Mahatma Gandhi- The Peacemaker

Why in news?

In an age of increasing globalisation of selfishness, there is an urgent need to practise the Gandhian social and political philosophy in order re-evaluate the concept of peace.

What according to Gandhi is the concept of peace?

> *Peace is the result of a long process of compassionate dialogue and tireless caring across cultural, religious, and political boundaries.*

- Gandhi considered non-violence as an instrument of conflict resolution and universal harmony.
- It was also an essentially moral exercise.
- He viewed non-violence essentially as an ethical commitment and a constructive political action.
- According to him, a nonviolent person is bound to say which side is just, when the occasion arises.
- The most appropriate way to interpret Gandhi's approval of violence over cowardice is to consider him as a consistent thinker on peace.
- Gandhi wrote that he would advise violence where there is only a choice between cowardice and violence.
- But he believed that nonviolence is infinitely superior to violence and forgiveness is manlier than punishment.
- Mahatma Gandhi was attentive of the fact that world peace is not possible without the spiritual growth of humanity.

What was Gandhi's task of the political?

- Gandhi believed that in the absence of a concrete ethical foundation, the political could not function democratically and non-violently.
- For Gandhi, the essential task of the political was to bring moral progress.
- While Hitler believed in eliminating morality from politics, for Gandhi, the moral legitimacy of non-violence is a strategy of peacemaking.
- Gandhi advocated an awareness of the essential unity of humanity that required a critical self-examination.
- He propagated a move from egocentricity towards a shared humanity.

> *Gandhi pointed out that the golden way is to be friends with the world and to regard the whole human family as one.*

Is it possible to keep Gandhi alive and vibrant in our classrooms?

- Gandhi's idea of non-violence was a realistic hope, armed with a dose of practical idealism.
- Gandhi's writings were inseparable from his politico-spiritual experiments, his self-reflections and vulnerabilities, the moral churning he passed through throughout his life.
- A profound truth of Gandhi was that ahimsa or peace would be impossible without sarvodaya, the economic and social development of a community as a whole.
- The richness of inner abundance or soul force was Gandhi's truth.
- Through the creative vibrancy of engaged pedagogy, we need to encourage our students to reflect on Gandhi with authentic politico-cultural and existential-spiritual questions.

References

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