

Winter School on ‘Gandhi and His Contemporaries: Life and Thought’ (01- 15 December 2018)

Concept Note:

In the present national as well as global contexts of sharp decline of moral values in all walks of life and the rising curve of corruption, inequality, consumerism, injustice based on caste/race/gender, communalism, terrorism and environmental degradation, M. K. Gandhi (1869-1948) and his illustrious contemporaries, through their thoughts, actions and writings, offer the much-needed hope to the people to be the agents of a holistic socio-economic-cultural transformation based on truth, love and compassion- ensuring peace, harmony and happiness to all.

To us, Gandhi and his contemporaries represent what Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (1916-1968) so aptly called the ‘chiti’ (soul or essence) of the nation, that remains the source of unity or integrity of the easily visible cultural diversities (linguistic, religious, ethnic, regional etc). Despite their perspectival differences, their ‘lives, thoughts and actions’ may be said to have been grounded in their commitment to moral duty (dharma), justice (dharma), righteousness (dharma), ethical conduct (dharma) in all walks of (national) life. In essence, the multivalent concept of ‘dharma’ is the ‘chiti’ or essence of Bharat. When this quintessential ethical power of the nation called ‘chiti’ dims or declines because of external or/and internal causes, the people suffer from all kinds of corruption, injustice and exploitation. Hence, the significance of ‘Gandhi and his contemporaries’.

Needless to say, the Winter School made an attempt to explore the significations of ‘chiti’ (or essence or meaning) of Bharat/India in multiple national contexts through the critical examination of the vision of Gandhi and his contemporaries. Without making any claim to invent any new idea, Gandhi, with his ‘sadachara or dharma (righteousness)-centric’ vision and practice, recontextualized the perennial civilizational significance of such Indic concepts *swaraj*, *satyagraha*, *swadeshi* and *sarvodaya* in modern times.

The objective of the Winter School on ‘Gandhi and His Contemporaries: Life and Thought’ (1-15 December 2018) was to make the young research scholars and teachers understand the continuing relevance of the vision of Gandhi and his contemporaries to reorient and decolonize the overtly Euro-Americo-centric learning and pedagogical practices in such diverse fields as social sciences, humanities, literary and cultural studies.

Apart from Gandhi, the Winter School tried to focus on the significance of the vision of following thinkers (this is by no means a complete list: subject to the availability of experts and other academic constraints) in contemporary contexts:-

1. Jotirao Govindrao Phule (1827-1890)
2. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya (1838- 1894)
3. Swami Vivekananda (1863-1902)
4. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-1898)

5. Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941)
6. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (1888-1958)
7. Muhammad Ali Jinnah (1876-1948)
8. Shri Narayana Guru (1856-1928)
9. Bal Gangadhar Tilak (1856-1920)
10. Lala Lajpat Rai (1865-1928)
11. Bhagat Singh (1907-1931)
12. Madan Mohan Malaviya (1861-1946)
13. Ramana Maharshi (1879-1950)
14. Charles Freer Andrews (1871-1940)
15. Mira Behn (1892-1982)
16. Bhagini 'Sister' Nivedita (1867- 1911)
17. Sri Aurobindo (1872-1950)
18. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875-1950)
19. Subhas Chandra Bose (1897-1945)
20. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (1883-1966)
21. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar (1889-1940)
22. Madhav Sadashiv Golwalkar (1906-1973)
23. C. Rajagopalachari (1878-1972)
24. J.L.Nehru (1889-1964)
25. Saojini Naidu (1879-1949)
26. Sarladevi Chaudhurani (1872-1945)
27. Kasturbai "Kasturba" Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1944)
28. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya (1916-1968)
29. J.C.Kumarappa (1892-1960)
30. Swami Shraddhananda (1856-1926)
31. Dr B.R. Ambedkar (1891-1956)
32. Vinoba Bhave (1895-1982)
33. Bhai Puran Singh (1904-1982)
34. Syama Prasad Mukherjee (1901-1953)
35. Jaiprakash Narayana (1902-1979)
36. Dr Ram Manohar Lohia (1910-1967)

37. Swami Karapatri Ji Maharaj (1907-1980)

Writers/Artists/ Scientists

1. Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy (1877-1947)
2. Prem Chand (1860-1936)
3. Mahadev Desai (1892-1942)
4. Pyarelal Nayyar (1899-1982)
5. K.M.Munshi (1887-1971)
6. S. Radhkrishnan (1888-1975)
7. Rajendra Prasad (1884-1963)
8. M.N.Roy (1887-1954)
9. Subramania Bharathi (1882-1921)
10. Raja Rao (1908-2006)
11. R.K.Narayan (1906-2001)
12. Mulk Raj Anand (1905-2004)
13. Sumitranandan Pant (1900-1977)
14. Suryakant Tripathi Nirala (1899-1961)
15. Mahadevi Verma (1907-1987)
16. Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895-1986)
17. Kazi Nazrul Islam (1899-1976)
18. S.H.Vatsyayana Agyeya (1911-1987)
19. Nandalal Bose (1882-1966)
20. Jaimini Roy (1887-1972)
21. Abanindra Nath Tagore (1871-1951)
22. Ramkinker Baij (1906-1980)
23. Srinivas Ramanujan (1887-1920)
24. J. C. Bose (1858-1937)
25. Acharya Prafull Chandra Ray (1861-1944)

26. Verrier Elwin (1902-1964)

‘The Others’

The Ghadarites (patriots of the Ghadar Movement (1913-1919) Kartar Singh Sarabha, Bhai Paramanad, Har Dayal, Mohammad Iqbal Shedai, Rashbehari Bose, Gulab Kaur, Abdul Hafiz Mohammad Barakatullah etc); Chandrashekhar Azad (1906-1931); Ashfaqulla Khan (1900-1927); Sukhdev Thapar (1907- 1931); Ramprasad Bismil (1897-1927); Shivaram Rajguru (1908-1931) and others.

A Winter School on ‘*Gandhi and His Contemporaries: Life and Thought*’ was organised at IAS during 01-15 December 2018. Professor Sudhir Kumar, Punjab University, Chandigarh was the convener of the school. The welcome address was given by Professor Sudhir Kumar, Convener of the school. The Inaugural Session was presided over by Professor Dambarudhar Nath, Fellow IAS, Shimla. Inaugural address was delivered by Professor Kapil Kapoor, Chairman, IAS on ‘Foundations of India Knowledge Tradition’. Professor Chaman Lal Gupta, Vice Chairman, IAS proposed the Vote of thanks.

Resource Persons:

- Professor Kapil Kapoor, Chairman, IAS, Shimla
- Dr R. Subramony, Department of English, Madura Autonomous College Madurai (Tamilnadu)
- Professor Mahua Mukherjee, Faculty of Fine Arts, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata
- Professor Gurpal Singh, Professor of Punjabi, Dean Languages, Panjab University, Chandigarh
- Professor Chandrakala Padia, Department of Political Science, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi- U.P.
- Professor Shankar Sharan, Professor of Political Science, NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg New Delhi
- Professor Roshan Lal Sharma, Chairperson, Department of English, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamashala (HP)
- Professor Mohd. Asim Siddiqui, Department of English, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh U.P.
- Professor Mukesh Ranjan, Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia Jamianagar, New Delhi
- Professor Jitendra Srivastava, Professor of Hindi, Registrar IGNOU, New Delhi

- Professor Ambikadutt Sharma, Department of Philosophy, H.S. Gaur Central University Sagar, M.P.
- Professor Mahadeva, Department of Studies in English, University of Mysuru, Karnataka
- Professor Siraj-ul-Islam, Department of Philosophy and Religion, Visva Bharati Shantiniketan, West Bengal
- Professor Ravindra Kumar, Former Vice Chancellor, IGNOU, New Delhi
- Professor Sanjoy Kumar Mallik, Department of History of Art, Vishwabharati University, Shantiniketan (W.B)
- Professor Romesh Pandey , Formerly Professor of Economics, Panjab University, Chandigarh
- Professor Chaman Lal Gupta, Vice Chairman, IAS Shimla
- Professor Ishar Dayal Gaur, Professor of History, DES-MDRC, Panjab University Chandigarh, Chandigarh
- Dr Ajeet Singh, Department of English, BPS Women University, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat, Haryana
- Professor Bharat Desai, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- Dr. Rama Shankar Singh, Fellow, IAS
- Professor Dambarudhar Nath, Fellow, IAS

Participants:

- Dr. Bipul Kumar, Centre for Non- Violence and Peace, A N Sinha, Institute of Social Studies, Patna, Bihar
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- Dr. Susanta Kumar Mallick, Department of Political Science, Savitri Women's College, Bhanjanagar, Berhampur University (Odisha)
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- Mr. Aniruddha Jena, PhD Student, Department Communication, S N School of Arts & Communication, University of Hyderabad
- Dr. Abhinandan Das, Assistant Professor in History, Raiganj Surendranath Mahavidyalaya (College), Affiliated to University of Gour Banga, Raiganj. Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal
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