

**GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT**

PRESS RELEASE

Dated Shillong, 17th January 2026.

No. Health.2/2026/1: A Regional Multi-Stakeholder Convergence Workshop on developing India's Strategy for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare (SAHI) was held on 17 January 2026 at Vivanta, Shillong. The workshop was hosted by Shillong Medical College under the aegis of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya. The workshop formed part of a national consultation process led by the National Health Authority, Government of India, with technical assistance from the World Health Organization – South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO-SEARO).

The programme commenced with a welcome address by **Shri Sampath Kumar, IAS**, Principal Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya. **Dr. Karthik Adapa**, Regional Adviser, WHO-SEARO, set the context for the consultation, followed by a keynote address by **Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal, IAS**, Chief Executive Officer, National Health Authority (NHA). An overview of the National AI Strategy for Healthcare was presented by **Shri Vikram Pagaria**, Director, NHA.

Participants from Central and State Governments, academia, healthcare institutions, industry, and development partners engaged in structured discussions to provide inputs on implementation priorities, resource requirements, and institutional roles for the Strategy.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks by **Shri Sunil Kumar Barnwal, IAS**, CEO, NHA, and a vote of thanks by **Dr. Joram Beda, IAS**, Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Health & Family Welfare Department, and **Dr. Nicola Carissa Lyngdoh Iangrai**, Director, Shillong Medical College.
