



Kathavachaka (Narrator)
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Introduction

In most of the ancient civilizations, the entirety of knowledge has been passed down to generations by oral tradition. In India, it is called as the 'Katha Parampara.' Katha is an Indian oral tradition and is very popular in religious storytelling way of telling stories, performances of which are a ritual event in Hinduism. It often involves professional storytellers (Kathavachak) who recite Hindu sacred texts, such as the Puranas, the Ramayana or the Bhagavata Purana, followed by a Pravachan (narration). Gandhi Katha is based on the popularity of the oral narrative of the tradition of Katha in India, with hymns and songs to reinforce the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi.



Gandhi Katha draws from the timeless wisdom and the sublime truths of the Bhagawad Gita and presents them as a practical technique of living becoming a source of inspiration to generations of people seeking perfection just as Mahatma Gandhi had done. Gandhi Katha enables people to put their hearts into understanding Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhi Katha is an important activity approved by the National Committee headed by the Hon'ble President of India and the Executive Committee headed by Hon'ble Prime Minister to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi programmes nationally & internationally.

Mahatma Gandhi is the most well-known Indian in the world. He lived according to the messages of Bhagawad Gita -selflessly without attachment and possession in the spirit of *Yagnya*. Gandhiji followed the voice of the *Antararatma* that guided him throughout his life. He felt absolute oneness (*samatva*) with everyone following the higher precept of '*Vasudhaika Kutubakam*'. Gandhiji envisioned a world that would evolve towards peace and harmony-a world where different religions, cultures, and peoples of the world would live together with mutual respect and tolerance, rather than in suspicion and hatred. Mahatma Gandhi's thought and principles on ethics, values, spirituality is a guide for self-management and can guide the people in any part of the world as it has the strength to inspire and bring about change.

Gandhi Katha is the most enchanting and comprehensive exposition on how an ordinary mortal can rise above petty, personal preoccupations to become the extraordinary immortal Spirit in the service of the Humankind. The Katha has generated deep interest worldwide.

Kathavachaka

Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna was born and brought up in Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram in Sevagram near Wardha in Maharashtra. She has cultivated a strong ideological connect with Mahatma Gandhi's ideals since childhood. Since the past two decade, she has attempted different ways of spreading Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy to people in India and abroad by giving lectures, workshops and Gandhi Katha.



Radhakrishna has travelled to 42 countries and presented 148 lectures and Gandhi Katha. During the commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi starting from October 2018, she has visited Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Egypt, Turkey, Bahrain, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Uzbekistan, Russia, Finland, Norway, Estonia, UK, France, Singapore, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary,

Croatia, Slovenia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and presented lectures and Gandhi Katha organized by the respective Indian Missions, cultural centers, Universities and local organizations. She has given the Gandhi Katha in the Upa Rashtrapati Niwas, Raj Bhavans, Raj Niwas, culture institution and other places in India.

Live Streaming of Gandhi Katha

Under the changed circumstances due to the COVID-19 Pandemic from April 2020 onwards, Gandhi Katha is being live streamed by the Indian Missions in 91 countries till October 2020. The duration of the Gandhi Katha is 60 minutes in English along with audio-visual presentation, hymns, bhajans & songs. Various platform like Facebook live, Cisco Webex, Google Meet, YouTube & Zoom have been used by the Indian Missions to host the Gandhi Katha. Many countries have partnered with Universities, Cultural Institutions & Indian Diaspora to reach out to a diverse audience. The social media sites of Indian Missions have carried out the publicity. Gandhi Katha is well-received by the people.



Each Gandhi Katha is contextual and is based on the historical connection and influence of Mahatma Gandhi in that place/country. The Katha focuses on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, his ethical and moral leadership, simple spiritual life, Anasakti Yog, Ashram Life, and learning from Mahatma Gandhi's practices of health and wellness of the body, mind and spirit for coping up and staying safe physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually during and after the Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic which has effected the entire humanity and the need to live together in Peace, in the Gandhian-Way.

Mahatma Gandhi's practical actions are all the more needed in these times of Global pandemic to remain positive and empower people to make practical life changes in the pursuit of serving humanity for which Mahatma Gandhi stands as the role model for all times. Gandhiji used to remain positive under all circumstances. What we learn from Gandhiji's life is that spirituality and religion can play a very significant role in mental health recovery and wellness during Covid-19 pandemic

Mahatma Gandhi's life and thoughts can guide the people in any part of the world and listening to the Gandhi Katha is unique way to finding inspiration from it!

