

**3rd Meeting of the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog
Speech of Sh. Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar**

Hon'ble Prime Minister Respected Chief Ministers of States, Respected Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, Respected Union Ministers, Respected Members of the Governing Council, Officials of the Union and the State Governments.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for inviting us to the 3rd meeting of the Governing Council of the NITI Aayog and for providing an opportunity to express our views. The NITI Aayog can play a leading role in creating an enabling environment for better coordination and initiative among the states for resolving issues and implementing policies in public interest in the Indian federal structure. In changed economic and social perspective, it is essential to have an inclusive thought process and vision for the development of the country. Today's meeting provides us with an opportunity to discuss and find solutions to our problems on a common platform.

The NITI Aayog has included a comprehensive and important list of subjects in its agenda note. It is hoped that positive discussions shall take place on priorities, policies and regional strategies for national development along with current issues raised by the States and a general consensus shall be reached among the Union and the States on important issues. Since the agenda notice has been circulated on a short notice, I request that the State Governments may be provided with an opportunity to submit Para-wise comprehensive comments on all important issues to the NITI Aayog and that the same would be considered while finalizing the issues.

I would like to draw the attention of the Governing Council on some of the important issues –

Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes – Although the tax transfers to the States have increased from 32% to 42% on the basis of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, the parameters formulated by the Commission for the horizontal distribution of funds among the States has resulted in a huge difference. For example, it was estimated that, as per the formula of the 13th Finance Commission, which provided for 32% of the joint share of the States, Rs 48,118 crore was expected to accrue to Bihar in the financial year 2015-16 on the basis of a 15% annual incremental rise as witnessed in the past. On the basis of recommendation of 14th Finance Commission as per the new formula, Bihar would receive Rs 50,748 crore by way of its own share of central taxes in the financial year 2015-16. Thus, there would be an increase of only 5% in case of Bihar where as other States would stand to gain at least 30% from the increased transfers. In light of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, it is of utmost importance that this gross disparity should be kept in mind.

It is a matter of concern for a backward state like Bihar that the allocation of funds based on the formula of the 14th Finance Commission has resulted in the reduction of share of Bihar from 10.9% to 9.665%. While designing the formula, the Finance Commission has given preference to the total area and existence of natural forests while ignoring the specific problems of States with high population density and landlocked conditions like Bihar. Rather

than encouraging the efforts of Bihar to increase its green cover, the State has been ignored on this account. In addition to this, the recurring floods in rivers, originating in Nepal, resulting in huge loss of life and property putting the State under financial burden has also not been accounted for. Bihar is extremely backward from the view point of physical and social infrastructure and its per capita income is much less as compared to the national average. It is essential to take into consideration these special needs of the State of Bihar.

The tax transfers to the States, having increased from 32% to 42%, on the basis of the recommendation of 14th Finance Commission, has been taken as an justification for a massive reduction of allocation of funds to the States for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes under the Union Budget. This has adversely affected the State of Bihar. In context of Bihar, the amount budgeted as Central Share under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the year 2015-16 was Rs 23,988 crore, whereas, the State received Rs 15,932 crore in actual terms. Similarly, the budgeted amount as Central Share for the year 2016-17 was Rs 28,777 crore, whereas, Rs 16,996 crore was received in actual terms. Hence, there has been a major disconnect between the proposed budgetary allocation and the actual amount received for these schemes.

The financial pattern of all the 21 schemes related to National Development Agenda has been changed to 60:40 (Central Share:State Share). Due to change in the financial pattern, the State Government has had to spend additional Rs 4500 crore in the financial year 2015-16 from its own resources in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes while this burden has been to the tune of Rs 4900 crore in the financial year 2016-17. Thus it is evident that the State Government has to commit substantial resources as State share which reduces its capacity to allocate resources for State schemes. In such a scenario, the state shall not be able to provide entitlement based public amenities, fulfill the needs according to the national priorities as desired and shall be unable to mitigate regional disparities and join the national mainstream. Therefore, it is essential that the States with per capita income less than the national average should be provided 90% Central Share for the proper implementation of schemes so that their objectives are met within the stipulated timeframe.

In light of the National Development Agenda, the States are expected to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, it is essential to revisit the categorization of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Currently, the old existing funding pattern of the “Core of Core” schemes is being maintained by the Union Government. Hence, it is of utmost importance that the schemes and programs of national importance like ‘Sarva Sikhsa Abhiyan’, National Health Mission, Mid Day Meal, Integrated Child Development Scheme and National Food Security Mission should be categorized under “Core of Core” schemes and the existing funding pattern of the schemes should be maintained by the Union Government.

In addition to this, it is essential that the special needs of backward states are looked into, differently. The 14th Finance Commission, in its recommendations, has also suggested that “specific States, to the extent of their needs, not being fulfilled by formula based transfers should be provided supplementary grant based on a fixed and equity based parameter.” In light of this suggestion, owing to its special needs, the State of Bihar ought to be provided a supplementary grant by the Union Government.

Special Plan – In order to mitigate the lack of basic infrastructure in Bihar, the Government of India had sanctioned Rs 12,000 crore as Special Scheme (BRGF) under the 12th Five Year Plan. Rs 10500 crore and Rs 1500 crore was earmarked for sanctioning new schemes and for the completion of old on-going schemes sanctioned during 10th and 11th Five Year Plan respectively. The NITI Aayog had sanctioned new schemes to the tune of Rs 9597.92 crore.

Even now, schemes worth Rs 902.08 crore are pending for sanction with the NITI Aayog. As against this, two proposals – a cost overrun amounting to Rs 856.81 crore with regard to sanctioned schemes under the energy sector and a scheme worth Rs 391 crore under the road sector, are pending with the NITI Aayog for sanction.

As far as release of funds is concerned, Rs 6934.21 crore has been released as of now by GoI and the current expenditure against release is Rs 8159.69 crore and Utilization certificate worth Rs 7606.93 crore has been submitted to the NITI Aayog. In spite of its limited resources, the State Government has spent an additional Rs 1225.46 from its own resources towards the completion of the on-going schemes so that the execution of schemes is not adversely affected. A series of request letters have been submitted to the Union Finance Minister for the release of remaining amount. I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene and facilitate immediate release of the remaining Rs 4163.71 crore so that the implementation of the schemes is completed on time. A delay in the release of funds will result in cost overrun and will also adversely affect the development of the State. In addition to this the proposals pending against the remaining 902.08 crores may be sanctioned on priority and funds may be released accordingly.

As you may be aware, taking cognizance of the financial difficulties arising from the partition of Bihar, a provision was made in the Bihar Reorganization Act, 2000 which provided for constitution of a special cell under the direct control of the Vice Chairman, Planning Commission to make special recommendations as per the needs of the State. Under this provision only assistance in the form of backward regions grant funds was being provided to Bihar. This arrangement as per the Bihar Reorganization Act, 2000 may be continued in future.

Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana: - The scheme for providing all weather roads to habitations under rural connectivity has been included in the national development agenda. However, presently under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana, there is a provision for providing connectivity, to the unconnected habitations with a population of 250 and above in Left Wing Extremist (LWE) affected districts and to the unconnected habitations with a population of 500 and above in rest of the districts. As rural connectivity is included in the National Development Agenda, I demand that schemes for providing connectivity to unconnected habitations with a population of 250 and above in rest of the districts may be included under the Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

The Union Government used to provide 100% share to the schemes under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana phase-I, which has now been changed to 60:40 (Central Share:State Share). The pending schemes under Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana phase-I are now being sanctioned as per the new sharing pattern. States like Bihar are now providing additional funds from their own resources. This additional financial burden is having an adverse effect on the development of basic infrastructure in backward States like Bihar. Hence, it is requested that the pending schemes under the Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana phase-I should be sanctioned as per the old funding pattern.

Special Category Status: In spite of achieving a double digit growth rate in the past many years, we remain below the national average in terms of major development indices like Poverty Line, Per Capita Income, Industrialization and Social and Physical Infrastructure. There is no doubt that there are many backward States like ours. In order to bail out such States from the morass of backwardness and bring them at par with the national average in

development indices, it is essential to initiate an affirmative policy intervention. It has been observed that States with Special Status have shown better progress on developmental parameters. Hence, it is essential to grant Special category status to Bihar and other backward states in order to fetch them out of backwardness, and help them to achieve the national average in terms of development indices. In this regard, we have been consistently placing our demands before the Union Government.

In this context, attention is drawn towards the recommendations of the Raghuram Rajan Committee, constituted by the Union Government, wherein, he has propounded indicators for overall development of states and on this basis has identified ten extremely backward states in the country and Bihar is one among them. It is mentioned in the report that in order to facilitate the rate of development in the extremely backward states, the Union Government can provide additional Central Assistance in other ways. In this backdrop, it is our request that the Union Government increase the central share to 90% in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the extremely backward states so that these states get an opportunity to utilize their own limited resources for other development and welfare schemes. Along with this, these states should be provided with a waiver in the direct and indirect Central taxes so that the flow of private investment increases and new avenues of employment are generated.

Revision of Honorarium and Shouldering the Financial Burden: For the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes as per the guidelines, a number of persons are deployed and honorarium is paid for their work done. For example, the Anganwadi Sewika and Sahayika for Integrated Child Development Program and Cooks for Mid-Day Meals. There is a demand for increasing the honorariums for such persons from time to time. As their number is large, they raise their demands in an organized manner and also protest when their demands not met. This adversely affects the implementation of the scheme and the honorarium issue hijacks the basic objectives of the said schemes. In some instances, as a result of the Union Government not revising the honorarium for a long time, states with scarce resources like Bihar have to provide extra funds from their resources to meet the additional demand. Therefore, I would like to suggest that in the event of such persons are deployed for a long period of time for implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, their honorarium should be revised after a reasonable interval and the accruing financial burden should be borne by the Union Government in its entirety.

Implementation of Integrated Child Development Program and Mid-Day Meal Scheme: In view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court directives, the State Governments are bound to serve hot cooked meals under the Supplementary Nutrition Program of the ICDS as well as the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. As you may be aware, the Sewikas and Sahayikas at Anganwadi Kendras provide many basic services related to health, education and nutrition to 0-6 year old children and pregnant and lactating mothers. However, due to the responsibility of preparing food on a daily basis, the identity of Anganwadi Kendras has been relegated to that of supplementary nutrition preparation and distribution centers. A number of irregularity and corruption related complains are received on a regular basis regarding these centers. As a result, this program is unable to focus on its basic objectives and remains trapped in the logistics of cooking food and administrative issues. Similar problems beset the Mid-Day Meals as well. Due to lack of basic infrastructure and adequate storage space, violation of hygiene standards and untrained and lowly paid cooks, a number of complaints are received with respect to the quality of food

prepared for Mid-Day Meals. The attention of the teachers is also unduly focused on Mid-Day Meals rather than teaching.

Through its various State schemes such as Poshak Yojana, Cycle Yojana etc the Government of Bihar has successfully implemented direct cash transfers to students, which have shown positive results. This has proved to be effective in controlling misuse of government funds, attaining higher physical achievement and level of satisfaction among the beneficiaries. Therefore, I will request the NITI Aayog to explore other legally sound alternatives and options for delivery of supplementary nutrition component of the Integrated Child Development Scheme and Mid-Day Meal Schemes.

Skill Development: - The State Government has established the Skill Development Mission as an initiative for comprehensive skill development in the state. The State Government has fixed an ambitious target for imparting training to one crore youths in the next five years. The memorandum submitted by the State Government to the sub group of the NITI Aayog and some important issues raised by me in a letter addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, hitherto neither included in the recommendations of the sub-group nor approved by the Government of India, ought to be included. The points are as follows: -

- ✓ It is estimated that Rs 12000 crore will have to be spent for training one crore youth in next five years in the state. The State government shall not be able to arrange the requisite huge amount because of its limited resources. In the recommendations of the sub-group, there is a clear cut recommendation for GoI to provide partnership to the State Governments in the skill training program but there is no clarity on the issue of providing financial support to them. In this regard, it is essential to provide special central assistance.
- ✓ Currently, about 2.5 Lakh youths can be trained per year on the basis of infrastructure available in the State. The infrastructure will have to be further developed in order to train the remaining 17.5 Lakh youths. The State currently has a total of 534 blocks, out of which 90 blocks have 120 operational Industrial Training Institutes (including women ITIs) in the public sector. Therefore, in order to establish a public sector ITI in each block, an estimated amount of Rs 8880 crore would be needed from the Union Government for this purpose. Although, establishment of an ITI in each block of the State along with financial support to the State Government for this purpose has not been recommended by the sub-group, it is reiterated that it is an important point and hence it should be included the skill development policy of the Union Government.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyan: - The State Government is committed to make Bihar Open Defecation Free (ODF). The State Government has initiated Lohiya Swachh Bihar Abhiyan as a means to achieve its goal of "Swachh Bihar Swasth Bihar". As a part of seven nisachay for development of Bihar, "Sauchalay Nirman Ghar ka Samman" has been embarked upon in mission mode to make the entire state Open Defecation Free in the next four years and the implementation is going on in a mission mode.

The State Government had submitted quite a few important suggestions to the sub-group of the NITI Aayog related to Swachh Bharat Mission out of which a number of them have not been included in the implementation policy. The important ones are as follows: -

- ✓ For the poor states like Bihar, the central and state share for Swachh Bharat Mission should be kept in the ratio of 90:10(Centre:State), as applicable to states with special status.
- ✓ Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) there should be a provision for incentive grants for all APL houses without toilets as opposed to the currently identified category (SC/ST, small and marginal farmers, landless labourers with homestead, physically handicapped, and women headed households) of APL houses.
- ✓ A large part of Bihar has to suffer from the problem of floods and water logging. So the normal leach pit toilets are not suitable for such areas and it is essential to construct technologically advanced toilets so that they are able to squarely meet the geographical/natural challenges while ensuring environmental sanctity. As a result, it would be useful to construct technologically advanced driven toilets such as Ecosan and high platform toilets while providing a minimum of Rs 20,000 in place of Rs 12,000 to each beneficiary.
- ✓ The central assistance for the construction of Individual Household Latrines should be increased to Rs. 9000 as opposed to Rs. 4000 mentioned in the guidelines Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). A total sum of Rs. 12000 should be given to the beneficiary for the construction of each toilet.
- ✓ It is essential to have a Knowledge Resource Centre to provide technological support for the implementation of the Swachh Bharat Mission which is currently available in some states excluding Bihar. Hence, it is essential to establish such a centre in Bihar.
- ✓ Currently, as per the guidelines of Swachh Bharat Mission, there is a provision of a maximum Rs 20 Lakh for Solid Liquid Waste Management Scheme head for every Gram Panchayat with 500 or more families. In state like Bihar, where the average number of families in a Gram Panchayat is 2000, the amount is grossly inadequate. Provision for funds for Solid Liquid Waste Management work in Gram Panchayat should be on the basis of its population.
- ✓ Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the earlier constructed toilets currently in disuse should not be considered as 'toilets' and additional financial support should be provided for their reconstruction.
- ✓ It is essential to benchmark economical and environmentally friendly techniques for Solid and Liquid Waste Management.
- ✓ It is difficult to construct toilets suited to the needs of the physically challenged (differently able) people from the current incentive funds. It appears that a special provision is needed for physically challenged people under Swachh Bharat Mission so that economically weak physically challenged families are encouraged to construct obstacle free toilets.

Double the Income of Farmers: Agriculture continues to be a major contributor to the Indian Economy contributing about 14% to the National GSDP. It is still more important for states like Bihar, because 89% of the total population resides in villages and 76% of the total population depends on agriculture and agro-based activities for their livelihood. Hence, development of agriculture has remained a priority of the State Government. A road map for agriculture was prepared for the first time in 2008, which has come to an end on 31st March 2012. The use of quality seeds, agricultural implements, green manure, vermi-compost was promoted and progressive techniques & practices in increasing agriculture productivity was given publicity through the agriculture road map. There has been an unprecedented increase in the productivity of paddy, wheat and maize due to the efforts of our hardworking farmers.

Encouraged by the success of the first agriculture road map, the second agriculture road map 2012-2017 has been prepared and implemented. A holistic development concept of agriculture has been conceived keeping the farmers in the centre-stage in this agriculture road map. The target of production and productivity has been qualitatively increased. All the important components of agriculture have been included in this road map to usher in a Rainbow Revolution in the agriculture sector of Bihar hitherto untouched by the first Green Revolution. We are utilizing integrated and sustainable technology management practices to develop grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits, vegetables, sugarcane, jute, honey, mushroom, milk, meat, eggs and fish to bring about a rainbow revolution. The schemes for increasing production have been designed taking into consideration the special agro-climatic conditions of Bihar. The Road Map provides for qualitative increase in agro production, storage facilities for produce, value addition, arrangements for marketing and processing, re-establishment and extension of irrigational facilities, increasing the availability of electricity through dedicated feeders, all-weather road connectivity to habitations with a population up to 250, arrangements for land survey and consolidation and plantation of 24 crore trees in five year.

We have been able to provide our farmers with quality agricultural input on time, exposure and training in new technologies and have facilitated their capacity building through the agriculture road map. Along with this, the development of agriculture in Bihar has been given a new direction by way of supporting farmers by providing grants/subsidies in various schemes. Taking advantage of the schemes, our farmers have toiled hard to bring about an unprecedented increase in the productivity of paddy, wheat and maize in Bihar, thereby surpassing the national average. In addition to linking them with beneficial schemes, the farmers have been provided appropriate price for their produce, which has led to an increase in their incomes and improvement in their economic status. In view of the current agriculture road map coming to an end in 2017, the work for the preparation of a new agriculture road map for the next five years has been undertaken. Hence, it is requested that the Union Government provides appropriate financial support to the schemes related to the agricultural road map of Bihar.

The Union Government is implementing a plethora of small schemes in the agriculture sector and a number of them are designed in a similar fashion. As a result, the implementation of such schemes is adversely affected, the targeted farmers are unable to receive the benefits on time and the coverage and benefits are limited. In this respect, it is my suggestion that there is a need to reduce the number of on-going agriculture schemes after rationalization by the Union Government. In addition to this, the Eastern States are being considered as the area for the Second Green Revolution. The National Farmer Commission has underlined the importance of agriculture in the eastern region which has been accepted by the NITI Aayog. The Government of India is implementing a scheme by the name of Bringing Green Revolution in Eastern India but the size of the scheme is very small and the components included in the scheme are inadequate. If the Union Government is serious in implementing this scheme, the size of the scheme should be adequately increased on a priority basis.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister, in midst of his election campaign had announced that Minimum Support Price would be fixed by adding 50 % to the input cost of the agriculture produce. There can be no better initiative to double the income of the farmers then this. I would like to remind the Hon'ble Prime Minister with a request that the aforesaid

announcement may be implemented soon. It also needs to be clarified that while discussing the issue of doubling the income of the farmers, the income should be estimated on the basis of constant price as opposed to the current price.

Poverty Alleviation: - The Union Government and the Planning Commission have tried to estimate poverty on the basis of calorie intake and expenditure but there is no universal consensus on the definition of poverty estimation. In my view, only expenditure and calorie intake cannot serve as a tool for poverty estimation because it ignores the minimum needs of human development like nutrition, clothes, house, education and health etc. Therefore a multi-dimensional poverty indicator can be a better substitute for defining the poverty line.

The paper released during an International Seminar on “Review of Poverty Related Issues – Estimation, Identification and Alleviation” held in Patna in July 2007, lay stress on the fact that the current means of measuring the poverty line is faulty and there is a need to improve it. A consensus had been reached in the seminar that the various components of poverty and deprivation and education, health, change in needs of nutrition should be kept in mind while proposing new methodology and parameters for estimation of poverty.

The State Government is of the opinion that under poverty alleviation every Indian should be provided with an opportunity to lead a dignified life with self-respect. The standard of individual entitlement based on different needs should be fixed as a part of development under the national agenda. It should be the first responsibility of the NITI Aayog to prepare a time bound program to bridge the gap among the laggard states depending on the gap existing between them with respect to the national average of suitable standards. The benefit of development should empower and strengthen all the sections of the society especially weaker sections including the extremely poor. Similarly, unless all the states and regions are developed in a balanced manner, the development of the entire nation shall remain incomplete. Therefore, special assistance should be provided to backward, resource poor and ignored regions to bring them at par with National parameters.

Sustainable Development Goal: - The Government of Bihar’s concept of growth is “Development with Justice” which is inclusive of all people and region. The strategy of the development of the State is inclusive, equitable and based on sustainable economic development. Our policies and programs are being implemented through Agriculture Road Map, Manav Vikas Mission, Skill Development Mission, Disaster Management and Industrial Promotion and Investment, benefiting all the sections of the society. A number of schemes are being implemented in the State in the field of education, health, basic infrastructure and for welfare of the weaker section, women and children.

Since independence, States in India have experience different trajectory of development and deprivations. Transfer awards by successive Finance commission have failed to insure interstate fiscal equalization and Bihar has been one of the major victims of this. Various studies show that the bulk of the benefit of the Central Government’s implicit and explicit subsidies have gone to the more advance States. This has that to significant regional imbalance and has resulted in creation of islands of developments within the country.

The behavior of national growth statistics suggests high volatility in which years of high growth rate are suddenly substituted with low growth years and this uneven performance dents investment confidence. This is because of the excessive reliance on rate of growth

achieved by more advanced state. If instead the more backward and poorer States are incentivized through suitable policy action, these undesirable fluctuations in National growth data would be mitigated. Bihar with a population of 8% of India's population contributes only about 3% to the national GDP. In last ten years, Bihar has demonstrated rapid economic growth achieving a double digit growth rate. Given our recent growth performance, time is right for our development initiative to receive the support and encouragement through enabling policy initiatives. Realizing this goal would be both in Bihar's and India's interest.

Sustainable Development Goal and Agenda 2030, provides us an opportunity to examine the reasons of disparity and justice among the states and also among the weaker section of the population minutely. In spite of attending higher economic growth rate, backward states are below the national average on many social and economic indicators. Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 provide an opportunity to bridge this gap. I suggest that this is appropriate opportunity to estimate the needs of the states on different parameters of development in all areas, in the wake of which draft of the strategy of each region is prepared so that backward states can be brought at par with the national average on at least all the indicators.

Many global Sustainable Development Indicators cannot be met unless India does not achieve these targets and so therefore this is the responsibility of the Union Government and NITI Aayog that special attention should be provided to economically backward states. Redefining the measurement of poverty and the delay in the release of Social, Economical and Caste based census is regressive and this should be deliberated on priority in the context of Sustainable Development Goals.

The special package to be provided to the States for meeting the targets of Sustainable Development Goals should be mentioned clearly in the National Vision Document 2030. The expectation/need of the States should be clearly mentioned in the national framework of strategy and action plan. One of the core principles of SDG is "Leaving No One Behind" which requires us to take actions that guarantee benefits to the most vulnerable population groups. We hope Central Government takes cognizance of this aspect.

Proposed 7 year strategy and 3 year action document need further consultation with the States, also given the facts that SGDs are Universal, Integration, Transformational and Aspirational, we suggest Short-Medium-Long term strategy formulation as it should be based on the magnitude of inequality among the States. One size fits all or centralized strategy has never worked or can never be fruitful in the country with diversity like ours and hence we definitely would like more deliberations on timelines approach and resources to achieve SDG and AGENDA 2030. Further, the policies and schemes should be planned on the basis of entitlement & habitation and appropriates resources to achieve these goals should be detailed in the Vision Document.

I would like to bring to your attention the fact that Government of Bihar, in the recent past, has taken many transformative steps. We have taken various initiatives like the "Program of Good Governance 2015-2020", which includes 7 Resolves for developed Bihar, setting up of Bihar Vikas Mission, Disaster Risk Reduction Road Map (2015-2030), Jeevika program for women self help groups, 35% reservation to women in all State Government jobs and empower citizen of the State through Right to Public Service Act and Right to Public

Grievance Redressal Act. We have laid the foundation of social transformation by enforcing total prohibition in Bihar. Prohibition has resulted in improvement in the health of the citizen, betterment of economic conditions of the families, reduction in domestic violence, family disputes and social crimes. This is our true tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of centenary year of Champaran Satyagrah.

In spite of limited resources, the State Government under its 7 Nishchay aims at providing in a mission mode electricity to every household, piped water supply and toilet in every household, all weather roads connectivity to unconnected habitations, construction of all weather streets and provide higher, professional & technical educations and skill development for youth and women. All the aforementioned initiatives are universal in nature and are available to all people and region of the State without any bias. Thus, it is evident the National Development Agenda, which is the priority of the Union Government, is being taken forward by our State. We hope that the Union Government will provide appropriate resources for all these initiatives of the State Government.

It is hoped that the above issues are addressed while formulating the Vision Document for India as well as the State of Bihar.