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LOK BHAVAN, TAMIL NADU - PRESS RELEASE

THIRU. RAJENDRA VISHWANATH ARLEKAR, HON'BLE GOVERNOR
OF TAMIL NADU PRESIDED OVER THE STATEHOOD DAY
CELEBRATIONS OF GUJARAT AND MAHARASHTRA AT
BHARATHIAR MANDAPAM, LOK BHAVAN, CHENNAI, TODAY
(01.05.2026).

Thiru. Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu presided over the Statehood day celebration of Gujarat and Maharashtra organised at Bharathiar Mandapam, Lok Bhavan, Chennai, today (01.05.2026).

In the presidential address, Governor highlighted that the observance of Statehood Days in Lok Bhavans is a visionary initiative of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, aimed at strengthening the spirit of national unity. He noted that the concept of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' fosters a deeper understanding of the country's rich diversity while reinforcing the essence of unity.

The Governor stated that such initiatives provide a valuable platform for people from different States to interact, exchange ideas, and share experiences, thereby nurturing a sense of mutual respect and national integration. He emphasized that it is the collective responsibility of all citizens to sustain and promote this spirit of "celebrating unity through experience."

Highlighting the unique social fabric of the nation, the Governor observed that people across India have made different States their Karma Bhoomi, often living for generations and embracing a sense of belonging as a "home away from home".

Governor ,remarked that history has consistently demonstrated that Bharat thrives when united and faces challenges when divided. Stressing the importance of unity, he called upon all citizens to remain steadfast in their commitment to national oneness in order to achieve shared aspirations and goals. Governor further said that humanity remains the strongest bond uniting the people of the country, especially in times of distress. Referring to the idea of Bharat Mata, he stated that all citizens are bound together as her children, forming an enduring and unbreakable bond.

Underscoring the cultural unity of the nation, the Governor noted that while customs, cuisine, and traditions may vary across regions, the underlying cultural ethos remains one comparable to the harmonious diversity of an Indradhanush (rainbow). Calling for collective responsibility, the Governor urged citizens to take a Sankalp to refrain from any actions that may disturb unity and harmony in the country.

Addressing people residing in Tamil Nadu, the Governor said that the State is not merely a place of residence but their Karma Bhoomi and home. He encouraged all to contribute actively towards the growth and progress of Tamil Nadu.

Concluding his address, the Governor emphasized that the vision of a **Viksit Bharat** by 2047 can be realized only through the development of every State, including Tamil Nadu. He called upon all citizens to work together with unity, dedication, and a shared vision to achieve the goal of a **Viksit Tamil Nadu** and **Viksit Bharat**.

Cultural Programme of Maharashtraian song by Maharashtra Mandal and Gujarati folk dance by Gujarat Samaj performed during the celebration captivated the audience.

Thiru.R. Kirlosh Kumar, I.A.S., Principal Secretary to Governor, Thiru. Hitesh L Doshi, President, Gujarat Samaj, Thiru. Devaji Rao, Secretary, Maharashtra Association, Thiru. Sailesh, President, Maharashtra Mandal, Thiru. Bhaskar Rao, I.P.S., (Retd.), Vice President, Indian Red Cross Society, Karnataka State Branch, dignitaries, distinguished invitees, special guests, members from Gujarat and Maharashtra Associations were participated in the function.

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Lok Bhavan, Chennai-22

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