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**Press Release**

**KILA organises the National Conference on ‘Twenty Five years of Panchayati Raj’  
on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Mascot Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram**

It is on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1993 that the 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act 1992 came in to force by providing constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. KILA celebrates the Silver Jubilee of the Constitutional amendment by organising a National Conference on ‘Twenty Five years of Panchayati Raj’ on **24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 in Mascot Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram.**

The event is to look back, take stock of the situation and then look forward. The conference will be a coming together of elected representatives, practitioners, functionaries, academicians, think tanks and similar stakeholders.

The first day will start at 9.30 am with the introductory session chaired by **Dr. K.T. Jaleel** (Minister for Local Self Governments and Minority Welfare), where **Dr. Thomas Isaac** (Minister for Finance) delivers the introductory lecture. **Dr. Jairam Ramesh**, the former Union Minister for Rural Development will be the Guest of Honour.

The session will be followed by the session on a **Quarter century of Panchayati Raj** where **Sri. M.A. Baby** (former Minister for Education and Ex-MP), **Dr. S.S. Meenakshisundaram** (former Secretary for Rural Development), **Sri. S.M. Vijayanand** (former Secretary for Panchayati Raj and former Kerala Chief Secretary) will speak. Former Union Minister for Panchayati Raj **Dr. Mani Shankar Aiyar** will be the Guest of Honour.

This will be followed by a session on **‘What is new happening in Kerala Panchayati Raj’** which will be chaired by the Vice Chairman of Kerala State Planning Board **Dr. V.K. Ramachandran** and **Dr. K.N. Harilal**, Member State Planning Board will deliver the key note address.

Other sessions include those on Finance Commissions, Central and State schemes and Panchayats, Women empowerment and Panchayati Raj, Devolution Index, and presentations by states on the experiences of Panchayati Raj in states.

The valedictory session at 3.30 pm on 25<sup>th</sup> April will be chaired by **Dr. K.T. Jaleel** where **Dr. Thomas Isaac**, **Dr. Mani Shankar Aiyar**, **Sri. Kutty Ahammed Kutty**, **Dr. George Mathew**, **Sri. S.M. Vijayanand** and **Dr. K.N. Harilal** will speak.



Joy Elamon