

5th IP COLLEGE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON GANDHI

6 APRIL 2018

THEME : GANDHI 'MATTERS'

CONCEPT NOTE

The theme for the 5th IP College Round Table Conference on Gandhi is Gandhi 'Matters'. Students are invited to develop presentations/ papers on the conference theme.

The seemingly simple question, does it matter to, consistently or untowardly, engage with the matters associated with Gandhi's life, thought, praxis and legacy, opens up a complex discourse. One is compelled to explore the relevance/ irrelevance of matters associated with Gandhi, while churning its transposition into the contemporary context to understand why Gandhi still matters. Does Gandhi, the *zeitgeist* of modern Indian awakening, have perennial relevance, with his continuing significance of non-violence as a principle and strategy to resist injustice, his insistence for a sustainable economic paradigm of development, his commitment to pluralism and diversity in an increasingly polarized nation and his gift of Satyagraha to the world? Or are there other matters that matter to the hate groups and power-hungry politicians who site his glaring inconsistencies, a reading of him as a foe of modernity and West, as a Hindu patriarch, a Muslim appeaser and also his failings as a human being?

Whatever the position, there is no withdrawing from an intense engagement with the matters associated with the life, thought, political practice and legacy of this Indian political canon. Gandhi's life, in this context, itself can be read as a text. His insights can potentially invert the axioms of many established paradigms. His legacy, with a range of constituents, from global to national to local, also offers a lucrative discourse to explore. In a nutshell, he was a man who believed in action with ideas stemming from his value system. He applied his values of 4 E's: Envision, Enable, Empower, and Energize to make his life great. But the 2 Es that matter to us with his matters are, whether we are willing to Escape or follow his Example to make a difference.

Students may select episodes and events, means and methods, murmurs and matters to analyze and articulate whether Gandhi matters to us or not, from symbols to statues, from currency to curios, from hype to hatred and from aspirations to activism.

Dr. Jyoti Trehan Sharma
Conference Convenor

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- **Papers in English/ Hindi.**
- **Duration of presentation: 8-10 minutes.**
- **Presentation may be individual/ team of two.**
- **Date of submission of Abstracts (150-200 words): 7 March 2018.**
- **Entries to be assessed by an internal jury.**
- **Notification of Acceptance of Abstracts: 12 March 2018.**
- **Submission of Papers: 22 March 2018.**
- **External jury to adjudicate on the final day.**
- **Prizes for three best presentations.**
- **Abstracts to be sent to dr_jyotisharma29@yahoo.co.in**