

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

Press Communiqué

Shillong, August 07, 2025 : The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C.H.Vijayashankar, today graced the State-level celebration of National Handloom Day 2025, organized by the Department of Textiles, Government of Meghalaya. The event was held under the theme "From Loom to Legacy - Weaving the Future", to honour the contributions of the weaving community and celebrate the rich handloom heritage of the State.

Addressing the gathering, the Hon'ble Governor extended his warm greetings to all weavers, spinners, dyers, artisans, and stakeholders of the Meghalaya Handloom sector, and congratulated them on the significant milestone of Geographical Indication (GI) recognition for Ryndia and Khasi Handloom products. He commended the Department of Textiles and the Meghalaya Ryndia Producers Association for their efforts in securing the GI Tags, which he described as a "positive and timely step" towards enhancing visibility, authenticity, and marketability of Meghalaya's handloom products at both national and international levels.

The Hon'ble Governor highlighted that the GI journey began with the official declaration of Umden-Diwon in Ri-Bhoi District as the first Eri Silk Village of the State on February 12, 2021, which gave a strong impetus to the movement for recognition. He expressed pride in the unique characteristics of Meghalaya's indigenous textiles which are hand-spun, handwoven, organically produced, naturally dyed, ethically sourced, and largely women-led, contributing to both sustainable livelihoods and cultural pride. He also highlighted the recognition accorded to Ryndia by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his recent letter to the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Conrad K. Sangma, and in his Mann Ki Baat address on June 29, 2025, where Ryndia was described as a symbol of Meghalaya's heritage, sustainability, and social responsibility.

The Hon'ble Governor emphasized the importance of the handloom and sericulture sectors as a key source of livelihood for over 90,000 individuals in the state, and appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the State Government under the leadership of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Textile Minister Bah Paul Lyngdoh to

support the sector through schemes like CM Elevate, infrastructure support, and skill development programs.

During the celebration, the Hon'ble Governor also visited the exhibition showcasing handloom and woven products, and was impressed by the diversity, craftsmanship, and incorporation of modern designs into traditional textiles. He encouraged stakeholders to continue promoting natural dyes, improve technology, and explore new product lines while preserving the authenticity of Meghalaya's textile traditions.

In conclusion, the Hon'ble Governor congratulated the entire Meghalaya textile community for the GI achievement and expressed confidence that the sector will continue to flourish and contribute to the State's economic and cultural growth in the years ahead.