



NATIONAL SEMINAR

# *Kerala's Development Oxymora*

Revisiting Kerala Model of Development

March 18-20, 2016

Venue: Windsor Castle, Kottayam

## **Inaugural Session**

2.30-3.45 PM

Welcome

Dr. Girish Kumar R

Hon. Director, K N Raj Centre

Presidential Address

**Prof. MA Oommen**

Former Chairman, Finance Commission, Kerala

Inaugural Address

**Prof. Babu Sebastian**

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi University

Keynote

**Prof. CP Chandrasekhar**

Professor, JNU, New Delhi

Felicitation

Dr. N Jayakumar, Member, Syndicate

Dr. Ajis Ben Mathews, Member, Syndicate

Vote of Thanks

Prof. Mathew Kurian

Joint Director, K N Raj Centre



**MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY**  
K. N. RAJ CENTRE

**INDIAN COUNCIL FOR**  
**SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**

The Kerala Model of Development is much acclaimed as an epitome of social development and welfare-oriented policies. While the rest of Indian states could not fare better in social indicators, the living standards for common people in Kerala progressed; this higher human development juxtaposed with lower GDP than in most Indian states is often termed as the Kerala Model of development by economists, political scientists, and sociologists. Globally, most of the composite indices related to health, education and nutrition place India very close to the bottom in a ranking of all countries outside Africa. But development model in Kerala stands apart, ensuring that the fruits of economic growth are widely shared, and public revenue are spent more on social services delivery. Through the success of this development model, State of Kerala has undermined the 'trickledown theory' of market economists. The Model relied on the principle that enhancing human capabilities and entitlements is the way to ensure sustained economic growth and development. But of late, one would believe that there has been a paradigm shift in the ideology - from welfare to market orientation due to the influence of various socio-political factors. The scale of deviation, if there be any, from welfare model to market economy needs deeper introspection. Based on an in-depth sectorial dissection, a probe to understand the state's position in Human Development Index (HDI), economic growth, remittance economy, health care, education, etc., becomes all the more important. The role of decentralisation, women empowerment, public distribution system, micro finance, cooperatives and trade unions necessitate deeper analysis to get a critical view about the success of the model. Though Kerala Model of Development paints a roseate picture about higher quality standard of living and economic development, its sustainability is consistently contested. Migration and foreign remittance have been the pillars of Kerala Economy for quite some time. Changing global political and economic scenario may leave its economy fragile, if alternative strategies are not arrived. Spillovers of global economic quagmires could derail its development process. Kerala, a consumerist state, faces huge fiscal and debt crisis. Maintaining the status of a welfare state in the long run is under stress. The Model is at cross roads now and it's high time we revisited the development model to correct the trajectory of development as well as to get a clear road map in the coming years.