

About the University

The University was established as Nagpur University on 4th August 1923 with six affiliated colleges and 927 students. By 1947, the number of students had increased to about 9,000, offering significantly more subjects. The library and sports facilities expanded during these years. In 1958, departments in arts and social science opened and in 1963, several additional science teaching departments were added. These departments were moved to buildings on the main campus in 1972 and 1973. Career-oriented courses were later introduced in fields such as business management, fine arts, mass communication, library science and physical education. In May 1983, the University was divided to form Amravati University. In 2005, the university was renamed Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, and in September 2011 the university was again divided to create Gondwana University.

Department of English

Department of English was established in 1958. It offers Post Graduate Course in English. Besides, the department promotes research activities. Thus, department is the centre for teaching, learning and research activities. In addition to English Literature, the department offers American Literature, African-American Literature, Comparative Literature, Dalit Literature, Films Studies, etc. The university has recently introduced the semester pattern, and the syllabus so designed is in perfect sync with the new pattern. The new pattern offers the students ample opportunities to choose the subjects that interest them most.

Nagpur City

Nagpur is the third largest city and winter capital of the Indian state of Maharashtra and has been proposed as one of the Smart Cities. It is the seat of the annual winter session of the Maharashtra state assembly. It is a major commercial and political centre of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. In addition, the city is an important location for Deekshabhoomi, where Dr. B. R. Ambedkar embraced Buddhism in the year 1956 alongwith his massive followers. It is famous for oranges and hence known as the Orange City for being a major trade center of oranges cultivated in the region. The city was founded in 1703 by the Gonds King Bakht Buland Shah of Deogarh and later became a part of the Maratha Empire under the royal Bhonsale dynasty. The British East India Company took over Nagpur in the 19th century and made it the capital of the Central Provinces and Berar. After the first reorganisation of states, the city lost its status as the capital. Following the informal Nagpur Pact between political leaders, it was made the second capital of Maharashtra.

The Genesis of Symposium

Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Global Non-violence has been marking the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The book project *Reflections on Mahatma Gandhi: The Global Perspectives* edited by Professor Terry Beitzel in association with Dr. Chandrakant Langare, Shivaji University, Kolhapur (India) is a part of the same commemorative event. Similarly a 2 day symposium on Mahatma Gandhi at Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Nagpur University is organized to revisit to see the relevance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi against the backdrop of Global Crisis characterized by religious fundamentalism, terrorism and intolerance in the 21st century.

About the Symposium

The period from 1920 to 1950 has been characterized by the Gandhian ideology. Gandhian literature and philosophy is one of the important manifestations of the socio-cultural and philosophical process of India and the world. These discourses hold many ideological pathways. For Gandhian scholars it is a major concern and task to identify them and relate them to the holistic body contemporary situation and worldly chaos. The period was marked by intense nationalism, a strong sense of unity in diversity, social reform, need for communal harmony, practice of 'Ahimsa' or nonviolence, social reform, modernization of the traditional socio-religious values, search for 'Truth', and a spirit of the dissent augmented by 'Civil - Disobedience' and 'Ahimsa'. It should be noted that the Indian Literature and philosophy of the period was succinctly reflected the consciousness rooted in Gandhian ideology. Gandhiji was a major source of inspiration to the scholars and people of entire world. Gandhian nationalism was embraced with many trends of Leftist and Socialist ideologies. Today, we are living in the world of uncertainty and chaos. The nations across the globe are trying to promote culture of peace and nonviolence. Gandhism has become a proven source of worldly peace and nonviolence. It is a need of an hour to remap and rethink Gandhian ways of restoring global peace and harmony. There is a chaos in the realm of human thought and Gandhian ideology is like 'as old as hills' to redress the tension and worldly impasse.

Venue

The Conference Hall, Pharmacy Department
MJF Academic Campus



Patrons

Prof. S. P. Kane, Vice Chancellor, RTM Nagpur University

Academic Advisors

Prof. Vinayak Deshpande, Pro Vice-Chancellor, RTM Nagpur University
Prof. Pramod Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, RTM Nagpur University

Convener

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Dr. Raju Hiwse, Finance and Accounts Officer, RTM Nagpur University

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Dr. Ravi Khangai, History Dept. RTM Nagpur University
Prof. Shailendra Lendhe, Marathi Dept. RTM Nagpur University
Dr. M. K. Pandey, Hindi Dept. RTM Nagpur University
Dr. Jitendra Wasnik, Public Administration, RTM Nagpur University
Dr. Kapil Singhel, Govt. Institute of Arts & Social Science, Nagpur
Dr. Ashok Borkar, Dept of Sociology, RTM Nagpur University
Mr. Pramod Watkar, Gandhian Thoughts, RTM Nagpur University

Resource Persons

Ramchandra Pradhan, Institute of Gandhian Studies, Wardha
Siby Joseph, Institute of Gandhian Studies, Wardha
Sangeetha V., Periyar University, Salem
Prakash Joshi, H.G. Central University, Sagar
Sabita Tripathi, Sambalpur University, Odisha
Kamlakant Roul, University of Delhi
Sunil Sawant, K. V. College, Wai (Satara)
Charu Mishra, Kirodimal College (PG auto), Chattisgarh
Prakash Pawar, Shivaji University, Kolhapur
Arvind Jadhav, Y. C. Institute of Science, Karad
Tripti Karekatti, Shivaji University, Kolhapur

Resource Persons (Virtual Session)

Talat Ahmed, University of Edinburgh, UK
Tom Berendt, Temple University, USA
Barry Gan, Bonaventure University, New York

Symposium Advisors

Lord Bhiku Parekh (Former Professor), London School of Economics
Professor Arun Gandhi, USA

Keynote Speaker

Terry Beitzel,
Director of Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Global Non Violence
Professor of Justice Studies
James Madison University, Harrisonburg, USA



Two Day International Symposium
on
Reflections on Mahatma Gandhi: The Global Perspectives
04-05 March 2020

organized by

Department of English & Gandhian Thoughts
RASHTRASANT TUKADOJI MAHARAJ NAGPUR UNIVERSITY

in association with



Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Global Nonviolence
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY, USA

