

First World Youth Conference on Kindness

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***Source:** PIB, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development*

& The Hindu

The World Youth conference was **organized in commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi** and aimed at providing youth with creative, effective methods of engaging and realizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It seeks inspiration from Gandhi's championing of non-violence.

Key Highlights

- The first World Youth Conference on Kindness was **organized by UNESCO's Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Human Resource Development.**
- **The theme** of the conference was '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Gandhi for the Contemporary World: Celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.**
- The conference **aimed to impart critical competencies** (i.e. empathy, compassion, mindfulness, and critical inquiry) in global youth to inspire, empower and enable them to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities.

Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development

- Based in New Delhi, the Institute was **formally announced in November 2012** by the President of India and the Director-General of UNESCO.

- The UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) is UNESCO's category 1 Research Institute that focuses on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7 towards education for building peaceful and sustainable societies across the world.
- In line with its **vision of 'Transforming Education for Humanity'**, the institute's programmes and products are designed to mainstream **Social and Emotional Learning in education systems**, innovate digital pedagogies and to put youth as global citizens at the centre of the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development.
- It is the **first UNESCO specialized education institute in India and the first Category 1 institute in the Asia-Pacific region**.
- The role of the Institute will be to support member governments, provide advocacy, commission research and enhance capacity building.
- The Institute will also **act as a clearinghouse for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Peace Education**. One of its key functions will also be to establish networks and partnerships on ESD and Peace Education.
- To that effect, the Institute will develop a global database and an interactive portal for ESD and Peace Education, engaging with youth in particular.