

# **GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**

## **MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG**

### **Press Communiqué**

**Shillong, 19th September 2025**

The Education Department, Government of Meghalaya, today organized a special programme at the Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Shillong, to mark the release of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and the launch of a dedicated website for the implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act, 2009. The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C. H. Vijayashankar, graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

The programme began with the arrival of the Hon'ble Governor, followed by the National Anthem by the Meghalaya Police Band and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Shri Vijay Kumar Mantri, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Education Department, delivered the welcome address, after which children from the Special Training Centre (SPARK) presented a cultural performance highlighting the importance of inclusive education.

The Hon'ble Governor formally released the SOP and launched the website. In his address, he emphasized that Section 12(1)(c) of the RTE Act is a vital step towards inclusivity and equality, ensuring 25% reservation of entry-level seats in private, unaided, non-minority schools for children from disadvantaged sections. He underlined that the SOP would provide clarity and uniformity, while the digital platform would bring transparency, efficiency, and accountability.

The website has been designed as a one-stop solution for parents and schools alike—enabling online applications, transparent lottery-based admissions, performance tracking of students, reimbursement of school fees, and grievance redressal. Officials highlighted that the system will empower parents with information, strengthen accountability for schools, and ensure accuracy in the implementation of the RTE mandate.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Shri Jagdish Chelani, IAS, State Project Director, SEMAM, Samagra Shiksha. The programme concluded with the National Anthem performed by a school children's choir, followed by lunch at the Multipurpose Hall of Raj Bhavan.

The launch marks a significant milestone in strengthening the RTE framework in Meghalaya and reflects the State's commitment to ensuring equal educational opportunities for all children.