

Ministry of Home Affairs



Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addresses 75th Foundation Day celebration of the Gujarati weekly 'Chitrlekha' in Mumbai

The journey of 'Chitrlekha' over the last 75 years is a reflection of Gujarat's literature, society, life and the problems of Gujarat and the country

When there is purity of purpose than mere consideration of profit, dedication towards literature and a desire to solve the problems of society, only then one can connect with the readers

An awakened weekly has a deep impact on our society and life

During many movements in Gujarat, when the society was falling apart, 'Chitrlekha' took the torch in its hands to keep the society united

Gujarati literature's magazines and newspapers played a big role in the building of the country

Nagin Das, Tarak Mehta and Gunwant Shah became popular from the platform of 'Chitrlekha', the President honoured all three with Padma awards

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Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah today addressed the 75th Foundation Day celebration of the Gujarati weekly 'Chitrlekha' in Mumbai, the capital of Maharashtra. On this occasion, several distinguished dignitaries were present, including Maharashtra

Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, and State Deputy Chief Minister Shri Eknath Shinde among others.

While addressing the event, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah said that the 75-year journey of 'Chitralekha' has been a mirror of Gujarati literature, society, lifestyle, and the issues faced by Gujarat and the nation. He said that in my life so far, I have changed three houses, the furniture in those houses, even the addresses — but 'Chitralekha' has continued to arrive faithfully at all three homes.

Shri Amit Shah said that the way 'Chitralekha' has maintained its connection with the readers is rarely seen. This is possible only when there is purity of purpose than mere consideration of profit, dedication towards literature and the desire to solve the problems of the society. He said that ever since I learned to read, I have been reading 'Chitralekha'. He shared sometimes while reading Harkishan Mehta's novel, sometimes Tarak Mehta's Ulta Chashma and sometimes while reading the cartoon published on the front page, I did not know when I started getting the urge to read the issues of the society and try to find their solution.

Union Home Minister said that an awakened weekly impacts our society and life in many ways. In the English speaking era when it was difficult to keep Gujarati literature alive, Vajubhai founded 'Chitralekha'. Today, there is a greater need than ever to fearlessly represent all the problems of the society and not only question the problem but also to give suggestions for its solution. He said that at the time of Anamat movement in Gujarat, the society was disintegrating, but at that time 'Chitralekha' had taken the torch in its hands to keep the society united. It is because of its fact-based efforts of 75 years that 'Chitralekha' has gained credibility.

Shri Amit Shah said that literature cannot progress without the support of society. Literature is the need of society. Gujarati literature magazines have played a very important role in the development of the country. Gujarati Sahitya Parishad started a magazine named 'Budhi Prakash' in 1855. At that time, everyone started a front against customs with the inspiration of 'Budhi Prakash'. In the year 1876, Nanalal started 'Satya Vihar' and spread amazing awareness in the society. Mahatma Gandhi started 'Navjeevan' in 1919 and worked to serve the bitterest truth to the people. In the year 1950, after India gained independence, 'Chitralekha' was launched, and since then, it has played a significant role in presenting both societal issues and literature with great precision and clarity to the people.

Union Home Minister said that a successful effort was made to keep the society united through the novels published in 'Chitralekha'. This inspired the youth studying Gujarati to study. He said, very few of you would have met Tarak Mehta in person. Even the saddest person in the world cannot stay without laughing if he goes to meet him. Spontaneous humor was a gift from God to him. He ran 'Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah' from the same chawl for years. Those who watch the serial would find it very beautiful, but those who have read Tarak Mehta would understand what these people have done to the Tarak Mehta series. He used to make entire Gujarat forget all its sorrows in four pages.

Shri Amit Shah said that 'Chitralekha' gave many such special issues which can never be forgotten. Its Narmada Yojana special issue had shaken the whole of Gujarat. He said that no one would have given such an accurate and true presentation of the 26/11 terrorist attack on Mumbai as 'Chitralekha' did. It gave such a presentation that widespread awareness spread about the problem of terrorism.

Union Home Minister said that 'Chitralekha' also published three special issues on the issue of Ram Mandir. He said that he has been a supporter of Ram Mandir since childhood, fought for it and even went to jail, but no one has presented it as beautifully as 'Chitralekha'. He said that Nagin Das, Tarak Mehta and Gunwant Shah became popular from the platform of 'Chitralekha' and finally the President of India honoured them with the Padma Award. Hardly any magazine in the country has produced three writers honoured with the Padma Award.

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