

**Speech of His Excellency Shri K. Sankaranarayanan,
the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of the National
Sports Day on 29th August 2009.**

**Shri T.P.Sinha, Advisor to Governor, Secretary Sports, Director
Sports, Sportsmen & women ladies & gentlemen,**

**I am happy to take part in today's National Sports Day
celebrations at this newly built Hockey Stadium.**

**The National Sports day is celebrated on the birthday of Late
Major Dhayan Chand, the hockey wizard Dhyan Chand was born on
29th August, 1905 in Allahabad. His original name was Dhyan Singh
but the Britishers gave him the name of Dhyan Chand as he used to
practice hockey even under the moon light.**

**A memorable incident took place in Dhyan Singh's hockey and
army career. When he was 14 years old, he accompanied his father to
a hockey match played between two Army teams composed of
English Officers in which one team was lagging behind two goals.
Dhyan repeatedly told his father that if given a stick, he could make
the losing team win. His father told him to be quiet. A British Army
Officer sitting nearby also scolded him. But Dhyan Singh insisted on
playing and the officer finally allowed him to play. Dhyan went to
the field and scored 4 goals. So impressed was the officer that he
inducted Dhyan Singh into the Children Platoon. This is how his
career in Hockey started.**

**He was 24 years old when he first represented the country in
the 1928 Olympic Games, Amsterdam. He was captain of the Indian**

team in the 1936 Olympic at Berlin. Major Dhyan Chand, a legendary centre forward player, is remembered for his goal scoring feats. Dhyan Chand won 3 Olympic Gold medals in 1928, 1932 & 1936. At the age of 42, he had scored 61 goals in 22 matches during the tour of East Africa in 1947. Government of India has given him Padma Bhushan Award.

In order to give impetus to the Sports Persons of this State the Govt. of Jharkhand has instituted various cash award schemes, scholarship schemes for the players of Jharkhand. Jharkhand is proud of its players in games like hockey, archery, athletics, boxing, shooting etc.

On 8th August 09 we had gathered in a similar function to felicitate Deepika, Anthres Lakra and several others for their impressive performance at National & International level. The superlative achievements of our own Mahendra Singh Dhoni have put Ranchi and Jharkhand at the very top of the cricketing map of the world.

On the occasion of National Sports Day I exhort all sports persons of the state to try to excel in your field of games and make the State and Country proud of you. Today certain prestigious awards has been conferred upon. I hope in coming days you will shine and make yourself capable of receiving such awards.

I was informed that the stadiums that are being constructed for the forthcoming National Games are of International standard. The Govt. is spending lot of money in the Sports sector. I call upon the Jharkhand Olympic Association and all other Games Association to try their level best to properly train and motivate our players.

In conclusion, I hope, the newly constructed hockey stadium & other upcoming stadiums will give a major boost to sports as a whole.

I wish all success to our players.

Thank you,