

Raj Bhavan Hosts Grand “At Home” Reception to Mark Independence Day 2025

Shillong, August 15: In a proud display of unity, culture, and patriotism, the Governor of Meghalaya, C. H. Vijayashankar, hosted the state’s traditional *At Home* reception at the historic Raj Bhavan to mark the 79th Independence Day of India.

The gathering was attended by Chief Minister, Conrad K Sangma, members of the Legislative Assembly, senior officials, defence personnel, distinguished citizens and representative from different walks of life.

The elegant lawns of Raj Bhavan, glowing under the illumination of the Tricolour, served as the backdrop for a meticulously organized ceremony that honoured India’s legacy of freedom, showcased Meghalaya’s cultural heritage, and celebrated the achievements of exceptional individuals from across the country.

A colourful cultural programme, curated by the Department of Arts & Culture in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), featured a rich mix of regional and national art forms. The programme opened with a soulful rendition of “*Vande Mataram*” by the KHMIH Society, followed by the screening of the Meghalaya State Song on the giant screen — a solemn moment where all stood in respect.

The stage then came alive with traditional and folk performances which included a Puppetry performance by Padmashree Bhimmavaa Doddabalappa Shille Kyathara and team from Karnataka; Jogathri Nritya by Padmashree Dr. B. Manjamma Jogathi and team; Traditional dance presentation titled “*Oneness of Us*”; Khasi-Sitar Jugalbandi titled “*Megho Ki Cha-ye Me*” and performances by Assam Rifles Jazz Band (“*Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon*”)

On the occasion, the Governor also released the book titled “From Residency to Raj Bhavan”, highlighting the historical journey of the Governor’s residence in Meghalaya.

The event also served as a platform to recognise and honour individuals whose contributions have brought glory to Meghalaya and the nation. Among the awardees felicitated were Parathlete, Irapborlang Chyne; Mount Everest climber, Rifiness Warjri; Puppeteer, Padmashree Bhimmavaa Doddabalappa Shille Kyathara; Folk artist, Padmashree Dr. B. Manjamma Jogathi; Winner, *India's Best Dancer (Season 4)*, Steve Jyrwa and a young painter from SOS Children’s Village, Baiahunlang Nongrum.

In addition, the Crystal Grace Nongkynrih Cash Awards were presented to creative and cultural stalwarts, including: Dr. Mebanlamphang Lyngdoh, Khasi traditional music scholar; Ricky Paul Marwein, VFX artist known for global cinematic storytelling; Rangkitbok C. Dohkrut, Poet and environmentalist; Ram Kynjin, Sculptor known for monumental public works and Kyrmenlang Uriah, Journalist, social activist, and entrepreneur

The “At Home” function at Raj Bhavan remains a cherished tradition in Meghalaya reflecting the values of national pride, unity, cultural diversity, and public recognition.