

GANDHI STUDY CIRCLE (ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16)

The Gandhi Study Circle is an initiative of the University of Delhi and the Zakir Husain Delhi College to spread the message of Gandhi especially among the youth and students. The society seeks to discover the relevance of Gandhi's philosophy, especially in the contemporary Indian scenario. The society aims to bring within its fold the various socio-political and economic issues that plague our country today.

During the academic session 2015-16, the society held many public events and activities. A visit to **Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samitee and National Gandhi Museum** was organised in the latter half of September for students to make them familiar with the Gandhian values. On October 5th a Street **Play** was organised on the theme "**Women Empowerment**" followed by a "**Peace March**" against gender discrimination, and growing intolerance in India. On October 16, Dr. Dhananjay Rai from the Centre for Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies, Central University of Gujarat delivered a talk on the idea of "**Debating Swaraj**".

One of the biggest events that the society organised this year was the *two-day International Conference on "Gandhi and the Contemporary World"* held on **(Feb 24,25, 2016)** at the Conference Centre ,University of Delhi. The event was sponsored by **ICSSR, UGC, ICPR, ICCR and the University of Delhi**.

The Conference sought to develop a critical understanding and reflection of Gandhi in the contemporary world. It provided a setting for constructive dialogue and deliberation for academicians, researchers, policy makers, and students on wide range of issues and themes related to Gandhian philosophy and action. It was a good opportunity for participants coming from different regions of India and abroad to present and discuss their views from a critical perspective. In total there were **3 panels/sessions** running concurrently for most of two days: Feb 24-25. The two-day event witnessed deliberations in which over 800 eminent scholars and participants across the world and India engaged themselves on important themes such as **Gandhian Philosophy: Theoretical basis and Practical Dimensions, State, Nation Building and Development Process, Gandhi and Social Justice, Environment, Post-Gandhian Legacy etc.** Some of the prominent international delegates included Prof Douglas Allen, (USA) Prof. Antony Copley,(UK) Prof. Ari Sitas,(South Africa) Prof Kazuya Ishii,(Japan) ,Prof. Vinit Haksar (UK) and Prof. Garry. Cox (USA). From India Prof Ashis Nandy, Prof. Gail Omvedt, Prof. Thomas Pantham, Prof. Mridula Mukherjee, Prof.M.P. Singh, Prof. Ujjwal Kumar, Prof. Bindu Puri, Prof Apoorvanand and Prof. Ashok Acharya among others contributed to the two-day proceedings. Besides, a total of 27 young scholars / academicians /activists from different universities/ NGO's ,civil society etc across the country presented **papers** which published as the **conference proceedings**. The inaugural session on 24th February was chaired by Dr Balmiki Prasad Singh, former Governor of Sikkim and Home Secretary of the Government of India, and Prof. Douglas Allen of University of Maine delivered the inaugural address. The valedictory session was presided by Prof.Ari Sitas and the noted Gandhian scholar and Peace Activist Prof. N.Radhakrishnan delivered the valedictory address. Ms Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee was the guest of honour on the final day.

**Convener
(Gandhi Study Circle)
Dr.Sanjeev Kumar**

