

PRESS RELEASE



International Day for Biological Diversity 2025 Celebrated in Shillong

Shillong, May 22, 2025: Meghalaya joined the global community in celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2025 with a State-level event held at the U Soso Tham Auditorium. This year's observance centered around the theme "**Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development**", highlighting the essential link between biodiversity and the achievement of the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The event was graced by **Shri H.C. Chaudhary, IFS**, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife & Biodiversity), Forest & Environment Department, Meghalaya, who attended as the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries included **Prof. S.K. Barik**, Head of the Department of Botany at NEHU; **Shri Pawan K. Agrahari, IFS**, Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife); and **Shri R. Nainamalai, IFS**, Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Forest & Environment Department, and Member Secretary of the Meghalaya Biodiversity Board (MBB).



As part of the celebrations, the dignitaries released a series of awareness materials, including **posters and a Coffee Table Book titled "Caves of Meghalaya."** A **documentary film** highlighting successful community-led conservation practices by Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in the state was also screened.



The highlight of the event was the presentation of the **State Level Biodiversity Awards 2025**, recognizing exceptional efforts in biodiversity conservation and sustainable bioresource management. Under the **"Best Biodiversity Management Committee"** category, **Mawtneng BMC** from Bhoirymbong Block, Ri-Bhoi District, received the top honor. Meanwhile, the award for **"Best Conservation and Sustainable Use of Bioresources"** was jointly conferred on **Phlangwanbroi BMC** and **Kmawan Rum BMC**, both from Mawsynram Block, East Khasi Hills District.



The Secretary of Mawtneng BMC delivered an inspiring address, shedding light on the community's ongoing initiatives to preserve local biodiversity and promote sustainable development.

Since the establishment of the **Meghalaya Biodiversity Board in 2012**, the State has actively observed IDB at both District and State levels. The annual event aims to raise awareness and mobilize action towards the conservation of biodiversity, in line with global frameworks such as the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**, adopted during COP15 in December 2022.



The celebration reaffirmed Meghalaya's commitment to environmental sustainability and the vital role of grassroots participation in preserving the region's rich ecological heritage.