

**National Seminar, 2017**

**On**

**REVISITING CHAMPARAN**

**CHALLENGES OF SATYAGRAHA IN 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY**

**(16-17, Oct 2017)**

Organized by

**Gandhi Study Circle, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Morning & Evening), University of Delhi**

**Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti**

**Indialogue Foundation**

**Concept Note**

The Champaran movement of Mahatma Gandhi marked a revolutionary landmark in the history of India. It was exactly hundred years back in 1917 that Gandhi introduced to the Indian polity a unique methodology of taking on oppression with a force more powerful than all the physical might put together. Gandhi called it Satyagraha. It was through deliberation, public engagement and persuasive power that Gandhi took upon the task of addressing the grievances of rural masses in Champaran.

The Champaran satyagraha was the first struggle that Gandhi undertook on Indian soil after his incredible 20-year long movement for the defence of Indians' rights in South Africa. It was followed quickly by the Ahmedabad workers' strike against indigenous mill owners and by the Kheda Satyagraha against revenue enhancements, both in 1918; and then the all-India April satyagraha of 1919 against the Rowlatt Acts and, finally, the non-cooperation and Khilafat movement of 1920-22. It represented a bold and courageous experiments to unshackle farmers from exploitation and substantially improve the agrarian situation. To improve the abysmal living conditions of people in Champaran Gandhi initiated a variety of constructive action programs. These included efforts towards basic education, skill development, empowerment of women, better sanitation etc. At its core the movement stood as an ideal for constructing a social order based on harmony, reconciliation, understanding and deepening of public reasoning.

The Champaran movement will always remain as the crucial starting point for defining a new phase of Indian politics led by unique experience of Satyagraha. The outcome of Champaran heralded the dawn of a non-violent liberation movement in India which gained strength during successive phases of

struggle for independence under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The whole architecture of the Champaran Satyagraha assumes enormous significance in the present context. Today we are witnessing a world of increased turbulence. There has been a spurt in the incidence of violence and conflicts in different parts of the world including India. The polarisation on gender, class, caste, religion has gained unprecedented heights. Satyagraha, despite its fairly wide application, remains inadequately understood today. Revisiting the Champaran therefore becomes crucial and seminal. It is important to seek a fresh inquiry of the complex canvas and narrative of Satyagraha in 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The primary objective of this two day conference is to provide a platform for constructive dialogue and deliberation for academicians, researchers, policy makers, and students on some of the issues and problems posed above.

Some of the broader themes to be discussed include:

- **Champaran Satyagraha 1917 :Reflections from History**
- **Theoretical Basis and Practical Dimensions of Satyagraha**
- **Contextual Explorations on Satyagraha : Class, Caste and Gender**
- **Present Education System and Gandhian Satyagraha**
- **Satyagraha and perspectives on contemporary conflicts and Peace**
- **Nation Building and Satyagraha**

The seminar will be a two-day event starting from October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The seminar will be held in Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi.

### **Convener(s)**

#### **Dr. Sanjeev Kumar**

Assistant Professor  
Zakir Husain Delhi College  
University of Delhi

#### **Sanjay Kumar**

Assistant Professor  
Zakir Husain Delhi College (Eve)  
University of Delhi

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**Call for Paper**

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### **Format, Outcome and Participants:**

- A limited number of participants will be invited for the seminar. Participants are required to send their abstracts (500 words) and a short CV on any of the above themes.
- The proceeding will consist of opening and closing remarks by prominent figures, presentations by esteemed panellists and a question and answer session at the end.
- A summary of the seminar will be published on Indialogue Foundation's official website.
- The selected papers will be published in an edited volume with a reputed publisher.

### **Important Dates:**

- Last date of submission of Abstract: 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- Confirmation of abstracts: 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2017
- Full paper submission: 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017

- Seminar on: 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Registration Fee :**

(Faculty Members: Rs. 1000/-), (Students/Research Scholars : Rs. 500/-)

Abstracts, and the Full paper should be made in the electronic form and sent to  
**[gandhiconferencezhc@gmail.com](mailto:gandhiconferencezhc@gmail.com)**

(Kindly note that no TA/DA will be given to the participants).

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Assistant Professor

Zakir Husain Delhi College

University of Delhi

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