

**Raj Bhavan celebrates statehood day of West Bengal**

**Guwahati, June 20:** Raj Bhavan, Assam under the leadership of Governor Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, celebrated the Statehood Day of West Bengal at the auditorium of Royal Global School in Guwahati today.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Shri Kataria highlighted the significance of West Bengal, noting that it is the birthplace of revolutionary leaders who laid the foundation for modern and free India. He also stressed that India since its inception was one and he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi who brought back the concept of one India and hailed all Raj Bhavans for celebrating the Foundation Day of the States and Union Territories under "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat".

Shri Kataria also said, "The purpose of organizing State Foundation Days is to understand the art and culture of each other state and to appreciate our rich heritage of unity in diversity. Such events definitely strengthen the feeling of unity and nationalism". He further elaborated that the celebration holds great significance as it provides an opportunity to remember the rich history, cultural heritage, and remarkable contributions made by the states and Union Territories in the country.

Shri Kataria in his speech also highlighted the relationship of Assam and West Bengal and said that the people of Assam are guided by the humanitarian and unifying philosophies of Bhupen Hazarika and Hemanga Biswas. Assam and Bengal share harmonious relations since ages and scholar like Ashutosh Mukherjee helped introduce Assamese language in the University of Calcutta. Even Dr. Bhupen Hazarika spent considerable time at his Tollygunge residence in Kolkata and produced some of his immortal creations both in Assamese and Bengali. Even Sahityarathi Lakshminath Bezbaroa strengthened the intrinsic relations when he married Noble Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's grand-daughter Pragya Sundari.

The Governor also mentioned that Mahapurush do not belong to a particular state but they represent the entire nation. He cited examples of the personalities like Srimanta Sankardev, Swami Vivekananda, Guru Govind Singh etc and said that they are not revered only in a particular state but they are revered across the country. The Governor emphasized that the celebration is an occasion to reminisce about their contributions and to realize their vision for a vibrant India.

The Governor during his speech also remembered Kalaguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha on his punya tithi. He said that Bishnu Prasad Rabha was a multifaceted genius whose contributions to Assamese culture, literature, music, dance, and social reformation continue to inspire generations.

Tourism and PHE Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah also spoke on the occasion.

Commissioner and Secretary to the Governor SS Meenakshi Sundaram, Secretary to the Governor Swapna Dutta Deka, Vice Chancellors of Cotton University, KKHSOU, Rabindranath Tagore University, members of the Bangla Sahitya Sabha, Raj Bhavan officials and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion

**P.R.O.**  
**20/6/2024**