



## Three Day Online International Conclave

on

### INTRINSIC AND INSTRUMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE OF MAHATMA GANDHI FOR A SELF -RELIANT INDIA

19th-21st August, 2020 (Wed-Fri)



Organized by  
Department of Social Work  
Rajiv Gandhi University  
Rono Hills, Doimukh,  
Arunachal Pradesh, India  
in collaboration with  
Gandhi King Foundation,  
Hyderabad, India and  
Gandhi-King Global Initiative  
Stanford University Centre, USA



## BACKGROUND NOTE

According to Mahatma Gandhi every person should be provided with bare minimum necessities i.e. food, shelter, and clothing. Gandhi is in favour of the self-sufficient village economy where the villages will be the independent economic units. For attaining smooth development of the economy, it is imperative to develop all the constituents of economy and society simultaneously. The overall progress of the entire economy depends on the balanced development of all the regions. Self-sufficient village economy is a bottom -up solution and in this context the role of institutions in the rural sector like the village panchayat and rural multipurpose co-operative can play a vital role. This understanding of Mahatma, is not just instrumental in realizing the goals of development but more importantly intrinsic in enjoying the same with a content approach in a sustainable manner. His ideals of truth as being 'non-hypocritical', non-violence as 'avoiding mental levels of violence too and not just physical violence' and satyagraha as 'passive resistance with love and compassion' are easy to read and write but difficult to understand in their full gravity. Entire humanity is today gripped with an unprecedented pandemic COVID-19, stalking all over the globe, and also exasperated by a threat of violence in the wake of rising global tensions and conflicts. In a scenario like this, countries are trying to seek succor and strength and also long term solutions for their people. Undeterred by all these and with a huge confidence and optimism, which have had been the hallmark of the human history, we are also celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. This being the backdrop, it is quite appropriate to highlight the significance of Mahatma Gandhi in pursuit of the larger vision of a Sustainable future and Self-Reliant India, as he always recognised the importance of moral plurality and dedicated his life to the cause of self-reliance, non-violence, truth, swadeshi, character education and an empathetic approach to humanity to say the least.

Even today, India is hailed globally as a country of villages due to the sheer number of villages that we have (in the vicinity of six and half lakh, Census of India, 2011). The five 'I's including intent, inclusion, investment, infrastructure, and innovation as highlighted by the hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi during his clarion call to make India a self-reliant economy during COVID pandemic, though may not have a direct mention of Gandhian Principles and Models, but is indispensable for each one of these five I's to materialize due to the sheer expanse of Gandhian thought towards the basic fabric and constituents of Indian Society/Economy if not for anything else. The discourse on intrinsic and instrumental significance of Mahatma hence holds high relevance in given context of COVID and a Self-Reliant Nation. In this regard, the proposed international e-conclave will have the following objectives along with the expected learning outcomes for disseminating the idea and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

### Chief Patron

Prof. Saket Kushwaha  
Vice Chancellor  
Rajiv Gandhi University



### Patrons

Prof. Amitava Mitra  
Pro-Vice Chancellor  
Rajiv Gandhi University



Prof. Tomo Riba  
Registrar  
Rajiv Gandhi University



Prof. Tana Showren  
Dean  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
Rajiv Gandhi University



Shri Prasad Gollanapalli  
Managing Trustee  
Gandhi King Foundation



### Convenors

Dr. Kaushalendra Pratap Singh  
Head i/c, Department of Social Work  
Rajiv Gandhi University

Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar  
Department of Social Work  
Rajiv Gandhi University

✉ [hod.social.work@rgu.ac.in](mailto:hod.social.work@rgu.ac.in)

## OBJECTIVES

- 1.To explore measures for ensuring self-sufficiency and strengthen Rural Economy of India;
- 2.To re-emphasize and augment fundamental tenets of Gandhian Philosophy for younger generations of global citizenry;
- 3.To examine the relevance of Gandhian Rural re-construction programme in the pursuit of Self-Reliant India; and
- 4.To engage proactively the academia and the researchers as key stakeholders in realizing the vision of Self-Reliant India.

## EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES

- 1.Inculcating an understanding led appreciation among younger and contemporary generations in Gandhian Philosophy & Ideals;
- 2.Re-igniting discourse on Gandhian Principles in pursuit of A Self-Reliant India;
- 3.Promoting introspection towards simple and sustainable ways to self-sufficiency and self-reliance;
- 4.Revisiting Individual and Institutional Priorities for a Self-Reliant and Sustainable Future; and
- 5.Encouraging Research and Practice of Gandhian Models for a Humane and Empathetic World Order post-COVID 19.

## INTENDED BENEFICIARIES

The intended target audience includes every person who is directly or indirectly concerned and interested in Gandhian philosophy for making self reliant India. The online conclave aims to directly benefit students, research scholars, academicians, social scientists, social workers, government and non-government functionaries. There will be no registration fee for the participants. Live web sessions will be conducted through Google Meet Platform. Number of seats will be limited.

## SPEAKERS



**Christian Bartolf**  
Gandhi Information Centre  
Berlin Germany



**Dr. A Raghu Kumar**  
Advocate, Telangana High Court  
Gandhi Scholar, Author & Speaker



**Prof. Yashwant Pathak**  
Associate Dean  
Tcop Dean's Office  
University of South Florida, USA



**Dr. John Chelladurai**  
Dean of Studies  
Gandhi Research Foundation  
Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India



**Mr. David Gengan**  
President, Pietermaritzburg  
Gandhi Memorial Committee South  
Africa



**Dr. Soham Pandya**  
Executive Director, Centre for  
Science for Villages, Wardha,  
Maharashtra



**Dr. W G Prasanna Kumar**  
Chairman, Mahatma Gandhi National  
Council for Rural Education  
Ministry fo Education, Gol



**Dr. Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra**  
School of Politics  
Security & International Affairs  
Univeersity of Central Florida, USA



## THEMES

Intrinsic and Instrumental Significance of Mahatma Gandhi for A Self-Reliant India

## SUB-THEMES

- Swadeshi
- Gandhian Concept of Character Education
- Rural Reconstruction
- Sanitation & Hygiene
- Truth and Non-Violence
- Religion as a way of Life
- Swaraj and Decentralization
- Antyodaya
- Economic Regeneration
- Social Reform and Social Change
- Social, Economic, Political and Environmental Issues: Awareness, Sensitization, Priorities & Preferences
- National Character Building and Integration
- Community Engagements
- Brain Drain & Migration
- Indigenous Issues
- Substance and Drugs Dependence
- Gender Justice
- Untouchability
- Parochialism
- Delinquency, Crime and Criminal Justice
- Self Reliant India
- Social Fabric and Multiculturalism
- Trusteeship and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Youth Concerns; and
- Any other aspects related to Gandhian Philosophy

## PAPER PRESENTATION AWARDS

Three best papers (Full Papers and not just Abstracts) among all the full papers (Single Author) will be recognized with awards namely:

- (1) Gandhian Social Thinker Award
- (2) Gandhian Practice Model Award
- (3) Empathetic Gandhian Thinker Award

A Review Team comprising senior academicians from host institution will ensure transparency and credibility in selecting deserving participants on specified parameters.