

Speech of His Excellency Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of investiture of President's Police Medals at JAP-I Ground Ranchi on 1-09-2009.

Shri T.P.Sinha Advisor to Governor, Shri Shiv Basant Chief Secretary, Shri V.D.Ram Director General of Police, Shri J.B.Tubid Home Secretary, All Officers and men of Jharkhand Police & their families, Other representatives of State Government, Representatives of Media & Press, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to be at this ceremonial police parade. Today we are honouring some of the outstanding officers of Jharkhand police who have rightfully earned their medals as well as recognition from the Government of India for their hard work and professionalism. On this day we are also paying our tribute to the police martyrs who have shown exemplary courage and laid down their lives for the security and safety of this state and the country. On behalf of the grateful state we seek to provide assistance to their family members in a way that can in some measure give them strength to tide over their irreparable loss.

Naxalism is the principal policing issue in Jharkhand and there is little doubt that in the violent face-off between police and naxals in Jharkhand, many policemen have had to sacrifice their lives. This risk is something that we cannot wish away. However, we must strive to minimize this risk with a professional approach. This is important because while on the one hand the loss of one policeman's life is a great

loss for his near and dear ones, on the other it is also a body blow to the morale of the governance mechanism in the state. It is time for us to have better strategies and greater professionalism so that we have the upper hand and our losses in terms of men and material are minimized.

In my opinion, the critical factor behind effective policing is better training and a totally professional approach. This is true not only for day-to-day policing but also for policing against organized crimes and policing in the face of the naxal challenge. I would urge Jharkhand police to put a lot of focus on the constant training in knowledge, skills and attitudes of good policing. But, more importantly the general policing in the state should be fully professional and citizen friendly in their approach. As I have said earlier, the police are the visible face of Government. The law and order scenario is often taken as a litmus test of good governance in a state. That is why the responsibility on Jharkhand police is of a very critical nature.

I am glad that the state police are taking several steps in the direction of being a professional and modernized police force. I am told that in the last 4 years more than 20,000 police personnel have been recruited and trained. Similarly, nearly 6000 personnel have been given specialized training like counter-insurgency, jungle warfare, bomb-detection and disposal etc. I think there is still scope of expanding the training activities and probably round the year quality training of all ranks is the answer.

In this context, it is now important for Jharkhand to have a fully equipped and professional Police Training Academy which should be on par with some of the best training academies of this country. I am happy to note that the Jungle Warfare School in Netarhat is coming up

fast. This will help Jharkhand in its fight against naxalism. On the subject of professional criminal investigation an Advanced Training Centre (ATC) for Investigating Officers needs to be set up under the CID to cater to imparting of professional investigating skills to police officers. All these steps will ultimately give the state better and more professional policing which is what the citizen desires and deserves. I expect that the DGP and his entire team of officers in the state should strive to continuously provide a citizen friendly and dynamic service to the people of this state to ensure a secure and safe Jharkhand.

I extend my sincerest support and empathy to all the families who have lost not just the breadwinners but bravehearts who died fighting for the cause of this nation. I salute their courage and the magnitude of their sacrifice. Our endeavour will be to provide all support to their families to enable them to recover from their irreparable loss.

In the end, I must say that the parade today was impressive and I commend the various wings of Jharkhand police who were represented here for their smart turn-out and excellent show. I am also eagerly looking forward to the band display which I am told is always very entertaining and impressive. I once again congratulate the officers who have distinguished themselves by earning medals and all the officers and men of Jharkhand Police for putting up a good show.

Jai Hind! Jai Jharkhand!