

**Avik Kumar Chakma Honoured with
Maiden Mohini Mohan Chakma Memorial Award**



In a significant recognition of contributions to Chakma music, modern Chakma music artist Avik Kumar Chakma was honoured with the prestigious Mohini Mohan Chakma Memorial Award. The award was presented by Subrata Chakraborty, Vice Chairman of the State Cultural Advisory Committee, during a ceremony held yesterday at the conference hall of the Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs. This marks the inaugural year of the Mohini Mohan Chakma Memorial Award, instituted by the state government to honour individuals who have made significant contributions to Chakma music. Along with the award, Avik Kumar Chakma received a certificate and a cash prize of ₹20,000. From this year onwards, this award will be presented annually to recognize outstanding contributions to Chakma music and culture. Avik Kumar Chakma, a resident of Machmara in Pecharthal, currently residing in Mizoram, expressed his gratitude to the state government for the recognition. He stated that such awards inspire artists like him to continue promoting and preserving Chakma music.

The late Mohini Mohan Chakma, after whom the award is named, was a luminary in the Chakma community, dedicating his life to the promotion of Chakma language, literature, and culture. He began his career in 1947 as a teacher at Lederai Dewan ME School and made numerous contributions, including the establishment of the Tarkardevi Samaj Shiksha Kendra. In 1970 Chakma cultural program was performed at Machmara on his own initiative. The first Chakma literary paper 'Dalak', was published in 1973. In 1974 first Biju festival was organized under his supervision and the first Chakma music broadcast from Akashbani Agartala Centre also happened under his initiative in the year 1975. The first Chakma music was performed by Fulrani Chakma. Mohini Mohan Chakma became a nominated member of the Tripura Tribal Area Autonomous District for 5 years in 1993 & passed away on December 24, 2014, but his legacy continues to inspire the Chakma community.

In the award distribution ceremony, the Vice Chairman of Tripura State Cultural Advisory Committee, Subrata Chakraborty said that the state government is working to develop the language, literature and culture of each ethnic group in the state. The ceremony was attended by notable dignitaries, including Bimal Kanti Chakma, a member of the Autonomous Zilla Parishad, who emphasized the government's efforts to develop the language, literature, and culture of the Chakma people. Sanjib Chakma, the Joint Director of Information and Cultural Affairs, also highlighted Mohini Mohan Chakma's significant contributions to Chakma language promotion, expressing the government's commitment to continuing this legacy through the annual award.