Vice-President graces 42nd Annual Day celebrations of Nellai Nadar Matriculation Higher Secondary School in Chennai

Preserving Tamil language,culture and identity goes hand in hand with strengthening the nation: Vice-President

Research and innovation will shape the future; students must prepare themselves for it: Vice-President

Education must go beyond academic excellence to build responsible and compassionate citizens: Vice-President

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The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today addressed the 42nd Annual Day celebrations of Nellai Nadar Matriculation Higher Secondary School at Kottivakkam, Chennai, the Vice-President paid rich tributes to K.Kamaraj, recalling his selfless leadership, simplicity and commitment to public welfare.

He said that as long as the legacy of the great leader K. Kamaraj lives in Tamil soil, no force in the world can erase the spirit of nationalism from Tamil Nadu.

> Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, graced the 42nd Annual Day celebrations of Nellai Nadar Matriculation Higher Secondary School at Kottivakkam, Chennai, today. Highlighting the importance of scientific temper, research and responsible use of AI, he appreciated the school's Atal Tinkering Labs for nurturing young innovators. He called upon students to dream big, work hard and combine academic excellence with strong values, discipline and a spirit of service to the nation.
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> — Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) November 21, 2026

He said that Kamaraj's achievements in infrastructure and education remain unparalleled. Recalling the construction of several major dams during his tenure, he observed that the foundation laid by Kamaraj had been instrumental in making Tamil Nadu a state admired

for its educational achievements and human resources. He described Kamaraj as a leader who never considered electoral gains or personal interests, but always placed public welfare above everything else.

Recalling Kamaraj's contribution to the expansion of the school midday meal programme, the Vice-President said it reflected his commitment to ensuring that children from disadvantaged backgrounds had access to both education and nutrition.

Appreciating the Nellai Thoothukudi Nadar Mahamai Paripalana Sangam for its contribution to education, Shri C.P.Radhakrishnan said that the school, established in 1985 with just 85 students and seven teachers, had grown into an institution serving around 3,500 students with nearly 200 teachers and staff. He said this growth represented the fulfilment of the aspirations of thousands of families, particularly those from economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Emphasising that education must go beyond academic performance, he said schools must nurture students with strong values, compassion and a sense of social responsibility.

Referring to the Atal Tinkering Lab at the school, the Vice-President encouraged students to develop scientific temper, research aptitude and innovative thinking. He said India was making significant strides in research and development, and called upon students to prepare themselves to excel in research, innovation and new discoveries.

Highlighting the National Education Policy 2020, introduced under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, he said it emphasised holistic development, mother-tongue education, experiential learning, vocational skills, research and innovation. He stressed the need to move beyond rote learning towards conceptual understanding and creative thinking.

The Vice-President also emphasised that scientific and technological progress must remain rooted in India's cultural heritage and human values. He said that the preservation of Tamil language, culture and heritage was intrinsically linked to the strength of the nation. "If Tamil culture, the Tamil people and the Tamil language are to be protected, Bharat must remain strong," he said.

Referring to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047, Shri C.P.Radhakrishnan called upon students to contribute to the nation's progress through knowledge, innovation and dedication. He urged them to dream big, uphold integrity and achieve their goals through hard work and perseverance, without resorting to shortcuts.

During the occasion, the Vice-President inaugurated the Sports Auditorium and the Men's Hostel of Nellai Nadar Engineering College.

The Vice-President also paid floral tributes to the statues of Thiruvalluvar and Thiru K. Kamaraj at Nellai Nadar Matriculation Higher Secondary School.

Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, paid floral tributes to the statues of Thiruvalluvar and Thiru K. Kamaraj at Nellai Nadar Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kottivakkam, Chennai, during the school's 42nd Annual Day celebrations today. https://t.co/eskoYmJGVl

— Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) November 21, 2026

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