



Report of Lecture Series

On

NATION, ICONS, & PEACE



Submitted by
International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies (ICGPS)
Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University,
Gandhi King Foundation, Hyderabad &
RGNIYD, NE Regional Centre, Rajiv Gandhi University Campus

March, 2021

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Organizing Committee



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Dr. Prasanta Kumar Nayak, Deputy Coordinator, ICGPS, RGU

Acknowledgements

We are thankful to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of RGU, Prof. Saket Kushwaha for his unwavering support and continuous motivation without whom planning an International Conclave that too in blended mode (both in online and offline), would not have been possible. His guidance and encouragement have contributed immensely in enduring learning to thrive against this globally challenging and unprecedented time of COVID-19. The moral and material support received from the office of Vice Chancellor have been more than instrumental and it is worth acknowledging the highest contribution of his highest office in successful organization of this programme for disseminating the message of national icons and also promoting the cause of peace at local and global level.

Grateful acknowledgements are also due to the learned Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Amitava Mitra for his continuous guidance and insightful motivation in hours of need and also the Registrar, RGU Dr. N.T. Rikam for his ever so welcoming gesture, guidance, affection and support along with his enormous contributions in the organization of this programme. Prof. Tana Showren, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, RGU deserves due acknowledgement who as guide and mentor has always been a motivating factor behind all our initiatives and hence, heartfelt thanks are also due to him. Prof. S. K. Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs and Prof. Oken Lego, Dean, Faculty of Languages also deserve our sincere acknowledgements for their insightful guidance, support and co-operative approach towards successful organization of the three day programme. We offer our sincerest gratitude to Shri Prasad Gollanapalli, Managing Trustee of Gandhi King Foundation for his highly efficient and encouraging session which has been instrumental in contextualizing the deliberations. Our sincere and heartfelt gratitude are also due to our distinguished, decorated and learned resource person Shri Narendra Bhaduria, Senior Journalist; for his willingness, consent and most importantly thought-provoking, informative, skill oriented and insightful sessions during the lecture series.

Our enormous gratitude are due to Heads of various Departments especially Anthropology, History, English, Education, Sociology, Social Work, Fine Arts & Music, Director, IDE, NCC Unit

RGU, and RGNIYD, North-East Regional Centre, RGU Campus for their lively participation and immense contributions towards successful organization of the three day national event.

Our heartfelt thanks to participants, younger colleagues, development professionals, research scholars, social scientists and social workers who have enriched our programme through their lively and active participations who also deserve our sincere acknowledgements and this is to put on record that we value the association of each and every participant as a key stakeholder in realizing the vision of the programme. In the end, a big thanks to each one of you going through this report for your interests and acknowledgements of our efforts towards acknowledging national icons for building a peaceful and progressive society.

Convenor, Three Days Lecture Series

1. About the University and ICGPS

The University

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh located at the picturesque tabloid of Rono Hills approximately 25 km away from the state capital Itanagar. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the University on 4th February 1984 at Rono Hills. Ever since its inception, the University has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfill the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The University was recognized as a Central University in the year 2007 established under the Act of Parliament. Being the only Central University of the State at present there are Twenty-Six (26) Departments and Two (02) Institutes functioning under Nine (09) Academic Faculties. The Faculty members have been actively engaged in research activities. The University has been maintaining its academic excellence. The students from the University are contributing at significant positions not only in State and Central Government Services, but also in various Institutions, Industries and Organizations.

About the International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies (ICGPS)

The Department of History has completed 40 (forty) years of its existence in May 2020. Since its inception it has been successfully implementing its mission of providing quality and innovative education and carrying out research activities with thrust on innovation. Prior to the present location, the Department had been functioning since 1980 in Jawaharlal Nehru Government College at Pasighat, which was taken over by the erstwhile Arunachal University (now Rajiv Gandhi University) in 1988 from the Punjab University. Now the Department offers M. Phil. & Ph. D programmes on regular basis along with the Postgraduate programme. Apart from conventional areas it is giving special emphasis on the studies related to border trade, British-tribe relations, East and South East Asian Studies, North East India, Religious History, Women Studies, Buddhist Studies, Traditional Institutions and Oral Traditions. The prominent members who have contributed to the growth of the Department over the years include Prof.

Tamo Mibang (former VC, RGU), Prof. J. L. Dawar, Prof. P. K. Mandal, Mr. Ramachandran, Prof. Pritish Acharya and Prof. B. Tripathy (presently VC, Utkal University of Culture, Bhubaneswar). The Department also runs an International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies for the promotion of Gandhian values and ideas.

2. Programme Objectives

The precise programme objectives of lecture series are specified as below:

1. To disseminate ideas about India as a nation;
2. To revisit national icons who played roles in nation building processes;
3. To acquaint and familiarise the younger generations with the ideas of national icons;
4. To promote the ideas of Truth, Non-violence and Peace;
5. To carry on the legacies of national icons through such kind of lecture series.

3. Resource Persons

The Lecture series witnessed two renowned speakers namely Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli, Gandhian Scholars, and Shri Narendra Singh Bhaduria, Senior Journalist.



**Prof.
Prasad Gollanapalli**

Gandhian Scholar
GKF, Hyderabad



**Shri
Narendra Bhaduria**

Writer, Columnist
and Senior Journalist

4. Programme Beneficiaries

The intended target audience included every person who is directly or indirectly concerned about Gandhian principles and national icons and peace. The lecture series aims to directly benefit students, research scholars, academicians, social scientists and social workers.

5. Modus Operandi

The Programme was organized in the blended mode. Google Meet platform was used for Online broadcast whereas nearly 100 participants attended the event in person i.e. in offline mode.

6. Day Wise Deliberations

6.1. First Day: 18 March, 2021

International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies (ICGPS), Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), in collaboration with the Gandhi King Foundation, Hyderabad and RGNIYD (NERC) located at RGU organised a lecture series on 'Nation, Icons and Peace' from 18 to 20 March 2021. This was the first in the series. The idea of organising this has its roots in the very existence of the centre which believes in promoting and inculcating the ideals of a democratic order in society based on Gandhian Values of Truth, Non-violence and Peace. It is not about history alone that 'Nation, Icons and Peace' matters. Rather subject matter pervades across all disciplines and subjects. It was natural that many departments such as Departments of Anthropology, Education, English, History, Social Work and Sociology of Rajiv Gandhi University; and organisations like Gandhi-King Foundation (GKF), Hyderabad and Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), North East Regional Centre, Rajiv Gandhi University Campus; and units like NCC, Rajiv Gandhi University were associated in the event and its organization.

The three-day programme also included, apart from academic sessions, a poetry session with students from the Departments of English and Fine Arts and Music as well as reading excerpts from Gandhi's own writings by the students of the Departments of History and Education of the university.

On the inaugural day of the programme on 18 March 2021, Sh. Narendra Bhadauria, a writer, columnist and senior journalist and an internationally acclaimed and well-known Gandhian

scholar, Prof Gollanapalli Prasad delivered their inaugural lectures on Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Mahatma Gandhi respectively. Sh. Bhaduria had joined the event online and had his deliberations in online mode from Lucknow while Prof Gollanapalli Prasad was present physically at the venue.

Welcoming the guests Prof S N Singh, Convenor and Coordinator of the International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies, Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University recalled about history as a continuous dialogue. On the occasion, he remembered Mahatma Gandhi and other national icons and their contributions towards making of present India.

Shri Narendra Bhaduria, writer, columnist and senior journalist talked about Gandhi's achievement and contributions towards India's struggle for independence. He applauded the idea that most of the political parties in India today continue to appreciate and follow Gandhi's ideology. In his lecture on Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Shri Bhaduria said that Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay not only gave a new direction to society but also gave importance to human sociology. He connected the human development with the development of universe. Shri Bhaduria reminded the audience that Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay lamented the fact that contemporary Indians do not understand the essence of India's past and its rich heritage. He agreed that icons of the Nation have very many commonalities which needed to be highlighted.

Prof. Gollanpalli Prasad, Managing Trustee and Secretary of the Gandhi King Foundation, Hyderabad said that, "to understand Gandhi's life one life is not enough." He exhorted the audience to cultivate Gandhian principles for a better-self. Gandhi and his ideas are there in our everyday life, and that we should try to 'be the change you wish to see' as Gandhi had advised. Gandhi never organised people on cultural, religious or communal lines; he believed in the nationality of the Indians.

Prof. A. Mitra, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University pointed out that we should think about rural development as it was emphasised by Gandhi. The idea of self-sufficiency and 'Vocal for Local' are part of Gandhi's ideas.

The presidential address was delivered by Prof Saket Kushwaha, Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University. In his address he expressed his gratitude to the distinguished speakers to dwell upon the ideas of the Icons of the Nation who would always remain relevant for the society and keep inspiring the future generations of youth and children. He expressed satisfaction over the fact that India has fortunately many icons who played their roles in the nation building. The need of the time was to revisit them to learn from them. He stressed that “we need to follow and appreciate the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi in making of the present world” which was more needed in contemporary times. He said that people should not only read and discuss Gandhi’s ideologies but inculcate the principles in their day to day life. Ego was an impediment and it should be discarded in our day to day lives. Prof Kushwaha also stressed on the point that we need to follow and appreciate the ideas of Gandhi in making of the present world. Prof Saket Kushwaha lauded the work being undertaken by the International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies and expressed his hope that it would make its foot prints visible in a laudable way.

The first day programme came to an end with Dr. P K Nayak, Deputy Coordinator of the Centre proposing the vote of thanks. Over hundred participants attended the programme.

The programme came to an end with National anthem.

Painting Completion for School Children

On day one itself as part of the three-day event, a painting competition was organized in the morning on the theme ‘Life of Mahatma Gandhi’ at the Government Secondary School in the RGU campus. The winners of the competition were Ankush Paul (Class 10), Netro Biswakarma (Class 10) and Chate Marina (Class 10) respectively. The co-ordinator of this programme was Dr K C Mishra, Head of the Department of English. Prof Gollanapalli Prasad, who visited the venue of this competition and was highly impressed by the number of students who had participated in the event.

6.2. Second Day: 19 March, 2021

On 19 March, the second day of the lecture series was dedicated to a lecture on “Sahid Bhagat Singh” and his role and ideas as an icon in the context of the Indian freedom struggle. Prof. Gollanapalli Prasad was the speaker on the occasion.

RGU Pro-VC Prof Amitava Mitra, who presided over the session, in his address, dwelt on the contributions of Sahid Bhagat Singh and his role in the success of the freedom struggle, and his respect for Mahatma Gandhi, whose method of non-violence he said he considered to be “the most appropriate method of resisting the colonial dispensation.”

Prof Prasad, who was the main speaker on the occasion, spoke on Sahid Bhagat Singh, his ideas and his impact on shaping the modern Indian collective imagination. He further elaborated the ideas and ideals of Bhagat Singh impacting the youth of India “to help rebuild a syncretized nation to achieve self-sufficiency and its due place in the international community.”

Referring to an MoU signed with the GKF, RGU Registrar Dr N T Rikam said that “it will bring out more collaborative research activities to unearth significant roles the important national icons have at different times played to secure freedom for us and to give us a proper blueprint for nation-building in the post-independence phase.”

Prof Ashan Riddi, Head of the Department of History, also spoke on the contributions of the Department of History in conceptualizing and materializing the establishment of the centre, “whose meritorious involvement in roping in international scholarship on Gandhian non-violent methods for a peaceful world deserves appreciation.”

The lecture was followed by a question-answer session wherein a deep involvement of participants from different age groups was visible.

The session came to an end with a vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Shashank K Yadav, Head, Department of Sociology. The programme came to an end with National anthem.

6.3. Third Day: 20 March, 2021

The three-day lecture series on 'Nation, Icons and Peace', had for its final and third day a session titled 'A conversation with the apostle of truth'. It included book excerpt reading from "The Story of My Experiments with Truth" by RGU research scholars Tokmem Dai (Department of Education) and Geri Koyu (Department of History); poetry reading by Chayanika Saikia (Department of Hindi), poetry reading by Manas Pratim Borah and Akuta Mega (Department of English) on the life of Mahatma Gandhi to exhibit the principles of satyagraha and peace. A real-time live portrait of Gandhi was also made by Hibu Tamo, a fourth semester student from the Department of Fine Arts and Music, RGU. Earlier they had also made a life-size collage on Mahatma Gandhi which had adorned the stage.

Managing Trustee and Secretary of the GKF, Prof Gollanapalli Prasad elaborated the life, vision and mission of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion. He defined the meaning of *himsa* (violence) and *ahimsa* (non-violence) in every aspect of life. He expressed his appreciation of the entire lecture series and expressed his hope that the centre would be able create its footprints internationally visible. The Vice-Chancellor must be having, he added, a bigger plan as he made it an international centre.

RGU Vice Chancellor, Prof Saket Kushwaha, in his address, explained the meaning of 'Nation, Icons and Peace' with relevant examples to the school students. He appreciated the centre and urged that there should be more such lectures to enable understanding and appreciation of our national icons.

RGU's International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies' Coordinator, Prof SN Singh, also spoke and highlighted the importance and significance of the lecture series. Prize and certificate distribution for the drawing competition, held earlier in RGU's campus school, followed.

The programme came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, Head of the Department of Social Work. He extolled everyone who got associated with the

programme right from the inception of idea of lecture series on “Nation, Icons and Peace” till it reached its logical end. The programme came to an end with National anthem.

The three-day lecture series on ‘Nation, Icons and Peace’, organized by the Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies, in collaboration with five departments of RGU, Tamil Nadu-based RGNIYD, Hyderabad (Telengana) and GKF concluded on 20 March with a session titled ‘A conversation with the apostle of truth’.

7. Major Outcomes

The major outcomes of the three day programme:

1. Participants hailing from different departments including faculties, students and research scholars attending the programme in good number in the entire three-day long lecture series speaks of its strength by itself.
2. The programme left an impressive impact on the participants attended.
3. Different programmes such as painting competition on ‘Life of Mahatma Gandhi’ among the school children wherewith a good number participated, poem recitations, reading out excerpts from Gandhi’s Autobiography and collage and live painting of portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, show the objectives of the programme conducted, reach out and impact the youth towards national icons.
4. Deliberations made by esteemed speakers, Prof. Gollanapalli Prasad, GKF, Hyderabad; Naredra Bhadauria, writer, columnist and senior journalist from Lucknow; Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University, Prof. Amitava Mitra, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi University and Dr. N T Rikam, Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University on different aspects of the programme too generated interests among the participants towards a greater cause.
5. The success of the programme is reflected in the sense that the Centre has been assigned to carry forward the lecture series on different national icons and also to work for holding an international conference/webinar on peace.

Annexure

Annexure 1: Programme Schedule



LECTURE SERIES ON

'NATION, ICONS AND PEACE'



Jointly Organised By

International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies (ICGPS)

Department of History, Rajiv Gandhi University;

Gandhi King Foundation, Hyderabad &

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

NE Regional Centre, Rajiv Gandhi University Campus

18th to 20th March 2021

Thursday, 18th March 2021, 02:45 PM onwards
at Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) – Conference Hall, RGU

Friday, 19th March 2021, 02:45 PM onwards
at Mini Auditorium, RGU

Saturday, 20th March 2021, 10:30 AM onwards
at Mini Auditorium, RGU

Day 1: Lectures on Nation, Icons and Peace (Blended Mode)

Thursday, 18th March 2021 ; 02:30 PM onwards

Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) – Conference Hall

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Lecture on Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhaya

by Shri Narendra Bhadauria, Writer, Columnist and Senior Journalist

Lecture on Mahatma Gandhi

by Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli, Gandhian Scholar, GKF, Hyderabad

Co-Coordinators:

Prof. Shyam Narayan Singh ; Prof. Sarit Kumar Chaudhuri

Day 2: Lectures on Nation, Icons and Peace & Interactive Session

Friday, 19th March 2021 ; 02:30 PM onwards

Mini Auditorium, RGU

Lecture on Shahid Bhagat Singh

by Prof. Prasad Gollanapalli, Gandhian Scholar, GKF, Hyderabad

Interactive Session with Faculty members & Students

Co-Coordinators:

Dr. Krushna Chandra Mishra ; Dr. Shashank Kumar Yadav

Dr. Kaushalendra Pratap Singh

Day 3: A Conversation with Apostle of Peace

Saturday, 20th March 2021 ; 10:30 AM onwards

Mini Auditorium, RGU

Gandhi Bhajan by the students of Fine Arts and Music

Book Excerpt reading on Gandhiji

by students of Department of History & Department of Education

Art demonstration by students of Fine Arts and Music

Poetry reading on Gandhi and Non- Violence

by the students of Department of English & Department of Hindi

Co- Coordinators:

Prof. Kesang Degi ; Dr. Prasanta Kumar Nayak

Moyir Riba ; Ashok Barman

Involving the Young Minds

Painting Competition for Children of Govt. Secondary School, RGU

Annexure 2: Photographs







STATE NEWS READERS FORUM EDITORIAL RING SIDE VIEW MONDAY MUSING SPARK



State News

Lecture series held at RGU

March 19, 2021



RONO HILLS, 18 Mar: A lecture series on 'Nation, icons and peace' was organized by the International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies (ICGPS) of Rajiv Gandhi University's (RGU) history department in collaboration with Hyderabad-based Gandhi King Foundation (GKF) and the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth

Development at RGU on 18 March.

Addressing the participants, ICGPS convenor Prof SN Singh termed history a "continuous dialogue." He recalled Mahatma Gandhi and other national icons and their contributions in making the present India.

Senior journalist Narendra Bhadauria spoke about Gandhi's achievements and contributions towards India's struggle for independence. He applauded the idea that most of the political parties in India today continue to appreciate and follow Gandhi's ideology. In his lecture on Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyay, Bhadauria said Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay "not only gave a new direction to society but also gave importance to human sociology."



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State News

Lecture series on 'Nation, icons and peace' ends

March 23, 2021



RONO HILLS, 22 Mar: The three-day lecture series on 'Nation, icons and peace', organized by the Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) International Centre for Gandhian and Peace Studies, in collaboration with seven departments of RGU, Tamil Nadu-based RGNIYD, and Hyderabad (Telengana)-GKF concluded on 20 March with a session titled 'A conversation with the apostle of truth'.

The three-day programme included book excerpt reading from *The Story of My Experiments with Truth* by RGU research scholar Tokmem Dai, poetry reading by Chayanika Saikia from the department of Hindi, poetry reading by Manas Pratim Borah and Akuta Mega (department of English, RGU) on the life of Mahatma Gandhi to exhibit the principles of satyagraha and peace.

Annexure 4: Participants List Making Gandhi Ji Portrait

1. Shri Hibu Tamo, 4th Semester
2. Shri Longam Gongo, 6th Semester
3. Shri Limbi Mele, 6th Semester
4. Ms. Nyaren Chimyang, 6th Semester
5. Shri Marba Kamki, 6th Semester
6. Shri Nanang Nabam, 6th Semester
7. Shri Khambiangbor Lyndoh, 4th Semester
8. Shri Ejum Riba, 4th Semester