

International Conference on
Mahatma Gandhi's Vision and
Contemporary Political Leadership in North East India

Organized by
International Centre for Gandhian Studies
University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, India

5th – 6th October, 2018
Venue: USTM Campus, Khanapara, Ninth Mile, Meghalaya

1. Concept

Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation has inspired generations, not just in India but all over the world to walk on the path of peaceful resolution of conflict. Martin Luther King Jr., Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Aung San Suu Kyi are just to name a few who have acknowledged the influence of Mahatma Gandhi in shaping them. With the massive build up of instruments of mass destruction, the mankind is facing a real threat of total annihilation. In this context, the life and vision of Mahatma Gandhi is more relevant today than ever before, especially in the arena of peace and conflict resolution.

Till recently, people of rest of India looked at North East India as a conflict prone zone. However, the region is unique in more ways than one. The North East India is the only area that has seen different political parties in power; from the Communists, to the Congress, to the Janata Party, to regional parties, to alliances, and recently to the BJP. Every political party has had a share of ruling different states (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim) in North East India since independence. The rise of Bharatiya Janata Party in the region in the last few years has now given an exciting opportunity to scholars, academicians and political scientists to have a relook at the development paradigm in the region and compare and contrast with the goals set out at the time of independence. As such, it is now an appropriate time to have a relook at Gandhi's vision vis a vis the ideology and realization of his vision in the region, more specifically to critically examine the role of different political parties in furthering his vision.

Nation-states across the world focus on 'newness', 'change', and 'innovation' in the development path. Globalisation and internet presents additional opportunities to reinterpret and recast Gandhian thought to the modern times. In addition, it also brings increased mobility, both capital and human beings, in the economy. As such, the process of transformation in the North East India initiated and carried forward by different governments presents an opportunity to analyse, compare, contrast and evaluate the extent of realization, if any, of the Gandhian vision. As the experience of different state governments under different political dispensations and ideology shape our future in the region, the impact of such ideology in the integration of the region in the national and world economies assumes importance.

As we grasp the reality of development in this era of globalisation and attempt to address it, a critical evaluation of the work done till date and the future of that path will help scholars, policy makers and activists to have a fresh look at the crucial issues that affect the region. As a surge of regional innovation pockets continue to be strong in the region, the International

Centre for Gandhian Studies in the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, India is organizing this seminar to understand the past and discuss a future paradigm. More specifically, the seminar will attempt to understand whether the development efforts has proved beneficial to the regional and national sectoral aspirations, what key drivers in a Gandhian context needs to be identified and reformulated, how successful the academics, policy framers and political parties have been achieving the developmental goals, and the options and challenges to build a sound developmental paradigm in North East India.

2. Dates

Two day seminar on 5th and 6th October 2018. Detailed programme of the event will be circulated in due course.

3. Theme (Not limited to)

- Peace and Conflict
- Rural Economy
- Cooperative Federalism
- Social Cohesion
- Cattle Protection
- Industrialization
- Infrastructure Development
- Political Ideology
- Religion and Society
- Gender Issues in Society
- Law and Justice
- Cultural Nationalism
- Media and Social Change
- Ethics and Morality
- Decolonization
- Hind Swaraj
- From Swaraj to Suraj

4. Mode of Presentation

Paper presenters are invited to make presentations on any key theme. The duration of the presentation for selected papers will be for 20 minutes. This will be followed by questions time. Foreign Delegates who cannot participate in person can send video presentation or the organizers may be able to have Skype presentation. Video presentation will be played in the course of the conference.

5. Guidelines for Authors

Submission of Manuscripts: Authors are strongly encouraged to submit manuscripts electronically. Manuscripts should be sent electronically via email to Rani Pathak Das, or on disk to Prof Alaka Sarma, Pro Vice Chancellor, USTM. If submitted as a disk, the manuscript should be prepared using MS Word and the disk should be clearly labelled with the authors' names, file name, and software program. A hardcopy printout that exactly matches the disk

must also be supplied later. A Committee will review the abstracts and full papers and information regarding acceptance, modification, rejection and presentation shall be communicated to the authors subsequently. Selected presented papers in the conference will be published as a publication in book form / conference proceeding with ISBN number.

Note: Foreign delegates, who are unable to attend, can also send their video presentation via E-mail which will be screened during the conference. They also will be given certificates and papers will be published in reputed publications.

6. Guidelines for Abstract and Full Paper:

Papers are invited from the foregoing field's academicians, social activists, research scholars and policy makers on any of the above mentioned themes. However, the above list is not exhaustive and scholars can submit papers on any other related field related to Gandhian studies. The abstract and full text of the paper should be sent to the conference coordinators. The guidelines for submission of abstracts and full papers are as follows:

i) Abstract: The abstract should not exceed 250 words. It should include title of the paper, the author's name, designation, institutional affiliation, contact address, contact number, E-mail ID. Authors are requested to kindly send the abstract through E-mail to the ID given below latest by July 31, 2018.

ii) Full Paper: The length of full paper including tables, diagrams, illustrations, references, etc. should be around 7000 words. The full paper should be in English and typed in MS-Word in Times New Roman with font size 12 pt. and 1.5 spaced. References/Notes should be given at the end of the text as end notes. The selected full version of papers should be submitted in soft copy latest through E-mail to the ID given below by September 15, 2018.

iii) Declaration: Each manuscript must be accompanied by a statement that it has not been published elsewhere and that it has not been submitted simultaneously elsewhere. Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to reproduce copyrighted material from other sources. All accepted manuscripts, artwork, and photographs become the property of USTM. All parts of the manuscript should be typewritten, 1.5 spaced, with margins of at least one inch on all sides. All pages of the manuscript must be numbered consecutively throughout the paper. Each article should have a heading that reflects the essence of the paper and must be summarized in an abstract of not more than 250 words. Please avoid abbreviations, diagrams, and reference to the text in the abstract.

iv) Illustrations: Illustrations submitted (line drawings, halftones, photos, photomicrographs, etc.) should be clean originals or digital files. Digital files are recommended for highest quality reproduction in at least 300 dpi or higher sized to fit on journal page. Colour illustrations may not be considered for publication.

v) Tables and Figures: Tables and figures should be clearly titled with a clear legend and any footnotes suitably identified below. Captions should be typed, double-spaced, on a separate sheet.

vi) References and Notes: All references and notes must conform to APA style.

7. Keynote / Lead Speakers:

USTM is in touch with a number of internationally reputed scholars, academics and activists from India and abroad to participate in the conference. We are awaiting their final confirmation.

8. Registration Fee

For Academicians and others :	Rs. 1500.00
For Foreign Delegates :	US \$ 50.00
For Research Scholars :	Rs. 1000.00
For Student Paper Presenters :	Rs. 250.00.

9. Mode of Payment

- a) Online Transfers (or)
- b) Direct Deposit in the bank account (or)
- c) Demand Draft drawn in the favour of “**University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya**” payable in bank account as follows:

Bank Details

- **Bank Name** : **AXIS Bank**
- **Account Number** : **911010060610980**
- **Branch Code** : **001297**
- **IFCI Code** : **UTIB 0001297**
- **MICR Code** : **781211007**

Important: Kindly mail the proof of the payment (Scanned copy) details and Registration (Scanned copy) form to: icgsconf2018@gmail.com or WhatsApp the photo to: 98540-33679

10. Travel / Accommodation

USTM is not in a position to pay fare to out-station participants whose papers are accepted for presentation. However, limited moderate accommodation and local hospitality will be arranged to outstation participants.

11. Outcome

The present seminar would also take up panel discussions on the central theme which attempts to review the international conference and hope to develop a latest paradigm for understanding the causal issues that affect the North East India, especially in the context of continuous cyclical struggles. The USTM will bring out a publication volume with ISBN of selected papers after a process of peer review process. The conference proceeding will be of high quality that will be published by reputed publisher and will be used by research scholars, academicians and policy makers as source for various purpose.

12. Conference Organizing Committee

Some of the members are as follows.

Chief Patron : Sri Mahabul Haque, Chancellor, USTM
Vice Chief Patron : Dr. R. K. Sarma, Vice Chancellor, USTM
Advisor : Prof. U.C. Sarma, Srimanta Sankar University of Health Sciences.

13. Contacts:

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14. About the University

The University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) is the first State Private University on Science & Technology in the entire North East India, sponsored by ERD Foundation, Guwahati, India. The University is being established in a picturesque landscape surrounded by tranquil greenery in Assam-Meghalaya border just one km from G S Road, Baridua, 9th mile, opposite to CRPF Camp, Ri-Bhoi District of Meghalaya. It is about 85 kms from Shillong, the Capital of Meghalaya & 6 kms from Dispur, the Capital of Assam. The campus is well connected by Rail & Air which is only 15 kms from Guwahati Railway Station & 48 kms from Guwahati International Airport.

The University has been established under the provisions of the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya Act (No.6 of 2008) enacted by Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya and notified vide Gazette Notification No LL(B)87/2008/21, dated 02.12.2008 of Government of Meghalaya. The University is empowered by the University Grants Commission, to award degrees as specified by the UGC under section 22 of the UGC Act, 1956. USTM has also received necessary approval from AICTE, New Delhi; NCTE, ERC, Bhubaneswar & Bar Council of India to run MBA, B.Ed. & LLB/BA LLB courses respectively.

With more than two years of focused study on the educational needs of the region by leading Academicians, Scientists and a group of Vice Chancellors and educational administrators of the region, USTM has started its systematic academic process in the year 2011. The University is dedicated to the cause of high quality science, technology and Social Science education and advanced research in frontier and relevant areas. Innovation, invention and

entrepreneurship remain the cardinal focus and thrust of the University. Facilities are being offered with this long term goal with special focus and thrust on the science and technology needs of this region with a view to strengthen the nation building process. Creating the best graduates who can think, innovate and invent remain the all time driving force of USTM. The University is directing all its efforts to create and nurture human resource to foster relentlessly the economic and social development of the region in an inclusive manner. USTM offers UG, PG courses & PhD under its different schools viz.

- School of Business Sciences
- School of Biological Sciences
- School of Applied Sciences
- School of Social Sciences & Humanities
- School of Engineering & Technology
- Prof Qoumrul Hoque School of Education
- University School of Law & Research

For more details of USTM, please visit <http://www.ustm.ac.in/>