Vice-President Inaugurates Swayamsiddha National Conference 2026 on Women's Empowerment in Nagpur

Respect for Women and Their Leadership Is Deeply Rooted in Indian Civilisation: Vice-President

Women's Empowerment Is a Shared Responsibility of Government, Universities and Society: Vice-President

Women's Empowerment Must Move from Education to Leadership: Vice-President

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The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today inaugurated the Swayamsiddha National Conference 2026 on Women's Empowerment, themed "VIJAYA – A Journey of Empowerment through Education", organised by the Swayamsiddha Centre of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

> Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today graced the inaugural session of the first National Conference under Swayamsiddha – "VIJAYA: A Journey of Empowerment through Education" at Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur, Maharashtra. Highlighting the transformative role of education in women's empowerment, he emphasised the need to equip women with skills, confidence and opportunities to achieve economic independence and leadership.
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> — Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) November 25, 2026

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-President recalled initiating the Swayamsiddha programme during his tenure as Governor of Maharashtra and appreciated its continued expansion under the leadership of the present Governor, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, with universities across Maharashtra participating in its activities. He emphasised that

universities must go beyond imparting academic qualifications and actively contribute to women's empowerment by promoting skills, economic independence, confidence and leadership.

Highlighting the growing participation of women in higher education, the Vice-President observed that, at convocations across the country, women students increasingly outnumber men among gold medallists. Referring to the All India Survey on Higher Education, he noted that the female Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education had increased significantly over the last decade. He said this progress reflected the expanding opportunities for women and the country's transition from women's development to women-led development.

Referring to the forthcoming Constitution Day, the Vice-President recalled the contributions of 15 women members of the Constituent Assembly to the framing of the Constitution of India. He also highlighted the significance of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in advancing women's representation in democratic institutions.

Emphasising India's cultural ethos, the Vice-President said that respect for women and their leadership is deeply rooted in Indian civilisation. He called upon educational institutions to prepare young women for leadership roles across all spheres of life. He stressed that education must open pathways for women to participate in research, entrepreneurship, administration, public life and institutional decision-making, with particular attention to those from rural, remote and economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Vice-President emphasised that women's empowerment was a shared responsibility of governments, universities, industry, civil society and families. He expressed hope that the proposed Maharashtra–VIJAYA Framework for Women in Higher Education would provide a basis for sustained institutional action.

Congratulating the University for bringing Swayamsiddha to the national platform, the Vice-President expressed hope that the VIJAYA conference would facilitate meaningful discussions, innovative solutions and practical recommendations. He said that the success of Swayamsiddha would ultimately be reflected in the confidence, independence and leadership of the women it reaches.

On the occasion, the Vice-President unveiled the Swayamsiddha logo and released two compendiums—Hundred Voices of Young Women and Best Practices in Higher Education. He also felicitated Swayamsiddha leaders in recognition of their contributions to the initiative and joined the participants in taking the 'No to Drugs' pledge.

> Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today felicitated Swayamsiddha leaders at the inaugural session of the first National Conference under Swayamsiddha – 'VIJAYA: A Journey of Empowerment through Education' in Nagpur. The recognition celebrates their contributions and commitment to advancing women's empowerment.
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> — Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) November 25, 2026

The event was attended by Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, Governor of Maharashtra; Dr. Manali Kshirsagar, Vice-Chancellor, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University; Dr. Prashant Narnaware, IAS, Secretary to the Governor of Maharashtra; Dr. Akhilesh Peshwe, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University; representatives of the National Commission for Women and Maharashtra State Commission for Women; academicians, faculty members, officers and students.

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