

PRESS RELEASE



Meghalaya Celebrates National Handloom Day with GI Tagged Recognition for Ryndia and Khasi Handloom

Shillong, August 7, 2025: The Department of Textiles, Government of Meghalaya, celebrated National Handloom Day today with a special focus on the recent achievement of Geographical Indication (GI) tagged status for two traditional products Ryndia and Khasi handloom.



Speaking at the event as Chief Guest, Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C. H. Vijayashankar, described the recognition as a matter of pride not only for the state but also for the nation. He emphasized the need for continued cooperation and support for the holistic development of the handloom sector in Meghalaya.



“It is a moment of celebration for all of us. The GI tagged for Ryndia and Khasi handloom reaffirms the unique identity of our traditional weaving culture,” said the Governor. He also recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s appreciation of Ryndia silk, highlighting its exclusivity to Meghalaya. “This recognition showcases our strength and heritage. Today, over 40,000 farmers and more than 42,000 individuals are directly or indirectly engaged in the handloom sector, the majority of whom are women,” he added.



The Governor also shared his experience of visiting handloom stalls prior to the event, noting the strong participation of women, which further signifies the role of women in driving the state’s textile industry. He acknowledged the proactive efforts of Chief Minister Shri Conrad K. Sangma and Textiles Minister Bah Paul Lyngdoh in uplifting the sector and supporting local artisans.



Addressing the gathering, Textiles Minister Bah Paul Lyngdoh expressed his joy over the recognition and said the celebration reflected the enduring spirit of the Swadeshi movement, which remains deeply rooted in Meghalaya. “This achievement has taken our community weavers and traditional products to a new level,” he said.



He also thanked Dr. Rajanikant, who played a key role in securing the GI tag for both products. Highlighting the growing prominence of the department, the Minister said, “What was once considered a minor department is now taking center stage, even drawing attention from the Prime Minister, who acknowledged our products in his *Mann Ki Baat* address.”



As part of the celebrations, the Minister launched a new website titled "KHINENG – Woven with Heritage, Worn with Pride", and unveiled the cover, "Looms to Legacy". The event also saw the distribution of State Handloom Awards to outstanding artisans from various districts across Meghalaya.



