

P.A. SANGMA FELLOWSHIP FOR LEGAL AND POLICY RESEARCH

A FELLOWSHIP FOR THE GRADUATES OF
NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL OF INDIA UNIVERSITY
BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA



सत्यमेव जयते

LAW DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA



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ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP



MAP OF MEGHALAYA

The P. A. Sangma Fellowship for Legal and Policy Research is a fellowship by the Government of Meghalaya for the graduates of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru. The fellowship looks to expose students to the complex social and economic challenges of Meghalaya, a Sixth Schedule state, and generate interventions after analysing legal and policy frameworks in collaboration with senior policymakers of the government.

TESTIMONIALS



**SHRI CYRIL V. DARLONG DIENGDH, IAS
SECRETARY, LAW DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA**

It gives me immense pleasure of witnessing firsthand how the PA Sangma Fellowship for Legal and Policy Research has benefited the first cohort of fellows by giving them invaluable experience in the workings of the Government of Meghalaya's state machinery.

During their time with us, the fellows were able to work on a diverse range of projects, including the drafting of the Police Manual, research on the state Law Manual, providing research and policy support to the Law Department with regards to the Ropeway Bill, Tourism Policy, and much more. They also played a significant role in assisting in the setting up of NLU Meghalaya, which is a vital institution for legal education in our State.

One of the most impressive aspects of our fellows' work was their dedication to pursuing their own pet projects. They were able to explore areas of interest outside of their main focus, which allowed them to gain a broader understanding of the policy landscape of Meghalaya. For example, they studied the model Anganwadi and last mile health delivery, as well as indigenous food systems, which are all important topics that are relevant to our local communities.

While they have set a precedent for the cohorts to come, I have no doubt that their experiences and learnings during this fellowship will serve them well in their future careers as leaders and change-makers in the legal and policy spheres.



A year before, when I was confused about where to start my professional career, little did I know that I would land up in a century old building called the Rilang - the Secretariat of Meghalaya, which I call my office today.

Over the year, I got engaged in several projects of state and district level in various departments of the state government in different capacities. From being a member of the “Drafting Sub Committee - Meghalaya Mental Health and Social Care Policy 2022”, member of the “Drafting Committee - Meghalaya Law Manual” to conducting performance analysis of the Chief Minister’s flagship Scheme called the “Safe Motherhood Scheme”, the exposure has always been exponential.

The decision which I made a year ago to try working in a challenging atmosphere of a small and beautiful hill state of Meghalaya has made all the difference and all the accomplishments which I have today started with that decision to try.

MD DILSHAD AHMAD
PA SANGMA FELLOW (2022-23)



The P.A. Sangma fellowship has been nothing short of a life changing experience. It is only after living in the Northeast for a long time that you realise just how disconnected and isolated it is from the Mainland, both geographically and culturally, and how gravely this impacts everything.

The development and implementation of policies, schemes, formulation of laws and even day-to-day functioning of offices, businesses and the Government.

I have had the opportunity to contribute to the development of several laws and policies as well as conduct field research on a topic of my choice in Garo Hills in Meghalaya. I am really honoured to have had the opportunity to contribute my time and expertise to the development of state of Meghalaya (albeit in a ver very small way!).

PRAGYA PASRICHA
PA SANGMA FELLOW (2022-23)



Serving as a P.A Sangma Fellow with the Law Department, Government of Meghalaya, has been an enlightening experience. The fellowship has challenged me to think critically and enhance my legal research and analytical skills.

Learning about the Sixth Schedule in depth and how the District Council functions in consonance with the State legal machinery to protect the tribe's customary law is exquisite in itself. The constant attachment with the Government officials has helped me to understand the technicalities required to run the State with limited resources.

The fellowship aided to enhance my drafting skills through recent completion of drafting the First Statutes, rules and regulations of NLU, Meghalaya and constantly assisting with various Departments in providing legal assistance. I find myself fortunate to be a part of this fellowship and learn how the implementation of laws are done through various State functionaries.

PULAK SYMON
PA SANGMA FELLOW (2022-23)

SCOPE OF WORK

THE BROAD SCOPE OF WORK FOR SELECTED FELLOWS WILL BE TO PROVIDE RESEARCH SUPPORT FOR GOVERNANCE IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Undertake research for identifying gaps in policies and legal frameworks of the state and suggest interventions after assessing relevant stakeholders.
- Providing research support to officers in their day-to-day functioning for strengthening the policy structure of the state by identifying reforms in areas the areas of (but not limited to) Civil Laws and procedure, Banking and other Financial Laws, I.T and Cyber Laws, Property Laws, Labour Laws, Industrial and Commercial Laws, Environment Laws, Revenue Laws, Administration of Justice, Regulatory Compliances, Penal Provisions, etc.
- Any other advisory support as requested by Government of Meghalaya from time to time.
- Primary and/or secondary research for anticipated or on-going projects and policies of the state.





UMNGOT RIVER, MEGHALAYA

ELIGIBILITY

The Fellowship is open to all law graduates of Meghalaya, and of NLSIU, Bengaluru - NLS graduates from the B.A.LL.B (Hons.), L.L.M and the Masters in Public Policy (MPP) programmes may apply.

TERM OF FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship will be for a period of one year, extendable based on assessment of work or requirement of projects.

LOCATION

Selected fellows will be based in Meghalaya. They will be mentored jointly by nodal officers from the Government of Meghalaya and NLSIU.

STIPEND

Each fellow will be eligible for a stipend of ₹60,000/- (Rupees Sixty Thousand only) per month along with a House Rent Allowance of ₹ 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand only) per month. Every fellow will also receive a certificate on successful completion of the fellowship.

SELECTION PROCESS

REQUIREMENTS AND DATES

For applying to the fellowship, candidates need to submit the following documents through the **Google form**.

- A statement of purpose (maximum 1000 words) indicating precisely why they are the best fit for the fellowship and how they will be able to contribute effectively using their skillsets.
- Updated CV of not more than two pages
- Two reference letters, either both academic or one academic and one professional. Students with work experience **must** submit a professional reference letter. Students without work experience may submit internship reference letters, if they consider to do so.

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to appear for an interview. Upon selection, the Government of Meghalaya will provide the terms of reference for the fellowship.

The last date to receive applications is October 25, 2023.



WILL THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDE ME WITH ACCOMMODATION?

As a part of the fellowship, a house rent allowance of ₹ 10,000/- will be provided. Accommodation will not be provided. However, for the first month, arrangements will be made.

I AM AN MPP STUDENT. IS THE FELLOWSHIP LEGAL CENTRIC?

The fellowship will target areas of both law and policy. Work will be given to ensure the fellows are able to use their respective education, training and skillsets, making it suitable for all graduates of NLSIU across disciplines.

I HAVE GRADUATED IN 2019. AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

The fellowship is open to all graduates of NLSIU across disciplines irrespective of their year of graduation.

WILL THE FELLOWSHIP INVOLVE FIELDWORK?

The role will be based primarily in Shillong but may require field visits from time-to-time as the requirement may demand. However, travel for the same will be arranged by the government.

IS WORK EXPERIENCE DESIRABLE?

While having work experience will be an add-on, the fellowship is designed to provide exposure to fresh graduates as well. Therefore, not having work experience will not be a disadvantage.

WHAT WILL MY WORK HOURS BE? WILL I HAVE HOLIDAYS?

Work hours will be standard, as per the business hours of the Meghalaya government (9 am - 5 pm). However, if exceptional requirements arise, hours may extend on few occasions. Holidays for fellows will be as per the calendar of the government.

**CANDIDATES CAN CONTACT RECRUITMENT@NLS.AC.IN
FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATIONS AND QUERIES**

P.A. SANGMA (1947-2016)



Shri Purno Agitok Sangma was born in the Garo Hills District of Assam (present day West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya) in 1947. A celebrated statesman, a constitutional expert and a lawyer, he dedicated his life to the betterment of the people of the North Eastern region. In 1973, he became the Vice-President of the Pradesh Youth Congress in Meghalaya and became the General Secretary of the party in 1975. He served in that position from 1975 to 1980. In 1977, he was elected to the 6th Lok Sabha from Tura constituency in Meghalaya and represented the same constituency multiple times, from 1977-1988, 1991-2008, 2014-2016. The breaks in 1988 and 2008 were caused by his return to Meghalaya state politics, where he served as the Chief Minister from 1988-90. He became the Speaker of Lok Sabha in 1996 and till date remains the only speaker to have been elected to the coveted position from the opposition. He was posthumously awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2017 by the Government of India for his immense contribution to the field of public affairs, and he became the first person from Meghalaya to receive this honour.