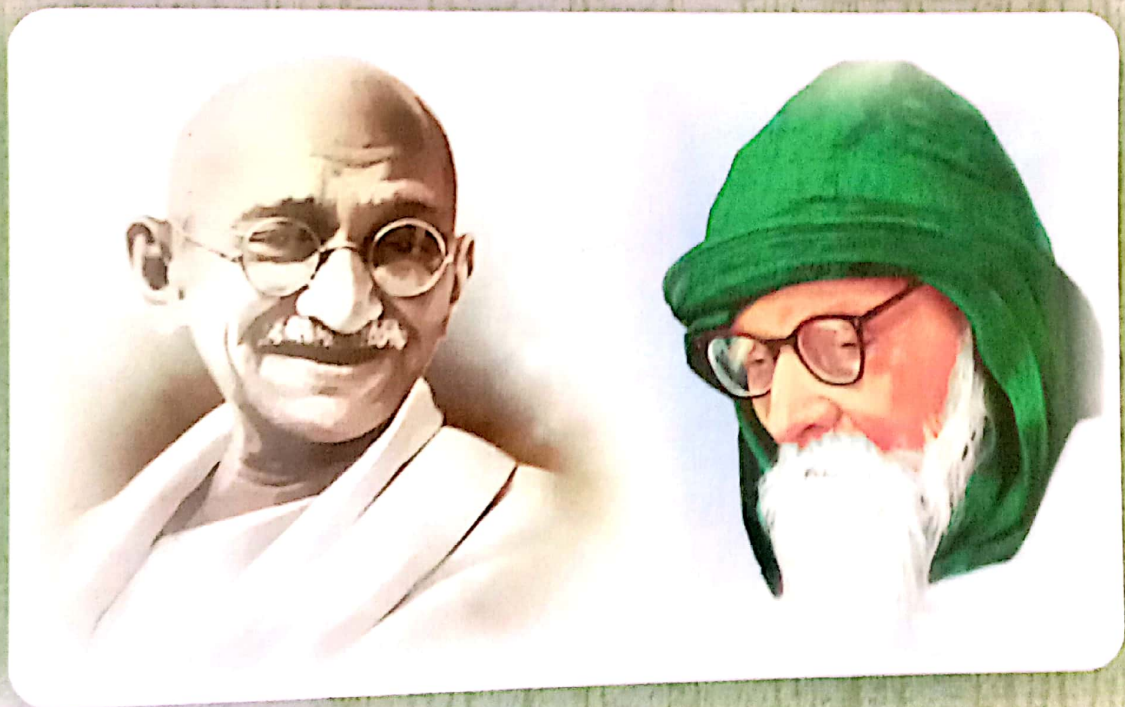


GANDHI-VINOBA

(PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE)



EDITOR

DR. MAYA S. WATANE



■ **GANDHI - VINOBA**

(Past, Present & Future)

Dr. Maya S. Watane

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Index

S.No.	Title of the Paper	Authors' Name	Page No.
1	Mahatma Gandhi's Thoughts on Religion Comprehensive Vision of Religion: A Journey Towards Harmony, Truth, and Social Transformation	Dr. Meenakshee V. Zade	1
2	Global Challenges, Local Solutions: Gandhi's Charkha in the 21st Century	Dr. Lucy James	11
3	Relevance of Gandhian Thoughts in the Context of Modern Development	Dr. Anita Chnadwani	17
4	Gandhi On Women Empowerment	Dr. Sachin A. Bhojar	24
5	Sarvodaya : Bhudan Movement	Dr. Maya S. Watane	30
6	The Gandhian Legacy: From Gandhi to Vinoba and Beyond	Dr. Anita Agarwal	43
7	Mahatma Gandhi's Vision of Religion: A Unifying Force for Humanity	Prof. Hemesh Nandkishor Joshi	52
8	Mahatma Gandhi : Truth and Non-Violence	Dr. Nirajkumar D. Ambhore	60
9	Relevance of Vinoba's Perspective on Ideal Parliament	Dr. Charuta V. Joshi	65
10	Mahatma Gandhi's Non-violence (Ahimsa) and psychology	Dr Gosavi Shubhangi Ravindragir	72
11	Sarvodaya Philosophy of Vinoba Bhave	Prof. Vijay Samadhan Chandane	80
12	Harmonizing Humanity: The Enduring Melodies of Moral Courage in the Lives of Gandhi and Vinoba	Sarthak Satish Thakre	85
13	Bhoodan Movement of Acharya Vinoba Bhave	Dr. D. R. Khanderao	91

Gandhi-Vinoba : Past, Present, & Future

Relevance of vinoba's perspective on Ideal parliament

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ABSTRACT

Vinoba Bhave, a staunch advocate of Sarvodaya philosophy strongly believed that the democracy which was adopted in India after independence was a mere 'formal democracy' borrowed from the West. He suggested numerous ideas through his writings, speeches and movements for making it more responsive and participatory. In this process, according to him revival of Parliament in independent India would be a major step. This paper presents an overview of Vinoba's perception about ideal Parliament which can be a truly representative body and analyses its relevance in the present context. It concludes that Vinoba through these notions has enriched the idea of purification of politics as is proposed by Sarvodaya philosophy.

Key words: Ideal legislature, Vinoba, Political Parties, Parliament

Introduction:

Indian constitution has prescribed the country's political code, federal structure, powers of government and fundamental rights. It has adopted the formal Westminster model of democracy with provisions like representative government, separation of powers, independence of judiciary, judicial review, democratic decentralization, free and fair elections and the like. However, it is threatened that this model of democracy is on the verge of collapse (Mehta, 2023) as it is infected with corruption, criminalization, restrictions on freedom of opinion and dictatorial leadership. It is lamented that through its control of the media, monopolization of campaign finance and harassment of opponents, India seems set on a path to becoming an illiberal pseudo-democracy. (Price, 2023)

Vinoba Bhave, a staunch advocate of Sarvodaya philosophy strongly believed that the democracy which was adopted in India after independence was a mere 'formal democracy' borrowed from the West and lacked the necessary 'substance of democracy'. (Bhave, 1999) To overcome this mere formalism, Vinoba suggested numerous ideas through his writings, speeches and movements for making it more responsive and participatory. In this context, this paper presents an overview of Vinoba's perception about ideal Parliament which can be a