



Vice President addresses 51st Statehood Day celebrations of Sikkim in Gangtok

Sikkim is not just organic in agriculture but organic by character: Vice President

Vice President says Sikkim is a shining example of harmony between nature, culture and governance

PM's "Act East, Act Fast" approach accelerating development in Ashtalakshmi States: Vice President

Vice President appreciates Sikkim's rich cultural heritage during Statehood Day celebrations

The Vice President of India, C. P. Radhakrishnan, today addressed the 51st Statehood Day celebrations of Sikkim at Gangtok.

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Greeting the people of Sikkim on the occasion of the Statehood Day celebrations, the vice president said that the journey of the Himalayan State over the last 50 years has been extraordinary. He noted that as a student he had closely followed the developments relating to Sikkim's merger with India and expressed happiness at being present today at the 51st Statehood Day celebrations.

Vice President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan graced the 51st Statehood Day celebrations of Sikkim at Gangtok today.

Describing Sikkim as "green, organic, neat and clean", the Vice President remarked that Sikkim is not only organic in agriculture but also "organic by character". The... pic.twitter.com/fQR9uObfFP

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) May 16, 2026

Describing Sikkim as "green, organic, neat and clean", the Vice President remarked that Sikkim is not only organic in agriculture but also "organic by character". Referring to his road journey in the State, he said he witnessed the disciplined and compassionate nature of the people of Sikkim. He added that good

thoughts and harmonious living strengthen both individuals and society.

The Vice President stated that Sikkim stands as a shining example of what harmony between nature, culture and governance can achieve. Congratulating the people of the State on the occasion, he said the 51st year of Statehood would usher in a new phase of growth, transformation and inclusive development.

Paying tribute to the first Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Kazi Lhendup Dorjee, the Vice President said that he would always be remembered as a visionary leader who guided Sikkim through a historic democratic transition with wisdom, courage and commitment.

Referring to the recent visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Sikkim during the closing ceremony of the State's 50th year of Statehood celebrations, the Vice President noted that several development projects worth over Rs. 4,000 crore had been launched and dedicated to the people. He highlighted the Prime Minister's vision of "Act East, Act Fast" and described Sikkim as an integral part of the "Ashtalakshmi" of the North-East.

The Vice President said that the vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047" is rooted in inclusive development where no region is left behind. Commending the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for strengthening infrastructure and connectivity in the North-East, he highlighted the expansion of railway and heliport facilities across the region. Referring to his recent visit to Mizoram, he said improved rail connectivity has boosted trade, tourism and economic growth in the North-East. Expressing confidence that Sikkim too would soon get direct rail connectivity, he noted that it would help the State's organic products reach markets across India and strengthen its contribution to Viksit Bharat @2047.

Appreciating the Government of Sikkim under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Prem Singh Tamang, the Vice President said that the State has emerged as a global model of sustainable development. He recalled that Sikkim became the world's first 100 per cent organic State in 2016 and termed the transformation of over 76,000 hectares of agricultural land into a chemical-free ecosystem as not merely an agricultural reform but a "cultural revolution".

The Vice President praised initiatives such as "Mero Rukh Mero Santati", under which 108 trees are planted for every child born, and the "Sishu Samriddhi Yojana", which provides financial security to children. He said such initiatives reflect the State's commitment to linking spirituality with sustainability and environmental leadership with social security.

Highlighting the strategic importance of Sikkim, the Vice President described the State as a sentinel of the nation. He said the unity among communities, spirit of cooperation and deep sense of patriotism among the people make Sikkim a strong pillar of India's integrity. He also appreciated Governor Shri Om Prakash Mathur for visiting border and vibrant villages and expediting development works.

The Vice President noted that under the Vibrant Village Programme, 58 villages in Sikkim would be covered in phases. He stated that border villages are no longer the "last villages" but the "first villages of Bharat".

During the programme, the Vice President virtually laid the foundation stone and inaugurated several development projects related to connectivity, infrastructure, education and governance. These included the upgradation of the Rimbi-Yuksam road, protective works and bridge construction along NH-10, a steel bridge over Rangpo Khola, remodelling and upgradation of the Burtuk Heliport, a new science block at Kamrang Government Degree College in Namchi, and an Industrial Training Institute at Aritar in Pakyong. The Vice President also launched the Sikkim Excise Management System aimed at improving governance and efficiency.

On the occasion, the Vice President also launched “Sikkim Rise”, a government-backed entrepreneurship programme designed to transform innovative ideas into scalable businesses through mentorship, incubation, funding and infrastructure support. He also launched “Mission Sikkim Organics”, aimed at further strengthening the State’s leadership in organic and sustainable development.

The Vice President also witnessed a cultural programme showcasing the traditional attire and rich heritage of various communities, including the Lepcha, Bhutia and Nepali communities. Appreciating the cultural diversity of Sikkim, he said that the coming together of diverse traditions under the spirit of nationhood truly reflects the vision of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat”.

Among those present on the occasion were the Governor of Sikkim, Shri Om Prakash Mathur; the Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang; Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia; Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Assembly, Shri Mingma Norbu Sherpa; Minister for Public Health Engineering, Government of Sikkim, Shri Sonam Lama; senior officials and other dignitaries.

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