

RAJ BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS RELEASE

**HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF TAMIL NADU THIRU. R.N. RAVI TODAY
(01.05.2024) PRESIDED OVER THE CELEBRATIONS OF GUJARAT
STATE FOUNDATION DAY AT RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI**

Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu Thiru.R.N.Ravi accompanied with the Lady Governor Tmt. Laxmi Ravi, today (01.05.2024) presided over the celebrations of Gujarat State Foundation Day at Bharathiar Mandapam, Raj Bhavan, Chennai. Governor also launched Jain Social Groups International Federation (JSGIF)'s "PARI" initiative on the occasion.

Hon'ble Governor in his presidential address, hailed the rich and vibrant culture of Gujarat. He elaborated on how the State has immensely contributed to the cultural and civilizational evolution of Bharat. Unlike western countries, Bharat is not merely a political state but a Rashtra that evolved over a period through cultural and civilizational evolution. This is our strength. Our society has lived like one family since ages, unmindful of the kings and kingdoms. We shared one spiritual and cultural connect while celebrating our rich diversity. Places like Somnath, Dwarka, which are located in Gujarat, belong to the people of Bharat. During the period of invasion and colonization, this connection was severely harmed. Even after independence, not much efforts were made for its revival. Therefore, we started forgetting this deep sense of connect. The emergence of new states for administrative purposes started creating new identities, and we started looking inward. He remembered Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who, with his tireless efforts, united all the 560 independent states into the present Bharat. While mentioning Article 1 of the constitution, he said India, that is Bharat, has to be understood, appreciated, and

celebrated with the spirit of **Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat**. We have to regain the sense of familyhood. He further mentioned how people from different parts of India, such as Saurashtra, Bundelkhand, and Kashi, are living in Tamil Nadu. They have embraced the great Tamil culture and have further enriched it. He illustrated how initiatives such as Saurashtra Tamil Sangamam are revitalizing our age-old connect and strengthening unity.

During the function, the artists captivated the audiences with Gujarati folk dance and song performances. Governor, at the function, felicitated the eminent personalities of various Gujarat associations in Tamil Nadu for their service to society. He also felicitated the artists.

During the celebration, Thiru. Ashok Thakkar, Honorary Consul, Republic of Senegal, Thiru. Hitesh, President, Gujarati Samaj/ Gujarat Youth Association, Thiru. Ramesh Bhatt, President, Gujarati Mandal, Thiru. N.Deepak Mehta, Secretary, Jain Social Group Organisation, Chennai, members of Gujarat Association and Sourashtra Association, dignitaries, distinguished invitees, officials and staff of Raj Bhavan were present.

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Raj Bhavan, Chennai-22

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