Winter School on 'LIFE AND THOUGHT OF GANDHI' (01-15 December 2016)

Concept Note

Over the last three decades the scholastic, intellectual, political and social interests in Gandhiji's life and thought has acquired a new urgency and depth. Gandhiji's writings like *An Autobiography OrThe Story of My Experiments with Truth* and *Hind Swaraj* have been subject of minute textual, philosophical and literary studies. The theory and practice of Satyagraha, constructive work and institutions that Gandhiji established have come to be studied by historians, political theorists and commentators and chroniclers of social movements. Lives of Gandhiji's associates and interlocutors like Mahadev Desai, J C Kumarrapa, Mirabehn, C F Andrews and Lanza Del Vasto have added to our understanding of Gandhiji. As a result of these studies our understanding of *Gandhiana* has emerged deeper, richer and nuanced.

The Winter School seeks to acquaint the participant to this variegated intellectual tradition of thinking of and about Gandhiji, aiming simultaneously to suggest future questions of study regarding new dimensions to the human situation that must inevitably grow with time. The School would seek to provide a non-fragmentary understanding of Gandhiji's life and thought, with particular consideration of certain key concepts pertinent to an appreciation of Gandhiji's praxis and legacy. Quite often we have come to look at political Gandhi as quite distinct from the Gandhi of the constructive work or see Gandhiji's spiritual quest as distinct from his quest for Swaraj. The School would try to unravel the underlying relationship between seemingly disparate practices, utterances and writings. This would involve also looking at conversations and historical episodes that both test and assess the operability of his thought.

A Winter School on "Life and Thought of Gandhi" was organized at IIAS from 01-15 December 2016. Dr. Gangeya Mukherji, Flat No. C- 404, Block-II, Lotus Apartments, 49/39 Tashkant Marg, Allahabad was the Convener of the School. The welcome address was given by Professor Chetan Singh, Director, IIAS. Professor Chandrakala Padia, Chairperson, IIAS gave inaugural address. Dr. Gangeya Mukherji, Convener of the school gave introductory remarks.

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