

**SPEECH OF H.E. THE GOVERNOR OF BIHAR,
SRI RAM NATH KOVIND IN THE ADRI SILVER
JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2016-17
ON 24.03.2017 AT HOTEL MAURYA, PATNA**

Hon'ble President Shri Pranab Mukherjee Ji, Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar Ji, Deputy Chief Minister Shri Tejaswi Prasad Yadav Ji, Education Minister Shri Ashok Choudhary Ji, Former Member Rajya Sabha Shri N.K. Singh Ji, Lord Meghnad Desai Ji, Member Secretary, ADRI, Shri Shaibal Gupta Ji, Prof. Prabhat Ghosh Ji, Distinguished Guests, Eminent Educationists & Economists from all over India & abroad, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am happy to participate in this Inaugural Session of International Conference on 'Bihar and Jharkhand: Shared History to Shared Vision', organised by ADRI. It is indeed a matter of pride that Hon'ble President of India, Shree Pranab Mukherjee, is our Chief Guest today and would deliver the Inaugural Address. This testifies to his deep interest in the academic fraternity as well as in the economic affairs of neighbouring States of Bihar.

We all know that the challenges of development in the States of Bihar and Jharkhand are indeed enormous. It is the joint responsibility of the Central and State governments to meet this challenge squarely. But efforts of government need to be supported by extensive research in both social and economic issues for bringing about desired change. A comprehensive development research agenda for a disadvantaged region should encompass not only local realities, but global experience as well.

Among the limited number of institutions that have enthusiastically taken up the agenda of development research in Bihar, ADRI stands out both in terms of quality of their research output as well as the broad canvas of their academic pursuits. I take this opportunity to record my appreciation of ADRI' academic achievements in the last 25 years and sincerely hope that its members will continue to work sincerely in the coming years to enrich our understanding of development challenges in Bihar and Jharkhand.

Since India is essentially a federal country, development research has often focussed on individual States. This obviously has a rationale, since each State has its own history, natural

endowments, cultural specificities and political traditions. But it is probably not very meaningful to exclusively focus on a case study approach too far, ignoring the substantial socio-economic linkages between neighbouring States, especially when some of them were a single administrative entity in the past. Commonalities in socio, economic, political and administrative ethos enable identification of factors that are critical for our understanding. It is in this perspective that one should also undertake an exercise which tries to address simultaneously development challenges in two adjoining States. For Bihar and Jharkhand, such an exercise is even more imperative, since they were together for a very long period and have separated only recently. I also learn that this five-day long conference has a separate technical session on the relations between Bihar and Nepal, which are connected not just through common river systems, but on other dimensions as well.

Many of you present in this gathering would know that the first International Conference organised by ADRI was on 'Growth and Development: Theories and Experiences'. The second one was on 'Social Statistics in India' and I had the privilege of being present in its Inaugural

Session thereof. There are a number of renowned scholars, some Indian and others international, who have participated in these three conferences. ADRI conferences provide a rare opportunity for the intelligentsia of Patna to listen to these scholars or interact with them.

Lastly, I sincerely hope both ADRI and other institutions in Bihar and Jharkhand will promote such academic interactions, helping our own scholars to build intellectual relations with their counterparts, either in India or abroad. Thank you all.

Jai Hind

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