



Vice President inaugurates conference on transformation of tribal lives through science and technology in New Delhi

“Modern development and preservation of culture are not contradictory but complementary”: Vice President

Tribal communities custodians of India’s culture and biodiversity: Vice President

Vice President highlights potential of tribal areas in green economic development

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The Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today inaugurated a conference titled “Transformation of Tribal Lives through Science and Technological Interventions – Preserving Language, Faith and Culture” at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan inaugurated a conference titled “Transformation of Tribal Lives through Science and Technological Interventions - Preserving Language, Faith and Culture” at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi today.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice President... pic.twitter.com/1WBRsH5ZPe

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) April 12, 2026

The conference was organised by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, in collaboration with the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) and ITITI Doon Sanskriti School, Dehradun.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice President highlighted that the conference has beautifully demonstrated the power of scientific temper and technological advancement when combined with traditional knowledge. He noted that when modern science works in harmony with language, faith and culture, it becomes a powerful force for protection and empowerment.

Emphasising the importance of tribal communities, the Vice President said that India has around 1.4 lakh tribal villages, comprising nearly 9 per cent of the country’s population. He underlined that tribal communities possess invaluable traditional knowledge that supports biodiversity and sustainable use of

forest resources. He added that for centuries, these communities have preserved India's ancient culture, faith and civilisational heritage.

The Vice President observed that tribal areas offer immense potential for green economic development. He also remarked on the exceptional skills of tribal communities in design, textiles and colour combinations, which have been preserved over generations.

Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, he stated that the guiding principle is "Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi", emphasising that modern development and preservation of traditions are not contradictory but complementary.

Recalling his tenure as a Member of the 12th and 13th Lok Sabha, the Vice President noted that he had supported the creation of the states of Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand, which contributed to the tribal upliftment. He also paid tribute to former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee for establishing the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, describing it as a moral commitment to justice, dignity and opportunity for tribal communities.

The Vice President also spoke about his visits to Bhagwan Birsa Munda's birthplace at Ulihatu in Jharkhand and appreciated the efforts of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in bringing the contributions of tribal freedom fighters to the forefront of national consciousness.

Highlighting key government initiatives, he referred to the PM-JANMAN programme under which over 2,400 roads spanning nearly 7,300 km and more than 160 bridges have been sanctioned. He also mentioned the Dharti Abha – Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, which covers over 63,000 tribal villages with a focus on clean water, housing, education, healthcare and sustainable livelihoods.

Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan noted the significant development in infrastructure and connectivity in the North Eastern region and reiterated the Government's commitment to inclusive development.

Congratulating ITITI Doon Sanskriti School on its Silver Jubilee year, he recalled that the institution was inaugurated 25 years ago by former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He lauded the school for emerging as a beacon of hope for tribal children across Uttarakhand, the North-East and Ladakh, and noted that more than 2,000 tribal students have benefited from free quality education at the institution.

On the occasion, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Shri Taranjit Singh Sandhu; Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Chowna Mein; Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Prof. Abhay Karandikar; and former MP and Founder Trustee of ITITI Doon Sanskriti School, Shri Tarun Vijay, were also present.

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