

Prof. Siby K George:

Dr. Siby K George is Associate Professor of Philosophy in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. His areas of interests are in development philosophy and ethics, and he has a curious interest in contemporary Indian moral, social and political debates. He has published his works in various international journals and has authored *Existential Authenticity* and is the co-editor of *Tribe, Culture, Art*.

Participation Guidelines:

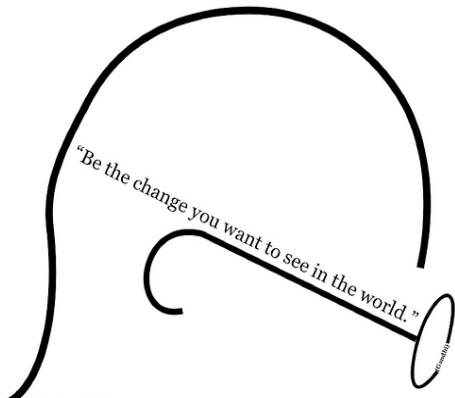
The seminar is being organized for the distinguished faculty members of all colleges located at the Smt CHM campus. As one of the key objectives of the programme is to provide invaluable international exposure to the academic fraternity of the college, it is also being kept open to the research and PG students for participation with prior registration. Participants are required to send their applications in the enclosed format to **Dr. Deepa Mishra, Chairperson, International Programme Committee, Smt CHM College** or **Prof. Hitasha Rohra (Coordinator), Assistant Professor, Dept of BC Accounts and Finance, Smt. CHM College**.

The last date for registration is 16th August 2012.

For any other query please contact :

Dr Deepa Mishra, Chairperson, International Programme Committee: mshrdp@yahoo.co.in

Dr. Kavita Harisinghani, Director, Gandhian Studies Centre: bajajkp@rediffmail.com



Organising Committee:

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To: Head of the Department

Please circulate this flyer among the teachers, research scholars and students of your department. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Smt Chandibai Himathmal Mansukhani College,
Ulhasnagar**

**One-day Seminar
on**

*Reformulating Mahatma Gandhi's Philosophy:
Non-Violence, Modernity and Postcoloniality*

Organized by

***International Programme Committee
in collaboration with
The Gandhian Studies Centre***



on

25 August 2012

Time : 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Venue : Conference Hall-1

Principal: Dr. (Mrs.) Bhavna Motwani
Smt. Chandibai Himathmal Mansukhani College
Opp. Railway Station, Ulhasnagar-421 003
Email: ipcchm@gmail.com
Tel: 0251-2731869
Website: www.chm.edu

About Smt. CHM College

Established in 1965 under the aegis of **Hyderabad (Sind) National Collegiate Board**, **Smt CHM College** is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in University of Mumbai. The college, which is based in the demographically important suburb of Ulhasnagar, has an enrollment over **11 thousand students**, spread across **undergraduate, postgraduate, Ph.D and professional courses**. The college is devoted to excellence in teaching and research. Our objective is to encourage students to explore ideas, challenge boundaries, investigate fresh ways of thinking, and stimulate their minds intellectually and creatively. Through the creation of **08 distinct departments for professional education**, a useful differentiation has been made between 'Professional' and 'Conventional' courses, bringing about some granular focus into the college curricula. At the same time, the research ambience in the college has gone through significant enrichment by the opening of **06 Research Centres** in the domain of traditional education, taking academic engagement to both national and international levels. The scholars enrolled for Ph.D. in these centres not only get the invaluable opportunity for meaningful face-to-face interaction with eminent academic personalities, the learning for both the faculty and the students at large gets continuously enhanced as a result. The formation of an '**International Programme Committee**' in the college in accordance with the vision of our **Principal Dr.(Mrs) Bhavna Motwani**, is a significant step to further consolidate our efforts.

A Brief Outline of the Seminar:

Mahatma Gandhi, one of the most valued and celebrated thinkers and political activists of the twentieth century, continues to remain a subject of intense debate amongst scholars and critics. The appropriateness of his philosophy and ideas in the context of the contemporary world order has fuelled maximum amount of academic turbulence. Critics, in the name of pragmatic assessment, often view the Gandhian approach as utopian, naïve, negative and even irrelevant in today's context. A contemporary Gandhian with complete loyalty to Gandhian values and a belief that Gandhi's philosophy is ever-relevant often finds

himself isolated. Even most of the admirers of Gandhi, who strongly believe that he brought about a paradigm shift in the human value system in the late nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth centuries, are gripped with a peculiar dilemma in appreciating the challenges posed by Gandhi for today.

This seminar is an effort to appraise the relevance of Gandhi in a fresh way. The mistake that we often do is to typecast Gandhian values in one static, essential, ahistorical and non-contextualized framework, whereas the honest reality is that there is no absolutely true view of Gandhian philosophy. Gandhian ideas continue to rediscover their relevance with the passage of time. We must be cognizant of the dynamic relation that holds between Gandhi's texts, contexts and the open project of interpreting the meaning and significance of Gandhi's life and his philosophy. There is an inherent flexibility in the Gandhian values which allow them to be interpreted differently in each generation, depending upon the context in which such interpretations take place.

Gandhi's conception of non-violence as a way of life is relevant to all times as it is grounded in a deeply felt critique of ideas and ideologies of the European enlightenment. The seminar will look closely at this conception. It also aims at locating Gandhi in the context of the present and to add new instances to his critique of modernity. Unless we understand the nature of this change, we can never put Gandhi's critique in a clear perspective. As pointed out by some contemporary critics, Gandhi, the most revolutionary participant in the anti-colonialist struggle, has not often been cited in postcolonial theories. His notion of self-rule (swaraj) and nonviolent resistance, his critique of capitalist modernity and campaign against caste are crucial modes that radically altered the politics of India's anticolonial struggle. An interesting perspective emerges here by bringing out a parallel between Gandhi and Fanon, both of whom dedicated their lives to social and political movements against colonialism, and by extension, forms of globalization. Though there are some glaring differences between the two personalities, this one day seminar will help us understand the conceptual linkage between Gandhi's and Fanon's philosophical theorization and praxis.

Guest Speakers:

Prof. Douglas Allen: Keynote

Prof. Douglas Allen is Professor of Philosophy and former Chairperson of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Maine in the U.S. A peace and justice scholar and activist, Douglas Allen has been active in the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam/Indochina Antiwar Movement, and many other struggles resisting violence, war, class exploitation, imperialism, racial and gender oppression, and environmental destruction. He has been the recipient of the "Hands of Peace Award" in Maine and the "Scroll of Peace International Award for Peace Research" in India. During 2009-2010, he was in India on a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship to do research on "Mahatma Gandhi and Violence, Terrorism, and the Contemporary World." He is often recognized as one of the world's leading scholars in the phenomenology of religion and the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. His recent books include *Myth and Religion in Mircea Eliade* and his edited *Comparative Philosophy and Religion in Times of Terror* and *The Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi for the Twenty-First Century*. Allen's most recent books are *Mahatma Gandhi* (2011) and *Mitsi Religie la Mircea Eliade* (2011).

Prof. Prafulla C. Kar:

A distinguished international scholar and critic of American Literature, Prof. Prafulla C. Kar has had a glorious academic career spreading a little over five decades in both India and abroad. Connected with many foreign institutions in various capacities, Prof Kar retired as the Professor of English at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda. He is currently the Director of Centre for Contemporary Theory, and Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics and Other Human Sciences, Baroda. Prof Kar has won the highly prestigious 2012 Caribbean Philosophical Association's Nicolas Guillén Award for Philosophical Literature. The award's committee voted for Professor Kar in appreciation of his "extraordinary contribution to the study of the humanities in India and the impact of his work across the globe." The committee also noted his "role in the growing cultivation of dialogue across the Global South through the institutions he has developed such as the Centre for Contemporary Theory, the Journal of Contemporary Thought, and the annual conferences that have in recent times brought in the voices of the Caribbean."

Registration Form

Smt Chandibai Himathmal Mansukhani College, Ulhasnagar

One-day Seminar
on

*Reformulating Mahatma Gandhi's Philosophy: Non-Violence,
Modernity and Postcoloniality*

organized by
International Programme Committee
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Date : 25 August 2012
Time : 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Venue : Conference Hall-1, Smt. CHM College, Ulhasnagar



- Name : _____
- Department : _____
- Name of the College : _____
- E-mail ID : _____
- Cell Phone No. : _____
- Signature : _____
- Date : _____

For any other query please contact **Dr Deepa Mishra**, Chairperson, International Programme Committee:
mshrdp@yahoo.co.in