



### Signing Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding

To contribute to the Bihar State Government's initiative of achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2040, the Bihar State Pollution Control Board (BSPCB) has been undertaking various initiatives in association with Development Alternatives (DA) supported by Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF).

In this regard, a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed amongst BSPCB, DA, and SSEF on 11 December 2020 at Seminar Hall, BSPCB in Patna, Bihar in the presence of Dr Ashok Kumar Ghosh, Chairman, BSPCB, and Deepak Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bihar.

The economy of Bihar has grown by leaps and bounds in the past decade, made possible through the government's efforts towards creating development in the state. In 2017-18, its Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew by 11.3%, increasing from 9.9% a year before. This is the highest GSDP growth rate amongst all the states in the country.

Based on the past performance, the state is expected to grow by 7.8% in the next five years. This will result in a proportionate increase in the scale of construction activities fuelled by the accelerated need for infrastructure and housing, agriculture activities as well as energy generation and consumption, which are bound to have their fair share of environmental impacts. The projected economic growth in Bihar will propel the scale of the above activities, thereby causing a rise in associated GHG emissions.

This will contribute to the state's burgeoning Carbon Footprint, which will eventually reach unsustainable levels. Pumping such huge amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> will intensify global warming, increasing the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, drought, and floods in the state (as well as the country). This necessitates an urgent need to adopt and implement effective measures to address the looming threat of climate change. Thus, signing the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding is a monumental step for achieving Carbon Neutrality.

