

**Call for Papers for a two day National Seminar on
Relevance of Gandhi in the Contemporary World:
Perspectives from India and North-East India**

**Organized by
Centre for Gandhian Studies and Research
2-3, November 2017, Nagaland University, Hqrs: Lumami**

Concept Note

Modern world has created enough disorder to humanity in its pursuit for more development and advancement. Today, words like ‘Capitalism’ and ‘Globalization’ have become major buzzwords in the contemporary world that have brought about tremendous changes in the outlook of the human society both in the West and East. Though it has ushered countless good to the humanity, nevertheless its demerits are enormous. The spirit of capitalism a relentless effort towards maximization of profit from limited resources is causing an immense suffering to humanity which has resulted in the form of class division, social unrest, conflict and competition and environmental degradation all around the world. Today, every nation is in a race for economic advancement and development in its own right. Even the most powerful and developed country joins the race for more riches and more power. Indeed, the unlimited appetite of the contemporary world in all fronts has led the resources of this finite world endangered on the one hand and on the other hand it has led modern society into an ocean of sufferings which is full of conflicts both in the macro social level and micro individual level thus resulting in a disharmonious world. India and India’s Northeast are not an exception to this phenomena.

In the race for economic development and political power in the international arena, India even after 71 years of independence, still have half of its population living under poverty. The spirit of capitalism has only made India more divided between the poor and the rich. Huge chunks of educated youth are left unemployed. It must be clarified here that Gandhi was not against the idea of industrialization, but against this unpalatable scenario, the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi is critical here when machine replaces human labour in the production process and left human jobless. Many social, economic and political theories explain the contemporary world problem but no theory is sophisticated enough to point the solution created by itself.

Gandhi once said “the earth is capable to satisfy human needs but not human greed”. It must therefore be stated that human suffering and misery, environmental depletion and global warming, social divides between rich and poor all these are structurally generated problems of modern society and is caused due to insatiable greed of the modern world.

Gandhi believed that “*truth and untruth often co-exist; good and evil are often found together*”. When two lies wage a war against each other it’s the bigger lie that wins, the one with greater violence takes away the booty and the more intense hatred that becomes the victor, but only untruth prevails. Violence persists and hatred glorified the Vedantic philosophy of “*asatoma sadgamaya*” which subjugates to the engulfing darkness. The significance of Gandhian philosophy is indispensable here when “*satya*”, “*ahimsa*” and “*compassion*” come into play and helps in restoring the light to the darkening world.

Gandhi's idea of *swadeshi* which talks of "production for neighbours" if applied to the world at large with his theory of "*antyodaya*" or "*the last man*" which speaks of providing every individual with the basic necessities can negate the effects of globalization by ensuring everyone fruits of developmental process. Gandhi was in favour of the self-sufficient village economy with sustainable development because to him India is a land of villages and if villages prosper India prospers.

In the light of the above a multi-disciplinary thrust of the seminar would focus on the relevance of Gandhi in the following five sub-themes:

1. Gandhi and Contemporary World Order.
2. Gandhi in the Age of Globalization.
3. Gandhi and Global Environmental Problem
(*Global warming and climate change in particular*).
4. Gandhi and Sustainable Development.
5. Gandhian Techniques in Contemporary Problem Solving
(*socio-political, cultural-economic and environmental*).

Organizing Committee

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SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACT:

The abstract may be sent to this email address. cgsrnulumami@gmail.com

FORMAT FOR ABSTRACT:

It should be in MS Word format using Times New Roman (12 size) font with around 300-350 words mentioning the details on contributor's name, email ID along with title of the paper.

IMPORTANT DATES:

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| Last date for abstract submission | 30 th September 2017 |
| Intimation for acceptance | 5 th October 2017 |
| Submission of full paper | 20 th October 2017 |
| Accommodation on request | 20 th October 2017 |

HOW TO REACH:

Nagaland University, Lumami is 22 km away from the nearest town Mokokchung. The nearest railway station is Mariani, which is approximately 85 km away from Mokokchung and nearest airport is at Jorhat town in 136 km away from Mokokchung town. Tata Sumo services are available from Jorhat/Mariani to reach Mokokchung town in the morning and afternoon. One can also reach to Mokokchung town by bus from Guwahati city in an overnight journey.