

Gandhi at 150

Gandhi, Cambridge and India, Cambridge

The Cambridge event took place at Bateman Auditorium at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, on 7 November 2019, hosted by the University's Centre of South Asian Studies. The event was to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, and the 110th anniversary (to the day – 7 November) of Gandhi visiting Cambridge to address the Cambridge Majlis. The fascinating panel discussion was chaired by Shruti Kapila and the speakers were Romila Thapar, Rajeev Bhargava, Faisal Devji and Saul Dubow who then answered questions from the audience during the second half of the event. We arranged for the discussion to be professionally filmed and edited and attendees were invited back to the Cambridge University Press Bookshop for a wine reception following the event.

The discussion was professionally filmed and edited and is hosted, alongside the footage of the New Delhi event (below), on the Cambridge Core webpage 'Gandhi at 150'. Featured on this page are also a selection of free to read chapters from Cambridge books and journal articles about Gandhi.

The filming and editing came to £627 and it was decided that (due to the pandemic situation and considerations of our financial situation during 2020) we would keep promotions of the 'Gandhi at 150' content page organic. The film and free-to-read content will continue to be promoted, particularly around key dates, to our email contacts and on our social media accounts to celebrate research excellence in the field of South Asian studies and demonstrate strategic collaboration between the University and Press offices.

Gandhi at 150, New Delhi

Cambridge University Press and Cambridge India Research Foundation had organized an event to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in January 2020 in New Delhi, India.

Siddharth Varadarajan, who is one of the founding editors of The Wire, moderated the discussion. The panel consisted of eminent scholars and academicians – Mukul Kesavan, Associate Professor at the Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia; Yamini Aiyar, President and Chief Executive of the Centre for Policy Research; Nishikant Kolge, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies; and Aparna Vaidik, Associate Professor of History at Ashoka University.

Siddharth Vardarajan opened the session with a few words on the contemporary relevance of Gandhi and his vision of the nation. Given his personal experience as a journalist, he has noticed that Gandhi is

very much relevant in the modern day India because of his ideas on civil disobedience, unity, harmony, non-violence, *Swaraj*, and so on. His introductory remarks were followed by the words of Mukul Kesavan. Kesavan talked about the politics of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the opposition of CAA. He mentioned how Gandhi created mass public resistance without violent display of opposition, and how it is visible among the people who were protesting against the CAA. According to him, India has been experiencing a 'Gandhian moment'. Nishikant Kolge talked about the need of more studies on Gandhi's strategies of non-violence and his vision on Hindu-Muslim unity. He emphasized on Gandhi's understanding of the Hindu society, and how his understanding has always been appreciated by people and politicians across the globe. Yamini Aiyar focused on the intersection of Gandhian philosophy and ideas and how important he has been in shaping the lives of individuals across generations. She also spoke about the debates on villages and local self-government. She focused on the present-day movements that grew out of the CAA protests that were holding on to the ideals of Gandhi, making him relevant in today's time. The last speaker of the session was Aparna Vaidik who drew upon her personal experience from the CAA movement. She mentioned that there are elements of his ideals that are appropriated by both left wing and right-wing politics. She closed her statement by giving examples from the anti-CAA protests at Shaheen Bagh, New Delhi and how it reflects on Gandhi's ideals and visions.

The second half of the event was a question-answer session where the audience raised questions to the panelists. The audience shared their thoughts on the CAA movements and the participation of the police. They asked questions on the difference between Nehru's and Gandhi's ideals and how they are different with respect to CAA. The panelists answered all the questions and closed the session by touching upon Ambedkar, non-violence, inclusivity and their roles in shaping a nation.

Budget

A total of GBP 1950.00 was sanctioned for this event. After tax deductions, the amount was equivalent to GBP 1652.60 (INR 154,898.20). The booking of the venue along with the High Tea cost around INR 107,392 (inclusive of taxes). The branding for the event cost around 43,288 (inclusive of taxes). INR 27,966 (inclusive of taxes) was spent on designing, and the printing of invites cost INR 2,912 (inclusive of taxes). A total amount of INR 1,81,558/- was spent for the entire event.