

Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of August Kranti Diwas on 09th August 2009

I am indeed extremely happy to be here to commemorate the historic (Quit India Movement Diwas) which started on 09th August 1942 under the inspiring leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation. The Quit India Movement (Bharat Chhodo Andolan or the August Movement) was a civil disobedience movement, which aimed to drive away the Britishers through determined, but passive resistance. Unilaterally and without consultation, the British had entered India into World War II, arousing the indignation of large numbers of Indian people. On July 14, 1942, the Indian National Congress passed a resolution demanding complete independence from Britain and massive civil disobedience. On August 8, 1942, the Quit India Resolution was passed at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC). In a speech entitled, "Do or Die," given on August 8, 1942, Gandhi urged the masses to act as an independent nation and not to follow the orders of the British. His call found support among a large number of Indians, including revolutionaries who were not necessarily party to Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence.

It is indeed befitting that this function is being held under the auspices of Jharkhand state Khadi & Village Industries Board given the historic close association between our national movement and khadi. I deem it was at the Nagpur session (1920) that the Indian National Congress decided to encourage "Khadi". The first Khadi production centre was established at Katiawad, Gujarat, Mahatma Gandhi used to refer to Khadi as "The livery of freedom". In fact, Khadi was introduced in 1920 as a political weapon and as the best instrument for giving concrete expression to the Swadeshi Spirit to boycott foreign goods. Khadi rendered an opportunity to every man, woman and child to cultivate self-discipline and self-sacrifice as a part of the non-cooperation movement.

Gandhi wrote, Swaraj (self-rule) without Swadeshi (country made goods) is a lifeless corpse and if Swadeshi is the soul of Swaraj, Khadi is the essence of Swadeshi. Therefore khadi became not only a symbol of revolution and resistance but part of an Indian identity.

The post independence period saw the Government of India and the planning commission assuring the responsibility of fitting khadi and village Industries within the framework of five-year plans. In 1948 Govt. of India recognized the role of Rural Cottage Industries in the Industrial Policy resolution, 1948. Constituent Assembly included Cottage Industries in Rural Areas among the directive Principles of the Constitution in Article 43. These ideas were elaborated in the First five-year plan, which laid down the Policy framework for setting up of a body for khadi and village Industries. Central Government also recommended for setting up of a board.

Today the range of khadi products is virtually unlimited... spread across the entire spectrum, from garments to household linen to furnishings, and other items. Over decades khadi has moved from being a freedom fighter's identity fabric to a fabric-of-choice for the world-of-fashion. The demand for khadi fabrics has skyrocketed in recent times and despite the million workers across the country spinning and weaving this wonderful fabric- demand continues to outstrip supply.

I have been told in all Jharkhand khadi & Village Industries Board became functional from January 2005 and has been doing work thus them. Jharkhand Govt. has accorded high priority to Khadi sector with the objective of promoting a self-reliant rural economy and decentralized process of growth.

On this historic anniversary I once again pay my respectful salutation us to our freedom fighters and rededicate myself to the development of Khadi & Village Industries.

Jai Hind!

Jai Jharkhand!