

**Academy of Grassroots Studies and
Research of India (AGRASRI)**

**Inaugurated by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
on 20 August, 2002 at Tirupati**

**(Recognised as Nodal Agency by the
Govt. of India and Govt. of AP)**

**Registered under the
Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act,
vide Regd.No.010140430 of 2011**

**PROFILE OF
AGRASRI**

**Registered under the Societies
Act XXI of 1860**

Society Regd. No 293 of 2001

Gram Swaraj Through Grassroots Democracy



Shri Shivraj V. Patil, His Excellency, the Governor of Punjab, conferring the **Bharat Rata Rajiv Gandhi Outstanding Leadership National Award** for the Year 2012 on **Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar**, Former Speaker of Lok Sabha, on 20 August, 2012 at IIPA Conference Hall, New Delhi. **Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar**, Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha) is also seen in the picture.



Hon. Visitor: Dr. C. Rangarajan

Hon. Chief Patron: Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar

Chairman, Board of Governors

Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap

Former Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, New Delhi

Chairperson, Hon. Board of Advisers

Dr (Mrs) V. Mohini Giri

Former Chairperson, NCW, New Delhi

Founders

Dr. D. Sundar Ram

Mrs. D. Bharathi Sundar

**Academy of Grassroots Studies
and Research of India (AGRASRI)**
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❖ GENESIS

Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India (AGRASRI), Tirupati, was founded by social activist couple *Dr. D. Sundar Ram* and *Mrs. D. Bharathi Sundar*. It came in to existence on 2 October, 2011, which was registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, Vide Regd. No.293 of 2001, as autonomous, independent, non-political, non-profit and Professional Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), being headquartered at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The motto of AGRASRI is *Sarve Bhavanthu Sukhinaa*(Prosperous Life and Inclusive Growth by all).

The Academy was formally inaugurated by the champion of decentralisation movement *Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar*, the then Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) and CWC Member, on 20 August, 2002 at Tirupati. It is founded to provide an environment suitable for the study and promotion of academic research, training, policy advocacy and networking in grassroots democratic institutions for self-sufficient *Village Republics*.

The primary object of the academy is to develop a sound and efficient grassroots democratic system in India for achieving the Gandhian dream of *Gram Swaraj*. This is a unique Academy in the field of Grassroots Studies and Governance in India. It provides a bridge between the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj, Nagar Palika Institutions, academicians, researchers, administrators and youth working in the field, under the nurture of *Dr. D. Sundar Ram* and *Mrs. D. Bharathi Sundar*, Founder and Co-founder of the Academy.

The Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India is a good fortunate to have a distinguished policy makers and scholars, as source of inspiration and support, for implementing its aims and objects for fulfilling the Gandhian dream *Gram Swaraj through Grassroots Democracy*.

Dr. C. Rangarajan, Former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister of India, New Delhi, is the *Hon. Visitor* of the Academy. *Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar*, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Former Union Minister for Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India, New Delhi, is the *Hon. Chief Patron*.

Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap, eminent Constitutional expert and Former Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, New Delhi, is the *Hon. Chairman* of the Board of Governors of the Academy, while *Dr (Mrs) V. Mohini Giri*, eminent social activist and Former Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi, is the *Chairperson of the Hon. Board of Advisers*. Several distinguished policy makers, administrators and scholars have been associated with the Academy, as Members of its Board of Governors, Board of Advisers, Executive Council, and as distinguished fellows, visiting senior fellows, visiting fellows and guest faculty.

The main aim of the Founders of the Academy was that the organisation should not only stimulate a proper study of panchayati raj administration but also train directly a number of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Self-Help Group (SHG) Members, Youth Leaders and Social activists in the discipline, art and practice of administration for good governance at the grassroots in contemporary India.

In pursuance of the aims and objectives of the AGRASRI towards strengthening grassroots democratic Institutions as self-sufficient Village Republics in India, a number of academic and research activities have been organised since its inception, include *Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture* and *Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Outstanding Leadership*, *Mahila Shakti*, *Yuva Shakti*, *Best District*, *Best Taluk*, *Best Gram Panchayat National Awards*, besides *Chittoor District Centenary Visishta Ratna Award* conferment programmes. The Academy has an outstanding record of training, research and consultancy in the field of panchayati raj, rural development, women empowerment, capacity building and training; good governance, environment and sustainable development, micro-planning, rural applied technology, and allied areas, since its inception.

❖ VISION OF THE ACADEMY

The Vision of Academy is to enhance the people's participation in development programmes and sound management of rural local self-governments through grassroots democracy and process of

democratic decentralisation in the form of statutory Panchayati Raj Institutions, as self sufficient Village Republics in India.

The major research thrust of Academy is in the areas of Grassroots Governance (Panchayati Raj), Urban Governance (Nagar Palikas), Women Empowerment, Socio-economic Development and allied subjects. The Academy shall strive to open new vistas of development dialogue between the micro and macro approaches on the grassroots democracy support initiatives for generating new ideas and dissemination of its knowledge for fulfilling people's aspirations for genuine Village Republics in India, through research, training, advocacy and consultancy.

❖ **MISSION OF THE ACADEMY**

Academy's mission is to:

- a) Cater the needs of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Municipal bodies and administrative personnel of Panchayati Raj Institutions and Nagar Palika administration;
- b) Bridge the communication gap between the officials and non-officials of the Panchayati Raj and Nagar Palika Institutions;
- c) Conduct innovative study and research on contemporary political and socio-economic issues and problems in an inter-disciplinary perspective and to make available its findings and recommendations to the key policy makers at the helm of affairs for an appropriate action;
- d) Open a new vistas of the Academy's programmes to various professional organisations in India and abroad for strengthening grassroots democratic theories and ideas; and
- e) Build regional, national and international networks, with organisations working on grassroots studies and research.

❖ **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ACADEMY**

The Academy aims to:

- i) To promote and conduct research on a multi-dimensional facets of the human development in rural India;
- ii) To organise and facilitate conferences, seminars, colloquiums, special lectures, symposia and round-table meetings on grassroots studies and contemporary issues for the dissemination of knowledge from the innovative study and research at the micro and macro level;
- iii) To organise and conduct a Post-Graduate Diploma Courses in Panchayati Raj and Rural Management, leading to P.G. Diploma in Grassroots Governance and Public Affairs Management;
- iv) To undertake development studies and research projects sponsored by the Central and State Governments, International Agencies and Foundations;
- v) To organise and conduct Capacity Building & Training Programmes, Workshop, Orientation and Refresher Courses for the elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj and Municipal bodies to create knowledge base, develop skills and understanding of the various dimensions of rural and urban transformation;
- vi) To offer consultancy services to the local, state and union Governments of India and other funding agencies/organizations;
- vii) To publish research works of high standard in the form of books, monographs, working papers, occasional papers, reports, pamphlets and other literature on Panchayati Raj and Grassroots Governance;
- viii) To bring out a research journal, namely, *The Grassroots Governance Journal* (Bi-annual in English), for the advancement of knowledge in Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Women Empowerment, Youth Leadership and Good Governance and to encourage on developmental problems of grassroots democratic institutions; and
- ix) To organise the Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Lecture every year on 20th August and confer the Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Outstanding Leadership, Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Mahila Shakthi, Yuva Shakthi, Best District, Best Taluk and Best Gram Panchayat National Awards and

Chittoor District Centenary Awards to the distinguished personalities and elected representatives of PRI's, in recognition of their laudable contributions and services, for strengthening grassroots democratic institutions in India.

❖ **MANAGEMENT OF THE ACADEMY**

The Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India (AGRASRI) is governed by (a) General Body, (b) Board of Governors and (c) Executive Council. The Academy is ably guided and supported by the Hon. Board of Advisers, Research Committee and Organising Committee, in academic matters concerning education, training, research and consultancy.

Hon. Visitor

- **Dr. C. Rangarajan** is the Former Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister of India, New Delhi.

Hon. Chief Patron

- **Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar** is Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), New Delhi.

❖ **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

The AGRASRI policy is determined by a 9 Member-Board of Governors. *Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap*, a well-known Constitutional expert and Former Secretary-General of Indian Parliament (Lok Sabha), New Delhi, is the *Chairman* of the Board of Governors. It comprises of the Chairman, Director and Member-Secretary, and 7 other Members.

The following is the composition of the Board of Governors of AGRASRI for the years 2014-2016:

Chairman

- **Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap**, Former Secretary-General of Lok Sabha and eminent Constitutional expert, New Delhi.

Member-Secretary

- **Dr. D. Sundar Ram**, Founder Director of the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India (AGRASRI), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

Members:

- **Prof. B.K. Chandrasekhar**, Former Chairman, Karnataka State Legislative Council, Bangalore.
- **Dr. B.B. Dutta**, Former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), New Delhi.
- **Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy**, Former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), New Delhi.
- **Dr. A.N. Tiwari, IAS (Retd.)**, Former Chief Information Commissioner, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- **Prof. V.R. Panchamukhi**, Former Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- **Dr. S.K. Pachauri, IAS (Retd.)**, Former Secretary to Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- **Smt. D. Bharathi Sundar**, Co-founder and Joint Director of the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India (AGRASRI), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

❖ **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The management and administration of the organisation is vested by 9-Member Executive Council. *Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy*, Former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), New Delhi, is the *President* of the Executive Council for the Year 2014-2016. *Dr. D. Sundar Ram*, Director & Member-Secretary is the principal executive and is responsible for the management and administration of AGRASRI and its sister organisations.

The following is the composition of the Executive Council of AGRASRI for the years 2014-2016:

President

- **Shri Solipeta Ramachandra Reddy**, Former Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), New Delhi.

Vice-President

- **Prof. A. Ranga Reddy**, Chairman, Indian Institute of Public Administration Local Branch, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

General Secretary

- **Dr. D. Sundar Ram**, Founder and Director, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

Treasurer

- **Shri V. Ramaiah**, Formerly associated with Andhra Bank, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

E.C. Members:

- **Prof. Chakravarthy Raghavan**, Professor, Deptt. of Visistadvaita Vedanta, Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Prof. M. Sudharsan Reddy**, Professor of Law (Retd.), Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Shri R. Sampath Kumar**, Manager (Retd.), Andhra Bank, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Smt. D. Bharathi Sundar**, Co-founder and Joint Director, AGRASRI, Tirupati, AP.

❖ HON. BOARD OF ADVISERS

For advising the Board of Governors and the Executive Council in the formulation of planning and development of its multifarious research and academic programmes, the AGRASRI has constituted the Hon. Board of Advisers, consisting of leading experts and specialists, under the stewardship of eminent social activist and former Chairperson of the National Commission for India *Dr (Mrs) V. Mohini Giri*.

The following is the composition of Hon. Board of Advisers of AGRASRI for the years 2014-2016:

Chairperson

- **Dr (Mrs) V. Mohini Giri**, Member, National Integration Council of India and Former Chairperson, National Commission for Women, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Members:

- **Dr (Mrs) Jaya Arunachalam**, President, Working Women's Forum, Chennai.
- **Dr. T.H. Chowdary**, Former IT Adviser to Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
- **Shri K. Chandramouli, IAS (Retd.)**, Former Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
- **Prof. Ram Puniani**, Chairman, Centre for Study of Secularism and Society, Mumbai.

❖ RESEARCH COUNCIL

The Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India, has constituted the *Research Monitoring Committee*, with the following experts and scholars for the years 2014-2016:

Chairman

- **Prof. S.P.Jain**, Chairman, Society for Good Governance & Sustainable Development, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Member-Secretary

- **Dr. D. Sundar Ram**, Director, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India, Tirupati, AP.

Members:

- **Prof.K.V. Narayana Rao**, ICSSR National Fellow, Hyderabad.
- **P.C. Mathur**, President, Indian Network for Rajasthan Studies, Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- **Prof. G. Palanithurai**, Rajiv Gandhi Chair for Panchayati Raj Studies, Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu.
- **Prof. Ranbir Singh**, Senior Consultant, Haryana Institute of Rural Development, Nilokheri, District Karnal, Haryana.
- **Prof. D. Rajasekhar**, Professor, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore.
- **Prof.R. Suryanarayana Reddy**, Consultant, Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
- **Prof. Yatindra Singh Sisodia**, Professor, M.P. Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.

❖ **ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES**

The main aim of the Founders of the Academy was that the organisation should not only stimulate a proper study of panchayati raj administration but also train directly a number of elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Self-Help Group (SHG) Members and Social activists in the discipline, art and practice of administration for good governance at the grassroots in contemporary India. The Academy, over the past several years has made significant contribution to various sectors of panchayati raj, rural development, women empowerment and good governance at the central, state and local levels.

In pursuance of the aims and objectives of the AGRASRI towards strengthening the grassroots democratic institutions as self-sufficient Village Republics in India, nearly 54 academic and research activities and 274 training programmes have been organised since its inception.

The Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India (AGRASRI) is officially recognised as *Nodal Agency*, by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India, New Delhi, as Technical Support Institute, under the BRGF component Capacity Building and Training. In implementing the scheme, the Academy has imparted a series of capacity building & training programmes for 16,000 plus elected representatives of panchayati raj institutions (Sarpanchs, MPTC Members and Ward Members) in 274 batches in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh in the year 2010, in joint collaboration with AMR- Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development (APARD), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Apart from the Capacity Building & Training Programmes, the AGRASRI is also organising the orientation and awareness programmes for the elected representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Chittoor District, in sensitising their powers, responsibilities and constitutional provisions, as per the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act. The AGRASRI is utilising every opportunity to build the elected representatives of PRI's, as responsive grassroots policy makers, for delivering good governance and public services, by way of publishing success stories, role model gram panchayats, exposure visits and radio talks, for the past 13 years.

As a Professional NGO - the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India is bringing out the awareness among the Rural Mass, Self-Help Group Members, School Children, Tribal Population and Social Activists towards the micro planning, AIDS, communicable diseases, environment protection, clean and green, Right to Information Act and other social related issues through Essay Writing, Elocution Competition, Quiz, Debates, Symposia and Rural Camps, with the help of University Professors, Medical Doctors, NGO's and other enlightened persons.

❖ **BHARAT RATNA RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL AWARDS, INSTITUTED BY AGRASRI**

In recognition of Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi's laudable contributions and significant services to the nation in general and Women, Youth and Panchayati Raj Institutions in particular, as Seventh Prime Minister of India, the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India has instituted the Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi National Awards (in 7 categories), in association with the Rajiv Rural Development Foundation, Tirupati. These awards would be conferred every year on 20 August at New Delhi/Tirupati, on eminent personalities, after duly recommended and selected by the Awards Jury, headed by *Dr. Subhash C. Kashyap*, eminent constitutional expert and Former Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, New Delhi.

❖ **NETWORKING ORGANISATIONS OF AGRASRI**

The Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India, is networking with likeminded organisations and NGO's, include the Govt. of India and Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, in fulfilling its objectives for delivering good governance at the grassroots level.

The Academy is working with the following organisations at the national, state and local level, with financial support and expertise.

- National Commission for Women, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

- Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- Ministry of Science and Technology (DBT and DST), Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Govt. of India, Sriperumbudur.
- AMR- Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development, Govt. of AP, Hyderabad.
- Indian Council of Social Science Research, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society, Govt. of AP, Hyderabad.
- Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- Haryana Institute of Rural Development, Govt. of Haryana, Nilokheri, Haryana.
- Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore.
- Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu.
- Centre for World Solidarity, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
- SHIRDI Foundation, Bangalore.
- Working Women's Forum (India), Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Rashtriya Jagriti Sansthan, New Delhi.
- Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.
- Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, New Delhi.
- Sulabh International Social Service Organisation, New Delhi.
- M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai.
- Sri Padmavathi Mahila Viswavidyalayam, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- District Administration, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh.
- Rajiv Rural Development Foundation, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

❖ RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS BY AGRASRI

Apart from the regular academic and research activities, the Academy has published a number of standard research books on concerned themes of rural India.

The following is the list of Academy research books, published in recent years:

1. *Panchayati Raj Reforms in India: Power to the People at the Grassroots*, D. Sundar Ram (Ed.,) New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2007. ISBN: 81-7391-925-9. Foreword by *Shri M.V. Rajasekharan*, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Planning, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
2. *Dynamics of Grassroots Governance in India - Dreams and Realities*, 2 Vols., D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2007. ISBN: 81-7391-931-3. Foreword by *Prof.M.S. Swaminathan*, Chairman, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai
3. *Panchayati Raj and Empowering People - New Agenda for Rural India : Essays in Honour of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar*, D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2007. ISBN: 81-7391-927-5. Foreword by *Shri I.K. Gujral*, Hon'ble Former Prime Minister of India, New Delhi.
4. *Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi: A Visionary of Modern India*, D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2007. ISBN: 81-7391-926-1. Foreword by *Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar*, Hon'ble Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
5. *Federal System and Coalitional Governance in India: Conflicts and Consensus in Centre-State Relations*, D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2007. ISBN: 81-7391-928-3. Foreword by *Shri T.N. Chaturvedi*, His Excellency, the Governor of Karnataka, Bangalore.

6. *Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in 60 Years of Independent India: Vision of the Future*, D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2008. ISBN: 978-81-8457-087-8.
7. *Quest for Political Stability in India : Essays on Governance, Polity and Development*, D. Sundar Ram, New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2008. ISBN: 978-81-8457-090-8.
8. *Women Empowerment in Political Institutions - An Indian Perspective*, D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2009. ISBN-978-81-8457-161.
9. *Grassroots Planning and Local Governance in India : Policy Initiatives and People's Participation*, D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2010. ISBN: 978-81-8457-241-4.
10. *Political Transformation in India: Redesigning for Good Governance*, 2 Vols. D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), Jaipur, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and National Publishing House, 2010. ISBN: 978-81-8018-096-5. Foreword by *Shri Justice M.N. Venkatchaliah*, Former Chief Justice of India, New Delhi.
11. *Reservations for Women in Rural and Urban Local Bodies in India: Equal Partners in Decision-making Process*, D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2012. ISBN: 978-81-8457-325-1.
12. *Grama Sabha Institution in India: 20 Years Experiences and Experiments as Vital Decision-making Body at the Grassroots*, D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2013. ISBN: 978-81-8457-436-4.
13. *Panchayati Raj Institutions in India: Two Decades Journey as Constitutional Bodies*, 2 Vols., D. Sundar Ram (Ed.), New Delhi, Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India and Kanishka Publishers, Distributors, 2016, ISBN: 978-81-8457-480-4.

❖ **BHARAT RATNA RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL AWARDS BY AGRASRI**

In recognition of Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi's laudable contributions and significant services to the nation in general and Women, Youth and Panchayati Raj Institutions in particular, as 7th Prime Minister of India, the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India has instituted the *Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi National Awards* in 7 categories, in association with the Rajiv Rural Development Foundation, Tirupati in the year 2005.

The Awards honour role model policy makers, administrators, exemplary leaders in respective fields, who have exhibited exceptional leadership through pursuit of excellence, every year on 20 August, the birthday of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, by the *Chief Guest (Hon'ble Governor/Union Minister/ Speaker/Judge)*.

The Awards Jury, comprising Peers and Luminaries drawn from different a segment of society, headed by *Dr .Subhash C. Kashyap*, eminent Constitutional expert and Former Secretary - General of Lok Sabha, after deliberations finally picks one Leader in each category for the Award.

❖ **ROLL OF HONOUR : 2005-2013**

The following erudite and reputed policy makers and scholars were Conferred the *Bharat Ratna Rajiv Gandhi Outstanding Leadership National Award* since 2005 onwards:

1. *Padma Bhushan Prof. U.R. Rao*, Chairman, PRL Council , Indian Space Research Organisation, Govt. of India, Bangaloe - 2005, Tirupati.
2. *Padma Vibhushan Prof. M.S. Swaminathan*, the then Chairman, National Commission on Farmers, Govt. of India, New Delhi-2006, Tirupati.
3. *Padma Vibhushan Dr.R.A. Mashelkar*, CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow, National Chemical Laboratory, Pune-2007, Tirupati.

4. *Padma Vibhushan Dr. C. Rangarajan*, the then Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India, Govt. of India -2008, Tirupati.
5. *Padma Vibhushan Dr. G. Madhavan Nair*, the then Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation, Govt. of India- 2009, Tirupati.
6. *Padma Bhushan Dr (Mrs) V. Mohini Giri*, Former Chairperson, National Commission for Women, Govt. of India- 2010, New Delhi.
7. *Padma Vibhushan Dr. R. Chidambaram*, Principal Scientific Adviser to Govt. of India- 2011, Tirupati.
8. *Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar*, Former Speaker of Lok Sabha, Former Governor and Former Union Minister- 2012, New Delhi.
9. *Padma Shri Prof. Sukhadeo K. Thorat*, Chairman, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi- 2013, New Delhi.

❖ **IMPRESSIONS/OPINIONS ON AGRASRI ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMMES BY DISTINGUISHED POLICY MAKERS AND SCHOLARS OF INDIA**

1. Publication of The Grassroots Governance Journal is highly commendable initiative and I wish all success in this noble task.

- Padma Vibhushan Dr. Manmohan Singh

Hon'ble the then Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, New Delhi, September 19, 2003.

2. I compliment the initiatives of the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India, in association with the Rajiv Rural Development Foundation, in reminding the country at large of the services rendered by Rajiv Gandhi during his short span of life and wish the organisations the very best in their endeavours in the service of the country.

- Shri Somnath Chatterjee

Hon'ble the then Speaker of Lok Sabha, New Delhi, August 16, 2004.

3. I have known Dr. Sundar Ram since the establishment of the Academy and have been deeply impressed by the way in which the Academy has grown from very humble beginnings to its present significant status in the academic community which is playing such a key role of advocacy in the development of Panchayati Raj in the country.

- Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar

Hon'ble the then Union Minister for Panchayati Raj, Youth Affairs & Sports and Development of North-East Region, Govt. of India, New Delhi, February 27, 2007.

4. It was a great pleasure to participate in the convention organised by AGRASRI which has played an important role in bringing about a significant transformation in the rural areas. I congratulate Dr. Sundar Ram and his colleagues.

- Padma Vibhushan Dr. C. Rangarajan

The then Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister, New Delhi, August 20, 2008.

Estimated Budget of the Proposed Project

Indian Youth Leadership Skills at the Grassroots

The following is the estimated Budget of the proposed Project:

Sl.No.	Name of Description	Estimated Budget (\$)	Total Budget (\$)
1.	Accommodation	4,500	4,500
2.	Food and Clean Water	5,000	5,000
3.	Computers and Laptops	3,000	3,000
4.	Training Material and Kit	2,500	2,500
5.	Transport	5,000	5,000
6.	Land Purchase	45,000	45,000
7.	Construction of Training Centre	50,000	50,000
Total:		1,15,000	1,15,000

Business Plan

The proposed project on *Indian Youth Leadership Skills* at the Grassroots is being implemented in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh State, India by the Academy of Grassroots Studies and Research of India, Tirupati, for a period of 5 years from 2016 to 2020.

The Academy is coordinating with various Departments of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Civil Society Organisation in Andhra Pradesh. The selection of the youth leaders is purely based on merit and capacities of the youth towards the sustainable development of India.