

Speech of His Excellency Shri M.O.H.Farook, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of Foundation Day (Golden Jubilee Year Celebration) on 12th July, 2010 at Maulana Azad Senate Hall, Ranchi University Campus, Ranchi.

Vice Chancellor Dr.A.A.Khan & Pro Vice Chancellor Dr.V.P.Sharan, Past & Present members of teaching & non-teaching fraternity of Ranchi University, students, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today to inaugurate the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Ranchi University. Just as Ranchi is the capital of Jharkhand similarly Ranchi University is the intellectual capital of Jharkhand. I extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to you all on this momentous occasion.

50th Foundation Day is the time for everybody to reflect on the past achievements, present problems and future plans and visions for this temple of learning. It may be said without exaggeration that the history of Ranchi University is the history of spread of higher education in Jharkhand, a state endowed with unparalleled, human, natural and mineral resources.

I am told that at the time of the birth of the University, the entire Chotanagpur plateau consisted of the highest number of Central Government public sector undertakings offering ample employment opportunity to the inhabitants and prospects of socio-economic and industrial research to the academia. It was the vision of the late Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru to transform this plateau of hilly tracts and deep forests into an abode of industrial revolution so that basic necessities of life as food and shelter could be available to the poor inhabitants of this area while its mineral wealth could be leveraged for building a strong and modern India. The establishment of Ranchi University was possibly a part of Pt Nehru's this vision.

In due course Ranchi University became the intellectual hub of Chotanagpur as well as a centre for expressing the regional aspirations of the people of the area. With the passage of time this trend gathered momentum and as you all know, the other Universities set up in Jharkhand, were named after the illustrious sons of soils – Birsa Agriculture University in Ranchi, Sidhu Kanu Murmu University in Dumka and Nilambar Pitambar University in Palamu.

Presently, Ranchi University stands at the threshold of a stiff competition from the other Universities in the state sector as well as the private counterparts. The Union Government, under the able leadership of Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and HRD Minister Shri Kapil Sibal is intensely involved in formulating plans for giving impetus to the system of higher education in the country. It is being visualized that unless our Universities are able to compete with the best of the Universities of the world, the country may not be able

to carve out a niche for itself. Days are not far off when the reputed foreign universities may be allowed to open their centres in the country. Our own Jharkhand State may not be an exception in this connection seeing vast potentialities available here to spread the tentacles of higher education particularly in the field of professional courses. The University, therefore, has to prepare itself to meet this challenge by augmenting its resources, both financial and human. The gap between the teachers and taught in terms of numbers has to be minimized, the quality of the faculty has to be refurbished and the work skills of the employees have to be updated.

We must all also reflect on the ways to make the University system stands on its own feet without compromising on the controlling mechanisms to maintain quality. I am happy to know that Ranchi University has taken commendable steps in creating an 'Endowment Fund' of Rs 12.85 crore. The University can boast of having the largest number of research scholars under the Rajiv Gandhi Research Fellowship meant for SC & ST students. The concept of Teaching Assistantship widely prevalent in the West has also been introduced by the University and the Visiting Chairs in Humanities and Social Sciences have been instituted apart from Centres for Basic Sciences and Applied Sciences which are to commence soon. A University Placement Cell too has recently been set up to provide employment to students of the University. To augment the communicative skills of the students, the University, I am told, is soon to set up three Language Labs. I must congratulate the Vice Chancellor and his team for initiating such innovative academic programmes.

Once again I extend my heartiest congratulations to the teachers, non teaching employees, Students, the teachers who have left the University after rendering yeoman services and the officials of the University on this auspicious occasion.

Thank you,