

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA OFFICIAL SPEECH ON THE OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY 15 AUGUST, 2024

My Dear Citizen,

1. I am very happy to be here today in Meghalaya 'the abode of clouds'. I am filled with joy to convey my heartfelt greetings to you on the occasion of 78th Independence Day of our beloved country. On this occasion, we remember our great freedom fighters who fought for the freedom of our motherland from the clutches of British rule, especially from this soil of Meghalaya- U Tirot Sing, U Kiang Nangbah, Pa Togan Sangma and many others. We also remember the pain of those who were displaced and faced the extreme hardship due to the of Partition of India.

2. It has been a year of great significance for Meghalaya as our ambitious economic growth plan for transforming the State into a 10 billion dollars economy is moving forward. Under this plan, we have identified 10 opportunity sectors which hold immense potential to generate prosperity for the State. We have also assured 10 welfare guarantees to the citizen of the State.

3. The law-and-order situation in the State, by and large peaceful throughout the year. The process of resolving the inter-state border dispute with Assam made steady progress this year.

4. The three new criminal laws, namely, the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam have come into force from 1st July 2024. Our government is implementing these three laws in the State. However, the Autonomous District Council Courts will continue to function under the provision of the Sixth Schedule of our Constitution.

5. In wake of the recent crisis in Bangladesh, Government of Meghalaya has tightened the security along the border. We have also taken steps to coordinate for the safe evacuation of our students studying in Bangladesh.

6. The state expenditure of Meghalaya, has been more than doubled from Rs.10,967 crores to Rs. 27,027 crores in the last five years as an outcome of improved governance and better finance management.

7. The income of farmers in the state continued to rise. The assistance given by the government to the farmers, by way of supporting with marketing facilities to the high value cultivation crops became very helpful in increasing the income of farmers.

8. Our farmers exported more than 10 metric tons of high-value horticultural produce during this year to overseas markets.

9. Under CM-ELEVATE programme, about 20,000 livestock and poultry farmers have been financially assisted through Banks with subsidies under the various schemes.

10. The fish production capacity of the state, increased by 500 metric tons last year, as an outcome of advanced fish culturing methods, introduced under the Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission.

11. To support the weavers, three new handloom clusters, are being developed in the State by my government.

12. More than 5 lakh households across the state, have been benefitted from Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. In 2023-24, almost 80,000 households have availed employment opportunities, and earned a total of Rs. 128 crores in wages. In the state we have also connected almost 5 lakh women with income generation opportunities through 49,000 self-help groups, formed under the National Rural Livelihood Mission. We have already built more than 73,000 new houses against the target of 1.8 lakhs under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana programme.

13. The State Government is committed to care for vulnerable social groups. More than 67,000 senior citizen, 37,000 single mothers, and 14,000 differently abled persons are being supported with a monthly pension under the CM CARE programme. Another 2,000 differently abled students are being provided scholarships.

14. There are currently 6,162 Anganwadi Centers across the state providing nutritional and developmental care to almost 4.5 lakh children and 65,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers.

15. More than 30 new Anganwadi sub-centers have been constructed this year, with another 100 sub centres scheduled to be completed by April, 2025. This will increase the total number of Anganwadi sub-centers from 460 to 610.

16. My government have introduced the Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme, to ensure health care for our citizen. More than 19 lakh citizen have been registered under this scheme.

17. In the field of higher education, grants-in-aid is being provided to 21 People's Colleges in the state.

18. In the field of technical education, my government is establishing new Polytechnic Colleges in different districts of the State, to get skill employment for the youth.

19. All the colleges in the state, coming under North Eastern Hill University, have successfully implemented New Education Policy starting with this academic year.

20. In the field of sports, our youths are performing very well in various individual events and also in football.

21. We have hosted the prestigious 133rd Durand Cup of football. As part of the event, a number of prominent clubs from India and Nepal, including our very own Shillong Lajong FC etc., played matches at J.N. Stadium Shillong.

22. Our government is committed to spend over Rs. 800 crores for development of sports infrastructures in the State.

23. In our state every year 70,000 youth are joining the workforce. To get quality employment under Skill Meghalaya Scheme around 26,000 candidates will be trained to be engaged in self-employment activities.

24. Under GREEN Meghalaya programme, we all succeeded in protecting our forest cover by 76%. In less than two years, the programme has supported almost 3,500 beneficiaries with over Rs. 52.5 crores to conserve almost 56,000 hectares of forests. We envision conserving another 1 lakh hectares of forest cover in the next 5 years.

25. Under Jal Jeevan Mission, more than 5.2 lakh rural households have been provided with functional tapped water connections by covering 80% of the population.

26. Our government is committed towards ensuring future water security for Meghalaya by conserving natural water resources.

27. My government have built 2,500 Km of roads in the last five years. The government will build 2,850 Km new roads and 6,000 Km of existing roads will be upgraded in the next 5 years. Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 2,000 crores for the implementation of the second phase under the Meghalaya Economic Growth Accelerator Corridor project.

28. The New Shillong Administrative City and the New Shillong Knowledge City are being built, with an estimated investment of Rs. 9,500 crores.

29. My government had made New Power Policy 2024, plans to double the power generation capacity by 2030 as against 367.5 megawatts of install capacity.

30. My government has launched the CM Solar Mission in 2023. The scheme will provide 90% subsidy to the people who install solar panels to their houses.

31. My government introduced the Meghalaya Industrial & Investment Promotion Policy to attract private investment to the tune of Rs. 10,000 crores over the next five years.

32. Meghalaya is blessed with immense tourism potential and countless natural and cultural tourism assets. My government has already provided 5,000 jobs in this sector to the people of the state for their livelihood.

33. The Government has created a pipeline of projects worth over Rs. 2,000 crores for private sector investment in the state.

34. The first phase of Shillong Tech Park has already created 4,500 jobs opportunities for Meghalaya's IT professionals. The upcoming second phase is expected to create another 12,000 jobs. We are building a Tech Park in Tura to spread IT to the Garo Hills also.

35. Before I conclude, I would like to thanks the entire State administrative machinery including the District Administration, the Police Force, Public Representatives, Community leaders, Non-Governmental Organizations, the media and all citizen of the State, who are indispensable participants in our endeavour to develop our beautiful State of Meghalaya.

Once again, I wish all my fellow citizen a very very Happy and meaningful Independence Day.

KHUBLEI MITELA JAI HIND JAI BHARAT