



ST. XAVIER'S CELEBRATING MAHATMA GANDHI



A SEMINAR AT ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS), MUMBAI

15-16 FEBRUARY, 2019
VENUE: COLLEGE HALL

5, Mahapalika Marg, Mumbai,, Maharashtra 400001

Contact:

awanish.kumar@xaviers.edu / 9167482238

rashmilee.george@xaviers.edu / 9820445628

Celebrating Mahatma Gandhi

In our struggle for independence against the British, Mahatma Gandhi utilized what in Hind Swaraj he called the "soul force" which stood in stark opposition to "brute force" – a feature of western modernity. Soul force manifested in the form of truth and non-violence or, in other words, Satyagraha. Gandhi's Satyagraha and its offshoots: non-cooperation and civil disobedience privileged citizens' right to dissent against injustice. In his worldview, a democracy thrives when we offer the freedom to disagree.

Gandhi's messages of Swaraj, simplicity and service to humankind foregrounded dignity of labour and most importantly unified the Indian masses against the common threat of colonialism. During the partition riots in 1947, Gandhi spoke of, "that ideal which makes us all, Hindus, Sikhs, Moslems, Christians, the sons and daughters of a common Mother India". The following remarks by Gandhi in Harijan are a testimony to his vision of India: "The spinning-wheel rules out exclusiveness. It stands for all-inclusiveness. It stands for all including the poorest. It, therefore, requires us to be humble and to cast away pride completely."

Gandhi's message of ahimsa continues to inspire and challenge people of all races across continents. During the period from 1915 until his assassination on 30th January 1948 he worked unceasingly for India. Gandhi's leadership of the freedom struggle spanned over twenty-five years within a country where diversity was intense. To spearhead a movement, unfalteringly, and to believe in one's conviction of ahimsa in the face of doubts and suspicion was one of the many hallmarks of Gandhi. Taking on the mantle of a country that has myriads of languages and had bare minimum communication technologies, Gandhi led from the front. Frequent imprisonments, house arrests and occasional misunderstanding by one's own were the consequences of being a leader. Leaders across the world such as Martin Luther King Jr and Nelson Mandela, have acknowledged Gandhi's legacy on their work. Gandhi has emerged as an institution to reckon with. St. Xavier's and Gandhi began their independent journeys in 1869. Since then, both in their own way have had a tremendous impact in terms of positively influencing human and social development. St. Xavier's places on record its admiration for a towering personality such as Gandhi because he reflects the values of St. Xavier's: innovation, integration and inclusion [professional innovation, personal integration and social inclusion]. Efforts to empower movements related to social justice and peace-making are common to both Gandhi and St. Xavier's. Therefore, in the 150th year of Xavier's, there could not have been a better personality to discuss than the soon-to-be-150 years Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 1

February 15, 2019

- 9.30- 9.50 AM REGISTRATION AND TEA
9:50 AM SINGING OF BHAJANS
10.00- 10.30 AM WELCOME ADDRESS
DR. RAJENDRA SHINDE (PRINCIPAL)
DR.(FR.) KEITH DSOUZA SJ (RECTOR)
ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE
10.30- 10.45 AM SINGING OF BHAJANS
-

- 10.45- 11.15 AM VIDEO MESSAGE: LORD BHIKHU PARSEKH
11.15- 12.30 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS: GANDHI IN BOMBAY
SPEAKERS: - DR. USHA THAKKAR (PRESIDENT)
MS. SANDHYA MEHTA (RESEARCHER)
MANI BHAVAN GANDHI SANGRAHALAYA, MUMBAI
12.30- 1.30 PM LUNCH BREAK
-

- 1.30- 2.30 PM IN CONVERSATION WITH FR. CEDRIC PRAKASH SJ
(HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST)
2.30- 4.00 PM LEARNING ABOUT LEADERSHIP FROM THE MAHATMA
SPEAKER: ASHUTOSH SHIRKE, YUVAK BIRADARI, MUMBAI
4.00- 4.30 PM HIGH TEA
4.30- 5.30 PM PERFORMANCE BY THE NATURAL STREETS FOR
PERFORMING ARTS, NSPA, MUMBAI

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 2

February 16, 2019

10.30- 11.30 AM

SPEAKER:

LET'S TALK ABOUT GANDHI

DR. PRABODH PARIKH (SENIOR POET AND ARTIST)
RETIRED HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
MITHIBAI COLLEGE, MUMBAI

11.30- 12.00 PM

TEA BREAK

12.00-12.45 PM

SPEAKER:

GANDHI IN THE 21ST CENTURY

DR. NISHIKANT KOLGE
AUTHOR OF GANDHI AGAINST CASTE
CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF DEVELOPING
SOCIETIES, DELHI

12.45- 1.45 PM

LUNCH BREAK

1.45- 2.15 PM

IN CONVERSATION WITH: DR G G PARIKH
VETERAN GANDHIAN, MUMBAI

2.15- 5.15 PM

SCREENING: THE MAKING OF A MAHATMA
DISCUSSION WITH SHYAM BENGAL (DIRECTOR)