

PATEL WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN MAINTAINING COUNTRY'S INTEGRITY: NAIDU

The Former Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu appealing to recall the work of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel said he was very instrumental in maintaining the country's unity and integrity.

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu and Governor of Goa Shri P. S. Sreedharan Pillai participated the inaugural programme at Raj Bhavan [today](#).

The celebrations was held to commemorate the Foundation Day of 8 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, & Tamil Nadu and 5 Union Territories namely Andaman & Nicobar Island, Chandigarh, Delhi, Lakshadweep and Pudducherry at Raj Bhavan, Goa in association with the Heads of Regional Associations of these States and UTs is in a grand manner.

Speaking further Shri Naidu said, after our Independence, India is gaining the glory and becoming a strong nation. If we see closely, India is recognized and respected all over the world. Most of the CEO's in multinational companies are Indians, Shri Naidu pointed.

Citing the importance of mother tongue Shri Naidu appealed to respect one's own mother tongue. Respecting the mother tongue will help you to understand oneself better and advised to preserve the own identity.

Shri Naidu appreciated the efforts of Governor and said his visits to the different parts of Goa will help him to learn and witness the life and style of the Goans.

Addressing the Gathering the Governor Shri Sreedharan Pillai lauded the people's efforts in building the nation. He said a bond of togetherness between people

irrespective of their caste, creed and religion plays an important part to show national integrity. Feeling of oneness and brotherhood in a country will help to build a nation the Governor added.

Informing the main purpose of the programme the Governor said, it was to enhance interaction and promote mutual understanding between the people of different States and UT's. Further, it showcases with great fervour the rich and vibrant cultures of States and UTs so that all people from different regions can connect, interact and forge bonds of social and cultural amity. It is also an occasion to share the best practices in art, music, dance, cuisine and tourism thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of the country.

The Governor Shri P. S. Sreedharan Pillai further said, an integrated nation always show the path of progress towards development and prosperity. He extended his best wishes to the people of all States and Union Territories and said, these States has immense potential and is loaded with talents.

Others present were Shri A. Durga Prasad, President Andhra Pradesh Sangam, Shri Mallikarjun V. Badami, President, Kanada Sangam, Shri K. R. S. Nayar, All India Mallyali Association, Shri Harvinder Singh Dham, President, Gurudwara, Betim, Shri S. Sivaraman, General Secretary, Goa Tamil Sangam.

The foundation day is celebrated with concept of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' all over the country. This is the third occasion of Raj Bhavan, Goa celebrating the Foundation Day after the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and is a glowing example of promoting national integration and celebrating unity and diversity.

The two hour commemoration programme displayed the distinct traditions of each region apart from unique songs and dances of the region and authentic cuisine pertaining to the different regions.

Shri Mihir Vardhan, IAS(Rtd) , OSD to Governor gave the introductory speech. Other heads of Sangam also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, Shri M. R. M. Rao, IAS, Secretary to Governor welcomed the guests. Smt Siddhi Upadhye compered and Shri Sandesh Gadkari proposed vote of thanks.

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