

**ENCYCLOPAEDIA
OF**

Meghalaya



CL

MUD BORATHAKUR

Encyclopaedia
of
MEGHALAYA

Volume 2

सदभं
REFERENCE



Kumud Borathakur

ANMOL PUBLICATIONS PVT. LTD.
NEW DELHI - 110 002 (INDIA)

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PREFACE

Meghalaya was inaugurated as an autonomous state on April 2, 1970. It was declared as a state of the Indian Union on January 21, 1972. Meghalaya is situated in the north-eastern region of India, between the Brahmaputra valley in the north and the Bangladesh in the south. The state of Meghalaya (the abode of clouds) is geographically known as the "Meghalaya Plateau" or the "Shillong Plateau". The area is made of the oldest rock-formations. Meghalaya consists of the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia hills along with their outliers formed by the Assam ranges. It is the detached north-eastern extension of the Peninsular India. Part of it lies buried under the alluvium deposited by the Ganga-Brahmaputra system of rivers. This gap is known as Malda gap (between Raj Mahal hills/Chhota Nagpur and the Shillong Plateau). Meghalaya Plateau's elevation varies between 150 meters to 1961 meters above sea level. The Plateau is highly dissected and has irregular terrain in the western and northern side. The southern side is marked by a continuous escarpment with steep slopes. The broken hills and ranges in the north are not of a well defined boundary.

The western part of the plateau or the Garo hills has an elevation of 600m above sea level. The most important relief feature of this part of the plateau is the Tura range with its highest point at Nokrek 1515 meters above sea level. The central and the eastern part of the plateau or the Khasi and the Jaintia hills district play prominent senile topography. This part of the plateau is characterised by the presence of many peneplained surfaces, flat-topped hills and numerous river valleys. The central upland zone is the most important relief feature of the area and covers more than one-third of the area, east of the Garo hills. The highest point of this part of this plateau and that of the entire state is the Shillong peak whose elevation is about 1965m above sea level. In the Garo hills, the important rivers of the northern system from west to east are the Kalu, Ringgi, Chagua, Ajagar, Didram, Krishnai and Dudnai. Of these only the Krishnai and Kalu are navigable. The important rivers of the southern system are Daring, Sanda, Bandra, Bhogai, Dareng and Simsang. Simsang is the largest river in the Garo hills and navigable only for about 30 Km . Other navigable rivers are Nitai and the Bhupai. In the central and eastern section of the plateau the important northward flowing rivers are Umkhri, Digaru and Umiam and

the south-flowing rivers are Kynchiang (Jadukata), Mawpa, Umiew or Barapani, Myngot and Myntdu.

Meghalaya is the home of the Tribals especially the Khasis, Jaintias, Mikirs and Cacharis, who are said to have inhabited this region before the start of the Christian era. These tribes evolved out of the migration into north east by the migrants who belonged to the Indo-Chinese linguistic family, the Mon-Khmer and Tibeto-Burman. The Khasis came from the Khasis and Jaintias. The Tibeto-Burman sub-family were the Naga, Kukichin and Bodo. The Bodos were later divided into small linguistic groups such as Garo, Kachari, Mechs, Dimasa, Tippea, Lalung, Rabha, Chutiyas. The British occupied the Garo Hills in 1872. The tribal district council was established. The tradition among the tribals was kingship. The earliest Jaintia Raja is said to have ruled from 1500AD. They were influenced by the Hindu culture. The British influence in Meghalaya extended to the improvement of the landscape, development of roads. The works for progress and development of this region is still continuing after independence and formation of Meghalaya into a state.

The book is an asset for all scholars, researchers, teachers, students and ofcourse, the general readers.

— *Kumud Borathakur*

MEGHALAYA EDUCATION

Although the state of Meghalaya does not occupy a mammoth portion of the Indian turf but it is developing into one of the most advanced and technically sound states. Meghalaya education has played a major role in this metamorphosis. In fact, according to the data collected in the 2001 census, approximately 63.31 % of the occupants of the state of Meghalaya are literate. This is a humongous achievement in itself despite of the limited number of resources that are provided to it.

The central University that coordinates the actions of all the smaller educational institutions of the state of Meghalaya is located in its functional capital of Shillong. To add that touch of modernization and sophistication to education in Meghalaya, quite a few number of colleges are being put up to provide a platform to the youth of the state. These colleges are equipped with the latest state of the art facilities to procure assistance to the students in all the various fields. They include 'Shillong Engineering and Management College' which is positioned at a venue known as Mawlai.

To keep up with the other neighbouring states of India, the policy of free and compulsory education for all the children under the age group of 14 years has also been espoused by the state of Meghalaya in the sphere of education of Meghalaya. The 10+2 system of education that exists in all the other states of India has also penetrated into the state of Meghalaya. A list of the various educational institutions of Meghalaya are mentioned below as counted in 2005 :

- Primary and Junior Basic- 5851
- Colleges for Arts, Science and Commerce- 54
- Basic and Non-basic Training Schools- 7
- Middle and Senior Basic- 1759
- Universities- 1
- Polytechnics-1

- High and Higher Secondary - 711.
- Teacher's Training Colleges - 2.

Central Board of Secondary Education

Quite a few schools in the state of Meghalaya are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education or (CBSE). These CBSE schools in Meghalaya are well-equipped with all sorts of facilities that aid the students to earn knowledge in a very interesting way. Another advantage possessed by the Central Board of Secondary Education is that its syllabus has a lot of resemblance with the syllabus of the various competitive examinations. Hence, the pupils have an edge over their contemporaries descending from other boards.

The major schools in Meghalaya under Central Board of Secondary Education are mentioned below:

Kendriya Vidyalaya: This school has three branches across the state of Meghalaya. These branches are situated at the following venues of Laitkor Peak in the capital of Shillong, Upper Shillong and Happy Valley in Shillong. All these schools are co-educational.

Assam Rifles Public School: This school is positioned in the picturesque locale of Laitkor. This school is dedicated to the boys only.

The Central Board of Secondary Education has procured quality schools and other related educational institutions that have over the years nurtured brilliant pupils and transformed them into successful human beings. The abbreviated form of the Central Board of Secondary Education is 'CBSE'. Currently it has a humongous number of schools well -dispersed all over India.

Meghalaya Schools

If you happen to be perplexed regarding your child's future, then just close your eyes and seek admission in any one of the reputed Meghalaya schools. Indeed the schools in Meghalaya provide apt guidelines for your child's proper mental as well as academic development. The experienced panels of teachers who execute all the various proceedings of the schools of Meghalaya have taken it to their responsibility to procure the best possible means of education to your child. The method of teaching that is followed in the schools of Meghalaya truly deserves acknowledgment as their pupils really find it very interesting and at the same time can extract loads of fun from it as well.

There are also ample scope for various types of games as the teachers encourage the students to participate in them and experience the jollier side of life. They also teach that participation is much more important than winning.

The Meghalaya schools conduct regular examinations to keep the students up to date with the syllabus. Special attention is given to the fact that no extra stress should be applied to the students as it might have a detrimental effect on them.

The most important schools at Meghalaya are mentioned below:-

- Assam Rifles Public School Laitkor, Shillong, Meghalaya - 793 010
- Kendriya Vidyalaya has three branches across Meghalaya. They are situated at the following places - Upper Shillong, Laitkor Peak, Shillong and Happy Valley, Shillong
- St. Edmund's School Shillong, Meghalaya
- Laban Bengali Boys' High School Shillong, Meghalaya
- Pine Mount Shillong, Meghalaya
- St. Edmund's High School Shillong, Meghalaya
- Jail Road Government Boys High School Shillong, Meghalaya
- Mawkhar Christian High School Shillong, Meghalaya
- St. Peter School Shillong, Meghalaya
- Gorkha High School Shillong, Meghalaya

Colleges

Meghalaya Colleges have made their mark in terms of providing quality education to the various aspiring doctors, engineers and businessmen who desire to make their mark. The colleges in Meghalaya procure all various sorts of courses that aids them to choose between different options. They can also seek the advise of elite professors in these colleges to choose the correct and most suitable stream for them.

The different colleges of Meghalaya are enlisted below:-

Engineering Colleges : The state of Meghalaya only houses a sole college dedicated to the engineering students known by the name of Shillong Engineering and Management College. The AICTE or All India Council of Technical Education has also approved all the courses offered by this college.

Management Institutes in Meghalaya: Shillong Engineering and Management College that is located at Mawlai.

Nursing Colleges at Meghalaya: Repsbun School of Nursing is the sole nursing school in the state of Meghalaya. It is located in East Khasi Hills.

Polytechnic Institutes : There three polytechnic institutes including Jowai Polytechnic, Shillong Polytechnic and Tura Polytechnic. All these colleges at Meghalaya are AICTE approved.

Law Colleges : Department of Law, Northeastern Hill University, Khad-Ar-Doloi Law College, Tura College and Shillong Law College

Biotechnology Colleges : St. Anthony's College and Department of Biotechnology

Hotel Management : Institute of Hotel Management in Shillong is the only college that offers a course in Hotel Management.

Computer Institutes : St. Edmund's College and St. Anthony's College at Shillong.

Mass Communications : Department of Mass Communications in St. Anthony's College in the venue of Shillong provide courses in Mass Communication.

Universities

The two major Meghalaya universities are the North Eastern Hill University and the Indira Gandhi National Open University. The North Eastern Hill University is one of the leading universities in Meghalaya established on 19th July, 1973. The Shillong regional center of Indira Gandhi National Open University is as old as 1998. Currently, the Shillong regional center manages and controls all the curricular activities across entire Meghalaya. Some information about these two major universities at Meghalaya is given below:

The North Eastern Hill University is counted among the most renowned universities of Meghalaya, as its main campus is located in the capital city of Shillong. An additional campus was set up at Tura in February 1996.

The university offers courses in almost all the major branches of education. The university is divided into seven schools and all the departments of the university come under these schools. There are as many as fifty-three undergraduate colleges that are affiliated to this renowned university. There are 8 colleges under the university that provide professional courses.

Indira Gandhi National Open University is one of the most popular Meghalaya universities. The courses offered here are varied – diploma, certificate and degree courses. The educational activities of the Indira Gandhi National Open University at Meghalaya spans to various training programmes, research oriented work and extension education.

Education is offered at the Indira Gandhi National Open University of Meghalaya in two different ways - open learning and distance education. Both these modes of education have become very popular among the young professionals of the state.

North Eastern Hill University

The North Eastern Hill University was established on 19th July, 1973. The North Eastern Hill University of Meghalaya particularly aims at developing the socio-

economic conditions of the people of Meghalaya by improving the academic, intellectual and cultural aspects of the state. The North Eastern Hill University at Meghalaya offers both instructional as well as research oriented educational programmes.

The main campus of the North Eastern Hill University in Meghalaya is located at Shillong. In February 1996, the Tura campus of the university was established. Quite a few departments of the university receives monetary aid from the University Grants Commission.

Currently, the university has a total of fifty-three affiliated undergraduate colleges, which includes eight colleges that offer professional courses. There are seven schools of education each having a varied number of departments, which are as follows:

- School of Physical Sciences School of Social Sciences
 - Department of Chemistry
 - Department of Statistics
 - Department of Mathematics
 - Center for Science Education
 - Department of History
 - Department of Physics
 - Department of Sociology
 - Department of Political Science
 - Center for Cultural and Creative Studies
 - Department of Law
- School of Life Sciences School of Human and Environmental Sciences
 - Department of Biochemistry
 - Department of Botany
 - Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics
 - Department of Anthropology
 - Department of Zoology
 - Center for Environmental Studies
 - Department of Geography
 - Department of Rural Development and Agricultural Production (Tura Campus)
- School of Humanities and Education School of Economics, Management and Information Sciences
 - Department of Education
 - Department of English

- o Department of Education
- o Department of Garo
- o Department of Hindi
- o Department of English
- o Department of Khasi
- o Department of Philosophy
- o Department of Linguistics
- o Department of Library and Information Sciences
- o Center for Distance Education
- o Center for Adult and Cont. Education
- o Department of Economics
- o Department of Commerce
- School of Technology
 - o Department of Information Technology
 - o Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering
 - o Department of Basic Sciences and Social Sciences

Indira Gandhi National Open University

Meghalaya Indira Gandhi National Open University is one of the leading universities of Meghalaya. It offers quality educational courses to the students. The students can avail a variety of courses here including certificate, degree and diploma courses.

There are two modes of education imparted by the Indira Gandhi National Open University of Meghalaya; these are distance education and open learning. Indira Gandhi National Open University at Meghalaya is also actively involved in various educational research work, extension education and training programmes. The courses offered at this university include:

- Doctor of Philosophy in Education
- Doctor of Philosophy in History
- Doctor of Philosophy in Tourism Studies
- Doctor of Philosophy in Political Studies
- Doctor of Philosophy in Economics
- Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Computer Applications

- Master of Arts in Political Science
- Master of Arts in Sociology
- Master of Arts in History
- Master of Arts in Commerce
- Bachelor of Computer Applications
- Bachelor of Technology in Mechanical Engineering

The regional center of Indira Gandhi National Open University in Meghalaya was founded in 1998. From 2001 the regional center at Shillong looks after all the student activities throughout the state of Meghalaya. Some of the study centres of Meghalaya Indira Gandhi National Open University are given below:

- North Eastern Hill University
Bijni Complex
Laitumkhrach
East Khasi Hills
Shillong: 793003
- Tura Government College
W. G. Hills
Tura: 794001
West Garo Hills
- Tirot Singh Memorial College
Mairang
West Khasi Hills: 793120
- Sohra College
Sohra (Cherrapunjee)
East Khasi Hills: 793108

Meghalaya Vocational Education

Meghalaya Vocational Education is extremely popular because it opens up plenty of placement opportunities for its students. The rapid growth of industrialization in Meghalaya has increased the demand for skilled and semi-skilled labors to a great degree, consequently making Meghalaya Vocational Education all the more lucrative. Meghalaya vocational education is greatly encouraged by the government. The state directorate for employment and craftsman training is committed towards the optimization of the human resources of the state through the distance education facilities offered by the various institutions of the state.

The Vocational Education Facilities in the Polytechnic Colleges of Meghalaya

The polytechnic colleges take a major role in imparting Meghalaya Vocational Education, apart from the various degree courses. The students of these colleges are equipped in various technical capacities, which help them to play an important part in the many industries of the state, as well as to explore possibilities of self-employment. The polytechnic colleges which offer vocational education at Meghalaya are:

- Jowai Polytechnic in the Jaintia Hills
- Shillong Polytechnic in Shillong
- Tura Polytechnic in the Garo Hills

Other Vocational Courses in Meghalaya

Apart from the semi-professional and Vocational Education in Meghalaya as offered by the various polytechnic colleges, there are various other vocational courses on offer by other institutes as well. Vocational education of Meghalaya play a very important role in the economic empowerment of the womenfolk of the state. They are trained in various skills of the technical as well as the craftsmanship to secure jobs in the big as well as small scale industries of the state, which are fundamental to the state's economy.

Meghalaya Correspondence Courses

The Meghalaya Correspondence Courses offer many courses spanning a wide range of disciplines. The number of seats in the only university of Meghalaya, the North East Hill University (NEHU), is limited; thereby increasing the importance of correspondence courses in the state. The development of Meghalaya Correspondence Courses have also succeeded to stop the drainage of talent and human resources from the state to other parts of India. Due to the economic pressure, it becomes essential for many inhabitants of the state to take up the responsibility of earning at a much younger age. The Meghalaya correspondence courses have opened up a wide range of possibilities for them too, so that they can pursue their education along with their professional attachments.

State of Meghalaya Correspondence Courses

The importance of correspondence courses at Meghalaya is increasing day by day. With the passing time, even the members of the most remote tribal communities are getting increasingly interested in acquiring formal and professional education. This has much to do with the changing economic environment of the state. However, the North East Hill University being the only recognized university of the state, is unable to fulfill the needs of most students in a regular capacity. The correspondence courses in Meghalaya offer a wide range of disciplines to choose from.

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North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) and IGNOU

Of all the correspondence courses of Meghalaya, the courses of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) are the most popular. They are often preferred over the programmes offered by the University because the wide diversity of the disciplines offered by them. The University based Meghalaya Correspondence Courses are also popular. These courses are limited in number but are prepared by distinguished scholars, thus increasing their acceptability. Together they cater for the bulk of Meghalaya correspondence courses.

Meghalaya Mass Communication

Mass communication in Meghalaya comprises of newspapers, television channels, radio and Internet. Though a small state, Meghalaya has a moderately well-developed network of communication. Meghalaya mass communication is controlled by the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology of Meghalaya.

The channels of mass communication in Meghalaya are used as media to distribute regional, national and foreign news, for entertainment purpose and also for providing information on various subjects. Print and electronic media are the two aspects of Meghalaya mass communication. The newspapers in Meghalaya include The Shillong Times, The Meghalaya Guardian, and U Mawphor and so on. Electronic media comprises Doordarshan Kendra of Shillong, All India Radio of Shillong, U Peitngor Cable news, Media Plus and so on.

Mass communication in Meghalaya also serves as an upcoming study course. One of the colleges in Shillong that has introduced a course on mass communication is St. Anthony's College. This college of mass communication of Meghalaya was founded by the Don Bosco's Salesians in the year of 1934. Students at this college are taught various topics related to mass communication. Right from the use of multi-media and media research to hands-on training in various fields of communication, the mass communication department of St. Anthony's College teaches all the nuances of this field.

Meghalaya Exams

Meghalaya exams include school passing exams conducted by the state, as well as competitive exams of various kinds.

Higher Secondary School Leaving Examination of Meghalaya

The Higher Secondary School Leaving Examination is one of the biggest Meghalaya exams. The Higher Secondary School Leaving Examination of Meghalaya is conducted by the Meghalaya Board of Secondary Examination. The exams are held in all the

three streams of higher secondary education: science, arts and commerce. The school leaving exams held by the other state and central boards of education also form a major part of Meghalaya exams.

Meghalaya Public Service Commission

As is obvious, the Meghalaya State Public Service Commission is the most elite exams of Meghalaya. It was started in 1972 and continues to attract the best talents and students of the state from some of the most prestigious government jobs in Meghalaya. The Police Service Commission is also held alongside the Civil Service examination and is one of the most sought after and highly competed Meghalaya Exams in the public sector.

Competitive Exams in the Engineering and the Medical Colleges

Some of the best brains of the state compete for seats in the best engineering and medical colleges in the state and the country through the various engineering and medical exams in Meghalaya. The model engineering exam is an all-India competitive exam for future engineers whereas the state joint entrance examination is held for seats within the state. These exams are one of the most fiercely competed exams at Meghalaya.