



Two-Day International Webinar

October 16-17, 2020

on

UNDERSTANDING GANDHIAN GRAM SWARAJ AND ITS RELEVANCE IN POST COVID-19 WORLD

Organized by
Assam University
in Collaboration with

Gandhi-King Global Initiative Stanford University, USA

&

Gandhi-King Foundation, Hyderabad, India

NOTE ON THE WEBINAR'S THEME

After returning from South Africa Gandhiji developed his ideas on Indian villages from his direct experiences. He was convinced that as the soul of India lived in villages, so if the villages perished, India would perish, too, and it would be no more India. He strongly emphasized that rebuilding of the nation could be achieved only by reconstructing villages. So he gave a call to the people to go back to villages for village reconstruction. He envisioned self-reliant villages, free from exploitation and fear, as an important part of the decentralized system.

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

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

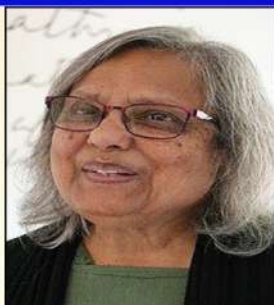
SPEAKERS



Christian Bartolf
Educational and Political
Scientist, Berlin, Germany



Paul Bueno de Mesquita
University of
Rhode Island



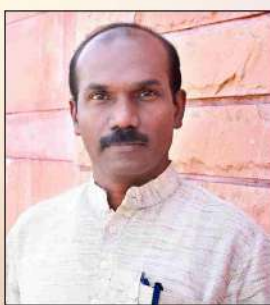
Ela Gandhi
Member of Parliament,
South Africa
(Grand-daughter of Mahatma Gandhi)



Dr. Soham 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. Niranjana Roy
Coordinator



Dr. Debotosh Chakraborty
Joint Coordinator

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Dates and Standard Time as per Indian Calendar

Date and Time	Event	Speakers
16/10/2020 (6.00-8.00 PM) 6.00 PM	Inaugural Programme	
	Welcome Address	Prof. Niranjana Roy, Coordinator
	Introducing the Webinar	Prof. G. Ram, Organising Secretary
	About Gandhi King Foundation	Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli, Managing Trustee Gandhi King Foundation
	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
	7:15 PM	TECHNICAL SESSION-1
Chair		Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli, India
Speaker		Dr. Soham Pandya, Wardha
Vote of Thanks		Dr. Debotosh Chakraborty, Assam University
17/10/2020 (8.00- 10.30 AM) 8.00 AM	TECHNICAL SESSION-2	Components of Gram Swaraj
	Chair	Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli, India
	Speaker	Prof. Clayborne Carson, Stanford University
	9:00 AM	TECHNICAL SESSION-3
Chair		Prof. Anand Kumar, JNU, India
10:00 AM	Speaker	Dr. John Chelladurai
	Valedictory Session	
	Chair	Prof. Gopal Ji Mishra, Assam University
	Report of the Webinar	Prof. Niranjana Roy
	Special Address	Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli
	Valedictory Address	Prof. Clayborne Carson, Stanford University
Vote of Thanks	Dr. Debotosh Chakraborty	

For Registration click below link :

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSck2GEleZmUskx2nBMgBL907Dj8zgJlaniXOdgCaSn1v53vEA/viewform>

meeting link will be sent to registered participants. The last date of registration is 14/10/2020 till 4 PM. The seats for the programme are limited. E-certificate will be provided to the participants.

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