

**Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of inauguration of the First Academic Session of the Central University of Jharkhand on 7th August 2009 at Brambe Campus Ranchi.**

Advisor I/C Human Resource Development Deptt., Mr.G.Krishnan, Secretary, HRD, Vice Chancellor Dr.D.T.Khathing, students and staff of Central University of Jharkhand, parents of students, dignitaries from State and Central Government, Central industrial undertakings, Heads of academic institutions and Universities, senior retired academicians, Ladies & gentlemen.

I am indeed extremely happy to be here on such a special occasion, literally the birth of a University. One often does inaugurate functions and lays the foundation stones for structures and development infrastructure. In this case however, it is like the breaking of dawn - a path breaking event. It involves the moulding and shaping of lives, honing of vision, development of character and personality, not just physical structures of grandeur and beauty.

You students present here are the first and therefore, the pioneering batch. It is then this spirit of pioneers that you would need to keep with you as you pass through each Semester. You are in temporary buildings. Some facilities might not be readily available and even some inconvenience in stay might exist. But you are now part of the institution building team as well. You are not only to receive instruction in your chosen subjects but as you spend an active part of your lives here, you too should have the spirit of building up this University. Later, you would be called upon to play your part towards nation building.

Teachers and staff, you too have a great responsibility. Starting a new programme or facility is quite different from participating in an established

system. You are the foundation stone of this University. Your vision must be focussed and your commitment total. No one can take away the status you have as an institutional builder. Generations after this will remember you for your contributions to this University during its formative years.

Higher Education in India has expanded many folds during the past six decades. Between 1950 and 2006 the number of universities increased from 20 to about 380, colleges from 500 to 18064, and teachers from 15,000 to nearly 4.80 lakhs. Similarly, student enrolment ratio( for under graduate and above) has increased from mere less than 1% in 1950 to about 10% in 2007. Also there has been diversification in the education. However, this Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER), of 10% compares quite poorly with 60% in USA and Canada, over 40% in several European countries and more than 20% in many developed and developing countries. International experience shows that no country has been able to become an economically advanced country, if its enrolment ratio in higher education has been less than 20%. The foremost priority must, therefore, be to raise this ratio to a minimum threshold level of about 20 per cent for sustained economic development.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Plan strives to achieve a target of 15% GER through a multi-pronged strategy which focusses on inclusiveness. These include establishment of 16 new central universities in states without any central university, and additional 14 Central Universities, support to state to set up colleges in 350 districts where the GER is lower than all India average and also establishment of new IITs and IIMs. The establishment of Central University Ranchi is a part of this endeavour.

University Education in Jharkhand commenced in the erstwhile state of Bihar with the establishment of Ranchi University in 1960. We now have universities at Hazaribagh, Dumka and Palamau and an Agriculture University at Kanke, Ranchi. Other than this we have two deemed universities, BIT, Mesra and Indian School of Mine, Dhanbad. Sanction has also been given by state

government to Kolhan University, Chaibasa, Jharkhand Technical University, Ranchi Law School and ICFAI Private University. Although expansion of higher education facilities has taken place all over Jharkhand over the last nine years, but a lot still needs to be done. At present our enrolment in Universities and Colleges are far less than compared to other states and national average. I hope this newly created central University as well as the newly sanctioned IIM (Ranchi) and the various initiatives of state government will fill the gap and provide the much-needed fillip to the spread of higher education in Jharkhand.

The Central University Jharkhand is presently located in temporary premises here at Brambe(Brambay) so the facilities and actual infrastructure might be limited. Land allocation for the permanent site is the responsibility of the State Government. I shall ensure that this exercise is carried out immediately so that work on the permanent site can be carried out early. Observing the speed and focus in which the academic programmes have started here, the building of the permanent campus should not take long. We all look forward to a world class campus being established here in our state.

I am particularly happy to note that the Central University of Jharkhand is laying a lot of stress on character and personality development. It is important to encourage participating in extracurricular activities like sports, NSS, NCC, music, drama, etc. The mandatory soft skills and computer applications as well as the field exposure to rural and special areas, would help in moulding and building you up. You must make use of the opportunities open to you to develop your other skills and aptitudes. By being involved and working or playing together your team spirit and sense of oneness becomes stronger. Ours is a great nation with an ancient civilization and a composite culture. We can make it stronger by living this sense of unity in diversity which is so unique to us.

The State of Jharkhand has one of the largest mineral deposits in the country. What it needs is manpower with drive and determination, people with vision who are committed to serve the nation, who find fulfillment in doing good

for the nation and others. This state, this country awaits you the youth of today to rise and translate the dreams and visions of our nation into reality.

I wish the Central University of Jharkhand a great success and look forward to seeing it grow in leaps and bounds. While being sensitive to local issues its vision must be global.

I congratulate the first Vice Chancellor and his dedicated team in establishing the academic programmes well on time. I believe that of all the 12 new Central Universities that were established together, the Central University of Jharkhand is the first to start its academic programmes. The State of Jharkhand is fortunate to have such a committed team of individuals who come from different parts of the country and who are demonstrating that by working together in a focused and determined way almost anything can be achieved.

I wish you well and assure you of my full support to develop this University into one of truly world standards.

I am happy to formally declare open the first academic programmes and the temporary campus of the Central University of Jharkhand.

*Jai Bharat, Jai Jharkhand*