



M'laya climbs two grades, exits lowest PGI level for first time

State jumps 77.7 points in a year to climb from Akanshi-3 to Akanshi-1, still scores lowest points among 36 states/UTs

Our Bureau

NEW DELHI/SHILLONG, July 8: In a dramatic turnaround from being the worst-performing state in the national rankings, Meghalaya has finally moved out of the lowest grade in the Performance Grading Index (PGI) 2.0 for the first time since the framework was introduced by the Ministry of Education.

As per the PGI 2.0 Report 2025-26 released by the Ministry on Tuesday, Meghalaya has improved its overall score from 448 in 2024-25 to 525.7 in 2025-26, thereby moving from Akanshi-3 to Akanshi-1 — a jump of two grades in a single year.

This is the first time the state has risen above the lowest grade band since the inception of the revamped PGI 2.0 in 2021. Meghalaya now shares the Akanshi-1 category with Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Tripura, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.

The state's PGI score has shown consistent improvement over the last three years — rising from 401.62 in 2022-23 to 417.90 in 2023-24, 448 in 2024-25, and 525.7 in 2025-26. This represents an overall increase of more

than 124 points (nearly 31%) in just three years, placing Meghalaya among the fastest improving states/UTs under the PGI framework.

Despite the significant overall jump of 77.7 points in one year and more than 124 points over three years, an independent analysis of the report by *The Shillong Times* revealed that Meghalaya still recorded the lowest score among the 36 states and UTs in 2025-26.

When contacted for his reaction on Meghalaya bagging the lowest score, Commissioner and Secretary of Education, Vijay Kumar Mantri, said the PGI only awards grades, not ranks.

Chandigarh leads the table with 766 points in the Uttar-3 grade. The gap between Chandigarh's highest and Meghalaya's lowest score stands at 240.7 points or 31.4%.

With Learning Outcomes data carried forward from the previous PARAKH survey, the recent gains have come primarily through improvements in Access, Equity, Governance Processes, Infrastructure and Teacher Education parameters, the report revealed.

Education minister's reaction

Education Minister Lakhmen Rymbu credited the sustained educational reforms undertaken by the Government of Meghalaya over the past eight years,

with particularly focused interventions during the last three years, as the main factor behind the PGI improvement.

The government carried out massive rationalisation and clustering of schools during this period, optimising the school network from 14,641 schools in 2024-25 to 11,441 schools in 2025-26. This has enabled more efficient utilisation of educational resources and improved school management, he said.

Such sustained year-on-year improvement places Meghalaya among the fastest improving states and Union Territories in the country under the PGI framework, he said.

Recognising that motivated and financially secure teachers are the cornerstone of quality education, the state government introduced the Structured Pay Framework (SPF), which consolidates multiple categories of fixed-pay teachers into a single, transparent pay structure. The minister said the government will continue to focus on teachers' welfare and targeted interventions to further improve learning outcomes in the coming years.

In the PGI 2.0 report for 2024-25, Meghalaya was placed at the bottom nationally, placing it among the weakest performers in school education outcomes, infrastructure, and governance parameters assessed under the index.

NE church leaders to meet Home Secretary on FCRA concerns

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG, July 8: The state government is awaiting a formal invitation for a high round of talks between church leaders from the Northeast and the Union Home Secretary on concerns over the amended Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

The meeting is expected to be held in New Delhi within the next 10 to 14 days. Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the Union Home Secretary will hear the concerns of church representatives, explain the provisions of the amended law and place the centre's position before them.

The proposed consultation follows a recent meeting in New Delhi between Union Home Minister Anurag Singh and a delegation comprising Sangma, church leaders from Meghalaya, and representatives of different denominations from other Northeastern states. The delegation had submitted a memorandum detailing its concerns over the FCRA amendments.

Sangma said the Union Home Minister assured the delegation that the points raised would be examined and a detailed response would be provided.

Uranium shadow looms: Conrad offers to verify land grab charges

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG, July 8: Allegations of covert land acquisitions in the uranium-rich Dimaasat region of South West Khasi Hills have reignited long-standing fears that powerful interests are quietly pushing to revive uranium mining in Meghalaya, despite years of fierce public opposition and repeated government assurances to the contrary.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, responding to the controversy the same day, said he was willing to verify any reports or allegations of official movement linked to uranium-related activities and land deals in Dimaasat. However, he firmly ruled out any possibility of uranium

mining in Meghalaya, stating that the government's position has remained consistent and has been communicated clearly to both the centre and the people.

"The issue has come before the government several times and has been rejected on each occasion. There is no basis for creating confusion or suggesting that the government supports uranium mining," Sangma told reporters.

He added that he currently has no official information on the alleged movement of officials but would verify and take appropriate action on any information brought to his notice.

In a parallel development, the KSU on Wednesday moved the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC), demanding immediate intervention to halt alleged purchases of land in Dimaasat and adjoining villages.

A KSU delegation led by president Raymond Kharana and general secretary Rouben A. Najari met KHADC Chief Executive Member Winston Tony Lyngdoh and submitted a memorandum seeking legal safeguards to permanently block uranium mining within the council's jurisdiction.

Kharana alleged that influential outsiders, including prominent political figures from the state, have been buying land at unusually high prices. (Contd on P-11)

Office Of The SHILLONG MUNICIPAL BOARD
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No. SM/ETVC/LA/11 46/25-26/95 Dated Shillong, the 08th July 2026

NOTICE

Whereas, an in-situ survey of street vendors was conducted by the Town Vending Committee in accordance with the provisions of the Meghalaya Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Scheme, 2023. The survey was completed in January 2024. Thereafter, following the due process of inviting and disposing of claims and objections as prescribed under the Scheme, the final list of eligible street vendors was approved by the Provisional Town Vending Committee.

Now, therefore, as a further step to fulfil the submission made before the Hon'ble High Court of Meghalaya in PIL No. 9 of 2024, Certificate of Vending (CoVs) to the eligible street vendors of Laikumkhrah, Dhankheti, Bank, Laban, Red Cross, IGP area shall be issued on the 10th July 2026 at the office of the Shillong Municipal Board.

Accordingly, all eligible street vendors of the above-mentioned areas are hereby directed to collect their Certificate of Vending (CoVs) from the office of the undersigned on the scheduled date during office hours.

Chairperson of Town Vending Committee &
Chief Executive Officer, Shillong Municipal Board

MIPR No. 1064
Dt. 8/7/26

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES ON CONTRACT AT THE NATIONAL GAMES SECRETARIAT

The Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya is to host the prestigious 39th National Games 2027, marking a significant milestone in the state's sporting journey. To ensure seamless coordination and successful delivery of the Games, the National Games Secretariat (NGS) has been established as a dedicated body under the administrative control of the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, Government of Meghalaya, to oversee all operational, logistical, and administrative aspects of the event.

In this regard, NGS invites applications from eligible, qualified and motivated Citizens of India on contractual basis for providing expertise across various functional areas in the preparation and conduct of the 39th National Games in Meghalaya. These full-time positions offer an opportunity to contribute to a historic sporting event while gaining valuable experience in working at a government set up and large scale sports event management.

The engagement shall be purely contractual and co-terminus with the project requirements of the National Games Secretariat. The positions are as follows:

S.N.	Designation	Monthly Remuneration (INR)	Overview of Functional Areas	No. of Positions
1.	Manager	39,000	Accommodation, Catering, Transportation (ACT), Medical, Security and Protocol, Event Operations, Marketing and PR, Office Administration, Project Coordination etc.	12
2.	Assistant Manager	31,200		15
3.	Executive	26,000		61
Total				70

How to Apply: The candidates may fill the detailed application form attached at Annexure A of the detailed Notice (available at the official website of DSYA: <https://megsports.gov.in>) and submit the same online along with other required documents and details as sought in the Notice in the online application form link.

Incomplete Applications and Applications received through any other mode shall not be accepted and shall be summarily rejected.

The details of recruitment is available at the official website of DSYA: <https://megsports.gov.in>.

Link to Application Form: <https://forms.gle/2M5x6j8H1V9j9>

Last Date of Application: 27th July 2026 17:00 hrs

NGS reserves all the rights to withdraw this advertisement at any time without assigning any reason. For any recruitment related query e-mail to dsya.meg@gmail.com.

MIPR No. 1057
Dt. 8/7/2026

Deputy Director,
Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs,
Government of Meghalaya.

Tech-assisted tunnel coal mining on cards

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG, July 8: The state government is pushing for a new coal mining framework to allow safer, technology-assisted tunnel mining for Meghalaya's small and traditional miners. State and central officials will hold detailed consultations within the next seven to 10 days.

The discussions, involving the Union Coal Secretary, Additional Secretary and Meghalaya officials, will examine the state's proposals before a formal presentation is made to the Union Coal Minister.

At the core of the proposal is the state's view that large-scale open-pit mining is financially unviable for many local miners and that a regulated system suited to Meghalaya's traditional mining conditions is needed.

Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said on Wednesday that the government is exploring tunnel mining with modern safety measures, including 3D mapping to identify and avoid high-risk areas, infrastructure to stabilise mine passages, and smaller, less expensive machines.

The state has also asked the Union Coal Ministry to identify suitable technologies to reduce risks under a regulated system. Meghalaya has more than 22,000 mines across the state, making monitoring difficult without a workable framework.

The government believes a defined regulatory system would help enforce procedures and make safety compliance mandatory. It has sought delegation of certain powers under Section 26 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, with powers for approvals of paperwork and mining plans to be given to the state. A technical agency could work with the state on safety requirements and technical aspects. (Contd on P-11)

Vehicle swept away, Jorabat flooding paralyses GS Road



From Our Correspondent

NONGPOH, July 8: Heavy rainfall that lashed the region for several hours on Wednesday once again caused severe waterlogging along stretches of National Highway-6 at Jorabat, disrupting traffic on the vital highway linking Guwahati with Shillong and other parts of the Northeast.

The flooding, a recurring problem in the area, led to inconvenience for commuters as vehicles were forced to move slowly through the submerged highway.

In a dramatic incident, a

small vehicle attempting to cross the flooded stretch near the Jorabat bridge was swept away by the strong current. Water levels at the site had risen to nearly waist height, underscoring the risks posed by the inundated roadway.

The latest incident has once again highlighted the persistent flooding at Jorabat during heavy rainfall. Despite repeated occurrences, the problem continues to disrupt traffic, endanger motorists, and raise concerns over the need for a long-term solution along the crucial NH-6 corridor.

CHANDRASHEKHAR H. VIJAYASHANKAR
Governor

LOK BHAVAN
Shillong, Meghalaya
INDIA

MESSAGE

On the auspicious occasion of Behdienkhlam, I convey my warm greetings and sincere best wishes to the people of Meghalaya, especially the Jaintia community, who observe this cherished festival with deep faith, cultural pride, and festive spirit.

Behdienkhlam stands as a vibrant celebration of tradition, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil and reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the community. Its unique rituals, colorful processions, traditional performances, and sacred ceremonies embody the values of unity, harmony, resilience, and spiritual devotion. The festival's enduring significance continues to strengthen social bonds and preserve age-old customs for future generations.

May this sacred festival usher in happiness, good health, peace and prosperity for all. I wish the celebrations in Dimaasat every success and hope that the occasion brings joy, blessings, and renewed hope to everyone taking part in this remarkable festival.

Sd/-
(C.H. Vijayashankar)
Governor of Meghalaya

Conrad K. Sangma
Chief Minister
MEGHALAYA

MESSAGE

On the joyous occasion of Behdienkhlam, I extend my warmest wishes to the people of Meghalaya, and especially to the Jaintia community. May this festival usher in a bountiful harvest, lasting prosperity, and good health for all.

Behdienkhlam is a vibrant celebration that symbolises the driving away of plagues and misfortune. I hope its spirit will continue to inspire greater social harmony and community bonding across our State.

Let us come together to celebrate our shared heritage and the rich cultural diversity that makes Meghalaya truly special.

Wishing everyone a happy and prosperous Behdienkhlam!

Sd/-
(Conrad K. Sangma)
Chief Minister of Meghalaya

Shri Sanbor Shullai,
Minister
Animal Husbandry and Veterinary
Department,
Arts & Culture Department,
Printing & Stationery Department,
and Legal Metrology Department.

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MESSAGE

A warmest greeting to the people of Meghalaya, especially our brothers and sisters of the Pnar Community, on the joyous occasion of "Ka Beh Diehkhlam".

This vibrant festival reflects our rich cultural heritage, strengthens the bonds of community, and symbolizes hope, unity, and prosperity. As families and communities come together to celebrate this cherished tradition, may the spirit of *Ka Beh Diehkhlam* inspire harmony, resilience, and collective progress.

I extend again my heartfelt wishes to all the citizen of Meghalaya for good health, happiness, peace, and prosperity to everyone. May this festival continue to preserve our unique traditions and reinforce the values of unity and mutual respect that define our society.

Sd/-
(Sanbor Shullai)
Minister

Govt identifying hawkers along GS Road and Motphran

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG, July 8: The state government is identifying hawkers operating along GS Road and in Motphran to facilitate their relocation, Deputy Chief Minister in charge of Urban Affairs, Sniawbhalang Dhar, said on Wednesday.

"We are almost finished identifying them so that we can determine which sites to allocate to them," Dhar said.

Regarding the relocation of vendors in Laitumkhrak, the Minister stated that the final number of hawkers would be confirmed within the next few weeks.

that he could soon join the saffron party. While there has been no official confirmation, senior BJP leaders privately indicate that his induction is only a matter of time.

The development comes amid other signs that the BJP is working to strengthen its footprint in Meghalaya. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the BJP's key strategist for the Northeast, was invited as the chief guest at the renowned Behdienkhlam Festival in Jowai—a move widely seen in political circles as part of the party's efforts to deepen its outreach in the state.

Unlike in previous elections, the BJP has already made its intentions clear.

(Contd on P-11)

Power restored to two remote villages after years of darkness

From Biplab Kr Dey

WILLIAMNAGAR/MAWSYNRAM, July 8: Meghalaya's power sector has long faced criticism for its slow response to rural grievances, with some villages left without electricity for years due to remote locations or poor infrastructure. However, residents of two isolated villages in East Garo Hills and East Khasi Hills recently saw power restored following a proactive intervention by SAI Computers Limited, the current distribution franchise operator.

The development comes at a time when the company has been facing public scrutiny over allegations of overbilling and erratic supply elsewhere in the state.

Bolmoram Adinggre: End of a four-year wait

In Bolmoram Adinggre, East Garo Hills, nearly 40 families lived in darkness for four years after their distribution transformer failed. The village, falling under the Nongalbibra circle, was previously serviced by FEDCO.

(Contd on P-11)

Parking fee at Laban market sparks debate about fairness

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG, July 8: The implementation of parking fees at the busy Laban market has sparked mixed reactions among residents and motorists, with several questioning the manner in which the charges are being collected while others say the fee is justified if it helps regulate parking and improve traffic management.

Although the parking fee was initially fixed at Rs 40 and has reportedly been reduced to Rs 20 following public feedback, many residents contend that the controversy is not about the

amount being charged but about the way the system is being enforced.

According to several motorists, parking attendants are collecting the fee from vehicles that stop only briefly to drop off or pick up passengers, unload groceries or make quick purchases before immediately driving away. They argue that such temporary halts should not be treated as parking.

A resident who frequents the market said it was unreasonable to charge motorists who occupy the roadside for only a minute or two.

"I have no objection to paying a parking fee if I actually park my vehicle and

use a parking space. But if I stop for less than a minute to drop someone or collect a few items before leaving, I don't think that should be considered parking," the resident said.

Another commuter shared a similar view, saying parking attendants often approach vehicles almost immediately after they stop.

"Sometimes you're still inside the vehicle and preparing to leave, but someone is already asking for the parking fee. It gives the impression that every vehicle entering the area has to pay, whether it is parked or not," the commuter remarked.

(Contd on P-11)



IndianOil



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HP

NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF LPG DISTRIBUTORS

INDIAN OIL CORPORATION LTD (IOCL), BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD (BPCL) and HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LTD (HPCL) propose(s) to appoint LPG distributors under various categories at locations specified below from amongst the candidates belonging to different categories mentioned therein in the State of Meghalaya

Sr. No.	Oil Company	Location	Gram Panchayat (s)	Sub Division	Block	District	Category	Type of Market / LPG Distributorship	Security Deposit (Amount in Lakhs)	Marketing Plan
1	IOC	Shallang Sohbar, Umdang, Mawkhap, Nongdaju, Kyllon Mathei, Shallang Songsak, Dorangre A, Dorangre B, Rlangshiang, Jynruniangbrak, lewijnru, Dadu, Mangsangdaso, Nongwar Pyndeng, Nongwardo, Langumshing A, Langumshing B, Riangba, Mawkhap, Nongjaaw, Langshongthiang	Shallang Sohbar, Umdang, Mawkhap, Nongdaju, Kyllon Mathei, Shallang Songsak, Dorangre A, Dorangre B, Rlangshiang, Jynruniangbrak, lewijnru, Dadu, Mangsangdaso, Nongwar Pyndeng, Nongwardo, Langumshing A, Langumshing B, Riangba, Mawkhap, Nongjaaw, Langshongthiang	Shallang	Shallang	West Khasi Hills	ST(W)	DKV	2	2017-18
2	IOCL	Gambegre, Anchenggre, Bolan Bazar, Darak Akonggre, Diblonggaggre, Dikimpara, Nengajapara, Sandagre, Bolchugre, Somonpara, Saka Boldamgre, Badapura, Jongbhu, Rakwapara, Upper Darengre, Lower Darengre, Lower Sangsanggre, Badupara	Gambegre, Anchenggre, Bolan Bazar, Darak Akonggre, Diblonggaggre, Dikimpara, Nengajapara, Sandagre, Bolchugre, Somonpara, Saka Boldamgre, Badapura, Jongbhu, Rakwapara, Upper Darengre, Lower Darengre, Lower Sangsanggre, Badupara	Gambegre	Gambegre	West Garo Hills	Open	DKV	4	2017-18
3	HPC	Umtrai	Umtrai	Umsning	Umsning	RI-BHOI	Open	DKV	4	2017-18

- Detailed Advertisement including the eligibility criteria, nomenclatures etc. and online application is available on the website: www.lpgvitarakchayan.in. Before filling up the online application form, candidates are requested to read carefully 'User manual for Applicants - LPG VITARAK CHAYAN' which is available at the portal www.lpgvitarakchayan.in.
- Also guidelines on eligibility criteria for selection of LPG Distributor, infrastructure requirements for LPG godown, showroom, Home delivery of cylinders etc. along with the details of selection process are given in the Brochure for Selection of LPG Distributors, which can be downloaded from any of the Oil Companies' websites - www.iocl.com, www.bharatpetroleum.in, www.hindustanpetroleum.com of IOCL, BPCL and HPCL respectively and website: www.lpgvitarakchayan.in.
- Application for LPG Distributorship along with online payment of Non-refundable application fee, as applicable, should be submitted on-line by date 08.08.2026 at 17:00 hrs.
- The facility for submission of on-line application will be withdrawn immediately after the cut-off date and time as mentioned above.
- Applicants, in their own interest, should carefully go through the "brochure" and understand conditions of selection before submitting their application.
- The Corporations (IOCL/BPCL/HPCL) reserves the right to cancel / withdraw / amend this advertisement or extend the due date at its sole discretion without assigning any reason.
- If there is any discrepancy found in the Advertisement published in English, if any, vis-a-vis vernacular language, the directions/information indicated in the vernacular version would prevail.
- Corrigendum, if any, will be published only in the Website www.lpgvitarakchayan.in.
- Applicants may also refer to the FAQs and contact Indane DOs / Territory Offices / Regional Offices of the respective corporation as per details given on the Website www.lpgvitarakchayan.in.



WEATHER UPDATE

MAX	Shillong	23.0
	Sohra	22.1
	Umiam	29.4
MIN	Shillong	17.5
	Sohra	19.1
	Umiam	22.0
RAIN	Shillong	10.6
	Sohra	126.4
	Umiam	8.8

FORECAST

Moderate rain is likely at most places

Source: IMD Shillong