

**SPEECH ON ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE BY THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR DR.
KRISHAN KANT PAUL, GOVERNOR OF MEGHALAYA.**

Dr. Mukul Sangma,
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Smti Justice T. Meena Kumari
Hon'ble Chief Justice , High Court of Meghalaya

Shri A.T. Mondal,
Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Council of Ministers

Distinguished Guests and Citizen of Meghalaya.

I am deeply honoured and humbled by the solemn dignity of the office that I have just entered. I assure you all, that I shall uphold the highest traditions of this exalted position, and will work for the principles that are sacred to our democratic values. The oath that I have just taken enjoins me to uphold the Constitution of India, and to devote myself to the service and well being of the people of Meghalaya. These responsibilities, I commit to discharge, to the best of my ability. I also commit, fairness and justice, in the discharge of my functions.

2. I have had the good fortune of earlier serving in North East. The entire North East, and particularly Meghalaya, is endowed with huge untapped natural resources and is acknowledged as the Eastern Gateway of India's Look East Policy. Today, this region has become the focal point in the country's Policy formulations. The initiative of bringing the Green Revolution to Eastern India, has shown spectacular results. The investments made, and those committed, shall open up new avenues for agricultural growth and economic transformation through development of this region at a much faster pace. However, this development should be balanced and must not disrupt the harmony between man and nature.

3. Meghalaya is a beautiful State, and the rich cultural traditions of its talented people, add a distinct colour to the diversity and splendour of India. I feel deeply honoured and privileged to be the First citizen of this fascinating State. The Raj Bhavan at Shillong has a rich history dating back to 1823, i.e. almost 200 years. This magnificent building, I am informed is 110 years old. It has had several distinguished occupants. To be one of them, now, is a rare honour. It also puts an onus on me to live up to your expectations, an onus, that is both inspiring and challenging. It shall, therefore, be my endeavour at all times to fulfil this onus to your utmost satisfaction.

4. Meghalaya is a State with tremendous potential. Its green cover, water resources, mineral wealth, bracing climate, together with the capabilities of its

people, can energize the dynamics of the State economy. Science, technology and innovation must propel us towards building a knowledge society. As our President, Shri Pranab Mukherjee has said, and I quote " *Education is the alchemy that can bring India its next golden age... Our motto is unambiguous: All for knowledge and knowledge for all...*". I am sure the State Government is already working in that direction.

5. Peace is essential for growth and prosperity. We need to facilitate a conducive social environment, to enable the willing participation of all sections of society, for inclusive development. We need to ensure the highest standards of governance built on the principles of transparency and accountability. The interests of our people, particularly the poor, should be supreme. In this above of clouds, let us all work together, try to reach for the stars and prove that our land is both, beautiful and bountiful.

6. I thank the Chief Minister for his warm welcome address. I eagerly look forward to working with him and his Council of Ministers.

7. I thank you all for this warm welcome, and I extend my greetings and good wishes to the people of the State.

Jai hind - Khublei - Mithela
