

Department of Political Science
Activities for the session 2018-2019

Seminar on “Revisiting Gandhism thorough Modernity: Towards a Sustainable Future” 27-28 September 2018.

The Department of Political science in collaboration with Gandhi Study Circle organized a two days National Symposium titled “Revisiting Gandhism thorough Modernity: Towards a Sustainable Future” on 27-28 September, 2018 in SLC. The symposium was a successful event and brought in academicians, researchers, policy makers on a single platform making it a thought provoking event on Gandhian ideas and their relevance in the cotemporary world. Prof. Bidyut Chakraborty (Vice-Chancellor, Vishwa Bharati University, Bolpur, West Benagal) was the key speaker to the symposium. The other prominent speakers included Prof. Ramesh Bhardwaj, Gandhi Bhawan, Delhi University, Dr. Sidharth Mishra, Centre for Reforms, Development and Justice: CRD&J, Dr. Anil Dutt Mishra, Sulabh International among others.

Concept Notes

The world is facing gargantuan crisis mainly due to manmade causes and whatever good things have been achieved over centuries of struggles are facing ominous irreversible challenges. India a nation where many religions and philosophical schools and immortal ideas have had its roots which was highly embedded with practical moral and less destructive way of life. Many great individuals left their imprints on the earth which has practical relevance in mitigating the present crisis.

We are living in a virtual despair and frenzy world. The nature has been under severe pressure because we use more from nature in a year than our planet can renew in the entire year. The overshooting is due to human greed and not due to human needs. That is to say, we can satiate our needs not by overshooting and irreparably harming the Mother Earth. Vacuous human activities overtime have become incongruous with nature. The future of our civilisation is in disarray, uncertain and discombobulated. Most human actions which are devoid of ethics, morality, empathy, and compassion have metamorphosed into a disaster which will not mend for itself unless solid actions are undertaken sooner than letter. Gandhi is often placed in the binary of East and West and often considered in juxtaposition to the Western culture. Gandhi recognized the cultural gap between the modern and the non-modern to be much deeper than that between the West and the East. He was a critic of modernity, modern state system, centralized economy, technologism and over-organization.

The lust for rapid accumulation of wealth and faster development has sabotaged the nature’s ability to renew itself. The modern life style has virtually made the earth and environment a scuzzy place to live. Many have started to realise the gloomy picture of the urban pollution which has rendered urban landscapes unsuitable to live. The modernity’s hubris in itself has been shattered. It is a time of crisis when it comes to environmental pollutions which has started to paralyse the ecosystem irreparably. However, the notion of development is a perennially alluring idea.

The economic development has virtually become antithetical to the health of the environment. All human activities have some impacts on the environment. However, the economic development is highly embedded in the cultures, values, norms and life styles of all of us. The cultures and values shape the paradigms of development and overall worldview of our societies. The degrading ethics and values in our societies is further aggravating the future of human civilisation. Is degrading human values and lack of compassion responsible for the present crisis? Whatever might be the causes, we are facing ominous challenges which should reach the deafening ears of all. It is time to dig into whopping history of ideas and choose splendidly relevant ideas with huge practical relevance.

Society-environment-development trio are not independent of each other. The present development paradigm is devoid of this glaring fact. It vacuously believes in the development paths which essentially view these trios as separate from each other. The history of ideas is replete with examples of these holistic understanding. It is right time we seek ways and means to overcome the tempestuous situations and secure our future. The future of all start with us. Our future is embedded in what we do, how we do and why we do?

We have voluminous writings on different individuals and Mahatma Gandhi in particular. What is excruciating is that the solution to crisis have been replaced with violence. All want peace, development, progress and happiness; and solution to natural disasters. The natural disasters have become common and have acquired renewed urgency for our introspections. We have become acquainted with daily yammer regarding the state of affairs of the present world. The use of vituperative words have become common and man feels that he is living in a world which he does not wish to. The degrading incursion of such words denote that all is not well in what we have been doing. It is an incontrovertible fact that Gandhian ways can help us in solving many of our present day problems.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi affectionately known to everyone as Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) was one of the greatest man ever had born on the earth who left imprints on this earth which changed the destiny of India and continue do so. The more some want to denigrate and erase his imprints the stronger would be his visions, methods, and deeds. In present fast-changing world one would find tempting to understand Gandhi by engaging him to all the changes, ravages and challenges that we confront today. Undeniably, individuals are products of the context in which they grow up and represent their times and context. However, the relevance of Gandhi is acquiring more relevance every passing day making him perennial source of inspiration to guide the future generation and human race. There are several tremendously entertaining works on Gandhi which hilariously depict various aspects of Gandhi in varied manner. This national symposium is an attempt to understand Gandhi in today's context and analyze how his ideas and visions can guide our destiny. Astonishingly, at this crucial juncture we are neglecting Gandhian ways despite his growing relevance.

Ask any individual about the present challenges and chances are that he may paint a pessimistic picture about the world in which we are living. One might give a sad narrative about the collapsing environment, horrifying pollution of air and water. The facts are startling; the myopic and development strategy adopted across the world has started to paralyse the eco-system making it unsustainable. The societies across the world are growingly becoming violence-ridden on various lines. The youths are

moving away from ideals and humanism and adopting paths of violence. The greedy path to development will lead to destruction of human civilization. It is here one must recognize the significance of the greatest individuals like Mahatma Gandhi. We must acknowledge the Gandhian ways as extraordinary and viable means to adopt which will catapult human race on right track.

Themes of the National Colloquium are as Following:

Gandhian Understanding of Development

Relevance of Gandhian Ways and Means

Gandhi and Environmental crises

Gandhi and Nature

Gandhi and ethics

Gandhi on violence, non-violence, peace

Gandhi and future of human civilisation

Gandhi and empowerment of women and marginalised sections.



Blood Donation Camp

Blood Donation Camp for Indian Army organized by NSS, SLC in collaboration with “Sewa: Ek Anokha Parivar” on 2nd October, 2019 from 8.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. in College premises with Hon’ble Minister of Women & Child Development & Textiles Mrs. Smriti Irani as Chief Guest & Mr. Gautam Gambhir, Member of Parliament & Retd. Gen. G.D. Bakshi along with other dignitaries shall grace the event. NSS is organising a cleanness drive “Swachhata hi Seva” on 2nd October, 2019 from 8.30 a.m. onwards.









SLC (University of Delhi)
Shyam Lal College
Gandhi Study Circle

in Collaboration with

Department of Political Science

Organises UGC Sponsored

National Seminar

01-02 October, 2019

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that Prof./Dr./Mr./Ms.
.....was the Resource Person/ Paper Presenter/
Convener/ Organizing Member/Participation of the two-days UGC-Sponsored
**National Seminar on "Gandhi and Environment: Visualizing a Sustainable
Future"** held at Seminar Hall, Shyam Lal College, University of Delhi, Delhi.

Dr. Neena Shireesh
Convener, GSC

Dr. Sitaram Kumbhar
TIC, Deptt. of Pol. Sc.

Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar
Principal

Study Tour 28 March 2019

Department of Political Science

A study tour to the Parliament of India and National War Memorial was organized by the Department of Political Science on 28 March, 2019 for the benefit of the students of the department. Around sixty students and faculties of the department participated in the tour. The tour aimed at introducing the students to the working of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. They expressed curiosity to know more about the parliamentary procedures with the officials in the Parliament. A visit to the newly built National War Memorial introduced them to the valor and sacrifices of our armed forces.