

# GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

## MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

### Press Communiqué

**Shillong, 08 May, 2026:** His Excellency Mr. Philip Green, OAM, Australian High Commissioner to India, along with Mr. Bernard Lynch, Consul General of Australia to India met the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya Shri C.H. Vijayashankar, at Lok Bhavan on Thursday. Shri H.C.Chaudhary, Additional Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor was also present during the meeting. The meeting witnessed meaningful discussions on areas of mutual interest, including higher education, development of water sector including water sports such as surfing, kayaking, water skiing, and diving, sustainable development, and opportunities for deeper collaboration between Australia and Meghalaya.

During the interaction, the Australian High Commissioner appreciated constitutional safeguard of the tribals in the state of Meghalaya. He expressed keen interest in understanding Meghalaya's unique socio-cultural and constitutional framework about the protection of tribal rights and constitutional provisions that preserve the distinct identity and heritage of the indigenous communities of the State. The Hon'ble Governor elaborated on Meghalaya's democratic traditions, constitutional protections, and the importance of preserving its rich tribal customs while pursuing inclusive growth and development.

They also discussed on higher education, exploring opportunities for academic collaboration, student exchange programmes, research partnerships, and knowledge-sharing initiatives between institutions in Meghalaya and Australia. The interaction underscored the importance of strengthening global academic linkages to empower youth, promote innovation, and enhance the quality of higher education in the State. Given the State's abundant natural resources and scenic landscapes, discussions also touched upon Meghalaya's potential in sectors such as eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and development of water sector including water sports such as surfing, kayaking, water skiing, and diving.

The Hon'ble Governor also highlighted Meghalaya's extraordinary natural wealth, apprising the High Commissioner of the State's rich flora and fauna, ecological diversity, and the immense potential of its medicinal plants for research, wellness, and sustainable economic opportunities.

Earlier, H.E. Mr. Philip Green attended a programme organised by Asian Confluence in Shillong, where deliberations focused on strengthening international engagement, regional connectivity, and fostering greater academic and cultural exchanges. His visit to Meghalaya reflects the growing interest in enhancing collaborative partnerships and people-to-people engagement between Australia and the Northeast region of India.

The meeting reaffirmed the shared commitment towards exploring avenues of cooperation in education, cultural exchange, environmental sustainability, and developmental initiatives of mutual benefit.





