Preface

Journalism in Meghalaya had taken off in 1880. It has evolved both in terms of technology and news and views representation, leaving a trail of footprints and recorded memories of important events as time passes by.

These developments are therefore important in the efforts being made by these newspapers in throwing open to readers, the Khasi and Garo variations and vocabulary that can be incorporated and further used in the development and enriching of the language which is the lingua-franca of the people of the region.

Forty eight years after the introduction of the Roman script, journalism in Meghalaya started with the ‘Achikni Ripeng’ (Friends of the Garos), which was introduced in 1880 with Bengali script in the Garo hills. It was only after American Baptist Missionary who switches the Bengali to the Roman script. The first Khasi newspaper, ‘U Nongkit Khubor’ (The Messenger) was established in December 1889 which was the organ of the Welsh Presbyterian Missionary.

The Christian publications contained news, reports and articles on their respective churches. But occasionally, the articles which were based on denominational pride took its space in the content of the newspaper. The newspapers during that time gave more emphasis to the cultural orientation which preserves their own background against the new transition. The cultural awakening first marked itself in journalism before it could reach to the other fields of literature. With the establishment of Ri Khasi Press in 1896 the growth of Khasi Journalism started in the true sense. The man behind the creation of the press was U Babu Jebon Roy Mairom who is known as a prominent author and who always encouraged the printing of books and journals. The first Khasi book was printed from this press itself, and till now Ri Khasi Press is considered as the one of the best printing presses of the region.
A number of Khasi and English newspapers are being published presently from Shillong serving the general interest of the people. These specially the vernacular papers are widely circulated in Shillong and also the rural areas where people are able to express their opinions on various matters and issues of public interest besides the editorials, articles and letters to the editor contributed by the readers. These papers also serve as a platform for public debates in the media. They operate under investigative reporting and looking out for scoops. Further these have added attractions like crossword puzzles, inviting and encouraging children in poetry writing and sketches, serial stories and also English and Hindi popular songs lyrics intended to motivate readers to participate.

This thesis comprises of eight chapters, Chapter 1: Introduction, Chapter 2: The History of Press in India, Chapter 3: History of Press in North East India, Chapter 4: The Locale of the study – Meghalaya state, Chapter 5: Press in Meghalaya, Pre Independence, Post Independence and Statehood, Chapter 6: The Language, Social issues and Press, Chapter 7: Press and emerging trends, and Chapter 8: Conclusion and Recommendations.

Chapter 1 describes briefly about the role of the journalism in different civilization around the world. Beside, how the term originates with the passes of time in different countries, explaining its importance of existence.

Chapter 2 gives the summary of the press in India from the Hickey’s Gazette to that of the latest technological development in the field of press in India.

Chapter 3 also details about the press in North East India. The chapter highlights the history, development and growth of seven states which includes Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

Chapter 4 elaborates the study area, which describes about its tribes, religion, traditional law and customs, government and the socio-economic development of the state.
Chapter 5 describes how the development of literature had taken a new phase which instigate in the development of press in Meghalaya. To get the better perceptive and to understand the involvement of the press in the struggle for freedom, it has divided into three parts i.e., Pre-independence, Post-independence and Statehood.

Chapter 6 elaborates some of the important issues of the state and how the press played its role in disseminating the news and information to the people of the region. Besides, it also describes the reason of bringing out some of the newspaper in Meghalaya.

Chapter 7 seeks to identify the trend of journalism in the region with its latest technological development. It also describes how advancement of electronic has different effect in the reporting of the events. The chapter also includes the problems and issues of the journalist and the newspaper organization.

Finally, Chapter 8 has the summary and conclusion of the thesis. The recommendation also took the last portion of the chapter which therefore contributes towards further research on the press in the region.