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RUSA St. Mary's College.  
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This is for all St. Mary's College  
Students.

Topic:

Sustaining Economic Develop  
ment of the State (Meghalaya)  
during a global Pandemic:  
Problems and Solutions.

Please submit your essays  
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subject and your semester.  
Prizes and certificates will be  
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**SUBMITTED BY:** Sukanya Bhattacharya.

BSc. 4<sup>th</sup> semester (Physics Honours).

St. Mary's College Shillong, Meghalaya

**ESSAY TOPIC: Sustaining Economic Development of the State (Meghalaya) during a global Pandemic: Problems and Solutions.**

Covid-19 popularly known as the novel corona virus is a Pandemic that allegedly spread from a wet market of the Wuhan city, Hubei district, China. This pandemic has taken a heavy toll all over the world killing more than 3 lakh people and counting. The pandemic also sabotaged several major economies and fastest growing economies, India being included in the crisis had just recently gained some potency from the economic conundrum, has alarmingly high risk of being dragged back to the incompetent economic scenario of 2008.

Meghalaya, the North-eastern state of India is predominantly known for its scenic beauty. This gift of nature however is an important resource for the economy of the state to run smoothly. Tourism plays a vital role for the state to develop economically. Although the aftermath of the pandemic might not be so good for the tourism sector of Meghalaya. As the spread of this virus may leave an everlasting result even after the virus spread curve is flattened and eventually eliminated.

Meghalaya is a landlocked territory where the process of industrialisation is not so up and running, albeit blessed with Khasi, Jaintia and Garo hills most of the people's livelihood is dependent on agriculture and allied activities. These activities are dominant in the rural areas and engage nearly two-thirds of the total workforce in Meghalaya which contributes one-third to the State's NSDP. But due to the pandemic spread and nationwide lockdown, a great part of the cultivated crops weren't harvested due to the absence of man force. This is a reason which may put a negative impact in the economy of Meghalaya in the upcoming days. The lockdown put a halt to the activities like import and export of goods from and

to the state which was minimal from the start. Activities like sericulture, fishing and mining were all stopped during the lockdown and are reasons that could negatively affect the economy.

The state being a part of one of the neglected regions in India has money issues from the start. Because of bad transportation facilities most people are unknown of the great scenic beauty that the state provides. The forests of Meghalaya are home to more than 800 essential species of medicinal herbs out of which 20 are in high demand.

The economy of Meghalaya in terms of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), ranks 26 in the entire nation which is a bad for the state and due to the pandemic it is evident that the upcoming days will be very hard for Meghalaya.

But there is a silver lining in every bitter sweet. The rural tribes of Meghalaya are very well connected to the nature and have very high understanding of agriculture. A well planned out economic template is robust enough to develop Meghalaya's economic crisis even during the pandemic. First and foremost the central government has to help the state government in building well transportation system in Meghalaya like introduction to railways and airways. The well connectivity of the state to the rest of the nation will bring proper investors to the state and speed up the industrialisation process. The state government should encourage the indigenous people of Meghalaya to start their own industries of jute and textile to spread the beautiful culture of Meghalaya which will strengthen the socio-economical condition of the state altogether. Meghalaya with abundant deposits of coal, limestone, quartz, kaolin, granite and industrial clay has great industrial potential. The two important hydropower projects of Lakroh SHP and Ganol HEP have a high potency of electricity generation. The soil in the state has variety and many conventional as well as non conventional crops can be grown in it.

The government of Meghalaya however have taken quick steps in controlling the spread of the pandemic taking strict actions in lockdown with all the support from the masses, The hospitals have been very active and effective in trying to care for the unfortunate. The Meghalaya government also launched an economic survey in 2020 to gather information in the disruption caused across the state owing the pandemic. The analysis of the acquired data will further help in devising policies to

deal with the outbreak. As 10 of the 11 districts in Meghalaya are certified as green zones some activities should restart to reinstate and improve the prevailing conditions. The Bangladesh Meghalaya border should be open for trade purposes to boost up the economy although taking several important steps first like securing the borders. The rural and indigenous people of Meghalaya engaged in agri-based activities should be given proper equipments and make them acquainted with new and easy methods of cultivation alongside the primitive ones. They should be given the provision and encouragement to grow more variety of crops instead of solely relying on jhum cultivation which will bring more profit to them and the state as a whole. As there are strong educational institutes in Meghalaya, it can be improved and promoted nationally. Meghalaya being one of the most picturesque states and the home of two national parks and three wildlife sanctuaries can build provisions for adventure sports like hiking, tracking, river canyoning, cave exploration and water sports to attract the attention of the tourist globally by promoting its beauty. These are a few ways how the economy of the state can be boosted while protecting the indigenous culture of the various tribes alongside. The hardworking people of the state who make up the back bone of the state, they themselves with a little push from the central as well as the state government can take the state's economy to a new elevation as well as maintain a good standard of living for themselves and set an example for the country as a whole that no pandemic is capable enough to bring down a state whose roots are strong.

## ‘SUSTAINING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE STATE (MEGHALAYA) DURING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC: PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS’

Economic development is the process by which the economic well-being and quality of life can be improved according to its targeted goals and objectives. The terms “Modernization”, “Westernization” and especially “Industrialization” can be used to coin economic development. Economic development is an approach aiming to improve the well-being and interests of the people. Economic development is also known as a phenomenon of market productivity and increased GDP (Gross Domestic Product). In today’s time, the state has emerged as an important role player in economic development. The government has also started to participate in the economic growth of the state. The lifestyle of the citizens in the state plays a major function in the economic development and this can be evident for the current pandemic that is making the economic development stagnant. With the people being unable to carry on with their normal way of life, offices are left empty, schools are deserted, market places and malls which are supposed to be booming with economic advancement are dreaded. This leaves a big gap in the economic development leading to its steady decline. People are the core of economic development as without them economic transactions and processes cannot be accomplished but now with the already present unemployed citizens, many have lost their jobs due to this global pandemic which has resulted in drastic economic failures. It is estimated that six crore Indians out of sixty crore who work are at the risk of losing their jobs before the autumn breaks in India. This is because businesses under the lockdown are facing severe challenges to resume. Many households are undergoing a period of poverty as the breadwinners of the family have lost their jobs. This adversely affects the economical development of the state.

The state of Meghalaya while facing its lockdown has witnessed a gradual decline in its economic development. With the streets left empty, market places and other economic sites left desolate, the economy has fallen into a pitfall. Many street vendors, vegetable sellers, shop keepers, retailers have faced severe consequences with no place to perform their economic functions. Agriculture in the state has also

been resulted in bare minimum products. Its agricultural backbone has been shattered by the global pandemic outbreak which has left the people in the rural places to suffer with no place to sell their products. Schools, hostels, paying guests, offices are empty leaving its economic growth to dormant. Municipal workers have no place to work, students and teachers and educational learning places have been abandoned. The global pandemic has adversely affected the daily life of the people and resulted in the unfavorable decline of the state's economic development.

The agricultural and tourism sector of the state has been deficiently affected by the lockdown caused by the global pandemic outbreak. Farmers are now unable to go to their fields to work and are left with no produce to market to the public. The farmers who were collectively working are now shut in their homes, painfully leaving their fields bare. They are now stripped off their only means of livelihood and are barely making ends meet. Likewise the people are also unable to get their daily fresh produces. The farmers unable to sell their produce and the public unable to purchase their daily needs and necessities have resulted in major consequences to the economy of the state. Tourism being one of the major factors in the economical growth of the state has affected it at its worst. The global pandemic preventing the in and out of tourists has resulted in the decline of the state's economy. Meghalaya has many beautiful landscapes which attracted thousands of tourists annually and owing to its favorable weather, tourists found the state a pleasant place to visit. This helped the economy to expand in many ways. In 2019, the tourism department's statistic has stated that around 184,429 domestic and 7,506 foreign tourists visited Meghalaya. The tourism department also mentioned that there are 426 registered lodging facilities across the state. These reports show that tourism plays an important part in the economic development of Meghalaya. But the lockdown of the state due to the global pandemic has shut down the tourism and agricultural sectors of the state leaving the state deprived of its economical growth.

The Meghalaya cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 decided that the recently formed Chief Minister's Economic Task force will work upon sector specific strategies to tackle the economic disruption caused by the corona virus induced nationwide lockdown. The chief minister Conrad Sangma who is also the chairman of the apex committee of the task force tweeted that, "The Cabinet met today to discuss the CM's

Economic Task Force that will focus on reviving and modifying #Meghalaya's economy in the #COVID19 scenario". On the first meeting of the task force on Friday he said, "The objective of this task force is to look into the prevailing situation and suggest measures to initiative interventions in core sectors like agriculture and tourism and revive the state's economy". He also added, "Right policies for investment in the right sectors with right will help us prepare a roadmap to strengthen our existing industries and infrastructure". The state's government is steadily working its way to revive the economy of the state by issuing such measures. This leaves the whole public hopeful of better economic conditions with the current global pandemic problem.

The state government initiating such measures has brought about positive responses from the public. The government is trying its best to provide the people and suffering sectors adequate relief-funds. This raises a question of whether the public are just enjoying the fruits of the people who are working hard and straining their energy behind the scenes or are they also finding ways and measures to help in sustaining the economy of the state. Meghalaya is not made up of just the government but residents as well. The sole citizens are also responsible in contributing to the economic development of the state. If the matter is given proper thought, there are so many ways in which an individual and not just a group or sect can contribute in sustaining the economic development of the state. In conclusion, I want to raise the question to any individual concerned of how they can save their state's economy, what can be done in order to help the economic development of the state and what must we do to sustain our very economy. Reflect on this notion and you will find the answer but the main question is "will you be able to stand up to save your state's economic development?"

Imchaaien

English Honors, Second Semester.

## **Sustaining Economic Development of the State (Meghalaya) during a global pandemic: problems and solution**

**The COVID-19 pandemic is humanitarian crisis as it sent the world into perilous uncharted territory from which no country or state will emerge unscathed. The pandemic crisis is challenging the state government to implement monetary and fiscal policies that support credit market and sustain economic activity. This global pandemic compelled the government to discontinue the business, educational institution, banks, tourism and Hospitality, transportation and trade activities, consumer electronics, just to name a few. Undeniably the informal sector comprising daily wage workers, migrant labourers and domestic help are among the most affected areas. Yet in the midst of the global pandemic the state government of Meghalaya manage to counter the negative effect triggered by the outbreak of coronavirus.**

**COVID-19 (coronavirus disease of 2019) is the name given by WHO (World Health Organization) on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 for the disease caused by novel coronavirus SARS CoV-2 ( Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2). Authorities first identified the virus in Wuhan, a city in the Hubei province China on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 where a strange pneumonia of unknown case was reported. The virus spread to nearly every country with millions of people worldwide has been infected and hundreds of thousands died leading the WHO to declared a “global pandemic”.**

**The pandemic has brutally exposed has been great impact on the Meghalaya economy as the business where forced to stop their operations turn on to global supply chain disruption and a steep fall in the consumption. School, colleges and Universities where cancelled and degree students face problem of writing their assignment since most of the books are in the college libraries. Overall closure both students and institutions where in a great loss. Banks also have a difficult time ahead. The state dependent on tourism would effected more severely as the government across the world have sealed international borders, there is a suspension of all international and domestic flights compounded by a nationwide down and brings unhappy in the hospitality industry. In spite of that tourism relatively had a direct role to play when it comes to COVID-19 which has widely pass on most in the**



**countries with a high number of tourist. Both tourism and Hospitality business is bound to feel the heat.**

**The Meghalaya government is inviting the virus by allowing coal transportation to take place from outside the state (red zone areas) for cement plants in the state to East Jaintia Hills (EJH) district blamed the section of National People's Party(NPP) members from EJH. Organisation associated with coal mining and trading said the opposition to coal was not only about being denied auctioning of their own coal because this will put the life and health of the people of EJH district in particular and the state in general in a great danger due to COVID-19 pandemic. The greatest impact of the containment restrictions will be on retail and wholesale trade as rapid price increase for stable goods and constrict local and regional trade.**

**China contributes heavily to the electronics sector. Besides worrying effects on human life the novel strain of corona virus has the potential to significantly slow down not only the Chinese economy but also the global economy. China has become the central manufacturing hub of many global business operations including Meghalaya, India. It is the World's largest consumer electronics exporter.**

**In addition the pandemic is an unprecedented global shock that magnifies the impact of informal employment experience the raw materials for the new products was less and many of daily wage earners through the state are out of job and number of them migrants without work or support and they shared that hunger may kill them sooner than the virus itself since the lockdown has come as a major disaster at short notice without giving them any clue to prepare for the consequences. Hundreds of workers and students of various places stranded over a month due to this nationwide lockdown .**

**From the above review of the problems it is observed that there are different demanding on economic, some institutions made compulsory online learning from home during this crisis which is the sad part for some student have neither digital nor internet facilities. Regarding tourism, travel and trade are strikes badly, as it is foreign exchange earner. On the other hand environmental sustainability being affected by the very process of economic activities through natural resources degradation and loss eco- efficiency particularly in our state . This reduced government capacity to collect revenue and cause lasting economic damaging.**

**Adding to this woes in the months to come will be the fear to reopen the educational institutions and travel whether on business or leisure as the pandemic wreaks havoc across the world. The motive of this shut down to firstly prevent the institutions and especially the students from becoming a prey to the virus and travel will take time to again play an important role in an individual's life and domestic market. Infact the longer we sustained the lockdown the deeper the economy scars and the slower the recovery. At the moment, Meghalaya government are racing to implement economic stimulus and support packages to keep individuals, businesses and economies afloat. In the meantime, the economy was once so dependent on coal that it was considered futile to sell coal from anywhere else there. Therefore, it is remarked that economic activities are sustainable only if the life support ecosystem on which they depend are resilient.**

**To fight against hunger and malnutrition the state government ,political leaders supplies food and cash support was set using existing direct transfer scheme. However they are like God to them. Meghalaya's COVID-19 transmission chain prevention developed by National Information Centre (NIC) has enabled Meghalaya citizens who had returned to the parent state to self register themselves during the entry to the state. It allowed health department officials like medical volunteers and district surveillance team members to reach out to registered individuals through the automated IVRS( Interactive Voice Response System) calls to capture the health status, especially COVID-19 symptoms and update the information in the portal. As soon as the lockdown announced NIC's video conferencing has been used extensively by cabinet ministries to chief ministries ,state Ministries and government officials. Thus NIC has been successful in creating sustainable ecosystem to a large extent.**

**Also there are brave warriors including policemen was trained for maintaining law and order but never for managing a pandemic, in that sense they are doing great job, without them our society will be dying. Government should learn an important lessons from this pandemic and prepare a police force for the future.**

**In an effort, to flatten the curve of COVID-19 we as a citizen have to stand still and maintain the standard operating protocols like social distancing, hygiene and to stay indoors as well as others. Undoubtedly all businesses,**

**institutions and banks have suffered terribly but thanks to availability technologies and responses in adaptation of alternative mode for continuity of work and education. What we really needed are fiscal measures is to save banks, companies and industries from bankruptcy otherwise it would pose a tough situation to the Meghalaya economy .**

**As a result, we have to cooperate and together we can navigate this crisis and build a better more sustainable state. Unlike most other natural disaster this pandemic do not remained geographical contained. So when neglect our social responsibilities we will become a victim ourselves and if we lose our health in the process of earning money then we will lose money in trying to gain our health.**

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## Sustaining economic development of the state (meghalaya) during a global pandemic :problems and solutions.

Meghalaya is a hilly state in northeastern India. The name means “the abode of clouds” in Sanskrit. The population of India as of 2016 is estimated to be 3,211,474. Meghalaya covers an area of approximately 22,430 square kilometers with a length to breadth ratio of about 3:1. The state is bounded to the south by the Bangladeshi divisions of Mymensingh and Sylhet, to the west by the Bangladeshi division of Rangpur, and to the north and east by India's State of Assam. The capital of

Meghalaya is Shillong. During the British rule of India, the British imperial authorities nicknamed it the “Scotland of the East”. Meghalaya was previously part of Assam, but on 21 January 1972, the districts of Khasi, Garo and Jaintia hills became the new state of Meghalaya. Meghalaya recorded the highest decennial population growth of 27.82% among all the seven north-eastern states, as per the provisional report of census 2011. The population of Meghalaya as of 2011 has been estimated at 2,964,007 of which females comprise 1,492,668 and males 1,471,339. As per the census of India 2011, the sex ratio in the state was 986 females per 1,000 males which was far higher than the national average of 940. The urban female sex ratio of 985 was higher than the rural sex ratio of 972.

The Meghalaya government has asked all residents of the State capital who visited Bethany Hospital on or after March 22 to register for tests and quarantine by calling the 108 emergency service or visiting the official websites.

Eight north-eastern States currently have 37 active cases with the first among them, a 23-year-old student from Manipur who returned from the United Kingdom, **having been declared recovered.**

The first case of the COVID-19 pandemic in India was reported on 30 January 2020, originating from China. Slowly, the pandemic spread to various states and union territories including the state of Meghalaya. The first case was recorded in this region on 14 April 2020. As on 14th May 2020, total number of cases in Meghalaya is 13. This contains 2 active cases as 10 successfully recovered from it and one succumbed to the virus. The **economic impact of the 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic in India** has been largely disruptive. The World Bank and credit rating agencies have downgrthe previous year. Dr. Sangma said, "We are trying to leverage upon areas of interest and concern for the youth to put an economic push for their growth and development." He said that the government is working out modalities to create a conducive atmosphere for entrepreneurship and infrastructure that would aid the youth and motivate them to take calculated risks and venture into business. "I urge the youth to plunge into business ventures and take the economy forward," he added. India's growth for fiscal year 2021 with the lowest figures India has seen in three decades since India's economic liberalization in the 1990s. The former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India has said that India should prepare for a negative growth rate in FY21. A host of reasons including prior curfew conditions, humidity as well as prompt government action are the theories being touted behind the state's nil infection rate. While India is grappling with the worst-ever health crisis since Independence, following the outbreak of novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), there are a few states that continue to buck the trend even after a spike in cases. Along with the Northeastern states, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand have done reasonably well in containing the deadly virus. Though the entire North East has reported four-five positive

cases so far, Meghalaya and Nagaland remain corona-free. Meghalaya makes for a unique case study as it virtually self-isolated itself before the lockdown was formally announced on March 24, 2020. “Besides having corona care centres in the state, the Shillong Civil Hospital and Tura Civil Hospital will be fully converted into full-fledged COVID-19 hospitals if the situation arises,” the minister said, even as he added that in such circumstances, the other patients lodged in these hospitals will be transferred to city-based private hospitals. Down To Earth is a product of our commitment to make changes in the way we manage our environment, protect health and secure livelihoods and economic security for all. We believe strongly that we can and must do things differently. Our aim is to bring you news, perspectives and knowledge to prepare you to change the world. We believe information is a powerful driver for the new tomorrow.

## ESSAY

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TOPIC → Sustaining Economic Development of the State (Meghalaya) during a global Pandemic: Problems and Solutions.

"The ultimate resource in economic development is people. It is people, not capital or raw materials that develop an economy" ~ Peter Drucker

The state of Meghalaya situated in the North-eastern part of India is an agrarian economy. Agriculture engage nearly two-thirds of the total workforce. The state has abundant natural resources in terms of flora, fauna, coal and limestone which is again great asset for a budding economy but however just like major states of India it is also lagging in the race of economic development during a global pandemic going all over the world. In this crucial time the state needs to adopt urgent and bold policy measures not only to contain the corona virus pandemic but also to protect the most vulnerable strata of people from economic ruin.

Due to the ongoing lockdowns and restriction in the movements of people the tourism sector had hit hard. Tourism being the most revenue generator of the state accounts for more than a quarter of all jobs in the state economy. Particularly industries that involve physical interactions such as retail trade, leisure,

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hospitality, recreation and transportation services are facing problems. As the businesses lose revenue, unemployment is likely to increase sharply in this sector, affecting the livelihood of low-skilled workers and the more vulnerable segments of society that depends on income from tourism related industries. Cab drivers may face financial crisis amid lockdown as the transportation network of the state from state capital Shillong is operated mainly by them. This might be followed by the people involved in the real estate business as well.

The collection of revenue from mining industry is also poor due to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) ban on coal mining in the state. The ban had reduced state's own revenue by around Rs 600 crore, which would likely to decrease much amidst the lockdown as there won't be any transportation services.

The agribusinesses may also face issues due to the ongoing pandemic, since not much people dare to sell the agriproducts on wholesale markets, as these are amongst the core places of social gathering and there is possibility of outbreak always. Many people of the state are involved in meat industry and they might also face the crisis because of too much gathering near the shops which is now not allowed. Also due to the hoax news of the disease spreading because of the consumption of meat might leave consumers in dilemma whether to buy animal products or not which would surely affect the meat and dairy industries and the anim-



-al meaning small scale farmers.

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It is important that action is taken to combat these problems. As there is an increase in demand for medical supplies all over the nation, the government of Meghalaya should expand its manufacturing capacity by giving chance to those entrepreneurs who are willing to provide these supplies in short duration and at an affordable price. The government should try to ignite the production of tools and protective equipments because of their expanding demand. Increasing the number of healthcare individuals of the state can also provide job opportunities for many people. Employing more people on R&D sector and developing drugs might also help as the state has abundance of medicinal herbs. For reviving the tourism industry after lockdown, social distancing should be promoted and the state must advertise to the world that Meghalaya is a safe place.

State should also increase the mining capacity by ensuring proper safety of workers. More funding should be provided to farmers and the government should encourage setting up of industries for agricultural products such as indigenous jams, pickles and various horticultural products. These would give a steep rise to self employment schemes and projects. At the same time the government should prepare the ground for controlling the spread of disease in order to attract investors to develop the state. The revenue of the state government is greatly dependent on sale of cigarettes,

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tobacco products and liquor. The state should increase tax on these products and also should keep a keen eye on smuggling of foreign brands which can affect collection. The government should promote local brands and local products as well as advertise the handicrafts of the state which would employ more and more house-dwelling women of the state.

About 80% of the people here are holding government jobs, a huge chunk of the government employees. The state should rethink about this and deduct a minimal amount of pay for a period of time.

The government offices may adopt policies for working overtime and providing limited funds to the contractors. The state can also develop as many power plants as possible and increase the generating capacity of the existing ones as it has enormous capacity in this sector. Stressing improvement in the road connectivity and opening up of Meghalaya's airspace after pandemic may also attract foreign investors as well as high end tourism.

There are many challenges due to the ongoing pandemic but opportunities are also immense. What's needed is the right investment, right policies for ensuring public health and the need to work as a committed collective team in order to defy this economic recession and achieve the dreams.

~ x ~

Submitted by → Anindita Paul

Zoology Honours

B.Sc 4<sup>th</sup> Semester

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Essay

Topic — Sustaining Economic Development of the State during a global pandemic.  
(Problems and Solutions)

Economy of a state is like a breath of the person without which the person will not be able to survive.

Sustaining the economy of the State is the first and foremost task of the government. In any country or state in order to raise the standard of living, the most essential thing is to improve the economy growth and development of the state or country. Then of course other sectors will have to follow up. Be in education, technology, health, social welfare, etc. improvement in peoples income is must. When income increases that will strengthen the purchasing capacity of the people and living of the people.

Economy however, due to this COVID-19 pandemic has hit hard in every sector be in primary, secondary and tertiary sector. Global economy is also facing a crisis. Some continue to call for the economy to reopen quickly in spite of the mortal danger of the pandemic, but reopening the economy before corona is contained may backfire. Lockdown puts rural economy under stress causing income losses for informal economy workers in massive. The pandemic could also result in seven million unintended pregnancies, as

many mass vaccination campaigns are being temporarily suspended due to fear of spread of the virus. Countries that are home to acutely food-insecure people in need of urgent humanitarian food and nutrition assistance are facing an excruciating trade-off between saving lives or livelihoods or, in a worst-case scenario, saving people from the coronavirus to have them die from hunger. And the upheaval that has been set in motion by the covid-19 pandemic may push even more families and communities into deeper distress, deeper downturn than that seen in the 2008-2009 financial crisis, causing vulnerable communities face a "crisis within a crisis". Around the world, the economic downturn and rising unemployment will reduce people's purchasing power exacerbating the global hunger problem. A prolong global recession due to covid-19 pandemic, high unemployment, another outbreak of an infectious disease and increased protectionism are among the biggest near-term worries for companies around the world. While there is need to give importance to economy at the same time battle the virus to contain. In fact it is a real dilemma. How comes our great priorities to save life and handle the situation. As for India thousands of migrants, daily labourers, primary sector workers are plucked out from their livelihood survival. They are always the victims when any calamities

and disaster takes place. Government announces many economic stimulus packages for these sections of the society yet the enforcement and implementation in the grassroots level happens only in handful. Many of the government benefits are in few hands. Even in this pandemic there is lack of transparency in the economy. Thus corruption is ruining the spine of the nation and has adversely affecting the economy of India. Even in the state levels we need accurate planning and explanation of the packages whether it has really reach to the segment of the people that are meant for.

As the saying goes "after every cloud there is a silver lining". So this global pandemic can turn into global dynamic. Looking at the new opportunities that are coming up the leaders can come together as one to grasp this fortune. Bringing out each states strengths and abilities or possibilities and unite the different strategies uniquely. World Economic Forum (WEF) also flagged that the world is not ready for the knock - on effect of far - reaching environment, societal and technological risks, but a "green recovery" and more resilient cohesive, inclusive and equal societies can emerge if leaders act now. The immediate economic fallout from covid-19 dominates companies risks perceptions and these range from a prolong recession to the weakening fiscal position of major economies,

lighter restrictions on the cross-border movement of goods and people, and collapse of a major emerging market. But as the economies restart, there is an opportunity to embed greater societal equality and sustainability into the recovery, which would unleash a new era of prosperity.

Coming to India's COVID-19 economic stimulus package - country in large channelising a major chunk of the stimulus package for vulnerable segments like micro, small and medium enterprises and non-bank lenders will go a long way in protecting jobs and reviving country's economic. Measures like emergency credit line of collateral-free ₹3 lakh crore that was announced by the centre, banks and non-banking financial companies and a Fund of Funds with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore will help the sector protect jobs and revive country's as well as states economic growth which is impacted the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19 disease. States should take the chance by channelising a significant part of the centre's financial support for vulnerable segments like MSMEs and NBFCs having finance companies (FNCs) in the form of credit or investment guarantees to achieve a multiplier effect and also limit the actual outflow to the extent of default. Each state can have a clear focus on structural reforms and ease of doing business as it is evident from the measures around increasing the investment and turn over centre's advised to the state governments and Real Estate Regulatory

Authorities to leverage force majeure provisions for providing an additional six months to real estate companies and exempting them from the need to obtain a fresh registration certificate or renegotiate contracts with their buyers were measures for the development of each state. If the states take up their responsibilities these measures will help the MSMEs get back on their feet as additional collateral and guarantee - free loans, equity funding options better access to government procurement, e-market linkage and higher thresholds are strong enablers. Her Prime Minister's call for "go local" will enthrone the leaders of the states to come out with their own plans for the new economic phase in the COVID-19 age. As PM forewarned that the danger of the virus is for our own and constant vigilance is of paramount importance, so we need to emphasise on the importance of the use of technology as much as possible and also to utilise time to embrace reform measures. Each state can be self-sufficient especially in Northeast if we make use of all our rich natural resources such as land, forest, wildlife, agriculture, etc. we only need to realise it and be on our feet to utilise them. Many returns from ~~these~~ our own states can be employ easily and look forward for the new life style and living.

So the world as a whole is fighting with an invisible and intangible enemy novel - corona. We cannot challenge nature's power

now can we predict when it will happen and disappear. The only thing is the world leaders should fight with one heart to reach one destination because we are fighting with one enemy the rebel-conspirators.

Submitted by: Wainok Kemea maring  
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Topic: Essay On

Sustaining Economic Development of the State  
(Meghalaya) during a global pandemic:  
problems and Solutions.

Submitted by: Ribashisha Syruah  
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## Essay.

Topic: Sustaining Economic Development of the State (Meghalaya) during a Global Pandemic problem and Solution.

⇒ As we know Global pandemic problem Coronavirus (Covid 19) has been largely disruptive all over the world. It has been a major issues for all the Country, as well as our country India. India has credit rating by world bank about economic growth has been with the lowest figure during 2019-2021. The Chief Economic Advisor of Government of India and the International Monetary Fund projected for India for the financial year 2020-2021 of 1.9 G.D.P. Unemployment rose from 6.7% on 15 March to 28% on April 2020. During the lockdown, an estimate 14 crore people have lost employment.

In the State of Meghalaya the economic development has drop down during Global pandemic. As life came to standstill as market, office, commercial establishment remained shut and public transport stayed off the road. The State have financial issues and it seek help and assistance from the Centre. The Meghalaya Economic Survey 2020, has reported that with the Global pandemic problem all business, entrepreneurs and self employed, transport, offices and many Government institutions including schools and colleges are being close down. So the State cannot generate any economic progress like levied taxes, Government projects, supply of factory goods and even domestic goods. Farming commodities all being standstill as people cannot come out for work, nor sell the

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goods normally as usual as before. Factory have to shut down as people are not to gather in one place as per the Government restriction as to say.

The Covidisation of the virus has smashed the facade of the present world order making visible the unsighted cobwebs of real politics; but also marked catalysed an economic development to fall out that is stretching the already strained international order to its limits. The prospect after the pandemic do not offer much consolation either with the possibility of an economic growth. It was on 21-April-2020 Meghalaya has got an active case of Covid 19 which created a shock and chaos among people in the State as a whole. Putting all the population of the State to remain under lockdown. There are, primarily some major challenges that the State of Meghalaya is facing:

- \* Is to save the state from spreading of the pandemic Covid 19 which is a health emergency. For people life is the most important as the principle of the Government.
- \* Is to save the economy from the economic uncertainty due to the dual of the Coronavirus pandemic and national lockdown.

As Everything in the State is Standstill with pandemic, has brought a huge shift in economy of Meghalaya. During this lockdown the Government, the Jobless, business suppressed with no activity to stimulate. The important for the Government was to come up with comprehensive rescue package at the earliest.

It create a great problem to the State to assist the flow of economy particularly, as all business, factories, shops, markets, transport, cinema, tourists

spot and many other self employed work has been stop and close down due to lockdown. The government which usually earn from all this aspects by levied taxes, but now of current situation it hasn't lost it's benefit. Some other major aspect that the state has a problem is the institution that the government emphasised to build their economy and to developed the state as well like, public work department, Semi-government office (i.e. MEd, NEEPCo etc) which is the primary backbone of the economy of Meghalaya also has been shut down, which affect the economy of the State. The State also faced a severe problem in educational aspect as students of school and colleges cannot proceed their courses, exam or complete the session in due date, which will bring the educational aspects drop down at lowest level.

In order to solve the problems in Sustainable economic development even in this pandemic of Coronavirus. It is the duty of the Government to survey for business, entrepreneur and self-employed individual to gather data on the disruption caused across the state owing to the Coronavirus pandemic.

With the responsibility of the Government to come up with policies which will support businesses and entrepreneurs etc, and also help to generate the economy of the state to flow out.

The Government also has to seek the help from the Central Government like aided that has been announced a Rs. 1.7 lakh crore relief fund to take care of the poor workers and those who need immediate help amidst a lockdown to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

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The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalya Scheme which will lower 30 cores poor peoples which include cash transfer and food security, as finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at press meet in New Delhi.

Some certain principles that have to ensure in order to maintain the public as well as the economic stability of the state are below:

- \* The first, principle, is to give a priority to the health of human life. This include ensuring the uninterrupted supply of food grain and basic services to every citizens.
- \* The second, principle, is to provide a proper health facilities and protection to people who might become a victim of the stop taken against Covid-19. This include workers employed in the informal sector who would not be able to sustain such prolonged lockdown without Monetary and social support by their civil society and government.
- \* The third principle, is to preserve the organisational capital embedded in enterprise across the state. This involved protecting the productive capacities and know-how of the firms and ensuring that the system are back in place once these distressing times are over. The goal is to reduce the gestation period to preserve normally in these firms.
- \* The fourth principle addresses the cure of Covid-19. Any researches or progresses made to defeat the virus should be treated as a public good and be acknowledge and made available to the nation-wide.
- \* The fifth principle, is to think bold and use the entire economic policy toolkit in order to halt

the global economy from tumbling into a deep recession.

The State government has to implemented special administration and recently implemented by Chief Minister a special economic task force which work upon sector-specific strategies, to tackle the economic disruption caused during pandemic by the Coronavirus-induced nationwide lockdown.

As this task force organised by Conrad Sangma who is the chairman its main objective is to look into the prevailing situation and suggest measures to initiate interventions in core sector like agriculture and Tourism and revive the State's economy.

Above all, the State should take unprecedented measures to curb the drag, this would have on the State economy. The economic stimulus should not only address the public health crisis but also ensure the population economic and social well-being. At this current situation the economy in the State (Meghalaya) has gone down at a very fast pace. As Economy is the backbone of the State. So, once the economy falls, everything in the State collapsed and no growth or development can be seen. But with full responsibility undertake by the Government and together along with citizens of the State working hand in hand can defeat the crisis that are facing and also able to build up the economy again at a faster rate.

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BA 2nd Semester  
Geography (Honours)

TOPIC:

Sustaining Economic Development of the State  
(Meghalaya) during a global pandemic:  
Problems and Solutions.

The State of Meghalaya is located in the North-East India. The state shares its border on the north and west with Assam and on the south and west with Bangladesh. The state of Meghalaya is divided into 11 districts. Meghalaya is a hilly state in the north eastern India. The name means "the abode of clouds" in Sanskrit. The population of Meghalaya as of 2016 is estimated to be 3,211,474. Meghalaya covers an area of approximately 22,430 square kilometres, with a length to breadth ratio of about 3:1.

Meghalaya with an average annual rainfall of 1150 cm, receives the highest amount of rainfall in the country. The state is endowed with abundant natural resources in terms of flora, fauna, coal and limestone.



Meghalaya Tribes can mainly be classified into three groups - Garos, Khasis and Jaintias. Meghalaya is basically an agricultural state in which about 80 percent of its total population are dependent primarily on agriculture for livelihood. The state has a vast potential for developing horticulture due to agro-climatic variation. The major food crops in Meghalaya are rice, rice and maize, oranges, pineapple, banana, jack fruits, plums, peaches and pears etc. The state had installed hydroelectric power capacity of 401.47 MW at the end of February 2020.

The Meghalaya some people are surviving their lives by selling vegetables, bet importing betelnuts and so on. The Meghalaya state doesn't have different different factories to work. Most of the people are went other parts of India to work and survive their lives. The Meghalaya rich in coal mining, coal gate, uranium rock, limestone. The state get come tax to pay from the tourist.

The economic impact of the 2019-2020  
corona virus pandemic in Meghalaya has  
been largely disrupted. All the people of  
Meghalaya must to stay at home during  
a global pandemic from the month of  
month of March.

The first case of the corona virus disease  
originated in Wuhan (China) and slowly spread  
to the global. The first covid-19 infected on  
March 2020 and spread throughout the other  
parts of India. Then, after that Meghalaya also  
got covid patient. From the month of March  
(2020) all the people of Meghalaya must had  
been stayed at home and can't go for  
work, the business man can't exports anything.  
The Meghalaya economic had gone down  
due to global pandemic. The people who  
are living their life by selling vegetables,  
fruits etc. they are faced lots of problem  
wherefore they can't exporting anything from  
their land.

Due to global pandemic, the state economy

had gone down that's why the government deducted the salary from the employment.

Due to corona virus pandemic all the shops, business, tourist had been closed.

Before the covid pandemic the government get some tax from the coal mining, tourist the shops and business etc. But due to corona virus pandemic and lockdown all had been closed.

The state haven't haven't revenue to pay the tax. The state revenue are get only from the wine store, coal, limestone. But due to

corona pandemic coal, limestone, hotel nuts etc are not getting to exports to other state and the state can't get revenue for pay the taxes.

The state get some revenue from the things like tobacco, wine etc but due to covid pandemic all are had to bandh and haven't get revenue from there.

Due to the state economy down the state of meghalaya have to re-open the wine store, and coal mining.

The government of Meghalaya providing some foods and money for the poor people. The state government had provided money for the student and for those who are standing outside of Meghalaya.

The government providing money/foods through Below Poverty Line (BPL) - for the people.

The government spend money for covid pandemic. The government spending money for the peoples and for covid pandemic, and can't get revenue from different business and factory.

All the business man who exports granite, bétel - nuts, coal, limestone can't have exporting to the other state wherefore the state economic had gone down, wherefore the cannot getting revenue from anywhere to pay the tax.

Before the corona pandemic the state of Meghalaya won so many revenue from tax number, coal, wine, etc. But due to corona pandemic all are had to shut down that's why the state can't get revenue from there & to pay the taxes. And different different business get down in

economy. Due to shut down the tourist spot  
can't get some tax revenue from there.  
Thus, the state economy gone had gone down.  
Even the people of Meghalaya had to faced  
lots of problem, deducted from their salary  
for taxes and cannot getting exports and  
imports anything.

The Megha state had doesn't have enough  
factory to provide nicely wherefrom all the  
oils, petrol are importing from the other  
states, and its vegetables like onion, potato etc  
are exporting from other states. And the state  
cannot getting revenue from anything due to  
corona virus pandemic.

The people of Meghalaya had facing lots  
of problem during a global pandemic. The state  
government can't survive nicely to all the  
people because the state economy has gone  
down and cannot getting revenue from the  
anything. The people can't work anything, all the  
business like jackfruits, banana, pineapple, betelnuts which  
bring more revenue, they are not getting exporting  
to the other states, wherefrom the state revenue

haven't get any revenue from anything  
to pay the taxes. That's why the government  
need to deduct the salary from the  
employment. Even though the people who are  
living by selling vegetables also get infected  
and poor can't survive food to their family  
like as a normal life, due to global  
pandemic. Thus, the state economic had gone  
down due to haven't export anything and  
low revenue.