



Gandhi Study Circle, Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi

A report of activities July 2018-October 2019

July-November 2018

Date: 28 September 2018

Venue: AV Lecture Theatre, Indraprastha College for Women

In collaboration with Loktantrashala, the School for Democracy, the Gandhi Study Circle organized a lecture by **Professor Apoorvanand**, Department of Hindi, University of Delhi. He spoke on the topic “Gandhi: kaun or kiska”. As the lecture was organized on the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh, he drew a comparison between MK Gandhi and Bhagat Singh, both of whom are seen as followers of two opposite ideologies. Professor Apoorvanand traced the significance of Gandhi in the light of his death. The lecture was a response to the questions: Who is Gandhi? And to whom does Gandhi belong?



Date: 12 October 2018

Venue: Seminar Room, Indraprastha College for Women

Sopan Joshi, a freelance journalist, delivered a lecture on theme 'Experiments with Journalism: The Counterintuitive Ideas of Mahatma Gandhi'. Joshi explained how successfully experimented with journalism in South Africa and India though he was by training a lawyer. He also alluded to the work of the historian Isabel Hoffmeyr on *Gandhi's Printing Press*.



Time: 31 October 2018

Venue: Conference Room, Indraprastha College for Women

In collaboration with the Discussion Forum, the Gandhi Study Circle invited **Professor Nishikant Kolge**, researcher at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and the author of *Gandhi against caste* (OUP, 2017). He delivered a lecture on the theme 'The contemporary Dalit movement and the Gandhi-Ambedkar debate'. He spoke about the necessity of engaging with Gandhi as well as with Ambedkar. Rather than mix Gandhi and Ambedkar, it was more appropriate to engage with each on their own terms and learn from their best practices.



Student participation

Amisha Pareek (BA Hons Political Science, Semester 3) presented a study on 'Gandhi and Ambedkar: Philosophy of non-violence' and **Gurnoor Kaur** (BA Hons. Political Science Semester 5) presented a study on "Swachh Bharat: a Vision of Gandhi" at the seminar on "Gandhian Philosophy of Nonviolence" organized by Gandhi Bhawan, University of Delhi on 1-2 October 2018

Amisha Pareek (BA Hons. Political Science, Semester 3) presented a paper “Gandhi's Views on National Language as a Tool for Freedom” and **Aditi Pandey** along with **Smriti Pandey** (BA Programme Semester 3) presented a paper on “Gandhi's Concept and Views on Language” at the National Seminar on “Mahatma Gandhi aur Rashtravasha ka Swaroop” organized by Gandhi Bhawan, University of Delhi and National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, Government of India.

January-April 2019

Date: 30 January 2019, Martyr's Day

Venue: Auditorium, Indraprastha College for Women

On the occasion of Martyr's Day, the Gandhi Study Circle prepared an audio-visual presentation on George Orwell and Gandhi. Orwell's birthplace Champaran was also the site of the satyagraha of 1917, Gandhi's first satyagraha in India after his arrival from South Africa in 1915. The presentation also drew attention to the participation of the students of Indraprastha College of Women in the national movement.

Date: 5 February 2019

Venue: Audiovisual Room, Indraprastha College for Women

The Gandhi Study Circle invited **Dr. Hilal Ahmed**, Associate Professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies to deliver a lecture on ‘Gandhi's Engagement with Religion’. Dr. Ahmed is the author of *Muslim Political Discourse in Postcolonial India: Monuments, Memory, Contestation* (Routledge, 2014). A film *Beacons of Hope* documenting Dr. Ahmed's life story and his achievements was also screened.



Student Participation

Aditi Pandey and Smriti Pandey (BA Programme, Semester 4) participated in an elocution organized by SOL, University of Delhi, Gandhi Bhawan and Gandhi Hindustani Sahitya Sabha on Unity in Diversity vs. Diversity in Unity on 2 February 2019.

Amisha Pareek (BA (Hons.) Political Science, Semester 4) presented a paper on ‘Swachh Bharat Mission: Gandhian Movement or Mere Sloganeering?’ in a national conference on Gandhian Vision and Environment at Aditi Mahavidyalaya on 6-7 March 2019.

Gurnoor Kaur (BA (Hons.) Political Science, Semester 6) presented a paper titled “The Meaning of Swaraj”, and won the first prize in an inter-college paper presentation at Zakir Hussein College (Evening) on 6 March 2019.

President: Anubhuti Jaiswal; Secretary: Banchana Rajkumari

Advisors: Swaha Das, Shashank Chaturvedi and Praveen Dhanda

July 2019- October 2019

Date: 25 September 2019

Venue: Library Seminar Room, Indraprastha College for Women

A student panel discussion was held on an article by Vinay Lal 'The Gandhi Everyone Loves to Hate' (*Economic and Political Weekly*, 4 October 2008). The article was circulated beforehand, which served as an entry point to explore and critically engage with the topic. The panelists were Amisha Pareek, Saurya Mishra, Tanu Dabral and Pallavi Pradhan. Students participated enthusiastically in this exercise.



Gandhi Jayanti, 2019 – 150 years of the Mahatma

Date: 01 October 2019

Venue: Auditorium, Indraprastha College for Women

The Gandhi Study Circle of Indraprastha College along with other societies in College participated in the organization of the celebrations commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi. The Gandhi Study Circle offered an audio visual presentation titled ‘The centennial (1919-2019) and the sesquicentennial (1869-2019)’ in memorializing the massacre of unarmed civilians at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar in 1919 and outlining how this event transformed Gandhi.

As 2019 is the centenary of the massacre at Jallianwala Bagh, the presentation began by tracing the impact of the massacre upon Gandhi and his politics. One of the more important contributions of Gandhi was his emphasis on non-violence as a means of political protest as well as constructive politics. The latter half of the 20th century and the early decades of the 21st have witnessed a growing acceptance across the world of the principles and pragmatic utilities of ahimsa. In this context, the presentation highlighted the suggestion of Naveen Patnaik made during the first meeting convened by the Government of India in May 2018 of committee for the commemoration of Gandhi’s 150th birth anniversary. Patnaik had suggested the incorporation of ahimsa into the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of India as a way of reminding the world and the future generations of the significance of ahimsa as understood by traditions in India. The presentation also dwelt upon the reminiscences by Millie Graham Polak and Manuben Gandhi of the Mahatma. These reminiscences emphasized how Gandhi challenged the gendered nature of traditional roles within society.

The presentation concluded by noting that although it seems only natural today that Gandhi’s birthday is celebrated posthumously as the International Day of Non-Violence by the United Nations General Assembly, there is an element of irony. While Gandhi was alive, he was nominated at least five times for the Nobel Peace Prize but was never awarded. In November 1948, the Nobel Committee declared that as there was no suitable living candidate for the Peace Prize. Gandhi had died earlier that year, in January 1948. The Nobel peace prize was not awarded to any one for the year 1948. According to Oyvind Tonnesson, Peace Editor of Nobelprize.org, “What many thought should have been Mahatma Gandhi’s place on the list of laureates was silently but respectfully left open.”

President: Amisha Pareek; Secretary: Himanshi Bahl

Advisors: Swaha Das, Shashank Chaturvedi and Praveen Dhanda