



RAJ BHAVAN MIRROR

A QUARTERLY NEWS MAGAZINE OF
RAJ BHAVAN, SHILLONG

MEGHALAYA'S JOURNEY:

Initiatives and Milestones

CULTURAL REFLECTIONS:

Events that Shaped
the Year

TOWARDS TOMORROW:

Sustainability and
Community Development

A GLIMPSE
INTO
GOVERNANCE
AND
GRACE



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VISIT OF THE HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA



January 16, 2024 : The Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, embarked on a momentous visit to Meghalaya, marking her inaugural trip to the state since assuming office. Her itinerary was replete with engagements that underscored her commitment to the region's development and cultural heritage.

On January 15, President Murmu inaugurated the Meghalaya Games 2024 at the P.A. Sangma Stadium in Tura. This edition of the games was particularly historic, featuring over 3,000 athletes competing across 22 disciplines, including traditional indigenous sports such as maw-point, rah mukhrah, and wa'pong sika. The inclusion of these traditional games highlighted the rich cultural tapestry of Meghalaya and emphasized the importance of preserving indigenous sports.







These projects are poised to bolster connectivity and promote tourism, thereby contributing to the socio-economic development of Meghalaya.

In the evening, a civic reception was hosted in her honor by the Government of Meghalaya at the Raj Bhavan in Shillong. This event provided an opportunity for the President to engage with local dignitaries and community leaders, fostering a spirit of unity and collaboration.

President Murmu's visit to Meghalaya was a testament to her dedication to the state's progress and her respect for its rich cultural heritage. Her active participation in various developmental projects and cultural events has left an indelible mark on the people of Meghalaya, inspiring a renewed commitment to growth and unity.

The following day, January 16, the President addressed members of Self Help Groups at Baljek Airport in Tura, where she also laid the foundation stone for the new Integrated Administration Complex. This initiative aims to streamline administrative processes and enhance governance in the region.

Later, at a gathering in Mawphlang, President Murmu virtually inaugurated several infrastructure projects, including the upgraded Rongjeng Mangsang Adokgre Road and Mairang Ranigodown Azra Road. She also laid the foundation stones for the Shillong Peak Ropeway and tourist accommodations in the villages of Kongthong, Mawlyngot, and Kudengrim.



71ST PLANERY MEETING OF NEC

January 19, 2024 : The 71st Plenary Session of the North Eastern Council (NEC) was held in Shillong on January 19, 2024, under the chairmanship of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah. The meeting was attended by Governors and Chief Ministers of all eight Northeastern states, reaffirming the region's commitment to accelerated development.



Shri Amit Shah highlighted the transformative progress in the Northeast under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, emphasizing unprecedented infrastructure growth, improved connectivity, and policy-driven initiatives. He announced a significant increase in NEC's budget, with ₹4,800 crores allocated for 2022-26 and ₹6,600 crores under the PM-DevINE scheme, focusing on sustainable development.

Key discussions included making the region flood-free and drug-free, enhancing water management through NESAC, and creating employment opportunities in agriculture, fisheries, and allied sectors. The meeting reinforced the NEC's role in driving inclusive growth and ensuring a prosperous future for the Northeast.



CELEBRATION OF STATEHOOD DAY OF MEGHALAYA, MANIPUR AND TRIPURA AT DURBAR HALL



January 21, 2024 : The Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan in Shillong was adorned with vibrant celebrations marking the Statehood Day of Meghalaya, Manipur, and Tripura. The event commemorated the historic day in 1972 when these three states were granted full statehood, a significant milestone in India's northeastern region.

The celebration featured a tapestry of cultural performances, with artists from all three states showcasing traditional music, dance, and art forms. These performances not only entertained the audience but also served as a testament to the diverse and vibrant cultures that define the northeastern region.

In his concluding remarks, the hon'ble Governor Shri Phagu Chauhan called for continued unity and collaboration among the northeastern states, expressing optimism for a future marked by peace, prosperity, and shared progress.

The Statehood Day celebration at Raj Bhavan, Shillong, served as a poignant reminder of the journey undertaken by Meghalaya, Manipur, and Tripura over the past decades, honoring their past achievements while looking forward to a promising future.



THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR'S HOLY PARTICIPATION IN THE PRAN PRATISHTHA CEREMONY OF RAM MANDIR



January 22, 2024 : The Pran Pratishtha ceremony, a pivotal ritual in Hindu tradition, involves invoking the deity's presence into the idol, symbolizing the temple's spiritual inauguration. The event was attended by numerous dignitaries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who led the consecration rituals.

The Governor's participation in this auspicious event underscored the unity and shared cultural heritage of India, reflecting the collective reverence for Lord Ram across diverse regions. His presence also highlighted the importance of inter-state harmony and the celebration of India's rich spiritual traditions.

The consecration of the Ram Mandir stands as a monumental moment in India's religious and cultural landscape, symbolizing the fulfillment of a long-cherished aspiration for many devotees nationwide.



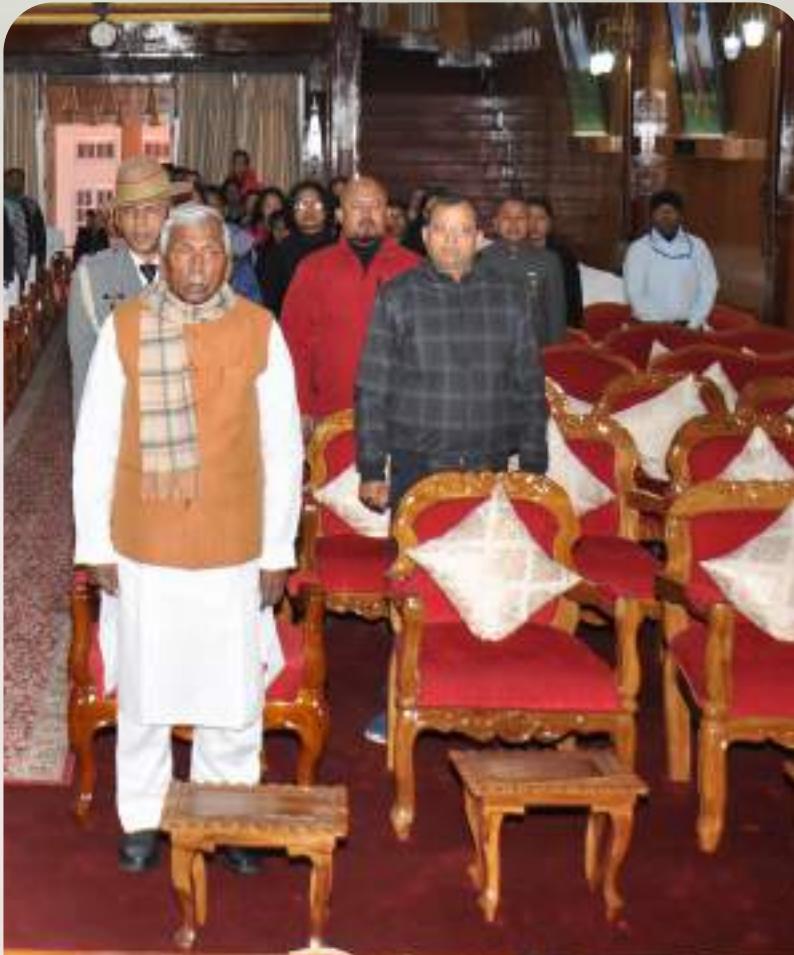


REMEMBERING NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE: A TRIBUTE TO A REVOLUTIONARY LEADER

January 23, 2024 : On the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Raj Bhavan paid homage to one of India's greatest patriots, a visionary leader whose courage and determination continue to inspire generations. Born on January 23, 1897, Netaji played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence, instilling the spirit of nationalism and self-reliance among Indians.

His famous call, "Give me blood, and I will give you freedom," resonated with countless freedom fighters, urging them to dedicate their lives to the nation's cause. As the founder of the Indian National Army (INA), he challenged British rule with his indomitable will and strategic brilliance, making him a revered figure in India's history. Netaji's ideals of patriotism, unity, and self-sacrifice remain relevant today as India progresses towards becoming a global leader. His legacy reminds us of the importance of perseverance and unwavering commitment to national integrity.

On this occasion, Raj Bhavan saluted Netaji's contributions and pledge to uphold his vision of a strong, self-reliant, and united India. His life and sacrifice will forever be etched in the heart of every Indian.



REPUBLIC DAY “AT HOME” CELEBRATION

On January 26, 2024 : The Raj Bhavan in Shillong hosted the traditional "At Home" reception to commemorate India's 75th Republic Day. Governor Shri Phagu Chauhan presided over the event, which commenced at 11:00 AM, bringing together a diverse assembly of dignitaries, officials, and esteemed citizens from various sectors.



The Raj Bhavan also opened its doors to the public on Republic Day, allowing citizens to partake in the celebrations and experience the historic residence's ambiance.

The "At Home" reception featured cultural performances that highlighted the state's diverse traditions, fostering a sense of unity and pride among attendees. The 2024 Republic Day "At Home" celebration at Raj Bhavan, Shillong, exemplified the spirit of inclusivity and cultural richness, marking a memorable chapter in Meghalaya's ongoing journey within the Indian republic.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF HON'BLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF HIGH COURT OF MEGHALAYA

February 11, 2024 : Justice S. Vaidyanathan was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court. The oath of office was administered by Governor Phagu Chauhan during a ceremony held at the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan in Shillong.

Justice Vaidyanathan, who had been serving as a judge of the Madras High Court since October 2013, succeeds Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee, who retired in November 2023.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar, Law Minister Mazel Ampareen Lyngdoh, Secretariat Administration Department Minister Alexander Laloo Hek, and Justices Hamarsan Sing Thangkhiew, Wanlura Diengdoh, and Biswadeep Bhattacharjee. Chief Secretary Donald Philips Wahlang and other officials were also present.





ADDRESSING OF **THE BUDGET SESSION 2024**



February 16, 2024 : The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, inaugurated the Budget Session of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly with a comprehensive address outlining the state's developmental roadmap.

In his speech, the Hon'ble Governor Shri Phagu Chauhan, reflected on recent significant events, the visit of Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, in January 2024.

The Governor's address set the tone for the Budget Session, urging members of the Legislative Assembly to engage in constructive deliberations aimed at translating the outlined vision into actionable policies for the prosperity of Meghalaya and its people.



CELEBRATING THE STATEHOOD DAY OF ARUNANCHAL PRADESH AND MIZORAM

February 20, 2024 : Raj Bhavan in Shillong hosted a grand celebration to mark the Foundation Day of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, along with representatives from both states

The celebration featured a special video screening that showcased the rich cultural heritage and historical journey of both states. Students from Mizoram Bhavan and Arunachal Bhavan presented enthralling cultural performances, adding vibrancy to the occasion.

This event at Raj Bhavan, Shillong, exemplified the spirit of unity and cultural exchange, reinforcing the bonds between Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh.



HON'BLE GOVERNOR WITNESSES MESMERIZING AIR DISPLAY



March 8, 2024 : The Indian Air Force's Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) performed a mesmerizing air display over Umiam Lake in Meghalaya. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, along with Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, and various civil and military dignitaries.



The SKAT, renowned for its precision and professionalism, showcased breathtaking maneuvers that captivated the audience. The display also featured performances by Sukhoi-30 MKI, Rafale, and Chetak/Cheetah helicopters, highlighting the prowess of the Indian Air Force. Chief Minister Sangma lauded the air warriors' skills, stating, "The air show has demonstrated the capability and skill that our air warriors have; it is second to none."





CELEBRATING THE STATEHOOD DAY OF BIHAR AND RAJASTHAN AT DURBAR HALL

March 22, 2024 : Raj Bhavan, Shillong, witnessed a grand celebration on March 22, 2024, marking the Statehood Day of Bihar and Rajasthan. The event, held at the Durbar Hall, was graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, distinguished dignitaries, and members of the Bihari and Rajasthani communities residing in the state.

In his address, the Hon'ble Governor highlighted the rich cultural heritage, historical significance, and contributions of Bihar and Rajasthan in shaping the nation. He described Bihar as the "cradle of democracy" and a land of great scholars like Chanakya and Aryabhatta, while emphasizing Rajasthan's glorious past of valor, sacrifice, and architectural grandeur. He commended both states for their resilience, cultural richness, and role in India's development.



CELEBRATING THE STATEHOOD DAY OF ODISHA AND HIMACHAL PRADESH

April 01, 2024 : Raj Bhavan, Shillong, came alive with cultural vibrancy on April 1, 2024, as it hosted the Statehood Day celebrations of Odisha and Himachal Pradesh at the Durbar Hall. The event, graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, along with esteemed dignitaries and members of the Odia and Himachali communities.



In his address, the Hon'ble Governor emphasized the historical and cultural significance of Odisha and Himachal Pradesh. He praised Odisha as the land of Lord Jagannath, ancient temples, and rich maritime history, while lauding Himachal Pradesh for its breathtaking landscapes, spiritual heritage, and contributions to India's ecology and tourism industry. He also acknowledged the resilience and industrious spirit of the people from both states.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL, ASSAM RIFLES



April 17, 2024 : The Hon'ble Governor met with the Director General of Assam Rifles to discuss matters of national security, border management, and welfare initiatives for the personnel. The discussion highlighted the crucial role of Assam Rifles in maintaining peace and stability in the region, as well as their contributions to community development and outreach programs.

The meeting reinforced the commitment to strengthening security cooperation and addressing challenges faced by the force. The Hon'ble Governor appreciated the dedication and sacrifices of Assam Rifles personnel and assured continued support for their initiatives aimed at fostering security and harmony in the region.





HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF NAGALAND VISIT RAJ BHAVAN SHILLONG



April 28, 2024 : The Hon'ble Governor of Nagaland visited Raj Bhavan, Shillong, where he was warmly received by the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya. The meeting served as a platform for exchanging views on inter-state cooperation, developmental initiatives, and governance best practices. Discussions also touched upon the rich cultural heritage of the Northeast and collaborative efforts to enhance regional growth.

The visit further strengthened the bond between the two states, reinforcing the spirit of unity and shared progress. The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya expressed his appreciation for the visit and emphasized the importance of continued dialogue and cooperation for the overall development of the region.



CELEBRATING THE STATEHOOD DAY OF GUJARAT & MAHARASHTRA AT DURBAR HALL

May 01, 2024 : Raj Bhavan, Shillong, resonated with the spirit of unity and cultural pride as it hosted the Statehood Day celebrations of Gujarat and Maharashtra at the Durbar Hall. The event, graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, along with esteemed dignitaries and members of the Gujarati and Maharashtrian communities.

In his address, the Hon'ble Governor highlighted Gujarat's legacy as the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, known for its entrepreneurial spirit, rich textile industry, and vibrant Navratri celebrations. He also lauded Maharashtra as the cultural and economic powerhouse of India, renowned for its Maratha heritage, literature, cinema, and industrial progress.





MEETING WITH HON'BLE CHIEF MINISTER OF MEGHALAYA SHRI CONRAD K SANGMA

May 02, 2024 : Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, met with the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Conrad K. Sangma, at Raj Bhavan, Shillong, to discuss key issues concerning the state's development and governance.



During the meeting, discussions focused on infrastructure development, education, healthcare, and improving connectivity in Meghalaya. The Chief Minister apprised the Governor of the government's ongoing initiatives, including projects aimed at boosting rural development, tourism, and employment generation. The Governor emphasized the need for effective implementation of welfare schemes to ensure inclusive growth and upliftment of all communities.



CELEBRATION OF WORLD RED CROSS DAY

May 08, 2024 : Raj Bhavan, Shillong, joined the global community in celebrating World Red Cross Day, honoring the humanitarian spirit and service of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The event was graced by the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, who is also the President of the Indian Red Cross Society, Meghalaya Branch.

In his address, the Hon'ble Governor highlighted the selfless service, commitment, and dedication of Red Cross volunteers in providing disaster relief, healthcare, and emergency aid across the world. He emphasized the importance of compassion and humanity in times of crisis and encouraged citizens to actively participate in humanitarian efforts.





FELICITATION OF NCC CADETS AT DURBAR HALL



May 10, 2024 : The felicitation ceremony of NCC cadets at Durbar Hall was a momentous occasion, recognizing the dedication, discipline, and service of the young cadets. The Hon'ble Governor commended their commitment to national service, leadership, and community engagement. He emphasized the vital role of NCC in instilling patriotism and character-building among the youth.

The event highlighted the significance of discipline and teamwork in shaping responsible citizens. The Hon'ble Governor encouraged the cadets to continue their pursuit of excellence and contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress.



The event featured traditional dance and musical performances, including Sikkimese folk dances, Goa's lively Fugdi and Dekhni, Telangana's Perini Shiva Tandavam, and Bengal's Baul and Rabindra Sangeet.

Organized in collaboration with the Department of Arts and Culture, Government of Meghalaya, and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Shillong, the celebration concluded with a culinary feast, offering delicacies such as Momos from Sikkim, Goan Bebinca, Telangana's Hyderabadi Biryani, and Bengal's iconic Rosogolla and Mishti Doi.

CELEBRATING THE STATEHOOD DAY OF SIKKIM, GOA, TELANGANA AND WEST BENGAL

June 03, 2024 : Raj Bhavan, Shillong, witnessed a grand celebration as it hosted the Statehood Day of Sikkim, Goa, Telangana, and West Bengal at the Durbar Hall. The event, graced by Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, along with dignitaries, cultural enthusiasts, and representatives from these states, showcased India's rich diversity and unity.



CELEBRATING THE INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY



June 21, 2024 : Raj Bhavan, Shillong, celebrated International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm, embracing the ancient practice that promotes physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. The event was graced by Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan, along with officers, staff, and yoga enthusiasts from across the state.

The event saw active participation from government officials, NCC cadets, students, and members of yoga organizations, demonstrating the growing awareness and enthusiasm for this ancient discipline. Special emphasis was placed on the theme of Yoga Day 2024, which focused on the role of yoga in building resilience and inner strength.

PAPER CLIPPINGS

Guv pats, felicitates NCC cadets for representing Meghalaya

Republic Day Camp 2024

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG, May 10: Governor Phagu Chauhan on Friday commended the outstanding performance of the NCC cadets from Meghalaya who had represented North Eastern Directorate during the Republic Day Camp 2024 in the national capital.

According to a statement here, a total of 20 NCC cadets from the state, who were part of the Republic Day Camp 2024, were felicitated with monetary incentives and citations during a programme at Raj Bhavan, Shillong, on Friday.

The Governor, in his address, was all praise for the



The NCC cadets along with Governor Phagu Chauhan and other officials, during the felicitation ceremony at Raj Bhavan, Shillong, on Friday. (S7)

cadets, highlighting the rigorous selection process they had undergone and successfully cleared before partaking in the Republic Day Camp 2024.

Highlighting the privilege

ambassadors, showcasing Meghalaya's rich cultural heritage and traditions on a grand platform, the Governor also praised their exemplary qualities and abilities.

Emphasizing the values

of discipline and patriotism instilled in the cadets, the Governor urged them to continue exhibiting exemplary leadership qualities in their chosen paths, whether in academics, defence, health-

care, engineering, or other endeavours.

He also called upon all NCC officers and cadets to maintain their dedication, bravery and enthusiasm, contributing to India's progress and standing as a global leader.

On the occasion, Chauhan also presented a citation to the NCC North East Region Directorate (NER Dir) and unit of Meghalaya NCC in recognition of their service to the nation and community.

Others who were part of the felicitation ceremony include Principal Secretary to the Governor, Harish Chandra Chaudhary, Additional Director General of NCC North Eastern Region, Major General Gagan Deep, Group Commander, NCC group Shillong, Brigadier Vijayar Mahadev, NCC officers, cadets, dignitaries, et al.



Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France to India, accompanied by his spouse, calls on Governor Phagu Chauhan at Raj Bhavan Shillong on Friday. During the meeting, the two engaged in a wide-ranging discussion, exploring avenues to further strengthen the relationship between France and India.

MESSAGES BY THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR

फागु चौहान
PHAGU CHAUHAN



राज्यपाल, मेघालय
GOVERNOR OF MEGHALAYA

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MESSAGE

I am delighted to extend my greetings on the joyous occasion of Janmastami Utsav 2023, organized by the Meghalaya Hindu Mission.

This celebration not only commemorates the birth of Lord Krishna but also underscores the values of unity and devotion.

The Meghalaya Hindu Mission's commitment to fostering cultural and spiritual growth is truly commendable. This event serves as a reminder of the power of faith in our lives and the importance of collective progress.

Let us embrace the teachings of Lord Krishna and work together to create a harmonious society filled with love and understanding.

— २०२३
१५/८/२०२३

(Phagu Chauhan)

MESSAGES BY THE HON'BLE GOVERNOR

फागू चौहान

PHAGU CHAUHAN



राजभवन

शिलांग - 793001

RAJ BHAVAN

Shillong-793001

राज्यपाल, मेघालय
GOVERNOR OF MEGHALAYA

MESSAGE

On the auspicious occasion of Teacher's Day, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the teachers who tirelessly work to forge the path of knowledge for our future generations. Your unwavering commitment to shaping young minds is truly commendable and invaluable.

As we celebrate your immense influence, let us reaffirm our collective responsibility to provide a nurturing environment for learning in order to shape the future of the Nation.

(Phagu Chauhan)

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