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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SRI ORGANIZES WORKSHOP ON LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE IN THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION**

**New Delhi, 8 August 2017:** A Workshop on “Local Self-Governance in the Indian Constitution” was organised under the auspices of the Speaker’s Research Initiative (SRI) in Parliament Library Building today. The aim of the workshop was to provide Members of Parliament an understanding about the implementation of local self-government institutions in the country.

Addressing the distinguished Members, Shri S. M. Vijayanand, former Secretary, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj underlined the importance of the institutions of local self-government in contributing to the resilience, strength and richness of democracy in our country. Recalling that India has a long history and strong tradition of democratic institutions since ancient times, Shri Vijayanand said the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments Acts of 1992 were landmark legislations which accorded the local self-government institutions in rural and urban areas a constitutional status and made them an effective, efficient and transparent vehicle for local governance, social change and public service delivery mechanism meeting the aspirations of the local population.

Speaking at the workshop, Prof. Y. K. Alagh, Chancellor, Central University of Gujarat stressed that the core value of democratic, local self-governance is equal participation of the people in the governance processes, equal treatment and equal rights before the law. Describing the local self-government institutions as vibrant autonomous democratic units, Prof. Alagh observed that they provide a forum for direct, participative democracy, securing economic development and social justice for the people.

Members of Parliament and others attended the Workshop and gained valuable information about the vital institutions of local self-governance.