

PRESS RELEASE



The Health Minister convened a meeting with medical experts and officials to develop strategies to curb the spread of HIV in the state

Shillong, June 17: In a proactive move to address the rising HIV cases in Meghalaya, Health Minister Dr. M Ampareen Lyngdoh convened a high-level meeting today with medical experts and officials from various departments to formulate strategies aimed at containing the spread of the virus across the state.



Briefing the media after the meeting, Dr. M Ampareen Lyngdoh highlighted the urgent need to launch widespread awareness campaigns to educate the public on HIV prevention. She expressed deep concern over the alarming increase in HIV infections in Meghalaya and underscored the necessity for immediate and targeted interventions.

The Minister identified needle-sharing among drug users and unprotected sexual activity especially involving commercial sex workers as key contributors to the growing number of cases. She also pointed to the lack of voluntary testing as a significant challenge, warning that it poses a serious risk not only to individuals but also to families and entire communities.

Dr. Lyngdoh emphasized that community engagement is essential in tackling the crisis. She urged local village authorities and faith-based leaders to actively support the government's efforts in spreading awareness and encouraging preventive measures.



According to the Minister, the state is witnessing close to 9,000 new HIV cases annually—a figure she described as deeply concerning. As an immediate step, the government will roll out extensive public education and awareness initiatives focused on prevention, early detection, and responsible health practices.