



MAJOR CHALLENGES FACED BY BIHAR IN PATH OF ADDRESSING THE DEVELOPMENTAL CONCERNS

INTRODUCTION

Bihar has given positive growth, as GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) by 25% in 2020-21 against shrinking of Indian Economy by 7.2% due to Covid-19 Pandemic. Due to various initiatives taken by the Bihar government in the development of the state like Sat Nischay 2.0 for holistic socio-economic development, 'Bihar' Mobile App for the development of agriculture and many more.

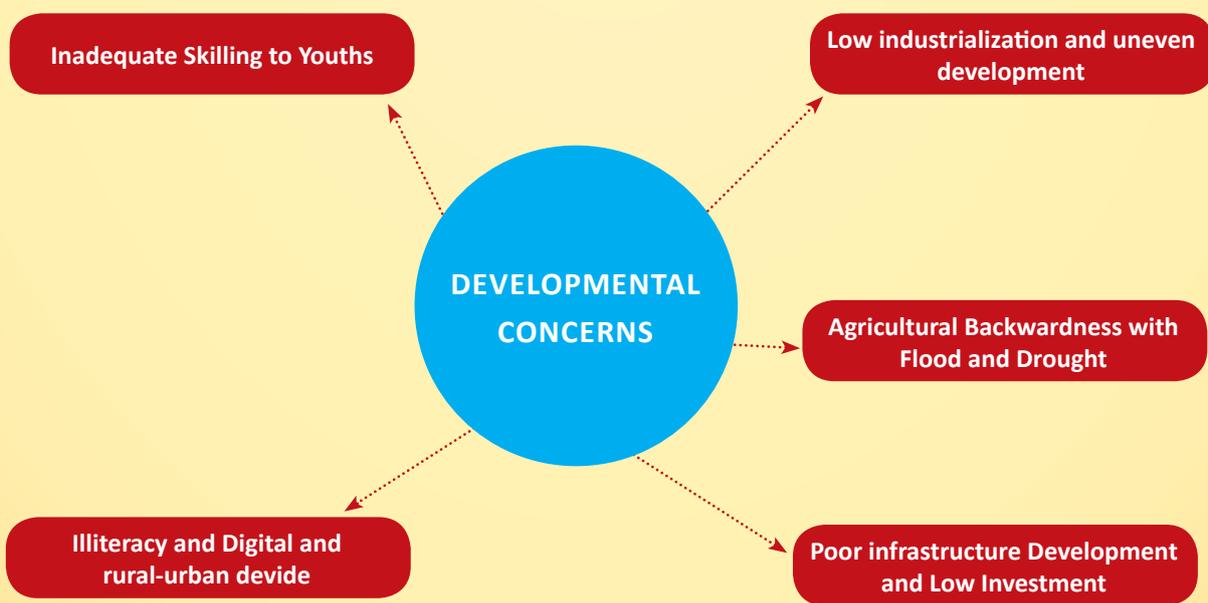
However, Bihar is considered the poorest and most illiterate state in the country so there are many challenges in the pathway

of governing and proper implementation of development schemes that prohibit the full-fledged development of the state.

Bihar government through its various actions and initiative is moving towards overcoming various developmental challenges, but faces below mentioned challenges:

1. **Economical challenges:** Bihar being a landlocked state led Bihar to attract less investment and causes low industrialization in Bihar and also lagging in reaping the benefits of maritime opportunities to become the export and import hub state like Maharashtra, Gujarat, etc.

BIHAR DEVELOPMENTAL CONCERNS





Bihar Industrial area development authority (BIADA) was constituted to attract investment through its well-placed infrastructural and Institutional support system. But the majority of the investment was in the large enterprises' category and which not able to generate employment. In Bihar more than 70% labour are from the primary sector, This necessitates the need to invest in the primary sector as well.

2. Technological constraint in agriculture:

More than 90% of the landholding are small and marginal in nature, which is a cause of concern for the viability of farming and the adoption of modern technology

To overcome the challenge of technological backwardness in agriculture, Bihar through one of its 'Bihar' mobile app, which integrates various ongoing digital applications on a single platform, but lack of digital awareness among the illiterate farmers or less skilled farmers limits its reach.

3. Inadequate Revenue Collection causing financial issues:

Bihar's 88.7% population resides in rural areas and village Panchayats are in charge of a number of taxes and duties such as property house tax, and land tax in nonagricultural land. But Panchayati raj institutions are

hesitant to collect such taxes due to political reasons as these populations being the most consistent vote Bank. Bihar government's comprehensive financial management system aims to digitalization, transparency of Bihar finance, comprehensive information system and database to strengthen tax collection structure, But in the pathways there exist challenges in its implementation including lack of departmental coordination, inadequate financial awareness, complex dispute resolution structure, etc.

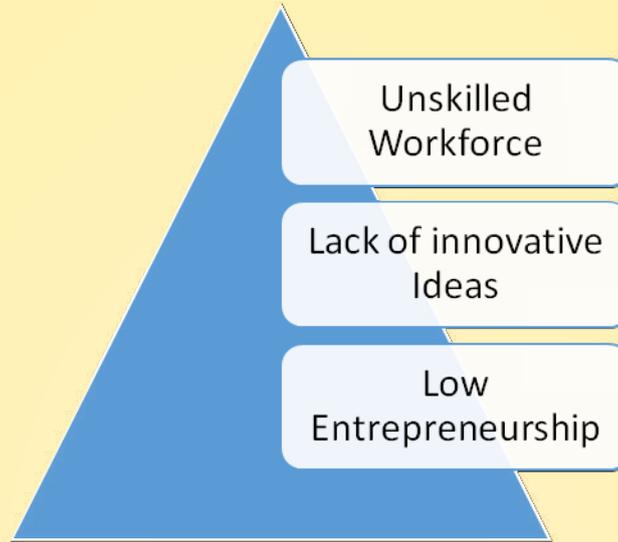
4. Poor growth Human Capital:

Bihar's literacy rate is lowest of 61.8%(census 2011) and the monthly average number of a patient visiting government hospital has decreased from 9517 (2019) to 5684 (2020), which indicate that Bihar's human development is not in a progressive state.

Bihar Saat Nischay-2 initiative incorporates better education, health and sanitation, under the initiative of Yuva Shakti-Bihar ki Pragati for skilling, Swadesh Gaon-Samridha Gaon and Swachha shehar – vikasit shehars for sanitationand Swasthya suvidha for health. But in its implementation, there exist gap in resources mapping, a lack of co-ordination among various department which necessitates the need of e-governance



BPSC MAINS GS PAPER-II (SECTION-II)



5. Poverty Prevalence in Bihar:

As per NITI Aayog's first Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report 51.91% population of Bihar reported as poor and has been ranked as the poorest among all the states due to poverty and the huge demography of Bihar is not being used optimally causing hindrance in the development. Bihar government JEEVIKA initiative that aims to diversify and enhance household level incomes and improved access to and use of nutrition and sanitation services among targeted households. But the very low percentage of women are willing to come out of the house and form SHG's.

6. Caste Based Politics: In Bihar, regional politics is based on caste and class not on growth and development. This has led to inequitable growth and regional disparity.

Since past few years, Bihar politics is moving towards developmental politics but criminalization in politics is a matter of concern.

7. Lack of technological integration in governance (eGovernance): Although the government is moving at a faster pace towards Digital India, Bihar governance being technologically backward still running with the traditional approach of pen and paper to an extent which causes a lack of co-ordination among the different departments, repetition of work etc. Government initiative toward Digital-India through land record computerization, Smart Energy Infrastructure Architecture and Revenue Administration (SEIARA), Ration and management system etc. caused Bihar to win the Digital India award 2020. But there exist challenges

**BPSK MAINS GS PAPER-II (SECTION-II)** >>>>>>  /PerfectionIAS

like digital-traditional mindset in government offices and hesitant to opt for e-governance.

WAY FORWARD:**Implementing 'Bring Green Revolution to Eastern India'(BGREA):-**

1. It aims to improve agriculture production while generating gainful self-employment for over-crowded Bihar agriculture sector. It also aims to boost agricultural development, women empowerment and environmental protection.

Connectivity with other States through Inland water ways:- To overcome the challenge of being landlocked state, state government can reap the unused opportunity through certain of Inland waterways.

1. A recent example is National Waterways-1 that aims to connect Bihar to UP, West-Bengal and Jharkhand that create export and import opportunities to Bihar domestically as well as internationally.

TECHNOLOGY IN SKILLING AND E-GOVERNANCE

Use of technology such as Artificial-Intelligence, Big-data, Machine learning

that will do data mapping as per Industries requirements that will enhance employability and make Industry efficient and competitive.

1. Use of technology in governance i.e. e-governance will make governance structure streamlined, avoid repetition of work and co-ordinated departments.
2. Outcome Budgeting:- It is the practice of developing budgets based on the relationship between funding and expected results. It puts the need of the people at the centre of investment decision-making across the states, and recognises that the allocation of public resources should be based on the outcomes achieved for people not the amount spent.

CONCLUSION

Although Bihar is lagging on several parameters like employment opportunity, health, education, industrial development but it has huge potential to make Bihar as developed state in near future. Recently Bihar Diwas, 2022 was celebrated with the theme of 'Jal Jeevan Hariyali' this signifies the prosperity of the state and is aimed at the overall development of the state.

