Vice-President Unveils Life-size Bronze Statue of Late Shri Jawaharlal Darda in Yavatmal

Late Shri Jawaharlal Darda Made Lasting Contributions to Maharashtra's Industrial Development and Public Welfare: Vice-President

Shivaji Maharaj Restored National Self-Respect, Dr. Ambedkar Gave India Its Constitution and Tilak Awakened Patriotism: Vice-President

Cooperative Institutions Play a Vital Role in Strengthening Rural Economy and Empowering Farmers: Vice-President

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The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today unveiled the life-size bronze statue of Late Shri Jawaharlal Darda, freedom fighter, statesman, journalist and Founder of Lokmat Media Group, at Priyadarshini Sahakari Soot Girni, Yavatmal, Maharashtra.

> Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan unveiled the life-size bronze statue of Late Shri Jawaharlal Darda Ji at Priyadarshini Cooperative Spinning and Weaving Mill in Yavatmal, Maharashtra today. Paying rich tributes to Babuji, the Vice-President recalled his remarkable contributions as a freedom fighter, statesman, journalist and visionary leader, and his lifelong commitment to public service, rural development and the welfare of society. He noted that Babuji's ideals and legacy continue to inspire generations.
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> — Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) November 25, 2026

Earlier, the Vice-President visited Prerna Sthal in Yavatmal and offered floral tributes to Late Shri Jawaharlal Darda.

> Vice-President Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan visited Prerna Sthal in Yavatmal, Maharashtra today, and offered floral tributes to freedom fighter, journalist and Lokmat founder Late Shri Jawaharlal Darda ji. Paying homage he remembered Shri Darda ji's enduring legacy and significant contributions to India's freedom movement, journalism and public service.
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> — Vice-President of India (@VPIndia) November 25, 2026

Paying his tributes, the Vice-President described Babuji's life as a remarkable journey of patriotism, public service and commitment to society. Recalling his contribution to India's freedom struggle, particularly the Quit India Movement of 1942, he said that Babuji continued to serve the nation after Independence as a statesman, public representative, minister and journalist. He highlighted his contributions to Maharashtra's development, national unity and communal harmony.

The Vice-President noted that Late Shri Darda made significant contributions across several sectors, including industry, energy, housing, education, healthcare, agriculture and cooperation. He particularly recalled his landmark Industrial Policy of 1993, which promoted balanced industrial development across different regions of Maharashtra. He also highlighted Babuji's contribution to the establishment of the Government Medical College in Yavatmal, reflecting his commitment to extending development opportunities to every region.

Highlighting Babuji's vision of rural development, the Vice-President said that the Priyadarshini Sahakari Soot Girni exemplifies the important link between cotton cultivation, textile manufacturing, employment generation and rural prosperity. He appreciated the farmers, cooperative members, management and workers for their collective efforts in reviving the institution from financial difficulties. He emphasised that cooperative institutions have an important role in strengthening the rural economy and empowering farmers.

Drawing upon his own association with the textile sector, the Vice-President highlighted the sector's immense potential for employment generation and economic growth. Referring to India's growing international trade opportunities, he expressed optimism about the future of textile exports and called for modernisation of mills, machinery, weaving, dyeing and printing facilities to enhance the sector's competitiveness.

The Vice-President also recalled Maharashtra's distinguished contributions to India's national life through great personalities such as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak. He said that their contributions to national self-respect, constitutional values and the spirit of patriotism continue to inspire the country.

Calling for renewed commitment to Babuji's ideals, the Vice-President urged all stakeholders to strengthen the cooperative movement, empower farmers and create meaningful employment opportunities in rural India. He said that the legacy of Late Shri Jawaharlal Darda should continue to inspire collective efforts towards inclusive development.

The occasion was attended by Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, Governor of Maharashtra; Shri Chandrakant Patil, Minister for Textiles and Higher and Technical Education, Maharashtra; Shri Sanjay Rathod, Minister for Soil and Water Conservation, Maharashtra; Dr. Vijay Darda, Chairman, Lokmat Media Group and former Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Shri Rajendra Darda, former Cabinet Minister and Editor-in-Chief, Lokmat Media Group; Shri Kirti Gandhi, Vice-President, Priyadarshini Co-operative Spinning Mill Ltd.; members of the Darda family, representatives of the cooperative sector, farmers, workers and other dignitaries.

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