

## GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIAT

### MEGHALAYA, SHILLONG

#### Press Communiqué

**Shillong, July 16, 2025** : Today, the Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri C. H. Vijayashankar, met with 20-year-old Ms. Rifiness Warjri at Raj Bhavan. Rifiness recently etched her name into history as the **youngest person from Meghalaya to summit Mount Everest**, accomplishing the feat on **May 18, 2025**.

Ms. Rifiness, a young multitalented NCC cadet who is a **B.Sc. Botany student of St. Anthony's College**, mesmerised the Hon'ble Governor with two singing performances - a patriotic song and a soulful Khasi song - showcasing her cultural connection and versatility beyond mountaineering. The Hon'ble Governor praised her artistic talent and deep-rooted pride in Meghalaya's heritage.

In recognition of her extraordinary achievements and emerging as a role model for youth, especially girls from humble backgrounds, the Hon'ble Governor extended a formal invitation to Ms. Rifiness to perform at the **Independence Day celebrations at Raj Bhavan**. He stated that Ms. Rifiness embodies the spirit of determination and cultural pride. Her presence at our Independence Day programme will be a tribute to her inspiration for countless youngsters across the state.

Born in Nongthymmai and raised in Laitkor, Ms. Rifiness is currently pursuing a BSc in Botany at St. Anthony's College. Prior to Everest, she scaled Mount Abi Gamin in August 2024 under the NCC supervision. A cadet of the 61 Meghalaya Girls Battalion NCC, she became the **third woman from the state** to reach Everest's summit at approximately **4:45 AM on May 18, 2025**, following pioneers from 2012, 2013, and 2016 .

Despite her remarkable success, Ms. Rifiness remains grounded - she continues to help her family run a small roadside tea stall in Shillong. She credits her achievements to strong family support and her NCC foundation. Refusing to rest on her laurels, She now aspires to conquer the **Seven Summits**—the highest peaks across all seven continents - including Denali, Kilimanjaro, and Vinson Massif. Meanwhile, she also intends to complete her academic pursuit in Botany. Her dedication has earned her warm felicitations across the board - from Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and recently, she presented a symbolic rock from Everest to the Directorate of Mineral Resources.