

PRESS RELEASE



Meghalaya Celebrates National Handloom Day with Launch of Handloom Week

Shillong, August 7: The Department of Textiles, Government of Meghalaya, on Friday launched Handloom Week as part of the celebration of National Handloom Day 2026 at the State Guest House, Shillong.



The programme was inaugurated by Minister in-charge of Textiles, Metbah Lyngdoh, who also inspected the handloom stalls showcasing the works of local artisans. On the occasion, the Minister received the Indian Tricolour under the “Har Ghar Tiranga” campaign.





Addressing the gathering, Lyngdoh said National Handloom Day is a significant occasion that honours the dedication, skill and craftsmanship of handloom weavers while recognising the collective efforts of all stakeholders in strengthening the sector.



He said the handloom industry continues to be one of Meghalaya's important sources of sustainable rural employment, supporting the livelihoods of more than 50,000 households, with women comprising over 70 per cent of the workforce.

Beyond its economic contribution, the Minister highlighted the role of handloom in preserving Meghalaya's rich textile traditions and cultural heritage. He described handloom not merely as a textile product but as a living heritage that reflects the identity, culture and history of the state's indigenous communities, with every weave narrating the story of its people.

Lyngdoh noted that National Handloom Day, observed annually on August 7, commemorates the Swadeshi Movement of 1905, which encouraged indigenous industries and the use of locally produced goods. He said the occasion provides a platform to celebrate the artistic excellence of weavers and reaffirm the government's commitment towards the preservation and sustainable development of the handloom sector.

Referring to this year's National Handloom Day theme, "Weaving for Innovation and Sustainability," the Minister said the Textiles Department is implementing various state and centrally sponsored schemes to strengthen infrastructure, enhance skills, support farmers, spinners and weavers, and improve market opportunities so that artisans receive fair value for their products.

He stressed the need for greater collaboration among educational institutions, entrepreneurs and designers with weavers to promote product diversification, combine traditional motifs with contemporary designs, encourage the use of sustainable fibres and expand market access through e-commerce and international platforms.

Congratulating artisans and stakeholders, Lyngdoh said Meghalaya has made significant progress in developing the textile sector, particularly in the Ryndia (Eri silk) industry. He said ongoing initiatives are helping transform the sector into a sustainable livelihood opportunity by creating avenues for farmers, weavers, entrepreneurs and designers while showcasing the craftsmanship of Meghalaya's artisans at national and global platforms.



The Minister extended his best wishes to all exhibitors and participants and urged everyone to continue working together towards strengthening the handloom sector and preserving Meghalaya's rich textile heritage for future generations.



The programme was attended by Principal Secretary, Textiles Department, F.R. Kharkongor, IAS, along with senior government officials and other stakeholders.