

GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

Press Communiqué

Shillong, March 09, 2026: International Women's Day along with the completion of the **11 years of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme** was celebrated today at the **Durbar Hall, Lok Bhavan, Shillong**. The programme was organized by the **Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya**, in collaboration with the Health Department, Meghalaya State Rural Livelihoods Society (MSRLS), and the Jal Jeevan Mission under the Public Health Engineering Department. Theme of this year's celebration was **"Give to Gain."**

His Excellency **Shri C. H. Vijayashankar, Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya**, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. **Bah Paul Lyngdoh, MLA, Adviser to the Government of Meghalaya, Social Welfare Department**, and **Smti. Santa Mary Shylla, MLA and Chairperson of the Meghalaya Handloom and Handicrafts Development Corporation**, attended the programme as the Guests of Honour. **Shri Sampath Kumar, Development Commissioner and Principal Secretary, Social Welfare, Health and Community & Rural Development Department** and **Shri Pravin Bakshi, Commissioner & Secretary, Social Welfare Department, IT & Communication Department, P.H.E. Department, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Meghalaya** were also present on the occasion.

Shri Sampath Kumar, in his the welcome and keynote address highlighted the importance of coordinated efforts in strengthening women's empowerment and welfare initiatives in the State.

As a part of the programme, **sanitary pad vending machines were distributed to coordinating departments. Medical kits were also distributed to Urban ICDS Projects.**

The highlight of the event was the **felicitation of 09 women achievers** who have made significant contributions in their respective fields and have served as an inspiration to others. 11 districts from Meghalaya were also awarded for **Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivaar Abhiyaan Campaigns. MRSLS** also presented awards to 5 women for

Selfless Contribution towards Women Empowerment and under Jal Jeevan Mission

Addressing the gathering, the **Hon'ble Governor** emphasized the importance of empowering women through education, health, and equal opportunities. He noted that flagship initiatives of Government of India such as **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao** have played an important role in promoting the value and education of the girl child. The Hon'ble Governor drawn attention to the important social issues such as of teenage pregnancy and urged all the concerned stakeholders to take necessary steps to curb this menace. He appreciated the efforts of the Social Welfare Department and collaborating departments for their initiatives aimed at improving the welfare and empowerment of women in Meghalaya.

He further highlighted the need for continued collective efforts by government agencies, communities, and civil societies to ensure that every woman and girl is able to realise her full potential and contribute meaningfully to the society.



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