



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on

Mahatma Gandhi and Gandhism Today: Energizing India's Relations with Africa

*A Two-Day International
Conference*

06-07 April, 2023



Organized by

**The Department of African Studies
University of Delhi, Delhi – 110007**

Concept Note:

Mahatma Gandhi's contributions towards nonviolent civil resistance changed the course of the freedom struggle against colonial domination in many countries of Asia and Africa. Africa became a turning moment in Gandhi's life. He has confronted with many usual daily life challenges and resolving them profoundly transformed him. The experimentation of the core values of Gandhijibegan during his period of stay in South Africa (1893-1914 CE).He acquired two very powerful weapons, *Satyāgraha* (holding onto truth) and *Ahimsā* (non-violence). Their success encouraged Gandhiji to further put them into action in India. The innovative ideas of Gandhi and Gandhian philosophies inspired generations of world leaders, especially African thinkers like Kwame Nkrumah, Albert Luthuli, Tom Mboya, Julius Nyerere, Kenneth Kaunda, and Nelson Mandela. Mandela said in September 1992, "Gandhiji was a South African and his memory deserves to be cherished now and in post-Apartheid South Africa. We must never lose sight of the fact that Gandhian philosophy may be a key to humans in the twenty-first century." Gandhi was an inspiration before the independence and remains relevant even today. Why? Because Gandhi Ji's ideas of *Satyāgraha*, *Sarvodaya* (Universal Upliftment), *Swarāj* (self-rule), *Swādeshi* (of) and so on..., are not just set of theoretical preaching but are rational doable tools for the betterment of the whole humanity. Gandhism contains the ideas of Satyā (ultimate reality or truth), *Ahimsā* (non-violence), *Anāsakti* (detachment), *Astēya* (non-stealing), *Apariggahā* (non-possession), *Shāsanmukta* (free of domination or coercive rule), and *Swarāj* (self-rule, individual or collective autonomy). Some elements of Gandhian philosophy such as *Satyāgraha*, passive resistance, penance, and hunger strikes which reflected neither moral nor emotional blackmail have resulted in success in social, political, and cultural spaces. Gandhiji was a strong opponent of capitalism and communism, and he advocated the idea of a trusteeship which was based on the trust and belief system, very much similar to the community ownership of the economic structures of Africa. Today's pressing global challenges including climate change, food insecurity, poverty, terrorism, COVID-19 and above all war-torn fractured world has caused insecurity and instability in the entire humanity. Gandhi's enlightened philosophies and his powerful ideas if put into action may have the potential to provide workable answers for global good.

This conference aims to revisit Gandhi and Gandhism to look for simple, local solutions for the present world's pressing challenges. There may not be tailor-made Gandhian ideas or strategies but surely his philosophies, his ideology, and his values can show the world a way forward. Let's explore deeper and thoughtfully. Let's deliberate.

Call for Papers

The organizing committee invites research papers from researchers, academic institutions, research organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), industry and government organizations from all over India. Following is the list of suggested sub-themes to be included but it is not limited to

- Africa: An autobiography of Gandhi's experiments
- Economy and decentralised production
- Sustainable agriculture and food security
- G20 and *Vashudhaiv Kutumbkam* (One earth, One family, One future) and Life (Lifestyle for the environment)
- Women and Gandhi
- Globalising Gandhism in the context of India-Africa relations.
- Revisiting Gandhi's historical legacy in Africa.
- Phoenix Farm, Tolstoy Farm and Sabarmati Ashram.
- Religion, tradition and spirituality.
- Dignity of manual labour and Emancipation of Women.
- Gandhi and critique of civil society.
- How can India Become Free?
- Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and other world leaders.
- Gandhi, Human Rights and Conflict resolution.
- Indian philosophy of *Vashudhaiv Kutumbkam* and African philosophy of *Ubuntu*
- Gandhi and the diaspora
- Gandhi, global society and globalisation
- Gandhi's notions on race and ethnicity
- Evolution and importance of India-Africa relations; from Gandhi to Modi
- Nationalism, Religion, and the Critique of Modernity: Gandhi's Hind Swaraj
- Understanding Gandhi in today's times: legacy, philosophy, and the present
- Promotion of Gandhian studies at the university level in India and Africa
- Gandhi was born in India but was made in South Africa.
- Gandhian growth and development model
- Gandhian form of mass politics
- Any other topics related to the theme.

Conveners

Dr. Rashmi Kapoor
Dr. Sandipani Dash
Dr. Manish Karmwar

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