

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

Press Communiqué

Shillong, August 15: In a proud display of unity, culture, and patriotism, the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C. H. Vijayashankar, hosted the traditional "At Home" reception at Lok Bhavan, Shillong, on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day of India, commemorating a landmark year in the nation's enduring journey of freedom and development. Held as part of the special observance during the Amrit Kaal, the programme was witnessed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, along with other dignitaries, senior government officials, defence and police personnel, artists, cultural representatives, distinguished guests and other invitees.

To begin the programme, the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya inaugurated the stalls and displays of various farmers, entrepreneurs and artists at the lawn of the Lok Bhavan and inspected the exhibits. This was followed by the "At Home" ceremony with which the theme was "*Colors of India*", in which it was curated by the Governor's Secretariat in collaboration with the Department of Arts & Culture which featured a colourful cultural programme showcasing the rich cultural diversity of India and Meghalaya. The programme showcased traditional and cultural performances including *Jogari*, *Jagarna* and *Rouf* dances by the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages; *Bhawai Dance* and *Kalbelia Keshria Balam Song* by the West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, Rajasthan; "*Milke Sare Bandhan Todenge Hum*" by Karnataka Sangha, Mandya; *Ka Shad Mastieh*, the traditional Warrior Dance of the Khasi Tribe; the *Wangala Harvest Traditional Folk Dance* of the Garo Tribes; *Bharatnatyam presentation of Vande Mataram* by Prajna Kashyap from Mysore, Karnataka; *Chad Kheit Soh*, a traditional folk dance of the Jaintia Tribes; from Bengal "*A Vibrant Cultural Melting Pot*" performance was showcased; and a unique performance by the *Jazz Band and symphony band of the Assam Rifle and of the Assam Regimental Centre Band* also performed.

The occasion also witnessed the felicitation of grassroots achievers for their outstanding contributions in their respective fields. *Shri Lynti Rynghang* from Ri Bhoi District was recognised for Woodcraft, *Smt. Norma R. Lakiang* from East Khasi Hills District for Bonsai, and *Shri Dirot Chambugong Marak* from West Garo Hills District for Traditional Musical Instruments. The programme also announced the winners of the Flower Show, including the King of Flower Show, Queen of Flower Show and Best Stall, who were felicitated on the occasion.

The “At Home” reception at Lok Bhavan continues to uphold the spirit of Independence Day by bringing together national pride, cultural diversity and recognition of the achievements and talents of the people of Meghalaya and the country. Following the cultural programme Lok Bhavan was opened to thousands of visitors for the afternoon programme, providing citizens an opportunity to witness the beauty and heritage of the historic premises and explore the various stalls and displays showcasing the work and products of local entrepreneurs.

This year’s “At Home” reception marks a special meaning, of the larger sentiment behind the transformation of Raj Bhavan into Lok Bhavan — from the traditional notion of *Raj Bhavan*, the house of the ruler, to Lok Bhavan, the house of the people. By welcoming citizens into the premises on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, Lok Bhavan seeks to embody the spirit of openness, participation and inclusiveness, reaffirming that the institution belongs to and serves the people.







