



# UNIVERSITY NEWS

*A Weekly Journal of Higher Education*

**Association of Indian Universities**

Vol. 63 • No. 39 • September 29-October 05, 2025

**Upinder Dhar and Santosh Dhar**

Relevance of Gandhian Principles in the Contemporary World

**Ravipudi Venkata Rao**

Open Access Publishing: Merits, Demerits, Present Status, and Future Perspectives

**Prem Anand Mishra**

Incommensurable Yet Illuminating: A Critical Re-examination of Ethical Encounters between Gandhi and Levinas

**Deeksha Dave**

Greening the Learning: Leveraging Open and Distance Learning to Spread Environmental Education in the Digital Era

**Banwari Lal Purohit**

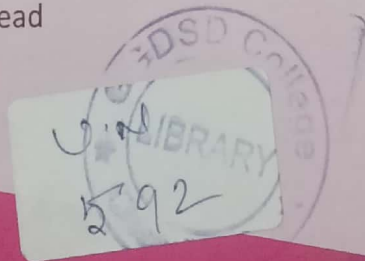
Enlightenment and Equality in Education

– Convocation Address

**T P Rajendran**

An Enchanting Read

– Book Review



In This Issue	
CONTENTS	PAGE
<b>Articles</b>	
Relevance of Gandhian Principles in the Contemporary World	3
Open Access Publishing: Merits, Demerits, Present Status, and Future Perspectives	5
Incommensurable Yet Illuminating: A Critical Re-examination of Ethical Encounters between Gandhi and Levinas	11
Greening the Learning: Leveraging Open and Distance Learning to Spread Environmental Education in the Digital Era	21
<b>Convocation Address</b> Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	27
<b>Campus News</b>	29
<b>Book Review</b> An Enchanting Read	33
<b>Theses of the Month</b> (Humanities)	35
<b>Advertisement</b>	38

**Subscription Tariff**  
(Effective April 01, 2025)

	Inland	
	Institutions	Academics/ Students (at residential address only)
	Rs.	Rs.
1 year	2500.00	1000.00
2 years	4400.00	1800.00

Subscription is payable in advance by Bank Draft/MO/NEFT only in favour of Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi.

**Patron**

Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak

**Editorial Committee Chairperson**

Dr (Ms) Pankaj Mittal

**Editorial Committee**

Dr Amarendra Pani  
Dr Mamta Rani Agarwal  
Dr Youd Vir Singh

**Editor**

Dr Sistla Rama Devi Pani

## Relevance of Gandhian Principles in the Contemporary World

Upinder Dhar\* and Santosh Dhar\*\*

The relevance of timeless wisdom sometimes gets lost in the fast-paced world. However, the principles for which Mahatma Gandhi stood continue to shine as guideposts of hope and wisdom in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With non-violence, truthfulness, simplicity, self-reliance, and compassion at their core, Gandhian principles offer valuable insights into addressing contemporary global challenges. We need to understand why these principles remain essential and how they can contribute to a more harmonious and sustainable world. The value-based principles stand tall even today. The essence of Gandhian principles needs to be absorbed by the youth for a peaceful world.

### Non-violence (*Ahimsa*)

Gandhi's commitment to non-violence goes beyond physical harm; it extends to avoiding emotional, psychological, and societal violence. It emphasises resolving conflicts through dialogue and understanding rather than resorting to aggression. The Indian independence movement led by Gandhi serves as a very good example of non-violence as a powerful force. Through peaceful protests, boycotts, and civil disobedience, India gained independence from British rule in 1947. This event showcased the transformative potential of non-violent resistance on a global scale. Think of the global protests for peace and social justice, where peaceful resistance and non-violent civil disobedience have sparked change. Non-violence is, thus, a tested tool to protest against injustice.

The words of Martin Luther King Jr. echo Gandhi's principles when he said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." In the digital age, non-violence extends beyond physical actions to online interactions. The rise of *cyberbullying*, online harassment, and the spread of hate speech calls for a renewed commitment to *Ahimsa*. Social media platforms can play a role in fostering respectful discourse by enforcing policies against hate speech and promoting positive online interactions. Bullying may not serve the purpose of seeking justice.

### Truthfulness (*Satya*)

Truthfulness forms the foundation of Gandhian philosophy. Embracing honesty and transparency in our personal and public lives can help build trust and promote genuine dialogue. Gandhi's own life was a testament to truthfulness. Acts of civil disobedience, including the famous Salt March in 1930, exposed the injustices of the time, grounded in truth. In today's world, where misinformation and fake news proliferate, Gandhi's emphasis on truth is more relevant than ever. Responsible journalism, with its rigorous fact-checking standards, embodies a commitment to truthfulness. The institutions have learned

\*Former Vice Chancellor, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore and JK Lakshmipat University, Jaipur. Currently, Chairman and Distinguished Professor, People Development Foundation India, 204, Aura-1, Grande Exotica Bicholi Mardana, Indore-452016. E-mail: upinderdhar@gmail.com

\*\*Former Rector and Dean, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya (Indore)