

SAVE MEGHALAYA
VOTE FOR TMC



MEGHALAYA TMC

MANIFESTO 2023





MEGHALAYA TMC

MANIFESTO 2023

Appeal

Meghalaya, the abode of clouds, was a crowning jewel of our great country. It was defined by its cultural plurality and diversity, as the hub of the North East which was a model for the rest of the nation to emulate. However, over the last few years, we have seen this glory tarnish. Stagnation has been the order of the day. The time has come that this stalling of Meghalaya's progress comes to an end, it is the opportune moment to welcome holistic change. Meghalaya TMC is the only force that can bring about this change and be the true voice of the people. In the past year, we have increasingly garnered your blessings and support in our journey and we are grateful for the same.

Today, we bring to you our Manifesto 2023, which encapsulates our vision. This vision will chart out TMC's 10 Pledges for Meghalaya, and our blueprint to ensure the state's unhindered progress. In designing this manifesto, we have conducted extensive consultations with the people of the state from all walks of life. We have taken the valuable inputs of experts, students, activists, grassroots leaders, civil society organisations, community representatives, entrepreneurs, and women; this manifesto is truly representative of the people's hopes, dreams and aspirations. You have already shown great support to some of our flagship promises that have been made public. Meghalaya Financial Inclusion for Women Empowerment (MFI WE) Scheme and Meghalaya Youth Empowerment (MYE) Scheme have been a resounding success with lakhs of people putting their faith in our progressive vision. We want to assure you that our experienced leadership has a detailed and robust plan to ensure sustainable growth for Meghalaya.

As we stand at the threshold of holistic and credible change, it is time that you choose the path of peace, progress and prosperity. Every vote that you cast for a candidate of the Meghalaya TMC is a leap forward towards a brighter future for us all. You yield the power to defeat the divisive and destructive forces that threaten our beloved state. We, the Meghalaya TMC family, appeal to you to vote for us on the twin flower symbol – vote for us to save Meghalaya!

Meghalaya TMC



Table of Contents

TMC's 10 Pledges for Meghalaya	8
Reclaiming Meghalaya	10
Governance	14
Economy	18
Employment.	20
Women Empowerment	22
Youth Empowerment	24
Social Security.	26
Agriculture.	30
Health	34
Education.	38
Civic Infrastructure and Amenities	42
Urban Infrastructure	44
Law and Order	46
Environment	48
Culture and Music	50
Tourism	54
Sports	58

TMC'S 10 PLEDGES FOR MEGHALAYA



ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES THRIVING ECONOMY

- » Double-digit economic growth in the next 5 years to double the GDP size and ensure a poverty-free Meghalaya
- » 4,000 new MSMEs to be added annually (4 times the current annual growth) to increase the number of functional MSMEs to 1.3 lakh units in the next 5 years
- » Mining to be resumed by formulating a scientific and sustainable mining policy to ensure no individual's livelihood is endangered



GUARANTEE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE

- » 3 lakh jobs over the next 5 years to be created and an allowance of ₹1,000 monthly (₹12,000 yearly) to every unemployed youth between the ages of 21-40 under Meghalaya Youth Empowerment (MYE) scheme
- » 1 lakh laptops to all higher secondary and college-going students in the state to facilitate digital education
- » All individuals engaged in the tourism sector to be identified and their services to be formalised through Government-registered job cards providing a monthly honorarium of ₹2,500



EMPOWERED WOMEN PROSPEROUS MEGHALAYA

- » A direct transfer of ₹1,000 per month (₹12,000 yearly) to a woman of every household as guaranteed universal income support under the Meghalaya Financial Inclusion for Women Empowerment (MFI WE) scheme



SOCIAL SECURITY FOR ALL

- » All social welfare pensions to be increased to ₹1,000 per month (₹12,000 annually), doubling the financial assistance to PWD, single mothers, widows and senior citizens
- » A social security scheme, Meghalaya UNITE (Meghalaya Unorganised Sector Training and Empowerment scheme) for all the 2.8 lakh unorganized sector workers to provide them skill training, free healthcare, term life insurance, and provident fund benefits
- » 25% increase in grants for healthcare, education assistance, death benefit, marriage assistance and disability pension to workers under the Meghalaya Building and Construction Workers' Welfare Board
- » E-ration cards for all and resurvey in all districts to increase the number of beneficiaries covered ensuring every deserving household receives the PDS benefit. Essential items in the ration kits to be increased from 4 to 8 (potato, chickpeas, cooking oil and salt to be included)



BETTER PRODUCE HAPPY FARMERS

- » ₹10,000 annual financial assistance to all farmers in the state through the introduction of a new FARM (Farmers' Assistance for Rural Meghalaya) scheme
- » FARM centres in all districts of the state for one stop assistance to farmers from production to sales
- » FARM crop insurance policy covering all crops (including horticulture crops) to ensure zero loss to farmers



HOLISTIC HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

- » Maternal and Child Care Centres in every block to provide efficient prenatal and postnatal services
- » Shortage of specialists, staff and equipment to be bridged at all PHCs and CHCs in the state to make them 100% functional
- » Establishment of new medical colleges and ensuring quality tertiary healthcare facilities across the state
- » 25% increase in healthcare cover for senior citizens under Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS); 60 medical shops, 1 in each block, to be set up to provide all medicines at a 20% subsidy



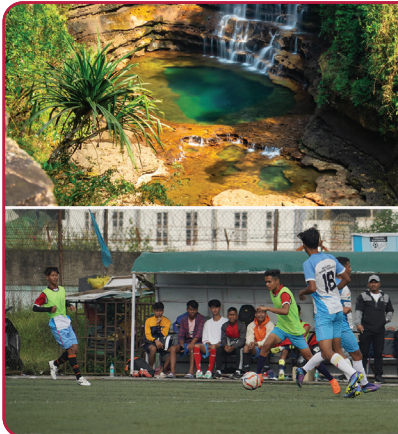
QUALITY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

- » Direct Benefit Transfers of ₹1,200 annually to the families of all school-going children registered in Government-run schools to cover the cost of books and allied material
- » Each block to have a model school, immediate upgradation of school infrastructure in all districts and doubling the number of seats for teacher training in the state



ROBUST CIVIC AMENITIES FOR RESIDENTS

- » Facilitation of piped drinking water connections to all households
- » Revival and overhaul of the MeECL to create resilient infrastructure for uninterrupted power supply to all households
- » All 6,459 villages in Meghalaya to be connected with black-topped motorable roads and upgradation of major arterial roads to all-weather roads
- » Shillong Ring Road Project (connecting the Eastern and Western Bypass) to be completed on mission mode to ease the persistent traffic snarls in the city



MEGHALAYA'S GLORY: MUSIC, SPORTS, CULTURE & TOURISM

- » Mission Sports to identify, train and promote talent at the block level. Each district to set up a state-of-the-art multi-purpose stadium
- » State's first Sports University to be set up and a corpus of ₹10 crores to assist the 22 registered State Sports Associations and all recognised sports clubs under them
- » Meghalaya Music Promotion Board to be set up to promote the state's musicians through training and assistance with the vision of taking the local music to the global stage
- » Establishment of a Cultural tourism circuit through identification and promotion of cultural and ecological hotspots in every district. Interest free loans of up to ₹2 lakhs to local communities to set up homestays and conduct other sustainable tourism activities



HONOUR TO TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS & SACRED LAND






- » A holistic Village Administration Bill in consultation with the ADCs and traditional headmen to uphold and protect the traditional institutions to be introduced
- » Effective and immediate implementation of the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA), 2016 across the state to ensure a comprehensive registry of all legal tenants
- » Private member bill in the Union Parliament for the immediate recognition of the Khasi and Garo languages through their inclusion in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution
- » The Border MoU signed with the Government of Assam to be revoked, and police check-posts at all strategic border areas to be set up



RECLAIMING MEGHALAYA

01

Major Promises

-  We will form a government of the people, by the people and for the people of Meghalaya which is not controlled by external forces
-  A holistic Village Administration Bill in consultation with the ADCs and traditional headmen to uphold and protect the traditional institutions to be introduced
-  Effective and immediate implementation of the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA), 2016 across the state to ensure a comprehensive registry of all legal tenants
-  The Border MoU signed with the Government of Assam to be revoked and police check-posts to be set up at all strategic border areas
-  An expert committee to be set up to study and resolve the demand for implementation of the Inner Line Permit (ILP) in the state

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

The current government in Meghalaya has failed to protect the state's sacred land and uphold the rights of the indigenous population. Infiltration, arbitrary international border fencing and inter-state border disputes have posed serious security threats and affected the demographic profile of Meghalaya. The inexperienced ruling dispensation shamelessly surrendered 18.46 sq km of Meghalaya's sacred land to Assam. The Border MoU was signed sans people's consent and led to large-scale upheavals in the state. The government has neglected the plight of the border area residents and has failed to ensure their safety and well-being. The current regime's apathy has cost the state heavily, the

unwarranted firing in Mukroh led to unfortunate death of 5 innocent residents of Meghalaya. Additionally, the government fell short on its promise to protect the constitutional rights of the Autonomous District Councils and deprived them of their financial capabilities by not releasing funds to the ADCs for utilisation in developmental projects. The pending liabilities of the revenue share from minerals like coal, to be given by the state government to the Autonomous District Councils is over ₹21 cr. No genuine efforts have been made to uphold and preserve traditional practices of administration.

Promises

- » **We will form a government of the people, by the people and for the people of Meghalaya which is not controlled by external forces:** Meghalaya TMC will ensure that the reigns of the state are not surrendered to the external forces. The government will be of the people, by the people and for the people, which will pledge its allegiance to Meghalaya rather than to forces sitting in New Delhi or Guwahati. Meghalaya will be run by the sons and daughters of the soil to ensure holistic development of all
- » **A holistic Village Administration Bill in consultation with the ADCs and traditional headmen to uphold and protect the traditional institutions to be introduced:** To undo the accrued mistrust caused during the KHADC Village Administration Bill, 2015, a comprehensive bill in consultation with ADCs will be introduced to reinstate and uphold the powers of the traditional institutions and headmen
- » **Meghalaya Resident's Safety and Security Act (MRSSA) will be implemented across the state:** To check illegal immigration in the state and empower the traditional headmen, MRSSA, 2016 will be implemented at once across the state. Facilitation centres at all strategic locations will be set up in due course of time
- » **Border MoU signed with the Government of Assam to be revoked and police check-posts will be set up at all strategic border areas:** To address the issue of unwarranted surrender of land to Assam and protect the residents in border villages the Border MoU signed with the Government of Assam will be revoked, and a fresh set of consultations will be initiated to find a sustainable solution to the border crisis. In addition, the security of residents of border villages will also be enhanced through the setting up of police check-posts in strategic locations

- » **An expert committee will be set up to study and resolve the demand for implementation of the Inner line Permit (ILP) in the State:** An expert committee will be set up to assess the current situation with due consultation with all stakeholders and organisations regarding the introduction of ILP, and decide the way forward which is in the best interests of the residents
- » **Constitutional rights of ADCs to be upheld and a Tribal Welfare Fund of ₹30 crores to be set up:** To protect the autonomy of the ADCs and ensure the welfare of the state's tribal population, detailed and substantive consultations will be held with ADCs on all matters under their jurisdiction, and their pending revenue share of ₹21 crores will be cleared. A Tribal Welfare Fund of ₹30 crores will be set up under the ADCs for better administrative functioning







GOVERNANCE

02

Major Promises

- As a government, we will function in mission mode from day 1, all flagship schemes and promises will be implemented within 100 days of coming to power as committed
- Zero Tolerance for Corruption in the state through formation of a Vigilance Committee and ensuring timely social audits for all Government departments
- Bi-annual Grievance Redressal Camps at all blocks
- 'Hello CM' outreach programme to be held every month for improved Government-people connect
- Meghalaya Regulation of Gaming Act, 2021 to be repealed through proper legislation, honouring the sentiments of the people

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

The current dispensation has completely failed to ensure transparency in governance. The state is marred by multi-crore financial irregularities which has

hindered the progress of the state. The Saubhagya scam, Rice scam and the Smart Meter scam are just a few names in the long list of financial and administrative mismanagement. The Meghalaya Assembly dome collapse was a result of faulty design and subcontracting the project to disqualified bidders. The 5 years of the MDA's rule have siphoned money out of people's pockets into the coffers of corrupt leaders. Under the inexperienced incumbent government, only old projects and institutions have been inaugurated which were sanctioned by the previous regime. Not only have they failed to implement innovative interventions and projects, but they have also introduced policies against the culture and sentiments of the people. The access to governance facilities is severely restricted under the current dispensation, there is a complete absence of last mile delivery of services. Thus, owing to the large-scale misrule, there is a deep disconnect between the existing Government and the people it was voted to serve. The people have become apathetic to the governance mechanism.

Promises

- » **As a government we will function in mission mode from day 1, all flagship schemes and promises will be implemented within 100 days of coming to power as committed:** As a party with experienced administrators who have the ability to understand the pulse of the state, the blueprint of good governance is already in place to ensure that the people have access to all the progressive and targeted interventions. As committed, all schemes will be made functional within 100 days of TMC forming the Government in Meghalaya. We will strive to revive the trust of the people in the Governance mechanism that has been lost to 5 years of misrule
- » **Zero Tolerance for Corruption in the state through formation of a Vigilance Committee and ensuring timely social audits for all Government departments:** To undo the damage caused by wide-scale corruption in the state, a vigilance committee will be set up and all Government departments would have to undergo timely social audits. Any individual in the governance system found to be guilty of financial misconduct will be subject to precedent-setting consequences
- » **Bi-annual Grievance Redressal Camps at all blocks:** To ensure that the Government's welfare initiatives are reaching all eligible beneficiaries and reduce the gap in government service delivery, bi-annual camps will be set up in all blocks where the relevant Government departments will send their representatives to these camps. Residents can come to these camps and register for the schemes they are eligible for,

and can also voice their grievances about any scheme delivery which can be taken up by the Government for resolution

- » **'Hello CM' outreach programme to be held every month for improved Government-people connect:** To bridge the gap between the people and the leadership a direct outreach programme will be launched by the Government called 'Hello CM', where a toll-free number will be provided to the people to connect directly with their Chief Minister and register their grievances or suggestions for greater participatory governance
- » **Repeal of the Meghalaya Regulation of Gaming Act, 2021:** To uphold the traditions, culture and sentiments of the people of Meghalaya, the Meghalaya Regulation of Gaming Act, 2021 will be repealed through proper legislation, release of official notification, and therefore nullifying all provisional licences to casinos. It will be ensured that legalised traditional forms of gaming such as Teer continue as per the provisions of the law












ECONOMY

03

Major Promises

-  Double-digit economic growth in the next 5 years to double the GDP size and ensure a poverty-free Meghalaya
-  4,000 new MSMEs to be added every year (4 times the current annual growth) to increase the number of functional MSMEs to 1.3 lakh units in the next 5 years
-  Mining to be resumed in the state by formulating a scientific and sustainable mining policy to ensure no individual's livelihood is endangered
-  Special emphasis on service sector and tourism by bringing in more private investment and releasing a comprehensive decadal economic plan, 'Vision Meghalaya 2033'
-  Meghalaya to be among the top 10 states on ease of doing business ranking in the next 5 years

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

The economy of Meghalaya is in shambles; marked by subdued growth rate, low per capita income and accumulation of huge debt. The state's per capita income lies at ₹60,606 (34% less than the national average), 4th lowest in the country. The state continues to rank as one of the worst-performing in the Ease of Doing Business Index. In Meghalaya, the service sector contributes more than half to the GSDP, however, in the last four financial years, the service sector grew at a CAGR of

1.87% only. The government's failure to stop illegal mining and not being able to introduce scientific and sustainable mining has resulted in a huge loss of revenue and degradation of the environment. The lucrative tourism sector has been left unattended and no tangible development efforts have been made. Owing to the shoddy financial management of the current regime every family in Meghalaya now has a debt of ~₹3 lakhs.

Promises





- » **Double-digit economic growth in the next 5 years to double the GDP size and ensure a poverty-free Meghalaya:** With thrust to tourism and special emphasis on agriculture and allied activities, the state will return to a double-digit growth rate. Meghalaya will be made poverty free in the next 10 years, and more than 3.6 lakh (11.9% of the state population) will be alleviated from extreme poverty
- » **4,000 new MSMEs to be added every year (4 times the current annual growth) to increase the number of functional MSMEs to 1.3 lakh units in the next 5 years:** To boost economic growth and tide over the crisis of rural unemployment, a conducive ecosystem for small and medium enterprises will be created. It will facilitate development of MSME clusters, capacity building of organisations and entrepreneurs
- » **Mining to be resumed in the state by formulating a scientific and sustainable mining policy to ensure no individual's livelihood is endangered:** To resume mining in the state it is essential to come up with a holistic mining policy that is both scientific and sustainable in nature. The policy will cater to addressing both the negative environmental impacts and also boost the employment generated by mining. It would revive the Meghalaya Mineral Development Corporation and give it monitoring authority to ensure that only legal mines are operative in the state
- » **Special emphasis on service sector and tourism:** A new policy will be adopted by the state to bring more private investment in service and tourism sectors. A comprehensive decadal economic plan, 'Vision Meghalaya 2033' will be launched to mark the state as the favoured destination for domestic and foreign investments
- » **Meghalaya to be among the top 10 states in ease of doing business index ranking in the next 5 years:** A new online platform, jointly managed by the state government and ADCs, will be introduced and 'Business Support Staff' will be appointed to assist in business registration to improve investments in the state



EMPLOYMENT

04

Major Promises

-  3 lakh jobs to be created in the state over the next 5 years
-  All individuals engaged in the tourism sector to be identified and their services to be formalised through Government-registered job cards providing a monthly honorarium of ₹2,500
-  Formation of 1,200 SHGs annually creating ~1.2 lakh jobs over the next 5 years
-  A Special Recruitment Drive to be conducted to fill 8,000 vacancies in various Government departments
-  A State Skill University to be set up to create skilled human resource required in tourism, IT and electronic, pharmaceutical, agro-processing and service industries

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

In 2020-21, the unemployment rate for urban youth (15-29 years) stood at 19.6% in Meghalaya, while female urban unemployment rate for the same age group was even higher at 27.5% (2020-21). 61% of the state's population is not a part of the labour force, rural unemployment in the state is 42%. There are around 23,200

registered job seekers in the state, while ~8,000 posts have been lying vacant in various Government departments. There is a huge gap in the availability of skill training opportunities for the youth. In 2019, only about 1% of the working age population had received formal vocational training.

Promises




- » **3 lakh jobs to be created over the next 5 years:** To combat the persistent rise in unemployment in the state, job creation will be given primacy. Out of the promised 3 lakh jobs, 50,000 jobs will be provided within the first year of forming the Government. This will be facilitated through the formalisation of the tourism sector, all pending government positions will be filled in mission mode, SHGs will be multiplied in the state through an SHG promotion policy. Additionally, large scale policy initiatives like a Start-up incubation policy and infrastructural overhaul will ensure a boost in employment generation in the state. For enhanced border security, check-posts will be set up in all strategic locations which will create employment opportunities for residents of the state who will man these check-posts.
- » **All individuals engaged in the tourism sector to be identified and their services to be formalised through Government-registered job cards providing a monthly honorarium of ₹2,500:** To promote the vast potential of the tourism sector, individuals engaged in the sector will be identified and registered with the Tourism Department and those without formal employment will be provided with job cards, and a monthly honorarium of ₹2,500
- » **Formation of 1,200 SHGs annually creating ~1.2 lakh jobs over the next 5 years:** The state's huge potential for the promotion and growth of SHGs will be maximised. 1,200 SHGs will be set up annually under the SHG Assistance Policy. The Government will focus on getting GI tags for Meghalaya's signature products to increase the reach of SHGs and their revenue generation capabilities
- » **A Special Recruitment Drive to be conducted to fill 8,000 vacancies in various Government departments:** Over 8,000 posts are currently lying vacant across various Government departments, which is adversely affecting government functioning and job seekers in the state. These positions will be filled up in mission mode after forming the Government
- » **A State Skill University to be established in the state:** This would be established with the goal of creating skilled human resources who would add value to the tourism, IT, electronics, pharmaceutical, agro-processing and service industries



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

05

Major Promises

-  A direct transfer of ₹1,000 per month (₹12,000 yearly) to a woman of every household as guaranteed universal income support under the Meghalaya Financial Inclusion for Women Empowerment (MFI WE) scheme
-  'Mei-Ama' Kits for every pregnant woman during their entire gestation period and for 2 months postpartum
-  Women-led SHGs to be promoted on priority basis in the state to generate 10,000 jobs annually

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

Women's health and safety is a concerning issue in Meghalaya. The maternal mortality rate in the state is 197 deaths per 1,00,000 deliveries. The situation of women's safety has also been consistently declining in the state, with Meghalaya recording the 3rd highest incidence of crimes against women in the North-East. 68% of women in Meghalaya are out of the labour force. Despite being a matrilineal society, the women in the state see a stunted participation in public life. Currently, there is limited scope to boost their entrepreneurial skills that encourage them to be at the forefront of Meghalaya's development. The rising inflation has caused unbridled price rise, as a result the women of Meghalaya are struggling to manage their family budget and make ends meet.

Promises







- » **A direct transfer of ₹1,000 per month (₹12,000 yearly) will be made to a woman in every household as guaranteed income support under Meghalaya Financial Inclusion for Women Empowerment (MFI WE) scheme:** To help them ensure sustenance for their families and protect themselves from the ills of ever-rising inflation
- » **'Mei-Ama' Kits for every pregnant woman during their entire gestation period and for 2 months postpartum:** To ensure that no woman in the state lacks access to nutrition support during or post pregnancy and to halve the maternal mortality rate by 2024
- » **Entrepreneurial Incubation Programme for Women:** A sustainable entrepreneurship building ecosystem will be created in the state where the women participation will be encouraged and they will be incentivised to become future job creators in the state
- » **Women-led SHGs to be promoted on priority basis in the state to generate 10,000 jobs annually:** As a part of the 1,200 SHGs created annually, 100 SHGs will be women-led to ensure job generation to curb the issue of low female labour force participation



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

06

Major Promises

-  An allowance of ₹1,000 monthly (₹12,000 yearly) to every unemployed youth between the ages of 21-40 under Meghalaya Youth Empowerment (MYE) scheme
-  1 lakh laptops to all higher secondary and college-going students in the state to facilitate digital education
-  A new start-up incubation policy & investment ecosystem to be created in the state which helps youth to fulfill their entrepreneurial aspirations
-  Application fees for all recruitment examinations to be waived
-  Free coaching centres for competitive exams to be set up in each assembly constituency to foster greater success in competitive exams
-  Youth Clubs to be set up in every block for the holistic empowerment of the young generation

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

Meghalaya is a state with a significant proportion of the population (around 65%) comprising of youth. However, according to PLFS 2020-21, 36.7% of the youth in Meghalaya are not a part of the worker population. 20% of the urban youth

and 42% of rural youth are unemployed in the state. The same source quotes that dependency ratio on youth in Meghalaya is the highest in the country at 65.9. The Government has failed to create new employment opportunities, and there is an absence of crucial interventions to foster entrepreneurship. Moreover, it had also failed to implement any welfare programme that provides direct financial assistance to youth.

Promises






- » **An allowance of ₹1,000 monthly (₹12,000 yearly) to every unemployed youth between the ages of 21-40 under Meghalaya Youth Empowerment (MYE) scheme:** To ensure financial support to every unemployed youth in the state till they are provided with a secured employment in order to meet the ever-rising living cost and a dignified standard of living
- » **1 lakh laptops to all higher secondary and college-going students in the state to facilitate digital education:** Digital literacy in this day and age has become a necessity to keep up with technological trends. Thus, this scheme will facilitate 100% coverage of digital learning devices among higher secondary and college students
- » **A new start-up incubation policy and investment ecosystem to be created in the state which helps youth to fulfill their entrepreneurial aspirations:** With the aim that youth should not remain as job seekers only but become job creators, an ecosystem will be created for promoting entrepreneurship. This would incentivise and encourage start-ups in the state to create multi-faceted employment opportunities
- » **Application fees for all recruitment examinations to be waived off:** To ensure financial constraints do not stop youth from economically weaker sections to appear for these examinations
- » **Free coaching centres for competitive exams in each assembly constituency:** To foster greater success in competitive exams, coaching centres in each assembly constituency will be set up to ensure that the youth have accessible and no-cost coaching facilities
- » **Youth Clubs to be set up in every block for the holistic empowerment of the young generation:** Each block in the state will have a youth club for the holistic upliftment of the young generation in Meghalaya. These clubs will facilitate general skill training, language empowerment courses and study circles which can act as facilitators for the youth to evolve into the leaders of tomorrow



SOCIAL SECURITY

07

Major Promises

-  All social welfare pensions in the state to be increased to ₹1,000 per month (₹12,000 annually), effectively doubling the financial assistance to persons with disability, single mothers, widows and senior citizens
-  60,000 houses to be constructed in the next 3 years under Mission HOME for the Economically Weaker Sections
-  25% increase in grants for healthcare, education assistance, death benefit, marriage assistance and disability pension to workers under the Meghalaya Building and Construction Workers' Welfare Board
-  A social security scheme, Meghalaya UNITE (Meghalaya Unorganised Sector Training and Empowerment scheme) for all the 2.8 lakh unorganised sector workers to provide them skill training, free healthcare, term life insurance, disability assistance and provident fund benefits
-  E-ration cards for all and resurvey in all districts to increase the number of beneficiaries covered ensuring every deserving household receives the PDS benefit. Essential items in the ration kits to be increased from 4 to 8 (potato, chickpeas, cooking oil and salt to be included)

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

The current Government has failed to provide a safe and dignified living to its citizens. Ranging from the failure to provide housing to the homeless to the lack of social security for People with Disabilities, senior citizens and widows. It has led the State into sheer hopelessness and under-development. 48,817 families are deprived of housing facilities under the current administration, and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) Scheme has a meagre completion rate of 25.7%. Moreover, only 15% of persons with disabilities received government assistance, and the state employment allowance has not been increased to reflect inflation. The state's Public Distribution System (PDS) is in shambles with reported illegal diversion of essential commodities and a lack of a uniform pricing system in the Fair Price Shop (FPS) outlets. Additionally, under the PDS system, there is no tendency to diversify the essential commodities list to address the state's unacceptable health indices. The people of Meghalaya are living miserably due to the incompetence of the current administration.

Promises

- » **All social welfare pensions in the state to be increased to ₹1,000 per month (₹12,000 annually), effectively doubling the financial assistance to persons with disability, single mothers, widows and senior citizens:** The current range of social pensions in the state is between ₹500-₹550 which is inadequate in the face of rising inflation, thus all social pensions will be increased to a uniform ₹1,000 threshold
- » **60,000 houses to be constructed in the next 3 years under Mission HOME for the Economically Weaker Sections:** Resurvey to be conducted to identify and update the number of homeless families in the state. 20,000 houses be constructed annually, to ensure a roof over every family in the next 3 years
- » **25% increase in grants for healthcare, education assistance, death benefit, marriage assistance and disability pension to workers under the Meghalaya Building and Construction Workers' Welfare Board:** The Meghalaya Building and Construction workers now receive nominal and sporadic benefits in the form of grants under the Meghalaya Building and Construction Workers' Welfare Board. The 25% increase in grants will be across all existing benefits and their timely disbursement will be ensured
- » **A social security scheme, Meghalaya UNITE (Meghalaya Unorganised Sector Training**

and Empowerment scheme) for all the 2.8 lakh unorganised sector workers to provide them skill training, free healthcare, term life insurance, disability assistance and provident fund benefits: To provide a holistic safety net to unorganised sector workers who are not covered under any state scheme and lack the benefits extended in any regular or formal employment

- » **E-ration cards for all and resurvey in all districts to increase the number of beneficiaries covered ensuring every deserving household receives the PDS benefit. Essential items in the ration kits to be increased from 4 to 8 (potato, chickpeas, cooking oil and salt to be included):** To ensure that no household deserving of PDS benefits is being left out and the ration kits are more well-rounded as opposed to the current meagre 4 item kits







AGRICULTURE

08

Major Promises

-  ₹10,000 annual financial assistance to all farmers in the state through the introduction of a new FARM (Farmers' Assistance for Rural Meghalaya) scheme
-  FARM centres in all districts of the state for one stop assistance to farmers from production to sales
-  FARM crop insurance policy covering all crops (including horticulture crops) to ensure zero loss to farmers
-  Average monthly income per agricultural household to be increased by 25% in the next 2 years
-  The existing average wage for agricultural labourers to be revised to become one of the best performing states in the country

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

More than 80% of Meghalaya's economy is Agrarian. Despite this, Meghalaya faces a shortage in agriculture production. Meghalaya's Gross Value Added index (Agriculture) has been on a continuous decline. The net cropped area is merely about 9.87% of the state's total geographical area and 63% of the cultivated area does not have access to irrigation facilities. The state's share in total GVA plummeted from 9.2% in 2017-18 to 7.69 in 2021-22. In 2020-21, Meghalaya was the third worst-performing state in the country at 0% growth rate against the national average of 4.5. The agricultural labourers of the state earn the 10th lowest daily wage (₹326.80) in the country. Almost 50% of the meat products available in the state, including pork, beef, mutton, poultry, fish and dairy products are imported from different regions of India as Meghalaya's production is low. In 2018-19, Meghalaya's cropping intensity was 122.4%, 5th worst in the country. There is a dearth of cold storage facilities in the state and lack of a holistic crop insurance policy. There is no standard policy to cover horticultural crops in the state. Thus, leading farmers into losses in case of crop damage or transit loss.

Promises

- » **₹10,000 annual financial assistance to all farmers in the state through the introduction of a new FARM (Farmers' Assistance for Rural Meghalaya) scheme:** 81% of Meghalaya's population is dependent on the agricultural and allied industry. The financial assistance of ₹10,000 will be extended to 2.1 lakh farmers registered in the state, irrespective of their landholdings
- » **FARM centres in all districts of the state for one stop assistance to farmers from production to sales:** These centres will cover all 6,459 villages of the state through clusters. By bringing together all the stakeholders in the agriculture and related industries under one roof, these centres will provide all the services to farmers while ensuring year-round productivity, profitability, and sustainability
- » **FARM crop insurance policy covering all crops (including horticulture crops) to ensure zero loss to farmers:** This comprehensive crop insurance policy will ensure protection against any crop losses that farmers may face, it will also cover horticulture crops that are currently not covered under any state crop insurance schemes
- » **Average monthly income per agricultural household to be increased by 25% in the next 2 years:** The current average monthly income per agricultural household will be increased from ₹29,348 to ₹40,000 by 2025. And the existing average wage for

agricultural labourers will be revised to become one of the best performing states in the country. A robust agriculture policy will be introduced to improve the agricultural productivity, ensuring higher income to agricultural households

- » **Growth rate of agriculture in Meghalaya to reach double digits in the next 5 years:** Dynamic sectoral interventions will be made for the state's agriculture to flourish through direct assistance, training, consultation and holistic infrastructure upgradation to increase yield and reduce damages, thus propelling the sector towards double digit growth
- » **An Agriculture Welfare Board to be created to extend security benefits to all farmers:** To provide holistic social security benefits for farmers and their families, an Agriculture Welfare Board will be created which will provide guaranteed pension, financial assistance in the form of education loan, healthcare cover and wedding allowance to farm families
- » **Improved and advanced irrigation facilities:** With the target of increasing the irrigated area in Meghalaya from 37% to 60% in the next five years, various minor irrigation schemes will be formulated to cover more than 100 thousand hectares worth of unirrigated land in Meghalaya
- » **Horticulture Policy:** A holistic agricultural policy will be introduced which will not only recognise the entire spectrum of horticultural crops in the state, but will also draw out an action plan to provide improved state assistance to the farmers who produce horticulture crops. A detailed report will be tabled for inclusion of horticultural crops into Market Intervention Scheme
- » **Increased Cropping intensity:** Enhance cropping intensity by converting additional land to double cropping system (up from 122.7% to 150%).












HEALTH

09

Major Promises

-  **Maternal and Child Care Centres in every block to provide efficient prenatal and postnatal services**
-  **Establishment of new medical colleges and ensuring quality tertiary healthcare facilities across the state**
-  **Completion of the Shillong and Tura medical colleges on mission mode, an additional super-speciality hospital to be set up in the Ri Bhoi district and upgradation of the Jowai Civil Hospital. The overall medical infrastructure in civil and district hospitals to be upgraded for effective tertiary healthcare facilities across the state**
-  **25% increase in healthcare cover for senior citizens under Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS); 60 medical shops, 1 in each block, to be set up across the state to provide all medicines at a 20% subsidy**
-  **CAREVAN (Care, Assistance and ResponsE van) mobile clinics will be set up for door-step delivery of essential medical services like immunisation and medication**
-  **Cancer care and support will be provided for all in order to significantly bring down the cancer cases by 2025**
-  **Promotion of traditional healing in the state by setting up centres for training and capacity building of traditional healers**

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

With 54.4% anaemic women, 45.1% malnourished children, and a high maternal mortality rate, the state of general health among the residents of Meghalaya is in dire need of intervention. There are only 28 CHCs in the state against the requirement of 41, affecting 8 lakh people. Only 5 out of the 112 mandated specialist positions are filled across rural CHCs in the state. Known as the cancer capital of the nation, Meghalaya has done little towards providing the required treatment for cancer patients. The primary, secondary and tertiary public healthcare system is in shambles. Additionally, much needed medical colleges in Shillong and Tura lie incomplete, thereby affecting patients and medical aspirants.

Promises

- » **Maternal and Child Care Centres in every block to provide efficient prenatal and postnatal services:** To reduce the gap in healthcare service delivery, and tackle the problem of high maternal and infant mortality in the state
- » **Establishment of new medical colleges and ensuring quality tertiary healthcare facilities across the state:** To improve the state of healthcare infrastructure from the primary to tertiary levels, a holistic multi-layered intervention will be made which would increase the number of medical colleges in the state and also strengthen the tertiary healthcare services to cater to chronic illnesses in the state itself
- » **Completion of the Shillong and Tura medical colleges in mission mode, an additional super-speciality hospital to be set up in the Ri Bhoi district and upgradation of the Jowai Civil Hospital. The overall medical infrastructure in civil and district hospitals to be upgraded for effective tertiary healthcare facilities across the state:** To amp up the tertiary healthcare infrastructure in the state it is essential to upgrade the facilities at all existing district and civil hospitals. Additionally, to improve accessibility to tertiary healthcare more hospitals and medical colleges are required. Thus, the sanctioned Shillong and Tura medical colleges and all pending hospital projects will be completed in mission mode. Additional super-speciality hospital will be set up in Nongpoh (Ri Bhoi district) and the Jowai Civil Hospital will be upgraded
- » **25% increase in healthcare cover for senior citizens under Meghalaya Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS); 60 medical shops, 1 in each block, to be set up across the state to provide all medicines at a 20% subsidy:** This flagship scheme was implemented in 2012, and will be further strengthened with increased cover and provision for subsidised

medicines across the state

- » **CAREVAN (Care, Assistance and ResponsE van) mobile clinics to be set up for door-step delivery of essential medical services like immunisation and medication:** To reduce gaps in healthcare service delivery, mobile clinics will be introduced in each block of the state. It will provide free treatment, diagnosis, medicines and free palliative care for the bedridden
- » **Shortage of specialists, staff and equipment will be bridged at all PHCs and CHCs in the state to make them 100% functional:** The primary healthcare centres and community healthcare centres will be strengthened and made 100% functional to improve the delivery of primary healthcare services at the grassroots
- » **Cancer care and support will be provided for all in order to significantly bring down the cancer cases by 2025:** Provision of additional annexure Cancer Centres will be set up at all district hospitals with functional radiotherapy and chemotherapy facilities
- » **Promotion of traditional healing in the state by setting up centres for training and capacity building of traditional healers:** Traditional medicine and healing in Meghalaya is a sector that has lacked emphasis and promotion. By providing an avenue for the capacity building of traditional healers in Tura and Shillong, it is envisioned that access to medical assistance will increase for rural populations who seek interventions from trusted traditional healers












EDUCATION

10

Major Promises

-  Direct Benefit Transfers of ₹1,200 will be credited annually to the families of all school-going children registered in Government-run schools to cover the cost of books and allied materials
-  Restoring Shillong's glory as the 'Educational Hub' of the North East by upscaling the higher education infrastructure. Public-Private Partnerships to be facilitated for setting up colleges and universities of national and international repute
-  Each block to have a model school, immediate upgradation of school infrastructure in all districts and doubling the number of seats for teacher training in the state
-  Online career counselling services to be provided to students after the completion of elementary and senior-secondary education
-  All pending vacancies in the Education Department to be filled in mission mode

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

The education sector in Meghalaya suffers from lack of basic infrastructure and equitable access to schooling across all communities; poor learning outcomes and shortage of higher education facilities. Meghalaya has the highest upper primary dropout rate and the 2nd highest secondary dropout rate in the country. 21,097 students have dropped out of elementary schools between 2020-22. In terms of dropout rates by gender, the state has the worst dropout rates for boys and girls at the upper primary level at 12% and 9.4% respectively. 75% of schools lack functional electricity and 54% lack functional drinking water facilities and 24% lack functional toilets. Additionally, Meghalaya does not have a single functional State-run University, while several previously sanctioned institutes and colleges remain non-functional. Due to this poor state of education and training, young people are prepared insufficiently for the local and regional labour market. In addition to this, the teachers' community in the state remain highly disgruntled due to lack of job-security, recurrent delays in salary-credit and delays in filling-up vacancies.

Promises

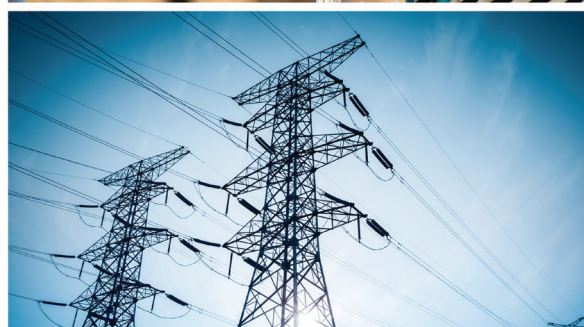
- » **Direct Benefit Transfers of ₹1,200 annually to the families of all school-going children registered in Government-run schools to cover the cost of books and allied material:** To ensure that all students from the primary to the higher secondary levels of schooling do not face a dearth of learning aid, and can continue their education without hindrance
- » **Restoring Shillong's glory as the 'Educational Hub' of the North East by upscaling the higher education infrastructure. Public-Private Partnerships to be facilitated for setting up colleges and universities of national and international repute:** To revive Shillong's lost glory as the 'Educational Hub' of the North East, immediate interventions will be made to higher education infrastructure in the city. The state will invite Public-Private Partnership in higher education to set up colleges and universities of national and international repute. A state-run Sports University and Skill- training institute will also be set up. The state will call upon reputed academics from across the country to set up an advisory committee which will oversee the educational overhaul of Shillong
- » **Each block to have a model school, immediate upgradation of school infrastructure in all districts and doubling the number of seats for teacher training in the state:** To

aid the dearth of school infrastructure at the grassroots level and increase the number of teachers at the school level for a resilient education system

- » **The dropout rates to be effectively reduced to place Meghalaya among the top 5 states with the lowest school dropouts:** Specific and targeted interventions will be made at school and community level with infrastructural boost and improved state assistance
- » **Online career counselling services will be provided to students after the completion of elementary and senior-secondary education:** Special career counselling sessions will be provided to students so as to guide them about the different career choices and available options in higher education
- » **Salaries of SSA Teachers will be credited in mission mode after forming the Government:** To put an end to the endless plight of SSA teachers in Meghalaya, their salary will be credited in a time-bound manner and the procedure will be streamlined to ensure transparency
- » **All the pending vacancies in the Education Department will be filled in mission mode:** Recruitment procedure of teachers will be streamlined and the whole process from announcement of vacancies to the conduct of exams and release of appointment letters for selected teachers, will be made time-bound











CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE & AMENITIES

11

Major Promises

-  Facilitation of piped drinking water connections to all households
-  Revival and overhaul of the MeECL to create resilient infrastructure for uninterrupted power supply to all households
-  All 6,459 villages in Meghalaya to be connected with black-topped motorable roads and upgradation of major arterial roads to all-weather roads
-  Connectivity across the three hills to be improved, a Khasi Quadrilateral project to be initiated, improved road network to be set up in the Jaintia hills and the Tura Bypass project to be completed in mission mode

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

As many as 55% households in Meghalaya do not have tap water connections keeping them from getting access to clean drinking water. The state's population suffers from frequent power outages while the tariffs have been hiked by about 20%, increasing the cost of living for domestic consumers. Also, there is a severe issue of traffic congestion in the urban centres. At present, 65% of rural roads are unsurfaced. Additionally, the drainage system in Meghalaya is in a deplorable state with open drains all across. Meghalaya generates about 107 tonnes per day (TPD)

of solid waste, out of which only 9.64 TDP is treated and 88.4 TDP is landfilled. Despite tall claims of constructing record number of roads, the quality of these roads has been neglected which has caused major road safety and connectivity issues in the state.

Promises

- » **Facilitation of piped drinking water connections to all households:** With a target of 100% households having piped water connections, an additional 3.5 lakh households in the state will have piped water facilities. Thus, ensuring all the 6.3 lakh households have functional piped water connections
- » **Revival and overhaul of the MeECL to create resilient infrastructure for uninterrupted power supply to all households:** With the target of ensuring uninterrupted power supply to all households, the MeECL will be revived with complete restructuring and capacity building measures in order to create the necessary infrastructure over the next 5 years
- » **All 6,459 villages in Meghalaya to be connected with black-topped motorable roads and upgradation of major arterial roads to all-weather roads:** The entire 20,993 km stretch of unsurfaced rural roads will be converted into black-topped motorable roads to provide all-weather connectivity. All the pending and delayed under-construction road projects will be completed in mission mode
- » **Connectivity across the three hills to be improved, a Khasi Quadrilateral project to be initiated, improved road network to be set up in the Jaintia hills and the Tura Bypass project to be completed in mission mode:** The Khasi Quadrilateral would connect Shillong-Ranikor-Nongstoin-Nongpoh; via Mawphang, Mawthadraishan and Umroi. Thereby ensuring better connectivity in every district of the Khasi Hills with an elaborate State Highway network. Constructing all-weather arterial roads to connect Barato with Jowai via Mynso and Nongbah; Lakadong with Amlarem and Tongseng with Sutnaga. Land acquisition for the Tura Bypass Project will be expedited in consultation with the ADC and traditional headmen in order to improve connectivity in the Garo Hills. As a result, all the districts will be improved inter hill and intra hill connectivity



URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

12

Major Promises

-  **Shillong Ring Road Project (connecting the Eastern and Western Bypass) to be completed in mission mode to ease the persistent traffic snarls in the city**
-  **Passenger ropeway to be constructed to deal with the challenge of traffic congestion within the state on Public-Private Partnership Model**
-  **Existing Airport infrastructure to be upgraded**
-  **Proper street lighting and road signs to be installed to ensure safe commute for residents**
-  **GPS tracking enabled vehicles to be used to track and ensure waste collection in all areas**
-  **A sewage treatment plant in Tura, a sanitary landfill in Greater Shillong and a waste-to-energy plant near Jowai to be installed to curb the waste-management crisis in urban centres**

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

Ease of mobility remains to be one of the major issues in urban Meghalaya. The unavailability of a good road network often results in high levels of congestion. The parking lots do not have enough capacity to accommodate all vehicles which leads to cars being parked on the roadsides, further adding to the problem of traffic congestion. Also, barring a few localities, most areas of the capital city do not have streetlights. Additionally, there is still no proper system of door-to-door waste collection in about 40% of the wards. There is a problem of waste treatment and dumping which leads to unclean cities. 107 tonnes of waste is dumped in the

open every day; Meghalaya is ranked 6th worst in solid waste management in the country.

Promises






- » **Shillong Ring Road Project (connecting the Eastern and Western Bypass) to be completed in mission mode to ease the persistent traffic snarls in the city:** To enhance regional connectivity and decongest traffic in Shillong, the Shillong Ring Road project will be completed at the earliest. As the State Government is given the responsibility of land acquisition and forest clearance, through expedited communication with the respective ADCs and tribal headmen, it will be ensured that the project is completed without any environmental or human cost
- » **Passenger ropeway to be constructed to deal with the challenge of traffic congestion within the state on Public-Private Partnership Model:** To tackle the challenge of traffic congestion in the city of Shillong, a passenger ropeway will be constructed as an alternative mode of public transport
- » **Existing Airport infrastructure to be upgraded:** Existing Airports in Tura and Shillong to be upgraded with better connectivity for domestic and international travellers, and to improve the market infrastructure around them for promoting local goods, produce, etc
- » **Multi-level parking lots shall be constructed in urban areas:** To prevent unregulated parking, areas will be identified to build multi-level parking lots which will be regulated by the state, thus reducing the menace of traffic congestion
- » **Proper street lighting and road signs shall be installed to ensure safe commute for the residents:** With the aim of reducing the number of 'dark-spots' in urban habitations, all major public hotspots and major roads will have street lighting and road signs to ensure ease of commute and safety of residents
- » **GPS tracking enabled vehicles to be used to track and ensure waste collection in all areas:** This intervention will assist municipal bodies in obtaining real-time data about garbage collection vehicles. This will result in more vehicle productivity and lowering costs. All waste will be segregated at sources and disposed off in accordance
- » **A sewage treatment plant in Tura, a sanitary landfill in Greater Shillong and a waste-to-energy plant near Jowai to be installed to curb the waste-management crisis in urban centres:** To ensure cleaner cities in Meghalaya and prevent untreated waste dumping in rivers; a sewage treatment plant will be set up in Tura, a sanitary landfill will be set up in Greater Shillong and a solid waste management plant with a waste-to-energy unit near Jowai



LAW & ORDER

13

Major Promises

-  Police posts at all strategic locations to be set up for enhanced safety of residents and special training to address mob violence
-  2,000+ vacant positions in the police force to be filled and their strength to be enhanced
-  Drug Abuse Treatment & Rehabilitation Facilities to be expanded to all districts in the State
-  A 'comprehensive care plan' for children and a 'child protection desk' to be established in every police station to handle child related crimes
-  'Pink Booths' in every police station of Meghalaya to facilitate women to register and report cases of crime and violence against them

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

Meghalaya has been reported as the 2nd most unsafe state for children in the North Eastern region as per the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, with crimes against children seeing a 27% increase from 2019. Along with this, drug abuse amongst the youth and teenagers is on the rise, with the use of tobacco, heroin, cannabis, and opium becoming increasingly common. The situation of women's safety has also been consistently declining in the state, with Meghalaya

recording the 3rd highest incidence of crimes against women in the North East. In 2021, Meghalaya recorded 685 incidents of crime against women. Incidents of crime against women have been steadily increasing with 558 cases in 2019 and 568 cases in 2020. Concerningly, more than 6 women are raped and 6 people are murdered every month in Meghalaya

Promises




- » **Police posts at all strategic locations to be set up for enhanced safety of residents and special training to tackle mob violence:** With the aim of reducing violent conflicts and enhancing resident safety, all strategic hotspots in the state will be identified, in order to set up police outposts
- » **2,000+ vacant positions in the police force to be filled and their strength to be enhanced:** To strengthen the police force, all existing vacancies in the Police Department will be filled up in mission mode
- » **Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Facilities to be expanded to all districts in the State:** To tackle the crisis of drug abuse among youth and teenagers, a state-wide campaign will be launched by the police department, with awareness campaigns in schools, colleges and community-based groups
- » **A 'comprehensive care plan' for children and a 'child protection desk' to be established in every police station to handle child related crimes:** A training course on child abuse prevention will be made compulsory for teachers, parents, and children. Child Protection Desks will be set up in police stations
- » **'Pink Booths' in every police station of Meghalaya to facilitate women to register and report cases of crime and violence against them:** To address women's safety-related grievances, dedicated 'Pink Booths' will be set up in every police station of Meghalaya. These will act as a one-stop centre for women to approach the police to report any crime or act of violence against them



ENVIRONMENT

14

Major Promises

-  An additional subsidy of ₹300 per cylinder will be provided to economically weaker families to encourage the use of clean fuel
-  All 301 contaminated water bodies to be cleaned in the next 5 years
-  Forest cover in the state to be protected and quick response teams to be set up

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

301 out of 706 water bodies are polluted and unfit for use in Meghalaya, making water pollution a major issue in the state. Additionally, the forest cover has decreased due to forest fires, and an overreliance on wood for energy. Meghalaya is one of the worst-performing states in the Clean Energy Initiatives Index with 78% of rural households in Meghalaya not having access to clean fuel for cooking. Aggravating the situation in Meghalaya is the unscientific coal mining taking place in the state despite the NGT ban. The current dispensation has not taken any concrete steps to start scientific mining in the state which has led to proliferation of rat-hole mines causing large-scale ecological damage.

Promises

- » **An additional subsidy of ₹300 per cylinder to be provided to economically weaker families:** With the target of enhancing the LPG coverage in the state and encourage residents to use clean and safe fuel, economically weaker families will be given a subsidy of ₹300 per cylinders for 12 cylinders per year
- » **All 301 contaminated water bodies to be cleaned in the next 5 years:** To stop the discharge of pollutants into major rivers by polluting industries, sewage treatment plants and effluent treatment plants in urban and tourist areas will be constructed
- » **The forest cover of the state to be protected and quick response teams to be set up:** To reclaim the lost 73 sq km of forest cover, trees will be planted under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA). Quick response teams will be set up to combat forest fires. Bitumen heaters will be used in all road constructions and subsidies will be provided to adopt environment-friendly agricultural practices





CULTURE & MUSIC

15

Major Promises

-  Meghalaya TMC is a progressive force which will defend the cultural plurality and vibrance of Meghalaya against the divisive forces that plague the state
-  A grant to be given to all religious institutions (temples, mosques, churches and others) for the upkeep of sites of worship
-  Private member bill in the Union Parliament for the immediate recognition of the Khasi and Garo languages through their inclusion in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution to be introduced
-  A Meghalaya Cultural Museum to be set up to honour the long-standing ethnic traditions, cultural icons and symbols that represent the state's glorious past
-  An A'chik culture resource and research centre will be set up in Tura to promote cultural research and assist authors and poets
-  A Khasi culture resource and research centre dedicated to U SoSo Tham will be set up in Sohra, to promote cultural research and assist authors and poets
-  Meghalaya Music Promotion Board to be set up to promote the state's

musicians through training and assistance with the vision of taking local music to the global stage

-  Historical and archaeological sites to be protected by increasing surveillance and monitoring with security personnel, CCTV cameras and check-posts
-  A heritage centre in every district that displays and celebrates Meghalaya's vibrant culture by showcasing a plethora of ethnic elements
-  Promotion of traditional arts and crafts by encouraging their use in government projects and events

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

Meghalaya, which boasts of a rich and vibrant heritage, is currently facing various cultural challenges. One of the main concerns is the preservation of historical and archaeological sites, which are at risk of being lost due to a lack of proper preservation and conservation efforts. The traditional arts are facing a decline due to lack of market demand and competition from mass produced goods. Failure to include Khasi and Garo languages in the 8th schedule poses a threat to the preservation of these languages, which are an important part of Meghalaya's cultural identity. Finally, the erosion of traditional music culture is also a concern as it is facing a decline due to factors such as lack of support and resources, lack of representation in mainstream media, cultural events, and loss of traditional instruments and techniques. The current regime has been inept in warding away the divisive forces from plaguing Meghalaya, rather they have allied with the people who try to destroy the cultural plurality of the state. Very little initiative has been taken to uphold the glorious past of Meghalaya and the incomparable sacrifices of our heroes.

Promises

- » **Meghalaya TMC is a progressive force which will defend the cultural plurality and vibrance of Meghalaya against the divisive forces that plague the state:** Meghalaya TMC believes in upholding the cultural plurality and diversity of the state and safeguard it from attempts of homogenisation. We will safeguard Meghalaya's religious & social identity and its prized ethnic practices from all divisive forces that aim to desecrate them

- » **A grant will be given to all religious institutions (temples, mosques, churches and others) for the upkeep of sites of worship:** Religion is an extremely crucial aspect of the lives of people in Meghalaya and the sites of worship require a regular maintenance and upkeep. Thus, the state government will provide assistance to all religious institutions so that they can maintain their sites of worship or use this fund for organising festivals or charity
- » **Private member bill in the Union Parliament for the immediate recognition of the Khasi and Garo languages through their inclusion in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution to be introduced:** Keeping in line with the Meghalaya TMC's continued efforts to get official recognition for Khasi and Garo languages, a private member bill will be introduced in the Union Parliament to mount pressure on the Central Government for the inclusion of Meghalaya's native languages in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution
- » **A Meghalaya Cultural Museum to be set up to honour the long-standing ethnic traditions, cultural icons and symbols that represent the state's glorious past:** To celebrate the glorious past of Meghalaya it is essential to uphold the ethnic tradition and honour the cultural icons and symbols that define the state. A museum will be set up to display the resilience and struggle of the people of Meghalaya and educate the people about the contributions of the state's great icons. The museum will be facilitated with various displays and a convention centre for seminars and cultural events
- » **An A'chik culture resource and research centre will be set up in Tura to promote cultural research and assist authors and poets:** Tura is the cultural and administrative centre of the Garo Hills. An A'chik cultural resource centre in Tura will encourage further research into the language and culture, thereby preserving and promoting the heritage of the Garo Hills
- » **A Khasi culture resource and research centre dedicated to U SoSo Tham will be set up in Sohra, to promote cultural research and assist authors and poets:** Sohra has been the centre for the dissemination of the Khasi culture, the current dialect of the Khasi language popularly used has evolved from Sohra. A cultural centre will be set up in memory of U SoSo Tham to promote art and culture of the region
- » **Meghalaya Music Promotion Board to be set up to promote the state's musicians through training and assistance with the vision of taking local music to the global stage:** To formalise this vision, an annual corpus of ₹50 lakhs will be set aside, this will be used for training and promotion of local musicians who have the potential for taking Meghalaya's music to the world and thus bringing acclaim to their home state
- » **Historical and archeological sites to be protected by increasing surveillance and**

monitoring with security personnel, CCTV cameras and checkpoints: To preserve the archeological sites of Meghalaya, a comprehensive approach including surveillance, legal action, community mobilisation, education and awareness, collaboration with other agencies, conservation and tourism promotion will be undertaken

- » **A heritage centre in every district that boasts of Meghalaya's vibrant culture by showcasing a plethora of ethnic elements:** To showcase a variety of traditional art forms from the state, including but not limited to music, dance, and art. It will host regular events featuring these art forms, providing both tourists and locals with the opportunity to experience and participate in them. Additionally, the centre will offer detailed information on the history and evolution of each art form, from its origins to its current practice
- » **Promotion of traditional arts and crafts by encouraging their use in government projects and events:** This will be done by incorporating traditional arts and crafts into building designs, public spaces, and government events. Additionally, provide financial assistance and training to local artisans and craftspeople to help them improve the quality of their products and increase their competitiveness in the market





TOURISM

16

Major Promises

- Establishment of a Cultural tourism circuit through identification and promotion of cultural and ecological hotspots in every district. Interest free loans of up to ₹2 lakhs to local communities to set up homestays and conduct other sustainable tourism activities
- Integrated tourist facilitation centres, comprehensive tourist support, mobile application, police help desks, and regular police patrol, dedicated squads for aiding tourists across the state
- Revival and overhaul of the MTDC to better develop and promote the tourism sector in the state
- Meghalaya to be established as the next most desired tourist destination in the country, significant increment in the budget allocation and 100% utilisation
- Meghalaya's share in Domestic Tourist Visits and Foreign Tourist Visits to be doubled in the next five years
- Better domestic and international flight connectivity to place Meghalaya as a favourite destination on the global tourist map

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

Meghalaya has failed miserably in tapping into the full potential of the state's tourism sector. It ranked 31 in domestic tourist visits and 28 in foreign tourist visits in the country in 2021. As of 2021, there were just 640 accommodation units comprising 5,100 rooms registered with the tourism department. There is an acute shortage of high-value rooms in the state. The present levels of connectivity to and within the state fall short in comparison to the major tourist hubs. Most of the destinations in the state do not have all-weather road connectivity. The state does not have sufficient facilities such as drinking water, toilets, availability of refreshments, parking, rain shelters, etc. along the major circuits, roads and destinations.

Promises

- » **Establishment of a Cultural tourism circuit through identification and promotion of cultural and ecological hotspots in every district. Interest free loans of up to ₹2 lakhs to local communities to set up homestays and conduct other sustainable tourism activities:** With the aim of enhancing cultural tourism in the state, all major cultural, ecological and heritage sites will be identified and will be provided with tourism hubs and necessary transportation to formulate a cultural tourism circuit. Interest free loans of up to ₹2 lakhs will also be provided to local communities to set up homestays and conduct other sustainable tourism activities
- » **Integrated tourist facilitation centres, comprehensive tourist support, mobile application, police help desks, and regular police patrol, dedicated squads for aiding tourists across the state:** To provide ease, convenience and better tourist experience to visitors in the state, facilitation centres will be set up. These centres will ensure comprehensive tourist support, mobile application will be developed for remote assistance, police help desks, and regular police patrol squad will be present for aiding tourists across the state
- » **Revival and overhaul of the Meghalaya Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC) to better develop and promote the tourism sector in the state:** A complete overhaul of The Meghalaya Tourist Development Cooperation will be done in order to reform and ensure its capability to better develop and promote tourism in the state. A Tourism Promotion Board will be set under the MTDC to expedite roadblocks and aid in the marketing and promotion of Meghalaya as a premier tourist destination
- » **Meghalaya to be established as the next most desired tourist destination in the country:** To ensure improved infrastructure inclusive of better road connectivity,

transport facilities, lodging facilities and general amenities the budget expenditure of tourism will be increased after a detailed assessment and 100% utilisation of allocated funds will be ensured. An eco-tourism project will be initiated to utilise Meghalaya's tourism potential to the maximum

- » **Meghalaya's share in Domestic Tourist Visits and Foreign Tourist Visits to be doubled:** Its share in domestic tourist visits will increase from present 0.02% to 0.04% and foreign tourist visits will increase from 0.04% to 0.08% in the next five years. The scope of tourism will be enhanced by promoting adventure tourism, culture and ecotourism. Financial and policy incentives will be provided for the construction of high-value rooms (large hotels/resorts) in the state. Tax rebates will be provided to taxi owners and efficient intra-state transport system will be set up
- » **Better domestic and international flight connectivity to place Meghalaya as a favourite destination on the global tourist map:** In order to make Meghalaya a more accessible destination, Tura's Baljek Airport will be made functional to enhance access to the Garo Hills. Helicopter services to Williamnagar, Dawki, and Sohra will be made operational. Direct connectivity to important cities like New Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Chennai will be ensured to boost aviation connectivity to the State
- » **High Investment in Public Infrastructure:** Greater involvement of the private sector (PPP Model) to construct new projects - ropeways, skywalks, town squares, adventure parks, convention centres, vista points, and museums. Provision of land banks at all the main tourist sites, places, and routes, to fast-track existing and future infrastructural projects. New infrastructure projects that may be referred to as 'Iconic Infrastructure' will be constructed among other things, ropeways, skywalks, town squares, adventure parks, convention centres, vista points, and museums







SPORTS

17

Major Promises

-  **Mission Sports** to identify, train and promote talent at the block level. Each district to set up a state-of-the-art multi-purpose stadium
-  **State's first Sports University** to be set up and a corpus of ₹10 crores to assist the 22 registered State Sports Associations and all recognised sports clubs under them
-  **The traditional sports of Meghalaya** to be promoted
-  **A specialised physiotherapy and sports injury centre** to be set up in the state

Current Scenario and the Need for Change

Meghalaya has a huge pool of talented sportspersons and has the potential to emerge as the forerunner in sports in the country. However, the quality of sports infrastructure and resources available for training and assistance to the sportspersons is deplorable. There are no State-run sports universities in

Meghalaya accompanied with an inadequacy in funding for the various clubs registered under the associations. In the National Games 2022, the state-won zero medals. Meghalaya has also failed to produce sportspersons at the national or international level. Moreover, substandard accommodation and facilities were provided to the participants of the Meghalaya Games 2022. Many talented athletes are there in the State but they do not receive the kind of support either in finances or in terms of coaching that is required to attain success at the highest level. Rural sports and adventurous sports in Meghalaya also need state assistance for their development. The state also lacks adequate health infrastructure for the treatment of sports injuries.

Promises

- » **Mission Sports to identify, train and promote talent at the block level. Each district to set up a state-of-the-art multi-purpose stadium:** To help the budding athletes and sportspersons in the state, a holistic programme called Mission Sports will be initiated in the state which will identify and promote talent at the grassroots level and provide them with the necessary training. Additionally, every district in the state will have a state-of-the-art multipurpose stadium which can host national level sporting events in the next 5 years. The number of Government-appointed coaches in the state shall be increased as a part of the capacity building exercise
- » **State's first Sports University to be set up and a corpus of ₹10 crores to assist the 22 registered State Sports Associations and all recognised sports clubs under them:** To ensure better training and support to enthusiastic sportspersons in the state, the first Sports University of Meghalaya will be set up. An annual corpus fund of ₹10 crores will be created to aid and assist the 22 registered State Sports Associations and all recognized sports clubs under them
- » **The traditional sports of Meghalaya to be promoted:** Traditional sports of Meghalaya will be promoted through the setting up of a traditional sports centre at the district level to preserve the local sporting culture and prevent their obliteration in the face of modernisation
- » **A specialised physiotherapy and sports injury centre to be set up in the state:** To support athletes in case of damaging injuries with specialised physiotherapy and sports, an injury centre, equipped with all necessary facilities will be set up

Thank You

We, the Meghalaya TMC, are steadfast in our commitment towards implementing our promises. It is our solemn resolve to bring holistic development to the state across all sectors. We need your unwavering support and blessings to bring back the days of glory to Meghalaya. The cultural vibrance of Meghalaya must be protected at all costs. The divisive forces who want to divide our society must be resisted. Only the people can further strengthen the fight that Meghalaya TMC has taken up for the upliftment for Meghalaya.

We urge you to place your trust, confidence and faith in us, which will be our greatest strength in this journey. We are a party with the experience and acumen to lead a government with efficiency and in mission mode. We will perform our duty as the ruling dispensation with as much honesty as we have performed our role as the principal political opposition in the state.

Keeping in mind the glorious past of Meghalaya and the need to bring credible and holistic change, we appeal to you to cast your valuable vote on the twin flower symbol, and support Meghalaya TMC candidates all across the state on 27th of February in the 11th State Assembly Elections.

Together, let us Empower the people, Uphold the ethnic cultures and traditions, and Celebrate the sacred land of Meghalaya!

Meghalaya TMC





MEGHALAYA TMC

SAVE MEGHALAYA **VOTE FOR TMC**



MEGHALAYA TMC

Published by Charles Pyngrope, President, Meghalaya Pradesh Trinamool Congress and
Printed by Siddhi Vinayak Sales, Quantity: 100A , Shillong - 793001

 /AITC4Meghalaya |  /AITC4Meghalaya |  /AITC4Meghalaya