

INTRODUCTION

The approved 12th Five Year Plan size for Meghalaya is ₹ 22000.00 crore. The growth rate for the 12th Plan period is targeted at 11.00 %, as against the growth rate of 8.1 % achieved during the 11th Plan period. The priorities of the 12th Plan period include (i) reducing intra State variations; (ii) livelihood creation at very rapid pace; (iii) leveraging natural resources; (iv) encouraging investments; (v) making convergence a reality; (vi) improving connectivity; (vii) bridging infrastructure gaps; (viii) promotion of human development & building skills; and (ix) tapping emerging opportunities in border trade.

The investments during the first three years of the Twelfth Five Year Plan is indicated below :-

	[₹ crore]	
Annual Plan	Approved outlay	Expenditure
2012-13	3939.00	2254.57
2013-14	4151.00	2504.83
2014-15	4545.00	4187.00 (anti)

The recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission will bring about a major change in the way Central funds are being transferred to the States. The States will now have greater flexibility in budgeting and allocation of resources. The Commission has also recommended changes in the funding pattern of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and 8 programmes under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been delinked from Central support.

Over the past few years, the basis of development in the State was towards inclusiveness, lower incidence of poverty, significant improvement in the social sectors in respect of health, education including skill development, sanitation and housing. The Integrated Basin Development and Livelihoods Promotion Programme (IBDLP) was launched by the Government of Meghalaya in April 2012 and aims at promotion of livelihoods in an enterprise mode for ecologically sustainable and economically inclusive development of the state. IBDLP seeks to leverage the natural resources of the state for building enterprises, engage with citizens in a partnership mode thus bringing about a paradigm shift in the relationship between the citizens and the state, utilize traditional and

modern scientific knowledge for natural resource management and enterprise building, and provide whole chain interventions to make the products and produce of Meghalaya competitive in the market place.

Under the programme, the strategy is for providing market access, value addition, financial inclusion, capacity building and skill up-gradation and Good Governance simultaneously through 9 Missions along with Mission Green and Mission Organic, 11 accompanying measures, Institutions such as the Meghalaya Institutes of Governance, of Entrepreneurship and Natural Resources and a number of partner support agencies including the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Bank, NGOs and organizations set up by the Government of India, working in a convergent mode. At the grass-root level, the Enterprise Facilitation Centres (EFCs) have been set up at all the 39 Blocks and over 60,000 have registered for training, exposure visits, business development services and credit linkage. About 21500 partners and entrepreneurs trained under Aquaculture Mission alone.

During 2014-15, the 1st instalment of the Additional Central Assistance amounting to ₹ 36.27 crore under the Externally Aided Project for ‘Supporting Human Capital’ was received from the Government of India. The programme aims at enhancing the employability of the youth through improvement in quality and delivery of secondary schools and providing vocational skills for 60,000 students in various trades. The first phase of upgradation of the infrastructure of selected Government aided schools to national standards is in progress. Recently, a legal agreement was signed between the Government of India, the State Government and the IFAD for implementation of a new Externally Aided Programme, viz, Meghalaya: Livelihood & Access to Markets Project (Megha LAMP) which is an 8 year project at a total cost of \$ 174 million. The overall approach and strategy of the project is in alignment with the State’s flagship programme, the Integrated Basin Development & Livelihood Promotion Programme. The programme aims at improving family income and food security besides uplifting the quality of life in rural Meghalaya through adaptability of expanded and sustainable livelihood opportunities suitable to the hill environment and as a result of climate change.

The setting up of the Pine Mount International schools at Jowai, Nongstoin and Tura is underway. Further, the State has identified 20 Blocks where Residential Schools will be established on the pattern of the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya. A major step taken in improving the administration of scholarships is the setting up of the on-line scholarship portal

to facilitate online filling of applications including direct transfer of funds to the beneficiaries. With the assistance of reputed institutes in the country, coaching centres have been set up under the Chief Minister's Career Guidance and Counselling Schemes to provide the necessary guidance for the youth who are interested in appearing for the different competitive examinations. In the health sector, a 100 bedded hospital will be constructed in Dalu and Phubari while a 50 bedded hospital will be constructed at Mahendraganj and Umsning.

With the aim to improve road connectivity in the State, substantial funds have been earmarked for improvement and upgradation of Major Districts Road and State Highways, critical feeders road, missing gaps, parking bays, etc. With the operationalisation of the Dudhnoi-Mendhipathar railway line from the month of December, 2014, Meghalaya now figures on the railway map of the country. The land required for construction of the Tetelia Byrnihat railway line has been acquired and handed over to the Northeast Frontier Railways. Start-up fund for implementation of the New Shillong Township Water Supply Scheme has been allocated under the Special Plan Assistance. Meghalaya has launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on the 25th September, 2014 and the State Government is taking necessary steps to achieve the objectives of the programme within 2019.

As part of the rehabilitation programme of the surrendered militants, the State Government is taking up a number of measures including construction of pre-fabricated engineered bamboo structure barracks in the existing battalions in the State. An important programme which has been initiated during 2014-15 was the Digital life certificate for the pensioners drawing pension through the State Treasury using their biometrics.

The State Government has decided to budget a Plan size of ₹ 5151.00 crore which includes ₹ 130.00 crore of assistance under the Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) and ₹ 180.00 crore from the North Eastern Council (NEC). The State Government proposes to take up a number of new initiatives during 2015-16. Following the launch of Mission Green, there is a need to bring about a sustainable economy with low carbon emissions so as to ensure livelihoods through sustainable ecology. A number of initiatives are proposed to be launched under the 'Green Economy'. The State Government will continue with the expansion of layby markets along the National Highways and important roads in the State. Funds are being earmarked for promotion of agar and bamboo plantations. The Clean Village Award has been a success in the State and will continue in 2015-16. Under the Power sector, the State Government will support efficient utilisation of

energy and installation of Micro Grids. Livelihood promotion programmes will continue to receive special attention. To promote small scale industries and entrepreneurship amongst the women and youth, Common Facility cum Production Centres, Integrated Entrepreneurship Incubation Centres and Entrepreneurship Development Centres will be created throughout the State. Another new initiatives proposed to be initiated during 2015-16 is the Liveable Cities Initiatives.

The percentage-wise distribution of the State Plan budget amongst the different development sectors is indicated in the pie diagram below :-

