Although peace has a chequered history and there have been significant movements for peace throughout the recorded history of the world, yet much more emphasis is needed for the study of world peace. Peace has several meanings. Definitions of Peace range from the absence of war among nations to nonviolent resolutions of strife within our communities, and to the serenity that follows resolution of internal conflicts. However, seeking greater clarity of discourse, many peace educators have defined peace as either Negative or Positive - with Negative Peace meaning only the absence of war and positive peace incorporating the promotion of social justice issues as well. Positive peace also means the satisfaction of basic human needs, such as food, shelter, health and education. It means guaranteed justice, enjoyment of all the basic human rights and fundamental freedoms. It includes an implicit set of normative assumption about the nature of justice and priorities for a better world order. Peace and Non-violence are two sides of a medal. Non-violence, according to Gandhi, is not merely a personal virtue. It is also a social virtue to be cultivated like other virtues.

After each of the major wars during the last over 50 years an attempt has been made to find a way of preventing future war. After the two World Wars, progressive thinkers and leaders of many countries determined to establish a system of collective security for the whole world which was still licking its wounds. So United Nations Organisation was established to maintain Peace and to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Global Peace and Security are among the core missions of United Nations. At its founding in 1945, hopes were high that United Nations could serve, as a global high command to keep the peace in a post-Colonial, post-Fascist world. United Nations thus, was to be a forum for amicable solutions to world conflicts.

Similar views were also expressed by Mahatma Gandhi, the Apostle of Peace, who advocated the settlement of conflicts by peaceful and amicable means and he pleaded that violence must be shunned. His philosophy finds echo in the charter of United Nations and other conventions which emphasize on abhorrence of use of physical force and the settlement of disputes be done away by peaceful means.

The first serious effort to establish an international organisation for peace was
made after the First World War by the then President of USA, Woodrow Wilson and as a result, the League of Nations was created. The Failure of League of Nations eventually triggered the Second World War of 1939 - 45. It was another US President, Franklin Roosevelt, who was the main inspiration behind the formation of the United Nations.

If one analyses the UN's initiatives in direction of World Peace it has been observed that in a way it has not achieved its goal. But this does not mean that UN is a total "failure" in this direction. Right from its inception, UN did a commendable job in various conflicts such as Korean crisis, Congo, Lebanon Crisis, etc. As per its commitment towards the World Peace, UN has established and running peace keeping operations around the world.

Although peace-making was really intended to be the UN's primary goal, but it has been observed by many that it has become a lost art. The UN was intended to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war but hopes have in this respect been belied. More than 150 wars have been fought after the foundation of United Nations all over the world. The Middle East theatre of war has become so tense and witnessed in recent times two different wars in 1991 and in 1998. It is estimated that during the period from 2000 to 2050, 40.5 per cent of the population will die due to war among the nations. More dangerous than ever before, the nuclear arms are spread all over the world. In disputes between a big power and a small one, it has tended to dispense power politics rather than justice while in Third World conflicts it has kept on with good offices, mediation or peace-keeping operations instead of finding appropriate and just solutions. After the end of cold-war, the unilateral move of US-led coalition attacked Iraq without any authorisation from the UN. Also the unresolved Palestine problem, in which, according to some scholars, UN has created more wars than it has prevented. The regional organisations like NATO, Baghdad Pact, Warsaw Pact also undermined the peace making operations of UN.

Mahatma Gandhi had mastered the art and science of going to the root causes of human problems and therefore, his prescription always differed radically from the commonly accepted ones. This is very much true of his approach to the problem under consideration, that of World Peace. When we talk or think of World Peace, we normally imagine armistice negotiations, disarmament talks or friendship treaties. But Gandhi did not believe in this approach. Gandhi emphasized on the use of 'Soul Force'. Our soul, thus, represents the entire Universe and its development makes us
one with all living beings. The basic factor in Gandhi's world view is the individual who has a soul, a will or consciousness. The individual expresses itself at various levels of human existence - local, national and international.

The force or violence based International politics, according to Gandhi, is power oriented. Power leads to competition. Competition creates in turn violence. This was noticed in the Cold war era of the world. Thus, international politics or national politics is centered on the use of force which creates only force all over the world. Gandhi on the other hand suggested that law could be adopted as the means for achieving perfect peace. Peace without love and love without peace is violence. Therefore, as he aimed, the concept of love should work replacing the use of force concept which would create the cycle of love all over.

However, as a matter of fact the springs of disorder and violence are not to be found at the international level alone. According to Gandhi violence permeates every sphere of life. Hence a stable world order cannot be brought about by merely eschewing violence in international relations. The individual can achieve it by reordering his life through self-discipline, education and training and the nations of the world can achieve their objectives by restructuring their political and socio-economic structures along non-violent lines. To quote Gandhi, "...... the moral principle on which civilization rests are truth and love. If people everywhere respond to them truthfully, the world will be brought closer together and the darkness which we see around us may be dispelled."

Although the United Nations Organisation was set up to maintain peace and to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, yet the fact is that armed conflicts, weapons of mass destructions, unilateral move by great powers continue to undermine the position of United Nations and a grave threat to World Peace is very much visible ; Envisioned as the Peacekeeper of the post-war world, the United Nations, it has been observed by many that it has been unable in most cases either to forestall war or to end a war once it was began. The major problems which threaten world stability are: ever growing arsenals of arms, eco-social justice conflicts which bring violence and destruction and despair to widespread region - all figure on the agenda of the United Nations' bodies.

Theoretically United Nations seems to us an international body with core mandate of world peace by solving conflicts amicably, but in reality, for many, the picture may be a different one. In the past the United Nations exacerbated many
conflicts by blaming the Super-Powers. No major power submits any issue affecting its basic interest. In super power disputes such as the Cuba Crisis and Super-Power operations in Vietnam, the UN has been kept out. With the end of Cold-war there have been changes to the threat that the international community faces: We have instability through regional, ethnic, religious and cultural disputes. Moreover, with growing unilateral tendencies of sole Super Power: USA, after the end of Cold War, used United Nations as its proxy for furtherance of its national interests and with growing role of regional military pact like NATO undermining United Nations’ role as maintaining World Peace.

In view of the above facts the following objectives were kept in mind to examine and analyse the work in hand:-

- To study and examine Gandhi’s approach to manage conflicts in order to attain World Peace.
- To find out: could Gandhian approach be viable or feasible for World Peace?
- To analyse the loopholes/lapses on the part of the UNO (if any) and to suggest the measures in Gandhian Perspective to strengthen it for the promotion and maintenance of World Peace.
- To study and examine what were/are the challenges and constraints before United Nations in respect of its-peace initiatives with main focus on the mentioned peace initiatives.
- How far United Nations has been successful in its peace operations?
- To analyse the factors which are responsible for the failure of UN in its peace initiatives, if any.
- To analyse: should the UN adopt a traditional approach to peace making or a more comprehensive strategy incorporating conflict management, peacekeeping and conflict prevention in consonance with the present scenario.
- To examine and analyse: is there any proper say of member states other than Super Powers in peace decision / Initiatives taken by United Nations?

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IV