

Gandhi-Rama 2012 *A Festival of Art and a Feast of Ideas*

Call for Papers and Participation

Mahatma Gandhi was a man with many facets, and he could be the needed inspiration to humankind. He was a consummate artist and an accomplished craftsman, a resolute scientist and an astute thinker. *Satyagraha*, for example, is an art as well as a science. The Indian Council of Philosophical Research in association with a number of other sister institutions announces the International Event Gandhi-Rama 2012 to discuss the thought and to experience the person of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi during August of 2012 in New Delhi. Gandhi-Rama 2012 is designed to be a kaleidoscope of international and interdisciplinary reflections on the Mahatma, his person and philosophy.

In the world tormented by terror and troubled by the menace of violence and exploitation, Gandhi's message of peace, nonviolence and altruism is a ray of hope. In the storm of globalization that threatens to uproot the face-to-face relations and wipe out individual identities with the rising tides of global corporations, Gandhian ideas of localization and grassroots empowerment may be the support structures we need to restore the lost individual, to hold our identities together and yet work for common good. In the midst of insatiable appetite to consume and the consequent destruction of our natural surround, the simplicity and grandeur of Gandhi's life may be the beacon of light to show the way to conserve and not consume, and how one may be happy without exploiting others.

Gandhi belongs to every realm of human affairs. He has become an archetype in our psyche so that, when we think of him, many images emerge. Again, Gandhi's life, his writings and even his attire are remarkable for their simplicity. They were elegant without being elaborate. They were effective without being pretentious.

Gandhi-Rama 2012 is an occasion to bask in the many faceted glories in Mahatma's life, which could give one a truly transformational experience. The conference would also enable us to examine and explore in a critical and constructive manner the message of the Mahatma in his person and philosophy, which could profoundly influence the future of humankind. As we struggle to cope with a plethora of problems arising from the fast moving pace of physical science and technology and the relative lack of progress in human science, Gandhian way could be a bridge to connect the "outer" and "inner" worlds, as it were. Gandhi-Rama is an honest attempt to depict Gandhi as an icon to inspire and not an idol to worship.

For further details contact: Gandhi-Rama 2012 Secretariat, Darshan Bhawan, 36, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, M.B. Road, New Delhi- 110 062. E-mail: Gandhirama@gmail.com.

