

## **For Favour of Publication**

### **‘Bihar a promising state’: Australian delegation at ADRI**

**Patna, 21 July.** A 3-member delegation from the Australian High Commission in India visited ADRI on Thursday. Second Secretary (Political) Mr. Jack Taylor, Deputy Consul-General Mr. Daniel Sim and Senior Research Officer (Political) Ms. Vandana Seth visited ADRI to learn about the social, political and economic development of Bihar and India. The discussions over three hours had multiple themes and were led by Prof. Prabhat P Ghosh, Dr. Sunita Lall from ADRI, and Dr. Niladri S Dhar, Dr. Sudhanshu Kumar and Mr. Neeraj Kumar from CEPPI, a specialised centre hosted by ADRI.

Whereas Prof. Ghosh presented a detailed overview of the state economy and its development history, Dr. Lall spoke about the challenges of institution building. Dr. Niladri S Dhar highlighted the need to tackle jobless growth and rising unemployment. He also stressed on the need of immediate access to official data sets from various national agencies to produce newer research.

Dr. Sudhanshu Kumar spoke about the public finance scenario of Bihar and future investment scenario of the state. He focussed on the need to further strengthen grassroot-level institutions in Bihar to implement schemes better.

Mr. Neeraj Kumar talked about how successive governments in Bihar have contributed to federal policy-making and how India now focuses more on multilateral engagements with countries in the Southeast Asian region in a post-Ukraine world. He also apprised them of how Bihar has nurtured its relations with Nepal.

The Australian High Commissioner in India is likely to visit Bihar in the coming months, the delegation informed.

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