

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

Press Communiqué

Shillong, 30 September 2026: The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C.H. Vijayashankar, attended the Riti Academy of Visual Arts Award Ceremony 2026. The programme was held as part of the Academy's 35th Anniversary (Coral Jubilee) celebrations. Shri H.C. Chaudhary, IFS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya; Shri F.R. Kharkongor, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Arts & Culture Department; Smti. C.D. Lyngwa, MCS, Director of Arts and Culture; Shri R V Warjri, Retd IFS, Former Diplomat, and Smt. Silbi Passah, Padmashri, and Shri Raphael Warjri, Technical Director of Riti Academy who played a key role in this award ceremony, were also present.

The award ceremony celebrated and honoured individuals who have made significant contributions to performing art, visual art, culture, media and music, while recognising their efforts towards preserving and promoting Meghalaya's rich cultural heritage. During the ceremony, five Memorial Awards namely, the Crystal Gayle Kharnaier Memorial Award for Performing Arts, Prithpal Singh Sehdaive 'Ladi' Memorial Award for Visual Arts, Sumar Sing Sawian Memorial Award for Culture, S Quotient Sumer Memorial Award for Media, and Rana Kharkongor Memorial Award for Music were presented upon Royalborn Suting 'Khmih' for Performing Arts, Lalhming Mawii 'Amoi' for Visual Arts, Janai Nongkynrih for Culture, Aaron Lyngdoh for Media, and Shibor Mawkon for Music, in recognition of their contributions to their respective fields and to the cultural heritage of Meghalaya.

The Hon'ble Governor highlighted the important role of institutions such as Riti Academy of Visual Arts in providing a platform for local talent and nurturing creative expression. He noted the need for sustainable opportunities and infrastructure for development of visual art in Meghalaya and emphasised the importance of support from the State Government, central agencies and the wider art fraternity. He further noted that the Riti Awards have now extended beyond Meghalaya and reached the wider North-East, with one of the awardees this year coming from Mizoram, reflecting the growing recognition of talent across the region.

Shri F.R. Kharkongor, IAS, Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Arts & Culture Department, highlighted that the ceremony was an important occasion for recognising outstanding achievements in the fields of arts and culture. He congratulated Riti Academy of Visual Arts and Shri Raphael Warjri for their unwavering efforts, year after year, in identifying and encouraging hidden talents from the community. He observed that such encouragement provides artists with the confidence and support needed to bloom and blossom.

The ceremony served as a celebration of Meghalaya's artistic and cultural legacy while recognising individuals whose work continues to contribute to the preservation, promotion and advancement of State's creative heritage.







