

**SONIA GANDHI**

LEADER OF OPPOSITION  
(LOK SABHA)



44, PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
NEW DELHI - 110 001  
PHONE : 3016705, 3034285  
FAX : 3017470

## MESSAGE

I am happy that AGRASRI is bringing out a Commemorative Souvenir on Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Vision for Panchayat Raj on the occasion of his birth anniversary this year. He believed that devolution of powers and functions to the panchayats lay at the heart of strengthening democracy at the grass roots in India. The need to provide a caring, humane and responsive administration at the local level is recognized by all today and is the fundamental principle on which the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment is based. Our duty lies in initiating all those steps that are necessary to implement this vision. I send my good wishes for the success of the lecture and publication of the souvenir being organised to mark Shri Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary.

New Delhi  
August 19, 2002