Preface

The impact of Gandhian values in the Indian public life goes uncontested. But its depth and domain in politics still remain a point of academic debate and an ever interesting issue. It is often contended that over the years the Gandhian influence suffered a set back and was on the decline in the politics of the country. Gandhism, many argue, lost its charm in politics and for all practical purposes eclipsed by expediency. Some even point their accusing finger towards the monolithic national political movement--Indian National Congress--and blame it for being no longer a true champion of the Gandhian cause and traditions. But the claim of the Congress as the inheritor of the Gandhi flag seems grudgingly conceded by most of the Indians. The fact is that in India, no part of the Republic can fully escape the spell of Gandhian influence in one way or the other.

Kerala also has played its due role in the country's freedom struggle and subscribed itself to the influence of Gandhian ideology and philosophy during that phase. But it genuinely requires an academic probe, impartial and documented in depth, to analyse and understand the true impact of Gandhism in Kerala's politics and more precisely in the post-independence period.
The purpose of this study is to make an objective analysis of the relevance of Gandhism in the post-independence politics in Kerala. In completing this academic project, I have had the blessings and patronage, goodwill and cooperation of so many.

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