

Event: Bapu in Contemporary Times

Organized by: Department of Political Science

Date: October 5, 2020

Number of Participants: 137

The Political Science Department organized a webinar on October 5, 2020, on the theme of ‘Bapu in Contemporary Times’ to commemorate 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. Pillai started with a famous quote of Gandhi, *“I do not want my house to be walled in all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.”* Dr. Pillai emphasized the challenges being faced by our value system, and how character building should be the first step in this direction, for which we need to acknowledge the importance of Gandhi. He was followed by two speakers: Dr Amarendra Kumar Dubey, distinguished civil servant, and Dr Chandrachur Singh Associate Professor, Hindu College. Dr. Dubey, focussed on how Gandhi navigated the freedom struggle with his virtue of non-violence as potent and far-sighted political strategy. Dr. Dubey referred to various strategies which enabled Gandhi to carry forward the freedom movement in a flexible and target oriented manner. Gandhi redefined leadership by getting legitimacy and acceptance through his methods. Dr. Dubey was followed by Dr. Singh who emphasized how Gandhi was also a victim and beneficiary of the British policy. He pointed Gandhian message of ‘Daro mat’ should be taken seriously in order to overcome the challenges of modern democracy. As the biggest achievement of Gandhi was, legitimacy and validation he got from the civil society domain. Dr. Singh concluded on how we can fight our present issues which demand global attention by creating motivators and connecting our policy matters with Gandhian principles. The webinar was followed by the question-answer session and concluded with the vote of thanks by Departmental student Manik Singh.