

Speech of Hon'ble Governor -cum- Chancellor of Universities of Jharkhand on the occasion of National Seminar on History of Jharkhand: A blue Print for Reconstruction on 28th November, 2015 organized by University Dept. of History, Ranchi University

It is my pleasure to address this august gathering in the two days National Seminar on the "History of Jharkhand; A Blue Print for Reconstruction" organized by Department of History, Ranchi University and I congratulate the organizers.

We know that in every society there is historical consciousness. In fact, history surrounds us. We, the human beings are caught up in the moment of time and event from the date we were born. It indicates the importance of historical study and research. It is, however, abundantly clear and universally acceptable that, "We are, what, we think about us". Our own opinion about ourselves is largely formed through historical perspective. It is in this manner that I think history plays very important role in everybody's life.

All of us know that Parliament of India passed an act in August, 2000 to create the state of Jharkhand, which came into existence on 15th November, 2000 as 28th State in the Union of India.

Jharkhand has a unique geographical, demographic and historical composition. According to some historians, there was already a distinct geo-political & cultural entity in the area which we know as Jharkhand even before the period of Magadha Empire. Many scholars now believe that the language of tribal person of Jharkhand is identical to the one used by people in Harppan civilization. This has led to a great interest in the deciphering of Harappa inscriptions using rock paintings and language used by these tribes. During the age of Mahajanpadas around 500 BC, India saw the emergence of 16 large states that controlled the entire Indian subcontinent. In those days the northern portion of Jharkhand state was a tributary to Magadha (ancient Bihar) Empire and southern part was a tributary to Kalinga (ancient Orissa) Empire. According to legend,

Raja Jai Singh Deo of Orissa had declared himself the ruler of the part of present southern area of Jharkhand in the 13th century.

Later, during the Mughal period, the Jharkhand area was known as Kukara. After the year 1765, it came under the control of the British Empire and became formally known under its present title, "Jharkhand" - the Land of "Jungles" (forests) and "Jharis" (bushes).

The colonization of Jharkhand by the British East India Company resulted in spontaneous resistance from the local people. Jharkhand has always been on the forefront of the freedom struggle. We have long traditions of mass protest like Santhal Hul, Coal the movement of Birsa Munda, Tana movement etc.

Jharkhand has been a centre of various religious cultures. Hindusm, Jainism, Buddhism, all made their way in to Jharkhand. We all know that Parasnath hill in District of Giridih has been an important centre of

Jainism. It is believed that 20 out of 23 Tirthankars got 'nirwan' at this place.

Similarly, Buddhism also was a very popular religion of Jharkhand. Recently, the Government of Jharkhand had organised Itkhor Mahotsav. We all know that Itkhor in Chatra District is a famous Buddhist site. Oral traditions say that Lord Buddha came here. Vaishnavism was also followed in Jharkhand. Chaitnya Mahaprabhu went Gaya through this region. Vadiyanath Dham, Deoghar is house to one of the Jyotirlingas. Besides tribes of the Jharkhand worships the nature & hills like, Karma, Sarhul, Lugu Buru, Lugu Baba, Lugu Aayo, Marang Buru, Jaher ayo of Parasnaath & Jahira Puja in a every tribal village of all over Jharkhand.

In medieval period Islamic culture also penetrated in this region. It is believed that Shershah utilized the resources of Jharkhand against Humayun, the Mughal emperor Chotanagpur became a feudatory state during Akbar's regime. Jahangir in his book "Tujuk-e-

Jahangiri” informs that diamonds were available in the mines of Jharkhand.

In oral traditions Chotanagpur is also known as ‘Hiranagpur’. B. Ball, a colonial writer, found during his visit that tribal people were collecting gold from the sands of river Sankh. Still to day Jharkhand is one of the richest regions of India in mineral resources.

The topic of the seminar “History of Jharkhand; Blue-Print for Reconstruction” is relevant as well as important for the nascent State of Jharkhand which has to explore its own identity as a separate State in the Union of India. Some work in this direction was also done earlier, either under the heading history of Chhotanagpur, Kolhan, Santhal Pargana or history of South Bihar but now with a new political identity, not only a new perspective has to be added but many unexplored and virgin areas and vistas are also required to be taken up.

In recent times there is a lot of talk about history as a subject, both about its contents, as well as its perspective. The focus of history has also undergone certain changes in due course with emphasis shifting from the ruler to the ruled. There is no doubt that while exploring our past we should earnestly stick to the truth. It is, however, equally important that while analyzing that truth the expert (historian) should be totally unbiased, without any pride or prejudice. We should never underestimate the collective wisdom of the people and the tendency to suppress the fact in the name of guarding the people's emotion, should be discouraged. To me, it seems that the best course is that the entire truth should be placed on record so that people at large are left to make out their own opinion. Thus, I think that such seminar though apparently seems to serve immediate interest of the students, academicians; research scholars etc. are also very material and pertinent for the general masses at large.

I hope that the deliberations in this two days National Seminar would pave the way for the blue print of History of Jharkhand. I wish you all the success.

Jai Hind!