

**International webinar series organised by Mahama Gandhi Center for
Conflict Resolution and Peace studies.**

Mahama Gandhi Center for Conflict Resolution and Peace studies, of the Department of Philosophy, Lady Keane College, Shillong organised along with North East India Institute of Social Sciences and Research (NEISSR), Dimapur, Nagaland, Peace Chanel of Nagaland, St.Xavier College, Jaluki, Nagaland an international webinar series on the theme

"Spirituality, Satyagraha and Pragmatism: New Dimensions in Gandhian Philosophy" in September, 2021. In its inaugural session on 18th September, 2021 at 9.30 a.m Shri.Remel Decruse, the then Principal in-charge, Lady Keane College,Shillong welcomed all the resource persons ,dignitaries and participants formally to the webinar . In the keynote address Prof.Rakesh Chandra, Head, Department of Philosophy, Lucknow University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India exhibited in an elaborate way the relevance of Gandhian pragmatics in contemporary India. Civil and passive resistance, which has occurred in various forms throughout history, has become particularly prominent in the last few dacades infact the past one century itself. Three great overlapping causes— decolonization, democratization, and racial equality—have been advanced by campaigns of civil resistance characterized by extensive use of nonviolent action. So have many other causes: workers' rights, protection of the environment, gender equality, religious and indigenous rights, defence of national cultures and political systems against foreign encroachments, and opposition to wars and weaponry. Civil resistance was one factor in the ending of communism and subsequently the long fought silent and Cold War. The world today shows a lot of interest towards this mode of non violent, practices both for its epistemological and pragmatcal concerns.

In the academic session that followed

Dr.Michael Myers,Professor Emeritus,Washington State University,Pullman, Washington USA,presented his paper entitled 'Gandhi, Jainism and Ahimsā' and Dr. Prasenjit Biswas ,Associate Professor,North-Eastern Hill University ,Shillong also presented his paper on the theme 'Gandhigiri as a way of Life:Swaraj of the mind'. Both the scholars pointed to the limits in the acceptance of opposing views and returns to the example of nonviolence in setting out these limits. Hate speech, for example, fails the criterion of nonharming. Ahimsā, therefore, is found useful as a principle of ethics both for formulating plans of constructive social action and for determining limits in our social dialogue. Dr.Deben Sharma, Assistant Professor ,NEISSR,Dimapur ,Nagaland ,India proposed vote of Thanks.

The second session of the series was held on 25th September, 2021. Dr.Fr.C.S.Francis, Principal of St.Xavier College, Jalukie, Nagaland, India welcomed formally all the resource persons, dignitaries and participants to the webinar. Chairperson of the session was Prof.Xavier Mao, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India. In the academic session Dr.Christian Bartolf, President, Gandhi Information Center ,Berlin, Germany ,

Nicholas F. Gier ,Professor emeritus,University of Idaho,Moscow,USA, Ananta Kumar Giri,Professor Madras School of Development Studies,Chennai,Tamilnadu,India and Gianluigi Segalerba,former teacher ,University of Vienna,Austria presented their papers mainly focusing on Gandhian pragmatics , the Indian Tradition, and also Deep Ecology.

Dr.Fr.C Anto ,Director ,NEISSR ,Dimapur proposed vote of Thanks.

In the third session on 2nd October, 2021 Prof.Meera Chakraborty, Professor, Jain University,Bangalore was the chairperson. In the academic session Prof.Joe Campbell,Professor,Washington State University,Pullman,USA ,Dr.P Milan Khangmacha,Manipur University ,Imphal,Manipur,India and Smt.Samiksha Goyal ,Monash University,Australia presented their papers. After a threadbare discussion on the papers Dr.S Varghese, the Co-ordinator presented concluding remarks with vote of Thanks.

There were 110 registered participants which included professors,research scholars and Post Graduate students and also Under Graduate students and teachers from different colleges of the town and different parts of the state also the region and country in general.