## SEMINAR NO: 50

## NAME\_OF THE DEPARTMENT: POLITICAL SCIENCE

TITLE OF THE SEMINAR: GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHY ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

DATE: 01-03-2023

POLITICA	L SCIENCE ASSOCIATION 2022-23
	Date : March 01, 2023 (Wednesday)
Departm	nent of Political Science & Public Administration St. John's College, Anchal
	Chief Guest : Prof. MICHAEL WARREN SONNLEITNER, PhD (Political Educator and Gandhian Thinker) Portland Community College, USA-
	PROGRAMME SCHEDULE (10:00 am - 12:30 pm)
Welcome -	: Ms. BHAGYALAKSHMI S. (II DC Representative & Political Science Association Secretary)
Presidential Address	: Dr. CHERIAN JOHN (Principal, SJC Anchal)
Inauguration and Keynote	Address : Prof. MICHAEL WARREN SONNLEITNER Political Educator & Gandhian Thinker, Portland Community College, United States.
Gandhi's	Philosophy on Environment and Climate Change
Felicitations	: Mr. Muhammed Shahin A.S. (College Union Chairman)
	Ms. AJMI J.S. (II MA Public Administration Representative)
	Ms. LEKSHMI G.R. (III DC Representative)
	Ms. MANJIMA MADHUSOODHANAN (II DC Representative)
	Ms. ASWATHY K.S. (I DC Representative)
	Mr. AJIL VASUDEV (I DC Representative)
Vote of thanks	Ms. ANJANA SUDHARSHAN (III DC Representative)

## **Report of the Seminar**

The Department of Political Science and Public Administration at St. John's College, Anchal, organized an invited lecture on **'Gandhi's Philosophy on Environment and Climate Change'** on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The chief guest of the program was Prof. Michael Sonnleitner, a renowned professor and Gandhian scholar with over 27 years of teaching experience. He was a Nehru-Fulbright Scholar and a Thomas J. Watson Foundation Fellow. Prof. Sonnleitner extensively travelled throughout India, conducting interviews with individuals who personally knew Gandhi, including VinodBhave, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Morarji Desai, Jayaprakash Narayan, Marjorie Sykes, PyarelalNayar, Nirmal Kumar Bose, and Narayan Desai. He is also the author of the book 'GANDHI AND KING: SOUL FORCE AND SOCIAL CHANGE'.

In his lecture, Prof. Sonnleitner highlighted the importance of Gandhism's emphasis on simplicity and living in harmony with nature, aligning with the ethos of sustainability necessary to combat climate change. He also added that Gandhi's principles of non-violence and self-sufficiency offer a holistic approach to addressing environmental challenges by promoting stewardship of natural resources and reducing consumption. Prof. Sonnleitner stressed the importance of applying Gandhian values to inspire collective action and foster a mindset shift towards prioritizing environmental conservation and ecological concerns. Around 110 students including both BA and MA students of the college participated in the seminar.



