



Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan participates in Christmas celebration organised by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India

Vice-President calls Christmas a celebration of peace and compassion

Message of Lord Jesus Christ resonates with India's spiritual ethos: Vice-President

Vice-President lauds significant contribution of the Christian community to India's social, cultural and developmental journey

Bharat's unity lies not in uniformity but in mutual respect and shared values, promoting Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat: Vice-President

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The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today participated in a Christmas celebration organised by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) in New Delhi and extended warm greetings and best wishes to the Christian community ahead of the festival.

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Addressing the... pic.twitter.com/UKIzW8eZIC

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) December 18, 2025

The Vice-President said that Christmas is a celebration of universal values such as peace, compassion, humility and service to humanity. He noted that the message of love, harmony and moral courage taught by Lord Jesus Christ has timeless relevance and resonates deeply with India's own spiritual traditions that emphasise coexistence, compassion and respect for human dignity.

Recalling the long presence of Christianity in India, the Vice-President highlighted the quiet yet significant contribution of the Christian community to India's social, cultural and developmental journey. He lauded the community's sustained work in education, healthcare, social reform and human development, which has reached even the remotest parts of the country, and described it as an integral part of nation-building.

Referring to his personal experience, Shri C P Radhakrishnan said that during his tenure as Governor of Jharkhand, Maharashtra and other States, he had the opportunity to interact closely with several Christian organisations. He also recalled celebrating Christmas every year at a church in Coimbatore during his tenure as a Member of Parliament and the spirit of mutual understanding he shared there. He also cited a historical example from Tamil Nadu, recalling the contribution of Constantine Joseph Beschi (Veeramamunivar), who enriched Tamil literature and culture, underscoring the deep cultural integration fostered by the Christian tradition in India.

Emphasising India's pluralistic ethos, Shri C P Radhakrishnan said that Bharat's unity lies not in uniformity but in mutual respect and shared values. He emphasised that there is no need for any fear psychosis, as peace and harmony prevail in the country. Drawing a parallel between the spirit of Christmas and the national vision of *Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat* articulated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said that just as Christmas brings people of different faiths together in joy, the idea of *Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat* calls upon citizens to celebrate India's diversity while standing united as one nation.

The Vice-President urged all stakeholders to continue their constructive contribution towards the national goal of *Viksit Bharat@2047*. He called upon all communities to work together to eradicate poverty and move towards shared prosperity, stressing that development requires collective effort.

He also noted with appreciation that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India has been in existence since 1944 and has built an extensive network of schools, colleges, hospitals and charitable institutions, enabling it to remain closely connected with the lives of ordinary citizens.

Among those present on the occasion were the Governor of West Bengal, Dr. C. V. Ananda Bose; President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI), Archbishop Andrews Thazhath; Apostolic Nuncio to India, Archbishop Leopold Girelli, along with other distinguished guests.

PR/ASM

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