

PRESS RELEASE



SPARK State Summit 2026 held in Tura, CM highlights youth talent and cultural diversity

Tura, October 23, 2026: The Department of Education, Government of Meghalaya, organised the SPARK Meghalaya – School Programmes in Articulation, Resilience and Kindness – State Summit 2026 at the District Auditorium in Tura today, with Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma attending as the Chief Guest.



The summit brought together students and youth from various districts and schools across Meghalaya, along with principals, teachers, members of the jury, district administration officials and representatives of the Education Department.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said the summit provided a valuable platform for young people to showcase their talents, build confidence and develop meaningful friendships. Recalling last year's summit in Shillong, he said he had suggested holding this year's event in Tura to give students an opportunity to experience Meghalaya's rich diversity, cultures, languages, landscapes, food and music.



He noted that many students were visiting Tura for the first time, describing the journey and stay as an important part of the experience. He said such interactions helped young people understand different communities and appreciate the cultural richness of the state.

Emphasising that every individual possesses unique talents and potential, Sangma encouraged participants to focus on self-growth and embrace opportunities to learn and improve. He said SPARK extended beyond the summit itself, with talent finding expression through music, sports, entrepreneurship, dance and painting.

“The beauty of this programme is that every individual is unique and each has a talent. Everybody has potential and you have already won by being here,” he said, adding that the initiative aimed to build confidence, instil values and nurture better individuals.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the youth were the greatest strength of the state and stressed the importance of channelising their energy productively by providing them with the right opportunities and guidance.

Highlighting the government's youth-centric initiatives, he referred to the Meghalaya Grassroots Music Project (MGMP), through which around 8,000 artists have been able to pursue their passion and earn a livelihood. He said artists had performed more than 20,000 shows across the state, the country and internationally, including in Japan and Germany, with government support. He also highlighted the CM Elevate programme and investments in the sports sector.

Congratulating the Education Department for organising the summit, Sangma said several programmes initiated by Meghalaya were being replicated at the national level. He stressed that investment in such initiatives should be viewed not as expenditure but as an investment in future generations.

He said the students participating in the summit could carry its impact back to their communities, inspiring their siblings, friends and peers to explore their own potential. The initiative, he added, was not merely about creating a spark at the event but enabling that spark to spread across the state.



The release of the SPARK Outcomes Report 2026, cultural performances, testimonials from students and teachers, and the felicitation of District SPARK Stars were among the highlights of the summit.



