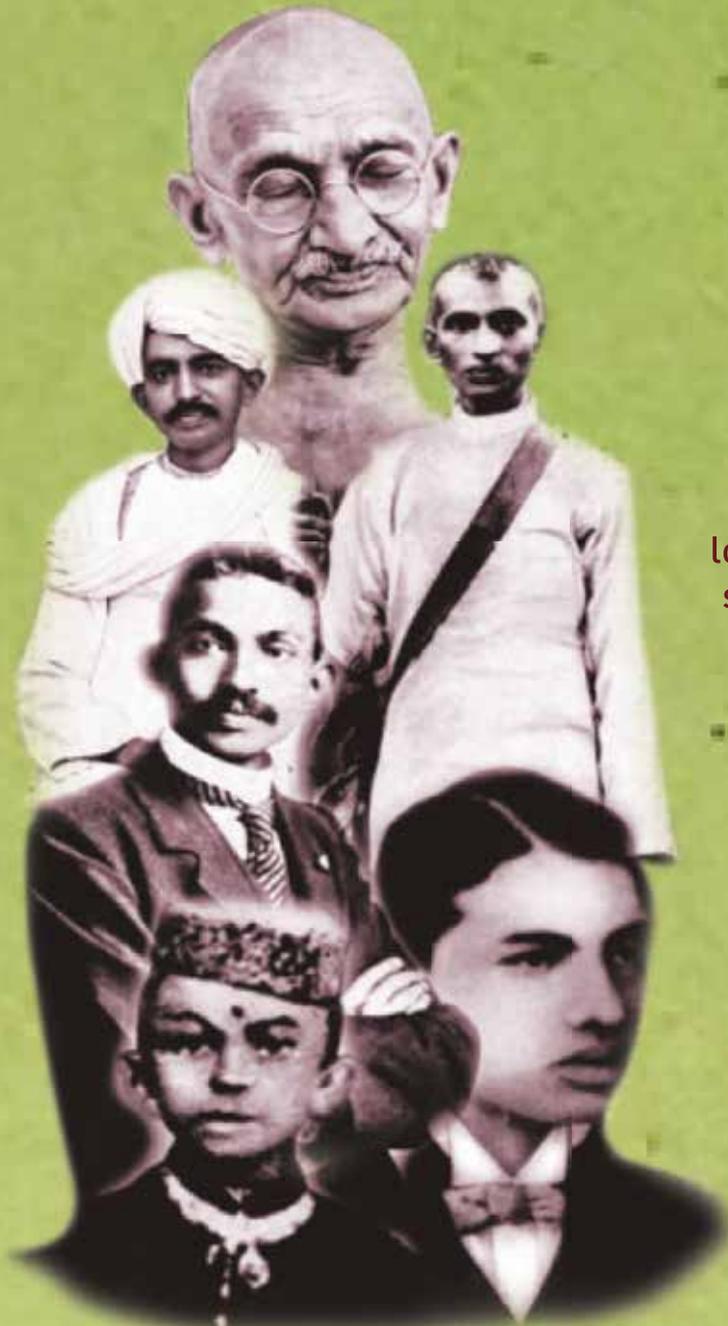


# ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018



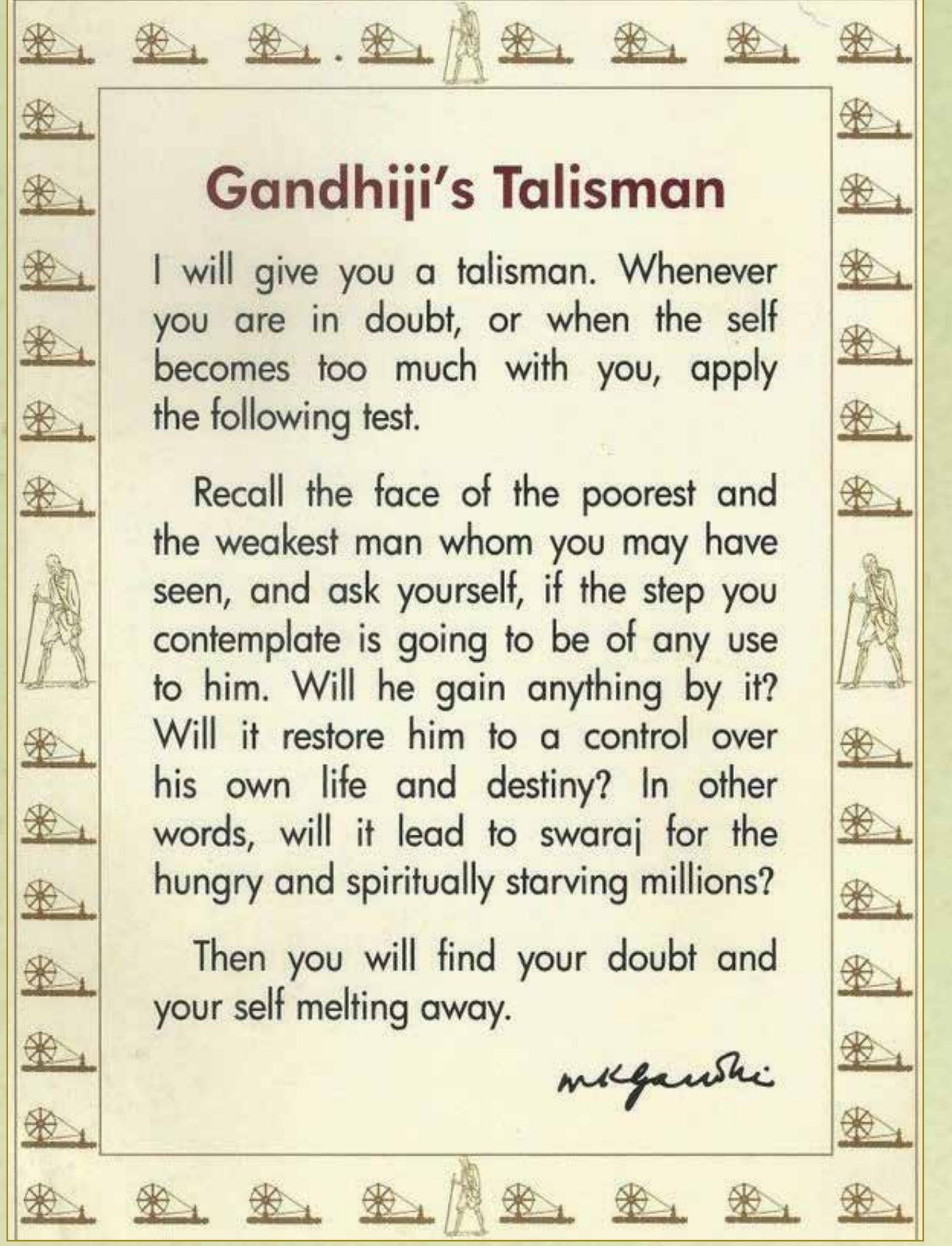
“The best way to  
find yourself is to  
lose yourself in the  
service of others.”

*M.K. Gandhi*

From Mohan to Mahatma



Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti



## Gandhiji's Talisman

I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test.

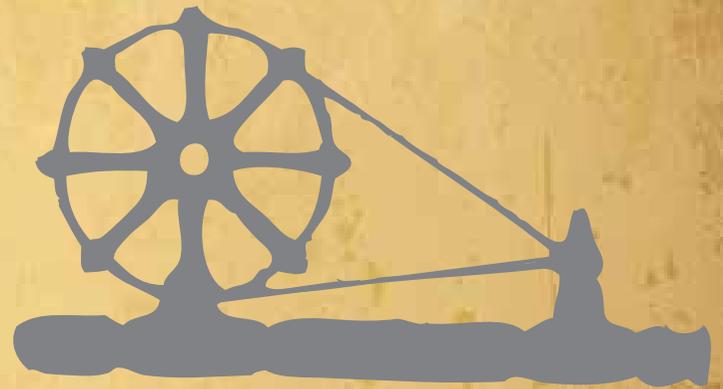
Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?

Then you will find your doubt and your self melting away.

*M. Gandhi*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2017-2018**



**Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti**



# Contents

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1. Foreword	03
2. Introduction	06
3. Structure of the Samiti	14
4. Time Line of Programmes	15
5. Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi	38
6. Significant Initiatives	43
7. Special Programmes	63
8. 100 Years of Champaran Satyagraha	68
9. Ba-Bapu:150 – A Prelude	87
10. Programmes for the Tribal People	91
11. Programmes for Children	94
12. Programmes for Youth	107
13. Programmes for Women	131
14. In Tihar	144
15. Programmes in Champaran	146
16. Discussions/Dialogues/Seminars	147
17. Programmes in the North East	176
18. Rashtrabhasha Hindi – Our Identity	186
19. Orientation Programmes	189
20. Mahatma Gandhi Exchange Programmes	201
21. Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre	203
22. Srijan Entrepreneurial Centre	205
23. Miscellaneous Programmes	212
24. Books and Exhibitions	221
25. Library and Documentation	225
26. Visitors	226
27. Farewell to Retiring Staff Members	230
28. In the Media	231



# Foreword

The 21st century once again heralds in an era when we humankind are fortunate to witness the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Government of India has already planned major celebrations as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary across the country and the world, beginning from October 2, 2018, the 149<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Ideas and concepts such as *swavlamban* (self-sufficiency); *ahimsa* (non-violence) and *sarvodaya* (progress of all), like a breath of fresh air reiterates our commitment towards society that is alive and flourishing despite all hurdles and obstacles.

Government of India has time and again focussed on developing people-to-people contact, redressing their grievances and developing a strong network of volunteers from across different segments of the society, barring caste, creed, religion, sects, to work for the welfare of the citizens, which was also the primary concern of Mahatma Gandhi. This was what Gandhiji had lived and worked for throughout his life time. The (Gandhian) ideas and philosophy has influenced many people across the world, who, have dedicated their lifetime in the welfare of the citizens. These ideas are still continuing and flourishing.

Today, perhaps, like never before, Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy is being looked as a potential tool for transformation, leading to a global awakening amongst the thinkers, planners, Gandhian workers, social activists, the student and youth community and many others. The ideas of Mahatma Gandhi which he has left by his example are still young. This makes the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi more appealing than ever before.

Kenneth Kaunda, the Zambian hero who led Zambia to independence in 1964 and served as the nation's president until 1991 says: "Mahatma Gandhi was a legend of extraordinary quality, endowed with a depth of vision, humility and wisdom without parallel, with exemplary passion for justice, and indefatigable fighting spirit for what was right, courage to face any risk and readiness to make the supreme sacrifice in the service of mankind. Nothing that touched humanity was foreign to him".

He continues, "It is, therefore, fitting that all men and women of goodwill the world over should not only acknowledge his role in shaping the course of history, but also, renew our commitment to the values he espoused and his noble mission of building a world that enjoys peace and harmony deeply rooted in justice for all".

Echoing a similar sentiment, Pascal Allan Nazareth in his book "Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership" while focussing on the leadership qualities that M K Gandhi projected, says: "Gandhi's leadership, completely self made, sprouted and grew to full statute as his 'Experiments with Truth' and application of the "Eternal Verities" to his daily challenges progressed. He neither had the benefit of personality development, communication, organisation, management or leadership courses nor good looks nor great oratory. His only guidance came from his "inner voice". Extremely timid in his youth, Gandhi became a fearless "star performer" once he took up the sword of Truth and the shield of non-violence".

Taking this vision of truth and the power of non-violence further, the Samiti followed the footsteps of His Holiness The Dalai Lama in understanding the core philosophy of non-violence and peace in the Buddhist path during the *Convention for the Global Peace* in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. True to the concept of the convention, His Holiness, while exhorting the participants to nurture nonviolence in their daily lives, pointed out that a significant question that everyone faces today is, "What we need to do in order to bring peace and happiness in this planet."

*Today, perhaps, like never before, Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy is being looked as a potential tool for transformation, leading to a global awakening amongst the thinkers, planners, Gandhian workers, social activists, the student and youth community and many others. The ideas of Mahatma Gandhi which he has left by his example are still young. This makes the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi more appealing than ever before.*

Giving a clarion call for a revolution for peace, he further motivated all the participants by saying that all have the required capacity and opportunity to work for a more peaceful and happy world. He reminded everyone of their responsibilities to create a sustainable world with a foundation of nonviolence. He made it clear that we can achieve these not through prayers, but through the true action.

The convention deliberated upon subjects such as *Integrating Buddhist and Gandhian thoughts in Contemporary Global Peace Policies, Resolving Conflicts through Buddhist and Gandhian Practices; The Role of Children, Youth and Women for Global Peace; Education Philosophies of Buddha and Gandhi in promoting Non-Violence*, thereby reinforcing the eternal concepts of peace and nonviolence in different dimensions and taking the message further to the young community who took part in the convention.

Further in association with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Kargil and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), the Samiti organised a three-day "National Young Volunteers Conclave for Constructive Work" at Kargil on July 10-12, 2017, thus taking its outreach to the farthest corner of the country.

In Champaran, as part of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha, a grand programme was organised beginning with the *Champaran Yatra* of 1917 by M K Gandhi that was recreated through the participation of large number of people who gathered to partake in the event. The Gandhian community joined in large number and encouraged the participants for working towards constructive programmes. From April 13-17, 2017, the programme was jointly organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi. Functions at the District School Motihari to commemorate the centenary celebrations was graced by the then Honb'le Governor of Bihar, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Smt Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, former Vice-Chairperson GSDS and the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Radha Mohan Singh, honb'le Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, along with local Honb'le MPs and MLAs were the guest of honour.

This was one small beginning to touch a portion of the vast and enriching history of the peasant struggle. It was also to pay tribute to Pt. Raj Kumar Shukla a small farmer, whose persistence brought Mahatma Gandhi to Champaran, where finally the bugle of the first Satyagraha in Indian Soil was blown. This was an enriching experience which continued further to the year 2018 in Champaran, when we undertook several initiatives to commemorate the historic occasion. Institutions such as Sulabh International Social Service Organisation joined this unique cause and collaborated with the Samiti in taking up the cause of female health and hygiene by setting up the Sanitary Napkin Vending Machine and Incinerators at different places in Motihari.

Further Interpretation Centres were established during this period in 2018 at Motihari Railway Station, District School Motihari; Insignias at the Charkha Chowk. We are further embarking on taking up several projects in the coming years in the same spirit.

While the year was dedicated to the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha, the Samiti could feel the heartbeat of people as they came in thousands to take part in the Kala Sanskriti Sangam in the three-day long inter-state cultural exchange programme in the premises of Garudachal Vidyapeeth' Belbari, South West Garo Hills, Meghalaya. Rain and thunderstorm didn't deter the spirit of the people who volunteered in setting up the uprooted stalls and then celebrating togetherness with their indigenous cultural rituals along with traditional art forms.

Seminars on different themes set in the contemporary context underlying the essence of the 18-point Gandhian Constructive Programme formed a major part of the programmes of the GSDS during the year. Not only were we able to collaborate with reputed institutions, colleges and universities, we got to witness the joyous and enthusiastic participants who shared their vision on the 21<sup>st</sup> century on the relevant themes. They further showed keen interest towards joining the celebrations to mark the 150 years of Ba-Bapu.

One area where the Samiti plunged this year taking forward its activities was providing orientation and capacity building programmes on "Non-Violent Conflict Resolution and Non-Violent Communication" for in-service teachers, registrars, police personnel, Home Guards in Delhi and different parts of the country. We were apprehensive of the response we would receive from the programme.

But, seeing the overwhelming response of the institutions and trainees that included government functionaries, individuals from society, we understood how non-violent communication and conflict resolution methodologies when placed in contemporary situation and through an analytical perspective helps in solving multitude of issues that are confronting the society and humankind who are an integral part of it.

We plan to take it further in a well-designed and concrete manner across different states and strata of the society.

The year signalled the arrival of the celebrations to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba Gandhi – two icons, two individuals; two glorious personalities who have, by their simplicity, steadfastness, wisdom and understanding of core human issues have influenced millions of people to carry forward the work they left behind.

Truth was Gandhiji's favourite human value which inspired his autobiography "My Experiments with Truth". According to him truth was God and that truth must manifest itself in thought, word and deeds.

Many of Gandhi's teachings are relevant to modern youth. He understood the feeling and sympathy of youth and called them as instruments of social change. He wanted modern youth and students to become the means to form idealistic thoughts. He encouraged young minds about self-reliance as a crucial necessity to success.

Mahatma Gandhi's words are today as important as they were then when he asked the youth to work as humble servants of the society. Gandhi had said: "I ask you (young men and women) to go to the villages and bury yourselves there, not as their masters or benefactors but as their humble servants. Let them know what to do and how to change their mode of living from your daily conduct and way of living. Only feeling will be of no use, just like steam, which by itself is of no account unless it is kept under proper control when it becomes a mighty force. I ask you go forth as messenger of God carrying balm for the wounded soul of India".

In Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti we in our humble manner are trying to channelize this inherent strength of the youth for social action. We are committed to take the work forward in our small little way and urge the young vibrant community to join us in the service of the people which would be the greatest gift and a befitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary.

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**Dipanker Shri Gyan**  
Director

# Introduction



*A view of the Gandhi Smriti Museum at 5, Tees January Marg, New Delhi.*

## **Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti: A Profile**

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) was formed in September 1984 by the merger of Gandhi Darshan at Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti, at 5, Tees January Marg as an autonomous body, and is functioning under the constructive advice and financial support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The Prime Minister of India is its Chairperson and it has a nominated body of senior Gandhians and representatives of various government departments to guide it in its activities. The basic aim and objective of the Samiti is to propagate the life, mission and thought of Mahatma Gandhi through various socio-educational and cultural programmes.

The Samiti has two campuses:

### **(a) Gandhi Smriti**

Gandhi Smriti, housed in the Old Birla House on 5, Tees January Marg, New Delhi, is the sacred place where Mahatma Gandhi's epic Life ended on 30 January 1948. Mahatma Gandhi had lived in this house from September 9, 1947 to January 30, 1948. Thus, the hallowed house treasures many memories of the last 144 days of his life. The Old Birla House was acquired by the Government of India in 1971 and was converted into a National Memorial of the Father of the Nation and was opened to the public on August 15, 1973.

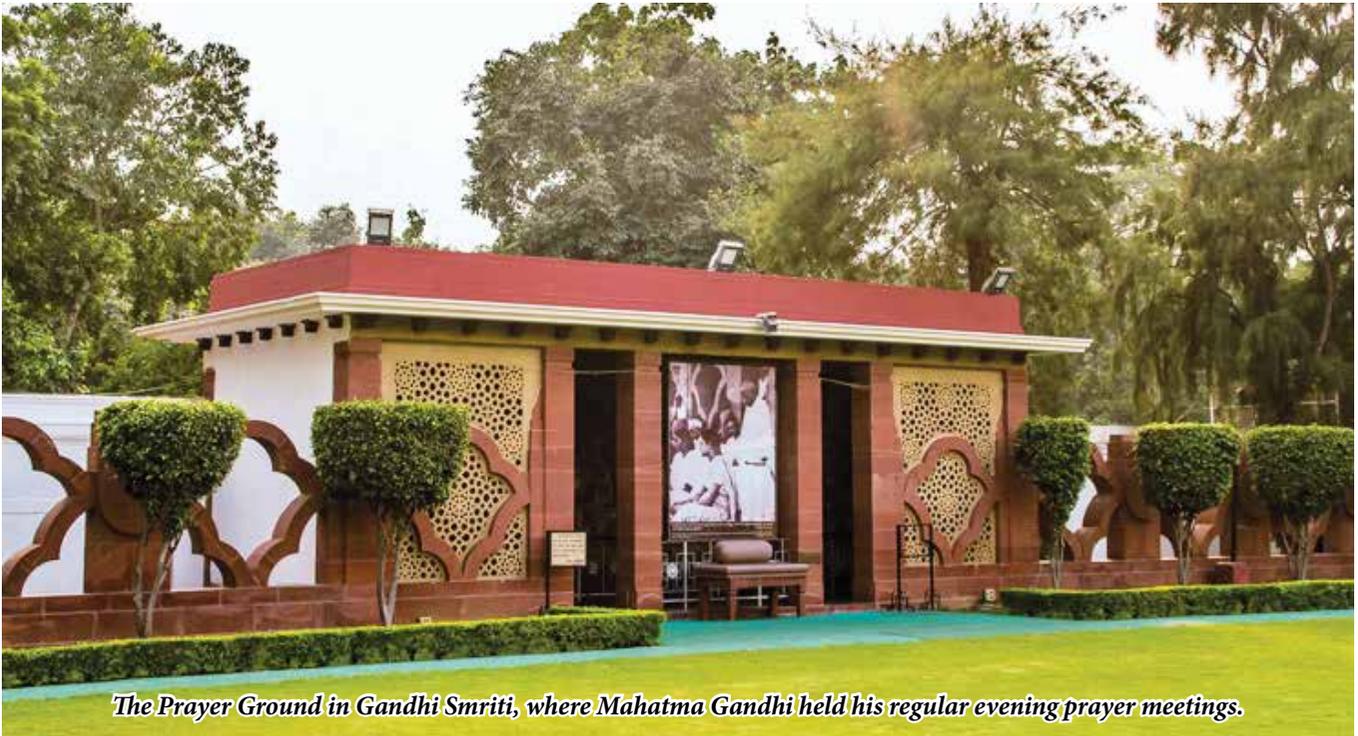
The preserves include the room where Gandhiji lived and the Prayer Ground where mass congregation used to be held. This was the place where Gandhiji was felled by the assassin's bullets. The building and the landscape have been preserved as they were in those days.

### **The Memorial consists of:**

- (a) *Visual Aspects* to perpetuate the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and the noble ideals they represented,
- (b) *Educative Aspects* to focus concentrated attention on certain values of life that made Gandhi a Mahatma and
- (c) *Service Aspects* to introduce activities in order to sub-serve certain felt needs.

On display in the Museum are photographs, sculptures, paintings, frescos, inscriptions on rocks and relics pertaining to the years Gandhiji spent here. The meagre personal effects of Gandhiji too are carefully preserved.

The entrance gate itself is of great historical significance as it was from the top of this Gate Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru announced to the World about the passing away of Mahatma Gandhi, "... the light has gone out our lives and there is darkness everywhere..."



*The Prayer Ground in Gandhi Smriti, where Mahatma Gandhi held his regular evening prayer meetings.*

A larger than life statue of Mahatma Gandhi, with a boy and a girl holding a dove in their hands, standing on either side, emerging out of the globe, symbolising his universal concern for the poor and the deprived, welcomes the visitor at the main entrance of the Gandhi Smriti. It is the work of the renowned sculptor Sri Ram Sutar. The legend at the base of the sculpture says, "My Life is My Message".

A Martyr's Column stands at the spot where the Father of the Nation was assassinated, commemorating the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi as the embodiment of all the sufferings and sacrifices that characterised the long struggle for India's Freedom. A broad stone pavement is laid round the Column for devotees to take a



*A visitor at the site of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti.*

reverential *parikrama* (walk around). The wide space in front of the Column is made for devotees to offer homage. Close to the Martyr's Column on the lower lawns are the words of Gurudev Tagore, "He stopped at the threshold of every hut..."

In the Centre of the Prayer Ground, is a Pavilion with frescos on the walls, depicting the continuity of India's cultural voyage, her interaction across the globe and the emergence of Mahatma Gandhi as a 'Universal Man', embodying in his person all that is sublime in human life as he said: 'For my material needs my village is my world but for my spiritual needs the whole world is my village'.

Outside the Pavilion there is a bench, made of red sand stone on which Mahatma Gandhi used to sit during the prayer or in conversation with the vast mass of humanity who would assemble on the lawns of the Old Birla House seeking his counsel and solace in those troubled days.

The green lawns are the main feature of the Prayer Ground with peripheral decorations with flowers laid round the lawn. Near the entrance of the memorial on its right lawn is inscribed "India of Gandhi's Dream". At the roundabout close to the prayer ground are the words of Albert Einstein, "Generations to come will scarce believe..." In the centre of the roundabout is a creation of the renowned artist Sankho Chowdhury in bronze, symbolising the 'Eternal Flame' lit by Gandhi with his martyrdom.



*A visitor at the entrance to Mahatma Gandhi's Room in Gandhi Smriti.*

*Gandhiji's Room* at Gandhi Smriti has been kept exactly as it was on the day of his assassination. All his possessions are on display: his glasses, walking stick, a knife, fork and spoon, the rough stone he used instead of soap. His bed was a mattress on the floor, plain white, with a low, wooden desk by its side. There is also an old and well-used copy of the *Gita*.

The entire building is now divided into different sections. On either side of the main entrance of the building a Prayer composed by the Mahatma 'A Servants Prayer' and his eternal message, His 'Talisman' are on display.

The evolution of *Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to Mahatma Gandhi* is depicted in the south wing through the panels of black and white photographs accompanied by a simple narrative. The south wing also houses an auditorium and a committee room.

Besides, the exhibition has been so aligned that the south wing gives a simple narration of the journey and evolution of a boy called Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and how through his 'experiments with truth', he leads India and humanity to its emancipation.

The northern wing has five different sections. The first section, the gallery leading towards the room where Gandhiji spent the last 144 days of his life is devoted to his Peace Pilgrimage and Martyrdom. Next to this is the

second section, another room with special focus on the last 48 hours of his life, which culminates with his martyrdom. This section has also an auditorium with facilities to screen films on Mahatma Gandhi.

The third section of the north wing projects the 'India of Gandhi's Dreams' and the formulae he has left behind for posterity to realise this dream: the Eighteen Point Constructive Programme. Gandhi wanted to present India as a model of development before the world with scientific precision. The epic journey ends – Father of the Nation is gone. But his legacy lives on. Above all, an unfulfilled dream remains as a challenge before us to build the 'India' of his 'dreams'.



*Mahatma Gandhi's Room in Gandhi Smriti.*

The fourth section *Sumana* has twenty-eight enclosures/panels in all. The section, which is today, houses the Minifigures. These powerful *dioramas* depict important events in the life of Mahatma Gandhi from his boyhood to his martyrdom. Crafted by Smt. Sushila Rajni Patel, this section of the Museum is an enriching experience.



*The Minifigures section in Gandhi Smriti Museum.*



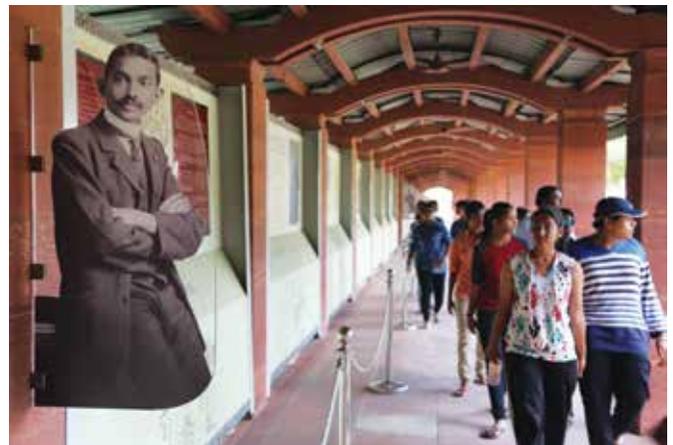
*A view of the photographic exhibition in Gandhi Smriti.*

In the fifth section *Sanmati*, the Gandhi Smriti Literature Centre, there is a vast collection of *Gandhiana* and other related and relevant books available under one roof.

A special section is devoted to explain how the world reveres Mahatma Gandhi. The first part is through the eyes of the artists reflecting the magnificent life of the Mahatma. The second part is Gandhi on himself.

In the centre, people are led to assimilate, absorb and feel the presence of the Mahatma through a 40 second multi-media animation, depicting the last journey of the Father of the Nation towards his Martyrdom. This is depicted through the rendition by one of the renowned vocalists Kumar Gandharva.

The pergola – which provides an interface with the visiting mass of humanity – is now a walking art gallery, which provides an opportunity to artists from all segments of our society and all parts of the world to witness the journey of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to Mahatma Gandhi in the sprawling exhibition “From Mohan to Mahatma” prepared by senior Gandhians like Shri Anupam Misra and developed by the National Archives of India. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister of Culture and VC GSDD Dr. Mahesh Sharma on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2015 in Gandhi Smriti.



*Visitors at the exhibition “From Mohan to Mahatma” at the pergola in Gandhi Smriti.*

While on their journey, the visitors also witness the magnificent World Peace Gong that stands facing the roof top where the mortal remains of the Father of the Nation was kept on January 31, 1948 for thousands of people to pay their last tributes. The Peace Gong, gifted to Gandhi Smriti by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India after being received from the World Peace

Gong Committee of Indonesia was inaugurated at a special function commemorating the 100 years of Satyagraha on September 11, 2006. This is a gentle reminder to the world of the enormous struggles by peace marchers across the world to live in harmony with one another.

From here the visitors are guided into the room where Bapuji spent the last 144 days of his life. As they come out of this room they are acquainted with history of these 144 days through the Photo Exhibition accompanied by narratives culled out from the accounts of the eye witnesses.

*Swaraj* at Gandhi Smriti showcases Gandhian emphasis on khadi, cottage industries and rural development.

The *Kirti Mandap* pandal christened by the eminent *Sarod* Player Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, near the Martyr's Column at Gandhi Smriti has the capacity to accommodate 500 participants for major programmes.



**School children at the Gandhi Smriti Eternal Gandhi Multi-Media Museum.**

In an endeavour to provide the underprivileged section of the society skills in computer, stitching and embroidery, early childhood care and education, community health, spinning and weaving, *Srijan* – the Gandhi Smriti Educational Centre – has been set up. *Srijan* aims to help them learn these vocational courses in order to instill in them appreciation for self-help, confidence and bread-labour.

The museum added in April 2005 a multimedia exhibition entitled *Eternal Gandhi*, which is housed on the entire first floor of the building. It has used state-of-the-art electronic hardware and new media to bring Gandhiji's life and vision alive. The approach has been both historical and interpretative. This exhibition using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology highlights the



**School children at the Gandhi Smriti Eternal Gandhi Multi-Media Museum.**

core of Gandhian thought – the commitment of a Satyagrahi to the principles of truth. Two sculptures of Ba and Bapu made inrganized, which are the creations of a couple, Mr. Decha Saisomboon and Mrs. Wipa Saisomboon from Thailand, are also kept at the multi-media museum.

It is these components that together make Gandhi Smriti a *Composite Museum*.

### **(b) Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat**

The second campus is situated adjacent to the Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat.

It was twenty-one years after the Mahatma's martyrdom that the whole world decided to observe his centenary in 1969 in a way worthy of the Pilgrim of Peace. It was then the sprawling thirty-six acre campus came into existence to mark the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. Thirteen Indian states and seven foreign countries had joined hands in creating the magic, called the *Gandhi Darshan International Exhibition*. The main objective of the exhibition was the interpretation of Gandhi's message and gospel of truth and non-violence against the background of the modern world and the way it has permeated and affected the nation's life and influenced the other countries of the modern world.

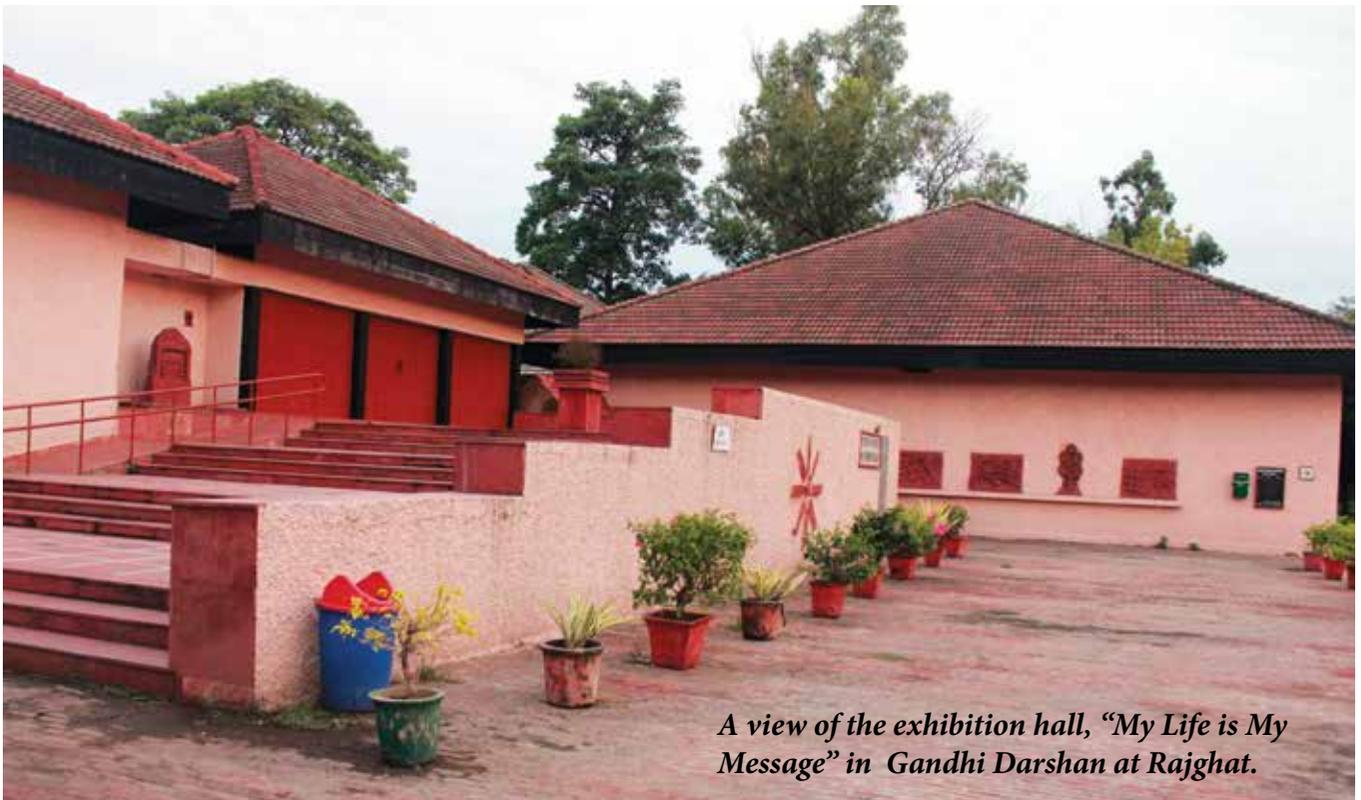
Today two exhibitions exist in Gandhi Darshan- *My Life is My Message* and *Freedom Struggle* in clay models.

In the first pavilion entitled ***My Life is My Message***, hundreds of archival photographs have been arranged on the walls, along with

brief textual narratives. Some of these images of Gandhiji as a child and young man are rarely seen. There is also a model of the house in which he was born, as well as the actual army vehicle in which his body was transported for cremation to the grounds, now known as Rajghat.

In addition, visitors can see Gandhiji's school report cards, newspaper clippings and cartoons that show contemporary reports and reviews of his activities, the letters exchanged between Gandhiji and Leo Tolstoy, portraits of his wife and parents and other fascinating material. One display showcases the many commemorative stamps issued by countries around the world in the years that followed Gandhiji's assassination; and another displays the letters that were sent to him. These, especially, reveal, how widespread was the fame that a simple Gujarati lawyer acquired in his lifetime. For example, one is addressed to 'Gandhiji: Wherever He May Be'; another (posted in New York) simply has a sketch of Gandhiji on the envelope.

***A view of the Gandhi Darshan campus at Rajghat.***



***A view of the exhibition hall, "My Life is My Message" in Gandhi Darshan at Rajghat.***

To summarize, this pavilion with 274 panels has the following:

- 1) In Panel no. 1-273 there are photographs on life of Gandhiji from birth till assassination, there are 1600 photographs approximately.
- 2) In Panel no. 274 there are 75 stamps from different countries, released on the centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 3) There is the boat and bench used during Salt Satyagraha and Gun Carriage which carried the mortal remains of Mahatma Gandhi from Birla House to Rajghat.
- 4) There are models of:
  - Gandhiji's house at Porbandar in Gujarat
  - Sabarmati Ashram
  - Yervada Jail

The pavilion on **Freedom Struggle** comprises of beautiful clay models on different aspects of the freedom movement.

#### **Infrastructural Facilities:**

##### **Facilities available at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat**

- 1) A library and documentation centre with over 15000 books by and on Gandhi, and related subjects.
- 2) Comprehensive walk-in exhibition entitled 'My Life Is My Message'
- 3) Conference, seminar and lecture halls with all facilities
- 4) International Hostel for scholars-in-residence
- 5) Permanent photographs and books related to Mahatma Gandhi.
- 6) Dormitories with facilities to accommodate 100 persons)
- 7) Publications Division: Apart from books, it publishes a Journal and a News Magazine
- 8) Photo unit
- 9) Camping facility for major national and international meets
- 10) Open space for contact programmes

##### **Facilities available at Gandhi Smriti, 5 Tees January Marg**

- 1) Central Auditorium
- 2) Two Meeting Halls
- 3) Kirti Mandap



*A larger than life statue of Mahatma Gandhi, with a boy and a girl holding a dove in their hands, standing on either side, emerging out of the globe, symbolising his universal concern for the poor and the deprived, welcomes the visitor at the main entrance of the Gandhi Smriti.*



*A creation of the renowned artist Sankho Chowdhury in bronze, symbolising the 'Eternal Flame' lit by Gandhi with his Martyrdom.*

**The objectives of the Samiti are:**

1. To plan and carry out activities for the promotion of Gandhian ideals and philosophy.
2. To keep Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti open for public as per standard rules related to museum and maintain it to provide maximum convenience to visitors.
3. Promote Audience Development and Museum Management Framework in both Gandhi Smriti Museum and Gandhi Darshan Exhibition.
4. Promote initiatives to create awareness on the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi through educational media like exhibition, films, Gandhiana, posters, and different forms of Art, Culture and Technology.
5. To develop and preserve a library of books including rare books, literature, photographs, films and documents etc.
6. To collect, preserve and exhibit important relics of Mahatma Gandhi.
7. Promotion of volunteerism for Gandhian work and betterment of the society.
8. Focus on empowering the marginalized through different activities related to philosophy and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.
9. Developing capacities of children, youth, women and other groups for imbibing Gandhian values and work to bring attitudinal changes/development through practical applications of Gandhian philosophy.
10. To restore, protect and manage both the complexes at Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti and all movable and immovable properties therein according to requirement.
11. To bring publication for various sections of people to enhance their knowledge about Mahatma Gandhi and the values he propagated.
12. To conduct inter-disciplinary research on Gandhian philosophy in the context of contemporary issues.
13. Encourage and promote Gandhian perspectives on education and facilitate education for peace, ecological security, equality and justice.
14. To work extensively with different Universities and Academic Institutions for better and in-depth understanding of Mahatma Gandhi and Gandhian philosophy.
15. Empowerment of the weaker sections of the society through vocational training programmes and other livelihood initiatives as part of Gandhian constructive work.
16. Respond and work to address challenging problems of the society.
17. Involving different stakeholders to work for a culture of collective living, collective working, peace and nonviolence.
18. Reaching the unreached with the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi especially in far flung areas.
19. To undertake such other activities and to do all the foregoing mandate and to cooperate and seek cooperation from other institutions for the aforesaid purposes.



## *Structure of the Samiti*

### **GOVERNING BODY**

#### **Chairman**

The Hon'ble Prime Minister

#### **Vice-Chairperson**

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture

#### **Members**

Minister In-charge, Ministry of Culture

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi

Mayor of Delhi

Shri Laxmi Dass

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal

Ms. Rajni Bakshi

Shri Tridip Suhrud

Shri Narayan Bhai Bhattacharjee

Dr. Harsh Vardhan Kamrah

Ms. Neelima Vardhan

Shri Ranji Thomas

Dr. Suparna Gooptu

Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Information Advisor to the Prime Minister

Chief Engineer, CPWD

Secretary, (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance

Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development

Commissioner of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi

President/Administrator, New Delhi Municipal Committee

#### **Member Secretary**

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture

#### **Executive Committee**

Chairperson

Dr. Mahesh Sharma

#### **Members**

Shri Laxmi Dass

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal

Ms. Rajni Bakshi

Shri Tridip Suhrud

#### **Member Secretary**

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture,  
Government of India

#### **Director**

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (*J.A.S.*)

# Timeline of Programmes

(April 2017-March 2018)

S.N	Programmes	Date	Venue	About the Programme
1	Launch of Swachhagraha – Babu Ko Karyanjali Ek Abhiyaan, Ek Pradarshani	April 10, 2017	National Archives of India, Delhi	Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated "Swachhagraha "Babu Ko Karyanjali". A laser show was also inaugurated on the occasion. Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism Dr. Mahesh Sharma who is also the Vice Chairman of GSDS and many dignitaries were present on the occasion.
2	6 <sup>th</sup> World Wide Run4Unity organised	April 29, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Smriti	Over 800 participants including youth from Delhi and NCR participated in the programme. Theme of the programme was Change Your Heart, Change the World.
3	From Satyagraha to Swachhagraha in Champara	April 13-17, 2017	BIHAR, CHAMPARAN GSDS in Champaran	A grand programme was organised at different places in Champaran as part of the centenary celebrations from April 13-17, 2017. Organised jointly by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India.
4	National Youth Camp at Motihari, Bettiah, Bitiharwa	April 10-15, 2017	BIHAR, CHAMPARAN  in association with National Youth Project	The Samiti in association with National Youth Project (NYP) under the leadership of Padmashri Dr. S N Subba Rao, organized a six-day National Youth Camp.  The camp on the one hand gave the message of Champaran to 295 young men and women from 15 states and on the other spread the message of harmony, peace and national integration in Champaran.
5	Workshop on Constructive Work and Nation-Building organised	April 6-7, 2017	Delhi  Madhubala Institute	The Samiti in association with Madhubala Institute of Communication and Electronic Media – affiliated to Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University – organised a two day orientation Workshop on Constructive Work and Nation Building. Almost 150 students took part in the workshop. The workshop was conducted for the students of B.A. (JMC) and B.J. (MC) with an objective to instill amongst them a spirit of volunteerism and leadership.
6	Seminar on Chakma Youth for Peace-cum-Cultural Programme	April 13, 2017	Delhi  GSDS	The Chakma Buddhist Society and GSDS organised a day-long seminar on "Chakma Youth for Peace-cum-Cultural Programme" on April 13, 2017, on the occasion of the Biju celebrations – the beginning of the New Year for the Chakmas. Over 350 people took part in the programme.
7	Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi at IGNOU Maidangarhi	April 13, 2017	Delhi  Maidangarhi	The Samiti took part at the 30 <sup>th</sup> Convocation at Indira Gandhi National Open University on April 13, at Maidan Garhi by putting up an exhibition on Gandhiji and issues such as prohibition as often addressed by him. A book stall exhibition the literatures and Gandhian was also on display during the programme.
8	Observance of Swachhata Pakhwada	April 16-30, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Smriti Gandhi Darshan	The staff of the Samiti observed the "Swachhata Pakhwada" – an effort by the Govt of India to instill the sense of cleaning of office spaces by the employees themselves –with great zeal and enthusiasm in its both the premises in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan.

9	Laghu Gandhi ki Khoj, Champaran Satyagraha Ke Alok Me	April 21, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darsahn	GSDS organised a two-day workshop titled as Laghu Gandhi Ke Khoj, Champaran Satyagraha Ke Alok Me. on April 20-21, 2017 in Gandhi Darshan. Shri Basawaraj Patil Sedam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest. Social workers from all over India were invited to participate in the programme. About 110 participants took part in the two-day interactive session. The programme was organised as part of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha.
10	Seminar on Intergenerational Solidarity	April 22-23, 2017	Delhi	Healthy Aging India (HAI) in association with Department of Geriatric Medicine, AIIMS and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samithi, organized a round table brainstorming session at Delhi, on April 22-23, 2017. To strengthen the intergenerational bonding, the role of sensitizing parents of school/college going children by means of workshops was highly recommended by almost all the participants.
11	Seminar on Hunt for Khadi Ambassadors	April 29, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti in association with Incredible Transforming Charitable Foundation (ITCF) organised a day-long seminar on "Hunt for Khadi Ambassadors" in Gandhi Darshan on April 29, 2017. About 300 participants from different colleges and universities took part in the programme. The aim of this seminar was to create awareness and attraction for Khadi amongst the youth of the country and by increased use of Khadi, the spinners and weavers would also benefit immensely.
12	Interaction with Students from Nangarhar University Afghanistan	May 2, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	30 youths from the University of Nangarhar from Afghanistan led by their Vice-Chancellor Mr. Naeem Jan Sarwary took part in an interaction in Gandhi Darshan on May 2, 2017. The interaction was led by Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan. The group was coordinated by Mr. Samuel from STEPS. Earlier the group visited the Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat and also saw the exhibition My Life is My Message in Gandhi Darshan.
13	Interaction with youth from Gandhi Peace Mission, Kerala	May 18, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	38 youth from Gandhi Peace Mission, Kerala visited Gandhi Darshan as part of their exposure visit towards "Understanding Gandhi" during which they interacted with the staff of the GSDS. They also visited the exhibitions My Life is My Message and India's Struggle for Independence in Gandhi Darshan. Thereafter, they visited Gandhi Smriti Museum where they also offered tributes at the Martyr's Column.
14	Launch of GSDS-IGNOU Facilitation Centre	May 19, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Taking forward the academic wing of GSDS to another level, GSDS and IGNOU together launched the "Facilitation Centre" in Gandhi Darshan, B N Pandey Auditorium on May 18, 2017 at a function attended by over 300 students from the IGNOU. The launch ceremony was graced by the Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Prof. Ravindra Kumar; Shri Basant Singh, former Advisor GSDS; Dr. Venugopal Reddy, Director RSD, IGNOU; Dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director -2, IGNOU and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.
15	National Seminar on "Nationalistic Journalism in Indian Context"	May 20, 2017	Delhi Indian Institute of Mass Communication	A day-long seminar on "Nationalistic Journalism in Indian Context" was organised by the GSDS in association with Media Scan on May 20, 2017 at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC). About 200 participants took part in the seminar. The inaugural session of the seminar saw speakers who included: Dr. Yogesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi Technology University; Padmashri Ashok Bhagat, Founder of Vikas Bharati; Shri Ashish Gautan, Founder, Divya Prem Seva Mission and Shri K G Suresh, Director General, IIMC.

16	Eye Camp at Tihar Central Jail No -2	May 26, 2017	Delhi TIHAR	The Samiti organised an Eye-Camp at Central Prisons Tihar CJ-2 on May 26, 2017 in association with Community Ophthalmology Department of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Shri R. K. Aggarwal Memorial Foundation. 147 patients who are inmates at CJ -2 undertook the treatment during the eye camp. Out of which, 136 patients have been recommended spectacles. At least four patients have been recommended surgery. A team of 14 doctors such as Optometrist, Technicians, Refractionists, led by Dr. Vivek Gupta (AIIMS) conducted the treatment.
17	Understanding Gandhi through the eyes of Children – An Interactive Session with ITIHAAS	May 27, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The interactive session with students from ITIHAAS (Indian Traditions Heritage Society) who are on a summer project to understand the life's message and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi by visiting various Gandhian Institutions and writing their reports based on the information they receive, took place in Gandhi Darshan on May 27, 2017.
18	Workshop on Women Empowerment for grassroots level workers	May 23-24, 2017	Uttar Pradesh	The Samiti in association with VISION, an organisation in Varanasi, organised a two-day workshop on "Women Empowerment for grassroots level workers" in Sarva Seva Sang Campus, Rajghat, Varanasi. Rich tributes were paid to Kasturba Gandhi on the occasion. The two-day workshop was attended by over 100 women, grassroots level workers and people from the community.
19	Gandhi 150 – Ba and Bapu and Centenary year of Buniyadi Talim  Orientation of Students from Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwa Vidyalaya	June 7-12, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti as part of the "Gandhi Exchange Programme" organised an orientation programme of students from the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwa Vidyalaya (MGAVV), Wardha, at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat from June 7-12, 2017. 27 students from the Department of Social Work of MGAVV took part in the orientation programme. Prof. (Dr). Anupama Singh, Dr. Shiv Singh Bhagel and Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Tiwari Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS, Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS, and dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director IGNOU (2) were present on the occasion.
20	Orientation Workshop on Theatre and Art for Children	June 14-18, 2017	Delhi Karol Bagh	A five-day Orientation Workshop on Theatre and Art for Children was organised from June 14-18, 2017 at the Central Government Employees Multi-Storey Flats, Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. Ms. Madhumita Roy Khan conducted the theatre workshop and Shri Shivdutt Gautam from GSDS taught comic art to the children.
21	Two-day seminar on "Issues related to Sustainable Development"  June 17-18, 2017	June 17-18, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti, on the occasion of the 100 years of the establishment of the Sabarmati Ashram, organised a two-day seminar on "Issues related to Sustainable Development" in Gandhi Darshan on June 17-18, 2017. About 130 participants from different walks of life, took part in the seminar organised in association with Global Village Foundation.
22	Workshop on Children and Peace-Building organised	June 18-24, 2017	Delhi Dwarka	Almost 100 children from the slums of Sector 3 Dwarka took part in a seven-day workshop on "Children and Peace-Building" organised by the GSDS in association with Maa Peace Foundation from June 18-24, 2017 at Shanti Garden. Children whose family are making a living by selling vegetables, mostly took part in the workshop.
23	Discussion on "Yoga and Environment" marks 3 <sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day celebrations	June 21, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Over 800 participants took part in the celebrations of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day in Gandhi Darshan. The Samiti organised this programme in collaboration with Delhi Traffic Police, Indira Gandhi National Open University and Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Instructors from Tagore Foundation conducted the Yoga led the yoga practice in Gandhi Darshan. Dr. Navdeep Joshi, a senior Yogacharya was another resource person who spoke on the benefits and aspects of Yoga and Meditation. A practice of Yog Nidra for relaxation was also done by the participants under the supervision of Dr. Joshi.

24	Seminar on “Youth Development through Gandhian Constructive Work, Leadership and Ethics”	June 23, 2017	Delhi	A one day seminar on “Youth Development through Gandhian Constructive Work, Leadership and Ethics” was organized by the Samiti in association with Confederation of Community Based Organisations in India (CCBOS) on Youth Development through Gandhian Constructive Work on June 23, 2017. More than 175 students and others. The chief guest in the seminar was Dr Sanjay Singh, Hon’ble MP (Rajya Sabha). Dr Sanjay Singh exhorted the youth to imbibe values and discipline in life so that they can contribute to nation building. Others who spoke on the occasion included Smt Neera Shastri and Shri Vijay Jolly.
25	3 <sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day for children of the Musahar Children	June 21, 2017	PATNA, Bihar	Around 584 children and adults from the marginalised Musahar Community of Bihar took part in the celebrations of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day on June 21, 2017 in Patna Bihar in a special programme organised by the Samiti in association with Abhiyaan. Children from about 19 villages such as Bibipur from Kako Block, Jahar Bigaha, Titahi Bigaha, Ratan Bigaha, Golakpur, Kosiam, etc. The Yog Divas was inaugurated by Member of the District Council, Shri Aditya Kumar. The Head Teacher of the Secondary School was also present on the occasion.
26	Seminar on Gandhi, Sanitation and Health as part of 3 <sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day	June 21, 2017	SAMASTIPUR, BIHAR	The Samiti in association with Swasth Bharat Nyas and Sundari Devi Saraswati Vidya Mandir at Samastipur Bihar organised a National Seminar on “Gandhi Sanitation and Health” on the occasion of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> International Day of Yoga. About 1500 children in remote villages of Bihar’s Samastipur District took part in the programme. Senior Gandhian thinker and journalist Shri Prasun Latant addressed the children and spoke in details about the concept of good health and how Gandhiji was concerned about the health of the people of the country.
27	Adivasi Kala Sanskriti Sangam, Tharu	June 22-24, 2017	Tharu, Bihar	To highlight the culture and tradition and living conditions in the lap of nature of the tribes of different regions of India, the Samiti has been organising the Adivasi Kala Sanskriti Sangam in different parts of the country for several years. In this endeavour, the Samiti organised the Adivasi Kala Sanskriti Sangam for the Tharu tribes in Champaran, Bihar from June 22-24, 2017. The programme was organised at Harnatand, Balmiki Nagar, West Champaran, Bihar with the participation of 600 participants.
28	Two-day workshop on Gandhiji, Champaran Satyagraha and Rural Youth	June 28-29, 2017	WEST BENGAL	A two-day workshop “Gandhiji, Champaran Satyagraha and Rural Youth” was organized by the Gandhi Mission Trust in association with the GSDS on June 28-29, 2017 in Gandhi Mission Trust Ashram, Daspur, West Medinipur, West Bengal. Group discussions and interactions with the youth formed a major part of the programme. Cultural performances such as drama, songs, dance and music and also poetry reading added colour to the programme.
29	Seminar on Gandhi and Natural Health	June 25, 2017	GORAKHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH	A day-long seminar on “Gandhi and Natural Health” organised by the Samiti in association with Prakritik Chikitsa Premi Sansthan, Arogya Mandir, Gorakhpur on June 25, 2017. For human being to remain healthy, prakritik chikitsa or Naturopathy or natural medicine is most essential. This is the simplest form of treatment which can fight with any form of disease. Moreover, Mahatma Gandhi had endeavoured to take the concept of natural medicines to the last person, said Dr. Vimal Kumar Modi.

30	Seminar on Constructive Programme of Gandhiji organised	June 27, 2017	LUCKNOW, UTTAR PRADESH	The Samiti in association with Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi organised a one-day seminar on “Constructive Programme of Mahatma Gandhi” at the Gandhi Bhawan, Lucknow on June 27, 2017. Rich tributes were paid to Late Shri Raghunath Kaulji on his fifth death anniversary. Former IAS Shri Vinod Shankar Chaubey was the key speaker on the occasion. The programme was presided over by Pandit Rampyare Trivedi. Smt. Geeta Shukla and other members of the GSDS took part in the programme.
31	Workshop on Gandhi as a Journalist	June 24-25, 2017	VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH	A two-day National Workshop on Gandhian ideas and Journalism on the theme “Gandhi as a Journalist” was organized at Kashi Hindu University, Varanasi on June 24, 2017. The programme was jointly organized by the GSDS and Pragya Institute, New Delhi. Expressing his views on ‘Gandhi as Editor’, noted journalist Shri Jitendra Nath Mishra, described Gandhiji as being better than today’s editors and journalists. He told how Gandhiji made journalism a solid and viable form and made it a strong basis for human service, public consciousness and humanity
32	Work begins for Nai Talim Intergenerational Centre with Healthy Aging India	July 2017	NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH	The Samiti in association with Healthy Aging India (HAI) launched the “Intergenerational Learning Centre” at NOIDA during July 2017. Citing the objectives and goals set under IGLC project for the month from July 15 August 15 2017, Healthy Aging India was successful in fulfilling its commitments/challenges towards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Challenge 1 - Hiring manpower to execute project</li> <li>– Challenge 2 - Searching a place for setting up IGLC in Noida</li> <li>– Challenge 3 -Assessment and Selection of students based on Aspiration, Knowledge, Attitude and Perception (AKAP) questionnaire</li> <li>– Challenge 4 - Assessment of Elderly educators</li> <li>– Challenge 5 - Building capacity of selected Educators</li> </ul>
33	Dr. Y B Anand's Book released by Dr. Mahesh Sharma	July 13, 2017	Gandhi Smriti	Book release function was organised by the Ministry of Culture, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Gandhi Ashram, Sabarnati in Gandhi Smriti on July 13, 2017. Addressing a congregation of over 175 people from the field of literature, arts, music, sports personality and Gandhians, Dr. Mahesh Sharma (HCM) reiterated the call given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on April 10 on the occasion of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha, when he appealed to the Nation to pay a befitting tribute to Gandhiji by adopting Swachhagraha as part of their daily life style.
34	Tribute to renowned journalist Late Shri Prabhask Joshi	July 16, 2017	Gandhi Darshan	The 80 <sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the doyen of Hindi Journalism, Shri Prabhask Joshi was organized at Gandhi Darshan on July 2017. Over 400 people that included writers, authors, artists, poets, and people from different walks of life took part in the Prabhask Joshi Memorial Lecture on “Crisis and Media of Farmers”.
35	Seminar–cum-lecture demo and songs on ‘Charkha Satyagraha’ and farmer’s issue	July 16, 2017	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi	The Samiti in collaboration with Lokraag organized a special seminar-cum-lecture demo based on Mahatma Gandhi’s Satyagraha, Charkha, Farmers, and National Movement through folk music. The special musical programme also emphasized on women and folk music. Akhar, a Bhojpuri music group performed at the function that was attended by about 300 people from different segments of the society. The programme was organized as part of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha.

36	Nelson Mandela Day celebrated with Tihar Inmates at CJ-2	July 18, 2016	Delhi Tihar	The Samiti in collaboration with the Central Prisons at Tihar Central Jail No 2 celebrated the “Nelson Mandela Day” on July 18, 2017 on the occasion of the 99 <sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela. The theme of this year was “For Freedom, Justice and Democracy”. On this occasion, the Samiti distributed free spectacle to the inmates who had earlier had their free eye check up in CJ-2 organised by the GSDS in collaboration with the doctors of the AIIMS earlier during June 2017.
37	Nukkad Natak on ‘Swachhagraha’	July 21, 2017	Delhi Different slums of Delhi	The Samiti in collaboration with Udit Asha Welfare Society launched a four-part festival of street plays (nukkad natak) on “Swachhagraha” in the slums of New Delhi from June 21, 2017 at New Ashok Nagar. The Samiti also set up an exhibition on “Champan Satyagraha” and issues related to sanitation on the occasion. The exhibition was displayed at different programme venues where the Nukkad Natak was organized.
38	Youth Parliament focuses on Women Empowerment	July 29-30, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti in association with Sajal Foundation and Chanakya Niti National Youth Parliament (CNYPP) organized a “Youth Parliament” in Gandhi Darshan that was attended by over 450 participants from different parts of the country who were policy aficionados, politics enthusiasts and law students took part in the event. The theme of this year’s conference was “Women Empowerment”.
39	Orientation and Capacity Building Workshop for NCWEB Teachers	July 30, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and Non-Collegiate Women Education Board (NCWEB) jointly organized an orientation and capacity building workshop for teachers-in-charge / teachers of NCWEB by the support of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti at GSDS Rajghat on July 30, 2017. In a one day program, five sessions took place to holistically shape capabilities of fifty teachers of NCWEB present at the workshop.
40	Meeting on “Ba-Bapu – 150 Curtain Raiser”	July 31, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti organized a special curtain raiser dialogue on “Ba-Bapu – 150” in Gandhi Darshan on July 31, 2017 as part of the preparatory meeting to mark the celebrations of the 150 <sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of Ba-Bapu in 2019. Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President of Harijan Sevak Sang; Prof. N. Radhakrishnan, former Director GSDS; Shri Basant; Shri Ramesh Sharma, Km. Indu Bala, Shri Prasun Latant and Shri Atul Prabhakar, Shri U C Gaur, and many others took part in the programme. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan was also present on the occasion.
41	Youth Peace Camp on “Building Bridges across Urban and Rural Youth”	July 3-7, 2017	Madhya Pradesh	Standing Together to Enable Peace (STEP) Trust, in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, organized a four-day Youth Peace Camp in Katni, Madhya Pradesh from the July 3-6, 2017. There were thirty youths from Delhi and Madhya Pradesh, who participated in the peace camp. The theme of the peace camp was ‘Building Bridges across Urban and Rural Youth’, with the aim being to bring together urban and rural perspectives on a variety of social issues through the individual experiences of each of the participants.
42	Two Days Women’s Camp on Gram Swaraj	July 14-15, 2017	WEST BENGAL	The Samiti in association with Sarbik Gram Unnayan Sangha organised a two-day “Women’s Camp on Gram Swaraj” at Dhanchyabari Sister Nivedita Smriti Sangha, West Bengal from July 14-15, 2017. 103 participants mostly women from different communities and 17 nearby villages under the Chandipur Block in East Medinipur district took part in the camp.

43	National Young Volunteers Conclave for Constructive Work	July 10-12, 2017	KARGIL, JAMMU AND KASHMIR	The Samiti in association with the Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Kargil and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) organised a three-day “National Young Volunteers Conclave for Constructive Work” at Kargil on July 10-12, 2017. The conclave was inaugurated by the Minister of Youth and Sports, J&K, Shri Sunil Sharma addressing the inaugural session. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS, Dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director IGNOU Gandhi Darshan Complex and many others were present on the occasion. 200 youth from different parts of the country took part in the three-day convention.
44	Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre inaugurated in Kargil	July 10, 2017	KARGIL, JAMMU AND KASHMIR	Minister for Youth and Sports, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Sunil Sharma inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre at Kargil. The Centre is an initiative of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and will be run by NYK, Kargil. The Interpretation Centres in different parts of the country are being established with an aim towards reaching out to different parts of the country, thereby developing a rich resource bank of people who could play a vital role during the 150 <sup>th</sup> celebrations.
45	Seminar on “100 Years of Champaran Satyagraha”	July 18-19, 2017	JHARKHAND	The Samiti in association with the Department of M.Phil (Gandhian Studies) along with Hindi & Social Science Department of Jamshedpur Women’s College organized a two-day seminar on “100 Years of Champaran Satyagraha” on July 18-19, 2017. The speakers underlined the concept of ‘satyagraha’ and opined that the principles of truth and non-violence are more relevant today and Mahatma Gandhi shines as a beacon of light in the conflict driven world.
46	Convention on “Samajik Nayik Andolana Re Malati Choudhuryka Bhumika”	July 26, 2017	ODISHA	A convention on “Samajik Nayik Andolana Re Malati Choudhuryka Bhumika” (Role of Malati Choudhury in the Social Reformation Movement) organised on the occasion of the by the State Social Welfare Board (SSWB) Odisha and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti at the KIIT Auditorium at Bhubaneshwar, Odisha on July 26, 2017. Shri Prafulla Samal, Hon’ble Minister of Women and Child Development Department, Government of Odisha inaugurated the convention.
47	National dialogue on Hindi Sahitya Me Gandhi aur Dinkar ki Rashtriya Chetna	July 28, 2017	Goa	The National dialogue on “Hindi Sahitya Me Gandhi aur Dinkar ki Rashtriya Chetna” at Menezes Braganza Hall in Panjim, Goa on July 28, 2017. The national dialogue was organised by the Samiti in association with Jayate Foundation. Over 600 people took part in the dialogue.
48	Meeting for Gandhi 150	August 2, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti organised a preparatory meeting with academicians, social workers, members from the Karigar Panchayat, writers, and authors in Gandhi Darshan on August 2, 2017. About 20 persons took part in the discussion that raised the importance of taking forward the message of Mahatma Gandhi to different parts of the country through various socio-educations, socio-economic, cultural and sustainable programmes. Further discussion on organising a confluence of Gandhian thoughts was also mooted.
49	Exhibition on Quit India at Gandhi Smriti	August 8-15, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Smriti	On the eve of the 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quit India Movement, the Samiti hosted an exhibition on paper clippings on Mahatma Gandhi by Mohd. Subhan. The exhibition set up on August 8, 2017 described the different news items on Mahatma Gandhi collected over a span of 14-15 years by Mohd. Subhan. The exhibition was from August 8-15, 2017.

50	75 Years of Quit India Movement	August 9, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat	On the occasion of the 75 years of the Quit India Movement, Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led the entire staff of the Samiti into paying rich tributes to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat.  Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led the entire staff of the Samiti into paying rich tributes to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat
51	70 <sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebrated	August 15, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan unfurled the National Flag at the Gandhi Darshan campus at Rajghat on the occasion of the 70 <sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 15, 2017. The staff of the Samiti took part in the programme. Addressing the gathering, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan reiterated the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and called for dedication and commitment towards work.
52	GSDS participates at Hum Azaad Hain programme in Dilli Haat Janakpuri	August 13-15, 2017	Delhi Dilli Haat Janakpuri	The Samiti set up an exhibition on Kranti Se Gandhi 1857-1947 in Dilli Haat Janakpuri to commemorate the 70 <sup>th</sup> Independence Day. Besides the exhibition, Srijan, the Gandhi Smriti Entrepreneurial Centre also displayed the Khadi products on the occasion. The exhibition was on display till August 2, 2017.
53	Programme on Skill Development for Auto Drivers of Champaran, Bihar	August 16, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	As part of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha, the Samiti initiated a skill development programme for auto drivers of Champaran, Bihar plying in Delhi. This is part of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) under the Paradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana of the National Skill Development Corporation. In view of this, a meeting was convened with the auto drivers on August 16, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan with an objective towards initiating a comprehensive capacity building and sustained livelihood programme for the auto drivers.
54	Discussion on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy with Judges from Sri Lanka	August 18, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	A 35-member delegation from the Supreme Court, High Court, Lower and District Courts of Sri Lanka visited Gandhi Darshan on August 18, 2017. The delegation was led by Supreme Court Judge, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Gunaratne. Mr. Chandrasen Kumar, Chief Administrative Officer of the Delhi Judicial Academy coordinated the visit of the delegation. Apart from the 35-member delegation, almost 20 other officials took part in the interaction that was organised on the occasion.
55	Dialogue on "Children-Violence-Peace-Building Cohesive societies in Multicultural Contexts"	August 10, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	About 120 participants including international delegates from 11 countries took part in a dialogue on "Children-Violence-Peace-Building Cohesive Societies in Multicultural Contexts" in Gandhi Darshan organised by the GSDS in association with Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore on August 10, 2017. The programme was organised as a tribute to the 75 years of the Quit India Movement. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Dr. Ms. Veenu Aram, Founder Director Shanti Ashram were present on the occasion.
56	Programme with Central Prisons – Tihar	August 5, 14, 16, 18	Delhi Tihar	The Samiti organised several painting competition in various jails of Tihar as part of Champaran Satyagraha celebrations where the inmates displayed their creativity through art depicting issues such as swachhagraha, Mahatma Gandhi's philosophies, sanitation, female foeticide, environment, etc.
57	Chintan Baithak – Discussion and Brainstorming on Sustainable Development – Developing a framework for nation-building	August 24-27, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti in association with Pragya Pravah organised a three-day brainstorming session on Sustainable Development – Developing a framework for Networking in Gandhi Darshan from August 24-27, 2017. The programme was attended by the Chief of RSS Shri Mohan Bhagwat. Also present on the occasion were authors, academicians, writers, social thinkers, corporate heads.

58	Two-day Youth regional Workshop on “Volunteering for Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Coexistence: Gandhian Philosophy”	August 7-8, 2017	NAGALAND	The Samiti, in association with Prodigals’ Home and Confederation of Community Based Organization of India (CCBOS) and in collaboration with Eco-Club, S.M. College, Dimapur organised a two-day regional workshop on “Volunteering for Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Coexistence: Gandhian Philosophy” at Dimapur, Nagaland on August 7-8, 2017. Shri Gulshan Gupta, NE Coordinator participated in the programme.
59	Two-day Orientation Camp for Young Satyagrahis discusses New Vistas of Satyagraha	August 12-13, 2017	KERALA	As part of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha, the Samiti organised a two-day “Orientation Camp for Young Satyagrahis” in association with the Chair for Gandhian Studies and Research (CGSR), University of Calicut, Kerala on August 12-13, 2017. The theme of the orientation camp was “New Vistas of Satyagraha”.
60	Five-day workshop on “Gandhian Thought and Women Empowerment”	August 8-12, 2017	Dhulagori Mahila Samity WEST BENGAL	The Samiti in association with Dhulagori Mahila Samity, a social welfare organisation in West Bengal organised a Five-day Workshop on “Gandhian Thought and Women Empowerment” from August 8-12, 2017 at Dhulagori Mahila Samity.
61	Youth Camp on Natun Prajanmer Kache Gandhi ji (Gandhi to New Generation)	August 19-25, 2017	West Bengal	A youth camp on “Gandhi to New Generation” was organised in association with Gandhi Peace Foundation, West Bengal from August 19-25, 2017 at Kasturba Bhavan, Howrah.
62	Five-day workshop on “Dissemination of Gandhian Thought among the Student, youth and other constructive workers”	August 17-21, 2017	West Bengal	The Samiti in association with Gosaidhi Astha Welfare Society (GAWS) at West Bengal organised a five-day workshop on “Dissemination of Gandhian Thought among the Student, youth and other constructive workers” on August 17-21, 2017. Almost 90 participants took part in the five-day workshop.
63	Discussion on Mahatma Gandhi’s Gram Swaraj find prominence during the Gandhi Smriti Yatra	August 14 -22, 2017	MADHYA PRADESH	The Samiti in association with Gandhi Bhawan Nyas, Bhopal Madhya Pradesh launched the Gandhi Smriti Yatra as part of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha from August 14, 2017 on the eve of the 70 <sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration. The Yatra from August 14-22, 2017. Shri C B Sharma coordinated the entire yatra. The Yatra covered almost 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh.
64	Two-day workshop with Children organised	August 23-24, 2017	ALMORA, UTTARAKHAND	The Samiti in association with Dastak Samajik Sanstha Dwarahat, Almora, Uttarakhand organised a two-day workshop with children on various issues such as prohibition, female foeticide, sanitation and health. During the workshop various competitions were also organised such as story writing, poetry and painting. 90 participants from 10 different schools took part in the workshop
65	Run for Peace in collaboration with Health Fitness Society Trust,	17 September, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	600 runners participated in Marathon. Theme of the marathon was Run for Swachhata. Marathon was in three categories; 1 k.m, 5 k.m and 10 k.ms. Hon’ble Minister Shri Birender Singh flagged off the Marathon.
66	Garbage to Garden in association with Indian Institute for Photography (IIP)	16 September, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan	On the morning of 15 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017, IIP Foundation set ablaze the Swachhata Ki Mashaal at Gandhi Smriti for the initiative Garbage to Garden. On 16 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017 seminar on Garbage to Garden: Wet Waste Management was organized at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. About 150 people took part in the seminar.
67	Rehearsals for 2 <sup>nd</sup> October Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti Celebration	23 September – 01 October 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti	About 400 students from 16 different schools took part in music rehearsal for 2 <sup>nd</sup> October Gandhi Jayanti Celebration.

68	Value Creation Camp	23 September-04 October, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	104 students along with their teachers from 4 schools participated in the camp. Participants are from 4 different states viz. Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Panipat, Haryana, Champaran Bihar and Mathura, Uttarpradesh. Workshops on Theatre/Drama (Ms. Madhumita Khan), Charkha (Dharamraj & Vivek); Shramdaan;), Naturopathy (Dr. Manju Aggarwal), Comic art (Shri Shivdutt), Music (Sudhanshu Bahuguna).
69	Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram,	9-10 September, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The programme was organized at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. About 100 people from different tribal states took part in the programme. Issues related to Jal, Jungle and Jameen were discussed.
70	Swachhata Programme at Harijan Sevak Sangh,	25 September, 2017	Delhi Harijan Sevak Sangh Kingsway Camp	A Swachhata drive in association with Harijan Sevak Sangh was conducted at Harijan Basti 'Dhaka' in Burari. About 100 people from the colony also took part in Swachhata Abhiyan. Chaupal Charcha was also conducted with the people of the colony. The objective of this drive was to spread the message of Cleanliness and Sanitation among the people of the society.
71	Teachers Day Celebration on	5 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The programme was organized in association with IGNOU, Regional Centre, Rajghat. About 100 participants participated in the workshop. Prof. T.K Thomas was the key speaker of the day.
72	B&S Foundation	5 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The programme was organized at Satyagraha Mandap, Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. More than 200 women participated in the programme.
73	World Literacy Day	8 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Importance of literacy and different aspects of education were discussed in the programme. 35 Teachers from 17 different schools of Delhi participated in programme.
74	Nukkad Natak on Different Social Issues by Udit Asha Welfare Society	9 & 10 September, 2017	Delhi Slums of Delhi	To commemorate the centenary year of Champaran Satyagraha, two street plays were conducted by Udit Asha Welfare Society in September Month.  One street play was conducted at Paharganj, Delhi on 9 September, 2017. Another street play was conducted at Mayur Vihar, Delhi on 10 September, 2017.  Both Nukkad Natak were based on the theme of Champaran Satyagraha.
75	Naturopathy Programme	6 September, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The programme was in association with Gandhi Smarak Prakitik Chikitsa Samiti, New Delhi. About 100 people from different states participated in the seminar.
76	Northeast Cultural Symposium,	8, 9 & 10 September, 2017.	Meghalaya	100 volunteers and 300 artists took part in the 3 Days Northeast level Cultural Symposium were from different states of Northeast viz. Manipur, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura. In 3 days, more than 10,000 audiences witnessed the symposium.
77	Workshop on Mutual Co-existence and Free of Substance Abuse in the Surrounding Environment at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya.	11 September, 2017	Mahenderganj, Meghalaya	In this workshop 120 youth of 9 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> class took part. Mahenderganj is a frontier part of Indo-Bangladesh border. Shri Anand Koch shared his views on scope for youth in Garo Hills and their duties towards their motherland. Shri Rahul Parikh talked with students on Ideal student and role in nation building.
78	One Day Seminar on Promotion Of Gandhian Ideas Among Youth	23-September, 2017	Gopalganj, Bihar	Seminar was organized at Kamla Rai College, Gopalganj.  Total 160 participants took part in the seminar.  Esteemed guests Prof. Vikas Narayan Upadhyana, Dr. Md. Wasim and others enlightened on the philosophy and thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi.

79	Volunteering for Humanity a two days inclusive exploration exercise with a thrust on Swachhata at Bhopal.	15 & 16 September, 2017.	Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	About 100 students took part in the workshop.  Arushi Society helps and teaches children with visual impairment. A rally on Swachhata was conducted in Bhopal on 16 <sup>th</sup> September, 2017
80	One Day Seminar on Women Empowerment: Stree Shakti Sadhana Shivir at Nandurbar Programme,	10-September 2017	Nandurbar, Maharashtra	The seminar was organized by Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Lok Sewa Kendra, Nandurbar, Maharashtra.  Many eminent guests like Shri Ramanlal Shah, Prof. Mridula Verma, Prof. Kiran Saxena were present in the Shivir. Chief guests Sushri Daya Bahan Ji enlightened on the power of women in the society.
81	Two day Seminar on Swachhata organized by Confederation of Community Based Organization (CCBOS)	15 September, 2017	Gunnaur, Uttarpradesh.	The two day seminar on Swachhata was at DAV Inter College, Gunnaur in association with CCBOS. More than 800 youths and distinguished guests attended the seminar, took part in the cleanliness activity. All participants including guests took pledge towards actively engaging in Swachhata Missino to develop awareness and bring radical changes in the physical environment and mindset of the population as a whole.
82	Spreading the message of Mahatma Gandhi among Social Activist in India	16-17 September, 2017	Morena, Madhya Pradesh	The programme was held on 16-17 September, 2017 in association with Mahatma Gandhi Seva Ashram, Morena, Madhya Pradesh.
83	State level Convention for Promotion of Gandhian Approach to Social justice and Development on in Odisha.	September 11-12, 2017	Odisha	The state level convention was organized by Vinoba Seva Pratishthan, Odisha in commemoration of 123 <sup>rd</sup> Birth Anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Celebration of Centenary year of Chamapran Satyagraha. About 600 people took part in the convention.
84	Rajkiye Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Brindaban, Champaran  Swachhata Pakhwara	September 16, 2017	Champaran, Bihar	Rajkiye Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Vrindavan, Champaran organised an awareness programme as part of the Swachhata Pakhwara on September 16, 2017. Children of the Vidyalaya conducted the swachhata campaign at the nearby areas such as Brindaba, Rambhpukha, Tikachapar, Dubetola, Jabdol, Jinachap, Ojhatola and this is being done every month. Families of the nearby villages are also being made aware to use toilets as part of this campaign. Those families which do not have toilet facilities are being inspired to construct one.
85	Gandhi Jayanti celebrated	October 2, 2017	Delhi  Gandhi Smriti	The commemorative programme began with the musical tribute by over 400 children. The hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, led the nation in paying rich tributes to the Father of the Nation in Gandhi Smriti on the occasion of the 148 <sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations on October 2, 2017. The hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Smt. Gursharan Gaur, Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, (who is also the VC GSDS) also joined the commemorative programme and offered their tributes to the Mahatma. People from different segments of the society gathered in Gandhi Smriti to offer their tributes to Gandhiji.
86	Gandhi, Ganga, Giriraj – Awareness Yatra begins	October 3, 2017	Delhi  Gandhi Smriti	As part of the centenary year of the Champaran Satyagraha, the Samiti in association with Save Ganga Movement launched the "Gandhi, Ganga, Giriraj – Awareness Yatra" on October 3, 2017 from Gandhi Smriti. The inaugural programme was graced by religious leaders from different faiths along with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and Mrs. Rama Raute, Convenor Save Ganga Movement.

87	Value Creation Camp concludes	October 3, 2017	Delhi  Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti organised the valedictory function of the 11-day Value Creation Camp – organised from September 23 onwards – on October 3, 2017 in Gandhi Darshan. 110 children and their coordinators took part in the programme. Each individual group presented the local cultural programme with songs and dances.
88	National Discussion Meet on Education, Work and Rural Development - Gandhian Educational Ideas in Policy Perspective	October 3-5, 2017	Delhi  NUEPA	Senior Gandhians, academicians and practitioners took part in the three-day meet. The main objectives of the Meet organised in association with National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) were as follows: To develop an understanding of relevance of the Gandhian Ideals in Education in the current and emerging socio-economic context
89	Three-month awareness course on “Benefits of Charkha” launched with Delhi University	October 6, 2017	Delhi  Gandhi Bhawan  Delhi University	The Samiti has launched a three month’s awareness course on “Benefits of Charkha” in association with Gandhi Bhawan, Delhi University with two classes of two hour duration every week. It has been decided to hold the classes twice a week in both Gandhi Bhawan and Gandhi Darshan, alternately. The students visited Gandhi Darshan on October 13, 2017 and went around the pavilions and also interacted with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director, GSDS. The course is commendable in these technical times, when the hand and mind work together both for our spiritual and economic well being.
90	Discussion on “Samraat Hemchandra Vikramaditya’s Coronation and the India of Mahatma Gandhi’s Dreams”	October 7, 2017	Delhi  Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti organised a day-long discussion on “Samraat Hemchandra Vikramaditya’s Coronation and the India of Mahatma Gandhi’s Dreams” (Samrat Hemchandra Vikramaditya ka Rajyabhishek evam Gandhi ke Sapno ka Bharat) in association with Indraprastha Yogkshem Sewa Nyas on October 7, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan.
91	Gandhi Jayanti National Conference 2017 Revisiting Champaran: Challenges of Satyagraha in 21st Century	October 16-17, 2017	Delhi  Zakir Hussain College	A two-day Gandhi Jayanti National Conference 2017 was held on October 16-17, 2017 at Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi. The theme of the conference was “Revisiting Champaran: Challenges of Satyagraha in 21 <sup>st</sup> Century”.
92	Cleanliness Drive before Diwali organised	October 17, 2017	Delhi  Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti	As part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Samiti organised the Swachhata Pakhwada in both its campuses in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan respectively. In view of this, the Samiti also organised a special cleanliness drive in both its campuses before the Diwali celebrations on October 17, 2017. The entire staff of the Samiti joined in the cleanliness drive with enthusiasm by not only cleaning their respective rooms but the entire campus.
93	Swadeshi Mela	October 11-15, 2017	Delhi  Dwarka	The Samiti participated in the Swadeshi Mela organized at Sector 7 Dwarka CCRT ground from October 11-15, 2017. The Mela was organized by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Delhi. Shri Sushil Kumar Shukla and Shri Shakeel Khan took part in the mela with khadi products from Srijan Entrepreneurial Centre, GSDS. During the mela, different activities such as dance, traditional crafts formed an integral part of the mela.
94	Five-day Theatre and Personality Development Workshop for Special Children	October 12-16, 2017	Delhi  Karkarduma	The Samiti in association with Navin Jivika Welfare and Educational Society organised a five-day “Theatre and Personality Development Workshop for Special Children” at Jagriti enclave, Karkarduma, New Delhi. The aim of the workshop was to increase the confidence of the children and refine their personality through theatre and stage.

95	Seminar-cum-workshop on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” for social awareness	October 13, 2017	Delhi  Bindapur	A day-long seminar on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” for social awareness on October 13, 2017 at Coffee House, Bindapur, New Delhi. About 100 volunteers from the organisation took part in making the programme successful.
96	In the Path of Buddha and Gandhi – A Dialogue	October 21, 2017	Delhi  Gandhi Smriti	A dialogue, In the Path of Buddha and Gandhi was organized by the Samiti in association with Ahimsa Trust on October 21, 2017. About 80 followers of the Vietnamese Zen Master, Thich Nacht than took part in the dialogue which was moderated by Dharmacharya Shantum Seth and the GSDS Programme Officer, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu. The aim was the dialogue was on how the teachings of Buddha and Gandhi are critically important today for global peace.
97	Book release function organised	October 30, 2017	Delhi India International Centre	Book release ‘The 21st Century Geopolitics, Democracy and Peace’ authored by former Governor of Sikkim, Shri B.P. Singh, at a special launch function at the India International Centre on October 30, 2017. The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri N.N. Vohra and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.
98	Unity March organised as part of National Unity Day	October 31, 2017	Delhi  Gandhi Darshan to Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat to Kisan Ghat Road	Around 200 people including senior Gandhians, academicians, vice-chancellors, professors, research scholars, writers and authors, volunteers and others took part in the Unity March from Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat to Kisan Ghat Road and then to Gandhi Darshan complex on October 30, 2017 as a mark of the commemoration of the 142nd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose birth is being celebrated every year as the National Unity Day. National Unity Day (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas) was introduced by the Government of India and inaugurated by the hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2014.
99	Gandhi Mela	October 31 to November 2, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Over 500 Gandhians, writers, Vice-Chancellors, Chancellors, authors, social workers, activists and youth from different parts of the country took part in the three-day Gandhi Mela.
100	Two-day Seminar on “Nature-Human-Wildlife on Mutual Co-existence”	October 6-7, 2017	BHARATPUR, RAJASTHAN	Youth mainly from the village communities took part in the seminar. The Seminar brought together experts from different disciplines to discuss and analyse the centuries old inter-connectedness between nature, human and wildlife, the now disappearing relationships between these entities and the need for reconnecting human society with the other two realms of Nature and Wildlife.
101	Promoting Gandhian Values amongst today’s youth	October 16, 2017	HIMACHAL PRADESH	A one-day seminar was organized by the Samiti in association with the Central University of Himachal Pradesh on ‘Promoting Gandhian Values amongst today’s youth’. The programme was organized on October 16, 2017.
102	Workshop on Media and Information Literacy to Promote Gandhian Approach to Environment and Sustainable Development	October 13-14, 2017	PUNJABI UNIVERSITY, PATIALA.	A workshop in Punjabi University, Patiala was organized on 13-14 October, 2017. The theme of the workshop was ‘Media and information literacy to promote Gandhian approach to environment and sustainable development’. More than 100 participants from the university took part in the workshop.
103	One day seminar on Women Empowerment and Prohibition	October 8, 2017	Rudraprayag UTTRAKHAND	The Samiti’s programme was organized by Kedar-Badri Manav Shram Samiti, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand on October 08, 2017. More than 400 women from 12 villages took part in the seminar. Discussion on ill effects of prohibition and their impact on families were raised.
104	Two day seminar on “Constructive Works of Mahatma Gandhi and Panchayati Raj”	October 13-14, 2017	Kausani UTTRAKHAND	The programme was organized on October 13-14, 2017 in association with Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi at Kausani. The venue of the programme was Anasakti Ashram, Kausani, Uttarakhand. More than 100 Students from different schools near Kausani took part in this two days seminar and understood the importance of Panchayati Raj in Indian democracy.

## ANNUAL REPORT – 2017-18

105	Workshop for children on Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Co-existence	October 10, 2017	Guptakashi UTTRAKHAND	A one-day workshop for children on “Nature-Human-Wildlife, Mutual Co-existence” was organized by the Samiti for the students of Dr. Jacques Vigne National School, Guptakashi, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand on October 10, 2017. About 120 students took part in the workshop.
106	Workshop for youth on “Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Co-Existence”	October 11, 2017	Agastyamuni, Rudraprayag UTTRAKHAND	The workshop for youth on “Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Co-existence” was organized at Shri Anusuya Prasad Bahuguna Rajakeeya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Agastyamuni, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand on October 11, 2017. More than 100 college students and distinguished guests attended the workshop. Mr. Gulshan Gupta and Ms. Reeta Kumari from GSDS conducted the workshop.
107	Seminar on Gandhian Perspective of Journalism	October 24, 2017	FARIDABAD, HARYANA	The Samiti organized a one-day seminar on “Gandhian Perspective of Journalism” at the Manav Rachna University, Faridabad, Haryana on October 24, 2017. About 100 students took part in the seminar and there was an interesting interactive session.
108	Inauguration of Exhibition at Delhi College of Engineering	October 11, 2017	BAWANA, Delhi	The Samiti set up an exhibition on the “Life and Times of Mahatma Gandhi” and Kranti Se Gandhi-Raj to Swaraj” at the Delhi College of Engineering, Bawana. The exhibition was set up during a programme organised in association with Khadi Sankalp on October 11, 2017.
109	Orientation programme on Gandhian ethics and the Media Today	October 30, 2017	GANGTOK, SIKKIM	A one-day orientation programme was organized for students of Mass Communication, Sikkim Central University, Gangtok on October 30, 2017. The GSDS Programme Officer Dr Vedabhyas Kundu and the Coordinator North-east Mr Gulshan Gupta conducted the workshop. Dr Ashesh Nayak, faculty in the Department of Mass Communication also spoke on the occasion. About 40 students took part in this workshop.
110	Integrating Nonviolent Communication in Educational Practices	October 31, 2017	GANGTOK, SIKKIM	The Samiti organized a one day orientation workshop on ‘Integrating Nonviolent Communication in Educational Practices’ for in-service teachers and students of B.Ed and M.Ed on October 31, 2017. The programme was organized in Harkamaya College of Education, Gangtok, Sikkim. About 130 participants took part in the Workshop.
111	Inauguration of Exhibition on Champaran Satyagraha at Motihari	October 2, 2017	Champaran, Bihar	The Samiti had developed an exhibition on “Champaran Satyagraha” consisting of 21 panels of exhibition. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer’s Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated the exhibition on October 2, 2017 at Motihari at a special function. Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS coordinated the event.
112	Launch of Interpretation Centre at Narendrapur Village	October 12, 2017	Siwan, Bihar	The Samiti initiated the setting up of the Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre at different places and established an exhibition on the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi. Shri Vijay Kumar Chaudhury, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Bihar launched the Interpretation Centre of the Samiti at Narendrapur Village. The programme was organised in association with SEMAF. The launch ceremony was organised on October 12, 2017.
113	Orientation programme on “Promotion of Gandhian Ideas among Youth”	October 15, 2017	Gopalganj, Bihar	The Samiti in association with Jaiprakash University, Chhapra, Bihar, organised a one-day orientation programme on “Promotion of Gandhian Ideas among Youth” on October 5, 2017 at the University. The participants in the programme greatly benefitted from the discussion and came to know the various facets of Mahatma Gandhi’s life and works.
114	Mahatma Gandhi’s Constructive Programme and Role of Women Empowerment –A Seminar	October 31, 2017	Kaimur, Bihar	The Samiti with the local support of Sonevalley Development Foundation, Kaimur, Bihar, organized a one-day seminar on “Mahatma Gandhi’s Constructive Programme and Role of Women Empowerment”. 300 women delegates from the region attended the programme and shared their experiences and also discussed the implementation of the ‘Constructive Programme’ in the village life.

115	Gandhi Utsav and Seminar as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi	October 2-4, 2017	Bhagalpur, Bihar	The Samiti in association with Disha Gramin Vikas Manch organized a three-day “Gandhi Utsav and Seminar”. A Sadbhavana Yatra was organized from Gandhidham, Bajiani to Sobhanpur in Amarpur block.
116	Debate competition and Swachhata Abhiyan at Sarvodaya Ashram, Gandhi Ghar, Kursela	October 2, 2017	Katihar, Bihar	The Samiti in association with Sarvodaya Ashram, Gandhighar at Kursela, Katihar, Bihar organised a debate competition for the boys from Class IX and X and painting competition on Swachhata by the girls from Class IX and X. almost 400 children took part in the programme as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations.
117	Workshop on the importance of Gandhi Darshan and Khadi and Village Industries in the present context	October 2, 2017	Amritpur Vaishali District	The Samiti is association with Kamtoulia Area Small Farmer & Resourceless Communities Association (KASFARCA), organized a one day workshop on the Importance of Gandhi Darshan and Khadi and Village Industries in the present context in Amritpur Vaishali District, Bihar on Gandhi Jayanti, 2017.
118	Seminar on “Women Empowerment, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Village Development”	October 25, 2017	CHATTISGARH	The Samiti in association with Naveen Ankur Mahila Mandal in Chattisgarh organized a day-long seminar on “Women Empowerment, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Village Development” at Amdi Dhantari, Chattisgarh on October 25, 2017. 300 distinguished women workers from various Gram Panchayats of the region took part in the seminar.
119	Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on Gandhi Jayanti	October 2-11, 2017	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	The Samiti in association with Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Varanasi, organised several programmes from October 2-4, 2017 as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. The programme on Gandhi Jayanti began with a shramdaan at 6.00 A.M. The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Naik and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Yogi Adityanath who offered rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.
120	Gandhiji's Constructive Programme – A Discussion	October 30, 2017	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	The Samiti in collaboration with the Centre for Environment and Social Research, Varanasi organised a discussion on “Gandhiji's Constructive Programmes” on October 30, 2017 at the Lanka school auditorium at Varanasi. The chief guest of the function was Shri Surendra Singh, former Rural Development Director.
121	Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programme and Farmers – A Seminar	October 31, 2017	RAJASTHAN	The Samiti, in association with Jor Ki Dhani at Jor Ki Dhani Gaudham, Seekar Rajasthan, organized a one-day seminar on the theme “Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programme and Farmer's”. The chairperson of the seminar Shri Parmanandji spoke on the plight of the farmers and the remedies by following Gandhiji's constructive programmes.
122	Gandhi Mela on “Gandhi and Religion” concludes	November 2, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The three-day Gandhi Mela being organized by the Samiti in association with the Indian Society of Gandhian Studies (ISGS), Wardha, Maharashtra, at Gandhi Darshan as part of the 40 <sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of ISGS discussions on the forthcoming 150 <sup>th</sup> Gandhi Jayant celebrations in 2019 were raised where the speakers asked the participants to start mobilizing people in different parts of the country.
123	17 Awards in Indian and 14 Awards in International Category conferred to film-makers at 9th CMS Vatavaran	November 2-6, 2017	Delhi	The Samiti hosted the 9 <sup>th</sup> CMS Vatavaran – India's only International Environment & Wild Life Film Festival – in its Gandhi Darshan campus on November 2-6, 2017. The 9 <sup>th</sup> CMS VATAVARAN felicitated more than 30 awards to filmmakers who were competing in various categories at GSDS. The Awards were selected from 113 nominated films by an eminent Jury chaired by Mr. Govind Nihalani, in 13 categories for Indian films and five categories for International films. The theme of CMS VATAVARAN festival and forum this year was ‘Conservation 4 Water’ (9 <sup>th</sup> competitive & 8 <sup>th</sup> travelling edition)

124	Exhibition of artists from Canada in Gandhi Smriti	November 9, 2017	Delhi	The Samiti, in Gandhi Smriti, hosted an exhibition of artists from the Mahatma Gandhi International Foundation (MGIF) in Montreal, Canada containing paintings by eminent artist Shri Suraj Sadan founder Director of the MGIF and his team of young artists. This exhibition – organised as part of the competition organised by the MGIF in Canada – was done with an aim to encourage young people aged 14 to 20 to creatively explore the ideas and messages of nonviolence through art and to follow the path of nonviolence.
125	Dialogue with World Peace Art Delegation from Japan organised	November 10, 2017	Delhi	The Samiti organised a dialogue with the members from the World Peace Art Exhibition from Japan in Gandhi Darshan on November 10, 2017. This dialogue was part of the celebration to mark the peaceful relationships between Japan and India. The artists exhibited 211 pieces of wonderful art from different regions of Japan. This was also a tribute to the 20 <sup>th</sup> death Anniversary of Mother Teresa.
126	Charkha training programme	November 18, 2017	Delhi	The Samiti organized a special charkha spinning training in Green Fields School, Safdarjung Enclave, on November 18, 2017. Two representatives of the Samiti, Ms. Renu and Sh. Dharamraj went to the school for teaching the students charkha spinning. About 450 students and teachers participated enthusiastically. They were all eager to know about the charkha and practiced spinning.
127	National Conference on Holistic Yoga: H3 (Health, Happiness and Harmony)	November 10-11, 2017	Delhi	A two-day National Conference on “Holistic Yoga: H <sup>3</sup> (Health, Happiness and Harmony)” was organised by Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. The conference was an attempt to reflect on the concept of Holistic Yoga from its three Core aspects namely: Health, Happiness and Harmony and to develop, promote and propagate the holistic and pragmatic aspect of Yoga in the midst of urban busy life.
128	Orientation for in-service teachers on Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication	November 21-22, 2017	Delhi	The Samiti organised a two-day orientation programme for “In-service/ would be teachers on “Non-violent Conflict Resolution and Non-violent Communication” in collaboration with the Amity Institute of Education (AIE) in New Delhi on November 21-22, 2017. 130 participants from various Schools, Teacher Training Institutes and Universities from Delhi and NCR took part in the orientation programme.
129	Auto Drivers from Champaran receive Skill Development training certificate	November 24, 2017	Delhi	As part of the Skill Development Programme of the Government of India, the Samiti initiated the Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) programme, the auto drivers from Champaran working in New Delhi for 25 years. This programme was launched on September 24, 2017 in Gandhi Darshan Rajghat.
130	Exhibition on “Gandhi and Social Justice” inaugurated at All India Constructive Workers’ Conference in Harijan Sevak Sangh	November 25-26, 2017	Delhi	The Samiti as one of the collaborating Gandhian organisation of the All India Constructive Workers’ Conference organised by the Harijan Sevak Sangh at Kingsway Camp from November 25-26, 2017 displayed 22 panels of exhibition on “Gandhi and Social Justice” during the three-day conference attended by over 2000 people from all over the country. The exhibition was developed by the Exhibition Unit of GSDS.
131	Workshop on Children and Peace-Building	November 27, 2017	Delhi	The Samiti organized a one-day workshop on “Children and Peace Building” at the Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial Sr. Sec. School, at Jafarabad, Delhi. Almost 150 students of the school took part in the workshop. During the workshop, discussion with the participants on the Gandhian concept of mutual co-existence was raised and how students could play an important role in peace-building initiatives.

132	Discussion on “Bapu’s Constructive Programme”	November 3, 2017	SIWAN – BIHAR	The Samiti organized a discussion on Bapu’s Constructive Programme in association with Sakhiri Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Basantpur at Siwan, Bihar. It was held in Basantpur’s Sipan Training Hall on November 3, 2017. The discussion focused on the role of women in social welfare through the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi’s Constructive Programme.
133	Seminar on “Constructive Programme and Role of Women”	November 5, 2017	UTTAR PRADESH	The Samiti organized a one day seminar on ‘Constructive Programme and Role of Women’ in association with Banwasi Seva Ashram, Govindpur, Renukoot, Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh on November 5, 2017.
134	Workshop in Patarsa, Kanpur Nagar	November 17, 2017	PATARSA, KANPUR NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH	The Samiti in association with Purushottam Shri Ram Degree College, Patarsa, organized a workshop on Conflict Resolution at the college premises on November 17, 2017. Sh. Gulshan Gupta NE Coordinator and Sh. Deepak Pandeya Intern with GSDS represented the Samiti at the workshop based on the theme of Integrating Practices of Non-violence and conflict resolution for in-service/would be teachers.
135	Workshop on Volunteerism for Constructive Work	November 17, 2017	Kanpur UTTAR PRADESH	The Samiti organized a one-day workshop for school children on the theme “Volunteerism for Constructive Work” in association with Chaudhary Ram Gopal Singh Balika Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Akbarpur, Jhabiya, Kanpur. About 180 students, both boys and girls participated in the workshop and learnt many beneficial things, which would be very useful to them as they grow up and become active members of the society.
136	Workshop on Environment Awareness and Save Himalayas organised	November 9-10, 2017	ALMORA, UTTARAKHAND	A two-day workshop on “Environment Awareness and Save Himalayas” was held during November 09-10, 2017 at Rural Technology Complex, G B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora (Uttarakhand) by Mahila Haat in association with the Samiti. A total of 75 participants from 19 Gram Sabhas of Takula, Hawalbag and Almora blocks participated in the workshop.
137	International seminar on Re-inventing Nationalism, Secularism and Plurality: Media Discourses and Deconstruction	November 11-12, 2017	GUWAHATI, ASSAM	A two-day seminar on “Re-inventing Nationalism, Secularism and Plurality: Media Discourses and Deconstruction” was held at Guwahati on November 11-12, 2017. The programme was organised by the Department of Mass Communication, Mizoram University in collaboration with the Department of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University, to mark the golden jubilee of media education in the North Eastern part of India. Over 400 delegates/participants took part in the seminar.
138	6th Gandhi Darshan –Mission Samridhhi Summit organized	November 22-24, 2017	MAHARASHTRA	The 6th Gandhi Darshan – Mission Samridhhi summit organized in collaboration with Mission Samridhhi was organized at Wardha, Maharashtra. The speakers at the summit while unanimously endorsing the eternal concept of Nai Talim, reiterated the need of connecting the best practices spread across various states in the areas of livelihood, healthcare and education. They argued that there is a need to ‘Connect’, ‘Celebrate’ and ‘Catalyse’ the best practices.
139	Workshop on Volunteering and Constructive Work	November 25-26, 2017	KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL	A two-day workshop on “Volunteerism and Constructive Work” organised jointly by GSDS and Kolkata based SIPDAVE (Salt Lake Institute for Personality Development) on November 25-26, 2017. 110 young participants took part in the workshop.

140	Inter-school Vande Mataram Rolling Trophy Competition 2017  Children send a musical message of peace and harmony through songs of Bhakti Saints	December 5, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Over 150 children from 16 schools of Delhi and NCR gathered in Gandhi Darshan to take part in the Inter-school Vande Mataram Rolling Trophy Competition. With great enthusiasm, the children sang compositions of Meera bai, Tulsidas, Amir Khusroo, Kabir. From Aaj Raang Hai, to Chap Tilak Sab Chini, to Sri Ramchandra Kripalu to Mero Tau Girdhar Gopal the children displayed their unique creativity in this competition, with varied compositions from Raag Yaman to Bhairavi, to Bhimpalasi. East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave who was the winner of the competition took home the Vandemataram Rolling Trophy. The second prize was won by Modern Public School, Shalimar Bagh and the Third Prize was won by Delhi Public School, Mathura Road.
141	Gandhi Exchange Programme with children of Wardha	December 7-10, 2017	Maharashtra	25 student and seven teachers of Z P Schools of Wardha District (Maharashtra) as part of the Gandhi Exchange Programme visited GSDS from December 7-10 during which effort was made to introduce M K Gandhi before the students. The participating students had an interaction with Shri Basant ji, from Karigar Panchayat along with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan.
142	Geeta Gyan Vimarsh Lecture	December 10, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Techno Vedic Mission, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) (RC-2) and the Samiti organised a one-day dialogue on Geeta Gyan Vimarsh in Gandhi Darshan on December 10, 2017 as part of the "Srimad Bhagawat Gita Jayanti Parvotsav". Techno Vedic Mission was the other collaborating partner. About 76 participants took part in the programme. Prof. Ravindra Kumar, historian and former Vice Chancellor of IGNOU delivered the main lecture. Prof. Deenbandhu Pandey, eminent historian from the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) presided over the programme.
143	Youth Leadership Orientation Programme for Community Development	December 8-10, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, District Central Delhi organised a "Youth Leadership Orientation Programme for Community Development" in Gandhi Darshan. Almost 80 youth (boys and girls) from different schools and colleges in the age-group of 15-29 years took part in the three-day programme.
144	Training programme on "Understanding Adolescent Behaviour"	December 12, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti organised a training programme on Adolescent Behaviour in Gandhi Darshan on December 12, 2017 that was conducted by Dr. Rajiv Nandy. About 150 participants took part in the training programme.
145	National Seminar on "Environment Conservation – Scope Achievements and Challenges through Gandhian Thoughts and Perspectives"	December 14-15, 2017	Delhi Constitution Club Delhi	The Samiti in association with the Institute of Environment and Geo-Informatics (IEG), Career Plus Educational Society, Delhi, Confederation of Community Based Organisations in India (CCBOS) organised a two-day national seminar on "Environment Conservation – Scope Achievements and Challenges through Gandhian Thoughts and Perspectives" at the Deputy Speaker Hall, Constitution Club, New Delhi
146	GERICON raise concerns of improving better public health practices	December 16-17, 2017	Delhi AIIMS	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the GSDS collaborated to organise the 15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Academy of Geriatrics (GERICON) at Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium, AIIMS. Dr. Prasun Chatterjee HOD of Geriatrics AIIMS coordinated the programme. Shri Basant ji, former Advisor to GSDS attended the inaugural programme that was attended by over 200 doctors and medical practitioners from different parts of the country and even abroad. Prof. G S Shanti, Shri Mathew Cherian, Dr. AB Dey, Dr. Vinod Kumar and Dr. Arvind Jain were present at the inaugural programme.

147	Orientation Programme of Tribal students from LWE regions in Skill Development	December 16, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	On December 16, 2017, a step towards upliftment of tribal students had been undertaken by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). The journey started with the orientation programme, with a motive to instill skill development within the students from tribal areas of Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa.
148	Training in Youth Leadership Orientation Programme for Community Development	December 18-20, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	In view of its ongoing leadership programmes with youth from all across the country, the Samiti in association with the Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), District Central Delhi organised a “Youth Leadership Orientation Programme for Community Development” on December 18-20, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. Almost 120 youth took part in the programme from District North West, West and South West.
149	Workshop on Understanding Gandhi & Gandhi Quiz	December 20, 2017	Delhi Azadpur	The Samiti organised a workshop on “Understanding Gandhi” (Aao Gandhi Ko Jane) at Samudayik Utthan Balbari Vidyalaya, Azadpur, Delhi on December 20, 2017. Almost 110 participants took part in the workshop. A “Gandhi Quiz” was also organised on the occasion. Smt. Reeta Kumari and Shri Gulshan Gupta coordinated the programme.
150	First Anupam Discourse:  Himalaya – Criterion of our Sensitivity in the Changing Scenario	December 22, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	As a tribute to late Shri Anupam Mishra, a renowned Gandhian environmentalist, on his birth anniversary organised the “First Anupam Discourse” in Gandhi Darshan on December 22, 2017. Gandhi Peace Prize Awardee and noted environmentalist and social worker Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt delivered the first Anupam Memorial Lecture.
151	Training on Design Intellect – Preparing the Design Mind  Design Thinking Creates Sustainable Productivity: Arun Jain	December 23, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Shri Arun Jain, Chairman, Polaris who visited Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti conducted a training programme on “Design Intellect – Unmukt Preparing the Design Mind” for the staff and members of the GSDS. The training programme was organised on December 23, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan. Almost 100 participants took part in the programme.
152	2nd and 3rd Batch RPL Training Programme for Champaran Auto Drivers conducted	December 23-24 & December 30-31, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	As part of the ‘Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana’, the Samiti had started the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) training programme for Champaran Auto Drivers working in New Delhi during September 2017. In view of this, the Samiti as part of the programme organised the RPL training programme for Champaran Auto Drivers for second and third batch. The training for the second batch was organised on December 23-24, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. 34 participants took part in this training programme.
153	Workshop on Understanding Gandhi & Gandhi Quiz organised in CJ-1	December 27, 2017	Delhi Tihar	The Samiti organised a workshop on “Understanding Gandhi” (Aao Gandhi Ko Jane) at Central Prisons Tihar CJ-1 on December 27, 2017. Almost 100 inmates took part in the workshop. A “Gandhi Quiz” was also organised on the occasion. Dr. Manju Rani Aggarwal and Shri Vishwas Gautam coordinated the programme. Shri Subhash Chandra, Superintendent of CJ-1 was also present on the occasion.
154	Srijan Shakti Sangam – In Search of Micro Gandhi  Dialogue-cum-training programme on Mahatma Gandhi’s Vision of Constructive Work	December 28, 2017 to January 1, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	In the collaboration of Sanatan Kishkindha Mission and Bharat Vikas Sangam, GSDS organised Srijan Shakti Sangam in Gandhi Darshan from December 28, 2017 to January 1, 2018. In this program noted people were invited to share their experiences of constructive work. Among the listeners were around 45 youth volunteers and approximately 100 social workers from different parts of the country.

155	Capacity Building for GSDS Staff	December 28, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti organised a Capacity Building programme of the staffs on December 28, 2017 in Chandigarh in which 40 members took part. During this programme, visit to the historical places was also organised.
156	Students of Interpretation Centres in Varanasi display their musical ingenuity	December 30, 2017	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	A performance of students of different Interpretation Centres promoted by organisations of Ministry of Culture in Varanasi was organised in Gandhi Darshan on December 30, 2017. Students gave performance of Chaity and Kajri in semi-classical music.
157	Awareness programme on Child Marriages and dowry system organised	December 3, 2017	CHAMPARAN, BIHAR	The Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya Brindavan Champaran launched an awareness campaign on early child marriages and dowry system in the panchayat.  On December 3, 2017, the staff and students led by the Principal of the Vidyalaya paid rich tributes to Dr. Rajendra Prasad on his birth anniversary.
158	In the Path of Buddha and Gandhi: A Convention for the Global Peace and Kala Sanskriti Sangam	December 2-4, 2017	DHARAMSHALA, HIMACHAL PRADESH	Buddhist and Gandhian scholars and practitioners from different parts of the country came together for a Convention, "In the Path of Buddha and Gandhi for Global Peace" organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. The three day Convention saw deliberations on different aspects of Buddhist and Gandhian philosophy which could contribute to global peace. The Convention was inaugurated by His Holiness The Dalai Lama.
159	National Youth Volunteers Conclave for Constructive Work	December 8-10, 2017	KERALA	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in collaboration with the Kerala Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi organized a three-day Gandhi Yuva Sangamam 2017 at Gandhibhavan, Trivandrum. 200 Youth drawn from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala participated in this Southern Youth conclave.
160	Workshop on Upliftment of Village Children about Gandhian thought	December 27-31, 2017	WEST BENGAL	The Samiti in association with Gujar Kharui New Tarun Sangha West Bengal, organized a five-day workshop on "Upliftment of Village Children about Gandhi and His Thought". A total number of 200 participants took part in the workshop. A total number of 12 resource persons conducted the workshop. Children from 11 villages in the nearby district attended the workshop.
161	Training on Capacity Building of Women in Panchayato Raj Institutions	December 12, 2017	CHITTOOR, ANDHRA PRADESH	Training conducted on Capacity Building of Women in Panchayathi Raj Institutions on December 12, 2017 at the Meeting Hall, NPS Govt. Degree College for Women, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh. 160 participants consisting of Women in Panchayathi Raj and Prospective women for Panchayathi Raj participated in the training program.
162	One day workshop on Children and Peace Building	December 15, 2017	MANIPUR	The Samiti in association with Women and Child Care Mission (WCCM) in Manipur organised a day-long workshop on "Children and Peace Building" at Khurai Nandeibam Leikai, Imphal East District, Manipur on December 15, 2017. 102 participants from different areas in Manipur took part in the workshop.
163	Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke Naam	January 20, 2018	Noida Uttar Pradesh	As a tribute to the martyrs and brave hearts who have sacrificed their life for the country, the Samiti in association with Bharat Vikas Parishad, NOIDA on January 20, 2018. Renowned singer Padma Shri Kailash Kher and eminent folk singer Padma Shri Smt. Malini Awasthi performed at the programme titled Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke Naam. Over 2000 people took part in the programme dedicated to the soldiers of the country.

164	70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Martyrdom	January 30, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Smriti	The Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu; Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, led the Nation into paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the 70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Martyrdom in an evening inter-faith prayer meet which was held in Gandhi Smriti, the site of the Martyrdom of the Father of the Nation on January 30, 2018.
165	Orientation programme of Delhi Home Guards on – 'Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication'	January 11-12, 2018	Delhi Raja Garden	The Samiti organised an "Orientation Programme of Delhi Home Guards" on "Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication" on January 11-12, 2018. 150 Home Guards participated in the Workshop organised in Raja Garden organised in association with the Delhi Home Guards.
166	Amrut Krishi Farming and Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Work	January 11-13, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti organised a three-day training programme for the gardeners working in GSDS on Amrut Krishi from January 11-13, 2018. The training was conducted by Dr. Siddharth Biswas, Doctor at ICMR, AIIMS along with Mr. Rajesh, Dy. Director at Central Water Commission. About 60 participants took part in the residential workshop
167	Understanding Gandhi – An Interaction with children	January 18, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Smriti	The Samiti in association with Gandhi Peace Foundation (GPF) organised an interaction as part of the Samiti's programme Understanding Gandhi with over 400 children from different institutions of Delhi and NCR on January 18, 2018 in Gandhi Smriti. Shri Kumar Prashant, Chairperson of GPF, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS along with other resource persons took part in the programme.
168	Value Creation Camp	January 22-February 2, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	With the vision to inculcate the wisdom, harness the skill power and entwine the interstate culture amongst students, a 10 day Value Creation Camp (VCC) from January 22 to February 2, 2018 was organized by the Samiti. The camp was attended by about 100 participants from different states such as Garudachal Vidyapeeth Secondary School (Belbari, Meghalaya), Banwasi Sewa Ashram (Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh), Shree Kedarnath Badri Manav Kshram Samiti (Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand) and Dastak Samajik Sanstha Dwarahat (Kumaon, Uttarakhand).
169	RPL Training for Champaran Auto Drivers	January 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) training programme of GSDS was conducted for the auto drivers of Champaran, Bihar, living in New Delhi.
170	Four Days Workshop on "Reviving Traditional Textiles and Handicrafts"	January 27 to February 1, 2018	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	The Samiti organised a workshop on "Reviving Traditional Textiles and Handicrafts" in association with the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh from January 27 to February 1, 2018. Selected 20 participants from Anjaw district took part in this skill development programme. Training of reviving traditional textiles and handicrafts was given by the experts.
171	Workshop on Use of Traditional Indigenous Medicines of Arunachal Pradesh	January 31 to February 1, 2018	Arunachal Pradesh	The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) further organised a two-day workshop on "Use of Traditional Indigenous Medicines of Arunachal Pradesh from January 31 to February 1, 2018 at Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh. Selected 40 participants from Anjaw district took part in this skill development programme. Training of reviving traditional textiles and handicrafts was given by the experts.

172	Youth Workshop for Training Youth in Gandhian Philosophy of Service to Nation	January 6-7, 2018	TAMIL NADU	The Samiti organised a two-day workshop for youth on “Orientation and Training in Gandhian Philosophy of Service to the Nation” was organised by the Tamil Nadu Sarvodaya Mandal (TSM), Madurai on January 6-7, 2018 at its district branches in Karur and Dindigul Districts.
173	Youth and Citizen’s Convention on “Communal Harmony and Peace: Gandhian Approach”	January 29-30, 2018	WEST BENGAL	The Samiti in association with West Bengal Gandhi Peace Foundation (WBGPF) organised a youth and citizen’s convention on “Communal Harmony and Peace: Gandhian Approach” on January 29-30, 2018 in Ksturba Bhavan, Sarvodaya Park, Howrah, West Bengal.
174	Ten-Day Value Creation Camp concluded	February 1, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The ten-day Value Creation Camp for about 100 children that began on January 22, 2018 which children from Garudachal Vidyapeeth Secondary School (Belbari, Meghalaya), Banwasi Sewa Ashram (Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh), Shree Kedarnath Badri Manav Kshram Samiti (Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand) and Dastak Samajik Sanstha Dwarahat (Kumaon, Uttarakhand) concluded in Gandhi Smriti on February 1, 2018 in Gandhi Darshan.
175	Interaction with students from Maharshi Valmiki College of Education	February 12, 13, 15, 16, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	As part of Field Observation Program of B.Ed 1 <sup>st</sup> year curriculum, the 120 students of Maharshi Valmiki College of Education, University of Delhi visited Gandhi Darshan on February 12, 13, 15 and 16, 2018. The students were informed about the current project on Orientation of In-service/pre-service teachers on Non-violent Conflict Resolution and Non-Violent Communication.
176	Two-day camp on “National Integration and Motivation for Youth”	February 14, 16, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, organized a two-day youth camp on “National Integration and Motivation” in Gandhi Darshan on February 14 and 16, 2018. Over 250 youth from different parts of the country – as part of the initiative of the Prime Minister of India to develop linkages amongst youth from different states
177	Ba remembered on her 74 <sup>th</sup> Nirvan Diwas	February 22, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Septuagenarian Shri Amitabh Mishra, presented a musical tribute to Ba, on the occasion of the 74 <sup>th</sup> Nirvan Diwas of Kasturba Gandhi in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat . The commemorative programme was organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. Over 250 participants took part in the programme.
178	A display of vivid creativity by special children	February 25, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	Anand Singh Smarak Society (ASSS), an organization working for persons with visual impairment organized a special programme in Gandhi Darshan on February 25, 2018 by organizing their 21 <sup>st</sup> Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony in association with the Samiti. The programme was attended by almost 300 participants. Shri Ramnivas Goyal, Hon’ble President, Delhi Assembly was the distinguished guest on the occasion. Shri S K Rungta, General Secretary, N F B; Shri Amit Gupta and other distinguished guests were present on the occasion.
179	RPL Training programme for Champaran Auto Drivers conducted	February 4, 19, 25, 26, 2018	Delhi Gandhi Darshan	As part of the initiative of the Pradhanmantri Skill Development Mission, the Samiti’s Skill Development Centre organised the RPL training programme for the auto drivers of Champaran in Bihar in Gandhi Darshan on February 4, 19, 25, 26, 2018 respectively for 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> batches with the objective to recognise prior competencies of the assessed candidates and provide certificate and monetary reward on successful completion of the assessments.

180	Seminar and workshop on Gandhian Philosophy and Peace Journalism organised	February 21-22, 2018	ASSAM	The Samiti in association with the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University organised a two-day seminar and workshop on “Gandhian Philosophy and Peace Journalism” on February 21-22, 2018. The two day event saw a rich amalgamation of industry and academia where experts in the field of media and journalism shared their thoughts and experiences about Mahatma Gandhi and his pioneering work in advocating peace journalism.
181	Orientation Programme on “Nonviolence Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication”	February 5-6, 2018	Jammu and Kashmir	The Samiti in association with Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA), Udampur, in Udampur District of Jammu and Kashmir, organised an orientation programme for Jammu and Kashmir police officers on February 5-6, 2018. The overarching goal was to enhance Police-Public partnerships and to integrate Gandhian techniques in policing.
182	Workshop on Youth Volunteer Training Programme	February 3-4, 2018	ALLAHABAD, UTTAR PRADESH	The Samiti in association with the Allahabad Foundation in Uttar Pradesh organised a two-day workshop on “Youth Volunteer Training Programme” from February 3-4, 2018. 164 youth (130 men and 30 women) took from the surrounding districts took part in the workshop. The main objective of the workshop was to make participants aware and motivated for self service for creative work.
183	Saving the environment through protecting our flora and fauna	February 3-4, 2018	SITAMARHI, BIHAR	The Samiti in association with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sitamarhi, Bihar organised a two-day state level seminar on “Environment Conservation Scope and Achievements and Challenges – Gandhian Thought” at Sitamari Bihar on February 3-4, 2018. The Chief Guest of the seminar was the District Minister of Urban Development, Shri Suresh Sharma.



## *Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi*



*Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India offer his tributes at the Martyrs Column in Gandhi Smriti during the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations, as Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture looks on.*



*Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India offers his tributes at the Martyrs Column in Gandhi Smriti, as Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture along with Director GSIDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan stands in reverence.*

### **Gandhi Jayanti celebrated**

The hon'ble Vice-President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, led the Nation in paying rich tributes to the Father of the Nation in Gandhi Smriti on the occasion of the 148<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations on October 2, 2017. The hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi; former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh; Smt. Gursharan Kaur; Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, (who is also VC GSIDS) also joined the commemorative programme and offered their tributes to the Mahatma. People from different segments of the society gathered in Gandhi Smriti to offer their tributes to Gandhiji.

The commemorative programme began with the musical tribute by over 400 children drawn from different schools in Delhi and NCR including children from four different states such as Gujarat Kumar Vinay Mandir, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Shri Sunderlal Anguri Devi Jr. High School, Pillookhny, Nehear (Raya), Mathura; Utkramik Madhyamik Vidyalaya Gandhi, Barharwa Lakhansen, Dhaka, East Champaran; Nirmala Deshpande Sansthan, Panipat, Haryana; Rajkiya Madhya Vidyalaya, Chandrahaiya, Motihari. The musical tribute was coordinated by Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna of Swar Trishna. Shri Akshat Misra assisted on the Khartal. Over 30 children from Harijan Sevak spun on the charkha during the programme. Shri Krishna Prasanna a student of St. Columbas School accompanied Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna on the flute.



**Former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh offer his tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti, as Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture stands in reverence.**



**Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice Chairman GSDS offer his tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti. Smt. Rashmi Verma, Secy. Ministry of Culture (L) and Dr. Sujata Prasad, Addl. Secy. Ministry of Culture (R) stand in reverence to the Mahatma.**



**Shri Rajiv Chandran (Left) National Information Officer of UNIC reads out the message of the UN Secy. General H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres. (Right) Lama Chospel offers his tributes to Gandhi ji.**



**(Above): Young spinners from Harijan Sevak Sangh and (Below): Children from different schools and institutions had assembled at the commemorative programme in Gandhi Smriti and offered their tributes to Gandhiji by spinning and through patriotic songs.**



*Padma Shri Pt. Madhup Mudgal is seen rendering Bhakti Sangeet on the occasion.*

The Bhakti Sangeet was rendered by renowned classical singer, Padma Shri Pt. Madhup Mudgal. Songs of Kabir, Tulsidas, Meera resonated in the lawns of Gandhi Smriti during the evening prayer meet.

**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi’s Martyrdom**

The Hon’ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu; Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, led the Nation into paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the 70th Anniversary of his Martyrdom in an evening inter-faith prayer meet which was held in Gandhi Smriti, the site of the Martyrdom of the Father of the Nation on January 30, 2018.

Among others who joined the evening prayer meet included Dr. Manmohan Singh former Prime Minister of India along with his wife Smt. Gursharan Kaur; Dr. Harshvardhan, Hon’ble Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences; Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon’ble VC GSDS and Minister of Culture; former Governor of West Bengal and grandson of Bapuji, Dr. Gopalkrishna



*Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna introduces young flautist Shri Krishna Prasanna to Shri Narendra Modi, as religious leaders look on.*

Gandhi; former Governor of Sikkim, Dr. B P Singh; the former Vice-Chairperson GSDS and the Mahatma’s granddaughter, Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, attended the programme and offered rich tributes to the Mahatma.

Members from the Ministry of Culture including Secretary, Joint Secretary, Additional Secretary, Director and others took part in the commemorative programme. Senior Gandhians such as Shri Shankar Kumar Sanyal, President Harijan Sevak Sang; Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President Harijan Sevak Sangh; Shri Basant, former advisor GSDS; Dr. Sita Bimbrawh were also present and offered their tributes. Founder, Director, Guild of Services, Dr. V Mohini Giri; founder Director of Asian Heritage Foundation, Dr. Rajeev Sethi; founder Director of B & S Foundation, Ms. Renu Sharma; art aficionados cum danseuse Ms. Sharon Lowen and others took part in the commemorative programme. Over 2500 people from different segments of the society joined the evening prayer meet in the lawns of Gandhi Smriti.



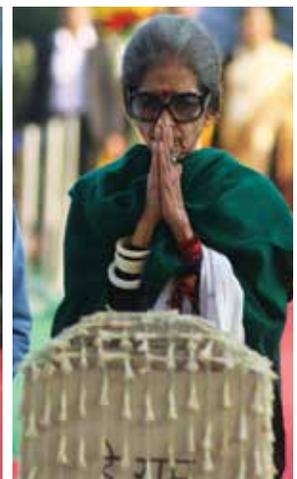
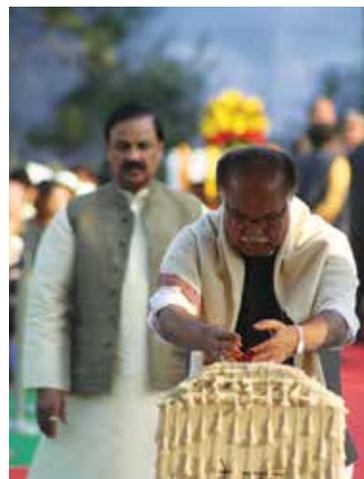
*(From L to R): Hon’ble Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu and Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi offer their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti, as Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon’ble Minister of Culture joins the commemorative function.*

Almost 500 children drawn from 20 different schools of Delhi and NCR including those who participated in the Value Creation Camp organized by the Samiti from January 22 onwards from states such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh took part in the programme by offering musical tribute to the Mahatma. Songs of Kabir, Acharya Vinoba Bhawe, Baba Allauddin Khan sahab ringed in the sombre atmosphere reiterating the Mahatma's eternal words that for attaining world peace, one must begin with children. The children's musical tribute was coordinated by Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna of Swar Trishna.

The different institutions included: *Garudachal Vidyapeeth (Meghalaya), Shri Kedar Badri Manav Shram Samiti(Uttarakhand), Dastak Samajik Sanstha(Uttarakhand), Banwasi Seva Ashram (Uttar Pradesh), Bela Slum (Rajghat Colony), Bapa Ashram Residential Primary School(Delhi),Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya(Delhi), Aster Public School (Delhi), Modern Public School (Delhi ), KAMS Convent School ( Delhi), Jain Bharati Mrigavati Vidyalaya(Delhi), Gaurs International School, NOIDA, (Uttar Pradesh), East point School (Vasundhara), Mira Model School (Delhi), Rajkiya Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya (Delhi) , Green Field School(Delhi), Billabong High International School, NOIDA (Uttar Pradesh), Dev Samaj Modern School (Delhi), St. Teresa School (Uttar Pradesh), Nandi Foundation, Nanhi Kali, (Delhi).*



*Smt. Krishna Raj, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare offer her tributes at the Martyrs Column in Gandhi Smriti.*



*Shri P J Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha (L) and Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, former V.C. GSDS offer their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.*



*Buddhist Monks led by Rev. Katsu San (extreme Right) offer their tributes to Gandhiji on his 70th Martyrdom Day.*



*Bhakti Sangeet artist Shri Anup Jalota (C) along with his accompanists offer their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.*



**A MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

*The Nation stands in silence to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti on the 70th anniversary of his Martyrdom.*

Meanwhile, about 25 Children from Harijan Sewak Sangh, Delhi along with senior weavers, Dr. Sita Bimbhraw, Smt. Sheila, Smt. Poonam, Ms. Shweta, spun on the charkha during the programme.

Representatives from different religions assembled on the occasion and recited the inter-faith prayer respectively. Readings from Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, Parsi, Judaism, Hinduism formed an integral part of this commemorative programme.

The Bhakti Sangeet was led by Padma Shri Anup Jalota. Compositions from Kabir, Tulsi, Meera made the evening more pious.

With the setting of the sun and light breeze flowing from the northern sky, Gandhiji's favourite hymn Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram was sung by the Bhakti Sangeet artist and all present at the prayer meet. This song brought into conclusion the commemorative programme that finally concluded with the silent tribute to the Mahatma at 5.17 PM.

About 200 auto drivers from Champaran who received training from GSDS under the RPL programme as part of the Skill India Mission, also joined the prayer meet.

Taking a few moments out the Hon'ble Prime Minister interacted with children from different Institutions/States which was well received by the children and boosted their morale for their commitment to the nation building.

## Significant Initiatives

### **Work begins for Nai Talim Intergenerational Centre with Healthy Aging India**

The Samiti in association with Healthy Aging India (HAI) launched the "Intergenerational Learning Centre" at NOIDA during July 2017. This is a unique and noble concept where both generations – underprivileged aspiring students (preferably females 6:4) of Class VI from Government schools and enthusiastic educated senior citizens would be engaged and empowered meaningfully.

Since the conception of the 'Intergenerational Learning Centre' (IGLC) as an idea, it has been in a constant dynamic process of reinvigorating into a reality. Citing the objectives and goals set under IGLC project for the month from July 15 August 15 2017, Healthy Aging India was successful in fulfilling its commitments/ challenges towards:

- Challenge 1 - Hiring manpower to execute project
- Challenge 2 - Searching a place for setting up IGLC in Noida
- Challenge 3 -Assessment and Selection of students based on Aspiration, Knowledge, Attitude and Perception (AKAP) questionnaire
- Challenge 4 - Assessment of Elderly educators
- Challenge 5 - Building capacity of selected Educators

The following members were involved in the process towards achieving this goal. They were: Dr. Prasun Chatterjee, Founder President HAI & IGLC Project Invigilator; Mr. Abhijit Ganguly, HAI representative; Ms. Pushplata, Researcher & IGLC Project Cordinator; Mrs. Sudesh Lakshi, B.Ed & NET, IGLC Project Assistant; Mrs. Uma Chaudhary (Served- St. Xaviers, Teacher); Mr. Gulshan Naveen (Served- IFFCO, Quality Auditor & Trainer); Mr. Ashok Ahuja (Served – PNB Bank, Manager); Mr. D.D.Sharma (Mathematician and Author); Mr. Chander Shekhar Rai (Served- NTPC & FCI, Engineer) and Mrs. Saroj (Social worker).

The program began with the Purva Madhaymik Vidyalaya, Government school Noida sector 12, Gautam Buddha Nagar and application has been submitted to Basic Shiksha Adhikari office seeking permission to set up IGLC.



**Activities of Nai Talim Intergenerational Centre initiated by GSDS and Healthy Aging India in progress.**

During the process, series of training sessions were conducted for "Training of Educators". On July 26, the first session was conducted by Ms. Bhupinder Singh, faculty from Guru Harkishan School, Punjabi Bagh who advocates the "Right to Smile" and proactively involves towards spreading this message with slum children behind Hauz Khas village. She initiated activities with our educators that revived their old childhood memories.

She further asked them to make paper boats/aeroplanes, writing messages on them and colour it with their favourite colours. Through informal interactions she touched upon the social, behavioural, psychological understanding, perceptions and receptivity part of our elderly educators and children.



*In depth learning, training of trainers and know how of technology form an integral part of the learning methodology of the Intergenerational Centre.*

On July 30, the second training session was conducted by Dr. Shikha Dixit from International Inclen Trust. A PhD in Medical geography and someone who has worked as a senior program coordinator in many Government projects focussing on environmental issues, Dr. Dixit put light on how to build scientific temper in students and how eco-culture can be integrated into education system and habits of school children and senior citizens to achieve sustainability at behavioural level.

Dr. Pamposh Kumar, Scientist from National Council of Science and Technology (NCSTC), Department of Science and Technology simplified the concepts and explained the practicality, need and relevance to nurture community eco-resilience.

On August 4 Dr. Anuradha, faculty for Hindi from Sardar Patel School, Lodhi Road conducted another training programme. She played audios, read out some stories and asked to fill worksheets based on them as Hands on activity learning method. She suggested many ways and highlighted subtle points on modes of instructions to students in classroom especially- How to correct mistakes of students without saying/proving him wrong, Ways on make learning easy and interesting through Shabad laddi, shabbad siddhi, Shabad mala, etc, making process of teaching and studying enjoyable, etc.

On August 8, Mrs. Shalini, faculty for Science from Delhi Public School, Mathura road conducted training session. As a master trainer she focussed on skills of observation, classification, differentiation, identification, interpretation, conclusion etc., she provided worksheets as hands on learning for these skills. She engaged educators in simplified methods of teaching science- how lunch box activity can be used to teach ingredients and importance of balance diet, how knowledge about organ systems can be given by participatory play way flow chart, taxonomically identification and classification of things by looking around in nature on simple characteristics, etc.

On August 13 Mr. Manjul Bhardwaj, an International thinker and philosopher of "Theatre of Relevance" conducted training session on - "Theatre in education" and "Conventional & Unconventional modes of Learning". He involved and took the educators from start to conclusion of training was unconventional. Most interesting points he made was to taking into account holistic picture of societal background that shape our thoughts, build our perception and form

our personality. Without breaking the barriers of mindset and encouraging rational thinking of existing situation, it is hard to bring a sustainable change.

● **Mechanism of HOPE, Constructive Mutual Reciprocation and Story of change**

The Intergenerational Centre was established on September 14, 2017 in Government Junior High School (Purva Madhyamik Vidyalaya) Sector 12, Noida. Pertinent changes in the attitude, behaviour, health, cognitive abilities, confidence, self-esteem, etc were noticed in the children. In a Qualitative perception received from Elderly Educators they have clearly stated that with IGLC they have found purpose in life and they enjoy more reputation within their peer community, family and society.



*Hope blossoms in the Intergenerational Centre with parental guide and students' love reciprocating in their attitudinal changes.*

In opinion of the parents their children has become disciplined, obedient, well mannered, raised excitement on learning new things through

Science activity, Art, Language, Analogical mathematics, Music etc., wilfully attending school, life goals and aspiration of children to achieve their goal in life has boosted.

According to school authorities students have refined in academics, they take more interest in studies and attendance of students has increased in school. As a remarkable achievement IGLC students have outperformed in final exams of academic result 2017-18.

Ms. Rinki Chauhan of Section C stood First in all three sections (A, B, C) of 6th Std, Ms. Payal Stood Second and Ms. Pushpa third in section B, Master Mohd. Faizan attained third position in section A. Many of them are in within top 10th Position. All IGLC students have passed obtaining above 60% marks.

The objective of the "Intergenerational Learning Centre" is helping the students of the underprivileged section of the society with their school assignments and understanding of the subject and helping them in improving their grade with an aim to enhance the knowledge of the children in a holistic manner in understanding the cultural heritage and moral values.

The joy of achievement were reflected in students happy tears, laughter and transcending silence. Students are aspiring to achieve their goals in life, striving to work hard and seeking guidance & support for better future. Students are positive, motivated, happy, becoming more humble and learning new dimension of lifelong learning.

**KARGIL, JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

**National Young Volunteers Conclave for Constructive Work**

The Samiti in association with the Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK) Kargil and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) organised a three-day "National Young Volunteers Conclave for Constructive Work" at Kargil on July 10-12, 2017. The conclave was inaugurated by the Minister of Youth and Sports, J&K, Shri Sunil Sharma addressing the inaugural session. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS, Dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director IGNOU Gandhi Darshan Complex and many others were present on the occasion. 200 youth from different parts of the country took part in the three-day convention.

Students of Munshi Habibullah Mission School in Kargil welcomed everyone with a welcome song. The first session (first half of day) of day one workshop grabbed the attention of audience with different folk songs and dances and presentation of different tribes of Kargil. The cultural representation of Kargil in front of the young people from across India bridged the cultural gap and provided an understanding of one culture in minds of different cultures.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Minister for Youth and Sports, Government of J&K, Shri Sunil Sharma stressed on the need to promote volunteerism among the youth and asked them to regard it as the need of hour. He further immediate steps to promote volunteerism in J&K in collaboration with NYK Kargil. Shri Sunil Sharma also inaugurated the "Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre".



*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan inaugurates the National Youth Volunteers Conclave in Kargil.*



*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan addresses the youth at the conclave in Kargil.*

Delivering the inaugural address, Chairman LAHDC Kargil, Kacho Ahmad Ali Khan said, "Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh is a single entity and equal governmental treatment should be given to all the regions", adding, "Kargil should not be only projected as a war zone, it has its own beautiful history and cultural identity and is an important tourist destination in Ladakh region. So the volunteers have the responsibility to propagate the message throughout the country".





*Speakers at the National Youth Volunteers Conclave for Constructive Work in Kargil.*

Social activist, Miss Hajira Bano spoke about youth volunteerism. She said, 'volunteers do not have time but heart'. She talked about how women can contribute in volunteerism and how fruitful engaging women in volunteerism would be. She requested Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Smriti to initiate wide ranging programmes in the area for promoting women volunteerism especially in the run up to the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. She spoke of different examples of volunteering by women- Chipko Andolan and the Green Belt movement of Wangari Mathai of Kenya.

Mr Nelson, one of the participants from Tamil Nadu shared his views on the expectations of the participants and also his views on volunteerism. He mentioned two points; participants expect to learn different forms of volunteerism by the end of this workshop and their perspective to give back to society through volunteerism for constructive work.

The core member of The Peace Gong, Dr. Javed Naqi, Asst. Professor, in his thematic address said, this three-day conclave was a wonderful platform for youth to learn volunteerism and then implement it practically in the society we live in. He asked delegates to actively participate in the event to come out with concrete plans for future and make this conclave successful. He touched upon different dimensions of Gandhian approach to volunteerism.

Social Activist, Miss Marziya Bano recited a beautiful poem of Peace Gong Coordinator, Syeda Rumana Mehdi. The poem titled "Volunteering

a Noble Art" touched everyone's heart which underlined to promote volunteerism to change the lives of those in misery.

Dr. K D Prasad, while speaking about their endeavour in volunteerism through IGNOU said that they are going to inaugurate the Mahatma Gandhi interpretation Centre at Kargil, which they established with Gandhi Smriti. He also stated, "IGNOU is going to start volunteering program throughout the country in which we target to get five lakh youth as volunteers around India".

Director GSDS Shri Dipankar Shri Gyan, while addressing the gathering said, "The motive of this event is to inspire new generation through Gandhian Philosophy. From the experiences of the older generation the generation Y (Youth) will learn and prosper. This conclave is just the initiation; we are planning to organize such conclave throughout J&K state in days to come."

Session II included speakers such as Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS who underlined the different dimensions of volunteering and how young people can volunteer for constructive work in the society.

Kacho Fayaz Ahmad PhD scholar at U.K., spoke about Gandhian principles on volunteerism. According to him volunteerism needs a proper understanding of masses, their problems and issues. The others who spoke in this session included Vishwas Gautam, a blood donation activist from Bihar; Stanzin Saldon an inspiring volunteer from Leh, Ladakh.



*Ethnic cultural presentations by local artists enthralled the gathering at the Conclave.*



First Session of Day II focused on “Volunteering and Skill Development and Mutual Coexistence”. The speakers included Marzia Bano, a teacher, who spoke about life skills; Mr. Fayaz, a PhD Scholar, who discussed volunteerism and M K Gandhi as an inspiration in the area of volunteerism; Mr. Shubham from Delhi spoke about the NGO ‘Sanskar Shala’ working in 30 different centres for the marginalised children.

A young conservationist from the organization Roots Ladakh, Mr. Muzamil Hussain also shared his experiences of working in wildlife. Dr Nadeem Quadri from Srinagar talked at length about volunteering for environment and mutual coexistence.

The session on Information, Education and Communication and Volunteering saw speakers such as Mr. Zakir Zahak, Miss Beenish Parray and Miss Munazah Shah and Mr. Gulshan Gupta. Ms. Hazira Bano moderated the session.

Ms. Munazah and Ms. Beenish talked about The Peace Gong’s initiative in Kashmir, Happy School Program. The Happy School Program is a communication skills development program for underprivileged children in Srinagar.

Mr. Gulshan Gupta elaborated his views on information, education and communication and the link with volunteerism. He also shared online campaign started in Nigeria to inspire participants and make them aware of importance of online volunteerism.

Day III began with a field trip to Darchik, an Aryan Village.

The Aryans warmly welcomed the participants. The chants of Jullay and sound of claps added flavour to the aroma of calm atmosphere, and every participant looked happy. A formal, entertainment programme was also organized by the people. The formal welcome programme was organized at the nearby Govt. Middle School Darchik, where cultural programmes were presented with excellent example of hospitality and respect, in which students were taking the lead. Everyone witnessed the rich cultural heritage and heard the stories of extremely strong efforts to preserve it.

The Valedictory Session was organized at Tourist Facilitation Center Kargil, where Chairman MLC, Govt. of J&K Mr. Haji Inayat Ali was the Chief Guest along with all other district officers and dignitaries. Colourful programmes, songs, dances and speeches made the session lively. All



*Dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director (RC 2) IGNOU, Delhi addresses a gathering of students during the Conclave.*





*(Above): Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu takes a session with the youth participants during the Conclave.*

*(Below): Minister for Youth and Sports, Govt. of J&K, Shri Sunil Sharma being felicitated at the Conclave as Director GSDS and other guests are all smiles.*

the delegates of the conclave shared their three days' experiences along with their future vision to the guests. The session charmed up with beautiful songs of Faisal Ashoor, a well known Ladakhi singer.

In his valedictory address, Mr. Haji Inayat congratulated NYK and GSDS for organizing unique conclave in region like Kargil. He said, "Such conclaves not only spark the sense of volunteerism among youths but also spread love, unity and cooperation among communities. India is a diverse country and conclave like these, teach respect to diversity, which is the need of the hour."

NYK Kargil, Youth Coordinator Mr. Syed Sajjad thanked all the participants and expressed their gratitude to GSDS and LAHDC Kargil for making the program successful one. Programme Coordinator, Dr Javed Naqi and GSDS Programme Officer Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu also spoke on the occasion.



*The vivid cultural presentation left the audience spell bound.*

The session concluded with distribution of mementoes and prizes among participants by the Mr. Haji Inayat Ali.

### ***Gandhi Mela - A Confluence of Gandhians***

#### ***Civilization and Culture are Universal Concepts: Prof. Ramjee Singh***



*Eminent Gandhian, Prof. Ramjee Singh addresses the gathering at the Gandhi Mela in Gandhi Darshan.*

'Sabhayata' and 'Sanskriti' (civilization and culture) are not confined to Ayodhya or Islamabad. It is a universal concept, said eminent Gandhian Prof. Ramjee Singh. Prof. Ramjee Singh while addressing a gathering of over 500 Gandhians, writers, Vice-Chancellors, Chancellors, authors, social workers, activists and youth from different parts of the country at the inauguration of the three-day Gandhi Mela, from October 31 to November 2, 2017 organised by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with the Indian Society of Gandhian Studies (ISGS) (Wardha) at Gandhi Darshan as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of ISGS.



**1. Shri Laxmi Dass Vice President Harijan Sevak Sangh, Shri Basant, former advisor GSDS , Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal, President Harijan Sevak Sangh inaugurating the Gandhi Mela.**

**2. Dr. B P Singh, former Governor of Sikkim being felicitated by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.**

**3. Children from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan rendering hymns on the occasion.**

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Ramjee Singh reiterated that historically Indian culture inspires us to be united and undivided. Our concern should shift towards saving 'humanity' rather than fighting for a particular religion. Nowadays, patriotism has taken a face of 'tribalism' and the need of the hour is to contemplate about non-violence, the only alternative for war.

While addressing the gathering, guest of honour Shri Govindacharya ji threw light on the peculiar fact that Gandhiji not only lead the movement of freedom struggle but also spearheaded the movement against the existing social evils. He gave various anecdotes to bring home the idea of respecting everyone's perspective. He emphasized on inclusive democracy which represents minority interests as well. He recapitulated that the only fundamental

common thread in Indian culture is peaceful co-existence and keeping in mind the interests of poorest of the poor.

Shri B P Singh, former Governor of Sikkim talked about the 'godly qualities' of Mahatma Gandhi instilled among the masses. He shared that Gandhiji favoured technology for improving lives of the poor but it should not be destructive in nature and he was optimistic about Gandhian and Buddhist values coming back to Indians.

Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Shri Vinay Kumar Saxena, stressed on the need of recognizing the role and struggle of Khadi artisans in the freedom movement. He highlighted the initiatives of the current regimes in revitalizing the Khadi movement like installation of biggest charkha at

T-3 IGI Airport and also setting up of Heritage Charkha Museum at Connaught Place, New Delhi as to keep the spirit of khadi and charkha alive in the heart of Indians. He was of the view that the village industries are less capital intensive and at the same time employment oriented.



**F o u n d e r**  
Director of Antodaya Chetna Mandal, Shri Aditya Pattnaik spoke about the relevance of practical knowledge while instilling Gandhian values among youth. He was concerned about the destruction of villages, ecology and migration in the name of development.



The gathering was also addressed by eminent scholars like Prof K V Krishna Bhatt (Ex Principal, Kuvempu University), Shri Kunwar Vajinder Singh (Chancellor, Shobhit University) and Shri Prakash Mani Tripathi (Deen Dayal Upadhaya University, Gorakhpur) who shared their views on Gandhian Values and ancient Indian culture.



*Speakers from varied fields, social activists, educationists, writers, academicians, Gandhian scholars and historians addressed the three-day Gandhi Mela conference in Gandhi Darshan.*



'Indian culture' is still alive because of its openness and richness, said by the notable Smt Sheila Rai, Chairperson, ISGS, who emphasized the value of economic prosperity with the spiritual development for the full-fledged welfare of society. The annual report of ISGS was presented by Prof. SC Jena.

Sh. Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS earlier talked about setting up incubation centers for 18 good constructive practices and importance of involvement of new young generation with Gandhian philosophy and development in his welcome note.

'Gandhi Vidhi ka Samsayamik Sandarbh' by Kirti Publications in Jaipur was released at the conference along with a journal 'Gandhian Studies' by Dr. Vinay Kumar.

Earlier, 'Sarva Dharma' prayer was sung by students from Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan's Mehta Vidhalaya, New Delhi during the inaugural programme led by Shri Ravi Dhawan, Smt. Neela Sarkar and Shri Deepak Aggarwal enthralled the gathering.

The day concluded with melodious Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram and vote of thanks by Prof. C.P Sharma.

**Technical Sessions:**

1. **The Buddha, Gandhi, Spiritualism and Religion: An Analytical Framework;**
2. **Socio-Cultural Ethos of India: Contributions and Relevance of Gandhi;**
3. **Universal Peace: Gandhian Text and Context;**
4. **Hinduism: Tenets and Gandhian Interpretation**
5. **Value and Society: Gandhi's Augmentation**
6. **Communal Peace: The Gandhian Way**
7. **Revisiting Gandhi: Literature, Media and Cinema**
8. **Dharma: Concept, Context and Gandhi**
9. **The Socio-Cultural Rubric of India: Resonance of Gandhi**
10. **Social Harmony: The Religious Context**
11. **Ahimsa in India Culture: The Gandhian Legacy**
12. **Socio-Economic Reconstruction: The Gandhian Vision**
13. **Gandhian Values and Techniques: Contemporary Relevance**

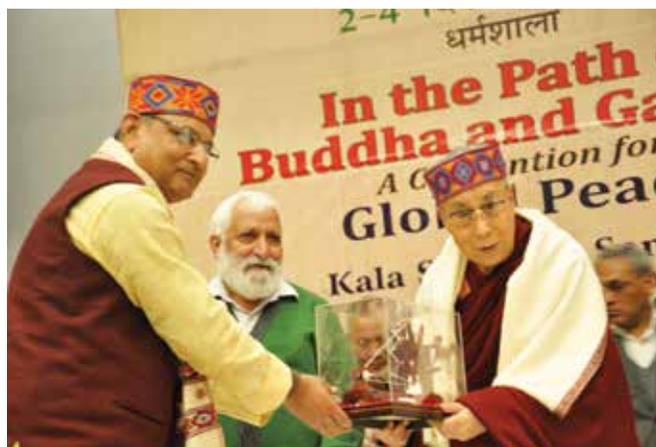


Cultural presentations in the evening on October 31<sup>st</sup> by Rydhun Cultural Academy of Kathak dance and by theatre presentation of *Aao Panchayat Panchayat Khelein*, by Indu Arts Theatre and Film Society on November 1<sup>st</sup> were other highlights of the three-day *Gandhi Mela*.

• **DHARAMSHALA, HIMACHAL PRADESH**

***In the Path of Buddha and Gandhi: A Convention for the Global Peace and Kala Sanskriti Sangam***

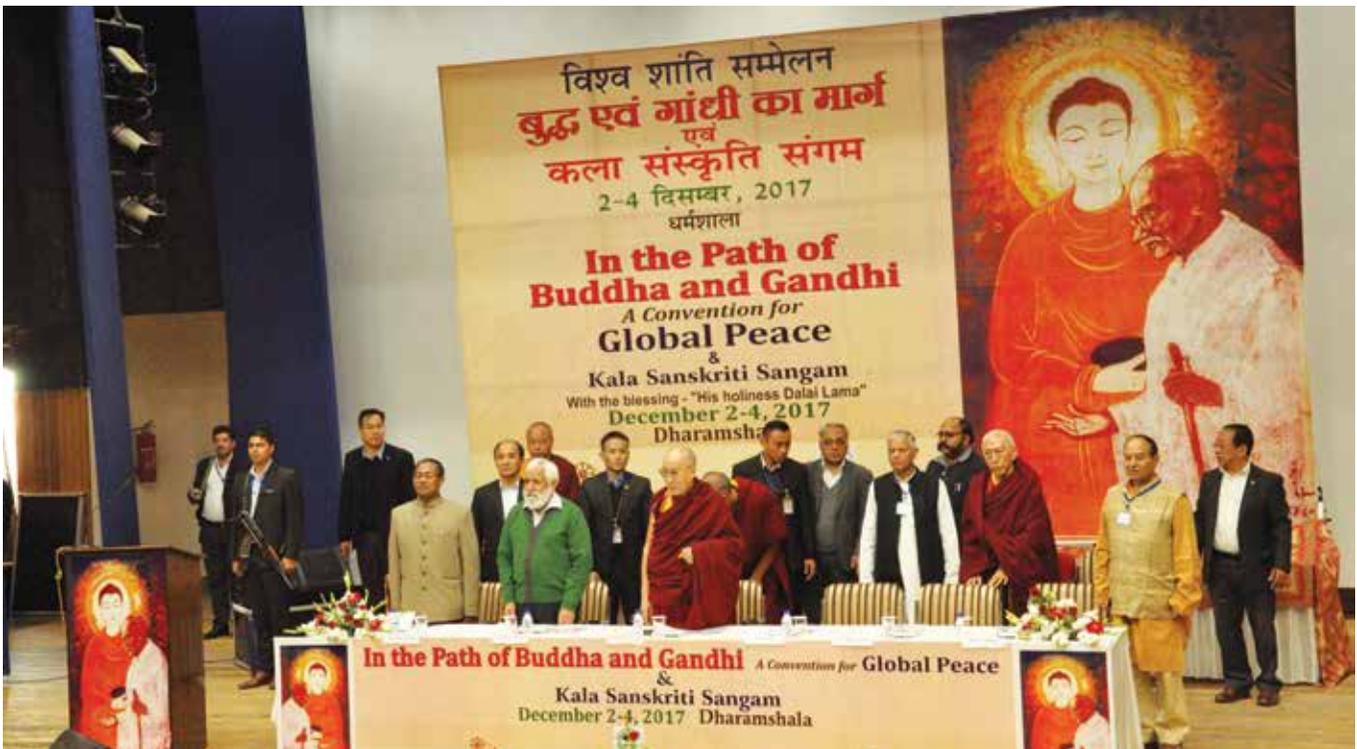
Buddhist and Gandhian scholars and practitioners from different parts of the country came together for a Convention, "In the Path of Buddha and Gandhi for Global Peace" organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti from December 2-4, 2017 in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The three day Convention saw deliberations on different aspects of Buddhist and Gandhian philosophy which could contribute to global peace.



*H.H. The Dalai Lama inaugurates the 'Convention for Global Peace' at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh, as Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President, Harijan Sevak Sangh along with other dignitaries join the inaugural ceremony.*

*Shri Basantji, presents the Tibetan spiritual leader with a memento from the GSDS.*

The Convention was inaugurated by His Holiness The Dalai Lama. Delivering the inaugural address, His Holiness stressed on the need to promote oneness of humanity. He said inspite of differences of religion and racial identities, all human beings are the same.



**H.H. The Dalai Lama (C) along with Dr. Rinpoche, Shri Laxmi Dass, Prof. Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu and others at the Convention for Global Peace on "In the Path of Buddha and Gandhi" in Himachal Pradesh.**

His Holiness emphasized that young people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century have the major responsibility to work for peace- not through prayers but through action. "You may pray for 3000 years for reducing violence, but nothing will happen till we all act together," he quipped.



**Shri Laxmi Dass addresses the gathering at the convention in Himachal Pradesh.**



"We must work to promote inner peace and get rid of jealousy, materialistic tendencies and unwanted competition," he added. He said the ancient Indian knowledge was very relevant in today's world for promotion of happiness and well being of all human beings.

The objectives of the Convention were:

- Understanding the perspectives of Buddha and Gandhi on Ahimsa or Nonviolence
- To highlight the importance of the approaches of Buddha and Gandhi in global discourse on peace
- Highlight exemplary examples of nonviolent experiences around which follow the path of Buddha and Gandhi and how these can be shared for contributing to global peace

The other speakers on the occasion included Prof. Kuldeep Singh Agnihotri (Vice Chancellor of Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Laxmi Das, Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee, Shri Basant ji, Dr. Samdhong Rinpoche, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Smt. Geeta Shukla, Dr. A K Merchant, Prof. N Radhakrishnan who attended the programme.

Students from different colleges and schools took part in the programme and shared their perspectives at the convention. The staff and representatives from the Gandhi Darshan Action Fellowship also attended the programme.

The different sessions were:

- *Integrating Buddhist and Gandhian thoughts in Contemporary Global Peace Policies*
- *The Buddhist and Gandhian Tradition of Ahimsa*
- *Resolving Conflicts through Buddhist and Gandhian Practices*
- *Sustainable Living for Culture of Peace and Mutual Co-existence*
- *Mindfulness and Nonviolent Communication of Buddha and Gandhi for Dialogue: A Path for World Peace*
- *Role of Buddhist and Gandhian Institutions in Promoting a Culture of Peace*
- *The Role of Children, Youth and Women for Global Peace*
- *Education Philosophies of Buddha and Gandhi in promoting Non-Violence*

Dr Vedabhyas Kundu (Programme Officer, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti) delivering the welcome address expressed his profound gratitude that His Holiness had accepted the request to come and bless the Convention. "We are here to learn the art and science of nonviolence from His Holiness and other eminent persons assembled in the Convention," he said as he outlined the idea behind the programme to understand the different dimension and ethos of the ideals of Buddha and Gandhi.

He quoted Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore who had beautifully compared the Buddha with Gandhi. Tagore had said, *"He stopped at the threshold of the huts of the thousands of dispossessed dressed like one of their own .He spoke to them like one of their own. He spoke to them in their own language. Here was living truth at the last and for this reason the Mahatma, the name given to him by the people of India, as his real name. Who else has felt like him that all Indians are his own flesh and blood? When love came to the door of India that door was opened wide. At Gandhi's call India blossomed forth to new greatness, just as once before, in earlier times, when Buddha proclaimed the truth of fellow-feelings and compassion among all living creatures."*

He said with the spirit of peace within oneself, peace in the world, a lot can be done for global peace. Thanking all the eminent

participants and the esteemed guests he concluded with a quote of Mahatma Buddha, *"The thought manifests as the word; the word manifests us the deed; the deed develops into character. So watch the thought and its ways with care, and let it spring from love born out of concern for all beings"*.

Prof Kuldeep Chand Agnihotri, Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh expressed his gratitude to all the esteemed participants who had come all the way to Dharamshala to discuss how Buddhist and Gandhian approaches could be important paths for world peace.

Prof Agnihotri quoted from the epic Mahabharata on the notion of dharma and adharna as, *"janami dharma na jamev pravati, janami adharna na janem pravati"* which means "what is dharma that I know but that is not habit, and also what is adharna that I also know but my mind takes me towards that". He noted that to achieve peace; dharma is altogether a manifesting tool. He recollected the leadership skills of Mahatma Gandhi and pointed out how his contemporaries like Abdul Gaffar Khan became the follower of his ideology and turned his belief into non-violence.

Mr Laxmi Dass, Executive Committee Member of GSDS and Vice Chairman of Harijan Sewak Sangh expressing his gratitude to His Holiness The Dalai Lama for accepting to inaugurate the Convention pointed out that the humanity is itself was in danger and



***Distinguished speakers at the Convention for Global Peace sharing their perspectives with the youth in Himachal Pradesh.***

that ecological imbalance is the emerging threat to the humanity.

He said it was unfortunate that every nation was trying to collect as much weapon as possible in the name of the peace. He felt that it was unfortunate that nations were trying to stockpile weapons as a measure of deterrence.

According to Mr Laxmi Dass, the need of the hour was to resolve individual, racial, religious, and territorial disputes through peaceful means and to build the mutual trust and respect to overcome conflicts.

There is an emergent need to work for world peace, Mr Dass observed. It is true that there has always been need of peace and will be

Giving a clarion call for a revolution for peace, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, motivated all the participants by saying that all have the required capacity and opportunity to work for a more peaceful and happy world. He reminded everyone of their responsibilities to create a sustainable world with a foundation of nonviolence. He made it clear that we can achieve these not through prayers, but through the true action.

Exhorting the participants to nurture nonviolence in their daily lives, His Holiness pointed out that a significant question that every faces today were, "What we need to do in order to bring peace and happiness in this planet?"

According to His Holiness, one of the most important things for those trying to embark



*A vivid show of the folk traditions of the local people through their cultural presentations gave the convention more colour.*

there in future as well. But today the need is more because of the conflicts that is increasing day by day. Also the major enhancement of technology in weapons is a matter of grave concern, he underscore. He said the arms business was one of the most vibrant businesses in the world and is reaching dangerous proportions. Incidentally as we see more and more proliferation of arms in the world, unrest continues to increase in the different parts of the world. This is posing a great danger to humanity, he stressed.

upon a journey for peace was to develop inner peace first. Without peace within oneself, it was impossible to contribute for peace in our surroundings and for global peace. He said that the basic requirement to bring and develop inner peace is to make ourselves free of jealousy, anger and extreme sense of competition. Also, irrespective of the fact whether the person is a believer or non-believer, every energetic person has to develop peace in him/her so as to construct a positive outcome.

His Holiness pointed out that all Indians should understand their civilization and the great traditions of peace and nonviolence as propagated by Buddha and Gandhi. He felt by imbibing the values epitomized by the Buddha and Gandhi, India can be a world leader to promote peace. Further by imbibing these values this great country will prosper with the same cultural ethos.

The first plenary session focused on how Buddhist and Gandhian thoughts and ideals could be integrated in contemporary global peace policies. The special speaker in this session, Dr Samdhong Rinpoche (former Prime Minister of the Central Tibetan Administration and Buddhist Scholar) asked all to take care of 'Prani' or individual being to attain world peace. His session revolved around three corners viz. global peace, Buddhist and Gandhian Philosophy and inner struggle or inner peace.

He started with the concept and power of individualism residing within the sphere of universalism. He said we are all the unit of this world and it's our responsibility to protect it. Only when the world would be safe only then we could live safely, he added.

Also, while talking about each *Prani*, he said the life of every living being is important, but the current debate only focuses on the security of human being. According to ancient Indian tradition, every living being wants happiness and not pain. Not only this, they also have the capacity to achieve happiness and attain 'Nirvana' and that every Prani can become Buddha.

According to Dr Rinpoche, it was important to treat others the way we want to be treated. Inherently, human beings do not like violence. Hence it was important that we do not involve in any violent act and then only the cycle of peace can begin. He asked everyone that if we would be involved in violent actions, it would not only harm others but our self as well. Therefore, we should always maintain peace in our surroundings. We human beings are dependent on each other for our survival. Even for preparing a cup of tea one need lots of hands and labour. So, therefore, we cannot say that we can live alone or in isolation. Then he asked the questions: What is peace? Is peace is something which is related to physical comfort or mental comfort or both? In present 21<sup>st</sup> century, physical pleasure is easily accessible through technology, whereas inner peace is absent. So to understand the meaning of peace, first, we have to understand what is sorrow because then only we would know what causes hurdles for peace.

Dr Rinpoche then talked about sorrow according to Buddhist philosophy:

- 1) Truth of suffering
- 2) The Truth of cause of suffering
- 3) The Truth of the end of suffering
- 4) The Truth of the path that leads to the end of suffering.

Then talking about modern civilization, he said that we are brought up in such a way that we are habituated with modern technologies in our everyday lives. He felt human beings have become a slave of technology. He quoted Mahatma Gandhi and noted that modern civilization has a tendency to exploit masses.

The different sessions at the convention were:

- December 2, 2017
  - Inaugural Session
  - First Plenary Session : Integrating Buddhist and Gandhian thoughts in Contemporary Peace Policies
  - Second Plenary Session : The Buddhist and Gandhian Tradition of Ahimsa
  - Cultural Evening
- December 3, 2017
  - Session on Resolving Conflicts through Buddhist and Gandhian practices
  - Sustainable Living for a Culture of Peace and Mutual Coexistence
  - Mindfulness and Nonviolent Communication of Buddha and Gandhi for Dialogue: A Path for World Peace
  - Role of Buddhist and Gandhian Institutions in promoting a Culture of Peace
- December 4, 2017
  - The Role of Children, Youth and Women for Global Peace
  - Education Philosophies of Buddha and Gandhi in promoting Nonviolence
  - Valedictory Session

### Themes

- Prof Pratyush Kumar Mondal (Deputy Director of NCERT) – Ist Plenary Session
- **The Buddhist and Gandhian Tradition of Ahimsa – 2<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Session**
  - Chaired by: Shri Narayan Bhai
  - Speakers: Dr N Radhakrishnan; Dr Jacob Vadakkanchery; Prof Pushpa Motiyani; Prof Manoj Kumar
- **Resolving Conflicts through Buddhist and Gandhian Practices**
  - Chaired by: Dr Ramesh Kumar, Shaymlal College
  - Speakers: Dr GVVSDS Prasad; Mr Victor Talukdar
- **Sustainable Living for a Culture of Peace and Mutual Coexistence**
  - Chaired by: Prof. Roshan Lal
  - Speakers: Prof. T.D Verma; Prof A.R Patil; Dr Oinam Sareeta Devi; Ms. Prerna Bharadwaj
- **Mindfulness and Nonviolent communication of Buddha and Gandhi for Dialogue: A path for world peace**
  - Chaired by: Prof. Inderjit Malhan, Dean, Central University of Himachal Pradesh
  - Speakers: Prof. Jagtar Singh; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu; Shri Rahul Jain; Prof. Hemant Joshi
- **Role of Buddhist and Gandhian organizations in Promoting Culture of Peace**
  - Speakers: Dr R. Surendran and Dr Ujjwal Kumar
- **The Role of Children, Youth and Women for Global Peace**
  - Chaired by: Dr. Neelima Kamra
  - Speakers: Ms. Geetanjali Pattnaik; Dr Brijender Singh Panwar; Dr. Javed Naqi
- **How Education Philosophies of Buddha and Gandhi can promote Nonviolence**
  - Chaired by: Ms. Neelima Kamra
  - Speakers: Mr Mohd. Irshad; Mr Thuktan Negi; Mr Gulshan Gupta & Ms Kanak Kaushik

### • JAMMU AND KASHMIR

#### **Orientation Programme on “Nonviolence Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication” organised**

The Samiti in association with Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy (SKPA), Udhampur, in Udhampur District of Jammu and Kashmir, organised an orientation programme for Jammu and Kashmir police officers on February 5-6, 2018. The overarching goal was to enhance Police-Public partnerships and to integrate Gandhian techniques in policing.



*Mr. M Sulaiman Salaria, IPS ADGP, Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy inaugurates the orientation programme by lighting the lamp. Prof. T K Thomas, Chairman Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Foundation along with Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu Programme Officer GSDS joins the inaugural programme.*



*A young participant shares her perspective at the orientation programme.*

The programme started with the lighting of lamp by Prof.T.K Thomas (Senior Media Educationist and Gandhian Thinker), Mr M. Sulaiman Salaria, IPS,ADGP,Director SKPA; Dr Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer,GSDS, New Delhi and other dignitaries. About 50 Jammu Kashmir Police Officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendents and SHOs and 150 academy trainees of the rank of sub inspectors took part in the training programme.



**(Top to Bottom): Prof. T K Thomas, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu and Ms. Shreya Jani conducting the orientation programme in Jammu and Kashmir.**

Integration of Gandhian non-violent techniques of conflict resolution and communication in daily policing work was the theme of the two-day orientation programme. The orientation programme had sessions on adaptation of non-violent communication techniques, how police can use tools of non-violent communication in their dealing with the public; how use of the techniques can enhance the image of the police and strengthen community policing experiences. 50 CPO, Dy. SSP and SHOs from different districts of J&K and 100 Asstt Sub Inspectors took part in the orientation programme that was inaugurated by Director Sher-i-Kashmir Police Academy Udhampur, Mohd. Sulaiman Salaria, IPS; Additional Director General of Police.

The welcome address was presented by SSP S.T Norbu, Assistant Director (Admin) SKPA who welcomed the initiative and emphasized that such orientation programmes should go in a long way to enhance the image of the police in the public.

Further, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu (Programme Officer, GSDS) outlined the aim and objectives of the orientation programme. While speaking on the benefits of the programme, he added, as police plays a role of mediator to solve the conflicts between the two groups or individual, this program could help them to deal with the situation without using coercive methods and violence. Thus making their job easier and safer and also help them to develop friendly linkage with /between the citizens. He also shared experiences of similar programme organized by the Samiti amongst Home guards and Police Forces in different parts of the country. He added that this programme will help to integrate Gandhian techniques of nonviolent conflict resolution and nonviolent communication in actual policing duties and draw attention towards the soul of programme i.e. *to empower communities to actively engage with the police and to initiate joint police community interventions using nonviolent techniques for crime prevention and safe neighbourhood.*

While, addressing the participants and the resource persons, Honourable Shri M. Sulaiman Salaria, Director SKPA, said that *"We are going through very trying times when one part of our state is reeling under violence. We all are aware of the historical background to it and I would not repeat them. Instead, here we have an opportunity to seek guidance from the soothing thoughts of the Father of our Nation whose martyrdom was observed early last week."* He remembered the words of Mahatma Gandhi i.e.

“Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind, it is mightier than that mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man”.

He further pointed out, “We seek help when normal solutions evade us and we are exasperated. The brunt of the impact of mindless violence is faced by the J&K Police and it is the time that we should consider out of the box solutions. It may sound naive if not foolish to think of using non violent communication and techniques while handling a violent crowd”.

#### **Sessions:**

##### ➤ **Prof. T K Thomas - Policing and Conflict Resolution Techniques**

He began with an ice-breaker activity called “think outside the box”, which attracted everyone’s participation and involvement. After this interesting game, he deliberated on the serious problem of modern world depression and stress. He said, “*During our youth and professional days, we did not even hear of or know the meaning of stress/depression, but nowadays, even a 10 year old child is suffering from depression. The reason behind this is the busy life style and competitive society and frenetic work load of people. Due to which they are not giving much time to themselves.*” Addressing the police officials he added that the policing also involves lots of stress which in turn can affect effective policing. He suggested them that while carrying out their professional responsibilities they should try to be calm, polite and good listener, so that the fear people have in their head would uprooted for good. Thus we can result in the formation of strong bonding between police and the community.

In the context of the discussions on nonviolence, conflicts and related areas, Prof. Thomas further elaborated on the HEALTH formula for effective policing and good police-public relations.

Prof Thomas also talked about community oriented strategy of policing meanwhile addressing on the topic of “*Integrating nonviolent communication and dialogues in community policing*”. Also, Prof Thomas listed some points which the public in general expects from Police such as Reliability, Attentiveness, Responsiveness, Competence and Fairness. He further apprised that through the tools of

nonviolent communication and with the ability to engage people in dialogues, police will be able to enhance their image.

##### ➤ **Ms. Shreya Jani - Nonviolent Conflict Resolution Techniques**

Ms. Shreya Jani said that *Empathy* is needed in policing. She explained, “*As the complainant has dared to put his/her voice against the crimes and it becomes your moral duty to make him/her comfortable to share the misdoings happened to them. But for that, there should be a feeling of empathy in your heart to feel the pain of a sufferer*”. She also stated that, we live in a self-designed truth and take extrapolated decisions. She added, being a pacifier, you should also understand the profound truth of the plaintive and it’s crucial to know the reality and emotions of the sufferer assiduously.

For self exploration and introspection, a questionnaire on *self-awareness* was filled by the participants. Group formations and brainstorming exercises were undertaken to document the reason behind the case and its solution on the allotted themes which were:

- ◆ Crime and Youth,
- ◆ Societal Conflicts
- ◆ Crime Against Woman and Communal Tensions
- ◆ Juvenile, Females and community were broad themes.
- ◆ Self Care with a focus on stress, its consequences and management techniques

##### ➤ **Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu - ‘Non violent Communication and its centrality in Policing’**

Dr. Kundu underlined the key elements to practice nonviolent communication. He underlined the concept of *Digital Peace Building* and how Police can become digital peacekeepers. He talked about increasing concerns of hate speech, online violence, radicalization, trolling, cyber-bullying, etc. He further underlined that to prevent incidents of hate speech online, Police can play the role of digital peacekeepers.

He stressed that there is a need for a massive campaign that sensitizes the public at large towards media consumption and helps them differentiate between free speech and

hate speech. In this context, police can develop partnerships with media departments of local Universities, too. Also social media divisions of the police can continuously monitor contents in social media. It can counter hate speech while propagating positive messages especially during crisis situations and try to reach out to the public.

On the importance of the social media in policing, Dr Kundu said, "Public attention paid to the traditional mass media and their largely unidirectional channels of delivery is falling and is being replaced by an inclusive mix of instant and ubiquitous two-way communication, dialogue and public discourse, reinvented in social media as *the conversation*."

On February 6, the valedictory session was organised, where, Honourable Mr. M. Sulaiman Salaria, Director SKPA addressed the gathering, in which Mr. Salaria congratulated SKPA team, GSDS and the participating police officers for making the orientation programme a great success. He said, "The orientation programme on nonviolence conflict resolution and nonviolent communication was very informative to the participants and hope GSDS organizes similar programme in the academy in future as well".

He further wished that this orientation programme would go a long way in defining the attitudinal behaviour and soft skills while dealing with the general public and community by the Jammu and Kashmir Police officers participating in the programme.

***Orientation Programme of Hon'ble MLCs of Jammu & Kashmir Assembly***

Even after more than 60 years of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, his thoughts and philosophy has become more relevant today in a world exhausted by conflicts, inequalities and deprivations. A very large number of people across the world face oppression, exploitation, poverty and violence of different kinds. In such a scenario, there is a great need for nonviolence, truth, selfless service for constructive work, ethics and purity of means to challenge the problems facing humankind and become the foundation of sustainable development and growth.

Developing understanding of the multi-dimensional thoughts and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi offers great opportunities to negotiate the challenges of modern day society and can contribute to not only to good governance but also to develop concrete welfare policies for the people.



***(Top to Bottom): Distinguished gathering at the orientation programme included Mr. Shiring Dorjee, Minister of Ladakh Affairs and Cooperatives, Jammu and Kashmir; Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Prof. T K Thomas, Chairman GRTF who conducted the training.***

Mahatma Gandhi’s cosmocentric views of human beings wherein human is an integral part of the cosmos and are intricately tied to it offers solutions to many social concerns. As policy makers around the country are trying their best to contribute to people’s development and welfare, this cosmocentric view of human beings can be a panacea for citizens to think not only about their fellow beings but also the environment in which they live.

Possibly we can achieve much more in our sustainable development goals if we integrate and imbibe the Gandhian praxis of humanism, the spirit of constructive work for community and nation building and overall the essence of mutual co-existence in all our initiatives. His nonviolent tools of satyagraha and sarvodaya are guiding posts for good governance.



*Participants in rapt attention as Ms. Shamrina addresses the gathering.*

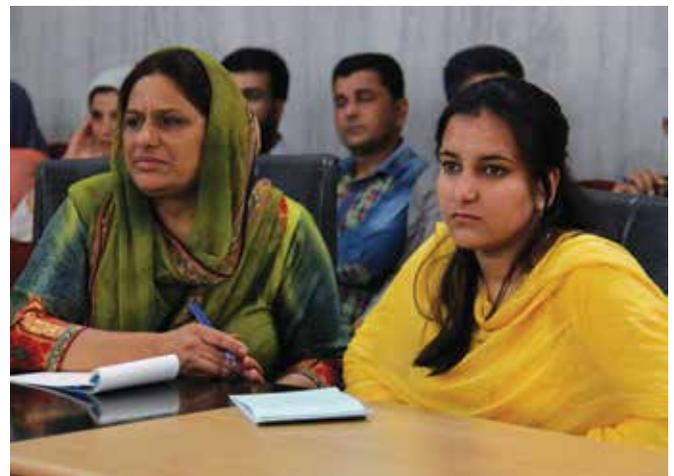


To take forward the multi-dimensional thoughts and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi to Hon’ble MLAs and MLC’s so that they can integrate these in their efforts in the development of the community and governance, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organized a one-day Orientation Programme for Hon’ble MLCs of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on March 26, 2018. The aim was to identify how Gandhian philosophy can be used for formulation of policies and development of the state.

Initiating the discussion, the state Law Secretary Mr Abdul Majid delving on different dimensions of Gandhian philosophy said there is a lot to learn from his life and message. Director, GSDS, Mr Dipanker Shri Gyan said it was important to use different ideals of Mahatma Gandhi in policies and schemes of the Government.

Mr Shiring Dorjee, Minister of Ladakh Affairs and Cooperatives, Jammu and Kashmir stressed that all disputes could be resolved peacefully only through nonviolent means. “Use of methods of violence is always improper and not correct,” he added.

Prof Pushpa Mothiwani, former head of the department of Gandhian Studies, Gujarat Vidyapeeth quoted Mahatma Gandhi on his views on elected representatives. Mahatma Gandhi from ‘My Picture of Free India’ had said, “It is an illusion to think MLAs are the guides of the voters. Voters do not need representatives to the Assemblies in order to be guided by them. On the contrary, they are sent there loyally to carry out the people’s wishes. The people are therefore the guides not the MLAs. The latter are servants, the former masters.” Elsewhere in the same publication, ‘My Picture of Free India’, Babu says, “The Ministers and the Legislatures have to be watchful of their own personal and public conduct. They have to be like Caesar’s





*Hon'ble Member of Legislative Council of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly taking part in the orientation programme.*

wife above suspicion in everything. They may not make private gains either for themselves or for their relatives or friends."

Prof T K Thomas, academician wondered if at the policy level, the Jammu and Kashmir Government think of introducing concepts like children's volunteer clubs at the school level which will nurture their creativities and ideas of social responsibility from an early stage. This, he noted will help them to develop their personalities, enhance their life skills, make them self aware, develop communication skills, learn the significance of compassion, empathy and mutual respect. Weekly volunteer work by children could be encouraged as part of the education system of the state and through these efforts we can develop constructive volunteers in the society. A significant result of this initiative could be development of social leadership skills of children of the state. We have lot to learn from great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and such efforts will be helpful in preparing the generation next for decision making processes, he stressed.

Prof Himanshu Bourai, Head of the Department of Political Science said Gandhi recognized the value of constructive program and used it successfully as early as the first year of his

campaigns in South Africa, 1894. In fact, the value of constructive programme in the struggle for the independence of India cannot be overemphasized, as he described civil disobedience as "an aid to constructive effort." Gandhi wrote to his friend and supporter, Jamnalal Bajaj, saying, "My real politics is constructive work."

Prof Bourai said contemporary nonviolent struggles often lack constructive program, which could easily be integrated and enable them to be proactive, maintain continuity of effort when direct resistance is not possible, and convince the public and opposition that they are not simply disruptive but have the capacity to build as well. Most importantly constructive program can build alternative institutions, she added.

Senior Gandhian, Shri Basant talked about the need to introduce new policies and programmes for the last person in the society as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. He listed different activities which the hon'ble MLCs could initiate as part of the 150th birth anniversary.

## Special Programmes

### 100 Years of Sabarmati Ashram

#### Two-day seminar on “Issues related to Sustainable Development”

The Samiti, on the occasion of the 100 years of the establishment of the Sabarmati Ashram, organised a two-day seminar on “Issues related to Sustainable Development” in Gandhi Darshan on June 17-18, 2017. About 130 participants from different walks of life, took part in the seminar organised in association with Global Village Foundation.



*From the Archives: Mahatma Gandhi in Sabarmati Ashram.*

Welcoming the participants, Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan reiterated the vision of Mahatma Gandhi saying that even Gandhiji had cautioned humanity of the misuse of nature that provides for man's need and not his greed. He further recollected the contribution of Mahatma Gandhi in establishment of ashrams – in reference to the centenary of the Sabarmati Ashram – which he told became “Models of his experiment in constructive programmes that provided a platform and direction to youth”.

It was proposed that first of all a SWOT analysis may be carried out covering strength, weakness, opportunities and threat related to individual sub theme, which has direct relation with human being, forest, soil, animals and water ( i.e. five Js (Jan, Jal, Jungle, Jameen and Janwar) with a purpose towards:

- Realization of our strength and assigning various activities and tasks to our volunteers.
- Getting cooperation from already available service platform for the same work and planning strategy accordingly.
- Establishment of new platform designed exclusively for the purpose of Sub theme and for sensitizing Govt agencies and policy makers.

Discussions on “Going Back to Nature”, deliberations on various issues related to “Happy and Healthy living and Heavenly environment” were conducted with the following objectives:

- To create awareness among different stakeholders & policy makers and finally awaken general mass for the same.
- To bridge the gap between demand and supply and finally broaden the scope of action including capacity building, training and technology intervention.
- To explore the possibility of cooperation and collaboration amongst different stakeholders under their Social Cooperative Responsibility (SCR) activities.
- Documentation of literature covering all know how related to technology and finally developing strategies for dissemination among all stakeholders.

During the discussion, it was pointed out that UNO in their meeting held on 25th September, 2015 related to sustainable development had charted out total 17 themes, wherein technology intervention is one of the important task i.e. development useful for all and participation by all. It was also observed that situation in Delhi as far as the climate change, pollution and cleanliness is concerned has attended a worst condition which need immediate attention. All 17 themes suggested by UNO including: *No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry/ Innovation*

*and Infrastructure, Reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate action, Life below water, Life on Land, Peace/ justice and strong institutes and Partnership* for the goals were discussed in details and finally it was decided that the discussions be to 'Environment' only.

The following three sub themes were proposed:

- Mitigation climate change through plantation etc.
- Pollution and its remedial measures.
- Cleanliness and its associated pro-active approaches.

The following were the recommendations of the two-day seminar:

- A special campaign should be made for educating policy makers and general mass on Waste to Energy concept.
- Integrated road map for environment protection, water conservation, energy conservation may be made for future for Delhi.
- Constitution of NGOs for advocating government agencies for extending their help for cleaning and other policy issues.
- It is also proposed to conduct one day workshop of each of the following theme by inviting experts from PCRA, MNRE, TERI, ICAR, DRI, Gandhi Smirti Sansthan etc on some suitable dates. The themes suggested for organization of workshop are (i) Environment protection (ii) Pollution control (iii) Cleanliness (iv) Renewable energy (v) Water harvesting and Conservation.
- Private plastic water bottle seller should be restricted.
- Urban agriculture concept may be propagated among persons staying in multi storey building.
- Metallic bin for collection of domestic wastes should be replaced by wooden basket.
- A web portal illustrating all aspects related to Environment protection with specific consideration for Delhi may be prepared and placed in public domain.

- Electricity conservation in Delhi especially on public places and Delhi Metro may be made on mission mode.

It was also decided that the next meeting will be held on 8th July, 2017 to decide further action plan and complete road map for the state of Delhi.

### 75 Years of Quit India Movement

Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led the entire staff of the Samiti into paying rich tributes to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat on the occasion of the 75 years of the Quit India Movement. On this occasion, Director IGNOU RC -2 Dr. K D Prasad also joined along with his staff into offering rich tributes. The staff carried posters carrying messages on different philosophies and ideas of Mahatma Gandhi. An exhibition panel on Quit India Movement was also put on display on the occasion. The staff of the Samiti also rendered bhajans at the Gandhi Samadhi on the occasion. Shri Rajnish Kumar, Secretary, Gandhi Samadhi and Ms. Neelam facilitated the entire programme.



*Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led the GSDS staff to a prayer at the Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi in Rajghat.*

**70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day Celebrated**



*Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan unfurls the Tricolour in Gandhi Darshan Rajghat as part of the Independence Day celebrations as staff and family members of GSDS celebrate the joyous occasion.*



Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan unfurled the National Flag at the Gandhi Darshan campus at Rajghat on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on August 15, 2017. The staff of the Samiti took part in the programme. Addressing the gathering, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan reiterated the dream of Mahatma Gandhi

and called for dedication and commitment towards work. He further called upon the staff for celebrating the day as “Sankalp Parv”, which the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi had spoken about. Cultural programmes marked the joyous celebration.

**World Literacy Day celebrated**

35 Teachers from 17 different schools of Delhi participated in a programme in Gandhi Darshan, as part of the World Literacy Day on September 8, 2017. Importance of literacy and different aspects of education were discussed in the programme.



*Speakers from different institutions and schools of Delhi and NCR at the interactive session in Gandhi Darshan.*

Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive conducted the proceedings and briefed the teachers about the initiative of the GSDS with the children and various other programmes. He also hoped that teachers could organize certain programmes in their schools and could conduct ‘cleanliness drive’ (swachhatta abhiyaan) in their respective schools. The schools were also briefed about the Gandhi Jayanti programme and students were invited by the GSDS to part in the musical tribute to the Father of the Nation.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

- **Gandhi Bhawan, Lucknow**

**Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on Gandhi Jayanti**

The Samiti in association with Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Varanasi, organised several programmes from October 2-4, 2017 as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. The programme on Gandhi Jayanti began with a *shramdaan* at 6.00 A.M. The programme was inaugurated by

the Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Naik and Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Yogi Adityanath who offered rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. An inter-faith prayer was organised on the occasion. Shri Kaushal Kishore, Member of Parliament, Prof. Mohanji Bhatkhande, from Bhatkhande Sangeet Sam University, was also present on the occasion. Almost 1000 children took part in the programme.



*Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Naik along with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. Shri L B Rai of Gandhi Smarak Nidhi is seen with the dignitaries.*

Different competitions such as debates, drama/skit, music, dance drama, dance, were organised on the occasion. Hon'ble Shri Brajesh Pathak, Minister of Law and Justice was present on October 4, 2017. A play was also staged on the occasion.

On October 11, 2017, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Jai Prakash Narain, Shri Satyadev Pachauri, Hon'ble Minister of Khadi, Village Industries, Sericulture, Textile, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises and Export Promotion in the Government of Uttar Pradesh was the chief guest at the valedictory function. The guest of honour on the occasion was Shri Avinash Krishna Singh, CEO, Khadi Gramudyog Board along with Alin Kumar Singh. Prizes were awarded to the winners on the occasion.

**First Anupam Discourse**

***Himalaya – Criterion of our Sensitivity in the Changing Scenario***

As a tribute to late Shri Anupam Mishra, a renowned Gandhian environmentalist, on his birth anniversary organised the "First Anupam Discourse" in Gandhi Darshan on December 22, 2017. Gandhi Peace Prize Awardee and noted

environmentalist and social worker Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt delivered the first Anupam Memorial Lecture. The theme was "Himalaya – Criterion of Our Sensitivity in the Changing Scenario". Almost 400 people from different walks of life that included academicians, scholars, writers, Gandhians, social workers, people from the media fraternity and Anupam admirers attended the programme.



*(From Top to Bottom): Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Shri Sopan Joshi, Author and Environmentalists addresses a distinguished gathering at the 'First Anupam Discourse' in Gandhi Darshan.*

The octogenarian Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt fondly remembered his days with the late Anupam Mishra, who he said was 15 younger than him. He remembered the passion of Anupam Mishra in living and working on environmental issues and how he (Chandi Prasad Bhatt) after coming in close contact with late Anupam Mishra, started working for his region in Uttarakhand which finally took the shape of Chipko Movement inspired by Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

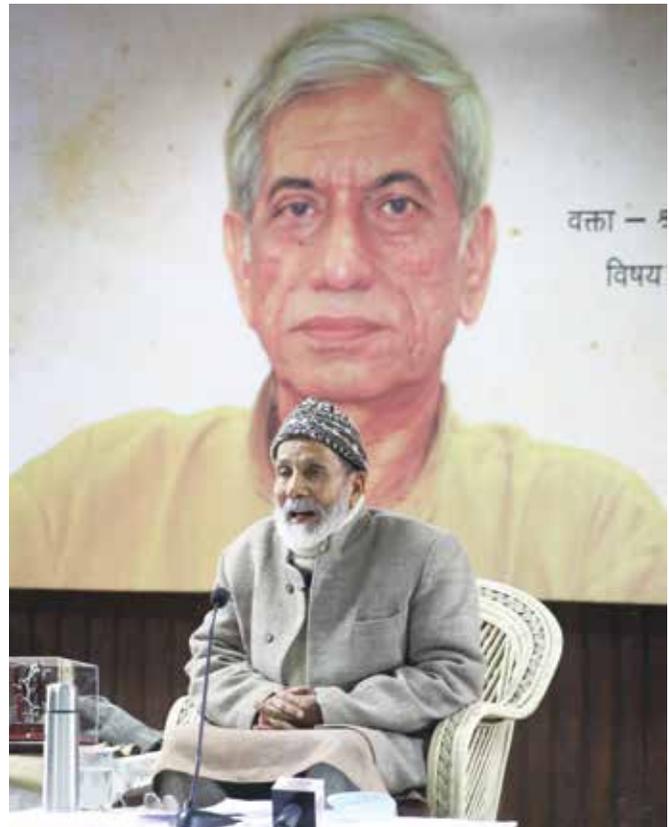
He remembered his first meeting with Anupam ji which was on Gandhi Samadhi in Delhi on the occasion of Gandhi Jubilee of 1972. At that time the Chipko movement was standing up in the villages of their area. The society there was opposing the deforestation by government contractors.



*(Right): Gandhi Peace Prize Awardee and noted Gandhian Environmentalist and Social Thinker Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt delivered the First Anupam Discourse, as members from the Gandhian fraternity and people from different walks of life are in rapt attention.*



*(Left): Flautist Shri Shubham Mishra, son of Late Shri Anupam Mishra remembers his father by paying a musical tribute.*



Shri Chandi Prasad ji emerged as a leader of this movement. Together with Anupamji, they started writing about it. This was the anniversary of the new consciousness of the environment in India. Chandi Prasadji's success with the Chipko movement also spread. "When I got the 'Magsaysay Award' of 1982, Anupamji went with me to the Philippines to take the award", he fondly recalled.

Through a power point presentation, "Himalaya Sensitivity, Current Threats and Challenges", Shri Bhatt demonstrated how the process of the Chipko Movement began and how people of the area were made aware of the devastation that could cause due to deforestation. He hoped that people become more aware of the environmental crisis posed today and seriously devote their time towards its protection. "We have to look for our own Gandhi in all the places", he concluded.

Earlier, Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan welcomed the distinguished guests and recalled his first meeting with late Anupam ji after he arrived in New Delhi to take over as the Director of the Samiti. While Shri Sopan Joshi author and environmentalist introduced Shri Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Shri Banwari ji, another close associate of late Shri Anupam Mishra delivered the vote of thanks.

# 100 Years of Champaran Satyagraha

**LET CLEANLINESS BE OUR HOMAGE:  
SHRI NARENDRA MODI**

**Launch of Swachhagraha – Babu Ko Karyanjali Ek Abhiyaan, Ek Pradarshani**



*Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi offers tributes to Gandhiji while inaugurating "Swachhagraha - Babu ko Karyanjali - A Mission, an Exhibition at the National Archives of India.*

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated "Swachhagraha 'Babu Ko Karyanjali' – A Mission, An Exhibition' to mark 100th Anniversary of Champaran Satyagrah at the National Archives of India (NAI), on April 10, 2017. He also launched an Online Interactive Quiz "Karyanjali", which will continue for 30 months till October, 2019. Organised by the National Archives of India and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, the Hon'ble Prime Minister also inaugurated an exhibition – a tribute to Gandhiji on hundred years of his first experiment of Satyagraha in India, in Champaran. A laser show was also inaugurated on the occasion. Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism Dr. Mahesh Sharma who is also the Vice Chairman of GSDS and many dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Addressing a gathering of about 750 people on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that 100 years ago, Mahatma Gandhi reached Champaran and witnessed the hardships of people living there. Gandhiji showed them the path to and power of peaceful Satyagraha. Champaran Satyagraha catapulted Gandhiji to the forefront of India's freedom struggle. He said that the exhibition, interactive quiz and

dance performance are not only formalities, but are pious occasions to dedicate ourselves to the nation. "Along with *shraddhanjali*, we should also offer "*karyanjali*" to Mahatma Gandhi", the Prime Minister added.

He further emphasised that Gandhi ji was basically a *Swachhagrahi* and was awakening the thought process of the people of India. He pointed out that Champaran can be described as the place of origin of Swachhata Andolan and Champaran Satyagraha gave a new impetus to the freedom struggle and Gandhi ji accorded equal regard to women. 'Champaran played an important role in the development of Khadi. Swachh Bharat Mission is a movement to fulfil the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi and is fast becoming a mass movement in our country', the Prime Minister said.



*Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi viewing the exhibition at the National Archives of India. Also seen are Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Shri N K Sinha, Secretary Ministry of Culture and Hon'ble Shri Raghavendra Singh.*

In his address, Dr. Mahesh Sharma said that Mahatma Gandhi used Satyagraha as the main weapon in freedom struggle. He called upon people to focus on Swachhata movement for their overall development. This exhibition links Gandhiji's core principles of Satyagraha with contemporary issues, a movement to improve conditions through Swachhagraha, he added.

This exhibition is a humble tribute to Gandhiji on hundred years of his first experiment of Satyagraha in India, in Champaran and is an attempt to sensitize future generations to fulfill Gandhi's dream of 'Swachh Bharat', where

society's reflection would be as clean as the thoughts within, of every citizen of India. This digital and experiential exhibition strives to connect the essential principles of Satyagrah 'Jeevan-Chakra' evolved by Gandhi Ji, with the elements of *Swachhagraha*, the movement. The exhibition will be open for public in NAI campus for one month and later on, it will be taken to other cities of the country as Mobile exhibition.

A musical and dance programme based on the banned literature on Mahatma Gandhi and *Swachhagraha* entitled "Satya, Swachh, Sur" was presented on the occasion by renowned artist Smt. Malini Avasthi.

### **Commemorating Centenary Celebrations of Champaran in Champaran**

#### **From Satyagraha to Swachhagraha in Champaran**

A grand programme was organised at different places in Champaran as part of the centenary celebrations from April 13-17, 2017. Organised jointly by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi from April 13-17, 2017, a grand function was held



*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and an entire team of Gandhians, social workers and people from different segments of the society recreated the journey Mahatma Gandhi took in 1917 in Champaran by organising a grand rally from Motihari onwards. Shri Rajendra Rathod is seen enacting Gandhi.*

at District School Motihari to commemorate the centenary celebrations of the historic Champaran Satyagraha. The hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Ram Nath Kovind was the Chief Guest. Smt Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, former Vice-Chairperson GSDS and the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Radha Mohan Singh, hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare were

the guest of honour. Others present on the dais on the occasion included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director, GSDS, Ms Rama Devi, M.P., Shri Pramod Kumar, MLA, Motihari, Dr Arvind Agrawal V.C. of Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Dr Amrendra Narayan Yadav, V.C., BRA Bihar University. Amid all the delegates, the look alike of Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Rajendra Rathod from Barka Thana, Ramgarh, Jharkand (originally from Kathiawad, Gujarat) was a major attraction of the programme. Also, many local leaders and senior Gandhian workers from various parts of the country, were present on the occasion. Prof C D Pandey, Chairman, organising committee presided over the function. GSDS Programme Officer, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Research Officer Smt. Geeta Shukla, volunteers and other staff joined in the grand celebration.

The programme started by lighting of lamp and paying floral tribute to the Father of the Nation by Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Shri Radha Mohan Singh and Ms Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee. On the occasion the artists of the Song and Drama Division of local station of All India Radio through their songs with local flavor of Bhojpuri narrated the tale of sufferings of indigo farmers a century ago followed by the hymns dear to Mahatma Gandhi. The entire atmosphere was charged by the spirit of Satyagraha and created the scene experienced 100 years before.

Delivering the inaugural address, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble Governor of Bihar said that the land of Champaran is pious and memorable. The movement started from here laid the foundations of our freedom. The Gandhian concept of promoting *swadeshi* and cottage industries is even today as relevant as it was in his time for rural development. He stressed on promotion of sanitation.



*The journey saw thousands of people throng the streets to see a glimpse of the rally where Mahatma Gandhi (alias Rajendra Rathod) became a major attraction. The love and respect of people for the Mahatma was seen all through.*



*(Left): Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Ram Nath Kovind along with Shri Pramod Kumar, MLA Bihar; Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS garlanding the statue of Mahatma Gandhi.*

*Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, grand daughter of Mahatma Gandhi and other distinguished dignitaries lighting the ceremonial lamp.*



*The distinguished gathering at the commemorative centenary function rise for the National Anthem.*

Smt Tara Gandhi said that this is the land from where the freedom movement started and we attained freedom. While praising the *Swachhata Abhiyan* of PM Modi she suggested for starting a massive movement of *swachhagraha* from this land of *satyagraha*. She also stressed on the need for more education of children, particularly the girl children.

Shri Radha Mohan Singh while addressing the gathering reiterated the vision of Mahatma Gandhi who viewed sanitation as more important than freedom. He reminded that Satyagraha movement successfully emanated the power of non-violence across the globe. He expressed his

concern on the deteriorating standard of education in Bihar and emphasized the need of better education, skill development and strengthening of panchayati raj.

Many other speakers expressed their opinion on the importance of Gandhian philosophy in modern era for peaceful co-existence.

About 20 senior Gandhian constructive workers from all over India were felicitated on the occasion for their exemplary contribution. These included Prof. T K Thomas ( Delhi), Mr Willian Airians ( Columbia, South America), Mr A R Patil (Karnataka), Dr Prasad Gollanapalli (Andhra Pradesh), Shri Basant (Bihar), Prof Manoj

(Wardha), Dr B Mishra (Delhi), Prof Ramesh Bhardwaj (Delhi), Shri Ashok (Delhi), Smt Sita Ojha (Delhi), Shri Umesh Gaur (Chhattisgarh), and others. The function ended with thanks giving.

### DAY-WISE ACTIVITIES OF THE PROGRAMME

- **April 14, 2017**

A team comprising Shri Dipanker Shri Gayan, Director, GSDD, Shri Basant from Karigar Panchayat, Shri Surendra Singh, Director, CAPART (Retd) and Dr B Mishra, former Chairman of National Standing Committee on Watershed Development, CAPART (Ministry of Rural Development, GOI) visited Turkaulia to meet the representatives of Small Farmers' Associations from Champaran and adjacent districts and discussed the ways and means for revival and strengthening these organizations for the welfare of small and marginal farmers in the area in this important year of Satyagraha centenary.



**Huge crowd gather at the railway station to greet the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi as the journey is recreated as part of the 100 years of the historic Champaran Satyagraha in Motihari Bihar.**

The representatives were advised to start with relatively smaller projects with the support of GSDD. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan invited proposals from them at the earliest possible to generate the momentum among farmers to improve their socio-economic conditions.

Another team of Gandhians visited Bhitiharwa, the village where Gandhi stayed for a few days. They interacted with the local people and tried to find the foot prints of Mahatma Gandhi by learning first hand stories related with Mahatma's visit from the elders of local communities. The team of Indu Arts Theatre and Film Society led by Ms. Madhumita Khan presented the plays on the themes of *Beti Bachao* and *Swachhata*.

- **April 15, 2017**

The entire scene – of 100 years ago when Mahatma Gandhi arrived at Motihari from Muzaffarpur by train – was enacted when Shri Rajendra Rathod, resembling and representing Mahatma Gandhi, accompanied by Shri Basant and Shri R N Patil, boarded the heritage train Satyagraha Shatabdi Express at Muzaffarpur for Motihari. The train stopped at all the six stations on the way and rousing reception was given to Gandhiji at Kanti, Motipur, Mehasi, Chakia, Pipara, and Jeevdhara stations with chanting of slogans like *Bharat Mata ki Jai* and *Vandemataram*. Finally, at Babu Dham Motihari, a large crowd led by Shri Radha Mohan Singh, M.P of the area and Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Smt Tara Gandhi and group of senior Gandhians received their new Gandhiji.

A visit to the exhibition of rare photographs related with the life of Mahatma Gandhi was also undertaken by the distinguished guests. Shri Radha Mohan Singh and Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee reminded the gathering of the historic events that unfolded in Champaran.

Smt Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee called upon the youth to come forward and spread the message of peace and non-violence preached by Gandhiji around the world.

Shri Radha Mohan Singh, announced many schemes for the improvement of railway services at Babu Dham Motihari and to give it a new look. Those present at the occasion included Shri Sanjay Jaisawal, M.P., Bettia; Shri Pramod Kumar, MLA, Motihari; Shri Sachindra Singh, Shri Shyam Baby Yadav, Shri Raju Tiwari, MLC Rajesh Kumar (Bablu Gupta), Dr. Lal Babu Prasad, V.C. of Central University, Dr Arvind Agrawal, Secretary of Gandhi Sangrahalaya Shri Braj Kishore Singh,



The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh also inaugurated a 'Kisan Kalyan Mela' at the lawns of the District School Motihari.

- **April 16, 2017**

Here the same scene was enacted by the lookalike of Gandhiji on the events that happened a 100 years back on April 16, 1917, when Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi started his march from Motihari for Bapu Dham Chandrahia and Jasouli Patti and he (Gandhi) got the notice of the English Collector at Chandrahia village.



(Above): Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee is seen felicitating young participants with a portrait of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and his wife Kasturba Gandhi. (Below): Theatre performance on social issues under the direction of Indu Arts Theatre and Film Society in progress.

Dr Chandra Bhushan Pandey, DRM of Samastipur Railway Division, Shri Sudhanshu Sharma and others.

A very colourful play on the theme of *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* and *Swachhata Abhiyan* was presented by Indu Arts Theatre and Film Society of Delhi. This was followed by *Tiranga Yatra* with the lookalike of Gandhiji in an open jeep who reached the house of Gorakh Babu, a companion of Gandhiji, near Dharm Samaj Chowk and saluted it. Gandhiji in 1917, stayed for three days in this house. The lookalike of Gandhiji was accorded a rousing reception all the way during the march.

That entire scene was recreated by organizing a march from Gandhi Sangrahalaya Motihari to Bapu Dham Chandrahia and Jasauli Patti by the lookalike of Gandhiji. The marchers with national flags in hands travelled by bikes and jeeps moved along. The march at first stopped at Gandhi Smarak Bapu Dham Chandrahia and after paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi there, moved to the premises of the school where a programme was organized. Those present on the occasion included Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Smt Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Shri Basant, Shri Pramod Kumar and a host of other distinguished delegates accompanied by Gandhians from different parts of the country.



After Chandrahia the march reached Jasaulipatti the village of warrior of Champaran Satyagraha, Shri Lomraj Singh where led by the local MLA, rich tributes were paid to Shri Lomraj Singh and people spoke about his contribution as a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi during 1917. The lookalike of Gandhiji Shri Rajendra Rathod also addressed the gathering.

On April 17, 2017, the team of senior Gandhians staff and members of the GSDS bid farewell to the *karambhumi* of Mahatma Gandhi for Delhi taking forward a vision for future programmes in the area.



*And the journey continues ...*



*(LEFT: From Top to Bottom):*

*Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon'ble Governor of Bihar.*

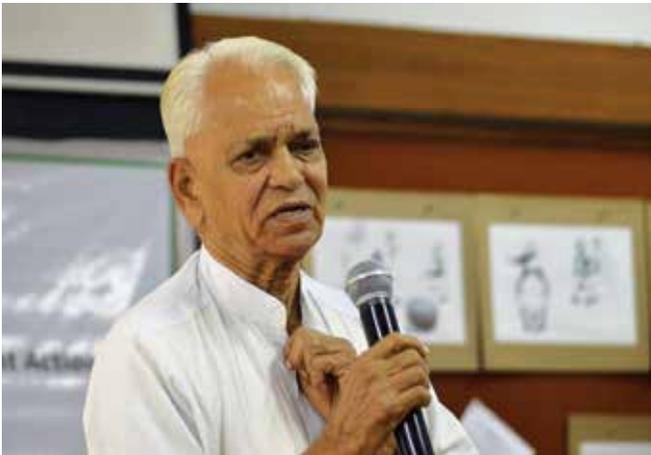
*Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.*

*Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, former Vice Chairperson of GSDS and granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi.*

*Shri Basant Singh, former Advisor of GSDS.*

**National Youth Camp at Motihari, Bettiah, Bitiharua**

The Samiti in association with National Youth Project (NYP) under the leadership of Padmashri Dr. S N Subba Rao, organized a six-day National Youth Camp in Motihari, Bettiah, Bitiharua from April 10-15, 2017. Youth from different parts of the country reached Vishwa Manav Ashram (an ashram inspired by Acharya Vinoba Bhave) at Narkatiaganj. This National Youth Camp which became a forum of a national integration camp by involving people from different parts of the country under one platform. The camp on the one hand gave the message of Champaran to 295 young men and women from 15 states and on the other spread the message of harmony, peace and national integration in Champaran.



*Padma Shri Dr. S N Subba Rao conducting a training programme for the participating youth in the camp.*

Keeping in exactly the same dates when Barrister Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi reached Patna on April 10, 1917, the camp was inaugurated on April 10, 2017 at Gandhi Ashram, Bhitiharwa, Champaran. Shri Shatrughan Jha, Founder of Vishwa Manav Seva Ashram, Narkatiaganj and senior members of NYP, Dr. Mahendra Nagar, Shri Hanuman Sahai Sharma, Shri Madhusudan Das, Shri Narendra Wadgaonkar, Shri Dharmender, Shri Niraj Kumar Shri Hanumant Desai, Shri Malkhan Singh and others participated at the inauguration functions.

At Bitiharwa – an important landmark in the history of Champaran, as Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturbai spent time here and Ba had also founded the girls school – the girl campers stayed at the girls school, while the boys stayed at the Gandhi Memorial Ashram. At Bhitiharwa, Srirampur, apart from cleaning the village, the youth dug out the drainage of its blocks which

had made the dirty water stagnate. The villagers also joined the campers.

After the first two days, the camp moved to Vishwa Manav Seva Ashram at Narkatiaganj. During the camp, the campers, as part of their project visited some important places in Champaran and had organised evening programmes and discussions where they met the locals to spread the message of the historicity of Champaran. The campers were exposed to village work and they are encouraged to take up such projects in their own villages/mohallas, for it was felt that the camp message of non-violence and national integration should go to the maximum number of people. Regular spinning sessions were held, where the campers joined the ashram inmates in the spinning classes.

Further lessons on saluting the Indian National Flag during the flag hoisting ceremony was taught to each of the participants.

On April 11, the campers reached Gohana, where they had a peace march. The camp bus that became an attraction then reached village Bisouli Pakodi and held all religions prayers. A tableau in 18 different languages, entitled "Bharat Ki Santan" was also displayed on the occasion.



*Shramdaan and cleanliness drive formed an integral part of the National Youth Camp.*

On April 12, the campers visited the Adivasi Girls hostel at Bajaria. Then, it was a long way to Balmiki Nagar. Campers walked across the barrage on river Gandak and went into Nepal. Almost 800 people attended the programme at local school at Kanglusuri. In the evening, the campers led by Dr. S N Subba Rao, visited some freedom fighters at Bagaha.

On April 13, the campers along with their tableau after visiting Ashoka Pillar at Lauria, reached the Kisan Bhawan Hall at Lauria



**TRAINING YOUNG HANDS:** Dr. S N Subba Rao is seen training a young child during a cleanliness drive.

where they were welcomed by the local people. The evening programme at Ram Nagar was a disciplined gathering of some 5,000 people who attended with great zeal and enthusiasm in both the awareness sessions as well as the cultural performances.

On April 14, the campers visited the village Rakhai which has a big Muslim population, where they participated in community lunch hosted by the locals. The tableau *Bharat ki Santan* was also a huge attraction in this village. The evening program was in the mid bazaar at Narkatiaganj that saw a huge participation of 5000 people, who took part in the all religious prayer meeting and cultural programmes.

The valedictory day of the National Youth Camp on April 15, 2017 was held at Vishwa Manav Sewa Ashram. Nine campers from Kerala, Rajasthan, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, U.P., Odisha, Bihar, Assam and Tamil Nadu spoke of their camp experience and their vision for future India. The camp reiterated the vision of Mahatma Gandhi for a unified India and the youth pledged to take up Gandhiji's constructive programmes in their respective areas.

### ***Laghu Gandhi ki Khoj, Champaran Satyagraha Ke Alok Me***

Noted Gandhian Professor Yashpal used to emphasise the need to identify Micro Gandhi at the ground level to instil confidence in the social workers active at the ground level. Keeping

this theme in the mind, GSDS organised a two-day workshop titled as *Laghu Gandhi Ke Khoj, Champaran Satyagraha Ke Alok Me*. on April 20-21, 2017 in Gandhi Darshan. Shri Basawaraj Patil Sedam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament inaugurated the workshop as the Chief Guest. Social workers from all over India were invited to participate in the programme. About 110 participants took part in the two-day interactive session. The programme was organised as part of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha.



**Dignitaries including Shri Basawaraj Patil Sedam, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Y R Patil, Shri Basant ji and other distinguished guests took part in the discussion at Gandhi Darshan.**

Speaking to the participants, Shri Basawaraj Patil, who exemplifies the Gandhian style of living, urged the participants to take cue from the life of Mahatma Gandhi whenever they are in stress and difficulties. He reiterated the views of Mahatma Gandhi's Gram Swaraj and Constructive Programmes and believed that people or organisations working at the grassroots level on these lines will definitely be able to make a mark for themselves and also help many other needy people.

Other speakers who addressed the participants included: Dr. Praseon Chatterjee, working in the geriatrics department of AIIMS, Dr. Malti, Associate Professor in the Delhi School of Social Work, Delhi University; Shri Somya Dutt, a close associate of Professor Yashpal and Organising Secretary in the Bharat Jan Vigyan Jattha. The programme was followed by question answer session. Eminent Gandhian Shri Basant coordinated the whole programme.

Post lunch session, all the participants went outside the campus of Rajghat to interact with other social workers in a programme organised at Mavlankar Hall. Group interaction and wide discussion continued for the next day also. At the end, a tentative programme was finalised to explore the ground level activists and social workers. All the participants resolved to meet after the gap of one year.

**6<sup>th</sup> World Wide Run4Unity organised**

Over 800 participants including youth from Delhi and NCR, children from different institutions, Scouts and Guides, young girls and boys from Mussoorie took part in the 6th World Wide Run4Unity in Gandhi Smriti on April 29, 2017

organised as part of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha. The Run4Unity was organised by the Samiti in association Focolare Movement, Shanti Ashram and AHO Medi Health. The theme of the programme was *Change Your Heart, Change the World*. The Run4Unity was

flagged off from Gandhi Smriti by Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President of Harijan Sevak Sangh along with Founder



*Shri Laxmi Dass, Dr. Prasun Chatterjee, Dr. Sunita Godara, Shri Victor, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Shri S A Jamal flagged off the 6th World Run4Unity from Gandhi Smriti.*

*(Above): Runners and bikers at the 6th World Run4Unity in Gandhi Smriti.*

*(Below): Asian Marathon Champion, Dr. Sunita Godara; Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan; Vice President Harijan Sevak Sangh, Shri Laxmi Dass, along with participants offer tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyrs Column.*



*(Above): Members from the Focolare Movement address the participants. Director GSDS is seen felicitating Apostolic Nuncio, Rev. Giambattista Diquattro on the occasion.*

*(Below): Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan; awards a young enthusiastic winner of the Run4Unity, as Mr. Victor of Focolare Movement looks on.*

Director of Healthy Aging India (HAI), Dr. Prasoon Chatterjee. Asian Marathon Champion Ms. Sunita Godara was the flag bearer of the Run4Unity. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan along with the staff of the GSDS took part in the run.

The race from Gandhi Smriti to India Gate saw participants' enthusiasm throughout the six kilometre stretch in different categories – blue, green, yellow and red in different age-groups such as 12-14; 15-18; 19-23 and 24+. The participation of students from the All India Blind Association was another highlight of the programme. The winners in each category were also felicitated by the distinguished guests. Bikers from different places including staff of the GSDS took part in the race.

Later after the conclusion of the race, a cultural presentation of Kathak dance by children from the Rydhun Cultural Academy drew applause.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Laxmi Dass spoke about the importance of sports in an individual's life and said that sports inculcate discipline. He referred to the discipline that Mahatma Gandhi had inculcated in his life and stood by it even in death. He said that Gandhiji



*Artists from Rydhun Cultural Academy presented an enthralling Kathak recital on the occasion.*

wisdom. Referring to Champaran Satyagrah, Shri Laxmi Dass said that it (Champaran Satyagrah) illustrated Gandhiji's strength, his attempts to establishing a contact with the local people and their difficulties and working towards their upliftment left a lasting impact upon the Indian soil of bringing people from the marginalised communities into the national mainstream.

Smt. Sunita Godara while speaking to the participants kindled their spirit and asked them to continue striving for truth and not to stop dreaming. She said that while it is important to dream, it is equally important to work towards the fruition of this dream.

The occasion also saw the participation of the *yatris* of the Swast Bharat Trust – who started their journey from Gandhi Smriti on August 17, 2016 – and reached Delhi after covering almost 29 cities and few Union Territories taking the message of Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao and Swachh Bharat as part of their campaign. The members led by their leader Shri Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Chairman Swasth Bharat Trust also participated in the run.

Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan appreciated the runners for their steadfast determination and willpower and lauded them for their discipline. He also congratulated the members of the Focolare Movement such as Mr.

Victor Nazareth, Ms. Seri and Ms. Chaira for their organisational capacities and coordination.

Religious leaders from different faith also spoke on the occasion and read out hymns on peace and unity. Earlier the programme saw renowned singer Smt. Sumita Dutta render Ram Dhun during the inaugural programme.

### WEST BENGAL

#### ***Two-day workshop on Gandhiji, Champaran Satyagraha and Rural Youth***

A two-day workshop “Gandhiji, Champaran Satyagraha and Rural Youth” was organized by the Gandhi Mission Trust in association with the GSDS on June 28-29, 2017 in Gandhi Mission Trust Ashram, Daspur, West Medinipur, West Bengal. Shri Chandan Pal, Secretary West Bengal Gandhi Peace Foundation was the chief guest on the occasion. The S.D.O. of Ghatal, Shri Pinaki Ranjan Pradhan was also present. Shri Prasun Latant, Shri Prasanta Samanta, Shri Chittaranjan Pal and others were present on the occasion. About 100 people from different communities of Howrah, Bankura, West Medidipur took part in the two-day programme.



*(Above): Shri Chandan Pal (C) Secretary Gandhi Peace Foundation, West Bengal along with journalist Shri Prasun Latant garland the statue of Mahatma Gandhi along with other delegates.*

*(Below): A distinguished speaker shares his perspective at the workshop, as Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee (extreme right) along with other speakers listen attentively.*

Shri Narayan Bhai, Secretary, Gandhi Mission Trust, while conducting the forum, explained the purpose and significance of this two-day workshop. In addition to this, the significance of the Champaran Satyagraha run by Gandhiji and the role of youth in this movement were also explained in detail. They talked about the adoption of disciplines and spirituality in today's youth for their future creation and also told the youth the creator of a new India and youth India.

While addressing the gathering, the SDO of Ghatal Shri Pinaki Ranjan Pradhan spoke about the role of youth today in constructive work towards the society and also referred to the historic Champaran Satyagraha.

Highlighting the role of youth in the society, Shri Chandan Pal referred to different movements led by Gandhiji and said that youth were the frontrunners of all his movements. Not only that he asked the women to stand for their right and be brave to face the challenges. He said that integrity and dedication were the key stone for any work.

Group discussions and interactions with the youth formed a major part of the programme. Further different groups were constituted such as “Bapu Group” and “J.P. Group” in which the senior resource persons made an attempt to tell the youth about the movements. This became a medium of understanding Mahatma Gandhi and Jai Prakash Narain.

Cultural performances such as drama, songs, dance and music and also poetry reading added colour to the programme.

The second day of the programme began with Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee speaking to the children on the *Ekadash Vrata* of Gandhiji for the development of the entire personality of the youth.

Speakers at the session also spoke on how the Champaran Satyagraha not just created sowed the seeds of being fearless among the Indians, also many schools were opened and Gandhiji was particularly concerned about the health and sanitation of men, women and children. Young Gandhian social activist Shri Dharmendra Kumar Upadhyay emphasized the moral and intellectual development of the youth of today.

## JHARKHAND

### Seminar on “100 Years of Champaran Satyagraha” organised

The Samiti in association with the Department of M.Phil (Gandhian Studies) along with Hindi & Social Science Department of Jamshedpur Women’s College organized a two-day seminar on “100 Years of Champaran Satyagraha” on July 18-19, 2017. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof. Ramji Singh along with Dr. Purnima Kumar, Principal, Jamshedpur Women’s College, Shri Arvind Anjum, Prof. Manoj Kumar and others.

The speakers underlined the concept of ‘satyagraha’ and opined that the principles of truth and non-violence are more relevant today and Mahatma Gandhi shines as a beacon of light in the conflict driven world. They further spoke about inner cleanliness which Gandhiji had always talked and practiced. They also underlined that farmers should change their mentality of loan waiver.

The Guest of Honour Dr. Ashok Kumar Jha, Proctor Kolhan University, elaborated upon the specific characteristics of Champaran Satyagraha.

Prof. Ramjee Singh said, “Champaran Satyagraha was fought for truth. So it was successful”, and added that still 60 per cent of India lives in villages, but there is a wide gap between the cities and villages which needs to be bridged.

Day II, July 19, 2017 saw speakers such as Prof. N P Modi, Dr. Mithilesh Kumar, Ms. Amrita Kumari, Dr. Rizwana Perween and Ms. Sweta Srivasta share their views on Champaran Satyagraha in the context of women’s participation in constructive work; the importance and use of Champaran Satyagraha in the present context, the Gandhian concept of Satyagraha, etc.

## KERALA

### Two-day Orientation Camp for Young Satyagrahis on New Vistas of Satyagraha

As part of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha, the Samiti organised a two-day “Orientation Camp for Young Satyagrahis” in association with the Chair for Gandhian Studies and Research (CGSR), University of Calicut, Kerala on August 12-13, 2017. The theme of the orientation camp was “New Vistas of Satyagraha”. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. K. Mohannad

Basheer, the Vice-Chancellor of Calicut University. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS was present on the occasion. Over 120 participants and 25 resource persons took part in the two-day programme.



*(From Top to Bottom): Glimpses from the Orientation Camp for Young Satyagrahis on “New Vistas of Satyagraha” in progress at Calicut University. Speakers included Dr. K Mohannad Basheer, VC Calicut University; Prof. N Radhakrishnan, former Director GSDS; Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Prof. (Dr) M G S Narayanan, former Chairman ICHR and other eminent personalities.*

Speaking to the participants, the V.C. remarked that the right thinking of younger generation is the need of the hour. “Right leadership qualities are to be imparted to the youth”, he said, adding, “The crucial problems of the society and nation can be solved if the youth acquire the qualities of confidence and strength”.

Dr. R. Surendran, Visiting Professor of CGSR who presided over the programme, opined that the values of Mahatma Gandhi are vital and a source of inspiration to the young mind.

In his address to the gathering, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan reminded that Gandhiji should remain 'green' in the minds of adolescents and youth. "The internal strength and will power of Gandhiji could make epoch-making changes in the national movements", he said, and added, "The cleanliness of the premises is not sufficient, but the purity of words and deeds should be clean".

Prof. (Dr) M G S Narayanan, former Chairman of ICHR delivered the keynote address and highlighted the virtues in the 'satyagraha' pioneered by Mahatma Gandhi. He said: "Satyagraha inspires one for self purification and persuasion. Defeat, hatred and compulsion have no place in Gandhian Satyagraha". He further added that Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Sri. K. Kelappan were the true Satyagrahis after the demise of Mahatma Gandhi.

Various technical sessions were conducted during the programme. The speakers included: Sri M V Zakaria, Public Relations Officer of the Calicut University, Dr. N Radhakrishnan, Chairman Gandhi Smaraki Nidhi, Kerala, Prof. (Dr) Gopalan Kutty, HOD, History University of Calicut. Representatives from the national Service Scheme from colleges and schools, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Global Peace Organisation, Gandhi Peace Foundation, Sarvodaya Mandalam Prohibition Samiti, Gandhi Darshan Samiti, Hindi Prachara Sabha and other non-governmental organisations working on issues of environment protection, human rights, etc took part in the programme.

Day two saw various activities being conducted which began with a yoga session. This was followed by experience sharing session of former Sarvodaya Mandalam president Sri Thayat Balan who shared his experiences of participating in the Gandhian struggle.

Dr. P Sivadasan, Prof and HOD of History, University of Calicut, spoke on the "Historic Perspective of Champaran Satyagraha". Shri P V Rajagopa, Chairman, Ekta Parishad, spoke on "Satyagraha in the present context". The President of the Sarvodaya Mandalam Sri P Peethambaram, Shri Iyyacheri Kunhikrishnan, Shri T V Rajan and others also spoke on the occasion.

The valedictory session was graced by the chief guest, District Judge, Shri K Ramesh Bhai. The session saw the distribution of certificates by the Director GSDS. Others present at this session included former Member of Parliament, Sri C Haridas, Dr. M CK Veeran, Sri, M. Narayanan.

### **MADHYA PRADESH**

#### ***Discussion on Mahatma Gandhi's Gram Swaraj finds prominence during the Gandhi Smriti Yatra***

The Samiti in association with Gandhi Bhawan Nyas, Bhopal Madhya Pradesh launched the *Gandhi Smriti Yatra* as part of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha from August 14, 2017 on the eve of the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebration. The Yatra from August 14-22, 2017. Shri C B Sharma coordinated the entire yatra.

The Yatra covered almost 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh where public meetings were organised to discuss Mahatma Gandhi's *Gram Swaraj, Satyagraha*, in the social perspective and contemporary situation.

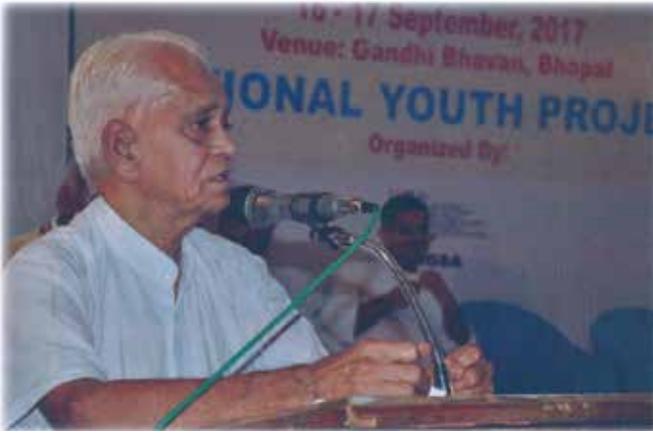
Over 500-1000 people gathered in each of the meetings at the ten-districts covered in the first phase. During the yatra, the families of the freedom fighters were also honoured. The districts covered were: Hosangabad, Burhanpur, Halda, Shajapur, Betul, Khandwa, Indore, Bhopal etc.

During September 2017, the second phase of the yatra will resume and will cover other districts

### **MORENA**

#### **National Convention on "Youth for Nation Building"**

The Samiti in association Mahatma Gandhi Seva Ashram, Morena Madhya Pradesh, National Youth Project, New Delhi, as part of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha organized a two-day National Convention on "Youth for Nation Building" in Morena, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal from September 16-17, 2017. About 200 representatives from 30 states took part in the national convention. The other partner organizations in this seminar were Ekta Parishad and Gandhi Bhawan Nyas. Chandigarh; Shri K Sukumaran from Kerala, Shri Haribiswas from Arunachal Pradesh; Shri Shridharan from Tamil Nadu, Shri Anil Hebber from Maharashtra, Shri Sunil Sevak from Bihar.



(From Top to Bottom): Padma Shri Dr. S N Subba Rao addressing the youth participants at the National Convention.

Group discussion in progress.

Participants join with eminent Gandhian Dr. S N Subba Rao for a group photograph.

Session III – (*Sarvadharmā Manubhāv aur Bharatiyā Bahutbhāshā Geet "Bharat ki Santan"*) Inter-faith Harmony and Multilingual Music – "Son of the Soil" – Cultural presentations in Malayalam, Gujarati, Hindi, Bengali, Telegu, Oriya, by the participants was a special highlight of the programme.

Session IV – (*Swavlambī Jīvan Aur Aajivikā Ki Surakṣā*) Self-sustained Life and Security of Livelihood. Some of the speakers included: Ransingh Parmar, President, Ekta Parishad; Ms.

Nidhi Prajapati from Rajasthan; Shri Keshav Pandey from Bihar and others.

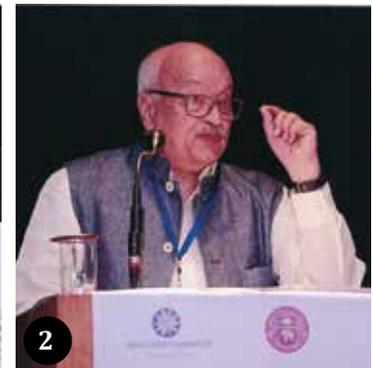
Session V – (*Gandhi ki prasāngikta aur yuvāo ki bhūmikā*) Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi and Role of Youth. Speakers included: Shri P V Rajagopal, Founder Ekta Parishad; Shri Gopal Sharma from Sikkim; Shri Dharmendra Bhai from Delhi and others.

Various suggestions and recommendations were proposed at the valedictory session where youth participants were asked to actively partake in the forthcoming 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

### Gandhi Jayanti National Conference 2017

#### *Revisiting Champaran: Challenges of Satyagraha in 21st Century*

A two-day Gandhi Jayanti National Conference 2017 was held on October 16-17, 2017 at Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi. The theme of the conference was "Revisiting Champaran: Challenges of Satyagraha in 21<sup>st</sup> Century". It was jointly organised by Indialogue Foundation, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Morning & Evening) and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. Vision India Research Centre (VIRC) was the Academic Partner of the organisers.

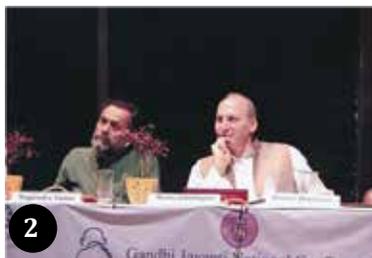


- 1) Prof. Mrinal Miri addressing the conference.
- 2) Dr. B P Singh, speaking to the young participant.
- 3) A young participant shares her perspective.
- 4) Mr. Bilal Acikgoz addresses the youth.

With the participation of 42 eminent speakers with diverse backgrounds from across the country and hundreds of students and academics in the audience, the conference was a huge success. Shri Balmiki Prasad Singh former Governor of Sikkim, Prof. Mrinal Miri, Shri Ramin Jahanbegloo, Shri Yogendra Yadav, Prof. Mridula Mukherjee, Shri Arvind Mohan, Ms. Ragini Nayak, Shri S N Sahu, Shri Hilal Ahmed, Shri Kallol Bhattacharjee, Ms. Shakti Sinha and Prof. Shiv Visvanathan were some of the most notable names among the panellists.



1



2

1) *Speakers at the conference included Swami Agnivesh, Shri Ashok Acharya, Dr. Bindu Puri and Shri Arvind Mohan.*



3

2) *Shri Yogendra Yadav shares the stage with Shri Ramin Jahanbegloo.*



4

3) *Shri Kallol Bhattacharjee, is all ears during the discussion.*

4) *Prof. Bidyut Chakrabarty is felicitated by a member of the organising committee of the conference.*

The two-day conference comprised of six working sessions apart from the inaugural session, the plenary session and the valedictory session.

On the first day of the conference, four sessions were held – the inaugural session, the plenary session and two Working Sessions.

The conference was inaugurated by Shri Balmiki Prasad Singh. Also present were Shri S P Singh, Chairman, Zakir Husain Delhi College who delivered the introductory remarks; Dr. Sulekh Chandra, Principal, Zakir Husain Delhi College gave a welcome speech; Prof. Sanjeev Kumar, Convener, Gandhi Study Circle made a presentation reflecting on the theme of the conference; Prof. Mrinal Miri, Eminent Indian Philosopher and Educationist delivered the Keynote Address; and Mr. Bilal Acikgoz, President, Indialogue Foundation proposed the vote of thanks.

The plenary session was chaired by eminent political philosopher, Shri Ramin Jahanbegloo. This session had notable speakers from different walks of life such as Ms. Neera Chandoke, renowned political scientist; Shri Yogendra Yadav, veteran psephologist, and Prof. Mridula Mukherjee, noted historian. Working Session II also saw other notable speakers.

On the second day of the conference, Working Sessions III, IV, V and VI were held along with the Valedictory Session.

Prof. Rizwan Qaiser, Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia; Shri S N Sahu, press secretary to former President K R Narayana; Shri Sangit K Ragi, Professor, University of Delhi; Shri Afroz Alam, freelance journalist; Prof. Bidyut Chakrabarty, Professor, University of Delhi; Prof. Hilal Ahmed, Associate Professor, CSDS; Shri Anwar Alam, noted political scientist; Shri Kallol Bhattacharjee, Senior Editor, The Hindu were among the notable speakers in the Working Sessions on day-two.

The valedictory session was chaired by Shri Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in which Shri Shiv Visvanathan, eminent intellectual and social scientist; Shri Suresh Kumar, Head, Department of African Studies, University of Delhi; Shri Sanjay Kumar, Convener, Gandhi Study Circle, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening) delivered their presentations on the theme of the conference.

The various Technical Sessions were:

1. ***Debating Satyagraha: Theoretical Basis and Practical Dimensions***
2. ***Champaran Satyagraha 1917: Reflections on History***
3. ***Satyagraha and Perspectives on Contemporary Conflicts and Peace***

The conference was hugely successful given the quality of speeches and discussions that took place and also the large number of audience who participated in it.

• **VARANASI, UTTAR PRADESH**

**National seminar on Gandhi: Champaran and Beyond organised**

The Samiti organised a two day national seminar on *Gandhi: Champaran and Beyond* was organised on March 16-17, 2018 in collaboration with the Department of History, Vasanta College for Women, Krishnamurti Foundation India, Rajghat, Varanasi with the objective to go beyond this and explore varied dimensions of Gandhian thought and practice through the participation of academic and practicing resource persons.

The Keynote Address was delivered by Prof. Raj Mohan Gandhi, Historian and Biographer, Michigan State University, USA and



Renowned author and grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi (C) lights the ceremonial lamp as eminent Gandhian Prof. Ramjee Singh (R) along with the officials of Vasanta College during the inaugural function.



**SPINNING THE THREAD OF HOPE:** Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi joins the staff and students of Vasanta College in a demonstration of spinning by the youth during the programme.

the Valedictory Address by Sri Sachchidanand Sinha, noted Socialist Thinker and Writer.

A play titled *Dard-E-Dil* (Based on imaginary dialogue between Gandhi and Jinnah), written by Gopal Krishna Gandhi, directed by Fr. Anand and performed by Prerna Kala Manch, Varanasi was a befitting closure of Day One of the seminar since it was unanimously appreciated by all participants. Further, an exhibition on **Gandhi and Champaran** was inaugurated on March 16, 2018.



Students enact a play “Dard-E-Dil” written by Shri Gopal Krishna Gandhi on the occasion.

At the inaugural session, welcoming the guests, delegates and students, Dr. Alka Singh, Principal, Vasanta College for Women said that in a world torn by violence and war Gandhi has once more become extremely relevant. “The Champaran chapter of Gandhi’s life is a milestone in history”.



(Inset): Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi speaks at the seminar at Vasanta College.

(Below): Dr. Rajmohan Gandhi visits an exhibition organised by Vasanta College as part of the two-day seminar.

Dr. Deepti Pande, Convener, National Seminar introduced the theme of the seminar. She mentioned that Gandhi was against all forms of violence and exploitation, against racism and ethnic supremacy, against colonialism and against the degradation of women. She said that it is the need of the hour that we should establish Gandhi in the contemporary times for the young generation.



*Prof. Ramjee Singh, former Vice-Chancellor Jain Vishva Bharati University, Ladnun, Rajasthan shares his perspective at the seminar.*

Prof. Raj Mohan Gandhi, Historian and Biographer, Michigan State University, USA who was the Chief Guest of the Seminar said while delivering the key note address that the impact of Champaran Satyagraha was long lasting whereby Gandhi established that it was important to act according to the voice of one's conscience when he refused to comply with the district authorities and leave Champaran. He further said that true homage to Mahatma Gandhi is in trying to resolve various problems and challenges surrounding humanity today.

Sri S. N. Dubey, Manager, Krishnamurti Foundation India felicitated the guests on the dais and expressed his gratitude to all the delegates present. He deliberated on the role of Gandhi in Champaran where he stayed for about six months and encouraged the people to speak for their rights.

Prof. Ramjee Singh, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Jain Vishva Bharati University, Ladnun, Rajasthan, noted in his presidential address that sadly Gandhi is missing in Champaran at present. Pointing to the issue of farmers' suicide he regretted that we are running after science and technological progress even at the expense of true human progress and this is totally different from how Gandhi perceived things.

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, Organising Secretary, National Seminar gave a formal vote of thanks at the end of the Inaugural Session, which was conducted by Dr. Shreya Pathak.

- Academic Session I – Champaran: Satyagraha Begins in India

Expressing his views Sri Arvind Mohan, Journalist, New Delhi said that Gandhi taught in Champaran that truth should be brought forth in a way that nobody can deny it. Through his non-violent struggle Gandhi gave the 'Mantra' of fearlessness. The blueprint of education, health and village industries which was in his mind found an expression in Champaran.

The second speaker of the session, Sri Aflatoon, General Secretary, Samajwadi Janparishad, Varanasi said that the strength of non-violent struggle gives birth to constructive programmes, He expressed concern over the declining state of small and cottage industries which occupied a key position in Gandhian economic thought.

The Chairperson of this session, Sri Kumar Prashant, Chairperson, Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi after giving his remarks on the previous deliberations presented his views on positioning Gandhi in the entire discourses of history. He said, Satyagraha as a movement is something related to thoughts, understanding them and working towards implementing them for greater good.

- Academic Session II – Enabling People on Fringes : The Gandhian Way

As the first speaker of this session Sri Narayan Muni, Social Activist, Bokane Kala, East Champaran, raised certain relevant issues of migration from rural to urban areas by farmers and challenges faced by people living in villages. He also said that it is the need of the hour that people inspired by Gandhian thought work in the villages. Then only will remembering Gandhi be successful.

Explaining that in Champaran the main purpose was to empower the marginal sections of society, Ms. Shubha, Secretary, Banwasi Seva Ashram, Sonbhadra, went ahead to share her first hand experiences of working with the 370 villages in the region in the direction of self reliance in a non-violent manner.

This session was chaired by Sri Sunil Sahastrabudhey, Chairperson, Vidya Ashram, Sarnath, Varanasi who expressed his concern that

since peasant movement in India is constantly getting weaker it is all the more important to awaken people on the margins. Gandhi is the biggest source of thought in the present society which plays an important part in the process of knowledge creation. Hence we need to establish the significance and respect of vernacular languages and indigenous knowledge.

A Panel Discussion on the topic Legacy of the Unarmed Prophet closed the academic deliberations for the day, the speakers were:

- I. Sri Amarnath Bhai, Former President, All India Sarva Seva Sangh (Moderator)
- II. Dr. Sujata Choudhary, Eminent Writer and Activist, Bhagalpur
- III. Prof. Awadhesh Pradhan, Department of Hindi, Banaras Hindu University
- IV. Prof. Ashok Kaul, Department of Sociology, Banaras Hindu University
- V. Prof. Malbika Pande, Department of History, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi,
- VI. Prof. Satish Rai, Department of Political Science, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi.

Moderating the discussion, Sri Amarnath Bhai raised the question as to why the legacy of Gandhi is being discussed the world over in different ways. Answering this he said, it's so because Gandhian philosophy appears to be the only possible alternative before our trouble torn world. Other speakers joined him in discussing the different aspects where Gandhian thought offers a way out since Gandhi had understood the contemporary social order and long back anticipated the future socio- economic crisis.

#### DAY TWO

- Academic Session III – Continuum of the Past: Experiments in Gandhian Constructive Programmes

The first speaker of the day Ms. Radha Bhatt from Kasturba Mahila Utthan Mandal, Lakshmi Ashram, Kausani, Uttarakhand remarked that constructive work instils the kind of energy whereby people stand-up for their rights, justice and overall existence. Referring to the Chipko Movement she focussed on women's role as an agency to protect nature and also advocated for sustainable development.

Sri Shatrughan Jha, Vishwa Manav Seva Ashram, Narkatiyaganj, West Champaran, Bihar, highlighted the thought behind Khadi, saying Gandhi is incomplete without Khadi. He went ahead to explain about the various types of Charkhas on which the children of the Ashram were demonstrating before the audience. He also delved at length on the practical aspects of the education being imparted to the children.

Ms. Asha, a senior student from Lakshmi Ashram, Kausani narrated the experience of her stay there and how the Ashram was bringing about change in the lives of many girls and women of the region, especially those from poorer background. Her short talk was a reflection of her faith in Gandhian ideology for bringing about change in society.

The session was concluded by Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Department of Social Work, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi who said that Gandhi's masculinity is alternative masculinity. We need to challenge patriarchy as Gandhi and patriarchy cannot go together.

- Academic Session IV – Indian Democracy at Cross Roads : Exploring Gandhian Alternative

'Gandhi is nowhere Gandhi is everywhere' was the title of the talk delivered by Dr. Saurabh Vajpayi, Department of History, Deshbandhu College, University of Delhi. Visible on currency notes, large statues on crossroads and through Khadi, Gandhi is a very strong symbol and he became a brand but what about his ideas and philosophy, he questioned? There is a need to save Gandhian thinking at present.

The session was chaired by Sri Ram Dhiraj, Sarv Seva Sangh, who commented on the politics behind nuclear bombs, weapons and, misuse of political conflict. He said that only a world order based on nonviolent structures can lead to the lasting good of humanity. Dr. Lakshmi Kant Singh conducted both the above sessions.

- Academic Session V –Prospects of a stable world order and Gandhi

Expressing his views in this session Dr. Jagdish N. Sinha, former Associate Professor, University of Delhi, talked of the Gandhian understanding of closeness to nature, harmony with nature and thereby nature cure of the various ailments affecting man. This was Gandhi's method of creating a balance in life.

The other speaker of this session, Prof. Ram Prakash Dwivedi, Director, Gandhi Adhyayanpeeth, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi talked of taking religion out of its narrow confines to a broader and more humane dimension, as was done by Gandhi. This was much needed today for creating a stable world order.

This session was chaired by Ms. Sujata Choudhary, eminent writer and activist, Bhaglapur, Bihar and conducted by Dr. Sanjeev Kumar.

A special dialogue session – *Poocho aur Janoo* followed the academic sessions keeping in mind the questions which arose in the minds of students and other participants at the end of two days. Sri Kumar Prashant, Chairperson, Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi successfully conducted this session and took up questions both related to the facts of history and those related to the practical problems encountered by those working at the ground level.

### Valedictory Session:

This session began with the welcome address by the Principal, Dr. Alka Singh followed by the seminar report, read by Dr. Shreya Pathak. The valedictory address was delivered by Sri Sachchidanand Sinha, renowned Socialist thinker and writer, Muzaffarpur. Prof. Sucheta Mahajan, Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Science, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi was the Guest of Honour. Prof. Rajeev Sangal, Director, IIT, Banaras Hindu University gave the Presidential Remarks. Dr. Deepti Pande convener of the seminar gave the final vote of thanks.



*The exhibition developed by Vasanta College for Women as part of the 100 Years of the Champaran Satyagraha in display during the seminar.*

# Ba-Bapu: 150 – A Prelude

## Meeting on “Ba-Bapu – 150 Curtain Raiser”

The Samiti organized a special curtain raiser dialogue on “Ba-Bapu – 150” in Gandhi Darshan on July 31, 2017 as part of the preparatory meeting to mark the celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Ba-Bapu in 2019. Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President of Harijan Sevak Sang; Prof. N. Radhakrishnan, former Director GSDS; Shri Basant; Shri Ramesh Sharma, Km. Indu Bala, Shri Prasun Latant and Shri Atul Prabhakar, Shri U C Gaur, and many others took part in the programme. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan was also present on the occasion.



*Participants at the discussion on programmes to be initiated as part of the 150th birth anniversary of Ba-Bapu in Gandhi Darshan, presided over by Prof. N Radhakrishnan.*

Discussions on different initiatives that could be taken up at both the national and international levels featured during the meeting. Various suggestions came up at the meeting to make Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan a place of international importance.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, besides sharing his views, also highlighted the steps the Samiti has started taking especially in areas of skill development programs, the interpretation centres in different parts of the country with an aim towards reaching out to different parts of the country developing a rich resource bank of people who could play a vital role during the 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

## Meeting for Gandhi 150

The Samiti organised a preparatory meeting with academicians, social workers, members from the Karigar Panchayat, writers, and authors in Gandhi Darshan on August 2, 2017. About 20 persons took part in the discussion that raised the importance of taking forward the message of Mahatma Gandhi to different parts of the country through various socio-educations, socio-economic, cultural and sustainable programmes. Further discussion on organising a confluence of Gandhian thoughts was also mooted.

The participants included Dr. Sheila Rai, President, Indian Society for Gandhian Studies, Wardha; Prof. Nriprendra Prasad Modi, Vice-Chancellor, Bharatiya Gandhian Adhyaan Samiti, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Wardha; Dr. Sitaram Choudhury, Dr. Harindra Kishjor Mishra, HOD, Dept. of Economics, SNJIM College, Dharbhanga; Shri Sudhira Chandra Jena, Associate Prof. Pol. Sc, CMPC College, BPD Odisha; Shri Anuj Gupta, Shri Basant Singh, Ms. Monaliza Pradhan, Dr. Sanjay Jain; Dr. Satish Chandra Agarwal; Dr. Manoranjan Kumar Bharti; Dr. Purnima Kumar, Dr. Khemchand Mahawer; Shri Chandreshwar Prasad Sharma, Shri Sudhir K. Sinha, Ms. Reeta Kumari, Shri Pankaj Kumar Chaubey and others.

## Discussion on “Bapu’s Constructive Programme”

The Samiti organized a discussion on *Bapu’s Constructive Programme* in association with Sakhiri Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Basantpur



at Siwan, Bihar. It was held in Basantpur's Sipan Training Hall on November 3, 2017. The discussion focused on the role of women in social welfare through the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programme.



**Women participants at the discussion on Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programme as part of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba Gandhi.**

The programme was inaugurated by the distinguished managing trustee member of *Sakhiri* with the lighting of the lamp and by offering floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. Ms Rachna was the Samiti's representative in the programme, which was well attended by a large number of women participants from Sakhiri Sansthan. Over 150 participants took part in the programme.

There were detailed discussions on the various points of Constructive Programme of Mahatma Gandhi, such as: *national integration, prohibition, Khadi and Village industries, sanitation, Buniyadi Taalim, women empowerment, health, economic equality, farmers, labourers, tribals, students, regional and national languages, etc.*

The distinguished speakers at the discussion included the Block Development Officer (BDO) Sh. Kishore Kumar, Ms. Nirmala Singh, Sh. Subodh Tiwari and others.

**Meeting on Ba-Bapu 150 with Global Gandhi Forum organized**

The Samiti in association with Vinoba Seva Pratisthan (VSP) launched the "Gandhi Global Forum" in Gandhi Darshan on March 12, 2018. Over 35 participants from different parts of the country including Japan took part in the programme that discussed different aspects of the preparations towards the celebrations of the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Interactive discussions formed part of the preparatory meetings for the 150th birth anniversary of Ba-Bapu.**



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Shri Manoj Jena, Secretary VSP, Shri Hardayal Kushwaha took part in the programme. The delegation also visited Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat led by the Director GSDS along with Shri Basant ji and Shri Umesh Chandra Gaur and offered tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

**Preparatory meeting of Baa-Bapu's 150th Birth Anniversary**

A meeting of the academicians from different parts of the country was held on March 12-14, 2018 in Gandhi Darshan, for planning the events for the celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Ba-Bapu at the national/international level. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director, GSDS, Shri Kalanand Mani, Peaceful Society, Goa; Prof. Manoj Kumar, Director,



**Eminent Gandhian and social thinker, Shri Kalanand Mani sharing his thought about the programmes that could be taken up during the 150th birth anniversary of Ba-Bapu.**

Mahatma Gandhi Fuji Guruji Social Work Department, Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha, Maharashtra; Shri Basant former Advisor, GSDS, Prof. Sohan Raj Tatdev, former Vice Chancellor, University of Singhania, Rajasthan; Prof. Nripendra Prasad Modi, Head of Department, Gandhi and Peace Studies, MGAHV and others joined the discussion.



*Gandhians, social thinkers, academicians, corporates and others took part in the brainstorming sessions and deliberations during the two-day preparatory meeting in Gandhi Darshan to chalk out a plan of action for the 150th celebrations.*

In the first session on March 12, 2018, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan addressed the meeting and said that the celebration should be based on the principles of Mahatma Gandhi and the efforts should be to connect with the people. On some aspects he expressed his views like Gandhiji had gone to all the states of India, and, therefore, various programs should be centered on memorials, etc. Gandhi's contributions in different states should be underlined and documented. And such books should be brought to the state schools and colleges and there are many misconceptions about the ideas of Gandhi, an answer should be given to these misconceptions.

In his address, Prof. B L Shah, HOD, Dept of Political Science, Kumaon University, Nanital, Uttarakhand), said that judges and lawyers should be trained on conflict resolution. He also said that Gandhiji had come to the village of Takula in Uttarakhand, and as there is enough land here, it should be developed.

Dr. Nishikant Kolge said: "We should remove the misconceptions related to Mahatma Gandhi. His ideas should be conveyed to other people and a large number of people should be added to this campaign. He proposed to increase activities in the North-Eastern State of Tripura.



Pro. R. K. Gupta said Gandhi had a deep connection with Uttarakhand (Kosani). A book named Anasakti Yoga was created here. But there is no program of Gandhian style here now. There should be some purpose for changing his tropical condition. He further said that there is considerable influence of Gandhi in Nepal, he can be linked internationally. Advocate Mohammad Aamam Saeed, who came from Bihar's Banka district, said that on the date of 2 October, 2018, the Union Government should declare as a nationwide festival and the cornerstone of the country it should be observed.

While presenting suggestions in the meeting, Mr. Himanshu from Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Central University, Srinagar, Uttarakhand, said that by arranging debate competitions and lectures, etc. in the name of Mahatma Gandhi, youth should be well-informed with his ideas.

Senior Advocate Naresh Kumar Jhane, who came from Bihar's Banka district, said that there is a meeting of six general councils in the year of the three-level Panchayat system and proposed that it should become a rule that Gandhiji's views at the beginning and the end of his meeting should be discussed. Also, Kasturba's contributions to the Anganwadi centers across the country should be discussed. He further said that "Gramin Gaurav Puraskar" should be provided to the rural level workers who are contributing to the service, education and cleanliness at the village level.

The speakers were further divided into groups, which discussed on the modalities for the dissemination of Bapu's ideas amongst women, tribal and Dalit groups and for international programmes.



*Brainstorming session as part of the preparatory meeting of Ba-Bapu 150 in progress in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.*

# Programmes for the Tribal People

## THARU, CHAMPARAN BIHAR

### Adivasi Kala Sanskriti Sangam

To highlight the culture and tradition and living conditions in the lap of nature of the tribes of different regions of India, the Samiti has been organising the Adivasi Kala Sanskriti Sangam in different parts of the country for several years. In this endeavour, the Samiti organised the Adivasi Kala Sanskriti Sangam for the Tharu tribes in Champaran, Bihar from June 22-24, 2017. The programme was organised at Harnatand, Balmiki Nagar, West Champaran, Bihar with the participation of 600 participants.



*Women from the nearby villages gather at the Tharu Adivasi Kala Sanskriti Sangam at Harnatand, Balmiki Nagar, West Champaran, Bihar.*

Some of the speakers at the inauguration of the three-day programme included: Member of Legislative Assembly, Shri Dharendra Pratap Singh, Shri Deepnarain, President of Tharu Sangh; Smt. Chanmati Devi, President, Tharuwat Mahila Vikas Sanstha, Harnatand; Shri Durg Narain Prasad, Secretary Tharuwat Pragitishil Sanstha, Shri Basant Singh, former Advisor GSDS and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS. Other prominent heads of various regional organisations were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan highlighted the activities of the Samiti and also the purpose of organising the sangam. He reflected upon Gandhiji's contribution in Champaran and stressed upon the Constructive Programmes of Gandhi. He asked the people to develop an understanding of the knowledge of the Constructive Programmes and apply them in their work and life.

In his address, Shri Dharendra Pratap Singh lauded the

efforts of the GSDS and the team of Harnatand. Recalling Gandhiji he said that Gandhiji used Champaran as a work site and this land made him a Mahatma. He also asked everybody to follow Gandhiji's path of truth and compassion.

The artists of the region presented colorful cultural programmes. Songs and dances on the pain of the farmers and child marriages were also raised through their performances.





*The Tharu Kala Sanskriti Sangam saw a huge gathering of people from different segments of the society, grassroots workers, senior Gandhians, Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and staff from the GSDS taking part in full enthusiasm.*



*Local cultural presentations was a special attraction of the Kala Sanskriti Sangam.*

On July 23, a session on *Issues confronting women – Their problems and Solutions* was organised. The session was attended by 100 participants. Shri Satish Chandra Dubey, Member of Parliament was the chief guest on the occasion.

Speaking to the participants Director GSDS said that it is necessary to run programmes for the development of leadership qualities of he children. He further urged them to develop linkages with IGNOU to open IGNOU’s training center to take forward the education of children. He emphasised that local women must be made aware of the provisions of the Government of India on skill development. He urged them that they must create “Mahila Gandhi Group”



*Felicitations and recognition of talents of children by members and staff of GSDS made the event more meaningful and helped in developing people-to-people contact.*

While saying that it is possible for everybody to talk about Champaran, but impossible for everybody to come and work in the field, Shri Satish Chandra Dubey stressed on the need to work more on agriculture and activate skill development plans. “There should be Navodaya and Kendriya Vidyalayas in our area. If we have to develop every house then we have

to strengthen agriculture and education. Unless every person becomes aware, our entire development will not be there, he asserted”.

Later, GSDS Research Officer, Smt. Geeta Shukla spoke on the role of women panchayat and development in their society. The session was also attended by members of the Tharu Panchayat such as: Smt. Sunwasi Devi and Smt. Phoolkumari Devi from Mahadeva Village; Smt. Vinita Devi from Beiriyakala Village; Smt. Sunaina Devi from Harnatand Village and Smt. Kumari Devi from Chhatra Purakta Toli. Discussions on their issues and development were raised. Ms. Reeta Kumari from GSDS also took part in the discussion.

On June 24, about 200 students from the Rajkiyakrit Vidyalaya took part in the programme. Shri Basant ji chaired the session. The President of the Tharu Region Shri Deepnaran, Principal of the school Shri Prakash Narayan was also present on the occasion and discussed issues concerning the farmers. They further spoke on different skill development opportunities of the farmers. Shri Basant ji also provided valuable information about the “Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojna”.



*Large number of school children from nearby schools took part in the three-day Adivasi Kala Sanskriti Sangam in Tharu.*

## Programmes for Children

### **Understanding Gandhi through the eyes of Children – An Interactive Session with ITIHAAS**

The interactive session with students from ITIHAAS (Indian Traditions Heritage Society) who were on a summer project to understand the life's message and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi by visiting various Gandhian Institutions and writing their reports based on the information they receive, took place in Gandhi Darshan on May 27, 2017.

Led by Smita Vats, Founder Director Itihaas, the students shared their experiences of taking part in the internship programme at National Gandhi Museum. They felt that their visit to Gandhi Darshan museums have enriched their understanding of the journey of Mohandas to Mahatma. They felt elated. Speaking to them from GSDS was Smt Shashwati Jhalani who spoke of many qualities of Gandhiji. Sharing personal anecdotes from his life that evolved him into seeking for truth through the means of service to mankind and honesty as his basis, she asked the students to evolve themselves as better human beings.

Rajdeep Pathak while sharing information about the activities of the Samiti, asked the students to also visit Gandhi Smriti. He further asked if the children could establish Moniya clubs in schools that could become a hub of student led creative activities.

The students informed that as part of the summer project they are being involved by team from Itihaas to discuss, interview, participate, enact and write about their approach and understanding of Gandhiji.

Earlier the children were given a guided tour of the exhibitions at Gandhi Darshan. The children were pleased to learn short anecdotes about Mahatma Gandhi.

The interaction concluded with a vote of thanks.

### **Orientation Workshop on Theatre and Art for Children**

A five-day *Orientation Workshop on Theatre and Art for Children* was organised from June 14-18, 2017 at the Central Government Employees Multi-Storey Flats, Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi. The programme was coordinated by Shri Gulshan Gupta.



*(From Top to Bottom): Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan inaugurates the workshop with the children. Children are seen enacting a play on 'Swachhagraha'.*

Ms. Madhumita Roy Khan conducted the theatre workshop for the children during which she taught different nuances of theatre and prepared the children for a play on "Cleanliness and Sanitation".

Shri Shivdutt Gautam from GSDS taught comic art to the children. The creativity of the children could be visible from the final production where the children through their comics raised several issues of social concern from environment to health and education.

On June 18, 2017, a stage presentation of the performances by the children was showcased at Gandhi Darshan where a movie on environment was also shown to the children.

Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan lauded the efforts of the children and congratulated the trainers for their efforts.

**Workshop on Children and Peace-Building organised**

Almost 100 children from the slums of Sector 3 Dwarka took part in a seven-day workshop on "Children and Peace-Building" organised by the GSDS in association with Maa Peace Foundation from June 18-24, 2017 at Shanti Garden. Children whose family are making a living by selling vegetables, mostly took part in the workshop.



(From L to R): Children partake in various activities during the workshop on "Children and Peace-Building" organised by Maa Peace Foundation. Activities included group exercises, Understanding Mahatma Gandhi, Radio workshop, skits and cultural presentations, etc.

The participating children were divided into six groups on the names of great social thinkers such as "Lincoln", "Mandela", "Malala", "Kalam", "Vinobha", "Vivekananda". The objective of the workshop was to develop a greater understanding

of the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi and to influence them to stop using violent means even amongst their friends and peer groups.

The camp was inaugurated by poetess and writer Smt. Mridula Pradhan, Ms. Neeta Gaba, Ms. Somya. Senior Gandhian worker, Shyam Chandra Jha also took part in the programme. Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive GSDS was also present on the programme.

Ms. Shatakshi from APNA RADIO, Omveer Singh (Yoga instructor) conducted special



workshops with the children. Smt. Meena Devi spoke on the importance of the Charkha.



*(Above): Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive GSDS conducts a session with the children in Dwarka ; (Below): Some of the children pose for a group photograph with camp coordinator Smt. Kamna Jha (fifth from L.)*

During the workshop, the children participated in different activities such as shramdaan, tea plantation, community cleaning, theatre, art, etc.

On the valedictory day of the programme on June 24, 2017, Councillor Shri Ramesh Matiyala Ward was the chief guest. Students from the "Moniya Clubs" who also participated in the workshop raised the issue of sewage and garbage in the locality. The Councillor promised to render support to redress the grievances of the people of the area and also took steps to address the issue.

Children organized Nukkad Natak and songs with regional and local problems like Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan. Presentation of songs also marked the occasion.

The programme was conducted by the youth team of Shivangi, Ankur, Rohit, Aakanksha,

of the Foundation. On the other hand, active members in women's team were- Shrimati Anita Sharma, Renu, Shikha, Sapna, Sheila Bais, Gomati Tomar.

### **PATNA, BIHAR**

#### ***3<sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day for children of the Musahar Children***

Around 584 children and adults from the marginalised Musahar Community of Bihar took part in the celebrations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day on June 21, 2017 in Patna Bihar in a special programme organised by the Samiti in association with *Abhiyaan*. Children from about 19 villages such as Bibipur from Kako Block, Jahar Bigaha, Titahi Bigaha, Ratan Bigaha, Golakpur, Kosiama, etc. The Yog Divas was inaugurated by Member of the District Council, Shri Aditya Kumar. The Head Teacher of the Secondary School was also present on the occasion.

The Yoga Day celebration gave an opportunity to the children of the marginalised communities to participate in an event that helped in developing their personality. Children also raised their concern over issues on sanitation and health and hygiene.

### **SAMASTIPUR, BIHAR**

#### ***Seminar on Gandhi, Sanitation and Health as part of 3<sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day***

The Samiti in association with Swasth Bharat Nyas and Sundari Devi Saraswati Vidya Mandir at Samastipur Bihar organised a National Seminar on "Gandhi Sanitation and Health" on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Day of Yoga. About 1500 children in remote villages of Bihar's Samastipur District took part in the programme. Senior Gandhian thinker and journalist Shri Prasun Latant addressed the children and spoke



*Participants at the seminar on Sanitation and Health as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Day of Yoga.*

in details about the concept of good health and how Gandhiji was concerned about the health of the people of the country.

Shri Ashutosh Kumar Singh, National Convenor of Healthy Bharat Abhiyan said that it is possible to build a healthy India with a clean India. Sharing the message of Mahatma Gandhi's cleanliness, he said that sanitation of both the mind and the body is necessary. Clean mind builds healthy mind. Putting light on cleanliness and health, he said that people become victims of all kinds of diseases, including malaria, dengue, diarrhea, jaundice due to uncleanness.

On this occasion, Prof. B K Tiwari gave a paper presentation on the growing health problems of the youth. Prof. Tiwari said that the change in food and living conditions has implicated youth in the clutches of disease.

On the other hand, Dr N K Anand, who is helping the daughters on free education in Samastipur, spoke about the topic of how healthy India's dream needs to be fulfilled. He said that the young people up to the age of 25 years and the 60 years old elderly people should be treated completely free by the government. School Principal Ashok Kumar Singh called upon the students to be alert about health and said that by staying healthy, we will be able to do our studies properly.

Earlier in the morning, the students also participated in live yoga under the instruction of Yoga guru Kumar Krishnan from Munger whose live demonstration helped create awareness on the joys and glory of yoga. 1500 girls and boys took part in the Yoga.

The others who took part in the occasion included Shri Shailendra Mishra, Bihar Spokesperson Vijayvrat Kanth of Healthy India Campaign, Shri Kailash Poddar, Shri Satya, Ms. Sonakshi, Ms. Akanksha, Ms. Amrita. Bhajans and inspirational songs made the occasion more colourful. Intellectuals like Shri Mithilesh Pathak, Shri Rajesh Kumar Suman, social activist Priyanka Singh were also present on the occasion.

## **ALMORA, UTTARAKHAND**

### ***Two-day workshop with Children organised***

The Samiti in association with Dastak Samajik Sanstha Dwarahat, Almora, Uttarakhand organised a two-day workshop with children on various issues such as prohibition, female foeticide, sanitation and health. During the workshop various competitions were also



*Enthusiastic participating children at Almora Uttarakhand take part in several activities.*

organised such as story writing, poetry and painting. 90 participants from 10 different schools took part in the workshop.

Shri C.P. Joshi workshop coordinator, Mr. Rao, Shree Deepchandra Herbola Sculptor, Chief Guest, Smt. Mamta Bhatt Block, Chief and Exclusive were present on the occasion.

Issues on cleanliness, plantation, community radio and environmental conservation and its prevention focussed at the interactive session and discussions with the children in which they actively took part.

The children actively took part in the programme. Certificates and prizes were also distributed at the end of the two-day workshop.

### **Rehearsals for October 2nd – Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**

About 400 students from 16 different schools took part in music rehearsal for 2<sup>nd</sup> October Gandhi Jayanti Celebration. The rehearsals were conducted in Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti by Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna from *Swar Trishna*.

## Value Creation Camp

About 104 students from four schools from four different states such as Ahmedabad, Gujarat, Panipat, Haryana, Champaran, Bihar and Mathura, Uttar Pradesh took part in the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.



*Glimpses from the Value Creation Camp inaugurated in Gandhi Darshan on the eve of October 2, 2017. The camp was formally inaugurated by Shri Laxmi Dass, Shri Ramesh Sharma, Shri Yogesh Shukla along with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan.*

*Cultural performances by children added flavour to the camp.*

Workshops on Theatre/Drama (Ms. Madhumita Khan), Charkha (Dharamraj & Vivek); Shramdaan; Naturopathy (Dr. Manju Aggarwal), Comic art (Shri Shivdutt), Music (Sudhanshu Bahuguna) took place during the camp. Visit to the historical sites/monuments formed an integral part of the camp. Children actively took part in swachatta abhiyaan during the camp.

The valedictory function of the 11-day Value Creation Camp – organised from September 23 onwards – on October 3, 2017 in Gandhi Darshan. 110 children and their coordinators from Gujarat Kumar Vinay Mandir, Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Shri Sunderlal Anguri Devi Jr. High School, Piloohny, Nehear (Raya), Mathura; Utkramik Madhyamik Vidyalaya Gandhi, Barharwa Lakhansen, Rajkiya Madhya Vidyalaya, Chandrahaiya, Motihari Dhaka, East Champaran; and Nirmala Deshpande Sansthan, Panipat, Haryana; took part in the programme.

The guests at the valedictory programme included Shri A.N Tripathi, Prof. Biplab Laha Choudhury from Vishwabharati, Shantiniketan, Prof. Avinash Singh from NUEPA (National University of Educational Planning and Administration) and other Professors. Shri Basant ji from Karigar Panchayat and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS were also present on the occasion.

The function began with welcome song, prayer and by lighting of the inaugural lamp by the guests and children.

The valedictory programme saw various cultural presentations by the children. Children performed a theatre on "Cleanliness" (Swachchatta) directed by Ms. Madhumita Khan by all the four groups.

Further each individual group presented their local cultural programme with songs and dances.

Children were also facilitated on the occasion by the guests. Director GSDS appreciated the efforts of the children and the campers in organising this ten-day camp.

Later the children from Champaran Bihar, met Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare at his residence.

The camp that was inaugurated by Shri Laxmi Dass, Shri Ramesh Sharma, Km. Kusum Shah, Smt. Manjushree Mishra and Shri Prabhat Kumar Jha on September 23, 2017 saw a very enthusiastic participation of the children under

the coordination of Shri Vivek Kumar, Smt. Reeta Kumari, Ms. Rachna Rathore, Shri Dharamraj, Ms. Shobha Khulbe and Shri Gulshan Gupta.

While, Ms. Anu Singh from Swasti Kala Delhi taught Kathak, the magic show was coordinated by Shri Satyavan.



*Children at the Value Creation Camp took part in various activities such as gardening and horticulture, reading Gandhi, theatre, spinning, etc.*



*(Above): A drama presentation by children at the valedictory function of the camp.*

*(Below): Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan with the children of the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan.*

### **Five-day Theatre and Personality Development Workshop for Special Children**

The Samiti in association with Navin Jivika Welfare and Educational Society organised a five-day "Theatre and Personality Development Workshop for Special Children" at Jagriti enclave, Karkarduma, New Delhi. The aim of the workshop was to increase the confidence of the children and refine their personality through theatre and stage. It was also aimed to connect the children to the society and to make them informed about the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

Through the medium of theatre, the children were made aware on issues related to cleanliness. On the last day of the workshop, the children staged a play whose theme centred on keeping the environment clean while celebrating Diwali without fireworks.

This workshop had a very positive effect on the children. Where on the first day, many children were unable to participate freely; they opened up as the workshop progressed. Even though the children could not speak freely, they expressed themselves through gestures.

## Guptakashi

### Workshop for children on Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Co-existence

A one-day workshop for children on "Nature-Human-Wildlife, Mutual Co-existence" was organized by the Samiti for the students of Dr. Jacques Vigne National School, Guptakashi, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand on October 10, 2017. About 120 students took part in the workshop.



*Ms. Rachna from GSDS training the participating children during the workshop.*

Shri C.P Joshi, a social worker in Rudraprayag district, shared his views with students on nature friendly life and children's role in environment protection. Students also presented their views on Mahatma Gandhi and environment. A girl presented a poem on nature.

## Katihar

### Debate competition and Swachhata Abhiyan at Sarvodaya Ashram, Gandhi Ghar, Kursela

The Samiti in association with Sarvodaya Ashram, Gandhighar at Kursela, Katihar, Bihar organised a debate competition for the boys from Class IX and X and painting competition on *Swachhata* by the girls from Class IX and X. almost 400 children took part in the programme as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations.



*Participants at the Swachhata and awareness campaign in Kursela.*

Discussions on Champaran Satyagraha: 100 Years was organised on the occasion. Ms. Sonia Dhandania, BDO Kursela was the chief guest of the programme. Shri Dhir Balak Rai, CO, Circle Officer, Kursela; Shri Binod Singh, SHO, Kursela and Gopal Yadav, Member Zila Parishad, Shri Amik Ram, Mukhiya Gram Panchayat were present on the occasion.

The prize distribution ceremony was organised as part of the programme. Children also spoke on the occasion on sanitation and cleanliness. They further presented a group song on *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*.

### Workshop on Children and Peace-Building

The Samiti organized a one-day workshop on "Children and Peace Building" at the Dr. Zakir Hussain Memorial Sr. Sec. School, at Jafarabad, Delhi. The workshop was part of the series of workshops the GSDS initiated to inculcate in children values and ethics. Almost 150 students of the school took part in the workshop coordinated by Shri Deepak Pandey. Smt. Reeta Kumar and Shri Gulshan Gupta of GSDS took part in the programme.

During the workshop, discussion with the participants on the Gandhian concept of mutual co-existence was raised and how students could play an important role in peace-building initiatives.

While introducing GSDS to the participating students and few teachers, Shri Gulshan Gupta told how children should move forward towards their future and adopt non-violent methods in their daily life. Interactive session with the students was also organized.



Participants during the tree plantation activity in the school.

Smt. Reeta Kumari, while highlighting Gandhiji's life, told how Gandhiji fought the Satyagraha movement. This concept of truth, Smt. Reeta told was developed in Gandhiji since his childhood.

Shri Deepak Kumar highlighted that while children often choose their career casually, but later they take it seriously and make it their goal as they grow up. He asked the children to be focused in their studies and set a goal for them.

The workshop concluded with the children participating in an interactive question answer session.

**Workshop on Volunteerism for Constructive Work**

The Samiti organized a one-day workshop for school children on the theme "Volunteerism for Constructive Work" in association with Chaudhary Ram Gopal Singh Balika Uchcha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Akbarpur, Jhabiya, Kanpur. About 180 students, both boys and girls participated in the workshop and learnt many beneficial things, which would be very useful to them as they grow up and become active members of the society.

The Samiti was represented in the workshop by Sh. Gulshan Gupta and Sh. Deepak Pandeya. They spoke to the children about the moral values of life and how to integrate these into our daily lives.

The participants were given certificates for attending the workshop.

- **Inter-school Vande Mataram Rolling Trophy Competition 2017**

**Children send a musical message of peace and harmony through songs of Bhakti Saints**

A cold wintry morning! The light breeze sends a soft feeling of the arrival of a new season.

Braving this cold weather, over 150 children from 16 schools of Delhi and NCR gathered in Gandhi Darshan to take part in the Inter-school Vande Mataram Rolling Trophy Competition on December 5, 2017. This year the competition was organised to remember and pay reverence to the mystic saints and philosophers such as Kabir, Bulle Shah, Tulsidas, Guru Nanak, Meera, Amir Khusroo and others.



1) Sant Avtar Singh, Shri Avik Sarkar (left), Pt. Sunil Kumar and Smt. Sunita Bansal as judges light the ceremonial lamp during the programme.

2) Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan felicitates Pt. Sunil Kumar as Shri Avik Sarkar looks on.

3) Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan addresses the gathering.



*Glimpses from the inter-school Vandemataram musical competition in progress in Gandhi Darshan.*

With great enthusiasm, the children sang compositions of Meera bai, Tulsidas, Amir Khusroo, Kabir. From *Aaj Raang Hai*, to *Chap Tilak Sab Chini*, to *Sri Ramchandra Kripalu* to *Mero Tau Girdhar Gopal* the children displayed their

unique creativity in this competition, with varied compositions from *Raag Yaman* to *Bhairavi*, to *Bhimpalasi*.

The message of inclusiveness, inner peace and brotherly love, which is rooted in personal experience – also available to every human being regardless of caste, creed, gender or social standing –, was vividly displayed through the poetry of these saints and philosophers, that is even more relevant to our times than their own.

East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave who was the winner of the competition took home the *Vandemataram Rolling Trophy*. The second prize was won by Modern Public School, Shalimar Bagh and the Third Prize was won by Delhi Public School, Mathura Road.

In addition to the first, second and third prizes, the four appreciation prizes were won by Jain Bharati Mrigavati School, G T Karnal Road, Gaur International School Greater NOIDA, St. Teresa School, Ghaziabad and Mira Model School, Janakpuri respectively.

The judges on the occasion included: Pt. Abhik Sarkar, Pt. Sunil Kumar, Sant Avtar Singh, Smt. Sunita Bansal and Shri Kranti Singh.



*WINNERS SMILE: Students of East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave cheerfully lift the Vandemataram Rolling Trophy 2017, as Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan is all smiles.*

**Workshop on Understanding Gandhi & Gandhi Quiz organised**

The Samiti organised a workshop on “Understanding Gandhi” (*Aao Gandhi Ko Jane*) at Samudayik Utthan Balbari Vidyalaya”, Azadpur, Delhi on December 20, 2017. Almost 110 participants took part in the workshop. A “Gandhi Quiz” was also organised on the occasion. Smt. Reeta Kumari and Shri Gulshan Gupta coordinated the programme.

Ms. Reeta Kumari briefed the children about the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

Participating in the Gandhi Quiz, Shri Sunil Sahu won the first prize. The second prize went to Shri Suraj Yadav, Ms. Rakhi and Ms. Reena Kumari respectively. The third prize went to Shri Suraj Kumar. The appreciation prize went to Ms. Neetu. Gandhiana was presented to the winners.

Children of the school also made cultural performances and a street play on "Swachhata" (sanitation/hygiene).

## WEST BENGAL

### Workshop on Upliftment of Village Children about Gandhian thought

The Samiti in association with Gujar Kharui New Tarun Sangha West Bengal, organized a five-day workshop on "Upliftment of Village Children about Gandhi and His Thought" from December 27-31, 2017 at West Bengal. A total number of 200 participants took part in the workshop. A total number of 12 resource persons conducted the workshop. Children from 11 villages in the nearby district attended the workshop.

Among those who were present at the inaugural programme included: Shri Chandan Pal, Secretary Gandhi Peace Foundation, West Bengal; Shri Biplab roy Choudhury, former M.L.A.; Dr. Chittaranjan Pal, Teacher; Dr. Tarun Kumar Mandal, NYC, NYK, Tamluk and Shri Serajul, Pradhan, Gujar Kharui along with Shri Tarun Sahu.

A "Child Health Check up Camp" was organized on the occasion by the Department of Health and Family welfare, Government of West Bengal.

During the workshop, the *Yoga and Physical Education and Road Race* was coordinated by



Students partake in various activities at the camp in West Bengal organised by Gujar Kharui New Tarun Sangha.

Shri Biswanath Das, Secretary West Bengal Yoga Association;

Cultural programme, dance and drama from the village children by Lokoniketan were other highlights of the programme.

Those who addressed the participants included: Shri Biswajit Ghorai, Secretary, West Bengal Sarvodaya Mandal; Shri Tapan Chakraborty, Shri Ranjit Ghorai, Swami Nirmahanandaji from the Tamruk Ramakrishna Math and Mission; Dr. Somnath Bhattacharya Golpark Ramakrishna Mission, Kolkata and Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee from Gandhi Mission Trust, West Bengal.

Sports competition was organized by Dr. D K Mal and Mr. Ramen Dey Chairman, North East Calcutta Lions Club.

Dance performances by EZCC, Govt. of India where participants from Odisha and Haryana took part added colour to the programme.

### Understanding Gandhi – An Interaction with children

The Samiti in association with Gandhi Peace Foundation (GPF) organised an interaction as part of the Samiti's programme *Understanding Gandhi* with over 400 children from different institutions of Delhi and NCR on January 18, 2018 in Gandhi Smriti. Shri Kumar Prashant, Chairperson of GPF, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS along with other resource persons took part in the programme.



Participating children during the interactive programme in Gandhi Smriti.

The children visited the Gandhi Smriti Museum and thereafter heard the Gandhi Katha by the resource persons.

### Value Creation Camp organised

With the vision to inculcate the wisdom, harness the skill power and entwine the interstate culture amongst students, a 10 day Value Creation Camp (VCC) from January 22 to February 2, 2018 was organized by the Samiti. The camp

was attended by about 100 participants from different states such as Garudachal Vidyapeeth Secondary School (Belbari, Meghalaya), Banwasi Sewa Ashram (Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh), Shree Kedarnath Badri Manav Kshram Samiti (Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand) and Dastak Samajik Sanstha Dwarahat (Kumaon, Uttarakhand).



*Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan addresses the children at the inauguration of the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan during January 2018. The camp coordinators from different states also spoke on the occasion. An enthusiast child is seen sharing her view point during the inaugural programme.*

Under the overall supervision of the camp in-charge, Smt. Geeta Shukla, the camp was coordinated by Shri Vivek Kumar along with Dr. Manju Agrawal, Smt. Shobha Khulbe, Shri Dharamraj, Ms. Akanksha and Ms. Kanak.

The resource persons at the camp included: Ms. Madhumita Roy Khan from Indu Arts Theatre and Film Society (theatre), Ms. Ruchi Rastogi (Paper Craft), Shri Shivdutt Gautam (Painting and Comics), Dr. Manju Agrawal (Health and Hygiene), Smt. Shashwati Jhalani (Introducing Mahatma Gandhi), Shri Vivek Kumar (Introducing Charkha), Shri Dharamraj Kumar (Sanitation and Hygiene), Ms. Akanksha (Gender Sensitization), Ms. Nikhat (Awareness among children) and Shri Satyawani (Magic show).



*Ms. Nikhat Shama Khan conducts a session on 'gender sensitisation' during the Value Creation Camp.*



The camp was inaugurated on January 22, 2018 on the auspicious day of Vasant Panchami by Shri Akhil Kumar (SDM, Dariyaganj). The others who were present on the occasion included Shri Laxmi Das, Vice President, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Shri Sayeed Sajjan, NYKS Coordinator, Kargil. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Smt. Geeta Shukla were also present on the occasion.

The children performed various cultural presentations on the occasion. They also offered a musical tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 70<sup>th</sup> Martyrdom Day in Gandhi Smriti.

On January 26, the participants of Value Creation Camp led by the Director of GSDS and other employees of the Samiti celebrated the Republic Day. Here, every team presented patriotic songs and enliven the atmosphere with their traditional dresses, prima facie, showcasing cultural diversity of India.



*Smt. Shashwati Jhalani conducts a session on 'Reading and Understanding Gandhi' with the children of the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan.*



*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan unfurls the Tricolour on the occasion of the Republic Day in Gandhi Darshan. Children of the Value Creation Camp took part in the programme by giving cultural presentations.*



The valedictory function of the ten-day camp was organised on February 1. The programme was graced by Sh. Narayan Bhai Bhattacharya, Founder Director, Gandhi Mission Trust, West Bengal, Sh. Laxmi Dass, Mohd. Ali

Azad Ansari, Sh. Basant, Dr. Jacob, Shri. Dipanker Shri Gyan and other employees of Gandhi Darshan.

A host of cultural and other performances such as plays and theatre kept the guests amazed which was also appreciated.

Ten-Day Value Creation Camp concluded:

The ten-day Value Creation Camp for about 100 children that began on January 22, 2018 which children from Garudachal Vidyapeeth Secondary School (Belbari, Meghalaya), Banwasi Sewa Ashram (Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh), Shree Kedarnath Badri Manav Kshram Samiti (Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand) and Dastak Samajik Sanstha Dwarahat (Kumaon, Uttarakhand)

concluded in Gandhi Smrtiti on February 1, 2018 in Gandhi Darshan. Sh Narayan Bhai Bhattacharya, Sh Lakshmi Dass, Sh Mohd. Ali Azad



*A child shares her experience at the valedictory session of the Value Creation Camp to her friends and a distinguished audience.*

Ansari, Sh Basant, Dr Jacob graced the valedictory programme. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan was also present on the occasion.

For their skill development, on the basis of their choices, participants were divided into three groups for the Theatre, Paper Craft and Painting and Comics classes, respectively.

Cultural presentations, experience sharing, marked the concluding ceremony of the valedictory programme. Children from Meghalaya presented a cultural dance on the song *Boisakne Bidan Laita* which depicted the rituals to be performed by the community while worshipping the Mother Nature. Participants from Kedarnath presented a drama showing birth and marriage

of Goddess Parvati and those from Dwarahat performed a folk dance showing different colours of culture. Children from Banwasi Seva Ashram performed *Karma dance* depicting the ritual of tree plantation known as *Karma Pooja*. Also, the children performed a play on *Swacchta* which they learnt during the camp.



Shahnaz, from Banwasi Seva Ashram, while sharing her experience, said that when she started her journey from the Ashram, she had doubts of being treated equally, as she felt that most of the other participants would be from other religions. "But (my) insecurity changed completely while being in the camp. I not only found equality in treatment but also learnt a sense of respect for other religions while pursuing Inter-Faith Prayer in every morning and got a touch of skill through Paper Craft which I will definitely share to other students in my school", she said.

Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, proposed the vote of thanks.

*(Left): Children perform a traditional song during the valedictory programme.*

*(Below): Children, camp coordinators from Delhi and outside states take a group photograph with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (Centre).*



***A display of vivid creativity by special children***

Anand Singh Smarak Society (ASSS), an organization working for persons with visual impairment organized a special programme in Gandhi Darshan on February 25, 2018 by organizing their 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony in association with the Samiti. The programme was attended by almost 300 participants. Shri Ramnivas Goyal, Hon'ble President, Delhi Assembly was the distinguished guest on the occasion. Shri S K Rungta, General Secretary, N F B; Shri Amit Gupta and other distinguished guests were present on the occasion.



*Children with special abilities present a song at the inaugural ceremony.*

Varied cultural presentations marked the occasion, where the children displayed their vivid creativity showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the country that left the audience amazed.

Participants from the Anand Singh Smarak Society and other organizations shared their experiences about their work and achievements. Children of the Pragya Jyoti Institute Blind hostel presented hymns from the Vedas. The guests also presented prizes to the winners for competition organized by the ASSS throughout the year along with copies of the Annual Report.

Renowned poet, Shri Gajendra Solanki took part in the session on poetry reading on the occasion. Dr. Dayal Singh Pawar, Shri Amit Puri, Shri Chandra Veer were also present on the occasion and presented their poems.

# Programmes for Youth

## Workshop on Constructive Work and Nation-Building organised

The Samiti in association with Madhubala Institute of Communication and Electronic Media – affiliated to Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University – organised a two day orientation *Workshop on Constructive Work and Nation Building* at the Institute on April 6-7, 2017. Almost 150 students took part in the workshop. The workshop was conducted for the students of B.A. (JMC) and B.J. (MC) with an objective to instil amongst them a spirit of volunteerism and leadership. Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President Harijan Sevak Sangh inaugurated the workshop and delivered the presidential address on the occasion. The key note address was delivered by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. The other speakers included Shri Gulshan Gupta, N.E. Coordinator, GSDS.



*Participating youth in the interactive workshop on “Constructive Work and Nation-Building”.*

Shri Amlash Raju, senior journalist who spoke on the second day of the orientation programme highlighted on the importance of voluntary work and leadership skills.

This was followed by group presentations where students from the Institute presented wonderful multimedia presentations on the themes given. The workshop concluded with valedictory speech by Director, MBICEM, Prof. M B Julka. The vote of thanks was delivered by Ahana Bhatnagar, Asst. Professor, MBICEM.

## Seminar on Chakma Youth for Peace-cum-Cultural Programme

The Chakma Buddhist Society and GSDS organised a day-long seminar on “Chakma Youth for Peace-cum-Cultural Programme” on April 13, 2017, on the occasion of the Biju celebrations – the beginning of the New Year for the Chakmas. Over 350 people took part in the programme.



*(From Top to Bottom): Prayers marked the inauguration of the programme.*

*Shri Basawraj Patil Hon'ble Member of Parliament being felicitated on the occasion.*

*Shri S A Jamal, Administrative Officer GSDS being presented a memento during the programme.*



*Cultural presentations (L) by local tribes marked the celebration in Gandhi Darshan and left the audience amazed (R).*

The programme was graced by eminent social worker Shri Basawaraj Patil, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, as the chief guest and Smt Simmi Jain, Councillor of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, as the guest of honour. Special guests of the programme were Dr Gautam Talukdar, Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India Shri S. A Jamal, Administrative Office, GSDS, Shri Ramesh Shiledar, Former Northeast In-charge (RSS), Shri Pramod Petkar, Pramukh, Vanavashi Kalyan Ashram, Delhi and Shri Suhas Chakma, Director, Asian Centre for Human Rights were the convenor of the programme was Shri Lal Mohan Chakma, General Secretary, Chakma Buddhist Society and Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive, GSDS was the mentor of the Programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Basawraj Patil said that the whole of India is culturally connected and that spirit of oneness needs to be celebrated. Congratulating the 350 youth participants for their Biju festival, Shri Basawraj Patil asked the youth to contribute and serve the society for 365 days a year. He said that "Gandhian philosophy and message of peace and non violence should be our inspirations in everyday life".

Recalling her long association with the Chakma Buddhist Society for the last four years, Smt. Simmi Jain, Councillor of MCD expressed her happiness over the impressive growth of the organisation. She further added, "Chakma Youth for Peace-cum-Cultural Programme" was being held in association with the GSDS which itself a sign of good work by CBS and acknowledgment of its good community works.

Shri S A Jamal spoke in details about the aims and objectives of the GSDS and highlighted the relevance of the Champaran Satyagraha and hope youth could take up initiatives towards constructive work in the society.

Underlining the relationship of the Chakmas with the philosophy of non-violence as espoused by Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Suhas Chakma, said that Chakmas are the only tribal community in the North East which follow the Gandhian method of struggle. He gave the example of the Committee for Citizenship Rights of Chakmas and Hajongs of Arunachal Pradesh was established on 2nd October 1992 to coincide with the birth day of Mahatma Gandhi.

He further added that all other tribal communities wanted to secede from India and waged violent armed movements but Chakmas wanted to be part of India during 1947 and who were still denied Indian Citizenship to Chakmas who migrated from East Pakistan (CHTs) to Arunachal Pradesh in 1964-69. Yet, the Chakmas never took up arms but fought for citizenship rights and other human rights and fundamental freedoms through a democratic and Gandhian method of struggle. He urged people to be vigilant against any attempts by the members of the Chakma community to resort to violence.

Several Chakma youth who had participated in the National Tribal Carnival programme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs that was held on October 25-28, 2016 and the youths who had participated in the Biju Invitation Football Cup held on March 30 and April 5, 2017 (final games) at DDA Sports Complex, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, were felicitated with trophy and certificates by the guests.

An ethnic flavour of the rich Chakma heritage depicting the handicrafts of the Chakmas, was displayed through a fashion show was another highlight of the programme.

School children from Sewa Bharati Sewa Dham from Mandoli, Delhi, performed a beautiful dance displaying the spirit of happiness and joy of festival of Bizu.

### Launch of GSDS-IGNOU Facilitation Centre

Taking forward the academic wing of GSDS to another level, GSDS and IGNOU together launched the "Facilitation Centre" in Gandhi Darshan, B N Pandey Auditorium on May 18, 2017 at a function attended by over 300 students from the IGNOU. The launch ceremony was graced by the Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Prof. Ravindra Kumar; Shri Basant Singh, former Advisor GSDS; Dr. Venugopal Reddy, Director RSD, IGNOU; Dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director -2, IGNOU and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.



1) Prof. Ravindra Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU inaugurates the GSDS-IGNOU Facilitation Centre in Gandhi Darshan.

2) Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan presents a charkha to Prof. Ravindra Kumar, as Shri Basant Singh is all smiles.

3) (From L to R): Dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director (RC-2); Dr. Venugopal Reddy, Director RSD IGNOU; Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan; Prof. Ravindra Kumar and Shri Basant Singh at the programme.

In his welcome address, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan reiterated that the "Facilitation Centre" would provide the students an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the life's message of Mahatma Gandhi. He hoped that the students also voluntarily partake in different flagship programmes of the Government of India such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. Calling it a matter of pride, he said that the *Mahatma Gandhi Swachhata Kendra* is also being set up in Gandhi Darshan complex.

Dr. Venugopal Reddy while recalling his tenure as a Regional Director of the IGNOU centre in Gandhi Darshan said that earlier too both the GSDS and IGNOU had initiated educational programs. He expressed his happiness that a study centre in Champaran would be set up jointly with the GSDS and programs would be formulated according to the area specification. He hoped that this centre develops into a Digital Learning Centre Model Centre in Delhi.

Shri Basant Singh in his address recalled the GSDS-IGNOU MoU in 2002 and expressed his happiness of being a part of the launch ceremony of the "Facilitation Centre". He hoped that the Centre must evolve into a centre where students are kept engaged to develop their capacities through programmes which the Samiti could initiate. Referring to the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha, the 125<sup>th</sup> birth centenary of Dr. J C Kumarappa and the forthcoming 150 year of Ba-Bapu, he said the facilitation centre should be able to create a good brigade of volunteers who would dedicate their services in different parts of the country as part of the 150 years of Ba-Bapu.

Addressing the students, faculty members of IGNOU, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ravindra Kumar said that the "Facilitation Centre" is also part of the mission to tap those students who are left out for achieving education". He asked the students to kindle their spirit for the Centre is going to be helpful in their exponential growth.

Speaking about new initiatives of IGNOU, he referred that IGNOU is the only university to provide 225 + curriculum, the largest in the world. He further outlined that in about 66 kendras, IGNOU is planning to start the Mahatma Gandhi Literacy Mission, which he said would "Reach five lakh students to make them understand Mahatma Gandhi". "We are the medium to take you towards developing an understanding of Mahatma Gandhi", he said.



*Prof. Ravindra Kumar (Inset), Vice-Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University addresses a packed audience on the occasion.*



Dr. K D Prasad further elaborated on the modus-operandi of the Facilitation Centre and outlined that GSDS will help different Regional Centres of IGNOU to develop a Gandhiana Corner in their libraries.

As part of the launch ceremony, the keys were handed over by the VC IGNOU to Director GSDS, who handed it over to the Administrative Officer GSDS.

**Seminar on "Youth Development through Gandhian Constructive Work, Leadership and Ethics"**

A one day seminar on "Youth Development through Gandhian Constructive Work, Leadership and Ethics" was organized by the Samiti in association with Confederation of Community Based Organisations in India (CCBOS) on Youth Development through Gandhian Constructive Work on June 23, 2017. More than 175 students and others

The chief guest in the seminar was Dr Sanjay Singh, Hon'ble MP (Rajya Sabha). Dr Sanjay Singh exhorted the youth to imbibe values and discipline in life so that they can contribute to nation building. Others who spoke on the occasion included Smt Neera Shastri and Shri Vijay Jolly.

Giving a youth perspective to the issue, Asmita Punia, a student of Delhi School of Economics said Mahatma Gandhi was an example of a man with ever evolving thought through intense interactions with people and with changing turn of events.



*Shri Umesh Chandra Gaur, Chairman CCBOS presenting a memento to a distinguished guests at the seminar (Above), as participants (Below) look on.*

She spoke on how one can become an effective leader like Mahatma Gandhi in our lives. She pointed out the traits of effective leaders, "Humility, compassion, forgiveness and tolerance. Humility is the absence of ego. Without ego comes the energy to offer service and sacrifice. Why service and sacrifice together? It means to put our responsibilities and duties forefront of our rights. One can start with helping the one closest to us and then enlarging our circle. But start from one atleast."

The Programme Officer of GSDS, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu elaborated on Gandhian Constructive Work and the work the Samiti was doing amongst children and youth across the country.

Toppers of Class XII of various schools of Delhi and NCR were felicitated in this programme.

**Workshop on Gandhi as a Journalist**

A two-day National Workshop on Gandhian ideas and Journalism on the theme "Gandhi as a Journalist" was organized at Kashi Hindu University, Varanasi on June 24, 2017. The programme was jointly organized by the GSDS and Pragya Institute, New Delhi. The chief guest and keynote speaker was Shri N. K Singh. The programme was presided over by the President of the Arts Faculty of Kashi Hindu University, Prof. Kumar Pankaj. The workshop was organized

as part of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha. Students from different colleges and universities and media professionals and professors took part in the deliberations.

In the inaugural session of the workshop, Shri N. N. Singh, while comparing Gandhi's thinking with today's society, sharply criticized the prevalence of corruption in the society. Referring to all the examples of his personal life, he spoke of zero tolerance towards corruption.

While addressing the youth and prospective journalists, Shri Singh further appealed to them to be bold and that they should not, under any circumstances compromise with corruption. He advised the youngsters to do the inherent work of social harmony and equality.



*Participants during a group exercise as part of the workshop.*

In the second session of the workshop, Prof. Shishir Basu from the Department of Journalism and Communication, Kashi Hindu University discussed various research topics and project writing topics in detail and the methodology to be adopted in the researchwork.

In the second and final session of the workshop, Prof. Om Prakash Singh, Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyalaya of Varanasi, Prof. Awadhesh Pradhan, Kashi Hindu University, Dr. Bal Lakhde of Kashi Hindu University, Shri Umesh Chaturvedi from New Delhi, expressed their views on reporting writing, editing, language of Hindi journalism, radio writing, and television writing respectively.

In the last session of the first-day workshop, Prof. Kumar Pankaj, in his presidential address, discussed the idea of journalism and Gandhi. In his lecture, he expressed his views on censorship, media ownership, constitutional powers to the press, changes in press law, etc. during the Emergency.

Two sessions were organized on the second day of the workshop on June 25, in which lectures were given by different speakers

on different subjects. In the first session, noted sports journalist Mr. Sandeep Joshi had his thoughts on 'Sports Journalism'.

Prof. Dr. Anurag Dave, Professor of Journalism and Mass Communication at Banaras Hindu University (BHU) spoke on 'Journalism, Trade and Media'. The main purpose of this lecture was to know the meaning of the role of the media in democracy.

Expressing his views on 'Gandhi as Editor', noted journalist Shri Jitendra Nath Mishra, described Gandhiji as being better than today's editors and journalists. He told how Gandhiji made journalism a solid and viable form and made it a strong basis for human service, public consciousness and humanity.

The second session of the programme began with a lecture by renowned journalist and thinker Shri Ram Sharan Joshi, whose theme was "Present journalism and Mahatma Gandhi". In his lecture, he expressed his role of journalism in the freedom struggle.

### **Street Play on 'Swachhagraha' organized**

The Samiti in collaboration with Udit Asha Welfare Society launched a four-part festival of street plays (*nukkad natak*) on "Swachhagraha" in the slums of New Delhi from June 21, 2017 at New Ashok Nagar. Senior journalist of Janasatta newspaper, Shri Amlesh Raju, Shri Manoj Kumar



*Glimpses from the Street Play by GSDS and Udit Asha Welfare Society in progress.*

Sinha and Shri Sachin Meena of Udit Asha Welfare Society, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS along with Mr. Rakesh and Mr. Vivek of GSDS were present on the occasion. Other distinguished guests included: Deputy Mayor of East Delhi Shri Bipin Behari Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Rahul Alwal (New Ashok Nagar), SHO New Ashok Nagar, Shri C R Meena, Councillor Shri Saroj Singh, Shri Hakkam Singh President of the Resident Welfare Association and Shri Ashok Kumar, President Marketing Association.

The Samiti also set up an exhibition on "Champaran Satyagraha" and issues related to sanitation on the occasion. The exhibition was displayed at different programme venues where the *Nukkad Natak* was organized.

The play focused on different aspects of *Swachhagraha* with special emphasis on sanitation and health presented by the Zeeshan Haider and Group from Trilokpuri.

Further, one street play was conducted at Paharganj, Delhi on September 9, 2017 and the other street play was conducted at Mayur Vihar, Delhi on September 10, 2017. Both the plays were based on Champaran Satyagraha.

**Youth Parliament focuses on Women Empowerment**

The Samiti in association with Sajal Foundation and Chanakya Niti National Youth Parliament (CNYPP) organized a "Youth Parliament" in Gandhi Darshan from July 29-30, 2017 that was attended by over 450 participants from different parts of the country who were policy aficionados, politics enthusiasts and law students took part in the event. The theme of this year's conference was "Women Empowerment".



*Distinguished gathering such as Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Mahesh Giri along with social worker, Ms. Madhu Kishwar; Gandhian Shri Laxmi Dass and youth took part in the inaugural programme of the Youth Parliament in Gandhi Darshan.*

Speaking about the Youth Parliament, Mr. Mani Bhushan Jha said, " A plethora of women's movements in India have brought about a host of changes in the system ranging from new rape laws to increasing representation of women to making gender an important theme of Politics-be it Nirbhaya or Bhanwari Devi. At CNNYP Delhi 2017, we aim to celebrate this legacy of women's movements in India and seek to explore different institutions in all spheres of society to see how the status quo has been challenged and how history can be redefined".



*Shri Laxmi Dass (Inset) addresses a gathering of young people from different states during the Youth Parliament.*

He further added, "We believe that a fundamental step towards the empowerment of women was taken by the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, for whom khadi was not just a piece of cloth-it was a means of economic liberation for the masses, especially women. Gandhi proclaimed: "It is a libel to call women the weaker sex" because he firmly believed that India cannot progress until its women are freed from the shackles of oppression, suppression and inequality. He felt the khadi industry would not just utilize and harness the potential of lakhs of women but also bring them out from the boundaries of the household to the mainstream of political struggle".

"Youth Parliament", said Chandni Ahuja, President of CNNYP is a platform to develop democratic ethos in the young generation making them understand the parliamentary procedure with an insight into the working of a parliament. It gives the youth an opportunity to speak on matters of paramount importance making an impact on the change agenda for our country. The youth of today get an experience to contribute



*Different sessions during the Youth Parliament in Gandhi Darshan in progress.*

to policy making, highlighting the need of new thinking and vocalizing common mans' point of view that will help our country moving forward. The platform inspires the youth to express their

views in an organized way making them eloquent speakers and instilling leadership qualities in them".

She added, "The students are trained with the technique of parliamentary discussion and arrive at a conclusion after the same. It helps in developing respect and tolerance for the view of others. The students get deep understanding about the various problems facing our society and the country and contemplate ways to solve it or strive towards making it upright. With this competition, the students also imbibe group discussion behaviors and respect the rules essential for conducting it systematically and efficiently".

The Youth Parliament was inaugurated by Shri Mahesh Giri, Ms. Madhu Kishwar, Shri Laxmi Dass, Ms. Ira Singhal and Shri Sharad Vivek Sagar.

The technical sessions saw speakers such as Chairperson of National Commission for Women, Smt. Lalitha Kumar Manglam and that of the renowned scriptwriter, Smt. Advaita Kala, as the keynote speakers.

The two-day conference saw the participants debating on various agendas pertaining to their respective portfolios and committees in this of a kind of much needed platform empowering their innovative ideas, unusual perspectives, extensive research and profound understanding. The debating platform witnessed the youth proposing amendments, introduction of new practices, discourses and deliberations. Through the platform of Youth Parliament, the organization to a great extent could realize its dream of developing democratic ethos in the young generation.



*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (third from Right) speaks to the youth during a session of the Youth Parliament in Gandhi Darshan.*

The completion of the conference witnessed the youth transforming into an informed and aware electorate instilled with a sensitive and critical approach towards Patriarchy. The closing

ceremony experienced the esteemed presence of Shri Jaiveer Shergil, Shri Satyapal Singh Ji and Smt. Charu Pragya. Various recommendations were also passed on the issues discussed.

The various agendas discussed at both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha included:

- ❖ *Reforms in rape laws, with focus on marital rape and gender neutrality*
- ❖ *Reviewing Maternity Benefits Act, 2017*
- ❖ *Surrogacy Bill, 2016*
- ❖ *Reviewing the administration of the procedural aspects of the criminal law in India*
- ❖ *Women's Reservation Bill*
- ❖ *Reviewing the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1974*
- ❖ *Feminisation of Poverty*
- ❖ *Sexual harassment at workplace*
- ❖ *Representation of women in mainstream media*

As a follow up, training sessions in the schools and colleges which were not familiar with Youth Parliaments were conducted to help them understand the concept better, enabling them to give their best in the future conference.

### **Youth Peace Camp on "Building Bridges across Urban and Rural Youth"**

Standing Together to Enable Peace (STEP) Trust, in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, organized a four-day Youth Peace Camp in Katni, Madhya Pradesh from the July 3-6, 2017. There were thirty youths from Delhi and Madhya Pradesh, who participated in the peace camp. The theme of the peace camp was 'Building Bridges across Urban and Rural Youth', with the aim being to bring together urban and rural perspectives on a variety of social issues through the individual experiences of each of the participants.



*Kh. Samuel Poumai  
Director Youth  
Program STEP  
conducts a training  
programme in  
Madhya Pradesh.*

The participants took part in a series of workshops over the course of the four day peace camp that delved into themes of conflict, peace and non-violence, team-work and negotiation, critical media literacy, and public action through social media. The experience of staying in Katni also gave the participants from Delhi a glimpse into rural living, and exposed them to the differing realities of life in the city and that outside the city.



*(Above and Below): Participants and Resource Persons from STEP at the four-day Youth Peace Camp in Kanti, Madhya Pradesh.*

The inaugural session of the *Youth Peace Camp* began with an orientation on the objectives of the camp, followed by a series of icebreakers and team-building activities that helped orient the participants to each other and their surroundings.

This was succeeded by a session on 'Peace Education', which introduced the participants to the concepts of violence, conflict and peace. The session began with the activity of the Peace Continuum which served to engage the participants, through their own responses to violence in different situations, to the concept of violence in its many forms - direct, indirect and structural, as well as analyze how they occur in everyday life.

The session concluded with the participants engaging in a lengthy discussion on the meaning and scope violence and peace, including what constitutes as violence and the nature of negative and positive peace. The day ended with an I Share assembly where participants reflected on their feelings about the day, with the different I Share groups having to make a presentation of the things they discussed. These presentations ranged from representations of the participants' first day experience in Katni to representations of themes discussed during the day, like violence against women.

The second day of the camp had the participants engage with social problems in rural India through the activities of Ekta Parishad, including their non-violent peasant agitations for land reforms. The day began with an hour of *Shramdaan*, where participants helped the staff of Manav Jeevan Samiti (the site of the camp) plant tree saplings. This was followed by a two-hour long movie screening and post screening discussion of Ekta Parishad's 2012 mass protest and march on the behalf of peasants from across the country.

In the second half of the day, the participants took part in the "Earth Democracy" activity, a team-building activity that introduced the participants to the concepts of conflict negotiation and consensus building through the common objective of securing the future of planet Earth. This was followed by the Web of Life game, which sought to engage the participants with the theme of interconnectedness in life and nature.

On the third day of the camp, the participants were introduced to the concept of 'Critical Media Literacy' (CML) through a workshop where they had to make their own newspapers and television advertisements, based on the profiles of the owners and target audiences that they were assigned. The purpose of this workshop was to enable participants to understand and engage with the notion of sponsored media, and introduce them to the five key questions of CML.

The participants were then taken on a rural exposure trip to one of the villages that Ekta Parishad works with, where they interacted with the villagers and learnt more about the development work being done in the village. In the evening, the participants attended a second workshop on CML, where they worked on tackling social issues through social media advocacy.

On the last day of the peace camp, the participants continued to engage with the concept

of social media advocacy. The participants were divided into small groups and asked to create their own social media campaigns to tackle with social issues of their choice. The objective of this exercise was to enlighten the participants on the effectiveness of social media advocacy and teach them about creating viable strategies with mass outreach to enable public action online.

The peace camp concluded with all the participants reaching a consensus to create a six-month social media campaign strategy where they will tackle the themes of gender equality, youth empowerment and natural resource and climate conservation.

### ***Youth Camp on Natun Prajanmer Kache Gandhi ji (Gandhi to New Generation)***

A youth camp on "Gandhi to New Generation" was organised in association with Gandhi Peace Foundation, West Bengal from August 19-25, 2017 at Kasturba Bhavan, Howrah. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Sanmatha Nath Ghosh, an eminent thinker. Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal, President Harijan Sevak Sangh and Member GSDS, Shri Manabendra Nath Mondal, Executive Director, Socio-Legal Aid and Research Centre Kolkata, Prof. Satyabrata Chowdhury, Ex Principal Bangabasi College, Kolkata were present on the occasion. Shri Bimal Chandra Pal, veteran Gandhian and Chairman of WBGPF presided over the function.



*Shri Chandan Pal (Inset), Secretary GPF West Bengal speaks to the participants (Below) during the youth camp.*

The speakers while addressing the participants said that in the context of growing atmosphere all over the country the time demands to prepare the next generation student and youth, young boys and girls so that they may become responsible citizen of the country.

They further hoped that the participants at the camp would create an opportunity to develop an understanding about the life and philosophy of

Mahatma Gandhi, alternative action to violence i.e., effectiveness of nonviolence which would ultimately help to build a strong confidence towards nonviolence, peace.

Different sessions and group discussions with the participants at the camp included:

1. The early age of Gandhiji and upto South Africa: Dr. Chittaranjan Pal, teacher;
2. The education philosophy of Gandhiji: Shri Jaydev Jana, IAS (Retd.)
3. Gandhi's return to India and his contribution to the Indian Freedom Movement: Sdri Chandan Pal;
4. Gandhian Action: Shri Narayan Bhai Bhattacharjee
5. Communal harmony and Shantisena: Prof. Bijjay Sarkar, Teacher
6. Swadhinata and Swaraj: Sri Gopal Ghosh, Teacher.

Books such as *Amar Dhyaner Bharat*, *Gandhi Rachana Sambhar*, *Mahatma Gandhi*, *Prasnottare Gandhi* were given to the participants. After completion of the camp certificate and memento were also given to the participants during the closing ceremony of the camp that was graced by Sri Narayan Bhai, Smt. Anulekha Pal, Secretary, Kasturba Peace Centre, Sri Benoy Krishna Chakraverty, veteran Gandhian, Smt. Soumitri Devi and other guests.

### **Five-day workshop on "Dissemination of Gandhian Thought among the Student, youth and other constructive workers"**

The Samiti in association with Gosaidhi Astha Welfare Society (GAWS) at West Bengal organised a five-day workshop on "Dissemination of Gandhian Thought among the Student, youth and other constructive workers" on August 17-21, 2017. Almost 90 participants took part in the five-day workshop.



*Participants at the workshop organised by Gosaidhi Astha Welfare Society in West Bengal.*

The resource persons included: Shri Narayan Bhai, Member of the Governing Body, GSDS, Shri Sushil Adhya, Prominent Educationist and Gandhian Activist, Professor Debabrota Dutta, Gandhian Activist, Dr. Ramprasad Biswas, Head Teacher and Gandhian Activist, Sami Kumar Das, Economist & Social Worker, Shri Bijoy Kar, Head Teacher and Prominent Social Worker, Rev. Kalayan Kisku, Social Reformer and other prominent people working in different areas.

The following subjects were discussed and interaction was held on them:

- Gandhi and Modern Age,
- Ahimsa and Gandhi,
- Idea Gram Swaraj,
- Gandhiji's Constructive Work,
- Gandhiji's concept on Cottage Industries,
- Sarba Dharma Samanaya,
- Reading from Gandhiji's writings

The resource persons covered ins and outs of each topics in their lecture and the participants responded equally to draw inferences that even a lapse of seventy year of independence proper implementation of Gandhiji's thought and works may bring true test of freedom and mass welfare.



Prayers, cleanliness drive and devotional songs made the workshop alive. The plays of the workshop whatever hurdles we face we shall try to follow these paths of peace, cooperation and harmony.

### **Two-day workshop on Farmers' problem and land reform**

The Samiti in association with Akhil Bharatiya Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram from Kalyan Ashram Jashpur Nagar, Chattisgarh organized a "Two-day Workshop on Farmers' problem and land reform" in Gandhi Darshan from September 9-10, 2017. About 100 people took part in the workshop.

Discussions on the latest Central Land Acquisition Law and its state level legislation that has been a great concern for the *Janjatis* for their relief and rehabilitation were discussed.



*Padma Vibhushan, Smt. Sonal Mansingh lights the ceremonial lamp in Gandhi Darshan, as Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and others join the ceremony.*



*Padma Vibhushan, Smt. Sonal Mansingh (Inset) addresses a packed gathering of youth (Below) from several places in Satyagraha Mandap in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.*



*Experts from various fields deliberated upon issues related to the theme of the discussion.*

The speakers pointed on the ambitious agenda for industrial and infrastructure growth that has increased the battle over acquisition of more land irrespective of political cultures creating numerous conflicts. They further pointed that an analysis of 331 ongoing land conflicts in India reveals that together they affect close to 36 lakhs people and span over 10 lakhs hectares of land.

Further issues related to *Jal, Jungle and Jameen* were discussed.

**Garbage to Garden – A Unique Initiative**



*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan receives the "Swchhata Ki Mashal" (torch) from Shri U.C. Gaur, Chairman CCBOS in Gandhi Smriti.*

The Samiti in association with Indian Institute for Photography (IIP) set ablaze the *Swachhata ki Mashal* (torch) at Gandhi Smriti marking the launch of the "Garbage to Garden" initiative on September 16, 2017. Shri Rajesh Goyal, founder IIP Foundation, Smt. Geeta Shukla, Shri Umesh Chand Gaur were present on the occasion. The programme was organized as part of the national seminar on "Waste Segregation for a healthier and hygienic Nation".

On September 16, a seminar "Garbage to Garden: Wet Waste Management" was organized at Gandhi Darshan. Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu and veteran classical dancer Padma Vibhushan, Dr. Sonal Mansingh were the Chief Guest of the programme. Around 200 people took part in the seminar.

**'Run for Peace' in collaboration with Health Fitness Society Trust**

Around 600 runners took part in the Run for Peace organized by the Samiti in association with Health Fitness Society Trust on the theme "Run for Swachhatta" from Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat on September 17, 2017. Hon'ble Minister



Age held no bar in the 8th Champions Run for Peace that saw over 600 runners take part in the event. Hon'ble Minister of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh took part in the event with great enthusiasm in Gandhi Darsha, where he gave away the prizes to the winners.

of Steel, Chaudhary Birender Singh flagged off the Marathon. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan was present on the occasion.

The 8th Champions Marathon was in three categories – 1, 5, and 10 Kms respectively. The prize distribution was organized at Gandhi Darshan. Asian Marathon Champion Dr. Mrs. Sunita Godara was also present on the occasion and led the "Run for Peace".

Dr. Sunita Godara, Asian Marathon Champion coordinated the entire event.

**Discussion on Constructive Programme of Mahatma Gandhi organised**

The Samiti in association with Mahila Sansthan evam Hast Shilp Kala Prashikshan Kendra (MSKSHSKP) organized a meeting on the occasion of teachers day at Gopeshwar College, Hatua Gopalganj, Bihar that was attended by Dr. C P Singh, Shri Narendra Tiwari, Prof. Mohan Lal Singh, Dr. Rakesh Ranjan, Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh.

Further on September 8, 2017, on the occasion of the World Literacy Day, a dialogue was organized that was attended by Dr. Venkat Pandey. Discussion on the programme to be organized on October 5, 2017 was discussed.

**Volunteering for Humanity a two days inclusive exploration exercise with a thrust on Swachhata**

The Samiti in association with Arushi organised a two-day workshop on "Volunteering for Humanity – A two-day inclusive exploration exercise with a thrust on Swachhata" at Bhopal



(Above): A participant shares his view point at the workshop in Bhopal.

(Below): Special children and youth take part in cleanliness drive.



(Above and Below): Participants in Arushi Bhopal take a group photograph. Shri S A Jamal, Administrative Officer GSDS (above fourth from Right) was also present on the occasion.

on September 15-16, 2017. A cleanliness drive was organised as well. The interactive workshop comprised of group discussions, exchange of ideas and documentary screening. The participating students from MIT Bhopal; People's University and other colleges deliberated upon the philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi and the need and importance of cleanliness which formed the main topics of the workshop.

On September 15, the workshop revolved around the Gandhian philosophies, where aspects of untouchability, local self-governance, education and non-violence were emphasised upon along with the role of volunteers in keeping the environment clean. The speakers at the session included: Mr. Anil Singh, Mr. Ankul Baronia, Shri Vishwas Ghushhe and Dr. Vipin Vyas.

A documentary "India Untouched" by Stalin K. that touched upon the issue of caste and untouchability in contemporary India was screened.

Day two comprised of a cleanliness drive where the team was all set to clean the cycling tracks of Bhopal. Around 100 participants comprising the students from colleges of Bhopal, children with special abilities participated. Awareness campaigns and discussions with people who were passing by formed part of the event.

### **Promoting Gandhian Values amongst today's youth**

A one-day seminar was organized by the Samiti in association with the Central University of Himachal Pradesh on 'Promoting Gandhian Values amongst today's youth'. The programme was organized on October 16, 2017.

The GSDS Programme Officer Dr Vedabhyas Kundu spoke on how Gandhian ethics and ideals can be integrated by today's youth. He said the youth can learn from Gandhian leadership values and his principles of nonviolence.

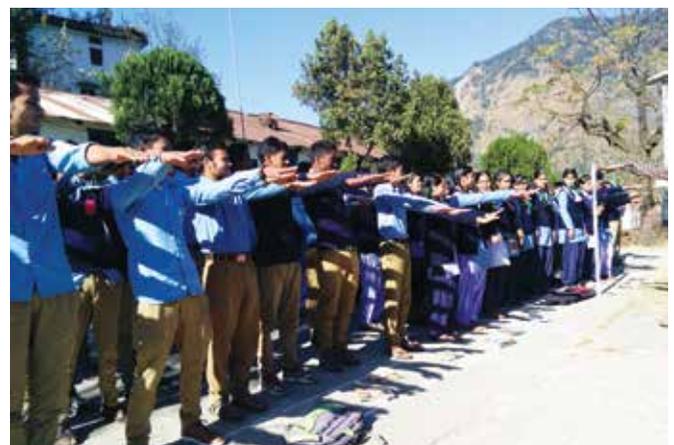
Dr Shreya Bakshi, Assistant Professor of Sociology talked about the need for regular dialogues and training of youth on different dimensions of Gandhian ideals. About 70 participants from the University took part in the programme.

### **Workshop on Media and Information Literacy to Promote Gandhian Approach to Environment and Sustainable Development**

A workshop in Punjab University, Patiala was organized on 13-14 October, 2017. The theme of the workshop was 'Media and information literacy to promote Gandhian approach to environment and sustainable development'. More than 100 participants from the university took part in the workshop.

### **Workshop for youth on "Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Co-Existence"**

The workshop for youth on "Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Co-existence" was organized at Shri Anusuya Prasad Bahuguna Rajakeeya Snatkottar Mahavidyalaya, Agastyamuni, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand on October 11, 2017. More than 100 college students and distinguished guests attended the workshop. Mr. Gulshan Gupta



Children during the workshop in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand.

and Ms. Reeta Kumari from GSDS conducted the workshop.

The workshop was organized in interactive mode, where participants actively participated in group activities.

### **Workshop on the importance of Gandhi Darshan and Khadi and Village Industries in the present context**

The Samiti in association with Kamtoulia Area Small Farmer & Resourceless Communities Association (KASFARCA), organized a one day workshop in Amritpur Vaishali District on Gandhi Jayanti, 2017.



*Senior grassroots workers and Gandhians discuss the importance of Gandhi Darshan and Khadi and Village Industries in the present context.*

The programme was held to mark the Champaran Centenary Celebrations, and was organized at Senior Secondary School, Amritpur. The BDO of the region Sh. Ajay Kumar was the chief guest of the function. Speaking on the occasion he said that Mahatma Gandhi's messages are even more relevant today. Mahatma Gandhi wanted education to be linked with employment, and he also wanted the village industries to form an important basis of rural economy. This is why the Khadi and Village Industries need to be promoted and Charkha should also be revived again.

The other speakers on the occasion were Sh. Suresh Rai, Sh. Upendra Kumar Sharma and

others. They all stressed upon the importance of Village Industries and the Gandhian model of development which would help us create the India of his dreams.

### **Orientation programme on "Promotion of Gandhian Ideas among Youth" organised**

The Samiti in association with Jaiprakash University, Chhapra, Bihar, organised a one-day orientation programme on "Promotion of Gandhian Ideas among Youth" on October 5, 2017 at the University. The programme was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of the JP University, Chhapra, Prof. Harikesh Singh; veteran Gandhian, Dr. Ramjee Singh, Shri Vijay Singh, Secretary Gandhi Ashram, Jalalpur; Prof. Lalbabu Singh; Shri Vidyabhushan ji; Dr. M. Wasim; Dr. Baikunth Pandeya and others.

The programme was divided into two sessions – one where the students and research scholars expressed their understanding of Mahatma Gandhi's life and philosophy.

The second session was one where the distinguished speakers spoke on the eternal message of the Mahatma and its implementation in our day-to-day lives.

The participants in the programme greatly benefitted from the discussion and came to know the various facets of Mahatma Gandhi's life and works.

### **Workshop in Patarsa, Kanpur Nagar**

The Samiti in association with Purushottam Shri Ram Degree College, Patarsa, organized a workshop on Conflict Resolution at the college premises on November 17, 2017. Sh. Gulshan Gupta NE Coordinator and Sh. Deepak Pandey Intern with GSDS represented the Samiti at the workshop based on the theme of *Integrating Practices of Non-violence and conflict resolution for in-service/would be teachers.*



*Hon'ble Dr. R P Singh, Sports Secretary lights the traditional lamp during the inaugural ceremony of the workshop in Kanpur.*



(Above): Shri Gulshan Gupta, N.E. Coordinator from GSDS along with distinguished guests at the workshop. Also seen in the picture is Shri Deepak Pandey (fourth from L above and below) who coordinated the programme on behalf of GSDS.

The chief guest at the function was the Sports Secretary of CSJMU, Kanpur, Dr. R. P. Singh. He stressed on the need for positive changes and quality improvement in the field of education. He felt that people should always opt for good education and subsequently moral values.

The basic purpose of the workshop was to train the participants in *Integrating Non-Violent Communication in Teaching Practices*. The practical application of non-violence in our day-to-day life was discussed in detail with question answer sessions also.

The students were taught basic behaviour skills so that they help people some conflicts peacefully by amicable settlements. The students discussed in details the non-violent strategies provided by senior Gandhian Sh. Natwar Thakkar and were also taught to practice non-violence in the class rooms so that positive learning can be made possible.

The Samiti members further told the students how to tackle tricky situations in the class room. The students were asked to give a few answers on issues related to teaching.

### **Workshop on Environment Awareness and Save Himalayas organised**

A two-day workshop on "Environment Awareness and Save Himalayas" was held during November 09-10, 2017 at Rural Technology Complex, G B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora (Uttarakhand) by Mahila Haat in association with the Samiti. 75 participants from 19 Gram Sabhas of Takula, Hawalbag and Almora blocks participated in the workshop.



Dr. B Mishra conducts training for the participants at the workshop in Uttarakhand.

The chief guest on the occasion was the Director of Rural Technology Complex, Shri Kirit Kumar. Smt. Krishna Bisht, General Secretary of Mahila Haat welcomed the gathering. GSDS was represented by Dr B Mishra, Senior Fellow *Gandhi Darshan – Mission Samridhi*.

In her address Smt. Krishna Bisht, said that since the size of the Himalayan region is quite vast, hence the discussion would focus on the areas represented by the participants. She further emphasized that the availability of pure air, water, food, etc. and good conditions for agriculture are important for life and discussion was focussed on the protection and prevention of the natural resources and forest cover.

She said, "The Himalayas are the main source of our rivers and home of rare medicinal plants and herbs as well as timber and wildlife. These are continuously being eroded due to over exploitation for material benefits, hence we need to identify the areas which need attention and generate awareness to save Himalayas", adding, we need to evolve a strategy to discuss and underline practices at local levels which can help in regenerating the environment and saving the Himalayas".

In the session on “Environmental Protection: Gandhian Approach”, Dr. B. Mishra reiterated what Mahatma Gandhi had said on Mother Earth that “Earth provides for everybody’s need, but not for their greed”. We all are very much aware of his life style. Probably we do not have any other human being with such minimum needs as that of Mahatma Gandhi. He believed in simple living and high thinking. Most of our problems associated with environmental pollution and degenerations are due to our lavish and unmindful life style. We need to maintain balance with nature. Now it is recognized world over that environment and development are inter-connected and the two sides of the same coin. The problem of environmental pollution at present has assumed global size but the solution lies in local action”.



*A participant shares his view point during the workshop.*

He further cited the example of works done at Ralegan Siddhi village in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra under the leadership of Shri Anna Hazare. It is an example of a village of Gandhian dreams. Anna Hazare organized the villagers and started discussing about the problems being faced by the villagers and finding solution by consensus. To start with the villagers collectively decided five principles as mentioned below:

1. Nobody in the village will indulge either in making or consuming of liquor (Sharabbandi);
2. Restriction on felling of trees (Kulharbandi);
3. No open grazing of animals (Charaibandi);
4. No taking or giving of dowry (Dahejbandi); and
5. Mandatory *shramdan* for village development works.

The villagers under the leadership of Anna Hazare achieved the following:

1. More than six lacs of trees were planted in the village;
2. No one in the village consumes liquor and even in village shops no intoxicant is available;
3. Now the village which used to get drinking water from tankers during summers is water surplus and shares water with other neighboring villages;
4. There is no custom of dowry;
5. All solid and liquid waste is managed properly and the village is clean;
6. All women panchayat was organized in the beginning in 1970s. The 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment of Constitution as we know came later in 1993;
7. All households are having piped water supply and facility of toilets;
8. All children in school-going age group are enrolled in schools; and
9. All households are food secure and having full employment.

While speaking on village development Shri Kirit Kumar, Director, G B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development suggested the participants that you should identify the special aspects of your village which differentiates it from other villages. That special aspect can become the basis of your income generation. He cited some examples of such villages from Japan and Uttarakhand which have become prosperous by using the same principle.

He also explained the procedure of planning for development to the participants. He further suggested to prepare a list of the problems, and fix priorities and thus a micro plan will be developed. This plan can be implemented with on-going government schemes like MNREGA and people’s participation.

Dr R C Sundryal spoke on “Environment, Forest and Livelihood”. He described the direct and indirect benefits of forests and said that more than 500 varieties of medicinal herbs and plants are there that should be protected. He further said that globally more than 200 million people are dependent on forests. About 80 per cent of biodiversity is based on forests.

"In India, 23.68 per cent land is under forests and in the world it stands at 10<sup>th</sup> position, whereas in UttaraKhand we have 44.76 per cent of the total geographical area under forests. UttaraKhand is ranked at ninth position in India with regard to per cent of area under forests. Of them about 70 per cent are protected forests and 16 per cent are Van Panchayats. There are 16,000 villages and 12, van Panchayats. The forests provide employment to 130 lac people, he concluded.

Dr Rajesh Joshi addressed the participants on "Water and Livelihood" and explained the hydrological cycle and the way we get rainfall. He added that the Himalayas are termed as "Water Pillar", as many lakes and rivers are there which supply water to the larger areas of south Asia. He said, "It is estimated that 73 per cent of world's fresh water is stored in Himalayas. The purity of water is increasingly being polluted and the demand for water with growing population is continuously increasing. We have only 4 per cent fresh water available on the planet and the rest is brackish so unfit for human and animal consumption, and we seriously need to think about that".



**Participants with their mentors and resource persons take a group photograph after the workshop.**

On November 10, the session began with Dr D S Rawat, who addressed the gathering on "Environment, Agriculture and Livelihood" said that our agricultural practices are based on climate and demand. He said, "About 74 per cent of farmers own less than 50 nali (one hectare) land. In irrigated areas we cultivate paddy and wheat, whereas in 'unirrigated' upland areas we cultivate pulses and *marua*. This practice is going on since past, but now with changing climatic pattern we need to change this pattern of cultivation. Now we need to understand what do we have for agriculture? It may include climate, relief features, land, soil types, technical skills for cultivation, labour, etc. If the agriculture is done according to an action plan then it will succeed".

While laying stress on organic agriculture, Dr. Rawat suggested that even fallow land can be utilized for planting *baj*, *uttis*, *kafal*, *buransh*, *aola*, *bahera*, *tejpatta*, *reetha*, *harad*, *aellovera*, etc. and all these products have good demand in the market. "To supplement their income farmers can start poultry, fishery and bee-keeping. Poultry and fishery can be integrated because poultry waste is food for fishery", he said.

Dr Sandeep Mukherjee while explaining the issues of "Climate Change and Livelihood" said that presently, human activities are influencing the climatic pattern in a negative way. Due to industrialization, the emission of gases like methane, carbon dioxide, nitro oxide, etc has increased and these gases trap the heat in the sky. Besides, the gases blowing out of volcanoes add to the problem. While rivers are drying and floods are unseasonal, the longevity of winters is decreasing.

He warned, "If the current rate of rising temperature continues many areas will be submerged under water, the species of flora and fauna will change. Glaciers are also receding and therefore, we will have to change the crop pattern and this will directly affect livelihoods. The forests will disappear and due to increase in sun strokes there will be increase in diseases".

The participants raised the following concerning issues:

1. There is large scale migration and people are getting away from their traditional works
2. Attack of wild boars on agriculture
3. Scarcity of water
4. Forest fires
5. Limitations of livelihoods

The participants at the discussions on Day II also included the Gram Pradhan of Darimkhola, ShriKripal Singh, Shri Bhagwat Bisht Basyura, Shri Kaishalpur Gururani Lamgara and Ms Kamla Rawat, Darimkhola, President of women SHG.

In the valedictory session, the following emerged from the participants:

1. They decided that they in association with their respective Pradhans will prepare micro plan of their village development.
2. Shri Kundan Singh of Pithoragarh narrated that he had planned to move to the city for job during the winters but after attending

this workshop he has changed his mind. "I will stay back in my village and explore the possibilities of livelihood in agriculture and other allied activities", he said.

3. Shri Hari Ram Bhat the resident of Nyal Vajula on the basis of knowledge gained in this workshop decided to start some cottage industry along with agriculture with the technical support of Rural Technology Complex of G B Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development.

**Youth pledge to spare time for Volunteering during workshop on Volunteering and Constructive Work**

A packed to capacity ever enthusiastic young audience, a band of expert and adept faculty and a group of small but exuberant volunteers set the tone of a two-day workshop on "Volunteerism and Constructive Work" organised jointly by GSDS and Kolkata based SIPDAVE (Salt Lake Institute for Personality Development) on November 25-26, 2017 at the conference hall at Moulali Yuva Kendra, Kolkata. Mr. Shakeel Khan represented the Samiti at the programme.



*Prof. Partha Chatterjee speaks to the enthusiastic youth participant at the workshop organised by SIPDAVE.*



The outcome of the two-day workshop could be underlined by one sentence "All success". What was spoken by the experts to motivate young minds was apt and appropriate, but what was the imprint that acted as roller coaster in the 110 young minds was more important. It was a scenario witnessed very few and far between that

a two-day Gandhian Workshop turned about the mind-set of almost 100 per cent participants (as evident from their written statements) from rigid scepticism or passive neutrality to convinced and committed volunteerism spirit.

The career aspirant youths (between the age group 20 and 35, 50% of them were students from as many as 10 colleges) looked forward for a job on a salary ranging from Rs. 10,000/- and Rs. 40,000/- per month, but promised to spare at least an hour a day for any relevant social work. The speakers were mobbed by the audience each time following their speeches to know about the organisations that can provide them voluntary assignments.

*Speakers at the workshop on 'Volunteering and Constructive Work' in Kolkata.*



The workshop on November 25<sup>th</sup> began with Gandhiji's favourite Tagore song: *Ekla cholo re...* (Walk alone if none responds to your call you must walk alone...). Shri Jawhar Sircar, IAS (Retd), former Secretary Ministry of Culture, Government of India was the chief guest on the occasion.

While delivering the inaugural address, Shri Sircar reminisced his younger days, how voluntary activities enthused his mind. He urged upon young souls to spend a little time for the society.

Dr. Partha Chatterjee, an author, journalist and a veteran Gandhian enumerated the purpose of the event and gave a brief introduction to the GSDS and that SIPDAVE is an old partner of

GSDS. He also delivered the key note address on the occasion.

Shri Shakeel spoke about the activities of the Samiti and the purpose of the Samiti in reaching out to numerous individuals, organisations in different parts of the country to take the message of Gandhiji to different segments of the society through socio-cultural and socio-educational programmes.

### Discussions:

#### • Day I

- *Introduction to Social Work and Volunteerism*, by Prof Amitava Dutta, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, Narendrapur.
- *NGO Building and Volunteerism, NGO Administration, Fund Raising and Accounting* by Surajit Niyogi, distinguished social work practitioner.
- *How youth could be mobilised in social action* by Bappaditya Mukherjee, founder of "Prantakatha – Promoting Active Citizenship".

#### OPEN SESSION:

- 1) *How to make people health and environment conscious* by Dr Anirban Gozi, a young Psychiatrist.
- 2) *My experience as a volunteer, participants narrated their experiences in social work.*

*Mr Geetikantha Majumder, Writer was on the chair.*

#### • Day II

- 1) *Identification of development projects of State and Central Governments where assistance of voluntary social work needs priority* by Mr Tirtha Sankar Roy, Rural Development Trainer, Dakshin Dinajpur District;
- 2) *The role of Advocacy in social work and how to develop your advocacy skill on social issues* by Mr Satya Gopal Dey, Vikramshila Education Resource Society;
- 3) *Psychology in social work* by Dr Debanjan Pan, famous consulting Psychiatrist.

#### OPEN SESSION:

- 1) *Volunteers without border and fear* by Dr Partha Chattopadhyaya.



(Above): A participant interacts with the resource persons during the workshop.

(Below): Mr. Shakeel Khan of GSDS presents a certificate to one of the participants.

The chief guest at the valedictory session was Prof Biplab Loho Chowdhury, H.O.D of Mass Communication Dept., Visva Bharati and expert on volunteerism. The special guest on the occasion was Mr. Snehasis Sur, President of Kolkata Press Club and renowned TV journalist of Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata.

Eight participants were given special prizes for their excellence in writing critical appreciation of the programme. The programme ended with a pledge by the participants that they would work for the betterment of the society.

### **Youth Leadership Orientation Programme for Community Development**

The Samiti in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, District Central Delhi organised a "Youth Leadership Orientation Programme for Community Development" in Gandhi Darshan from December 8-10, 2017. Almost 80 youth (boys and girls) from different schools and colleges in the age-group of 15-29 years took part in the three-day programme.

Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS along with Ms. Vandana Lao, District Youth Coordinator (NYKS) Central and New Delhi, and resource persons Ms. Shahana Parveen, Mr. Azhar Khan, Mr. Roopak took part in the inaugural programme.

During the three-day interactive session with the participations, various life-skill issues were discussed. Some of them included: Personality Development, Women Empowerment, HIV AIDS, Peer Pressure, Cyber Law, Sexual Abuse, Communication Skills, Focus and Self-Control, Making Connections, Critical Thinking, Taking on Challenges, Self-Directed, Engaged Learning and so on.

The most striking thing in this scenario was that learning was taking place in a non conventional manner. The training attempted to equip the participants to acknowledge and develop further the ten basic life skills of self awareness, empathy, problem solving, decision making, effective communication, interpersonal relations, creative thinking, critical thinking, coping with emotions and coping with stress, among their students.

### **National Youth Volunteers Conclave for Constructive Work**

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in collaboration with the Kerala Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi organized a three-day *Gandhi Yuva Sangamam 2017* at Gandhi Bhavan, Trivandrum on December 8-10, 2017 as a curtain raiser to the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. 200 Youth drawn from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala participated in this Southern Youth conclave.

The major focus of the programme was to help young men and women acquainted with the 18 point Constructive Programmes envisioned by Gandhi.

In addition to this, the "Swatcha Bharat Abhiyan" programmes to make schools as "waste free zones" were the highlights of the programme. Eminent Gandhian youth trainer Dr S. N. Subba Rao inaugurated the programme in the presence of very senior Gandhian activists such as Padmashree P. Gopinathan Nair.

Several eminent Gandhian constructive workers and well known youth trainers and senior academicians such as Prof. William Baskaran, Dr M. Mani, Dr T. Ravichandran, Karayail Sukumaran, Prof. D. Radhakrishnan guided the Gandhi Yuvasangamom 2017.

The 18 point Constructive Programmes which Gandhi introduced for the reconstruction of India were grouped under seven heads to highlight their contemporary significance: (a) Labor, scheduled Tribes, Liberation from drugs and liquor and social

justice. (b) Basic Education, Regional Languages, National Language, Adult Education. (c) Gandhian Economic Theories, Village Industries, Khadi, Agriculture, Economic Equality. (d) Empowering of women and allied policies. (e) Health and Hygiene, Nature Cure, Leprosy Eradication, Waste management and clean India. (f) Youth – the role in national reconstruction. (g) Equality of religions and Sarvadharm Samabhavana.

The following exhibitions were also put up at the venue of the programme in order to integrate the insights from them into the proceedings of the Yuvasangamam.

- Poster Exhibition on 18 point Constructive Programmes;
- Demonstration of Constructive Programmes: Demonstration of Spinning and Weaving, Pottery making;
- Gandhi Book Festival (Exhibition of Gandhian literature);
- Exhibition and sale of village industries products;
- Nature Cure Stall;
- Exhibition on Gandhi, Martin Luther King (Jr) and Daisaku Ikeda as pioneers of peace Charka Museum;
- Swachh Bharat: as a part of the Swachh Bharat mission cleaning programmes in the campuses of the Music College, Model School and Gandhibhavan campuses were undertaken.

Another highlight of the programme was the launching of "Waste free School" Campaign: A project to make the "Schools Free from Waste" also commenced during the Gandhi Yuva Sangamam 2017. Cultural evenings also formed integral part of the Yuva Sangamam 2017.

The Gandhi Yuvasangamam 2017 at Trivandrum was held under the general guidance of the distinguished Gandhian and former Director of GSDS Prof. N. Radhakrishnan (presently Chairman of Kerala Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and Gandhi Peace Mission). Dr D. Maya (Vice Chairperson of Kerala Gandhi Smarak Nidhi) was the general convenor along with Dr N. Gopalakrishnan Nair and KG Jagadeesan.

**Youth Workshop for Training Youth in Gandhian Philosophy of Service to Nation**

The Samiti organised a two-day workshop for youth on "Orientation and Training in Gandhian Philosophy of Service to the Nation" was organised by the Tamil Nadu Sarvodaya Mandal (TSM), Madurai on January 6-7, 2018 at its district branches in Karur and Dindigul Districts. The other collaborating organisations involved included: The Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram and many colleges in and around Karur District. Around 140 girl students, mostly from the NSS wings of Colleges in and around Karur District along with the NSS Coordinators and lecturers and professors took part.



*A child participant being presented with a book by a guest speaker, as others on the dais look on.*

The inaugural address was given by Yateeswari Naalekantapriya Amba, Secretary, Sri Saradha Niketan Science College for Women College, Karur. Shri S T Rajendran, Secretary Taminad Sarvodaya Mandal also spoke of the occasion.

Shri Rajendran, also informed about the forthcoming 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and said that TSM will organise 320 days programme in all the 32 districts of Tamil Nadu from October 2, 2018 to October 2, 2019.

The others who spoke were:

- Dr. G Pankajam, former Vice Chancellor of Gandhigram Rural University, Gandhigram;
- Dr. S Muthulakshmi, Principal, College of Gandhian Thought, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Madurai;
- Dr. S Andiyappan, Professor and HOD of Gandhian Thought and Ramalingam Philosophy, Madurai Kamraj University also spoke on the occasion;
- Dr. G Palanithurai, Professor, Department of Political Science, Gandhigram Rural University;

- Dr. V. Ragupathy, Professor, Department of Political Science, Gandhigram Rural University;
- Prof. P Chandrasekaran, former Professor of Vivekananda College, Thiruvudagam;
- Dr. T. Kannan, Expert for Basic Education and Natural Farming;
- Sri N. Sundararajan, Vice-Chairman, TSM, Madurai;
- Dr. M P Gurusamy, Secretary, Gandhi Museum, Madurai;
- Sri K M Natarajan, Chairman, TSM and Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Madurai.

Group exercises formed part of the workshop. A K Chettiya's *Gandhi Film* was shown in the night to the participants.

**Youth and Citizen's Convention on "Communal Harmony and Peace: Gandhian Approach"**

The Samiti in association with West Bengal Gandhi Peace Foundation (WBGPF) organised a youth and citizen's convention on "Communal Harmony and Peace: Gandhian Approach" on January 29-30, 2018 in Ksturba Bhavan, Sarvodaya Park, Howrah, West Bengal.



*Distinguished speakers at the convention deliberated upon various subjects and underlined the Gandhian alternative to disputes and mediation techniques.*

The inaugural session was presided over by Shri Bimal Chandra Pal, Chairman, West Bengal Gandhi Peace Foundation. Prof. (Dr) Dilip Kumar Sinha, former Vice-Chancellor, Viswa Bharati University inaugurated the convention.

In his welcome address, Shri Chandan Pal, Secretary WBGPF, said that keeping in mind the increasing communal violence in many parts of the country, it is high time to face the challenges, and there's no other way but to follow the path of Mahatma Gandhi. He also spoke about the 18-point Constructive Programme of Mahatma Gandhi and reiterated that the youth must prepare for a major celebration and work towards fulfilling Gandhi's dreams.

The others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. Sanmatha Ghosh, who focussed on "Communal Harmony in Pre-Independent Period.

The second day of the programme began with an all-faith prayer. In the two days programme, number of academicians, social activists spoke on different sessions such as: *Communal Harmony and Peace: Gandhian View Point; Communal Harmony: An Experiment* and so on. The speakers at the convention included: Prof. Satyabrata Choudhury, Shri Jaydev Jana, IAS (Retd), Manabendra Mondal, Prof. (Dr) Jahanara Begum, Sri Prantosh Bandyopadhyay, Sri Surjangshu Bhattacharya, Dr. Lata Das (Pal), Sri. Gopal Ghosh, Dr. Chitta Ranjan Paul and others.

### **Interaction with students from Maharshi Valmiki College of Education**

As part of Field Observation Program of B.Ed 1<sup>st</sup> year curriculum, the 120 students of Maharshi Valmiki College of Education, University of Delhi visited Gandhi Darshan on February 12, 13, 15 and 16, 2018. They were accompanied by Dr. Manjari Gopal, Dr. Kailash Goel and Dr. Neelam Mehta Bali. The visits had both epistemic and epistemological objectives; epistemic as in enhancing sensitivity and sensibility about Gandhian principles and way of life; epistemological as in developing an understanding about the significance of institutional visit as a pedagogic practice.

A guided tour of Gandhi Darshan, which consisted of (a) 'My Life is my Message' – photo exhibition on the life and messages of Gandhiji, (b) 'India's March to Freedom', an exhibition of clay models /panels, was facilitated for the students. Ms. Neha Arora conducted the tour with the visitors during their visits.

Besides this, there was also a demonstration of the making of dresses from Khadi fabric and a visit to publication sales counter. The guided tour facilitated in focussing attention on the values and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, the transformative journey of his personality, his engagement with 'satyagraha' at ashram level, national level and at the level of mankind; his quest for spiritual conquest over self—*self-realization*. The rich collection of exhibits promoted reflective thinking amongst students, enhanced curiosity and dialogue.

The visit culminated with an interactive session with resource persons like Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Mr. Vivek and Ms. Shashwati Jhalani on different days. The interactive sessions were informative and engaging, apprising students about history of Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti as well as its current engagements.

The students were informed about the current project on Orientation of In-service / pre-service teachers on Non-violent Conflict Resolution and Non-Violent Communication. Overall, the visits were helpful in developing sound understanding of Gandhian way of life.

Situations of conflict in classroom were discussed and how these can be resolved through nonviolence was taken up. Discussing the centrality of students in a teaching-learning environment that can help create non-violent communication inside and outside classroom, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS highlighted the importance of five elements – Student-centric, Motivation, Activity, Reinforcement, and Transformation. He said it was necessary to cultivate a climate of peace in the classroom and to ensure dialogue between students and teachers at all stages. There must be three components of self empathy, empathy towards others and honest communication in the classroom for successful knowledge transmission in the classroom.

Gandhian approach to Nonviolent Communication for classrooms:

- When students disagree on a point made by the teacher.
- When teacher doesn't know the answer to a student's question.
- When asked for teacher's opinion on a ticklish issue.
- When teacher's question is greeted with silence.
- When a student gets into a personal argument with the teacher when asked a direct question

Sharing her experience of the field visit, Priyanka Singh says: "It was an enriching learning experience to see history come alive as we went through the pavilion with "Vaishnava Jana' and "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram", Gandhiji's favourite bhajans being played in the background. As a student teacher, I felt a visit such as this can be used to make school subjects... interesting and introduce newer pedagogical techniques. The most insightful takeaway was a clever use of the photographs, which leave a greater and lasting impact on anyone's mind as compared to what is read as theory..."

"A visit to the gallery entails ample opportunity for silent reading and meaningful observations on part of the students as they make connections between what they've read, what they're seeing and what they are reading independently".

### **Two-day camp on "National Integration and Motivation for Youth"**

The Samiti in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, organized a two-day youth camp on "National Integration and Motivation" in Gandhi Darshan on February 14 and 16, 2018. Over 250 youth from different parts of the country – as part of the initiative of the Prime Minister of India to develop linkages amongst youth from different states – took part in the camp where a wide range of issues were discussed, along with group exercises and experience sharing by senior resource persons from different walks of life. The inaugural programme was attended by Shri S A Jamal, Administrative Officer, GSDS along with Dr. Atul Kumar Pandey, District Youth Coordinator, North West, NYKS.



*Smt. Shashwati Jhalani (Inset) responds to a query by a youth (Below) during the National Integration Camp by GSDS and NYKS.*



*Dr. Atul Kumar Pandey, Dist. Youth Coordinator, North West NYKS addresses the youth at the National Integration camp in Gandhi Darshan.*



The resource persons who spoke during the two-day camp included: Shri S A Jamal, Shri V S Boken, Shri Kuldeep Kumar, Shri Mohan Shahi, Shri Jay Kumar, Dr. Sudhir Kapoor, Dr. Sunita Godara, Smt. Shashwati Jhalani and Dr. D K Gurung.

### **Workshop on Youth Volunteer Training Programme**

The Samiti in association with the Allahabad Foundation in Uttar Pradesh organised a two-day workshop on "Youth Volunteer Training Programme" from February 3-4, 2018. 164 youth (130 men and 30 women) took from the surrounding districts took part in the workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to make participants aware and motivated for self service for creative work. During the two-day workshop, the instructors trained the participants on different subjects that are as under:

- *The concept of creative works and Mahatma Gandhi's life's philosophy - Mr. Yogesh Shukla (renowned social and political leader)*
- *Overall Village Development, Panchayat System and Good Governance - Mr. Pankaj Kumar (advocate and social worker)*
- *Women empowerment - Dr. Rama Singh (Professor Allahabad University) and Dr. Vimla Vyas (Professor Allahabad University)*
- *Current Crisis and Solution of Employment - Shri Dattatreya Pandey (Social Worker)*

- *Public Health 'Cure & Rescue' - Dr. N. P. Singh (senior doctor); Dr. Santosh Kumar Tiwari (Assistant Professor Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida) and Mr. Dinesh Tiwari (Health Advisor)*
- *Agriculture and Animal Husbandry - Prof. Ramesh Chandra (Dean Dairy Department Shuats); Mr. Pawan Dadhviadi (Manager IFCO Phulpur) and Mr. Kamlesh Mishra (Famous Farmer)*
- *Overall education - Mr. Kamlesh Mishra (Teacher) and Ms. Pratishth Mishra (teacher)*
- *Environment, Sanitation and Natural Resources (Cow, Ganges, Water, Jungle, Land) -Dr. Pramod Sharma (Environmental and Professor E.V.)*
- *Governance and Schemes -Mr. Sushil Kumar Pandey (advocate) and Shri Krishna Mohan ji (Social Worker)*
- *Spiritual, Disaster Management and Rescue - Mr. Harimohan Pandey (Social and Spiritual Activist) and Mr. Dharmendra Kumar Nishad (Worker Civil Defense Allahabad)*

The participants were divided into groups for working on the above-mentioned subjects for them to work constructively.

On the first day of the workshop, a session on poetry was held in the night. Poets present in the conference inspired participants to volunteer through their poetry. These included: Mr. Ramlocha Sanvariya, Fateh Bahadur Singh, Rajendra Kumar Shukla, Lalji Dehati, Lakhan Pratapgadhi, Kalpanesh Baba, Jai Prakash Sharma, Vedendand Veda, Nazar Allahabadi, Dr. Vimla Vyas and Harimohan Pandey.

Participants in the workshop were taught tricks of disaster management.

The participants further proposed to the chief instructor, senior political and social leader Shri Yogesh Shukla, for organizing a development fair and seminars at block level, where traffic system of Allahabad, health system, park, hospital, electricity, drinking water, road system and sanitation under the Smart City project. It was also proposed that the organization could send suggestions to the Government.

Shri Yogesh Shukla, while highlighting the concept of creative work and Gandhiji's constructive programme, said that every work done to overcome the absence, illiteracy, disease, unemployment, ignorance falls into the category of Gandhiji's constructive work.

It was further decided that separate groups could be formed to work on issues of employment, women's empowerment, agriculture and animal husbandry, Panchayat system and good governance, overall rural development, education, public health and safety 'spiritual, environment.

The workshop was conducted by Captain Mukesh Singh and the vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Shashank Shekhar Pandey, Managing Trustee. Trustee Ashutosh Shekhar Shukla, Dattatreya Pandey and Chandra Bhushan Tiwari took over the responsibility of the workshop.



*(Above and Below): Shri Yogesh Shukla addresses a large gathering of participants at the workshop for Youth Participation for Constructive Work in Allahabad.*

*(Right): Participants with distinguished guests take a group photograph.*

# Programmes for Women

## Workshop on Women Empowerment for grassroots level workers

The Samiti in association with VISION, an organisation in Varanasi, organised a two-day workshop on “Women Empowerment for grassroots level workers” in Sarva Seva Sang Campus, Rajghat, Varanasi on May 23-24, 2017. Rich tributes were paid to Kasturba Gandhi on the occasion. The two-day workshop was attended by over 100 women, grassroots level workers and people from the community. 104 women and men participated in the workshop from Varanasi, Gazipur, Jaunpur, Chandauli, Bhadohi districts of Uttar Pradesh.



A glimpse of the speakers and the participants at the workshop on “Woman Empowerment for Grassroots Level” in Uttar Pradesh.

The inaugural session was graced by Dr. Kalplata Pandey, former Proctor Dean and HOD of Education from Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth. The organizer and Secretary of VISION, Ms. Jagriti Rahi spoke about Kasturba Gandhi and her immense contribution towards the cause of women empowerment. The other speakers on the occasion were eminent Gandhian and former President of Sarva Seva Sangh, Shri Amarnath bhai; Shri Arvind Anjum Manager of Sarva Seva Sangh Prakashan.

The speakers highlighted the role of other Gandhian women leaders such as Prabhavati ji, wife of Jayprakash Narayana and Sarojani Naidu in the struggle for Independence. They further stressed that education can only make the women empowered. They said that women’s participation in the Panchayats are key factor for the development of the village.

Shri Basant former advisor, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti spoke in detail about the idea of *mahila shanti sena* (women peace force) as was envisaged by the Acharya Ramamurti.

The second session saw speakers such as Dr Swati Nanda Reader from DAV College (BHU), who spoke about the right of today’s women. Ms. Ekta Shekhar an environmental activist addressed concerns on violence against woman at different stages and need of organized work for curbing the menace.

The second day began with introduction of participants who shared their work experience with one another and also discussed the proceedings of the first day. The main speakers included Dr Raghuvanshmani Pandey, Shri Laxman Singh and Shri Rammurat. They spoke on different issues such a *jivan vidya*, gave training and knowledge about self help group and discussed on how to make women self-reliant.

Dr. Anoop Shramik a Dalit Human Rights activist and one of the organizers spoke about the women leaders from the Dalit and Adivasi community such as Savitri Bai Phule, and their contribution and their struggle.

Mrs. Kiran Gupta spoke about the *safai karmcharis* and their problems; Ms. Mumtaz and Ms. Kaisar Janha spoke about the issues of the weaver community woman and their struggle. Ms. Sayra and Ms. Kamar Janha discussed issues related to health of women and Ms. Savitri Bai and Ms. Kahkashan Khan spoke about the empowerment of rural woman through literacy programs and education.

Ms. Jagriti Rahi elaborated about the concept of *mahila shanti sena* and how to start building an organisation that works for the community.

### **Two Days Women's Camp on Gram Swaraj organised**

The Samiti in association with Sarbik Gram Unnayan Sangha organised a two-day "Women's Camp on Gram Swaraj" at Dhanchyabari Sister Nivedita Smriti Sangha, West Bengal from July 14-15, 2017. 103 participants mostly women from different communities and 17 nearby villages under the Chandipur Block in East Medinipur district took part in the camp.

Shri Narayan Bhai, Secretary Gandhi Mission Trust inaugurated the camp along with Shri Chandan Pal, Secretary, West Bengal Gandhi Peace Foundation, Shri Arunanshu Pradhan, Head Master Shyamsundarpur High School. Invocation by Smt. Sharboni Bera was another highlight of the programme. Shri Asish Patla delivered the welcome address. Shri Biswajit Ghoroi, Secretary Sarbik Gram Unnayan Sangha spoke about the initiatives of the GSDS and the objectives of the camp.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee highlighted various problems in the society being faced by women. He said that there is scope of participation of women in the Panchayati Raj system, which, however is lacking even today. He further described the 18-point Constructive Programme of Mahatma Gandhi with special emphasis upon communal harmony, untouchability, prohibition, promotion of cottage and village industries and told that women in all these issues can play a pivotal role.

In his address, Shri Chandan Pal spoke about "Gram Swaraj and Role of Women". He said that the concept of 'Swaraj' came into the thought process of Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, and later Mahatma Gandhi popularized it during the freedom struggle when he told that mere political freedom cannot solve the problem of India. The people of the villages shall have

to be self-dependent and educated. He further spoke about the role of women in the freedom struggle especially referring to the Champaran Satyagraha, the Quit India Movement and said that the dedication of women of Midnapur district during the freedom movement has been written about gloriously in the pages of history.

Later in the day, Shri Bimal Kumar Das, a social worker spoke on ecology and environmental issues, organic farming, global warming and the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture.

The two-day women's camp also saw a large number of women discuss myriad issues concerning their health, education, prohibition, child marriage, child mortality, etc. The other speakers who shared their ideas during the camp on the second day included Shri Swapan Rath, a teacher of Bhagwanpur High School, Shri Ahammad Uddin, the Siksha Karmadhyakya of Bhagawanpur-I Panchayat Samiti, Shir Asish Patla and Shri Biswajit Ghoroi.

### **Convention on "Samajik Nayik Andolana Re Malati Choudhury's Bhumika"**

"The vision must be followed by the venture. It is not enough to stare up at the steps. We must step up the stairs", said Shri Prafulla Samal, Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development Department, Government of Odisha as he quoted Vance Havner while inaugurating the convention on "Samajik Nayik Andolana Re Malati Choudhury's Bhumika" (Role of Malati Choudhury in the Social Reformation Movement) organised on the occasion of the by the State Social Welfare Board (SSWB) Odisha and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti at the KIIT Auditorium at Bhubaneswar, Odisha on July 26, 2017.



*In the Pix-(From L to R): Smt. K K Acharya, Mr. Prafulla Samal, Smt. Latika Pradhan at the convention in Odisha.*



*Distinguished speakers partake in the deliberations at the convention in Odisha organised by the State Social Welfare Board, Odisha.*

Shri Samal was referring to the fearless freedom fighter and the inspiration of millions fondly called as "Numa", (Malati Choudhury) by the generations of people that she enkindled. He also released a video documentary and souvenir, "Numa" dedicated to Lt. Malati Choudhury. He further emphasised that after the universalization of elementary education, Odisha is making effort to make secondary education universal. He even mentioned that the dropout rate has reduced.

Smt. Kumtala Kumari Acharya, former chairperson SSWB also graced the occasion as the guest of honour. Mr. Ashok Panda, Economic Advisor, Department of Heavy Industries, Government of India was the chief speaker at the convention. The others who were present on the occasion were: former chairperson of SSWB, Smt. Saraswati Pradha, Smt. Kasturika Patnaik, Smt. Sabitri Choudhury, Smt. Sulata Deo and Smt. Nibedita Nayak along with SSWB members from Haryana, Punjab, Telengama, Andaman and Nicobar Island, Sikkim and Jharkhand.

The second session discussed the broad theme of "CSR for the Empowerment of Women and Child and Social Welfare Board in India" where eminent media persons, philanthropists and social activists participated and shared their knowledge. Among the the eminent guests were Mr. Nitin Chandra, Principal Secretary, SSEPD, Govt. Of Odisha; Mr. P K Sahoo, Principal Director and Head, CIPET, Balasore; Mr. Prashant Kumar Sahoo, State Head, Wockhrdt Foundation; Dr. Santosh Kumar Mishra, Director IMMT, Govt. Of India; Mr. Sandeep Sahu, journalist and activist; Mr. Asim Ghosh, Regional Head, CRY; Ms. Arundhati Devi, eminent leader of International Decency Movement and Mr. L P Das, Sr. Divisional

Manager LIC; Animesh Prakash, Programme Officer, OXFAM India and Ms. Sabarmati, eminent social worker.

The convention discussed the following sub-themes:

1. Role of CSR in Socio-Economic Development of Women through skill development;
2. Role of Media in Child related issues;
3. Role of SSWB in ensuring Social Security

The national convention was organised with an aim to revive the mission and vision of the Social Welfare Board set by the founder Lt. Malati Choudhury. The convention became a platform where integrated voices from different streams in the form of suggestions and recommendations came together to pave the path of the empowerment of the board.

### **Five-day workshop on "Gandhian Thought and Women Empowerment"**

The Samiti in association with Dhulagori Mahila Samity, a social welfare organisation in West Bengal organised a Five-day Workshop on "Gandhian Thought and Women Empowerment" from August 8-12, 2017 at Dhulagori Mahila Samity. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee President of Gandhi Mission Trust and Member GSDS and Shri Chandan Pal, Secretary, Gandhi Peace Foundation, West Bengal. DMS's President. Mrs. Sanchita Banerjee was also present on the occasion.

Speakers at the inaugural function spoke on the upliftment of the social economy of women

by empowering the small industries that are driven by women. They further advocated that strong networking among women from different groups and villages need to be developed.

Cultural programmes marked the event that was dedicated to the 75 years of the Quit India Movement.

Day two marked by paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the 75 years of the Quit India Movement. Mrs. Mamata Chattopadhyay, Mrs. Rinku Hazra, spoke to over 100 participants on the economic views of Mahatma Gandhi. They further stressed that education of women is a must for their all round development.

The speakers at the third day included Mrs. Kalyani Paul who participated in an interactive session with the participants and discussed various issues concerning their livelihood, empowerment, reservation status, administrative matters was also discussed.

On the fourth day, Mrs. Beauty Biswas discussed about women’s right and entitlement. Discussions on Domestic Violence Act, Child Labour ACT, laws against trafficking of women featured where the participants took active part.

Mr. Niti Bag, shared his perspective about the role of women in community building and how awareness about government schemes and plans could help in their overall development.

On the fifth and concluding day, a Quiz competition on Gandhiji’s thoughts on women was organised and conducted by Mrs. Sanchita Banerjee. The participants actively took part in the quiz.

**Campaign on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao**



1) Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan presents Hon’ble Smt. Krishna Raj, Union Minister of State of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with a memento, as Smt. Renu Sharma Director B and S Foundation is all smiles.



2). Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, former VC GSDS awards Asian Marathon Champion Dr. Sunita Godara with the ‘Nari Udhyaami Award’.

The Samiti in association with B&S Foundation and Chetna Conscience for Women organized a programme as part of the “Campaign on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” in Gandhi Darshan. Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, former Vice-Chairperson GSDS was the Chief Guest on the occasion. More than 200 women from different sections of the society and of various positions took part in the programme.

On this occasion, many women were recognized for their role and effort towards making women self-reliant in the society.

**Constitutional Rights of Women discussed at the Conclave on Women Empowerment**

The Samiti in association with All India Confederation of SC/ST organisations organized a state-level conclave on “Women Empowerment” in Gandhi Darshan on September 24, 2017. About 250 women from Delhi, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Punjab, Haryana and some other places took part in the programme.



*Distinguished speakers and participants at Gandhi Darshan during the discussion on ‘Constitutional Rights of Women’.*



Dr. Udit Raj, Member of Parliament and Smt. Savita Kadiyan Panwar national Convener AIC of SC/ST took part in the programme and discussed on the constitutional rights of women especially Dalit women.

Speakers deliberated on the need for providing skill development of the women and mass awareness level for bringing the marginalized women into the mainstream.

## Two-day national workshop on “The Role of Women in Nation Building : Gandhian Philosophy

The Samiti in association with PACE Institute of Technology and Science, Ongole, Andhra Pradesh organized a two-day national workshop on “Role of Women in National Building” on September 1-2, 2017. Dr. M Srinagesh, coordinator of the programme from PACE was present on the occasion.

Some of the key points of discussion included:

- Day I:

Sri. T Parameswara Rao – Women empowered means Mother India empowered. When women who contribute almost half of the population are empowered, it will strengthen the national economy. Education is considered as a milestone for women empowerment because it enables them to respond to the challenges, to confront their traditional role and change their lives. This workshop focuses on the impact of education on empowerment of women as well as the challenges and changes that we must have to deal with during the process.

1. Dr. C Himabindu – Educating women from the basic and rural level, providing them equal societal and economic status, their active involvement in politics and measures to be taken to reduce violence against them will definitely lead to a more happy society and will provide more opportunities. Nation-building is never complete without women involvement. It is very important that more women join the mainstream politics and be a much more active part of the decision making body.



2. Sri. T. Aruna – There is no chance for the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. Many social evils like dowry, illiteracy among the females, killing of girl child in the womb, ignoring the hygienic values, police, etc. can well be tackled by the active involvement of women.

- Day II

1. Sri. S. Saibaba – Women’s role in economic development, in most countries of the world cannot be undermined. Although women constitute almost half of the total population of the world, their social, economic and political status is lower than that of men and they are subjected to the tyranny and oppression of a particular order for centuries and de facto even today. Women’s lack of empowerment is believed to be an important factor for this situation and hence they require social and economic protection. Therefore, they need to be empowered economically, socially and politically. One needs to implement the economic well being of women through micro finance that aims at providing the urban and rural poor, especially women, with savings, credit and insurance and aims to improve household security and in turn endeavours to empower them.
2. Sri. G. Nagendra – My faith is in the younger generation. The 150<sup>th</sup> birth centenary celebrations of Swami Vivekananda were an eye opener in many respects. As one travelled across the length and breadth of the country, rural areas, mofussil, towns and even metros, the zest and enthusiasm of the youth who thronged the venues in schools, colleges, universities, organised events and many such programmes. Even



(From L to R): A distinguished speaker addresses an attentive audience at the two-day national level seminar organised by PACE Institute of Technology and Sciences.

in the national capital Delhi, thousand of youth gathered to protest and express their concern over the growing heinous cases of rape on women especially after the brutal assault on *Nirbhaya*.

3. Dr. V. Naga Lakshmi – Nation-building is a process of constructing and fashioning a national identity. The choice of these key words - 'constructing' and 'fashioning', which are very fundamental because they are the basic ingredients of nation-building. Thus nation-building is indeed a process that takes place over a long period of time, and not just a drastic or sudden occurrence. Construction and fashioning are also very important in nation building because there are things to be constructed and fashioned out, both in physical and intangible terms. 'Fashioning' here is a conscious effort at creating an identity and a national image.



*Speakers at the seminar in PACE Institute of Technology and Sciences addressing young participants.*

Among those things to construct and fashion out are behaviours, national image, values, institutions and even physical monuments that depict common history and culture of the people of the state. Furthermore, nation-building is also about forging a senses of unity among the various units of a country; it include making conscious efforts in uniting heterogeneous societies as one indivisible unit, united in national goals, believes and common national aspirations.

The speakers summarised that education given to the girl child will certainly lead to the development of a nation in the long run.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Sravanthi from the Institute of Women Empowerment Cell – PACE.

**One Day Seminar on Women Empowerment: Stree Shakti Sadhana Shivir**

The Samiti in association with Acharya Kakasaheb Lok Sewa Kendra, Nandurbar, Maharashtra organized a day-long seminar on “Women Empowerment: Stree Shakti Sadhana Shivir” at Nandurbar Maharashtra on September 11, 2017 on the occasion of the Vinoba Jayanti. The programme was also organized as a tribute to the 148th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Advocate Shri Ramanlal Shah, Prof. Mridula verma, Prof. Kiran Saxena were present at the Shivir. The chief guest of the programme was Sushri Daya Bahanji.



*(From Top to Bottom): A glimpse of the ‘Stree Shakti Sadhana Shivir’ in Maharashtra in progress.*

Sushri Daya Bahan ji, in her address reiterated the philosophy of Acharya Vinoba Bhave and his contribution towards the society.

The others who spoke on the inaugural session included Smt. Sushma Shah, Smt. Krishnaben Sharma, Prof. Meena Hajari. They unanimously stressed on the role of women and urged them for enhancing their skill development.

In the second session, Prof. Kiran Saxena spoke on the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha, the Dandi March and said that how Mahatma Gandhi had welcomed the participation of women in those historic movements. She further stressed on the education of women at all levels for their overall empowerment.

Prof. Pitambar Sarodo spoke on the forthcoming 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma Gandhi and said that the entire world is gearing up to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary and people should contribute themselves for social upliftment.

Shri Ramanbhai Shah presided over the programme.

**Seminar-cum-workshop on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” for social awareness**

The Samiti in association Shri Gyan Gangotri Vikas Sanstha (SGGVS) and under the aegis of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), organised a day-long seminar on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” for social awareness on October 13, 2017 at Coffee House, Bindapur, New Delhi. Prof. Hansraj Suman, from Delhi University was the chief guest on the occasion. Bhai B K Singh of SGGVS was also present at the programme. Almost 300 people from the community, young girls and boys and elders took part in the awareness programme. The others who were addressed the gathering included, Dr. Mansi Nishra, Chief Coordinator CSR NGO; Shri Santosh Patel, Social Worker and Smt. Rani Singh, Chairperson SGGVS. About 100 volunteers from the organisation also took part in making the programme successful.



Speakers at the seminar on ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Pdhao’ releasing a brochure on the occasion.



A young participant (Inset) shares her view point at the seminar.



The speakers reiterated that there is a need to change the mindset, as even doctors carry out illegal sex determination tests that lead to cases of female foeticide. They further spoke about the free education being provided for the girl child from Class I to Class VIII and other scholarship programs initiated by the Delhi Government and the Central Government. It is important that the girl child receive education for their total development so that they can contribute towards the progress of the society. They further appealed the parents to levy their trust on their daughters and then see the difference.

**Mahatma Gandhi’s Constructive Programme and Role of Women Empowerment –A Seminar**

The Samiti with the local support of Sonevalley Development Foundation, Kaimur, Bihar, organized a one-day seminar on “Mahatma Gandhi’s Constructive Programme and Role of Women Empowerment” on October 31, 2017. 300 women delegates from the region attended the programme and shared their experiences and also discussed the implementation of the ‘Constructive Programme’ in the village life.



Young participants share their perspective before a panel of experts (on the dais) during the seminar in Kaimur, Bihar.

The seminar began by paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. The chief guest of the function was Shri Haridwar Pandeya. The other distinguished guests included: Shri Surendra Singh, Dr. Anees Singh, Shri Vivekananda, Smt. Chhaya Pandeya, Shri Mithilesh Chatterjee and Shri Kapinderji.

While speaking to the gathering, Dr. Anees Singh praised the qualities of women folk, who felt need to be respected and appreciated for these and encouraged at realize their own potential.

Eminent Gandhian, Shri Vivekananda ji, said that the position of women was very strong in earlier times, and many social reforms also centred around them. Gandhiji always supported the cause of women and wanted them to be educated so that they could be independent economically.

Smt. Chhaya Pandeya said that Mahatma Gandhi always believed that 'Ram Rajya' was only possible when women were respected as equals. Mahatma Gandhi brought the charkha into the village life, particularly to make the women economically strong and independent. She also informed the gathering about the various welfare schemes for women by the Government and asked the women present to avail these benefits so that they become economically strong and be associated with the cottage industries.



*Participants at the seminar in Kaimur, Bihar organised by GSDS.*

Shri Mithilesh Chatterjee said that India is the only country where women are worshipped in the form of divine deities like Sita, Parvati, Durga and other goddesses.

Shri Kapindra Singh said, "What we learn from our mothers, remain useful all our lives. Women should be the leading force of the family. We should also keep our rivers clean, whom we worship as mothers and we also need to protect and cherish our environment".

Shri Haridwar Pandeya said that mankind by nature remains violent, whereas our ancestors have always taught us non-violence. He said that Mahatma Gandhi was a social revolutionary who worked for the betterment of all segments of the society. "We should not discriminate between boys and girls. We should always educate our womenfolk, so that they can achieve higher objectives in life".

Shri Surendra Singh said that Gandhiji always brought awareness to the society to bring about positive changes and we have to work along those lines for social and national regeneration.

**Seminar on "Women Empowerment, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Village Development" organized**

The Samiti in association with Naveen Ankur Mahila Mandal in Chattisgarh organized a day-long seminar on "Women Empowerment, Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao and Village Development" at Amdi Dhantari, Chattisgarh on October 25, 2017. 300 distinguished women workers from various Gram Panchayats of the region took part in the seminar. The aim of the seminar was to raise awareness about women empowerment, village development on the guidelines given by Mahatma Gandhi to be implemented through the Gram Panchayats.



*Participants at the seminar on Women Empowerment and Village Development in Dhantari, Chattisgarh.*





**EMPOWERED WOMEN, EMPOWERED NATION:**  
*A show of strength by young girls left the audience awestruck.*



A detailed discussion was held with the delegates from the nearby villages regarding their thoughts and activities related to women empowerment in their regions. The distinguished speakers included: Smt. Meena Gautam, President, Naveen Ankur Mahila Mandal (NAAM); Ms. Savita Tarrate VC of Lakshmi Cooperative Bank; Smt. Hemlata Sharma, District head of Mahila Morcha; Panchayat Members Mrs. Shyama Sahu, Ranjana Sahu, Usha Murti, Sushila Son, Pratibha Devangan, Anita Aggarwal, Rekha Sahu, Priti Kumbhkar and others.

They all felt strongly that to follow the Gandhian way would lead to their development and empowerment. Both the organisations promised to help the delegates in all their endeavours for women's development and their empowerment.

Ms. Savita, spoke about the ways to increase the wages of rural women, help them for self employment and empowerment through various useful Government schemes. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao is one such important initiative for women empowerment and requires efforts of the women community to make this successful, she exhorted.

Cultural programme was presented by the participants showcasing the richness of their region's heritage. Women Panchayat members doing exemplary work in their areas were honoured by the distinguished guests.

### **One-day dialogue on Women and Village Welfare and Prosperity in context of Ba-Bapu**

The Samiti in association organised a day-long dialogue on "Women and Village Welfare and Prosperity in the context of Ba-Bapu at Shimla Farm, Village Aterna, District Sonapat, Haryana on October 18, 2017, with the local support of Shri Kanwal Singh Chauhan, board member of Central Pollution Control Board. 254 participants attended the programme. 95 girls took part.

The objective of the discussion was to provide a platform to the school students and women of Aterna village to talk about the ideas of Gandhiji and Kasturba Gandhi on village welfare and prosperity.

The guests spoke on the awareness in literacy as a key factor for development. Smt. Krishna Gehlawat Chairman of Haryana Agriculture Marketing Board spoke about 'gender discrimination and girl education'. Dr. Manju Aggarwal spoke about the benefits of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (Ayush). She further taught some yogic *mudras*.

Gandhi Action Fellows Akansha, Kanak, Neha, Nikhat discussed with the targeted audience on 'education', 'child marriage' 'sanitation' and 'self-reliance'.

A visit to a mushroom field where pre-sowing preparation was going on was also conducted.

Shri Basant, senior Gandhian along with Shri Kunwar Yashpal Chauhan, Smt. Archana, Smt. Annu Hardutt (teachers from Rajkiya Varishtha Madhyamik School, Village - Aterna), Shri Nand Kishore Chauhan, member of Zila Parishad were present on the occasion.

### **Seminar on "Constructive Programme and Role of Women"**

The Samiti organized a one day seminar on 'Constructive Programme and Role of Women' in association with Banwasi Seva Ashram, Govindpur, Renukoot, Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh on November 5, 2017. The programme was conducted by Shobha Bahen, the chairperson of Banwasi Seva Ashram (BSA) of the seminar. It was attended by a large number of women delegates from the Ashram as well as nearby areas.



1

1) Guru ji, an elderly member of the Ashram addresses the gathering.

2&3) Speakers from different walks of life took part in the 'Constructive Programme and Role of Women'.

4) Participants from nearby villages took part in the programme.



2



3



Local participants also shared their view points at the seminar in Banwasi Seva Ashram, Uttar Pradesh.

Shekharji, an inmate of the Ashram said that men and women should work together for the betterment of our society and nation, and then only can we preserve our culture and heritage.

Neera Bahen from the Ashram mentioned the significant issue of child marriages and said that fortunately the trend is going down.

The others who spoke on the occasion included Mantola Bahen who said we have to give freedom to our daughters so that they can rise to great heights in life; Amita Bahel felt that dowry is a very serious issue for women who face torture and even death due to the evil system. It has to be eradicated from our social system.

Manmati Bahen who was present on the occasion said that we also need to get rid of blind faith and superstitions so that life can be better. We should also neither accept nor give dowry. Further, Phoolmati Bahen said every daughter is everybody's daughter and we have to fulfill the mission of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. Chameli Bahen also said that alcoholism is one of the biggest curse of our society and we have to form a Women's association to fight this evil.

Smt. Geeta Vermaji, an elderly member of the Banwasi Seva Ashram was the chief speaker on the occasion. She asked the women delegates to be dignified, culturally rooted, educated, pass on the values to the next generation, be focused on their priorities, work towards eradication of social evils, fight exploitation and injustice and become winners in all situations.



4

The Seminar began with an introduction to the Mahila Sammelan by Shobha Bahen who spoke on the various problems faced by women in all walks of the life and how those could be resolved in the Gandhian way.

Guruji an elderly member of the Ashram said that women themselves are also responsible for their plight as they do not fight for their rights. They have to respect themselves first before seeking it elsewhere.

Dr. Vibha of BSA told the women about the needs of pregnant women who suffer mostly from anemia. "Even generally women are anemic and should know about their health issues and resolve them. Women should always take care of their health so that they can put their energies for good causes", she said.

A group of women delegates from Orissa discussed about the founding of Streeshakti Sangathan for self-employment of women. The main features for doing business would be – place, relations with people, money, raw material, market, rate, etc. For making the Sangathan strong we would need co-operation, trust, proper accounting, answers to questions and records.

Group discussions were held in which the village ladies participated and shared their experiences. Smt. Geeta Vermaji told about the Kishor Nyaya court which provides legal help to villagers. She further said that women could earn livelihood by collectives dry leaves from the forests, buy them and sell them. She said that women who are not much educated, can avail the opportunities under the *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana*.

Earlier, Chand Tara Bahen and Neera Bahen presented an inspirational song for the audience which was greatly appreciated.

### **Training on Capacity Building of Women in Panchayat Raj Institutions**

Bapuji Youth Association, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh in association with GSDS conducted training on *Capacity Building of Women in Panchayathi Raj Institutions* on December 12, 2017 at the Meeting Hall, NPS Govt. Degree College for Women, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh. 160 participants consisting of Women in Panchayathi Raj and Prospective women for Panchayathi Raj participated in the training program.

The Training Program was conducted in four sessions:

- Inaugural Session: Presided over by Sri R.Anand Principal, NPS Govt. Degree College for Women, Chittoor;
- Technical Session-I: Presided over by Dr. Sundar Ram, Founder AGRASRI;
- Technical Session-II: Presided over by Sri R.Anand, Principal, NPS Govt. Degree College for Women, Chittoor; and
- Valedictory Session: Presided over By Sri V.Anjaneyulu, Director, SST, Kurnool

The following Guests / Speakers / Trainers participated in the training program:

Smt. A. R. Vijaya Roo Dist., Youth Coordinator (1<sup>st</sup> UNDP Awardee); Sri R. Srinivasan, M.P.D.O, Chittoor; Smt. P.N. Sridevi, M. E. O. Nagari; Smt. S. Lalitha Kumari M.E.O, Chandragiri; Smt. Hema Malini M.E.O, Pichatur; Smt. Jagadeeswari, Lecturer in Economics and Smt. R. Shobana , lecturer in Commerce. The session was chaired by Sri R. Anand, Principal, NPS Government Degree College for Women, Chittoor.

The training program commenced on December 12, 2017 with the registration of participants. The training conducted through lecture mode, PPT and question & answer method, etc. in the two technical sessions.

The speakers underlined that the Gandhian ideal of Village Swaraj was not given proper attention in the major part of post-independent India. It was only after four decades of independence, that a fresh look was given on the issue of local self-government that resulted in the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment which came into force in 1993.

The speakers requested the women representatives to have knowledge on their roles and powers and rightfully exercise them. He also appealed prospective women representatives to come forward and do contest for Panchayati Raj Institutions against the reserved seats.

They further said that Mahatma Gandhi has played an important role in the participation of women in political activities in India. Gandhi becomes uncompromising in the matter of women's rights. According to him, both men and women are integral part of social, economic and political set up of a state.

The speakers felt that Panchayati Raj Institutions have been playing a pivotal role for rural development in general and socio-economic upliftment of downtrodden section of the rural society in particular. They felt that due to women representatives, nexus of officers and male elected representatives are breaking, which has a direct impact on reducing corruption. The role of local muscle power has substantially reduced due to active participation and awareness of women about their rights and power. This has resulted in reduction in violence against women, against Dalits, and increased participatory process in democracy.

In the valedictory session, all the participants were awarded with participation certificate and the guests, speakers, trainers were felicitated.

**Ba remembered on her 74<sup>th</sup> Nirvan Diwas**

Septuagenarian Shri Amitabh Mishra, presented a musical tribute to Ba, on the occasion of the 74<sup>th</sup> Nirvan Diwas of Kasturba Gandhi in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat . The commemorative programme was organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. Over 250 participants took part in the programme organised on February 22, 2018 in Gandhi Darshan.



*Classical singer Shri Amitabh Mishra is seen rendering Bhakti Sangeet as part of the Kasturba Nirvan Divas in Gandhi Darshan.*

A trained classical singer, Shri Amitabh Mishra presented songs of Kabir, Meera Bai through his own compositions in traditional ragas. Accompanying the artist on stage were Shri Manoj Kumar (Tabla), Shri Gul Mohd. Khan (Harmonium) and Shri Haider (Key Board).

People from the Gandhian fraternity, scholars, academicians, environmentalists, social workers, cricketers, were present on the occasion.



*Silent tribute to Kasturba Gandhi on her 74th Death Anniversary.*

Earlier, Director GSDS in his welcome address reiterated the role of Ba in Gandhiji’s life and said that in the making of the Mahatma, the role played by Kasturba Gandhi cannot be ignored. He further called upon the gathering to join together for making yearlong programmes to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019 a memorable and impactful event.

Proposing the vote of thanks, senior Gandhian worker, Shri Basant expressed his happiness to Shri Amitabh Mishra and also hoped that Shri Mishra will join the Samiti in their various programmes with his spiritual music.

**International Women’s Day raises awareness on Women’s Health, Hygiene, Gender Sensitization and Women Empowerment**

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, organized a workshop on “Women’s Health and Hygiene” by GSDS and IGNOU RC-2. On this occasion as part of the “Mission AAA (Awareness,



*Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President, Harijan Sevak Sangh inaugurates the sanitary napkin vending machine gifted to GSDS.*

Availability and Affordability)” initiative, sanitary napkin vending machine was inaugurated and

installed in Gandhi Darshan. The machine was given by Mr. Deendayal Agarwal, Chairman, Research Foundation Research Foundation, ONGC Limited, at a function on March 8, 2018, which was attended by Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director IGNOU RC-2 and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.

On this occasion, women from different walks of life were felicitated for their services. Some of them included teachers, academicians, researchers, members from the Rotary Club were present.

Discussions on 'sexual harassment of women at work place – prevention, prohibition and redressal' were also organized as part of the awareness programme on "Women's Health, Hygiene, Gender Sensitization and Women Empowerment".



*(From Top to Bottom): Glimpses from the programme in B N Pandey Hall in Gandhi Darshan as part of the International Women's Day 2018.*

## Programmes in Tihar

### Eye Camp at Tihar Central Jail No -2

The Samiti organised an Eye-Camp at Central Prisons Tihar CJ-2 on May 26, 2017 in association with Community Ophthalmology Department of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Shri R. K. Aggarwal Memorial Foundation. 147 patients who are inmates at CJ -2 undertook the treatment during the eye camp. Out of which, 136 patients have been recommended spectacles. At least four patients have been recommended surgery.



*Free eye check-up camp in Tihar CJ-2 in progress.*

A team of 14 doctors such as Optometrist, Technicians, Refractionists, led by Dr. Vivek Gupta (AIIMS) conducted the treatment. Members from the Shri R K Aggarwal Foundation Shri Sandeep and Shri Anmol who were present on the occasion, also donated medicines to the patients.

The camp was attended by Dr. Manju Rani Aggarwal, Mr. Rajdeep Pathak and Ms. Reeta Kumari from the GSDS. Dr. Vivek Gupta. During discussion with the CJ-2 Superintendent Shri Ajay Yadav, it was felt that need for more such health camps with awareness generation amongst the inmates would prove beneficial. Amongst other authorities from Tihar who were present on the occasion included: Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Samrinder Chaudhury, Mr. Prakash Chand (DS), Mr. Akshay Khatri, Asst Superintendent.

### Nelson Mandela Day celebrated with Tihar Inmates at CJ-2

The Samiti in collaboration with the Central Prisons at Tihar Central Jail No 2 celebrated the "Nelson Mandela Day" on July 18, 2017 on the occasion of the 99<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela. The theme of this year was "For Freedom, Justice and Democracy".

On this occasion, the Samiti distributed free spectacle to the inmates who had earlier



*(Above): Shri Ajay Yadav, Superintendent CJ-2 gives away certificate to a participant as other officers of CJ-2 along with Dr. Manju Aggarwal and Ms. Rita Kumari are all smiles.*

*(Below): Orientation programme of the inmates of CJ-2 in progress conducted by Dr. Manju Aggarwal (third from right).*

had their free eye check up in CJ-2 organised by the GSDS in collaboration with the doctors of the AIIMS earlier during June 2017. Dr. Manju Rani Aggarwal, coordinated the programme along with Ms. Reeta Kumari. Shri Ajay Yadav, Superintendent CJ-2 was present on the occasion.

### Painting competitions organised

The Samiti organised several painting competition in various jails of Tihar as part of Champaran Satyagraha celebrations where the inmates displayed their creativity through art depicting issues such as *swachhagraha*, *Mahatma Gandhi's philosophies*, *sanitation*, *female foeticide*, *environment*, etc.

The painting competitions were organised at: Central Jail 2 and 4 on August 5; Rohini Jail No 10 on August 14; Central Jail 1, 3 and 5 on



*Inmates of Central Tihar Prisons partake in the painting competition organised by GSDS with great enthusiasm.*

August 16 and Mandoli Jail 13, 14, 16 on August 18 respectively. About 200 inmates of the Tihar Ashram (prisons) took part in the competitions.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Manju Rani Aggarwal and Ms. Reeta Kumari from GSDS. Officers, staff and inmates from Tihar coordinated the programme in various jails.

On August 15, Central Jail 2 as part of the Independence Day celebrations organised the certificate distribution ceremony for the inmates. Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive GSDS took part in the celebrations and gave away the certificates.



*Inmates of Tihar Central Prisons were awarded certificate by GSDS after each programme in different jails.*

### **Workshop on Understanding Gandhi & Gandhi Quiz organised in CJ-1**

The Samiti organised a workshop on "Understanding Gandhi" (*Aao Gandhi Ko Jane*) at Central Prisons Tihar CJ-1 on December 27, 2017. Almost 100 inmates took part in the workshop. A "Gandhi Quiz" was also organised on the occasion. Dr. Manju Rani Aggarwal and Shri Vishwas Gautam coordinated the programme. Shri Subhash Chandra, Superintendent of CJ-1 was also present on the occasion.

Shri Vishwas Gautam spoke about the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi to the inmates during an interactive session, which was followed by the Gandhi Quiz.

# Programmes in Champaran

## Programmes in Basic School in Brindaban and Sirasia Adda

### Swachhatta Pakhwara organized

Rajkiye Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Vrindavan, Champaran organised an awareness programme as part of the Swachhatta Pakhwara on September 16, 2017. Children of the Vidyalaya conducted the swachhatta campaign at the nearby areas such as Brindaba, Rambhpukha, Tikachapar, Dubetola, Jabdol, Jinachap, Ojhatola and this is being done every month. Families of the nearby villages are also being made aware to use toilets as part of this campaign. Those families which do not have toilet facilities are being inspired to construct one.



### Awareness programme on Child Marriages and dowry system organised



The Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya Brindavan Champaran launched an awareness campaign on early child marriages and dowry system in the panchayat. As part of this campaign, the parents were administered the oath to not get their children married at an early age and not to give or take dowry. The children were asked not to marry at an early age.

On December 3, 2017, the staff and students led by the Principal of the Vidyalaya paid rich tributes to Dr. Rajendra Prasad on his birth anniversary. Dr. Rajendra Prasad had visited the Vidyalaya multiple times. This Vidyalaya is reliving the dreams of Gandhiji through various efforts.



Regular initiatives by the children and teachers of the Buniyadi Vidyalayas in Brindaban and Sirasia Adda in Champaran, Bihar.

# Discussions/Dialogues/Seminars

## Seminar on Intergenerational Solidarity

In pursuance of its activities, Healthy Aging India (HAI) in association with Department of Geriatric Medicine, AIIMS and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samithi, organized a round table brainstorming session at Delhi, on April 22-23, 2017. The inaugural programme was organised on April 22nd and the valedictory function was organised at Gandhi Peace Foundation on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.



*Dr. A K Dubey, Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI inaugurating the seminar in Gandhi Darshan.*

The event was inaugurated in presence of chief guest, Dr. A. K. Dubey (Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports) and Mrs. A.K. Dubey. Mr. A. Ganguly (Executive committee member, HAI) welcomed the participants and gave a brief account on active ageing in Indian scenario. He also briefed on various activities and initiatives of HAI.

Dr. Prashun Chatterjee (Founder President, HAI) gave a short update of the vision and mission of HAI and its activities. He stressed



*Dr. Prashun Chatterjee, Founder President HAI makes a point at the seminar.*



*Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary Gandhi Smarak Nidhi shares his view point at the seminar, as others listen with rapt attention.*

on the importance of inter-generational solidarity and reaching elderly through school children. The participants were requested to give their inputs and suggestions to strengthen various activities of HAI, which will ensure quality of life to our elders and intergenerational empowerment. He also shared a beautiful video highlighting the importance of intergenerational empowerment.

Dr. A. K. Dubey enlightened the participants on the whole idea of character building and personality development by older adults for the youngster. He also expressed his concern on the trend in disappearance of the joint family system from our Indian Culture and stated that the joint family system was a great sense of security in the society. At the same time, he also emphasised the need of counselling the senior citizens, so that bonding between generations can be fruitful.

Mr. P.K. Das from Dwarka, spoke to the youngsters on the importance of spending quality time with grandparents. "Even if they are not staying together under one roof, but even talking to them over the phone make the grandparents to feel important and happy", he strongly emphasised. He also promised the organisers to explore the possibility of arranging a meet of senior citizens in his locality to further strengthen HAI activities.

Teacher and students from Ramjas School, Pusa Road, New Delhi shared their experience of visiting old age home and various social activities undertaken by them. The students also said that spending some quality time with grandparents will not only make them feel important but also



*Speakers at the seminar in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.*

happy. The students acknowledged HAI team for introducing them to the field of social work. Mr.S.P. Sharma expressed his view on giving awareness at Gram Panchayat level, to bring about the changes at the grass root level. Mr. Pratham expressed his view on the role of e-learning to spread the awareness.

In order to help older Indians to stay healthy, various methodologies were discussed to create awareness in the society about healthy aging. One of the suggestions to achieve this goal was to incorporate 'importance of elderly care' into the school curriculum. As incorporating this part in the curriculum may be a time taking process, the concept may be added with the value education and life skill development, section of the current syllabus.

On April 23rd, at Gandhi Peace Foundation, Dr. J. K Das (Director, NIHF) focussed on understanding the evidences based on research and data collection, challenges of aging, standardisation of tools and formulation of senior citizen friendly policies. Advocacy and ethical decision making for elderly rights were also touched upon. He also dwelled on the need to sensitise the government so as to devise appropriate social and economic policies with collective approach to aging and older people which should be intended to promote healthy and active aging from evidence to actions.

Mr. *Mathew Cherian* (CEO HelpAge India) stressed on formation of senior citizen associations and self help groups realising the potential and impact they can create as organised population to become powerfully visible as peer pressure group in public platform, in influencing political parties and for advocating senior citizen friendly policies. Presently, 30k-50k senior citizen associations are working but need was felt to organise more

people. He also reflected on mathematics/logistics of senior citizen demographic data. Youngsters need to be dutiful and responsible in looking after their parents. Educating the son is first challenge and best place to educate is school.

Dr. *Prasun Chatterjee* highlighted areas and topics to be included in curriculum and put forward for discussion. He highlighted the following: demography of aging population; concept of active aging, as aging starts the day you are born and it is a continuous and ongoing process; importance of intergenerational empowerment; economics of cost benefits ratio and values to make it more attractive and appealing to youth; factors affecting old age- physical, environmental and social, old-age problems faced by elders such as abuse, depression, loneliness, dementia, etc., effective Role of lifestyle modifications etc.

Shri Rambahadur Rai from IGNCIA focussed on psychological aspects and positive attributes in life-determination, strength, preventive lifestyle, constructive attitude and orientation towards life to deal with old age problems by becoming cheerful, lively, actively participating in social affairs, engaging in work which pleases based on interest-habits, maintain routine in life, etc. Changing a perspective on old age will change the whole scenario of looking into it he said.

Mr. Tapas highlighted the importance of involving local media channel and newspaper to bring about changes in the society and Mr. Das spoke about the importance of digital media in sensitising younger generation.

To strengthen the intergenerational bonding, the role of sensitizing parents of school/college going children by means of workshops was highly recommended by almost all the participants. Awareness of parents in this regard will greatly support the intergenerational bonding as parents serve as the connecting link between the two generations. The Importance of intergenerational workshop and sensitization and counselling of senior citizens, on how to adjust with the new generation, was also highlighted as a need of the hour. Counselling the elderly and training young people on health education can prove to be a useful, feasible and successful strategy and would assist/guide in formulating policies and programme, developing tools, searching ways and means to deliver information in fast track mode for healthy aging. This suggestion was highly appreciated and accepted by HAI team.

**Seminar on Hunt for Khadi Ambassadors organised**

The Samiti in association with Incredible Transforming Charitable Foundation (ITFC) organised a day-long seminar on "Hunt for Khadi Ambassadors" in Gandhi Darshan on April 29, 2017. About 300 participants from different colleges and universities took part in the programme. The programme was organised



(Above): Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu felicitates Shri Yogesh Shukla (Right) with a memento.

(Below): Kum. Indu Bala, senior Gandhian is felicitated by Ms. Paridhi of Sankalp for Khadi.

Shri Yogesh Shukla, Member (PAC), Ministry of Railways; Dr. Janice Darbari, Consulate General, Montenegro; Mrs. Archana Dutta, OSD to President of India and former DG All India Radio; Ms. Ira Singhal, IAS; Ms. Richa Anirudh, Editor, NDTV, (Zindegi live program); Ms, Rakhee Bakshee, Editor Rajya Sabha TV; Mr. Lalit Thukral, Vice-Chairman, AEPC and Convenor UP Export Promotion Council and Mr. Quaisar N K Jani, leading TV actor (who played Mahatma Gandhi in more than 40 documentaries). All the dignitaries were presented with a Charkha on the occasion.

The aim of this seminar was to create awareness and attraction for Khadi amongst

the youth of the country and by increased use of Khadi, the spinners and weavers would also benefit immensely. In this regard, Km. Indu Bala Sr. Gandhian from Gandhi Hindustani Sahitya Sabha was felicitated on the occasion.



*Fashion show depicting the use of Khadi in a modern way was a highlight of the programme.*

(Above): A participant shares her perspective at the seminar.

(Below): Fusion band "Zasbe Junoon" performs Vandemataram and Ram Dhun.

Ms. Indu Bala also demonstrated the use of spinning wheel during the programme, which attracted the participants. She also addressed the gathering on the use of Khadi and said that Khadi Day should be envisaged, which should become a national festival of the country.

The speakers at the seminar reiterated that Khadi is not just a symbol of nationalism, but it is also a tool for self reliance, equality and a sense of dignity and pride of India.

Another attraction of the programme was the participation of about 294 youth in a fashion show depicting the use of Khadi in a modern way. They also shared their views on 'Khadi'. The participants were awarded the Khadi Hunt for Ambassadors (Khadi Doot Ki Khoj) certificates by the ITFC. The judges who were present on the occasion decided that three out of all the participants at the fashion show would be made "Khadi Ambassadors".

As part of the endeavour to promote the use of Khadi, a slogan writing competition was also organised and the first three winners were awarded with cash prizes of Rs 1500/-, Rs 1000/- and Rs 500/- respectively along with a Charkha medal.

Another highlight of the programme was a performance of Vandemataram and Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram by the fusion band "Zasbe Junoon".

### **National Seminar on "Nationalistic Journalism in Indian Context"**

A day-long seminar on "Nationalistic Journalism in Indian Context" was organised by the GSDS in association with Media Scan on May 20, 2017 at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC). About 200 participants took part in the seminar. The inaugural session of the seminar saw speakers who included: Dr. Yogesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi Technology University; Padmashri Ashok Bhagat, Founder of Vikas Bharati; Shri Ashish Gautam, Founder, Divya Prem Seva Mission and Shri K G Suresh, Director General, IIMC.

The inaugural session began with the launch of the book *National Journalism*, written by Shri Saurabh Malviye. The book was launched by the distinguished speakers.

- *Session-I – "National Journalism in the Present Context" moderated by Shri Vidyantath Jha of Zee News*
- Shri Ashish Gautam spoke on the concept of nationalism and the role played by great leaders towards the birth of a nation. He said, "Our responsibility is to preserve, conserve and stand firm to safeguard the interest of the nation. Calling it unfortunate that attack is being made on what he termed as "Intellectual Property", he emphasised the need to speak the truth about anything that is of national interest, its people and culture, which he believed the newspapers could portray in the true form. Lamenting over the fact that intellectual property or even individuals (in the newspaper industry) are being purchased today, he called upon the participants to practise ethical journalism. He concluded by saying that "The way we fight for our right, we must also fight for our duty".
- Dr. Yogesh Singh, in his address touched upon the aspirations expected from journalists and said that the grave issue today is that the world has changed from print to social media, and in this journey, we have learnt many things and also lost many things. "News", he said, "Printed was taken as truth in earlier times. There was a great element of ethical journalism that was there, which has been lost due to the impact of social media". Calling the social media a necessity in today's context, Dr. Singh also said that it (social media) "is not disciplined".

He lamented that youth today who get placements and are placed on a high pay, do not have the tendency to give back to the society or to their parents whatever they got during their formative years. Isolation has gripped and crippled the social fabric. He, therefore, stressed on the moral development of the student and emphasised that with success comes a greater responsibility. Referring to success, which he said, cannot be seen in isolation, Dr. Yogesh Singh said that the 'role', 'use' and 'challenge' of the social media is to give authentic information and not mislead the people. He said that there is an urgent need to tighten the noose of the rat race of spreading/disseminating news by the social media. "The Nation waits to get positive news", he concluded.

- Shri K G Suresh. He took a dig at what he called the 'media mafia' and said that it is sad that some channels are not showing truth. "We should have self control of which truth need to be told and in what dimension" and added that media must act as a bridge to fill the gap between the government and the press and also to take people's aspirations to the government and vice-versa.

Calling it unfortunate that journalists are branded as (political) party men, Shri Suresh said that a journalist merely does his/her duties. He recalled his days as a journalist when he had reported the work of 'only' the Rashtriya Swaymsevaka Sangh (RSS) volunteers who were helping the quake-hit victims in Gujarat, saying that he was branded as a 'Sanghi' by a group of media.

- Padmashri Shri Ashok Bhagat in his address recalled the time of the Emergency and said that fearless journalism needs to be



*Padma Shri Sh. Ashok Bhagat delivers the address at the seminar organised by Media Scan.*

complimented with ethical journalism. He said the downfall of the media per se started with marketing. Media was envisaged as a business and the role of press was often neglected. He nevertheless praised the local media for highlighting the issues of the Adivasis from the remotest corner of the country.

- Session-II – “Expertise in Government Service” moderated by Shri Anil Pandey, Senior Journalist and Editor of Kailash Satyarthi Foundation

This interactive session saw speakers such as Shri K A Vishwanath, Editor, Financial Chronicle; Shri Bhupendra Dharmani, Information Officer, Government of Haryana; Shri Nalin Chauhan, Information and Public Relation Department, Government of Delhi and Shri Arun Bhagat.

Speakers in this session debated and presented their views on whether any “Media Commission” to regulate the functioning of the media. They further discussed on initiatives to be taken towards making the rural media effective, freeing media from the so-called ‘real estate’ business. They further asserted the need for making a clear distinction between different sections of the media and people working there (such as journalists and columnists). The speakers felt that government policies should set a code of conduct for the media houses.

- Session-III – “Dharampal” Lecture. Moderated by Shri Keshav Kumar, journalist with Network 18 Samhu
- Shri Atul Krishna Bharadwaj a popular face in television for hosting Ram & Bhagawat Kathas and alumni of IIMC focussed his discussion on ‘dharm’ (religion) and ‘kartavya’ (duty). Calling for awareness of one’s religion, it is the duty of national newspapers to uphold the nationalist fervour. He lamented that because of speed and competition, the value of news has declined. Making a reference to the Sage Narada, Shri Bharadwaj said that Narada’s character is a constant movement of finding progressiveness and positivity around for Narada chooses only those who can bring positive change around the society for the betterment of humankind. He asked young students to be like Sage Narada and hoped that positive news flourishes.
- Sadhvi Deja Cross now known as Deja Om spoke on the ‘American Dream’ that she was living when finally she decided to leave everything and come to India since as she said, “Despite having everything, there was a vacuum”. In India she embarked on a spiritual quest and in that process worked on the “Sacred Life of India” featuring the saints and seers which she did as part of generating awareness and communication about spiritualism during the Rishikesh Art

and Film Festival (March 3-13, 2017) where 25 feature and short films on the *Sacred Life of India* was showcased.



*Sadhvi Deja Cross shares her point at the seminar at IIMC.*

- Session-IV – “Questions before the Deprived” – moderated by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Prasad

The speakers at this session included A S R P Kalluri, former IG of Bastar region; Dr. Diwakar Minz, Proctor, Ranchi University and Dr. Buddha Singh, Assistant Manager, JNU.

Speaking to the participants, Dr. Diwakar Minj who has had a long experience in working amongst the Adivasis, said that the lack of confidence among the Adivasis is the root cause of all the problems. He further underlined the need for education for the children from the marginalised communities. He however expressed concern over the fact that even today, the allegations of black magic and thereafter witch hunting is causing grave injuries to the innocent tribals. The role of the regional media in highlighting the truth is important from the national perspective.

- Dr. Buddha Singh in his address said that Naxal is a form of terrorism and should be removed. Calling the need for ethical journalism, he expressed his anguish over the fact that today even intellectuals are being branded as anti nationals which is in a bad taste. He criticised the people or groups who propagate such anti national sentiments and ideas.
- Mr. ASRP Kalluri: Former I-G of Bastar region  
Mr. ASRP Kalluri – accused of human rights violation against tribals in Chattisgarh – whose invitation and participation at the seminar caused uproar and protest not just from students from other universities and groups but also from the alumni of IIMC and was carried in leading dailies across the countries, refrained from making any controversial statements during the seminar.



*Shri A S R P Kalluri, Former I G of Bastar speaks at the seminar on issues confronting the Adivasi (Tribal) areas.*

Addressing the gathering by avoiding controversial questions from some participants, Mr. Kalluri raised the issues of the Adivasis saying that they are simple people busy with protecting their land, livelihood and the rich colourful culture. He said, "Adivasi people can derive unlimited happiness from limited resources". Kalluri was witty and left the audiences in splits.

He further said that there is a clear distinction between 'expectations' and 'perceptions' which need to be understood. Terming the Naxal problem as a geographical accident that sprung from states like Andhra Pradesh in the Adivasi areas of Bastar, the former I-G of Bastar said that the Maoists forced the concept of 'kranti' (revolution) upon the adivasis by luring them of many unfulfilled promises.

Emphasising the plethora of the adivasis, he said, "40 lakh *adivasis* do not have a voice. The handful of those who have certain perceptions, have become vocal", adding, "The Maoists have developed a theory of isolation". He called for giving the tribals the viable alternative and linking them to the mainstream by providing jobs, education and development". He also called for abolition of People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA).

Mr. Kalluri also blamed the academics and civil-society activists of profiting from the plight of Adivasi people, who, he said, have been harmed by the Maoist rebels. "This nexus of academics and foreign NGOs does not want development to reach the adivasis and they do not want adivasis to have normal jobs." He further added, "If more than five people in Bastar say anything bad about me, I will quit," and said. "This is my launch in Delhi and the perception of me in Delhi that has

been authored by some "script writers" would change very soon," he concluded.

- *Session-V - "The Burning Question of Jammu and Kashmir" - moderated by Shri Umesh Chaturvedi, Senior Journalist*

The speakers at the session included eminent journalist Shri Jawahar Kaul, Shri Arun Kumar, Jammu Kashmir Study Centre (Jammu Kashmir Adhyaan Kendra), Col (Retd) Jaywans Singh.

The speakers expressed their grave concern over the issue of Jammu and Kashmir. They said that the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is today being looked as Jammu versus Kashmir which is very detrimental for the society. They further expressed their concern on the role of the social media, which has helped in promoting violence in the Valley.

Col. Jaywans Singh strongly advocated that lack of information and misinformation has led to the present situation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Echoing a similar sentiment, Shri Jawahar Kaul said that it is important to make a comparative analysis of the newspapers in J&K to that of the newspapers from Delhi.

Shri Arun Kumar strongly reiterated that J&K with all her people in every corner is India. He said, "It is a unified India. J&K is not a separatist state as it is often projected. 70% of the state is comprised Ladakh, Kashmir, Leh District, Kargil, who love peace more than anything else. It is the perception of a handful of the population who have captured the thought process of Jammu and Kashmir and the media needs to change that".

- *Session V - "Re-writing History - A Requirement or Conspiracy" - Shri Ravi Shankar, Director, Sabhyata Uddhyan Kendra.*

The session was addressed by speakers that included Shri Atul Kothari, from *Shiksha Sanskriti Utthyan Nyas*, Ms. Kusum Lata Kedia, Director, *Bharat Bhawan, Bhopal*, Shri Anand Vardhan, *Delhi Institute of Heritage Management*, Shri Pramod Dubey, Department of Languages, NCERT. The panellists discussed in detail about the issues surrounding history and the need to show the truth to the society without hurting the sentiments of any section of the society.

**Discussion on "Yoga and Environment" marks 3<sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day celebrations**

Over 800 participants took part in the celebrations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Yoga Day in Gandhi Darshan. The Samiti organised this programme in collaboration with Delhi Traffic Police, Indira Gandhi National Open University and Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Instructors from Tagore Foundation conducted the Yoga led the yoga practice in Gandhi Darshan.

A seminar on *Yoga and Paryavaran* (Environment) was also organised on the occasion conducted by Shri Vijender Madhav from Faridabad a young environmentalist and trainer mentoring children with mental retardation. About 100 participants took part in the programme.

Dr. Navdeep Joshi, a senior Yogacharya was another resource person who spoke on the benefits and aspects of Yoga and Meditation. A practice of *Yog Nidra* for relaxation was also done by the participants under the supervision of Dr. Joshi.



*Yogacharyas conduct Yoga during the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Day of Yoga in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.*

**Seminar on Gandhi and Natural Health organised**

For human being to remain healthy, *prakritik chikitsa* or Naturopathy or natural medicine is most essential. This is the simplest form of treatment which can fight with any form of disease. Moreover, Mahatma Gandhi had endeavoured to take the concept of natural medicines to the last person, said Dr. Vimal Kumar Modi.



(Above): Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS addresses the gathering at Arogya Mandir.

Below: A demonstration of 'Nature Cure' treatment by practitioners during the seminar.

Dr. Vimal Kumar Modi was speaking at the day-long seminar on "Gandhi and Natural Health" organised by the Samiti in association with *Prakritik Chikitsa Premi Sansthan, Arogya Mandir,*

Gorakhpur on June 25, 2017. Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS, Ms. Reeta Kumari, Ms. Rachna also took part in the programme.

Ms. Geeta Shukla shared the information that it was way back in 1945 that Gandhiji understood the importance of natural medicines for cure of diseases. She stressed that the awareness level of people in this matter is needed to be highlighted.

Dr. Smita Modi who was also present on the occasion highlighted the benefits of natural treatment and natural medicines for treatment of various ailments for women.

Dr. Piyush Pani Pandey highlighted the benefits of *Ashtang Yog* and natural treatment. Dr. Rajkumar Singh, Ms. Kumud Rani, Dr. Nishta Sharma, Shri Kedar Nath, Sikander Kumar and others took part in the programme.

**Seminar on Constructive Programme of Gandhiji**

The Samiti in association with Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi organised a one-day seminar on "Constructive Programme of Mahatma Gandhi" at the Gandhi Bhawan, Lucknow on June 27, 2017. Rich tributes were paid to Late Shri Raghunath Kaulji on his fifth death anniversary.



Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS along with other dignitaries join in the inauguration by paying tributes to Gandhiji.

Former IAS Shri Vinod Shankar Chaubey was the key speaker on the occasion. The programme was presided over by Pandit Rampyare Trivedi. Smt. Geeta Shukla and other members of the GSDS took part in the programme.

Poet Shri Ram Shukla, while paying his tributes said that Late Shri Raghunath Kaul was a true Gandhian who dedicated his life to constructive work for the society. That he continuously worked on education and social issues was reiterated by Shri Ram Shukla.



*A distinguished speaker addresses the gathering at the seminar in Lucknow, as school children are all ears.*



Shri Vinod Shankar Chaubey in his keynote address said that Mahtama Gandhi opposed and fought against any form of corruption. Stressing on the farmers' suicide, he said that if the farmers follow what Mahatma Gandhi had taught, they would refrain from committing suicides.

District Khadi Gramudyog Officer (Lucknow), Shri Anil Singh, Shri Sanjai Rai, Shri Suryaman Singh Gautam, Shri Ramesh Bhai, Smt. Asha Singh, Shti Ram Kishore Singh and Smt. Pushpa Gupta, spoke on the occasion. The speakers unanimously pointed to the principles which Gandhiji showed. They said that Gandhiji understood the pulse of the nation for he travelled across the length and breadth of the country and developed one-to-one communication with the people. The speakers lamented that unfortunately today Gandhiji is seen as a symbol and his ideals are not formed into concrete actions. They reiterated that Mahatma Gandhi thought and tried to implement it into action that human beings must possess certain skills and use them to produce those things that would have a lasting effect in the society. The speakers felt the need for more such awareness programmes.

### **Seminar on "How to live healthy and active in late life"**

The Samiti in association with Healthy Aging India, MedTech and Department of Geriatrics organised a day-long seminar on "How to live healthy and active in late life" in Gandhi Darshan on July 1, 2017. Almost 500 participants took part in the programme. Senior doctors and medical professionals from across the country

and also from the Department of Geriatrics discussed at length regarding the issues related to healthy life style and healthy living in late life. Elderly people also took part in the day long programme. Dr. Prasun Chatterjee Assistant Professor, Department of Geriatrics AIIMS also treated the patients on the occasion.



*(Top): Distinguished gathering lights the ceremonial lamp at the seminar in Gandhi Darshan.*

*(Centre): Shri Basant Singh, addresses the gathering at the seminar, as senior citizens (Below) listen with rapt attention.*



During the programme, it was resolved that the AIIMS in association with an NGO would adopt 50 elderly people, who are economically and physically challenged, to provide them with various health care facilities. These senior citizens would be adopted from various old age homes and the society as per their health requirements and access to health care facilities. As part of the programme, the Geriatric department of the AIIMS and the NGO 'Healthy Aging India' would provide free medicines at their doorstep and also

facilitate treatment and transport to the medical institute in case of a medical emergency, said Dr Prashun Chatterjee of the AIIMS.



*Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS speaks to a distinguished panel of experts, doctors and senior citizens during the seminar in Gandhi Darshan.*



The move came after a study initiated by the Geriatric department of the AIIMS in multiple old-age homes in Delhi and NCR (specially run by NGOs) revealed that around, 80 per cent of the home residents were devoid of any health facility. Around 1,200 inmates living in 20 old age homes and around 4,000 from the society were interviewed during the study.

Speaking about the survey, Dr. Prasun Chatterjee said, "According to the survey, most of the residents suffered from multiple health problems like diabetes, hypertension and coronary artery disease among others which need long-term medicines and regular monitoring to prevent further complication and long-term disability. In the survey, it was noticed that some age-related diseases like fall, frailty, dementia and depression were highly prevalent among such people and called for medical intervention along with lifestyle and environment modification".

"The purpose of adopting elderly persons is not only to provide them medicine or health care but also to sensitise them for better lifestyle and diet management and exercise regime on a regular basis. These interventions are expected to improve the quality of life of very elderly persons living in an old age home as well as those living in society," added Dr Chatterjee, and urged the people to adopt localised needy elderly persons.

During the programme, a participatory interactive session on "active aging and stress management in late life" was conducted. Further,

the process of naturopathy and reflexology and nature cure treatment and practices as adopted by Mahatma Gandhi was also discussed at length with the participants. This programme also encouraged the youth to render their services for the elderly in the society.

**Parliament should seriously discuss agrarian crisis in India: P Sainath**

Senior journalist P.Sainnath said that the Parliament should discuss agricultural crisis during the ten days session. "Other topics are discussed every day", he said, adding, "Discussion on the Swaminathan report on the agrarian crisis, and the poor condition the farmers are facing in the market system, should be discussed above party line".

Shri P Sainath was speaking to over 400 people that included writers, authors, artists, poets, and people from different walks of life while delivering the *Prabhash Joshi Memorial Lecture* on "Crisis and Media of Farmers" at Gandhi Darshan on July 2017 on the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of the doyen of Hindi Journalism, Shri Prabhash Joshi.



*Senior Journalist Shri P. Sainath delivers the 'Prabhash Joshi Memorial Lecture' to a distinguished gathering of writers, authors, academicians, social workers and people from different walks of life in Gandhi Darshan.*



Senior Journalist Shri P. Sainath (fourth from Left) along with other distinguished guests releasing a book on late Shri Prabhash Joshi. (Right): Renowned folk singer Shri Prahlad Singh Tipaniya renders Kabir bhajans on the occasion.



In the programme organised in association with Prabhash Prasang, Shri P. Sainath further said: "There is a crisis in the crisis of farmers in Delhi, not in the farm barn and in rural areas. Where the reporter considers the statement of the 'agriculture ministry' and agriculture minister as the farmer's reporting, then where will the real thing be revealed?"

The Chief Guest on the occasion was Union Minister of State for Railways and Communication Shri Manoj Singha, while senior journalist and Rajya Sabha M.P. Shri Harivansh was the guest of honour. Senior literary figure Shri Vishwanath Tripathi presided over the function. Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, veteran journalist and Managing Trustee and Chairperson of Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts was also present on the occasion.

Known as a journalist on farming and development issues, P. Sainath further elaborated that in reality there is no exact definition of farmers. He said, "The journalism which is supposed to bring out the crisis which is facing them (farmers) is not visible and does not find the required space in any newspaper. There is no appointment to a permanent correspondent on these topics in any newspaper".

He continued: "Agricultural crisis in India started after 1971, which is increasing day by day. The population of farmers is constantly falling. They are forced to commit suicides". He lamented that journalists are assessing their reporting with statistics from the government, but they are not going to gauge the situation of farmers in their village and farm-barn. "67% news related to the first page in the national newspaper published from the capital is related to Delhi", he pointed.

Expressing his anguish over the lack of interest of media houses in focussing the

agrarian crisis, Shri P Sainath said that the interest of the owner in the media is in revenues and not in publishing such reports. "The effect of marketing is that in every newspaper, eight to ten correspondents are appointed for news related to business. The result is that with limited space given to agricultural reporting in the media, the expertise on the related subjects has come to an end".

He continued: "The Policy Commission of the Central Government is assuming that the percentage of suicides of farmers is declining. NABARD, in the name of interest of farmers and small labourers etc., had a 53 per cent budget for the city of Mumbai in 2016", adding, where the money is being distributed, when he or she does not even know who the farmers in the cities or in villages are. Even Amitabh Bachchan is a farmer after acquiring a land in Barabanki".

Shri Sainath further said that the farmers are facing water and electricity crisis too, but media is never going deep into its analysis. In such a situation, my suggestion from the central government and political parties is that they should rise above the party line and keep a ten-day session of Parliament on the subject where all aspects related to agrarian crisis are discussed for a permanent solution that can be found".

The programme also saw the release of the biography of Prabhash Joshi by the distinguished guests. Earlier Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, welcomed the guests and spoke about the initiatives of the Samiti.

The music of Kabir by eminent folk artist Shri Prahlad Singh Tipaniya was another highlight of the programme.

**Dialogue on “Children-Violence-Peace-Building Cohesive societies in Multicultural Contexts**

About 120 participants including international delegates from 11 countries took part in a dialogue on “Children-Violence-Peace-Building Cohesive Societies in Multicultural Contexts” in Gandhi Darshan organised by the GSDS in association with Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore on August 10, 2017. The programme was organised as a tribute to the 75 years of the Quit India Movement. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Dr. Ms. Veenu Aram, Founder Director Shanti Ashram were present on the occasion.



*Prayers by religious leaders marked the beginning of the programme in Gandhi Darshan.*

*Dr. Veenu Aram Director Shanti Ashram, greets Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS by presenting an angavastram.*



*Dr. Vijayaragavan Gopal (L) keenly listens to a speaker during the dialogue.*

The programme saw the participants that included academicians, writers, authors, social scientists, media professionals, medical practitioners and others discuss issues of violence on children and how cohesive efforts could help in the development of the child in a cohesive manner.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan advocated the fearlessness of Mahatma Gandhi and the same which he ingrained in the

citizens of the nation when he gave a call to the British to Quit India. He further expressed his belief that children if guided and oriented in the proper direction, will be able to grow as compassionate citizens and contribute their best for the society and people.

The speakers reiterated their concern that while children and youth live in an increasingly globalised world today and the potential for learning and collaboration around issues of concern among peoples of different cultures and faiths is enormous; yet, they also live in a world that is increasingly in the grip of religious fundamentalism and extremism, negative stereotypes and fear of the other, violence and distrust. This has an immense impact on children and their viewing of the world. In the backdrop of competing demands from formal education, children are growing up without appreciation of the other, and without spaces to fully participate and learn from one another.

Some of the speakers included: Sh. Indraneil Chaudhury STEP; Sh. Krishna Kumar, Gandhi Gram University, Gandhigram, Dr. A K Merchant, Bahai House of Worship; Mr. Aditi Parekh, Student Think of India, Mr. Victor, Focolare, Mr. P. Narayanan, Rajya Sabha Secretariat; Mr. James Veliath, Naz Foundation (India), Ms. Bella Das, Executive Director, AICWETE; Nima Sherpa, Karmapa International Buddhist Institute, Akshit jain, Mash Project, Sana Parveen, Islamic Relief India, Maulana Ashrafal Kansar Misbali, Jamia Millia Islamia University, Heidi Hadsell, Hartford Seminary Hartford, USA; Rebecca, Rios Kohv, Arigatoo International, New York.



*Speakers from several countries shared their perspective during the dialogue in Gandhi Darshan.*



The speakers also discussed in detail the modalities of Article 29 (d) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and felt that Governments and societal institutions should prioritize investment that enables child participation.

They strongly advocated that education should be a safe platform for children to learn, to participate in society and collaborate with one another and said that it is not enough for schools to include subjects that help children develop skills for life; what is needed is a systems-wide approach that is grounded in an ethical perspective of society, where governments, social institutions and families understand themselves as part of a community and as key actors in fostering social cohesion and building peace.

The sessions broadly covered the following:

- Challenges of building cohesive societies in multicultural contexts, and will zoom in to look at the challenges in the education systems;
- The role of and participation of children in fostering cohesive societies, from the perspective of education in formal and non-formal settings.
- Creating collaborative spaces and building cohesive societies with children and youth in India

The speakers felt that today education systems need to be re-imagined and reinvented to respond to the multiple ethical challenges of societies, as also to the globalised nature of our daily interactions and lives. Education systems need to retrieve the very essence of the meaning of education that aims to lead out, to help children to develop to their full potential, not just intellectually, but also emotionally, relationally and spiritually.

**Chintan Baithak – Discussion and Brainstorming on Sustainable Development – Developing a framework for nation-building**

The Samiti in association with Pragya Pravah organised a three-day brainstorming session on *Sustainable Development – Developing a framework for Networking* in Gandhi Darshan from August 24-27, 2017. The programme was attended by the Chief of RSS Shri Mohan Bhagwat. Also present on the occasion were authors, academicians, writers, social thinkers, corporate heads.

Discussions on the challenge of reconciling economic growth, social development and preservation of natural environment focussed during the three-day session. The speakers reiterated that these are the single greatest issue facing the global community.

The speakers further asserted that in order to have sustainable development there is a requirement of active and knowledgeable citizen and informed decision makers who are capable of making right choices about the complex and interrelated economic, social and environmental issues human society is facing.

The significance of Gandhian model of economy which promotes sustainability through less consumption, minimum exploitation natural resources as well as need based production was discussed at length and how the process of involving youth in nation-building.

The programme further charted a framework of nation-building and how policy makers could implement them in the society.

**State level Convention for Promotion of Gandhian Approach to Social Justice and Development**

The state level convention for “Promotion of Gandhian Approach to Social Justice and Development” was organized by Vinoba Seva Pratishthan, Odisha in commemoration of 123rd Birth Anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Celebration of Centenary year of Champaran Satyagraha on September 11-12, 2017. About 600 people took part in the convention. The Finance Minister of Government of Odisha Mr Shashi Bhusan Behera was the chief guest on the occasion. This convention was organised as part of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha and the 75 years of the Quit India Movement.



*Distinguished gathering at the convention light the ceremonial lamp during the inaugural programme.*



*A senior freedom fighter shares his thought during the convention.*



Shri Behera said Champaran experiment proved the importance of Gandhi's strategies, decision and actions always supported by deep study. He further said that Bhoodan movement was another freedom struggle in independent India for socio-economic justice to poor and downtrodden.

Describing the objectives of the convention, Sri Manoj Jena, eminent human rights activist and secretary of VSP said how he was deeply influenced by Gandhi's powerful message of "Be the change you want to see in the world". The organization aims to create more constructive workers and inculcate the ideology of Gandhi Vinoba among the youngsters. He said the year 2019 happens to be the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. VSP has committed to adopt 150 villages of Odisha as Maa Kasturaba Adarsha Gram with vision of Hinsha mukta, Nasha mukta, Mala mukta (violence free, addiction free and open defecation free) villages.

On this occasion veteran Bhoodan worker Shri Pareswar Pradhan, Shri Upendra Mohapatra, Shri Mukteswar Pradhan, Green Nobel Awardee Shri Praulla Samantara were felicitated as Gandhi-Vinoba Peace Award. A special honour was given to Kalinga Institute of Social Science [KISS] for getting the status of first tribal university of the world. A souvenir released by the distinguished guests.

After the inaugural, the first session was presided by renowned journalist Shri Rabi Das where the topic was 'Justice and Dignity for All',

lesson learnt from Champaran Satyagraha, the speaker were veteran Bhoodan worker Smt. Biraja Devi, Gandhian Scholar Dr Pabak Kanungo. The end of the day session was Youth for Nation. The key speaker were NSS Trainer Shri Nirod Khuntia, State convenor of National Youth Project Shri Madhusudan Das, Social Activist Shri Nirakar Beura and young journalist Shri Gyanranjan Samantray.



The second day session began with the experience sharing of freedom fighters and Bhoodan workers. The entire audience were seen enthralled with their live talk and presentation. Different sessions were held such as:

- Gandhi-Vinoba were not the past, but future – debate competition
- Women Today: Issues, Challenges and Way Out – Smt.Latika Pradhan, Chairperson, State Social Welfare Board.

The key speakers were veteran Bhoodan worker Smt. Sarojini Patra, Naturopathy Physician Smt. Binodini Devi, Editor of Atmaja Ms Kabita Parida, women political leader Er Sasmita Behera and Ms Mandakin Kar. The session was coordinated by the vice chairperson of Mahila Adhikar Abhiyan Dr Rina Routray.

The two day convention ended with the valedictory session and action plan. The session was coordinated by Secretary of VSP Shri Manoj Jena. The speakers were former minister of Odisha Government Shri Niranjan Pattnaik, Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan and senior advisor to Election Commission of India Dr Bhagban Prakash. Shri Padmakar Guru welcomed the gathering and the vote of thanks was proposed by Er Laxmiant Rath.

Cultural programmes, songs and dance were other highlight of the programme.

### **Seminar on Swachhatta organised**

The Samiti in association with Confederation of Community Based Organisations in India (CCBOS) and IIP Foundation organized a two-day regional seminar on “Swachhatta” at DAV Inter College, Gannaur, in Uttar Pradesh on September 17-18, 2017. More than 8000 youth and distinguished guests attended the seminar. The *Swachhatta Mashal* (torch) was handed over to Shri Yogendra Kumar Yadav, Principal of DAV College. A massive cleanliness drive was also organized.

Mr. Rajesh Goyal, Chairman IIP Foundation, Bharti Kumud, Founder Bharat Vikash Parishad, Dr. Rajesh Yadav, Secretary DAV College, Mr. Ashok Gautam, State-President Gau Vansh Hatya Mansh Niryat Norodhak Parishad, VHP, took part in the seminar.



*Participating youth during the Swachhatta rally organised as part of the seminar in Gannaur.*

The workshop that was organized as part of the seminar saw students taking a pledge on sanitation reiterating their commitment towards actively engaging in the *swachhatta mission* to develop awareness and bring radical changes in the physical environment and the mindset of the people.

### **National Discussion Meet on Education, Work and Rural Development - Gandhian Educational Ideas in Policy Perspective**

The main objectives of the meet from October 3-5, 2017 organised in association with National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) were as follows: “To develop an understanding of relevance of the Gandhian Ideals in Education in the current and emerging socio-economic context, and their implication for revitalizing skill and rural education; to identify problems and constraints faced in the implementation of Basic Education

Scheme through sharing of its institutional practices; to share innovative practices of education and work followed in different educational institutions; and to reformulate strategies and pathways for incorporating Gandhian Ideals into the existing and emerging educational programmes and schemes”.

Senior Gandhians, academicians and practitioners took part in the three-day meet. Former Gandhi Smriti Director, Prof N Radhakrishnan gave the key note address, underlining the theme and objectives of the conference. The GSDS Programme Officer at the inaugural session spoke on Gandhi as a Communicator and how Gandhian nonviolent communication needs to be imbibed for a culture of peace.

### **Discussion on “Samraat Hemchandra Vikramaditya’s Coronation and the India of Mahatma Gandhi’s Dreams”**

The Samiti organised a day-long discussion on “Samraat Hemchandra Vikramaditya’s Coronation and the India of Mahatma Gandhi’s Dreams” (*Samrat Hemchandra Vikramaditya ka Rajyabhishek evam Gandhi ke Sapno ka Bharat*) in association with Indraprastha Yogkshem Sewa Nyas on October 7, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan. Shri Krishna Gopal, Shri Bal Mukund and Shri Vinayak Rao Deshpande were the distinguished guests on the occasion. About 500 participants attended the programme.

Discussions from the Mughal era to Independence India were the main focus of the programme. Hemu was a Hindu general and Chief Minister of Adil Shah Suri of the Suri Dynasty during a period in Indian history when the Mughals and Afghans were vying for power across North India. He fought Afghan rebels across North India from the Punjab to Bengal and the Mughal forces of Humayun and Akbar in Agra and Delhi, winning 22 battles for Adil Shah.

The speakers reiterated the concept of nationhood and asked the participants to contribute constructively for the nation.

### **In the Path of Buddha and Gandhi – A Dialogue**

A dialogue, In the Path of Buddha and Gandhi was organized by the Samiti in association with Ahimsa Trust on October 21, 2017. About 80 followers of the Vietnamese Zen Master, Thich Nacht than took part in the dialogue which was moderated by Dharmacharya Shantum Seth and the GSDS Programme Officer, Dr. Vedabhyas

Kundu. The aim was the dialogue was on how the teachings of Buddha and Gandhi are critically important today for global peace.

Dharamacharya Shantum Seth noted that the unique character in Buddha's doctrine lies in that it preaches non-violence as a doctrine of supreme importance. He said Buddha propagates non-violence as a social creed, a doctrine of supreme value to the society.



*Participants during a meditative session at the Prayer Ground in Gandhi Smriti.*



*Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu receives a book from a follower of Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nacht Han.*



*A participant shares her thought during the interaction in Gandhi Smriti.*

According to him, Buddhism stress that war, conflict and violence do not solve any problem. He also pointed out how Buddha spread the message of compassion. According to Gandhi, he pointed out, a follower of true ahimsa must always be ready to die without any desire ever to hurt or kill anyone. Nonviolence is not weakness. It entails canalization of energy for human welfare, he added.

Shantum Seth spoke at length on the nonviolent approaches of Buddha and Gandhi.

**Two-day Seminar on "Nature-Human-Wildlife on Mutual Co-existence"**

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Delhi and Nari Manch organised a two-day seminar on "Nature Human Wildlife on Mutual Co-Existence" in collaboration with Rajputana Society of Natural History (RSNH) on October 6-7, 2017. The



*(Above): Chairman CCBOS, Shri Umesh Chandra Gaur presents a memento to Dr. Swaraj Vidwaan, Member, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, as participants (Below) watch the proceedings.*

Confederation of Community Based Organisations of India (CCBOS), the IIP Foundation, Delhi and the Voice of Community also partnered in the seminar hosted at Rajputana's Shakuntalam (Village Ramnagar), located adjacent to the World Heritage & Ramsar Site -Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur, Rajasthan). Youth mainly from the village communities took part in the seminar. the Chief Guest of the occasion, Dr. Swaraj Vidan, Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC), Government of India was the chief guest on the occasion. Dr. Swaraj Vidan, Mr. Abhay Singh, DDM, NABARD, Ms. Sadhana Gaur, Nari Manch; Mr. Surjit Singh, Banjara Society of Cultural & Natural Heritage (BSCNH), Shri Umesh Chandra Gaur (CCBOS) and Dr. Sarita Mehra, RSNH along with the key speaker Dr. B.K. Gupta, Associate Professor, MSJ College, Bharatpur were present on the occasion.



*Dr. Swaraj Vidwan, Member, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, with representatives from the community on the occasion.*

The seminar brought together experts from different disciplines to discuss and analyse the centuries old inter-connectedness between nature, human and wildlife, the now disappearing relationships between these entities and the need for reconnecting human society with the other two realms of Nature and Wildlife. Experts from the field of Environment, Wildlife, Media and other academic disciplines took part in the deliberations. Dr. Govind Singh from Delhi, Dr. Vinay Singh Kashyap from Jaipur, Dr. Vivek Sharma from Ajmer, Mr. Anil Rogers from Udaipur and Mr. Mukesh Panwar from Dungarpur and Mr. Diwakar Yadav from Ajmer.

The seminar further discussed the need and importance of overcoming the urban-rural divide while carrying out developmental activities for human communities. For development to be sustainable, it must not focus only on economic growth but also on environmental protection and social development of all sections of the society. This was the underlying theme of the Two Days Long Seminar, which witnessed large-scale participation of people from urban as well as rural areas.

The first session was moderated by Dr. Satya Prakash Mehra, eminent Wildlife Scientist and founder advisor of the RSNH. The first session was conducted in the rural environs of Rajputana's Shakuntalam, Village Ramnagar and the second session was conducted within the boundaries of academic institute J. K. College, Bharatpur.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Swaraj Vidwan shared the rich legacy of India's past, where every human being used to live in harmony with nature and wildlife as a way of life. She urged

all participants to not let our culture and heritage be forgotten and that we must all remember that the rich heritage of our nation which makes India one of the most culturally developed nation in the world.

Dr. Umesh Chandra Gaur specially thanked the village participants for being present at the Seminar and encouraged them to continue to work for rural development.

Dr. B.K. Gupta highlighted the importance of Indian cultural and value system from where we can find all our answers to the environmental challenges being faced by India and the world in the present day.

Dr. Govind Singh reminded the participants of the vision of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, for carrying out inclusive development, so that the benefits of development can reach all sections of the society without harming nature and wildlife. He also urged the participants to join the Swacch Bharat Abhiyan (Swacch Bharat Mission) by keeping their surroundings clean and healthy.

A key highlight of the first day of the two-day seminar was the thematic display of philately or stamps collection, themed on *Nature and Wildlife*. The unique initiative of Ms. Pushpa Khamesra and Mr. Ravi Khamesra, of using postal stamps for raising awareness towards environment and wildlife was appreciated by one and all. Mr. and Mrs. Khamesra have an impressive collection of stamps 3.5 lakhs from across the world, and from different time periods. They have taken the initiative of identifying those postal stamps which have references to nature, birds and other wildlife species and prepared an impressive display of these stamps, to create interest and appreciated in individuals towards our natural heritage.

The second day of the two-day seminar began with a field visit to Village Umraind in Weir Block of District Bharatpur, Rajasthan. All the dignitaries and experts were taken to the recently constructed check-dam at Umraind *nallah*, village Umraind with the support of Coca Cola India Foundation (CCIF). The intricacies of the construction and working of the check-dam and also the benefits that the nearby region will obtain from this check dam were shared by Dr. Sarita Mehra, RSNH. The construction of this check dam for the people of Village Umraind and neighbouring villages was much appreciated by Dr. Swaraj Vidwan and all visitors.

Along with others, Mr. Tulsi Ram, Ex-Sarpanch, the crusader of the rural development movement, along with the other members of the VWC Udaybhan Singh Gurjar, Veerpal Singh and Vijaybhan. Tributes were paid to Dr. B R Ambedkar. She reminded the participants of the hard work, efforts and dedication shown by Baba Saheb, and encouraged everyone to follow on his footsteps and ensure the education of all children, continue the struggle for development and become organised and self-reliant.

**One day seminar on Women Empowerment and Prohibition**

The Samiti’s programme was organized by Kedar-Badri Manav Shram Samiti, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand on October 08, 2017. More than 400 women from 12 villages took part in the seminar. The programme started with the Yajna in the morning followed by a day-long seminar.



*Participants in the seminar engage in a group activity.*

Women from different Mahila Mangal Dal were facilitated for their efforts made for prohibition in their area. A short play on prohibition was also presented by *Mahila Mangal Dal, Badasu*.

Discussion on ill effects of prohibition and their impact on families were raised. One of the girl participants at the discussion strongly advocated that if a pre-condition is set to serve liquor during her marriage, she would cancel the marriage.

This was a remarkable programme, because most of the married women were fasting on account of Karva Chauth festival and they had attended the programme with full enthusiasm.

**Two day seminar on "Constructive Works of Mahatma Gandhi and Panchayati Raj"**

The programme was organized on October 13-14, 2017 in association with Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi at Kausani. The venue of the programme was Anasakti Ashram, Kausani, Uttarakhand. More than 100 Students from different schools near Kausani took part in this two days seminar and understood the importance of Panchayati Raj in Indian democracy.



*Seminar on 'Constructive Works of Mahatma Gandhi' in progress in Kausani.*

During the two day seminar, the speakers included: Ms. Radha Bhatt, Smt. Jagriti Rahi, Shri Mohansingh Dosad, Prof. Awdesh Tiwari, Dr. Krishna Singh Bisht, Prof. Harishchandr Singh Bhavre, Shri Devendra Bisht, Shri Lalji Bajeta, Shri Dinesh Kumar Avasthi, Shri P R Vishwakarma, Shri P C Pandeya. Shri Lal Bahadur Rai and others took part in the programme.

Many social workers, senior Gandhians and other eminent resource persons discussed and shared their views on Gram Swaraj, Panchayati Raj, empowerment, organic agriculture, environment and nature and the path to holistic development of each and every village in India. The speakers reiterated the concept of equality, the removal of untouchability, sanitation, etc were prime focus of Gandhiji’s social initiatives and called upon the people to adopt these methods for development of the self.

Ms. Reeta and Mr. Gulshan Gupta from GSDS participated in the workshop as resource persons.

### Seminar on Gandhian Perspective of Journalism

The Samiti organized a one-day seminar on "Gandhian Perspective of Journalism" at the Manav Rachna University, Faridabad, Haryana on October 24, 2017. The main speakers in the seminar were Shri Ramesh Sharma, senior Gandhian and GSDS Programme Officer Dr Vedabhyas Kundu. Others who spoke on the occasion included Prof N C Wadhwa, Vice Chancellor of the University and Dr Neemo Dhar, the Dean of Media Studies.

Detailed exposition on how Mahatma Gandhi's journalism influenced the freedom struggle, how Satyagraha evolved through Bapu's writings, the evolution of the journals initiated by Mahatma Gandhi and the impact of Gandhi the communication were taken up during the seminar. About 100 students took part in the seminar and there was an interesting interactive session.

### Gandhi Utsav and Seminar as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

The Samiti in association with *Disha Gramin Vikas Manch* organized a three-day "Gandhi Utsav and Seminar" at Baijani, Dhanay, Sobhanpur Bhagalpur Bihar from October 2-4, 2017.

A *Sadbhavana Yatra* was organized from Gandhidham, Baijani to Sobhanpur in Amarpur block. The three day programme began with a *prabhat pheri*.

The distinguished guests who attended the three day Utsav and Seminar were former Chairman, Sarva Seva Sangh, Varanasi, Sh. Amarnath Bhai freedom fighter Sh. Ravindra Bhai, Delhi University professor Saurabh Bajpeyi, Visva Bharati Professor Debashish Mahlanabish, Kaiser N.K. Jani from the Indian Film Industry, Nilay Upadhyaya of Ganga Jagao Abhiyaan, Former Chairman of Sarvodaya Ashram, Sekhodega, Sh. Balram Shastri, founder of Vishwa Manav Seva Ashram Narkatiyaganj Sh. Shatrughna Bhai, Social worker Ms. Tanuja Mishra and other from various fields of life.

Sh. Amarnath Bhai in his address said that the world is on the brink of disaster and non-violence is the only way to survival. He asked the youth to know and understand Mahatma Gandhi and emulate his ideals in their day to day life.

Other speakers also spoke about the great Indian culture and heritage of peace and non-violence and how Mahatma Gandhi imbibed all these ideals in his life and activities. They further underlined that youth need to adapt to the Gandhian teachings and help the society, state and nation grow positively. It was unanimously accepted that the Mahatma was one of the biggest saints of our times who taught us our eternal values and the ways to apply them in our lives.

The speakers also stressed the need to clear the misconceptions relating to Mahatma Gandhi for better understanding of his life and times and the present-day relevance of his teachings.



*Activities such as shramdaan and cleanliness drive for creating awareness are regular feature of the activities of Disha Gramin Vikas Manch.*

The *Gandhi Utsav* saw a large number of enthusiastic youth participants and the seminar succeeded in re-establishing the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in these times as well as the future.

Cultural programme which included music, dance, poetry and plays also brought but the beautiful unity in diversity of our land. The programme concluded with the resolve to meet again and work along the Gandhian path which is always the most suitable path to life.

### Gandhiji's Constructive Programme – A Discussion

The Samiti in collaboration with the Centre for Environment and Social Research, Varanasi organised a discussion on "Gandhiji's Constructive Programmes" on October 30, 2017 at the Lanka school auditorium at Varanasi. The chief guest of the function was Shri Surendra Singh, former Rural Development Director.



*Shri Surendra Singh, former Director Rural Development (third from Left) along with other distinguished guests lights the ceremonial lamp at the inauguration of the seminar, as participant below looks on.*



In this address, Shri Surendra Singh said that Mahatma Gandhi always worked for village development through this Constructive Programmes.

The distinguished speakers included Prof. P K Mishra, Shri R B Singh, Shri Roopesh Pandeya, Shri Sanjay Shukla, Shri Chandrashekhar Mishra, Shri Shivendra and Shri Shankar Kumar Singh. Chairman CSIR Shri Pradeep Bharati was also present on the occasion.

The speakers emphasised the need to understand and implement Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programs for rural upliftment.

Ms. Rachna Rathore, representative of the GSDS while introducing GSDS to the participants told the gathering that the entire country is celebrating the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha and that the Samiti is organising several programmes as part of the celebrations to familiarise the youth with Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programmes.

### ***Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programme and Farmers – A Seminar***

The Samiti, in association with *Jor Ki Dhani* at Jor Ki Dhani Gaudham, Sikar Rajasthan, organized a one-day seminar on the theme "Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programme and Farmer's" on October 31, 2017. The Samiti was

represented by Senior Fellow, Dr. B Mishra and Shri Sameer Banerjee and many distinguished speakers were present in the programme. These included retired Principal of S K College, Shri Swami Satyanarayan, Shri Parmanandji of Kisan Sang, Rajasthan, Shri Kan Singh Nirvan of Kisan Sangh and farmers and youth from the nearby villages of Rajasthan.

Shri Sameer of the GSDS introduced the activities of the Samiti to those present and spoke on the problems of farmers and the solutions provided by Mahatma Gandhi through his Constructive Programmes.

Shri B Mishra also elaborated upon the implementation of Constructive Programmes for the benefits of farmers and overall rural development.

Farmers of the region presented their problems and expressed their views on how to resolve those issues. Some of these elder farmers who spoke on the occasion were Sh. Swami Satyanarayan ji Shri Maheshji, Shri Kan Singh Nirvaanji, Shri Maliramji Nehra, and Shri Poornamalji. Each one of them remembered Chaudhri Charan Singh ji, who had done a lot for the welfare of the farmers and helped them prosper.

Shri Maliram ji spoke about the issues of village sanitation, need for toilets, measures for cow protection etc. He also said that the farmers have only one caste and religion, which is their hard work.

The chairperson of the seminar Shri Parmanandji spoke on the plight of the farmers and the remedies by following Gandhiji's constructive programmes.

Senior farmers were felicitated on the occasion by Dr. B Mishra and Sh. Sameer from the GSDS.

### ***Dialogue with World Peace Art Delegation from Japan organised***

The Samiti organised a dialogue with the members from the *World Peace Art Exhibition* from Japan in Gandhi Darshan on November 10, 2017. This dialogue was part of the celebration to mark the peaceful relationships between Japan and India. The delegation was in India as part of the 25<sup>th</sup> World Peace Art Exhibition to showcase their work of art at the exhibition inaugurated at Lalit Kala Akademy by Shri S. Krishna Shetty, Administrative Officer, along with other delegates on November 10, 2017. The artists exhibited 211

pieces of wonderful art from different regions of Japan. This was also a tribute to the 20<sup>th</sup> death Anniversary of Mother Teresa.



*(Left): The delegation from World Peace Art in Japan planted trees.*

*(Below): Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu and Shri S A Jamal present mementos to participants.*



*Group photograph with the delegation from Japan along with the GSDS staff after offering tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Darshan. The artists also left their impression on the canvas (Above).*

At Gandhi Darshan, during their visit, the delegation led by Mr. Hidetoshi Kushida, CEO of Koli Art was felicitated by Shri S A Jamal, Administrative Officer, GSDS. Further senior most artists Mr. Ryshu N and Ms Ishii were felicitated by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS.

The delegation at Gandhi Darshan offered rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. They also planted tree saplings. Representatives from the Japan's UNESCO Cultural Centre were also present on the occasion.

**National Conference on Holistic Yoga: H<sup>3</sup> (Health, Happiness and Harmony)**

A two-day National Conference on "Holistic Yoga: H<sup>3</sup> (Health, Happiness and Harmony)" was organised by Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti.

The conference was an attempt to reflect on the concept of Holistic Yoga from its three Core aspects namely: *Health, Happiness and Harmony* and to develop, promote and propagate the holistic and pragmatic aspect of Yoga in the midst of urban busy life.

An attempt was made to take up the challenge to promote and build a closer relationship between theory and practice, often with the goal of creating awareness about the true essence of Yoga. Although the field was broad, the conference had a holistic approach with the following objectives:

- To spread yoga from door to door and from shore to shore: as a practice, a way of, an academic subject, a subject of research, a subject of implementing it in one's life. With the theme of seriousness, sincerity and commitment to yoga.
- To make yoga part and parcel of normal day-to-day social life, professional life, family life, incorporating the systems of yoga into society.
- To make you understand the precepts and the principles of yoga that make Yoga a living truth, not just a philosophy or an idea.
- To highlight, observe and record the practical changes that yoga brings into the life of people, especially youth.
- To showcase yoga as a beacon of light for humanity.

- To analyze yoga as a means and not as an end.
- To prove yoga as a way to accelerate, enhance and contribute towards the evolution of mankind.

The Inaugural session of the conference was graced by the guests that included: Chief Guests, Hon'ble Shri Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor of Chhattisgarh and Padmashri Shri J.S. Rajput, Educationist Writer, our Guest of Honour, Prof. H.S. Prasad, Head, Department of Philosophy Delhi University, along with our respected Principal Ma'am Dr. Savita Roy.

The conference had a total of three *Plenary Sessions*, five *Technical Sessions* and a *Euphonic Yoga Workshop*. The Invited speakers of plenary session included: Padmashri Dr. K.K. Aggarwal, Indian Physician, Cardiologist and National President IMA, Prof. H. S. Prasad, Head, Department of Philosophy, DU, and Prof. Bindu Puri, Chairperson, Centre of Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, JNU.

On the very first day there were three plenary sessions and one technical session was chaired by Dr. R.M. Singh, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi along with paper presentations by the conference delegates.

On the second day of the conference four technical sessions were held, which was chaired by Dr. Aditya Kumar Gupta, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi, Dr. Meetu Khosla, Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Daulat Ram College, Dr. Rajni Sahni Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Daulat Ram College and Dr. Sunita Durangal Assistant Professor, Department of Hindi, Daulat Ram College, along with paper presentations by the conference delegates.

A session on 'Harmony of Yoga', 'Music and Dance' through Euphonic Yoga Workshop on the second day of the conference, by the curator, Smt. Shruti ChaturLal Sharma, yoga guru, Shri Hari Om and Odissi Exponent, Smt. Raudri Singh.

The valedictory session of the conference was graced by Dr. Shushmita Dutt, former expert on Education in UNICEF, Delhi and former head of Education and Women's empowerment in Rajasthan, Jaipur.

The conference witnessed meaningful academic discussions on various perspectives on



*Yoga session in progress at the University of Delhi.*

holistic yoga from mental, physical, social and spiritual well being. The conference stood out for its unique multidisciplinary nature in which theoreticians and practitioners from medical, legal and academia were brought together. This diversity was seen not only in the invited lectures, paper presentations, but also in the participation. It is the need of the hour to have more conferences of multidisciplinary nature, bringing together various partakers under one umbrella to contemplate on issues concerning the existence of the human beings. These intellectual contributions will definitely lead to more fruitful actions for a better world.

### **6th Gandhi Darshan –Mission Samridhhi Summit organized**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Gandhi Darshan – Mission Samridhhi summit organized in collaboration with Mission Samridhhi was organized at Wardha, Maharashtra from November 22-24, 2017. Among those who were present on the occasion included: Shri Arun Jain, CEO of Polaris Consulting and Services Limited; District Collectorate Shri Shailesh Naval; Chairman of Kamalnayan Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, Shri Apoorva Bajaj; Mr. Sabahat Azim of Glocal; Sarpanch Shri Popat Rao Pawar of 'Hiware Bazaar'. Shri Basantji, Dr. B D Mishra, Shri Narendra Mehrotra, Shri Ram Pappu was also present on the occasion.

The speakers at the summit while unanimously endorsing the eternal concept of Nai Talim, reiterated the need of connecting the best practices spread across various states in the areas of livelihood, healthcare and education. They argued that there is a need to 'Connect', 'Celebrate' and 'Catalyse' the best practices.

Speakers such as Shri Shailesh Naval spoke on the importance of rural technology in shaping the agricultural landscape of our nation. While praising the co-existence of private sector,

he also talked about the significance of backward and forward linkages in improving the existing role of marketing and consumerism.

Shri Apoorva Bajaj while speaking about the drought prone areas of Sikar, Rajasthan and regions of Vidarbha in Maharashtra said that his organisation is majorly focussed on raising the area under irrigation and diversified crop cultivation, biogas and solar as a source of renewable energy and empowering the village women through training and workshops. He said, "44000 acre of land has come under irrigation, 14000 acre under crop cultivation, groundwater has replenished by 6-8 feet and 8 solar irrigation pumps have been installed in Sikar by the tremendous support of the organisation". He also talked about 'Design for Change' that is a global idea where students from around 150 schools are motivated to work for a better world along with imparting them with life skills. Now the organisation is working to strengthen and support the existing marketing network in the district of Wardha.

Mr. Sabahat Azim, while addressing the summit introduced the concept of 'Glocal', which is concerned with providing mobile healthcare to the people in remote areas.

The first day of the summit ended with felicitation of Gandhi Darshan-Mission Samridhi Samman 2017. This award was given to individuals and organizations involved in constructive Gandhian work in the areas such as Rural Entrepreneurship, Panchayati Raj, Rural Artisans and Innovations, Empowering the Underprivileged.

In the first leg of this programme, awards were conferred on 21 unsung heroes who were engaged in constructive social work and these included: Individual Category: *Shri Adarsh Muni Trivedi from Jabbalpur, Madhya Pradesh; Shri Gurjit Singh, Ranchi; Sushri Anju Kujur from Ranchi, Jharkhand; Shri Chandra Bhushan Tiwari from Lucknow; Dr. Ravindra Kohle from Maharashtra; Shri Kan Singh Nirvan from Rajasthan; Shri Vivek Chaturvedi from Kanpur; Shri Kanwal Singh Senapati from Haryana; Smt. Geeta Verma from Bokaro, Jharkhand; Shri Ravindra Sharma from Adilabad, Telengana; Smt. Atmaprabha Devendra Kumar from Wardha, Maharashtra and Shri Khallarkar Guruji from Wardha, Maharashtra.*

The speakers on Day II of the summit included Shri Shanti Lal Mutta, Mr. Amit from 'Eklavya', Hoshangabad; Ms. Sushma Ji from 'Nayi Taleem', Sevagram Wardha; Ms. Akanksha

of 'Tarkeibeyein Foundation'; Dr. Valmiki, Primary Education Officer. The speakers outlined the need for a comprehensive policy on value education and the need for integrating social sector with that of the government. The speakers further expounded upon the idea of 'Think', 'Imagine', 'Do' and 'Share'; and how this idea could result into developing a quality relationship between students and teacher.

The Organisations that were recognised for their contribution included: *Vivekananda Kendra (NARDEP), Tamil Nadu; Sathi Sanstha, Bastar Chattisgarh; Ram Krishna Trust, Bhuj, Gujarat; Durga Mandal Mahila Vikas Sansthan, Jamui, Bihar; Singroli Pradushan Mukta Vahani Sanstha, Renukut, Uttar Pradesh; Tharu Area Small and Resource Community Association Sansthan, Ramnagar, West Champaran, Bihar; Berojgar Snagh Sanstha, Balmiki Nagar, West Champaran, Bihar; Samta Mahila Mandal, Raipur, Chattisgarh and Akhil Bharatiya Matadhikar Sangh Sanstha, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.*

The idea of the whole exercise was to contemplate around three broad questions concerning the education scenario in present times according to the stakeholders' perspective. These included: 'What is the current state of education?' 'What should be the best state of education?' and 'What is the relevance and purpose of education?'

The whole exercise led to practical outcomes and even solutions from different stakeholders to bring significant changes in the area of education in Wardha district.

### **Lecture on Geeta Gyan Vimarsh organised**

Techno Vedic Mission, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) (RC-2) and the Samiti organised a one-day dialogue on *Geeta Gyan Vimarsh* in Gandhi Darshan on December 10, 2017 as part of the "Srimad Bhagawat Gita Jayanti Parvotsav". Techno Vedic Mission was the other collaborating partner. About 76 participants took part in the programme. Prof. Ravindra Kumar, historian and former Vice Chancellor of IGNOU delivered the main lecture. Prof. Deenbandhu Pandey, eminent historian from the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) presided over the programme. Academicians, writers, scholars also addressed the fourth lecture series.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Ravindra Kumar said that tradition and culture are eternal and which is not limited to one particular time.

They are not incessant. However, they grow in course of time.

He said that the Gita was not spoken, nor written, but like our Rishis were visually obsessed with Vedantras, on the same pattern, Krishna presented the past, present and future of Arjuna through divine sight. Shri Krishna has conveyed to Arjuna that whatever you are enjoying is the implementation of the decisions taken by you, and the decisions that are currently going on in the future will benefit generations.

In his presidential address, historian and member of the ICSSR Prof. Deenbandu Pandey interpreted the first word of the first verse in the Gita. He said that the responsibility of the books is that the exact interpretation of the new parties of the Gita came before the people.

Meanwhile, Dr K D Prasad, Regional Director IGNOU RC-2, Director of Delhi State Cancer Medical Institute; Shri R K Grover, Shri Arun Kumar Pandey of Techno Vedic Foundation, Shri Basant of Karigar Panchayat and founder of Indology Foundation, Shri Lalit Mishra who were present on the occasion, also presented their views.

### ***National Seminar on "Environment Conservation – Scope Achievements and Challenges through Gandhian Thoughts and Perspectives"***

The Samiti in association with the Institute of Environment and Geo-Informatics (IEG), Career Plus Educational Society, Delhi, Confederation of Community Based Organisations in India (CCBOS) organised a two-day national seminar on "*Environment Conservation – Scope Achievements and Challenges through Gandhian Thoughts and Perspectives*" at the Deputy



*Smt. Krishna Raj, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare GOI, addresses the gathering at the seminar.*



Speaker Hall, Constitution Club, New Delhi on December 14-15, 2017.

Smt. Krishna Raj, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, who was the chief guest in the programme, while inaugurating the programme felt that the reasons for pollution was the main reason for dissenting Indian traditions and said that with the help of Indian Vedic traditions and knowledge-science and self-restraint, one can overcome this problem.

Praising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the President of the National Safai Karamchari Commission, Shri Manhar Valji Bhai Hale who was the special guest on the occasion, said that environmental protection and cleanliness is not possible without any support from the neighbourhood.

Sulabh International Social Service Organisation's founder, Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, while referring to Gandhian values, said that this problem can only be solved by the public participation of everyone in the society.

Shri Atul Kothari, National Secretary of Education Culture Uplift Trust, said that spirituality can only relieve this crisis. He called upon people to adopt 19 points in his life. Describing the difference in spirituality and religion, he said that spirituality means to do any work with selflessness.

Shri Swaraj Scholar, a member of the National Scheduled Caste Commission, praised the efforts of the organization for the solution of pollution, as said that the work being done by Sulabh International, is exemplary.

While embarking on the event, the compelling poet Gajendra Solanki recited his elegant poem on the environment.

The programme also saw many people being recognised for their contribution in different areas. Shri Basant, former Advisor GSDS, Dr. Manoj Kumar, Dean, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwa Vidyalaya were also present on the occasion. Acharya Shailesh, Dr Umesh Chandra Gaur, Arun Tiwari, Commander Virendra Jaitley, Dr. Pramod and Shri Anuj Agarwal addressed the programme. Mission Clean Magazine was also released on the occasion.

On the second day, a discussion was organized between the future administrators and officials regarding the relevance of Gandhian ideas in environmental protection. The main thing in this discussion was that it was organized among

the youth who are preparing for competitive examinations. This healthy debate began with the administrators of future with the views of Shri Gajendra Solanki, the poet of Hindi who spoke about environmental, pollution and moral pollution. He said that there is a need to avoid cultural pollution.



*Distinguished guests releasing a brochure at the national seminar at Constitution Club”.*

Youth icon of the Sanitation Campaign, Shri Himdavish Suwan called upon the youth to come forward for cleanliness. He was right to say that without individual steps, the problem will not be solved.

Dr. Rajendra, a Sanskrit professor in Hindu College, drew the blueprint of relations between Sanskrit, culture and environment.

Dr. Umesh Chandra Gour, the Chief Editor of the Voice of the Community and Chairman of CCBOS expressed gratitude to all the speakers while highlighting the purpose of the event.

Smt. Anuj Agarwal, Director of Career Plus Educational Society and General Secretary Neeraj Kushwaha along with other dignitaries were also present in the event.

**GERICON raise concerns of improving better public health practices**

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the GSDS collaborated to organise the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Indian Academy of Geriatrics (GERICON) at Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium, AIIMS on December 16-17, 2017. Dr. Prasun Chatterjee HOD of Geriatrics AIIMS coordinated the programme. Shri Basant ji, former Advisor to GSDS attended the inaugural programme that was attended by over 200 doctors and medical practitioners from different parts of the country and even abroad. Prof. G S Shanti, Shri Mathew Cherian, Dr. A B Dey, Dr.

Vinod Kumar and Dr. Arvind Jain were present at the inaugural programme.



*Distinguished guests lighting the ceremonial lamp at the inaugural ceremony (Above). Shri Basant Singh, eminent Gandhian spoke on the occasion (Below).*

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Shri Basant ji spoke on the Gandhian vision of alternative medicine and *Gandhian Thought for Active Ageing*. Some of the presenters on the occasion included:

- Dr. A B Dey, Dept of Geriatric Medicine AIIMS – *LASI: An innovation to address future health needs of India;*
- Vinod Kumar, G S Raghunath Babu and R Bage, Dept. of Medicine, St. Stephen’s Hospital – *Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and Old Age - A Double Jeopardy ;*
- Dr. Arvind Kasthuri, Dept. of Community Health, St John’s Medical College, Bangalore – *Reaching Out to the Elderly – Potential Opportunities in Geriatrics*
- Dr. Ashima Nehra, Additional Professor, Clinical Neuropsychology, Neurosciences Center, AIIMS, New Delhi – *Challenges of Neurocognitive*
- *Assessment in Older Population;*

- Dr Steve Paul, Consultant Geriatrician, Jubilee Mission Medical College, Thrissur, Kerala – HOME CARE – the evolving scenario

The two-day seminar saw the participants saw a host of delegation also sharing their views during various sessions:

1. *Active Ageing in Rural India: Strategies for strengthening access to health care – Dr. Sanjogita Sachdev and Dr. J C Sachdev*
2. *Effect of Preksha Meditation on Physical, Autonomic and Mental Health of Elderly – Dr. Arvind Jain*
3. *Role of Nurse in the Care of Elderly – Dr. Molly Babu and Dr. Harinder Goel*
4. *Concept of Ageing - Dr. Bimal Kapoor, Ms. Kamlesh Chandelia*
5. *Challenging issues in Geriatrics - Dr. Gowri Sengupta, Dr. D Thangam and so on.*

**Dialogue-cum-training programme on Mahatma Gandhi’s Vision of Constructive Work**

Today there are thousands of people and organisations who are working on the model of constructive program propounded by Mahatma Gandhi. Unfortunately, they are not well connected with each other. So very often they do not have a broader picture before them. Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti made a small move to make things better a little bit in this regard.

In the collaboration of Sanatan Kishkindha Mission and Bharat Vikas Sangam, GSDS organised Srijan Shakti Sangam in Gandhi Darshan from December 28, 2017 to January 1,



*Distinguished speakers at the Srijan Shakti Sangam share their ideas and vision.*



*A participant addresses the distinguished speakers at the Srijan Shakti Sangam, as Shri K N Govindacharya (third from Left) along with other guests keenly listens.*



2018. The programme saw experts from their field to share their experiences of constructive work.

In this program noted people were invited to share their experiences of constructive work. Among the listeners were around 45 youth volunteers and approximately 100 social workers from different parts of the country.

Some of the main dignitaries who came to share their experiences of constructive works were: Shri K.N. Govindacharya, *Bharat Vikas Sangam*; Shri Basavraj Patil, *Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha, Karnataka*; Shri Mahesh Sharma, *Shivganga, Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh*; Swami Abhyanand, *Ramkrishna Ashram, Gadag, Karnataka*; Shri Madhav Reddy, *Vande Mataram Foundation, Telangana*; Ms. Indumati Katdhare, *noted scholar and educationist*; Shri Sanjay Sirnoorkar, *Vision India Foundation, New Delhi*; Shri Surya Kant Jalan, *Surabhi Sodh Sansthan Varanasi, U.P.*; Shri Chandrashekhar Pran, *VARDAAN, Allahabad, U.P.*; Shri Venugopal Reddy, *Eklavya Foundation Telangana*; Shri Sanjay Patil, *Coordinator, Srijan Shakti Sangam*, Shri Ajit Sarangi, *Coordinator, Bharat Vikas Sangam*, Shri Sanjay Singh *Sajjan Gokul Foundation, Bihar*, Ms. Aastha, Mr. Anand, Ms. Preeti, Shri Aroop and Shri Viswas Gautam.

As part of the Srijan Shakti Sangam, a training camp was organised for youth volunteers from December 28, 2017 to January 1, 2018. This training camp was organised in the collaboration of Sanatan Kishkindha Mission. The youths were given exposure to thoughts of Gandhiji on the importance and nature of the constructive work. Actual training session was from 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. From 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2017 to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018 the participating youths were involved in the coordination and organisation matters of Srijan Shkti Sangam which was held from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 to 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2018.

The programme was attended by participants from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnatak, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and Gujarat.

### ***Saving the environment through protecting our flora and fauna***

The Samiti in association with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Sitamarhi, Bihar organised a two-day state level seminar on "Environment Conservation Scope and Achievements and Challenges – Gandhian Thought" at Sitamari Bihar on February 3-4, 2018. The Chief Guest of the seminar was the District Minister of Urban Development, Shri Suresh Sharma.

In his inaugural address, he said that the degradation of environment and the alarming levels of pollution are matters of huge concern. With the changing times, even the noise decibels and water pollution levels have increased drastically.

He emphasised the need for preserving our natural flora and fauna and save them from destruction. "We do worship our trees like peepul and tulsi, but do not do enough to protect our trees", adding, "We have to come together to correct the situation".

Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri Ramkumar Sharma spoke about the roles of farmers in saving the environment. The world is in the grip of global warming today and we need to contribute by saving the environment through forestation and others ecological measures. Organic farming is also a positive step towards saving our environment.

The programme was attended by a large cross-section of society including many distinguished speakers, who all felt the need for saving the environmental degradation and make the nation the India of Bapu's dreams.

### ***National seminar on the eternal philosophy of Srimad Bhagawat Gita***

The President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Rajya Sabha Member Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe said that Srimad Bhagawat Gita is part of our unique contemplative heritage. "This is an intense medium of Indian knowledge tradition".

He was addressing the inaugural function of the two-day National Seminar on "Message

contained in Geeta's various languages of Gita" in Gandhi Smriti, Rajghat, New Delhi on March 25, 2018. The program was organized jointly by All India Literary Council and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti.



*President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations and Rajya Sabha Member Hon'ble Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe addressing the gathering during the seminar.*

Speaking as the chief guest in the seminar, Dr. Sahasrabuddhe said that there are many speeches of the Gita in the country and abroad. But understanding the Gita and bringing it down in their life are few. "What is needed today is that we take it into our own conduct".

Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti said that Mahatma Gandhi had made the Bhagwatgita popular in his life and this book made him workman.

Shri Shridhar Paradkar from the national organization of the All India Literary Council said that the Gita contains the eternal philosophy of life. There are annotations according to the state and the situation. There is a difference between the original and the commentary. The effect of change in time comes in the commentary.



*Discussion on the eternal philosophy of Srimad Bhagawat Gita in progress in Gandhi Darshan which was attended by intellectuals from different parts of the country.*

There were discussions in two sessions after the inauguration ceremony. The first discussion session was conducted by Mr. Mithila Prasad Tripathi (M.P.), Mr. Munnalal Jain (Delhi), Dr. Ritudhwaj Singh (Uttarakhand), Ms. Sangeeta Shukla (UP) and Mr. Anath Bandhu Chatterjee (W. Bengal). The session was conducted by Mr. Dinesh Pratap Singh (Mumbai).

In the second session, Mr. Bhupendra Rai Chaudhary (Assam), Ms. Usha Shrivastav (Karnataka), Mr. Rahul Mishra (Leh), Shri Bhagwan Tripathi (Odisha), Shri Panchanan Tommer (Uttarakhand) and Mr. Vinod Babbar (Delhi) presented their views. This session was conducted by Ms. Neelam Rathi (Delhi).

#### Day II – March 26

Dr. Bajrang Lal Gupta, a resident of the North Region of RSS, in his address said that Shrimad Bhagavatgita is a treatise which inspires to walk on the path of duty. He was addressing the closing ceremony of the two-day national seminar by underlying the inherent message of Gita in various languages of Gita".

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Gupta emphasised on the integrity in Gita. He said that there have been a lot of discussions of Gyan Yog, Bhakti Yoga and Karma Yoga in the Gita. It also imparts the message a strong organisation to achieve our goals in life.

On the second day of the program, further discussions were held which was attended by Dr Vidya Bindu Singh (UP), Dr. Bharatindu Pathak (Jammu-Kashmir), Dr. Ram Sharan Gaur (Delhi), Dr. Dinesh Pratap Singh (Maharashtra), Dr. Neelu Kumari (Bihar) and Mr. Manzar Ul Vasai (U.P.) addressed and operated by M s. Hansa Amola (Delhi).

In the fourth discussion session, Dr. Rameshwar Mishra (West Bengal), Dr. Sudeep Basu (West Bengal), Dr. Supriya Sahasrabuddhe (Pune), Dr. Joram Nabam (Arunachal Pradesh) and Dr. Janardan Yadav (Bihar), presented their thoughts. This was coordinated by Dr. Umesh Shukla (UP).

Earlier, the Chairman of the Delhi Assembly Mr. Ramnivas Goyal said that Gita being worshipped in our homes.

The function was also addressed by Shri Shridhar Paradar from the National Association of All India Literary Council, the Chief Minister, Mr. Rishi Kumar Mishra, Research Officer of GSDS, Ms. Geeta Shukla.

#### **Seminar on Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programme and its Relevance**

The Samiti in association with Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Lokseva Kendra, Badgaon, Boondi, Rajasthan, organised a two-day seminar on "Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Programme and its Relevance" on March 29-30, 2018. Almost 250 participants took part in the programme on both the days.

At the beginning of the programme, Smt. Savitri Bharadwaj introduced the activities of the GSDS and Acharya Kakasaheb Lok Seva Kendra. Prof. Ramesh Bharadwaj elaborated the theme of the seminar.

Smt. Shobha Pathak, former Deputy Director of Child Development Department, Rajasthan Government spoke about the Constructive Work of Mahatma Gandhi. She reiterated that each individual can play equally constructive role in the development of the society.



*Group discussion with women from interior areas on Gandhiji's Constructive Programme formed an integral part of the programme.*

The other speakers included principal of Little Angels School, Smt. Rekha Sharma who spoke on women empowerment, beti bachao, beti padhao, skill development programs of GOI and development of villages.

Former Sarpanch of Badgaon, Smt. Saroj Sharma; Principal of Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Boondi, Smt. Archana Sharma; Former Councillor from Gurugram, Haryana, Smt. Santosh Sharma, Smt. Shakuntala Sharma, academician; Smt. Suman Sharma and Smt. Kavita Sharma; Tehsildar from Tehsil Hindoli, Sahiba Smt. Bhawna Singh spoke on the occasion.

On Day II, Dr. Geetanjali Devi and Smt. Bimla spoke to the participants on the benefits of yoga and naturopathy. Children from the participating schools took part music, speech, stories and cultural programme that was organised on the occasion. The women from the villages performed solo and group folk presentations.

The valedictory programme on March 29, 2018 saw the enthusiastic participation of farmers, labourers, businessmen, teachers, students and women in the programme.

***Panel Discussion on 'Save Ganga organized as part of 88<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dandi March organised***

The Samiti in association with the Save Ganga Movement organized a discussion on "Gandhi, Ganga, Giriraj – Awareness" in Gandhi Darshan on March 12, 2018 as part of the commemoration of the 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Dandi March. About 25 persons took part in the programme where discussions on rejuvenating and preserving the Ganga and its tributaries and their source, the Himalayas took place.

The participants discussed the necessity to ensure the cleanliness of the rivers and the ghats and secure the air and health of the masses. Smt. Rama Rauta, President National Women's Organisation led the discussion. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan was also present.



*Group discussion led by Smt. Rama Raute (Third from Left) as part of the seminar on Save Ganga Movement in progress in Gandhi Darshan.*

The co-organisers of this programme were Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial trust (Central), Indore and Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati, New Delhi.

## Programmes in the North East

### **Two-day Youth regional Workshop on "Volunteering for Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Coexistence: Gandhian Philosophy organised**

The Samiti, in association with Prodigals' Home and Confederation of Community Based Organization of India (CCBOS) and in collaboration with Eco-Club, S.M. College, Dimapur organised a two-day regional workshop on "Volunteering for Nature-Human-Wildlife Mutual Coexistence: Gandhian Philosophy" at Dimapur, Nagaland on August 7-8, 2017. Shri Gulshan Gupta, NE Coordinator participated in the programme.



Ms. Liangsi Niema speaks at the workshop.



Mr. Obed Swu, Asst. Conservator of Forest, Nagaland Zoological Park shares his thoughts on the theme of the workshop in Nagaland.

Ms. K. Ela, Director of Prodigals' Home who was the facilitator for the day, briefly highlighted about the concept and objective of the program to the gathering while also introducing the guests' and resource persons.

Dr. Arenla Aier, Principal of Sakus Mission (SM) College, expressed optimism that the programme would be beneficial for all those present and that something good would result from the workshop with the pool of resources in the form of the resource persons, dignitaries and organizers.

Shri Satya Prakash Tripathi, IFS, Chief Wildlife Warden, Dimapur, presented the key note address. He dwelled on the Gandhian perspective of ahimsa (Non-violence) and the importance of ahimsa in dealing with nature-human-wildlife relationship. He pointed out that in the past there was little or no human-wildlife conflict but now it

is widespread. He attributed the conflict mainly to loss of space for the wildlife with the explosion in human population thereby taking up considerable space meant for wildlife and also exploiting nature for their selfish means. This, phenomenon, he pointed is not isolated but taking place all over the world. He also highlighted the central Act and the Nagaland state Act for preserving wildlife which serves as a respite for wildlife to some extent. Coming to wildlife-human conflict in Nagaland, he informed that some districts have areas known as "Elephant corridors" wherein conflict among the elephants and humans take place, particularly in some villages in Wokha, Mokokchung and Zunheboto.

Mr. Gulshan Gupta, engaged the participants with some interactive games. Through the games he established the importance of communication, particularly with nature and the need to preserve our nature/environment by respecting the intricate human-wildlife relationship.

The various sessions on the first day included:

- Understanding environmental issues. How do we act?
- Scriptural Defense of Endangered Species

On day two, the sessions were held with the Eco-club of the college. The session started with a recap of Day One sessions by Asst. Professor Mhonthung. He gave brief overview of the Eco club's main objective, i.e. is to have a clean environment and their motto is - 'we care'.

Ms. K. Ela, Director *Prodigals' Home* shared that the participants gained a lot of in-depth knowledge about the environment, they gained practical knowledge on starting small but have wider impacts like, saving energy, minimizing waste, to use resource wisely, etc. Suggestions also came forth - to include some documentaries in the presentations, to organize such types of workshops in the colonies and so forth.

Mr. Obed Swu, Asst. Conservator of Forest, Nagaland Zoological Park took up a session, wherein, he provided details about the land use pattern of the world - 38% land use

for farming and less than 15% for biodiversity conservation. With these figures, he went on to elaborate that with increase in human population and activities, there are increasing cases of human wildlife conflicts. He said that human wildlife conflict has been because of overlapping of operation. However, he also brought up a case study of Chitwan National Park in Nepal, where both human and wildlife (tigers) are thriving peacefully.



*Shri Satya Prakash Tripathi, IFS, Chief Wildlife Warden, Dimapur, addresses the gathering during the workshop.*

Coming to the State of Nagaland, he pointed Article 371(A) is the main basis, the land and its resources belongs to the people. Pointing that in Nagaland the existing wildlife sanctuary and park is very small, Mr. Obed Swu pointed out that the best way to conserve will be through – Community Reserves, People’s action, State responsibilities and Collective responsibility. He also cited the example of Medziphema incident and said that we all have to learn from our mistakes.

Mr. Hongba from *Fingerprints* took a session on Youth and conservation. He began the session by quoting Gandhi ‘Nature can satisfy human needs but cannot satisfy human greed’. He pointed out that the first step is to value environment and wildlife. The smallest creatures have its roles to play in our environment; therefore, if we love nature everything will fall into place. The next is to translate it into actions: there can be political actions like – agreements, conference, declarations, conventions and protocols; there is the lifestyle adjustment where everyone’s role is important – nature friendly, energy saver, campaigner, and consistent. He also pointed out that youth can play an important role in conservation through action – because young people constitute a huge number, they are smart and dynamic and have the ability to mobilize, have fresh perspectives and the energy and will power, added to this is the technology, which provides

them better opportunities. If young people have the inspiration, they can connect, collaborate and create.

Mr. Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator Gandhi Samiti and Darshan deliberated on ‘voluntarism’. He said that voluntarism has to be specific and has to be carried out in a team. The first step is to acquire knowledge – get as many ideas as possible, learn about the subject and then share the ideas to fellow friends. Voluntarism needs commitment and dedication. He stressed that voluntarism demands time; therefore, time management is very important. The session was conducted with lots of interactive games and exercises.

The following suggestions came up from the participants:

- I. Collaborate and organize such programs at colony level for general populace – The Wildlife Dept. is willing to collaborate by providing resource persons for such programs.
- II. Suggestions was given to conduct on specific topic as “environment” as such is a vast topic
- III. Suggestions for learning site visits for eco clubs to some good eco clubs outside the state
- IV. Eco club to have mentoring body to strengthen their effort
- V. Bring out monthly plan for the Eco Clubs
- VI. Further collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and and Darshan Samiti and other NGOs to strengthen the conservation effort and to conduct similar workshops

Ms. Asungla Anichari, Asst. Professor, SM College, concluded the workshop with a vote of thanks. The two-day workshop concluded on a positive note; with anticipation to take forward those suggestions and action plans emerging from the workshop.

### ***Kala Sanskriti Sangam a highlight of North-East Cultural Symposium***

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, organized a three-day long “Kala Sanskriti Sangam” under the theme ‘North East Cultural Symposium’ focusing ‘cultural exchange among participants and local community and Traditional exposure by exhibiting traditional foods, handloom items, ornaments, tools, weapons,

and related accessories', by inviting a total of 100 artists from all the neighbouring states so as to enhance, promote traditional knowledge, indigenous communication pattern and best practices among the people of deferent tribes.



*Kala Sanskriti Sangam organised by the GSDS in North East in progress.*

The three-day long inter-state cultural exchange programme and exposure was organized in the premises of Garudachal Vidyapeeth' Belbari, South West Garo Hills, Meghalaya. 250 local and outstation artists performed their indigenous cultural rituals along with traditional art forms in the presence of a cumulative number of 1000 local community people.

The inaugural ceremony of the "Northeast Cultural Symposium" began on September 8. The ceremony was graced by Mr. Albert G. Momin, MCS, the BDO of Betasing Development Block as chief guest along with Mr. Balaram Das Ray, social activist as guest of honour, Mr. Ram Singh, social activist as the special guest and Mr. Gulshan Kumar Gupta the Northeast Co-ordinator, GSDS, New Delhi.

The programme was initiated with lightening of lamp by the graceful hands of Mr. Albert G. Momin, MCS and Sri Shyamananda Brahmachari (Sadhu Baba) in front of 'Bharat Mata' portrait followed by a vandana by the students of Garudachal Vidyapeeth. The welcome address of the programme was presented by Mr. Rahul Pareek, social activist and the in-charge of Garudachal Vidyapeeth

The key note address was presented by Mr. Gulshan Kumar Gupta, the GSDS Coordinator to Northeast India.

The others who spoke on the occasion included Mr. Balaram Das Ray. The BDO of Betasing Development Block, Mr. Albert G Momin was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

On day one different communities of Garo Hills, Meghalaya i.e. Garo, Koch, Dalu, Hajong presented their cultural performances. It was called the centre of attraction as the ritual of traditional 'Garo' marriage ceremony was marvelously performed by the Garo team.

Day II began with 'praat vandana', which was followed by interactive session on the positive outcomes of the symposium. Cultural presentations from Belbari with their traditional Koch attire performed Koch community's folk dance by which they showed Paddy cultivation by praying to Lord Indra for necessary rainfall within the season. Mr. Bisheshwar Shrama from Manipur performed *Thang-Ta*, a martial art form. Then, the team from Nowgaon, Assam led by Mr. Hemanta Kalita came up with traditional Bihu Dance.

Team from Arunachal Pradesh led by Mr. Delong Padung presented the "Yoyo Gaga", the Lullaby (Loorie) a heritage dance and art form of Adi Tribes in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The team from Jayantia Hills, Meghalaya led by Mr. Heibermi Sungoh performed their traditional Jayantia dance.

On the final day of the *Northeast Cultural Symposium* was graced by Mr. Winner D. Sangma,

the local MLA (Ampati Legislative Constituency of South-West Garo Hills, Meghalaya) on behalf of Govt. of Meghalaya as the chief guest. Smt. Sadia Rani Sangma, CEO, Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, Tura and Mr. Nripendra Koch, MD to Garo Hills Autonomous District Council, Mr. Bhupendra Hajong, EM, Garo Hills Autonomous District Council were guest of honour.



*Kala Sanskriti Sangam organised by the GSDS as part of the North East Cultural Symposium saw a wide variety of performances with great enthusiasm.*



*Kala Sanskriti Sangam organised by the GSDS in North East saw huge participation of men, women, children from nearby villages.*

Mr. Ajay Pareek, was the special guest, Sri Shyamananda Brahmachari, chief patron and Mr. Dharmendra Koch, the President of Garudachal Vidyapeeth, Belbari along with Mr. Gulshan Kumar Gupta were also present on the occasion.

The day saw presentation of cultural programme that began with the traditional Koch folk dance by a group of artists from Belbari. Hojagiri dance of Tripura by the Reang Tribes was another highlight of the programme.

'Paridhaanam' a 40-minute long first take fashion show that was beautifully synchronized and coordinated by Mr. Delong Padung from Pasighat Arunachal Pradesh having a total number of 24 boys and girls from local and outstation participants was able to set the benchmark among the audience.

Towards the end of the three day presentations, Mr. Kamal Kumar Srivastava, Observer to Garo Hills Region, *Meghalaya Shiksha Samiti* proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of the Northeast Cultural Symposium organizers and expressed his gratitude towards GSDS.

### ***Workshop on Mutual Co-existence and free of substance abuse in the surrounding environment***

A one-day workshop for school students was organized by GSDS in association with Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mahenderganj, South West Garo Hills, Meghalaya to introduce the concept of *Mutual Co-existence among Nature-Human and Wildlife*. About 120 students took part in the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by the school Principal, Dr. Santosh Gaur, with Shri Anand Koch, Principal, Bashbari Secondary School, South West Garo Hills and Shri Rahul Parikh, Physical In-charge, Garudachal Vidyapeeth, Belbari. Mr. Gulshan Gupta, Northeast

Coordinator from GSDS was also present there in the workshop.

The focus of the workshop was to sensitize the students on the environmental issues as well as to make them aware on the substance abuse in the surrounding environment.



*Students of the Vidyalaya and others during the workshop in South West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.*

Speaking to the children, Shri Rahul Parekh pointed out about the real picture of youth of the Garo Hills. There are lots of opportunities in the area but we are not utilizing our time, energy and resources in proper manner. There is a lack of right guidance and directions. What we need is to unite our youth to build our society's future bright.

Shri Anand Koch focused on the positive aspect of the youth and asked the students to develop a group of young people in their own society and to take different innovative initiatives to build a efficient man power and energetic youth to pay their service to the nation by doing any constructive work.

Shri Gulshan Gupta also presented a lecture on the topic- Positive aspects of Development and Sentiments in Youth. He said, development is a collective responsibility. We must utilize our whole energy to develop our village or town as we desire. No one can do developmental work in our area. Outsiders are only businessmen. They are not social workers. They will use your man power and all your resources and will earn in billions but still we people will remain at the same stage where we are today. Don't let others use our resources to build their house. *Gaon Ka Aadmi Gaon me Rukega to hi Gaon ka Paani Gaon me Rukega.*

Experience sharing and feedback of participants formed a major activity of the workshop.

### ***Seminar on Re-inventing Nationalism, Secularism and Plurality: Media Discourses and Deconstruction***

A two-day seminar on "Re-inventing Nationalism, Secularism and Plurality: Media Discourses and Deconstruction" was held at Guwahati on November 11-12, 2017. The programme was organised by the Department of Mass Communication, Mizoram University in collaboration with the Department of Communication and Journalism, Gauhati University, to mark the golden jubilee of media education in the North Eastern part of India.

Mr. J V Lakshmana Rao, Editor (Retd) of India Review, Chicago, United States, was the keynote speaker on the occasion. In his address, Mr. Lakshmana drew parallels between India and the United States when it came to nationalism, media discourses and development strategies.

Prof. Mridul Hazarika, Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University, made a critical assessment of the role of the media in the present day context and sought their partnership with the political institutions for promotion of peace and non-violence.

Prof. K V Nagaraj, Organising Committee Chairman, in his presidential address delved deep into the Gandhian concept of nationalism and secularism. He detailed the importance of passive resistance to establish *swarajya* and *surajya*.

There were nine parallel sessions on 'Developmental Communication', in which several authors presented and analysed the Gandhian model of development.

On November 12, in the second plenary session – "National Development Where Do Gandhian Precepts Fit In", Prof. T. K. Thomas, Prof. Sahidul Hassan (from Bangladesh), Prof. Devesh Kishore and Prof. Pramod Kumar Jena, participated. Mr. Manas Rajan Mahapatra of North-Eastern Council, Shillong, chaired the session.

The seminar concluded with an open house and valedictory programme. Over 400 delegates/ participants took part in the seminar. The seminar was coordinated by Dr. Ankuran Dutta, Head of Department of Communication and Journalism, Guwahati, University and his team.

### ***One day workshop on Children and Peace Building***

The Samiti in association with Women and Child Care Mission (WCCM) in Manipur organised

a day-long workshop on “Children and Peace Building” at Khurai Nandeibam Leikai, Imphal East District, Manipur on December 15, 2017. 102 participants from different areas in Manipur took part in the workshop.

The main Objectives are as follows:

- To make increase Children participation in Peace Building in Manipur.
- To sensitize the people about the role of Children in Peace building.
- To highlight the children’s potential in peace building message.

The resource persons who conducted the sessions included:

- Dr. Dhanabir Laishram, Social Scientist
- Shri Soibam Nando, Former Child welfare Committee (ICPS)
- Ms. Ranabala Laishram, Child Activist.



*Students and youth listen attentively to a resource person at the workshop on ‘Children and Peace Building’ in Manipur, Imphal.*

The participants while discussing on ‘children’s right to participate in building peace reiterated that the right of children to participate actively is the foundation of children’s involvement in peace making. Children are potentially among the most powerful of peace builders, and we should listen to them, learn from them and support them in their endeavours.

They further felt that if young people are given the chance to begin to articulate their thoughts, feelings and desires, one finds that these expressions are fresh, courageous and hopeful and that adults should not underestimate the potential of children as subjects in the development process, and as peace-builders.

The speakers also underlined that enabling children to participate is an important component of giving children the political space to take a progressive role in their own societies. This need not be at an international, or indeed even at a national, level. While children may well create this space themselves where none is created for them, the positive impact of deliberately of children, to partner with them in this process rather than fight against them, can be extremely powerful. For example, experience has shown that children’s own voices against violence can be an inspiration for adults.

#### ***Four Days Workshop on “Reviving Traditional Textiles and Handicrafts”***

The Samiti organised a workshop on “Reviving Traditional Textiles and Handicrafts” in association with the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA), Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh



*A worker of Arunachal Pradesh finely tries her hand at a traditional design.*

from January 27 to February 1, 2018. Selected 20 participants from Anjaw district took part in this skill development programme. Training of reviving traditional textiles and handicrafts was given by the experts.

#### ***Workshop on Use of Traditional Indigenous Medicines of Arunachal Pradesh***

The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) further organised a two-day workshop on “Use of Traditional Indigenous Medicines of Arunachal Pradesh from January 31 to February 1, 2018 at Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh. Selected 40 participants from Anjaw district took part in this skill development programme. Training of reviving traditional textiles and handicrafts was given by the experts.

**Seminar and workshop on Gandhian Philosophy and Peace Journalism organised**

The Samiti in association with the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Tezpur University organised a two-day seminar and workshop on “Gandhian Philosophy and Peace Journalism” on February 21-22, 2018.



*Distinguished speakers at the seminar and workshop at Tezpur University sharing their inputs.*

The two day event saw a rich amalgamation of industry and academia where experts in the field of media and journalism shared their thoughts and experiences about Mahatma Gandhi and his pioneering work in advocating peace journalism.

The seminar began with a formal inauguration ceremony where the students presented a classical song “Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram” in memory of Father of the Nation, whose hard work and determination has always been a source of inspiration. Prof Abhijit Bora, Head of the Department, Mass Communication and Journalism, welcomed all the distinguished guests and dignitaries who spared their time to share their knowledge with the students and other participants. Dr. Anjuman Borah, Assistant Professor, Tezpur University, introduced the theme of the event and why it is crucial to deliberate on the topic for the media fraternity. Prof P K Das, Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences

and Dr. Biren Das, Registrar, Tezpur University were also present to attend the occasion and formally inaugurated the seminar.

Mr. P J Baruah, Executive Editor, The Assam Tribune presented his views about the theme of the event and the game changing journalistic qualities of Mahatma Gandhi that convinced the British to leave India, without any bloodshed or violence. He suggested that all the contemporary media personnel should look back in history to understand the art of peace journalism and the revolution it can create in its quest for justice and equality.

“Gandhian philosophy is still relevant while practising journalism as Gandhiji was not only the father of the nation, but he was also the father of true journalism”, said Mr. P J Baruah in his address, “The application of his philosophy needs greater courage and moral strength. He believed that Ahimsa has a universal application and it can be used in one’s family, society and the world at large. Through the technique of non-violence, an opponent can be changed morally”.

“As we live in a conflict zone like the North East, the media should the media should always try to be very sincere in its reporting so that peace, communal fabric and the human integrity are not harmed”, he further asserted.

Dr. Baruah also spoke on subjects of “Looking for Stories of Rebuilding Lives and Untold Stories of Rehabilitation Faultiness in Conflict-hit Areas” and “Issues and Challenges of Covering Conflict: An Editor’s Perspective”.

The students also presented a “poster exhibition” that added vibrant colors to the cause. They created artistic pieces on topics like Gandhian Way of Life, Pulitzer Award Winners, Do’s and Don’ts of Peace Journalism, Assassination of Journalists, Conflicts in North east and many more.

The inaugural session ended with closing remarks by Dr. Junali Deka, Assistant Professor, Tezpur University.

The first day witnessed presentations by both invited experts and student participants followed by open house discussions creating a platform of information interchange and gave food for thought to everyone present.

Mr. Rajiv Bhattacharyya, Freelance Journalist and Author, who has done extensive work in the field of conflict journalism spoke about his field reporting incidences and how important

it is for a journalist to maintain objectivity on either sides while reporting discord in any form.

Mr. Sushanta Talukdar, Editor, Nezine shared his experiences of post war rehabilitation stories and how peace journalism plays an important role in rebuilding lives in and around the north eastern states.



*Youth participants during the seminar and workshop at Tezpur University.*

Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain, Assistant Professor, Assam University focused on understanding of peace journalism by the student participants and threw light on the concept with great clarity and examples from across the globe.

The student participant included Mr. Amlan Jyoti Das, Nidarshana Mahanta, Tirtharaj Gohain, and R K Yaibiren Sana who touched upon topics like Gandhiji and Peace Journalism, Role of Media in Conflict, Peace Journalism vs. War Journalism and Peace Journalism in Northeast India

The first day ended with a pledge taking ceremony where the respected industry experts, guests, faculties, students and all other participants placed their thumb impressions in a silhouette outline of Mahatma Gandhi and vowed to stand for peace throughout their lives.

On the second day, an extensive workshop on understanding Peace Journalism was conducted by Dr. Syed Murtaza Alfarid Hussain to inculcate the basic understanding of Gandhian philosophy and peace journalism in the students of Mass Communication and Journalism and Communication for Development, Tezpur University.

He taught the fourth and second semester students about the difference between peace and conflict journalism. He also educated them on what are the practices one should learn and assimilate to propagate peace while spreading news and information among the masses.

Students were given real time examples of national and international conflict situations. They were made to indulge into fruitful discussions and debates on contemporary issues of importance.

The session ended with participants sharing their real time experiences on conflict and how those can be resolved to attain peaceful situations.

**Programme on Capacity Building and Leadership Training for School Children**

A two day programme on Capacity Building and Leadership Training for School Children was organized on March 24-25, 2018 at Kha-Imphal High School in association with Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development, Manipur. The function was graced by Shri Y. Hemchandra Singh, Zonal Education Officer, Wangoi, Imphal West, who was the Chief Guest. Shri N. Inaocha Singh, President KGID, Manipur was the Guest of Honour and Smt. L. Randhoni Devi, Head Mistress, Kha-Imphal High School presided over the inaugural function.



*Distinguished speakers at the programme organised by GSDS in association with KGID Imphal in Manipur share their thoughts to the participants.*

In her welcome address, Dr. O. Sareeta Devi, Secretary, KGID, expressed that so far KGID, in Collaboration with GSDS, New Delhi had organized many workshops related to youths & Children, youths on peace building, capacity building, leadership training, volunteer training, Skill Development Programmes etc. She further

mentioned that students are the pillar of the nation and the objective of the programme is to help the children in shaping their future and develop their leadership qualities.



Children engaged in various creative activities during the programme in Manipur.

Shri Y. Hemchandra Singh, ZEO, Wangoi, Imphal West, in his address mentioned that in order to score more marks, one needs to go beyond the prescribed books for reference books that would improve the knowledge of the students. He further stated that, 'leaders were not born, they were made.

Several sessions were conducted during the two-day programme:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Session- Smt. Lonjam Elena Devi, TOT Life Skill Education NYKS focussed on 'the importance of Health and Sanitation', where, as a case study, an example of Phayeng and Thangga as role model village of Manipur for complete ODF was cited.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Session was with Bijaya Yumlembam, Programme Executive, All India Radio, Imphal on the topic, 'Career Guidance and Counseling'.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> session was conducted by Dr. O.Sareeta Devi on the Topic, Need of Communication Skill among Children.
- 1<sup>st</sup> session was on Understanding Gandhi where Dr. O Sareeta Devi did a guided tour of the exhibition on the Life's Message of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Session - There was painting Competition on the theme, 'Save our Environment' that was judged by Dr. K. Dellikumar Singh, Vice Principal, Imphal Art College. The winners were: Douglas Lamamayum, Class VI of St. George School (first); Linthoi Sapam, Class-VI of K V Imphal (second) and the third prize went to Sonika Thongam, Class Vi of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya. Cash prizes of Rs 1500/-, Rs 1000/- and Rs 500/- respectively were awarded.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Session - story telling competition on the theme - Truth, Love and Peace. Shri G. Shyamananda Sharma and Smt. Sushan Moirangthem were the jury members of this competition. The winners who went away with the respective cash prizes of Rs 1500/- Rs 1000/- and Rs 500/- were: Venus Khundrakpam ,Class-X of Little Flower School; Loukrakpam Heni, Class VII of Maria Montessori School and K Leima Devi of Class VIII of Kha-Imphal High School respectively.



Children's cultural performances were other highlights of the programme in Manipur in association with KGID.



*Dr. O Sareeta Devi explains to the participating children on the life's message of Mahatma Gandhi through the exhibition gifted by the GSDS to Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development in Manipur, Imphal.*

The valedictory function saw the prize distribution ceremony by the Chief Guest Dr. Kh. Premchand Singh, Assistant Professor Kakching Khunou College, Shri N. Inaocha Singh, President, KGID as Guest of Honour and Smt. L. Randhoni Devi, Head Mistress, Kha-Imphal High School. It was followed by cultural programme presented by the students of Kha-Imphal School. The cultural performances represented:

- i. K. Monika and her party- Nurei Tangbi (Group Dance)
- ii. Keisham Anjali - Wang-magee Khoimu (Solo Dance)
- iii. K. Leima and her Party- Nongthang (Group Dance)
- iv. L.Shely Devi and her party- Thang - Ta (Martial Art)

### **Orientation and workshop of "Youth on Cultural Integration and Peace in North East"**

The Samiti in association with Sanskar Bharati, Poorvattar organised an "Orientation and workshop of "Youth on Cultural Integration and Peace in North East" at Dimapur, Nagaland from March 25-29, 2018. As part of this programme, a "Yuva Kala Sadhna Shivir" was also organised.

The valedictory function the five-day shivir was graced by Sri Jacob Zhimomi, Hon'ble Minister of PHED Govt. of Nagaland who was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Sri Amir Chandra, All India Assistant Organising Secretary, Sanskar Bharati Dr. Dananjay Kushre Shetra Pramukh, Shri Panjal Saikia and Jiten Sharma senior most artist from Assam attended the programme as special guest.

Cultural presentation by artists from Kala Sadhak was the highlight of the five-day event. Eminent Kala gurus from different fields of arts like dance, painting, music and paridhanam put in their coordinated efforts towards making this programme a grand event.

# Rashtrabhasha Hindi – Our Identity

## National dialogue on Hindi Sahitya Me Gandhi aur Dinkar ki Rashtriya Chetna

Her Excellency Smt. Mridula Sinha, Hon'ble Governor of Goa, inaugurated the national dialogue on "Hindi Sahitya Me Gandhi aur Dinkar ki Rashtriya Chetna" at Menezes Braganza Hall in Panjim, Goa on July 28, 2017. The national dialogue was organised by the Samiti in association with Jayate Foundation.



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1) Smt. Mridula Sinha, Hon'ble Governor of Goa along with other distinguished guests lights the ceremonial lamp at the inaugural function.

2) Hon'ble Smt. Mridula Sinha addresses the gathering at the function.

3) The distinguished gathering led by Hon'ble Smt. Mridula Sinha (Centre) releases a publication on the occasion.

Over 600 people took part in the dialogue. Among others who were present on the occasion were Dr. C P Thakur, former Union Minister and presently Member of Parliament was the special guest on the occasion. Smt. Usha Thakur, granddaughter of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar and Ms. Vrushali S. Manderkar, HOD, Department of Hindi, Goa University. The key speaker on the occasion was Dr. Om Nishchal, well known literary critic.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the lamp. The speakers spoke at length on the nationalism of Mahatma Gandhi and national poet Dinkar as depicted in the Hindi Literature. Though their ideologies were quite different, their objective was the same. Both of them sought for national unity and national consciousness.

## Hindi Pakhwara organized

The Samiti organized the "Hindi Pakhwara" in both its campuses in Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti by organizing various competitions such as 'Dictation' (*shrutlekh*); Essay (*niband*); Application Letter (*Avedan Patra*); Poetry (*Kavita*) and Speech (*bhashan*) from September 14-28, 2018. The staff from different groups and categories took part in the competitions. The judges who judged the competitions were Shri Dharmendra Sushant, Shri Dinesh Mishra and Shri Anand Servesesh.



Participants of Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti take part with great enthusiasm in different competitions during the Hindi Pakhwara conducted by Praveen Dutt Sharma and Pankaj Chaubey.





*Participants during the Hindi Pakhwara take part in various competitions as part of the celebration. The competitions were held in Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti respectively under the supervision of judges and coordinators.*



*Shri Basant ji (Centre) along with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and Shri S A Jamal give away the certificates to the winners and all other participants.*

Besides the first, second and third prizes, appreciation/consolation prizes were awarded.

The winners were:

- 1. Dictation** – Manish Kumar (First); Premchand (Second); Ajay Verma – (Third)
- 2. Essay** – Shakuntala (First); Deepak Tiwari (Second); Sailesh Kumar (Third) in first category of participants who have Class XII. Sunil Kumar (First); Umesh Kumar (Second) and Rakesh Sharma (Third) in category (below Class XII)
- 3. Poetry** – (Class - XII) – Rishi Pal (First); Shakuntala (Second); Deshvir Singh (Third). (below Class XII) – Vijay Kumar (First); Smita Bhan (Second); Umesh Kumar (Third)
- 4. Letter** – (Class XII) – Naresh Kumar from National Museum (First); Shakuntala (Second); Deshvir Singh (Third). (Below Class XII) – Shivdutt Gautam (First); Manish Kumar – (Second) and Umesh Kumar (Third).
- 5. Speech** – (Class XII) – Manish Kumar (Srijan) (First); Deshvir Singh (Second); Deepak Tiwari (Third). (Below Class XII) – Dharamraj Kumar (First); Ruby Tiwari (Second) and Shyamlal (Third).

The prize distribution was held on October 28, 2017. Shri Basant Singh former advisor GSDS and Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan were gave away the prizes.

### ***Rashtrabhasha Udghosh Sammelan on Gandhi aur Hindi organised***

GSDS, Rashtriya Lok Samiti, Delhi Sarvodaya Mandal and Rashtrabhasha Swabhimaan Nyas jointly organised a two-day seminar on Total Prohibition in Gandhi Darshan on March 18-19, 2018 which was attended by over 135 participants from different segments of the society that included litterateurs, academicians, authors, publishers and others. Participants from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Aurangabad and other states took part in the programme.

This two-day conference was chaired by the National President of Lok Samiti, Gandhian Chintak Shri Girija Satish. The programme was conducted by Shri Kaushal Ganesh Azad, National Convenor of Lok Samiti. The conference was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Singh, Secretary,

Central Gandhi Memorial Fund, and the welcome address by Dr. Ashok Sharan, Convener of Delhi Sarvodaya Mandal.



*(From Top to Bottom): Various sessions were conducted as part of the seminar in Gandhi Darshan, during which the participants actively discussed wide range of issues. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan along with other dignitaries is seen releasing publications of various authors on the occasion and also sharing his thought as part of the seminar.*



*During the seminar, all the participants were awarded certificates by the distinguished guests.*

Shri Girija Satish said that our Constitution makers had hoped from the State Governments that the government would prohibit liquor, but Governments had a lot of sagacity on this. Between 1920-30 and 1937, after two decades of independence, liquor was prohibited in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala and Karnataka.

In his inaugural address, Secretary of the Central Gandhi Memorial Fund, said that wine is a serious problem for the country. Shri Singh said that in the colleges where the future of the country is created, many boys consumed intoxicants in the same campus, its effect is becoming very dangerous for the younger generation.

For this, the public committee should work in awareness in advance in today's environment. 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi will be celebrated in the coming year. Before that, the Central Government should put a complete ban by making strict laws on alcohol.

Bihar's Lok Samiti president Shri Vijay Kumar Singh said that there should be complete prohibition with prohibition. Today there is more than 1974 bad status in the country. It requires skilled leadership. Mr. Girija is our national president and he is with all the NGOs going forward. There is a need for more public awareness in your state.

The participants unanimously reiterated the need for complete prohibition during the two-day programme. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan also released books of various publishers on the occasion and distributed certificates to participants.

# Orientation Programmes

## Orientation and Capacity Building Workshop for NCWEB Teachers organized

Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini and Non-Collegiate Women Education Board (NCWEB) jointly organized an orientation and capacity building workshop for teachers-in-charge / teachers of NCWEB by the support of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti at GSDS Rajghat on July 30, 2017. In a one day program, five sessions took place to holistically shape capabilities of fifty teachers of NCWEB present at the workshop. "The mission is with a mission to bring change in 30000 girl students' lives has been envisaged. NCWEB shape thousands of girl students' lives every year, who may otherwise live on margins of the society". These leaders will drive the change in their classrooms. In first of its kind workshop, 48 out of 800 teachers were present", said Sh. Ravi Pokharna of the Executive Project Officer RMP.



M e m b e r  
Secretary, ICSSR  
Dr. V.K Malhotra,  
Vice President,  
BSS Smt. Nayana  
Sahasrabuddhe,  
Director NCWEB  
Dr. Anju Gupta,  
and Sh. Ravi  
Pokharna were  
present on the  
dais during  
inaugural session.  
There was a  
wide acceptance  
of the fact that  
Socio- Economic  
empowerment of  
women will help  
women to take  
over the world.

*Learning  
b e y o n d  
Knowledge, Role  
of Teachers in*

*Distinguished speakers like Smt. Nayana Sahasrabuddhe, Shri Ravi Pokharna and others addressed the gathering of teachers during the orientation programme in Gandhi Darshan.*

*Nation Building, Gender Sensitivity in Education and Leader in Me sessions were conducted by experts such as Prof. P.B Sharma, Dr. C.B Sharma, Smt. Nayana Sahasrabuddhe and Ms. Bhavna Luthra respectively to actualise one's potential.*

Different dimensions of role and responsibility of teachers in society and Nation building were discussed. Smt. Nayana Sahasrabuddhe said that the society constructs gender. Gender equality shall not only mean to treat men and women exactly same on the same scale rather a separate identity shall be cherished. Further, she added Teachers have a great role and responsibility in shaping the society which they shall utilize to make our society gender just.

- *Special Lecture: Learning Beyond Knowledge*

Prof. P.B. Sharma actualized education to make an individual courageous & competent enough and to develop one's capabilities. He said that Indian education system has been deliberately disconnected from its value system. We shall inquire into our traditional knowledge system of knowledge science and people (gyan, vighan and praja) to find the essentialities of education. Along with knowledge one shall strive for wisdom and build a good character.

- *Session 1: Role of Teachers in Nation Building*

Dr. C.B Sharma told that the Macaulayism has deteriorated the moral of Indian teachers. To make a prosperous Nation and Society, we shall change the attitude of society towards teachers. We shall reintroduce the story of Shraavan Kumar in our text books. Since ancient time teachers have driven the prosperity of society. To build a great nation we shall turn our teachers into leaders who can drive our society to be prosperous.

- *Session 2: Gender Sensitivity in Education*

Smt. Nayana Sahasrabuddhe enlightened us how the society constructs gender out of sex. The impression of gifts offered to kids leads significant impact on their behavior. Every story has 3 dimensions, i.e. text, context and pretext which shall be freed from gender stereotyping.



*Orientation of NCWEB Teachers in progress in Gandhi Darshan.*

She emphasized that empowering women will empower the society. Gender equality is not about treating men & women exactly the same on same scale, rather a separate identity shall be cherished. Teachers have a great role and responsibility in shaping the society which they shall utilize to make our society gender just.

- *Session 3: Leader in Me*

Smt. Bhana Luthra electrified the gathering and made everyone realize the leader in them. She told you are the only one who is stopping yourself to achieve your potential and urged to break one's own mental barriers.

Smt. Rashmi Das, Dr. Anju Gupta, Sh. Ravi Pokharna, Smt. Jyoti Chautahaiwale and Dr Vedabhyas Kundu were present on the dais. A common desire was reverberated to scale this workshop to reach every teacher of NCWEB hence every student can be touched.

**Training of trainers to enhance the quality of Yoga and Naturopathy**



*Dr. Puneet Mallik from Gandhi Smarak Prakritik Chikitsa Samiti lights the ceremonial lamp, as Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee, Secretary Gandhi Mission Trust West Bengal, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and Ms. Reeta Kumari from GSDS join the ceremony.*

A training of trainers to “Enhance the quality of Yoga and Naturopathy” was organized by the GSDS in association with Gandhi Smarak Prakritik Chikitsa Samiti. About 100 people from different states participated in the seminar. Shri Laxmi Dass, Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee and other distinguished guests shared their views on benefits of Naturopathy and its importance in today’s lifestyle. Smt. Shashwati Jhalani,



*(Above and Below): Participants during the discussion and training programme in Gandhi Darshan on Yoga and Naturopathy.*

Librarian GSDS conducted the programme. Dr Puneet Mallik from Gandhi Smarak Prakritik Chikitsa Samiti took part in the programme. Shri Basant ji and Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan were also present on the occasion.

The two-day training programme began everyday with yoga and *shramdaan*.

**Orientation programme on Gandhian ethics and the Media Today**

A one-day orientation programme was organized for students of Mass Communication, Sikkim Central University, Gangtok on October 30, 2017. The GSDS Programme Officer Dr Vedabhyas Kundu and the Coordinator North-east Mr Gulshan Gupta conducted the workshop. Dr Ashesh Nayak, faculty in the Department of Mass Communication also spoke on the occasion. About 40 students took part in this workshop.

Detailed exposition was given on Gandhi as a communicator and journalist. Later the state

of Indian media today and what students can learn from the Gandhian approach to journalism was discussed.

### **Integrating Nonviolent Communication in Educational Practices**

The Samiti organized a one day orientation workshop on '*Integrating Nonviolent Communication in Educational Practices*' for in-service teachers and students of B.Ed and M.Ed on October 31, 2017. The programme was organized in Harkamaya College of Education, Gangtok, Sikkim. About 130 participants took part in the Workshop.

The GSDS Programme Officer Dr Vedabhyas Kundu conducted the workshop. The Coordinator North-east Mr Gulshan Gupta also shared his perspectives. The key points of Gandhian nonviolent communication-truthfulness, openness, mutual respect, flexibility and development of human relationships were discussed on how these could be integrated in daily teaching practices by teachers.

Also how teachers can use nonviolent conflict resolution in classrooms was discussed through exhaustive case studies and simulation exercises.

### **Orientation for in-service teachers on Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication**

The Samiti organised a two-day orientation programme for "In-service/would be teachers on "Non-violent Conflict Resolution and Non-violent Communication" in collaboration with the Amity Institute of Education (AIE) in New Delhi on November 21-22, 2017. 130 participants from various Schools, Teacher Training Institutes and Universities from Delhi and NCR took part in the orientation programme.



*Dr. Ranjana Bhatia, Director AIE speaks to the participants, as members on the dais (From L to R) Mrs. Mohina Dar, founder Principal, Amity International School, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS and Prof. T K Thomas, Communications Expert, are all ears.*

The programme was inaugurated by Professor T K Thomas, Communication Expert, visiting faculty at Delhi University and Chairperson, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Foundation, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS and Mrs. Mohina Dar, Director, Academics at Amity International and Global Schools. Dr. Ranjana Bhatia, Director AIE, Saket, New Delhi was present on the occasion and welcomed the distinguished guests.



*Prof. T K Thomas, Communications Expert conducts the training programme at Amity Institute of Education in Saket.*

Dr. Ranjana Bhatia discussed on the importance of non violence, particularly in the contemporary times. She shared her knowledge of the current school scenarios and the problems faced by the teachers and addressed the teacher-student relationship.

Dr. Vedbhyas Kundu, elaborated upon the importance of the Samiti and highlighted the working of his organization. He said that there is a need to address contemporary conflicts not only between teachers and students, but among the staff also. There is a need for a win-win situation through non violent communication and mutual respect.

Mrs. Mohina Dhar, founder Principal of Amity International School, Noida, recounted her experiences as the principal of a leading school and the challenges that she and her staff faced while dealing with particularly difficult children. She juxtaposed non violence with school scenarios of today's times and gave practical tips for would be teachers to follow in their coming school experiences. She articulated: "It is necessary to cultivate a climate of peace in the classroom, to a carry a dialogue between students and teachers. There must be three components – self empathy, empathy towards others and honest communication in the classroom for successful knowledge transmission in the classroom".

➤ *Technical Session Day – I*

This session was conducted by Prof. T K Thomas and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu. Through the concept of “emotional bridge building”, Prof. Thomas initiated the discussion and provided various activities thereby asking the participants to provide their opinions on the ideas of communication and violence, wherein



*Principal, teachers and staff of the AIE take a group photograph at the end of the two-day orientation programme in Amity Institute of Education along with Prof. T K Thomas and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu.*

the conclusion was that communication meant understanding one’s message simply and violence meant hindering the peaceful state of one’s being and making other person uncomfortable, be it physically or mentally. The participants were also asked to make acronym of adjectives for the word ‘TEACHER’, which helps the participants to reinforce and reflect on the characteristics of a teacher, in the characteristic style of Gandhiji. Prof. T. K Thomas, everyone agreed that “students are the guardians of the future that we (teachers) have to safeguard them”.

Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, started the interactive session by giving an anecdote about a student and teacher conversation which held a deep meaning in its message, “I have nothing to lose but my temper.” He further introduced and steered the interaction to various important issues of non violence and classroom scenarios. He asked the participants to solve the problem of a hypothetical, but very relevant situation of students wanting a farewell and disagreeing to each other’s points of view.

➤ *Technical Session Day – II*

Prof. T.K. Thomas, conducted a session on the integration of Gandhian ideals of non-violence into classroom teaching-learning situations, followed by group presentations by pupil-teachers. Discussing the centrality of students in a teaching-learning environment that can help create non-violent communication inside and

outside classroom, Prof. Thomas sir highlighted the importance of the five elements – Student-centric, Motivation, Activity, Reinforcement, and Transformation (giving the acronym ‘SMART’).

Prof. T. K. Thomas initiated a critical-thinking session which required us to consider every-day school situations wherein we often act/react unthinkingly, further leading to big-or-small undesirable consequences.

Some of the situations taken up for discussion were:-

1. When students disagree on a point made by the teacher.
2. When teacher doesn’t know the answer to a student’s question.
3. When asked for teacher’s opinion on a ticklish issue.
4. When teacher’s question is greeted with silence.
5. When a student gets into a personal argument with the teacher when asked a direct question.

The participants contributed to the exercise of listing out possible solutions to difficult situations that we as teachers/pupil-teachers come across on daily basis. The class was divided into small groups to discuss and present their points/solutions before the class.

The interaction yielded myriad of solutions based on Gandhian ethics of non-violence and compassion. The solutions used or visualised by the teachers/pupil-teachers were practical approaches that one needs to adopt as a teacher to inculcate positive values, such as love, compassion, empathy, in students and encourage them and our own selves to deal with situations in composed and calm ways to resolve the matter through conciliatory means.

Dr. Ranjana Bhatia thanked all the participants at the valedictory session and expressed her gratitude to Prof. T K Thomas and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu. Shri Sushil Kumar Shukla was also present on the occasion.

**Training programme on “Understanding Adolescent Behaviour”**

The Samiti organised a training programme on *Adolescent Behaviour* in Gandhi Darshan on December 12, 2017 that was conducted by Dr. Rajiv Nandy. About 150 participants took part in the training programme.

*Dr. Rajiv Nandy speaks to the participants during the training programme on 'Understanding Adolescent Behaviour' in Gandhi Darshan. In the picture below is Dr. K D Prasad (third from L) along with other members of IGNOU RC-2.*



Discussion on role of parents, behaviour of parents was touched during the training programme. Dr. Nandy underlined the two dimensions of the parents while speaking about the behaviour of parents in Decision-making i.e. being dominant and democratic.

He also spoke about the role of teachers in shaping the character of the child and said that 'teacher's behaviour' creates a long lasting impact on the child. He also touched on various aspects of disorders which can harm the child's mental growth, such as: 'conduct disorder', 'anti social personality disorder', 'attention deficit hyperactive disorder and so on.

He said that parents need to understand that for adolescent, it is normal to argue for the sake of arguing, and, therefore, children need to be given proper guidance. The parents must understand that as teens mature, their peers become increasingly important.

He further argued that as thinkers, adolescents start to analyse situation logically in terms of cause and effect.

Dr. Nandy also said that personality develops from various physical, social, cultural and religious factors where heredity and brain plays a distinctive role. Along with personality it develops 'temperament', 'character', 'creativity', 'emotional intelligence', 'abilities' and so on.

He also shared his ideas about positive emotions which he said leads to a state of mind and to modes of behaviour that prepares an individual for later hard times. Discussions on adolescent management and interactive session with the participants formed part of this training programme.

### **Orientation Programme of Tribal students from LWE regions in Skill Development**

On December 16, 2017, a step towards upliftment of tribal students had been undertaken by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan (NYKS). The journey started with the orientation programme, with a motive to instill skill development within the students from tribal areas of Chattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa. To sensitize and motivate the tribal students, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and Shri Basant had an interaction with the gathering of 200 students.



*(Left): Shri Basant Singh (R) with Shri Atul Kr. Pandey during an interaction with the participating youth.*

*(Below): Participants take a group photograph during the programme in Gandhi Darshan.*



To remove the obstacles such as long geographical isolation and bridge distance, also collecting their knowledge, a discussion about different indigenous crops was conducted. Rice being a staple food to Satawari as a medicinal plant was also discussed.

This was followed by a discussion based on the livelihood options such as agriculture, woodcraft and medicinal plants etc.

Further, various skill opportunities in areas such as Medical Representative, Optical Fiber Technician, Gardner and Unarmed Security Guard, etc were informed to the students.

Thereafter, a form regarding the basic information of students such as personal information, educational qualification, training programmes, priorities for the location, choosing a skill out of the defined skill development areas and the skill area of their wish which is not included in the list was asked to be filled.

**Training in Youth Leadership Orientation Programme for Community Development**

In view of its ongoing leadership programmes with youth from all across the country, the Samiti in association with the Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), District Central Delhi organised a “Youth Leadership Orientation Programme for Community Development” on December 18-20, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. Almost 120 youth took part in the programme from District North West, West and South West. Several simultaneous sessions were organised for the participants. District Youth Coordinator NYKS Shri Atul Pandey, Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Administrative Officer GSDS and Programme Officer GSDS Shri S A Jamal and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu respectively were present at the inaugural programme.

*Shri Biswajit Singh (Right) addresses the youth participants (Below) during the youth camp in Gandhi Darshan.*



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan while inaugurating the orientation programme said that youth today are the major workforce of the nation and they can take up various challenges in the society. He also shared information about the forthcoming 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019 and asked the youth to

develop linkages within their community, society for Gandhian constructive work.

During the orientation programme, several sessions were conducted and interactive sessions on various life skill issues were discussed by Dr. Sudhir Kapoor, Retd Principal, DIET.

The others who conducted the sessions were:

- Dr. Suman, Associate Professor Delhi Univeristy – *Good Governance and Citizenship;*
- Dr. Shivani – *Gender Sensitisation;*
- Shri Basant, Senior Gandhian – *National Integration, Moral Issues and National Ethics and Character – the Gandhian approach;*
- Shri Biswajeet (NSIM) - *Employment Generation Activity as part of the Pradhanmantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana;*
- Mr. Rajiv Gupta from NIESBUD, Ministry of MSME – *Various schemes of the Government of India;* and
- Mr. Jay Kumar and Ms. Poonam Yadav – *Digital Marketing and Social Media.*

The objective of the orientation programme was to train and empower the youth with the latest schemes of the Government of India for their employment and contribution towards nation development.



*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (C) along with Dr. Atul Kumar Pandey from NYKS giving away certificates to the participants.*

The valedictory session saw the participants engaging into a conversation with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan who welcomed them to render their services for the GSDS. Certificates were also distributed to the participants.

● **Training on Design Intellect – Preparing the Design Mind**

**Design Thinking Creates Sustainable Productivity: Arun Jain**

Shri Arun Jain, Chairman, Polaris who visited Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti conducted a training programme on “Design Intellect – Unmukt Preparing the Design Mind” for the staff and members of the GSDS. The training programme was organised on December 23, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan. Almost 100 participants took part in the programme.



(Above): Shri Arun Jain, Chairman Polaris conducts the training programme.  
(Left): Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan felicitates Shri Arun Jain with the Charkha.

The training focussed on the vistas of the mind and how one could think ‘out of the box’ as the term refers. Shri Arun Jain during the interactive session stressed on various points deconstruction the ideas of “Training” vs “Learning”. While laying emphasis on “what all we can design”, he cited various examples of how Guru Govind Singh designed Sikhism to fight the Moghuls and how this “created a self image improvement”.

He further focussed on the various aspects of designs that are both stated and unstated and said, “While sifting, we connect all the good things together”. Speaking about the ‘blind spots’ (which is within us), Shri Arun Jain said that these ‘blind spots’ improves the thinking capacity and that ‘curiosity’ is the first part of the learning/design process, where ‘observation’ is a key logical factor.

He further dwelled upon the five steps to knowledge – ‘skills’, ‘expertise’, ‘perspective’, ‘idea’ and ‘alignment’.

He also pointed to the five frictional forces – ‘doubt’, ‘conflicts’, ‘anger’, ‘fear’ and ‘ego’ and said that ahimsa in the Indian context comes from thought process, non attachments, which Mahatma Gandhi had practiced and preached all through his life. “Synchronisation of the five frictional forces creates harmony’ he concluded.

Later Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan felicitated Shri Arun Jain with the Charkha.

**Capacity Building for GSDS Staff**

The Samiti organised a Capacity Building programme of the staffs on December 28, 2017 in Chandigarh in which 40 members took part. During this programme, visit to the historical places was also organised.

**Orientation programme of Delhi Home Guards on – ‘Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication**

The Samiti organised an “Orientation Programme of Delhi Home Guards” on “Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication” on January 11-12, 2018. 150 Home Guards participated in the Workshop organised in Raja Garden organised in association with the Delhi Home Guards.



Mr. D. S Rawat, Deputy Commandant Delhi Home Guards (L) and Ms. Shreya Jani, expert trainer addresses the gathering during the orientation programme.

Prof. T. K. Thomas, eminent communications expert, Ms. Shreya Jani, communications professional, Smt. Santoshiji Nursing Officer AIIMS conducted the workshop.



*Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Prof. T K Thomas conducts the orientation programme for the Delhi Home Guards in Raja Garden.*

*The participants are seen engaging in dialogue with the trainers (Below).*



Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS and Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer were also present on the occasion. Mr. D S Rawat, Deputy Commandant, Delhi Home Guards was present on the occasion.

Ms. Nihkat Shama Khan, Gandhi Darshan Action Fellow conducted the workshop on *Child Rights* and Ms. Akanksha Gandhi Darshan Action Fellow conducted a session on *Gender Sensitisation*.

The other sessions conducted during the two-day orientation programme included:

- Non-Violent Communication – Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
- Humanity and Self-Motivation – Prof. T K Thomas
- Stress Management – Ms. Santoshi
- Human Psychology – Ms. Shreya Jani
- Gandhian Philosophy – Smt. Geeta Shukla

The Samiti also put up an exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi's life's message and philosophy during the programme.

## **Training and capacity building of Voluntary Organisations and Socio-Political Leaders in Leadership Politics and Governance**



*(Above): Dr. B P Singh (Centre) former Governor of Sikkim addresses the young trainers in Leadership Program in Gandhi Smriti, as they listen with rapt attention (Below).*

The Samiti in association with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini organized an orientation programme in "Leadership Politics and Governance" in Gandhi Smriti on March 11, 2018. This programme was organized for the trainers of the "Post Graduate Programme in Leadership Politics and Governance" under the aegis of the Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership, Pune. The objectives of the training programme are:

- To provide a deep insight into the socio-political ground reality of India;
- To inculcate and enhance leadership values and capacities;
- To equip the participants with necessary skill-sets for having a career in politics, public affairs, voluntary organizations and allied areas.

The outcomes of the training programme were:

- Trained and competent political leaders and social workers;
- Skilled and equipped human resource for governance both within the government and outside

- Sensitized and socio-politically aware youth.

During the visit, the young trainers visited Gandhi Smriti, where they offered tributes at the Martyr’s Column, besides visiting the Gandhi Smriti Museum.



*Dr. B P Singh (Centre) former Governor of Sikkim receives an information brochure from the members of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini in Gandhi Smriti during the programme.*

Students also had an interactive session with Shri Balmiki Prasad Singh, former Governor of Sikkim and Home Secretary, Government of India and a distinguished scholar and thinker. While addressing the students he focused on the idea of Good Governance and how government could be made effective by incorporating the values of Mahatma Gandhi, which are declining in the current scenario.

According to him, good governance means securing justice, empowerment, employment and efficient delivery of services. He said Good governance thrives where people are allowed to participate freely and are actively engaged in the political and governing process. He stressed on the idea of inclusive society where services like-education, health, roads are provided on time and these services must reach the poorest of the poor. He also spoke about the dream of Mahatma Gandhi where everyone is self sufficient and lived a sustained life. He further said, our government should accord primacy to the Gandhian principle of ‘antodaya’ without sacrificing growth and making instruments of state accountable for good governance.

Towards the end, he focused on the youth, which is the driving force of our country, who will work towards the development of our society. He said, “Leadership goes beyond the idea of being the head of a particular organization, but it is about creating the leaders who knows the

strength of its members and inspire them to do better”.

The IIDL students gained immense knowledge through the session and students became more aware about Mahatma Gandhi Ji’s life and were inspired by his principles.

**Training Programme on “Nonviolence Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication” for Delhi Home Guards**

A training programme on “Nonviolence Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication” was organised by the Samiti on March 15-16, 2018 at Home Guards Headquarters, Raja Garden, New Delhi.

The programme began by showing a documentary based on Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. Then, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu (Program Officer, GSDS) outlined the aim and objectives of the training programme. While speaking on the benefits of the programme, he added that the program could help them to deal with the situation without using coercive methods and violence. Further, participants were apprised with the concept of violence, struggle and peace.



*(Above): Expert trainers Smt. Anupama Jha and Shri Kumar Amitabh conducts the training programme with Delhi Home Guards as a participant responds to a query.*

HEALTH model based on non-violent communication was discussed, describing – Honesty, Empathy, Acceptance, Listening and Trust as the basic constraint for peaceful communication.



*Participants engage in a session on meditation during the training programme.*

A film based on friendly policing was shown and discussed where it was depicted as to what kind of behavior can be presented before a society in a new form by breaking the bias? Different types of challenges at workplace, with people of different caste, gender, community were addressed where suggestions to deal with such situational conflicts to address such challenges were pointed.

Different sessions were taken, such as: Ms. Anupama Jha on 'Stress Management and Motivation'; Mr. Kumar Amitabh on 'Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and Sensitivity'; Dr. Vedabhasya Kundu on 'Non-violent Conflict Resolution and Non-Violent Public Relations' and Ms Akanksha on 'Sensitivity and Non-Violent Public Relations'.

Group work was conducted in which Delhi Home Guards were divided into different groups and provided with some questionnaire and a presentation was prepared by group-discussing, where these questions were taken up. Conflict mapping and some of its practical aspects were also discussed such as – how to solve any problem; how can one deal with non-violent dialogue or public relations in a tensed environment, etc.

In the final session, group presentations by each group brought out various factors where the participants also shared their two-day experience and agreed that non-violent dialogue and public relations can be created through a sensitive and equitable society. It was pointed out that by establishing this kind of dialogue, the possibility of relying on common man's security system can also increase.

Some suggestions and some questions were also raised by the participants and the way to deal with such situations, were answered by the respective speakers.

## **Workshop on Reconciliation of Non-Violent Communication for Good Governance organized**

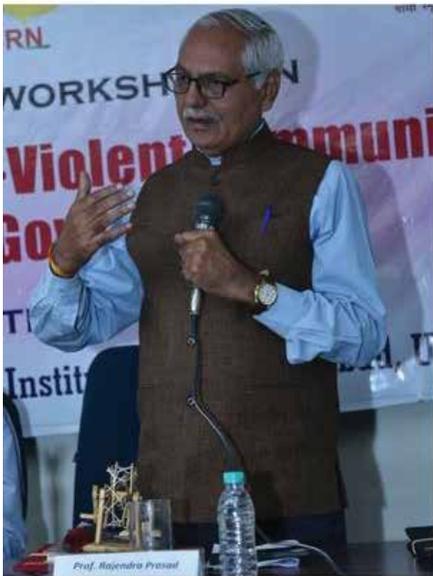
Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN) along with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti jointly organized a two-day workshop for researchers, academicians, scholars and teachers on "Good Governance and Non-Violent Teaching Practices under the tile "Reconciliation of Non-Violent Communication for Good Governance". The workshop started on a high note as the inaugural session saw the likes of Justice Shri. Giridhar Malviya who was the chief guest, guest of honour Prof. Rajendra Prasad, *Vice Chancellor, Allahabad State University* and Chair of the Program, Prof. Badri Narayan Tiwari, *Director, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute*, along with Shri Santosh Gupta, *CEO, ISRN*, Shri Udit Narayan Tiwari, *CEO, Sanjeevani* and Shri Purnendu Mishra.



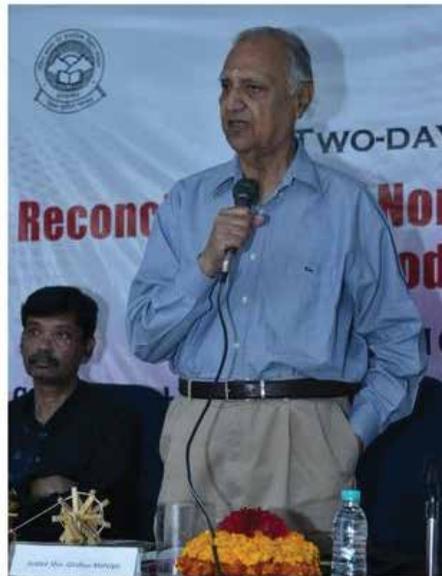
*Prof. Rajendra Prasad (Extreme Right) shares his perspective at the programme, as others are all ears.*

Justice Malvia spoke fervently about the importance of responsible education system and honest citizens for the better future of the country. While highlighting the ill effects of any form "extremism", Prof. Rajendra Prasad discussed the relevance of accepting different ideologies and value systems that are present in the society and discussed the significance of attaining the tolerant attitude.

Shri Santosh Gupta laid the foundation of the upcoming program by speaking about *non-violent communication and its connotations for good governance*. While giving his address in the session, he ardently put forth his views on good governance and how conceptualizing it in the various management functions in different institutions can give rise to a powerful nation with national integrity.



*Prof. Rajendra Prasad*



*Justice Girdhar Malviya*



*Prof. Badrinarayan Tiwari*

Prof. Tiwari elaborated on the function of good governance in the society and exemplified it through the role that water plays in nature. "Just like water is more powerful than rock and can mould things accordingly, similarly we need to create a citizenry through educational institutes that can eventually implement good governance in society by taking it in the right direction".

Towards the end of the inaugural address Shri Purnendu Mishra welcomed the participants and Shri Udit Narayan Shukla thanked the guests and took the program forward.

The inaugural address was followed by the first session which laid the foundation of the program by conceptualizing "Good Governance" and explaining its advantages to promote efficiency and effectiveness through performance oriented service in the academic sector. The session was taken up by Dr. Anand Kumar Srivastav, Principal, C.M.P Degree collage Allahabad who put forth his views on the current status of education and how it lags behind while being unable to create a peaceful environment in society in general and amongst pupils in particular.

Dr. Preeti Gautam, Director, UP Higher Education, UP Govt. Allahabad, Shri.Santosh Gupta, CEO, ISRN, Prof. S.K. Pant, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, were some of the other prominent speakers for the session.

Prof. Pant while addressing the audience noted that due to the lack of good governance several schemes like "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan" are not able to reap the full potential.

The second session touched upon the theme of "Good Governance in Teaching Practices". With the expertise on the subject and vast experience in the field of research and education at varied level the speakers like Prof. P.N Pandey, V.C. NGBU, Allahabad, Prof. Ram Ji Singh, TMC College, Bhagalpur and Dr. S.K Mishra, C.M.P. College Allahabad enlightened the participants with their exchange of ideas.

Leading its way to the third session of the program and last session of day one, highlighting the theme of "Creating a Socially Inclusive Environment" Dr. Santosh Tiwari, Associate Professor, Gautam Buddha University, Noida stressed upon the need of socially inclusive good governance. Some of the other speakers in the session were Shri Dhawal Jaiswal, IPS, Shri G.P. Madan, Social Scholar and Dr. Umesh Pratap, ECC College Allahabad.

Day two of the workshop started with the session on "Conflict Resolution" where key speaker *Prof. K.B. Panday, Ex Chairman, UP PSC*, shared his views on efficient conflict resolution by stating that the main reason for ideological conflict is lack of communication or miscommunication between generations. He elaborated on the need of dialogue and understanding amongst different players of society. The session was presided over by Kripa Shankar Pande, HOD, Dept of Hindi, University of Allahabad.

The final session of the programme saw eminent speakers like Prof. H.K. Sharma, Pol. Science Dept. Univ. of Allahabad, Shri Jagdish Joshi, Senior Editor, Dainik jagran, Prof. Anupam Dikshit, Coordinator, Centre for Rural Technology

and Development, Allahabad University speaking on issues of "Effective Communication".

Prof. Sharma hailed effective and influential conversation as a powerful tool of resolve conflicts in society. For Prof. Dixit, anger management is the key to delivering effective and impressionable speech in society.

The two-day workshop concluded with Valedictory Session attended by the chief guest Shri. Prem Kumar Shukla, National Spokesperson BJP, Prof. K.N. Singh, Vice Chancellor, Rajarshi Tandon Open University who was present as the Guest of Honour, Prof. Badri Narayan Tiwari, Director, G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad who chaired the session and Shri Santosh Gupta. CEO, ISRN.



*Shri S K Mishra shares his perspective at the orientation programme.*

advised to include the topic of good governance in school curriculum so as to create a better understanding amongst the future citizenry of the country.

The programme concluded with a note of thanks by Shri Santosh Gupta and certificate distribution to participants. The program became a huge success and was attended by scholars, academicians, researchers and faculty members from Allahabad University, State University, U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Nehru Gram Bharti University and Degree Colleges. The workshop also witnessed students from MBA Rural Development department taking the total number of attendees to 180, participating eagerly in the discussions and dialogues held over the span of two days.

In the session, Prof. Singh in his address stated the need of peaceful conflict resolution and pointed out that the nation can flourish in the midst of Constructive disagreements, but it is the inherent ideological intolerance that is dangerous.

While Shri Prem Kumar stressed upon the idea of good governance in practice to materialize the Gandhian philosophy, Shri Santosh Gupta



*Shri K B Pandey (Centre) shares his thought at the orientation programme.*

## *Mahatma Gandhi Exchange Programmes*

### **Interaction with Students from Nangarhar University Afghanistan**



*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan addresses the participants from Nangarhar University, Afghanistan in Gandhi Darshan.*

30 youths from the University of Nangarhar from Afghanistan led by their Vice-Chancellor Mr. Naeem Jan Sarwary took part in an interaction in Gandhi Darshan on May 2, 2017. The interaction was led by Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan. The group was coordinated by Mr. Samuel from STEPS.

Addressing the students on Champaran Satyagraha which attained its centenary year on April 10, 2017, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan termed Mahatma Gandhi as a lone crusader who brought in people from different backgrounds to fight the injustices in a non-violent manner, and said that Mahatma Gandhi's biggest achievement in Champaran was that he removed fear from the mind and heart of the poor farmers. Calling Gandhiji a great communicator, he referred to his multi-dimensional life saying that "His life teaches us the strength to have the courage to tell the truth".



*Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan presents the symbol of peace and harmony, the 'Charkha' to a guest from Nangarhar University, Afghanistan.*

Taking the interaction forward, Director GSDS said that a common culture of peace prevails in Afghanistan where Buddhism from India flourished. He further opened his heart about collaboration with the Nangarhar University on initiating different courses on peace and non-violence.

In his address, Mr. Naeem Jan Sarwary informed the GSDS about the Youth Peace Club that has been established at the Nangarhar University with the objectives of training the students on ideas of peace and conflict resolution and International Relations. "The aim is to develop an understanding of the philosophy of peace makers and their diversity", Mr. Naeem said. "This is a challenge", he concluded.

Mr. Haseeb said that the effort of the Peace Club is to institutionalise peace. "Peace education and peace centre is an endeavour to train cadres towards initiating peace-building methods".

Earlier the group visited the Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat and also saw the exhibition *My Life is My Message* in Gandhi Darshan.

### **Interaction with youth from Gandhi Peace Mission, Kerala**

38 youth from Gandhi Peace Mission, Kerala visited Gandhi Darshan on May 18, 2017 as part of their exposure visit towards "Understanding Gandhi" during which they



Visitors from Gandhi Peace Mission Kerala at the exhibition on “My Life is My Message” in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat join for a photograph in front of the boat used by Mahatma Gandhi during the historic Salt Satyagraha of 1930.

interacted with the staff of the GSDS. They also visited the exhibitions *My Life is My Message* and *India’s Struggle for Independence* in Gandhi Darshan. Thereafter, they visited Gandhi Smriti Museum where they also offered tributes at the Martyr’s Column.

### **Orientation of Students from Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwa Vidyalaya**

The Samiti as part of the “Gandhi Exchange Programme” organised an orientation programme of students from the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwa Vidyalaya (MGAVV), Wardha, at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat from June 7-12, 2017. 27 students from the Department of Social Work of MGAVV took part in the orientation programme. Prof. (Dr). Anupama Singh, Dr. Shiv Singh Bhagel and Dr. Mithilesh Kumar Tiwari Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS, Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS, and dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director IGNOU (2) were present on the occasion.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS welcomed the gathering and briefed them about the relevance of Gandhian model of constructive work in today’s world. He further outlined the role of educational centres like IGNOU in dissemination of quality education amongst the students and said that IGNOU and GSDS are working together to take forward the philosophy and ideas of Mahatma Gandhi through different courses.

The speakers felt that till 2019 that marks the 150 birth anniversary of Gandhiji, the target should be to reach 50000 students and orient them on the life’s message and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

Field visit was also conducted for the participating students at Aterna Village in

Haryana, 40 kilometers from New Delhi, where Shri Kamal Singh Chauhan received the group.

The six-day orientation programme ended with students taking a pledge to commit them towards volunteering their services to the society.

### **Gandhi Exchange Programme with children of Wardha**

25 students and seven teachers of Z P Schools of Wardha District (Maharashtra) as part of the Gandhi Exchange Programme visited GSDS from December 7-10 during which effort was made to introduce M K Gandhi before the students. The participating students had an interaction with Shri Basant ji, from Karigar Panchayat along with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan.

The students – who had visited New Delhi as part of the initiative of the Wardha Collector (D.M.) Shri Shailesh Nawal – are part of the programme run by the District Institute of Education Consistency and Professional Development (DIECPD).

The children during their visit were taken to various places of historical importance, besides, the Rashtrapati Bhawan and Parliament House.



(Above): Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan felicitates the teacher coordinator with a ‘Charkha’.

(Below): Children along with their coordinators and GSDS staff and Shri Basant ji pose for a group photograph in Gandhi Darshan.

# Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre

## Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre inaugurated in Kargil



(Above): An art work on sand outside the Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre in Kargil.



(Below): Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan informs the gathering about the launch of the Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre.

Minister for Youth and Sports, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr Sunil Sharma inaugurated the *Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre* at Kargil. The Centre is an initiative of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and will be run by NYK, Kargil. The Interpretation Centres in different parts of the country are being established with an aim towards reaching out to different parts of the country, thereby developing a rich resource bank of people who could play a vital role during the 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations.

The Interpretation Centre was inaugurated during the "National Youth Volunteers Conclave for Constructive Work" on July 10, 2017.

## Launch of Interpretation Centre at Narendrapur Village

Shri Vijay Kumar Chaudhury, Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Bihar launched the Interpretation Centre of the Samiti at

Narendrapur Village. The programme was organised in association with SEMAF. The launch ceremony was organised on October 12, 2017.



(Above and Below): Chairman of the Legislative Assembly of Bihar Shri Vijay Kumar Chaudhury at the inauguration of the Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre in Siwan Bihar. A display of the exhibition at the Interpretation Centre developed by GSDS is being viewed by the distinguished guest on the occasion.

The Samiti initiated the setting up of the Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre at different places and established an exhibition on the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi. Besides, an exhaustive collection of Gandhiana has been put together in the Centre. Not only the students of the Centre, but students from nearby school and others from the immediate community will be able to develop their understanding about the Father of the Nation through the Interpretation Centre.

**Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth, Sewapuri Varanasi**

Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth, Sewapuri Varanasi organized several programmes during the year. The Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre at the Vidyapeeth that was set up by the GSDS earlier in 2016 has become the centre of attraction of the nearby schools and several programmes are being organized from time-to-time.



*Children of the Vidyalaya participating at the workshop in Sewapuri, Varanasi.*

A six-day workshop under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture was organized in collaboration with GSDS and BHU IIT. M.CIEL was also one of the partner organizations. Prof. Ramkesh Patel and Prof. Ramdasenkhale interacted with the students of the Vidyapeeth through stories explained the significance of using mathematics and science in creative manner to solve problems. Smt. Anita Singh Principal of the Vidyapeeth was present on the occasion.



A commemorative function (sharaddhanjali sabha) was organized at the Vidyapeeth. The Principal of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Rajkiya Mahila Mahavidyalaya Sewapuri Dr. Yashodhara Sharma staff and girl students were present on

the occasion. The children after offering tributes to Gandhiji, also sang devotional and patriotic songs on the occasion.



*Students of other Vidyalayas in the area visit the Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre developed by GSDS in Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Sewapuri, Varanasi.*

The students of the Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth took part in a sanitation drive and awareness programme by organising rallies and padyatras as part of the Swachhatta Pakhwara.



*Principal of the Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Sewapuri Varanasi lead the students into an awareness campaign in the community on sanitation, health and hygiene as part of the as part of the Swachhatta Pakhwara.*

Further, performances by students of different Interpretation Centres promoted by organisations of Ministry of Culture in Varanasi were organised in Gandhi Darshan on December 30, 2017. Students gave performances of Chaiti and Kajri in semi-classical music.

# Srijan Entrepreneurial Centre

## SRIJAN ENTREPRENEURIAL CENTRE

### RPL Training of Champaran Auto Drivers in Delhi as part of 100 Years of Champaran Satyagraha



(From Top to Bottom):  
Shri Biswajeet Singh,  
Shri Basant ji,  
Shri Viswas Gautam  
conducting training  
programmes for  
the Auto Drivers of  
Champaran plying in  
New Delhi as part of the  
RPL programme under  
the PMKVY.

For the moral and economic regeneration, the Father of the Nation chose skill development as a pivotal part of his crusade for the freedom movement and thus inculcated and manifested self reliability, self sufficiency and self fulfilment to achieve Swaraj. Also, in his discourse on "constructive work" Gandhiji has given all of us a great insight on how to build the character and calibre of the youth and how to capacitate them for positive outcomes through skill development.



(Above): Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan addresses the Auto Drivers (Below), as Shri Biswajeet, Dr. Manju Aggarwal (L) Shri Basant ji and Shri Vimal ji (R) looks on.

Therefore, in line with this mandate and legacy of promoting and inculcating the Gandhian concept of Life and Living, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) has taken up uniquely and comprehensively designed skill development special projects within the frame work of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) under Skill India Mission of National Skill Development Corporation, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India.



*Dr. Manju Aggarwal*



*Shri Prashan Srivastava*



*Shri L N Kothari*



*Participants at the training programme listen with rapt attention to the trainers.*

The core objective of this Skill Certification Scheme that was launched on September 24, 2017 is to assess and certify Individuals with prior learning experience or skills under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Also, the project aims to capacitate the beneficiaries with comprehensively sustainable livelihood and living guided by the talisman of Gandhian Philosophy to perpetuate from individual to family, social and national integration. Therefore, the following components are adopted to achieve the purpose through NSQF - QP Orientation, Life Skill , Financial Management and Hand Holding.

Further, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> years of the celebrations of Champaran Satyagraha

primary focus are the migrated Auto Rickshaw Drivers in Delhi NCR from Champaran district to make them self sustained as well as the Goodwill Culture Ambassadors of India in Delhi NCR.



*(Top to Bottom): Smt. Manjushree Mishra, Shri Prabhat, Shri Basant ji, Dr. B Mishra, Smt. Geeta Shukla, Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu giving away certificates to the beneficiaries.*

In view of this, a meeting was convened with the auto drivers on August 16, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan with an objective towards initiating a comprehensive capacity building and sustained livelihood programme for the auto drivers. After this, till now 13 sessions have been conducted, where in 519 auto drivers from champaran have already participated.

For training sessions, resource persons have been Dr. Manju Aggarwal (Naturopathy

Expert), Shri Prashant Srivastav (Life Skill Trainer), Shri Pawan Kumar (Domain Trainer) and Shri Lalan Ram (Domain Trainer) ,Shri Bishwajeet and Shri Visvas Gautam. Various queries of the auto drivers such as imparting knowledge about Medclaim, insurance, licenses (commercial and private) have been addressed during the meeting.

The nodal officers from ASDS (Automotive Skill Development Council) carries out assessment work. After successful completion assessments, participants are awarded with a certificate and monetary reward.

On the one hand GSDS has taken up Special Project for Recognition of Prior Learning Program of Skill Development which aims at recognizing and certifying the casual but substantial work force of India for progressive growth of the work force and Indian Economy. On the other hand, for future, GSDS also plans to start a special project of short term job specific Skilling to



*Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan encourages coordinators of RPL training programme Shri Ashish and Ms. Moushami to give away the certificates to the beneficiaries. (Above): Shri S A Jamal also joins the celebration.*



**The Outcome**



**JUBILATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS:** *The beneficiaries of the RPL training programme, the Auto Drivers of Champaran, Bihar, plying auto in New Delhi, pose with their certificates in Gandhi Darshan. (Left): Group photograph with the coordinators.*

the youth of the Marginalized and Conflicted Affected Population and Areas for greater level of Employment Generation to bring them into main stream of the society and nation.

- 2nd and 3rd Batch - December 23-24 & December 30-31, 2017 – 78 participants
- 4th Batch – training was conducted on January 6 and assessment was done on January 7, 2018. 49 participants took part.
- 5th Batch – training was conducted on January 12 and assessment was done on January 13. 45 participants took part.
- 6th Batch – training was conducted on January 19 and assessment was done on January 20. 38 participants took part.
- 7th Batch – training was conducted on January 27 and assessment was done on January 28, 2018. 41 participants took part.
- 8th, 9th, 10, 11th Batch - February 4, 19, 25, 26, 2018 – almost 150 participants took part
- 12th and 13th - March 15 and 18, 2018 – 73 participants took part

As part of the Skill Development Programme of the Government of India, the Samiti initiated the Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) programme, the auto drivers from Champaran working in New Delhi for 25 years. This programme was launched on September 24, 2017 in Gandhi Darshan Rajghat.

The certificate distribution ceremony was organised on November 24, 2017 at Gandhi Darshan. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Shri S A Jamal, Smt. Geeta Shukla, Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, Shri Prabhat Kumar, Smt. Manjushree Mishra, Shri Biswajeet Singh and Shri Viswas Gautam were present on the occasion and distributed the certificates.

During the ceremony, many aspects of their daily life and their work related problems came to the forefront. The speakers suggested various ways to redress the grievances.

Earlier, an examination was conducted by the nodal agency with officers from ASDS (Automotive Skill Development Council) on September 27, 2017. The result was declared on October 1, 2017 with 100 per cent pass out by 45 auto drivers. The passed out participants also attended the Gandhi Jayanti programme in Gandhi Smriti.

### **Three-month awareness course on "Benefits of Charkha" launched with D.U.**

The Samiti launched a three month's awareness course on "Benefits of Charkha" in association with Gandhi Bhawan, Delhi University with two classes of two hour duration every week.



*Ms. Renu of GSDS (Above Centre) conducts the training programme for the participants of Delhi University's Gandhi Bhawan.*

The course was launched with an inaugural workshop held in Gandhi Bhawan on October 6, 2017. It was attended by Shri Laxmi Dass, Dr. Sita Bimbrah, Prof. Anita Sharma, Director, Gandhi Bhawan and Smt. Shashwati Jhalani on behalf of the GSDS.

The workshop began with Charkha geet 'Hai Sudarshan Chakra Se Bhi Gatimay Charkha Tumhara' rendered by Ms. Seema, a discipline of Dr. Sita Bimbrah. This was followed by an introduction to GSDS by Smt. Shashwati Jhalani who also spoke on the Gandhian Concept and Implementation of Charkha Spinning.

Shri Laxmi Dass ji spoke on the values of spinning. He told the student about how Charkha represents decentralized economy of the country. He explained how the re-discovery of Charkha gave Gandhiji a strong spiritual as well as economic satisfaction which he then imparted to his fellow countrymen. It is the eternal message of constant growth which makes Charkha a strong symbol of nationhood. He asked the students to check the Gandhi Heritage Portal for more detailed information.

Dr. Sita Bimbrah spoke about the background of Charkha and provided inputs about the immense benefits of Charkha spinning. Among the foremost is love and peace. It connects people together and gives a strong economic base to people.

Phoolchand Bhai of Harijan Sevak Sangh asked the youth to adopt Charkha for following peace ideology. He said "It is an integral philosophy of life and should be followed with devotion".

The workshop concluded with Ms. Seema's singing of 'Chal Mere Charkha Pyaare, Har Bharat Ke Sankat-Sare'. The first class of the Charkha Spinning Certificate Course was held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Gandhi Bhawan from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. The thirteen candidates enrolled for the same attached the first day of the course in full strength.

Ms. Shashwati Jhalani, Sr. Librarian GSDS was the official present on behalf of GSDS, along with Ms. Renu who is a staff member of GSDS and would teach the students spinning. Ms. Shashwati briefed the students about the relevance of Charkha, and how it provides sustenance for the upliftment of the rural economy.

It has been decided to hold the classes twice a week in both Gandhi Bhawan and Gandhi Darshan, alternately. The students visited Gandhi Darshan on October 13, 2017 and went around the pavilions and also interacted with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director, GSDS.

The course is commendable in these technical times, when the hand and mind work together both for our spiritual and economic well being.

**Charkha training programme**

The Samiti organizes various meaningful programmes for cross sections of society on a regular basis to spread the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. One such programme is Charkha spinning training given by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti to schools and colleges.

Charkha for the Mahatma was a very strong tool of economic independence and a symbol of self respect Gandhiji wanted every Indian to take to spinning and today's youth and children need to know all about charkha spinning.

The Samiti organized a special charkha spinning training in Green Fields School,



*Ms. Renu (Above) and Shri Dharamraj Kumar (Below) conducts the training programme for the children of Greenfields School, Safderjung Enclave.*



Safdarjung Enclave, on November 18, 2017. Two representatives of the Samiti, Ms. Renu and Sh. Dharamraj went to the school for teaching the students charkha spinning. About 450 students and teachers participated enthusiastically. They were all eager to know about the charkha and practiced spinning.

**Amrut Krishi Farming and Mahatma Gandhi's Constructive Work**



*Dr. Siddharth Biswas (Inset) from ICMR conducts the training programme in Amrut Krishi for the GSDS participants at Gandhi Darshan (Below).*



The Samiti organised a three-day training programme for the gardeners working in GSDS on *Amrut Krushi* from January 11-13, 2018. The training was conducted by Dr. Siddharth Biswas, Doctor at ICMR, AIIMS along with Mr. Rajesh, Dy. Director at Central Water Commission. About 60 participants took part in the residential workshop that was inaugurated on January 12<sup>th</sup>, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.



*Participants from GSDS including persons from Horticulture attended the training programme in Gandhi Darshan.*

*Amrut Krushi* (NATUECO) is a way of farming which is based on imitating Nature through critical scientific methods to strengthen



*Dr. Siddharth Biswas conducts an on-the-field training programme in Gandhi Darshan for the participants for developing the Amrut Krushi model. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (extreme Left) is seen attending this early morning session.*

the ecology of a farm. It uses inputs from a farmers' field only which results into reduction in cost, increase in productivity and increased nutrition in crops. The main principle of *Amrut Krushi* is "harvesting of sunlight" coupled with nursery soil build up through use of all the plant parts. *Amrut Krushi* is a solution to the problems arising out of modern agricultural practices like stubble burning.

*Amrut Krushi* uses local resources (minimal cow dung, urine, jaggery and available biomass) in field to prepare "*Amrut Jal* (अमृत जल)" and "*Amrut Mitti* (अमृत मिट्टी)". *Amrut Mitti* is used in field and *amrut jal* is used for irrigation of crops. In this system, there is no concept of organic pesticides / fertilizers (FYM, etc.) to be used in crops. Here, farmers prepare the soil (*Amrut Mitti*) and irrigate the crops with *Amrut Jal*.

During the workshop, the participants were trained in making a *Ganga Maa Model Amrut Krushi* in Gandhi Darshan, as an organic kitchen garden model.

***Livelihood opportunities for women reveal the success story of young women enthusiasts***

*Project - Skill Development & Creating Livelihood Opportunities for Women of Mirzapur, Ghaziabad* was started with the objective of creating skilled, confident and financially independent women and girls of this (minority) community, who otherwise lives in a male dominated society, where they are not allowed to speak up in family and community matters. This was initiated by the Samiti with Hunar Foundation.

The project saw the successful completion of all the five training modules. Below is the short detail of the women trained and connected to livelihood opportunities:

**• Period: 08-10-2016 to 04-08-2017**

No. of Women Stitching	Recycled	Paper	Products	Bamboo Pen	Holder, Handmade
Trained	26	22	9	5	9
Qualified Test	11	10	6	4	5
Connected to Livelihood	8	4	4	3	5

Training was provided under 5 training modules as per project to 61 women (including

dropouts), of which 25 women are now connected to livelihood opportunities. The trainees were assessed on the following parameters –

- **Quality of Product Manufactured**
- **Time Management**
- **Creativity**



*Trainees at the paper making centre at Hunar Ek Prayas during the training programme.*

Challenges Faced and Resolutions made – Starting from the first training module to the fifth, changes in the mind-set of the community members has been quite visible. Women are coming forward during trainings, interactive sessions and discussions. As these women are gradually exposed to the outside world, their willingness to learn new things and start their studies has also increased. We have started overcoming the challenges we were earlier facing. Challenges such as ‘community pressures’ and ‘lack of discipline’ were the main issue of initiating the project in the slum area for the women.

Says Ms. Ruchi Rastogi, Founder Director: *Since, women have now started earning through their new skill sets acquired, the resistance from the family members have gradually reduced. We have also started meeting with the family members of the trainees to better understand their point of view and to bridge the gap.*

She adds: *Since most of these women are uneducated or dropouts and have never been exposed to proper schooling, we in association with our other partner organisations have also started working on their education as well, where all the women have been given an option of free education at the center only, by a teacher hired for this purpose. After regularizing their studies*

*these women will be enrolled to National Open Schooling. We have also started developing course curriculum on functional education and soft skills to teach them basic etiquettes.*

- **Results Achieved:**

- Trained Artisans – Out of around 50 women trained, 16 artisans got qualified with excellent performance and are connected to livelihood opportunities. Once work start coming to the trained artisans on regular basis; that would become a motivational factor for others to put sincere efforts to earn their livelihood.
- Community Acceptance – We are getting a wider community acceptance and people have started trusting us. The number of absenteeism and drop outs from the training has reduced. The girls who were accompanied by their guardians even to the Hunar center, that is located at the center of the community, are now allowed to visit far-away places with Hunar team for exposure visits, in exhibitions or even as trainers to various schools and colleges.
- Confidence Building – Women of Mirzapur community got this kind of opportunity first time in their lives. We are encouraging them to participate in plays, drama, sharing their experience with large audience, public speaking etc. which we are organizing in our office. Some are enjoying these activities, but some still do not get permission from their family to participate in such events.



*Trainees at the tailoring and embroidery centre at Hunar as part of the GSDS-Hunar initiative.*

## Miscellaneous Programmes

### Observance of Swachhata Pakhwada

The staff of the Samiti observed the "Swachhata Pakhwada" – an effort by the Government of India to instill the sense of cleaning of office spaces by the employees themselves – with great zeal and enthusiasm in its both the premises in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan.



*Teachers from different institutions took part in the cleanliness drive in Gandhi Darshan.*

The Samiti has been regularly trying to inculcate the spirit of *Swachhata* through its programmes not just in Delhi, but also in different parts of the country. In this endeavour, street plays on *Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan* was performed at the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mohatsav earlier during December 2016 and very recently at the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha celebrations at different places in Bihar.

### Seminar-cum-lecture demo and songs on 'Charkha Satyagraha' and farmer's issue organised

The Samiti in collaboration with *Lokraag* organized a special seminar-cum-lecture demo based on *Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha, Charkha, Farmers, and National Movement* through folk music at the SSS auditorium Jawaharlal Nehru

University (JNU) on July 16, 2017. The special musical programme also emphasized on women and folk music. Akhar, a Bhojpuri music group performed at the function that was attended by about 300 people from different segments of the society. The programme was organized as part of the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha.

During the programme, the participants were given detailed information of the first non-violent movement led by Mahatma Gandhi in India after his arrival in 1915. It was through music and lecture demonstration that the impact of the Champaran Satyagraha were highlighted which made the programme more unique.

The artists presented that the charkha played a significant role in our freedom movement and the songs of the charkha echoed in every home in that era, where Mahatma Gandhi was the leader, guiding people towards 'Swaraj' through the threads of the spinning wheel.

This was a unique musical presentation that was appreciated by the receptive audience and helped them know the various facets of Mahatma Gandhi's life and philosophy. Shri Rajeev Kr. Singh coordinated the programme.

### Discussion on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy with Judges from Sri Lanka organised

A 35-member delegation from the Supreme Court, High Court, Lower and District Courts of Sri Lanka visited Gandhi Darshan on August 18, 2017. The delegation was led by Supreme Court Judge, Hon'ble Mr. Justice Anil Gunaratne. Mr. Chandrasen Kumar, Chief Administrative Officer of the Delhi Judicial Academy coordinated the visit of the delegation. Apart from the 35-member delegation, almost 20 other officials took part in the interaction that was organised on the occasion.

Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President Harijan Sevak Sangh while interacting with the delegates spoke about the richness and of India's varied culture and how through dialogue and interaction one could enrich the knowledge and culture of one's own and benefit from the gained information



of non-violence. He also spoke on the 11 vows of Mahatma Gandhi which form the basis of his philosophy and ideas that are eternally relevant.

Earlier Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan while welcoming the gathering emphasised that Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence is the answer to the world crisis.

The delegation later visited the Gandhi Smriti Museum which was coordinated by Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli.

**Teachers Day celebration reiterated the role of teachers in shaping society**

GSDS and IGNOU Regional Centre (2) jointly organized a special programme on September 5, 2017 celebrating 'Teachers Day'. About 100 persons took part in the programme.



1) (From L to R): Mr. Chandrasen Kumar, Chief Administrative Officer of Delhi Judicial Academy; Hon'ble Justice Anil Gunaratne of Sri Lankan Supreme Court; Shri Laxmi Dass, Executive Member GSDS and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS at the discussion in Gandhi Darshan.

2) Shri Laxmi Dass presents a Charkha to Hon'ble Justice Anil Gunaratne.

3) Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli, Research Associate GSDS is seen explaining the Gandhi Smriti photographic gallery to the Sri Lankan delegation.

Teachers from different institutions (Below) took part in the discussion with the dignitaries (Above) as part of the celebration.

of others' culture and tradition. Recalling the life of Mahatma Gandhi he further said that Gandhiji had always attempted towards understanding and thereafter practically applying the essence

Prof. T K Thomas was the key speaker on the occasion. He spoke on the qualities of a good teacher and how teachers can contribute for a better nation. He also presented a power point presentation on the characteristics of an efficient teacher. Dr. K D Prasad, Regional Director IGNOU (2) and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan Director GSDS took part in the programme. An interactive session was also organized. Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, Librarian GSDS conducted the programme.

**Swachhata programmes organized as part of Swachhata Pakhwara**

As part of the *Swachhata Abhiyaan*, the Samiti organized a *Swachhata Drive at Harijan Basti 'Dhaka' in Burari*. Around 100 people from the colony took part in the *Swachhata Abhiyaan*. A *Chaupal Charcha* (open discussion) was also conducted with the people of the colony. Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President of Harijan Sevak Sangh, under whose aegis the programme was organized, was present on the occasion and also shared his views on the importance of cleanliness and hygiene. He further urged the people to take regular initiatives for ensuring cleanliness.



*Glimpses from the cleanliness drive as part of the Swachhata Pakhwara organised by the GSDS in progress in different places.*

Shri Vivek took part in the programme. The objective of this drive was to spread the message of cleanliness and sanitation among the people of the society. The programme was organized on September 25, 2017.

A *Swachhata Drive* was organized in *Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya, Ishwar Nagar, Okhala*. Ms. Shweta Mehrotra coordinated the programme along with other staff members of Vidyalaya by participating in community cleaning and cleaning of the campus. The programme was organized on September 25, 2017.

1. The staff of the GSDS in both its campuses in Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti actively took part in cleaning the campus and their rooms during the *swachhata pakhwara*. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led the team in this initiative.
2. During this period, various competitions such as essay writing on "Clean India – Green India"; painting competition; debate competition on "Importance of Swachhata", etc were organized which saw enthusiastic participation.



3. *Rakjiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Vrindaban and Sirisia Adda* respectively organized the *Swachhata Abhiyaan* from September 16-30, 2017. Awareness campaign among the villages on sanitation and their benefits and the importance of construction of toilets were discussed.
4. *Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth, Sewapuri* under the supervision of Smt. Anita Devi, Principal organized three essay competitions and *swachhata* drive/campaigns in different villages in Varanasi from September 16-30, 2017.

**Campaign on Smoke Free Delhi**

The Samiti in association with Kashiyana Foundation organised an awareness campaign on "Smoke Free Delhi" on October 2, 2017 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti at Connaught Place. The campaign highlighted the issue of smoking in public places. Doctors who joined the campaign conducted free lungs check up.



A street play for raising awareness for "Smoke Free Delhi" campaign in progress in Connaught Place.

Kashiyana Foundation also organised a street play on the occasion. A signature campaign and through interactive communication the outreach was expanded. Union Minister Shri Giriraj Singh, National Spokesperson BJP Dr. Vijay Sonkar Shastri and others were present on the occasion.

**Gandhi, Ganga, Giriraj – Awareness Yatra begins**

As part of the centenary year of the Champaran Satyagraha, the Samiti in association with Save Ganga Movement launched the "Gandhi, Ganga, Giriraj – Awareness Yatra" on October 3, 2017 from Gandhi Smriti. The inaugural programme was graced by religious



Different religious leaders took part in the yatra from Gandhi Smriti to save the river bodies of India.

leaders from different faiths along with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and Mrs. Rama Raute, Convenor Save Ganga Movement.



(Above): Yatris march from Gandhi Smriti to India Gate (Below), where they administered a pledge to protect the rivers of India.

The awareness yatra included like-minded organisations and eminent persons from different streams of life, especially scientists, Gandhians and Gandhian Institutions, heads of various religious institutions and religious leaders. All these together will work at the ground level towards protecting the Ganga that symbolises all rivers and water bodies and the Giriraj Himalaya, symbolising all mountains, forests and wildlife. The mass awareness will work to develop a Gandhian Non-Violent culture of development, which is perhaps the only answer to global ecological crisis.

During the programme, an awareness march was taken from Gandhi Smriti to India Gate that was joined by about 200 students from different schools led by Asian Marathon Champion Dr. Sunita Godara.

As part of the programme, meetings, seminars, discussions, workshops is proposed to be organised at different places/cities such as Varanasi, Haridwar, Srinagar, Badrinath.

**Cleanliness Drive before Diwali organised**

As part of the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Samiti organised the Swachhata Pakhwada in both its campuses in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan respectively. In view of this, the Samiti also organised a special cleanliness drive in both its campuses before the Diwali celebrations on October 17, 2017.



*Cleanliness drive in Gandhi Darshan complex during Diwali celebrations.*

The entire staff of GSDS led by the Director joined in the cleanliness drive with enthusiasm by not only cleaning their respective rooms but the entire campus.

**Unity March organised as part of National Unity Day**

Around 200 people including senior Gandhians, academicians, vice-chancellors, professors, research scholars, writers and authors, volunteers and others took part in the Unity March from Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat to Kisan Ghat Road and then to Gandhi Darshan complex on October 30, 2017 as a mark of the commemoration of the 142nd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whose birth is being celebrated every year as the National Unity Day.



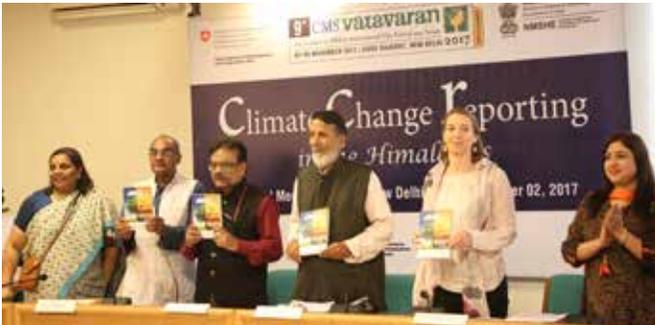
*As part of the National Unity Day, officials from GSDS along with senior Gandhians and others offered tribute to Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat.*

Later in the day, discussions on various issues related to Gandhiji's Constructive Programmes and rural development took place. Cultural performances marked the evening programme.

National Unity Day (*Rashtriya Ekta Diwas*) was introduced by the Government of India and inaugurated by the hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2014. The intent is to pay tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was instrumental in keeping India united.

### **17 Awards in Indian and 14 Awards in International Category conferred to filmmakers at 9<sup>th</sup> CMS Vatavaran**

The Samiti hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> CMS Vatavaran – India's only International Environment & Wild Life Film Festival – in its Gandhi Darshan campus on November 2-6, 2017. The 9<sup>th</sup> CMS VATAVARAN felicitated more than 30 awards to filmmakers who were competing in various categories at GSDS.



(Above): Gandhi Peace Prize Awardee Shri Chandni Prasad Bhatt inaugurates the festival by the ceremonial lamp lighting.

(Below): Distinguished gathering along with Shri Chandni Prasad Bhatt (Centre) at the release of the festival booklet.

The Awards were selected from 113 nominated films by an eminent Jury chaired by Mr. Govind Nihalani, in 13 categories for Indian films and five categories for International films. The theme of CMS VATAVARAN festival and forum this year was 'Conservation 4 Water' (9<sup>th</sup> competitive & 8<sup>th</sup> travelling edition) which delved on issues of the inter-connectedness of climate change and water, water struggles in a world dealing with global warming, climate variability, food and health insecurity, biodiversity loss, and environmental damage.

In a gala award ceremony, Dr N. Bhaskara Rao, Chairman CMS and other eminent guests felicitated journalists, conservationists and film makers.



An exhibition on issues related to environment and the initiative of the Government of India towards environmental protection in display in Gandhi Darshan during the festival.

The best award in the National category went to *Saving the Saviour* by Jalal Ud Din Baba. In the International category, the award for the best film went to *SEED: The Untold Story* by Taggart Siegel and Jon Betz.

### **Students of Interpretation Centres in Varanasi display their musical ingenuity**

A performance of students of different Interpretation Centres promoted by organisations of Ministry of Culture in Varanasi was organised in Gandhi Darshan on December 30, 2017. Students gave performance of Chaiti and Kajri in semi-classical music.

### **Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke Naam**

As a tribute to the martyrs and brave hearts who have sacrificed their life for the country, the Samiti in association with Bharat Vikas Parishad, organised a musical tribute in NOIDA on January 20, 2018. Renowned singer Padma Shri Kailash Kher and eminent folk singer Padma Shri Smt. Malini Awasthi performed at the programme titled *Ek Shaam Shaheedon Ke Naam*.

Over 2000 people took part in the programme dedicated to the soldiers of the country.

### **Peace Prayer meeting on the occasion of International Women's Day organized**

Guild of Services, War Widows Association and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organized a peace prayer in Gandhi Smriti on the occasion of the International Women's Day on March 8, 2018. Distinguished gathering from the field of art and culture, academicians, writers, poets and people from different walks of life took part in the programme. Smt. Gursharan Kaur, wife of former Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh



*(Above): Smt. Gursharan Kaur, wife of former Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh, lays a wreath on the portrait of Mahatm Gandhi.*

*(Below): Peace prayer in progress in Gandhi Smriti.*

also took part in the programme. Ms. Sushma Seth, eminent actor and social worker was also present on the occasion. Ms. Deepmala Mohan, Ms. Kumud Dewan, Ms. Rene Singh singers, who were present on the occasion rendered songs of Kabir, Meera that made the occasion more somber. Dr. Mohini V Giri, President Guild of Services, Dr. Sayeeda Hamid, Dr. A K Merchant and others were also present.

Religious leaders from different faith who were present on the occasion offered inter-faith prayer on the occasion. The programme began with a hymn *Maitrim Bhajata* rendered by Bharatnatyam exponent, Dr. Geeta Chandran.

Shri Rajiv Chandran, from the United Nations Information Centre in Delhi read out the message of the United Nations Secretary General H.E. António Guterres. Extracts of the message read:

*We are at a pivotal moment for women's rights. The historical and structural inequalities that have allowed oppression and discrimination to flourish are being exposed like never before.*



*(Above): Distinguished gathering attend the inter-religious peace prayer meet in Gandhi Smriti.*

*(Below): Dr. Kumud Diwan from Banaras Gharana renders a Kabir Bhajan on the occasion.*

*From Latin America to Europe to Asia, on social media, on film sets, on the factory floor and in the streets, women are calling for lasting change and zero tolerance for sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination of all kinds.*

*Achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls is the unfinished business of our time, and the greatest human rights challenge in our world...*

*Where laws exist, they are often ignored, and women who pursue legal redress are doubted, denigrated and dismissed. We now know that sexual harassment and abuse have been thriving in workplaces, public spaces and private homes, in countries that pride themselves on their record of gender equality.*

*The United Nations should set an example for the world...*

*At this crucial moment for women's rights, it is time for men to stand with women, listen to them and learn from them. Transparency and accountability are essential if women are to reach their full potential and lift all of us, in our communities, societies and economies.*

*I am proud to be part of this movement, and I hope it continues to resonate within the United Nations and around the world.*

**50 years of Mobile Creche reiterates the need to empower children**

The Samiti in association with Mobile Creche organized a programme showcasing the richness of the creativity of children as part of the founding anniversary of the Mobile Creche in Gandhi Darshan on March 11, 2018.



*(Left): Ankit Chadha's performance on Dastangoi (13th century Urdu oral story-telling art form) left the audience (Below) mesmerized.*



Forty nine years ago, Mobile Creches took its first steps at Rajghat, where the Gandhi Centenary Exhibition Pavilion was under construction. The children at the construction site were unsafe and neglected, deprived of the nurture, care and protection that their tender age demanded. Observing this, on 12th March 1969, Meera Mahadevan decided to act. Smt. Meera Mahadevan, joined soon after by Devika Singh, made sure that a shelter was opened on the site, with a dedicated person to keep watch over the children. This was the first Mobile Creche. Thus began a journey of entering worksites, negotiating with contractors and building trust with worker parents to reach the children.

The event captured some very special moments for us, of reflection, joy and inspiration to carry on our work for children. A supremely entertaining and thought-provoking performance of Dastangoi (13th century Urdu oral storytelling art form) by the talented Ankit Chadha left the audience amazed. The performance titled

'Dastan-e-Khanabadosh' was a story around the nomadic pastoralists and their interaction with the settled world, following the trails and trials of a neglected people, a forgotten way of life. It was a mesmerizing performance by Ankit Chadha that touched many chords with the audience.

**Plantation by children of Maa Peace Foundation in Gandhi Darshan**



*Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS, Shri Amlesh Raju seniors journalist with Jansatta, Shri Manoj Sinha and Shri Sachin Meena from Udit Asha Welfare Society joined Smt. Kamna Jha and her students in planting tree saplings in Gandhi Darshan.*

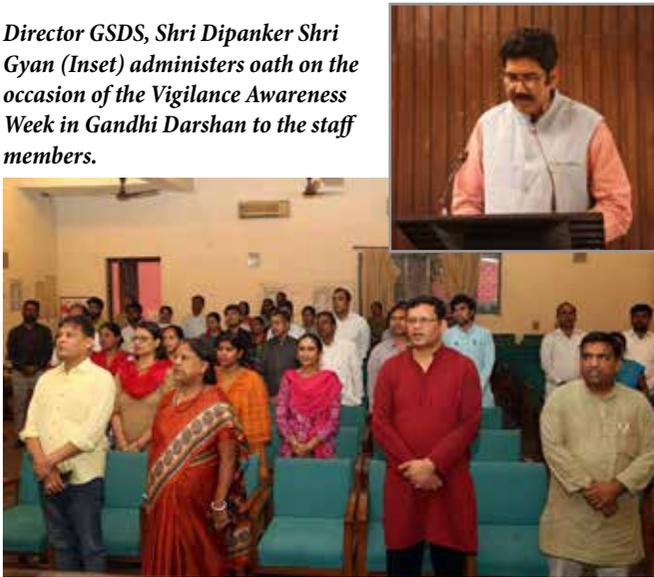
Few children from Maa Peace Foundation along with their coordinators joined in a plantation drive and reached Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, wherein they planted trees. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS, Shri Amlesh Raju seniors journalist with Jansatta, Shri Manoj Sinha and Shri Sachin Meena from Udit Asha Welfare Society joined Smt. Kamna Jha and her students in planting tree saplings in Gandhi Darshan.

**Vigilance Awareness Week observed**

The Samiti observed the Vigilance Awareness Week from October 30 to November 4, 2017, during which Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker

Shri Gyan administered a pledge to the staff to reiterate their commitment towards working for the society and maintain honesty and abstain from any kind of corrupt practices. The theme of this year's Vigilance awareness Week was "My Vision-Corruption Free India".

*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (Inset) administers oath on the occasion of the Vigilance Awareness Week in Gandhi Darshan to the staff members.*



**Prarthana at Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat**

Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led his staff to a silent prayer in Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat on March 12, 2018 on the occasion of the commemoration of the 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic Dandi March. Director GSD offered tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial. The staff also joined in a silent prayer on the occasion.



*Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti staff along with Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan took part in the peace prayer at Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat as part of the commemoration of the 88th anniversary of the Dandi March.*



**Slogan writing competition on Women Empowerment**

The Samiti organized a slogan writing competition on "Women Empowerment" in which the staff of GSDS and IGNOU took part very enthusiastically. Around 50 participants took part in the programme.



*Participants at the slogan writing competition from GSDS, IGNOU and KVIC in Gandhi Darshan.*

## Books and Exhibitions

### **Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi at IGNOU Maidangarhi**

The Samiti took part at the 30<sup>th</sup> Convocation at Indira Gandhi National Open University on April 13, at Maidan Garhi by putting up an exhibition on Gandhiji and issues such as prohibition as often addressed by him. A book stall exhibition the literatures and Gandhian was also on display during the programme.

### **Dr. Y P Anand's Book released by Dr. Mahesh Sharma**

"The eternal philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha lies in standing for the cause of the last men in the society", said Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge). "This was the reason why Mahatma Gandhi had given a clarion call to break the unjust salt tax".



(Above & Below): Hon'ble Dr. Mahesh Sharma, MOS, Culture and Tourism and V.C. GSDS addressing a congregation of writers, artists, social thinkers, Gandhian workers at the launch of Dr. Y P Anand's book in Gandhi Smriti. (On the dais from L to R): Dr. Sudarshan Iyenger, VC High Level Dandi Memorial Committee; Smt. Rashmi Verma, Secretary MOC; Dr. Y P Anand, author of the book and Smt. Sujata Prasad, Additional Secretary MOC.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma was speaking at the release function of Dr. Y P Anand's book - *Historical Background to the Imposition of Salt Tax under the British Rule in India (1757-1947) and Mahatma Gandhi's Salt Satyagraha (1930-31) against the British Rule*" at a function organised by the Ministry of Culture, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Gandhi Ashram, Sabarmati in Gandhi Smriti on July 13, 2017.

Addressing a congregation of over 175 people from the field of literature, arts, music, sports personality and Gandhians, Dr. Sharma reiterated the call given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on April 10 on the occasion of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha, when he appealed to the Nation to pay a befitting tribute to Gandhiji by adopting *Swachhagraha* as part of their daily life style.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma also spoke in details of how methodically Mahatma Gandhi chose salt as a medium to address a multitude of nation and led young and old alike into the mass movement for freedom. He said that a pinch of salt became a symbol of freedom.

Speaking about his book, Dr. Y P Anand, member High Level Dandi Memorial Committee and former Director National Gandhi Museum acknowledged the contribution of various people in the research work and compilation of archival materials of the book. While speaking about the historic *Salt Satyagraha*, Dr. Anand referred to Gandhiji's meticulous approach in creating so much awareness that drew world attention.

In her address to the gathering, Smt. Rashmi Verma, Secretary Ministry of Culture said, "Mahatma Gandhi's Concept of Satyagraha is an exceptional and novel way to resist any form injustice. This is the heart and soul of the entire Gandhian theory and philosophy, and his exclusive contribution to the modern Indian political thought. Through this mechanism, Gandhiji aimed at resisting any kind of unjust, impure or untruthful acts".

She further added, "As a master communicator Gandhiji's choice of salt – the common man's daily and more so essential requirement as a symbol of protest that had

left many amused. But soon Salt turned into a nightmare for the British when Gandhi had given a clarion call to his countrymen and the world when he urged for “World Sympathy in the battle of Right Against Might”.



*Hon’ble Dr. Mahesh Sharma, MOS, Culture and Tourism (Centre) releasing book of Dr. Y P Anand (fourth from Left) along with Dr. Sudarshan Iyenger, VC High Level Dandi Memorial Committee (extreme Left); Smt. Rashmi Verma, Secretary MOC; and Smt. Sujata Prasad, Additional Secretary MOC (extreme Right) in Gandhi Smriti.*

Earlier, Dr. Sudarshan Iyenger, Vice-Chairman, High Level Dandi Memorial Committee in his welcome address urged the people to learn more about Gandhiji’s life and also felt if tourist spots could be freed from use of polythene.

The others who also spoke on the occasion included Smt. Sujata Prasad, Additional Secretary, MOC and Shri Pankaj Rag, Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture.

***Exhibition on Quit India at Gandhi Smriti***

On the eve of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quit India Movement, the Samiti hosted an exhibition on paper clippings on Mahatma Gandhi by Mohd. Subhan. The exhibition set up on August 8, 2017 described the different news items on Mahatma Gandhi collected over a span of 14-15 years by Mohd. Subhan. The exhibition was from August 8-15, 2017.

***GSDS participates at Hum Azaad Hain programme in Dilli Haat Janakpuri***



*Visitors viewing the exhibition of GSDS at Dilli Haat Janakpuri.*

The Samiti set up an exhibition on *Kranti Se Gandhi 1857-1947* in Dilli Haat Janakpuri to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. Besides the exhibition, Srijan, the Gandhi Smriti Entrepreneurial Centre also displayed the Khadi products on the occasion. The exhibition was on display till August 2, 2017. The programme was coordinated by Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS, with her team comprising of Shyamlal, Shakeel, Sushil, Manoj Paswan and others. Km. Indu Bala (bahen) senior Gandhian demonstrated Charkha spinning on the occasion.



*A live demonstration of Charkha Spinning by veteran Gandhian Kum. Indu Bala (C) from Gandhi Hindustani Sahitya Sabha and Shri Dharamraj Kumar (R) was a special attraction of the ‘Hum Azaad Hain’ programme in Dilli Haat, Janakpuri.*

The Samiti also displayed an exhaustive exhibition “Kranti Se Gandhi – Raj Se Swaraj” exhibition at Dilli Haat Janakpuri. The exhibition describes the struggle of India’s Freedom Movement and Mahatma Gandhi’s arrival in the political scenario.

***Swadeshi Mela***

*A glimpse of the Swadeshi Mela in Dwarka. GSDS set up an exhibition of Khadi products in the Mela. Seen here is Mr. Sushil Kumar Shukla taking part in the Mela.*



The Samiti participated in the *Swadeshi Mela* organized at Sector 7 Dwarka CCRT ground from October 11-15, 2017. The Mela was organized by the Swadeshi Jagran Manch, Delhi. Shri Sushil Kumar Shukla and Shri Shakeel Khan took part in the mela with khadi products from Srijan Entrepreneurial Centre, GSDS. During the mela, different activities such as dance, traditional crafts formed an integral part of the mela.

***Bahudha approach can lead us our quest for peace and harmony: Venkaiah Naidu***

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that the Bahudha approach is yet another shining star that can lead us our quest for peace and harmony. He was addressing the gathering after releasing the Book 'The 21st Century Geopolitics, Democracy and Peace' authored by former Governor of Sikkim, Shri B.P. Singh, on October 30, 2017 at a special launch function at the India International Centre on October 30, 2017. The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri N.N. Vohra and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.



*(Above): Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu addresses the distinguished gathering at IIC. Also Shri B P Singh, former Governor of Sikkim and author of the book also spoke on the occasion.*

Shri Venkaiah Naidu complimented Shri Singh for penning this book, which is highly relevant in the context of increasing globalization, growing terrorism and unprecedented technological

advances. He further said that it indeed deals with a wide range of issues that are increasingly affecting an inter-dependent globalised world and strongly advocates that it would be ideal if we can adopt a 'Bahudha' approach which emphasizes the need for a dialogue to promote a harmonious and peaceful living.



*Shri Narendra Nath Vohra, Hon'ble Governor of Jammu and Kashmir (third from Left); Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India (Centre) is seen releasing Shri B P Singh's (second from Right) book, as Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS (extreme Left) and Prof. Meenakshi Gopinath, former Principal Lady Shri Ram College (extreme Right) join the release function.*

He said that issues touched upon in the book include the role of educational institutions, progressive religious and social groups, forums for inter-faith dialogue and international institutions like the United Nations. It makes a strong case for promoting moral values, empathy and compassion and channelizing energies towards peace and development, he added.

The Vice President said that other interesting chapters are 'Democracy and its Consequences' and 'Good Governance: A Narrative from Democratic India'. He further said that in the chapter, 'The Emerging World: Challenges and Possibilities', Mr. Singh quite correctly says that the future of peace and harmony in the 21st century would be directly linked to (i) ecology, global warming and climate change; (ii) nuclear weapons, emerging technology of warfare and continuing arms race among nation-states; (iii) geopolitics and nationalism; (iv) religious extremism and (v) poverty and inequality.

Retired diplomats, people from the fields of arts and literature, authors, historians and other walks of life took part in the launch programme. The book has been published by Routledge, the world's leading academic publisher in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

***Inauguration of Exhibition at Delhi College of Engineering***

The Samiti set up an exhibition on the "Life and Times of Mahatma Gandhi" and Kranti Se Gandhi-Raj to Swaraj" at the Delhi College of Engineering, Bawana. The exhibition was set

up during a programme organised in association with Khadi Sankalp on October 11, 2017.

**Inauguration of Exhibition on Champaran Satyagraha at Motihari**

The Samiti had developed an exhibition on "Champaran Satyagraha" consisting of 21 panels of exhibition. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated the exhibition on October 2, 2017 at Motihari at a special function. Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS coordinated the event.

**Exhibition of artists from Canada in Gandhi Smriti**

The Samiti, in Gandhi Smriti, hosted an exhibition of artists from the Mahatma Gandhi International Foundation (MGIF) in Montreal, Canada containing paintings by eminent artist Shri Suraj Sadan founder Director of the MGIF and his team of young artists. This exhibition – organised as part of the competition organised by the MGIF in Canada – was done with an aim to encourage young people aged 14 to 20 to creatively explore the ideas and messages of nonviolence through art and to follow the path of nonviolence.



*A view of the exhibition by artists from Montreal Canada along with sketches of renowned artist Shri Suraj Sadan in display in Gandhi Smriti.*

The exhibition, inaugurated on November 9, 2017 displayed exhibits of young artists from Canada, the USA, France and India was on display till December 10, 2017. Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS coordinated the event.

**Exhibition on "Gandhi and Social Justice" inaugurated at All India Constructive Workers' Conference in Harijan Sevak Sangh**

The Samiti as one of the collaborating Gandhian organisation of the All India Constructive Workers' Conference organised by the Harijan Sevak Sangh at Kingsway Camp from November 25-26, 2017 displayed 22 panels of exhibition on "Gandhi and Social Justice" during the three-day conference attended by over 2000 people from all over the country. The exhibition was developed by the Exhibition Unit of GSDS.

**Exhibition on Life's Message of Mahatma Gandhi at Delhi Home Guards**



*Prof. T K Thomas, Chairman Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Foundation inaugurates (Above) and views (Below) the exhibition developed by the GSDS at the headquarters of the Delhi Home Guards, as officials from the Delhi Home Guards along with GSDS are all smiles.*

The Samiti set up an exhibition on the "Life's message and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi" at the headquarters of the Delhi Home Guards in Raja Garden New Delhi, that was inaugurated by Prof. T K Thomas, Communications expert and Chairman, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore Foundation, along with other guests during the orientation programme on "Nonviolence Conflict Resolution and Nonviolent Communication" during January 11-12, 2018.

# Library and Documentation

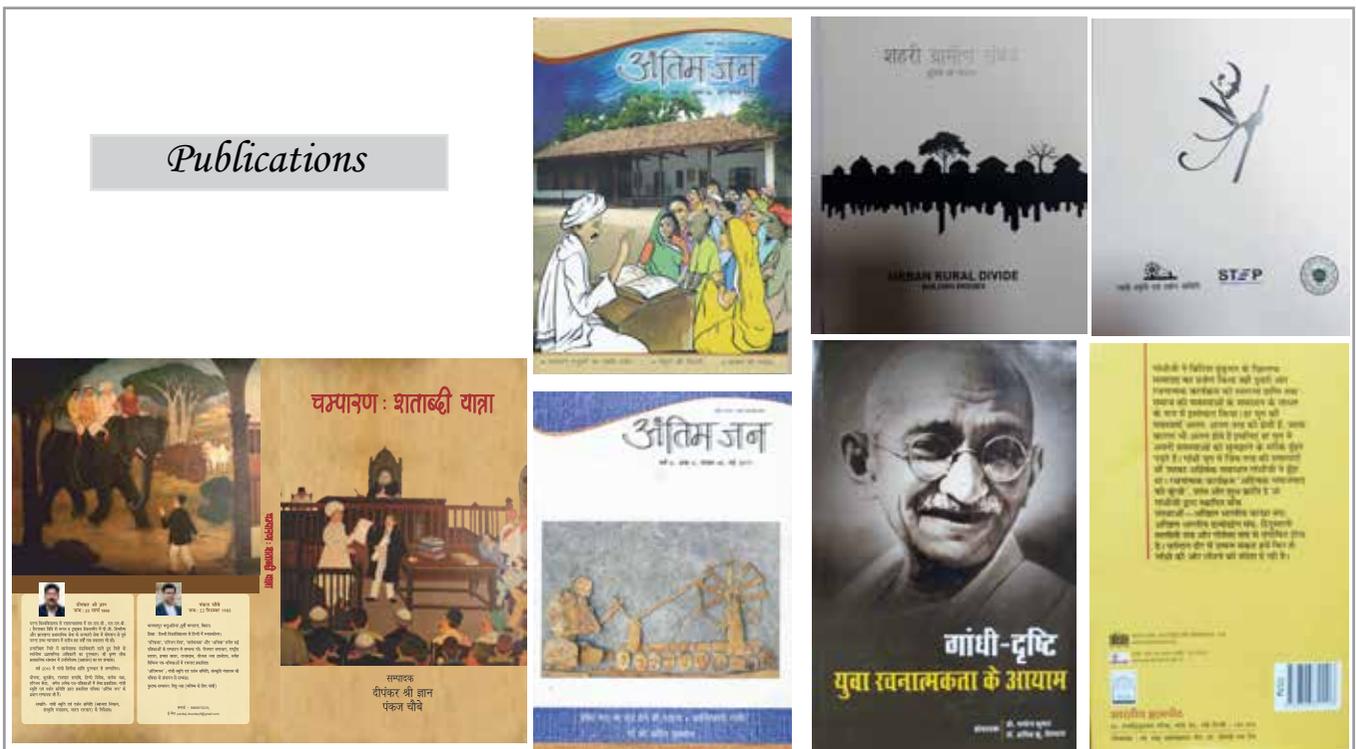
In conformity with the objective of the Samiti to organise and preserve books, photographs, films, documents, leading to better understanding of Mahatma Gandhi's work and thought, a Library and Documentation Centre has been set up. The library has a collection of approximately 10,300 books on Gandhiji's life and thought, art, culture, history, economics, politics, religion, archaeology, including reference books, namely World Atlas, Encyclopedias and Dictionaries. There is a special section for children. It also subscribes to various journals and magazines on a regular basis and caters to the needs of scholars, research fellows and students. New books were added during the year.



A view of the Gandhi Darshan Library and Reading Room.

At the Documentation Centre – an inherent part of the Library – press-clipping files are being maintained on different topics such as Gandhi, Women, Children, Youth, Crime against Women, Environment, Indo-Pak relations, Communalism, International affairs. This is done in an effort to strengthen the Documentation Centre. Other topics are regularly added. The process of digitalization of the library is continuing.

## Publications



# Visitors

During the year, the Samiti became a host to a large number of visitors. Some of them were:

## **Visit of H.E. Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, President of the Republic of Cyprus**



*Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli (Above) is seen explaining the Mahatma Gandhi Room in Gandhi Smriti.*



*H.E. Mr. Nicos Anastasiades offer his tributes at the Martyrs Column in Gandhi Smriti.*



*Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan presents a Charkha to the President of Cyprus.*

## **Princess Sirindhorn, Princess Royal of Thailand pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti**



*Princess Sirindhorn, Princess Royal of Thailand pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, as Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (L), Shri S A Jamal, Administrative Officer and Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli (Right) join the moment.*



*Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli explains the Royal Princess of Thailand the exhibition on 'Mohan Se Mahatma' in Gandhi Smriti.*



*Princess Sirindhorn, Princess Royal of Thailand presents a token of appreciation to Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan .*

**Delegates from Gandhi Peace Mission Kerala visit Gandhi Darshan exhibition, "My Life is My Message".**



*Shri Ansar Ali, Curator, National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi leads a delegation from the Gandhi Peace Mission, Kerala in Gandhi Darshan, as Shri Deepak Tiwari is seen explaining the delegates.*

**Hon'ble Judges from Sri Lanka visit Gandhi Smriti**



*Judges from the High Court and Supreme Court of Sri Lanka try their hands at a Xylophone in the Unity Section at the Eternal Gandhi Multi Media Museum in Gandhi Smriti.*

**US Secretary of State Mr. Rex Tillerson pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi**



*US Secretary of State, Mr. Rex Tillerson, shares a word with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, as Shri S A Jamal, Administrative Officer GSDS joins the conversation.*



*US Secretary of State, Mr. Rex Tillerson, along with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, stands in reverence at the Martyrs Column, the site of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti.*



*(Above): US Secretary of State, Mr. Rex Tillerson, is gifted with a Charkha by GSDS Director Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan.*



*(Below): Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan extends a warm welcome to the visiting dignitary with an angavastram.*

## VISITORS

Month	Footfall	VIP Visit
April 2017	23,590	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A delegation comprising of twenty diplomats from all over Asia had visited the museum on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. This visit was organized by the Embassy of Finland.</li> <li>A delegation headed by the Tourism Minister of South Korea had visited the museum on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2017.</li> <li>President of Cyprus, Mr. Nicos Anastasiades, had visited the museum on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. He was accompanied by a delegation of twenty officials.</li> </ul>
May 2017	22,633	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A delegation headed by Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the US House of Representatives had visited the museum on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017. She was accompanied by a delegation comprising of twenty five officials.</li> <li>A ten member delegation organized by the British High Commission had visited the museum on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2017.</li> <li>A delegation comprising of five officials from the Embassy of Thailand had visited the museum on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017.</li> <li>A delegation from Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, comprising of thirty two members had visited the museum on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017. This visit was organized by The Lok Sabha Secretariat.</li> </ul>
June 2017	20,232	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A five member delegation from Thailand Embassy had visited the museum on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2017.</li> <li>A delegation from Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, comprising of twenty five members had visited the museum on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017. This visit was organized by The Lok Sabha Secretariat.</li> </ul>
July 2017	17,922	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A hundred member delegation headed by the princess of Thailand had visited the museum on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.</li> <li>Fifteen students from the University of Alabama had visited the museum on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017.</li> <li>A delegation comprising of twenty five members from Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, had visited the museum on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017. This visit was organized by The Lok Sabha Secretariat.</li> </ul>
August 2017	17,149	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A delegation comprising of thirty judges from Sri Lanka had visited the museum on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017.</li> <li>Forty officers from Indian Air Force had visited the museum on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017.</li> <li>A seven member delegation from US Embassy had visited the museum on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017.</li> </ul>
September 2017	15,041	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A twenty member delegation headed by the Culture Minister had visited the museum on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017.</li> <li>Ambassador of Greece to India Mr. Panos Kalogeropoulos had visited the museum on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017.</li> <li>A delegation headed by the USA secretary of State, Mr. Rex W. Tillerson had visited the museum on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017.</li> </ul>

October 2017	15,131	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A twelve member delegation headed by Mr. Eddy Cue, Senior Vice President of Internet Software and Services, Apple Inc. had visited the museum on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017.</li> <li>• A twelve member delegation from Kerala Legislative Assembly had visited the museum on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017.</li> <li>• Sri Lankan Minister of State had visited the museum on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017.</li> </ul>
November 2017	19,376	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A delegation comprising of three Members of Parliament from Britain had visited the museum on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</li> <li>• Spouse of The Chief of British Air force, Sir Hugh Trenchard, had visited the museum on November 17<sup>th</sup> 2017. She was accompanied by a four member delegation from Indian Air Force.</li> <li>• A five member delegation headed by the Foreign Minister of Finland had visited the museum on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</li> <li>• A ten member delegation headed by the Foreign Minister of Greece had visited the museum on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</li> </ul>
December 2017	17,668	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A delegation organised by 'Seven City Tour', comprising of twenty delegates from various nations had visited the museum on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017.</li> <li>• A four member delegation headed by the Minister of External Relations, UK had visited the museum on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017.</li> <li>• A ten member delegation headed by the Second Vice President of Afghanistan, Mr. Sarwar Danish had visited the museum on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017.</li> <li>• A five member delegation from the Embassy of Tunisia had visited the museum on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017.</li> </ul>
January 2018	15,790	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of National Defence College, Lt. General YVK Mohan had visited the museum with his family on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.</li> <li>• Five officials from the Embassy of Taiwan had visited the museum on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018.</li> <li>• A delegation comprising of ninety officers from National Defence College had visited the museum on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018.</li> <li>• A four member delegation headed by a member of parliament from Japan had visited the museum on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018.</li> </ul>
February 2018	16,077	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An eight member delegation from the Art and Culture department of Cambodia had visited the museum on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018.</li> <li>• A thirty member delegation from Afghanistan had visited the museum on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2018. This visit was organized by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, Lok Sabha Secretariat of India.</li> </ul>
March 2018	17,461	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Members of Parliament from Prussia had visited the museum on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018.</li> <li>• A fifteen member delegation from the Embassy of Korea had visited the museum on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018.</li> <li>• A seven member delegation headed by the Minister of Energy from The Republic of Benin had visited the museum on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2018.</li> <li>• Rear Admiral of US Naval War College had visited the museum on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018.</li> </ul>

## *Farewell to Retiring Staff Members*

### **Shri Roshan Lal**

Shri Roshan Lal joined the GSDS in the year 1972 and retired from his services on 2017 after completing almost 45 years of service. He worked as a Driver in the organization. Whether it was night or day, Shri Roshan Lal was always on duty with a smile. A lover of music, any office staff travelling with Shri Roshan ji would fondly listen to some old classics he would sing during the journey. The Samiti wishes him well in his life.



### **Shri Brijpal Singh**

Anybody coming to Gandhi Smriti where Shri Brijpal Singh was working as a Safai Sevak would be greeted with a smile by Shri Brijpal. A disciplined worker of the Samiti, Shri Brijpal joined GSDS in the year 1982 and after almost 36 years of service, retired on January 2018. He was given a befitting farewell.

### **Smt. Shashwati Jhalani**

Working for almost three decades as a Librarian in GSDS, Smt. Shashwati Jhalani as described by Shri S A Jamal was ` a ready reckoner' when it came to finding out information related to Mahatma Gandhi's life and other historical facts. A versatile personality, writer, translator, educator for children, Smt. Shashwati was involved in developing multiple periodic and commemorative exhibitions both in the GSDS as well as for other parts of the country and even abroad. She also conducted regular talks for visiting school children to GSDS on "Understanding Gandhi". After working in the Samiti from 1986 to 2018, Smt. Shashwati Jhalani was given a befitting farewell on January 2018. The Samiti wishes her well.





**About the Gandhi Sevati and Darshan Samiti (GSDS)** was formed in September 1984 by the merger of Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Sevati. At 5, Tera January being an autonomous body, and is functioning under the constructive advice and financial support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The Prime Minister of India is its Chairperson and it has a nominated body of senior Gandhian and representatives of various government departments to guide it in its activities. The basic aim and objective of the Samiti is to propagate the life, mission and thought of Mahatma Gandhi through various socio-educational and cultural programmes...

In 1984, during the 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Gandhi, the campus was converted into an International Centre of Gandhian Studies and Research (IGCSR). The Centre offers research and guidance facilities to scholars from India and abroad, documentation of various peace initiatives and seeks to provide various inputs on Gandhi and allied subjects at one place. At present the Centre provides a comprehensive exhibition on Gandhi, conference halls, camping facilities for major national and international meets, a library, children's corner, photo unit and a publications division.

**About the College:** FACE Institute of Technology and Sciences is a self financing engineering college established by Science Education Society in the year 2006 with a mission to provide higher education to the rural students of a back ward district. The campus is spread over 11 acres and ideally situated abutting to NH-54 Kolkata-Chennai express road with good facilities for transportation. The college is having the state of the art laboratories and skilled faculty to impart engineering education to the under privileged rural youth. As on date the college is recognised as one among the TOP educational institutions in the greater district. The institute has received many awards by prestigious institutions for the imparting qualitative education campus placement and best teacher awards. (For details please visit our web site: www.face.ac.in). Excellent infrastructure well qualified staff and state of the art laboratories provide the environment for the students conducive for learning. The institute is conducting UO courses in Engineering and 5 PG courses in Engineering and MBA programme. The institute is affiliated to JNTU, Karnataka and is approved by AICTE, Govt. Of India. FACE is the one and only one Skill Development Centre in greater district among the IT/SDOs equipped by the Govt. Of A.P. The college gives equal weightage for placements and entrepreneurship for the student and the student will be groomed in accordance with teacher choice.

**6 दैनिक जागरण**

**3 मान**

**पी**

काशी एवं कुटीर उद्योग पर एक दिवसीय कार्यवृत्त आयोजित

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**गांधी जयंती के अवसर पर मुखिया ने लोगों को जागरूक किया**

काशी एवं कुटीर उद्योग पर एक दिवसीय कार्यवृत्त आयोजित

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**गांधी और युवा विषय पर होगा कार्यक्रम**

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**हिन्दी पखवाड़ा**  
14-28 सितम्बर, 2017

गांधी स्मृति एवं चरित्र समिति, नई दिल्ली

हिन्दी पखवाड़ा

**कस्तूरबा गांधी की पुण्य तिथि पर नुककड़ नाटक आयोजित**

कस्तूरबा गांधी की पुण्य तिथि पर नुककड़ नाटक आयोजित

कस्तूरबा गांधी की पुण्य तिथि पर नुककड़ नाटक आयोजित

**03 हिन्दुस्तान**  
एक • कुशी • 06 अक्टूबर 2017

**पूरी दुनिया अपना रही गांधी के विचार व दर्शन : कुलपति**

पूरी दुनिया अपना रही गांधी के विचार व दर्शन : कुलपति

**नवभारत**

नवभारत

**...जैसे जनमानस के बीच अवतरित हुए बापू**

...जैसे जनमानस के बीच अवतरित हुए बापू

**कुटीर उद्योग के माध्यम से बढ़ेंगे रोजगार**

कुटीर उद्योग के माध्यम से बढ़ेंगे रोजगार

**प्रभात खबर 7.10.2017**

**जेपी विवि के कुलपति ने नेत्रहीन छात्र रौनक को लिया गोद**

जेपी विवि के कुलपति ने नेत्रहीन छात्र रौनक को लिया गोद

**प्रभात खबर 6.10.2017 04**

**संगठनी. गांधी के विचार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए बोले जयप्रकाश विश्वविद्यालय के कुलपति युवाओं को आगे आना होगा : हरिकेश**

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**कैंपस**

कैंपस

**हॅलो बांदुरबार**

हॅलो बांदुरबार

**स्त्री शक्ती साधना शिबिर कार्यक्रम उत्साह**

स्त्री शक्ती साधना शिबिर कार्यक्रम उत्साह

**कैंपस**

कैंपस



### दक्षिण अफ्रीका और गांधी



जब मोहनदास करमचंद गांधी राजकोट के अपने पारिवारिक मित्र दादा अब्दुल्ला शेठ के निमंत्रण पर सुदूर दक्षिण अफ्रीका के डर्बन शहर के लिए रवाना हुए तो उनका ध्येय केवल जीविकोपार्जन था। परन्तु मई 1893 में वे जिस दक्षिण अफ्रीका में पहुँचे वह हर तरह रंगभेद, धर्म और व्यवसाय के आधार पर एक विभाजित समाज था। यहाँ भारतीयों को 'कुली' या 'सामी' कहकर सम्बोधित किया जाता था।

उनके साथ हुई आरम्भिक दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटनाओं ने महात्मा गांधी के संवेदनशील मस्तिष्क को दक्षिण अफ्रीका में बसे एशियावासियों की दयनीय दशा से परिचित कराया। गांधीजी बाल्यकाल से ही किसी भी वेदभाव पूर्ण स्थिति का-जो जाति, धर्म या



जन्म पर आधारित हो-उस का प्रतिरोध करते थे। यहाँ तक कि एकबार जब उनकी माताजी ने अपने हमउम्र 'अफूत' बालकों के साथ उन्हें खेलने से रोका तो उन्होंने लम्बे समय से चली आ रही इस कुप्रतिभा का भी विरोध किया। दक्षिण अफ्रीका में भी उन्होंने काले लोगों के प्रति गोरे लोगों की क्रूरता के विरोध में आवाज उठाई।



### South Africa and Gandhi

When Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi left for Durban, South Africa at the invitation of an old family acquaintance from Rajkot, Dada Abdullah Sheth, his "mission was simply to win a lawsuit, earn some money, start a career. As he wrote later "I went there only to try my luck in South Africa". But the South Africa to which he arrived in May 1893 was a sharply



divided society, by colour, religion, and profession. Englishmen called all Indians as 'coolies' or 'samis'.

The early unfortunate incidents involving himself vividly revealed to the sensitive mind of young Gandhi the abjectness and degradation of the Asian people in South Africa. Even as a child Gandhiji had shown the courage of conviction to protest against any kind of discrimination between man and man on the basis of his birth, creed, and colour. Even when his mother forbade him to play with a boy of his own age because he was an "untouchable", he revolted against this age old taboo. Once again in South Africa he launched a determined revolt against the tyranny of the white races.



### पीटरमारित्सबर्ग रेलवे स्टेशन : एक सत्याग्रही की जन्मस्थली

गांधीजी ने अपनी आत्मकथा में लिखा है कि उनके जीवन की सबसे बड़ी घटना जिसने उनके जीवन की दिशा ही बदल दी वह थी, दक्षिण अफ्रीका में वह रेल यात्रा जिसके दौरान उनके साथ दुर्व्यवहार किया गया और उन्हें अपमानित करके 7 जून 1893 की सर्दी की रात को पीटरमारित्सबर्ग रेलवे स्टेशन पर धक्का देकर ट्रेन से उतार दिया गया। उसका कसूर यह था कि उसने गोरे के लिये आरक्षित डिब्बे से उतर जाने से मना कर दिया था। बाद में उन्होंने लिखा:-

"मैं स्वयं अपने जीवन के बारे में भयभीत था। जब मैं एक अंधेरे प्रतीक्षा गृह में गया तो उस कक्ष में एक गोरा आदमी था। मुझे उससे डर लगा। मेरा अब क्या करतब था ? मैंने अपने आप से पूछा। क्या मैं वापस भारत चला जाऊँ या भगवान को साक्षी मानकर आगे बढ़ूँ और मेरे साथ जो होना है उसका सामना करूँ ? लम्बे आन्तरिक सोच-विचार के पश्चात् मैंने वहीं रहने और तकलीफ सहने का निर्णय लिया। और इसके साथ ही उसी दिन से अन्याय के विरुद्ध मेरा सक्रिय अहिंसक असहयोग प्रारम्भ हो गया।" और यहीं उस रात को जन्म हुआ एक सत्याग्रही का।

एक शताब्दी बाद उसी रेलवे स्टेशन पर गांधीजी के पौत्र ने रंगभेद के विरुद्ध संघर्ष के जीवन्त प्रतीक राष्ट्रपति नेल्सन मंडेला से उसी पीटरमारित्सबर्ग शहर की स्वतंत्रता की प्रतीक एक चाबी प्राप्त की। अपने स्वीकृति भाषण में श्री गोपाल कृष्ण गांधी ने महात्मा गांधी को श्रद्धांजलि देते हुए कहा :

आज पीटरमारित्सबर्ग के इस रेलवे स्टेशन पर एक प्रश्न सदा पूछा जा सकता है : वह आदमी कौन था जिसे बाहर फेंका गया और वह कौन था जो गिरा? वह कौन था जो अपमानित होकर फिर से यहीं कहीं अपने दो अलग अलग पैरों से उठा। इस प्रश्न का उत्तर इस प्रकार दिया जा सकता है: जब गांधी जी को रेलगाड़ी से गिराया गया तो दक्षिण अफ्रीका आने वाला एक भारतीय गिरा किन्तु जब वो उठा तो पूरे भारत और दक्षिण अफ्रीका की जनता उठी ..... गांधीजी रेलवे टिकट के साथ गिरे जिसे किसी ने मान्यता नहीं दी। वे उठे तो ऐसी इच्छा शक्ति के साथ कि कोई उसकी उपेक्षा नहीं कर सका, वे गिरे एक यात्री के रूप में और उठे एक देश भक्त के रूप में; गिरे बैरिस्टर के रूप में और उठे क्रांतिकारी के रूप में; उनका संक्षिप्त वकील जीवन एक राजनैतिक आंदोलन बन गया; उनकी मानव शिष्टाचार की अनुभूति मानवाधिकार के लिये उत्कंठा में बदल गई। उनका व्यक्तिगत जीवन उसी समय समाप्त हो गया और उसकी जगह सार्वजनिक जीवन प्रारम्भ हुआ; 'मेरा' 'पुस्तार' हो गया। वास्तव में मोहनदास गांधी को यहीं गिराया नहीं गया बल्कि यहीं से उनका उत्थान आरम्भ हुआ था।



### Pietermaritzburg Railway Station: Place of the Birth of a Satyagrahi

In his Autobiography Gandhiji has mentioned the incident that took place in South Africa during a train journey when he was humiliated, assaulted and forced out of the train compartment on the winter night of 7th June 1893 at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station – as the turning point of his life. His fault; he had refused to move from a 'whites-only' compartment. Gandhiji later wrote :-

"I was afraid for my very Life. I entered the dark waiting-room. There was a white man in the room. I was afraid of him. What was my duty? I asked myself. Should I go back to India, or should I go forward with God as my helper, and face, whatever was in store for me? I decided to stay and suffer. My active non-violence began from that date". A Satyagrahi was born on that cold night.

At the same railway station, a hundred years later a grandson received the conferment of Freedom of the city of Pietermaritzburg on Mahatma Gandhi from the President Nelson Mandela, the great symbol of struggle against Apartheid. In his acceptance speech Shri Gopal Krishan Gandhi while paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi said,

"Here in Pietermaritzburg today, here at this railway station the question may well be asked : Who was the man that was flung out; who was it that fell? Again, who was it that rose from his humiliation – somewhere here-on two very different feet? The question may be answered thus; When Gandhi was evicted from the train, an Indian visiting South Africa fell; but when Gandhi rose an India and South Africa rose ..... Gandhiji fell with a railway ticket no one honoured; he rose with a testament none could ignore; he fell as a passenger but rose as a patriot; fell as a barrister but rose as a revolutionary; his legal brief became a political cause; his sense of human decency transformed itself into a passion for human justice. The personal died with him that moment and turned public; 'mine' became 'thine'. In fact, Your Worship Mohandas Gandhi was not flung here, he was launched."



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