



## PRESS RELEASE



### Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma inaugurates 41 Meghalaya Battalion NCC at Cherangre

**Cherangre, Tura | May 19, 2026:** Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma today inaugurated the newly relocated 41 Meghalaya Battalion NCC at Cherangre, Tura.



The inauguration programme began with the reception of the Chief Minister, followed by a Guard of Honour, signing of the visitors' book, ribbon-cutting, unveiling of the commemorative plaque, and a tree-plantation ceremony. The programme also featured a prayer dance by NCC cadets, experience-sharing sessions by former cadets, felicitation of cadets, and cultural presentations.



Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma highlighted the NCC's important role in instilling discipline, leadership, patriotism, and character among the youth. Describing



the inauguration as a “momentous occasion,” he said witnessing the relocation and establishment of the battalion in Tura was “almost like a dream come true.”

Sharing personal anecdotes from his childhood, the Chief Minister recalled how he had once aspired to join the armed forces and later dreamt of

becoming a police officer because of the discipline, dedication, and respect associated with men and women in uniform.

“As a young boy, the armed forces and police services had a tremendous impact on me because of the discipline, dedication, and aura that surrounded men and women in uniform,” he said. “There was a different feeling whenever you were around them — a sense of commitment, respect, and purpose that deeply inspired me.”

The Chief Minister said these values continue to remain relevant today and underlined the importance of the NCC in shaping responsible citizens and future leaders. “The NCC instills discipline, patriotism, hard work, and values that shape young people into responsible citizens,” he said.

Stressing the importance of youth-focused governance, the Chief Minister said the true measure of development lies not in the amount of money spent or infrastructure created, but in the number of lives positively transformed. “The success of a government should not be measured by how many crores are spent or how many buildings are constructed. It should be measured by how many lives are transformed because of those investments,” he stated.



He further added, “Development should not be judged only by the number of stadiums we build or medals we win. It should be judged by how those stadiums improve the quality, skills, confidence, and values of our children and youth.”

Highlighting Meghalaya's demographic advantage, the Chief Minister noted that nearly 75 percent of the state's population is below the age of 35, while almost 50 percent is below the age of 20. He said youth development, therefore, remains one of the Government's highest priorities.

Referring to the recently announced Youth and Sports Policy during the Cabinet on the Move programme in Tura, he described it as "a roadmap for the future of our youth" that integrates education, sports, arts and culture, entrepreneurship, youth exchange programmes, and skill development into a unified vision for empowering young people. "The inauguration of the 41 Meghalaya Battalion NCC complex is part of that larger vision," he said. "It brings us one step closer to achieving the future we envision for our youth."

The Chief Minister expressed confidence in the potential of Meghalaya's youth, stating that, given the right platform and opportunities, they could excel in every field. "I have always believed that the youth of Meghalaya are second to none — not just in the country, but in the world," he said.

Referring to the experience shared by an NCC cadet during the programme, he noted how the NCC had helped many young people discover their talents and gain exposure that may otherwise not have been possible. "There are countless young people across Meghalaya simply waiting for an opportunity to prove themselves," he remarked, while stressing the importance of exposure and youth exchange programmes in broadening horizons and building confidence among young people.

The Chief Minister assured the NCC leadership of the Government's continued support in strengthening youth-focused initiatives and infrastructure. "This is not an expenditure — it is an investment. The returns from investing in our youth will be far greater than the money spent," he said, while assuring support for the development of the remaining infrastructure, including the boundary wall and other facilities.

Speaking about Meghalaya's growth trajectory, the Chief Minister said the state is steadily emerging as one of the fastest-growing states in the country and is increasingly finding recognition at the national and international levels. "Who would have imagined that Meghalaya would announce the construction of the biggest football stadium in the country?" he said, adding that the state now has the confidence to dream big and compete alongside larger states. He also cited international recognition for Shillong as a growing cultural destination and said Meghalaya was gradually finding its place on the global map.

Reflecting on his own political journey, the Chief Minister shared lessons from his first electoral defeat in 2004 and encouraged young people to embrace self-improvement instead of blaming circumstances during difficult times. "At some point, you will have to choose between blaming the world or improving yourself," he said. "I hope you choose growth and self-improvement."

He said the NCC helps young people make that choice by instilling resilience, discipline, leadership, and courage.

The Chief Minister concluded by stating, “I congratulate the NCC for the excellent infrastructure and efforts that have gone into creating this facility. We will continue working together to make it one of the best NCC centres in the Northeast.”

The 41 Meghalaya Battalion NCC traces its origins to the raising of the 15 Assam Artillery Battery NCC on June 3, 1961. The unit was later upgraded to the 41 Meghalaya Battalion NCC in October 2020. The battalion is presently responsible for NCC training activities across five districts of Garo Hills.

Under the Border Area Expansion Plan, the unit has significantly expanded its outreach from 3 colleges and 6 schools to 7 colleges and 18 schools. The battalion currently comprises 7 companies with 1,120 cadets and 24 troops, with approximately 2,400 cadets as of May 2026. The relocation of the battalion from Shillong to Tura on March 3, 2026, was made possible after the Government allotted additional buildings and land to strengthen the infrastructure and operational requirements of the unit. The relocation of the 41 Meghalaya Battalion NCC to Tura is expected to further strengthen NCC presence and outreach across the Garo Hills region.



The programme concluded with the NCC song, the National Anthem, a group photograph, and interaction with mediapersons.