

## **GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**

### **MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG**

#### **Press Communiqué**

**Shillong, September 03, 2024:** At the invitation of Shri Pyniaid Sing Syiem, Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council (KHADC), the Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C.H. Vijayashankar, visited Mawphlang village and the sacred groves today. He was warmly received in the traditional manner by CEM, deputy CEM, MLA & MD Shri Charles Marngar and Shri Lyngdoh Mawphlang Hima. He interacted with the local community and women's self-help group and expressed his deep appreciation for the cultural and environmental heritage of the region.

During his address, the Governor praised the Adivasi people and Khasi Society's traditional institutions, referring to them as the true lovers of nature who teach the world the real value of nature. He drew parallels between the traditions of his native place and those of Meghalaya, describing the state as a "heaven on earth" due to its rich traditions and natural beauty.

The Governor highlighted the critical importance of forest preservation, stressing that the forests are not just a source of ecological balance but also hold deep cultural and medicinal significance. "Meghalaya is a hub of medicinal plants," he noted, urging the community to continue protecting and cherishing these invaluable resources.

The Governor also lauded the matrilineal society of Meghalaya, where women play a central role in maintaining societal harmony and passing down traditions. He called on the youth to uphold the traditional values bestowed by their forefathers, stating that this is the path to building a better society.

He emphasized two key areas for the state's development: education and the promotion of cottage and agro-based industries. "Education should be accessible to everyone, and we must ensure the flourishing of cottage and agro-based industries,

which are vital for the economic empowerment of our communities," he said.

In conclusion, the Governor assured the people of Meghalaya of his full support, stating, "Whatever cooperation you seek from Raj Bhawan, we are with you."

While returning, the Governor made a visit to the Mawphalang Dam and met the executive engineer there. They had a brief discussion about Great Shillong Water Supply Scheme and what new initiatives must be taken to make the scheme more advance and effective.