

3rd IP COLLEGE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON GANDHI

8 APRIL 2016

CONCEPT NOTE

The theme for the 3rd IP College Round Table Conference on Gandhi is '*Gandhi and Food*'. Papers/presentations are invited from students on the conference theme.

In the Gandhian discourse, food is not just what one eats, but visualized as a paradigm that exhibits a range of issues. Navigating its path from the level of the individual to that of the State, it adheres to virtues like temperance and a progressive liberation from greed and possessiveness. It also becomes a catalyst in the pursuit of self-purification and self-refinement, and abhors its identity as only for the sake of bodily pleasure. Gandhian vision transcends the commonly-held belief that food is just about taste, aroma, variety, nutrition or, in a larger sense, reflection of one's culture. Instead, it becomes a link to productively engage with his larger concepts of *Swadeshi*, *Satyagraha* and *Swaraj*. Likewise, one can think about Gandhi's insistence on particular food habits and their connection to *Brahmacharya* (self-discipline), *Aparigraha* (non-possession), *Asteya* (non-stealing), *Asvada* (control of the palate) and *Sharirshrama* (bread labour), which take us on a journey to explore the nuances of food through feasting and fasting.

Such an exercise may be useful also to engage and confront many key quandaries of our times, and answer many conundrums ranging from diet control for personal reasons, being vegetarian on moral grounds, fasting for religious or political expediency, or, as in the very recent past, killing, to debate contestations between right to culture and food choices.

Papers are invited to provoke and provide food for thought on the theme -- *Gandhi and Food* -- which actually becomes a tempting microcosm to engage and grapple with an assortment of gastronomically related ideologies.

Dr. Jyoti Trehan Sharma

Conference Convener

Rules and Regulations:

- Papers in English / Hindi.
- Duration of Presentation – Maximum 15 minutes.
- Presentation may be individual or team of two.
- Entries to be assessed by an internal jury.
- External jury to adjudicate on the final day.
- Last date of submission of entries ----- 29 February 2016.
- Entries to be submitted to-
 - Ms. Bindu Das, Adviser, Gandhi Study Circle, or
 - Respective Teacher-in-charge.
- Mail your soft copies to- dr_jyotisharma29@yahoo.co.in