

**Speech of His Excellency the Governor-cum-Chancellor of Universities of Jharkhand on the occasion of 25<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Ranchi University Ranchi on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2010.**

Her Excellency the President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Dr. Devisingh Shekhawatji, Chief Minister Shri Arjun Munda, Union Minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, Minister Human Resource Development, Jharkhand, Shri Baidyanath Ram, Vice Chancellor Dr. A A Khan, other dignitaries on & off the dias, faculty members, degree recipients and their proud parents, students, ladies & gentlemen.

This historic 25<sup>th</sup> Convocation of Ranchi University offers us a splendid opportunity to welcome Her Excellency, the President of India to the picturesque and mineral rich state of Jharkhand whose inhabitants are heirs to valiant fighters like Birsa Munda, Sidhu Kanhu and Nilamber Pitamber who laid down their lives defending the dignity & identity of their brethren. Rashtrapatiji, you will be happy to know that many of the universities in Jharkhand such as Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi, Sidhu Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka and Nilamber Pitamber University Palamu have been named after these great sons of soil to commemorate their heroic struggles against oppressors.

When Ranchi University was initially set up 50 years ago, the guiding motivation was to develop human capital in an extremely

backward region, with tremendous growth possibilities, given its inherent strengths of mineral, natural & human resources. This task remains as relevant today as it was 50 years ago. The persistence of poverty, deprivation & illiteracy amongst large sections of our population, and the consequent growth of left wing extremism therein, suggests that we have not been able to efficiently leverage our natural & human endowments for the welfare of our people. This is the main challenge before us today and I call upon all degree recipients to dedicate themselves to the task of unravelling this paradox of poverty amidst plenty that we find in Jharkhand & for working towards a just, fair & equitable society.

I convey my best wishes to all degree recipient students with special congratulations to those who have received awards and medals. It was indeed gratifying to see that almost 80% medals have been won by girl students which augurs well for the state and society. The years of toil and labour in pursuit of intellectual excellence has brought you degree recipients to the gateway of your future dreams & achievements. My hearty congratulations to your families and your teachers as well who provided the supportive ambience for you to achieve this coveted academic distinction. May the Almighty always be with you as you embark on your journey of success.

Thank you !