

**Speech of His Excellency the Governor of Jharkhand
on the occasion of National Khadi, Hastashilpa and Saras
Mahotsava on 10th December, 2010.**

Her Excellency, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Dr. Devisingh Shekhawatji, Shri Arjun Munda, Chief Minister, Shri Subodh Kant Sahay, Union Minister, Shri Dinsha Patel, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Shri C.P.Singh, Speaker, Shri Jainandu, Chairman, Jharkhand State Khadi Board, other dignitaries on & off the dias, Artisans, Master Craftsmen, Artists, Ladies & Gentlemen.

We are truly beholden to Your Excellency for your first Public Visit to Jharkhand for inauguration of the National Khadi, Hastashilpa and Saras Mahotsava. Your presence here is a source of great strength and inspiration to the million of artisans, self help groups and small entrepreneurs who are engaged in the social & economic reconstruction of the nation through a self reliant, decentralized and equitable process of growth & development.

Prior to independence Khadi and Village Industries were a potent weapon in our struggle for political independence. Post independence, Khadi & Village Industries have become an important component in our struggle for economic freedom to the vast numbers employed in the unorganized sector. No wonder the Constituent Assembly included encouragement to cottage

industries in rural areas among the Directive Principles of State Policy. With the passage of time, Khadi itself has been evolving and has moved from being the freedom fighter's identity fabric to a fabric of choice for the world of fashion.

The present National Khadi, Hastashilpa and Saras Mahotsava is an excellent example of synergy and fusion between several Ministries of central and state governments. This festival offers to the people of Jharkhand a veritable explosion of creativity and entrepreneurship, be it in the form of the artifacts on display and sale in the 500 odd stalls put up over here or in the exhilarating performances by the 3000 odd artists who have converged at Ranchi from all over the country.

I congratulate the Jharkhand State Khadi & Village Industries Board, for organizing this Mahotsava for the people of Jharkhand in such an impressive manner. Within few years of its creation, the Jharkhand Khadi & Village Industries Board has gone from strength to strength under the steward-ship of its Chairman, Shri Jainandu, and I am sanguine that it shall continue to serve the poor and downtrodden of Jharkhand through its various initiatives and programmes of training, financing, production and marketing.

I, once again, express my gratitude to Her Excellency the President of India for her benign presence at the inauguration of

this National Khadi Mahotsava which has injected a new vigor and enthusiasm in all activists, artisans, workers and artists working in the tiny, unorganized, handicrafts, handloom, Khadi and village industries sector.

Thank you.