

PRESS RELEASE



Chief Minister Releases First Installment of Umbrella Post-Matric Scholarship for 96,812 ST Students across the State

Shillong, August 27, 2026: Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, today released the 1st Installment of the Umbrella Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe (ST) students for the Academic Year 2025-26, benefitting 96,812 students across the State, at a function organised by the Education Department, Government of Meghalaya, in Shillong College.



The event was graced by Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, along with Shri Lahkmen Rymbui, Hon'ble Minister, Department of Education, Government of Meghalaya, and Dr Shakil P. Ahammed, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya. Key officials included Shri Vijay Kumar Mantri, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Education Department; Smti H.D.B. Sangma, MCS, Director of Higher & Technical Education; and senior officials, as well as teaching faculty and students from different colleges.



In his keynote address, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya said, "We are on the right path. We have started to take steps which are meaningful, which are decisive, which are rectifying foundational challenges and problems that existed in the education system."

Commending the steadfast commitment of the Education Department in steering one of Meghalaya's most dynamic sectors, the Hon'ble Chief Minister underscored that eight years of persistent effort to untangle complex issues step by step have successfully established a solid foundation for the future. He emphasised that these structural rectifications now enable a clear 5-to-10-year vision for



transformative improvements across Performance Grading Index (PGI) metrics, teacher-student ratios, science streams, and higher education.

Addressing the challenges surrounding scholarship disbursements, Shri Sangma highlighted the introduction of the Single Nodal Agency (SPARSH) real-time mechanism, which opens a direct funding pathway from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) straight to student accounts, initiating the immediate release of the first installment.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Lahkmen Rymbui underscored the state's comprehensive scholarship ecosystem, which includes Post-Matric, Border Area, and CM Scholarships. The Hon'ble Minister called on the youth to look past basic assistance, actively compete for merit-based honours, and couple academic excellence with civic duty, declaring, "Be a responsible youth; view that Meghalaya is for you, Meghalaya depends on you."



Dr Shakil P Ahmad, IAS, Chief Secretary, commended the State's enhanced scholarship delivery mechanism, urging students to count their blessings rather than their constraints. Drawing from his own humble beginnings and how his first scholarship made a difference, he inspired youth to cultivate ambitious dreams, work tirelessly, and turn personal challenges into achievements. He also called upon teachers to serve as transformative mentors and torchbearers, guiding students through a rapidly evolving technological landscape to build a stronger, more resilient society.

Shri Vijay Kumar Mantri, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Education Department, elaborated on the strides made in Meghalaya's education sector, noting a massive surge in state scholarship applications from 76,000 last year to 96,000 this year. He attributed this growth to impactful awareness campaigns, a sharp influx of over 10,000 new student enrollments in Class 11, and the impact of the Chief Minister's Scholarship Scheme, which alone processed over 1,00,000 applications and disbursed funds to more than 98,600 students.

Notably, the state's total scholarship financial outlay has increased by nearly 30%, reaching approximately ₹200 crore. Outlining the rapid expansion of higher education, Shri Mantri noted that 19 new colleges, comprising 6 state government and 13 private institutions, have been established over the last three years, boosting the state's overall higher education capacity by 10,000 seats, a 30% increase.

The release of the first installment of the Umbrella Post Matric Scholarship marks another significant step towards strengthening access to higher education and ensuring timely financial support for students across Meghalaya. With sustained efforts to streamline scholarship delivery, expand higher education capacity and address systemic challenges, the Government of Meghalaya reiterated its commitment to building a more accessible, responsive and future-ready education ecosystem for the state's youth.

