



PRESS RELEASE



Workshop on Traditional Musical Instruments Held at Asanang Village to Promote Cultural Heritage

Tura, June 18, 2026: The Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Meghalaya, organized a Workshop on Traditional Musical Instruments on Wednesday at Asanang Field, Asanang Village, West Garo Hills District, with the objective of preserving and promoting the rich musical heritage of the state.



The inaugural function was graced by Shri Thomas A. Sangma, Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, as the Chief Guest, while Mary Lisa K. Marak, MCS, ADC, West Garo Hills, attended as the Guest of Honour.



The programme commenced with a welcome address followed by a folk song performance by Mr. Rikman A. Sangma and friends. An expert on traditional musical instruments delivered a keynote address highlighting the cultural significance of indigenous musical instruments and explaining the various hands-on training sessions that would be conducted by resource persons during the workshop.



Participants were also treated to a musical symphony featuring traditional instruments performed by Shri Tangsrik A. Sangma and his team, showcasing the richness and diversity of Meghalaya's musical traditions.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Thomas A. Sangma emphasized the vital role of music and



dance in preserving the identity and traditions of the people. He stated that songs and dances serve as expressions of culture and provide valuable insights into the lives and practices of ancestors. He expressed concern that many young people today are more familiar with Western musical instruments and often fail to recognize the value of traditional instruments. Stressing

the need for cultural preservation, he urged the youth to take pride in their heritage and work towards safeguarding both the environment and traditional cultural practices.

Speaking on the occasion, Mary Lisa K. Marak underscored the importance of imparting knowledge and skills related to traditional arts and culture to the younger generation. She said that students and youth must be encouraged to become custodians of Meghalaya's cultural legacy so that the melodies and traditions passed down through generations continue to resonate in the years to come.



Following the inaugural session, an Interactive Session and Hands-on Training on Musical Instruments was conducted, providing participants with practical exposure to a variety of traditional musical instruments and their techniques. The workshop enabled attendees to gain a deeper understanding of the state's indigenous musical heritage while fostering appreciation for the need to preserve and promote these cultural treasures for future generations.



The event concluded with active participation from students, cultural enthusiasts, and community members, reaffirming the state's commitment to safeguarding its rich cultural and musical traditions.