



Speech

of

**Gen (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh
PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd),
Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram**

On The Occasion of

**Commemoration of foundation days of
Uttar Pradesh
Dadra and Nagar Haveli
Daman and Diu**

At

Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan

On

30th January, 2025

Invitees, participants, dear friends

I greet you all on this happy occasion, as we commemorate the Foundation Day of the State of Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

As mentioned earlier, Uttar Pradesh was formerly called United Provinces under British India, which included the earlier provinces of Agra and Oudh. On 24th January, 1950, the United Provinces were renamed as Uttar Pradesh. From the Taj Mahal of Agra to the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh today is a rich cultural state. It is the largest State in India in terms of population and the 4th largest State in terms of area. It has the largest number of seats in the Lok Sabha and has provided more Prime Ministers than any other state. Its ability to preserve its heritage while embracing progress makes it one of the most interesting and dynamic states in the country.

The Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu came into being on 26th January 2020 through the merger of the two separate territories, which were all formerly part of Portuguese India. Among the many things that make Daman & Diu special are its pleasant climate, magnificent beaches, remarkable museums like the Sea Shell Museum and the St. Thomas Church Museum and the Kalan Pavri, or the “Lotus of Marshlands”.

What is apparent is that every state and Union territories in India has a unique history and cultural identity. Celebrating Foundation Days is an opportunity to honour and showcase the traditions, folk art, music, dance and historical achievements of the region.

Today, as we gather to celebrate the foundation days of Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, we are embracing the spirit of the ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat’ initiative, a remarkable vision by the Government of India to promote

national unity and cultural integration. This program aims to celebrate the rich diversity of our states and union territories, encouraging a deeper connection between us all.

I would like to take this moment to urge our youth to take part in India's rapid progress, and explore the diversities that make up our incredible country. Under Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's leadership, consistent progress is being made to transform India into a developed, prosperous and self-reliant nation when it celebrates 100 years of independence in 2047. It is reassuring to know that students today will be reaping the benefits of our country's bright future.

To conclude, I thank the speakers today and convey my appreciation to all the performers for the cultural items. I hope that this truly enriching cultural exchange will spark a renewed appreciation for each other's traditions and cultures. I encourage everyone present here to have a fruitful interaction.

Let us continue to celebrate the diversity that binds us and work to realise our shared dreams of a developed India.

Thank you. Jai Hind.