

REPORT OF CONFERENCE ON
“Engaging India and Canada: Gandhian Approach to Sustainable Development Goals”
INDIA HABITAT CENTRE, NEW DELHI
April 29, 2019



On the Dias: from left to right: Dr. Prachi Kaul, Director, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute ; Prof. John Reid, Vice-President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute; Prof. Irfan Habib, Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University; Dr. N. Saravana Kumar Joint Secretary , Department of Higher Education, MHRD; Prof. Faizan Mustafa, President & Conference Coordinator , Shastri Indo- Canadian Institute ; Prof. Adrijit Goswami, Member-at-Large, Executive Council, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

On April 29 2019, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute organized a conference titled “**Engaging India and Canada: Gandhian Approach to Sustainable Development Goals**” with support from MHRD, Government of India at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. On the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi deliberations in the Conference focused on an opportunity to bring in his perspectives and values relevant in all seventeen aspects of United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation has inspired generations, not just in India but all over the world to work and adapt to sustainable growth. In this context, the life and vision of Mahatma Gandhi is more relevant today than ever before, especially in the arena of Poverty, Inequality, Consumption and Production, Equality, Sustainable Communities, Environment and overall Well-being.

The conference aimed to impart knowledge among scholars, researchers, young faculty members and students from Gandhian viewpoint and its interpretation and relevance in the contemporary world. It was an effort to bring back and introduce his knowledge, perspectives and ideas to create a better world for today and tomorrow.

The Conference provided a platform for an intensive mix of Lectures on identified SDGs by the eminent scholars and discussions in reference to applicability and adaptability of Gandhian ideology and perspectives to achieve the best and the ultimate outcome as envisaged by United Nations for its Sustainable Development Goals. **(For List of Participants refer Annexure 1 below).**

The Inaugural Session began with the Master of the Ceremony, Prof. John Reid, Vice-President of Shastri Institute welcoming the participants from India and Canada and introducing the distinguished guests. President of Shastri Institute, Prof. Faizan Mustafa highlighted the role of the Shastri Institute in working towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals. President gave an overview of the conference and stated the theme areas of the conference - Poverty, Inequality, Consumption and Production, Equality, Sustainable Communities, Environment and overall Well-being.

Dr. N. Saravana Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Research Development gave the Inaugural address at the Conference. He started his address by talking about sustainability and said that Earth has enough to satisfy everyone's need but not everyone's greed. He added that the idea behind all the seventeen sustainable development goals were that no one should be left behind in the process of development. He asked everyone to think about Gandhiji's principles and practices and bring it in the development. He further highlighted Gandhiji's five principles- Swaraj, Swadeshi, Sarvodaya, Satyagraha and Ahimsa. He added that Gandhiji's principles and teachings were relevant to everyone. He said that Gandhiji did not believe in preaching but practicing, which he said was important and the need of the hour. He highlighted the initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development to celebrate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by holding 150 events abroad on Gandhian Philosophy. He ended his address by appreciating Shastri Institute for being good in organizing events and committed MHRD's support for the Institute. He also wished the conference to be a big success.

Prof. Irfan Habib Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University gave the keynote address on **'Mahatma Gandhi and Issues of Equitable Development'**. He said that simple development is not adequate, but equitable development was necessary for any country. He further said that there is no one Gandhian theory of Society. He highlighted that Gandhiji's own views of social problems and equity changed over time enormously. He spoke about Gandhian views presented in his book 'Hind Swaraj'. He said that Gandhiji was very noble and believed that all religions were same.

The Inaugural session, ended with a vote of thanks given by Prof. Adrijit Goswami, Executive Council Member, Shastri Institute. He hoped that the conference would become a lovely learning experience for all participants.

After the Inaugural session there were six sessions held by fifteen (15) speakers from both India and Canada. **The first session was on 'Reducing Poverty, Reducing Inequalities, Peace and Justice'**, and had four speakers. The topics of their talks were:

1. The Great Global Poverty Debate
2. What We Can Learn from Gandhi to Eliminate the Caste Based Inequalities
3. Gandhiji, Radical Love and Today's Crises

4. Getting to the Root: Gandhi and Our Modern Problems (Video Talk)

The second session on '**Gender Equality**' and had two talks:

1. Truth, not Consistency: The Changing Attitude to Women in Gandhi's Thought and Practice.
2. SDGs and Policy Effectiveness for Gender Equality Case based Learning,

The third session on '**Economic Development/ Responsible Consumption and Production/ Decent work and Economic Growth**' had two speakers. The topics of their talks were:

1. Economic Development, Responsible Consumption and Production
2. Gandhi's Quest for Economic Justice

The fourth session on '**Sustainable Cities and Communities**' had two (2) speakers from Indian and Canadian researchers. Papers were:

1. Sustainable Cities and Communities: Challenges, Prospects and Approaches
2. Sustainable Cities and Urban Habitat: Gandhian Perspective and Indian Experiences

This was followed by fifth session on '**Environment/ Climate Action/ Life on Land**' which had two presentations. These were:

1. Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi for Mitigating Environmental Problems
2. Climate change and sustainable development: What can we learn from Gandhi?

The sixth session on '**One Health / Good Health and Well Being**' and had three presentations:

1. Air Pollution and Health
2. Heart of the Liver
3. Learnings from Gandhi for Healthcare Providers and Sustainable Systems

The Conference ended with **Valedictory Session** where in **Prof. Upendra Baxi**, Emeritus Professor of Law in Development, University of Warwick, United Kingdom and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi addressed all the participants of the conference. Prof. Baxi said that Shastri Institute has deepened global reach and understanding between India and Canada, He spoke about the one thing that India can learn from Canada is the regard for indigenous persons. He said that we need to be aboriginal in our approach to face up the problems of climate change and global warming. He further spoke about the development of citizenship of world to make the world have a common agenda for achieving SDG's. He further spoke that multinationals in both Indian and Canadian societies should be given a role in achieving the SDG's. The President of the Institute, Prof. Mustafa thanked Prof. Upendra Baxi and all the other speakers and participants of the conference. Prof. John Reid summed up the conference discussions held at each of the sessions and also thanked all the speakers and participants of the conference. The conference ended with the formal vote of thanks by Dr. Prachi Kaul, Director of the Shastri Institute.

List of Participants**Speakers**

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Dr. N Saravana Kumar | Joint Secretary (ICC), Department of Higher Education ,MHRD, Government of India |
| 2 | Prof. Irfan Habib | Professor Emeritus, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University |
| 3 | Prof. Neera Chandhoke | Formerly Professor of Political Science, University of Delhi |
| 4 | Dr. Nishikant Kolge | Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) |
| 5 | Shri Harsh Mander IAS(Retd) | Director, Centre for Equity Studies and a Special Commissioner to the Supreme Court of India in the Right to Food case. |
| 6 | Prof. Michael Nagler | President of the Metta Center for Nonviolence, Professor Emeritus of Classics and Comparative Literature at University of Berkeley, California, U.S.A. |
| 7 | Prof. Shireen Moosvi | Former President, Indian History Congress |
| 8 | Dr. Lekha S. Chakraborty | Associate Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy , New Delhi |
| 9 | Prof. Manoj Panda | Director, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi |
| 10 | Prof. Venu Madhav Govindu | Department of Electrical Engineering , Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru |
| 11 | Prof. Madhav G. Badami | School of Urban Planning and McGill School of Environment McGill University, Canada |
| 12 | Prof. R.B. Singh | Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi |
| 13 | Prof. Brij Gopal | Centre for Inland Waters in South Asia (CIWSA) |
| 14 | Prof. Abhik Gupta | Professor and Former Dean, Department of Ecology & Environmental Science, Assam (Central) University |
| 15 | Prof. Randeep Guleria | Director, All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi |

- 16 **Prof. Ritupriya Mehrotra** Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- 17 **Dr. Shiv K. Sarin** Senior Professor and Head, Department of Hepatology Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Science (ILBS) , New Delhi
- 18 **Prof. Upendra Baxi** Emeritus Professor of Law in Development, University of Warwick, United Kingdom and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi

Indian Members' Council

- 19 **Yasser Rafat** Aligarh Muslim University
- 20 **Rajani Ranjan Jha** Banaras Hindu University
- 21 **Balabhadra Tripathy** Berhampur University
- 22 **D. Laura Dameris Chellajothi** Bharathidasan University
- 23 **Suman Kapur** BITS Pilani
- 24 **Asis Kumar Chattopadhyay** Calcutta University
- 25 **Zakia Firdaus** Central University of Gujarat
- 26 **Rama Vaidyanathan** Dr. M.G.R. Educational And Research Institute
- 27 **Harsha Rajwanshi** Gujarat National Law University
- 28 **Jagdish Joshi** Gujarat University
- 29 **K M Baharul Islam** Indian Institute of Management Kashipur
- 30 **Gauri Shankar** Indian Institute of Technology Dhanbad
- 31 **S. R. Mahadeva Prasanna** Indian Institute of Technology Dharwad
- 32 **Manoj Singh Gaur** Indian Institute of Technology Jammu
- 33 **Kunal Ghosh** Indian Institute of Technology Mandi

34	Rohit Sharma	Indian Institute of Technology Ropar
35	Rakhi Chaturvedi	Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
36	Adrijit Goswami	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
37	A. K. Mishra	Indian Institute of Technology Madras
38	Rashmi Gupta	Indian Institute of Technology Mumbai
39	Venkataraman Pandurangan	Indian Institute of Technology Tirupati
40	Kaustabh Ranjan	Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya
41	K. N. Raghavan	Institute of Mathematical Sciences
42	Suchorita Chattopadhyay	Jadavpur University
43	Mukesh Ranjan	Jamia Milia Islamia
44	Monika Sethi	Jammu University
45	Priti Singh	Jawaharlal Nehru University
46	B. Hariharan	Kerala University
47	M. Krishnan	Madurai Kamaraj University
48	Ravishankar Rao	Mangalore University
49	Rajani Prashant Mullerpatan	MGM Institute of Health Sciences
50	Krishnakumar Sinh Chudasama	M. S. University of Baroda
51	Lingaraja Gandhi	Mysore University
52	S. Vijay Kumar	Narayana Medical College
53	Ravi Saxena	Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies Mumbai
54	Faizan Mustafa	National Academy of Legal Studies And Research University (NALSAR)

55	Tanishka Kachru	National Institute of Design
56	Ishrat Husain	National Law University And Judicial Academy Assam
57	Poonam Saxena	National Law University Jodhpur
58	Dhaval Pujara	Nirma University
59	Palok Aich	National Institute of Science Education and Research(NISER) Bhubaneswar
60	Ramanjit Kaur Johal	Panjab University
61	Malavika Deo	Pondicherry University
62	Surita Maini	Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology
63	R. K. Saxena	Sant Longowal Institute of Engineering and Technology
64	V. Ponnusami	Sastra Deemed University
65	Tamma Suryanarayana Sastry	The Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University
66	M. B. Chetti	University of Agricultural Sciences Dharwad
67	Aparna Rayaprol	University of Hyderabad
68	Rahul Tripathi	University of Goa
69	Damanjit Sandhu	Punjabi University

Guests

70.	Prof. A. K. Kapoor	Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi
71.	Dr. Meenal Dhall	University of Delhi
72.	Dr. Renu Tyagi	University of Delhi
73.	Dr. Monika Saini	University of Delhi

74. **Dr. Mary Grace** University of Delhi
75. **Dr. S. Srinivasa Rao** School of Social Sciences (SSS)
Jawaharlal Nehru University
76. **Dr. Smita Jha** IIT Roorkee
77. **Ms. Anamika Gupta** UNESCO MGIEP
78. **Anil Maheswari** Freelance Journalist
79. **Roomy Naqvi** Jamia Millia Islamia
80. **Abhishek** Jamia Millia Islamia
81. **Anand Vikas Mishra**
82. **Megha** TERI/ McGill University
83. **Mr. Owais Farooqi** Jamia Hamdard University
84. **Prof Nandini S Kapoor** IGNOU
85. **Santosh Kumar**
86. **Sushant Ghosh** Jamia Millia Islamia
87. **Vikas Saharan** Jawaharlal Nehru University
88. **Kumkum Dasgupta** Hindustan Times
89. **Maulika Agarwal** Jesus & Mary College

CANADIAN MEMBERS' COUNCIL

90. Prof. John Reid

91. Prof. Mathieu Boisvert

Shastri India office

92. Dr. Prachi Kaul

93. Ms. Zakiya Tasnim

94. Ms. Reshma Rana Verma

95. Ms. Meenakshi Malhotra

96. Ms. Pikee Sharma

97. Ms. Anju Taneja

98. Mr. Manohar Lal

99. Mr. Gokul Joshi

100. Mr. Anil Kumar



PROGRAMME

**CONFERENCE ON ENGAGING INDIA AND CANADA:
GANDHIAN APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**Monday, April 29 2019
The Theatre Hall, India Habitat Centre
New Delhi**

8:45 – 9:15 AM Registration & Tea

INAUGURAL SESSION – 9:15 am-10:35 am

9:15 – 9:20 am **Master of the ceremony, Prof. John Reid,**
Vice-President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

9:20 – 9:35 am Welcome and Overview of the Conference by **Prof. Faizan Mustafa,**
President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

9:35 – 9:45 am Inaugural Address by Dr. N. Saravana Kumar IAS
Joint Secretary (ICC), Department of Higher Education, Ministry of
Human Resource Development

9:45 – 10:25 am Keynote Address by **Prof. Irfan Habib,** Professor Emeritus,
Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University on ‘**Mahatma
Gandhi and Issues of Equitable Development**’

10:25 – 10:30 am Vote of thanks and way forward by **Prof. Adrijit Goswami, Executive
Council Member,** Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute

10:30 – 10:35 am BREAK

SESSION 1 - Reducing Poverty, Reducing Inequalities, Peace and Justice

The Theatre Hall, Time: 10:35 am – 12:00 pm

Title of their Talk	Speakers
The Great Global Poverty Debate	Prof. Neera Chandhoke Formerly Professor of Political Science, University of Delhi
What We Can Learn from Gandhi to Eliminate the Caste Based Inequalities	Dr.Nishikant Kolge Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)
Gandhiji, Radical Love and Today's Crises	Shri Harsh Mander IAS(Retd) Director, Centre for Equity Studies and a Special Commissioner to the Supreme Court of India in the Right to Food case
Getting to the Root: Gandhi and Our Modern Problems	Prof. Michael Nagler (Video Talk) President of the Metta Center for Nonviolence, Professor Emeritus of Classics and Comparative Literature at University of Berkeley, California, U.S.A.
Discussion/QA	

SESSION 2: Gender Equality

The Theatre Hall , Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Title of their Talk	Speakers
“Truth, not Consistency”: The Changing Attitude to Women in Gandhi's Thought and Practice.	Prof.Shireen Moosvi Former President, Indian History Congress
SDGs and Policy Effectiveness for Gender Equality	Dr.Lekha S. Chakraborty Associate Professor, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy , New Delhi
Discussion/QA	

1:00 - 1:45 pm

LUNCH BREAK

SESSION 3: Economic Development/ Responsible Consumption and Production/ Decent work and Economic Growth

The Theatre Hall , Time: 1:45 PM - 2:30 PM

Title of their Talk	Speakers
Economic Development, Responsible Consumption and Production	Prof. Manoj Panda Director, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
Gandhi's Quest for Economic Justice	Prof. Venu Madhav Govindu Department of Electrical Engineering , Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
Discussion/QA	

SESSION 4: Sustainable Cities and Communities

The Theatre Hall, Time: 2:30 PM - 3:15 PM

Title of their Talk	Speakers
Sustainable Cities and Communities: Challenges, Prospects and Approaches	Prof.Madhav G. Badami School of Urban Planning and McGill School of Environment McGill University, Canada
Sustainable Cities and Urban Habitat: Gandhian Perspective and Indian Experiences	Prof. R. B. Singh Department of Geography, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
Discussion/QA	

SESSION 5: Environment/ Climate Action/ Life on Land

The Theatre Hall , Time: 3:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Title of their Talk	Speakers
Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi for Mitigating Environmental Problems	Prof.Brij Gopal Centre for Inland Waters in South Asia (CIWSA)
Climate change and sustainable development: What can we learn from Gandhi?	Prof.Abhik Gupta Professor and Former Dean, Department of Ecology & Environmental Science, Assam (Central) University
Discussion/QA	

3:45 - 4:00 PM BREAK

SESSION 6: One Health / Good Health and Well Being

The Theatre Hall, Time: 4:00 PM - 4:45 PM

Title of their Talk	Speakers
Air Pollution and Health	Prof.Randeep Guleria Director, All Indian Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi
Learnings from Gandhi for Healthcare Providers and Sustainable Systems	Prof.Ritupriya Mehrotra Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Heart of the Liver	Dr.Shiv K. Sarin Senior Professor and Head, Department of Hepatology, Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi (via Zoom)
Discussion/QA	

VALEDICTORY SESSION

The Theatre Hall , Time: 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM

- 5:00 – 5:40 PM Valedictory Address by **Prof.Upendra Baxi**, Emeritus Professor of Law in Development, University of Warwick, United Kingdom and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi
- 5:40 – 5:45 PM Sum up of the Conference and Vote of Thanks by **Prof.Faizan Mustafa**, President, Shastri Indo Canadian Institute