

Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of inauguration of Birsa Munda Stadium and felicitation of Ms Deepika and other sports persons for their achievements on 8th August 2009 at Birsa Munda Stadium Ranchi

Shri T.P.Sinha Advisor I/C Deptt., of Art,Culture & Sports and Youth Affairs,Mr.S.M.Hashmi, Organising Secretary 34th National Games Organising Committee, Secretary Deptt. of Sports & Youth Affairs, Sportsmen & Women, ladies and gentlemen.

I am delighted to be here in your midst. Jharkhand has a very distinguished record in the sporting landscape of our country. Today we have gathered to celebrate the performance of our sporting heroes, who have done the state proud through their achievements.

The inauguration of this stadium, named after the inspirational freedom fighter & youth icon Birsa Munda, is indeed a landmark event as it is a curtain raiser for the forthcoming National Games.

My Government is committed for the development of sports in a befitting manner. I am happy to learn that our children are excelling in different National events.

Stadium at District, Subdivision & certain Blocks are being constructed to provide proper sporting facility for our children.

To promote the sports activity in the State, 27 Residential Training Centres and 103 Day Boarding Centres have been created.

Today the Government is paying Rs. 16.00 Lakhs to various sports personnel for their achievements. Stipend at the rate of 500/- to 6000/- per month, are also being given to the players according to their achievements to boost their morale and inspire them towards higher goals in future. I was informed that different Sports Associations are trying their level best for development of sports, in the State and for this they are also being funded by the State.

We all are very proud of Deepika who has won gold at world sub junior meet in Archery. I congratulate Anthres Lakra for getting Bronze medal in world Senior Boxing Championship. I also congratulate all other children who have brought laurels to our State.

No account of our sporting heroes will be complete without the mention of the remarkable and superlative achievements of Shri Mahendra Singh Dhoni, the

captain of India's cricket team, who has put Ranchi and Jharkhand at the very top of the cricketing map of the world.

We are going to hold 34th National Games in the month of November. As you might have noticed that the IOA Steering Committee has commended our efforts for organising the National Game. No body should have any doubt regarding the steps taken by the State in this regard.

The Govt. is also committed for preserving and developing our cultural heritage. Support is being extended to artists for this purpose. My Govt. is committed to encourage sports & culture in a befitting manner. A multipurpose cultural complex is coming up at Hotwar where training facilities for folk dances, classical dances, vocal & instrumental music shall be imparted.

A State Museum is already constructed and soon it shall be dedicated to the public.

In archaeology sector, excavation work has already been completed at Khukhragarh and more schemes have been sanctioned. This would help the public to know about our glorious cultural heritage.

I expect the support of everyone in making the National Games a grand success.

Jai Hind.