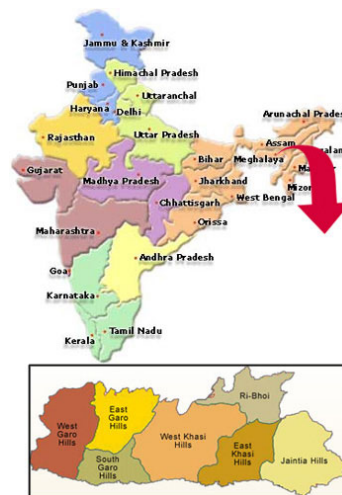


CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Meghalaya emerged as a full-fledged State of the Indian Union on 21st January, 1972. It is strategically located in the North-East between 25° 5” and 26° 10” North Latitudes and between 98° 47” and 97° 47” East Longitudes, bounded by Bangladesh on the South as well as partly on the West (international boundary about 443 Km) and surrounded on the other sides by Assam. The State’s area of 22,429 sq.km is spread across the predominantly three hill regions of Garo Hills, Jaintia Hills and Khasi Hills. Administratively, the State is divided into 7 Districts, 8 Civil Sub-divisions and 39 C&RD Blocks.



1.2 **Population** - The total population of the State as per 2011 census was 29,64,007 with a population density of 132 per sq. Km. The sex ratio was 986 females per 1000 males as against the national average of 940. The decadal growth rate during the period from 2001 to 2011 was 27.82 percent as against the national average of 17.64 percent.

1.3. **Land & Forests**:-The Khasi and Jaintia Hills are an imposing plateau with rolling grasslands, hills and river valleys. The southern face of the plateau is marked by deep gorges and abrupt slopes. At the foot of the slopes, a narrow strip of plain land runs along the border with Bangladesh. The Garo Hills region is lower in elevation and has a narrow plain belt which runs along the border with Assam and parts of Bangladesh. The State is richly endowed with natural resources. The heavy and long monsoon sustains intensive and varied flora. As per the Forest Survey Report of India (2009), area under forest cover in Meghalaya is over 77 percent of the total geographical area of the State. However, the area of reserved forests under the control of the State Government is small.

1.4 **Mineral Resources**:-The total coal and limestone reserves of the State have been estimated at 560 and 12000 million tonnes respectively. The deposit of industrial clay is about 71 million tonnes. Other commercially exploitable mineral deposits are Kaolin, feldspar, glass sand etc. The State has also rich deposits of Uranium. The hydro- power potential of the State is assessed at around 3,000 MW of which only 185.2 MW had been tapped till the start of the 11th Plan.

Meghalaya - Basic Statistics							
Sl. No	Indicators	Year	Unit	State	Source	India	Source
1	Geographical Area	2011	Sq. Km	22429	Census-2011	32,87,240	Census-2011
2	District	2011	Numbers	7	Census-2011	640	Census-2011
3	Population	2011	In Lakhs	29,64,007	Census-2011	12101.93	Census-2011
4	Decadal Growth	2001	%	30.65	Census-2011	21.54	Census-2011
		2011		27.82		17.64	
5	Density of Population	2011	Per Sq. Km	132	Census-2011	382	Census-2011
6	Urban Population	2011	%	20.08	Census-2011	31.16	Census-2011
7	Sex Ratio	2011	Per '000 Males	986	Census-2011	940	Census-2011
8	Birth Rate	2010	Per '000	24.5	SRS 2011	22.1	SRS-2010
9	Death Rate	2010	Per '000	7.9	SRS 2011	7.2	SRS-2010
10	Infant Mortality Rate	2010	Per '000	40.42	HMIS 2010-11	47	SRS-2010
				55	SRS 2011		
11	Maternal Mortality Rate	2007-09	Per Lakh	238	HMIS 2010-11	212	SRS 2007-09
12	Malnutrition of Children (0-3 years)	2005-06	%	55 (0-5 yrs)	NFHS-III	40.4	NFHS-III
13	Anemia among women (15-49 Years)	2005-06	%	47.2	NFHS-III	55.3	NFHS-III
14	Institutional Deliveries	2009	%	43	HMIS 2009-10	72.9	Census-2011
		2010-11		50	HMIS 2010-11	78.5	
15	Literacy Rate	2011	%		Census-2011		Census-2011
	(a) Female			73.78		65.46	
	(b) Male			77.17		82.14	
	(c) Total			75.48		74.04	
16	Gender Gap in Literacy	2011	%	3.4	Census 2011	16.68	Census-2011