

## Call for Papers (Special Issue)

### **Bridging divisions: Gandhian approach to tribal and ethnic conflicts**

Over the past few months – Manipur, the Northeastern State of India, has been witnessing large-scale violence that began in early May between the Meitei Community, the community that predominately lives in the Imphal valley, and the Kuki-Zo tribal community that predominately and historically live in the surrounding hills. On 05 August 2023, Reuters reported 180 deaths, with thousands of people fleeing their homes, and there have been enormous public and private property losses. However, ethnic violence is not limited to Manipur or Northeastern India alone. In fact, throughout human history worldwide, there have been numerous instances of ethnic conflicts and their ensuing violent consequences. Inter-tribal conflicts have been a recurring issue in pre- and post-independent India. There have been several reasons for these inter-tribal conflicts, including competition over resources, historical grievances (and enmity), territorial disputes, cultural variations, mythological stories, and political disputes. These conflicts have often resulted in clashes, violence, loss of lives, property loss, and forceful displacement. Inter-tribal frictions and conflicts in India have been documented and discussed.

The core value, virtue, and potential strength of Mohandas Gandhi lay in his ability to achieve reconciliation through dialogue and negotiation with the opponents. Over the past few decades, there have been extensive and growing discussions on Gandhi and his relevance in religious harmony, peace, and cooperation. Nevertheless, only limited literature is available on the topics that deal with Gandhian Ideals, Approaches, and Strategies in resolving tribal and ethnic conflicts. Considering this background, the proposed special issue invites research articles/ case studies and perspectives focusing on how Gandhian values, philosophies, principles, and strategies can serve as a transformative framework to address the deeply rooted challenges posed by tribe conflicts. Also, through this collection, we aim to offer valuable insights and actionable strategies to foster reconciliation, inclusivity, and sustainable development in areas grappling with these complex issues.

The authors are invited to submit their work based on the following themes, which are merely indicative and not exhaustive.

- ❖ **Nonviolent resistance, interfaith dialogues, and conflict resolution:** To discuss the potential of nonviolent protest methods as advocated by Gandhi to address tribe conflicts and their effectiveness in promoting peace and reconciliation.
- ❖ **Community empowerment and grassroots movements:** Analysing how Gandhian principles and protest methods can empower Adivasis to mobilize and advocate for their rights and justice in the present and future.
- ❖ **Critiques of the resistance movements:** Critiques of the resistance movements/protests of the ethnic and tribal movements and an examination of their shortcomings through Gandhian ideals.
- ❖ **Tribal displacement and Governance:** To explore the various factors of tribal-related displacement, including developmental projects, land acquisition, and infrastructure development. It delves into case studies highlighting the multiple impacts of displacement and their traditional lives and governance structures.
- ❖ **Resource allocation and land Reforms:** To investigate the potentials of Gandhian ideals in the peaceful distribution of land and resources, particularly in regions with historical land/territory/ related conflicts and historical grievances.

- ❖ **Livelihoods Related Disputes, Resource Conflicts, and Conflict resolution strategies:** To review and discuss specific resource conflicts and examine the competition for limited resources, such as land, water, and forests, among various stakeholders, including tribal communities, government agencies, and private entities. To discuss the conflict resolutions (tribal and ethnic conflicts) in post-independent India inspired by Gandhian thoughts and explore how Gandhian principles can guide equitable resource allocation and land reforms.
- ❖ **Cultural identity and heritage preservation:** To explore how Gandhian principles can help protect and promote marginalized communities' cultural identities and heritage, fostering a sense of pride and belonging.
- ❖ **Social justice and equality:** Examining Gandhi's philosophy and relevance in achieving social and economic justice, bridging tribe and ethnic divides, reducing inequality, and addressing resource and territorial conflicts.
- ❖ **Political Participation, Inclusivity, and Awareness Dissemination:** To analyze the impact of Gandhian values and strategies on encouraging inclusive participation and representation of all Adivasi groups in local governance structures. To discuss the initiatives that draw from Gandhian ideals to promote education and awareness among conflicting tribes and ethnic groups, empowering them to challenge injustice.
- ❖ **Case Studies and Best Practices:** Present case studies and best practices of successful conflict resolution and empowerment efforts guided by Gandhian principles in specific regions or communities.
- ❖ **Challenges, limitations, and Future Directions:** Discuss the challenges and limitations faced when applying Gandhian principles to tribe and ethnic conflict resolution and livelihoods /resource problems. To discuss the potential avenues for further research, advocacy, and action in tribe and ethnic conflict resolution through Gandhian principles and actions.

**Guest Editor: Devendraraj Madhanagopal, Ph.D. Assistant Professor, School of Sustainability, XIM University, Odisha.**

#### **Submission Guidelines:**

- ❖ **Abstract and Manuscript** should be submitted via email to [editorgmarg@gmail.com](mailto:editorgmarg@gmail.com) and put a CC to [devendraraj.mm@gmail.com](mailto:devendraraj.mm@gmail.com)
- ❖ **Manuscripts** should be prepared according to the journal's formatting guidelines. The formatting guidelines and word count details are available here: <https://gandhimargjournal.org/manuscript-submission/>
- ❖ All submissions will undergo a rigorous peer-review process.

#### **Publication Details:**

- ❖ Accepted articles will be published in Gandhi Marg, a reputable and peer-reviewed journal. The special issue is scheduled for publication in April -June 2024 issue (46(1))

#### **Important Dates:**

- ❖ Abstract Submission (**500 words**) Deadline: November 15, 2023.
- ❖ Notification of Acceptance: November 30, 2023
- ❖ Final Manuscript Due: February 29, 2024
- ❖ Publication Date: May 2024.

#### **Contact Information:**

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