

It is, indeed, laudable that the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India is going to organize a 2-day National Seminar on "Grassroots Level Planning and Local Government Institutions in India: Policy Initiatives and peoples' participation since 1992" in conjunction with 8th Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture and Conferment of Awards, on 19 and 20 August, 2009 at Tirupati.

I believe that the discussion on grassroots level planning and Local Government Institutions would promote the ideas of good governance and better services as well as the values of democratic decentralization.

At the same time, I am sure, that Dr. G. Madhavan Nair's lecture will strengthen the institutions based on the ideals of our late Prime Minister.

I wish the Seminar and Publication every success.

Topalkrishna Gandhi