

Hon'ble Speaker,

With your permission, I rise to present the Budget for the Financial Year 2020-21.

INTRODUCTION

1. Sir, at the outset, I extend my warm greetings to the people of the State and I would like to thank them for the mandate given to the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) Government in 2018. Over the last two years, we have been steadfast in pursuing a pro-people and sustainability-focussed development agenda, with the ultimate objective of improving the well-being of every citizen of Meghalaya.
2. This Government has been able to make significant and visible progress on many development fronts in just two years. I am pleased to inform the house that we have reformed the delivery of key social programs. Under the Chief Minister's Social Assistance Program, over one lakh senior citizens and other pensioners are now receiving their pensions in the first week of every month, compared to the time-lag of 6-12 months in the past. We are also deploying cutting edge technologies to drive improvements in maternal and child health. We have been able to mobilize sizeable resources from the centrally sponsored schemes and externally aided projects of Government of India. Significantly, this Government has been able to impress upon the Fifteenth Finance Commission the need for enhancing our share of central transfers. Our efforts resulted in Meghalaya becoming one of the biggest gainers from the award of the Commission, which becomes effective from 2020-21.
3. Sir, the year 2020 marks the start of a new decade and my Government has a vision to make it the Meghalayan decade- a decade where the State realises its full potential through sustainable deployment of its human,

environmental, social and cultural resources; a decade where Meghalaya leads the way in innovation and governance; and a decade where the State emerges as a knowledge economy and caring society. Our goal is for Meghalaya to be amongst the top ten Indian States, in terms of per capita GDP and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, by 2030. This target is not merely aspirational, but certainly achievable and we have a clear strategy to achieve it. Our strategy revolves around prioritizing the four core pillars of Human development, Primary sector, Infrastructure and Entrepreneurship. Improvement in Governance and caring for the environment will be cross cutting measures guiding our strategy. The operationalization of our strategy will require critical investments in all these focus areas. This budget provides the framework for those critical investments. An important underlying theme of this year's budget is the creation and upgradation of basic infrastructure at all levels including schools, hospitals, roads, water supply, banking and administrative infrastructure.

4. Overall peace, safety and security are prerequisites for development. I am happy to inform you that the internal security situation during the year was peaceful. National Days were observed in a befitting manner and all socio-cultural and religious festivals were celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety. The militancy situation in the State is completely under control. The State witnessed protests following the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 for the implementation of ILP. Responding to the sentiments of the people, on December 19, 2019, we passed a resolution to urge the Government of India to implement ILP in order to safeguard the interests of the people of the State. This is the first Government to have passed such a resolution, which is now being examined by the Central Government.

STATE FINANCES

5. Meghalaya, like other special category states, is largely dependent on transfers from the Centre, for meeting both its revenue requirements and for making capital investments. Our own resources, tax and non-tax, constitute only about 20% of the State's total revenue receipts.
6. Against this background, we have prioritized improving our own tax and non-tax revenues. I am personally monitoring the revenue collection through periodic review meetings. For 2019-20, the revenue collected by the taxation department is expected to touch ₹ 1632 crore, thus registering a growth rate of 12.4%. We have approved the State lottery rules in December, 2019 for conducting both paper and online lottery and the process of operating the lotteries is being finalized. Steps have been taken to increase excise revenue through reducing inefficiencies. Brands have been re-categorized and the ad valorem duties have been revised accordingly. A policy for prepayment of ad valorem duty has been introduced. Revenue enhancing measures continue to be implemented in the Transport sector as well. The overall tax revenue, including Goods and Services Tax, Excise and Motor Vehicle Taxes will reach ₹ 2015 crore for 2019-20. For the year 2020-21, we are putting in place a full system of data analytics to aid in increasing the efficiency of revenue collection.
7. We have taken several measures for the improvement of non-tax revenues, given their higher elasticity. New improved mineral transport challans with multiple security features like hologram, fugitive ink and QR codes have been introduced. In the current financial year, a combination of new transport challans with QR code and installation of CCTVs have been done by the Forest Department at two check gates-Killing in Ri Bhoi and Bholaganj in East Khasi Hills. This intervention will be universalized in the next financial year, so that revenue leakages are plugged.

8. The ban on coal mining imposed by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal was lifted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order of July, 2019. In pursuance of that judgement, we started the process of authorizing land owners to grant prospecting licenses and mining leases for extraction of all major minerals, including coal. In terms of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order, henceforth, coal mining in the State is permitted in compliance with central legislations like MMDR Act, Environment Protection Act, 1986, etc. On minor minerals, the Government has completed preparation of District Survey Reports for all the eleven Districts. This will help mine owners obtain environmental clearances and mining leases under Meghalaya Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016 for extraction of minor minerals in the State. All these steps will systematize the mineral extraction in the State and increase non-tax revenues from the next financial year.
9. The Hon'ble National Green Tribunal's approval for auction of 2 lakh metric tonnes out of the 32 lakh metric tonnes of extracted coal is a welcome development. Strict environmental norms will be followed during the auction and transportation of coal and we expect to raise substantial revenues through the process.
10. Given all this, I am confident that the revenue collection of the State would improve significantly in the next financial year. For 2020-21, I have estimated ₹ 2,377 crore and ₹690 crore for tax and non-tax revenue collection respectively.
11. Sir, the biggest share of our revenue receipts is the tax devolution from the Union Government. The size of this devolution is determined by the Finance Commission every five years. The Fifteenth Finance Commission is mandated with recommending the devolution for the five-year period,

2020-25. My Government was successful in convincing the Commission of the need to enhance the devolution to Meghalaya through presenting a clear development program for the next five years. I am happy to inform this august House that the Commission increased Meghalaya's share of the total divisible pool from the previous 0.642 to 0.765 percent. The total grants recommended for Meghalaya for the year 2020-21 stand at ₹ 7,417 crore, of which ₹ 6,542 crore is the tax devolution, ₹ 491 crore is the revenue deficit grant, ₹ 182 crore and ₹ 88 crore are grants to rural and urban local bodies respectively, ₹ 66 crore is State Disaster Risk Management Fund and ₹ 48 crore is the grant for nutrition. Deviating from previous practice, the Commission submitted an interim report and made recommendations only for one year. This gives us an opportunity to engage with the Commission in the coming months to convince them to increase our allocations even further for the four-year period 2021-25.

12. Given the increased tax devolutions and the revenue enhancing measures that we put in place, I am able to increase the development budget from State's resources to ₹ 3,300 crore for 2020-21. This is a 45% increase over the previous financial year and the largest in the history of the State. I would like to highlight that the development budget from State's resources has never crossed ₹ 2,600 crore in the past five years.

13. In addition to the State's resources, the development budget includes resources available through the various schemes of the Central Government. Combining the State and Central resources, the total development budget for 2020-21 is estimated at ₹ 8,616 crore. Backed by these resources, I will now present the Government's plans and programs in various sectors.

PRIORITIZING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT- EDUCATION AND HEALTH

14. The fundamental goal of development is to enhance the richness of human life, and hence our focus on human development with education

and health sectors at the core. Early Childhood Education will be a key priority from the next financial year. The 5,896 Anganwadi centres of the State will be transformed into centers of joyful learning, thus laying a firm foundation for cognitive and social development of every child. This intervention is of particular importance to first generation learners in rural areas and will enable their smooth transition to primary school. I am allocating ₹ 10 crore in 2020-21 for the Mission for promotion of Early Childhood Education from State's resources.

15. Sir, there are 9,409 lower primary schools, 3,608 upper primary, 1,443 secondary and 339 higher secondary schools in the State. We are concerned about the inadequate infrastructure and facilities at our Government schools. Hence, starting from 2020-21, we will give a strong push for infrastructure upgradation. I am providing ₹ 40 crore from State's resources to bridge the infrastructure gaps in 264 schools across the State. Efforts are also being made to initiate phase II of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) assisted project, Supporting Human Capital Development in Meghalaya, through which infrastructure upgradation will be prioritized. Further, 13 Eklavya Model Residential Schools are being set up in different blocks of the State with the best infrastructure facilities with a capital cost of ₹ 312 crore through support from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

16. In higher education, we are setting up new Professional Colleges and are continuing our support for Government and Government Aided Colleges. We have recently approved the proposal to set up People's Colleges by converting nine grants-in-aid and private colleges into community-managed institutions of higher education. The Government has initiated the setting up of three new Polytechnics in unserved districts of Ri Bhoi, West Khasi Hills and South Garo Hills.

17. Sir, we live in a world where nearly everything is 'tech.' Yet, when it comes to learning in the classroom, we have barely scratched the surface of what's possible with technology. This year we started the implementation of Government of India's digital learning and teaching programme called DIKSHA, under which energized text books for Class IX and X on Mathematics and Science have been developed. Additionally, a total of 117 smart classrooms have been constructed under the ADB assisted project. I am allocating an amount of ₹ 10 crore from State resources for the creation of 100 additional smart classrooms in the next financial year.
18. In addition to these new initiatives, flagship programs in the Education sector like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid Day Meal will continue to be implemented. I am proposing a development allocation of ₹ 1,050 crore for the Education sector in 2020-21.
19. Sir, the Health sector continues to be of prime importance to the Government. We have placed huge emphasis on maternal and child health and I am happy to inform the House that our efforts are showing results. Maternal mortality rate declined to 164 per lakh in 2018-19 from 197 per lakh in 2016-17. Institutional delivery has also gone up from 55% in 2016-17 to 58% in 2018-19. To continue with the momentum, we have launched an innovative technology and data driven statewide program called Meghalaya's Outcome oriented Transformation in Health, Education and Rural Development or the MOTHER program. The pilot program in South West Garo Hills saw the institutional deliveries going up to 76% within a year. We have already registered 13,000 pregnant women from across the State on the MOTHER mobile app and are striving to achieve the goal of 100% institutional deliveries via this program. I am allocating ₹ 2.5 crore specifically for this programme in 2020-21.

20. Health insurance is essential to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure on health care. We are implementing the Megha Health Insurance Scheme Phase IV in convergence with Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and providing enhanced insurance coverage of upto ₹ 5 lakh per family with no restrictions on family size and age. More than 15 lakh beneficiaries have already enrolled under the program, and more than one lakh individuals have availed benefits amounting to ₹ 74 crore.
21. For 2020-21, the Government plans to complete the construction of the Baghmara Civil Hospital, Special Newborn Unit at Ganesh Das Maternity and Child Hospital in Shillong and up-gradation of Mawkyrwat Community Health Centre to 100-bedded hospital. The Government is also focusing on extension and completion of isolation ward at Tura Civil Hospital, construction of Sub-Centre at Langpih and commissioning of the Cancer Hospital at Shillong. I am also happy to inform you that we recently got the sanction for an externally aided project in the health sector called the Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening project at an estimated cost of ₹ 352 crore.
22. Sir, continuing the theme of infrastructure improvement, I am allocating an additional amount of ₹ 50 crore from States' resources for health infrastructure development in rural areas, including construction of PHCs, CHCs, Sub-centres and for development of a comprehensive health MIS. The State development budget outlay for the Health and Family Welfare sector is ₹ 400 crore for 2020-21, compared to last year's ₹ 329 crore, an increase of 22%. The overall proposed development outlay is ₹ 724 crore.

PRIMARY SECTOR- THE MAINSTAY OF THE STATE'S ECONOMY

23. Sir, Meghalaya is predominantly agrarian, and more than 70% of its population is dependent on the primary sector for their livelihood. The

sector contributes to about 24% of the GSDP. Various projects, initiatives and missions have been launched over the past two years with the objective of increasing agricultural production and improving farmers' incomes. The year 2020 is declared as the 'year of the farmer.'

24. Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM- KISAN), an income support scheme launched by the Ministry of Agriculture, more than 75,000 farmers possessing land in the State are receiving income support assistance of upto ₹ 6,000 during the current financial year.
25. Under the State Government's Lakadong Mission, till date 200 hectares has been covered benefiting 1,223 farmers. Our objective is to increase the area for Lakadong turmeric to 6,070 hectares from the present 2,577 hectares. The State has been recently selected for making a Turmeric Export Zone in the West Jaintia Hills District. Meghalaya is the only North Eastern State selected by the Government of India under the Agriculture Export Policy. Another significant achievement for the State and the Lakadong farmers in particular, is the conferment of Padma Shri award by the Government of India to Smti. Trinity Saio from West Jaintia Hills in recognition of her contribution to the Lakadong Turmeric Farmers.
26. Under the Mushroom Mission, an MoU was signed between YATS Corporation, a Japanese agricultural company, the Government and Hills Farmers Union for the dissemination of Shitake Mushroom cultivation technologies to farmers in the State. A team of our farmers has visited Japan for training. The Jackfruit Mission is also being implemented with a total project cost of ₹ 67 crore. In the current financial year, ₹ 10 crore was sanctioned for the implementation of the Lakadong and Jackfruit Missions by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. For 2020-21, I am allocating ₹ 10 crore of our own resources for continued implementation of these three critical Missions.

27. Sir, plantation of aromatic crops provide a tremendous opportunity for our State, given the availability of a large amount of cultivable wasteland and the ready market for aromatic oils. The Megh Aroma Mission was launched in May 2019 with a proposed investment of ₹18 crore covering 1,000 hectare across the State. This Mission will provide an alternate livelihood opportunity in quarrying and mining areas. In less than a year, we have already created 50 hectares of aromatic plantations of Lemon Grass and Citronella. Further, four distillation units for processing of aromatic oils have been installed - one each in Ri Bhoi, East Jaintia Hills, West Khasi Hills and South West Garo Hills. Given the huge potential of this mission, I am proposing a specific allocation of ₹ 5 crore for 2020-21 and we will expand the mission to all districts.
28. In addition to the focused missions, we have set up a statutory institutional mechanism in the form of the Meghalaya Farmers' Commission to systematically look into the issues faced by farmers in the State. Continuing our direct engagement with the farmers, the second edition of the 'Farmers' Parliament' was organized at Tura with participation of about 1,000 farmers. Another significant milestone for our farmers is the approval of an externally aided project, Meghalaya Farmers Mobilization Project, with a cost of ₹ 512 crore over a five-year period. Implementation of the project will begin from 2020-21.
29. Sir, I believe that, among the many challenges being faced by our farmers, lack of infrastructure for marketing of Agricultural produce is a critical bottleneck. We will launch a new program for establishment of cluster-based, Farmer Owned, Farmer Operated markets in all the districts for 2020-21. I am specifically earmarking ₹ 20 crore for this program.

30. The Food Processing sector has immense potential in our State. The creation of a Directorate of Food Processing is showing results. We organized the first ever North East Food Show in collaboration with SIAL, Paris in December 2019. A total of ₹ 24 crore business was generated giving a fillip to the nascent entrepreneurial energy in the sector. The food show will now become a calendar event and place Meghalaya in the global food industry map. I am proposing a total allocation of ₹ 24 crore for the food processing sector for 2020-21.
31. Apiculture sector is an important area for our State. To give a big thrust to the sector, an Integrated Beekeeping Development Center is being set up with a cost of ₹ 10 crore in North Garo Hills.
32. The Animal Husbandry and Dairy Sector is also critical and improving the infrastructure in this area is a priority. Accordingly, a multi-species modern abattoir was commissioned in Shillong under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund of NABARD at a cost of ₹ 22 crore.
33. The Meghalaya Milk Mission is being implemented with an investment of ₹ 220 crore from the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). The capacity of the Milk Processing Centre at Central Dairy, Mawiong was upgraded from 10,000 litres to 50,000 litres per day. Forty-four Dairy Cooperative Societies have been formed and bulk milk coolers have been distributed to eight such societies. Road milk tankers, having capacities of upto 5,000 litres have been introduced to facilitate the smooth transportation of milk. We are also starting a scheme for Cattle Ranches, which will be first of its kind in the country. The first such ranch will be at Mawmerang in South West Khasi Hills.
34. The Meghalaya Piggery Mission, with an investment of ₹ 220 crore has been sanctioned by the NCDC. Under this mission, 300 pig breeding farms will be established and in the first phase, about 100 cooperative

societies will be selected to implement this mission. I am proposing a total development outlay of ₹ 60 crore for 2020-21 for the Animal Husbandry and Dairy Sector.

35. Fisheries have been instrumental in providing direct livelihood opportunities to over 21,000 fish farmers in Meghalaya. We have redoubled the efforts to promote fisheries through the Meghalaya State Aquaculture Mission 2.0. Various activities are being taken up under the mission including construction of sanctuaries, integrated farming projects, cold water fisheries, aqua parks and piloting of innovative projects. I am proposing an outlay of ₹ 51 crore in 2020-21 for the Fisheries sector.

36. In the Textiles sector, the Muga Mission was launched to capitalize on Meghalaya's strength in muga silk with a proposed investment of ₹ 138 crore. The mission focuses on fully developing the muga value chain and significantly improving the income of the Muga farmers in Garo Hills. In the Handloom sector, the Integrated Textile Tourism Complex is being established at Ri Bhoi District. This will be developed as a Centre of Excellence for Ahimsa Silk and will promote silk and handloom tourism.

37. I am proposing a development budget of ₹ 540 crore for the Agriculture and the Allied sectors including ₹ 241 crore from the State's resources.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

38. Moving on from the Primary Sector, I would now like to highlight some of the key achievements and plans for Infrastructure Development. I have already outlined the programs for development of social infrastructure. I will now elaborate on core economic infrastructure, which is essential for growth and prosperity.

39. A dense network of good quality roads is important for our State, given that a large section of our population lives in dispersed rural habitations. Accordingly, this Government has been making big efforts to improve the implementation of Government of India's flagship rural connectivity program- the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). In the last two years, a total length of 510 kms of roads have been completed under the program, compared to only 330 kms for the period 2016-18. We got sanctions for ₹ 1729 crore from 2018-20, a fourfold increase compared to the period 2016-18. We are committed to complete the construction of 1,674 kms of ongoing rural roads in the next financial year. I am proposing an outlay of ₹ 400 crore for 2020-21 for the PMGSY program.
40. Another program through which we are taking up construction of rural roads is the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) of NABARD. The annual normative allocation under RIDF has doubled to ₹ 200 crore, since this Government came to power. In the last two years, 69 rural roads projects have been sanctioned under RIDF with a total cost of about ₹ 153 crore. Under the State plan, 423 kms of roads at a cost of ₹ 422 crore have been sanctioned in 2019-20.
41. There is good progress on the roads sanctioned under the North East Road Sector Development Scheme and the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme of the Government of India. We are also implementing an Externally Aided Project, the Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project, that focuses on upgradation and improvement of State highways, district roads and roads connecting tourist spots. Seven major roads covering a length of about 180 kms are being taken up at an estimated cost of ₹ 368 crore in phase I of the project. Additionally, ₹ 100 crore will be invested on tourism-specific roads in the next financial year. I am proposing an allocation of ₹ 220 crore for the Meghalaya Integrated Transport Project.

42. Sir, one of the reasons for the poor quality of our road network is the absence of a systematic approach to maintenance, based on sound asset management principles. Though funds are made available under revenue expenditure budget for maintenance of roads, a significant portion of that goes towards payment of wages to muster rolls and attending to emergency works, leaving very little resources for periodic renewal of roads. To overcome these challenges, and to make a fresh start, we are launching a new program for systematic periodic maintenance of roads, with a budget provision of ₹ 50 crore for 2020-21. I am also proposing to almost double the overall development budget for roads and bridges from ₹ 590 crore in 2019-20 to ₹ 1,084 crore in 2020-21.
43. Water supply, in both urban and rural areas, is a key priority. We are making all out efforts to increase our allocations under the Jal Shakti Ministry's flagship program the Jal Jeevan Mission. We plan to dramatically improve the number of households with functional tap connections in the next financial year. In the current year, we have taken up 19 rural water supply schemes with an investment of ₹ 84 crore under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund of NABARD. Work on the Greater Sohra (Cherrapunjee) Water Supply Scheme and laying of New Feeder Mains for Tura Phase-I & II Water Supply Scheme, taken up under North-East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme is progressing well. We are also keen on the completion of the ongoing Water Supply Schemes like Greater Shillong Water Supply Project (Phase-III), Greater Ampati Water Supply Scheme and Nongstoin Urban Water Supply Scheme and on initiating new schemes in Greater Laitkor, Baghmara, Williamnagar and Mawdiangdiang. Accordingly, I am enhancing the State development budget for Water Supply to ₹ 193 crore from the previous allocation of ₹ 135 crore.
44. Access to basic sanitation is essential for health and well being. With the attainment of Open Defecation Free status, the State is now moving to

ODF Plus, focusing primarily on sustainability and supporting villages on solid and liquid waste management. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), we have already implemented Solid and Liquid Waste Management projects in 1,252 villages at an estimated cost of ₹ 96 crore. The Solid Waste Management Policy covering all urban areas in the State has also been notified.

45. Sir, many initiatives have been taken up for the improvement of power infrastructure such as construction of Sub-stations at Ampati, Khliehtyrshi, Jyntru and Lad Smit, besides installation of two additional 5 MVA power transformers at Nongstoin and Mairang, and the 132 KV single circuit line from Rongkhon to Ampati. The biggest project in this sector is the ADB funded Meghalaya Power Sector Improvement Project with an outlay of ₹ 1,162 crore on which work is to start very soon. We plan to install 1.8 lakh smart electricity meters under the project, learning from our experience of installing 4,543 prepaid meters. We are also strongly promoting renewable energy. Project is being initiated for putting up solar panels in various Government buildings across the State at an approved cost of ₹ 15 crore.

46. Air connectivity is the key to unlocking our growth potential in general and tourism potential in particular. Our sustained efforts have resulted in the operationalization of a daily Indigo flight from Kolkata to Umroi. It is now expected that 42 or 72 seater flights will operate shortly to connect Shillong with Delhi. The expansion of the Umroi Airport has been completed and installation of Instrument Landing System and Night Landing Facilities are at an advanced stage. Plans are underway for the extension of the runway at Baljek airport also. Another significant achievement in the Transport sector is the Inter State Bus Terminal at Tura, which was inaugurated in September 2019 and the Inter State Bus Terminus at Mawiong, East Khasi Hills, which is in its completion stage. For the year 2020-21, new initiatives like construction of Heliport at

Umsawli, East Khasi Hills, Inter State Truck Terminus at Ri-Bhoi and setting up the Institute of Driving and Traffic Research will be taken up. A development allocation of ₹ 56 crore is being proposed for the Transport sector in 2020-21.

47. Improvement in urban infrastructure is an essential component of our growth strategy. Some of the important projects which are likely to be completed soon are the construction of Bishnupur Market at Laban, re-development of Polo Market and renovation and upgradation of Hawkers Market at Golflinks, Shillong. We all know that Shillong is one of the smart cities under the Government of India's Smart Cities Mission. Projects for re-development of Laitumkhrah Market and Polo Market, setting up of Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) and building of Smart Roads have been finalized under the mission. For 2020-21, we will focus on beautification of our cities and towns through construction of iconic landmarks and improving the overall cleanliness. Detailed plans for the complete redevelopment and beautification of Barik point in Shillong with a cost of ₹ 350 crore are ready. I am allocating ₹ 10 crore specifically on interventions for beautification of Shillong and Tura towns and for introduction of mechanized cleaning and waste collection systems. I am proposing a total allocation of ₹ 199 crore for the Urban Development Sector.

48. Sir, we have a long international border and increasing our trade with Bangladesh could be a key growth driver. Accordingly, we are focussing on the creation and strengthening of border infrastructure. Construction of three new Border Haats at Shibbari, South Garo Hills, Killapara, Dalu, West Garo Hills and at Huroi, East Jaintia Hills is ongoing. I recently visited Bangladesh along with a business and official delegation to explore the specific avenues for cooperation between Meghalaya and Bangladesh.

49. The Government is also aware of the infrastructure needs of the areas along the inter-state border, which are partly being funded through the Border Areas Development Program. For 2020-21, we will also come up with an infrastructure development package for these areas.
50. Other landmark infrastructure being implemented include the first phase of the Technology Park at New Shillong at a cost of ₹ 35 crore, Assembly Building at a cost of ₹ 141 crore, Shillong International Center for Performing Arts and Culture (SICPAC) at a cost of ₹ 151 crore. We intend to complete the projects on time and I have allocated ₹ 46 crore, from State resources, for these three key projects.
51. I am proposing a development budget of ₹ 2,043 crore for the Infrastructure Sector, including ₹ 839 crore from the State's resources.

PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP

52. Sir, 75 % of Meghalaya's population is below the age of 34 and 37 % is in the age group of 15-34 years. Creation of jobs for thousands of youth who are joining the workforce annually is a massive challenge and my Government acknowledges that entrepreneurship and growth of small businesses is the way forward.
53. We started the Entrepreneur of the month award as a first step to encourage entrepreneurs. In August, 2019 we launched the Chief Minister's E-Champion Challenge to identify the top 100 enterprise ideas in the State. The first edition of the challenge which began in September 2019 saw the participation of more than 700 applicants, of which 100 were shortlisted and felicitated at the first Meghalaya Entrepreneurship and Startup Summit held in January this year. The E-Champion

Challenge will now be an annual event and provide the platform for identification of entrepreneurial talent from across the State.

54. We also launched the State's flagship enterprise promotion program called PRIME - Promotion of Innovative and Market-driven Enterprises. Under this program, PRIME Hubs will be set up at different locations of the State as one-stop-shops for all entrepreneurship related services. The first PRIME Hub was inaugurated at Shillong and this vibrant space is being opened up to the entrepreneurs. For 2020-21, we will build and operationalize 15 PRIME Hubs. I am proposing an allocation of ₹ 10 crore specifically for the PRIME program and another ₹ 10 crore for strengthening the Meghalaya Institute of Entrepreneurship.
55. Sir, this Government realizes that the flow of credit is a necessary condition for entrepreneurship to flourish. We also know the challenges associated with accessing credit from the banks. Accordingly, I am announcing three programs that will ease the flow of credit into the system. The first is a First Loss Default Guarantee program, which will provide comfort to the lending banks and Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFC). Second, is an incentive scheme for establishing additional brick and mortar bank and NBFC branches in the State. Under this, the State will reimburse a portion of the operational costs of new branches. The third program is the creation of a micro-equity fund, which will directly invest in the businesses of entrepreneurs identified at the PRIME Hubs. All these three programs will be operationalised from April, 2020 and I am allocating ₹ 10 crore for their implementation.
56. In addition to our own State specific programs, we are also streamlining the implementation of the Government of India's entrepreneurship program- PMEGP. Through continuous coordination with banks, KVIC and other stakeholders, I am confident of our improved performance for

this year. We also launched the ease of doing business portal in November, 2019 to foster investments in the State.

POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS

57. Sir, effective implementation of sustainable poverty alleviation programmes is one of the cornerstones of the development strategy of the State. Meghalaya has been consistently amongst the top three performers in the country in the implementation of MGNREGS. In the current year, we have already spent over ₹ 1,000 crore and have been able to reach out to more than 4.5 lakh households in the State and have provided, on an average, more than 70 days of wages to them. The State's commitment to work for the poorest is evident from the fact that we have already utilised 102% of the allocated budget under MGNREGS and ensured that over 87% of the payments are generated within 15 days.

58. The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has been expanded to all 46 blocks in the State. We have been able to reach out to around 2 lakh women and organised them in around 19,000 Self Help Groups (SHGs) across 3,750 villages. During 2019-20, a total of 8,216 SHGs and 476 Village Organisations were formed. The program has disbursed funds to the tune of ₹ 68 crore to the SHGs. The quantum of credit accessed from the banks stands at ₹ 30 crore. The Bottom 20 Scheme under MGNREGS is converging with NRLM to ensure that beneficiaries who are getting individual physical assets such as piggery sheds under MGNREGS are also getting working capital from NRLM to ensure a sustainable homestead enterprise. I am proposing an allocation of ₹ 105 crore for NRLM in 2020-21.

59. Provision of pucca houses to eligible rural households through the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G) in convergence with the Chief Minister's Housing Assistance Programme

will continue to be a focus area until the dream of 'Housing for All' is achieved. The construction of over 11,329 houses under the scheme in 2018-19, a quantum jump from around 260 houses constructed in 2017-18, is a testimony to the Government's commitment to the Economically Weaker Section. For 2020-21, I am proposing an allocation of ₹ 109 crore for PMAY-G and ₹ 20 crore for the Chief Minister's Affordable Housing Scheme.

60. Sir, for the effective implementation of all the poverty alleviation initiatives such as MGNREGS, NRLM, PMAY etc, it is imperative that we have the requisite administrative infrastructure in place. Accordingly, we will provide upto ₹ 2.5 crore each for blocks with critical infrastructure needs and ₹ 50 lakh for renovation of all other block offices. I am proposing an initial allocation of ₹ 13.5 crore from State's resources for this purpose.

61. Our traditional institutions play a very critical role in the implementation of development programs, both through partnership with VECs and on their own. To strengthen the functioning of these important institutions, I am proposing an outlay of ₹ 1 crore each for infrastructure creation for traditional institutions in the three regions of the State.

62. Sir, as the elected representatives of the populace, the MLAs are the anchors of the developmental initiatives of the state in their respective constituencies. The Special Rural Works Program (SRWP) and the Special Urban Works Program (SUWP) have been able to address the felt public needs through the agency of their own elected representatives. To enable the MLAs to continue with the good work in every nook and corner of the State, I am proposing an enhancement in the allocation under these two schemes from ₹ 2 crore to ₹ 2.5 crore per MLA, thus, taking the total

allocation for SRWP to ₹ 136 crore and for SUWP to ₹ 14 crore for 2020-21.

BUILDING SUSTAINABLE RURAL LIVELIHOODS

63. Meghalaya, like other Himalayan states is in a fragile economic zone and building sustainable, climate proof livelihoods is essential. We are implementing several sustainability focussed programs and projects. The Meghalaya Livelihood and Access to Markets Project or Megha-LAMP is part-funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Though the project started in 2014, there were multiple challenges in the first four years. However, in 2018, after our Government took charge, we restructured the implementation and achieved rapid turn-around putting the project back on track. Disbursement jumped from 4% in December 2018 to 23% as of today. Under the project, interventions for natural resource management have been taken up in 1,300 villages, 300 Integrated Village Cooperatives have been formed and 219 kms of rural roads have been constructed. For 2020-21, the project will work for building enterprises in all the 1,350 project villages and will pilot innovations like SMART farms. I am proposing a total allocation of ₹ 180 crore for the project, of which ₹ 30 crore will be from State's resources.

64. Another important sustainability focused project is the Community Led Landscape Management Project or CLLMP that was launched in 2018. Comprehensive community-led natural resource management activities are being taken up in 400 of the most degraded landscapes in the State. I am proposing a total allocation of ₹ 90 crore for the project, of which ₹ 10 crore will be from State's resources.

65. Other projects in the pipeline include the JICA funded Project for Community-Based Forest Management and Livelihood Improvement and the KFW funded Protection of Vulnerable Catchment Areas Project.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE

66. Sir, as already mentioned in the introduction, we have streamlined the implementation of the Chief Minister's Social Assistance Program by releasing and sanctioning pending pensions from 2017-18 and through ensuring that all the 1.08 lakh beneficiaries receive their pensions in the first week of every month. Benefits under Government of India's National Social Assistance Programme are also being implemented through DBT mode from September 2019. For 2020-21, I want to streamline the process of disbursement of payments to ASHA and Anganwadi workers and wages to our workforce of muster roll and work charge employees. We want to ensure that they also receive their entitlements in the first week of every month directly into their bank accounts.
67. I am also pleased to announce that the minimum wages have been revised to ₹ 324, ₹ 368, ₹ 411 and ₹ 454 per day for Unskilled, Semi-skilled, Skilled and Highly- skilled categories of workers respectively from 1st October, 2019.
68. Sir, in May 2019 the Meghalaya State Policy for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was approved to promote, protect and ensure the full realization of all rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities. So far, 4,867 beneficiaries have benefitted under the Scheme -Assistance to Disabled Persons.
69. Protection of women from all forms of abuse is a core objective of the Government. For 2020-21, I am allocating an amount of ₹ 5 crore for construction and strengthening of the shelter homes for women affected with domestic violence in different districts of the State.
70. Another important social welfare program is the construction and improvement of rehabilitation centres for drug users. I am allocating

₹ 5 crore from State's resources for these centers at Shillong, Jowai and Nongstoin.

71. Improving the efficiency of the Public Distribution System (PDS) is another priority for this government. Accordingly, I am proposing an allocation of ₹ 30 crore in 2020-21 for fair price shop automation. This technology intervention will eliminate leakages and ensure that food grains and other entitlements reach the poor in every nook and corner of the State.

TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE

72. Tourism is one of the most important growth engines for our State. The sector is also an important job generator. If the State has to grow at rates higher than the national average, Tourism sector must grow exponentially. Today the sector's contribution to the State GDP is only around 3%. Our goal is to increase this to 15 percent in the next five years. Our strategy is to make Meghalaya a high-value tourism destination through responsible and sustainable tourism. The goal is to have the least impact on the environment and the optimal economic benefit for the communities.

73. To take forward this agenda, we have started the process of making master plans for the key tourist sites including Umiam Lake in Ri Bhoi, Mawkyrwat and Jakrem in South West Khasi Hills, Nokrek National Park in West Garo Hills, Balpakram National Park in South Garo Hills, Resubelpara in North Garo Hills, Umngot river front in West Jaintia Hills, Sohra in East Khasi Hills and other regions of the State. New interventions at these sites will begin only after these master plans are approved. The funds for infrastructure creation will be made available through the newly sanctioned, New Development Bank funded, externally aided project on experiential eco-tourism. The project is being designed

for benefits to flow directly to the communities. Tourism cooperatives and societies will be formed in the project villages so that the entire community is involved. I am proposing a total allocation of ₹ 110 crore for the project, of which ₹ 10 crore will be from State's resources.

74. In addition to master planning of various sites, we have also completed the feasibility studies for the setting of tourism ropeways in three locations – Umiam Lake, Shillong Peak and Tura town. We are exploring the various funding mechanisms for these iconic projects, including Public Private Partnerships.
75. We will also continue to implement State schemes and Government of India programs like Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD. Recently, the Ministry of Tourism has approved ₹ 30 crore under PRASAD scheme. The State was recently ranked as the fourth best performer in the implementation of Swadesh Darshan scheme.
76. Given the importance of the Tourism sector, I am proposing an enhancement of the State's development budget from ₹ 36 crore in 2019-20 to ₹ 50 crore for 2020-21. This enhanced allocation will be utilized for rolling out three new State schemes. The first is the organization of high-impact tourism events like the recently concluded Meghalayan Age program. These events will be held across the State and will be made calendar events. The second scheme is for the construction of aesthetically designed and well managed way side amenities across the State. The third scheme is a support to entrepreneurs for purchase of tourist taxis and for other tourism interventions. All these schemes will be rolled out from next month and will go a long way in promoting our mission of encouraging high-value responsible tourism.
77. Promotion of the vibrant Arts and rich Culture of our State is a key focus. We plan to upgrade the Captain Williamson Sangma State

Museum, Shillong to a state-of-the-art facility with support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Funds for construction of Tribal Research Institute at Babadam, West Garo Hills have been released by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the construction will begin soon.

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH- SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND SPORTS

78. Sir, as mentioned before, we are a very young State and concerted efforts are being made to empower the youth of the State. Skilling the youth is an urgent priority. The ADB funded project has an important component on skills. Under the project, 10,828 youth were trained in various skills in 2019-20. As 2020-21 is the last year for the project, I am proposing a total allocation of ₹ 240 crore, of which ₹ 40 crore will be from State's resources.

79. A unique soft-skills and well-being enhancement program called Aspire Meghalaya was implemented in 2019-20 with funding support from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Impressed by the success of the program, the Ministry has sanctioned the second phase, which will be implemented in 2020-21 at a cost of ₹ 5 crore.

80. Skill training is also being provided under Government of India schemes like the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDUGKY) and the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). About 5,000 youth were trained under both these programs in the last year.

81. Sir, Sports is another area to empower the youth and move them towards excellence. This sector attains greater importance in our State, given the large pool of sporting talent. We approved the Sport policy in June 2019 to provide a comprehensive framework for the development of sports and sportspersons. I am instituting an award for recognizing one sports person every month, starting April 2020.

82. We are all aware that Meghalaya has been selected as the host for the prestigious 39th National Games in 2022 to coincide with 50th year of Statehood. I want to assure the citizens of the State and the country, through this august House, that Meghalaya is well prepared to host this mega sporting event. Over the last six months, several preparatory activities like finalization of the games venues, procurement of consultants, finalization of stadia design, mobilization of funds for infrastructure creation, consultations with the State and National Olympic associations have been done. We have also conducted the Meghalaya Games after a gap of 16 years as part of our team preparation plan. I have recently unveiled the designs for the P.A. Sangma Integrated Sports Complex at Tura. This complex will be constructed at a cost of ₹ 125 crore with funding support from the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India. The designs for the comprehensive renovation of J.N. Stadium and construction of a state-of-the-art, multi level indoor stadium in the 5th ground at Polo, Shillong are being finalised, and this project will be funded mostly from State's resources. Accordingly, I am proposing a development budget of ₹ 280 crore including ₹ 125 crore from the State's resources.

FOCUSSING ON SUSTAINABILITY AT ALL LEVELS

83. Sir, though I have already spoken about sustainability at different points during this address, I am still dedicating one section exclusively for sustainability, given its primacy for Meghalaya. We have a forest cover of about 76% and there is an urgent need to protect our forest, land and water resources. This Government is acutely aware of the need for sustainable use of water resources. Meghalaya became the first State in the country to adopt a Water Policy in July 2019 to comprehensively address the issues of conservation and protection of water sources. About 50% of the MGNREGS expenditure equivalent to about ₹ 500 crore

was spent on natural resources and water related interventions in 2019-20.

84. In 2018, the State launched the Meghalaya One Citizen, One Tree campaign with the aim of encouraging every citizen of the State to plant and adopt a tree. Last year, through a concerted effort of the government and the communities, we planted more than 1 million trees under the campaign on World Environment Day. This initiative will continue in 2020-21. Another important initiative is the inventorization and mapping works of all 306 spring sheds under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change.

85. We are also committed to restoring the environment damaged by coal mining in the State. Accordingly, an action plan is being prepared and pilot projects have commenced for the environmental restoration and treating of acid mine drainage. The State Government has also notified guidelines for utilization of Meghalaya Environment Protection and Restoration Funds. The District Mineral Foundation has been notified in eight districts to minimize or mitigate adverse effects of mining on environment, health and for implementing various developmental and welfare programmes in mining affected areas. Recently the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released CAMPA funds of ₹ 163 crore for taking up afforestation works in the State.

86. Other small but significant interventions focussing on sustainability include installation of LED lights in the entire secretariat complex. In 2020-21, we plan to install LED lights, water harvesting structures and renewable power generation systems in many Government buildings.

DISTRICT COUNCILS

87. The Fourteenth Finance Commission did not provide any direct grants-in-aid for the District Councils. Sir, I am happy to announce that the

Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended grants to Rural Local Bodies to the tune of ₹ 182 crore. These funds, in addition to the usual grants received from the Government of India, will help to strengthen these institutions.

IMPROVING OVERALL GOVERNANCE

88. Sir, one of the fundamental principles of good governance is that the executive, both political and bureaucratic, should have their ears to the ground. To achieve this, we started having Cabinet meetings outside Shillong. Cabinet meetings were held at Tura and Jowai during 2019-20. Similarly, I have institutionalised the monthly review meetings with Deputy Commissioners and this has significantly improved the implementation of key programs. For 2020-21, we will use data analytics and dashboards to effectively monitor the progress on various schemes and programs.
89. We are also implementing the Meghalaya Enterprise Architecture (MeghEA), which will ensure a holistic transformation of services in the State through a common e-platform, thereby, providing efficient, proactive and seamless service delivery experience for various departments, citizens and businesses in the State. This project is being piloted in the Finance department and we expect a complete process reengineering in 2020-21. The e-office project, initiated in the CMs secretariat last year is now being partially implemented in a few more departments. We expect to expand this program across the secretariat from 2020-21.
90. The Government continues to invest in capacity building of Government officials to improve systemic efficiencies and service delivery. Best of the class infrastructure for conduct of such trainings has been created through the inauguration of the new Meghalaya Administrative Training

Institute building at Mawdiangdiang, Shillong and the Meghalaya Police Academy at Umran, Ri Bhoi.

91. The Government also wants to deploy technology and innovative solutions to solve local problems for improving governance and service delivery. To support us in this endeavor, we have signed an MoU with the University of California, Berkley to start the smart village movement in 100 villages across the State. For 2020-21, I am proposing a development budget of ₹ 5 crore for this project.

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2020-21

92. Sir, for 2020-21, I have estimated the total receipts at ₹ 17,375 crore, of which the revenue receipts are estimated at ₹ 15,353 crore and capital receipts at ₹ 2,022 crore. Excluding borrowings of ₹ 1,995 crore, the total receipts are estimated to be ₹ 15,380 crore.

93. On the expenditure side, I have estimated the total expenditure at ₹ 17,432 crore, of which the revenue expenditure is estimated at ₹ 14,428 crore and capital expenditure at ₹ 3,004 crore. Excluding repayment of loans of ₹ 520 crore, the estimated total expenditure is ₹ 16,912 crore.

94. Interest payments for 2020-21 is estimated at ₹ 843 crore and pension payments at ₹ 1,208 crore.

95. I am, therefore, presenting the budget of 2020-21 with a fiscal deficit of ₹ 1,532 crore, which is around 3.53% of the GSDP.

CONCLUSION

96. Sir, the most pressing concern before us today is to contain the spread of the COVID-19, cases of which have been detected in many States of the country. Before concluding my address, I want to assure this august House and the citizens of the State that the Government is taking all possible measures in accordance with the advisories of the Government of India. We are also committed to take any further measures that may be necessary to effectively deal with this problem in our State. I request the support and cooperation of all sections of the society, so that collectively we can overcome this challenge.

97. In conclusion, I want to reiterate that the year 2020-21 will be a new beginning for us and my Government will make every effort to build a prosperous, innovative, caring and knowledge- driven Meghalaya.

98. Sir, along with the Budget, I am presenting the Vote on Account for proposed expenditure during the first three months for 2020-21.

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

Khublei

Mitela

Jai Hind