

PRESS RELEASE



900 students take part as 2nd District-Level Inter-School Games begin in Tura

Tura, August 31: The 2nd District-Level Inter-School Games 2026 got underway at the Hawakhana Indoor Hall in Tura on Monday, bringing together around 900 students from 42 schools across Selsella, Gambegre and Tura.



The event, organised by the District Sports Office, West Garo Hills, aims to provide young athletes with a wider platform to compete, gain exposure and develop their sporting abilities beyond the school level.



The inaugural programme was attended by Shri Vibhor Aggarwal, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills, as the Chief Guest, while Shri John F. Kharshiing, Working President of the Meghalaya State Olympic Association, attended as the Special Guest, along with sports officials and other dignitaries.



Competitions are being conducted in eight sporting disciplines—Volleyball, Basketball, Taekwondo, Swimming, Kabaddi, Badminton, Athletics and Table Tennis—across the Under-14, Under-15 and Under-17 age categories. The tournament will culminate with the final matches on September 3.



Addressing the participants, Deputy Commissioner Vibhor Aggarwal highlighted the importance of competitive sporting events in helping students assess their abilities, gain



experience and develop a stronger competitive spirit. With Meghalaya set to host the National Games in the coming months, he encouraged the young athletes to set ambitious goals and aspire to compete at national and international levels.

Aggarwal also said the National Games would provide Meghalaya's young sportspersons with valuable opportunities to witness and interact with leading athletes from across the country. Such exposure, he noted, could inspire students to pursue sports seriously and emerge as athletes of the future.

Speaking at the inaugural programme, John F. Kharshiing appreciated the strong participation from schools and acknowledged the presence of district-level sports association representatives. He pointed to the changes in Meghalaya's sports sector since 2019, particularly following the introduction of the Meghalaya Sports Policy 2019, which was notified after a historic Cabinet meeting held in Tura in December 2019.

Kharshiing said the policy provides a structured pathway for athletes from the school level towards state-level competition, while also offering provisions such as cash incentives and scholarships. He further highlighted the revival of the Meghalaya Games in 2020 and encouraged students to use available sporting opportunities and facilities to develop their potential.



He also spoke about the High Performance Programme and the support available for developing athletes, urging the young participants to put in their maximum effort and remain committed to their sporting goals. He expressed hope that competitions such as the district-level inter-school games would help identify and nurture future champions from the region.

Meanwhile, Shri Saljagring M. Marak, Assistant Director, Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs, Meghalaya, said the initiative was designed to bring students from different schools onto a common competitive platform. He noted that while sporting opportunities were previously concentrated largely within individual schools, inter-school competitions now allow students to test themselves against a broader pool of talent.

According to Marak, such exposure is important not only for identifying promising athletes but also for building confidence, competitive experience and a stronger sporting culture among school students.

