

National Conference on
Gram Sabha and Good Governance
and
A Special Session on Kerala's Experience of New Democratic Initiatives

Jointly Organised by

Institute of Social Sciences and Government of Kerala

20 April 2012, New Delhi

The Institute of Social Sciences in collaboration with Government of Kerala, organised a one-day national conference on "Gram Sabha and Good Governance" in New Delhi on 20th April 2012 with a view to critically examine the role of Gram Sabha in various states and to learn how Gram Sabha is promoting accountable, transparent and corruption-free governance. The conference had four sessions viz. (1) Gram Sabha and Participatory Democracy, (2) Towards a

corruption free society – role of Gram Sabha, (3) Voice and Choice for the people, and (4) A Special session on Kerala's Experience on New Democratic Initiatives.

The conference had participants including gram sabha members, elected representatives, academics, activists, government

officials, and retired bureaucrats from various States such as Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Kerala and Delhi. The first three sessions were held at the Abdul Nazir Sab Hall, Institute of Social Sciences and the fourth and special session was held at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra auditorium, Circular Road, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Shri Oommen Chandy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, was the Chief Guest. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development were the Guests of Honour.



Dr. George Mathew, Chairman, Institute of Social Sciences addressing the gathering. Also seen Dr. P.P. Balan, Director, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) (L) and Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences (R)



A section of Audience at the Special Session on Kerala's Experience on New Democratic Initiatives



Shri. S. Jaipal Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas giving a copy of the book "Boundless Access" to Prof. M.A. Oommen, Chairman, Fourth Finance Commission, Government of Kerala. Also seen: Shri. Oommen Chandy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala (L) and Shri. Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development (R).



Shri. Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Union Minister for Rural Development is releasing the Book "A Gracious Voice: Life of Oommen Chandy". Also seen from left: Shri Oommen Chandy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala; Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, Hon'ble Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas; Dr. George Mathew, Chairman, Institute of Social Sciences; Shri. K.C. Joseph, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development, Government of Kerala; Prof. M.A. Oommen, Chairman, Fourth Finance Commission, Government of Kerala and Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director, Institute of Social Sciences.