

Speech of His Excellency Shri M.O.H.Farook, the Governor of Jharkhand on the occasion of National Conference on Biotechnology and National Development: Achievements and Challenges on 25.2.2011 at Central University Campus Brambe.

Most respected Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, Former President of India, Shri Arjun Munda, Chief Minister, Dr.D.T.Khathing, Vice Chancellor, Prof. A.B.Prasasd, other dignitaries, staff & students of Central University, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I am honoured and privileged to address such an august gathering of eminent scientists with the Former President of India, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam as the Chief Guest.

I am very happy that the Central University of Jharkhand is organising this seminar on Biotechnology which will be a critical ingredient in sustaining the future of our planet.

The wellness of humans and of the environment is directly linked to Nature's ways and processes. Over-population, pollution, health care, productivity in farming, clean air and clean water are issues that are becoming more & more important with each passing day. We are a nation of over a billion people and still growing. Science has made advances in medicines in general, and prevention, detection and treatment of diseases in particular, but we need to go at a much higher velocity. I deliberately chose the words, "higher velocity", as it conveys not only a higher speed but also connotes a sense of direction. Conferences like this do give directions for our future efforts.

Resources that seemed infinite yesterday are increasingly becoming scarce as the days go by; the strain on Mother Earth is bound to give way to

catastrophic calamities unless our scientists and planners come up with solutions. Biotechnology offers a ray of hope to tackle these problems today in order to save our earth for our children's quality of life tomorrow.

I would like to urge our scientists and particularly the youth to dream big, again remembering we are a nation of a billion plus people, and act not only through our minds but also through our hearts. We will do well to remember that we are not only one of the fastest growing economies but also that we are demographically one of the youngest nations in the world and when everywhere else there will be demographic decline we in India will be harvesting the demographic dividend.

The convergence of science and humanities and spirituality is what would take our country forward. It is therefore in the fitness of things that the vision statement of Central University Jharkhand talks about producing world class students ready to excel in every chosen field with honour and uprightness.

I am confident that CUJ will do full justice to this vision judging by the rapid progress it has made in just over a year. We feel proud when we hear that of all the newly established Central Universities, CUJ is a forerunner with 10 Five Year Integrated Courses.

I congratulate Prof. D.T. Khathing, Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Jharkhand, and all the supporting officers and staff for having achieved what they have.

I wish this conference and CUJ all success.

Jai Hind!