

**Dear Prof.(Dr.) Sohan Raj Tater, Former Vice Chancellor,  
Singhania University, Rajasthan,**

It gives me immense pleasure to introduce you to India Literacy Board, which runs 'Literacy House' Lucknow. This unique institution was established in 1956 by Late Dr. Welthy H. Fisher who was inspired by the Father of the Nation, whom she met for the last time on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1947, when he had exhorted her to go to the villages of India and work to remove illiteracy.

Shortly after meeting Gandhiji, Dr Fisher returned to America but the advice of Gandhiji kept ringing in her mind. Ultimately, she took the call and returned to India in 1953 and started Adult Literacy Programme in Allahabad and subsequently moved to Lucknow on the invitation of the then Governor Late K.M. Munshi and established the 'Literacy House' in 1956.

Her pioneering work in the field of literacy brought her worldwide recognition. Literacy House became the centre of literacy activities. She inspired thousands of volunteers who came from all corners of the country and from all countries of South East Asia to become 'Soldiers of Literacy'.

Her work was appreciated and Awards from all over the world came pouring, in regular intervals. Some Awards are namely:

1. G.J Watumull Memorial Award (1962)
2. Ramon Magsaysay Award (1964)
3. Award of Ph.D. Degree (Honorary) from Syracuse University (1965)
4. First Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for Adult Literacy (1968)
5. Humanitarian Award of Variety Clubs International, USA (1970)
6. U.S.A. Adult Education Association Award (1974)
7. Mohammad Raza Pahalvi Award of UNESCO (1978)
8. Special Award from USA Government on International Literacy Day (1978)
9. Prof. G.D. Parikh Memorial Award (1982)

10. The Centre for study of Social Change Award(1983)

11. Iraq International Literacy Award from UNESCO (1988)

India Literacy Board plans to commemorate 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and 140<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dr. Fisher. The fortnight long celebration would commence on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019, on the birthday of Dr. Fisher and conclude on 2nd October, 2019.

We propose to organize a two days long Seminar on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September on the theme 'The relevance of Gandhiji in today's world.' The broad theme would try to delineate Gandhiji's contribution in the field of social reform, education, environment, conflict resolution, trusteeship, religion etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to request you to join us as a keynote speaker in one of the sessions. You may choose your subject of address from the suggested areas. A line in confirmation on the subject selected by you to speak may be communicated to me at your earliest convenience.

We propose to publish the papers in book form after the conclusion of the event and would request a soft copy of your paper in advance.

Yours Sincerely

(G. Pattanaik)

Chairman,

India Literacy Board, Lucknow