

A Report on

महाराष्ट्र & गुजरात State Foundation Day

1 May 2026

Maharashtra Lok Bhavan





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glimpses of the programme




SCAN ME

Maharashtra Lok Bhavan



Celebration of the Maharashtra and Gujarat State Foundation Day

Introduction:

As part of the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative of Government of India, Maharashtra Lok Bhavan has been celebrating the State Formation Days and Union Territory Formation Days of various States and Union Territories in India.

Under the guidance and leadership of the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra Shri Jishnu Dev Varma and in the august presence of First Lady Smt Sudha Dev Varma, the State Foundation Day of Maharashtra and Gujarat (1 May) was celebrated at Lok Bhavan Mumbai on 1 May 2026.

Organisers:

The Maharashtra and Gujarat State Foundation Day was organised with various other initiatives by Maharashtra Lok Bhavan in association with Amarvani Foundation.

Venue:

The programme was held at the historic Darbar Hall of Lok Bhavan.

Present:

Seated on the dais were the Founder Member of Amarvani Foundation Dr Madan Maharaj Gosavi, Entrepreneur Nikhil Merchant, Secretary to the Governor Dr Prashant Narnaware, Joint Secretary to the Governor S. Ramamoorthy, Commissioner of Fisheries Prerana Deshbhratar and Comptroller of the Governor's Households Dr Nishikant Deshpande.

Present among the audience were members of Amarvani Foundation, Bal Warkaris from Mauli Warkari Shikshan Sanstha, Nillod, Tq Sillod, Dist Chhtrapati Sambhajinagar, members of LIDCOM,



Dr. Prashant Narnaware, I.A.S.
Secretary to the Governor



members of women's self help groups, and staff and officers of Lok Bhavan were present.

Programme Itinerary:

The programme started with the ushering of the Hon'ble Governor and the First Lady to the Darbar in a procession of Warkari Dindi.

The Lighting of the Lamp followed by the rendition of National Song (Vande Mataram) followed by the National Anthem and the State Song of Maharashtra 'Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha, Garja Maharashtra Majha'.

This was followed by the welcome speech by Dr Prashant Narnaware, Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra.

In his speech the Secretary to the Governor mentioned that in sync with the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to create a Tuberculosis Free India, the Hon'ble Governor is launching the TB Free India Campaign with its focus on the slums of Mumbai.

The video message sent by the office of the Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat Shri Acharya Devvrat was screened on the occasion. The stage was set for the cultural presentation by the artists, who had come under the banner of Amarvani Foundation.

Shantanu Herlekar, a brilliant vocalist presented a popular Marathi song 'Sur Niragasa Ho'. It was followed by a Gujarati folk song sung by famous singer Upagna Pandya. Avigna and Shantanu Herlekar then sung Mahatma Gandhi's favourite Bhajan 'Vaishnava Jana To Tene Kahiye Je'. The first section concluded with the singing of Pt Bhimsen Joshi's Abhang.. 'Teerth Vitthal, Kshetra Vitthala'.

This was followed by devotional singing, dance and skits performance by the Bal Warkaris giving the message of devotion to Lord Vitthala. The Governor accompanied by Madam, Secretary to the Governor Dr Prashant Narnaware and members of the Amarvani Foundation were then invited to the dais.

The Governor was felicitated by Shri Nikhil Merchant, Entrepreneur.



Ekamra Shtha Bharat

MAHARASHTRA G

State Foundation Celebration

Maharashtra

Mumbai





Address by the Hon'ble Governor



Shri Jishnu Dev Varma
Governor of Maharashtra



Speech -
Maharashtra and
Gujarat Day

महाराष्ट्र राज्य स्थापना दिनानिमित्त, तसेच, आंतरराष्ट्रीय कामगार दिनानिमित्त मी सर्वांना शुभेच्छा देतो.

First Lady Smt. Sudha Dev Varma

Dr. Madan Maharaj Gosavi, Founder,
Amarvani Foundation

Shri Nikhil Merchant, Entrepreneur

Dr. Prashant Narnaware, Secretary to the
Governor,

The most distinguished Padma Awardees
from Maharashtra

Hon'ble Judges and other dignitaries

Members of women's self help groups

Distinguished invitees

Members of the Lok Bhavan family,

First of all, I extend my heartfelt greetings
to all of you on the joyous occasion of
Maharashtra Day.

It was on this very day, 66 years ago, that
the State of Maharashtra came into being.
On the same historic date, Gujarat was also

formed, marking a defining moment in India's journey of cultural reorganization.

May 1st is also observed as Labour Day. I extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all workers whose dedication and hard work continue to build and sustain our nation. I also warmly welcome the members of the women's self-help groups who have joined us for this programme. Your contribution to grassroots development and social empowerment is truly commendable.

Today, I feel particularly proud to welcome and felicitate the distinguished Padma Awardees from Maharashtra.

Your extraordinary achievements have brought immense pride to the State and the nation.

By honouring you, we celebrate the very spirit of excellence and service. I congratulate each one of you present here.

The Marathi and Gujarati folk music performances presented by Shantanu Herlekar and Upagna Pandya were truly splendid.

Shantanu and Upagna are a perfect couple, one is a Maharashtrian and the other a Gujarati. The Musicians accompanying them are also splendid.

I liked the songs 'Sur Niragasa Ho' and of course 'Vaishnava Jana To'

Vaishanva Jan is he who understands the peed (suffering) of the other.

The Warkari folk dance was enthralling. They had come to Tripura also.

This is Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat.

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has asked all Lok Bhavans to celebrate the Foundation Day of each State in Lok Bhavan.





True way to understand a State is to understand their culture.

All these cultures of different States in India together form a garland. Ek Mein Anek.

Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti

The Nation is a sum total of cultures. It is not just geographical boundries.

We enjoy the differences and celebrate oneness.

We celebrate Anekta through Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.

Bharatiyata is the common string that connects us all. The Sant movement in Maharashtra is a spiritual movement of equality.

There is a beautiful line by TUkaram: An elephant may uproot a tree, yet an ant can move a mountain—Even the smallest holds greatness, revealed through effort.

As I said the other day if Calcutta is a city of Joy, Mumbai is a city of Hope.

I congratulate the Amarvani Foundation and all the talented artists for their outstanding performances.

Before I conclude, I once again congratulate the Amarvani Foundation for their excellent cultural presentation. I thank all the workers, members of self-help groups, artists, and participants for their enthusiastic involvement in making this programme a grand success.

I also once again congratulate all the Padma Awardees and wish them continued success in their respective fields.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my warmest wishes to the people of Maharashtra and Gujarat on their State Foundation Day.

Thank you!
Jai Hind! Jai Bharat!
Jai Maharashtra! Jai Gujarat!!



Felicitation of Padma Awardees and others:

The Governor felicitated the late Piyush Pande (recipient of Padma Awardee (posthumous)). He felicitated Padmabhushan Uday Kotak, Padmashri Ashok Khade, Padmashri Bhiklya Dhinda (Tarpa player), Juzer Wasi (Science and Technology), Actor R Madhavan, Late Satish Shah (actor), Satyanarayan Nuwal (Trade and Industry) and also felicitated the office bearers of Amarvani

The Governor also felicitated Shri Shantanu Herlekar, Smt Upagna Pandya, THaganrao Bhagawat Patil of Amarvani, Team at LIDCOM, IAS officer Smt Prerana Deshbhratar, Commissioner Fisheries Mumbai.



Vote of Thanks:

Smt Archana Gaikwad, Protocol Officer and PS to the Governor conducted the proceedings and proposed a vote of thanks.

The programme concluded with the National Song and National Anthem.

The Governor had group photograph with all the artists, Padma Awardees and Participants.

Food was served after the programme.

The State Formation Day event of Maharashtra and Gujarat was a grand success.



Smt. Archana Gaikwad

Private Secretary to the Governor





Governor launches 'TB Mukta Bharat' Initiative; to take campaign to Mumbai slums
‘टीबी मुक्त भारत’ अभियान झोपडपट्ट्यांपर्यंत नेण्याचा राज्यपालांचा संकल्प





महाराष्ट्र लोकभवन येथे महाराष्ट्र व गुजरात राज्य स्थापना दिन साजरा बाल वारकऱ्यांच्या दिंडीने लोकभवन दुमदुमले राज्यपालांच्या हस्ते राज्यातील पदम पुरस्कार विजेते सन्मानित

बाल वारकऱ्यांनी केलेल्या 'ज्ञानदेव - तुकाराम' गजराच्या सुरांनी आज महाराष्ट्र लोकभवन परिसर दुमदुमला. राज्यपाल जिष्णु देव वर्मा व त्यांच्या पत्नी सुधा देव वर्मा यांच्या उपस्थितीत आज महाराष्ट्र राज्य स्थापना दिवस साजरा करण्यात आला, त्यावेळी राज्यपालांचे स्वागत बाल वारकऱ्यांच्या दिंडीने व नामगजरात करण्यात आले.

एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत उपक्रमांतर्गत शुक्रवारी (दि. १ मे) महाराष्ट्र राज्य स्थापनेसह गुजरात राज्य स्थापना दिवस देखील सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमांच्या माध्यमातून साजरा करण्यात आला. यावर्षी पद्म पुरस्काराने सन्मानित झालेल्या मान्यवरांचा यावेळी राज्यपालांच्या हस्ते सत्कार करण्यात आला. देश म्हणजे केवळ भागलिक सीमांनी वेढलेले क्षेत्र नसून देश हा विविध संस्कृतींचा सुंदर समूह असतो. एखाद्या राज्याला समजून घ्यायचे असेल तर तेथील संस्कृती समजून घेतली पाहिजे, असे यावेळी बोलताना राज्यपालांनी सांगितले. प्रत्येक राज्याची संस्कृती भिन्न असली तरीही त्यांमध्ये एकात्मतेचा धागा जुळलेला आहे असे त्यांनी नमूद केले.

अमरवाणी फाउंडेशन या संस्थेच्या सहकार्याने आयोजित सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमात गायक शंतनू हेल्लेकर, गायिका उपगना पंड्या व कलाकार अभिमन्यू हेल्लेकर यांनी सुंदर मराठी व गुजराती लोकगीते व भक्तिगीते सादर केल्याबद्दल राज्यपालांनी त्यांचे भरभरून कौतुक केले. महाराष्ट्र ही संतभूमी आहे. संतांचे कार्य ही समतेची चळवळ असते असे त्यांनी सांगितले.

यावेळी राज्यपालांच्या पुढाकाराने 'टीबी मुक्त भारत' अभियानाची सुरुवात करण्यात आली. हे अभियान शहरी तसेच ग्रामीण भागातील लोकांपर्यंत पोहोचवण्यात येईल असे राज्यपालांचे सचिव डॉ प्रशांत नारनवरे यांनी यावेळी जाहीर केले.

राज्यपालांच्या हस्ते पद्मभूषण उदय कोटक, उद्योजक पद्मश्री अशोक खडे, कलाकार पद्मश्री भिकल्या धिंडा, पद्मश्री जुझर वसी, कलाकार पद्मश्री आर माधवन, दिवंगत अभिनेते पद्मश्री सतीश शहा, पद्मश्री सत्यनारायण नुवाल आदींना यावेळी सन्मानित करण्यात आले.

सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमात 'सूर निरागस हो', गुजराती लोकगीत, 'वैष्णव जन तो' व तीर्थ विठ्ठल, क्षेत्र विठ्ठल हा अभंग सादर करण्यात आला. बाल वारकरी मुलांनी सादर केलेल्या पारंपरिक नृत्याने उपस्थितांचे मन जिंकले.

राज्यपालांचे सचिव डॉ प्रशांत नारनवरे यांनी स्वागतपर भाषण व प्रास्ताविक केले, तर राजशिष्टाचार अधिकारी अर्चना गायकवाड यांनी सूत्र संचलन व आभार प्रदर्शन केले.

कार्यक्रमाला अमरवाणी फाउंडेशनचे अध्यक्ष डॉ मदन महाराज गोसावी, उद्योजक निखिल मर्चंट, आयुक्त मत्स्य विकास प्रेरणा देशभ्रतार, राज्यपालांचे सहसचिव एस राममूर्ती, राज्यपालांचेपरिवार प्रबंधक डॉ निशिकांत देशपांडे उपस्थित होते.

महाराष्ट्र लोकभवन में महाराष्ट्र एवं गुजरात राज्य स्थापना दिवस का आयोजन बाल वारकरियों की दिंडी से लोकभवन गूंज उठा राज्यपाल के हाथों पद्म पुरस्कार विजेताओं का सम्मान

बाल वारकरियों द्वारा किए गए 'ज्ञानदेव-तुकाराम' के जयघोष से आज महाराष्ट्र लोकभवन परिसर गूंज उठा। राज्यपाल जिष्णु देव वर्मा तथा उनकी पत्नी सुधा देव वर्मा की उपस्थिति में महाराष्ट्र राज्य स्थापना दिवस मनाया गया। इस अवसर पर राज्यपाल का स्वागत बाल वारकरियों की दिंडी और नामस्मरण के साथ किया गया।

'एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत' पहल के अंतर्गत शुक्रवार (1 मई) को महाराष्ट्र राज्य स्थापना दिवस के साथ-साथ गुजरात राज्य स्थापना दिवस भी सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों के माध्यम से मनाया गया। इस वर्ष पद्म पुरस्कार से सम्मानित विशिष्ट व्यक्तियों का राज्यपाल के हाथों अभिनंदन किया गया।

इस अवसर पर राज्यपाल ने कहा कि देश केवल भौगोलिक सीमाओं से घिरा क्षेत्र नहीं है, बल्कि विविध संस्कृतियों का सुंदर संगम है। किसी राज्य को समझने के लिए उसकी संस्कृति को समझना आवश्यक है। उन्होंने कहा कि प्रत्येक राज्य की संस्कृति भिन्न होने के बावजूद उनमें एकता का सूत्र विद्यमान है। अमरवाणी फाउंडेशन के सहयोग से आयोजित सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम में गायक शंतनू हेर्लेकर, गायिका उपगना पंड्या तथा कलाकार अभिमन्यू हेर्लेकर ने सुंदर मराठी एवं गुजराती लोकगीत और भक्तिगीत प्रस्तुत किए, जिसकी राज्यपाल ने सराहना की। राज्यपाल ने कहा कि महाराष्ट्र संतों की भूमि है और संतों का कार्य समाज में समता स्थापित करने का होता है।

इस अवसर पर राज्यपाल की पहल पर 'टीबी मुक्त भारत' अभियान की शुरुआत की गई। राज्यपाल के सचिव डॉ प्रशांत नारनवरे ने बताया कि यह अभियान शहरी और ग्रामीण दोनों क्षेत्रों तक पहुंचाया जाएगा।

राज्यपाल के हाथों पद्मभूषण उदय कोटक, उद्यमी पद्मश्री अशोक खाडे, कलाकार पद्मश्री भिखल्या धिंडा, पद्मश्री जुझर वसी, अभिनेता पद्मश्री आर माधवन, दिवंगत अभिनेता पद्मश्री सतीश शहा, तथा पद्मश्री सत्यनारायण नुवाल सहित अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्तियों को सम्मानित किया गया।

सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम में 'सूर निरागस हो', गुजराती लोकगीत, 'वैष्णव जन तो' और 'तीर्थ विठ्ठल, क्षेत्र विठ्ठल' जैसे भजनों की प्रस्तुति दी गई। बाल वारकरियों के पारंपरिक नृत्य ने उपस्थित दर्शकों का मन मोह लिया।

कार्यक्रम में राज्यपाल के सचिव डॉ. प्रशांत नारनवरे ने स्वागत भाषण दिया, जबकि राजशिष्टाचार अधिकारी अर्चना गायकवाड ने कार्यक्रम का संचालन एवं आभार प्रदर्शन किया।

इस अवसर पर डॉ मदन महाराज गोसावी, उद्यमी निखिल मर्चंट, मत्स्य विकास आयुक्त प्रेरणा देशभ्रतार, सह सचिव एस राममूर्ती तथा परिवार प्रबंधक डॉ निशिकांत देशपांडे सहित अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्ति उपस्थित थे।

Maharashtra and Gujarat State Foundation Day Celebrated at Lok Bhavan, Maharashtra

Lok Bhavan Resonates with the Procession of Young Warkaris

Padma Awardees Felicitated by the Governor

Maharashtra Lok Bhavan premises echoed with chants of 'Dnyaneshwar–Tukaram' rendered by young Warkaris. The dindi procession was organised on the occasion of Maharashtra State Foundation Day celebrated in the presence of Governor Jishnu Dev Varma and his wife Sudha Dev Varma.

The State Foundation Day was celebrated as part of the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative of Government of India through cultural programmes.

Padma Awardees from Maharashtra were felicitated by the Governor on this occasion. On the occasion, the Governor stated that a nation is not merely defined by geographical boundaries, but is a beautiful confluence of diverse cultures. To understand a state, one must understand its culture. He noted that although each state has its distinct cultural identity, they are bound together by a thread of unity.

A cultural programme organised with the support of Amarvani Foundation featured performances by singer Shantanu Herlekar, singer Upagna Pandya, and artist Abhimanyu

Herlekar, who presented melodious Marathi and Gujarati folk and devotional songs, earning appreciation from the Governor.

The Governor remarked that Maharashtra is the land of saints, and the work of saints promotes social equality.

On this occasion, the 'TB-Free India' campaign was launched at the Governor's initiative. The Governor's Secretary Dr Prashant Narnavare stated that the campaign will reach the slums in both urban and rural areas.

Padma Bhushan Uday Kotak, entrepreneur Padma Shri Ashok Khade, artist Padma Shri Bhiklya Dhinda, Padma Shri Jujhar Vasi, actor Padma Shri R Madhavan, late actor Padma Shri Satish Shah, and Padma Shri Satyanarayan Nuwal, among others, were felicitated by the Governor.

The cultural programme included performances of 'Sur Niragas Ho', Gujarati folk songs, 'Vaishnav Jan To', and the abhang 'Teerth Vitthal, Kshetra

Vitthal'. The traditional dance performed by young Warkaris captivated the audience. The Secretary to the Governor Dr. Prashant Narnavare delivered the welcome address, while Protocol Officer Archana Gaikwad conducted the proceedings and delivered the vote of thanks.

Dr Madan Maharaj Gosavi, entrepreneur Nikhil Merchant, Commissioner Fisheries Prerna Deshbratar, Joint Secretary S Ramamoorthy, and Comptroller of the Governor's Households Dr Nishikant Deshpande, along with other dignitaries.

महाराष्ट्र लोकभवन येथे महाराष्ट्र व गुजरात राज्य स्थापना दिन साजरा



मुंबई : बाल वारकऱ्यांनी केलेल्या 'ज्ञानदेव - तुकाराम' गजराच्या सुरांनी आज महाराष्ट्र लोकभवन परिसर दुमदुमला. राज्यपाल जिष्णु देव वर्मा व त्यांच्या पत्नी सुधा देव वर्मा यांच्या उपस्थितीत आज महाराष्ट्र राज्य स्थापना दिवस साजरा करण्यात आला, त्यावेळी राज्यपालांचे स्वागत बाल वारकऱ्यांच्या दिंडीने व नामगजरात करण्यात आले.

एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत उपक्रमांतर्गत शुक्रवारी (दि. 1 मे) महाराष्ट्र राज्य स्थापनेसह गुजरात राज्य स्थापना दिवस देखील सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमांच्या माध्यमातून साजरा करण्यात आला. यावर्षी पद्म पुरस्काराने सन्मानित झालेल्या मान्यवरांचा यावेळी राज्यपालांच्या हस्ते सत्कार करण्यात आला.

देश म्हणजे केवळ भौगोलिक सीमांनी वेढलेले क्षेत्र नसून देश हा विविध संस्कृतींचा सुंदर समूह असतो. एखाद्या राज्याला समजून घ्यायचे असेल तर तेथील संस्कृती समजून घेतली पाहिजे, असे यावेळी बोलताना राज्यपालांनी सांगितले. प्रत्येक राज्याची संस्कृती भिन्न असली तरीही त्यांमध्ये एकात्मतेचा धागा जुळलेला आहे असे त्यांनी नमूद केले.

अमरवाणी फाउंडेशन या संस्थेच्या सहकार्याने आयोजित सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमात गायक शंतनू हेल्लेकर, गायिका उपग्रा पंड्या व कलाकार अभिमन्यू हेल्लेकर यांनी सुंदर मराठी व गुजराती लोकगीते व भक्तिगीते सादर केल्याबद्दल राज्यपालांनी त्यांचे भरभरून कौतुक केले.



Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat

Maharashtra Lok Bhavan



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