



**CENTRE FOR GANDHIAN STUDIES**  
**GITAM SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**  
**BENGALURU**  
**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**GANDHI AND THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD**  
**JANUARY 9-10, 2025**

**Keynote Speaker: Prof. Akeel Bilgrami**  
**Columbia University**

**About the Conference**

The life, works, and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi have long been the focus of scholarly inquiry, with a significant body of literature—comprising books, articles, and manuscripts—published globally each year on various facets of his worldview. Academics continue to engage with Gandhi’s life and practices, particularly in addressing contemporary challenges such as ecological crises, economic inequality, and socio-political injustice. Nonetheless, a discernible gap persists between academic analyses of Gandhian thought and their practical application, prompting critical questions: To what extent do Gandhi’s ideas, philosophy, and practices retain relevance in today’s rapidly evolving world, shaped by technological advancements and digital transformation?

The key focus of this international conference is to engage with this complex and evolving landscape critically. The conference aims to assess Gandhi’s relevance as a historical figure and a thinker whose ideas still offer significant solutions to present-day problems.

It will address the practical implications of Gandhi's philosophy in dealing with the multiple crises humanity faces today.

This conference explores why Gandhi's constructive programs, envisioned in the 1940s, remain pertinent to India's rural development and economic landscape. What is the enduring significance of Sarvodaya in an era marked by unprecedented economic disparity? Why have global green movements and Indian environmental campaigns acknowledged their indebtedness to Gandhian strategies for conflict resolution? Moreover, where have we, as a nation, faltered in implementing programs to reduce economic inequality, corruption, unemployment, communal tensions, and ecological degradation?

This conference also seeks to critically explore the complexities and nuances of Gandhi's thought, with the aim of assessing its relevance in addressing pressing global challenges. These challenges include climate change and environmental sustainability, economic inequality, unemployment, social disparities, and international conflicts.

By facilitating multidisciplinary dialogue, the conference will provide a platform for scholars, activists, and policymakers to engage in rigorous discussions on the continued applicability of Gandhi's ideas in the modern world.

**The sub-themes are:**

### **1. Social, Political and Economic Philosophy of Gandhi**

- ❖ Sarvodaya
- ❖ Gandhian Socialism
- ❖ Nonviolence and Satyagraha; Possibilities and Challenges
- ❖ Gandhian Economics
- ❖ Gandhi and Marx: Comparative Studies
- ❖ Gandhian Ethics

### **2. Environmental Degradation and Gandhian Solutions**

- ❖ Gandhi and the Global Green Movements
- ❖ Gandhi and Indian Environmental Movements
- ❖ Deep Ecology
- ❖ Gandhian Conflict Resolution
- ❖ Sustainable Development

### **3. Gandhian Perspectives of Social Justice**

- ❖ Gandhian Constructive Programs and their relevance
- ❖ Women Empowerment
- ❖ Communal Unity in Indian context
- ❖ Caste discrimination and caste issues in contemporary times

### **4. Nai Talim and its Contemporary Significance**

- ❖ Gandhi's views on education and the current scenario
- ❖ New Education Policy and its significance
- ❖ Role of Higher education Institutions in India
- ❖ Peace Psychology, Peace education and contemporary Peace movements

### **5. Re-reading Hind Swaraj**

- ❖ Hind Swaraj-Textual interpretation in the present context
- ❖ Political Reading of Hind Swaraj
- ❖ Ecological Reading

Please note that the sub-themes provided are suggestive, and researchers are encouraged to explore ideas that align with the overarching theme of the conference.

Those who are interested to present papers can send a 250-word abstract to **[gandhiconference2025@gmail.com](mailto:gandhiconference2025@gmail.com)**

Please mention your thematic area while sending your abstract.

**Important dates to remember:**

- Abstract Submission: November 15, 2024
- Notification of Acceptance: November 20, 2024.
- Full Paper Submission: December 15, 2024.
- Last date for Conference Registration: December 15, 2024

**Registration Fee**

**Academicians / Faculties**

Indian: 2000 INR

Foreign: USD 150

**Research Scholars / Students**

Indian: 1000 INR

Foreign: USD 100

For further queries, please contact:

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## **About the Centre for Gandhian Studies, GITAM (Deemed to be University)**

The Centre for Gandhian Studies, GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences, GITAM (Deemed to be University), is a unique global nonviolence hub in the making. It stands out for its focus on interdisciplinary research in social sciences and aims to attract scholars working in nonviolence, peace research, sustainable development, and related areas.

The objectives of the centre include, but are not limited to

- ❖ Promote multidisciplinary research on rural development, peace building, nonviolence, sustainable livelihood, and gender equality.
- ❖ The centre's vision extends beyond its boundaries. It seeks to collaborate with other academic institutions on the core research areas of nonviolence, peace and conflict resolution, peace education, sustainable development, and environmental conservation. This collaborative approach enriches our research and fosters a spirit of mutual growth and learning.
- ❖ Introducing academic programs in Peace Studies, Gandhian Thought and Community Service.
- ❖ Introduce field work/community service to the Liberal Education students to equip them with social work/public administration/policy analysis skills.

### **Thrust Areas of research under the Centre for Gandhian Studies**

- ❖ Contemporary Relevance of Gandhian Philosophy
- ❖ Rural Development
- ❖ Environmental Sustainability
- ❖ Women Empowerment
- ❖ Peace Education/Peace Psychology/Peace Movements
- ❖ Gandhian Perspectives on Social Justice
- ❖ Local Democracy
- ❖ Communal Unity