



A GLOBAL MEET

Patna 2007

R E P O R T

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RESURGENT BIHAR

A GLOBAL MEET

19-21 January 2007
Patna

R E P O R T



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADRI	Asian Development Research Institute
AIIMS	All India Institute of Medical Science
ANSISS	ANS Institute of Social Studies
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activists
BCC	Bihar Chamber of Commerce
BIA	Bihar Industries Association
Bihar COMPFED	Bihar Cooperative Milk Producers Federation
DFID	UK's Department for International Development
G2B	Government to Business
G2C	Government to Community
G2G	Government to Government
GER	Gross Enrollment Ratio
GSDP	Gross State Domestic Product
IAY	Indira Awas Yojna
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
ICOR	Incremental Capital-Output Ratio
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IHD	Institute for Human Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
IT	Information Technology
ITI	Industrial Training Institutes



JNNURM	Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission
Kwh	Kilo Watt per Hour
MMR	Maternal Mortality Rate
NGOs	Non Government Organisations
NREGS	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
NRIs	Non Resident Indians
OBCs	Other Backward Classes
PDS	Public Distribution System
PHC	Primary Health Centres
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution
PURA	Provision of Urban Services in Rural Areas
SC	Scheduled Castes
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
SSA	Sarva Siksha Abhiyan
SSI	Small Scale Industries
ST	Scheduled Tribes
T&D	Transmission and Distribution
UNCTAD	United Nations Council for Trade and Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

PREFACE

Recently Bihar has witnessed a series of initiatives and concerted efforts aimed at pulling it out of its quagmire. There is a new hope and enthusiasm in various sections of the people of the state about their better future. This has brought a perceptible change in the image of the state.

Being the second most densely populated state and also among the poorest in the country, Bihar's transformation is vital in terms of its significance for the overall development of the country. However, the historical burden notwithstanding, the state faces enormous challenges - economic (financial and infrastructural), institutional and social. Success of any development strategy depends on a serious engagement among all stakeholders in order to identify issues, and prioritise and develop strategies for action. The strengths of the state need to be maximised while focussing on strategies to overcome the bottlenecks, forging partnerships with all stakeholders and benefiting from technical know-how, ideas and experiences form critical ingredients for successful implementation of development strategies.

With this broad perspective and understanding, the Institute for Human Development (IHD) New Delhi, which has been engaged in series of studies on Bihar, organised a "Global Meet for a Resurgent Bihar" at Patna during 19 to 21 January 2007 with active support from the Government of Bihar. The overall objective of the Meet was to bring together on one platform, leaders of industry and trade, policy makers, scholars, social activists, etc., to identify strategies, explore opportunities and partnerships for playing their effective roles towards the development of the state.

The Meet was the first of its kind in the state. The participation and contribution towards identification of issues and strategies for a resurgent Bihar were aimed at strengthening and revitalising the governance and various institutions (socio-cultural and value system, civil society, bureaucracy, people's organisations, other forms of institutional and delivery mechanisms) for improving different economic and infrastructure sectors and for human and social development.

Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, the President of India, inaugurated the Meet and set the agenda for resurgence of Bihar. Over the next three days, several prominent academicians, representatives from the industry, government, non-government organisations (NGOs) and bilateral and multilateral funding agencies deliberated on key issues that the state face and came up with insightful recommendations on the development strategy to be adopted. The Meet attracted over 700 delegates including a number of dignitaries from diverse backgrounds, with about 400 of them from outside Bihar. A large number of non-resident Indians, hailing from Bihar as well as elsewhere, also participated enthusiastically in the Meet and provided valuable insights for the resurgence of Bihar.



This Report tries to put together key outcomes of the deliberations. It gives a summary coverage of the various parallel and plenary sessions of the three-day Meet and concrete recommendations that emerged from it. We hope that this report is not only a source of information but also serves as an informed policy document for all the stakeholders to build a resurgent Bihar.

May 2007
New Delhi

Alakh N Sharma
Director
Institute for Human Development New Delhi
and Meet Convener

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The organisation and success of the Meet was made possible due to the valuable contributions from various quarters. We are grateful to the Government of Bihar for its support and collaboration right from the inception till the conclusion of the Meet. We would like to whole-heartedly acknowledge the support that we received from Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar who was also the Chief Patron of the Meet and Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, who was the Chairperson of the Steering Committee. The Meet would not have been a success without their unflinching support

Immense thanks are due to Mr. N.K. Singh, Vice Chairman, Bihar State Planning Board and Mr. S.C. Jha, Chairman of the Special Task-force on Bihar (who were Co-Chairpersons of the Steering Committee). Professor Yoginder K. Alagh, Chairman of IHD and the Chairman of the Organising Committee; Professor S.R. Hashim, Former Chairman, UPSC and Prof. C.P. Thakur, Former Member of Parliament extended their full support and guidance at each stage of the Meet and we express our thanks to them.

Our heart-felt thanks are due to Mr. A.K. Chaudhary, Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar; Shri S. Vijayaraghavan, Industrial Development Commissioner; Shri Anjani Kumar Singh, Secretary, Culture, Government of Bihar and Mr. B. Rajendra, District Magistrate, Patna for their help and cooperation at every stage.

Our sincere gratitude to all the sponsors who came forward to provide all-important support for the Meet.

We would like to acknowledge the contributions of our local organising partners - Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), ANS Institute of Social Studies (ANSISS), Bihar Chamber of Commerce (BCC), Bihar Industries Association (BIA), Bihar Times and TiE (Bihar Chapter) who provided useful support in coordination at various levels. Special thanks to Dr. Shaibal Gupta, Member-Secretary, ADRI; Dr. P.P. Ghosh, Director, ADRI; Shri B.P.S. Kesari, President, BIA; Shri Ajay Kumar, CEO, Bihar Times; Shri S.P. Sinha, Chairman TiE (Bihar Chapter); Shri Thakur, BCC for their help at every stage. Thanks to Shri S.P. Sinha, TiE who extended the facilities of Hotel Maurya in not only hosting the Meet but also sponsoring a part of it.

We take the opportunity of thanking all the overseas participants. Special thanks to Mr. Ramesh Yadav, Mr. Ravi Varma and Shri N. Sharma, all from USA for their active support and valuable advice.

The Meet has benefited from the active support of the Steering Committee as well as the Organising Committee. The suggestions and contributions from every member of these Committees are

gratefully acknowledged. Several eminent scholars and policy makers attended the Meet. They presented high quality papers, discussed issues and provided valuable recommendations in various technical sessions. We thank all the paper writers, chairpersons, participants and rapporteurs for their enthusiastic participation and support.

Our sincere thanks to the Press and Media personnel at Bihar and from other parts of the country, for providing extensive coverage of the Meet in print as well as in visual media.

We would like to acknowledge the herculean efforts of the entire team at IHD who put in long hours in undertaking the massive task of organising the Meet. Special thanks to Mr. Prem Chandra, Dr. R.P. Mamgain, Ms. Jyoti Girish, Ms. V. Kalpana, Ms. Madhavi Chauhan, Mr. Ashwini Kumar, Ms. Uma Sarmistha, Ms. Amrita Datta, and Ms. Sonali Mukhopadhyay for looking into minute details of the event and ensuring success of the Meet. Special thanks are due to Mr. Abhinav Alakshendra of NCAER, New Delhi; Mr. I.C. Awasthi of IAMR, New Delhi and Mr. Ajay Kumar of Humanity, Ranchi for their untiring help and logistic support during the entire Meet.

Last but not the least, several government officials from the state of Bihar helped in making the Meet a grand success. We thank all of them. Our special thanks to Shri Umashankar, Personal Assistant, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar who helped us untiringly in all our logistical processes.

Mr. C. Upendranadh has put together the draft of the report. Comments and suggestions from Professor D.N. Reddy, Professor T.S. Papola, Professor Ashok Mathur and Dr. Ashok Pankaj have helped immensely in refining this report. We thank all of them for their support.

Finally, our thanks to Shri Dhruva Narayan and Pravin Mishra of Daanish Books for designing the layout and ensuring a timely delivery of this report, racing against time!

PROCEEDINGS

1.1 Prologue

A Global Meet on the Resurgent Bihar took place in Patna during 19-21 January 2007. The first ever meet of its kind in the state, it was heralded as the beginning of a new era of hope vis a vis the future of Bihar. The sceptics too began to look at things with renewed optimism.

The Meet was organised by the Institute for Human Development (IHD), with active support and participation by the Government of Bihar. The other local organising partners included the Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Bihar Times, Bihar Chamber of Commerce, TiE (Bihar Chapter) and Bihar Industries Association.

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Hon'ble President of India, inaugurated the Meet in the S.K. Memorial Hall and set the agenda for the resurgence of Bihar through a 10-point programme. He urged commitment from all participants, including the Hon'ble Governor Shri R.S. Gavai, Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Shushil Kumar Modi, Ministers, MPs and MLAs, besides a number of distinguished guests and delegates who were also present at the inaugural session.

The Meet brought together over 700 delegates, with a significant representation from the Indian diaspora. These included the academics, media, non-governmental organisations, business and industry, as well as representatives from the field of art and culture and from government. Such a diverse gathering gave a unique and holistic flavour to the Meet. The eminent personalities who participated in the Meet included Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister; Lord Meghnad Desai, Emeritus Professor at the London School of Economics and Member of the House of Lords, UK; and Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member of the Planning Commission, Government of India. The Meet also attracted a number of persons from Industry (such as Mr. Y.C. Deveswar, Chairman of ITC) and several others from film and media.

Then there were representatives from international agencies such as the World Bank, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), UK's Department for International Development (DFID) besides other bilateral and multilateral agencies who participated in the Meet along with others from various non-government organisations.

During the three-day Meet, there were discussions and deliberations on different issues and sectors, priorities and strategies. These were based on the 40 odd papers written by eminent experts,



President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Nitish Kumar and Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Sushil Kumar Modi lighting lamp at the inaugural function



A section of audience at the inaugural function at S.K. Memorial Hall, Patna

commented upon by an equally prominent panel and an enlightened audience (a copy of the programme is being given in the Appendix). The deliberations focussed on the strengths and weaknesses of the state, and identified priorities and strategies for a resurgent Bihar. It was emphasised that the state had enough potentialities and its strength lay in its good quality alluvial soil; plenty of water; abundant, cheap and hard working labour force; an educated and successful diaspora interested in and committed to the state's development; its rich historical legacy, centres of religious and historical importance and literary tradition. However, its physical and social infrastructure is lacking in many respects, particularly in terms of road, the power situation, irrigation and flood control, technical and higher education, as well as in social sectors. Huge investments are required, and that too urgently, to bring about the much needed improvement in these areas. Equally important is the need for an accountable and transparent government at the delivery level; massive reforms in administration and in law and order machinery and criminal and judicial system are needed urgently.

Major themes discussed in the technical sessions included:

- Agriculture and agro-based industries.
- Physical infrastructure and scope for public-private partnerships.
- Entrepreneurship and brand building for Bihar.
- Financial infrastructure and institutions.
- Tourism and hospitality industry.
- Urban development.
- Education and skill development.
- Health, sanitation and nutrition.
- Institutions and governance for development.

A special roundtable on 'Bihar as a Knowledge Hub' was held to deliberate on the potential in promoting quality human resource base in the state. The role of information technology (IT) in development and the urgency to develop human resources in this knowledge-based sector was the focus of the roundtable. The discussion generated considerable interest among the nascent IT sector of the state.

A special plenary session on forging international partnership with Bihar was marked by presentations from agencies like UNICEF, DFID, ILO, UNCTAD, the American Consulate Office (Kolkata) and the World Bank. Several bilateral and multilateral agencies renewed their commitment to support resurgence of Bihar, especially in the areas of human and social development.

The Meet also enabled networking and alliance building among the various stakeholders as the participants belonged to different economic and social sectors like policy making, business, NGOs institutional organisations etc.



President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam delivering the inaugural address



Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Hon'ble President of India, Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar and Dr. Alakh N. Sharma, Director, Institute for Human Development and Coordinator of the Meet at the end of the inaugural function

1.2. Inaugural Address by the Honourable President of India

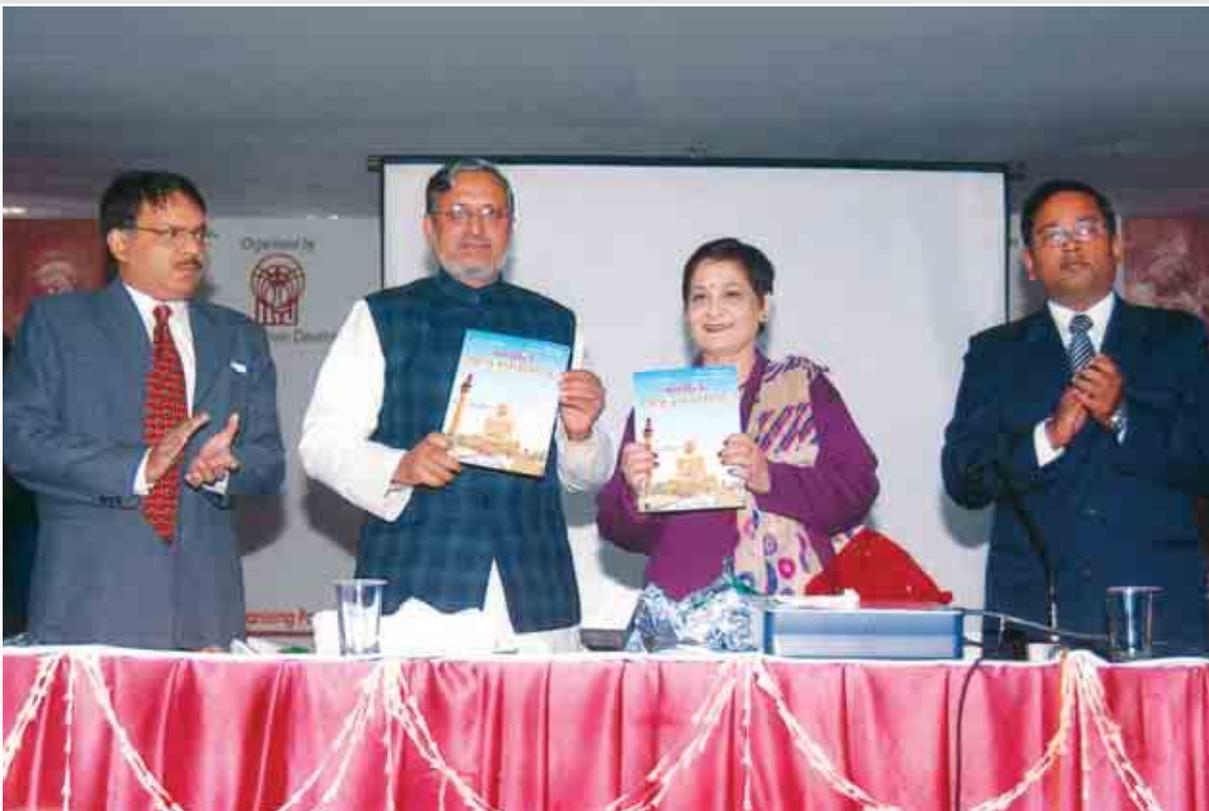
“Bihar has no time to lose”, was the central message of the President’s inaugural address, and that a “developed Bihar would lead to a developed India”. Recalling his address of March 2006, at the Joint Session of the Bihar Legislature, the President reiterated the mission to make Bihar economically prosperous. He exhorted that the leaders of industry and trade, policy makers, scholars, development practitioners and social activists, all had their roles in realising this vision. Setting the tone for discussions at the Meet, the President identified priorities for the state in order to foster rapid growth and development. The areas identified for special attention included agriculture and food processing, other agro-based industries, flood and water management, infrastructure development, education and entrepreneurship including revitalisation of institutions of higher learning, strengthening of healthcare system, and tourism promotion. He also referred to the establishment of Nalanda International University, which has received huge support from the Central Government as well as from other countries.

Further articulating the agenda, the President underlined the need to adopt the following concrete strategies for all-round economic development and resurgence of Bihar.

- i. Fiscal correction, enhancing the revenue, controlling the expenditure and restructuring debt and borrowings.
- ii. Restructuring of the public sector undertakings and turning the focus towards providing quality services to people while at the same time making them competitive.
- iii. Creating an export led economy in the state.
- iv. Reviving the cooperative societies with new management structure, state-of-the-art technology, value addition, export oriented market linkages, coupled with state-of-the-art training.
- v. Reviving the agriculture sector through diversification, efficiency in water management and alternate cropping, agro-food processing and through creating a market chain.
- vi. Encouraging cultivation of commercial crops with market advantage while ensuring food security with the stabilisation of food grains cultivation and increase in food production.
- vii. Accelerating the growth momentum in the manufacturing and services sector with an attractive investment climate, single window clearance, creating special economic zones, deregulation, and better monitoring instead of control.
- viii. Delivering quality services to people through smart governance using Government to Government (G2G), Government to Community (G2C) and Government to Business (G2B) e-governance grids across the state in civil administration, police administration, and institutional administration, thereby creating transparency and accountability in these areas.
- ix. Establishment of PURA (Provision of Urban services in Rural Areas) to remove the rural-urban divide and to improve the rural economy with “One PURA Cluster – One Product” as the focus.
- x. Evolution of leadership for the mission mode operation from planning to execution to performance.



Delegates at a plenary session



Shri Shushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar releasing a book on Bihar

SECTION 2

DEVELOPMENT CONUNDRUMS OF CONTEMPORARY BIHAR

The paradox of Bihar – rich natural endowment with high concentration of poverty – emerged prominently during the discussion. In spite of the separation of the mineral rich Chotagnapur plateau, which became a separate state of Jharkhand in 2000, Bihar continues to be blessed with very good soil quality and abundant water resources.

However, over the last three decades, growth rates, in terms of the state domestic product, have been one of the slowest in the state as compared to the major states in India. Further, this growth is quite erratic as it is primarily determined by the fortunes of agriculture.

2.1 Major Concerns

Demographic

Poor demographic indicators are the major weakness of Bihar. With 880 persons per sq. km., it is the second most densely populated state in India. The considerably high rate of growth of its population (2.8 per cent per annum as against 2.1 per cent for All India) during the 1990s is also a matter of concern. Indicators on maternal, infant and child mortality reflect the poor health conditions and lack of nutrition and medi-care especially among women and children. The literacy rate of the state is also well below the national average. Female literacy rate stands at 33 per cent – among the lowest in the country.

Economy and Infrastructure

Bihar has several low performing indicators. It has the lowest per capita income (Rs. 4,088 in 2004 as against Rs. 13,332 at the All-India level); low per-capita power consumption (74.5 kwh as against 606 kwh) and low levels of urbanisation (10.5 per cent as against 28 per cent at All-India level). Poor connectivity is reflected in its very poor road infrastructure, both in terms of low mileage especially in rural areas, and abysmal road surfacing. The state has a very low credit-deposit ratio (about 24 per cent), a reflection of lack of good financial infrastructure and strong economic base for absorbing credit and bottlenecks in institutional credit delivery. Weak or defunct co-operative movement in the state is also a cause as well as a consequence of the low-performing agriculture sector.

Land and Water Use

The rich alluvial soil and substantial water resource potential of Ganges and its tributaries remains largely unexploited for the economic development of Bihar, especially in terms of improving its agriculture and horticulture base. The hydro-power generation potential of the state also remains largely unutilised since much of the hydro-potential lies in the high reaches of its tributaries which originate in Nepal. At present a great deal of the water flows unutilised and creates flood menace causing immense damage to life and property during the monsoon. The inland water bodies also provide Bihar with high pisciculture potential, which can be further exploited.

Governance

Coupled with its economic downturn over the past three decades or so, the state has also witnessed considerable erosion of governance structures and institutions. Hailed as one of the 'best governed states' in the country during the 1950s, currently the state symbolises weak institutional and governance structures in the country. The decline in the social set-up and absence of probity in public affairs has also been marked with high incidence of crime in the state. Bihar represents extreme form of failure of governance in terms of addressing the poverty challenge. Failure of governance can be seen in simple terms, for example, in the form of absenteeism of teachers and doctors. In the state, 92 per cent of health spending is in the private sector, with lowest immunisation coverage. The state is in a low equilibrium trap in terms of its social development indicators, which reflect the failure of governance and institutions. It is also poorly rated in terms of service delivery and utilisation of development funds including financial transfers from the Central Government.

2.2 Priorities

Agriculture and Agro-based Industrialisation

Given its resource endowments and population density, agriculture and agro-based industrialisation would require special focus in order to bring about overall economic growth and poverty reduction in the state. Improving farm productivity through better irrigation methods, crop diversification, as well as through promotion of horticulture and allied activities would enhance the contribution of agriculture towards the state income as well as create employment opportunities for thousands in need. A new fillip to agro-based industrialisation is possible in the state—especially in horticulture and food processing sectors—with improved road connectivity, uninterrupted power and water supply, communication systems, etc

Development of Infrastructure

Power and water supply, good roads, besides development of communication infrastructure are major challenges facing Bihar. When compared with other states, Bihar lags behind by several

decades with respect to its infrastructure development. Hence there is an urgent need for massive investments in these areas. Apart from public investment, development of innovative public-private partnership (PPP) is one of the options that the government needs to consider in addressing infrastructure bottlenecks. Given its rich heritage, PPP could also be considered to enhance the tourism infrastructure of the state, thereby generating employment as well as economic activity. Such innovative partnerships for improving or developing the required infrastructure, be it agriculture, agro-industry, or the tourism sector, would go a long way towards accelerating growth in these areas.

Education and Human Capital

It is a matter of great concern that Bihar has been lagging behind and that too for so long in the field of education – the very foundation on which the futures of individuals, states and countries are built. The problem here lies not only in the access to education, but also in its quality, which is far below acceptable standards. The need of the hour is to demonstrate strong political will backed by appropriate policy initiatives in order to achieve universal elementary education as well as to effect expansion and improvements in secondary, vocational and higher education. The recent initiative of the government towards a common education system is commendable. However, it needs to be backed up by appropriate fund allocations, especially at the elementary and secondary levels, in terms of improving school infrastructure, amenities and facilities. Decentralisation and democratisation of education has resulted in a paradigm shift in education in the state and has led to several educational reforms during the past one year, including recruitment of a large number of teachers. On the higher education front, the state has very few institutions and these too are generally ill-equipped to take on the mammoth task of providing quality education. Institutional reforms in the area of vocational and higher education therefore need to be taken up on a priority basis for the much needed upgradation of the existing institutions as well as for setting up new institutions of learning in the public sector. Such a move, to create an environment conducive to learning, would require private investment in technical institutions and other centres of learning.

A major threat to Bihar's precious human capital is the lack of proper public healthcare infrastructure, right from the village level upwards. The health indicators reflect the poor state of health of Bihar's population. High infant and child mortality rates, stunted growth and malnutrition among children are some of the major concerns with respect to public health delivery. The mushrooming of unregulated private hospitals demonstrates the fact that people are increasingly taking recourse to private services, which are often burdensome for the vast majority of the poor. Focussing attention on this major issue, with a view to improving healthcare infrastructure – including provision of adequate personnel at the primary health centres and district headquarters – should be among the top priorities if the state is to realise its goal of health for all.

Strengthening of Financial Infrastructure and Credit Delivery

A shift in policy perspective away from the overriding concern with credit-deposit ratio is the need of the hour, so as to create an environment for smooth functioning of the financial infrastructure and institutions in Bihar. This is contingent upon improvement in core areas in terms of law and order, transportation and power, which would ensure substantial inflow of investment into the state. Skill improvement and employability of the human resource base would also attract investments. The banking sector in the state is ready to seize the opportunity, as is seen in the case of financing Self-Help Groups. Use of technology in the financial sector and development of inclusive financial sector would be the priorities of the financial institutions in the state. These would play a critical role in the resurgence of the state.

Governance Reforms

Better governance and rule of law become *sine qua non* for the resurgence of Bihar. This, as articulated by the President of India during the inaugural address, can be partly achieved by using IT (e-governance) to create transparent and accountable systems. Similarly, putting in place a coherent policy framework for infrastructure development, modernisation of law and order machinery, decentralisation and social development are some of the other measures deemed crucial to addressing the issues of governance.

SECTION 3

A MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT

The inaugural address by the President of India outlined a broad framework for unpacking concrete strategies for the development of the state. Analysis and recommendations, as presented by experts, practitioners and policy makers during the Meet, were also synthesised for identifying issues and strategies to be followed.

3.1 Broad Targets

The present government has taken several initiatives for the development of the state, which are reflected in the Approach Paper of Eleventh Five Year Plan of Bihar. The targeted growth rate is 8.5 per cent per annum for this plan. With an incremental capital-output ratio (ICOR) of 4, the projected investment is Rs.58,000 crore in the public sector, while the private sector would be expected to invest over Rs.100,900 crore. An ambitious, but feasible 5-7 per cent rate of growth in agriculture is projected with effective strategies for water and flood management.

The other priorities include the upgradation of infrastructure, especially rural roads and connectivity to business hubs that would trigger the growth of rural economy, power generation, development of connectivity to coal supplies for thermal stations, etc.

Human resource development is another key component of the strategy. With a young demographic profile, improvement in the age-dependency ratio would also be an advantage for the state. Improvement in educational and health infrastructure to enhance the quality of human resources is identified as a necessary step. Similarly, creating an environment for private investments in health and education (especially at higher levels) is identified as being contingent upon the government playing a lead role in this respect.

For effective implementation of the above strategy and realisation of high targets of growth, governance is identified as an essential catalyst. It is hoped that technology driven good governance, with strong institutions to meet the needs of the poor would leap frog and create a multiplier effect across all the economic and social sectors in the state.



A glimpse of the cultural programme at the Meet



A glimpse of the cultural programme at the Meet

3.2 The perspective

The Meet, while generally endorsing the goals and strategies as laid down in the approach paper for the Eleventh plan, particularly highlighted the following as necessary elements of the development strategy for Bihar:

- Eliminating major physical and social bottlenecks in the path of its future medium and long-term growth;
- Facilitating progress by primarily capitalising on inherent strengths of the economy;
- Ensuring an inherently inclusive overall economic growth that benefits all sections of population particularly in terms of health, education and better living standard; and
- Strengthening of institutions and governance structures at various levels for socio economic transformation, effective delivery of services and poverty eradication.



Panelists in the session on Tourism, Hospitality and Urban Development



Panelists in the session on Financial Infrastructure

SECTORAL ISSUES

4.1 Agriculture

Agriculture remains the mainstay of millions of poor in Bihar, given its largely rural setting. It is a universally accepted fact that improving agricultural productivity is among the primary factors that leads to growth and employment generation. Hence, addressing constraints in terms of agricultural growth and devising appropriate remedial measures would play a crucial role in the strategy for resurgence of Bihar.

Effective land use, land management policies and incentives for land development would enable more land to be put to optimum use. Consolidation of landholdings and streamlining the administrative set-up would be required for this. Computerisation of land records would also become necessary to ensure transparency and accountability. Research in agriculture is another area that needs urgent attention in terms of investment from the Central and State Governments.

Crop diversification for optimum land use needs attention of the policy makers. Horticulture crops, vegetables and – to a lesser extent – tea cultivation stand out as important sectors in this respect. The geographical indication of *litchi* under the present Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) regime being contemplated by UN trade agencies may also provide the much-needed boost to its further expansion and brand building. Likewise, allied activities like livestock development and inland fisheries also merit attention of the government.

4.2 Agro-Based Industries

The future of Bihar's industrialisation critically depends on its agricultural produce as well as raw material supplies from the allied sectors. Vibrancy in the agriculture determines the investment potential in agro-based industries. For example, scope for promotion of maize-based industries (processing as well as bio-fuel) may be explored, as it is one of the major crops in the state, its productivity being higher than the national average. It is the same with sugarcane-based units, as several by-products, like molasses, can be used for industrial purposes. Given the high quality standards and processes that need to be maintained in the food processing industry, partnerships and collaborations with reputed food processing units – from other states and outside the country – may be encouraged by the government.

Similarly, improvements in infrastructure in general would also lead to establishment of such industries who depend on raw materials sourced from the interior parts of the state. The government

needs to take appropriate measures for the creation of a vibrant set of food-based industries, i.e., fruits, vegetables, milk and maize products, so as to absorb the surplus output of these items.

4.3 Other Industrial Sectors

With the bifurcation of Bihar, the erstwhile mineral-based industries are now in the state of Jharkhand. However, that should not be detrimental to the growth of industrial sector in the state. In addition to the agro-based industries, there is potential for less capital-intensive industries, which can easily access the mineral base of the neighbouring Jharkhand. Development of small-scale industries (SSIs) and adoption of the cluster approach at the district headquarters level would be a strategy that the Government of Bihar needs to adopt.

4.4 Irrigation, Water Management and Flood Control

Bihar has large water resources, which, if harnessed, would be able to irrigate its large tracts of land as well as provide for Jharkhand and even to parts of Orissa. Canal-based irrigation would thus require substantial public investments in order to optimise area under irrigation. Similar enhancements are needed in other related areas as well, including flood control, drainage and minor irrigation.

Tubewells are used to irrigate most of the arable areas of Bihar. However, their spread and usage is not optimum compared to the groundwater potential in the state. While investments in tubewells may enhance acreage under irrigation, lack of reliable power supply continues to remain an impediment to maximising the potential. It needs to be noted that due to lack of power, almost 100 per cent of the tubewells are run on diesel currently.

About 9.4 lakh hectares of the terrain in Bihar is water-logged, of which a substantial proportion can be reclaimed for cultivation by executing drainage works. Funds available with the Rural Development Department may be used for maintenance/repair of canals, which would generate huge rural employment. Use of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) in identified districts would also enable expeditious undertaking of these works.

Region-wise strategy in water resource development in the short- and medium-term should focus on groundwater development and flood control in north Bihar, while the development of both surface and groundwater irrigation systems hold the key in south Bihar.

4.5 Tourism

Being the centre of Indian history for thousands of years, Bihar has many historical and religious places that would be of great interest to all people, irrespective of their religion. Bihar needs to expand

its tourism base and infrastructure. Certain pre-requisites like road, rail and air connectivity, expansion of hotel and hospitality industry, peaceful environment with better law and order situation would become critical to tapping this potential, which lies in Bihar's heritage tourism based on its ancient historical roots of civilisation and existence of centres related to several religions, particularly Buddhism. This already attracts tourists from all parts of the world, but mainly from East and South-East Asia. Private sector participation and a strategy for marketing of tourism in the state needs to be put in place at the outset in order to benefit from the potential expansion of tourism industry all over India. A comprehensive tourism policy needs to be developed by the government for the systematic promotion of this industry.

4.6 Power

The power sector merits immediate attention in terms of investments in order to enhance its capacity as well as managerial efficiency, which would consequently lead to improved power supply for domestic as well as industrial purposes. Reform in the power sector, in order to improve the power infrastructure in the state, is therefore one of the primary responsibilities of the government. Establishment of new power generation facilities and reducing transmission losses through active involvement of community are two important functions that can be facilitated by the government. Besides, the pace of rural electrification should be stepped up, not merely in terms of providing an electric connection to a village but by connecting an adequate number of households and pump sets per village.

As a long-term solution, a step-up in hydro-power generation needs to be pursued earnestly at the central level through an Indo-Nepalese co-operative endeavour under an inter-country treaty.

4.7 Transport

The transport scene in Bihar leaves much to be desired, and unless there is substantial improvement in this sector, it would not be entirely wrong to say that the state's 'route' to development is indeed very, very difficult. For a smoother way to resurgence of Bihar, the state must have:

- Motorable roads in all seasons, strategically connecting all places, even the remote villages (through feeder roads), to benefit businesses, developmental activities, as well as people from all sections of society.
- Inland waterways, wherever feasible, to provide low cost transportation. This has substantial scope for expansion, particularly for movement of goods. Improvement of the existing roads and development of new road network right up to the terminal wharfs on Inland waterways would benefit many because of the ease and low cost of freight movement.



Panelists in the session on Health, Sanitation and Nutrition



Panelists in the session on Education

- Improved rail services, as railways remain a major mode of transportation both for people and freight. While the state has a railway network covering vast areas, several important towns are not well connected by road or rail, especially in northern part of the state. The density of population also warrants an increase in number of passenger/goods trains and doubling of the existing single lines.
- Better facilities for air travel, an emerging mode of transport in the state. As currently Patna is the only airport in the state, developing feeder airports in selected important district headquarters becomes an important future requirement, particularly in view of the prospects of integrating far away towns like Purnea, Kishanganj, Saharsa in northeast, Bettiah in northwest and Bhagalpur in eastern part of the state, which are located at a considerable distance from Patna, the state capital.

4.8 Education

The poor dilapidated state of schooling infrastructure is one of the main factors responsible for the high dropout rate and non-enrolment at the elementary and secondary levels in the state. In addition, teachers' frequent absenteeism, poor overall learning environment, and financial constraints operating on the side of learners as well as government's budget are some major contributors to this malady.

Urgent steps should include putting in place at least a minimum level of basic infrastructure in all schools, particularly in rural areas. Quantitative expansion must be accompanied by qualitative all-round improvement so as to make the teaching process more enjoyable for children. Engaging an adequate number of motivated teachers would make a significant difference in this respect. One of the recent moves of the government, of appointing over 200,000 teachers, is a right step in this direction.

The need of the hour is to raise investment levels and to ensure efficient use of funds for school education. For a backward state like Bihar, the Central Government must play a far greater role in Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) than it is doing presently. This will ensure the effective implementation of the programme. Incentive schemes like mid-day meals could be improved upon and expanded beyond primary/elementary grades.

Achieving social equity as well as gender parity are other goals that are central to attaining overall educational benefits in the state.

While primary and middle level of education form the foundation of learning, development of subsequent stages of education is necessary for creating a socially responsible and more productive society. Also creating an environment for quality secondary and higher education, particularly in technical and professional areas, is necessary. This would directly aid in developing skills and provide a job oriented knowledge base. Currently, over 90 per cent of students at the post-elementary stage are engaged in the general education stream, which offer limited prospects for employment.

At present, the secondary and post-secondary stage gross enrolment ratio (GER) is only 17 per cent. This needs to be changed. Also, successful completion of these stages is important as it enables the adolescents to benefit from basic generic education after which they can be further trained to acquire different skills. Enrolment of students belonging to the age group 18-24 years in higher education is only 0.79 per cent in Bihar as against 1.63 per cent at the all-India level. Moreover, the overall quality of institutions engaged in providing higher education is currently quite poor in the state.

Bihar compares very poorly with other states in terms of access to and quality of technical institutions. In states like Uttar Pradesh or Tamil Nadu, Industrial Training Institutes (ITI), polytechnics and engineering colleges fair far better in this respect. Lack of infrastructure and shortage of teaching staff are some of the major problems facing Bihar. Also, private sector participation at this stage of education is abysmally low in the state.

The government needs to develop a comprehensive strategy to reform and re-vitalise higher education (general and technical) in the state. The significance of providing higher quality institutions needs to be viewed in light of the very high level of migration of the talented students from Bihar to other states or outside the country. The private sector plays a critical complimentary role in rectifying this problem.

Nalanda International University

Bihar, which in the past had the reputation of being a place of higher learning, needs to re-create an environment that fosters learning and scholarship. The President of India, during the inaugural session of the Global Meet, had emphasised the need for commitment of the Centre and the State Government vis a vis establishment of the Nalanda International University. The possibility of international co-operation for establishing this University needs to be tapped. The keen interest evinced by Governments of Singapore and Japan illustrates such a potential.

4.9 Health

Healthcare facilities under the public domain are at the lowest end in Bihar and are forcing even the poor to turn to unaffordable private providers or quacks. The share of public spending on total healthcare expenditure in the State is merely 8 per cent and per capita government expenditure on health only Rs. 124 as against an all-India average of Rs. 304 and Rs. 319 in Kerala. There is an urgent need to set up quality PHCs as well as better equipped referral and district hospitals. Setting up of speciality hospitals in the public sector would also benefit many. All this is possible through substantial private investment in the health sector.

A significant and rapid reduction in private spending, which accounts for 92 per cent of health spending, needs to be brought about. This is absolutely essential as otherwise, the poorest group gets pushed further down the poverty levels, and is forced to resort to burdensome borrowing for health purposes.

4.10 Information and Communication Technology

As articulated by the Honourable President of India, growth in Bihar would be increasingly driven by the expansion of knowledge and service-based activities, where information and communication technology (ICT) plays a major role. Reference here is to IT-enabled services, e-commerce and multimedia applications. Although a beginning has been made, the current level of development of information and communication technology services in Bihar is quite low. Nevertheless, these services do present considerable opportunities for expansion of self-employment as well as regular employment in many segments of the economy. It has immense potential in improving the governance system in the state, particularly in computerisation of treasury, finance, general provident fund data, collection of various taxes, electricity bills, telegraphic communications, computerisation of land records and judicial system. Banking is a major area within the private domain offering scope for computerisation.

One of the key aspects of initiating e-governance is the provision of adequate communication infrastructure, viz. hardware, software, connectivity and training of personnel to handle the equipment and make use of the software. For this purpose, the state policy shall have to respond positively.

4.11 Urban Development

The very low level of urbanisation in Bihar (10.5 per cent) reflects lack of backward and forward linkages with rural hinterland, resulting in negligible growth of small towns and primacy of the district capitals. North Bihar has even lower levels of urbanisation, of 4 per cent! Patna is the only million plus city in the state with increasing flow of internal migration resulting in proliferation of slums in the city, inadequate basic services and deterioration of the urban environment in general. Encroachments and consequent urban congestion is also a cause for concern for a city like Patna.

For Bihar to emerge as a vibrant economy with an investor-friendly environment, it needs to increase investment in road transport, electricity, water, sewerage and drainage in urban areas. Apart from the state capital Patna, other market towns and industrial hubs need to be developed as urban centres, with adequate urban infrastructure. Similarly, appropriate policy directions are needed for land use in urban areas in order to curb unregulated growth. All this is essential for creating the basic conditions for enhancing urban productivity and connecting urban centres with rural areas.

4.12 Governance

An overarching pre-requisite for effective implementation of various strategies as outlined at the Meet, relates to governance reforms. As articulated by the President of India and several other speakers repeatedly in the technical sessions, Bihar's resurgence depends on effective governance. In a state ridden with caste and extremist violence, governance becomes critical for ensuring social and



Deputy. Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Sushil Kumar Modi speaking at plenary session on Forging International Partnership



Panelists in the session on Entrepreneurship and Brand Building

economic development with equity and dignity for all. Strengthening of programmes for women's empowerment and Panchayati Raj institutions becomes critical for social development. Appropriate training and capacity building for women and Panchayat members – a vast majority being first-time elected and illiterate – in terms of their roles and functions would go a long way in consolidating the rural governance structures. Strengthening of civil society groups like SHGs, farmers groups, water-user groups and creating an appropriate environment for NGOs and other voluntary agencies to function effectively would also ensure effective governance. A massive campaign by the citizens and civil society to increase people's confidence in governance and value system also needs to be facilitated by the government. Similarly, the use of Right to Information Act, dissemination of information on government schemes and monitoring of Public Distribution System (PDS) by the local community would enhance the responsiveness of the government towards the citizenry.

Governance reforms can be brought about through technology upgradation of ICT, and the aim should be to create transparent and responsive governance structures that would be accountable to the people and would meet their aspirations. E-governance, mechanisms to reform law and order and criminal justice system, and reforms at the lower level of judiciary would go a long way in creating an environment of trust and security. Transparent processes for devolution of funds to Panchayats and removing red-tapism and discretion of the district collectors over funds earmarked for rural development would lead to more effective utilisation of such funds.

4.13 Image and Brand Building

While several administrative and policy reforms have been unveiled during the past one year, the overall image and perception about Bihar still remains to be addressed in a systematic way. With governance reforms to streamline administration, law and order and other issues, the need is to project a positive image of the state. This would attract private investment and also bring intellect and knowledge base into the state. The role of the government functionaries, civil society agencies, and intellectuals in this endeavour is paramount as they would be able to disseminate positive images and experiences. Based on these strengths a brand for Bihar needs to be evolved which would project its successes and positive outlook in terms of its goals.

A conscious effort needs to be made to project the strengths and potentialities of the state in terms of its natural resources, agriculture and horticulture base, tourism and human resources. government departments with the support of other stakeholders and civil society may carry out promotional road shows as well as media and web-based promotional activities.



Panelists at the session on Changing Institutions and Governance for Development



Shri Y. C. Deveswar, Chairman, ITC, speaking at the plenary session on Challenges, Opportunities and Development Strategy

SECTION 5

INSTITUTIONS AND PARTNERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF BIHAR

An important outcome of the Meet was the identification and appreciation of the role of various development players. The Meet also marked a beginning in forging partnerships among and across various stakeholders in order to promote measures that would not only trigger private investment but also enable social development interventions in the state. Thus a platform has been created for all stakeholders to close ranks and put in efforts towards the resurgence of Bihar. Networking and information sharing among the non-resident Indians (NRIs), particularly those hailing from Bihar, was another significant highlight of the Meet.

5.1 Role of the State

The role of government shall have to be a more dominant one in Bihar than in many other parts of India. This is because the present state of its economy and the general perception in terms of its state of governance does not make private investment a profitable proposition at this stage. Hence in the following core areas, state intervention shall have to continue for some more time to come:

- Basic Infrastructure, specifically power generation and transmission lines
- Major irrigation and flood control
- Rural roads network
- Public health infrastructure like urban sewerage and water supply systems.
- Public health services, viz., hospitals and primary health centres (PHCs); dispensaries for the poor
- Support to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and other vulnerable segments of population
- Basic education and health
- Rural development, poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes
- Social development initiatives

Areas for Public-Private Partnership

Some of the possible areas in this category are:

- Highway roads
- Toll roads

- Inland waterways
- Telecommunications
- Distribution of electricity
- High level technical education institutions which are self-financing
- Petroleum sector and allied sectors

The major risk in this type of approach is the temptation of the State Government to promote relatively high cost segments at the cost of other state initiatives in the social sectors. In order to thwart the possibility of such impediments, it is essential to have in place a strict accountability and regulatory systems which can monitor the access, quality and price of services. Such regulatory mechanisms are essential for public institutions, private initiatives as well as for public-private partnerships.

5.2 Decentralised Governance

Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) have undoubtedly emerged the most important institutions of decentralised governance and development in India. States like West Bengal and Kerala have set examples in terms of democratic governance and decentralised development through PRIs. However, PRIs in Bihar are not vibrant and they suffer from a number of structural and functional weaknesses.

About 25 functions have been nominally transferred to the PRIs in the state without effective transfer of control over executing agencies, functionaries, finances, etc. They have been given the key role in selection of beneficiaries of social security and poverty development schemes and implementation of centrally sponsored schemes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), and mid-day meal scheme. Yet vested interests and institutional weaknesses cripple the effective delivery by these institutions as well. The recent initiative to reserve 50 per cent of the seats, including headship for women, and 20 per cent for other backward classes (OBCs), would go a long way towards effective democratisation and decentralised development as well as empowerment of the poor and marginalised, especially women. However, a rigorous capacity building programme for the new representatives of the Panchayats should be launched immediately to empower them more effectively.

But the most important point is that the transfer of power, functions, finances and institutionalisation of PRIs should all be done in one go to change the character of grass-roots governance and development, instead of going for incremental changes.

5.3 Financial Institutions

The vibrant and responsive financial sector becomes an important element for accelerated economic growth as well as for poverty reduction. While the state has low credit-deposit ratio, the scope for

expanding financial access depends on the investment climate, policies as well as on good governance. The recent experience of the banking sector in creating financial access for women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) is commendable and needs replication so as to ensure self-employment, livelihood security and poverty reduction. Increase in density of bank branches, innovative modes of delivery, use of technology, and simple and transparent procedures of project appraisal are some of the priority steps to enhance credit offtake.

Apart from the formal banking sector, the cooperative structure was intended to play quite a prominent role in agriculture, especially in the dispensation of credit. While there are several problems associated with credit cooperatives, which need reform, the cooperative movement itself has acquired quite a prominent place in the sphere of dairy farming over a period of time, starting with the path-breaking performance of Amul of Gujarat. The Bihar Cooperative Milk Producers Federation (COMPFED), more popularly known by its brand name SUDHA, has similarly emerged as a vibrant co-operative enterprise in the dairy sector over the past few years.

There is a need to replicate such successes in other sectors of the unorganised production base of the state. For example, well known Madhubani paintings and silk products from Bhagalpur can be brought together under a co-operative umbrella so that the producers are able to obtain a higher share of the returns.

5.4 Civil Society

Civil society institutions have to be prominent players in overall development of the state. While some sections of the civil society such as media are vibrant, NGO movement is widely considered to be weak in the state. Its role in creating a positive social environment, with hope and commitment towards empowerment of the poor, the marginalised, women and youth, needs to be harnessed.

International donors and NGOs also have a role to play in the development of the state as they bring in technical know-how, in addition to sustainable and replicable models of development that complement the efforts of the government in promotion of social development sectors. There is a need to create an environment conducive to functioning of NGOs in the state. The regulatory mechanism should also be in place in order to ensure a smooth and coherent growth of the non-government sector. In the areas of social development, governance and empowerment of the communities, NGOs can play a crucial role, especially in the context of Panchayati Raj, Right to Information as well as NREGS.

The State Government needs to come forward with a proposal for partnership with NGOs, donors and bilateral agencies in order to accelerate and compliment on-going social empowerment projects in the state.



Lord Meghnad Desai and Professor V.S. Vyas releasing a Government of Bihar publication



Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar speaking at the valedictory session

5.5 Private Sector

In the post-reform era, the private sector has demonstrated its capacity in influencing the development trajectory, both in economic as well as in social sectors. Despite the fact that the government has had a major stake in all heavy investments, in terms of total contribution to the national income, the role of private sector has been significant all through the development process. In the post-reform era, sectors like transport, telecommunications, power generation, distribution, etc., have gained importance in public-private partnership for investments. The State Government needs to create an environment conducive to the growth and expansion of private sector investments in the state. As law and order and governance are often cited as inhibiting factors, such impressionistic views and apprehensions need to be allayed by the government to attract private investments in various sectors.

Unorganised production dominates agriculture and non-farm activities wherein productivity enhancement has limitations. The scope for organisation on the lines of cooperatives is tremendous in various production and service segments, which needs to be encouraged through public policy in order to create an environment conducive to growth of private investment in the unorganised sector.

There is abundant scope and role for private sector in activities such as establishment of technical and higher education institutions, skill training centres, tertiary health services, and hotel and other hospitality services. The role of the government in this context would be ensuring effective regulatory mechanisms that protect equity considerations in education and health.



Dr. Alakh N. Sharma speaking in a Panel among others Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sushil Modi is on the dash.



Lord Meghnad Desai and the Chief Minister of Bihar in the audience



Dr. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission, speaking at the valedictory session

RECOMMENDATIONS

Several recommendations were presented by experts and policy makers for addressing the identified problems of the state. Within an overarching strategy of inclusive growth and distributive justice, the Meet articulated concrete workable ideas for the consideration of the government and other stakeholders.

Agriculture and Allied Sectors

- i. Enhancement of investment by 100 per cent from the current levels in the next five years in agriculture related infrastructure, including measures for flood control
- ii. Rationalisation of policies related to land management, including measures towards reclamation of land, incentives for agro-forestry, computerisation of land records, measures towards consolidation of land holdings, etc.
- iii. Expansion of irrigation potential through revitalisation of water bodies, distribution systems, and promotion of watersheds
- iv. Promotion of allied sectors and institutional structures, like cooperatives for fisheries and livestock
- v. Government to facilitate expansion of financial services and credit delivery, procurement policies and minimum support price mechanism, marketing infrastructure, power, transport and cold storage facilities and revitalise agriculture extension system
- vi. Promotion of horticulture (like *litchi*, *mango* and *banana*) and vegetables

Agro-Based Industries

- i. Promotion of milling units (of paddy and pulses) and maize processing units
- ii. Supporting establishment of maize and sugarcane (and ethanol) based industries
- iii. Supporting establishment of fruit and vegetable preservation industries – jams, jelly, chips, sauces, *achar* and fried items based on nuts, peas, grams, *makhana* and *singhara*
- iv. Supporting establishment of processing units for spices (*masala*), medicinal and aromatic plants
- v. Providing encouragement to dairy products-based Industries producing cheese, pasteurised butter, flavoured milk and milk-based sweets

- vi. Creating a distinctive brand image and marketing support for agro-based, horticulture and milk-based products
- vii. Developing packaging and bottling Industry.

Other Location-specific Industries

- i. Promotion of limestone based industries in Rohtas
- ii. Promotion of ancillary units at the industrial hub of Barauni oil refinery
- iii. Promotion of Tussar silk at Bhagalpur, engineering units at Munger/Jamalpur, stone crushing units at Gaya and surrounding areas.

Irrigation, Water Management and Flood Control

- i. The creation of major/medium irrigation potential at the rate of one lakh hectare per annum by the State Government
- ii. Investments in flood control, drainage and minor irrigation
- iii. Modernisation and improvement of dilapidated water distribution system through construction of field channels
- iv. Completion of major ongoing irrigation schemes, viz., N. Koel, Batone, Tilaiya, Barmanand and Upper Sakari, on a top priority basis in the 11th plan
- v. Investment in power generation and rural electrification to enable tubewell based irrigation in the state
- vi. Reclamation of submerged land through development of drainage and canal works.

Tourism

- i. Comprehensive tourism promotion policy to be brought out by the Government, articulating promotional measures, public investments, land use policies as well as scope for private sector participation
- ii. Private sector to be encouraged to develop tourism infrastructure
- iii. Creation of high quality facilities and infrastructure at well known tourist centres like Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, Vaishali
- iv. Promotion of other less known tourist spots like Vikramshila, Kumarar, Balmiki Nagar and Kakolat Falls
- v. Development of tourist information hub at Patna with regular promotional activities

- vi. Promotion and marketing of tourist destinations as attractive packages, especially Buddhist pilgrimage nodes of the state
- vii. Use of ICT for promotion of tourism at the global level
- viii. Promotion of handicrafts and other specific products associated with tourism.

Power Sector

- i. Comprehensive reforms to address power generation, transmission, pricing and improvement of revenue generation, apart from policies related to private sector participation and setting up of a regulatory commission
- ii. Rehabilitation and proper maintenance of Barauni and Muzaffarpur thermal plants after their complete renovation
- iii. Rehabilitation of power transmission system and lines to withstand 700 MW supply
- iv. Target oriented measures to reduce T&D losses
- v. Community involvement in power transmission and larger investments for rural electrification projects
- vi. Establishment of new power generation facilities and hydro-based power generation projects.

Transport Infrastructure

- i. Enhancing rural road connectivity by stepping up the pace of interlinking villages and *mandies* (local markets) through surfaced rural roads
- ii. Improvement of road network right up to the terminal wharfs on the Inland Waterways for maximising the use of this low cost mode of freight movement
- iii. Investments towards qualitative improvement of national highways by the Central and State Governments
- iv. Construction and maintenance of roads in the border areas of Nepal by Border Roads Organisation in order to develop border districts
- v. Operationalisation of National Waterway No.1 from Allahabad to Haldia that traverses within Bihar
- vi. Development of commercial navigation in Gandak, Kosi and Ghagra by the State Government.
- vii. Improvement in rail infrastructure, including doubling of single lines and enhancing number of trains, especially those covering north Bihar towns
- viii. Expansion and upgradation of Patna airport and establishment of feeder airports in identified districts



Shri Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar and Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission at the valedictory session



Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister, speaking at valedictory session

Education

- i. Quantitative and qualitative improvements in school infrastructure to achieve universal enrolment and successful completion of elementary schooling
- ii. Specific focus on enrolment and retention of girls, rural children and those from disadvantaged communities such as SCs.
- iii. Teacher training programmes focussing on student achievement, especially in language and mathematics
- iv. Making English language compulsory for children at appropriate age and efforts for its quality teaching (eg. hiring of good teachers, effective use of audio-visual methods, establishment of English coaching centres, etc)
- v. Recruitment of teachers and decentralisation of school management to the local bodies
- vi. Improving efficiency in utilisation of funds earmarked for school education by the State Government
- vii. Policy framework for promotion and participation of private sector in vocational and higher education sectors
- viii. Revitalisation and promotion of vocational and higher education, both in public and private sectors. The steps shall include,
 - a. Opening up of closed engineering colleges
 - b. Enhancement of grants to medical colleges
 - c. Increasing outlay for higher and technical education to about 4 per cent of the budget
 - d. Establishment of at least one ITI in all the districts and polytechnics in the important ones.
 - e. Establishment of community polytechnics and employment oriented vocational training institutes in public and private sector
- ix. Specific steps in improving higher education infrastructure in the state would include establishment of:
 - An Indian Institute of Technology
 - An Indian Institute of Management
 - A Centre for medical education on the pattern of AIIMS
 - Information technology set-ups in all government engineering colleges
 - A Central University
- x. Establishment of Nalanda International University as centre of excellence with the support of Central Government as well as other interested countries like Japan, China and Singapore

- xi Restructuring of general higher education through effective reforms in curriculum, physical infrastructure and facilities. Steps may include:
 - a. consolidation of higher education infrastructure in terms of closing down or merging unviable general degree colleges
 - b. converting identified colleges of general education into technical colleges.
- xii. In order to create an environment of rigorous academic learning and policy advice for the State Government, the old glory of the A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies should be restored.

Health

- i. Scaling up public investment, both revenue and capital outlay, to achieve better healthcare during the coming five year period
- ii. Top priority for significant reduction in IMR and MMR - the goal of reducing IMR to 28 per thousand by 2012 from the present level of nearly 60 to be pursued vigorously and a plan of action with multi-stakeholder participation to be developed
- iii. Enhancing the present level of less than 1 per cent spending by the State and Central Government on health to 3-4 per cent of GSDP in the next 5-10 years
- iv. Effective implementation of National Rural Health Mission to bring necessary changes at the ground level
- v. Community-based interventions with ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists)
- vi. State to play dominant role in primary and secondary health care
- vii. Regulation of private medical sector in the tertiary level health facilities so as to protect the interests of the poor and marginalised
- viii. Significant hike in the allocation of potable water supply and sanitation in order to reduce infectious diseases considerably.

Promotion of ICT

- i. Redesigning of school and college curricula to include ICT related topics
- ii. NGOs to be encouraged to set up information kiosks in the villages supported by various departments, panchayats and urban bodies
- iii. Facilitating investments by the private sector in ICT by creating investor-friendly environment, speedy clearances and reliable infrastructure
- iv. A special tailor-made package of incentives to provide opportunity for competitive growth
- v. Creation of state-wise information infrastructure through public-private partnership.

Urban Development

- i. A comprehensive and pro-active policy for urban development to be unveiled by the State Government
- ii. Speedy development of Patna and Bodh Gaya under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) – the public-private partnership with effective regulation should be resorted to for this.
- iii. In view of the very low urbanisation levels, expansion of JNNURM by the Central Government to cover entire Gaya, and Bhagalpur with neighbouring historical site of Vikramshila
- iv. Considering the low urbanisation and resource base in the state, as a special case the support by the central government to be 75 per cent in JNNURM in Bihar
- v. Development of small towns and settlements which have direct link with rural hinterland so as to create important growth centres
- vi. Promotion of decentralisation initiatives as part of urban renewal missions
- vii. Systematic development of urban facilities (water, sanitation and others) for safe and better living in urban areas
- viii. Promotion of rural development through PURA, with cluster and product approach in all the districts.

Financial Institutions

- i. Proactive role of the State Government in creating the right policy environment for larger industrial as well as agricultural investments by the private sector
- ii. Incentives and other promotional measures to attract entrepreneurs and simplify procedures and processes for clearances of projects
- iii. Promotion of inclusive financial sector that ensures reaching out to the poor and marginalised with various financial services
- iv. Expansion of the branches and credit delivery of the commercial banks in rural areas along with effective counselling for the poor
- v. Promotion of SHG lending and revitalisation of cooperatives, especially in the sectors like milk, horticulture, fisheries as well as other emerging sectors.

Fiscal Reforms and Economic Management

- i. Prudence in expenditure and deficit management
- ii. Expanding the tax base and streamlining the collection mechanisms



Dr. C. Rangarajan, Shri Nitish Kumar and Professor Abhijit Sen at the valedictory session



Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar and Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister greeting each other at the Meet

- iii. Legislation on the expenditure controls, restructuring of debt and borrowings
- iv. Restructuring of public sector and ensuring operational efficiency and quality service along with enhanced revenue generation.

Governance and Institutional Reforms

- i. Administrative and governance reforms with a view to strengthening service delivery at the grass-root levels and creating an enabling environment for the non-governmental sectors to grow and contribute to the development of the state
- ii. A massive campaign for a better work culture in the government offices in terms of punctuality, responsiveness to the poor, work performance along with measures for capacity building and training programme for government functionaries
- iii. Effective decentralisation of power and functions especially to PRIs, removing discretionary powers of the district collectors over the funds earmarked for PRIs
- iv. People-friendly e-governance and its application in service delivery to the poor
- v. Recognition and pro-active support to NGOs and other civil society agencies as partners in development
- vi. Capacity building programmes for women PRI members, SHGs and other civil society agencies to foster greater participation in governance
- vii. Facilitating empowerment of the poor, marginalised, dalits and women through social mobilisation of grassroots level campaigns and movements
- viii. Effective utilisation of services of Central Government agencies like Survey of India, Geological Survey of India, Central Ground Water Board, etc., by the State Government in irrigation and related sectors.

Image and Brand Building

- i. Promotional road-shows in other state capitals and important cities across the world to project a more optimistic view of Bihar and its potentialities
- ii. Media and web based image building exercise for Bihar brand
- iii. Identification of specific products and services that can be marketed under the Bihar brand and promotion of the same.
- iv. Developing Patna as an important cultural and educational centre so that it portrays a better image of the state.



GLOBAL MEET FOR A RESURGENT BIHAR

FRIDAY, 19 JANUARY 2007

09:30–17:00

Registration

13:00–14:00

Lunch

Hosted by Mr. Nitish Kumar
Chief Minister, Bihar

17:30–19:00

INAUGURAL FUNCTION

Introduction

Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi

Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Meet

Welcome Address

Mr. Nitish Kumar

Chief Minister, Bihar and Chief Patron of the Meet

Mr. R.S. Gavai

Governor of Bihar

Inaugural Address

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

President of India

Vote of Thanks

Professor Alakh N. Sharma

Director, Institute for Human Development and Convener of the Meet

SATURDAY, 20 JANUARY 2007

Venue: Hotel Maurya, South-West Gandhi Maidan, Patna

09:00–09:15

BOOK RELEASE

Venue: Pool Side

Release of the Book 'Gaurabshali Bihar: Ekka Atulya Pradesh Ki Jhalak' by
Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi, Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar

09:15–12:00	PLENARY SESSION – I
<i>With Tea Break</i>	
10:30–10:50	Overview of Challenges, Opportunities and Development Strategy of Bihar
	<i>Venue:</i> Pool Side
Chairperson	Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar
Key Presentations	Professor Alakh N. Sharma Director, Institute for Human Development, <i>‘Towards Transforming Bihar: Challenges and Opportunities’</i>
	Mr. N.K. Singh Deputy Chairman, Planning Board, Government of Bihar, <i>‘Recent Initiatives by the Bihar Government for Turn Around’</i>
Keynote Speakers	Dr. Prabhu Goel Chairman, Duet Technologies Inc., USA
	Mr. Y.V. Deveswar Chairman, ITC and Chairman, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata
	Dr. Shanta Devajan Chief Economist (South Asia), World Bank, Washington
	Mr. Prakash Jha Film Maker and Social Activist
	Dr. Gerry Rodgers Director, ILO’s International Institute for Labour Studies, Geneva
Rapporteur	Mr. B.N. Patnayak Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI), Patna
12:00–13:00	SPECIAL LECTURE
Speaker	Lord Professor Meghnad Desai Professor Emeritus, London School of Economics and Political Science, London
Topic	<i>Strategy for Development of Bihar in the Globalising World</i>



Chairperson

Prof. V.S. Vyas

Professor Emeritus and Chairman, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur

13:00–14:00

Lunch

14:00–16:00

PARALLEL SESSIONS

Theme

Human Development, Governance and Institutions

Parallel Session – I

Education and Skill Development

Venue: Kautilya, Hotel Maurya

Chairperson

Professor Jean Dreze

Delhi School of Economics

Speakers

Dr. M.M. Jha

Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Education, Government of Bihar

Dr. Sudhanshu Bhushan

National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi

Professor Ashok Mathur and Dr. R.P. Mamgain

IHD

Panelists

Dr. N.K. Chaudhury

Head of Department of Economics, Patna University, Patna

Mr. Tathagat Tulsi

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

Mr. J.K. Sinha, Chairman

Shoshit Seva Sangh, Patna

Dr. M.N. Karna

Former Director, A.N.Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna

Dr. Prema Jha

Vice Chancellor, Bhagalpur University

PROGRAMME

Rapporteur

Mr. Uday Kulkarnai
Senior Vice-President, APTECH

Mr. Satyan Mishra
Drishtee, NOIDA

Dr. Dazy Narayan
Secretary, East and West Educational Society, Patna

Parallel Session – II
Health, Sanitation and Nutrition

Venue: Nalanda, Hotel Maurya

Chairperson

Dr. S.N. Arya
Senior Physician, Patna

Speakers

Mr. Amarjeet Sinha
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health, Government of India

Mr. Deepak Kumar
Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare,
Government of Bihar

Dr. Ajay Kumar
President, Indian Medical Association

Mr. Arun Jha
Member Secretary, National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority,
Government of India

Panelists

Dr. Jay Jaysankar
International Health Organisation, Boston, USA

Dr. Vinaysheel Gautam
Senior Consultant, National Health Service, United Kingdom

Mrs. Sujata Prasad
Director, Institute of Government Finance, Government of India

Dr. Shekhar Shah
World Bank



Rapporteur

Dr. Bikash Verma

President, International Health Organisation, Boston, USA

Dr. Nisha Srivastava

World Food Programme

Dr. Ranjan

Manchester, U.K.

Mr. Noah Sparksin

Deputy Programme Director, JANANI

Dr. Chanchal Pandey

Dept. of Economics, Beer Kuanwar Singh University, Arah.

Parallel Session – III

Towards Changing Institutions and Governance for Development

Venue: Lumbini, Hotel Maurya

Chairperson

Mr. V.S. Dubey

Chairman, Administrative Reforms Commission,
Government of Bihar

Speakers

Shri A.K. Choudhury

Chief Secretary, Bihar

Dr. Ashok Pankaj

M.D. University, Rohtak

Professor D.P. Yadav

Former Union Minister

Dr. Avinash Kumar

OXFAM, Ahemdabad

Mr. Sanjay Kumar

SEWA Bharat, Bihar

Dr. R.K. Barik

IIPA, New Delhi

Panelists

Dr. Ajay K. Mehra, Director
Centre for Public Affair, Delhi

Dr. Sudhansu Ranjan
Doordarshan, Delhi

Ms. Ruchira Gupta
UNICEF, Tehran (Iran)

Dr. Praveen Sinha
Friedrich Ebert Stifting, Germany

Mr. N.R. Mohanty
Jagaran Institute of Mass Communications, and Former Editor,
Hindustan Times, Patna

Ms. Mandakini Kaul
World Bank

Dr. Prabhakar Jha
University of Minnesota and
Senior Fellow, American Council of Learned Citizens

Rapporteur

Dr. R.N. Sharma
Department of Sociology, Patna College

Parallel Session – IV

Towards Unleashing Entrepreneurship and Brand Building of Bihar

Venue: Chanakya

Chairperson

Mr. Ramesh Yadav
Vice President, Fidelica Microsystems, USA

Presentations

Dr. Shaibal Gupta
Member-Secretary, ADRI

Dr. Dinesh Awasthi
Director, Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Ahemdabad

Mr. Vivek Singh
Secretary Public Relation Department, Government of Bihar

Professor P.K. Sinha
Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad

PROGRAMME



Panelists

Mr. Pramath Raj Sinha
CEO, Anand Bazar Patrika Group

Mr. Gautam Sinha
CEO, Seventh Cloud, USA

Mr. Harivansh
Editor, Prabhat Khabar

Mr. Sanjeev Chaudhory
MD, Gangotri Iron and Steel Ltd

Mr. Raj Dubey
Managing Partner, Dubey and Partners, New Delhi

Mr. Satyajit K Singh
M.D., Shakti Sudha Industries, Patna

Mr. Harshi Pitti
CEO, Hari Nagar Sugar Mills

Mr. Sujit Kumar Singh
CMD, Shreya Corporation, Moscow

Mr. Ajay Kumar
CEO, Bihar Times

Rapporteur

Dr. Pratima Chaudhuary
Department of Sociology, Barkatulla University, Bhopal

1600 – 1615

Tea

1615 – 1730

PLENARY SESSION – II

*Forging International Partnership with Bihar:
Perspectives from International Organisations and
Multilateral Agencies*

Venue: Pool Side

Chairperson

Mr. N.K. Singh
Deputy Chairman, Bihar State Planning Board

Opening Address

Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi
Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar

Speakers

Mr. Eimar Barr
Deputy Resident Representative, UNICEF

Dr. Veena Jha
Resident Representative, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Ms Fiona Louise Lappin
Deputy Head, Department for International Development (DFID) India

Mr. Henry V. Jardine
Consul General, American Consulate, Kolkata

Dr. Dipak Dasgupta
Lead Economist, World Bank

Dr. Gerry Rodgers
Director, International Institute of Labour Studies, ILO, Geneva

Rapporteur

Ms. Sonali Mukhopadhyaya
IHD

1730 -1915

ROUND TABLE ON MAKING BIHAR A KNOWLEDGE HUB

Venue: Pool side

Chairperson

Dr. R.A. Yadav
Vice-Chairman, All India Council of Technical Education,
Government of India

Speakers

Mr. Aditya Jha
Co- Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Osellus Inc and Osellus Asia Pacific Company Ltd, Toronto, Canada

Mr. M. Shahbuddin
Vice-President, NASSCOM

Mr. Ravi Verma
USA

Professor Ajit Sinha
University de France, Paris



PROGRAMME	Professor C.P. Thakur Former Professor and Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi and Former Member of Parliament	
	Dr. H.P. Sinha Director, Kalinga Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar	
	Professor G. Mishra International Student Adviser, Ohlone Community College, California, USA	
	Mr. Arun Kumar M.D., Technocrat Plasma System Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai	
Rapporteur	Dr. Permanand Singh Department of Economics, B..N.M. College, Bhagalpur University	
17:30 – 19:15	PARALLEL SESSIONS	
Theme	<i>Infrastructure and Investment</i>	
PROGRAMME	Parallel Session – V <i>Physical Infrastructure Scope of Public – Private Partnership</i>	
	Venue: Kautilya, Hotel Maurya	
	Chairperson	Dr. R.P. Singh Chairman, Power Grid Corporation of India
	Speakers	Mr. Shailesh Pathak Head, Public-Private Partnership, Infrastructure Development Financing Company, New Delhi
		Mr. M.M. Singh Chairman, Bihar State Electricity Board
	Mr. R.K. Singh Commissioner and Secretary, Dept. of Road Construction, Govt. of Bihar	
	Mr. Arun Bhalla Executive Vice President, Power Trading Corporation	

Panelists

Mr. Sunil Mehrotra
Former President, Bihar Industries Association

Mr. Birendra Bihari
ENVIRO, Canada

Mr. Kumar Sulabh
Managing Director, PEBCO, Mumbai

Rapporteur

Mr. Abhinav Alakhshendra
Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi

Parallel Session – VI

Strengthening Financial Infrastructure and Institutions

Venue: Chanakya, Hotel Maurya

Chairperson

Mr. U K Sinha
Chairman and Managing Director, Unit Trust of India

Speakers

Professor Atul Sharma
Former Vice Chancellor, Arunachal University and Former Director,
Indian Statistical Institute

Mr. A.K. Deb
General Manager, State Bank of India (Patna Circle)

Dr. P.P. Ghosh
Director, ADRI, Patna

Panelists

Prof. Arun J. Prakash
College of Business Administration, Florida, USA

Mr. V.P. Singh
Former Chairman, Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI)

Ms Sanjeeta Singh
Joint Secretary, Sixth Pay Commission, Government of India

Rapporteur

Dr. Vikas Jaipuria
ADRI

PROGRAMME



Parallel Session – VII

Diversification of Agriculture, Development of Agro-based Industries and Employment Generation

Venue: Nalanda, Hotel Maurya

Chairperson

Prof. Ravi Srivastava

Member, National Commission for Enterprises in Unorganised Sector,
New Delhi

Speakers

Dr. T. Haque

Chairman, Agricultural Prices Commission, Government of India

Mr. Alok Bardhan Chaturvedi

Additional Finance Commissioner, Government of Bihar and M.D., Bihar
Industrial Development Corporation

Dr. Anjani Kumar

International Livestock Research Institute, New Delhi

Mr. N.S. Madhavan

Agricultural Production Commissioner, Government of Bihar

Dr. Arindom Datta

Director, Rabo Bank, India

Mr. Ajay Jha

University of Colorado, USA

Panelists

Dr. S. Mahendra Dev

Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad

Mr. Indra N. Jha

President Elite Engineering Services, U.K.

Mr. Alok Jha

Professor, Dairy Food Technology, BHU, Varanasi

Dr. K.M. Singh

Director, WAMETI

Dr. Dev Nathan

Institute for Human Development

Rapporteur

Professor I.D. Sharma

A.N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna

Mr. Harish Pitti

CEO, Hari Nagar Sugar Industries

Ms. Uma Sarmistha

IHD, New Delhi

Parallel Session – VIII

Tourism and Hospitality Industry and Urban Development

Venue: Lumbini

Chairperson

Mr. K.P.S. Kesari

President, Bihar Industries Association

Speakers

Dr. Mondira Dutta

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Mr. R.S. Tiwary

Secretary, Dept of Tourism, Govt. of Bihar

Mr. Naveen K Sharma

Program Manager, Company Cisco Systems, Bangalore

Dr. Shipra Maitra

Senior Fellow, IHD

Mr. P.K. Basu

Secretary, Dept. Of Urban Development, Govt. of Bihar

Mr. Sandeep K. Agrawal

School of Urban and Regional Planning, Toronto, Canada

Panelists

Mr. Sarweshwar Jha

Adviser, Construction Industry Development Council, Government of India, New Delhi

Mr. S.P. Sinha

President, TiE, Bihar

PROGRAMME



Rapporteur

Mr. Vikram Lall
Architect based in Delhi

Mr. Krishna Lall
Architect based in Patna

Ms. Ritika Lall
Critique Communications, New Delhi

19:15–21:00

Cultural Programme

Venue: Pool Side

21:00

Dinner

SUNDAY, 21 JANUARY 2007

Venue: Hotel Maurya, Gandhi Maidan

09:00–11:30

PLENARY SESSION III

Panel Discussion on the Main Conclusions of the Meet

Venue: Pool Side

Chairperson

Dr. S.C. Jha
Chairman, Special Task Force on Bihar, Government of India and
Member, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council

Presentation of the Summary and Conclusions of the Meet

Professor T.S. Papola
Director, Institute of Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi

Panelists

Dr. S.R. Hashim
Former Chairman, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and
Former Member, Planning Commission

Mr. Udai Sankar
CEO, Star News

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: #ccc;">PROGRAMME</p>	<p>Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak Founder, Sulabh International</p>
	<p>Dr. S.C. Mishra Managing Director, Strategic Asia, London and Jakarta</p>
	<p>Professor B.B. Bhattacharya Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University</p>
	<p>Dr. J. Krishnamurthy Former Professor, Delhi School of Economics and Employment Expert, ILO, Geneva</p>
	<p>Ms. V. Kalpana IHD</p>
	<p>Tea</p>
	<p>VALEDICTORY FUNCTION</p>
	<p>Professor Alakh N. Sharma Director, IHD and Meet Convener</p>
	<p>Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar</p>
	<p>Dr. S.R. Hashim Former Member, Planning Commission and Former Chairman, UPSC; Co-Chairman, Organising Committee of the Meet</p>
<p>Mr. Ramesh Yadav Vice President, Fidelica Microsystems, USA and Overseas Facilitator of the Meet</p>	
<p>Address by the Chief Guest</p>	<p>Mr. Nitish Kumar Chief Minister, Bihar</p>



Valedictory Address

Dr. C. Rangarajan

Chairman, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council; Former Governor, Andhra Pradesh and Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

**Address by
the Chairperson**

Dr. Abhijit Sen

Member, Planning Commission

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Shaibal Gupta

Member-Secretary, ADRI and Co-Chairman, Organising Committee of the Meet.

Rapporteur

Ms. Smita Anand

Consultant, Planning Commission

13:15

Lunch

14:15

Local Sight Seeing

PROGRAMME

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Bihar Times

TiE (Bihar Chapter)

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