



**MEGHALAYA AROMA MISSION IN COLLABORATION WITH CSIR-IHBT,
PALAMPUR INAUGURATES FIELD DISTILLATION UNIT
AT PHLANGWANBROI VILLAGE**

With an effort to promote rural livelihoods, the Meghalaya Aroma Mission under the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority (MBDA), in collaboration with the CSIR–IHBT Aroma Mission, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh, inaugurated a newly constructed Field Distillation Unit (FDU) of the Farmers Malai Sohmat Protection Group at Phlangwanbroi village, Mawsynram Block on 4th November 2025.

The inaugural programme was graced by Shri Olan Singh Suin, MLA, Mawsynram Constituency, as the Chief Guest, who unveiled the commemorative plaque and formally inaugurated the processing unit. The event was attended by Dr. Sudesh Kumar Yadav, Director, CSIR - IHBT, Palampur; Shri Sachin Shankar Gavade, IFS, Executive Director, MBDA; Shri A.L. Bareh, BDO, Mawsynram; Shri I. Saiborne, Joint Director, Agriculture (R&T); Smt Bansara Myllemngap, Joint Director, Horticulture; Smt M. Dkhar, Joint Managing Director, Meghalaya Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (MSFAC); and Shri Aiban Swer, Director, MBDA.

The event witnessed the participation of a number of farmers from Phlangwanbroi and neighbouring villages, reflecting strong community involvement in the initiative.

In his address, the Chief Guest Shri Olan Singh Suin expressed happiness at witnessing the collaboration between various organisations and local farmers. He conveyed his gratitude to all dignitaries and stakeholders present and highlighted the immense potential for lemongrass cultivation within the Mawsynram constituency. He further encouraged farmers to explore bay leaf and patchouli cultivation as emerging opportunities, emphasising the importance of value addition to agricultural products for better market returns and economic sustainability.

He also mentioned that this is the first distillation unit established in the constituency, expressing hope that it will not only boost agricultural productivity but also attract visitors and contribute to the area's overall growth. He concluded with optimism for a prosperous future for the farming community in the region.

The inaugural function also featured a traditional dance performance by the youth of Phlangwanbroi village, celebrating the local culture and community spirit.

The inauguration was followed by a demonstration of the distillation process and a visit to the facility by the assembled guests. Farmer-producer groups were introduced to operation protocols, quality assurance measures and market-linkage opportunities.

