


KNOWLEDGE BEARER



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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ادري
ADRI

25 years of excellence

**THE
KNOWLEDGE
BEARER**

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

THE KNOWLEDGE BEARER

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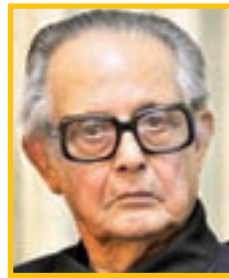
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MESSAGE



AJIT SOOD
Chief General Manager

STATE BANK OF INDIA
PATNA CIRCLE

I am very happy to know that Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) has completed 25 years and it has decided to mark its Silver Jubilee celebrations with three International Conferences befitting its stature as a premier social science research organization of Eastern India.

It is a proud and extremely satisfying moment for State Bank of India to partner this commemorative Coffee Table Book by *The Times of India*, titled 'The Knowledge Bearer', highlighting the achievements of this remarkable institution. I find many parallels between how ADRI is partnering the development process in Bihar, and how, on a larger scale, SBI is engaged similarly in the economic development of our nation.

SBI has been the 'Banker to the Nation' for more than 200 years. The journey which started in 1806 continues steadily and the bank has traversed through time and space, transforming itself with the changing times.

SBI, the 'Banker to every Indian' is now also the 'Banker to Digital India', being one of the most technologically advanced institutions in the country. Expectedly, the Internet Banking site of SBI has been rated the 8th most popular online global financial site and the only site from India to figure in the top 10 global financial site.

In the state of Bihar, SBI has a network of 928 branches

along with 5,799 Customer Service Points and 3,200 ATMs. Under Financial Inclusion, SBI has opened more than 1.03 crore small and tiny accounts.

True to its responsibilities as a conscientious Corporate Citizen, SBI has been providing financial assistance to underprivileged and marginalized sections of society, organizing regular health camps and donating ambulances, wheel chairs, stretchers, etc to charitable institutions as enablers for healthcare activities, under CSR. Sample this: During the recent Nepal earthquakes, SBI provided round-the-clock facility of cash and currency exchange services at all its border adjoining branches, besides undertaking extensive relief work. Under Swachch Vidyalaya Campaign, SBI has constructed toilets for boys and girls in 63 schools in Arwal district of Bihar.

As the nation's development partner, SBI appreciates the achievements of ADRI and compliments them for the good work done in the area of social research. I also compliment the editorial team for successfully bringing out this collector's edition Coffee Table Book.

I once again congratulate ADRI on reaching a milestone on the path of dedicated and productive endeavours, and wish them many more successes and achievements in the days to come.

“What is true wealth?” Socrates asked Plato.

“It is Ultimate Knowledge,” Plato replied, for in his own ways, he was as wise as his master, if not wiser.

Knowledge has, thus, established its supremacy since the time of ancient Greek philosophers, and rightly so. In fact, the power of knowledge has gone up manifold over the centuries, and in today’s digital age, it’s the new world currency, if there is one. Closer home, in Bihar, Asian Development Research Institute has understood and imbibed the power of knowledge well, and thus the title of this Coffee Table Book, ‘The Knowledge Bearer’.

Born amid the choppy political waters of Bihar of the early 90s, ADRI was a lone ranger in terms of the objectives that its founding members had envisioned for it. During the initial years, the brains behind this organization made a conscious decision to branch out of mere social science research, and round out ADRI’s repertoire of activities with those that promoted, or at least facilitated, socio-economic growth and development, multilateral deliberations, sub-nationalism and culture that’s intrinsic to individual states, especially Bihar.

Today, gradually and painstakingly, over a quarter of a century, the institution has made an indelible mark on Bihar’s socio-economic landscape. It is excelling in its myriad roles viz ADRI research institute, State Resource Centre (Patna), State Resource Centre (Ranchi), Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance, Dharohar, and International Growth Centre, besides playing host to a number of national and international conferences that attract the best of intelligentsia to Bihar and Jharkhand.

The Times of India takes immense pride in presenting this Coffee Table Book, that chronicles the journey and achievements of this remarkable institution of Eastern India. We hope through this collector’s edition, that ADRI’s story is found worth emulating by other start-up research organizations.

And now for the ending of the story that we started with...

“There’s nothing called Ultimate Knowledge; the essence of true knowledge is to always keep seeking,” rebuked Socrates. Plato stood corrected and humbled.

So, while ADRI has been collecting and disseminating knowledge for the past quarter century, the one thing that makes it a true knowledge seeker is its commitment to continuity and consistency. We, therefore, take the opportunity of their Silver Jubilee celebrations to wish Team ADRI all success in their unwavering pursuit of knowledge. Or, as Socrates would put it, “Let the light of knowledge shine bright!”



PARAG RASTOGI
Director

THE TIMES GROUP



AN INSTITUTION COMES OF AGE

THE CORE OF ADRI'S SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS ARE THREE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES WHICH SEEK TO BRING TOGETHER THE INTELLIGENTSIA ON A COMMON PLATFORM, TO DELIBERATE ON TOPICS RANGING FROM GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT TO SOCIAL STATISTICS AND SHARED VISION OF BIHAR AND JHARKHAND

The year 2016 is a watershed moment for Asian Development Research Institute as it marks 25 years of excellence for the organization. With its multifarious activities through its various centres and avatars like ADRI research institute, State Resource Centre (Patna), State Resource Centre (Ranchi), Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance, Dharohar, and International Growth Centre, the institution has emerged as a ready reckoner – a go-to social science reference centre, if you may – for anything and everything pertaining to growth and development, and more broadly, any kind of change tracking and analysis in Bihar.

In fact, it was only in late 2014 that the ADRI team – ever engrossed in research, deliberations and academic pursuits – was suddenly jolted with the realization that its Silver Jubilee is imminent, and it should be making a noise. Thus, preparations for its Silver Jubilee celebrations acquired momentum in 2015 and elaborate discussions were held over a number of meetings. It was finally decided that the core of the Silver Jubilee celebrations would be three International Conferences, on 'Development and Growth: Experience and Theories', 'Social Statistics in India' and 'Bihar and Jharkhand: Shared History to Shared Vision'.

A Silver Jubilee Celebration Committee was formed with Lord Meghnad Desai, the internationally acclaimed economist, as its Chairman. However, as a curtain-raiser to the celebrations, James Manor of the University of London had delivered a lecture on 'India's States: The Struggle to Govern' in November 2015. The lecture was presided over by Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Chairman of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi. The lecture was indeed an enlightening discourse and widely appreciated by the intelligentsia of Patna.

As regards the first conference, one can easily note that the achievements of the development agenda

have been extremely varied, both across and within countries. However, the overall experience has left doubts, both about the commitments and the strategies for development. On one hand, the number of developing countries that were able to raise at least their material wealth was rather limited, and secondly, human development had lagged behind material gains in many countries. At the theorizing front, the initial attempts tried to locate the economic factors for development, while many of the later efforts tried to underline the non-economic factors. However, many development issues still remain unanswered by the existing development theories.

"THE CREDIT BELONGS TO THOSE WHO ARE ACTUALLY IN THE ARENA, WHO STRIVE VALIANTLY; WHO KNOW THE GREAT ENTHUSIASMS, THE GREAT DEVOTIONS, AND SPEND THEMSELVES IN A WORTHY CAUSE; WHO AT BEST KNOW THE TRIUMPH OF HIGH ACHIEVEMENT; AND WHO, AT WORST, IF THEY FAIL, FAIL WHILE DARING GREATLY, SO THAT THEIR PLACE SHALL NEVER BE WITH THOSE COLD AND TIMID SOULS WHO KNOW NEITHER VICTORY NOR DEFEAT."

–THEODORE ROOSEVELT



>> AS A CURTAIN-RAISER TO ADRI'S SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS, JAMES MANOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON HAD DELIVERED A LECTURE ON 'INDIA'S STATES: THE STRUGGLE TO GOVERN' IN NOVEMBER 2015

THE SECOND CONFERENCE, ON 'SOCIAL STATISTICS IN INDIA', IS EXPECTED TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY WHERE USERS AND COLLECTORS OF SOCIAL STATISTICS IN INDIA CAN JOINTLY UNDERLINE ITS LIMITATIONS, IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THESE LIMITATIONS AND, FINALLY, SUGGEST WAYS TO OVERCOME THEM

In this background, the first International conference was a sort of a stock-taking exercise on both experiences and theories of development. This conference was held during March 24-28, 2016 and was attended by about 200 scholars, many of them from abroad. Fortunately, the theme of the conference was appreciated by many, with three organizations – IGC, World Bank, and ICSSR – having jointly supported the event financially.

The second conference, on 'Social Statistics in India', is expected to create an opportunity where users and collectors of social statistics in India can jointly underline its limitations, identify the source of these limitations and, finally, suggest ways to overcome them.





THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, 'BIHAR AND JHARKHAND: SHARED HISTORY TO SHARED VISION', IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2017

Notably, India's statistical system has a long history, with 'Statistical Abstract of British India' being published as early as 1862, and the first census being conducted in 1881. Unfortunately, development of the statistical system over the years, particularly during the post-independence period, has been far from desired. The conference is scheduled for June 24-27, 2016, and more than 100 scholars have been invited to participate. Bill Gates Foundation, UNICEF and Asian Development Bank, among others, are partners and supporters in this confer-

ence, which is being organized in honour of Prabhat P Ghosh in view of his mammoth contribution in ADRI.

The third International Conference, 'Bihar and Jharkhand: Shared History to Shared Vision', is indeed an ambitious one. This conference is scheduled for March 2017 where ADRI hopes to bring together many scholars, Indian and foreign, working in Bihar or Jharkhand. This conference is being organized in the memory of Arvind N Das.



INAUGURAL SPEECH OF

NITISH KUMAR,
Chief Minister of Bihar

*International Conference,
Silver Jubilee Celebration
of ADRI,
(March 27, 2016)*

At the very outset, I would like to congratulate ADRI on completion of 25 years. In these 25 years, ADRI has created a special place for itself in Bihar...

ADRI's work in Bihar is so well-known that if any person from any state in the country wants to know anything about Bihar or wants to conduct any kind of research here, he or she gets in touch with ADRI first. This is true for even people outside the country...

I get to meet so many people from different fields – political analysts, economic analysts, social scientists – and I think there's hardly anyone who does not mention ADRI to me...

So that way, ADRI has emerged as a kind of reference institution. Anyone who wants to work here, wants to research, or wants to work on growth studies, he or she would definitely contact ADRI. This is no small feat. In last 10 years, I have been getting their active support, and even before, we have witnessed their work, especially the first-ever all-party joint memorandum submitted by Bihar parties to the Finance Commission. Shaibal Gupta Ji and his team at ADRI had played a huge role in preparing this memorandum. They were even successful in getting individuals and parties with differing thoughts and ideologies under one roof...

In a state like Bihar, to actually get all political parties to come together and unanimously agree on economic issues, the state's requirements, the state's rights – this is indeed a remarkable achievement, and ADRI was the pioneer. I would like to congratulate them for this...

In last 10 years, whenever I have had the opportunity to talk to them, two topics have consistently cropped up in our discussions. One is sub-nationalism. They have always laid stress on sub-nationalism, and their discourses are never complete without a mention of it...

Bihar has been dealt an unfair hand, and if there's any institution that has researched this in its entirety and presented it to the people, it's ADRI...

That's why, when we took up the issue of Bihar being granted special status, we got ADRI's support, and when a committee was created under the chairmanship of Raghuram Rajan Ji, Shaibal Gupta Ji was present as a representative from Bihar. Centre had asked us to send a representative, and we thought, who better than Shaibal Gupta Ji? Who can do a better job of representing Bihar on these issues? Thus, Shaibal Gupta Ji represented Bihar. That was one occasion when he was not representing ADRI. Rather, he was representing Bihar...

ADRI has consistently worked on specific problems plaguing Bihar, their root cause, and on ways to resolve them. They have conducted surveys and research on various topics of relevance – sometimes sponsored by the state government, and sometimes self-sponsored...

Today, when one considers the intelligentsia, we see that people from across the country as well as from outside – and from Bihar too – have converged here. People with perpetually opposing views. This is no small feat. This is precisely the work of an institution. Ideologically connecting people with differing views – it's a remarkable thing. You have done a great job of it. I congratulate you for this too. I wish that you grow and flourish. Your institution has played a key role in Bihar's development and the state's policy formulation – and you would continue playing a key role, that is what I believe...

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25TH YEAR
CELEBRATION



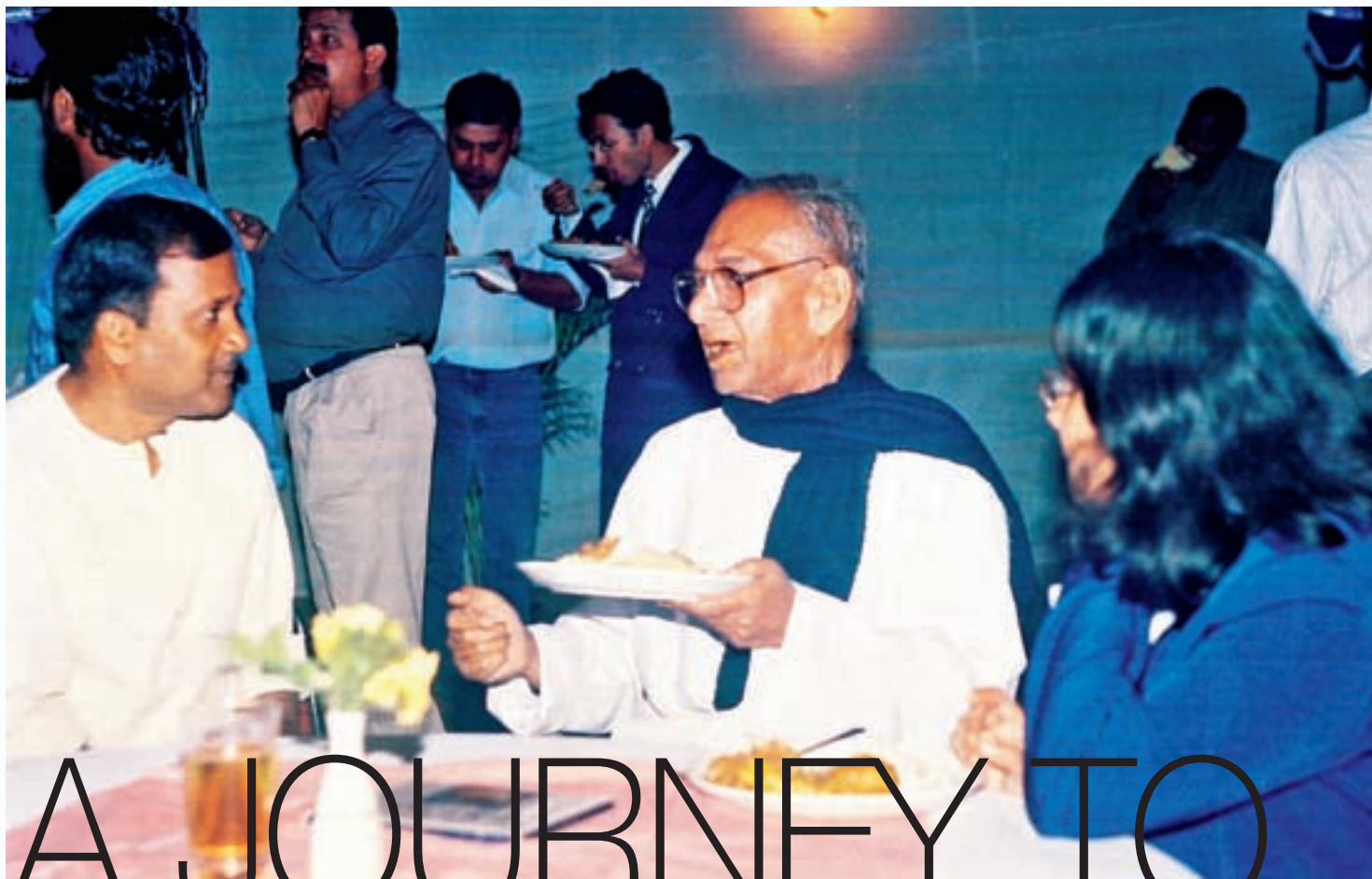
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A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER

THE IDEA OF ADRI WAS THERE IN THE MINDS OF SOME SCHOLARS SINCE THE 80S, BUT IT WAS FRUCTIFIED SOMETIME IN 1990 AS A RESULT OF BILATERAL BRAINSTORMING BETWEEN SHAI BAL GUPTA AND PRABHAT P GHOSH. LATER, OTHERS ALSO JOINED, CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE CRYSTALLIZATION OF THE CONCEPT OF ADRI

The 80s in India was a decade of disquiet and uncertainty. The fundamental ethos of the independence movement had nearly waned and the post-independence development strategy was being questioned seriously. Regional identity was raising its head in several parts of India, fracturing the composite culture of the nation, and the sledgehammer of Operation Bluestar seemed to signify that trend most decisively. Another decisive change was to follow when the union budget of 1984 scripted the initial story of the retreat of the state from its 'commanding heights'. These major drifts in the national scenario were indeed parallel to equally significant changes in the global scenario that emerged with the disintegration of the USSR and the collapse of socialist countries one after another. With the sovereignty of the US, the world became unipolar and some came to the tantalizing conclusion of 'end of history'. Once ideology ceased to be relevant in political discourse and development strategy, its reverberations were to be felt across the board, including the academia.

Bihar in the 80s was not an exception to the atmosphere of ambiguity and volatility that prevailed both nationally and globally. On the economic front, the near stagnation of the state's economy increasingly pushed its people towards despair and hopelessness. Most of the state institutions, though not very vibrant earlier, started losing even the limited relevance they once enjoyed. With the gradual retreat of the state and absence of any ideological debate, the main political discourse in the Hindi-heartland in general and Bihar in particular, started evolving around ethno-religious mobilization or positive discrimination in government jobs.

The myth of Bihar being one of the best governed states was exploded decisively, not merely because of its huge development deficits, but with the occurrence of some of the worst communal conflagrations in the state during the late 80s. Further, the weakening of the state finances made the state and state-funded institutions even more incapacitated.

One such institution was the A N Sinha Institute of Social

Studies (ANSISS), located in the heart of Patna, on the bank of the Ganga. During the late 60s, its foundation was laid by Amiya Kumar Dasgupta, a renowned economist of the country. His personality had attracted a number of young scholars who had the capacity to set their own academic agenda to strengthen the Institute and enhance the intellectual standard of the state. After his departure, ANSISS continued to function effectively for some years, thanks to its strong foundation, but creeping organizational issues gradually started to affect its functioning.

A small group of scholars, however, tried to resurrect its lost glory; they lobbied not only for enhancement of annual grant from the state government but also for the appointment of a proper director who could provide the much-needed academic leadership. Unfortunately, the state government was unresponsive to these requests. When all their efforts failed, they had no option than to explore the alternative of starting another institution for social science research, resulting in the birth of Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI). Thus, ADRI had principally emerged from the cataclysmic changes within the ANSISS.



>> ADRI HAD PRINCIPALLY EMERGED FROM THE CATACLYSMIC CHANGES WITHIN A N SINHA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL STUDIES

"IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE AGE OF WISDOM, IT WAS THE AGE OF FOOLISHNESS, IT WAS THE EPOCH OF BELIEF, IT WAS THE EPOCH OF INCRECULITY, IT WAS THE SEASON OF LIGHT, IT WAS THE SEASON OF DARKNESS, IT WAS THE SPRING OF HOPE, IT WAS THE WINTER OF DESPAIR, WE HAD EVERYTHING BEFORE US, WE HAD NOTHING BEFORE US, WE WERE ALL GOING DIRECT TO HEAVEN, WE WERE ALL GOING DIRECT THE OTHER WAY – IN SHORT, THE PERIOD WAS SO FAR LIKE THE PRESENT PERIOD, THAT SOME OF ITS NOISIEST AUTHORITIES INSISTED ON ITS BEING RECEIVED, FOR GOOD OR FOR EVIL, IN THE SUPERLATIVE DEGREE OF COMPARISON ONLY."

-**CHARLES DICKENS**
A TALE OF TWO CITIES



THE INITIAL LOGO OF ADRI (WITHOUT THE URDU INITIAL) WAS SKETCHED BY PRAKASH JHA. LATER, THE URDU INITIAL WAS ADDED IN THE LOGO, DURING THE VISIT OF ALI SARDAR JAFRI TO ADRI, TO MAKE IT A SYMBOL OF COMPOSITE CULTURE OF INDIA, TO WHICH THE ORGANIZATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN COMMITTED

The idea of ADRI was there in the minds of some scholars for quite some time, but it was fructified sometime in 1990 as a result of some bilateral brainstorming between Shaibal Gupta and Prabhat P Ghosh, both then faculty members at ANSISS. Later, others also joined, contributing significantly to the crystallization of the concept of ADRI. They included, among others, Pradipto Sen, Prakash Jha, Pijushendu Gupta, Vinay K Kanth, Nandini Mehta, Amarjeet Sinha, Sunita Lall and Ushashi Gupta. But it was the association of Prasanna K Choudhary with ADRI that helped the nascent organization acquire a potent academic foundation and start functioning in an organized manner. The idea to christen the organization as Asian Development Research Institute (ADRI) was mooted by Prabhat P Ghosh, to convey the message that a knowledge centre in a periphery need not confine itself only to its own surrounding; with a proper vision, it could engage itself with a much wider space.

The initial logo of ADRI (without the Urdu initial) was sketched by Prakash Jha. Later, the Urdu initial was added in

the logo, during the visit of Ali Sardar Jafri to ADRI, to make it a symbol of composite culture of India, to which the organization has always been committed. The first brochure of ADRI was prepared by Vinay K Kanth, and much later, the second brochure was prepared by Arvind N Das. Incidentally, the translation of the first brochure was done by Prassana K Choudhary.

After extensive deliberations, the organizational objectives of ADRI were identified as – (a) To undertake development research of direct relevance to development efforts made by an individual or a group or the community itself, (b) To broaden the database of research, as also its end-use by involving as many classes of persons and institutions as possible, (c) To offer research results in a more innovative, demystified and use-worthy form, and (d) To restore people to their central position in social research in totality and with all dignity. ADRI had started functioning from November 1990 with the establishment of a skeletal office at Krishna Kunj at Sheikhpura in Patna. However, it was formally registered under the Societies Registration Act – 1860 on March 6, 1991, which is now treated as the Foundation Day of the organization.

THE NASCENT STAGE (1991-1995)



Those who had visualized ADRI were mostly from the academia and they did have an idea about its board organizational agenda. However, to translate that agenda into action, the nascent organization needed personnel as well financial resources. Quite expectedly, the members of ADRI had little idea about how to meet those needs.

The academic activities in ADRI were first started with organization of occasional lectures and seminars. The very first lecture was on January 1991 by PS Appu, former Land Reform Commissioner of Bihar, on 'Land Reform and Land Relations in Bihar', followed by Har Gopal of Andhra University on 'Civil Liberties Movement: A Comparative Study of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar', Brewar L Stone of the Department of Government, Harvard University, US, on 'Bureaucratic Corruption in China', and Nikhil Chakraborty, the high profile editor of the weekly Mainstream, on 'Problems of Federal Unity'. The young scholars and civil servants were always encouraged in ADRI – Sharad Kumar of JNU gave a talk on 'Tendential Crisis in Marxist Theory', Amitava Kumar of University of Minnesota, US, gave a talk on 'Difference Between Opening The Mind and Opening The Market', and the young IAS officer of Maharashtra cadre, K S Vatsa, gave a talk on 'Internationalization of Indian Business'. This was followed by three other seminars – 'Renaissance in Bihar', 'Free Market' and 'Stock, Equity and Private Investment'. The themes of the seminars were not only varied, they also addressed issues that were normally overlooked in a socially and economically disadvantaged region like Bihar. These seminars indeed helped in the brand-building of ADRI in its formative years.

As an active academic centre, ADRI believes in participating in debates among intellectuals and policy-makers on issues of national importance. In pursuance of this, ADRI sent a pre-budget memorandum on the New Economic Strategy to the Finance Minister, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Minister of State of Commerce, in July 1991. Copies of this memorandum were sent to some other eminent persons and concerned organizations as well. Similarly, ADRI was regularly coming out with its reaction on the budgets of the central government which were published in all major English and Hindi newspapers of Patna. To actively interact with a cross-section of people, members of ADRI participated in seminars and workshops on such issues which broadly ally with its research agenda. They participated in the workshop on land reforms in Bihar in February 1991, sponsored by Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, and a paper entitled 'Reforms in Retrospect, Land Reforms in Bihar: Need for a fresh appraisal' was presented on its behalf. ADRI also participated in a seminar on 'Organizing Rural Poor' in March 1991, organized by National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, and a paper entitled 'The Art and Craft of Organizing Rural Poor' was presented on its behalf. Both these papers were written by Prassana K Choudhury.

AS AN ACTIVE ACADEMIC CENTRE, ADRI BELIEVES IN PARTICIPATING IN DEBATES AMONG INTELLECTUALS AND POLICY-MAKERS ON ISSUES OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE. IN PURSUANCE OF THIS, ADRI SENT A PRE-BUDGET MEMORANDUM ON THE NEW ECONOMIC STRATEGY TO THE FINANCE MINISTER, THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF COMMERCE, IN JULY 1991



WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD, ADRI HAD EVOKED INTEREST AMONG MANY QUARTERS. ADRI DELEGATION OR ITS OFFICE BEARERS VISITED A NUMBER OF INSTITUTES, UNIVERSITIES, GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN INDIA AND ABROAD

During 1991-92, the first year of ADRI, there were many visitors to ADRI from all over the country and outside. Some of these notable visitors were B K Sinha (then Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India), Victoria S Bell (then Deputy Director, Eastern India, USIS), Vijay G Pande (then Regional Director of IDRC), Arvind Sinha (then Space Application Centre or SAC, Ahmedabad), R K Srivastava (then Education Commission, Government of Bihar), K B Saxena (then Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar), Sanjay Nanda (then US consulate in Calcutta), Surinder K Singh 'Tony' (then Senior Specialist, US Consulate, Calcutta), Sushil Kumar Choudhary (then Special Secretary, Human Resources Development, Government of Bihar), G B Rodgers (then International Institute of Labour Studies, Geneva, Switzerland), Mohit Sen (then Marxist Intellectual, Hyderabad), Kamla Prasad (then Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar), S Prabhakaran (then Development Commissioner, Government of Bihar), Peter Swachney (then Deputy Director, USIS, Calcutta), Sheo Kuwajima (then Department of India and Pakistan, Osaka University of Foreign Studies, Minoo City, Osaka, Japan), Djilali Benmouffok (then IRDC, Canada) and Fumiko Oshikawa (then Area Studies Department – South Asia, Institute of Development Economics, Tokyo, Japan).

Within a short period, ADRI had evoked interest among many quarters. ADRI delegation or its office bearers visited a number of institutes, universities, government offices and international organizations in India and abroad. ADRI delegations were invited by the following persons: William Clarke Jr (US Ambassador), Russy Mody (Chairman, TISCO), Nicholas Fenn (British High Commissioner), Ian Mac Clunney (British Deputy High Commissioner), R D Lorton (Consulate General, US, Calcutta), among others. All these invites were between 1991 and 1992. In the recent period, a team of 10 ambassadors of the European Union (EU) and another team of six ambassadors of the Scandinavian countries visited ADRI. In fact, ambassadors and diplomats from all over the world keep visiting ADRI.

In 1995, ADRI had also prepared a Memorandum for the Tenth Finance Commission, to supplement the one by the state government. This was the beginning of academic support by ADRI to the state government – a tradition that continues till date. Apart from organizing seminars, ADRI had also prepared a document 'Understanding Bihar' which was a comprehensive list of major historical



events in Bihar, integrated studies on which could together provide a profile of the state in all its identifiable dimensions. Unfortunately, ADRI was unable to locate any research grant to support any part of those integrated studies, but the document still retains its enormous value as a guiding framework for comprehending Bihar in its entirety.



A part of SBI's program focussed on the Gen Y, sbiINTOUCH branches have been launched across the country including important locations in Bihar and Jharkhand at Patna, Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Gaya, Bhagalpur, Ranchi, Jamshedpur and Dhanbad. These digital stores introduce a new banking experience. Aiming to be 'less bank' and more a partner to young India helping them fulfil their dreams. SBI is committed towards offering best-in-class services to our increasingly tech-savvy customers and will continue to invest in digital stores to create a superior banking experience.

The digital stores have brought several unique and differentiated offerings to the new-age Indian customers. The Branch is the first of its kind and fully digitized with user friendly facilities for opening of accounts, cash deposit, ATM, passbook printing machine (swayam), internet banking kiosk and sourcing of loan applications. For the first time SBI introduces Smart ATM (deposit & withdraw cash on same device) with remote concierge to speak to bank at anytime and Remote Expert facility, which is a high definition video interaction with the Bank's experts for all needs of the customers – life insurance, general insurance, demat account, securities etc. Along with this, bank has introduced integrated experience with a range of new age touch devices and technology to help fulfil dreams – car, education and home.

We would like to invite all to come and experience sbiINTOUCH.

For any inquiry please contact :
Manoj - 9955052103, Ambrish - 7260899516

In 1994, there was a breakthrough in ADRI when audio-visual medium was added to its range of activities, hitherto restricted to academic research alone. It happened with the Sone Canal Area Development Authority (SCADA) entrusting ADRI with the task of making a short film ('Development for Change'), depicting the substantial technological changes in agriculture in the Sone command area. This was immediately followed by UNICEF's request to shoot another documentary on 'Empowerment of Women and Panchayati Raj'. In later years, this valuable experience of working with the audio-visual media helped ADRI in many of its other assignments. A year later, ADRI entered into a new phase of its organizational development when the National Literacy Mission chose it to host a State Resource Centre for adult education.

IN 1994, THERE WAS A BREAKTHROUGH IN ADRI WHEN AUDIO-VISUAL MEDIUM WAS ADDED TO ITS RANGE OF ACTIVITIES, HITHERTO RESTRICTED TO ACADEMIC RESEARCH ALONE. IT HAPPENDED WITH THE SONE CANAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ENTRUSTING ADRI WITH THE TASK OF MAKING A SHORT FILM ('DEVELOPMENT FOR CHANGE'), DEPICTING THE SUBSTANTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE IN THE SONE COMMAND AREA

In the realm of personnel, ADRI had to plough a lonely furrow in the initial years, banking mainly on the voluntary services of some dedicated scholars and professionals. Besides Shaibal Gupta, Prabhat P Ghosh and Sunita Lall, two young associates of ADRI played a crucial role during this period to keep the organization's agenda alive – Sumita Singh and Ragini Upadhyay. Their services were supplemented by Sarita Kanth and Jasbeer. This young brigade not only organized several

seminars but also helped the organization maintain its contact with the press. In those days, an English daily had decided to publish a regular weekly feature on Bihar economy, contributions to which were made by scholars from ADRI. Later, The Times of India started a weekly column, 'Discover Bihar', to which, again, contributions were made by ADRI scholars.

The governing body of ADRI had seven members, with Prodipto Sen, editor of an English daily, as its first chairperson. After he left Patna and excused himself from the chairmanship of ADRI, it was Arvind N Das who stepped into his shoes. At this point, it was felt that ADRI the institute, as distinct from the ADRI Society, should have a separate chairman, and Muchkund Dubey got associated with ADRI in that capacity. For member-secretary, it was Shaibal Gupta to start with, and he continues to play that role even today. In the initial period, however, this role was played by Neeraj Prakash and Nikesh Sinha, each for a brief period. Although their tenures were rather brief, they were able to impart certain professionalism in the functioning of the organization, thanks to their management background. Yet another important responsibility in an organization is that of the treasurer. In the initial years, ADRI had Nandani Mehta and Anup K Karan in that capacity. Sunita Lall is shouldering that responsibility for more than two decades now. Lall, later on, was Rockefeller Fellow in Kentucky University, US.



The challenge was even more difficult in raising financial resources for the young organization. While all the members of ADRI were passionate about its academic agenda, nobody thought seriously about its financial needs. However, thanks to the munificence of some caring souls, ADRI could make a start. In the first year, the sprawling first floor of the house of Premlata Sinha at Sheikhpura in Patna was provided to ADRI free of cost; the printing cost of ADRI's first brochure was borne by Prakash Jha; some donations were provided by Major Anil Sinha and H N Mukherjee, while some recurrent expenditure were met by Ushashi Gupta. Second year onwards, ADRI's financial status started improving, culminating in 1995 when it was chosen to host a State Resource Center for adult education by National Literacy Mission (NLM), as this entailed a regular annual financial grant from the Mission.

By November 1995, the activities of ADRI got more formalized, unlike in the past when its activities were carried out in an informal manner. First, the Asian Development Research Institute, a social science research institute sharing the name of the mother Society, was formalized with the appointment of a Director. The second formal unit of ADRI Society was the State Resource Centre (SRC). And the third unit of the Society was Dharohar, which had preservation of local culture and establishment of a heritage museum as two of its organizational goals. Each of these three units had a Governing Body of its own, all functioning under the aegis of ADRI Society, the mother organization.

WHILE ALL THE MEMBERS OF ADRI WERE PASSIONATE ABOUT ITS ACADEMIC AGENDA, NOBODY THOUGHT SERIOUSLY ABOUT ITS FINANCIAL NEEDS. HOWEVER, THANKS TO THE MUNIFICENCE OF SOME CARING SOULS, ADRI COULD MAKE A START



**PERIOD OF
CONSOLIDATION**
(1995-2005)



THE VIBRANCY OF ADRI IN THOSE YEARS CAN BE JUDGED FROM THE FACT THAT ITS FUNCTIONING WAS LEAST AFFECTED WHEN SHAI BAL GUPTA WAS AWAY DURING 1997-98, FIRST FOR AN ASSIGNMENT WITH A CORPORATE BODY AND THEN FOR A VISITING FELLOWSHIP AT THE INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IDS) AT SUSSEX, UK

Once the Research Institute and the SRC started functioning, ADRI had a definite academic agenda for itself and also financial resources to carry forward the agenda. It was no longer dependent on the voluntary services of its members, as a number of appointments were made to strengthen both its academic wing and the administrative unit. Shaibal Gupta joined SRC as its Director, and Prabhat P Ghosh as the regular Director of ADRI Institute. The vibrancy of ADRI in those years can be judged from the fact that its functioning was least affected when Shaibal Gupta was away during 1997-98, first for an assignment with a corporate body and then for a Visiting Fellowship at the Institute of Development

Studies (IDS) at Sussex, UK. In his absence, Prabhat P Ghosh, Sunita Lall and other members were there to run the organization smoothly.

Lalu Prasad Yadav, the then Chief Minister of Bihar, inaugurated Akshar Bihar, a joint forum of ADRI and a Hindi daily, to motivate the intelligentsia to get involved in the literacy campaign in June 1995. The CM, in the course of his address, gave a new slogan of '*Padho ya maro*' to exhort the illiterate masses to become literate in order to survive with dignity. For the first time, best VTs from TLC districts of Bihar were honoured in the inaugural function by the CM. Later on, Akshar Bihar was co-sponsored by another Hindi daily of Jharkhand and Bihar.

Arvind N Das was associated with ADRI since 1992. He was first involved with ADRI in a seminar on 'Media in Bihar' on December 1992 along with two of his The Times of India colleagues – R K Laxman and Dileep Padgaonkar. Later, he also attended ADRI seminars on 'Renaissance in Bihar' and 'Free Market'. Gradually, his relations with ADRI transcended beyond academics and he once expressed his desire to get involved with the organization. Coincidentally, Pradipto Sen, Chairman of ADRI at that time, had to leave Patna and wanted to relinquish his post. ADRI found Arvind N Das to be a perfect choice to fill the void. In the following years, he played a decisive role in making ADRI one of the leading organizations in India. It was through his efforts that ADRI was chosen by NLM to host SRC and, again in 2000, he solicited Prince Claus Fund of the Netherlands to offer an opportunity to ADRI to host an International Seminar on 'Cosmopolitanism and the Nation States'.

One can recall many contributions of Arvind N Das to the organization, both at the material as well as intellectual level. His principal contribution to ADRI, however, was to make it think 'big' and 'grand' in the realm of ideas. He wanted ADRI to translate big – sometimes even imponderable – ideas into reality. It was a major setback for ADRI when he breathed his last in Amsterdam in 2000. Fortunately, Muchkund Dubey, the Chairman of ADRI Institute, was there to succeed him. The relationship between Muchkund Dubey and Arvind N Das was unique and they had a common view regarding the goal and growth strategy of ADRI. Together, they had immensely strengthened the organization and helped it in acquiring a distinct character.

ADRI's organizational growth took a jump in 2000 when NLM once again reposed its faith in the organization by sponsoring a Jan

Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) at Patna and Urban Literacy Project (ULP) in New Delhi. While JSS was a long term project and a vocational training centre for moderately literate people, ULP was a two-year project, which attempted to redesign adult literacy programme in India in the context of urban scenario. Another fillip to the organizational growth of ADRI came from NLM when the project for publication of '*Ahle Subah*', a magazine for the neo-literate women, was renewed with a mandate for higher print order.

A year later, in 2001, ADRI completed a decade of its eventful existence. It was not a small achievement in a peripheral state like Bihar, which was experiencing gradual decline of governance and weakening of institutions, both academic and otherwise. The dismal scenario in Bihar was further compounded when it was vivisected in November 2000. ADRI already had a presence in the new state of Jharkhand, since all the districts there were under the jurisdiction of SRC at ADRI. However, it wanted a more substantive presence there, by doing in Jharkhand what it had been doing in Bihar, viz providing research support to the state government.

As a first step, it had organized a 'Round Table on Good Governance' supported by then Planning Commission of Government of India. Secondly, ADRI also started organizing annual Akshar Jharkhand programme in Ranchi, *a la* Akshar Bihar in Patna. This annual programme was aimed at enthusing the local intelligentsia in the two states to get involved in the on-going adult literacy movement. Similar to its success in Patna, Akshar Jharkhand was equally successful in Ranchi. The first Akshar Jharkhand programme was much appreciated by one and all. It was attended by Babulal Marandi, the then Chief Minister of Jharkhand, and other Cabinet ministers and senior officers.



Looking back at the end of its first decade, members of ADRI had sufficient reason to feel happy – it had made substantial academic contribution; it had helped the adult literacy movement through SRC; and, through academic support, it had also built bridges with the state governments, both in Bihar and Jharkhand. Rather expectedly, ADRI had also fortified its financial base by 2001, with an annual budget of about Rs 160 lakh during financial year 2000-01.

Initially, ADRI's research agenda was mainly around the studies related to the adult literacy programme due to the presence of SRC within ADRI. These research studies were mainly evaluative in nature, either to judge the achievements of Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) or to evaluate the social impact of literacy in different districts. Much of this research agenda was shouldered by Prabhat P Ghosh, Director of ADRI, who was also chosen by NLM as one of its experts on Evaluation Committee. In December 1997, ADRI organized a major seminar on 'Bihar in the World and World in Bihar', sponsored by European Science Foundation.

Fortunately, in 2002, the faculty of ADRI was substantially expanded when the London School of Economics (LSE) selected ADRI as one of its academic partners for an international project on 'Crisis States'. There was, indeed, a deluge of projects during these years and, what is more, most of these projects were unsolicited. These projects enhanced the research capacity of the organization at one hand, and strengthened its financial position on the other.

The LSE project on 'Crisis States' entailed a study of the functioning of the state governments in both Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. As such, it was launched by Digvijay Singh, the then Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, along with Rabri Devi, the then Chief Minister of Bihar, in Patna. Later, Ajit Jogi, the then Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, also delivered a talk on a closely related issue, 'Politics of Development in a Peripheral State: Trials and Tribulations in Chhattisgarh'. Through the LSE project, ADRI also came into contact with some international research institutions and scholars.

FORTUNATELY, IN 2002, THE FACULTY OF ADRI WAS SUBSTANTIALLY EXPANDED WHEN THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS SELECTED ADRI AS ONE OF ITS ACADEMIC PARTNERS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PROJECT ON 'CRISIS STATES'. THERE WAS, INDEED, A DELUGE OF PROJECTS DURING THESE YEARS AND, WHAT IS MORE, MOST OF THESE PROJECTS WERE UNSOLICITED





ADRI WAS ALSO AN ENABLER AGENCY FOR THE PEOPLE OF BIHAR THROUGH THREE OF ITS UNITS - SRC, JSS AND DHAROHAR. THE FIRST TWO - SRC AND JSS - ARE INVOLVED IN THE HERCULEAN TASK OF ENABLING THE MOST DEPRIVED SECTIONS OF SOCIETY THROUGH LITERACY AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT, WHICH ARE CRITICAL FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL TO SURVIVE IN SOCIETY, MORE SO WHEN IT IS MARKET DRIVEN

Although academic research was ADRI's principal objective, it was always aware of the social responsibilities that research organizations can best shoulder. One such issue was the agricultural procurement practices of the central government, which were clearly unfair to the farmers in Bihar. Jagdanand Singh, a distinguished member of then Bihar Cabinet, prepared an authentic text on the issue and ADRI arranged for the wide dissemination of this text through two seminars - one at Patna and the other at India International Centre (IIC) in New Delhi.

ADRI was also an enabler agency for the people of Bihar through three of its units - SRC, JSS and Dharohar. The first two - SRC and JSS - are involved in the Herculean task of enabling the most deprived sections of society through literacy and skill development, which are critical for any individual to survive in a society, more so when it is market driven. Unless one is educated and skilled enough to negotiate the market forces, the market will devour the person. ADRI's contribution to this field of literacy and skill formation has been substantial, because in many cases, moving beyond the guidelines of the NLM, these two units have introduced many innovations in their working.

For example, the NLM model suggests that the task of building a social environment for literacy programme through cultural activities is to be undertaken by the Zila Saksharta Samiti (ZSS), the field level agency. Realizing that a ZSS may not always have that capacity, the SRC in ADRI employed some artists, who trained local artists, assembled by the ZSS, to organize environment building activities. Similarly, ADRI also scripted a professional history for itself by promoting the concept of 'barefoot entrepreneurs', as part of the adult literacy campaign. ADRI's third unit Dharohar, on the other hand,

supplemented these entrepreneurship development efforts by culturally enabling people to forge a distinct social identity. Reassertion of folk culture is one of the ways through which people acquire social identity, leading to a force for development where 'barefoot entrepreneurs' are extremely relevant. The goal of Dharohar was to encourage and assist this process of cultural regeneration.

As years passed by, ADRI continued to earn appreciation for its work, not just at the state and national level, but even globally. Many of the research scholars from foreign universities in the UK, the US, Japan and other countries visited ADRI to plan their studies on Bihar. The foreign visitors also included diplomats and functionaries of international development agencies, to get a briefing about the social, economical and political scenario in Bihar.

In one such occasion in 2003, the World Bank had identified ADRI to organize a 'Round Table Conference on Bihar', which was addressed by Nicholas Stern, then its Chief Economist. Apart from other World Bank functionaries, the Conference was also attended by local scholars, state government officials, editors of two leading dailies, captains of industries, and other opinion makers. The Conference led to the commissioning of a study on Bihar, which was again undertaken by ADRI. The study was an analysis of the political economy of the state, supplemented by suggestions for a possible incentive structure for its development. An international assignment also came from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to analyze the poverty in the Gangetic plains. Yet another international connection was Shaibal Gupta being appointed a member of the Advisory Board of IDPAD (Indo-Dutch Project on Alternative Development) project, run by ICSSR.

EVEN WHILE SADDLED WITH A NUMBER OF ACADEMIC ASSIGNMENTS, ADRI DID NOT IGNORE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT TASKS THAT NEEDED ADVOCACY IN THE CONTEXT OF BIHAR. IN THIS DIRECTION, IT PROMOTED THE CAUSE OF SUB-NATIONAL IDENTITY OF BIHAR BY ORGANIZING A MEGA MEET, 'BIHAR VIMARSH', WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, INTELLECTUALS AND OPINION MAKERS



Even while saddled with a number of academic assignments, ADRI did not ignore some of the important tasks that needed advocacy in the context of Bihar. In this direction, it promoted the cause of sub-national identity of Bihar

by organizing a mega meet, 'Bihar Vimarsh', which was attended by representatives of all political parties, intellectuals and opinion makers. The meet was organised essentially to promote the idea of an intermediate identity of Bihari sub-nationalism that transcended caste identity, which is typically all-pervasive in Bihar. This conclave was unprecedented, with no discordant voice on the criticality of sub-national identity. The proceedings of the conclave were later published in a book form, which was released by the Speaker in the Assembly premises.

Since SRC at ADRI was providing professional support to the districts in south Bihar for the literacy movement, it already had a presence in Jharkhand post-bifurcation of Bihar. However, in 2003, ADRI's roots in the new state became deeper when the NLM once again sanctioned an independent SRC for Jharkhand and entrusted ADRI to host it. This made ADRI the only organization in the country which is hosting two SRCs – one for Bihar and the other for Jharkhand. Since many of the senior functionaries of Jharkhand government, who were earlier with Bihar government, were already aware about ADRI's academic reputation, the institution was often

approached to discuss the development challenges and policy options for the newborn state. Thus, Kathinka Sinha-Kerkhoff, an India-based Dutch scholar associated with ADRI, was appointed as the Regional Director of ADRI Research Institute at Ranchi.

One of the objectives of ADRI, possibly not shared by similar organizations elsewhere, is to play a proactive role in making the results of development research reach their potential users. In pursuance of this objective, ADRI had submitted a memorandum to the Eleventh Finance Commission, presenting the specific problems of the poorer states in general, and Bihar in particular.

In 2004, again, ADRI presented a memorandum to the Twelfth Finance Commission, but there was an innovative feature of this second presentation. It was a joint memorandum, prepared and presented by ADRI on behalf of various political parties, professional organizations like Bihar Industries Association and Bihar Chamber of Commerce, as well as a few other institutions. This was a unique experiment in the Indian context, striving to create a social coalition around a commonly perceived development issue, viz state finances. To ensure ownership of the memorandum, ADRI had organized a panel discussion on the draft memorandum and then prepared a final version incorporating suggestions by all its stakeholders.

By 2005, ADRI was able to consolidate its position as a social science research centre in many ways. For one, the ADRI Institute was continuously receiving request for research studies from various development agencies, keeping its limited number of faculty members extremely busy. Some studies were also taken up by the faculty on their own, mainly on 'Bihar economy'.

Secondly, ADRI's international connections were becoming wider and stronger, either through collaborative studies or through visits of foreign scholars.

Thirdly, ADRI's interactions with state governments of both Bihar and Jharkhand had become more frequent and substantive as they found the organization to be an efficient services

provider on one hand, and author of useful advocacy materials, on the other.

The organization's financial health also improved and it was able to buy the residential building from which it had operated for more than a decade as a tenant.

The only front where ADRI faced difficulty was the expansion of its faculty. With the academic standards of local universities going down and reluctance of outsiders to move to Patna, availability of competent scholars is a problem that exists even today. Hopefully, the problem will gradually disappear in the not too distant future.

ADRI'S INTERACTIONS WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH BIHAR AND JHARKHAND HAD BECOME MORE FREQUENT AND SUBSTANTIVE AS THEY FOUND THE ORGANIZATION TO BE AN EFFICIENT SERVICES PROVIDER ON ONE HAND, AND AUTHOR OF USEFUL ADVOCACY MATERIALS, ON THE OTHER



YEARS OF MOMENTUM (2006-2016)

ADRI MAINTAINED ITS OWN ACADEMIC IDENTITY AND CONVINCINGLY PUT ACROSS ITS VIEW ON THE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE STATE, BASED ON ITS OWN RESEARCH FINDINGS. THIS POLITICAL NEUTRALITY HELPED ADRI IN BUILDING ITS OWN PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY, WHICH ALLOWED EVERY POLITICAL PARTY TO SHARE THE ADRI FORUM ON ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN



2006 is a landmark year in the political history of Bihar. Somewhat relatedly, it is also a milestone in ADRI's journey towards its ultimate goal of emerging as a leading social science research institute, not just nationally but also globally.

As regards political development, after one-and-a-half decades of the continuous reign of a political force that witnessed unprecedented social empowerment, there was a change in the political leadership following the Assembly elections in 2005. During the previous regime, while the authentic democratization gave a new identity to Bihar, the

nature of governance was extremely unsatisfactory. Coincidentally, ADRI was established in the same year when the previous regime had come to power. That the organization was able to function properly and grow steadily during those years of poor governance is not an ordinary achievement.

In those years, the very address or the 'brand of Bihar' was so much in disrepute that creating a brand for an organization in the state was a difficult exercise. However, even when Bihar was the object of ridicule by the national elite and media, ADRI did not build its brand by

jumping into the bandwagon of 'Bihar baiting'. Moving away from that trend, ADRI maintained its own academic identity and convincingly put across its view on the political developments in the state, based on its own research findings. This political neutrality helped ADRI in building its own professional identity, which allowed every political party to share the ADRI forum on issues of common concern. The organization honestly believed that, driven by sub-national identity, it should pursue relentless advocacy and campaign for development, social justice and knowledge society, irrespective of the political composition of the state.

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THE CLOSER INTERFACE BETWEEN ADRI AND THE STATE GOVERNMENT BECAME MORE APPARENT IN 2007 WHEN, PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF ADRI'S EFFORTS, TWO COMMISSIONS WERE CONSTITUTED BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT – ONE ON LAND REFORMS AND THE OTHER ON COMMON SCHOOLING SYSTEM, THE LATTER UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MUCHKUND DUBEY, CHAIRMAN OF ADRI

On the academic front, an important development was the nomination of Prabhat P Ghosh, Director of ADRI, as one of the members of the Governing Board of ICSSR New Delhi. This was indeed an indirect recognition of ADRI by ICSSR; its formal recognition came almost a decade later. In 2014, ICSSR New Delhi recognised ADRI Institute as one of the 'New Category of ICSSR-recognized Institutes'. It made provisions for Doctoral, Post-doctoral and Senior Fellowships at ADRI. This will certainly go a long way in helping ADRI expand its independent research activities; much of the earlier research was based on sponsored studies.

Similarly, Kathinka Sinha-Kerkhoff of ADRI's Regional Centre at Ranchi brought laurels to both herself and the organization by publishing a number of papers and books. In February 2008, Kathinka Sinha-Kerkhoff organized an international seminar in Patna on 'Coping with Academic Dependency: How?' sponsored by SEPHIS, the Netherland.

The Ford Foundation also appointed Shaibal Gupta as its advisor for the International Fellowship Programme. Finally, UNICEF, for whom ADRI had already done a project before, selected ADRI as one of the centres where selected young professionals under its 'Knowledge Community on Children' programme were to do their internship.

The closer interface between ADRI and the state government became more apparent in 2007 when, primarily because of ADRI's efforts, two commissions were constituted by the state government – one on Land Reforms and the other on Common Schooling System, the latter under the Chairmanship of Muchkund Dubey, Chairman of ADRI. For both the Commissions, ADRI provided substantial academic support and sometimes even administrative help. In particular, as Consultant to the Common Schooling System Commission, Prabhat P Ghosh worked out in detail the financial implications of a Common Schooling System, forming a critical chapter of its Report.

It was also in 2007 that the state government had given ADRI the responsibility of preparing an Economic Survey for financial year 2006-07. It was a challenging task and, because of time constraints, it became even more difficult. However, thanks to the cooperation of the state government and untiring efforts of the faculty at ADRI, the Survey could be prepared in time.

Although the close interface with the state government strengthened ADRI, it also exposed it to the risk of losing its independent status. Combining the twin practice of sponsorship by the state and simultaneously interrogating it, entails walking a challenging academic tight-rope. During those days, members of ADRI had to constantly undertake regular self-evaluation to plan its activities in such a way that the academic rigour of ADRI did not get slaughtered at the altar of the state's financial support.





THREE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT EVENTS DURING 2007, WHICH TRIED TO RESURRECT THE IMAGE OF BIHAR, WERE – 'GLOBAL MEET ON RESURGENT BIHAR', 'STANFORD MIRROR CONFERENCES' AND A SEMINAR ON 'REVISITING THE POVERTY ISSUE: MEASUREMENT, IDENTIFICATION AND ERADICATION'. ADRI PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN ORGANIZING ALL THESE EVENTS

As the new state government became increasingly pro-active on the development front, ADRI's interactions with it became stronger. It will not be an exaggeration to say that this partnership was sought from the highest quarters. Three extremely important events during 2007, which tried to resurrect the image of Bihar, were – 'Global Meet on Resurgent Bihar', 'Stanford Mirror Conferences' and a seminar on 'Revisiting the Poverty Issue: Measurement, Identification and Eradication'. ADRI played a major role in organizing all these events. Incidentally, the seminars on 'Global Meet' and 'Revisiting the Poverty Issues' were organized in

collaboration with Institute of Human Development (IHD), New Delhi. While the Global Meet and the Stanford Conference were essentially a brand-building exercise, the seminar on poverty was an academic exercise to revisit some of the crucial dimension of the phenomenon. The seminar did redeem the stand of Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar, about the problems encountered in the measurement of poverty and the identification of the poor. The seminar arrived at 'Patna Consensus' on those issues by a galaxy of diverse national and international academic luminaries with different ideological persuasions.

The formal stamp of support of the state government for ADRI was sealed when its Department of Finance sponsored a dedicated centre on public finance, christened as Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance (CEPPF). Earlier, ADRI had already produced two successive Economic Surveys for 2006-07 and 2007-08. These two surveys had convinced the state government about ADRI's excellent professional capacity to not only produce Annual Economic Surveys but to also provide a range of research support to it, relating to economic policies. Indeed, apart from Jharkhand, Bihar is the only state where preparation of the Economic Survey is outsourced, and ADRI feels proud to be that source.

One of the first things that CEPPF did was to organize a

national workshop on 'Inter- and Intra-State Economic Disparity' in December 2008, at the request of Thirteenth Finance Commission. The workshop was addressed by Vijay Kelkar, Chairman of the Commission. The Economic and Political Weekly published a special issue to publish the papers presented in the Conference.

The same year, a milestone was achieved by ADRI when Amartya Sen visited the organization. In collaborations with Pratichi Trust, which has been founded by Amartya Sen with his Noble Prize endowment, ADRI organized his lecture on the topic 'Bihar: Past Present and Future'. During the later years, ADRI and Pratichi Trust collaborated for a number of research studies focused on the critical issue of human development in Bihar.

THE FORMAL STAMP OF SUPPORT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT FOR ADRI WAS SEALED WHEN ITS DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SPONSORED A DEDICATED CENTRE ON PUBLIC FINANCE, CHRISTENED AS CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC POLICY AND PUBLIC FINANCE (CEPPF)





IN 2009, INTERNATIONAL GROWTH CENTRE (IGC) ESTABLISHED ONE OF ITS CENTRES AT ADRI. THE IGC IS AN INITIATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE UK GOVERNMENT AND IS RUN BY LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Over the years, as noted before, ADRI built some international connections through its association with the World Bank, IFAD, UNICEF and LSE. This trend was fortified in 2009 when International Growth Centre (IGC) established one of its centres at ADRI. The IGC is an initiative of the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK government and is run by London School of Economics (LSE) and Oxford University. The IGC Centre is supposed to promote demand driven policy research in Bihar and it was the outcome of a scooping visit of Govind Nilkeni, its Executive Director, and Robin Burgess, its Academic Director, to Patna in mid 2009. During the visit, they had confabulations with Sushil K Modi, the then Deputy Chief Minister, and a number of civil servants, corporate representatives and civil society organizations. After the consultations, there was a consensus that, in case

IGC sponsors a centre in Bihar, it had to be located at ADRI. The IGC India-Bihar Programme began with 'Bihar Growth Day Workshop' in December 2009, after which the Government of Bihar formally invited IGC to come to Bihar.

The 'Bihar Growth Conference' was inaugurated by CM Nitish Kumar. IGC accepted the invitation and decided that the Bihar centre should focus on two dimensions of the state's growth process – economic transformation and resource mobilisation. The IGC Programme in Bihar currently focuses on five key sectors – Agriculture, Education, Finance/Commercial Taxes, Health, and Water Resources. The Country Director of IGC India-Bihar Programme is Anjan Mukherjee, with Shaibal Gupta as the Co-Director.

IN 2010, AMARTYA SEN DELIVERED A LECTURE IN NEW DELHI, JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY ADRI, PRATICHI TRUST AND NATIONAL LITERACY MISSION. THE LECTURE WAS PRESIDED OVER BY MANMOHAN SINGH, THE THEN PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, IN THE PRESENCE OF KAPIL SIBAL, THE THEN MINISTER FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT



As ADRI's reputation acquired new heights, there were a number of events that made the organization even more visible and appreciated. One of them was the release of an advocacy document, 'Special Category Status: A Case Study of Bihar', endorsed by CM Nitish Kumar. It was released by Lord Meghnad Desai in May 2009 and later utilized extensively by the state government as a basic document to negotiate with the central government.

In 2010, Amartya Sen delivered a lecture in New Delhi, jointly organized by ADRI, Pratichi Trust and National Literacy Mission. The lecture was presided over by Manmohan Singh, the then Prime Minister of India, in the presence of Kapil Sibal, Minister for Human Resource Development. Next year, Amartya Sen again visited ADRI to release an important a

report on 'Elementary Education in Bihar', jointly prepared by ADRI and Pratichi Trust. Based on a field survey, the report presented a true picture of elementary education in Bihar, part of it bright and other parts demanding further action.

Much to the satisfaction of the ADRI members, ADRI's Foundation Lectures in next four years were delivered by two Nobel Laureates – Amartya Sen speaking on 'Civilisation Dialogue between India and ASEAN' in 2012, and Joseph Stiglitz speaking on 'Redefining Capitalism' in 2013 – and two members of the House of Lords, UK – Lord Meghnad Desai on 'Can Poverty Ever Be Abolished?' in 2014, and Karan Bilimoria on 'Role of Jamshedji Tata: Contribution of Parsis in Indian Freedom Struggle' in 2015.

The Union Ministry of Finance constituted a four-man committee in 2013 to prepare a 'Composite Development Index' for different states of India. Raghuram Rajan, the then Chief Economic Advisor, was the Chairman of the committee. It was indeed a matter of pride that Shaibal Gupta, ADRI's Member-Secretary, was chosen as one of the members of the prestigious committee. The Report of the Raghuram Rajan Committee was historic, because a development index for different states in India was prepared for the first time which could form a

rational basis for designing policies that could reduce regional disparity. However, Shaibal Gupta did not concur with the methodology for the preparation of the index and submitted a dissent note, forming a part of the overall report. The dissent note was widely appreciated by a number of academicians and development experts and the report, quite expectedly, failed to achieve its stated objective. Incidentally, Shaibal Gupta was appointed to the Board of Directors of National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP).



IT WAS INDEED A MATTER OF PRIDE THAT SHAI BAL GUPTA, ADRI'S MEMBER-SECRETARY, WAS CHOSEN AS ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF A PRESTIGIOUS FOUR-MAN COMMITTEE IN 2013, TO PREPARE A 'COMPOSITE DEVELOPMENT INDEX'. RAGHURAM RAJAN, THE THEN CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISOR, WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

Among the people who constantly supported and encouraged the development of ADRI, Pijushendu Gupta was outstanding. He was a renowned doctor, but his interests were very wide and he was also known as an academician and social activist. It was he who had conceived the idea of Dharohar, one of the units of ADRI, which had the objective of preservation, documentation and promotion of folk culture of Bihar. Unfortunately, he passed away in June 2014, leaving a void that was felt not just by ADRI but by many other institutions and people. His great ideals, deep commitment and enormous sacrifice are a constant source of inspiration for all the members of ADRI.



PIJUSHENDU GUPTA, A RENOWNED DOCTOR AS WELL AS AN ACADEMICIAN AND SOCIAL ACTIVIST, CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF DHAROHAR, ONE OF THE UNITS OF ADRI, WHICH HAD THE OBJECTIVE OF PRESERVATION, DOCUMENTATION AND PROMOTION OF FOLK CULTURE OF BIHAR





When ADRI was started 25 years ago, its members did not have any idea about its future, except that it would be an academic institution, raising the intellectual standard of Bihar and contributing to its socio-economic growth process. That, undoubtedly, ADRI is now, and its human base, financial resources and organizational links have emerged gradually through its varying engagements.

An element of prognostication was not altogether absent in this development; but it was possibly not the core element. When one tries to foresee ADRI's future, one does realize that external circumstances are certain to influence its future journey, but that should not prevent the organization from 'planning' its future, so that members of ADRI could always ask – where they wanted to go, where indeed they have reached, and finally, what caused the deviation.

The ultimate strength of an organization is based on those members who own it, besides contributing to it as a functionary in lieu of some reward. ADRI has been built brick-by-brick with the cooperation of such people. An ownership without contribution, or for that matter, contribution without ownership, cannot take ADRI too far. Both these attributes are precondition for building an organization, especially for a research organization like ADRI.

At this juncture of ADRI's journey, if one tries to analyse the accumulated experiences of the past, it can probably be divided into two clear parts – a ray of hope emanating from one part and the other part reminding the organization about the obstacles that are still to be crossed. The basic justification for the ray of hope is the fact that whatever space ADRI is holding now is an uncontested one.



ONE HONESTLY FEELS THAT THE PRESENT SHAPE OF CIVIL SOCIETY BEING WHAT IT IS IN BIHAR, THERE COULD POSSIBLY BE NOT ONE BUT MANY INSTITUTIONS LIKE ADRI. THE INSTITUTIONAL GAP IN BIHAR IS INDEED VERY WIDE

Most of the assignments that ADRI has undertaken in the past, either as an academic institution or as a development-conscious civil society organization, would have remained undone had ADRI not been there. One honestly feels that the present shape of civil society being what it is in Bihar, there could possibly be not one but many institutions like ADRI. The institutional gap in Bihar is indeed very wide. On the negative side, ADRI has often faced the indifference of some institutions whose modest help could strengthen the organization. The state is, of course, one such institution, both at the Centre and at the State level.

ADRI is certainly not expecting the kind of state-funding that was there earlier; but limited or assignment-based funding by the state could go a long way in promoting academic institutions like ADRI. No less disturbing is the trend observed for some funding or donor agencies, which have preferred to support not local institutions but those who are closer to the agencies by virtue of being located in the same metropolitan centre. Quite often, these preferred institutions fail to produce the required services, ignorant as they are about local conditions and practices.



Building an institution, that too of research, is a formidable endeavour, especially in a peripheral region of India. In Bihar, where most of the research/academic or other institutions had either collapsed or are gasping for academic/financial breath, the mere survival of ADRI is not a mean achievement; its growth is even more commendable. It has been suggested by few that the growth of ADRI is because of the near-collapse of other institutions. On the contrary, members of ADRI feel that if other research institutions had continued to be alive academically, ADRI would have surged forward with more vigour.

Academic innovation and vigour in a desiccated intellectual milieu of Bihar earlier was a difficult proposition. Academics

flourish in a society which is in ferment or seeking change. Academics do not thrive in isolation. Great institutions are built in a society which is a cradle of learning/ scholarship /inventions/ innovations. Academics is a group or collective effort in all discipline, be it in natural or social science. Marx's treatise on capitalism was sutured by Engles and, similarly, Keynes's new deal to revive capitalism would have lacked academic vigour without Robertson. However, somehow in India, instances of outstanding academicians working in isolation are more common. In Patna, too, its premier university has produced a number of good teachers, researchers, academicians, etc, but collective scholarship or academic endeavour was outside its pale.



BEFORE ADRI BUILDS ITS EDIFICE BEYOND SILVER JUBILEE, IT SHOULD RE-DEDICATE ITSELF TO THE ORIGINAL AGENDA, AND RE-INVENT THE NEW ACADEMIC AGENDA KEEPING THE REST OF THE CENTURY IN MIND

The establishment of A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies stole the academic thunder of comparable social science institutions in Bihar. However, while the output of the institute was path-breaking, its academic foundation was not strong enough to generate a momentum which would pass on to the next generation. While it helped in orienting large number of scholars, journalists, civil servants, etc, it failed to trigger independent research in this academic backwater of India. Building an institute with expatriate researchers may bring temporary glory but it fails to strengthen the internal foundation.

When ADRI was established, A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies was very much in ADRI's mental backdrop, as mentioned in the beginning. The completion of 25 years is just the

right occasion for ADRI to do some introspection about its achievements and failures. Before ADRI builds its edifice beyond Silver Jubilee, it should re-dedicate itself to the original agenda, and re-invent the new academic agenda keeping the rest of the century in mind. Any institute without a coherent ideological mooring will drift like a rudderless boat. Financial surfeit of an organization is no guarantee for its academic sustenance. An organization situated in Bihar, to get any amount of attention, has to perform 10 times better than those located in metropolitan cities. ADRI should, thus, not only survive financially, but should also avoid reaching academic climacteric. However, all things said and done, ADRI is happy to reach its present status and would continue its journey onwards, into the future, to reach newer heights.

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THE ADRI TEAM







BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN ADRI'S FORTE. HOWEVER, PARALLEL TO EXPLORING THE SOCIAL REALITIES, THE ORGANIZATION HAS ALSO BEEN ATTENTIVE TO THE DISSEMINATION OF ITS RESEARCH RESULTS FAR AND WIDE, TO ENABLE RAPID AS WELL AS INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Bihar has the envious distinction of having not one, but two remarkable knowledge institutions in ancient times – Nalanda University, established in 5th century, and Vikramshila University, emerging three centuries later. Its people, thus, knew more than thousand years ago, the significance of knowledge, and they had created it in abundance, disseminated it far and wide, and utilized it to promote prosperity, both material and spiritual. Unfortunately, the trend did not continue; after a few centuries, the trend was arrested, and after a few more centuries, it got reversed. From an era of knowledge and prosperity, Bihar gradually entered an age of ignorance and suffering. One had hoped that, with the end of colonial rule, the post-Independence development policies will change the social and economic scenario in Bihar, as elsewhere in the country, but the hope was belied much too soon. Indeed, the small islands of knowledge centres like Patna University, that Bihar had earlier, also started deteriorating after Independence.

The challenge of economic and social development in Bihar is indeed enormous, thanks to the numerous historical factors that have been operative here, either recent or distant. And unquestionably, this challenge demands responses along a number of axes. These desired responses are also complementary; for example, the best of efforts in the realm of resource mobilization may not see the best of results, when complementary social mobilization is largely unattended. However, an unswerving commitment towards building a 'knowledge society' in Bihar is one response that could greatly reinforce other responses, placing it on a new development trajectory that is not just fast, but inclusive as well. Besides having intrinsic value, education is also an enabler and without this endowment, participative development is impossible. Quite consciously, the genesis of ADRI in this social perspective is a step towards creation of a knowledge society in Bihar. Thus, parallel to exploring the social realities, ADRI has always been attentive to dissemination of its research results to as many persons and institutions as possible.

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The main objective of ADRI is to emerge as a centre for social science research and, thus, strengthen the forward linkages of education and knowledge. During the last 25 years, ADRI has delved into a few cognate areas, but it is social science research having direct implications for development that has always been the organization's main forte. Broadly speaking, more than 120 research studies that ADRI has completed in the past can be divided into four categories – Analytical, Diagnostic, Advocatory and Evaluative.

Within analytical studies, there were a number of studies on regional economics in the specific context of Bihar. These studies have generally argued that the colonial policies did harm Bihar to start with, but the post-Independence strategy of development in India, particularly the policy of 'Freight Equalizations', has only aggravated the problem of Bihar's development. Thus, for specially disadvantaged states like Bihar, the national development strategy needs to be substantially re-oriented so that regional disparities are lessened.



"THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES THERE WERE MEN WHO TOOK FIRST STEPS DOWN NEW ROADS ARMED WITH NOTHING BUT THEIR OWN VISION. THEIR GOALS DIFFERED, BUT THEY ALL HAD THIS IN COMMON: THAT THE STEP WAS FIRST, THE ROAD NEW, THE VISION UNBORROWED, AND THE RESPONSE THEY RECEIVED – HATRED. THE GREAT CREATORS – THE THINKERS, THE ARTISTS, THE SCIENTISTS, THE INVENTORS – STOOD ALONE AGAINST THE MEN OF THEIR TIME. EVERY GREAT NEW THOUGHT WAS OPPOSED. EVERY GREAT NEW INVENTION WAS DENOUNCED. THE FIRST MOTOR WAS CONSIDERED FOOLISH. THE AIRPLANE WAS CONSIDERED IMPOSSIBLE. THE POWER LOOM WAS CONSIDERED VICIOUS. ANAESTHESIA WAS CONSIDERED SINFUL. BUT THE MEN OF UNBORROWED VISION WENT AHEAD. THEY FOUGHT, THEY SUFFERED AND THEY PAID. BUT THEY WON."

– AYN RAND, THE FOUNTAINHEAD



THE SURVEY ON 'ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF UPPER CASTE POPULATION IN BIHAR' IN 2014 WAS A UNIQUE EXERCISE TO NEGATE THE MYTH THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE UPPER CASTES ARE PRIVILEGED, BOTH SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY

Secondly, the studies have also shown that, within Bihar, an area that critically demands state intervention is human resource development, particularly now that the mineral resource-rich part of Jharkhand is a separate state. The expected state interventions for human development should cover not only education, but health and empowerment of different marginalized sections of the population, including women.

Yet another focus of analytical studies in ADRI has been the public finance of the state. Admittedly, Bihar needs additional resources to meet its development challenges, but the state government also needs to ensure that it has adequately mobilized its internal resources and, secondly, whatever limited resources it has is spent prudently, promoting development. Much of this research on public finance in ADRI was facilitated when the state government sponsored a dedicated 'Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance (CEPPF) at the organization in 2008.

In the Indian context, not just in Bihar, the strategizing of development interventions and their implementation are sometimes hampered because of the lack of authentic information on the areas of intervention. Ideally, all development planning should be preceded by diagnostic studies which sometime require collection of primary data, secondary data often being less than adequate. Generally, at the request of the state government, ADRI has undertaken many such diagnostic studies in the past. One such study was the 'Socio-Economic and Educational Status of Muslims in Bihar', conducted in 2005. This was probably the first time in India that a specific survey was done on Muslims, largely a disadvantaged community.

Similarly, in the face of a persistent and understandable demand by a section of the upper caste population that caste-based reservation in government jobs ignores the economically weak members of the upper castes, the state government had requested ADRI to conduct a survey on 'Economic and Educational Status of Upper Caste Population in Bihar' in 2014. This was again a unique exercise to negate the myth that all members of the upper castes are privileged, both socially and economically.

The sample size for both the surveys was 8,000 households across the state, lending authenticity to their findings. Besides these two major diagnostic studies, ADRI has also done a number of similar studies on elementary education in Bihar, at the request of Bihar Education Project (BEP).

A third category of research studies undertaken by ADRI was evaluation studies. In the beginning, it was the evaluation of literacy campaigns that had occupied ADRI's research agenda. This was indeed a sequel to an SRC being set up in ADRI in 1995. During the next decade, ADRI had conducted about 15 such evaluations of literacy campaigns in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Rajasthan and even Manipur. These evaluation studies also helped the organization to know about the social realities in those states and, even more importantly, to gradually raise a team of competent field investigators who have helped ADRI to conduct field surveys in other thematic areas. A few other notable evaluation studies conducted by ADRI include – Evaluation of Public Distribution System in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand (sponsored by World Food Programme, 2000), Evaluation of Anganwadi Centres (CARE, 2001) and Evaluation of Family Planning Counsellor Services (Population Foundation of India, 2014).

Very recently, in 2016, there was another occasion where ADRI became involved in a series of evaluation studies which are indeed 'Social Impact Analysis' (SIA), now mandatory wherever the central or state government acquires land for a development project. These SIAs are extremely challenging, since the so called impacts of land acquisition are yet to be actualized, and they are to be 'estimated', based partly on the location of the land and perceptions of the owners. One of the innovative elements of SIAs is that the final report is prepared only after the draft report is discussed in a 'public hearing' and the incorporation of comments and suggestions collected therein. Till date, seven such SIAs have already been completed – four in Bhagalpur and one each in Patna, Gopalganj and Madhubani. In view of the excellent quality of the completed studies, ADRI has created a benchmark in SIA studies.



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Finally, within the category of advocative research studies, the most important has been the document 'Special Category Status: A Case for Bihar', which was published in 2010. This is indeed a historic document since it presents nearly all the available data that justify the request of the state to grant it a special status. The document had, for the first time, estimated the total financial loss to Bihar because of the policy of 'Freight Equalizations'. Admittedly, the request for a special category status is a political demand; but this document has converted that political demand into an economic imperative. The central government, of course, did not concede to the demand, but the document still retains its utility as an excellent analysis of the political economy of Bihar's economic development.

Earlier, in 2000, ADRI had also arranged for the wide dissemination of an advocacy document for a revised procurement policy of the central government for the farmers in Bihar. Towards advocating the cause of Bihar's development, ADRI has also been presenting to the different Finance Commissions a joint memorandum, on behalf of all the political parties, business organizations, and civil society organizations.

Besides conducting academic studies on the attending problems of society, one of the social responsibilities of the research organization is to promote young scholars, to professionally strengthen the academic community. ADRI does not have a teaching programme, but to promote young scholars, it has been offering internship programmes for them. Presently, the

internships are offered to masters level students by CEPPF, a part of ADRI. Apart from these formal programmes of the internship, ADRI has provided academic support to a number of doctoral and other scholars in their work, many of them from abroad.

Besides scholars, ADRI is also often visited by functionaries of NGOs for consultations. The NGO functionaries, even when they are sincere, are often not able to strategize their interventions, or analyze the behavioural response of the people, or evaluate the outcomes of their programmes. Just as listening to the experiences of NGOs is a learning process for faculty members of ADRI, it is also a learning process for the NGOs when they are explained the theoretical rationale of their activities and the observed outcomes.

The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, is the official institution, under the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, which is supposed to promote and support social science research in the country. There are already 27 social science research centres across the country which receive regular financial grants from ICSSR. To expand its network, ICSSR had invited applications sometime in 2014 from other research institutes for being formally recognized by it. Out of a large number of social science research institutes, only three were selected through an intensive evaluation process in 2015 as 'New Category of ICSSR-Recognised' institutes by ICSSR. That ADRI was one of them only reiterates how substantial has been its contribution in social research.

TO EXPAND ITS NETWORK, ICSSR HAD INVITED APPLICATIONS IN 2014 FROM OTHER RESEARCH INSTITUTES FOR BEING FORMALLY RECOGNIZED BY IT. ADRI WAS SELECTED IN 2015 UNDER 'NEW CATEGORY OF ICSSR-RECOGNISED' INSTITUTES BY ICSSR IN 2015. THAT ADRI WAS CHOSEN AFTER A RIGOROUS SELECTION PROCESS REITERATES HOW SUBSTANTIAL HAS BEEN ITS CONTRIBUTION IN SOCIAL RESEARCH





TILL DATE, CEPPF HAS PRODUCED 10 ANNUAL ECONOMIC SURVEYS AND PREPARED OTHER DOCUMENTS, PARTICULARLY THE MEMORANDUMS TO THE FINANCE COMMISSIONS

CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC POLICY AND PUBLIC FINANCE (CEPPF)

As part of its social responsibility, ADRI has provided research support to the state government on many occasions. In late 2005, when a new government had come to power in Bihar, this professional interaction was formalized with an assignment for ADRI to prepare an Economic Survey. The survey, although prepared under severe time constraint, was widely appreciated and a second request was made next year to prepare the Economic Survey for 2007-08. It was then realized by the state government that it would be desirable to establish a centre

at ADRI which will not only prepare the annual Economic Surveys, but provide it with many other research support in the arena of economic policy and public finance. This centre, named as Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance (CEPPF), was established in 2008 and it was expected to function in the way National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP), New Delhi, functions for the central government. Till date, CEPPF has produced 10 annual Economic Surveys and prepared other documents, particularly the memorandums to the Finance Commissions. The centre also maintains a data bank which is a repository of all the social and economic information on Bihar.

IN LAST SEVEN YEARS, IGC-BIHAR CENTRE HAS ALREADY COMPLETED 25 STUDIES, SPANNING THE AREAS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, FINANCE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, SOCIAL WELFARE, WATER RESOURCES, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND A FEW OTHERS



INTERNATIONAL GROWTH CENTRE (IGC)

Thanks to the sustained efforts of ADRI towards building a knowledge society through its research programmes and related activities like lectures, seminars, internship programmes, or through its academic support to scholars studying Bihar, its reputation has spread, not just outside Bihar, but outside India as well. It was, therefore, not surprising when the International Growth Center (IGC), located in London School of Economics (LSE), chose ADRI to be one of its centres in 2009.

It has a mandate to promote and finance development studies that have been demanded by the state government. In last seven years, IGC-Bihar centre has already

completed 25 studies, spanning the areas of education, health, finance, rural development, social welfare, water resources, disaster management and a few others. IGC-Bihar also organizes every year, a two-day long 'Bihar Growth Conference' where researchers, state administrators, politicians and civil society functionaries participate to discuss research findings and try to identify effective responses to the development challenges in the state. The IGC also organizes an Annual Conference in London where scholars associated with its research programme, and senior development officials and policy makers from different countries, interact on both IGC's agenda and various development issues. Many people from Bihar have participated in this conference during the last seven years.

DHAROHAR

Quite consciously, one of the chosen objectives of ADRI was 'to restore man to his central position in social research in totality and with full dignity'. This was not a rhetoric, but a corollary of the development view of ADRI which maintains that development is a multi-dimensional process, with culture as one of its dimensions. Indeed, culture is a comprehensive term which implies the pursuit of perfection in all walks of life, including all the mental and material possessions of human race – speech, knowledge, beliefs, customs, art and technologies.

Almost unequivocally, studies on culture have stressed the limitations of confining the issues of development to economics alone. Thus, when ADRI was conceived, it had consciously underlined the role of culture in the process of development. This understanding of ADRI was incorporated in its research agenda right from the beginning. But it was soon realized that the cultural regeneration of Bihar demanded a wider agenda, which is not limited to research alone; it also requires interventions that locate, document and promote the rich cultural traditions of the state.

A unit in ADRI was, therefore, established right at the beginning and christened as Dharohar, towards locating the cultural practices, many of which were nearly extinct. ADRI first conducted 'Village Surveys on Cultural Practices' in 40 villages of Magahi region, where nearly 400 rural artists have provided a rich base of information on the local culture. Towards promotion of culture, ADRI has also organized many Folk-art Festivals, offering rare opportunity to artists to perform, and to enthuse others to join the group. During these festivals, many artists have also experimented with their presentations to enrich the local cultural traditions.

Another expected gain of such festivals was also the formation of informal networks of cultural groups which again can contribute to the preservation of traditional culture. To strengthen the process further, many of these traditional cultural practices were also documented audio-visually or through texts. Dharohar has also made a unique effort to establish a Heritage Museum where traditional technologies, artifacts, and painting are kept to enlighten the present generation of people about their cultural history.

ADRI FIRST CONDUCTED 'VILLAGE SURVEYS ON CULTURAL PRACTICES' IN 40 VILLAGES OF MAGAHI REGION, WHERE NEARLY 400 RURAL ARTISTS HAVE PROVIDED A RICH BASE OF INFORMATION ON THE LOCAL CULTURE



THE BASIC RATIONALE BEHIND ORGANIZING FOUNDATION LECTURES IS TO DISSEMINATE KNOWLEDGE CREATED ELSEWHERE AMONG THE PEOPLE OF BIHAR. IN LAST 25 YEARS, ADRI WAS ABLE TO ORGANIZE ONLY 13 FOUNDATION LECTURES, BUT THE INVITED SPEAKERS WERE ALL OUTSTANDING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS



ADRI FOUNDATION LECTURE

As part of its activities towards creating a knowledge society in Bihar, ADRI has also been organizing Foundation Lectures, ever since it was established in 1991. These lectures are for the general public and they have always enthralled the intelligentsia of Patna. The basic rationale behind organizing these lectures is to disseminate knowledge created elsewhere among the people of Bihar. In last 25 years, ADRI was able to organize only 13 Foundation Lectures, but the invited speakers were all outstanding in their respective fields.

In 1992, the first lecture was delivered by Randhir Singh, the eminent political scientist from Delhi University, on 'Crisis of Socialism and Its Future'.

Since this was the period when an ideological debate was intense across the world, the next two Foundation Lectures were also on related themes - 'Role of the State and Market in Economic Development' (Prabhat Patnaik, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 1993) and 'Globalization in India: Fantasy and Reality' (Amiya K Bagchi, Centre for Study of Social Studies, Calcutta, 1994). Moving away from economics, Shahid Amin of Delhi University had spoken on '*Smriti and Itihas: Chauri-Chaura, 1922-92*' (1995) and Ashok Vajpeyi, the noted litterateur, on 'Local Culture and Global Market' (1997). These two lectures had underlined that, although ADRI had been engaged more with economic issues, its overall mindset was much broader, incorporating many other social science disciplines.

In 1999, Deepak Nayar of Delhi University had delivered the Foundation Lecture on 'Economic Development and Political Democracy: India since Independence', which had presented a fresh viewpoint on India's economy and politics, in an inter-disciplinary framework. From the perspective of either economic growth or political stability, this was not a good time for India and when, in 2001, Francine R Frankel, of University of Pennsylvania, US delivered the Foundation Lecture, she had entitled it as 'India on the Brink'. Thankfully, the country had somewhat recovered from the crisis during the decade that followed, but many of the weaknesses of the Indian economy that the author had underlined, still continue to haunt the country.

India's religious pluralism has generally been discussed in the political context, more so in the 90s when ethno-religious mobilization became increasingly wider. But Barbara Harriss-White had chosen to analyse the phenomenon in a different framework in her lecture on 'India's Religious Pluralism and Its Implications for the Economy' in 2002. It is quite likely that this pioneering investigation on religious pluralism has led to a number of studies with a similar framework that had emerged in the last decade, all relating to religious pluralism.

Besides religious pluralism, the institution of caste is yet another dimension of India's social fabric that has been studied by many scholars. Although, as an institution, caste still exists, its implications for society have been changing over the years. This was succinctly elaborated and analysed by Andre Beteille, the distinguished sociologists, in his Foundation Lecture in 2006 under the title 'Caste in Contemporary India'.

After a rather long gap, the next Foundation Lecture was held in 2012, and this time it was by Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen. Displaying the depth and width of his enormous scholarship, he did not speak on economics, but on 'Civilization Dialogue between India and ASEAN', which has a millennium long history.

The next lecture in 2013 was again by a Noble Laureate, Joseph E Stiglitz. In the backdrop of the world financial crisis that was yet to be over, the distinguished economist spoke on 'Redefining Capitalism'. His reasoned advice on how to save capitalism, as elaborated in the lecture, is indeed a source of wisdom for all the governments in today's world.

Lord Meghnad Desai, Emeritus Professor at London School of Economics, has been a friend of ADRI for many years. He has not only visited the organization many times, but has also advised its faculty members on their research assignments. However, it was only in 2014 that he agreed to deliver the Foundation Lecture on the ever haunting question, 'Can Poverty Ever be Abolished?'. His negative answer to that question was not an expression of pessimism, but based on the argument that the definition of absolute poverty is almost certain to change and, as such, it is most likely to be a perpetual feature of the human society.

The last Foundation Lecture of ADRI had drawn attention to one significant part of India's freedom struggle which, in spite of being widely known, is not adequately appreciated. Thus, the lecture by Lord Karan Bilimoria, entitled 'Role of Jamshedji Tata: Contributions of Parsis in India's freedom Struggle' was an enormous learning exercise for the intelligentsia.

AFTER A RATHER LONG GAP, THE NEXT FOUNDATION LECTURE WAS HELD IN 2012, AND THIS TIME IT WAS BY NOBEL LAUREATE AMARTYA SEN. DISPLAYING THE DEPTH AND WIDTH OF HIS ENORMOUS SCHOLARSHIP, HE DID NOT SPEAK ON ECONOMICS, BUT ON 'CIVILISATION DIALOGUE BETWEEN INDIA AND ASEAN', WHICH HAS A MILLENNIUM LONG HISTORY



BACKWARD LINKAGES OF EDUCATION

SRC-ADRI HAD ADVOCATED AN ALTERNATIVE MODEL WHERE ZSS IS PROVIDED WITH ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND AN EXTENDED TIME FRAMEWORK. IN APPRECIATION FOR SRC-ADRI'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ADULT LITERACY CAMPAIGN IN BIHAR, ADRI WAS ALSO GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING ANOTHER SRC AT RANCHI BY NLM

STATE RESOURCE CENTRE (SRC) ON ADULT EDUCATION IN PATNA AND RANCHI

ADRI's effort to create a knowledge society in Bihar was greatly strengthened when the National Literacy Mission (NLM) entrusted it with the responsibility of running a State Resource Centre (SRC) on adult education in Patna in 1995. In contrast to the research programme of ADRI that strengthens the forward linkage of education, the adult literacy programme is an important step towards the backward linkages of education.

The promotion of adult literacy in India through a 'mission mode' had been started by NLM as early as 1988. In this mission mode, the entire responsibility of mobilizing the adult non-literates to join the teaching-learning process was to be carried out by voluntary teachers and other literacy functionaries, all working under Zila Saksharta Samitis (ZSS). It was SRC-ADRI's mandate to provide all professional support to the ZSS in selected districts in undivided Bihar to help them

achieve their goal of total literacy. These support services included – preparation of district-specific literacy materials, training of trainers for voluntary teachers, helping the ZSS to organize environment building activities, financial management, and the likes.

Quite expectedly, all these activities had entailed close interaction of SRC's staff members not just with ZSS functionaries, but with numerous adult learners across the state, enriching their knowledge and understanding of the social realities. Based on these valuable field-level experiences, SRC-ADRI had later critiqued the Ernakulam model which had largely formed the strategy of NLM for adult education. For low literacy states in the Hindi-heartland, SRC-ADRI had advocated an alternative model where ZSS is provided with additional resources and an extended time framework. In appreciation for SRC-ADRI's contribution to the adult literacy campaign in Bihar, ADRI was also given the responsibility of establishing another SRC at Ranchi by NLM, after Jharkhand was separated from Bihar in 2000.





THE PURPOSE OF AKSHAR BIHAR AND AKSHAR JHARKHAND WAS TWO-FOLD – FIRST, TO HONOUR SOME OF THE DEDICATED LITERACY FUNCTIONARIES IN THE TWO STATES DURING ITS ANNUAL FUNCTION, AND THEN, TO SENSITIZE THE LOCAL INTELLIGENTSIA ON LITERACY CONCERNS

AKSHAR BIHAR AND AKSHAR JHARKHAND

When ADRI was entrusted with the task of setting up the State Resource Centres (SRC) for adult education in Bihar and Jharkhand, it was felt that the working of the SRCs should combine both traditional and innovative programmes. It was also felt that if Bihar and Jharkhand were to transcend into a 'knowledge society' in the 21st century, banishment of illiteracy should be the key strategy. This required a proactive role not only on the part of the government, but also of the people in general and civil society organizations in particular.

While the NLM was playing the role of a proactive government agency, ADRI tried to enthuse the other two seg-

ments – the people and the civil society. Towards this critical agenda, ADRI started the Akshar Bihar forum in Patna in 1996 and a similar Akshar Jharkhand forum in Ranchi in 2006.

The purpose of these forums was two-fold – first, to honour some of the dedicated literacy functionaries in the two states during its annual function, and then, to sensitize the local intelligentsia on literacy concerns. To ensure wide dissemination of the activities of the two forums, a Hindi daily was typically invited to be associated with them. In the absence of an authentic social movement, these two forums have indeed contributed much to the success of adult literacy programme in Bihar and Jharkhand.

JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN

One of the innovative programmes of the National Literacy Mission (NLM) is the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) which provides vocational education to the neo-literates or moderately literate persons. Each JSS has a very flexible arrangement where vocational courses could be of any duration. NLM sponsored one JSS in ADRI in 2000 which functions in tandem with SRC-ADRI. Nearly 5,000 persons, many of them women, have been trained by JSS-ADRI till date, justifying its role as a skill development institution.

NLM SPONSORED ONE JAN SHIKSHAN SANSTHAN IN ADRI IN 2000, WHICH FUNCTIONS IN TANDEM WITH SRC-ADRI. NEARLY 5,000 PERSONS, MANY OF THEM WOMEN, HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY JSS-ADRI TILL DATE, JUSTIFYING ITS ROLE AS A SKILL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTION





A NEW DIMENSION WAS ADDED TO THE AKSHAR BIHAR PROGRAMME IN PATNA WHEN ADRI STARTED THE MYLES HORTON AND PAULO FREIRE MEMORIAL LECTURE TO COINCIDE WITH ITS ANNUAL FUNCTION. THIS WAS, INDEED, AN APPROPRIATE ACTION AS NO ONE HAS SERVED THE CAUSE OF ADULT LITERACY AS MYLES HORTON HAD DONE FOR THE US AND PAULO FREIRE HAD DONE IN THE CONTEXT OF BRAZIL

MYLES HORTON AND PAULO FREIRE MEMORIAL LECTURE

A new dimension was added to the Akshar Bihar programme in Patna when ADRI started the Myles Horton and Paulo Freire Memorial Lecture to coincide with its annual function. This was, indeed, an appropriate action as no one has served the cause of adult literacy as Myles Horton had done for the US and Paulo Freire had done in the context of Brazil. Even today, both of them remain an unlimited source of inspiration for adult education experts and functionaries across the world.

The first Memorial Lecture was delivered by Rajesh Tandon, who was an established social activist, leading the NGO called PRIA in New Delhi. He had spoken on 'Knowledge, Citizenship and Development', a relationship that aptly underlines the philosophy of adult literacy programme in India, run by National Literacy Mission (NLM). Next year, it was Amarjeet Sinha, a senior administrator with special interest in human development, who spoke on 'Education and Social Justice'. Although the relation between literacy and development is

quite obvious, it is probably manifested in the field level in varied ways. This was underlined by Brian V Street of University of London in his lecture, entitled 'Alternative Approaches to Literacy Development'.

Quite often, not just ordinary individuals, but even literacy functionaries, define literacy as an ability to only read and write, plus some numeracy; but meaningful literacy, one that enables the literates to participate in the development process and play their desired social, economic, cultural and political roles, is a wider concept. The relevance of this wider concept of literacy is more in developing countries, as was elaborated by Michael Omolewa, a Nigerian scholar and once Ambassador of this country to UNESCO, in his lecture on 'Literacy and Literacies for Development' in 2002.

John Gaventa of the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, UK, has been one of the distinguished scholars in the field of literacy and it was an extremely rewarding occasion when he had reiterated the philosophy of two outstanding contributors to literacy movement in his lecture 'Education for Citizenship: Lessons from Paulo Freire and Myles Horton' in 2003.

THE CHALLENGE OF ADULT ILLITERACY DOES NOT EXIST IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALONE, IT IS ALSO PRESENT IN SUCH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES LIKE BRITAIN, THE US OR CANADA, ALBEIT IN DIFFERENT FORMS. THUS, THE MYLES HORTON AND PAULO FREIRE MEMORIAL LECTURES IN 2006, 2008 AND 2009 WERE DELIVERED BY SCHOLARS FROM ABROAD – BETSY TAYLOR OF JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, US; AND BUDD HALL AND DARLENE E CLOVER OF UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA, CANADA

The next lecture was delivered jointly by Brenda Bell and Beth Bingham, both from University of Tennessee, US, who spoke on 'Learning from the Past and Looking to the Future: Literacy for Civic Participation' in 2004, a theme which is extremely relevant for the Afro-Americans.

Although literacy is likely to solve some of the development problems, it sometimes makes development agenda more challenging, as the expectations of the people from the agenda become more, now that they are literate. This paradox was elaborated by Sudeep Banerjee, a senior administrator and a litterateur, in his lecture 'Threats to Literacy: Threats from Literacy' (2005).

The challenge of adult illiteracy does not exist in developing countries alone, it is also present in such developed countries like Britain, the US or Canada, albeit in different forms. Thus, the Myles Horton and Paulo Freire Memorial Lectures in 2006, 2008 and 2009 were delivered by scholars from abroad – Betsy Taylor of John Hopkins University, US, spoke on 'We Make the Road by Walking: Civil Literacy, Empowerment and Place-based Development in Global Context' (2006), Budd Hall of University of Victoria, Canada, spoke on 'Right to a New Utopia: Education in a World at Risk' (2008), and Darlene E Clover of University of Victoria, Canada spoke on 'The Creative Turn: Learning, Literacy and Social Change through Art-based Practice' (2009).

Meanwhile in 2007, Champak Chatterjee, a senior administrator who had once headed Department of Education and Literacy of the central government, presented in his lecture a 'Literacy Roadmap for the Future' in India.

NLM had reformulated its strategy for promoting adult literacy by starting the 'Saakshar Bharat' programme in 2009. The following year, D Purundeswari, then Union Minister of State for HRD, elaborated the concept in her address 'Saakshar Bharat: New Initiatives for a Knowledge Society in India'.

The Saakshar Bharat programme has a wider objective than just basic literacy skills and this rationale was elaborated by R Govinda, of National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi, in his lecture 'Adult Education: Beyond the Realms of Basic Literacy Skills' (2011).

The last Myles Horton and Paulo Freire Memorial Lecture by V Vasanthi Devi of Institute of Human Rights Education (IHRE), Madurai, was on 'Architecture of Execution: Seeking New Tools for Constructing an Alternative Education'. The speaker had tried in this lecture to emphasize that while the pursuit of knowledge is rightly recognized as the purpose of education, its other goals – awareness, freedom and social responsibility – are often ignored, often making it an incomplete exercise.





ADRI HAS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN TERMS OF CREATION OF A KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY. A NUMBER OF RESEARCH STUDIES, CLOSE PROFESSIONAL INTERACTIONS WITH BOTH CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT, AND SUBSTANTIVE NETWORKS WITH INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE CENTRES AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS, HAVE ALL MADE IT POSSIBLE

AKSHAR JHARKHAND FOUNDATION LECTURE

Parallel to the Myles Horton and Paulo Freire Memorial Lectures at Patna, SRC-ADRI at Ranchi had also been organizing Akshar Jharkhand Foundation Lectures since 2006. Till date, five such lectures have been organized, starting with the lectures by Betsy Taylor of John Hopkins University, US, who spoke on 'Geography of Inequality and Empowerment within USA: Democratization Process of Regional Public Space'.

The remaining four lectures were – 'Literacy for Women Empowerment' by Vandana Jena, a senior administrator at National Literacy Mission (2007); 'Literacy with Concientisation' by Lakshmidhar Mishra, another senior administrator who was the founder Director-General of NLM; 'Concept of Continuing Education and Its Relevance for India' by Bhaskar Chatterjee, a former Director General of NLM; and 'Saaksharata, Shiksha aur Sahitya par Vichar Karte Hue' by Vishwaranjan, a senior police officer and a litterateur.

MOVERS & SHAKERS



>> LOOKING BACK AFTER 25 YEARS, ADRI HAS ACCOMPLISHED MUCH IN TERMS OF CREATION OF A KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY. A NUMBER OF RESEARCH STUDIES, CLOSE PROFESSIONAL INTERACTIONS WITH BOTH CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT, AND SUBSTANTIVE NETWORKS WITH INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE CENTRES AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS, HAVE ALL MADE IT POSSIBLE. BUT ADRI HAS TO TRAVEL MANY MORE MILES TO REACH A HIGHER BENCHMARK.



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Young and ambitious: An institute with a difference

By Pranava K Chaudhary

Times of India News Service
PATNA, September 1991

'Too ambitious' – this is the common impression of anyone who goes through the projects and other works undertaken by the newly formed Patna-based Asian Development Research Institute. 'Too young' – this is also the common impression of anyone who comes across the persons associated with this institute. And the ADRI people are not at all apologetic about these impressions. 'Yes, ADRI is young and ambitious since youth, as very aptly described by William Shakespeare, is nimble, hot and bold, and wild. Moreover, we appear to be more ambitious because under the present academic environment people have stopped thinking big and acting bold', says a young research scholar involved with ADRI. To some extent it seems to be true as within a few months of its existence, ADRI is gradually catching the imagination of a few brilliant young researchers in Patna.

ADRI registered under the Societies Registration Act in March this year is now a familiar name in academic circles in Patna. It is basically an academic centre aimed at pooling the non-conventional, and even conventional sources of intellectual energy of the people engaged in various disciplines by utilizing the tools of informatics, audio-visual and print media. So, in a province like Bihar where, according to Dr Shaibal Gupta, member-secretary of the Institute and also a Faculty Member of the A N Sinha Institute of Social Studies, 'development research is a flourishing side-line business', ADRI is an institute with a difference.

Bihar is considered to be quite rich in raw materials for research and development, yet it is hardly known for their processing and finished products. Hence, ADRI is a high-risk venture which can be transformed into a successful high-tech

venture through constant innovations in the sphere of research agenda and methodology.

High on the agenda of ADRI is a research proposal for establishing a cell on 'Development Information on Bihar' under the auspices of ADRI Information Centre (AIC). According to Dr P P Ghosh, Director of this project, AIC (which is supposed to be a fairly large and advanced computer centre) aims at creating and continuously updating an adequate and reliable information base on our economy and society and will cater to the needs of researchers, government and semi-government agencies, development personnel working as members of voluntary agencies or as their advisors, trade and industry bodies, and even activists. The retrieval of the information collected by the cell would be done as and when specific requests are made by the users. The possible keys of retrieval would be 'temporal', 'spatial' and 'thematic'. All the information would be stored both in the printed as well as machine readable form, so that users from outside can also have speedy and easy access to it. Moreover, according to Mr Anup Kumar Karan, a young associate director of this project, AIC intends to offer research results in an innovative, demystified and use-worthy form to different section of the people.

'The continuous dialogue that ADRI is desirous of maintaining with development agencies, local-level communities or social activists regarding objectives of development and agenda of actions, can be meaningful only when the discussions are supported by adequate information on the concerned area or people', he said. He hopes that within the next few months AIC will be able to come out with some primary publications.

Another massive project of research and audio-visual documentation aimed at explaining the backwardness of Bihar in historical perspective and at chalking out a provincial agenda for a comprehensive socio-cultural and economic transformation of Bihar is that of 'Understanding Bihar'. Under this



project undertaken by ADRI, the history of Bihar has been divided into four periods – ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary – and each period consists of twenty sections ranging from anthropological, polity, industry etc., to that of lifestyle. For the present, under the section of Movement for Change/Protest, a detailed research project on ‘Peasant Movement in Bihar, 1765-1990’ has been finalized and a brief synopsis of 25 documentary films of fifty minutes’ duration has been prepared.

The young researchers working particularly in the fields of history, sociology and economics of the above-mentioned period will find the detailed points of study and research worked out by ADRI quite interesting and stimulating, and some of them are already working with ADRI on this account. Ms Sunita Lall, a research scholar of Patna University and a research associate of ADRI, is already working on ‘Abolition of Zamindari and its Impact’, while Ms Sumita Singh, another research scholar of Patna University and coordinator of ADRI’s seminar committee is engaged in research on economic condition in Patna district in the wake of the Permanent Settlement. ‘In a condition where institutes have become destitute both in terms of ideas and finance, ADRI offers a climate of disinterested research’, says Ms Lall. According to Ms Singh, if proper encouragement and academic incentives are provided in Patna itself, many young bright students who normally migrate to Delhi to pursue their further studies, will prefer to stay and work here; ADRI is precisely working in that direction.

Since ‘Peasant Movement in Bihar, 1765-1990’ is a five-year project, ADRI has also worked out a pilot research and audio-visual project on ‘Peasant Movement in Central Bihar, Changes in the Post-Green Revolution Rural Scene, 1981-1990 – A Case Study of Masaurhi Block’. This research will cover the entire block of Masaurhi and is aimed at ‘raising peasant studies to the realm of prospective development studies and planning, and at explaining the necessity of new development vision in the retrospective of peasant movements.’

Apart from these two massive or say ambitious projects on Information Centre and Understanding Bihar, ADRI has also prepared a synopsis of an audio-visual serial (of 10 episodes of 40 minutes’ duration) on the

development of modern industrial ventures in India entitled ‘Industrialization in India, 1833-1990’.

Moreover, ADRI has made its presence felt in the academic and industrial circles through organizing seminars, talks on wide-ranging topics, and through its comments on issues of common concern. The first talk was given by Mr P S Appu in January (1991) on ‘Land Reforms and Land Relations in Bihar’ in which a number of activists, academicians and administrators participated. The second talk was delivered by Professor Hargopal of Andhra University on ‘Civil Liberties Movement: A Comparative Study of Andhra and Bihar’ in March (1991). This seminar was abruptly cancelled midway due to unavoidable reasons. The third seminar on ‘Internationalization of Indian Business’ was attended by leading industrialists and business persons. The speaker was a young IAS offi-

The continuous dialogue that ADRI is desirous of maintaining with development agencies, local-level communities or social activists regarding objectives of development and agenda of actions, can be meaningful only when the discussions are supported by adequate information on the concerned area or people

cer Mr K S Vatsa, and it was held in July (1991). The fourth seminar in August (1991) concentrated on cultural questions and the speaker was again a young lecturer of Minnesota University, Mr Amitava Kumar. The crisis in Marxist theory was the subject of discussion in the fifth seminar in September (1991) and the speaker was a research scholar of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Mr Sharad Kumar.

Through these seminars, ADRI hopes to provide bright and young researchers and administrators a platform to articulate their ideas which is often not available to them in traditional institutes. Moreover, to disseminate infor-



mation and enlighten people on issues of immediate and common concern, ADRI has planned to come out with a series of articles under its 'ADRI Research - Popular Series' columns in newspapers. To actively intervene in decision-making process, ADRI is also planning to prepare memorandums on different issues - one such memorandum on new economic strategy was sent to the Finance Minister before the budget.

Ministry of Home Affairs has already approved its proposal for holding a seminar on 'Need for Renaissance and Regeneration in Bihar: A Strategy for Consolidation, Cohesion and Integration in a Fragmented State'. The United States Information Service has expressed its desire to co-sponsor a seminar with ADRI on 'Free Market - Problems and Prospects of Economic Development: An Inter-disciplinary Approach'. Negotiation on the modalities of organizing this seminar is still going on.

The inter-disciplinary approach towards various research questions of ADRI is reflected in its composition as well. Its board of directors is composed of professionals from diverse disciplines. Almost all of them were working independently with perhaps similar objectives in their own ways, and by coincidence or by conscious contacts they came together and thus ADRI came into being - a body consisting of persons from economics, statistics, film making, journalism, mathematics, management and politics. This organic composition of ADRI has helped it to establish close relations with academicians, entrepreneurs and activists, and it has all the potential to emerge as a think tank in Bihar.

Even the idea of combining research work with audio-visuals did not arise in a vacuum. Its Chairperson Mr Pradipta S Sen, ex-Resident Editor of The Hindustan Times, Patna edition, was one of the pioneers of the film society movement in West Bengal. Dr Shaibal Gupta worked as a consultant in the BBC-Open University Milton Keynes' film on Green Revolution in India. And Mr Prakash Jha's contribution in the film world is well known. They were quite conscious of the power of the audio-visual media in disseminating ideas, ideals and information. Moreover, ADRI is quite serious about packaging and selling itself since its inception because, according to its understanding, packaging in

modern times is one of the effective ways of surviving and making one's presence felt in competitive conditions.

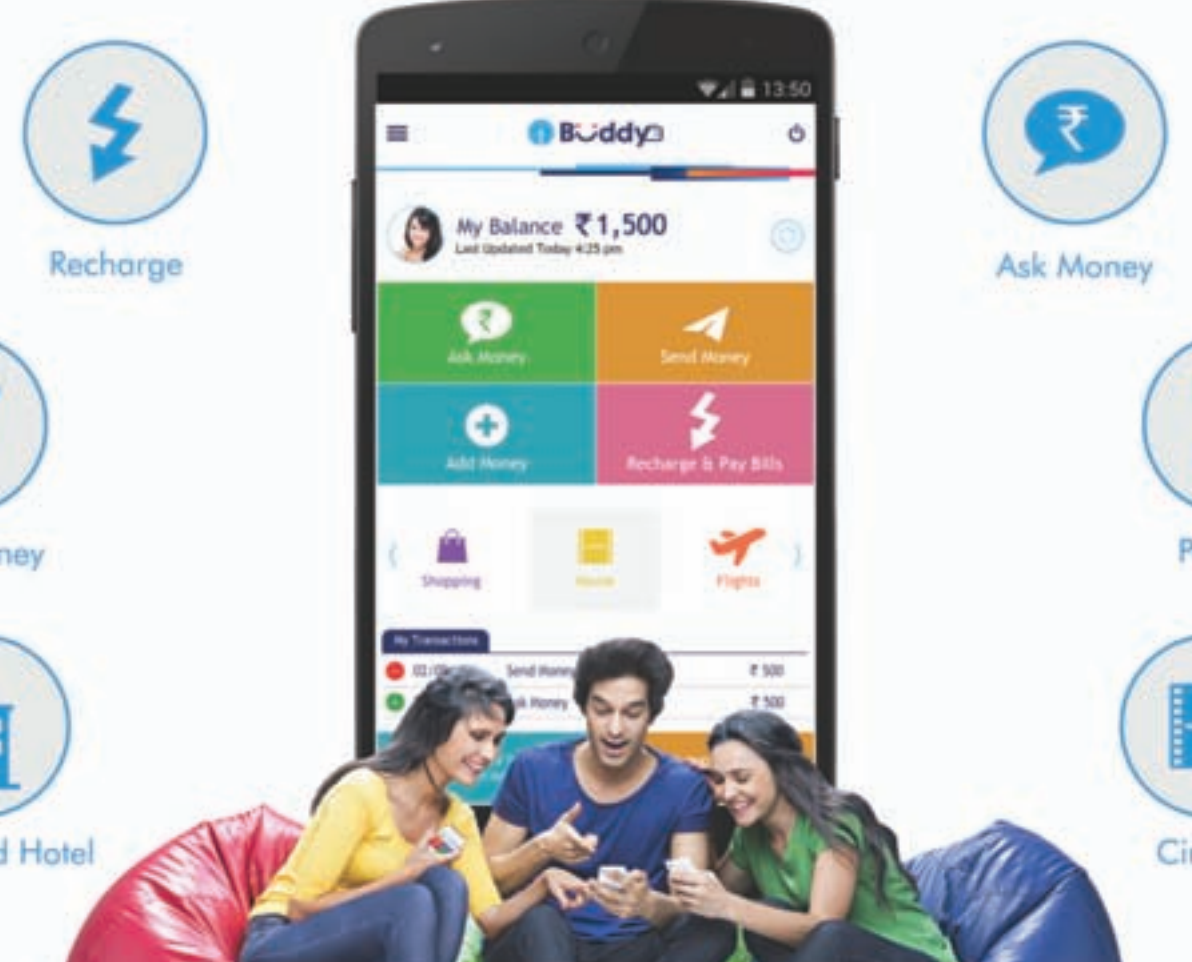
Financially, so far, they have been able to run the institute on their own, but to take off, they are sounding National Institute for Rural Development, Hyderabad, Bihar Government and other funding organizations for getting financial support for their projects. Through ADRI Information Centre, they hope to generate some revenue on their own after few years. Similarly audio-visual productions and collaboration with newspapers will further augment their own resource base in future.

When asked about the logic behind the high-sounding name of the Institute, Dr Shaibal Gupta emphatically stated that the name did not place any constraint on ADRI's research agenda. Elaborating its perspective, he maintained, 'It is true that based as we are in Patna, the centre of gravity of our research work will obviously be Bihar, and we will surely try our best to galvanize the academic circles in Bihar towards our developmental needs. But our research agenda will be open-ended and will not be limited to Bihar, or India, or even Asia. The name only suggests that we emphasize on interacting with academic circles in our continent and sharing our developmental experiences with them. Most of our problems at national level extend beyond the geographical boundaries of the Indian state and many of the East and South/South-East Asian countries share many common cultural heritage with us. Hence, taking note of India's geo-political and cultural position in this continent, we rightly put stress on dialogue with these Asian countries.'

Well, in the prevailing academic climate ADRI has to face some brickbats as well. Says Ms Nandini Mehta, one of the members of the Board of Directors and a post-graduate in economics who served as an executive trainee in Kalyanpur Lime and Cement Works and as an Administrative Officer in ONGC: "This is natural. In the process of building a new research centre, one has to be a little bit iconoclast to break, what Francis Bacon called, 'Idols of the Cave' (personal prejudices), 'Idols of the market-place' (the tyranny of words), and 'Idols of the theatre' (received systems of thought)."

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DEVELOPMENT MAPPING

THE FORMAL STAMP OF SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR ADRI WAS SEALED, WHEN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR ENTRUSTED IT WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PREPARE THE ECONOMIC SURVEY FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2006-07 AND 2007-08. THIS SURVEY WAS PRESENTED IN BOTH HOUSES OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE

Since the establishment

of ADRI, the organization has been working formally in the field of development research. It has always been its conscious practice to interact closely with the development administrators and the government, both at the state and the central level, to enrich its research efforts on one hand, and to offer its professional assistance to the development administration, on the other.

On a number of occasions, ADRI has prepared technical notes, memoranda and reports, both for the state as well as the central governments. In particular, ADRI had presented memoranda to three successive Finance Commissions – Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth – properly arguing the case for Bihar.

"IF YOU CAN TALK WITH CROWDS AND KEEP YOUR VIRTUE,
OR WALK WITH KINGS—NOR LOSE THE COMMON TOUCH,
IF NEITHER FOES NOR LOVING FRIENDS CAN HURT YOU,
IF ALL MEN COUNT WITH YOU, BUT NONE TOO MUCH;
IF YOU CAN FILL THE UNFORGIVING MINUTE
WITH SIXTY SECONDS' WORTH OF DISTANCE RUN,
YOURS IS THE EARTH AND EVERYTHING THAT'S IN IT,
AND—WHICH IS MORE—YOU'LL BE A MAN, MY SON!"

— RUDYARD KIPLING

However, the formal stamp of support of the state for ADRI was sealed, when the Finance Department of Government of Bihar entrusted it with the responsibility to prepare the Economic Survey for financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08. This survey was presented in both houses of the state legislature.

The survey was prepared for the first time in post-Independence Bihar. It covered all major sectors like agriculture, industry, infrastructure, social sector and public finance. The work involved collection, sorting and compilation of data, authoring several chapters, with a special focus on physical infrastructure and social sectors, and overall editing and formatting.

This work was done, including its translation in Hindi, in a record time. This assignment is somewhat historic because the preparation of

Economic Survey falls into the core activity of the Finance Department and this task is generally not outsourced. In 2006-07, Government of Bihar had entrusted this work to ADRI for the state. This reposing of confidence in ADRI by the state government was a benchmark policy event.

During these interactions, it had often been felt that, in order to offer more substantive assistance to the state government, it is necessary to have a specialized centre which would regularly study various dimensions of the state economy and be constantly ready to prepare technical texts for various administrative needs. ADRI was also interested in developing a dedicated centre that would act as a repository of quality academic research on issues around economic policy and public finance that have become central to good governance and development at all levels – sub-national, national and international.



ADRI IS PREPARING THE ECONOMIC SURVEY OF BIHAR GOVERNMENT FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS. CEPPF, THE DEDICATED BODY OF PUBLIC FINANCE, IS PREPARING THE ECONOMIC SURVEY SINCE ITS THIRD EDITION OF 2008-09

This initiative was encouraged by CM Nitish Kumar and the then Deputy CM and Finance Minister, Sushil Kumar Modi. ADRI, thus, submitted a formal proposal to the state government in early 2007 and it was accepted by the state government in early 2008, after being discussed in the Bihar Cabinet. The formal notification for the establishment of Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance (CEPPF) was made by the state government in April 2008.

Thereafter, the state government constituted the Board of Directors for the Centre, with Finance Secretary, Government of Bihar, as Chairman. This initiative is unique in the country where a government at the state level is lending active support to the development of a non-government research organization

that will provide technical expertise to address issues that concern the government.

The objective of the CEPPF is to provide research support to the state government for evolving a framework of improved management of public finance. Such research includes studies on resource mobilization, quality of the state government spending, management of deficits and debt, framework of centre state financial relations, policies for economic and social development. Besides undertaking such studies, CEPPF also prepares the Annual Economic Survey and maintains a Data Bank on state economy. To collect academic wisdom relating to development challenges, the centre also organizes seminars and workshops on various issues.

ADRI is preparing the Economic Survey of Bihar Government for the last 10 years. CEPPF, the dedicated body of public finance, is preparing the Economic Survey since its third edition of 2008-09.

In the last 10 years, the appraisal of the Economic Survey was done twice. Immediately after the publication of the first Economic Survey for 2006-07, a national workshop was organized in October 2008 under the supervision of Arvind Virmani, the then chief Economic Adviser of the country. Subsequently, another appraisal workshop was organised to review nine publications of the Economic Survey between 2006-07 and 2014-15. This appraisal was organized under the supervision of Arvind Subramanian, to revisit on its tenth year of publication. This workshop was also attended by

the top economists of the country and government officials of Bihar government.

On the suggestion of the workshop, the tenth edition of the Economic Survey (2015-16) now contained ten chapters instead of seven. The earlier chapters were 'Bihar Economy: An Overview', 'Agriculture and Allied Sectors', 'Enterprises Sector', 'Infrastructure and Communications', 'Social Sectors', 'Banking and Allied Sectors' and 'State Finances', in that order. Three new chapters were added from the tenth edition – 'Urban Development', 'Rural Development' and 'Energy' – and 'Infrastructure and Communications' and 'Social Sectors' were rechristened as 'Infrastructure' and 'Human Development' respectively.



IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE FIRST ECONOMIC SURVEY FOR 2006-07, A NATIONAL WORKSHOP WAS ORGANIZED IN OCTOBER 2008 UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF ARVIND VIRMANI, THE THEN CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVISER OF THE COUNTRY



Apart from the two appraisal workshops, Dilip Nachane, the then Director of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai, was requested to make an extensive evaluation of the fourth edition of the Economic Survey (2009-10).

Nachane observed: "Overall, one cannot fail to be impressed by the excellent quality of the report. As a matter of fact, the high standard of this report could serve as a model for emulation for

other states in the preparation of their reports. There are several features of the report which are novel and innovative and which must reflect considerable efforts in the data collection front."

On the Public Finance Chapter of the Economic Survey, he further opined: "A very well written chapter which would be difficult to improve upon...Overall the report is highly readable and breaks new ground on several fronts. It is both innovative and analytical in its scope."

“After coming to power in 2005, the Bihar government had taken several initiatives for improving the financial management of the state. A white paper on the finances of the state has been published. Powers have been delegated to departments for effective implementation of development schemes and a Financial Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act has been enacted. We have taken another new step towards financial good governance by bringing out this Economic Survey,” the then Deputy CM Sushil K Modi said in the preface of the first Economic Survey.

●● The growth performance of Bihar economy has been steady in the recent decade. During 2005-06 to 2014-15, the GSDP at constant prices grew annually at 10.52 percent. In the immediate past (2010-11 to 2014-15) the growth rate of GSDP was slightly lower at 9.89 percent. This slower growth during the recent past is a reflection of the slowing down of the overall national economy. But, even now the growth of the Bihar economy is faster

than that of the national economy. Presently, Bihar is one of the fastest growing states in India.

●● During the period 2005-06 to 2014-15, the sectors which recorded more than 15 percent growth rate are - Registered Manufacturing (19.31 percent), Construction (16.58 percent), Banking and Insurance (17.70 percent), and Transport/ Storage/ Communication (15.08 percent). The growth rate of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry sector, the main sources of livelihood of nearly 90 percent of states' population, has been 6.02 percent.

●● In spite of a high growth phase, Bihar even now ranks at the lowest rung of the per capita income table. In 2012-13, the per capita income of Bihar was 37.0 percent of all-India average; in 2014-15, this ratio went up to 40.6 percent. So, the momentum of growth has got to be sustained for many more years if the gap between the per capita income of Bihar and India is to be wiped out.





●● During the triennium of 2004-05 to 2006-07, the shares of three major sectors in GSDP were – 30.2 percent for primary, 14.8 percent for secondary, and 55.0 percent for tertiary sector. About a decade later, during the triennium of 2012-13 to 2014-15, the share of primary sector has come down to 20.5 percent. Simultaneously, the share of secondary sector rose to 18.4 percent and that of tertiary sector to 61.2 percent. Within the major sectors, the shares of some sub-sectors have shown substantial change over the period. In the primary sector, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry showed substantial decline in its share. Within the secondary sector, it is Construction whose share has increased substantially from 8.0 percent to 12.8 percent. Within the tertiary sector, the sub-sectors which recorded higher growth rate and propelled its share to increase were Communication, Banking and Insurance, Trade, Hotel and Restaurants. Public Administration and other services experienced a drop in their shares in GSDP.

●● There exists substantial disparity in per capita income among the districts of Bihar. In 2011-12, Patna (Rs 63,063), Munger (Rs 22,051) and Begusarai (Rs 17,587) turn out to be the most prosperous districts of the state. The poorest districts according to the data are – Madhepura (Rs 8,609), Supaul (Rs 8,492) and Sheohar (Rs 7,092). If one leaves out Patna (the capital of the state), the per capita income of Munger is around three times that of Sheohar, the poorest district.

●● The rise in Consumer Price Index (CPI) for agricultural and rural labourers has been relatively slower in Bihar compared to India as a whole. In case of Industrial workers, the price rise was higher for Bihar compared to India. In November 2015, the CPI for agricultural workers stood at 746 (Bihar) and 853 (India); for rural labourers, the figures were 752 (Bihar) and 857 (India) and, for industrial workers, the figures were 287 (Bihar) and 270 (India).

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A PLATFORM FOR CONTENDING IDEAS

Since its inception in 1991, ADRI has been in the forefront to develop regional consensus on common issues in Bihar. This consensus was practically absent till recently. In fact, socio-political discord reached its acme in late 90s, though the bifurcated of Bihar in 2000 went almost uncontested. Since then, ADRI has been trying to identify issues which can attract maximum state-level support from all social and political groups.

Such a wide unity was first forged on the issue of central transfers, where political leaders from different parties highlighted the injustice to Bihar. Despite being fully taken-up with myriad academic assignments, ADRI did not forget to factor in issues that needed advocacy in the context of Bihar – sub-nationalism being a major one.

In this direction, the institution through its mega meet 'Bihar Vimarsh', successfully promoted the cause of sub-national cohesion and unity of Bihar. The meet was a stupendous success from the word go, and was attended by representatives of all political parties, opinion makers and intellectuals.

ONE OF THE UNIQUE FEATURES OF ADRI IS ITS EMPHASIS ON PROMOTION OF SUB-NATIONAL COHESION AND UNITY THROUGH MEGA MEETS THAT ARE TYPICALLY ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, INDUSTRIAL BODIES, RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTES, MEDIA, OPINION MAKERS AND INTELLECTUALS



This meet was organized essentially to construct an intermediate identity of Bihari sub-nationalism which transcended the concept of caste. This conclave was unprecedented. There was hardly any discordant voice over the necessity to have ownership of the state and the need for sub-national cohesion.

The proceedings of the conference were later brought out as a book, which was released by the Speaker of the Bihar Assembly in the Assembly premises. All the leading members of the state's political parties and intellectuals again attended this release function.

It is a significant development in the sense that ADRI, in spite of not being an advocacy organization, could contribute significantly in shaping the regional agenda of the state; the resonance of sub-nationalism were now being heard in the corridors of the Assembly too!

LIKE TWELFTH FINANCE COMMISSION, CEPPF ALSO GOT UNPRECEDENTED SUPPORT FROM ALL LEADING POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF THE MEMORANDUM TO THE THIRTEENTH FINANCE COMMISSION. THE QUALITY OF BOTH THE MEMORANDA WAS VERY HIGH, AS ACKNOWLEDGED BY VIJAY KELKAR HIMSELF, THE THEN CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, AND HIS FELLOW MEMBERS



In this backdrop, one of the objectives of ADRI, not possibly shared by similar organizations elsewhere, is to play a proactive role in making the results of the development research reach their potential end-users. In pursuance of this policy, ADRI has perpetuated and continued the practice of submitting a memorandum to the Finance Commissions, presenting the specific problems of poor states in general and Bihar in particular.

In 2004, this practice saw witnessed an encore when ADRI presented a detailed memorandum to the Twelfth Finance Commission when it visited Patna during July 2004. However, the unique feature of that year's presentation was that it was a 'joint memorandum', prepared and presented by ADRI on behalf of various political parties, professional organizations like Bihar Industries Association and Bihar Chamber of Commerce, and a few other institutions like AN Sinha Institute of Social Studies, etc.

This was a unique experiment and perhaps the first of its kind in India, striving to create a social coalition around a commonly-perceived development issue, viz state finances. To ensure ownership of the presented memorandum, ADRI organized a series of panel discussions on the draft memorandum and then prepared a final version incorporating various suggestions from all quarters.

Incidentally, all the then MPs from Bihar signed the joint memorandum. The first signatory was Lalu Prasad Yadav followed by Sushil Kumar Modi and Nitish Kumar. Jagdanand Singh, then a minister in the Rabri Devi government, played an important role in this initiative.

By 2008-09, ADRI had achieved unprecedented academic and organizational milestones. The Government of Bihar sponsored a dedicated centre on public finance, christened as Centre for Economic Policy and Public Finance (CEPPF). The centre organised a national workshop on 'Inter- and Intra-State Disparity' on December 13, 2008, on behalf of the Thirteenth Finance Commission. Like earlier, CEPPF at ADRI not only prepared the memorandum of the Thirteenth Finance Commission on behalf of the Government of Bihar, but also prepared a joint memorandum by all the political parties and professional organizations for the Commission.

Like Twelfth Finance Commission, CEPPF also got unprecedented support from all leading political parties for the submission of the memorandum to the Thirteenth Finance Commission. The quality of both the memoranda was very high, as acknowledged by Vijay Kelkar himself, the then Chairman of the Commission, and his fellow members.

"OUR TREASURE LIES IN THE BEEHIVE OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. WE ARE PERPETUALLY ON THE WAY THITHER, BEING BY NATURE WINGED INSECTS AND HONEY GATHERERS OF THE MIND."
-FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

ALL THE THREE CHAIRMEN OF THE THREE SUCCESSIVE FINANCE COMMISSIONS – TWELFTH, THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH – C RANGARAJAN, VIJAY KELKAR AND YV REDDY, TOOK SPECIAL NOTE OF THE JOINT MEMORANDUMS IN BIHAR, WHICH WAS UNIQUE IN THE COUNTRY



Apart from the regular work of preparing the Annual Economic Survey of Bihar Government, ADRI had also prepared a Report on Public Finance of Bihar for the last 10 years for the Fourteenth Finance Commission. Further, a memorandum for the Finance Commission on behalf of the Government of Bihar and a separate memorandum for all political parties and professional organizations were also prepared by CEPPF.

Since the Twelfth Finance Commission and all political parties, academic organizations and professional organizations have shown unprecedented cohesion and unity on the question of public finance devolution, all the three Chairmen of the three successive Finance Commissions – Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth – C Rangarajan, Vijay Kelkar and YV Reddy, took special note of the joint memorandums in Bihar, which was unique in the country.

SALIENT POINTS OF THE MEMORANDUM TO FOURTEENTH FINANCE COMMISSION

In the specific context of Bihar, the state has indeed high expectations from the Fourteenth Finance Commission, not merely because it is one of the worst sufferers of some of the

policies of the central government, but due to the fact that its recent economic performance has been extremely encouraging.

During the recent years (2005-12), the growth rate of Bihar economy has been 10.3 percent, and this revival was possible because of a substantial development expenditure by the state government at one hand, and its supplementary efforts for effective governance in several fields, on the other.

Besides increasing the income of the people, this strong growth process of Bihar economy has had other positive impacts as well. In particular, there has been noticeable progress in the field of education and health, the physical infrastructure has improved in terms of roads and power, and there has also been substantial reduction in poverty ratios. However, so huge are the development deficits in Bihar that the state still lies at the bottom or thereabout, among all states, in terms of most development indicators, in spite of its recent appreciable growth performance. The present development goal of Bihar is not just to maintain its current economic growth rate at 10.3 percent, but to enhance it further to reach the national average as soon as possible.



IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE FINANCE COMMISSION TO ASSESS THE RESOURCE NEEDS OF DIFFERENT STATES, BEFORE IT DECIDES THE HORIZONTAL DIVISION OF THE TOTAL ALLOCATIONS; THIS MEMORANDUM SUGGESTS THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALIZATION OF PER CAPITA DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE, AS A BASIS FOR ESTIMATING THOSE NEEDS

Besides the acute development needs of Bihar and its recent growth performance, the present Finance Commission should also factor the extremely satisfying management of the state finances by the state government in recent years, while deciding the allocations for the state during the period 2015-20. The concept of performance grants had formed the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission, and the present Finance Commission may follow the principle as well.

During the last seven years, the state government has not only been able to maintain a decent surplus in the revenue account throughout, but also kept its Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD) within the prescribed FRBM limit. This was possible mainly because of increased resource mobilization through higher realization of state's own revenue. On the expenditure front, the state government now spends more than 60 percent of its total budget on development heads, compared to about 50 percent during the years just preceding.

As regards the outstanding debt of the state government, it presently stands at 20.6 percent of GSDP (2011-12), much below the norm of 28 percent as suggested by the Twelfth Finance Commission.

It is necessary for the Finance Commission to assess the resource needs of different states, before it decides the horizontal division of the total allocations. This can be done by adopting various approaches, but this memorandum suggests the principle of Equalization of Per Capita Development Expenditure, as a basis for estimating those needs.

For the first year of the period of the present Finance Commission (2015-16), this resource gap is estimated at Rs 86.78 thousand crore for Bihar, which is the difference between the estimated expenditure (Rs 135.16 thousand crore) and the state's estimated resources (Rs 48.38 thousand crore). Over the years, this resource gap widens to reach the level of Rs 224.76 thousand crore in 2019-20. The state government had suggested to the Thirteenth Finance Commission to adopt this indicator as a basis for horizontal distribution, and it reiterates the same suggestion before the present Finance Commission.

The Government of Bihar, along with many other state governments, feels that its present developmental responsibilities are far more than that of the central government. It is, therefore, strongly suggested that the present pattern of vertical distribution of resources should be changed substantially.



THE STATE GOVERNMENT DESIRES THAT THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO SDRF SHOULD BE 100 PERCENT, IN PLACE OF THE CURRENT 75 PERCENT, EASING THE STRESS ON THE STATE GOVERNMENT'S LIMITED RESOURCES

The share of all states in the net proceeds of shareable central taxes should be 50 percent and the indicative ceiling of overall transfer to states on the revenue account should be raised to 60 percent. As regards the horizontal distribution, the present Finance Commission should drop the criterion of area, use 2011 figures in place of the 1971 figures for population, and consider Income Distance as the real indicator of economic disadvantage of poorer states.

Among others, the Finance Commission also makes recommendations for State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), State-specific Needs and Local Bodies. Each of these three grants is extremely important to strengthen the state finance, particularly for Bihar.

In the context of SDRF, it needs to be stressed that floods are the most frequent calamity in most parts of India and Bihar is most vulnerable to this menace, as no less than 20 percent of the entire flood-prone area in the country lies in Bihar.

In the recent years, the average annual expenditure of the state government has been close to Rs 500 crore for all types of calamities. In addition, the state government also had to spend a large sum out of its general budget for reconstruction of physical assets damaged by the natural calamities. It is, therefore, strongly suggested that the grants for SDRF should be enhanced substantially.

Secondly, the scope of expenditure under SDRF should be enlarged to include expenditure on prevention and reconstruction activities, since expenditure on relief operations only partly covers the actual additional expenditure caused by natural calamities.

Lastly, the state government desires that the contribution of the central government to SDRF should be 100 percent, in place of the current 75 percent, easing the stress on the state government's limited resources.

The grants for State-specific Needs are again crucial, particularly for disadvantaged states like Bihar, where the infrastructural gaps are huge. Before the previous Finance Commission, the state government had placed a request for a total grant of Rs 19,919 crore for various state-specific needs, but it had finally granted only a sum of Rs 1,845 crore,

less than one-tenth of what was requested. To make the situation worse, after nearly three years of the five-year period are over, the state government has received only Rs 441 crore, barely 30 percent of the total recommended grant.

The state government, therefore, urges that the present Finance Commission be more sensitive about the state-specific needs of Bihar and recommend a reasonable grant, enabling the state government to fulfill those needs. And more importantly, it should ensure that the grants finally recommended by the Finance Commission are indeed transferred to the state government.

In case of grants to Local Bodies, this memorandum has not specified any sum for Bihar, but from the brief description of the present organizational structure of PRIs and ULBs in the state, it is quite apparent that both these institutions are now well established here.

This is primarily because the political process in Bihar is very vibrant, right up to the village level. However, if the PRIs/ULBs are not able to fully play their expected roles at present, it is partly because of the capacity deficiencies both in physical infrastructure and human resources, and then because of the lack of adequate development funds. The present Finance Commission, while recommending funds for local bodies, should be mindful of all those needs of the local bodies.

The Finance Commission recommendations are made separately for Special Category States and the remaining ones. Bihar falls in the latter category and, in the recent past, the state government has made several representations to the central government, requesting for a special status. Based on historical and current data, the representation has amply demonstrated that Bihar deserves a special status, based on the five criteria that the central government considers relevant - poor infrastructure, poor resource base and remoteness from larger markets, geographical isolation, inaccessible terrain, and financial viability.

Unfortunately, the central government has not considered this request sympathetically, based on a very narrow interpretation of this chosen criteria. It is, admittedly, not in the jurisdiction of the Finance Commission to judge the issue of Special Category Status to Bihar, but it can certainly appreciate the arguments that have been submitted by the state government in support of its request.

One should realize that the idea of Special Category Status for some states was introduced not only for the devolution of central funds to states, but to grant a few other facilities (notably, tax concessions) to promote development in those disadvantaged areas. For a state like Bihar, which is grappling with development deficits for nearly two centuries, the Special Category Status could trigger economic resurgence, with private and public investment coming in a big way.

Finally, it is worth reiterating that the Finance Commission consider its responsibilities not merely as a fiscal exercise, but as a development strategy as well. It is not possible for the country to visualize an inclusive development pattern, without making concerted efforts to reduce regional disparity which, in turn, demands Finance Commission allocations that are more equalizing than they have been in the past.

After a remarkable growth performance and prudent management of state finances, Bihar looks forward to the present Finance Commission for substantial financial resources, on the grounds of both need and performance.

The Fourteenth Finance Commission, like previous commissions, has been constituted under the chairmanship of YV Reddy, former governor of RBI. According to the Terms of Reference (TOR), the Commission had to make its report available to Government of India by October 31, 2014, which will cover a five-year period from April 2015 to March 2020.

The TOR are similar to those for the previous Commissions; how-



AFTER A REMARKABLE GROWTH PERFORMANCE AND PRUDENT MANAGEMENT OF STATE FINANCES, BIHAR LOOKS FORWARD TO THE PRESENT FINANCE COMMISSION FOR SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL RESOURCES, ON GROUNDS OF BOTH NEED AND PERFORMANCE

ever, some new issues have also been referred. A perusal of TOR reveals that these are heavily loaded in favour of the Centre, which, inter alia, include consideration of subsidy level requirement, insulation of pricing of public utility services, making public sector enterprises competitive and market oriented, etc.

The Constitution envisages the Finance Commission to periodically review the position and recommend resource transfer from the Union to the states, confirming itself only to the non-plan requirements of the state.

Keeping this constitutional provision in view, ADRI had submitted joint memoranda to the Twelfth and Thirteenth Finance Commissions on behalf of the political parties and academic/professional institutions of Bihar, which provided extra weightage to the government's demands for the state. Moreover, this move was also appreciated by both the Finance Commissions.

The third International

Conference in ADRI's Silver Jubilee celebration is on 'Bihar and Jharkhand: Shared History to Shared Vision', scheduled for March 24-27, 2017.

Bihar and Jharkhand, right from ancient times, have attracted scholars' attention for various reasons. The region that presently encompasses these two states holds histories that shape them even today. The region is remembered for its numerous achievements in the ancient period, like the establishment of the first democracy of the world in Licchavi, or the place where Buddhism first emerged, or the great centre of learning at Nalanda.

Even during the colonial rule, the two states played a stellar role in India's Independence struggle, starting with the Champaran Movement of Mahatma Gandhi. However, this image of the two states, a land of glorious past, has now been overtaken by another one - underlying its serious social and economic disadvantages and the complex socio-political forces that guide its destiny. Admittedly, the two states have experienced some positive changes in the recent past, but both have a long way to go before they can emerge as regions of prosperity and enlightenment.

Some of the socio-economic and cultural differences within the region cumulated in the partition of the region in 2000 and the formation of two separate federal states. However, shared histories of development and decline continue to impact the region in the present time. The borders have separated the region politically but have not managed to segregate the states' socio-economic environ and culture.

As neighbouring states with shared pasts, the borders are porous, both literally and symbolically. Bihar is one of the regions that have very limited natural endowments, thus, making the task of development demand extraordinary human effort. Before its partition in 2000, the state had enormous mineral wealth in its southern part, now Jharkhand; and even after the division, the present Bihar has large tracts of fertile land in its Gangetic plain

However, thanks to its agrarian history, dictated largely by the infamous 'Permanent Settlement' regime introduced by the colonial administration, the growth potential of its land resources is far from being fully realized. Educational backwardness and infrastructural poverty - the result of central government's indifference during pre- as well as post-independence period - are two crucial issues that have turned the agenda of development even more challenging in present Bihar.

The story of Jharkhand is not much different, as its natural abundances have been unable to meet its people's aspirations. No reassuring answers have appeared on the way out of this dismay. Its industries are churning out wealth that is revitalizing the capital, but it has left much of labour unattended.

Such an opaque vision of development will only reinforce frictions in society. The state seriously needs to mull what would satisfy its people, and create a model of its own, if necessary. It also needs to ask how it is preparing to cope with identities.



The polity of both Bihar and Jharkhand is sharply divided along class, caste and tribal identities. Unlike some other states, the political process here has deep roots that had started parallel to India's Independence struggle and various radical mobilizations. And, there were also caste-based mobilizations that probably started with certain social objectives but later acquired strong political implications. Some have witnessed an element of political democratization in recent socio-political trends, while others underlined disconnect between democracy and development in that very trend.

Jharkhand and Bihar are now at a crossroad and one wonders which path they would tread in the near future. In the third International Conference, ADRI team expects to invite people from across the globe, who are working on social science agenda in Jharkhand and Bihar. In their conference presentations, scholars will be invited to deliberate on above-mentioned shared histories of development, agitation, decline and divergences, muse on the present and speculate about the future of the region, based on recent state-specific experiences.

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THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY MARVELED... OVER THE YEARS, ADRI PROVIDED JUST THE RIGHT PLATFORM TO WORLD-RENOWNED ACADEMICIANS, RESEARCHERS AND PERSONALITIES, TO LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY OF THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH THE INSTITUTE

randhir singh

Socialism is possibly dead; now that nearly all socialist countries have converted themselves to capitalism. But the basic contradictions of the capitalist Society are still visible. In other words, answer to a question is wrong, but the question still remains unanswered.

(March 10, 1992/ Crisis of Socialism and its Future/ First ADRI Foundation Lecture)





r k lakshman

I need people like your Chief Minister, people like your administrator for my profession to thrive; otherwise I will be starving. I am glad to... there are quite a few persons and I am very happy to hear that Bihar is going to ... for the entire country. I hope it does.

(December 10, 1992/ Panel Discussion on Media and Bihar)

STATE BANK OF INDIA

sho kuwajima

Louis Fischer once wrote in his book on the Second World War that "India's politics are made in the stomach". What Louis Fischer failed to notice was the fact that this hunger was caused not only by the colonial rule but also by the War.

(December 16-19, 1997 / International Conference on Bihar in the World & the World in Bihar)



avishai margalit

In Bihar, it takes you five minutes to know, to get the sense of size and the number of people you meet on the street. Just from here to the museum, I meet more people in one kilometer than you are about to encounter in the whole day in Jerusalem. So, I mean, suddenly you get a sense of numbers which are mind-boggling and that is a very sobering thing for me in any case. It is just the numbers.

(February 22-26, 2001 / Conference on Cosmopolitanism and the Nation-State)

jean comaroff

Borders can be transgressed in ways that open up spaces where you can elude taxes and again, there is a process of local knowledge, of the understanding of the way in which larger regional systems work. One has also to develop some kind of normative system. I am not suggesting that this is some kind of ideal model for civil society in general, but we have to ask ourselves first of all, why did these new economies open up.



(Feb 22-26, 2001/ Conference on Cosmopolitanism and the Nation-State)

walter hauser



Gandhi's role was a very complex one and gets read by us as academics in many different ways just as it got read by the peasants or also the middle class and the rank and file and the urban elite in different terms.

(December 16-19, 1997 / International Conference on Bihar in the World & the World in Bihar)



**benedict
anderson**

For years, I have wanted to see what Patna was like and the reason for this is rather simple. It may seem on the margins today, but in the late 18th and early 19th century, Patna was in fact an extraordinarily important place. It was the centre of the world's drug business run by the British East India Company and later by the British Empire. It was from Patna, which was the centre for the production and distribution of opium, that the Opium War that opened China to imperialism

(February 22-26, 2001/ Conference on Cosmopolitanism and the Nation-State)



achille mbembe

I don't believe that language is so self-enclosed; it is impervious to worst forms of infiltration and, to use a terrible word, cannibalization. So, what happens after the moment of clash? What we see in most places in Africa, for example, is that people have learnt over a long period of time how to not only speak many languages, but to speak many languages in as many voices as possible. They have known how to physically deconstruct, to dissect, to disfigure languages which, even if they come from outside, end up becoming part and parcel of the very historical processes and become so disfigured that they don't look any longer like the original. This is literal. If you go to Abidjan or Dakar, the way people have transformed French, the way in which they have consumed French has made of it a language of its own which, of course, has some affiliation with the French spoken in France, but which goes beyond it. It seems to me that the same process is in action when we talk of this so-called civil society which in many places is, as you say and I agree, constructed both by the state, by the market, by global forces.

(February 22-26, 2001/ Conference on Cosmopolitanism and the Nation-State)



deepak
nayyar

The general elections of 1967 established that electoral outcomes could no longer be taken for granted and the Congress Party could no longer assume the support of the people. The rise of the rich peasantry, sometimes described as capitalist farmers, provides a powerful illustration of economic and political changes set in motion by the process of development. Semi-feudal land owners lost their economic strength and social dominance in the countryside, not quite in Bihar though.

(November 4, 1999/ Economic Development & Political Democracy: India since Independence / Seventh ADRI Foundation Lecture)



francine r
frankel

I experienced one of those rare moments of insight into a change that was occurring on the ground in Bihar which very few researchers had yet to report - the rise of the lower caste, called the other backward classes and their determination to assert power at the state and to claim dignity for themselves as human beings equal to everyone. I think my understanding of what has happened in India's politics was permanently enriched by that experience in Bihar and I have had occasion many times to reflect on it. So it's a special pledge to come back now and meet some of the people with whom I worked during that period and to catch up with all the changes that have occurred.

(March 6, 2001/ India on the Brink / Eighth ADRI Foundation Lecture)



arjun appadurai

At the upper end, no one is better institutionalized than us for knowledge purposes and also from that point of view under Nehru for the state, for governance, for technology and so on. Now, I think we are at a critical moment where two things are at issue. I believe there are areas, not least the university and knowledge area, where we are suffering the possibility and you know this in Bihar and we have just talked about it particularly that for economic reasons and political reasons and various reasons, this sector is being abandoned, weakened, impoverished and so on and I know from the experience of my own alma mater in Bombay - Elphinstone college - that you can lose and damage institutions infinitely faster than you can build them.

(February 22-26, 2001/ Conference on Cosmopolitanism and the Nation-State)

michael omolewa

Why has the NGO movement remained strong and vibrant in India? The model of Asian Development Research Institute, ADRI, as a research organization is a celebration of over a decade of commitment and dedicated service of ADRI. The idea is to make development inclusive by involving every segment of society and developing the full potential of everyone.

(February 21, 2002 / Literacy & Literacies for Development / Fourth Myles Horton & Paulo Freire Memorial Lecture)



andre beteille

I sometimes wonder whether there is anything new that one can speak about caste, particularly in the state of Bihar. So much has been said about it, so much has been written about it, not only by sociologists but by academics belonging to a large number of disciplines like political science, history, law and so on.

(July 15, 2006/ Caste in Contemporary India/
Tenth ADRI Foundation Lecture)



budd l hall

I can't begin to tell you how proud and honored that I am to be here in Patna today in the state of Bihar and to be with people who are working in literacy and adult education and people who are concerned about the world which we live in and about working hard to make this a better world. Long live the people of Bihar!

(March 7, 2008/ Right to a New Utopia: Education in a World at Risk/
Tenth Myles Horton & Paulo Freire Memorial Lecture)



barbara harriss-white

It's a particular delight to me to come to this state to do research inspired by the green revolution game which has broken so much ice and taught literally thousands of people all over the world what it is to be a peasant in India. In the ADRI, development and culture are much more linked than they are in other development research institutes. The ADRI tries to offer research in a demystified form and to put culture and to put cultural change central in its research.

(September 28, 2002/ India's Religious Pluralism and its Implications for the Economy / Ninth ADRI Foundation Lecture)



pranab bardhan

I would like other people with other in data from other parts of India, particularly in Bihar, to study land issues. The land situation in Bihar, in many respects, is similar to those in West Bengal - very small tiny farms, extreme inequality in the land distribution and very large number of landless. I would like people to try to reproduce this result. Maybe, ours is wrong. Maybe, we got it in these 90 random sample villages. So, I would like this research looking at the spillover effects of land reform to be carried out with other data.

(March 26, 2016/ Land and Equity - Some Understudied Issues / Silver Jubilee Lecture / International Conference on Development and Growth: Experience and Theories)



meghnad desai

Everybody in Indian politics believes that the poverty estimate that we have been having year after year, is indeed a poverty measurement. All politicians believe that it is an underestimate and we are more poor than we suspect. This is a phenomenon, although the people who do these measurements are very honest, straight-forward and they actually know what the poor eat more than most politicians do. But there is a problem in India about what we contain in the poverty basket. Very many families in a year would be technically going in and out of poverty line, even from one week to next or one month to next, whatever happens.

(September 5, 2014/ Can Poverty Ever Be Abolished?/ Thirteenth ADRI Foundation Lecture)



karan bilimoria

I have seen the wonderful work that ADRI does, including producing every year the comprehensive annual Economic Report on Bihar. Bihar and India are truly fortunate to have you, Dr. Shaibal Gupta and ADRI, doing the wonderful work which you do.

(September 15, 2015/ Role of Jamshedji Tata: Contribution of Parsis in Indian Freedom Struggle / Fourteenth ADRI Foundation Lecture)



WISDOM
SPEAKERS



joseph e. stiiglitz

Bihar has demonstrated that change is possible, that the possibilities of growth are enormous, that the state can be an important instrument for promoting growth. Its success has provided a ray of hope for all those struggling to develop.

(January 14, 2013/ Redefining Capitalism/ Twelfth ADRI Foundation Lecture)



james manor

I visited ADRI when it was beginning, long ago, and I am very happy to see that it has gone from strength to strength. People across India and overseas now know how very important ADRI is and they come here whenever they possibly can.

(November 30, 2015/ Indian States - The Struggle to Govern/ Curtain Raiser Lecture / ADRI Silver Jubilee Celebrations 2016-17)

jean joseph boillot



Crisis is a very good situation to address fundamental issues. Why Bihar is in a better situation today? Yes, because there was so huge crisis that something triggered a change. In the Indian case, and in the Bihari case, it was through politics.

(March 28, 2016/ AO Hirschman and the Rise of China-India-Africa: Why the models of a dissenter are still valid / Silver Jubilee Lecture / International Conference on Development and Growth: Experience and Theories)



binayak sen

Bangladesh experience shows that a weak but focused state can still have a relative autonomy to exhibit pro-growth policies. It can be in the strategic areas of development. Maybe, not all of the state institutions are good, but other can protect and foster so as to deliver the targeted goods.

(March 30, 2016/ From Test Case to Middle Income: What can Bangladesh add to Development Economics / Silver Jubilee Lecture / International Conference on Development and Growth: Experience and Theories)



kaivan munshi

I was looking at some historical British censuses in the 19th century and they talk in those censuses as well about how, in fact, rural migration in India was, or rural mobility in India, even in the 19th century was exceptionally low.

(March 27, 2016/ Caste in the Indian Economy / Silver Jubilee Lecture / International Conference on Development and Growth: Experience and Theories)

lakshmi iyer

Bihar has taken a lead in giving 50 percent reservation for women in the Panchayati Raj. Many other states are still at 33 percent. Other states have followed Bihar's lead of 50 percent. Does it make a difference when you go from 33 percent to 50 percent? I don't know if there are studies on this issue. This is worth investigating.



(March 27, 2016 / Women Politicians : How they matter and why we don't have enough of them / Silver Jubilee Lecture / International Conference on Development and Growth : Experience and Theories)



There are two ways of thinking of civilizational dialogue; one is to think of it as there are different civilizations like trees growing separately and then you have dialogue between them to get them together. Now, that view I think is completely wrong not just in the context of India and Asean but anywhere in the world. You couldn't understand European mathematics without Arab mathematics; you can't understand Arab mathematics without Indian mathematic. You can't understand science in the world without taking the Chinese, the Europeans and the Indians and other countries together. And the same thing applies to Asean also, so that its not that they are distinct civilizations getting together, it is really and that is the second view, that there's a world civilization with interactive path of waiting through thousand of years.

(July 20, 2012/ Civilization Dialogue between India and ASEAN/ Eleventh ADRI Foundation Lecture)

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