

Speech of Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of ADRI Silver Jubilee International Conference on 'Bihar and Jharkhand: Shared History to Shared Vision' at Patna

It is a great pleasure for me to be the Chairperson of this Valedictory Session of the third and Final ADRI Silver Jubilee International Conference on 'Bihar and Jharkhand: Shared History to Shared Vision'. I am very confident that the deliberations of this five-day conference has been very intense and fruitful, and the participants will return from here with a sound understanding about the development challenges in our two adjoining states.

Bihar and Jharkhand, right from ancient times, have attracted scholars' attention for various reasons. The region that presently encompasses these two states holds histories that shape them even today. The region is remembered for its numerous achievements in ancient period like the place where Buddhism first emerged, and the great centre of learning in Nalanda.

Some of the socio-economic and cultural differences within the region cumulated in the partition of the region in 2000 and the formation of the two separate federal states. When the original Bihar was bifurcated as Bihar and Jharkhand, it was definitely an important political event. It was a response to the political aspirations of the people of Jharkhand who had been asking for this separation for many years. But political events, howsoever important, cannot dominate all social, economic and cultural trends. The borders have separated the region politically but have not disunited the states socio-economically and/or culturally. As neighbouring

states with shared pasts, the borders are porous, both literally and symbolically. If one observes the social trajectory of Bihar and Jharkhand in last 17 years, this becomes quite apparent. Since independence, there have been a number of occasions when states have been reorganised, the major one being in 1956. And on every occasion, it has been quite apparent that certain time-honoured human relations always survive, even when states or regions are politically separated.

In case of Bihar and Jharkhand, one must remember that they have been together for many years, starting from the days of Bengal Presidency that was the creation of 2 colonial administrations. It is, therefore, not surprising that, even after the separation, their relations are very vibrant. In contrast to the relation between old Bihar and Odisha, which were also together until 1934, the relation between Bihar and Jharkhand has survived the political separation. One important reason for that is the linguistic homogeneity of the two states, but there are other factors as well. Secondly, one must also remember that the mineral-rich Jharkhand and fertile land-rich Bihar can complement each other's natural endowment in a very significant way, driving the growth engine in both the states. This will truly make it possible for Jharkhand and Bihar to have a shared vision, after they have shared a history for more than a century.

Friends, I am extremely glad that members of ADRI not only conceived this idea of shared history to shared vision for Jharkhand and Bihar, but solidified it by organising this International Conference. I am almost sure that this achievement of ADRI was possible because it has been in the midst of social science research for 25 years. Admittedly, 25 years is not a long period for an institution; but for a new institution, the first 25 years is indeed crucial. It is during this period that the institution lays its

foundation, and it is the strength of this foundation that carries it in its future years. I learn that although the major part of ADRI's academic activities is in Bihar, it has also been present in Jharkhand for last 20 years. I sincerely wish that ADRI is able to extend its academic activities to Jharkhand to benefit the people there and enthuse the scholars in Jharkhand to undertake more and more social science research. In any case, I take this opportunity to congratulate the members of ADRI for their commendable efforts during the last 25 years. I also wish them more achievements in social science research during the years to come.

I also trust that the deliberations at this conference over the past few days will enthuse the stakeholders in both our states to chart and traverse new horizons of development.

Jai Hind.