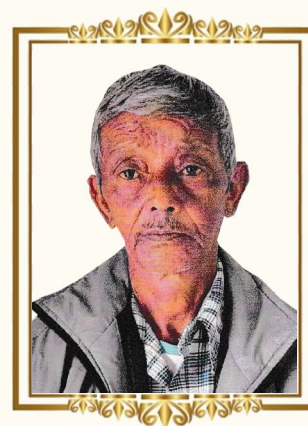




**SHRI HALLY WAR**



Shri Hally War is a distinguished environmentalist and a venerable custodian of the Khasi people's indigenous knowledge.

2. Born on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1957, Shri War has emerged as a global symbol of sustainable living and traditional bioengineering. For over five decades, he has dedicated his life to the selfless service of nature and community, bridging the gap between ancestral wisdom and modern ecological conservation.

3. A pioneer in the ancient art of "bio-weaving," Shri War has spent more than fifty years nurturing and building the iconic Living Root Bridges (Jingkieng Jri) of the East Khasi Hills. Since the age of ten, he has meticulously guided the aerial roots of the *Ficus elastica* tree to create durable, living structures that span rivers and connect isolated mountain communities. His most celebrated work, the Umkar Living Root Bridge, stands as a testament to his patience and profound understanding of natural ecosystems, requiring decades of nurturing to reach maturity while providing safe passage for generations.

4. Beyond his technical mastery, Shri War has been instrumental in the social and economic upliftment of his region. By mentoring local families and passing down the intergenerational skill of root-bridge weaving, he has ensured the survival of a rare cultural heritage. His efforts have significantly enhanced the ecological resilience of the Sohra plateau and paved the way for community-led, sustainable tourism, drawing thousands of visitors to witness the harmony between man and nature. Even as a humble farmer cultivating betel nuts and black pepper, his influence as an "unsung hero" of environmental stewardship has resonated far beyond the borders of Meghalaya.

5. Shri War's lifelong commitment remains an inspiring example of how indigenous practices can provide powerful solutions to modern environmental challenges.