

**Speech of His Excellency Shri K.Sankaranarayanan the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of Prize Distribution Ceremony at Ramkrishna Mission Ashram, Morhabadi, Ranchi on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2009.**

Rev. Swami Shashankarnanda, Monks of the Ramakrishna Mission, assembled Ladies, Gentlemen and Children.

I feel immensely happy to be present among you on the occasion of the Prize Distribution Ceremony at the completion of the Annual Competition for School and College Students. I am informed that this has been continuing for more than 37 year.

As I understand, the objective of this Annual Competition which is organized by the local Ramakrishna Mission, is to spread the message of Swami Vivekananda far and wide and specially among the School and College students who are our future. Tomorrow these children will grow up and take up responsibilities and hold the reins of the Nation. Swami Vivekananda is the role model for modern generation. Love for God, for the motherland and people of India are necessary for the present generation to be enthused.

When Swami Vivekananda, returned to India in 1897 after his triumphant visit to the USA he was received with great joy and enthusiasm. From the southern most part of India he traveled to the Northern most part, Almora, now in Uttaranchal and spread the message that Mother India was the only goddess, which need be worshipped at the moment. Swamiji believed that every speck of dust belonging to India was holy. This was the only country in the world, which has spread the message of Love & Peace and never tried to conquer any territory with the might of the sword.

Swamiji was convinced that the great spiritual legacy of India, the teachings of the Vedanta, can alone bring peace and happiness. The joys of the material world are never permanent and created hankering for more and more. This hankering can only be satiated when we become spiritual and then only can lasting peace reign.

Today, the whole country is celebrating the Birthday of our 2nd President, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan as Teacher's Day. A nation is known by its people; and people are known by their teachers. My government understands that teachers are our greatest resource for nation building and hence we have recently taken a historical and momentous decision by which all the teachers in government /aided sector, including minority institutions have been given revised pay package; we are certainly ahead of many other states. This has benefited about 66000 teachers in the elementary education, 6700 in secondary education and 3100 in the higher education. I have also given directions to ensure that payment of salary to teachers is regular and through a transparent process directly into their bank accounts. I understand that these initiatives would involve additional resource commitment to the tune of 100 crores but I am convinced that this is needed for imparting quality education in the state.

In conclusion, I congratulate Ramkrishna Mission for its outstanding contribution in all fields of social work and particularly for its engagement with the youth of today who are the nation builders of tomorrow. I also congratulate the students who have participated in the Annual Competition and won prizes. And, finally, I extend my greetings and felicitations to all monks and teachers & call upon them to rededicate themselves with renewed vigor to the task of nation building.

Thank you.