

PROCEEDINGS of Eastern Zonal Conference of IIPA

On

Viksit Bharat@2047: Concerns of Eastern India

22nd January, 2025



Organised by



Indian Institute of Public Administration Bihar Regional Branch, Patna





Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (BIPARD), Gaya



Proceedings of

Eastern Zonal Conference of IIPA

Viksit Bharat@2047: Concerns of Eastern India 22nd January, 2025

IIPA Bihar Regional Branch organized the Eastern Zonal Conference of IIPA on "Viksit Bharat@2047: Concerns of Eastern India" in collaboration with Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (BIPARD), Gaya held on 22nd January, 2025. The Conference was participated by representatives of Regional and Local Branches of IIPA from states of West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar. There were altogether four Sessions - Inaugural Session, Plenary Session-I, Plenary Session-2 and Valedictory Session. In all these sessions, there were live discussions. Following is the session-wise proceedings:

Inaugural Session

The session was presided over by Shri Vijoy Prakash, IAS (retd), the Chairman of IIPA Bihar Regional Branch. The Director General of IIPA, New Delhi Shri S. N. Tripathi, IAS (retd) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Shri A V Sinha, IAS (retd) and Shri Amitabh Ranjan, the Registrar IIPA were the guests of Honour.





The session began with welcome address was delivered by **Dr Henna Tabassum** who after brief introduction of the Conference addressed every guest, delegates from Branches and august gathering



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The Theme of the Conference was introduced by **Prof Ravindra K. Verma** Hony. Secretary, Bihar Regional Branch. He threw light on the significance of Eastern India in terms of demography, economy and its importance in the historical perspective. Prof. Verma successfully set the tone of the Zonal Conference. He raised very pertinent questions for serious discussion in the Conference and pointed out the Rural-Urban Divide, Regional Disparities, Disparities among Eastern Indian States, etc. He marked that Odisha has progressed much faster in the recent period compared to other three states – Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. However, Odisha also has a place in 4th tier of 6 tiers of development parameters. He stressed on Eastern India by saying that without developing this region of India, it will be difficult to achieve PM's dream of Vikshit Bharat by 2047. In his speech, he also focused on water management system and cited one of his research projects that how community managed system of old water bodies was effective, both socially and economically and these traditional water bodies, wetlands etc. needs to be revived. Finally, Prof. Verma put some questions before the house for directed discussions in terms of fast pace of development of the region. He emphasized that Eastern India has to play its important role in making Vikshit Bharat by 2047. The inaugural session had exhaustive discussions on the subject.







Welcome Address

Theme Introduction

Vote of Thanks



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Address of Guest of Honour

In his Guest of Honour Speech **Shri A V Sinha** delivered a pointed talk focused on the development of Bihar. He stressed on the role of educational institutions in mainstreaming of vulnerable section of the society. He cited that the old glory of Bihar as an educational hub can achieve development goal by reinvigorating its two world fame Institutions – (i) Nalanda University and (ii) Vikramshila University. He focused on education system of ancient Bihar and pleaded for reviving the glory on ancient education system.

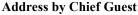
Other Guest of Honour Shri Amitabh Ranjan threw light on the development and objectives of Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) in details and its journey till date. He proudly elaborated the role of IIPA in the course of development of the nation. He also indicated the achievements of IIPA in the areas of research and development, training of officials of Indian and state administrative services including high level officials of defense services for enhancing their governance capacity, publications, conferences, seminars, need-based researches for suggesting policies, etc. He pointed out that the local talent of the Eastern part of the nation cannot be ignored. Further Shri Ranjan emphasised that the labour force of these states are the factors of economies of many developed states by playing role as a labourer in the field of agriculture sector or in industrial sectors. To him it is urgent imperative to serve the interest of development of Eastern States, especially for Bihar by discussing several grassroots level interventions. He emphasized that Bihar has achieved many milestones but they are not showcased in proper manner, such as achievements of cycle scheme for girl students. He pointed out that the Eastern Region has a great potential but need to execute the things in right direction and in right spirit. It needs strategic, attitudinal and behavioural changes to achieve the development goal. He congratulated the IIPA Bihar Branch for publishing Bihar Journal of Public Administration, the only UGC-CARE listed Journal published by any IIPA regional branches.

In his Chief Guest address, DG, IIPA **Shri S N Tripathi**, IAS (retd), threw light on each and every segment of development and stressed on the role of Bureaucracy in India. He explained that the bureaucrats have changed many systems to accrue the benefits of the development to people at large.

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He cited number of examples that made ease of living and reduce corruption and time and empower people in a massive way. He argued that the Academia has the power to change the society by suggesting the correct strategy towards the development and they should play their role in a very conducive manner. He pointed-out that the two key factors are necessary to achieve the states' development goals, whether it is Bihar or any other Eastern States - (i) generation of individual's income and (ii) good governance. Finally, Shri Tripathi elaborated the handholding approach of Academia-Bureaucracy-Industry for the holistic development of the nation, region and society. He applauded the IIPA Bihar Branch for such an academic-bureaucracy joint collaborative discussion and also suggested to go for such type of meetings of academic-bureaucracy. He appealed that academicians and bureaucrats should not only make suggestions but act by their own. He appreciated the excellence of work progressed by the IIPA Bihar Branch and announced to provide significant ex-officio position to Director General of BIPARD. He also requested the Director General of BIPARD to provide an Office Space in BIPARD, Patna for smooth running of IIPA Bihar Branch. He mentioned that many states governments which have provided space and budget for IIPA Regional Branches.







Presidential Address

In his presidential address, **Shri Vijoy Prakash**, **the Chairman of IIPA**, Bihar Regional Branch, aligned his remarks with the theme of the conference. He emphasized that Bihar is the youngest state in India, and its development hinges on harnessing this youthful population productively and effectively. He highlighted the challenges posed by technological drawbacks and labor migration, which could lead to significant unemployment. Shri Prakash cited numerous examples where human labor is being replaced in various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, services, biotechnology, and other domains. He shed light on both the advantages and disadvantages of technological advancements. Shri Prakash elaborated the developmental role of different industrial revolutions, which were driven by innovations related to (i) Fire, (ii) Steam Engine, (iii) Electricity,



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and (iv) Information Technology. He noted that while India adopted the use of fire early on, the adoption of the other three industrial revolutions lagged behind compared to developed regions of the world. He emphasized that we are now in the midst of a new industrial revolution—Industry 4.0 which is based on transformative technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT). These technologies are playing a pivotal role in driving national development. He pointed out that countries like China and those in Europe and US have rapidly adopted these technologies, propelling their growth. Shri Prakash explained how Bihar has fallen behind in adopting technology, which has hindered its ability to benefit from the industrial revolutions. To accelerate economic development, he stressed the need for the state to embrace technological change at the grassroots level, starting from schools. He emphasized the importance of changing the mindset of bureaucrats and creating a holistic environment to attract investment. The ease of doing business must be promoted, and the bureaucracy should adopt a welcoming attitude to foster a private investment-friendly environment for development. He further suggested that the state should increase spending on innovation and encourage research and development. Shri Prakash highlighted the important role of land-related issues in the development path. He underscored the importance of skill development, resource development, and micro-skilling, which can create ample opportunities for holistic growth in the state. He advocated for a market-efficient economy rather than a public investment-driven economy. In the end, Shri Prakash expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Shri K.K. Pathak, IAS, for his support in organizing such an excellent programme and providing worldclass hospitality.

At the end of the inaugural session **Dr. Nishant Kumar**, Joint Secretary, IIPA Bihar Branch proposed the Vote of Thanks. He has also pointed out the significance of each and every delegates who were there to make the Zonal Conference a success. The Branch's UGC-CARE listed journal 'Bihar Journal of Public Administration Vol. XXI No. 2 'was released in the session.





Release of Bihar Journal of Public Administration, 21(2) December, 2024

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Plenary Session 1

The first Plenary session was presided over by Prof S P Singh, Chair Professor of PRIs and Registrar, Chankya National Law University, Patna, co-chaired by Prof Anil Kumar Ojha of B R A Bihar University, Muzaffarpur. Dr Bakshi Amit K Sinha was the Discussant in the session. Dr K A Narain was the rapporteur.

The Key-Note Address was delivered by Prof. Saroj Kumar Verma, former Dean of Social Sciences, J P University, Chapra. In his address Prof. Verma emphasized the need of improving the education with advanced knowledge in these states especially Bihar and Jharkhand for achieving the sustainable development goals. He argued that it is an urgent imperative to create adequate educational infrastructure and include skill development in syllabus at every level. He further suggested that the sports should be given priority and encouragement with a view to unlock the potential of the youth in these states. He argued that sports instill many personality traits like confidence, cooperation, commitment etc. conducive to development among youth. He also raised the point of promotion of cooperative federalism irrespective of parties in power in the Centre and in the states. State and Centre should work hand in hand for development of the region.











Unlocking Potential

Dr Aviral Pandey, Division of Economics, A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, Patna in his presentation entitled "Eastern India: Unlocking the Potential for Viksit Bharat by 2047" presented a comparative account of the four states in terms of the GDP growth, Social Progress, industry, agriculture and opportunities in Eastern India. He highlighted that, despite impressive double-digit economic growth, Eastern India continues to lag behind other parts of the country (with few exceptions), leading to widening regional disparities. The presentation emphasised the urgent need for inclusive and effective growth strategies to ensure the region both benefits from and contributes meaningfully to the vision of *Viksit Bharat*. Dr. Pandey pointed out the economic decline of key states like West Bengal, whose share of the national GDP fell substantially in the recent year 2023-2024 from the year 1960-61. Excluding other factors, challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, poor outcomes in education and skilling, low quality employment generation, pervasive poverty, malnutrition, and low worker productivity have contributed to the decline in share of these states of India's GDP and have been identified as significant barriers to development of states of Eastern India. These issues have also led to distress-driven out-migration from these states. The presentation called for targeted interventions



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in areas such as poverty reduction, industrial diversification (adopting models like small-scale enterprises and the Town and Village Enterprise model), and rural infrastructure development, including improvements in roads, irrigation, electricity, and connectivity. Specific recommendations for agriculture included the adoption of modern technology, improved irrigation systems, profitable crop diversification, and development of agro-processing industries. Dr. Pandey also stressed the importance of health and education reforms, such as expanding rural healthcare services, addressing maternal and child malnutrition, and enhancing school infrastructure and vocational training programs. He identified emerging opportunities in sectors like the circular economy, water conservation, and digital platforms, which could drive sustainable growth in the region. The presentation concluded with a strong emphasis on reducing the rural-urban divide and fostering public-private partnerships to harness resources and innovation. Dr. Pandey highlighted the need for a holistic and inclusive roadmap to uplift Eastern India and align its development trajectory with the goals of *Viksit Bharat*.







Culture and Education

Odisha Reg. Branch

Jharkhand Reg Branch

Prof. Jitendra Narayan, Ex-Dean of LNMU Darbhanga, Bihar, explained how the political economy of the policy paradigm has affected the growth of Eastern Indian states. Both central and state-level policy dilemmas, as well as governance issues, have impeded the growth of this region. For example, the Freight Equalization Policy negatively impacted industrial growth in these states. Additionally, state-level conditions have influenced the presence of industrialists and the business class. He also highlighted that, while female participation in the active workforce has declined, but women have contributed significantly through their roles in family building and other unpaid labour that often goes unrecognised. Furthermore, he stressed the need to improve the quality of education to transform the region into a *Viksit Bharat* and emphasized the critical role of good governance in achieving this goal. He also argued that caste-politics in the region in general and Bihar in particular has adversely arrested the pace of development evident from pace of development in the sectors of agriculture, industry and trade, education and health care, development of technology and so on. However, Bihar has witnessed sizeable development in infrastructure, gender justice, education of girls and environment recently. He suggested to accelerate such programmes on war-footing.



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Prof. Mrinal Chatterjee, (Regional Director, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), Dhenkanal) representing the Odisha Regional Branch, discussed the current situation of Eastern Indian states and explained how they have lost their share in India's GDP. Using West Bengal as an example, he highlighted the key factors contributing to this decline. He disagreed to consider historical facts as significant factor responsible for decline. He emphasised several policy suggestions to promote development in the region, including improvements in education and skill development, infrastructure, and the adoption of context-specific technologies. Prof. Chatterjee specifically pointed out that while small-scale Gobar Gas plants may not be sustainable at the farmer level, they could be more viable when managed on a larger scale, citing the example of making Diyas from Gobar in Southern states as a model. Due to expansion of use of gobar-diva around temples, the rise of machines of manufacturing diyas have been witnessed. He argued that technological advancements, skill development, and business promotion linked to such innovations could create substantial employment opportunities in Eastern India. Additionally, he highlighted the looming challenges related to water scarcity in the region and stressed the need for proactive water conservation measures. A key concern, according to Prof. Chatterjee, is the quality of education, and he referred the ASER report to underscore the necessity for quality assurance in education across the region. He pointed out that dropout ratio is higher in both the states of Bihar and Odisha. Hence there is need of giving priority to skilling the youth. Prof Chatterjee further informed that conditions of health services are not sufficient in the region and people depend on southern states for health services. He also emphasized the improvement of better connectivity in the region for which suggested the improvement of waterways by using rivers that may be cheaper mode of transport. He pleaded that the bureaucracy at the point of citizen-interface should gather real data from the field and should not depend on only official data. Bureaucrats should interact with citizens and get acquainted with their problems viz. interacting with labourers, a bureaucrat can diagnose the problems and find the solutions.

A great deal of question-answer discussions was held. Those IIPA members who actively participated were Dr Anjani Kumar Ghosh, Dr Shamshad Ansari and Dr Shradha Rishi of Magadh University, Dr Kumar Amrendra Narain of R. N. College, Hajipur and Dr Kavita Kumari of Txshila College, Patna. The Chairman of the Session **Prof S P Singh** summed up the proceedings of the session.

Plenary Session II

Plenary session-II was chaired by Prof. Jitendra Narayan and co-chaired by Shri Om Prakash Yadav, IAS (retd). Dr Awadhesh Kumar Singh, Secretary Muzaffarpur Local Branch was Discussant and **Dr Rajesh Kumar**, Joint Secretary of Bihar Regional Branch along with Dr Aviral Pandey were the Rapporteurs in the session.



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Plenary Session II

Viksit Bihar @2047

Dr Bakshi Amit Kumar Sinha, Faculty, Bihar Institute of Public Finance and Policy, Government of Bihar, Patna in his exhaustive presentation entitled "Viksit Bihar@2047: Challenges and Way Forward" first of all clarified the PM Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 by making India a 30 trillion US Dollar Economy. He pleaded that it is essential to work out to increase the Per-capita Income (PCI) of the country by 20000 US Dollar. He referred the design of road map of NITI Aayog for development by estimating export of 8.67 trillion US Dollar, investment of Rs. 1273 lakh crore and saving of Rs. 1340 lakh crore. He also presented the size of Bihar economy as Viksit Bihar by 2047 and said that PCI of Bihar should be in parity of the national average, fast annual growth of SGDP at the rate of over seventeen percent, PCI at the rate of over sixteen percent and faster pace of social progress. Indicating the basic challenges before Bihar in the way of achieving the goal of Vikshit Bihar he enumerated the following: the population density putting burden on resources; lowest PCI nearly one third of the national PCI, One third population below poverty line, lower CD Ratio of state, the gap in human development, i.e health and education, skilling gap, lack of industry-linked curriculum, Low Industrial and overall finances. In addition, Bihar faces multiple natural disasters like floods and droughts frequently. He added that Bihar had almost stagnant poverty incidence for over four decades from 1974 to 2004. He also compared the economic scenario of Bihar with states of other parts of India. Mentioning the strengths of Bihar, he informed that it has a very versatile ecological system and experiences multiple-seasons. Further, more than dozens of rivers including international rivers and traditional water bodies. Finally, he recommended to a) Promote Knowledge-Based Economy; b) create World-class soft and hard Infrastructure; c) Expand Road, Rail and Air connectivity; c) Robust PFM and Augmentation of Own Revenue; d) improve quality and reach of Health and Education for better Human Development Outcomes; e) Skilling labour and provide Employment opportunities through Labour Intensive Private Investment including tourism sector; f) Manufacturing based Economic Transformation; g) Technological Adoption in Agriculture with Industry-linked and Export-based Production; h) develop planned cities instead of concentration in urban areas; h) Participatory Approach (PPP, Civil Society, NGOs and other Development Partners); Research and Development (establish centre of excellence in every sector) and i) Technological Use and j) Resilient and Sustainable Environment (Green Development, Water and Energy Conservation).



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Presentation on PRIs

Howrah Local Branch

Muz. Local Branch

Prof. S. P. Singh, in his presentation, dwelt upon the role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for the achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047. He argued that participation of community in the process of rural development can be facilitated by PRIs. The elected panchayat representatives can provide responsive governance at the doorsteps of citizens, however, he lamented that PRIs have been proved inadequately successful. He said that elected panchayat representatives (EPRs) are not properly trained to handle the development process and harnessing the locally available resources up to optimum level. He said that most of the EPRs belong to young age, hence they can be more useful in development process. He further discussed about the role of Gram katchahary in betterment of the rural areas. He argued that people get into disputes on even trivial issues, as result people face problems in trials and other tough procedures. Prof Singh elaborated the procedures of resolution of disputes and success stories of amicable resolution of debates. He informed that lakhs of trivial cases have so far been amicably resolved in Bihar since 2016. He opined that the resolutions of conflicts once done by Gram Katchaharies are resolved for ever whereas disputes settled in judicial courts may go to higher courts and appeals. He also informed that still there are problems in delivery of justice by Gram Kachahary, such as lack of proper training for acquainting them with legal provisions and procedures, lack of deputing 'Nayay Mitras', transfer of cases from judicial courts, non-cooperation of police personnel and delay in disbursement of funds meant for Gram Katchahary. He suggested to impart training to EPRs and representatives of Gram Katchahary like Panchs and Sarpanchs and ensure cooperation of lower level bureaucracy to facilitate panchs and sarpanchs to resolve the cases amicably. This will add to the pace of rural development in the state.

Dr Amitava Datta of Howrah Local Branch, in his presentation, emphasized to achieve inclusive socio-economic growth and equitable distribution of its fruits. He argued that entire eastern region is suffering from severe inequality in terms of economic development, social progress, high incidence of poverty and also education, however, there are intra-regional disparities. The federal system in India is working in less cooperative way. The vertical share of tax revenue is delayed by Centre. The political reasons adversely affect the development in this region. He argued that the eastern region lag behind India in terms of Net State Domestic Product (NSDP), Per Capita NSDP, Per Capita Income, Birth



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Rate, Fertility Rate, Mortality Rate, Nutritional Status and of course Education. He further mentioned that peace in society can only lead to 'Viksit' status but the region, especially West Bengal suffers from violence and hatred. The Crime rate in WB has also gone up. There is also the persistent phenomenon of constrained Centre-State relation. All these hamper the faster pace of development in the region. Finally, he suggested that the administration of these states should establish peace, equality and adopt pro-poor policies.

Dr Arun Kumar of Jharkand Regional Branch, Ranchi (ex-Director, Technical Education, Govt of Jharkhand) in his presentation elaborated the poor socio-economic conditions of the state despite having ample mineral resources and medicinal vegetation. He stated that the state lags behind the other three states in terms of School Education Quality Index. He argued that the local people have the knowledge of plants of medicinal value but due to lack of adequate infrastructure and policy to develop herbal medicine by using advance technology and also marketing mechanism, the resources of the state are not adequately harnessed. There is urgent need of unlocking the potential of people of Jharkhand through appropriate policies. He suggested that the human resources of the state should be properly developed to adopt livelihood based on traditional wisdom with modern techniques. He presented the sad plight of tribal population who suffer miseries due to non-education syndrome. He said that they are deprived of their rights over forests on one hand and they depend mostly on traditional occupations on the other. He mentioned the programmes launched by Jharkhand Government for their betterment but lamented that the tribal population are not being provided with adequate opportunities to adopt technology. The state also suffers from corruption in administration. Mentioning the contribution of private sector especially TATA Co. by establishing industries and providing facilities and securities to its employees, he suggested that the private sector should be facilitated to contribute to the pace of development of the state.

Dr Awadhesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Muzaffarpur Local Branch emphasized the significance of grassroots governance in rural areas as it constitutes over two thirds of population and contributes nearly 46 percent to national income. He argued that though the reservation policy in local self-governments especially in PRIs (Panchayati Raj Institutions) has provided space to almost all weaker sections, yet the EPRs follow the patterns of state politics and fail to contribute to rural development process. Mentioning the PM's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) on the line of Aspirational District Programme, he expressed hopes that ABP would revolutionize governance and drive to achieve SDGs at the block levels by the efforts of block level civil servants. Reacting on poor performance of Gram Kachaharies, he said that as the elected Gram Kachahari members are ill-equipped, they lack adequate awareness, lack of trust of litigants in it and dominant village social structure and lack of proper training. He further discussed the issue of proper implementation of development schemes in Bihar. He said that reasons of arrested development of the state are - poor people's participation in the implementation of development schemes, prevalent corruption both among officials and EPR and Elected members of Urban Local Bodies, the labour class being unskilled, poor education system, poor industrialisation and



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so on. He expressed happiness that Bihar has potential to develop and the PRIs gradually have begun showing promise in utilising the available resources.







A great deal of discussion took place in the Discussion session in which Shri Om Prakash Yadav, IAS (retd) shared his administrative experience and said that if the bureaucrats at the point of citizen's interface establish rapport with the people, he can be successful in resolving problems with the help of local people as he did at Munger. Dr Pankaj Kumar of Jharkhand Regional Branch, Dr Awadhesh Kumar Singh of Muzaffarpur, **Dr Rajesh Kumar** of Bihar Regional Branch, Mrs Abhilasha of Bihar Technical Service Commission, Prof Manish Sinha of Magadh University, Dr Shashank of Patna were among the members who took active part in the discussions. **Prof Jitendra Narayan** appreciated the presentations and summed the proceedings of the session and put forward the suggestion to use the traditional Indian knowledge system with new technology.

Valedictory Session

Valedictory Session was chaired by Prof Mrinal Chatterjee of Odisha Regional Branch and Co-chaired by Shri O P Yadav, IAS (retd). Shri Arya Gautam, Senior Assistant Director and Shri Ajay Kumar Singh Assistant Director of Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development (BIPARD), Gaya were the Special Guests in the Session. Dr Aviral Pandey and Dr Bakshi A K Sinha presented the Rapporteur's Report. Closing Remarks was delivered by Shri Vijoy Prakash, IAS (retd), Chairman of the Branch and Prof Ravindra K Verma, Hony. Secretary of the Branch proposed the Vote of Thanks.

Prof Mrinal Chatterjee addressed the valedictory session with his observations about the discussions in the session. Dr Aviral Kumar presented the Rapporteur's Report. Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Assistant Director, BIPARD, Gaya presented his speech on behalf of BIPARD. He played ppt on BIPARD Next-Gen Lab describing the achievements and repositories of BIPARD. Further, he appreciated the



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proceedings of the Eastern Zonal Conference of IIPA and expressed willingness to mutually cooperate in the activities of Bihar Regional Branch and take the benefits of IIPA in fulfillment of the objectives of BIPARD. In his concluding remarks, Shri, IAS (retd) said that the recommendations of the





Valedictory Session

Officials of BIPARD as Special Guests

Conference will throw light in introducing appropriate policies to achieve the goal of Viksit Eastern India and Viksit Bharat by 2047. He suggested that emphasis should be given to proliferate technology down at grassroots level, especially in schools and provisions should be made to make people to use it fruitfully. Prof Ravindra K Verma proposed the vote of thanks in which he expressed gratitude to delegates of IIPA from Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha, officials, technical and supportive staff of BIPRAD, and the Trainee Officials who contributed a lot in successful organization of the Conference. He specially expressed his thankfulness to **Dr Rajesh Kumar, the Joint Secretary of the Branch** for his tireless efforts in preparations of the Conference both at Patna and Gaya.

Recommendations

Finally, Dr. Verma pointed out that what was the most important achievement of the Eastern Zonal Conference of IIPA was - 'Bringing Eastern India to the Forefront of 'National Development Debate'. He further presented the following recommendations of the Conference for approval of the House:

- Policy masters should not only confine to State-Specific Policy but 'Region Centric Roadmaps for Inclusive Growth', however, each state requires a customised policy roadmap that considers its unique context, available resources, and local economic dynamics through better coordination, region-specific groups can be developed across states in this region.
- As the agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the region, it is essential to strengthen 'Agriculture and profitable output as well as promoting Agro-based industries and Enterprises' especially at medium, small and micro levels for Sustainable Growth



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- As India including Eastern states have majority of youth population, it is urgent imperative to go for **youth-specific policies** like employment generation, non-farm livelihood in rural areas, providing training in use of technology and so on.
- Emphasis should be given on enhanced Role of 'Technology, Health, Skill, and Education' to transform the region into a key contributor to India's workforce. By strengthening educational infrastructure and fostering entrepreneurship, the population (Demographic Dividend) can transition these states from being 'aid beneficiaries' to 'active economic participants'.
- ➤ It is high time to go for 'Strengthening Infrastructure' for Economic Growth. For which the Conference identified connectivity particularly, roads, electricity, and digital connectivity, as a critical enabler of economic transformation of this region. It will integrate the region into national and global markets for unlocking the full economic potential.
- There is urgent need of Empowering 'Local Governance' for Grassroots Development, as such the role of Panchayati Raj institutions and Gram Katcharis was underscored as essential in driving sustainable and decentralised development. It will improve local governance and facilitate better implementation of policies and programmes.
- ➤ **Gender-centric policies** are the demand of the time for the region, as the **women workforce** are marginally utilized in the region. The premium should be placed on **'Care Economy'** also.
- ➤ It was also felt that the non-state actors like 'Corporate Sector' and Civil Society Organisations' should give their hundred percent for development of the region.
- ➤ It was also discussed that policies should be introduced to raise the **income of Bihar** by improving profitable agriculture, promoting entrepreneurship, MSMEs and internal resources
- > The situation demands that State and Centre should work hand in hand irrespective of party affiliations and true Cooperative Federalism should be promoted

The present Eastern Zonal Conference of IIPA set the stage for a focused and strategic push toward *Viksit Bharat* @ 2047 by identifying key challenges and actionable solutions for eastern India's development. The next phase should involve policy formulation, targeted interventions, and coordinated implementation to ensure that the region realises its full potential as an economic powerhouse within the broader vision of a developed India.



Some Glimpses of the Premises and Print Media









Relaxing moments

Group Photo of Delegates



At BIPARD House

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Corridor of Nitishala (BIPARD)

विकसित भारत की चुनौतियों पर हुई चर्चा









Book entitled YAMRAJ



Gen Next Lab of BIPARD



Brahmyoni Parwat in the Background