



**REGIONAL CONFERENCE**  
on  
**Gandhi's Vision of Peace:  
Addressing Conflict in Northeast  
India**

Organised by  
**Department of Political Science  
ASSAM UNIVERSITY,  
SILCHAR**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**

**Venue: Conference Hall,  
Department of Political Science,  
Assam University, Silchar**



**Chief Patron: Prof. Rajive Mohan Pant  
Hon. Vice Chancellor, Assam University,  
Silchar**



**Chairman: Prof. Tenepalli Hari  
Head  
Department of Political Science,  
Assam University, Silchar**



**Organising Secretary: Dr. Mahan Borah  
Department of Political Science, Assam  
University, Silchar**



**Coordinator: Dr. Moses Kharbithai  
Department of Political Science, Assam  
University, Silchar**



**Abstract**

**Gandhi's Vision of Peace: Addressing Conflict in  
Northeast India**

It is a momentous occasion for India to celebrate the 154th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October, marking a significant milestone in the country's journey towards freedom. While achieving political independence in 1947 was a decisive victory for our leaders, the arduous task of building a progressive and democratic nation still remains. Needless to say, Gandhi's extensive work continues to hold guiding relevance. In every field, Gandhi's ideas and practices help us navigate challenging and crisis-ridden circumstances, such as corruption, lack of political accountability, political violence, hatred, and rural reconstruction.

In the context of North East India, where societies have been grappling with ethnic violence for decades, engaging with Gandhi's ideas on conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and sustaining democratic societies is of crucial significance. Gandhi's philosophy serves as a moral anchor for scholars working on issues of ethnic violence. Therefore, the Department of Political Science is pleased to host a regional-level conference entitled "Gandhi's Vision of Peace: Addressing Conflict in Northeast India" on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Non-violence is the key term, idea, and strategy that enabled the mobilization of millions in the fight for India's freedom. For Gandhi, non-violence was not simply the opposite of violence, nor was it a pragmatic political tool.

Instead, it represented a pervasive human condition that should ideally govern all human relationships and societies. In other words, love should govern all human interactions – a love that is not driven by desire but is akin to a motherly love, free from hatred. Gandhi's idea of non-violence should be understood alongside other ideals such as Satya (truth), Swaraj (self-rule), Swadeshi (self-reliance), Seva (service), and Trusteeship. It is important to engage with Gandhi's conceptual terms when thinking about conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

Secondly, societies have experienced immense violence in the latter part of the 20th century in pursuit of political modernization, including violent mass mobilizations and ethnic and religious conflicts. By the end of the century, these violent mobilizations had subsided for various reasons. However, the task of healing scars and building peaceful societies remains. This requires deep thinking, as mere institutionalization of market protocols does not bring about peace. It requires the restoration of public trust and the building of psychological bonds of friendship and association. In this regard, Gandhi's vast experience in engaging with the colonial state and his reconstructive program is of vital importance.

Thirdly, democratic sustenance and peace go hand in hand with ideals of respect and recognition. Dominance often sustains itself through the misrecognition and erasure of identities, insisting on demeaning accounts of suffering individuals. The complex process of reconciliation and respectful public image-building involves a public dialectic. Gandhi offers a crucial perspective, as he neither insults nor allows himself to be insulted.

The seminar aims to focus on the following themes:

- a. Gandhi's concepts of Satya (Truth), Ahimsa (Non-violence), and Swaraj (Self-rule)
- b. Violence and public strategies for peace building
- c. Violence and social and political reconstruction
- d. Democratic sustenance and peace
- e. Democratic sustenance, misrecognition, and justice
- f. Reconciliation, healing, and building decent societies

## Important Dates:

Abstract submission deadline: 1st October, 2024

Notification of Acceptance: 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024

Seminar Date: 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

## Submission Guidelines

1. Abstract Submission: Submit an abstract of not more than 300 words
2. Send abstract to:  
[mahanborah@yahoo.com](mailto:mahanborah@yahoo.com)
3. Contact No: **6000787552**  
[moses.kharbithai@gmail.com](mailto:moses.kharbithai@gmail.com)  
Contact No: 9863033559

## Who can participate?

Faculty members, Research Scholars, Students and others who are interested on the topic  
The seminar will be held in hybrid mode, accommodating both online and offline participation

Selected papers will have to be developed into full papers within specific time provided and they will be published in Edited Book with ISBN Number.

For further information and inquiries, please contact:

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## About the Department

The department of Political Science, under the Jadunath Sarkar School of Social Sciences, started functioning from 1995. Prof. T. Hari is currently the Head of Department. There are currently 8 faculty members. The Department has adopted NEP since 2022. The objective of the curriculum designed in the department is to train P.G. students thoroughly in all branches of the discipline while also giving emphasis in the NEP course structure, focusing on classical themes and recent development. The course content is wide ranging. The curriculum covers theoretical conceptual and empirical aspects of the discipline. Under the NEP, students are also given access to research and skill-based curriculum. This provides the students with necessary conceptual awareness, research skills and practical knowledge which further enhance their prospect both for undertaking further specialized studies and research activities as well as making them employable in the job market as specially trained to undertake tasks as per the need of the hour.