

**Raj Bhavan Assam celebrates Foundation days of States and Union Territories.  
States have made important contributions to the economic and cultural development of  
India: Governor**

**Guwahati, Nov 1:** In a move to celebrate the cultural richness of the country and its unique traditions, Raj Bhavan Assam under the leadership of Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, celebrated the foundation days of Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Chandigarh, at a programme held at Srimanta Sankardev International auditorium here today.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said, "1st November has great importance in the history of India. On this day, years ago, a decision was taken to reorganize various states of the country. As a result, on November 1, from 1956 to 2000, eight different states of India were born".

It may be noted that the states created on 1 November include Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhyamik Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Apart from these states, the country's capital Delhi along with Chandigarh, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar were also given the status of Union Territory on this day. The Governor termed the day unforgettable in the history of the country.

The Governor Shri Kataria said that all the states of the country have a rich cultural heritage and glorious history, of which every countryman is proud of. Every state of the country has its own distinct identity, and all states have made important contributions to the economic and cultural development of the nation. The Governor said that Assam is a state where people belonging to different states are living together. They are also making crucial contributions in promoting social integration and cultural exchange in the state. Their collective contribution is giving a new shape to the future of Assam.

Shri Kataria also said that on the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, under "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" program all the states celebrate foundation days of each other to promote the spirit of unity in diversity. He also said that the ambitious scheme of "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" was launched on 31st October 2015 on the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Through this programme, the spirit of national unity is aimed to be strengthened by celebrating the rich cultural diversity of India. The programme is also contributing to connect the States and Union Territories with each other, promoting their cultural and linguistic exchanges through various activities like art, music, dance, food, sports etc.

Shri Kataria also said that the celebrations of the foundation days remind everybody of the important contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose tireless efforts led to the integration of 562 princely states and made India a strong nation.

India is the world's largest democracy. The culture of India is very ancient and rich. Stressing on the constant interaction among the people of different states, the Governor said that every year, thousands of devotees from Assam go to Ujjain to visit Baba Mahakal, to Amritsar to visit the Golden Temple, to Chhattisgarh to visit Lakshmaneshwar Mahadev Temple, to Kangra to visit Chamunda Devi. It is heartening that the people across the country are making important contributing in realizing the country's contribution in Amrit Kaal.

The programme was attended among others by PHE Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah, Transport Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, Power Minister nandita Gorlosa, Tea Tribe Welfare Minister Sanjay Kishan and host of others from across the country.