

Speech

of

## General (Dr) Vijay Kumar Singh PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd) Hon'ble Governor of Mizoram

On The Occasion of

Tree plantation under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

At

Aizawl Sumtual, MINECO

On

23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2025

Pi Lalrinpuii, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Women & Child Development, Officers & Staff of Women & Child Development Department, Dignitaries, Invitees, My dear children.

Today, I am truly delighted to be part of this meaningful initiative – planting trees under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, as part of the Government of India's Mission Shakti.

This is a moment where we celebrate two of the most powerful symbols of growth and life: our girl children and our green environment.

This programme beautifully weaves together two vital messages. One, the importance of nurturing and empowering the girl child. And two, the responsibility we all share in preserving and protecting nature.

Just as a tree needs sunlight, water, and care to grow into a strong, shelter-giving presence, a girl child too needs education, opportunity, encouragement, and love to grow into the changemaker she is meant to be.

Today, I plant this tree for every girl child in Mizoram. I plant it with hope in my heart and prayers on my lips, that each daughter of Mizoram may grow in strength, wisdom, and dignity. That she may have equal rights and equal opportunities, and that the world she steps into will value her contributions and recognize her worth. To all our young girls and students, I urge you to never stop dreaming. You should study hard, and aim to complete your education at least up to Class 12, and if possible, go beyond.

You should pursue higher education, follow your passions, and know that you are capable of achieving greatness. You must always remember that the sky is not the limit, it is only the beginning. The state, the community, and the country stand beside you.

Planting a tree in the name of the girl child is a symbolic act. It represents growth, hope, and a future rooted in strength. These trees will not only green our surroundings, they will stand tall as reminders of our promise to safeguard the rights of every daughter, and our commitment to a sustainable future.

Mission Shakti is a national mission to empower women and girls in every sphere of life. Here in Mizoram, we are proud of our women, whether they are mothers, educators, healthcare workers, entrepreneurs, artists, or leaders in society. Your strength, your resilience, and your wisdom are shaping the future of our state and our nation.

To all the women and girls of Mizoram: you are an integral part of the journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047, a developed, inclusive, and empowered India. You are not just participants in progress — you are the driving force behind it.

Let us continue to plant these trees, and alongside them, nurture the dreams of every girl child. Let each sapling be a promise that we will uplift, educate, and empower our daughters, today, tomorrow and always.

Thank you. Jai Hind.