

Gandhi's Courtroom – A Debate on Non-Violence in the Age of Digital Activism alongwith

The Pledge on Swaachatta hi seva 2026

As part of Gandhi Jayanti Week, held on 1 October 2026 in BEBE NANKI HALL, the Gandhi Study Circle, Mata Sundri College for Women, organised "*Gandhi's Courtroom*," a debate competition centred on the theme "**Can Non-Violence Survive in the Age of Digital Activism?**" The event aimed to encourage students to critically examine the relevance of Gandhian principles of non-violence in the contemporary digital world.

The competition followed a unique *FOR vs. AGAINST* format in which participants debated in pairs, with their positions determined through a chit-picking system. Each pair was allotted six minutes, comprising two minutes for the participant arguing FOR the motion, two minutes for the participant arguing AGAINST it, and the final two minutes for rebuttals. Participants were required to present their arguments in either English or Hindi, adhere to the prescribed time limits, and maintain relevance and decorum throughout the debate.

The event was adjudicated by Dr. Rouble Rani Sharma and Prof. Poonam, who encouraged the participants to express their views confidently, engage critically with the theme and approach opposing arguments with an open mind. Their guidance and encouragement contributed to a constructive atmosphere, motivating students to participate actively and make the most of the debating experience.

The theme encouraged participants to explore the relationship between digital activism and non-violence, examining how online platforms can facilitate peaceful expression, raise awareness, and mobilise collective action, while also reflecting upon the challenges posed by online hostility and aggressive forms of communication.

The distinctive format introduced an element of spontaneity, as participants had to defend their assigned positions irrespective of their personal opinions. This encouraged quick thinking, analytical reasoning, persuasive communication, and the ability to respond effectively to opposing viewpoints. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students embracing this unconventional style of debate and engaging in thought-provoking exchanges on a contemporary issue.

The Pledge on Swaachatta hi seva 2026

Overall, Gandhi's Courtroom proved to be an engaging and intellectually stimulating initiative that connected Gandhian philosophy with contemporary modes of civic engagement. The Pledge on Swaachatta hi seva 2026 has been taken too.

The event highlighted the continuing relevance of dialogue, respectful disagreement, and non-violent expression in an increasingly digital society. It also reinforced the that peaceful communication and responsible online participation can help build awareness around shared civic responsibilities, including cleanliness and the upkeep of public spaces.