



## PRESS RELEASE



### **Another milestone for Meghalaya's healthcare as Ranikor welcomes its First Referral Unit (FRU)**

**Ranikor | January 25, 2025:** Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya Shri. Conrad K Sangma, along with Health Minister Dr. Ampareen Lyngdoh inaugurated the First Referral Unit (FRU), during a programme held at Ranikor, in Meghalaya's South West Khasi Hills District on January 24, 2025, marking a major milestone in the state's journey toward strengthening healthcare services for its citizens. This state-of-the-art facility in Ranikor is envisioned to transform healthcare delivery in the region, offering emergency and specialist services to ensure the safety and well-being of mothers, infants, and families.



Over the last three to four years, Meghalaya has made remarkable progress in improving maternal and child health outcomes. Since the launch of the MOTHER programme, under the Rescue Mission initiative in 2022, maternal deaths have dropped by nearly 50%, and infant deaths by around 30% in the fiscal year 2023-24. These significant achievements highlight the state's dedication to reducing preventable maternal and infant deaths. However, challenges remain.

To bridge the gaps in healthcare delivery, the Government of Meghalaya initiated a strategic plan to upgrade Community Health Centres (CHCs) into First Referral Units (FRUs). These units are equipped to provide emergency obstetric care, surgeries, and critical care services, thereby reducing the dependence on district and tertiary hospitals.

It may be mentioned that the FRU in Ranikor is one of the five FRUs activated in the first phase, alongside facilities in Mawphlang, Bhoiryabong, Pynursla, and Resubelpara. More CHCs are set to be upgraded in the second phase.



A key catalyst in operationalizing the FRUs has been Meghalaya's collaboration with the Government of Tamil Nadu. Since 2022, 76 doctors from Meghalaya have undergone specialized training in Comprehensive Emergency Maternal Obstetric Care (CeMOC), Life-Saving Anesthetic Skills (LSAS), and ultrasonography (USG).

This partnership has already yielded transformative results. Doctors trained in ultrasonography are now posted in Primary Health Centres (PHCs), providing essential diagnostic services to rural communities. Expectant mothers who previously had to travel to Tura or Assam for ultrasounds can now access these services closer to home, free of cost.

The inauguration of the Ranikor FRU marks a significant step forward, and is part of the government's ongoing efforts including the training of more medical professionals and the expansion of FRUs to additional regions. The fourth batch of specialized training for doctors commenced in December 2024, ensuring a continuous pipeline of skilled healthcare providers.



The programme was chaired by Dr. F.R Lartang, DM&HO, South West Khasi Hills. The welcome address was given by Dr. J.S Momin-DHS-MI, while the vote of thanks was given by Dr. Neela E. Kharsahnoh- DHS (MCH&FW). Also present at the FRU inaugural programme were Ranikor MLA Shri P Marwein, Principal Secretary & Development Commissioner Shri Sampath Kumar, IAS, along with officials and functionaries from the State Health Department and Directorate.