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PRESS RELEASE

Regional AI Impact Conference 2025 Concludes Successfully in Shillong, Shillong the 3rd December 2025

The Regional AI Impact Conference 2025 held today in Shillong concluded with overwhelming participation and landmark announcements, reaffirming Meghalaya's emergence as a leading hub for digital innovation in the North East. The event was organized jointly by the Information Technology & Communications Department, Government of Meghalaya and IndiaAI Mission, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India and IIM Shillong as Knowledge Partner. This Conference is part of the national series of 5 (five) Regional Conferences leading to the India–AI Impact Summit which is scheduled for February 2026.

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri. Conrad K Sangma graced the Conference as Chief Guest and the event witnessed overwhelming participation of more than 700 participants from diverse spectrum of the society, from student to entrepreneur, from lakhpati kong to academician, from Government Officials to AI practitioner.

The Conference started off with the inauguration programme in which Shri. Pravin Bakshi, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Information Technology & Communications Department, Government of Meghalaya, addresses the gathering with a welcome note and setting the context of the Conference.

Shri. Ashwani Vaishanaw, Hon'ble Union Minister, MeitY, has congratulated the State for hosting the Regional Conference and mentioned about different initiatives of India's AI Mission.

The inaugural Conference witnessed launch of three initiatives: - i. BHASINI hackathon for Khasi & Garo language model training and whoever are interested to participate may visit the website https://bhashini.gov.in/hackathon for more details; ii. MeghDEE for co-creating digital innovation by engaging student, startups and Government Departments; iii. DRISHTI-NE hackathon for the youth who are interested to take a challenge in coming up with their innovation in the field of AI and win a prize worth Rs.2.5 Lakhs. The Conference also witnessed the exchange of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Information Technology & Communication Department, Government of Meghalaya and IndiaAI Mission for setting up 2(two) Data & AI Lab in Meghalaya and the other MoU between Information Technology & Communication Department, Government of Meghalaya and MATH T-Hub for setting up of Satellite Incubation Centre in Shillong.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister expressed deep appreciation to the IndiaAI Mission and MeitY for choosing Shillong as the Regional host. He emphasized that the Conference marks a major step forward for Meghalaya under the theme "AI for CE – Artificial Intelligence for Citizen Empowerment: Smarter Governance, Better Lives." reaffirming the state's commitment to leveraging emerging technologies for inclusive and sustainable development. The Chief Minister highlighted that for the state to thrive in this digital era the digital ecosystem plays an integral part to realize this transition. He also emphasizes that data plays an equally important factor for a data driven governance.

The inaugural ceremony was followed by the Chief Minister inauguration of the exhibition stalls as part of this conference programme where startups, academic institutions showcase their innovation in the field of AI. Thereafter the programme is followed by the IndiaAI Mission and the panel discussions on two theme i.e. *AI for Climate Resilience* which is chaired by *Shri. Sampath Kumar, IAS,* Principal Secretary & Development Commissioner, Government of Meghalaya and *AI for Good Governance for a Safer and Equitable Societies* which is chaired by *Shri. K. S. Gopinath Narayan,* Principal Secretary, Information Technology Department, Government of Assam and co-chaired by *Smt. Agatha K Sangma,* Chairperson of the MSCPCR.

(Pravin Bakshi, I.A.S)
Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya,
Information Technology & Communication Department.