

## **GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**

### **MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG**

#### **Press Communiqué**

**Shillong, February 12, 2026:** The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C.H. Vijayashankar, graced as the Chief Guest a program organised by the office of the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with Lok Bhavan, Shillong at the Lok Bhawan, Shillong to felicitate outstanding Persons with Disabilities.

Himalaya M. Shangpliang, Chief Adviser, Meghalaya State Paralympics Association; H. C. Chaudhary, Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor; Pravin Bakshi, Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Social Welfare Department; C.D. Lyngwa, Director, Social Welfare Department, Lyngkor Kynjing, Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Meghalaya and other senior officers were present in the program.

During the program Ten outstanding persons with disabilities namely; Shri Ferdinand Lyngdoh Marshillong, Smti. Anjelina Tynhiang, Shri Simseng M. Sangma, Shri Willingson Manar, Shri Orphon Nongrum, Shri Shanborlang Siangshai, Shri Madhu Subedhi, Shri Keneddy Rynjah, Ms. Jepora T. Sangma and Shri Pillbert Hanse were felicitated by the Governor in the presence of their family members.

Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Governor commended the awardees for their indomitable spirit and stated that their achievements serve as a powerful reminder that disability is not a limitation but a mark of strength and courage. The Hon'ble Governor also underscored the importance of identifying the root causes of disabilities and strengthening preventive measures. He emphasized that while empowerment and inclusion remain essential, equal attention must be given to early detection, awareness, timely medical intervention, maternal and child healthcare, road safety, and preventive public health strategies to reduce avoidable disabilities. He called upon all concerned departments to adopt a proactive and coordinated approach to prevention, alongside rehabilitation and support.

The Hon'ble Governor noted that India, as a signatory and ratifying nation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), has reaffirmed its commitment to uphold the dignity, rights and full participation of persons with disabilities.

The Hon'ble Governor further emphasized that true progress of a society is measured by how it treats its most vulnerable members. He noted that the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 provides a strong legal foundation for ensuring equality, accessibility and non-discrimination, and called upon all stakeholders - government departments, institutions, civil society and citizens - to work together to translate the spirit of the Act into meaningful action on the ground. He encouraged the awardees to continue striving for excellence and assured them of the State's continued support.

In his welcome address Shri H.C. Choudhary highlighted the importance of inclusivity and empowerment of persons with disabilities in building a just and equitable society. Shri Pravin Bakshi, underlined the State Government's commitment towards effective implementation of welfare measures under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. Shri Himalaya M. Shangpliang in his address appreciated the resilience and achievements of the awardees and reaffirming collective efforts to strengthen accessibility and opportunity.

The ceremony stood as a reaffirmation of Meghalaya's commitment to inclusivity, dignity and equal opportunity for all. The event not only celebrated individual achievements but also strengthened the collective resolve to build a compassionate and barrier-free society where every citizen can contribute fully to the State's growth and development.

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