♦ Lakdawala Lecture by Dr. Abdul Kalam
♦ Thirteenth Finance Commission & Local Govt.
♦ Dr. Yang Jianli on “Three Chinas”
♦ Centre for Multilevel Federalism
♦ His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s Visit
♦ Otiss Moss’s Lecture
♦ Women’s Political Empowerment Day
♦ ALGI Programmes
His Holiness the Dalai Lama unveiling the portrait of former Defence Minister George Fernandes at the Institute. Prof. U.R. Ananthamurthy, Dr. George Mathew, Fernandes’ brothers Michael, Paul and Aloysius along with George Fernandes’ long time associates Mr. Fredrick D’sa and Mr. Ravi Nair are also seen.

Senior Faculty members and Researchers during a Retreat at Surajkund (Haryana)
Eleventh D.T. Lakdawala Memorial Lecture

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, former President of India, delivered the 11th D.T. Lakdawala Memorial Lecture on 18 August 2010 on “Sustainable Development and Leadership” to mark the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Institute of Social Sciences. Dr. Kalam spoke about the considerable progress that the country has made in several areas including the role science and technology has played in revolutionizing agriculture, space communication and space remote sensing for societal application. He specially mentioned the Chandrayan Mission which also led to the discovery of water on moon. Dr. Kalam spoke of his vision of the nation by 2020 when he expects the rural-urban divide will be minimum and there will be equitable distribution of resources and adequate access to energy and quality water. He also visualized the country becoming the best destination for talented scholars and scientists and will be prosperous, healthy, secure and peaceful. Dr. Kalam elaborated on his famous PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) mission for sustained development of the country. He placed special emphasis on physical connectivity in the villages but also said electronic connectivity will make way for knowledge connectivity.

Dr. Kalam complimented the Institute for its pioneering role in the field of Panchayati Raj and charted out a course of action for the Institute in the next 25 years. According to Dr. Kalam:

“Institute of Social Sciences can assume a significant role of activating, training and synergizing the Panchayati Raj Institutions towards missions of sustained development building on the local competencies of the villages under the PURA aegis.
Institute of Social Sciences can contribute towards economic empowerment of Panchayats in collaboration with Government and private institutions.

the PURA aegis. The most important need will be empowering the Panchayats with the competence of handling significant and economic transaction with integrity and transparency. The ISS can contribute towards economic empowerment of Panchayats in collaboration with Government and private institutions.

Mission for the Institute of Social Sciences
As the Institute of Social Sciences turns 25 this year, we must discuss and evolve what would be the future social leadership role which the Institute will provide to the nation. Let me present seven missions for the Institute.

1. The governance system in our country and, for that matter, in many other countries is based on the process of government agencies working in contract mode through a due process. However in the modern world we have, particularly in the social sectors many players like NGOs and individual entrepreneurship. A research is needed to introduce procedures with checks and balances so that social projects are achieved efficiently and transparently on time with benefits accruing to the intended needy people.

2. The best practices of Panchayats across the nation may be documented and used as training material, across multiple regions and languages of the nation. This can be through the use of multimedia by documenting the profile of the best Panchayats in the nation. It will also act as inspiration for the local youth to take up leadership roles in the local governance structure.

3. Institute of Social Sciences may like to collaborate with international universities and action groups to provide joint research programmes.

4. The Institute may like to devise objective tools for impact assessment of local governance and publish the research on its website and other media.
5. ISS should emerge as a platform for consulting individual Panchayats on how they can best achieve the goals of local level development using the existing government and non-government schemes.

6. Institute of Social Sciences may like to undertake knowledge services under the PURA. It can suggest ways in which Panchayats and the community at the local rural level can be made an active partner in the PURA mission.

7. Institute of Social Sciences can study Naxalite affected regions of the nation and produce a special case study with a well outlined action plan for achieving development of these regions, especially from the perspective of employment generation and community activation.

Dr. Kalam interacted with the students from various universities of Delhi and others for about half an hour. The 600-odd gathering listened to him with rapt attention and participated in the interactive session with zeal and enthusiasm.

Lord Bhikhu Parekh, Centennial Professor of London School of Economics, in his address enumerated the many achievements of India in the last 63 years. He underlined India’s ability to deal with conflict, diversity and also referred to the many challenges that India faces especially grinding poverty, corruption, rise of consumerism and closing of mind. What he found very irksome was the growing tendency to accept poverty and corruption as a fact of life. He also lamented the sense of complacency of the middle class and the insecurity which is gripping the people. However, Prof. Parekh expressed the confidence that the country has the determination to overcome its many challenges.

Dr. Kalam released the book: “Re-Imagine India and Other Essays” - a compilation of the 10 Lakdawala Memorial Lectures earlier delivered by eminent scholars of international repute: Amartya Sen, Mahbub ul Haq, Muhammad Yunus, Albie Sachs, Noam Chomsky, Bhikhu Parekh, Romila Thapar, I.G Patel, Anthony Giddens and Joseph Stiglitz.

Dr. George Mathew, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, in his welcome address remembered all those who helped the Institute in its formative years and extended support in many ways for its growth and development. He stated that “it was Dr. Lakdawala’s advocacy of decentralized planning that helped the Institute enormously in its specialization in the field of decentralization, local government and empowerment of the marginalised”.

Dr. U.R. Ananthamurthy, Chairman, Institute of Social Sciences, gave the presidential address. He said that in the early 80s the Institute was only an idea. “After 25 years when I see the impact the Institute has made nationally and internationally, I feel very proud of my
association with it. When I became the Chairman of the Institute in 1998, I was aware of my predecessors - great scholars and men of eminence like Prof. D.T. Lakdawala, Prof. Malcom Adiseshiah and Prof. Sarvepally Gopal. I am very happy that the Institute has come a long way.”

The D.T. Lakdawala Memorial Lecture series was instituted by the Planning Commission, Government of India.

**His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s Visit to the Institute**

His Holiness the Dalai Lama visited the Institute on 19 November 2010 and unveiled the portrait of Mr. George Fernandes drawn by Burmese artist.

**Excerpts**

“Firstly, what is human being?

Of course, human being is one of the thousands varieties of different sort of mammals. Human being is also a kind of social animal, there are many different species of social animals and we are one of them. But one unique thing about human being is human intelligence that has progressed and I think, it has also mobilized and organized violence. But some monkeys also have some ability to mobilize their own group but as human beings we have the ability to organize. That is why intermittently we have wars and also have special intellectuals to recollect. So now I think with human intelligence we organize it to legalize violence and then war. If one individual

On the one hand there are some persons who really remain a bit relaxed and some who are a little bit peculiar. They come to power and obviously there is corruption.
person kills one person we call him murderer and still some people who organize forces and kill thousands of people are actually great murderers but we call them heroes. In the 20th century, according to historians, through violence and wars, the number of people killed were 200 million.

The basic nature of human beings, I believe, more generally the way we are born, grown up and are brought up—mother’s affection is the key factor to help us develop properly—physically as well as emotionally. So, obviously we can see those people who receive maximum affection at the time of their young age feel safe and those people who lack mother’s affection no matter how wealthy they become, deep inside there exists some sort of insecurity in them. As a result, those who received maximum affection when they were young have more ability to show affection. Those who received much lesser affection at that time, find it difficult to show affection. Those who received much lesser affection when they were young have more ability to show affection. Those who received much lesser affection at that time, find it difficult to show affection. Those who received much lesser affection at that time, find it difficult to show affection. Those who received much lesser affection at that time, find it difficult to show affection. Those who received much lesser affection at that time, find it difficult to show affection. Those who received much lesser affection at that time, find it difficult to show affection.

Some scientists actually say that there is a constant fear and anger in our human system. In order to keep a more compassionate mind and a sense of concern for other human beings, the person must have more inner strength and self-confidence. Through this way genuine friendships can be developed. Cooperation is based on friendship. Cooperation by default may not go well with friendship. Friendship is based on trust and can never develop on the basis of suspicion and destruction.

Human beings are basically tender by nature because biologically our life starts early. So, when we face some problems or disagree on something, we must meet them (friends), listen to them, share our views with them and make compromise. This is a human approach, although some disagreements exist. The ultimate goal should be to demilitarize the world because huge money is spent for these weapons, including nuclear weapons”.

In his welcome address, Institute of Social Sciences Director, George Mathew said that the topic of “Human Approach to World Peace” was extremely relevant now when the whole world was spending colossal amount on military, armaments and peace keeping, leaving no money for poverty eradication or human development.

Dr. Mathew said that George Fernandes has been a relentless campaigner for the cause the Dalai Lama has stood throughout.

For the Institute, George Fernandes has been a great source of inspiration and support since the time it was only an idea, Dr. Mathew added.

**Lecture by Rev. Otis Moss Jr.**
The Institute organized a lecture by Rev. Otis Moss, Jr. (Civic Leader and Member, President Obama’s Advisory Council on Faith-Based and
Paying rich tributes to the Gandhian principle of non-violence, Rev. Otis Moss Jr. said: “non-violence can never be defeated”

Neighbourhood Partnerships) on: “Gandhi-King Impact on Human Rights and Civil Rights” at the Abdul Nazir Sab Auditorium of Institute. Dr. Otis Moss Jr. thanked India and Indians for giving the World-Changing Figure of Mahatma Gandhi. He described Gandhi and King as “two great spirits, two great souls and two great dreams”. Raising the question as to how the two men who never met and who were so different from each other in age could meet and impress. He responded by saying that the two met on the highway of love. They shared the quest for dignity and justice.

Paying rich tributes to the Gandhian principle of non-violence he said “non-violence can never be defeated.” It doesn’t depend on time, place, weather, or person. It is anchored in love, truth, justice and reconciliation.

Speaking of President Obama’s entry into the White House Rev. Moss Jr. said philosophically that “when Obama entered the White House, Dr. King was there, Mahatma Gandhi was his side and God was there.” He also said that “love is universal and truth is not divided by colour, religion or creed.

Dr. George Mathew, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, welcomed the gathering. Shri Rajmohan Gandhi, President of Initiatives of Change, chaired the function. He thanked Dr. Otis Moss for giving great meaning to the Gandhi-King relationship and called for enriching India’s relations with African-Americans till that happens Indo-American relations will remain hollow. Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Associate Director, Institute of Social Sciences proposed a vote of thanks.

**Thirteenth Finance Commission and Local Government**
The Institute organised a national seminar on “Thirteenth Finance Commission and Local Government” on 17 July. The seminar was aimed at seeking clarity on the recommendations of the Thirteenth Finance Commission regarding fiscal
decentralisation and devolution of funds to the local governments.

Considering the importance of the theme, a number of senior officials from Government of India and various State Governments, intellectuals, opinion-makers and activists attended this national seminar. In all more than 60 experts, senior government officials and others came from 17 States and Union Territories to participate in the deliberations. With the participation of national experts the deliberations were of high order and extremely meaningful.

Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, Thirteenth Finance Commission, introduced and led the discussions. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) presided over the function.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. George Mathew, said that “if resources made available to the local governments, according to the TFC recommendations, reach these institutions and if they are fully utilized by them, they would be immensely strengthened and the concept of power to the people will become a reality in this country”. 

Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), in his speech referred to the familiar expression that man proposes and god disposes. In that instance he stressed the need to be very clear as to what the chairperson of the Thirteenth Finance Commission and his colleagues actually intended to avoid the danger. Mr. Aiyar narrated what happened to the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. The Twelfth Finance Commission made a breakthrough, at least conceptually, in providing for Rs. 20,000 crores to be disbursed to the institutions of local self-government as the Constitution describes them.
The Twelfth Finance Commission said that at best priority should be given to sanitation projects. Many state governments grabbed that opportunity and gave the entire money to their respective departments dealing with sanitation, controlled by the bureaucracy. Under the Nirmal Gram Puraskar programme, hundreds of villages around the country are honoured for ensuring that the sanitation work is done better than elsewhere. “Would not those who are already doing good sanitation work be entitled to the monies coming for the local governments from the Twelfth Finance Commission, he asked.

Vijay Kelkar, Chairman, Thirteenth Finance Commission said that “the interesting part of its work was to go around the country and meet people concerned in different states. The members went to all states and met in every State the leaders of the third tier, e.g., more than 60 mayors and a bigger number of functionaries. They were told that there was gross inadequacy of resources for the needs at the third tier. They were not asking for money for stadia or opera houses, but were asking for money for maintenance of assets and provision of basic services like water and sanitation.

The second issue was the non-predictability of the resources and the fact that they don’t have the revenue buoyancy that the states have in terms of devolution.
The third point was the lack of adequate governance structures at the third tier and this was the main reason why the outcomes were not commensurate with the inputs.

Wherever the members went, they noticed the tension between the second and third tier of government. To ensure that this does not subvert what we are proposing, we have also recommended some procedures of transferring the resources to the third tier with minimum friction and minimum delays, with complete freedom to the third tier in terms of their spending priorities. We have laid out in detail a roadmap on how it should be done.

“Many scholars were concerned about the absorption capacity of the third tier. The third tier may not have the capacity to utilize larger amounts of money in an efficient manner. Let me tell you that we have underestimated the revenues in our report as a strategy. We wanted to make the numbers of devolution higher; if we have projected higher revenues then 2.5 per cent would have become 2 per cent. If you ask my own personal view the total would cross 100,000 crores. We have deliberately underestimated the revenues because it is prudent to be conservative. States suffer more if you overestimate revenues. It has happened, if I recall, in the Eleventh Finance Commission Report. We have also tried to address the concerns of the Schedule V and VI areas.”

Seventeenth Women’s Political Empowerment Day Celebrations
The Seventeenth Women’s Political Empowerment day was celebrated on 24th and 25th April 2010. More than 500 elected women representatives from across the country assembled in New Delhi for the celebrations. This year’s celebrations focused on the theme ‘To End Violence Against Women and the Role of Panchayats’. The Chief Guest of the celebrations was the Honourable Mrs. Gursharan Kaur, social activist and wife of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India.

Inaugurating the conference, Mrs. Gursharan Kaur said that she was proud of the achievements of the women leaders who received the awards. She called upon women to organize themselves and fight against female infanticide, dowry system, sati and such other harmful practices. Efforts should be made to change the mindsets of people because crimes originate in the mind. There is much to be done; but there is hope because there is no dearth for good leaders.

Welcoming the chief guest, the women elected representatives and other delegates, Dr. George Mathew, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, said that the Institute began this celebration on 24 April 1994, to commemorate the day when “not less than one-third seats for women in institutions of local government” became Part IX of the Constitution. We are now

The Institute of Social Sciences organized a training program for Prison officials of Punjab on 29th January 2010 on the topic “Human Rights in Indian Prisons”. It was held in the Punjab Jail Training School, Patiala. It was inaugurated by the Director General of Prisons Shri Anil Kaushik.

Thirty-three officers including Superintendent of Police, Deputy Superintendent of Police and Assistant Superintendent of Police, participated in the program. A monograph on the theme “Human Rights in Indian Prisons” written by Dr. Upneet Lalli of Institute of Correctional Administration, Chandigarh brought out by the Institute of Social Sciences under the project was circulated among the officers.
witnessing a new era of gender equality in the country. He attributed this to the successful outcome of women’s participation in politics and public life in the past 17 years through local government institutions.

Greeting the women elected members, Mr. Bharat Singh, Minister for Panchayati Raj, Government of Rajasthan, said that even though economically backward, states like Rajasthan and Bihar have taken significant steps to increase the reservation for women to over 50 per cent. He encouraged the women to speak out whenever violence against them occurs and to make sure that it is reported.

Ms. Anne Stenhammer, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM South Asia Office, stated that the most important agenda of UNIFEM is women’s empowerment. She called upon the women leaders to take back their learning from this conference and make very special efforts to stop violence against women. Violence against women, she reiterated, is barbaric and undermines the dignity of women.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Mohini Giri, Chairperson, Guild for Services, encouraged the women leaders to organize themselves against violence. She underlined the need for women to gain knowledge of the laws which will help them understand their rights and to include men in their efforts to end violence against women.

**Outstanding Women Panchayat Leaders Award**

Three women panchayat leaders: Ms. Shobha Sinha, Adhyakasha, Zilla Parishad, Gaya, Bihar; Ms. Radha Devi, Pradhan, Meethiberi Panchayat, Uttarakhand and Ms. Sanjo Kol, Pradhan, Gidurha Panchayat, Uttar Pradesh were honoured for their excellent work in their panchayats. Ms. Shobha Sinha was awarded for her outstanding work in the fields of education especially dalit children, health, empowerment of women, watershed management, and promotion of non-conventional energy sources, among others.

Ms. Radha Devi, the Pradhan of Meethiberi Panchayat, was honoured for providing inspiring leadership to a team of emerging women leaders, improving the implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), as also for her fight against in justice and for the rights of the displaced people.

Ms. Sanjo Kol, Pradhan of Gidurha Panchayat, Uttar Pradesh was awarded for her relentless fight against social and political in justice among the tribal families. Mrs. Gursharan Kaur presented the plaques, citations and cash prizes to the outstanding women leaders.

**Plenary Sessions**

The plenary sessions spread over two days, focused on various aspects of violence against women and the role of
panchayats in taking appropriate measures to prevent such violence. The first plenary session was the presentation of the theme by Ms. Dinoo Mathew and Dr. Santosh Singh. They dealt with the concept of violence against women, and provided background information on its various forms and location, its incidence and intensity in the country. They also narrated the efforts by local governments worldwide on this issue. The role of panchayats in addressing it the problem was greatly emphasised. The session was chaired by Prof. S. Narayan, Member, Task Force on Panchayati Raj, Government of Bihar.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS), HIV/AIDS and Trafficking, and Violence against Women were other significant issues on which separate plenary sessions were organized.

**Group Discussions**

In the latter half of the first day, the participants were divided into groups to deliberate on the issue of violence against women. The discussions were led by Ms. Abhilasha Kumari, Professor, Communications and Ms. Sowmya Kidambi. The summary of the discussions were presented by the rapporteurs in an open session chaired by Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Associate Director, Institute of Social Sciences.

**Valedictory Session**

The valedictory address was delivered by Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). Congratulating the women elected members for their many achievements, Mr. Aiyar said that he was looking forward to their reservation in the Lok Sabha as well. He was happy to see many women contesting and winning even from general seats. The perceptions of men and women vary greatly in terms of needs and decision making. Women, he said, have a reputation of being honest and bringing changes faster. “Panchayat leaders understand problems and have political experience at the grassroots level. Therefore, they make better leaders at the state and national level”.

The inputs from eminent speakers, the deliberations and discussions during the conference were appreciated by the women leaders as informative and educative. For many, violence has been a part of their lives as women and as women elected members; but they now recognize that it is a serious concern and should not be tolerated. They resolved to take back the lessons to their family and community and work towards ending violence against women.

A delegation of women political leaders from Egypt attended the programme and witnessed the enthusiasm of women leaders from grassroots institutions.

**Dr. Yang Jianli’s Lecture**

As part of its Silver Jubilee celebrations, the Institute organized a talk by Dr Yang Jianli on the “Three Chinas”. Dr Yang was one among the million or so young men and women who had assembled at Tiananmen Square in 1989 to protest against corruption. He narrowly missed being massacred there. Few people know
that when the Nobel Committee awarded the 2010 Peace Prize to Chinese leader Liu Xiabo, who is now in jail, despite the threats from China, it was Dr Yang who had worked behind the scene to make it a reality. Jianli often talks of three Chinas, excluding Taiwan.

Why is the world afraid of China? Dr Yang had an interesting explanation. China is run by a dictatorial party. “In the last 100 years, no two democracies have fought a war”. He says there are two Chinas in China. One represents the Communist Party or the establishment and the other the ordinary Chinese who number over a billion.

There is a huge disconnect between the two. The rulers have so corrupted the judiciary, the academics, the journalists and all the opinion makers that they have become their willing collaborators. In sharp contrast are the ordinary people, who are deprived of the freedoms of speech and movement, collective bargaining power and all the rights considered essential in a democratic society. They are the “shitizens” of China, a derogatory term used by a senior Transport Department official to describe the teeming millions.

“In China, 0.4 per cent of the population controls 70 per cent of the national wealth. The minimum wages in China are only 15 per cent of the world’s average. In this respect, China is at the 159th position”, said Dr Yang. Is it any wonder that the ordinary people intensely hate the rich and the influential? It is not widely known that every five or six minutes, there is one protest somewhere in China in which over 100 people participate?

The Chinese government keeps them under control using 39 million spies. It spends a huge amount on policing to keep the “shitizens” under control. China now spends billions and billions of dollars to spread its tentacles, not just in Asia but in Europe, Africa and the Americas. Simultaneously, the aspirations of the “shitizens” have also been growing.

The democracy movement in China may not be in a position to challenge the brute power of the corrupt oligarchy that controls the state. But the feeling that the Chinese should have the freedom to
choose their rulers, who will respect human rights and will be guided solely by the principles of the rule of law, is now widespread. Those who nurse this feeling constitute the third China. And a time will come when there will be a clash between “China Incorporated” and the “China of Shitizens” which will signal the end of the Communist hegemony in the most populous nation”.

At one point Dr. Yang was compelled to ask the audience whether anybody really trusted China? There was not one to raise his hands from the audience which comprised academics, students of Mandarin, Tibetans and researchers. Why single out the small audience? Even those who go gaga over the gigantic achievements of China do not in their heart of hearts trust China that sent tanks to massacre the students at Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

**State Level Workshop on Empowerment of PRIs**

A State Level Workshop was convened on 31st July at the joint initiative of Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj & Gramin Vikas Sansthan, SIRD – Rajasthan, Jaipur, Association of Local Governance of India and Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi - in order to bring together a cross-section of newly elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, so as to enable them to articulate their views and expectations from the State Government for empowerment of PRIs. The Workshop participants included - all 33 Zila Pramukhs of the State, two Pradhans from each district - including one female and one male and two Sarpanches from each district - including one female and one male. Additionally, all Officers of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department, Faculty & officers of IGPR&GVS and ISS, and a few representatives of media were also invited for the Event.

The Workshop was inaugurated by Hon’ble Minister for Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Bharat Singh. Hon’ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan gave the concluding address as the Chief Guest of the Concluding Session. Besides, the inaugural and concluding sessions, there were two open interactive sessions in the Workshop - which focused on issues of empowerment of PRIs and strengthening of the district planning process, as well as empowerment of elected women representatives and Gram Sabhas.

At the outset, the Director General of the Institute welcomed the dignitaries. Dr. George Mathew, in his keynote address congratulated the Government of Rajasthan for providing this platform to the newly elected representatives for sharing their expectations for empowerment of PRIs with the State Government. He also congratulated the Institute for doing remarkable work for equipping PRIs, through capacity building initiatives in a sustained manner. He then invoked the State Government for taking lead in realistically devolving powers to PRIs and emerging as a leading State in Northern States of India. Dr. Mathew referred to the catalytic role that the State

**S.K. Dey Chair on Local Government**

The Institute of Social Sciences established the S.K. Dey Chair in Local Government as a tribute to S.K. Dey, India’s first Minister for Community Development in Jawaharlal Nehru’s Cabinet and the first leader in Independent India who brought to the fore panchayati raj and sahakari samaj. In recognition of the Institute’s pioneering work in research and promotion of democratic decentralisation (Panchayati Raj) in India, the Ford Foundation gave a corpus fund for this Chair. Mrs. Purabi Pandey (daughter of S.K. Dey) and Mrs. Barouta Malhotra also contributed to the corpus fund of the Chair. Prof. S. Narayan is presently the Chair Professor.
Planning Board can play in empowering Gram Panchayats as ‘Village Republics’ - the ultimate aim of our democracy.

In his inaugural address, Shri Bharat Singh - hon’ble Minister (RD&PR), recounted that this is the 8th Workshop in his tenure as Minister, inviting views and expectations of PRI - elected representatives, on empowerment of these local self-government institutions. He further said that this Workshop should focus on ways and means for true empowerment of PRIs, to equip them to fulfil their Constitutional mandate as Institutions of grassroots democracy.

Hon’ble Chief Minister, Shri Ashok Gehlot was the Chief Guest of the Concluding Session. Mr. Giri Raj Singh, DG of the Institute welcomed the Chief Minister. Hon’ble Chief Minister, in his concluding address, expressed his happiness about being present in this august Assembly of PRI-Elected Representatives from all over the State and at their strong advocacy for real empowerment of PRIs. He went on to reinforce that Good Governance initiatives can be taken only with the support of strong Panchayats - as was the vision of Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

He then, expressed his strong commitment for transfer of powers to PRIs to be initiated soon, ensuring a foolproof strategy for no dilution happening in the event of any change of regime, to the empowerment of PRIs. He also recounted the devolution of powers given to PRIs - in his previous tenure as Chief Minister, wherein, Cabinet approval was given to devolving 29 Subjects related to 16 Departments, but, with the change of regime - those powers were withdrawn or diluted, in the wake of lack of political will. He expressed his full support to working out ways and means to immunize PRIs from such a revocation of powers this time.

The Chief Minister also called upon the PRI-Elected Representatives to function as trustees of Public Money being invested on development programmes. He gave the example of NREGA - wherein, each district of the State, is getting resource flow to the tune of Rs.250-Rs.300 Crores per annum, whereas earlier, the total kitty under famine relief works for the whole State - used to be-Rs.250 Crores.

Association of Local Governance of India

Association of Local Governance of India (ALGI) is building a network of elected representatives, institutions and individuals involved in activism on panchayati raj issues in India. This year also the process of building a network has continued, with a focus on north India. Briefly, the activities of ALGI in the year 2010 have been the following:

ALGI National Council Meeting on 29 March 2010
ALGI president, Abdul Ghani Khan welcomed the participants and gave an outline of the progress made by ALGI
since the last meeting. Dr. George Mathew said that the original vision of ALGI was to create something like a “trade union” where the members would fight for the improvement of the Panchayat system in the state and said that ALGI members would have to fight hard to achieve this vision. Dr. Ash Narain Roy said there needs to be clarity regarding the vision of ALGI which is a platform for members from the state and the short and long-term plans of the organisation need to be clearly formulated. The progress report for ALGI activities between August 2009 and March 2010 was presented to the members by Debraj Bhattacharya, the CEO of ALGI, which was followed by discussions on future activities of ALGI.

Spread of ALGI in Different States

During 2010 the network of ALGI spread to different parts of India. Some of the activities that were carried out were as follows:

- **Uttar Pradesh**: In 2009, ALGI was able to develop partnerships with strategic grass-roots organisations in the state. Following this it was planned that a pre-election voter awareness campaign (PEVAC) would be organised in the state. Accordingly 4 conventions, 2 public-hearings and an intensive campaign in Chitrakoot district were organised. Posters and other campaign materials were produced to generate awareness on various wrong practices during elections. The final event that was organised to complete the PEVAC was a press conference in Lucknow on the eve of the elections. The entire campaign was widely covered in the press and helped in ensuring that several candidates from the weaker sections of the society got elected.

**Visit of Egyptian Delegation to India**

The Institute of Social Sciences and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), a Washington-based nonprofit organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide, organized a visit of eight women political leaders from Egypt from 23 to 30 April 2010. The delegation of women leaders had representation from various political parties.

The delegation visited India to learn about the Indian democratic process and the various institutions of Indian Parliamentary democracy.
Following the Voter awareness campaign three micro-projects have been initiated in the state to improve the panchayats. A study has also been initiated to understand the reasons behind the violence that occurred during the panchayat elections.

- **Jharkhand**: In 2009 ALGI had campaigned for the holding of elections in the state which had not seen any elections to its panchayats since its formation in 2000. After the elections were announced ALGI organised an election watch with specific focus on East Singbhum and Deoghar Districts. Voter’s Councils have also been formed in 300 villages to make the villagers aware of the process of elections. ALGI is currently working to strengthen the gram sabhas and campaigning for the capacity building of the elected representatives.

- **Karnataka**: ALGI has developed partnership with a local organisation named Bharati Welfare Society which has long experience of working with panchayat representatives in the state and has developed a concrete plan of action to hold regional conventions followed by state level convention to strengthen ALGI in the state and raise issues relevant to the panchayats of the state.

- **Uttarakhand**: ALGI forged alliances with local organisations, Himalayi Paryavaran Shiksha Samity and Disha Social Organisation in the state and chalked out an action plan for the micro-level programmes as well as a state level convention to be implemented in 2011.

- **Jammu and Kashmir**: ALGI sent several letters to the Hon’ble Chief Minister to hold panchayat elections in the state and also held a civil society meet to generate public opinion in the state regarding panchayat elections. Several CSOs of the state have become institutional members of ALGI.

- **West Bengal**: ALGI established partnership with the leading Civil Society Organisation of the state working on Panchayati Raj issues, Loka Kalyan Parishad.

- **Haryana**: ALGI sent a team to study the panchayat election process in the state. It was observed that although the elections were held peacefully there was a serious concern regarding distribution of cash and liquor and husbands/male members using women as proxy candidates in seats which were reserved for women.

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**Second IBSA-LGF Meeting in Curitiba**

The second meeting of India Brazil South Africa Local Governance Forum (IBSA-LGF) was held in Curitiba, Brazil on March 13, 2010 on the sidelines of the International Conference of Innovative Cities (IC-IC 2010). It was inaugurated by Mr. Rodrigo da Rocha Loures, President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Parana. Incidentally, the Parana Chamber of Commerce and Industry was the main sponsor of IC-IC 2010. It was inaugurated by Mr. Rodrigo da Rocha Loures, President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Parana. Incidentally, the Parana Chamber of Commerce and Industry was the main sponsor of IC-IC 2010. Mr. Loures expressed confidence that civil society will play a far bigger role in future. Mr. Obed Mlaba, Hon’ble Mayor of Durban, along with Councilor L M Mhlongo-Ntaka, Senior Manager Shelley Gielink of Durban Municipality; and Dr. Rama Naidu, Executive Director, Democracy Development Programme, Durban, represented South Africa in the...
Second IBSA-LGF Meeting in Curitiba

From Left: Dr. Manu Kulkarni, Dr. Rama Naidu, Ms. Madan Kaur, Ms. V. Sukanya, Mr. Abdul Gani Khan, Dr. George Mathew, Mr. P.P. Soti and Dr. Ash Narain Roy

meeting. Besides Mr. Loures, those from Brazil who participated in the meeting included, among others, Mr. Cezar Schirmer, Hon’ble Mayor of Santa Maria; Mr. Roberto Paranhos do Rionbranco, President, Brazil-India Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Cezar Augusto Busatto, Secretary of Political Coordination and Local Governance, Santa Maria; senior officials of Curitiba Municipality, including Ms. Lara de Lacerda Santos Rodriguez, Head, Department of International Relations. About 40 representatives from Brazil participated in this programme.

Dr. George Mathew, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, Delhi, made a presentation and explained the rationale for the IBSA-LGF as also its vision and future agenda. Seven delegates from India including Mr. Abdul Gani Khan (Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir), President, Association of Local Governance of India (ALGI); Mrs V Sukanya, President of Vellimalaipatinam Panchayat, Tamil Nadu state; Mrs Madan Kaur, District President, Zilla Panchayat, Barmer, Rajasthan state; Mr P P Soti, Member, State Planning Board, Government of Chhattisgarh; Dr Manu Kulkarni, Urban Specialist, Bengaluru, Karnataka State and Dr Ash Narain Roy, Associate Director, ISS participated in the programme. The first meeting of IBSA-LGF was organized by the Institute of Social Sciences in January 2008 in Delhi with the support of Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Urban Development. Several mayors from South Africa and Brazil besides mayors and panchayat presidents from various parts of India had attended that meeting. Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, then Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Mr. S. Jaipal Reddy, Union Minister for Urban Development had addressed that gathering.

- Attended a workshop on Decentralisation and Devolution and presented a paper on Panchayati Raj, Decentralisation and Devolution in India organized by SPP GTZ IS, Chhattisgarh from 7 to 8 June
- Attended a conference of newly elected panchayat representatives in Rajasthan on 31st July

Ash Narain Roy

- Ash Narain Roy participated in the International Conference on Innovative Cities from March 10-14, 2010 in Curitiba, Brazil. He also participated in the Second IBSALGF meeting in Curitiba and Porto Alegre on March 14-15.
- Dr Roy also participated in the Sixth World Movement for Democracy meeting in Jakarta in April 2010. He was a presenter in two workshops, one on “Religion, Tradition & Rights: How can Civic Education help Build the Bridges?” and another on “Global Network on Local Governance—GNLG: Agenda for 2020”.
- Dr Roy also presented a paper in an international conference on “Right to Education”, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany in June.
- He also participated in the Ulaanbaatar Roundtable on Democracy in Asia from September 28-30, organized by the Community of Democracies.
Centre for Multilevel Federalism

**M.A. Oommen**

**Membership of Commissions**
Chairman, 4th Finance Commission, Government of Kerala

**Important professional Visits and Conferences**
- Delivered a Keynote address at the National Seminar on ‘Decentralized Governance and Women Empowerment, Impact of Panchayath Election 2010’ at Kannur.

**Books Published**

**Papers Published**

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**Project on Water, Sanitation and Panchayats**
Institute of Social Sciences felt the need to undertake a systematic and comprehensive study to review the functioning of panchayats, specially focusing on water and sanitation schemes based on primary data collected through field work in 2010.

Broadly, the study focused on the following:
- The state of devolution to the PRIs vis-à-vis WATSAN at the state, district, block and village level.
- Performance of panchayats in rendering their constitutional functions vis-à-vis WATSAN?
- The key issues with panchayats in WATSAN which must be fixed for the post-2015 situation to make them effective.

The study was conducted in the six states –Kerala, Mizoram, Orissa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand selected on the basis of their performance in water and sanitation programmes and panchayats.

The methodology included four steps:
- Activity mapping to assess the devolution of funds/functions/functionaries at state level
- Schedule based interviews with state/district/block officials, panchayat members, experts and NGOs working in the area
- Questionnaire based survey at village/panchayat level
- And in-depth case studies involving good and bad practices

A detailed survey of available secondary sources was carried out. Pre-testing of questionnaire was done. Non-participant observation was an inherent part of all the four steps of the methodology.

Experienced field investigators were selected to conduct the interviews. The Field operatives and coordinators had to travel to all the villages, blocks and district headquarters in all the selected states to personally meet the respondents and to conduct in-depth studies and interviews.

The study was supported by the Water Aid, India

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**Centre for Multilevel Federalism (CMF)**
The Institute of Social Sciences, founded in 1985, has established, as its silver jubilee year initiative, the Centre for Multilevel Federalism (CMF). Dr Balveer Arora, former Professor of Political Science and Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University, is the Centre Chairman. The CMF aims to develop and propagate the interdisciplinary study of Indian federalism in a comparative perspective. It would seek to involve economists, lawyers, journalists and public policy experts alongside political scientists and sociologists from universities and research institutes as well as from think tanks working on political institutions and processes.

The interest in how India is governed, through its multilevel structures of federal democracy, received a significant boost when constitutional recognition was given to panchayati raj local self-government institutions. The Institute of Social Sciences has been in the forefront of research on decentralization and local self-government. The CMF would contribute to theorizing federal practices in India and working on conflict-resolution mechanisms and processes.

There is nothing in federal theory or practice that limits federal systems to two
levels of government. Conventionally, the dual polity framework has tended to view local self-government as the exclusive preserve and concern of the federated units, states or provinces. Given the magnitude of India’s diversity and developmental problems, it has become increasingly apparent that a multilevel federal framework alone is capable of addressing these issues. It is in furtherance of this perspective, and with a view to strengthening and deepening the roots of democracy by exploring innovative mechanisms for popular participation and representation, that the Centre aims to contribute to the development of India’s multilevel federal democracy.

The Centre proposes to organise/participate in seminars/symposia/conferences for dissemination of research by its members. It would encourage the creation of a network of scholars, affiliated at various levels (Senior Fellow, Fellow, Associate Fellow, Research Interns). Affiliated scholars would be expected to contribute to the research programmes and activities of the Centre, but would be free to carry on their independent research in other areas. Doctoral and postgraduate research scholars, as well as researchers working in think tanks and civil society organisations would be encouraged to participate in the activities of the Centre as Research Interns. Scholars located outside the National Capital Region would be encouraged to participate in the activities of the Centre as Affiliates at various levels. The Centre also aims to invite Visiting Scholars from time to time in order to draw upon national and international expertise.

The CMF aims to organize and participate in research through seminars/conferences and research projects. It would also organize meetings with practitioners, in variable and appropriate formats. It has been designated as a repository for the various publications of the Forum of Federations, Ottawa. It will thus provide a platform as well as a nodal point for a network of scholars and researchers on Indian and comparative federalism.

The CMF has an internship programme to encourage the involvement of young researchers, doctoral and post-doctoral. It would exceptionally involve promising Masters and M.Phil. students with a special interest in the focus areas of the Centre in order to draw young talent to research on multilevel federalism. It would encourage applications from foreign researchers for affiliation as visiting scholars and research interns.

Apart from its regular research seminars, the Centre runs ‘Special Lectures’ series in which senior visiting scholars are invited to share their ongoing research concerns and results. It seeks to involve young researchers through the ‘Research Seminars’ series which would focus on new trends and directions in the study of Indian and comparative federalism. This series is aimed at doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, either associated with the Centre as Interns or as visiting special invitees. It would provide a forum for presentations by researchers of the current status of their work to scholars with similar interests.

The Centre proposes to publish a Quarterly Newsletter covering recent developments in multilevel federalism in India, as also in comparative federalism. It also plans Occasional Papers Monograph series.

Archana Ghosh

Publications
- Archana Ghosh and Madhulika Mitra: Institutionalizing People’s Participation in Urban Governance: An Inter – City Perspective of Ward Committees in West Bengal in the New Forms of Urban Governance in India, edited by ISA Baud and J.De Wit, Sage Publications.
- Archana Ghosh et. al: ‘A Comparative Overview of Urban Governance in Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai’ in Governing India’s Metropolises edited by Joel Ruet and Stephanie Tawa Lama – Rewal, Routledge Publications.

Seminar Participation
- Archana Ghosh participated in the National Round Table of Civil Society Organisations on “Inclusive Urban Governance: Opportunities and Challenges” conducted by PRIA in New Delhi on 28 and 29 January 2010. Ms. Ghosh presented a paper on “Devolution of Functions, Functionaries and Funds to the Urban
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Kolkata

Research Projects

A. Urban Studies

Social Audit of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) in Kolkata Municipal Corporation (on-going)

The project has been entrusted to the Institute by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation in September 2010. The objective is to conduct social audit of IGNOAPS, being implemented by Kolkata Municipal Corporation in 141 wards. A three pronged method is being adopted for conducting the project.

i. Interview with the officials of the concerned departments at the KMC headquarters and 15 Borough offices.

ii. Focus group discussions with a selected group in each selected ward.

iii. A detailed beneficiary survey through structured questionnaire in 20 sample wards selected from 15 boroughs of KMC (at least one ward from each borough) from which 25 percent or 781 beneficiaries are selected on random basis for interview.

Data collected from beneficiary survey are to be tabulated and report prepared on the basis of data generated from all the three methods.

Imparting Training to the Municipal Functionaries in Sikkim

The project was funded by Indo Swiss Projects Sikkim (ISPS). A training programme was organized in Gangtok, Sikkim on 5–7 October 2010 by ISPS for the elected representatives and functionaries of Gangtok Municipal Corporation and two other Municipal Councils of Sikkim. Mr. B.D. Ghosh and Ms. Madhulika Mitra were the resource persons for the entire training programme.

Regional Consultations for Preparation of Housing and Habitat Policy for Eastern and North-eastern States

A regional level consultation was organized by the ERC for the preparation of state urban housing and habitat policy and state level action plans on 23rd November 2010 at Administrative Training College, Kolkata. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India entrusted this task to the ERC. Representatives from three states, namely, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Tripura participated in the meeting. Mr. S. K. Singh, Joint Secretary, MoHUPA delivered the keynote address. Three experts were invited in the meeting to speak on different issues relating to the housing policy.

Municipal Election Study 2010

The Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi and the Institute of Social Sciences, Kolkata conducted a municipal election study in May to December 2010 in the context of elections held in 84 municipalities in West Bengal in June 2010. The study examined:

i) the mode of campaign conducted by the political parties before the municipal elections of 2010;

ii) the characteristics of the emerging municipal leadership; and

iii) analyzed the results of elections of Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) and selected municipal bodies outside Kolkata. The results of 2010 elections in 84 ULBs and 2009 elections in 17 ULBs were analyzed in a comparative perspective.

Local Governments: Recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission on Local Governance”.

Archana Ghosh Chaired the final consultation held in Burdwan University on the paper by Dr. Gopa Samana as part of the Ford Foundation supported and public Policy division of IIM Ahmedabad conducted research project on ‘The Globalising State, Public Services and the New Governance of Urban Local Communities in India’ on 10 July.

B. D. Ghosh

Publication


Seminar Participation

- Made a presentation on the sixth report of the Administrative Reforms Commission on ‘Local Governance’ at a seminar organized jointly by Lok Kalyan Parishad and ISS at Kolkata on 7 September 2010.

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B. D. Ghosh

Publication


Seminar Participation

- Made a presentation on the sixth report of the Administrative Reforms Commission on ‘Local Governance’ at a seminar organized jointly by Lok Kalyan Parishad and ISS at Kolkata on 7 September 2010.
In order to capture the nature of the municipal leadership emerging out of the two elections referred to above, a field survey was done among the Councillors of KMC and those of 10 municipal bodies outside Kolkata by canvassing a structured questionnaire. In Kolkata, the sample consisted of 32 Councillors (out of 141) of KMC and 152 Councillors (out of 295) of the 10 municipal bodies outside Kolkata. Among the 10 municipal bodies outside Kolkata, elections to 2 municipal corporations, namely Siliguri and Asansole were held in 2009. Elections to the other 8 municipal bodies in the sample were held in 2010.

For analysis of electoral data, a sample of 34 municipal bodies was chosen. Among them four were municipal corporations including KMC. Elections to 9 municipal bodies of the sample were held in 2009. Elections to others were held in 2010. The basic electoral data were obtained from the data-base provided by the State Election Commission.

Third Party Inspection of Integrated Low Cost Sanitation Scheme under Revised Guidelines 2008 (ongoing). This project started in January 2010 and the final report was submitted in September 2010. The project was sponsored by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India. The project covered nine states namely, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. It was based on intensive secondary and primary survey in these selected states. Altogether 52 ULBs were selected where total 41,135 toilet units had been surveyed. The survey had been conducted in March-April 2010. Archana Ghosh and Madhulika Mitra were the Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator of the project respectively.

Support to ULBs for compilation of DDP and Internal Appraisal of DDPs for Non-KMA ULBs of West Bengal
This project started in March 2008 and continued till the end of 2010. The project was sponsored by the Project Management Unit of the DFID supported Kolkata Urban Services for the Poor (KUSP) for the appraisal of Draft Development Plans prepared by the urban local bodies(ULBs) situated outside the boundary of Kolkata Metropolitan Area in West Bengal. Till the end of 2010 appraisal work of ten DDPs of ten ULBs were carried out by the Institute.

Panchayat Studies

Political Economy of Panchayats West Bengal
It is a World Bank funded project which started in November 2009 and ended in January 2010. The project sought to explore the linkages between the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and the politics that has been going on since the Left Front Government came to power. The central theme was to explore this linkage and the impact it has created on the growth and the style of functioning of panchayats. Additionally, the project tried to review the accountability and transparency issues of panchayats in West Bengal. Mr. B. D. Ghosh was the Coordinator of this project. Debraj Bhattacharya and Madhulika Mitra worked with him in the project.

Awareness about Poverty Alleviation Schemes among the Poor
The project was conducted in collaboration with Loka Kalyan Parishad,

- Presented a paper on “Agriculture to Industry: What Can We Learn from Singur?” in the seminar on Agriculture to Industry: The West Bengal Perspective, organized by the Department of Political Science, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata on 17 March, 2010.
- Gave a talk on ‘District Plan Methodology’ at the training programme held at ATI West Bengal from March 15 to 19, 2010 for the resource persons on district planning of several states.
- Presented a paper on ‘Globalisation and Public Administration in India’ at the seminar on Globalisation and Public Administration Today: The Indian Perspective, held at the Department of Political Science, University of Burdwan on 31 March 2010.
- Participated as a Resource Person in the SDC-sponsored international training workshop held at Pelling, Sikkim on 19-22 April, 2010 on functional assignment (Activity mapping) for the local government institutions.
- Participated in the brainstorming workshop on 16-17 August, 2010 organised by IRMA, Anand in partnership with Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) to discuss various aspects of developing an educational programme.
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on ‘Decentralisation and Local Governance’ for professionals working with panchayats.
• Attended a national workshop at IIPA, New Delhi on 24 September on the methodology of governance measurement.

Madhulika Mitra

Publications
• Archana Ghosh and Madhulika Mitra: Institutionalizing People’s Participation in Urban Governance: An Inter – City Perspective of Ward Committees in West Bengal in the New Forms of Urban Governance in India, edited by ISA Baud and J.De Wit, Sage Publications.

Seminar Participation
• Participated in the consultation held at Burdwan University on the paper by Dr. Gopa Samana as part of the Ford Foundation supported and Public Policy Division of IIM Ahmedabad conducted research project on ‘The Globalising State, Public Services and the New Governance of Urban Local Communities in India’ on 10 July.
• Presented a paper on ‘Making NGOs more Transparent and Accountable: Issues and Options’ in a seminar on “Civil Society: Conceptual and Empirical Issues” organized by Centre for Studies in Decentralisation and an NGO under the DFID supported West Bengal Civil Society Support Programme. It started in September 2009 and the final report was submitted in August 2010. The study was conducted in three districts of West Bengal namely, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur and Birbhum. It examined the extent of accessing the benefits of programmes and services from GP by the poor and marginalized sections of the rural community. The study also tried to understand whether organizations of the poor like self – help groups help them to access these benefits or articulated their voice in the process of inclusive development.

Bhubaneswar

Land Alienation and Entitlements in Select Tribal Districts of Orissa
The project on Land Alienation and Entitlements in select Tribal Districts of Orissa funded by Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs was implemented by ISS, Bhubaneswar initially in Koraput district for two years and Rayagada district in the final year i.e. 2009-2010. The project was formally closed in December 2010.

Key Activities of the project included sensitization, education and empowerment of select group leaders in the community on land problems, research study and creation of data base including intensive intervention.

Research Study on Water, Sanitation and Panchayats in Six States of Orissa
ISS, Bhubaneswar conducted Orissa chapter of the aforesaid study funded by Water-Aid, India. The study was carried in two scheduled districts of Orissa namely Kandhamal and Sundergarh district.

Prevention of Human Trafficking (Women and Children), India: Making Interventions through Elected Representatives of Panchayats and Other Stakeholders in High Source Trafficking Areas
This was a four-month-old pilot project which began in November 2009 in Ganjam district of Orissa. The key activities of this project included district level and block level meetings to sensitize key stakeholders, develop and use appropriate IEC strategies for prevention of human trafficking, sharing experience of success stories, compiling them for distribution among stakeholders and conduct anti-trafficking campaign to create awareness in the project area.

Verification of Data on Sanitation in Orissa
Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar conducted a base line survey for verification of data on sanitation implemented by BISWA, an Orissa based Organization during 2009-2010. The objective of the survey was to verify whether the implementing agency had constructed toilets in all the 30 identified districts of Orissa as per the data provided. The survey in all the districts were conducted simultaneously during 15th to 25th April 2010 by the field surveyors. Based on the survey, the report was submitted to the Funding Agency FINISH.

Research
Research study was one of the key activities of the project on “Land Alienation and Entitlements in select Tribal Districts of Orissa”. The study was carried out in two scheduled districts namely Koraput and Rayagada, of Orissa. Three blocks from each district were selected based on (i) the incidence of
land alienation and displacement in and around the areas (ii) consultation of key stakeholders. A total of 3355 households were covered under the study. Research report was prepared and published in book form. The book titled “Land Alienation- its Dimensions” was released in ISS, New Delhi office by the Honorable Irish Ambassador on 26 November 2010.

Another study on Water, Sanitation and Panchayats was carried out in two scheduled districts of Orissa namely Kandhamal and Sundergarh district. The study covered 2 districts, 4 blocks (two from each district) and 16 villages (8 from each block). A total of 447 Sample households (15% of total households of each select village) were covered under the study.

Training/ Workshops/Seminars

♦ A one-day district level Workshop on Role of PRIs in Anti-Trafficking of Women and Children was organized at Chatrapur on 10th January.
♦ A block level-sharing workshop on Role of PRIs in Anti-Trafficking of Women and Children (display of posters, screening of documentaries and open house discussion) was organized at Sanakhemundi Block on 28th January.
♦ A block level-sharing workshop on “Role of PRIs in Anti-Trafficking of Women and Children” with display of posters, screening of documentaries and open house discussion was organized at Ganjam block on 29th January.
♦ Training and Awareness Programme on Land Related Acts and Laws for residual GPs of Rayagada district was completed.
♦ A District Level Workshop on Land Alienation and Entitlements in Select Tribal Districts of Orissa was held on 31st July at Rayagada.
♦ A state level Workshop on Land Alienation and Entitlements in Select Tribal Districts of Orissa was organized on 30 November at Bhubaneswar
♦ A Research Study Book on Land Alienation and its dimensions-A study of Orissa was released by Irish Ambassador at ISS, New Delhi on 26 November.

Bangalore

Plan India – I: “Promoting Universal Birth Registration Among Children in Difficult Circumstances in Karnataka”

Goal: To achieve 100% universal birth registration by focusing on children in difficult circumstance (marginalized and vulnerable) in the project area.

Karnataka is one of the states where both birth and death registration is over...
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90 per cent and has demonstrated that with several problems it has been able to show remarkable progress and is much closer to achieve 100 per cent registration by 2010 with continued efforts. The present programme is another step in this direction. Focusing on children in difficult circumstances as they have remained excluded from the mainstream. Such children in the project areas are mainly the tribals, lambanis (gypsies), migrants and vulnerable/marginalized children including children of devadasis, HIV+ persons, child labourers and children in slums. ISS is the State Nodal Partner in implementing this programme in close coordination with the State Government and Plan India who are the two parties in implementing this project.

Situational Analysis in the newly selected target area namely slums in Bangalore City.

Plan–II: “Conducting Trainings and Undertaking Publicity Measures for Improvement of Registration System”

Plan India is conducting successful birth registration campaigns in 8 districts of Karnataka under Universal Birth Registration Programme. Under this programme registration system has improved. A two pronged approach to improve the birth registration in rural areas would be capacity building/training programmes and information dissemination/publicity through hoardings and brochures. Institute of Social Sciences is the Nodal Partner in implementing this programme in close coordination with the State Government and Plan India who are the two parties in implementing this project.

a. Coordination meeting with Chief Registrar, DSO & Partners
- To prepare strategies for ensuring 100% UBR among these groups
- To elicit the support of the above Officials
- To work towards an amendment if necessary

b. Orientation workshops
- Organizing orientation/workshop for new GP members and youth groups

c. Sensitization programme for the Campaign in new project area
1. Development of innovative of IEC materials, preparation and distribution
2. Wall writings
3. Street plays
4. Narrowcasting programmes using the existing materials
The Institute of Social Sciences organized a training program for Prison officials of Punjab on 29th January 2010 on the topic “Human Rights in Indian Prisons”. It was held in the Punjab Jail Training School, Patiala. It was inaugurated by the Director General of Prisons Shri Anil Kaushik. A monograph on the theme “Human Rights in Indian Prisons” written by Dr. Upneet Lalli of Institute of Correctional Administration, Chandigarh brought out by the Institute of Social Sciences under the project was circulated among the officers.

**Event**

The Institute of Social Sciences conducted a State Dissemination Workshop on “Promoting Universal Birth Registration Among Children in Difficult Circumstances in Karnataka” on 8th June, 2010, Senate Hall, Central College, Bangalore University, Bangalore.

**Visitors**

Academics, Researchers, Students, and Activists from India and abroad visit this centre. After having detailed discussion with the faculty, they also collected data from the resource centre. The general response is very good and people find the centre very informative.

**Other Related Activities**

In addition to the above, the faculty members participate and contribute papers in seminars and conferences.
The Institute of Social Sciences organized a training programme in Chandigarh for Police officers on 29th & 30th June 2010 on the topic “Scourge of Human Trafficking”. It was held at the Institute of Correctional Administration, Chandigarh. The Valedictory Address was delivered by the Director General of Prisons Shri Anil Kaushik.

organized from time to time by University Departments and other Research Institutions; also they serve as Resource Persons for training programmes in decentralized governance. They also deliver lectures in different Universities as outside faculty, especially in the Department of Political Science, Sociology and Development Administration in some of the leading Universities in Southern India.

Thiruvananthapuram

Ongoing Projects
Comparative study of Kerala’s Participatory Planning and Porto Alegre’s Participatory Budgeting.

Research Projects Directed and Reports Submitted
A Study on The Economy of Thiruvananthapuram District, Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Bangalore (2010).

L.C. Jain on ISS New Role
“ Truly MLAs have an honourable and defined role in our system; Members of Parliament (MPs) too have a role. Now the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) has been legitimized by the Supreme Court and it no longer will be Rs. 2 crores a year. I can see it going up higher. They are strengthening local bodies on one hand and destroying their very essence on the other. Now what can be done - the entire burden cannot be left on the courts or the ministry. There has to be a mobilization of public opinion. And this is where apart from seminars the Institute of Social Sciences will have to play a very radical role to protect the whole scheme of panchayati raj from the invasion of MPs and MLAs.”

L.C. Jain
Gandhian Thinker and Economist and former High Commissioner to South Africa
17 July 2010
Mr. Sankar Sen addressing at a seminar on “Human Rights in Indian Prisons” in Patiala.

The Institute of Social Sciences organized a one day inservice training course on the topic “Human Rights in Criminal Justice System” was held for the officers of West Bengal police on 9th March 2010 at the Training Branch, Salt Lake City, Kolkata. The participants were from the ranks of Inspectors and Sub Inspectors.

Mr. K.K. Patnaik speaking at the District Level Workshop. Also seen Dr. Nitin Bhanudas Jawale, IAS, District Collector Rayaga, Government of Orissa.
Tribute to Laxmi Chand Jain (1925-2010)

A well wisher and ardent supporter of the Institute of Social Sciences, Shri Laxmi Chand Jain’s death is a great loss to the ISS and all those who believe in democratic decentralization in the country as a whole. L.C. Jain was an eminent Gandhian thinker, specialist on decentralization and a staunch advocate of Panchayati Raj. He had been active in the advocacy of democratic decentralization and just and equitable economic policies. Author and editor of several publications, including the famous *Grass without Roots*, he was conferred the Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 1989. He held several important positions including India’s High Commissioner to South Africa and Member, Planning Commission of India.

L.C. Jain was one of the national leaders who shaped up the decentralization vision of ISS. Along with S.K. Dey, Minister for Community Development in Jawaharlal Nehru Government, Upendra Baxi, eminent lawyer, Nirmal Mukherji, former Cabinet Secretary and Abdul Nazir Sab, Minister of Panchayati Raj, Government of Karnataka, L.C. Jain was a source of great inspiration for the Institute from its very beginning.

Shri V.P. Singh, then President, Janata Dal, appointed in June 1989 a six-member committee under the chairmanship of Shri S.R. Bommai to examine the Constitution (Sixty-Fourth Amendment) Bill in the light of the Janata Dal’s approach to democratic decentralization. L.C. Jain was one of the members and the entire work was done at the Institute. (Other members were: Shri Nirmal Mukherji, Dr. K.S. Krishnaswamy, Prof. B.K. Chandrasekhar and Dr. George Mathew). L.C. Jain was the speaker and resource person at the discussion on “The Constitution (72nd Amendment) Bill, 1991: The Panchayats”, organized by the ISS on 25 September 1991 at India International Centre. The report of the panel discussion was well received. Even today it is highly relevant. L.C. Jain joined the ISS Governing Body on 19 December 1996.


During the period of his association with the ISS (1985-2010) L.C. Jain contributed immensely to the growth of the Institute in the area of decentralized governance and grassroots democracy. His suggestions and ideas immensely helped in our studies on the theme. Mention may be made of the Women’s Political Empowerment Day Celebrations and the Conferences he participated in various states especially with Biju Patnaik in Orissa in September 1992 and Kashmir leaders in Jammu in December 2002. The Seminar on Thirteenth Finance Commission and Local Government (17 July 2010) at the Institute was the last public function he attended along with Devaki Jain.

L.C. Jain is one of the most quoted scholars on decentralized governance in the Institute’s studies and publications.

We pay our respectful tributes to Laxmi Jainji.

— George Mathew
Chairman  
U. R. Ananthamurthy

Vice-Chairman  
T. S. Kannan

Treasurer  
Jaya Jaitly

Executive Director/Secretary  
George Mathew

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