On 26th July 1942, in the Harijan he wrote, “My idea of village swaraj is that it is a complete republic, independent of its neighbours for its own vital wants, and yet interdependent for many others in which dependence is a necessity. Thus, every village’s first concern will be to grow its own food crops and cotton for its cloth. It should have a reserve for its cattle. Recreation and playground for adults and children. Then, if there is more land available it will grow useful money crops, thus, excluding ganja, tobacco, opium and the like. The village will maintain a village theatre, school and public hall. It will have its own waterworks, ensuring clean water supply.

My purpose is to present an outline of village government. Here, there is perfect democracy based upon individual freedom. The individual is the architect of his own government. The law of non-violence rules him and his government. He and his village are able to defy the might of a world. For the law governing every villager is that he will suffer death in the defence of his and his village’s honour...”. He further said, “My idea of self-sufficiency is that villages must be self-sufficient in regard to food, cloth and other basic necessities. But even this can be overdone. Therefore, you must grasp my idea properly. Self-sufficiency does not mean narrowness. To be self-sufficient is not to be altogether self-contained”.

Entire humanity, today, is in the grip of an unprecedented global pandemic posing multiple challenges, especially to the global economy due to global slowdown with its multiplier effect. This economic disruption has resulted in sharp declines in private consumption, investment and international trade to a great extent, followed by aggravated trade tensions between major world economies which have already caused some shifts in supply chains. Beyond 2021, global companies may consider a range of options including moving supply chains closer to their markets and building redundancies. Even many countries have started to encourage domestic production of essential goods. Japan’s recent announcement of 220 billion yen ($2 billion) as fiscal support for domestic companies to reorganize their supply chains seems to be such an effort underway. At this hour of the global crisis, the Gandhian concept of Gram Swaraj (village self-rule/autonomy) seems to be very relevant for restoring peace and prosperity across the nations. The time has come when policy makers and planners should rethink over the Gandhian concept for utilization of natural and human resources for creating a self-sufficient local/village economy with its interconnectivity at the global level. To begin, India’s recent initiative of Atma-nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) is a significant step, calling for its effective implementation and enhancement in the countries like India predominated with village life. Therefore, a discourse on the Mahatma’s concept assumes an intrinsic and instrumental significance in the given context of COVID pandemic, its global effects and a vision for the world of self-reliant people in the post-Covid times.

There will be no registration fee for the participants. Live web-sessions will be conducted through Google Meet Platform. The number of seats will be limited.
### PATRONS

- **Chief Patron**
  - **Prof. Dilip Ch. Nath**
    - Vice-Chancellor
    - Assam University
    - Silchar, India

- **Patrons**
  - **Prof Abhik Gupta**
    - Pro-Vice Chancellor
    - Assam University
    - Silchar, India
  - **Prof Prasad Gollanapalli**
    - Managing Trustee
    - Gandhi King Foundation
    - Hyderabad, India
  - **Prof Clayborne Carson**
    - Martin Luther King Jr
    - Research & Education Institute
    - Stanford University, USA

### SPEAKERS

- **Christian Bartolf**
  - Educational and Political Scientist
  - Berlin, Germany

- **Ela Gandhi**
  - Member of Parliament, South Africa
  - (Grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi)

- **Paul Bueno de Mesquita**
  - University of Rhode Island

- **Dr. Scham Pandya**
  - Centre of Science for Villages Wardha
  - Maharashtra

- **Prof. Anand Kumar**
  - Social Activist & Former Professor
  - Jawaharlal Nehru University

- **Dr. John Chelladurai**
  - Dean of Studies from Gandhi Research Foundation
  - Jalgaon, Maharashtra

### ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- **Prof. Gopalji Mishra**
  - Chairperson

- **Prof. G. Ram**
  - Organising Secretary

- **Prof. Niranjan Roy**
  - Coordinator

- **Dr. Debotosh Chakraborty**
  - Joint Coordinator

### PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16/10/2020 (6.00-8.00 PM)</td>
<td>Inaugural Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17/10/2020 (6.00-10.30 AM)</td>
<td>TECHNICAL SESSION-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Inaugural Programme

- **Welcome Address**
  - Prof. Niranjan Roy, Coordinator

- **Introducing the Webinar**
  - Prof. G. Ram, Organising Secretary

- **About Gandhi King Foundation**
  - Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli

- **Special Address**
  - Christian Bartolf, Germany

- **Inaugural Address**
  - Smt. Ela Gandhi, Member of Parliament, South Africa

- **Keynote Address**
  - Prof. Paul De Mesquita, University of Rhode Island

- **Address by Guest of Honour**
  - Prof. Abhik Gupta, Pro Vice Chancellor, Assam University

- **Presidential Address**
  - Prof. Dilip Ch. Nath, Vice Chancellor, Assam University

#### TECHNICAL SESSION-1

**Theme:** Decentralization – The Essence of Gram Swaraj

- **Chair**
  - Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli, India

- **Speaker**
  - Dr. Scham Pandya, Wardha

- **Vote of Thanks**
  - Dr. Debotosh Chakraborty, Assam University

#### TECHNICAL SESSION-2

**Components of Gram Swaraj**

- **Chair**
  - Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli, India

- **Speaker**
  - Prof. Clayborne Carson, Stanford University

#### TECHNICAL SESSION-3

**Message of COVID-19**

- **Chair**
  - Prof. Anand Kumar, JNU, India

- **Speaker**
  - Dr. John Chelladurai

### For Registration click below link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScK2GeEzMsiosx2nBMgt87GJ56f16BQbK5v63vE1A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScK2GeEzMsiosx2nBMgt87GJ56f16BQbK5v63vE1A/viewform)

*Note: The last date of registration is 17/10/2020 till 11:59 AM. The seats for the programme are limited. E-certificate will be provided to the participants.*

*For any query please contact: Prof. Niranjan Roy, Co-ordinator of the Webinar, Cell: 91-9435074619*