



साहित्य अकादेमी

**Sahitya Akademi**  
Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi

# Festival of Letters 2019

## **National Seminar on Mahatma Gandhi in Indian Literature**

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, calls for abstracts from interested scholars for the National Seminar on "Mahatma Gandhi in Indian Literature" to be held during Akademi's annual Festival of Letters. The Seminar will be held between January 31, 2019 and February 2, 2019 at Sahitya Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, 35 Ferozeshah Road, New Delhi 110 001.

Following are the topics from which interested scholars can choose one and submit abstracts:

1. Gandhi and Democratic Values
2. Gandhi and Women Empowerment
3. Influence of Tolstoy and Ruskin on Gandhi
4. Influence of Buddha and Socrates on Gandhi
5. Gandhi and Romain Rolland
6. Gandhi in Asian Literature
7. Gandhi and African Literature
8. Gandhi as seen by European and American Writers
9. Gandhi and independence movement poetry

Scholars who are interested in presenting papers should send abstracts not exceeding 250 words along with brief CV to reach us before September 30, 2018. The abstracts may be sent via post or by email at [secretary@sahitya-akademi.gov.in](mailto:secretary@sahitya-akademi.gov.in). Only those whose abstracts are selected by an Expert committee will be invited to present papers at the seminar and mere submission of abstracts doesn't guarantee invitation. Final date of submission of full papers is Monday, 31 December 2018.

Secretary  
Sahitya Akademi



Sahitya Akademi

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## Concept Note for National Seminar on Gandhi in Indian Literature

Mahatma Gandhi is without doubt recognized as one of the most influential leaders across the world and a doyen among the makers of modern India. It is not often that one gets to witness a person who inspires millions and ignites a nationwide movement cutting across the divisions of class, region, religion and caste, takes the cultural heritage and the philosophy of the land to the common masses and serves as a spokesman not just of one country but of humanity as a whole.

Not only Gandhi's speeches but his writings too impacted millions who joined the freedom movement at his exhortation. His writings covered almost every aspect of Indian society, politics and culture and he commented on every important subject relevant to human knowledge and action

It is but natural that such a great historical figure influenced many writers in India and abroad and his imprint is still visible in many genres of writing from poetry and fiction to drama and non-fiction . His impact on Indian literature can be gauged from the fact that several biographies of Gandhi have been written in all the Indian languages, the episodes from the freedom struggle he led captured in folktales and folksongs of the country, he is the protagonist of many narratives for children even in this century, plays and films have often been dominated by Gandhi's life and thought and critical discourse on ethics, politics, grass-roots democracy, rural education, women-empowerment, dalit-empowerment etc compulsorily engage with Gandhian ideas and ideals. His writings reinterpreted the Karma theory in the contemporary context, gave a new reading of the Bhagavat Gita and brought a novel focus on Bhakti as a tool of social reform. His ways of thought and action have pervaded popular consciousness to an incomparable degree and the world today looks up to him as a model to emulate, but a difficult model indeed.



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To honour Mahatma Gandhi and to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary celebration of this great son of India, Sahitya Akademi plans to organize a National Seminar on "Gandhi in Indian Literature" featuring eminent scholars and writers from all over the country. In this Seminar the scholars will present papers touching broadly on the above topics along with Gandhi's representations in literatures in Indian languages including English and also discuss various other relevant issues related to Gandhian Thought and Gandhi's general influence on all genres of modern Indian writing, and on our folk literature.