

## **Gandhi Study Circle Events Report 2023-24**

**Convenors – Dr. Saumya Gupta, Dr. Natasha Nongbri**  
**Co-Convenors - Ms. Tarini Pandey, Dr. Khurshid Alam, Dr. Kailash Rani, Dr. Nirmal Kumar**

The Gandhi Study Circle (JDMC), a decade old co-curricular society, is a constituent unit of the Centre for Universal Values and Ethics, Janki Devi Memorial College. Believing that our collective future depends upon our present actions, the Gandhi Study Circle JDMC stresses upon Gandhian tenets through pedagogy, social outreach, promotion of Gandhian values especially emphasising on material simplicity and service as a core societal responsibility.

### **I. Social Outreach, Scholarship, and Mentorship Programme**

#### **(i) Scholarship**

One of GSC-JDMC's flagship programmes has been to provide financial aid for those who need it most. GSC-JDMC serves as a bridge between charitable organisations desirous of contributing to the educational uplift of students from low-income families, especially underprivileged meritorious girl students at Janki Devi Memorial College. Online interviews for shortlisted students for the My Daughter Is Precious (MDIP) scholarships were held on August 28, 2023. A total of 15 students including 13 new students were given financial support from the ShikshaDaan-My Daughter is Precious Foundation in 2023-24. In person interviews for MCKS Vidya Scholarships were held on November 3, 2023. Twenty-three students were selected for the MCKS Vidya Scholarships given out by the MCKS Food for the Hungry Foundation. In all 38 students were granted scholarships for the 2023-24 session.

#### **(ii) Mentorship**

##### **(a) MDIP Mentoring Project**

The Mentoring Project is organised in collaboration with GLOW Foundation. GLOW Mentors from corporate backgrounds held monthly meetings with GSC student-mentees and organised life skill sessions to instill confidence and help them make strategic life choices.

An Orientation Programme for MDIP Mentees was held on October 5, 2023 to introduce them to the mentoring programme and their respective mentors and to brief them about their role and responsibilities.

The Life skill sessions held were:

Life skill Session I (online): November 3, 2023 – ‘From Problem to Possibilities’ by Ms. Aparna Mathur (Co-founder - GLOW Coach and Facilitator).

Life skill Session II (online): December 2, 2023 – ‘Make an Informed Career Choice’ by Ms. Anjana Anand (Career Counsellor, Youth Trainee and Coach).

Life skill Session III (offline): February 6, 2024 – ‘Emotional Resilience – 50 Shades of Grey’ by Ms. Garima Goyal (Energy, Emotions and Communication Coach).

Life skill Session IV (offline): February 29, 2024 – ‘Communication Skills Session’ by Ms. Manju Rai (Coach, Trainer, NPL Practitioner).

## **II. Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations**

On September 30, 2023, the Gandhi Study Circle under the aegis of the Centre for Universal Values and Ethics organized a talk on the topic ‘Gandhi and De-territorialization of Freedom’ by Dr. Dhananjay Rai, Visiting Fellow at CSDS, Delhi and Faculty at the Centre for Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.

## **III. Martyrs’ Day**

The Gandhi Study Circle under the aegis of the Centre for Universal Values and Ethics organized a special lecture on January 30, 2024 to commemorate Martyrs Day by Prof. Salil Misra, a respected historian from Ambedkar University, Delhi. Prof. Misra shared valuable insights into Gandhi’s principles and their applicability in navigating the challenges of the 21st century.

Drawing from his extensive expertise in Indian history, he highlighted Gandhi's profound impact on nonviolent conflict resolution during the independence movement. He emphasized Gandhi's multi-pronged strategies that challenged colonial powers and continue to resonate with contemporary struggles globally. In today's world, characterized by empowerment and complex state-citizen dynamics, conflicts often revolve around principles rather than mere resources. Terrorism, civil strife, and environmental challenges underscore the complexities of modern conflict. Gandhi's principles of Satyagraha remain a timeless guide, urging us to seek reconciliation and understanding even in the face of nuclear threats. Prof. Misra underscored the importance of appealing to humanity to resolve conflicts with compassion and grace, echoing Margaret Bourke-White’s sentiments in *Halfway to Freedom*. Professor Misra's lecture left attendees with a renewed appreciation for Gandhi's teachings and a deeper understanding of their relevance in today's world.

## **IV. Student Competitions and Events**

**(i) An Online Inter-college Photography Competition was organized by GSC under the aegis of the Centre for Universal Values and Ethics and G20 Jan Bhagidari between September 17-19, 2023 on the themes – G20 Summit, Street Photography and Indian Heritage. The competition received many entries with prizes awarded to the first,**

second and third positions (First prize – Arjun Singh, PGDAV College; Second prize – Mohd. Asif, PGDAV College; Third prize – Shreeja Mukherjee, JDMC).

(ii) **The GSC organized a Poster Making Competition on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on September 29, 2023** on the themes : Self-reliance (Make in India), Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Life of Gandhi. The competition received many entries. The winners were awarded first, second and third prizes and there were two special mentions.

(iii) **A collection cum donation drive** was organized by GSC in collaboration with NSS on **17-18 April 2023**. Students and teachers donated used and unused clothes, books, notebooks, stationary and other items useful for the needy. The materials collected were later donated.

(iv) The GSC organized a **day trip to the Prime Ministers' Museum, Teen Murti Bhawan and National Gallery of Modern Art on April 29, 2023**. About 50 students and two teachers were part of the trip.



Dr Dhananjay Rai felicitated by Prof Pal on Gandhi Jayanti, Sept 30, 2023



Winners and participants of GSC Poster Making Competition, Sept 29, 2023



Prof Salil Misra with Prof Pal on Martyrs' Day, Jan 30, 2024



GSC Collection Drive, 17-18, Apr 2023



Students' Trip to Prime Minister's Museum, Teen Murti Bhawan and National Gallery of Modern Art on April 29, 2023.