



অসম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
ASSAM UNIVERSITY



Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti



National Seminar

on

Gandhi's Way to Peace: 21st Century Perspectives

Jointly Organised by

Assam University, Silchar

and

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi

14-15 November, 2019

Call for Papers:

Assam University is going to organize an National Seminar on the theme "Gandhi's Way to Peace: 21st Century Perspectives" from 14th to 15th of November 2019. Original and unpublished research articles are invited from academicians, research scholars, students and interested participants for the Seminar.

Concept Note:

On 23rd July 1939 Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi wrote a very brief letter to Adolph Hitler addressing the Fuehrer as "Dear Friend". Gandhi wrote:

"Friends have been urging me to write to you for the sake of humanity. But I have resisted their request, because of the feeling that any letter from me would be an impertinence...Something tells me that I must make my appeal for whatever it may be worth. It is quite clear that you are today the one person in the world who can prevent a war which may reduce humanity to a savage state."

However, to another section of Gandhi's followers, the idea of appealing for peace to Hitler was completely unacceptable. Gandhi was determined to provide peace and humanity one more chance. Soon followed another detailed letter which was written during December 1940. Gandhi continued to address Hitler as "Dear Friend" and added almost on an explanatory note:

"That I address you as a friend is no formality. I owe no foes. My business in life has been for the past 33 years to enlist the friendship of the whole of humanity by befriending mankind, irrespective of race, colour or creed."

Both these letters were confiscated by the British Government and were never delivered to Hitler yet one marvels on the audacious level of hope and a deep conviction on peace that Gandhi harboured. He could not persuade Hitler from launching the most devastating attack on Poland which shortly followed the date of the first letter. What's important for posterity is that Gandhi made an attempt, however feeble, to save the world from war and destruction.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is the greatest champion of peace in modern times. He not only made truth and peace the most important cornerstones of his life but continued to experiment with different dimensions of these ideas. In Gandhi's theory of peace, human values are of paramount importance. For him, nonviolence is a way of life intimately connected with the search for truth. It's important to understand that Gandhian notion of peace does not entail a passive acceptance of exploitation and torture. In fact, he encourages his followers to resist any inclination towards passive submission to injustice. Under the Gandhian rubric, however, such resistance must exclude the possibility of physical violence or dehumanizing the opponent. Peace, for Gandhi, is not an end but a continuous revolutionary process which cannot be separated from means.

In a world torn apart by racial discrimination, violent conflicts, terroristic activities and intermittent warfare Gandhi's ideas on peace as a method of conflict resolution have acquired a new relevance. The perpetual cycle of violence in Africa, Middle-East Asia, South America and in other parts of the world has forced the international community to have a relook at Gandhian philosophy. As the world is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Mahatma, this Seminar is dedicated towards delineation and discussion of Gandhi as a champion of Peace and modern day relevance of his idea of *ahimsa*.

As a collaborative initiative of Assam University, Silchar and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, this Seminar would provide a forum to participants to share views and research findings on the hermeneutics of Gandhian philosophy

Submission Guidelines:

Abstracts (200-300 words, with maximum 5 key words, MS Word, font size 12 points, Times New Roman with 1.5 spacing, justified, 3 cm margins on all side) should be sent to gandhiseminaraus@gmail.com on or before 8th of November 2019. All abstracts would be scrutinized before acceptance by an editorial board.

Selected/ shortlisted paper presenters would be intimated by email on 9th of November 2019.

Shortlisted paper presenters must submit full paper (4000-5000 words) on or before 12th of November 2019 which would be published as a volume with ISBN. For details of article format (MS Word, font size 12 points, Times New Roman with 1,5 spacing, justified, 3 cm margins on all side) one should follow latest edition of MLA Handbook

Publication/Registration Fee:

Publication/Registration Fee would have to be deposited during the registration session i.e. from 9AM to 10AM on 14th of November 2019 at the registration desk.

Faculty Members: Rs. 1000/- (each)

Research Scholars and Students: Rs. 500/- (each)

(In case of multiple authors, each author would have to register separately)

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Registration Form

Name/s of participants/ paper presenters (with designation):.....

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Institutional affiliation:.....

Title of paper:.....

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Contact no:.....

Email:.....

Signature of Participant

Contact: 9435092853 (Binoy Paul), 9706827994 (Tina Mazumdar)