

डॉ० एम०एस० गिल  
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NEW DELHI-110 115

२४ July, 2009

**MESSAGE**

I am delighted to know that the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India, Tirupati, is organising 2-day National Colloquium on 'Grassroots Level Planning and Local Government Institutions in India : Policy initiatives and People's Participation since 1992, on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2009, in conjunction with 8<sup>th</sup> Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture and conferment of Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi awards.

Rajiv Gandhi was one of the foremost visionaries the post-independence India has ever seen. He saw India as a great force that would take the world towards peaceful co-existence. It was Rajiv Gandhi, who has ushered in, the revolution in the country, of empowering the people at the grassroots level, by giving Panchayati Raj, a status, the way our founding fathers and national builders visualized and dreamt of.

I am certain that the souvenir will reflect, the Trust's progress over the past years, and its distinctive plans and programmes for the future.

My best wishes to the organisers.



(M. S. GILL)