

**GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT
MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG**

Press Communiqué

Shillong, 10 August 2026: On the special occasion of the **80th Independence Day of India**, the Lok Bhavan, Shillong, will be opened to the general public on **15th and 16th August 2026**, providing citizens and visitors an opportunity to witness and celebrate the spirit of Independence Day amidst the vibrant cultural heritage and traditions of India and Meghalaya.

The Lok Bhavan will be open to the public from **1.30 PM to 8.00 PM on 15th August 2026** and from **11.00 AM to 8.00 PM on 16th August 2026**. **Entry to Lok Bhavan will be free for all**. During these two days, visitors will have the opportunity to witness a series of cultural performances presented by artistes and cultural troupes from different regions of the country, reflecting the rich cultural diversity and the spirit of **unity in diversity** that defines India.

The cultural programme will feature the vibrant **Bhawai Dance of Rajasthan and Kalbelia**, showcasing the traditional folk heritage of the state. From **Jammu and Kashmir**, the performances will include the **Dogri Dance of the Jammu region, Kashmiri Dance of the Kashmir region, Gojri Dance and Pahari Dance** representing the border areas of **Jammu and Kashmir**, along with a **composite cultural presentation in Hindi depicting the cultural heritage and identity of Jammu and Kashmir**.

From **Karnataka**, the audience will be treated to **Bharatanatyam which is a Classical Resonance**, presenting the grace and richness of one of India's foremost classical dance traditions. The Karnataka contingent will also include a cultural troupe from the **Karnataka Sangha, Mandya**.

Representing the host state, cultural performances showcasing the rich traditions of the **Khasi, Jaintia and Garo tribes of Meghalaya** will also be presented, providing visitors an opportunity to experience the diverse indigenous cultural heritage of the state.

Adding to the patriotic spirit of the celebrations, a **Military Band from the Assam Regimental Centre** will also perform at Lok Bhavan during the two-day celebration.

The celebrations will further feature an exhibition showcasing **agriculture, floriculture, horticulture and other sectors**, displaying products, technologies and services, along with flowers, orchids and traditional artefacts. Food stalls offering local cuisine and other popular food items will also be available for visitors, with select items offered for sale. An exhibition of **artefacts, manuscripts, handicrafts and other works of art** will also form part of the celebrations.

In the evening, the **Lok Bhavan premises will be illuminated in the Tricolour of the Indian National Flag**, adding to the festive and patriotic atmosphere and symbolising the pride, unity and spirit of the nation on the occasion of Independence Day.

The opening of Lok Bhavan to the public for these two days is also an expression of the larger sentiment behind the transformation of **Raj Bhavan into Lok Bhavan** which is from the traditional notion of *Raj Bhavan*, the house of the ruler, to **Lok Bhavan, the house of the**

people. By welcoming citizens into the premises on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, Lok Bhavan seeks to embody this spirit of openness, participation and inclusiveness, reaffirming that the institution belongs to and serves the people.