the last few weeks where

Western Europe has seen floods that has taken more than 150 lives. This also has happened after almost 100 years. There are severe droughts in some part of the world while people die of floods in developed worlds. The Climate Change is a major challenge that all of you will have to factor in every ounce of our development strategy. Just like the Pandemic, the global climate change can hamper everything we have built. As a State, while we are blessed with natural resources and the beauty of it, they are also equally vulnerable to this changing weather patterns. I urge upon you to ensure all our developmental efforts are in harmony with the nature.

Ultimately the State has to set standards for Ethics and Moral Values. It is not just important to hold these values personally but also display in one's work and everyday life in Public Service. The younger generation will look up to you and you should be able to pass on these values with utmost confidence.

The State is still struggling with problems of the previous century. We have second highest fertility rate in the country, one of the highest Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rates. The education standards need considerable improvement and the employment rate is extremely low. The challenges which are in front of you are paramount but, I would like to leave with the Talisman of Mahatma Gandhi, "Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest woman whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to her".

Wishing Everyone the Best and May you be guided by the Supreme Force to take the right decisions in every step of your service.

Mitela! Khublei! Jai Hind!