

## **GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT**

### **MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG**

#### **Press Communiqué**

**Shillong, October 02, 2024:** On the occasion of the 155th Gandhi Jayanti, Shillong witnessed a series of inspiring events presided over by the Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C.H. Vijayashankar. The celebrations began with the Hon'ble Governor taking the lead in a Cleanliness Drive at Ward's Lake, despite heavy rains. His unwavering commitment to Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a clean and green India was showcased through his active participation in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

In a special initiative to mark this occasion, the Hon'ble Governor led a Plantation Drive at Raj Bhavan, planting 155 trees in and around the premises, symbolizing the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This drive reflects the Governor's dedication to environmental conservation and sustainable development in Meghalaya.

The Hon'ble Governor further flagged off a Mobile Library by the National Book Trust (NBT), promoting literacy and knowledge dissemination across the state. In addition, he launched the Swachhata Run, a marathon aimed at promoting cleanliness and health, which saw enthusiastic participation from men, women, and senior citizens alike.

At the heart of the celebrations was the Cultural Program held at Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, where the Hon'ble Governor spun the Charkha, symbolizing Gandhiji's ideals of self-reliance and simplicity. The Governor also took a keen interest in the display of traditional crafts from the North-East region, appreciating the vibrant cultural heritage of the area.

As part of the celebrations, the Hon'ble Governor also presented cheques of ₹1,11,000 each to the Kasturba Gram Seva Kendras in Tuber (East Jaintia Hills), Kyrdemkhla (East Khasi Hills), Jambal (East Garo Hills), and Magupra (West Garo Hills). These centres have been recognized for their selfless service in improving the lives of the poor and needy, particularly women

and children, through initiatives in health, nutrition, education, and sustainable livelihoods. Their dedication, especially in challenging conditions, exemplifies the spirit of Gandhiji's vision of serving the vulnerable.

In his address as the Chief Guest, the Hon'ble Governor delivered inspiring remarks, stating, "True freedom begins with self-discipline and service to others." His speech emphasized the importance of following Gandhiji's principles of unity, self-reliance, and service to the nation.

The celebration of Gandhi Jayanti at Raj Bhavan was a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's enduring legacy, marked by environmental stewardship, promotion of education, and the spirit of community service.