



ANNUAL REPORT

2014-2015



— |

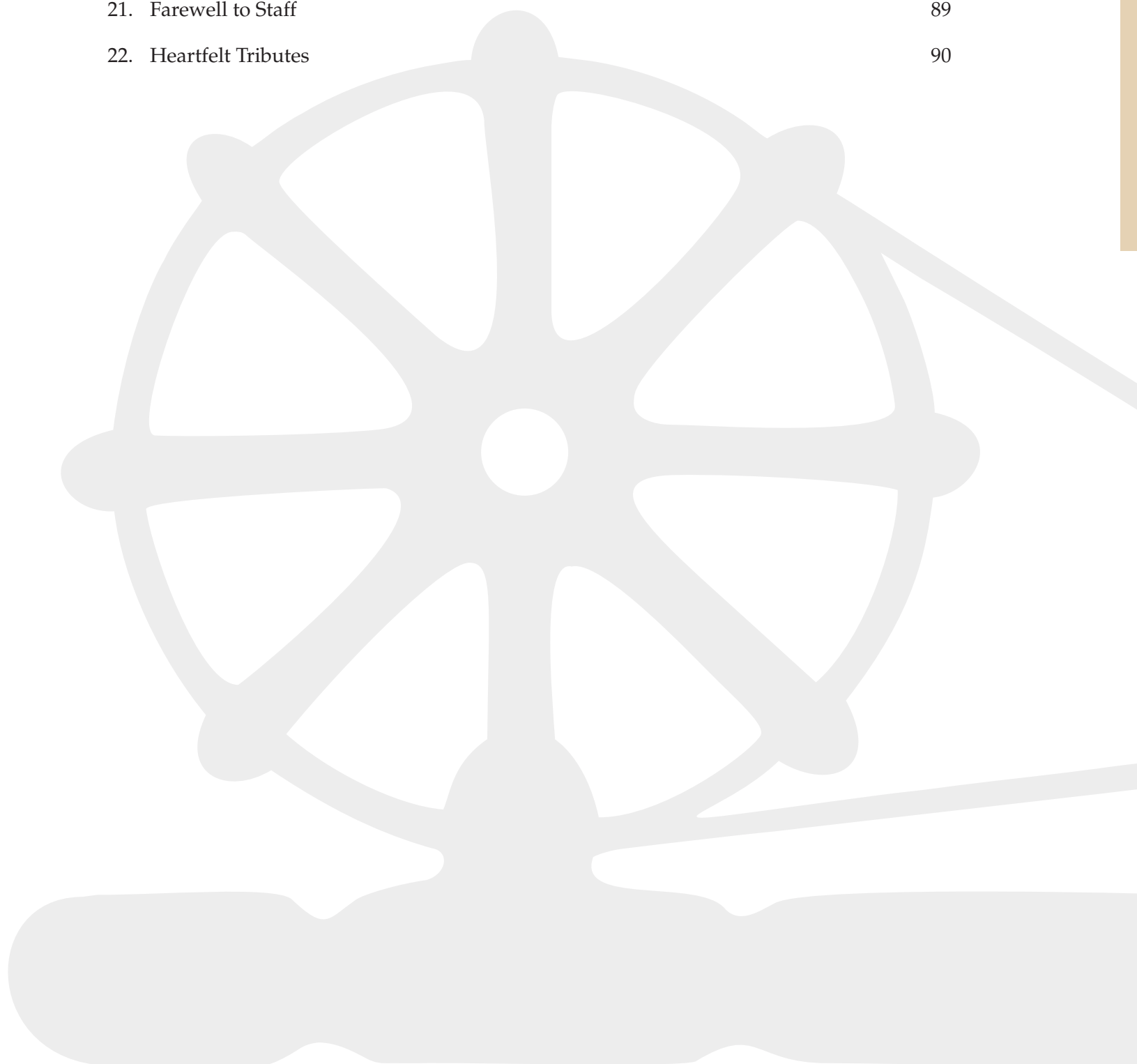
— |



Contents

1. Foreword	5
2. Introduction	9
3. Structure of the Samiti	17
4. Time Line of Programmes	19
5. Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi	25
6. Significant Initiatives	29
7. Programmes for Children	36
8. Programmes for Youth	48
9. Programmes for Women	53
10. Programmes for the Tribal People	55
11. Commemorative Programmes	57
12. Academic Programmes	60
13. In Prison	74
14. Programmes in Hindi Language	77
15. Programmes in the North East	78
16. Regular Activities	79
17. Book Fair	80
18. Library and Documentation	81

19. Publications	83
20. Visitors	84
21. Farewell to Staff	89
22. Heartfelt Tributes	90





Foreword

Taking forward the message of '*beti bachao, beti padhao*' through programmes on Women Empowerment.

Mahatma Gandhi firmly believed that women should take the lead to transform and contribute to the development of India at all levels. On October 20, 1936 in a letter to Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, he wrote, "If you women only realize your dignity and privilege, and make full sense of it for mankind, you will make it much better than it is. But man has delighted in enslaving you and you have proved willing slaves till the slave and holders have become one in the crime on degrading humanity. My special function from childhood, you might say, has been to make women realize her dignity. I was once slave holder myself but Ba proved an unwilling slave and thus "opened my eyes to my mission."

Elsewhere in *Young India* in April 10, 1930, Bapu writes, "To call woman the weaker sex is a libel; it is man's injustice to woman. If by strength is meant brute strength, then, indeed, is woman less brute than man. If by strength is meant moral power, then woman is immeasurably man's superior. Has she not greater intuition, is she not more self-sacrificing, has she not greater courage? Without her man could not be. If non-violence is the law of our being, the future is with woman... Who can make a more effective appeal to the heart than woman?"

During the freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi was constantly raising women's issues and underlined their equal role in the fight for Independence. Stressing on the equality of women he argued, "Woman is the companion of man, gifted with equal mental capacities. She has the right to participate in the minutest details in the activities of man, and she has an equal right of freedom and liberty with him. She is entitled to a supreme place in her own sphere of activity as man is in his. This ought to be the natural condition of things and not as a result only of learning to read and write. By sheer force of vicious custom, even the most ignorant and worthless men are enjoying a superiority over woman which they do not deserve and ought not to have. Many of our movements stop half way because of the condition of our women." (*Mahatma Gandhi, Speeches and Writings; G K Natesen & Company, Madras, 1933*).

Mahatma Gandhi's thrust on equality which included gender equality got reflected in our Constitution. For instance, Article 14 of the Indian Constitution states: "The State does

not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection of the laws within the territory of India.” This Article underscores the significance of gender equality. Similarly, Article 21 talks about protection of life and personal liberty. It says, “No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by the law.”

Significantly, the Justice J S Verma Committee appointed by the Government of India to review the existing laws and provisions on violence against women took Article 14 and 21 as the base to define women empowerment. He said: “The advancement of women as contemplated under Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India through integrated strategies, frameworks, programmes, plans, activities and budgets which aim to eliminate structural inequalities and which enable women to gain power and control over decisions and resources which determine the quality of their lives in a sustainable manner.”

Mahatma Gandhi's perspectives form the foundation of the Samiti's intervention to highlight different dimensions of women empowerment. One of the major focuses has been to sensitize and provide platform for discourses on issues of violence and discrimination especially that of the girl child.

In the past one year the Samiti organized a series of programmes on issues of violence against the girl child and how development of their capacities and empowerment could help challenge discriminations against them. The dialogues and discussed that we organized tried to look at stereotypes, structural inequalities and age-old practices in-depth. This effort is in sync with the Government of India's 'beti bachao, beti padhao' initiative.

A dialogue organized on the *Root Causes of Violence against Women* by the Samiti on June 21, 2014 underlined the essence of education, economic empowerment, space to participate

In the past one year the Samiti organized a series of programmes on issues of violence against the girl child and how development of their capacities and empowerment could help challenge discriminations against them.

The dialogues and discussed that we organized tried to look at stereotypes, structural inequalities and age-old practices in-depth. This effort is in sync with the Government of India's 'beti bachao, beti padhao' initiative.

on issues of governance for enabling them to fight violence and discrimination. The theme of the dialogue was elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on two key areas: prevention – stopping violence before it happens in the first place. The thrust was also to discuss on how a collective consciousness can be evolved to address the issue of violence against girls in the country.

The dialogue felt on the importance of encouraging greater representation of young women in the democratic process like panchayats, municipalities and in students' bodies in the Universities/Colleges to facilitate their leadership on issues concerning them.

For Mahatma Gandhi involving all sections of the society was critical for the strengthening of our democracy, “Democracy must in essence ... mean the art and science of mobilizing the entire physical,

economic and spiritual resources of all the various sections of the people in the service of the common good of all”. (Harijan, 27-5-1939)

To address the rising cases of violence against girls, the participants delved on the need

to ensure sustainable approaches across sectors – for long-term policy, legal reform, cross-sectoral strategies and mechanisms directed at sustainable change – towards better long term coordination, monitoring and evaluation of activities by the Government through national plans and mechanisms.

It was felt that unless we address the root causes of structural inequalities and structural violence, a long term sustainable solution for fight the issue of violence against girls and women cannot be addressed satisfactorily.

In yet another dialogue with students of Ginni Devi Modi Girls PG College, Modi Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, the participants stressed on the need to promote girl and women friendly public spaces. The students shared issues of their safety and security when they travel from villages to the college. Proactive community initiatives involving all stakeholders need to be taken up to ensure safety of girls in public spaces.

Besides public spaces, another crucial area where much sensitization and awareness was required is in homes and institutions. Much of the violence against girls and women start from homes. The dialogues that the Samiti organized tried to look at age-old stereotypes which made girls and women unequal in their own homes. Need for value-based quality education and large scale sensitization programmes at different levels of the society was critical, it was felt.

The dialogues also discussed on the role of media- films, televisions, print media, etc in perpetuating various forms of gender discrimination and stereotypes. Promoting media literacy education amongst young people to develop critical understanding of media messages vis-à-vis gender issues was an important aspect some of the participants felt. Gender-related violence portrayed in the media contributed to many cases of violence and it was felt that sensitization of media persons and film makers was needed to avoid such portrayal.

A significant effort of the Samiti was to organize a gender sensitization camp for men. It was a direct follow-up of previous dialogues which underscored the importance of sensitizing men on gender issues. The effort at the camp was to explore leadership potential of men to take up the cause of gender equality and violence against girls and women. It needs to be underlined that sensitization of men is critical to bring a change in age-old stereotypes and practices.

The real challenge, we felt through the dialogues, discussions and sensitization camps, was to change the mindset. There could be laws, rules and regulations on issues of violence against girls and women but unless mindsets and stereotypes are changed we may not get success. The change is a slow process but we need to ensure continuous strategic interventions like sensitization programmes, camps etc. We need to continuously talk and discuss the issues across the different cross-section of the society.

There is equally a need to educate the girl child for her overall development. Education is central to the process of sustainable development and is empowering, if its contents are geared towards it. Numerous studies in the last decade, in the international arena have shown, however, that educating the female population in a country helps economic growth.

Educate your women and the nation will take care of itself; for it is true today as it was yesterday, and will be to the end of human life. The hand that rocks the cradle is the power that rules the world.

– Sarojini Naidu

One of the tallest women figures of Indian National Movement, Sarojini Naidu, while arguing that women should be educated says: Therefore, I charge you, restore to your women their ancient rights. ...Educate your women and the nation will take care of itself; for it is true today as it was yesterday, and will be to the end of human life. The hand that rocks the cradle is the power that rules the world.

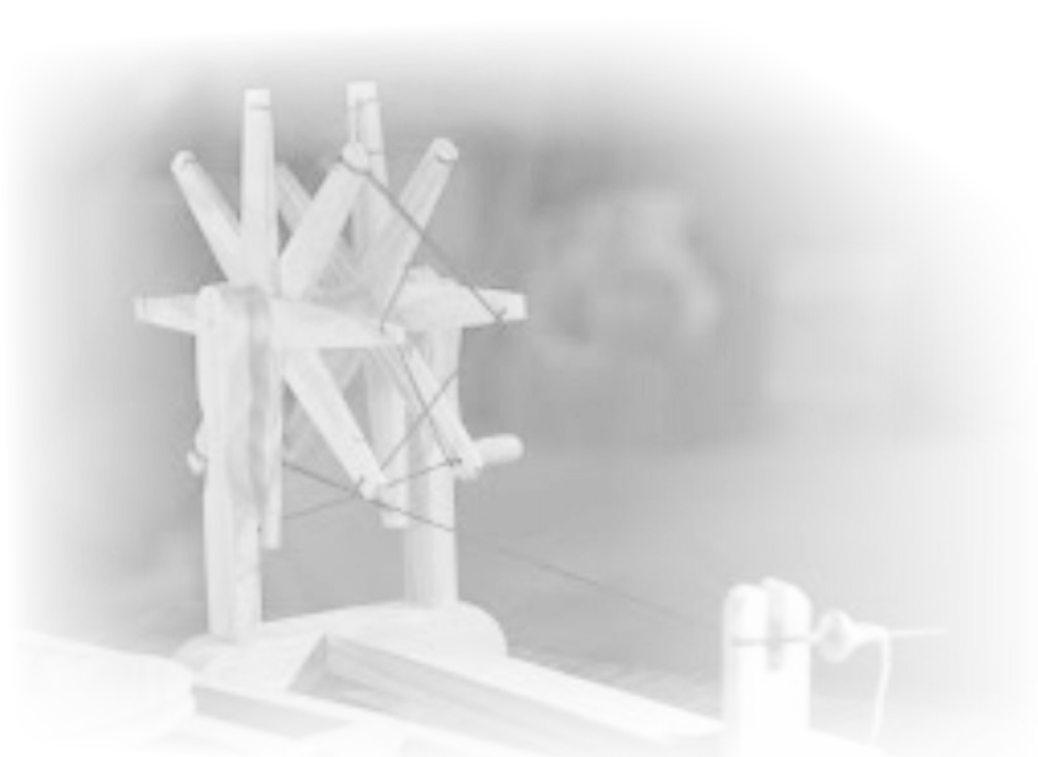
Empowering women in the development context is to a greater extent, the recognition of the dignity of human life. Sustainable development requires the full and equal participation of women at all levels.

Kofi Annan's words: "There's no doubt that any society that does not bring into the centre the full participation of women, is a loser", is a gentle, yet stark reminder to involve women in the development processes and, must, therefore, begin at home by protecting the girl child and educating her.

The Samiti will continue its efforts towards involving the participation of women from different walks of life and different social strata with an aim towards organising different sensitization programmes and workshops; reaching out to different sections of the population in an endeavor to work towards a girl and women-friendly society.

Dipanker Shri Gyan

Director





Introduction

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.



A view of the footsteps leading to the site of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti.



A view to the entrance to Mahatma Gandhi's room in Gandhi Smriti.

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..."

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 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.

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



The bench placed at the Prayer Ground from where Mahatma Gandhi conducted the daily evening inter-faith prayer during his stay in the erst-while Birla House, today Gandhi Smriti.

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'.

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.

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.

A Comprehensive Exhibition covering 1857-1947 – *From Raj to Swaraj* is placed in the pergola, which is now a walking art gallery and which provides an opportunity to artists from all segments of our society and all parts of the world to witness India's March to Freedom and have an interface with the visiting mass of humanity.

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



The way to Gandhiji's room in Gandhi Smriti. In view the journey of the Mahatma's last few days depicted through the photographic exhibition in the Gandhi Smriti Museum.



A young visitor at the interactive “Eternal Gandhi Multi-media Exhibition” in Gandhi Smriti.

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.

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, mime and music, *Srijan* – the Gandhi Smriti Educational Centre – has been set up at Gandhi Smriti. *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 21st century technology highlights the core of Gandhian

thought – the commitment of a Satyagrahi to the principles of truth. Two sculptures of Ba and Bapu made in , 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



A view of the Gandhi Darshan complex in Rajghat.



A view of the exhibition hall “My Life is My Message” in Gandhi Darshan Rajghat.

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.

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



A view of the photographic exhibition at Exhibition Hall No 1 "My Life is My Message" in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.



The Gun Carriage that carried the mortal remains of Mahatma Gandhi is placed in the Exhibition Hall "My Life is My Message" in Gandhi Darshan.

- 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.

In 1994, during the 125th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji, while addressing the nation Prime

Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao formally announced the setting up of *International Centre of Gandhian Studies* at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. On January 30, 2000, President K. R. Narayanan unveiled a Column declaring the entire Campus as the International Centre of Gandhian Studies and Peace Research in the presence of Prime Minister and Chairman of the GSDS, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and several other dignitaries.

Infrastructural Facilities:

Facilities available at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat

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

The Objectives of the Samiti:

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 Prime Minister

Vice-Chairperson

Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee (till May 2015)

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture (since June 2015 onwards)

Members

Minister In-charge, Ministry of Culture

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi

Mayor of Delhi

Shri Laxmi Das

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal

Ms. Rajni Bakshi

Shri Tridip Suhrud

Shri Narayan Bhai Bhattacharjee

Dr. Harsh Vardhan Kamrah

Ms. Neelima Vardhan

Dr. Suparna Gooptu

Shri Ranji Thomas

Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Information Advisor to the Prime Minister

Chief Engineer, CPWD

Secretary, (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance

Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development

Secretary, Ministry of Education

Commissioner of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi
President / Administrator, New Delhi Municipal Committee

Member Secretary

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Executive Committee

Chairperson

Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee (till May 2015)

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture (since June 2015 onwards)

Members

Shri Laxmi Das

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal

Ms. Rajni Bakshi

Shri Tridip Suhrud

Member Secretary

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture


Director

Manimala – till March 16, 2015

Bandana Sharma – from March to August 2015

Dipanker Shri Gyan – from August 2015 onwards





Time Line of Programmes

Programme	Date	Venue of the Programme	Thrust Area of the Programmes	Beneficiaries
Value Creation Camp organised	April 26 to May 1, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Promotion of Gandhian Values Inculcating the values of honesty, dedication, team work, collective life, physical labour, sanitation, etc.	Children from remote and far flung areas
Free-Eye Check up camp organized in Tihar	April 22, 2014	Central Jail No 5	Medical Checkup for the inmates	Inmates of CJ 5
Festival of Street Plays on Social Issues	April 30, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Plays on social issues were raised through the performances	Children and Youth
Programme to celebrate Champaran Satyagraha	April 14, 2014	Champaran	Understanding Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy as a working combination of politics, society, employment, culture and education for all round development of state and nation	Youth of the area
National Week Celebration in Jaipur (Commemorating nation-wide protests against the Rowlatt Act (Legislation) of 1919)	April 14, 2014	Japiur	Highlighting the significance of the Satyagraha Movement led by two great luminaries Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Gandhiji	Youth
Training on Nurturing Visitor's Involvement Programme organised	May 26, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Outlining the sensitivities associated with Museum and the involvement of the guides in making a visitor/ guest get attracted towards the museum	Educational Guides of the Museum and staff
Mahatma Gandhi – An Artistic Expression	May 31, 2014	Central Prisons Tihar – CJ 5	Involving the participation of the inmates in creative activities and through interactions understanding the life's message of Mahatma Gandhi	Tihar Inmates
Orientation Programme of Girl's Peace Volunteers Group	May 7, 2014	Handique Girls College, Guwahati, Assam	The thrust of the orientation was how the student of the Handique Girl's College could volunteer in the community	College youth especially girls

Gram Swarajya Camp in BiharMay	18-19, 2014	Sadbhavana Ashram Foundation, Sarvodayanagar Supaul, Bihar	The participants were taught the basics of rural upliftment through Gram Swaraj to make the villagers self-reliant. Discussions about the life and philosophy of Bapu and his dream of Gram Swarajya, Gram Udyog and Constructive Prog.	Gandhian Constructive Workers
Interaction with Children from the Lesser Privileged Sections of the Society	June 8, 2014	Gandhi Smriti	Understanding the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi through educational tour and interactions	Children
Dialogue on Root Causes of Violence against Girls: What are the solutions	June 21, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	1. Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls 2. To discuss on how a collective consciousness can be evolved to address the issue of violence against girls	Youth, children, girls from the NGO, Sex Workers, domestic helpers, etc
Gandhi Summer Camp for the Disabled	June 23-28, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	The programme aimed towards build self-esteem of people with disabilities so that they can negotiate any challenges in their lives like any other person	Persons affected with disability and people associated with them
National Yuva Samaj Sadhana Shivar	June 13-15, 2014	Samanvaya Ashram, Bodh Gaya, Bihar	Bring youth closer to Gandhi through value-oriented programmes Work in close connection with the youth of the displaced/landless families to orient them so that they do not resort to violence.	150 youth participants from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand who took part in the programme
Netrtva – State-level Grishmakalin Bal Sanskar Shivar	June 14-18, 2014	Jaipur	Promotion of Gandhian Values Inculcating the values of honesty, dedication, team work, collective life, physical labour, sanitation, etc.	250 children in the age-group of 14-18 years from different districts of Rajasthan participated
Mahatma Gandhi – An Artistic Expression in CJ – 1	July 2, 2014	Central Prisons – Tihar CJ –1	Involving the participation of the inmates in creative activities and through interactions understanding the life's message of Mahatma Gandhi	Tihar Inmates
Dialogue on Sarvodaya of Gandhi and Anti-apartheid movement of Mandela	July 18, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Celebrating the 96 th birthday of Nelson Mandela and understanding the struggle led by Madiba as influenced by Satyagrahi Mahatma Gandhi	Youth from colleges and universities, and Gandhian constructive workers
Tributes to Late Prabhash Joshi on his 77 th birthday	July 19, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Discussion on Journalism as a service vis-a-vis present day changing media technology was initiated to see how the wisest and best minds could harness the new media to new and constructive purpose	Journalists from the media fraternity, scholars, writers and people from different streams of the society

Inter-school Dandi March Rolling Trophy	July 24, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Children's perspective on Social Justice: An integral Part of Harmony and Peace	About 130 students from 62 schools participated
Gandhi Darshan Mobile Radio" and seminar on Soochna Swaraj	July 21-25, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Training was provided to participants in different aspects of how communication through mobile could transmit important messages to people in the far-flung areas.	100 people took part in the programme from different states including some of the staff of the GSD
National Yuva Shivar for Gandhian workers in Adivasi belt	July 28-30, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Bring youth closer to Gandhi through value-oriented programmes Work in close connection with the youth of the displaced/landless families to orient them so that they do not resort to violence. Participatory methods; importance of collective living, physical labour, sanitation, etc.	Gandhian Constructive Workers
Gandhi Sanskar Shivar in Bodh Gaya	July 24-28, 2014	Jivan Sangam, Bodh Gaya, Bihar	Acclimatizing the children with the fundamentals of Gandhian Principle and Gandhian Value Introducing the children to basic conflict resolution techniques and Imbibing the importance of Gandhian constructive programmes amongst the participants.	Over 250 children from the marginalized (maha Dalit) communities participated.
Tributes to Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his 94 th death anniversary	August 2, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Tributes to the political mentor of Mahatma Gandhi and understanding the dynamics of the leadership qualities of Tilak	Eminent educationists, academicians, , poet, journalists participated.
National Planning Meeting	August 5-6, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Develop plan of action for the year in different parts of the country	Participants from different parts of the country
Inter-school Vandemataram Rolling Trophy Musical Competition organised	August 8, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	The children presented their self-written/composed songs that included themes such as national integration, patriotic, songs on communal harmony, struggle for independence, thereby displaying their creativity.	Over 260 students from 22 schools of Delhi and NCR took part.
Dialogue on Violence against Girls: Issues and Concerns	August 30, 2014	Ginni Devi PG Modi Girls College, Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh	Issues on Discrimination of all forms – from education, to providing the right level of nutrition and enhancing the health care facilities of the girl child, Sexual Exploitation, Molestation, Trafficking and Dowry deaths focused during the day.	Over 200 participants mostly girls took part.
Camp on Leadership and Gender Sensitization	August 6-10, 2014	Devlali, Mumbai	Sensitizing men and make them aware of how their behaviour is key towards the development and empowerment of the women.	Youth and women
Three months Certificate Course on Gandhian Thought concluded	August 17-18, 2014	Cherlapally Jail, Hyderabad	Three months certificate course on Mahatma Gandhi's Life and Thought towards understanding the life's message of Mahatma Gandhi.	Inmates of the Jail

Mahatma Gandhi – An Artistic Expression in CJ 6, Tihar Jail	September 6, 2014	Central Prisons – Tihar CJ – 6	Involving the participation of the inmates in creative activities and through interactions understanding the life's message of Mahatma Gandhi	Tihar Inmates
Dialogue on Mahatma Gandhi's Leadership Values & Contemporary World Scenario	September 18, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	This programme focussed on exchange of ideas and future cooperation between the worlds's oldest as well as, the world's largest democracies and towards understanding of Mahatma Gandhi	Delegation of the US Government & representatives from Republicans and Democrats
Value Creation Camp	September 25 to October 4, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Promotion of Gandhian Values Inculcating the values of honesty, dedication, team work, collective life, physical labour, sanitation, etc.	About 45 adolescents from Surovi Shishu Panchayat and Manipur took part in the camp
145 th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi	October 2, 2014	Gandhi Smriti	Gandhi Jayanti celebrations	Participation of 450 school students, dignitaries and people from different cross section of the society (a total of about 1500 people)
Hindi Pakhwara competition	September 16-30, 2014	Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti	Promotions of Hindi Language	Almost all departments of the Samiti including security, horticulture, safai sevaks etc took part in various competitions
4 th National Gandhi Bal Mela	November 18-20, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Showcasing creative talents of children	800 children from 18 states of the country and Nepal took part in the programme
4 th Adivasi Sanskriti Sangam	November 28-30, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	Focus on issues and concerns of adivasis across the country. A Jan Sansad with the theme, Adivasis in the New Era of Development was organized	650 adivasis from different parts of the country took part.
National Conference on "Supply Chain Model for No Child Labour in Home Based Craft Sector in India	December 8, 2014	Gandhi Darshan	To develop an effective model for addressing child labour issues in the home-based crafts sector in India, and gain the support of key stakeholders	Over 200 participants from different parts of the country took part
3 rd Gandhi Literature Festival organized	December 16 -24, 2014	Gandhi Smriti	Aim is to create awareness on Gandhiana. Different publishers took part in the festival. Book releases, discussions, street play etc. were other activities during the festival.	Publishers, writers, authors, children and youth.
Conference on 'Youth and Gandhian Path'	December 27-30, 2014	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	Understanding the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and the dynamics of truth and nonviolence	Youth and Gandhian Constructive Workers
Minister of Culture and VC GSDS Dr. Mahesh Sharma visits Gandhi Smriti	January 20, 2015	Gandhi Smriti	Interaction with the staff members and museum visit	GSDS Staff

100 years of Gandhi's Return to India from South Africa Dialogue on Youth, Conflict and Non-Violence	January 17, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	The programme aimed at providing the youth an opportunity to interact on the problems faced by them as an important section of society; encourage them to initiate nonviolent action, and promote the concept of a non-killing and non-violent society.	100 youth from colleges under Delhi University and other educational institutions from NCR region took part.
Mahatma Gandhi and Religion – A discussion	January 21, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	The idea of a just society as envisaged by Gandhiji was discussed with special emphasis laid on religion and secularism.	Gandhians, writers, scholars and youth participants
Value Creation Camp for the differently-abled	January 23 to February 1, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	Giving a platform to the persons with disabilities and engage them in creative activities	Children with different forms of disabilities from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand took part
Nation pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on 67 th Martyrdom Day	January 30, 2015	Gandhi Smriti	Remembering Mahatma Gandhi with reverence and celebrating his idea of peace and non-violence through music and prayer.	Over 500 specially challenged children took part in offering musical tribute to the Father of the Nation
Centenary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi's Arrival to India from South Africa – 1915-2015	January 9, 2015	Mumbai	Celebrating centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa and understanding his philosophy of truth and nonviolence through dialogue and discussions.	Youth from different streams participated in this programme
Training Camp for specially challenged children organised	January 3-4, 2015	Renuwal, Jaipur	Giving a platform to the persons with disabilities and engage them in creative activities	250 children took part in this programme
Workshop on Integrating Handicraft with Education	January 16-19, 2015	West Bengal	The training focussed	Sixty teachers, education enthusiasts and youth participants from Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and also thirty teachers of MNBEI School and Primary Teachers' Training Institute along with their students participated in the workshop.
Sambal Bal Sanskar Shivir for Maha Dalit Children organised	January 18-20, 2015	Daheta, Champaran	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Addressing immediate poverty needs; 2. Sensitisation of children about their rights and other village communities; 3. Sensitisation about cleanliness, sanitation and hygiene; 4. Teach children the fundamentals of Gandhian principles and Gandhian values; 5. To improve learning abilities, etc. 	150 children in the age group of 10-16 years from the this community took part.

Bal Sanskar Shivir for the Children of Leprosy Affected Parents	January 28-30, 2015	Haridwar	The effort through this programme was to make an attempt towards removing the stigma from the children's mind that they cannot get participated in any form of social activities just because they are children of parents affected with leprosy	150 children in the age group of 10 to 14 years took part in the programme.
Interaction with BRICS Delegation	February 3, 2015	Gandhi Smriti	The discussion focussed on the creation of a world-wide youth dialogue, developing communicating tools and formation of a permanent platform for interaction between youth associations of BRICS countries.	Visiting delegates and youth from colleges.
Play on Blind Faith – “Socrates to Dabholkar via Tukaram” staged	February 18, 2015	Gandhi Smriti	This play was a tribute to social thinkers who sacrificed their lives for truth and making people rationale.	Youth of colleges
Seminar on “Mahatma Gandhi's Diverse Dimensions”	February 3, 2015	Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh	Attempt towards understanding the life's message and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi was discussed in the present day context	About 200 youth participated
Bal Mela organized in Narmada Valley	February 12-15, 2015	Narmada Jeevanshalas Maharashtra	Giving a platform to the children from lesser privileged communities to participate in holistic activities.	Around 600 tribal children and students (studying at primary level) from 9 Jeevanshalas participated.
Consultation on Gandhian Philosophy	February 16, 2015	Atal Behari Vajpayee Hindi University, Bhopal Madhya Pradesh	Adherence to Gandhiji's principles of peace, non-violence and truth in the contemporary scenario was discussed	Gandhians, social workers, youth from different streams of the society.
Global Inter-faith Peace Prayer	March 4, 2015	Gandhi Smriti	Celebration of International Women's Week and prayer for peace.	About 200 participants took part in the meeting
Yuva Samaj Sadhana Shivir <i>Youth workshop on capacity building and minority rights.</i>	March 13-16, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	Bring youth closer to Gandhi through value-oriented programmes Discussions on issues of social concern featured during the shivir.	40 participants from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Delhi participated
Save Ganga Movement	March 12, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	The discussion focussed on ecological/environmental issues including the reservation/cleaning of the river Ganges	Activists , scientists media persons and people from different streams of the society took part.
Mahila Shram Shakti Mela organised	March 12, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	Celebration to mark the 85 th anniversary of Salt Satyagraha The programme focussed on women entrepreneurs and their contribution towards development.	Over 400 participants from different states took part.



Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

145th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi Celebrated

The Samiti celebrated the 145th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on in Gandhi Smriti by organizing an evening prayer meet on October 2, 2014. Vice President of India, Dr. Mohd. Hamid

Ansari, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, former P.M. Dr Manmohan Singh, Union Health Minister, Dr. Harshvardhan along with people from different segments of the society and members from the diplomatic corps offered tributes to the Father of the Nation.



Almost 450 children from Assam, Manipur and different institutions from Delhi, NCR and slums took part in the commemorative programme and presented a musical tribute to Gandhiji. About 50 children from Bapa Ashram Residential Primary School, Harijan Sevak Sangh continuously spun on the charkha during the programme.

1. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi offering his tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.
2. Former Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh with his wife Smt. Gursharan Kaur offering tributes.
3. Bhakti Sangeet artist, Padma Bhushan Pt. Chhannulal Misra paying his homage to Gandhiji.



(From L to R): Children from Assam and Manipur join the Delhi children in offering their tributes as children continue spinning on the charkha during the commemorative programme.

The children participated from: *Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development, Manipur; Surovi Shishu Panchayat, Assam*. From Delhi the institutions included: *Bapa Ashram Residential Primary School, Harijan Sevak Sangh; Rashtriya Virjanand Andh Kanya Sr. Sec School; Shaheed Hemu Kalani Govt. Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalyaya; Kendriya Vidyalyaya (SPG); Pardarshita; Chandra Arya Vidya Mandir; Rani Dutta Arya Vidyalyaya; Centre for Social Security, Action & Research; and Government Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalyaya, Hastasal*.

Renowned vocalist, Padma Bhushan, Pt. Chhannulal Mishra led the *Bhakti Sangeet* on this occasion, where he rendered songs of great saints like Meerabai, Kabir, Guru Nanak, Goswami Tulsidas. His rendition of the Mahatma's favourite bhajans *Vaishnavajna tau* and *Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram* mesmerized the gathering.

On this occasion, the message of the U.N. Secretary General, H.H. Ban Ki Moon was delivered by the Director, United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhootan, Dr. Kiran Mehra Kerpelman. The message read:

Excerpts from the message:

On this International Day of Non-Violence, we commemorate the philosophy of the late Mahatma Gandhi, who through his example proved that peaceful protests could accomplish much more than military aggression. The principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948, the year of Gandhi's death, owe much to his beliefs...

... We have to foster a culture of peace, built on dialogue and understanding, for living together in harmony while respecting and celebrating humanity's rich diversity...

Mahatma Gandhi Remembered on 67th Martyrdom Day

The Vice President of India, Dr. Md. Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, led the nation in paying rich tributes to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 67th Martyrdom Day in Gandhi Smriti. Minister of Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, who is also the Vice Chairperson of the Samiti, members from the diplomatic corps, and people from different sections of the society paid their tributes.



Specially challenged children from different institutions in Delhi and NCR participate in the musical tribute to the Father of the Nation on his Martyrdom Day on January 30, 2015 in Gandhi Smriti.



(From L to R): Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti as Vice-Chairperson GSDS and Minister of Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma , along with Director GSDS, Ms. Manimala joins in paying tribute. (Right) Bhakti Sangeet Artist Shri Suresh Wadkar offers his tribute.

Over 500 specially challenged children drawn from Delhi, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand presented a musical tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. Children with MR (mental retardation), VI (visual impairment), locomotor disability took part in the programme. The institutions that participated were: *Jharkhand Vikalang Sangharsh Samiti, Jamshedpur; Navsari, Gujarat; Jan Kala Sahitya Manch Sansthan, Jaipur, Rajasthan;*



The Sound of Silence: Silent tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan, Mehta Vidyalaya; Akshay Pratishthan; Amarjyoti School for Inclusive Education; J P M Sr. Sec School for the Blind Boys; National Association of the Blind, R K Puram, Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh; Centre for Blind Women and Disability Studies, NAB, Hauz Khas; Andh Maha Vidyalaya, Panchkuian Road and Rashtriya Virjananda Andh Kanya Sr. Sec. School, Vikaspuri. Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna coordinated the musical tribute of the children. Accompanying him were Shri

Kuldeep Kumar on the Tabla, and Shri R Sreedhar on the Violin.

85 Children from *Bapa Ashram Residential School, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Kingsway Camp* spun on the charkha during the programme. Religious leaders from different religious faith offered their prayers on the occasion.

A special highlight of the programme was a musical rendition of a song on national integration by well-known singer and Minister of State for Urban Development Shri Babul Supriyo. Songs of Kabir and other saint and philosophers resonated in the prayer ground as Shri Suresh Wadkar began rendering the Bhakti Sangeet as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi



Shri Narendra Modi ji interacts with the children after the programme.

Significant Initiatives

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

As part of the Government of India's initiative, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organized a number of sensitization programmes on the safety and security of the girl child and facilitating equal opportunities for her in all spheres of life.

Dialogue on Root Causes of Violence against Girls: What are the solutions?

Over 175 participants which included domestic workers, victims of sexual exploitation, child abuses, workers from voluntary organizations, youth participants from colleges and schools, and activists took part in a day-long dialogue on *Root*

Causes of Violence against Girls: What are the Solutions?, which was organised by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on June 21, 2014 in Gandhi Darshan.

The theme was elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against

women and girls, with a particular focus on two

Of all the evils for which man has made himself responsible, none is so degrading, so shocking or so brutal as his abuse of the better half of humanity to me, the female sex, not the weaker sex. It is the nobler of the two, for it is even today the embodiment of sacrifice, silent suffering, humility, faith and knowledge.

(Mahatma Gandhi in Young India, 15-9-1921).



Shri Laxmi Das lighting the ceremonial lamp, while Smt. Bulbul Das and Dr. Merchant is all smiles.



Ms. Razia Ismail Abbassi interacts with participants as Ms. Kshama Shama keenly listens.



key areas: prevention – stopping violence before it happens in the first place. The thrust was also to discuss on how a collective consciousness can be evolved to address the issue of violence against girls. The aim of the discussion was also to provide a forum between people of diverse age groups; identify measures which should be taken and good practices to be adopted that contribute to the society; and identify any emerging issues and practices that should be considered.

Among those who took part in the dialogue included: Ms. Razia Ismail Abbassi, International Convener, Women's Coalition for Peace & Development with Dignity and founder Director of India Alliance for Child Rights; Ms. Kshama Sharma, noted journalist with the Hindustan Times; Smt. Bulbul Das, senior advocate and member of All India Women's Conference; Shri Laxmi Das, Secretary Harijan Sevak Sangh; Smt. Vidya Ben Sha, former Chairperson of Central Social Welfare Board; Dr. A K Merchant, from Bahai House of Worship; Prof. Om Gupta, Director World Heritage Centre; Ms. Vimla Pant from Joint Women's Programme; Shri R B Prashant, founder Director, Kalyanam; Shri Umesh Kumar, from CASP PLAN. Many organisations which are working on women and child issues such as Kalyanam, Prerna, Pardarshita, Amita University, AMFX, NDDY, Jagori, SADRAG, CASP PLAN, IWID, Delhi, Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) Saathi Centre, Kalyanpuri; Kalyanam; Modern College of Professional Studies; Amity University; Khudai Khidmatgar; Navjyoti India Foundation; Jamia IMMC, Delhi University, Praxis; and SADED.

In her welcome address, the Director, GSDS, Ms Manimala said that the extent of violence against the girl starts right from the womb. Cases of female foeticide and infanticide shows how deep the bias in India is against girls, she said. She further emphasized on the fact that not only giving birth to a girl child is enough but nurturing and giving her a good life is also important. She further reflected on the deplorable condition of girls in many areas and how girls are subject to violence even in their homes.

Ms Razia Ismail Abbassi underscored that the most crucial aspect of a person's life, irrespective of gender is the path of

Women participants from different segments of the society including domestic workers, actively take part in the dialogue on “Root causes of violence against girls” in Gandhi Darshan.

becoming a human being and choosing the right path to live for oneself. She said, "The society tries to assign roles and put us in our respective boxes. Structural factors and role stereotyping makes it difficult for a woman to rise above her circumstances". "Moreover, we are woven into a societal fabric where everything is pre-conceived", she added.

Ms Abbassi also expressed her concern on commoditization of women pointing out how deep-rooted mindset of the patriarchal society is and the need to introspect. She emphasized that society needs to play a crucial role in eliminating violence against girls, quoting Gandhi "*Be the change that you wish to see in the world.*"

She said acknowledging that violence begins with discrimination; there is a need to address the root causes of this issue. She further stressed on the need to start the discussion from talking about the root causes behind small incidents which may someday give rise to extensive consequences and to stop this disease from getting viral. "The culture of silence betrays complicity around violence against girls, and therefore, it is necessary to speak up for justice".

Ms Bulbul Das while expressing her concern on the issue of violence against girls stressed on the need to have a systematic, coordinated, sustained approach to address all forms of violence against women and girls. She pointed out that the present status of women is chiefly the product of social arrangement. "The society reinforces social stereotypes, particularly by portraying girls performing certain roles in society such as handling domestic chores, rearing children, and therefore, they (women/girls) need not show any interest in public life or even bother about their condition".

Emphasising on the need to be alert and actively participate in any forum that raises voice on the protection of the girl child, Ms Das underscored the urgent need to bring about a drastic change in the outlook of the people within

Objective of the Dialogue

1. *To generate discussions for an effective well-coordinated humanitarian and collective response to abuse, exploitation and violence against girls.*
2. *To understand the myriad forms of violence that girls are subjected to in their day-to-day lives.*
3. *To discuss possible solutions to address different forms of violence against girls.*
4. *To discuss and ensure that the issue of violence against girls is not seen just as a "women's issue" but as a societal issue.*
5. *To further dialogue to develop a collective consciousness for a girl-friendly society.*
6. *To discuss how the well-being of girls becomes a priority of the society as a whole.*

the society and to take such steps that could lead to the eradication of dogmatic practices of keeping women behind the veils and also inflicting tortures upon them.

She expressed her anger over the idea that many people perceive that in many cases girls are said to provoke boys by wearing short clothes, etc. She also questioned on the need to explain how the rape of a five-year old who is completely oblivious to this heinous crime takes place? Also, she said, it's wrong to compare these horrific acts by men to animals as animals don't behave this way.

An open discussion was held on the occasion with the participants, which was moderated by Ms Kshama Sharma during which the following points evolved:

- Many participants reported about the negative role played by the media. Actors and actresses have been engaged in films and soap operas highlighting the gender stereotypical roles or superiority of male. Also participants



Ms. Manju (C) from the Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) presents a song alongwith the domestic workers from her community.

expressed their shock over the fact that today violence is seen as a source of entertainment. Women are projected as an epitome of sacrifice and compassion.

- The increasing cases of rape in India have galvanized global attention. Lack of education has been found to be the root cause of violence against women and girls. Today, millions of girls are educated less than their brothers. In the last decade, what is even more perplexing is that sex-selective abortions have increased among the more educated better off Indians in relatively wealthy states such as Delhi, Punjab, Maharashtra and Haryana. Discrimination against girls has been internalized by the average Indian on the street.
- The participants felt that for countless girls, this violence continues through child hood and into women hood. The situation is made worse by lack of enough education, exposure and conviction on the part of both victims – who doesn't have proper knowledge about her rights to fight and seek justice and the perpetrator – who isn't aware about the consequence he will suffer by indulging in such a horrific crime.

The dialogue concluded with solutions that were worked out after group exercises. The solutions stressed that:

- Women, especially from the marginalized communities be economically empowered to redress power imbalances
- Need for growth of empowerment programmes among gender-based violence focused organizations with more resources and budget being into such projects.
- Voluntary organizations should use leadership schools and training among its prevention which allows women to be more confident and safe.
- Changing institutions and organizational practices such as legal matters, gender inequalities, work-related strategies for prevention of violence against girls, etc.
- Laws, policies and frameworks which are a key obstacle to better public understanding, and must be reformed, promoted and implemented.
- Key decision and policy-makers, both who are part of the formal government apparatus and those who are not, such as religious leaders, must understand and comprehensively lead on prevention
- There is a need to ensure sustainable approaches across sectors – for long-term policy, legal reform, cross-sectoral strategies and mechanisms directed at sustainable change – towards better long term coordination, monitoring and evaluation of activities by the central government through national plans and mechanisms.
- There is a need to start initiatives to raise awareness and mobilize communities, as well as to address individual knowledge and attitudes. Debates, conferences in public spaces and Educational fairs should be used, along with marches and demonstrations to promote legal reforms.

Further the respondents pointed out that transportation facility, police services, medical care, legal services and more gender sensitive focal points, be implemented and improved for prevention.

Dialogue on Violence against Girls: Issues and Concerns

The Samiti organized a day-long workshop at Ginni Devi PG Modi Girls College, Modinagar, Uttar Pradesh on August 30, 2014 in collaboration with the Gandhi Study Centre, of the Department of Gandhian Studies. Over 200 participants took part in the programme that was chaired by senior journalist Ms. Annu Anand. Shri Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS, Dr Manju Goel, Principal, and Dr Aruna Sharma, HOD, Gandhi Study Centre also spoke on the occasion.

Shri Rajdeep Pathak moderated the interactive session. Ms Renu Puhar, Ms Namrata Misra and Shri Sameer Banerjee also participated in the programme from the Samiti.

Initiating the dialogue, Shri Vedabhyas Kundu said that girls from the community can work in their society to empower the community, especially

the women of the area. Stressing on the need for young girls to work as volunteers for peace and constructive work, he emphasized that there is a need to develop linkages amongst different sections of the society.

Taking the workshop further, Ms Anand gave a detailed presentation on issues concerning the girl child and women. In that she touched upon core issues that perpetrate violence and said that the biggest road-block is because the girls remain uneducated.

She further stressed that there is a strong need for developing avenues for the girls to get them educated. She expressed deep concern on the 'missing child', citing that the main reason of female is the mindset of the people. "Violence, as we see, begins before birth", she said, and added that the "Sex ratio between girls and boys is 1000:919 at the national level as per the latest data".



1. *Mrs. Annu Anand speaks to the girls during the dialogue.*
2. *Shri Vedabhyas Kundu notes a point, as Dr. Manju Goel and Dr. Aruna Sharma share a point.*
3. *Participating students during the interactive session.*

Some of the issues that Ms Annu Anand raised were:

- i. *Discrimination* of all forms – from education, to providing the right level of nutrition and enhancing the health care facilities of the girl child.
- ii. *Sexual Exploitation*
- iii. *Molestation*
- iv. *Trafficking*
- v. *Dowry deaths*

Highlighting that inequality is one form of violence – and a stronger one – Ms Annu Anand stated that the socio-cultural setup leads to inequalities in the society where the boy child is given greater importance than the girl child who is more often treated as inferior.

According to her the issues that affects the girl child because of the socio-cultural set up includes:

- i. *Patriarchal society*, where the male member of the house/society/community decides and dictates upon the activities that the female member has to perform and where she has no will of her own.
- ii. *Early marriage* – where the consent of the girl is not taken and the physical complications that she may suffer at a later stage is completely ignored
- iii. *Dowry system* – where the victim always

remains the girl and her family. While some are able to give, other may/may not be in a position to generate finances for paying dowry and the pressure is always built upon the family of the girl. Though made into a Law in 1986, the cases related to dowry deaths that come to the fore are barbaric

- iv. *Honour Killing* – where for keeping the (false) pride of the family, either the girl in most cases or both the boy and the girl in other extreme cases, who love one another, become victims of heinous crimes.

She further stressed that stereotype attitude that always give rise to gender discrimination needs to be stopped in order to prevent further inequalities in the society. A woman deciding on her own life or marriage is always seen as a threat in patriarchal societies. Intervention such as awareness campaigns at home, schools and colleges, in the community, at the local/district level is necessary to raising such issues at a greater level, beginning from the home, which the girls could take up immediately. The gram pradhans (village heads) can play a pivotal role in removing the fear that girls face while commuting from one place to another even during the day.

While advocating the need for societal initiatives to be taken up by individuals and society



Members of the Samiti along with Mrs. Annu Anand and the faculty members of Ginni Devi PG Girls College, Modinagar.

alike, Ms Annu Anand also proposed (possible) solutions at the administrative as well as judiciary level. She asserted that more such training workshops to generate awareness on various issues be conducted at the community level.

She asked the girls to raise their voice immediately if they find any such incidents affecting their safety, security and dignity. While calling for more women police personnel at the police stations and booths, she asserted that girls need not fear while lodging a complaint against any atrocities on them.

She concluded by pointing out the importance of having knowledge about law related to crime against women, domestic violence and so on, but called upon the girls to also start a campaign from their homes to educate the boy child in the right manner and teach him to respect girls. "There is an urgent requirement of working at the grassroots and conducting orientation programmes with the male members of the society. A change in mindset can bring about a lot of development," she said.

In her remarks the Principal of the college, Dr Manju Goel, said that the task of generating awareness today has become the most challenging task, with barriers and blockades at each and every step. "I want young girls to feel proud that they are the spinal cord of the family. You have to light your own lamp and begin at an individual level in putting your views forth", she said.

Earlier, Dr Aruna Sharma shared her experiences of working at the grassroots which she said has helped her in understanding the problems the women face in their day-to-day lives in rural areas. She expressed happiness that her college has seen an increase in girls seeking their admission for further studies. This, she said is a positive sign, since the parents are sending their girls to colleges to get educated. "That these young girls are able to come out of their villages, travelling almost 5-10 kilometers on foot every day, is a great achievement", she said.

The students participated by sharing their

personal experiences as well as the day-to-day problems they face. The issues that surfaced were:

- i. Problem of transportation
- ii. Domestic violence
- iii. Education for the girl child, especially from the minority community
- iv. Jobs for the qualified girls even after marriage
- v. Need for installation of street lights
- vi. More women police personnel at police stations and check points
- vii. Counseling of parents
- viii. Police to register the complaints of the victims

The respondents felt the need to enhance security for the girls. They expressed their concern over lack of hospitals in their area, to the extent that there isn't even a municipal hospital for providing first aid to the injured. Some of the students who have to travel long distances for their education, said that they are the only one from their village to move out of their homes. Ayushi Gupta, Khushboo Tyagi, Anju, Zenam Khan, Neena Gupta, Jyoti, Poonam, Sarika were among others who participated in the interaction.

Camp on Leadership and Gender Sensitization at Devlali, Mumbai

The Samiti organized a five-day camp on *Leadership and Gender Sensitization* on August 6-10, 2014 in Mumbai in association with Men against Violence and Abuse (MAVA). Over 60 participants took part in the programme that aimed towards enhancing the gender equality process. The participants felt that there is a need to sensitize the men too, and make them aware of how their is key towards the development and empowerment of the women. Gender sensitization amongst men is a key ingredient towards changing of mindset. They need to learn how to consider the women as their equals, both in society and in the private sphere. More than anything else, they must learn how to understand the female being – as their mother, sister, daughter, colleagues and in all other spheres of life.



Programmes for Children

Value Creation Camp

A Value Creation Camp was organized for adolescents from April 26 to May 1, 2014 in Gandhi Darshan. About 65 adolescents in the age-group of 14-16 years from two villages of Haryana – Gumla and Gannaur took part in the camp.

During the camp the following activities were conducted: Prayer, Yoga, Music, Shramdaan, Spinning, Training in Team-building management, Training in horticulture, Role Plays, Reading and writing sessions on the autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi and their experiences, Training in Theatre and Mime, Training in Naturopathy and Personal Hygiene, Orientation on peace and non-violence.

Interactive sessions were organized on: *Anger Management*, *Positive Behaviour* with Mr Ashok Arora and on *Volunteerism and Community Work* with Ms. Amita Dahiya,

The camp was inaugurated on April 26, 2014 in Gandhi Darshan with a musical performance by the Srijan choir. The camp began with a team building exercise, where groups were divided and group leaders were chosen. This exercise was conducted by Mr Ganesh.

During the camp, children were taught the nuances of theatre. A play *Ek Sapna Ghayal Sa* (an injured dream) directed by Mr Yasin Khan, Director of Indu Arts and Film Society was prepared by the children. For many children, this was the first time that they were being trained in theatre through a



In the Pix: Children participate in various activities during the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan.

play on the current issues (between the have and the have nots, the marginalised) and their social predicament.

Mr Swapan Kr. Sarkar, gave both theory as well as practical training to the children on Mime and developed a play that touched on crucial subjects such as 'right to education', 'child labour', 'atrocities on women' and the eternal concept of peace.



Shri A. Annamalai, Director National Gandhi Museum interacts with the children at the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan.

If training in basic personal hygiene and sanitation improved their knowledge and understanding of issues related to their health, the role-play on *Uka Ka Moniya* (Moniyas childhood friend) made them aware of the concept of discrimination that even Gandhiji had to face when he was asked not to play with Uka, since the latter belonged to a low caste.

For many children – who had come out of their home for the first time – the camp provided an opportunity to learn different skills such as better communication, working with other members of the society, physical labour, etc. Through spinning, an attempt was made to impart the idea of sincerity and dedication amongst them.

During the camp, a special session was conducted on “the key to happiness” by motivational speaker and a well-known lawyer and former Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association (of India), Mr Ashok Arora. In his two-and-a-half-hour interactive session with the children on April 28, 2014, Mr Arora told the children that life is a celebration and therefore celebrate each moment of life with sincerity and hard work as this is what pays at the end. He asked the children not to hate any one, but they should be able to love themselves.

He also spoke on anger management techniques and asked the children to introspect again and again, as this would lead into self

development and self understanding. He encouraged the children to have a passion, but their goal should be towards perfection.

Another session on “Volunteerism and Community work” was conducted by Ms Amita Dahiya, Volunteering and Post-2015 National Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers. While interacting with the children, Ms Dahiya briefed the children about the Millennium Development Goals and the various issues related to it and how children are linked affected by such issues. She advised the children to go to their respective villages and work on the 'Shishu Panchayat' model, assuring that she would help them in their endeavour. When asked about how they (children) could influence changes within the society, Ms Dahiya cited various initiatives encouraged by children that have forced the policy-makers to think for their (children's) welfare. She said that to begin with, they could work on issues such as sanitation, basic health and hygiene.

Based on their interactions, activities and various sessions, the children expressed their opinions in the form of posters, slogans, report of the activities and presented an exhibition of the activities during the camp through a display of chart papers.

The valedictory function of the camp was organized on May 1, 2014 in Gandhi Darshan, when the children presented a glimpse of the activities they had undertaken during the camp. Mr A. Annamalai, Director National Gandhi Museum was the chief guest on the occasion. The performance began with an invocation led by Indu Bahen and the children. This was followed by a dance on the National Song, *Vande Ma Taram* which they prepared during the camp. They presented few disciplines of *Yog Aasana*.

While Ms. Babita narrated a poem on female foeticide, Sonu Daka's gave solo performance of a song on national integration *Insaan ki aulaad hai insaan banega*. The play *Ek Sapna Ghyaal Sa* also raised pertinent questions on the wide

discriminations within the society. The performance on Mime was also appreciated.

One of the participants, Mr Ashish, shared his experiences of interacting with Mr Ashok Arora. Ms Manisha read a detailed report of the various activities of the camp, which was appreciated by all. The coordinators, Mrs Shanti Devi (Gannaur) and Shri Krishan Kumar (Gomla) also shared their experiences.

Festival of Street Plays on Social Issues

About 250 children from around 14 schools and five voluntary organizations took part in the *Festival of Street Plays on Social Issues* organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on April 30, 2014 in

illiteracy, right to education, discrimination in education between the boy and the girl child, etc., featured in the performances of the children.

Sharing his observances on the performances, Shri Anees Azmi said that in theatre or play, the actor has to concentrate on the language and the correct pronunciation of the words (dialogues). He further advised the coordinators (teachers and NGOs) to see that the children perform on issues of the child, as there are number of issues confronting children and there is a need to generate awareness on such issues.

Prof. K K Sen, while lauding the efforts of the children expressed his happiness that in the process of their participation in this festival, they have brought forth issues that are prevalent in the



Participants from different institutions in Delhi and NCR showcasing their performances during the festival.

Gandhi Darshan. The chief guest on this occasion was noted theatre personality Shri Anees Azmi, Secretary Urdu Academy and Prof. K K Sen, from People's Institute for Development and Training (PIDT).

The programme began with an invocatory bhakti sangeet by almost 50 children from Navyug School, Laxmibai Nagar on *Kabir*. This was followed by a kathak recital by children from Rhydhun Cultural Academy. Themes such as: *corruption, global warming, water pollution, sanitation, anger and its consequences, female foeticide, child labour, malnutrition, dowry, acid attacks on women, rape, satire and political humour on the recent elections,*

society they are living in. He hoped children – as part of their social work – could take up projects in many areas and come out with excellent case studies.

Earlier, Director GSDD, Ms Manimala while welcoming the gathering, said that this was a medium to understand as well as realize that children are the leaders of tomorrow and that they have to stand in the society to fight the prejudices and dogmas that is prevalent. In her observation regarding the performances, she too reiterated the need to not just perform on such grave social concerns, but also to take it forward at their level, so that the message reaches out to the society.

The festival concluded with a Bharatnatyam performance by students of Sun Valley International School, Ghaziabad. Some of the institutions that represented included: Navyug School, East Point School, Ramjas School (Anand Parbat), Sun Valley International School, Jaspal Kaur Public School, G D Goenka School, Mira Model School, Lilawati Vidya Mandir, Jan Jyoti Yuva Sangathan, Institute of Social Studies Trust (ISST) Saathi Centre, Kalyanam, Navjyoti India Foundation, Deepalaya School, Mayur Public School Green Fields School and others.

State-level Gandhi Bal Sanskar Shivirs

A meeting to select children for the state-level Gandhi Bal Sanskar Shivirs was held in Jaipur on May 17-18, 2014. Director GSDS, Ms. Manimala took part in the meeting to select the children from four villages in different districts. Representatives from various voluntary organizations took part in the meeting to have an understanding of the procedures for selections and setting the criteria.

Interaction with Children from Institutions

An interaction-cum-orientation programme was conducted in Gandhi Smriti with almost 97 children from three different voluntary organizations who visited the memorial on June 18,



Shri Ganesh interacting with children during their visit to Gandhi Smriti.

2014. Ms. Shashwati Jhalani, Librarian GSDS conducted the orientation programme. Children visited the museum, offered their tributes to Gandhiji at the site of this martyrdom. Ms. Jhalani also shared few anecdotes of Mahatma Gandhi with the children. While 62 girls from Khushi Rainbow Home and Kilkari Rainbow Home visited Gandhi Smriti, 35 boys visited Gandhi Darshan.

Gandhi Summer Camp for Young People with Disability



Charkha spinning training being imparted by Km. Indu Bala.

About 65 participants with different forms of disabilities such as: VI (Visually Impaired), HI (Hearing Impaired), Autism, CP (Cerebral Palsy), MR (Mental Retardation), PH (Physically Handicapped), DS (Down Syndrome), took part in the Gandhi Summer Camp organised by the Samiti from June 23-28, 2014. The children participated from *Arushi*, a Bhopal-based organization and *Masoom Duniya*, New Delhi.

The programme aimed towards build self-esteem of young people with disabilities so that they can negotiate any challenges in their lives like any other person. In a world in which there is increasing sensitivity to human rights and equality, one must view disability from a social perspective to take part in the normal life of the community on an equal level with others. It is important that they are provided with favourable circumstances to lead a better life and therefore contribute to the mainstream.



In the Pix: Children are seen participating in morning prayer (above) and sports (below)

which include painting, dancing, drama, yoga etc. This was displayed during the valedictory function which was organised on June 27 in Gandhi Darshan.

The children spun on the charkha, sang songs – bhajans as well as songs on environment and Mahatma Gandhi that they learnt during the camp. The dance performances were on *kadam se kadmo milte hai* and on light music by the children with hearing impairment and Down Syndrome.

A short play on *hum sab ek hai* directed by Shri Rakesh Sharma by children affected with MR and DS was also staged on the occasion. Noted lyricist and Gulzar saab also sent a special message for the children that was played as part of the programme.

A mouth organ recital by Akhil; *vaishnava jana to* by Vivek; a rap on female foeticide by Firoze were other attractions of the valedictory programme.

The occasion also saw the release of the Braille edition of *Moniya* – that was developed during the camp by Kamal from Arushi – by the distinguished guests that included Dr. J P Singh, former member secretary, Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI); Prof. J K Mehta, former deputy director, Doordarshan and professor with the Amity University; Shri Laxmi Dass, Secretary, Harijan Sevak Sangh; Shri Rajneesh, Secretary, Rajghat Samadhi; Shri Mallikaarjun, Believe India. Others who were present on the occasion were: Kum.



In the Pix (from L to R): Distinguished gathering lighting the lamp at the valedictory function; and cultural performances by the specially challenged children.

Kusum Behn from Gandhi Hindustani Sahitya Sabha; Smt. Renu Sharma, a handicrafts specialist; Shri Atul Prabhakar and Shri Umesh Kumar from CASPPLAN attended the programme.

Shri B Nayal, Director *Masoom Duniya* and Shri Anil Mudgal, Chief Functionary *Arushi* shared their experiences of the camp and stressed the need to involve such children in more such activities so as to develop their creativity.

In his address, Dr. J P Singh, former Member Secretary, Rehabilitation Council of India and the special guest highlighted the importance of providing creative platforms for children with disabilities and said that music for such children acts as a therapy. He congratulated the efforts of the Samiti in providing a platform for such children. He also hoped if the GSDS could develop an effective training module for children with disability and work towards their cause in other parts of the country. The children were also taken on a Gandhi Delhi Darshan tour on June 28 and they visited India Gate, Gandhi Smriti and Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat.

Netratva Grishmakalin Bal Sanskar Shivir

A state-level *Grishmakalin Bal Sanskar Shivir* in Adarsh Vidyalaya, Mansarovar, Jaipur, Rajasthan was organised the Samiti from June 14-18, 2014 in which about 250 children in the age-group of 14-18 years from different districts of Rajasthan participated. Shri Kamal Kishore coordinated the programme on behalf of the GSDS. The participants came from Jaipur, Ajmer, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Kota, Udaipur.

During the programme, the children participated in various activities that included the promotion of Gandhian values, inculcating the values of honesty, dedication, team work, collective life, physical labour, sanitation, etc. The thrust was also towards attempting at developing a better understanding on the importance of collective living and developing the capacities of the children to go to their communities and work was another important initiative that was taken up during the camp.

Inter-school Dandi March Rolling Trophy



**Above: A child participating in the competition.
Below: Children of Hansraj Model School, Punjabi Bagh receiving the winning trophy.**

About 130 students from 62 schools participated in the inter-school article-cum-poster-making competition on *Social Justice: An integral Part of Harmony and Peace* in Gandhi Darshan on July 24, 2014. The students were given the option of visiting the pavilion, *My Life is My Message* before they began writing their paper.

And the winners are:

- **First Prize in the overall category of Poster and Article Writing** - Hansraj Model School, Punjabi Bagh

Article Writing

o Second Prize

- Rabea Girls School
- Universal Public School

o Third Prize

- Mayur Public School, Laxmi Nagar
- East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave

o Three Appreciation Prizes

- St. Cecilians, Public School, Vikaspuri – First
- Jain Bharati Mrigawati Vidyalaya – Second
- Lancer's Convent School, Rohini – Third

Poster-making

o Second Prize

- Mira Model School, Janakpuri

o Third Prize

- Mater Dei School, Tilak Lane
- Somerville School

o Three Appreciation Prizes

- Guru Teg Bahadur Third Centenary Public School – First
- Presidium School, Ashok Vihar – Second
- Balwant Ray Mehta Vidya Bhawan, Special Wing (Hearing Impaired) Greater Kailash – II – Third

Gandhi Sanskar Shivir in Bodh Gaya

A five-day residential Gandhi Sanskar Shivir was organised in Jivan Sangam, Bodh Gaya, Bihar from July 24-28, 2014. The programme saw the participation of over 250 children from the marginalized (maha Dalit) communities participated in various activities, and also learnt the art of community living. Daily activities included shramdaan, cleanliness, group discussions, etc. Mr Uday Narain Choudhury, chairperson of the State Assembly who was the chief guest in the valedictory function of the camp appealed to the gathering to work on the principles of truth and non-violence, which became the most powerful non-violent weapons of Mahatma Gandhi in his struggle to gain India's independence.

Inter-school Vandemataram Rolling Trophy Musical Competition



Above: Judges at the competition, Smt. Urmil Wadhera and Smt. Maya Bhattacharjee, lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Below: Participating children at the competition.

Over 260 students from 22 schools of Delhi and NCR took part in the inter-school *Vandemataram Rolling Trophy Musical Competition* organised by the Samiti on August 8, 2014 in Gandhi Darshan. The children presented their self-written/composed songs that included themes such as national integration, patriotic, songs on communal harmony, struggle for independence, and so on.

The competition was judged by senior music director and composer Shri Surinder Singh Sarni, Smt. Urmil Wadhera, senior music teacher, Smt. Maya Bhattacharjee, Sangeetacharaya from Akhil Bharatiya Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya and Smt. Satbir Kaur, state awardee in music in 1997. Going by close competitiveness, besides the first, second

and third prizes, the judges decided on awarding four appreciation prizes. The winning team that took home the *Vandemataram Rolling Trophy* was *East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave*.

The prize winners are :

First Prize - East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave

Second Prize – Cambridge Foundation, Rajouri Garden

Two Third Prize winners

- o Summer Fields School, Kailash Colony
- o Green Fields Public School, Dilshad Garden

Four Appreciation Prizes

- o Apeejay School, Saket
- o Birla Vidya Niketan, Pushp Vihar, Saket
- o St. Thomas School, Mandir, Marg
- o DAV Public School, Kailash Hills, East of Kailash.

Value Creation Camp



Morning drill and group exercises formed part of the Value Creation Camp.



Cultural performances by children from Assam and Manipur were highlights of the camp.

The Samiti organized a ten-day long residential Value Creation Camp for the North Eastern students from September 25 – October 4, 2014 in Gandhi Darshan. About 45 adolescents from the states of Assam, representing *Surovi Shishu Panchayat* and Manipur, representing *Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development* took part in the camp. The children will also take part in the musical tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 in Gandhi Smriti as a celebration to mark the 145th birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation.

Different activities for their holistic development formed an integral part of the camp and these were:

- i. Rally Post
- ii. Morning Prayer
- iii. Shramdaan
- iv. Yoga
- v. Spinning
- vi. Music
- vii. Diary Writing Exercises

- viii. Workshop on *Volunteerism*
- ix. Workshop on Communication
- x. Reading of *Moniya* the book on the childhood of Mahatma Gandhi
- xi. Comics and
- xii. Games and

The valedictory programme was organized on October 4, 2015 in which the children besides sharing their experiences, also performed to few cultural presentations such as Bihu, Meipi and Thabal Chongba dance in Manipuri and a Nepali performance.

Ms Corinna from Manipur was given the best camper award, while Shri Lokendra was given a charkha for carrying out training programmes in the schools in Manipur.

4th National Gandhi Bal Mela

The fourth National Gandhi Bal Mela was organized from November 18- 20, 2014 at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. The theme of the Bal Mela was *Bapu Ko Jano, Bapu Ko Samjho*. About 800 children from 18 states of the country and Nepal took part in the programme. Besides spinning, the children



Children from Nepal presents a folk song at the inauguration of the National Bal Mela.

took part in a variety of activities like sports, games, cultural programmes and activities related to fine arts and writing/reading. They showcased their rich cultural heritage of their region through their performances. Special thrust was to involve the



**Above: Shri Laxmi Dass addressing the children.
Below: Children performing during the cultural programme.**

children in shramdaan and cleanliness; this was part of the pledge administered to all the children in the inaugural function.

The Chief Guest in the inaugural function was Mr S K Shukla, Director, National Human Rights Commission. Others present on the occasion were Mr Laxmi Dass, Executive Committee, Member, GSDS and Mr Narayanbhai, Gandhi Mission Trust, West Bengal. The participating children gave sterling exposition of their talents in the Valedictory Programme. Mr Ranji Thomas, the Samiti Member of the GSDS was the special guest on the occasion. The Valedictory Function was witnessed by more than 4000 children and other guests.

Training Camp for Specially Challenged Children

The Samiti organized a training camp for specially challenged children in Renuwal, Jaipur in which about 250 students from different districts of Rajasthan participated from January 3-4, 2015.

Orientation programme for children were organized during which they were briefed about their participation in the commemorative programme to observe the 67th Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti. Children with VI (visual impairment), MR (mental retardation) and L.D. (locomotor disability) took part in the training programme. Out of the 250 children, about 80 children were selected for the national camp in Delhi.

Value Creation Camp for the Differently-Abled

The Samiti organised a value-creation camp for the differently-abled children in Gandhi Darshan from January 23 to February 1, 2015.



Above: Children during the morning prayer as part of the camp.
Below: Shri Shivdutt, imparting training in comics.

Children with different forms of disabilities such as mental retardation, visual impairment and locomotor disability from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand took part in the camp during which they

were engaged in several creative activities with an aim to give them a platform to showcase their talents.



A skit performance in progress during the camp.

The valedictory programme was organised on January 31, 2015.

The major activities of the camp were:

- i. Morning Assembly,
- ii. Prayer and Meditation
- iii. Shramdaan, Cleanliness
- iv. Ashram Jeevanshailey (Community Life)
- v. Training in music for musical tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 2015
- vi. Basic communication skills

Sambal Bal Sanskar Shivir for Maha Dalit Children

The GSDS organised a Bal Sanskar Shivir for the Maha Dalit Children under the theme *Sambal* for the maha Dalit children in Daheta, Champaran from January 18-20, 2015 in the *musahars* (literally meaning rat-eater) community. The community lives in extreme destitution away from the mainstream community. Though the (rat eating) activity has been abandoned and they are mainly landless agricultural labourers, yet they are marginalised and still suffer discrimination.

Few key objectives that this programme underlined were:

- i. Addressing immediate poverty needs;
- ii. Sensitisation of children about their rights and other village communities;

- iii. Sensitisation about cleanliness, sanitation and hygiene;
- iv. Teach children the fundamentals of Gandhian principles and Gandhian values;
- v. To improve learning abilities, etc.

Bal Sanskar Shivir for the Children of Leprosy Affected Parents

The Samiti organised a Bal Sanskar Shivir under the theme of *Kadam Kadam Badhaye Jaa*, for the children of leprosy affected parents in Paudi Haridwar, Uttarakhand from January 28-30, 2015. About 150 children in the age group of 10 to 14 years took part in the programme.

Children of leprosy affected parents need formal education and social identity. Parents of these children reside in isolated camps and the children are denied the basic rights to human dignity. These children – who are affected by this disease – have been condemned/ostracised from the society. The aim of the programme was towards re-building confidence amongst the children, as they are a reflection of the society and to provide them an opportunity to participate in various creative pursuits in the Gandhian spirit.

The children took part in various activities that included: prayer, shramdaan, yoga/meditation, lessons on Gandhian values, life-skill education to adolescent children, poster making, developing reading and writing skills, training in performing arts, etc.

The broad objectives that were outlined during the programme were:

- i. To teach children the fundamentals of Gandhian principle and Gandhian value;
- ii. To help to remove the social stigma and help the children know their rights;
- iii. To help to take proactive steps to end the social discrimination and bring about the social integration of the leprosy affected persons;
- iv. To increase their confidence and self-image, learning abilities.

Bal Mela Organized in Narmada Valley

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in collaboration with the Narmada Jeevanshalas (Schools of Life) celebrated a Bal Mela (Children's fair), from February 12-15, 2015, at a resettlement site of the Project Affected Families (PAFs) of the Narmada – Sardar Sarovar Dam. The resettlement site is situated in Gopalpur village of tehsil Taloda, District Nandurbar, Maharashtra. Jeevanshalas are the tribal schools run by Narmada Navnirman Abhiyan (NNNA).

Around 600 tribal children and students (studying at primary level) from 9 Jeevanshalas participated in the *Bal Mela*. There were competitions such as running, long and high jump,



Children of Narmada Navnirman Abhiyaan perform a group song during the Bal Mela.

archery, essay writing and elocution. Each school had a team comprising of boys and girls that played two major indigenous games – *Kho-Kho* and *Kabaddi*. Each of the teams was known by their village names: *Manibeli*, *Danel*, *Thuvani*, *Trishul*, *Savriya Digar*, *Bhabari*, *Bhitada*, *Kharya Bhadal*, *Jeevan Nagar* resettlement site.

The *Bal Mela* also had various stalls which held exhibitions on alternative source of producing energy such as solar lamps, clay pots and toys prepared by children of the Jeevanshalas, beautiful hand-made drawings and various science games for individual children, photo exhibition, Narmada literature, etc.

A team of children from the *Nayi Taleem-Anand*



For a healthy living: Children take part different sports during the Bal Mela.

Niketan Vidyalaya, Sewagram, Wardha made the Bal Mela even more colourful. All these children participated and also performed various activities with the Jeevanshala children. *Rope-malkham* by these students became a major attraction of the programme.

The cultural programme that lasted till midnight included drama, dance and singing competitions. The skits on tribal struggle against the British Empire under the leadership of their heroes like *Khajya Naik, Bhima Naik, Tantya Bhil* for land brought shivers and tears in the eyes of the audience. The large gathering of tribal people applauded the skills, concepts and talent of the

children and teachers who wrote, directed and acted in it.

The prizes were distributed on the February 15, 2015 and brought in a great enthusiasm amongst hundreds of children who won in the competitions and games. Every child participant also received a colourful certificate. During the four-day celebration, concerted efforts were made to make the children aware of the issues concerning land, water, forest and development, environmental sustainability, biodiversity. They were further made to participate in various creative activities such as house construction and cleaning.



Programmes for Youth

Gram Swarajya Camp in Bihar

The Samiti in collaboration with Sadbhavana Ashram Foundation, Sarvodayanagar Supaul, Bihar, organised a two-day camp from May 18-19, 2014 on Gram Swarajya. The programme was organised at the Bhaptiyahi campus. About 60 participants from nine blocks of the districts took part in the camp which was inaugurated by the Chairperson of Bihar Sarvodaya Mandal, Sh. Tribhuvan Narain Singh who was the chief guest on the occasion.

The chief guest spoke about the life and philosophy of Bapu and his dream of *Gram Swarajya*, *Gram Udyog* and *Constructive Programme*. Discussions were also held on issues related to land, dowry system, khadi, small-scale and village industries. The participants were taught the basics of rural upliftment through Gram Swaraj to make the villagers self-reliant.

National Yuva Samaj Sadhana Shivir

The Samiti organised a three-day *National Yuva Samaj Sadhana Shivir* in Bihar from June 13-15, 2014 at Samanvaya Ashram, Bihar. Kumar Dilip, the national coordinator of the *Chatra Yuva Sangharsh Vahini* coordinated the programme. About 150 youth participants from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jharkhand took part in the programme.

Discussions, interactive sessions, group exercises formed part of the three-day shivir, during which questions on inequality, injustice, humanity, culture and religion took place. The need to provide the youth a platform where they could voice their concern for the welfare of the society and work for its betterment was mooted during the discussions. Developing leadership qualities amongst the youth, providing them the scope towards serving the elders, protecting the women folk was also discussed at length. Senior resource persons conducted various training sessions. The valedictory function was organised on June 15, 2015.

Conference on 'Youth and Gandhian Path' Organized.

A *Conference on Youth and Gandhian Path* was organized in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh from December 27-30, 2014. Almost 250 youth took part in the three-day conference.

Speakers at the conference were unanimous when they agreed that no country seems to have been left untouched by the phenomena of violence. But the Indian sub-continent which is reeling under unprecedented violence appears particularly vulnerable to a variety of violence and terrorism – communal, ideological, theological, ethnic, social, cultural, and so on. They felt that no facet of human life has remained untouched by conflict.

It was felt that like the Buddha and Jesus before him, Gandhi also gave his countrymen the call for developing compassion and love for fellow brethren. Mahatma Gandhi understood the dynamics of social change that could be executed only through Youth Power Which he tried successfully during the Independence movement He had realised the tremendous potentialities in the youth. Heroism, for Gandhi was dignity of labour.

Gandhi successfully demonstrated to a world, weary with wars and continuing destruction that adherence to truth and non-violence is not meant for individual behaviour alone but can be applied in global affairs too, and the baton of this lies in the hand of the youth.

The conference concluded with the youth participants resolving to the path of nonviolence and justice for all. They pledged to serve the society in their best capacity, in a manner that improves the condition of the marginalized. That Gandhi's thoughts need to be disseminated amongst the youth and his ideas which have a stupendous role in taking the human society forward needs to be generated across cross sections of the society was also discussed during the conference.

Commemorating 100 Years of Gandhi's Return to India from South Africa

Dialogue on Youth, Conflict and Non-Violence

To mark the hundred years of Gandhi's return from South Africa to India, a dialogue on "*Dialogue on Youth, Conflict and Non-Violence*" involving about 100 youth from the colleges of Delhi University and other educational institutions from NCR region was organised by GSDS at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat on January 17, 2015.

The programme aimed at providing the youth an opportunity to interact on the problems faced by them as an important section of society; encourage them to initiate nonviolent action, and promote the



Participants at the dialogue sharing their ideas.

concept of a non-killing and non-violent society.

Gandhi's action-oriented life, philosophy and technique of non-violence (*satyagraha*) have acquired special significance in our violence-ridden society today. Injustice, according to Gandhi, was a form of serious violence. His experience in South Africa, and later in India, convinced him that not to intervene was to share the responsibility for the injustices perpetrated by the system. His return to India was his tryst with destiny for he had to re-learn his own perceptions and to find his own roots so as to bring in changes not only in his own thinking but also in the thinking of the people of the nation and the entire subcontinent. Martin Luther King Jr. rightly expressed: 'Jesus gave us the message. Gandhi gave us the method'.

Gandhiji stressed upon youth participation in bringing out various social reforms on issues like child marriage, polygamy, education of women, widow remarriage, untouchability, caste system,



Participants from different institutions of Delhi and NCR at the dialogue in Gandhi Darshan.

exploitation and religious intolerance. Non-violence, co-operation, justice, equality and love were some of the attributes recommended by Gandhi for the youth. He encouraged spinning one's own clothes, thereby teaching the youth self-reliance. He was open-minded and tolerant of all religions, which should be taken as an important message by the youth of today. He emphasized upon setting up of small-scale industries for employment of the poor and marginalized youth.

■ Youth and their Challenges

Youth as a section is disillusioned and disheartened. Even the educated youth is confused and is without a well defined goal. We can find traits of insecurity, vulnerability, desperation, impatience in their behaviour. There is mistrust in the functioning of the Government, as it has failed the youth in realizing their aspirations. They think of themselves as victims of state failure. In general, today's youth is unhappy, unsatisfied and disgusted with today's politics, education and social atmosphere.

The participating youth – at the dialogue – brought up for discussion several issues of concern prevailing in society. These were violence, drug abuse, alcoholism, sexual and other crimes, terrorism, unemployment, illiteracy, religious intolerance, poverty and unemployment. In addition to these, today's youth are afflicted by new challenges like identity crisis, lack of self esteem

and confidence, hopelessness, confusion and ambiguity regarding moral issues, negative influence of the electronic media and the internet, unhealthy competition in education and other fields.

The discussion commenced with the prime focus on 'violence' due to which the youth is constantly living in fear. There is a collapse of reason in society. Describing violence at micro level, Ms Bipra Biswambara from Jamia Millia Islamia observed that people's ego, abnormal mindset, uncontrolled anger, road rage, greed, intolerance, alienation and indifference towards others, unemployment, ideological differences, etc, are responsible for the grim situation today. Womenfolk are especially unsafe in today's world. At the macro level, it is even more dreadful as there is prevalence of armed conflict on a very large scale all over the world. Youth need to work towards world peace.

Taking this thought further, it was reiterated that the belief of Gandhi in *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* – the whole world is a family – needs to be inculcated in the mind of the youth and all other sections of society for promoting peace and tolerance at global level.

The participants felt that young people should understand that change starts with the individual, and that once that reality is internalized and appropriate action is taken, young people become automatically equipped to bring about change in

others. Education, village development, sanitation, corruption, employment were some of the pertinent issues that caught special attention of the youth during the discussion.

Ms Shivani Rathee from Amity University shared her Mewat Village project experience with the participants. In this recent project, she undertook a detailed case study of this village which is violence-ridden and socially very backward. There she found problems of illiteracy, poverty, gender discrimination, caste-oriented social structure in this village. People are not conscious of sanitation, she added.

Shivani observed that if real change or spark can be ignited in a village or society, it can be done only by starting with children. She suggested that youth as promoters of peace and development can play major role in the upliftment of Indian villages like Mewat.

The discussion also touched upon the evils of caste system prevailing in India. It was felt that reservation system in jobs should be done away with. Equal opportunity in education and employment is imperative to promote stability and peace in society.

That Gandhi also held the view that natural raw resources like minerals, water, soil, etc are the primary sources for valuable and useful commodities was also pointed out at the discussion. It should be the responsibility of the youth to ensure its rational utilisation and conservation, thus preventing it from reckless exploitation and destruction. He further advocated effective control and management of resources in such a way that they will be useful to man for longer time. The students were in agreement with Gandhi's view on environment.

The participating youth observed that the tools that Gandhi gave for peaceful conflict resolution were not just meant to overthrow the British but to be used at all times. Today we require these tools more than ever to build a better society, they stressed. The nonviolent

The participating youth – at the dialogue – brought up for discussion several issues of concern prevailing in society. These were violence, drug abuse, alcoholism, sexual and other crimes, terrorism, unemployment, illiteracy, religious intolerance, poverty and unemployment. In addition to these, today's youth are afflicted by new challenges like identity crisis, lack of self esteem and confidence, hopelessness, confusion and ambiguity regarding moral issues, negative influence of the electronic media and the internet, unhealthy competition in education and other fields.

satyagraha of Mahatma Gandhi has inspired leaders all over the world and helped them throw away the shackles of injustice.

The participating youth provided an insightful interpretation into Gandhi's ideas, which taken further could be translated into concrete action points for young people to take over leading roles with responsibility. It was strongly felt that the youth should follow the Gandhian methodology of non-violent action to deal with evils prevailing in the socio-economic and the political system. They also conceded and stressed upon developing a conscious effort among the youth to inculcate critical faculties, leadership and other essential qualities to divert themselves from violence to constructive activities.

Youth Workshop on Capacity Building and Minority Rights

GSDS, Khudai Khidmatgar, and EFFORT jointly organized the four-day *Youth Workshop on Capacity Building* focusing on education, career and health from March 13-16, 2015 in Gandhi Darshan. About 40 participants from Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Delhi participated in the workshop.

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof V.

K. Tripathy, Retd Prof from IIT Delhi. The key note addresses were delivered by Musthafa Muhammed, the Director of EFFORT and Khudai Khidmatgar leader Mohd Faizan.

The subjects of discussion during the workshop were:

1. Right to Information Act presided over by Dr. Gulam Rasool, Secretary of J&K RTI Movement;
2. Importance of Education in Rural India with special emphasis on drop out ratio from schools;
3. Role of youth for a peaceful society. The panellists were Mahipal Saraswath, Inamul Hasan and Gangasagar Saraswath;
4. "Knowing our Constitutional Rights" addressed by Advocate Tahmina Laskar
5. "Role and responsibilities of women in the society", presided over by Ms. Anjum Aamir Khan.
6. "Health and Hygienic Conditions" with special reference to the Gandhian values of living a healthy life. This session was addressed by Dr. Jaskaran Singh Saini.

Play on Blind Faith – "Socrates to Dabholkar via Tukaram" Staged

The Samiti staged a play on the crucial issue of blind faith entitled *From Socrates to Dabholkar via Tukaram* in Gandhi Smriti on February 18, 2015. Artists from *Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS)* performed in Gandhi Smriti.



Artists from Maharashtra Andhashradha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS) performing in Gandhi Smriti.



Shri Sharad Yadav (R) Ms. Manimala (C) and Shri Laxmi Dass (L) watching the play of MANS.

Samiti (MANS) performed the *Ringan Natya* that gave the message that the thoughts of Socrates, Mahatma Gandhi, Saint Tukaram and Dr. Narendra Dabholkar are immortal and cannot be wiped out.

People with rationale thinking like Gandhiji and many others have continuously upheld the cause of the society throughout their life and they lived and died for the same cause. This play was a tribute to such social thinkers. The distinguished gathering included Shri Sharad Yadav, leader Janta Dal (U) & Member of Parliament, Shri K C Tyagi, MP, Janta Dal (U), Laxmi Das Secretary Harijan Sevak Sangh, and others.

"Socrates to Dabholkar via Tukaram" registers an ideology of free thought based on scientific attitude, and rationalism. The play makes an attempt to focus core events in the life of Socrates, Saint Tukaram and Dr. Narendra Dabholkar who sacrificed their lives for truth and making people rationale. Though these reformers were killed physically, they became immortal through their thoughts.

The artistes on stage were: Yogesh Kudale as Socrates, Sanjay Bansode as the judge, Ajay Kale as Saint Tukaram, Ajay Bhalkar as Dharampeeth, Sagar Suryawanshi as Dr. Narendra Dabholkar, Arun Bhosale as reporter and Avadhut Kamble and Suyash Toshniwal. They along with the writer Raja Shirguppe, Director Vijay Powar, Milind Joshi, Atul Pethe, Avinash Patil and Hamid Dabholkar were felicitated on the occasion.



Programmes for Women

Meeting with Women Entrepreneurs

The Samiti organised a meeting with women entrepreneurs in Gandhi Smriti on February 26, 2015. 25 Women entrepreneurs from different profession attended the meeting. Among those who were present on the occasion included Ms. Renu Sharma, *B and S Foundation*; Ms. Usha Krishna Kumar, *Women's Partnership*; Neelanjali Sharma, *Onwer Neelanjal's Patissues*; Dr. Nidhi Khera, *Eva Clinic*; Ruchika Bharadwaj, *Kunal Educational Society*; Amit Chatterjee and Subrat Kumar Swach, from *FTFI*; Dorilal, Rajeev R Pillai and Sadhna Amy P. Mookerji, from *Fair Trade Forum, India*.

Mahila Shram Shakti Mela Organised

The Samiti organized a *Mahila Shram Shakti Mela* in Gandhi Darshan on March 12, 2015 as a celebration to mark the 85th anniversary of the Salt Satyagraha. The programme was attended by over 400 participants from different states was organised in association with Fair Trade Forum-India and Believe India. Women entrepreneurs from different states took part in the programme. The programme was inaugurated by Mr Bandaru Dattatreya, Minister of State (IC) of Labour and Employment, Government of India along with Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi (M.P.), National Spokesperson BJP, Ms. Jaya Jaitely and others.



Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Minister of State (IC) of Labour and Employment, along with Smt. Jaya Jaitely (L) and Ms. Manimala (R) lighting the ceremonial lamp.



Students of "GSDS Srijan choir group" performing invocation on the occasion.



(L) Smt. Jaya Jaitley felicitating a women entrepreneur on the occasion as others looks on (R).

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya also felicitated the women achievers from different walks of life with *Stree Udyami Award*. Shri Dattatreya launched a “Women for Women” programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Dattatreya lauded the incredible contribution of women in the holistic development of India. “Women are by no means subservient to men. Women particularly from villages should be given their rights, security and resources on priority basis”. Further he assured that his Ministry is committed to provide all possible help to women entrepreneurs.

Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi said that encouraging women entrepreneurs for the all-round development of Indian society was the need of the hour.

Cultural performances of *Bawai*, *Cherry*, *Ghumar* and *Kalbelia* dance were highlights of the programme.



Programmes for the Tribal People

4th Adivasi Sanskriti Sangam Highlights the Issue of the Tribals

The Samiti organized the 4th Adivasi Sanskriti Sangam from November 28-30, 2014. More than 650 adivasis from different parts of the country came together in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat to discuss their issue and concerns. They also showcased their unique cultural traditions and lifestyles. Adivasi Sanskriti Sangam is an attempt to highlight the tribal culture at national level and discuss issues affecting their life and society. The Sangam is not just an event, it's a continuum – constituting and in the process becoming, a flow of cultures from different parts of the country. It is a festival as well as a resolve to struggle for a better life, culture and nature.

Italian photographer, Illio Montonari and his wife Anna Bennedito who are working on 'Gandhi Today' at the Gujarat Vidyapeeth were the chief guest at the inaugural function on November 28, 2014. The Director, Ms Manimala delivering her welcome address underlined the spirit behind the Sangam and how it has evolved since it was first started by the

(Top): The Tana Bhagats presenting an invocation at the inauguration of the 4th Adivasi Sanskriti Sangam.

(Centre): The 4th Adivasi Sanskriti Sangam was inaugurated by beating the traditional 'dhamsa' (drum) by the dignitaries.

(Bottom): A folk performance depicting the role of Birsa Munda in progress.





Speakers at the Jansansad organised as part of the Adivasi Sanskriti Sangam in Gandhi Darshan.

Samiti in 2011. She said the Sangam was a unique platform for adivasis across the country to come and understand each other's concerns. It provides a collective voice to the most marginalized sections of the society.

A *Jan Sansad* with the theme, Adivasis in the New Era of Development was organized on November 29, 2014. Senior adivasi activists like Mr Ashok Choudhary from Gujarat, Mr Siddeshwar from Jharkhand, Mr. Ramesh Dane from Maharashtra spoke on the occasion. Participants from each state also deliberated on the current situation of adivasis in their areas vis-a-vis the current development pattern. In the evening, there was a powerful cultural exposition by the different groups which came to the Sangam.

The Valedictory Function was organized in Gandhi Smriti on November 30, 2014. Smt. Manjushree, President, *Ekal Sansthan* was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Others who were present included Mr Sisir Sanyal and Mr Laxmi Dass, both members of the Executive Committee of the GSDS. Selected groups performed during this function.

National Yuva Shivir for Gandhian workers in Adivasi belt

About 50 participants took part at a national youth discussion – *Youth Shivir for Gandhian workers in Adivasi belt* in Gandhi Darshan from July 28–30, 2014. Students from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ambedkar University, and colleges of Delhi University; social workers from organisations in Madhya Pradesh; youth and social workers from Maharashtra and from various districts of Odisha,

Chattisgarh, Tami Nadu, Uttarakhand and some of the North Eastern states participated in the three-day workshop and discussed different issues related to 'development'. Ms. Manimala was present at the inauguration ceremony.

The workshop had three-fold objectives:

- To encourage interactions between youth, social workers, and students of colleges in Delhi.
- To bring together different perspectives on development and ongoing changes in the country.
- To try to find common areas of understanding.

The participating students and youth shared their experiences and it was felt that the current development process has deviated from the goals of Gandhiji. Issues such as unequal access to power, lack of awareness, and social and economic inequalities, etc were discussed.

The participants further raised concern on specific issues such as: economic policy, social policies of the government, and their relationship to development. This was followed by group presentations in which the strengths and weaknesses of the models of development were discussed.

The three-day workshop concluded with the participants deciding to form a network to mutually assist each other in their work and to raise awareness on issues of social concern. The participants felt the need to organize follow-up meetings with stakeholders in different states.

Commemorative Programmes

Tributes to Late Prabhash Joshi on his 77th Birthday



The Samiti and people from the media, social and cultural fraternity paid rich tributes to the doyen of Hindi Journalist Shri Prabhash Joshi on his 77th birthday in Gandhi Darshan at the Prabhash Prasang that was organised to commemorate the occasion on July 19, 2014. Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, was the chief guest on the occasion. Dr. Namvar Singh, Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, Shri Sandeep Joshi (son of Prabhash Joshi), Over 500 people that included leading practitioners in the field of journalism, renowned authors and litterateurs participated in the programme.

On this occasion, the *Prabhash Joshi Memorial Lecture* was delivered by eminent journalist. Shri B H Verghese. In his address entitled, *An Instant World*, Shri Verghese spoke about the change in the media world that occurred due to 'technological innovation', which he said: "gained revolutionary momentum with the coming of the printing press,

In the Pix (from top to bottom):

- **Shri B G Verghese delivering the Prabhash Joshi Memorial Lecture as Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh (C), Shri Ram Bahadur Rai (L) and Dr. Namvar Singh (R) keenly listens.**
- **Shri Rajnath Singh delivers the keynote address. Renowned artiste Shri Shekhar Sen presenting 'Kabir' on the occasion.**

telegraph, the railway, steamship and cable radio, film, TC, the integrated chip, computer, satellite, internet, cell phone, I-pod, Facebook, You Tube, Twitteret and many others”.

Shri Verghese strongly recommended the need for appointment of some of what he called “the wisest and best minds to reflect on how to harness the new media to new and constructive purpose”. He said, “Such a 'Blue Ribbon Commission', preferably set up outside the Government, should consist of educationists, scientists, administrators, communicators, politicians, corporate leaders, social workers, labour leaders, cultural experts and women”.

He concluded: “The communications revolution has vested it (media) with tremendous power. This must be used responsibly; for the media is ultimately a trustee of the people's right to know, truthfully and it time. It must match its power with responsibility and return to its fundamental mooring of mission, not merely commerce”.

Shri Rajnath Singh also spoke in memory of the veteran journalist and offered rich tributes to him. The Union Home Minister also released a book entitled *Keheneko Bohot Kuch Tha* which is a compilation of selected articles by Prabhash Joshi. It has been selected and edited by Shri Suresh Sharma, a professor with the Gandhi Vidyapeeth, Gujarat; and published by Shri Ashok Maheshwari, from Rajkamal Prakashan. Dr. Namvar Singh, Shri B G Verghese, Shri Ram Mohan Rai and Shri Ashok Maheshwari joined the release function.

Another highlight of the programme was the presentation of “Kabir” by renowned mono artist Shri Shekhar Sen. Shekhar is famous for his unusual and therefore unique monoacts of saints and philosophers. His mono-act musical plays “Tulsi”, “Kabeer”, “Vivekanand” and “Saahab” created history with more than 750 shows in India, USA, UK, Belgium, Hongkong, Singapore, Indonesia, Trinidad, Suriname, Sharjah & Johannesburg.

Tributes to Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his 94th Death Anniversary



Top: Shri Ram Bahadur Rai speaks to a packed gathering (below) at the commemorative function to pay homage to Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

The Samiti in collaboration with *Nation First* organised a programme to pay tribute to one of the tallest personalities of the Indian National Movement and the political guru of Mahatma Gandhi, Bal Gangadhar Tilak on August 1, 2014 in Gandhi Darshan. A discussion on Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi was held as part of the commemorative programme. Eminent educationists, academicians, littérateurs, poet, journalists participated in the programme. These included: Padmashree Gulzar Dehelvi; Shri Ram Bahadur Rai; Dr Priyaranjan Trivedi (Chancellor of Global Open University) and Shri Madhukant Shukla (former political advisor to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi).

A cultural programme on patriotic songs by *Rockmantics* band was another highlight of the programme.

Global Inter-faith Peace Prayer

The Samiti in association with Guild of Services and War Widows Association organised a “Global Inter-faith Peace Prayer” on the occasion of the International Women's Week (March 8-15) in Gandhi Smriti on March 4, 2015. Smt. Gursharan Kaur led the prayer. An inter-faith religious prayer meet was organised as part of the programme. Songs of peace and harmony marked the prayer meet.

Dr. V. Mohini Giri, Chairperson, Guild of Services was present on the occasion. Dr. Kiran Mehra Kerpelman, Director of United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan; Ambassador Dr. Ashok Sajjanhar; Dr. Kiran Walia; Dr. Saeeda Hamid and Dr. A K Merchant were among others, who participated in the programme. Ms. Deepmala Mohanty, Ms. Rene Singh, a choir group from YWCA and Mr. Manoj, rendered musical tribute on the occasion. People from different segments of the society also took part in the programme.



Inter-faith prayer for peace in progress in Gandhi Smriti.

National Week Celebration in Jaipur

Commemorating Nation-wide Protests Against the Rowlatt Act (Legislation) of 1919

The Samiti organised a programme in Jaipur as part of the *National Week Celebration*, to commemorate the nation-wide protests against the Rowlatt Act of 1919 on April 14, 2014. The occasion also marked the birthday of Dr. B R Ambedkar. Ms. Manimala, Director, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti delivered the keynote address. Also present on the occasion were: Shri P K Mimroth, Director, Centre for Dalit Rights (Dalit Adhikar Kendra), Rajasthan; Shri Kamal Kishore, Secretary, Jan Kala Sahitya Manch, and former Prof. (Dr) Pratibha Jain, from University of Rajasthan.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri P L Mimroth spoke on the significance of the Satyagraha movement and said that both Baba Saheb and Mahatma Gandhi had embarked upon the journey to find the truth through various experiments, which they conducted upon themselves. Discussions and interaction on the subject of secularism and religious tolerance also took place during the programme.

The speakers advocated the need for the upliftment of the Dalits in every sphere of life and bring them into the national mainstream. Youth participants shared their perspective at the interactive session that was organised. Others who spoke include: Smt. Sudha Sharma and Smt. Rajkumari Dogra.

Academic Programmes

Discussion to Celebrate Champaran Satyagraha

The Samiti organized a programme on *Mahatma Gandhi's Visit to Champaran and the values Basic Education* at the Gandhi Sangrahalaya in Champaran on April 14, 2014. The programme which was jointly inaugurated by the Secretary, Gandhi Museum Sh. Brij Kishore Singh; Headmistress of Buniyadi Vidyalaya Ms. Shashikala and Narayan Muni, celebrated the arrival of Mahatma Gandhi to Champaran in 1917 and the subsequent successful 'Champaran Satyagraha' led by him.

The distinguished speakers of the sessions asserted that Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy was a working combination of politics, society, employment, culture and education for all round development of state and nation. The speakers strongly advocated the concept of self-reliance for development of the self and society as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi.

Training on Nurturing Visitor's Involvement Programme Organised

A training programme on "Nurturing Visitor's Involvement Programme" was conducted with the volunteer guides of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in Gandhi Darshan on May 26, 2014. Ms. Smita Vats, founder Director, ITIHAAS (Indian Traditions Heritage and Society) conducted the



(Above): Volunteer guides of the GSDS Museum engaged in group exercise.

(Below): Ms. Smita Vats, conducting the training in Gandhi Darshan.

training camp along with her colleagues, Mr Pawan and Mr Mohsin.

The Director GSDS Ms Manimala outlined the need and necessity of such training programmes. The training began with Ms Smita Vats explaining the various segments to engage the visitors to see the museum. Developing eye-contact with the visitor/guest, Ms Vats underlined, was one of the most important requirement that immediately



Participants during the training programme sharing their experiences.

connects both.

Ms Vats during the interactive session also stressed on the importance of positive body language. She said that to keep children – who visit the Gandhi Smriti museum from different places all across India – attracted to the museum such as Gandhi Smriti, which has both text as well as multimedia is important and this could be done by developing attractive modules with children who could be asked to work on those models after their visit. This would make them more active in their understanding and approach towards understanding of Mahatma Gandhi in a more creative manner.

A practical session was conducted in Gandhi Darshan, where group exercise became the main focus. Two groups were made – one as guides and the other as visitors – to practically work on the theoretical learnings from the first session.

Further, an exercise through chart papers was conducted in which the participants were asked by Ms Vats to put in their impression about museum. The paper was passed from one to the other, and the others were asked to continue from the point where the first person stopped. When the chart paper again reached the person who put his impression first on it, he could not identify his own impression, because it had evolved into a different form by the involvement of all others.

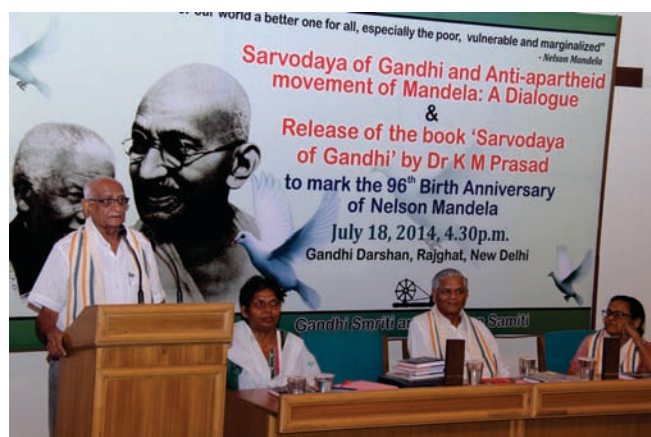
This signified that no one individual is contributing towards the nurturing or involvement of visitors within the museum or for that matter any work, but it is the contribution of all – or a group – that helps in the development of anything.

The session ended with a feedback from the participants who felt that more such training programmes be organized for them and that practical on-the-field experiences be conducted. To this, Ms Vats offered ITHIAAS' support in conducting on-the-field experiences.

Earlier Mr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS drew the outline of the training programme. The others who took part in the training programme included Mr. Rajdeep Pathak, Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli, Mr. Rizwan-Ur-Rahman and Mr. Narender Kumar.

Dialogue on Sarvodaya of Gandhi and Anti-apartheid Movement of Nelsons Mandela

As a tribute to commemorate Nelson Mandela's 96th birthday, the Samiti organised a dialogue on *Gandhi and Anti-apartheid movement of Mandela* on July 18,



Shri Shivkumar Mishra addressing the gathering at the dialogue as Ms. Manimala (L), Shri Laxmi Dass (C) and Smt. Pratibha Sinha keenly listens.

2014 in Gandhi Darshan. Shri Laxmi Das, Secretary, Harijan Sevak Sangh; Ms. Manimala, Director GSDS; Shri Shivkumar Mishra, eminent Gandhian; Smt. Pratibha Sinha (wife of late Dr. K M Prasad) and Retd. Principal, Mokshda Balika Inter School, Bhagalpur and many other distinguished speakers took part in the dialogue. Over 60 participants took part in the programme.

The occasion also saw the release of the book *Sarvodaya of Gandhi* by Late Dr. K M Prasad, former professor of Bhagalpur University. Shri Laxmi Das, in his address said, “The book *Sarvodaya of Gandhi* aims at expanding the Sarvodaya philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji had preferred to call his ideology as ‘Sarvodaya’ or the welfare of all.

Workshop on Mobile Radio and Seminar on Sookhna Swaraj

About 100 participants took part in the five-day long workshop in Mobile Radio in Gandhi Darshan from July 21-25, 2014. As part of this training programme, participants were exposed to different aspects of how communication through mobile could transmit important messages to people in the far-flung areas. A seminar was also organized on *Sookhna Swaraj*.

Shri Shubhranshu Choudhary, founder of CGNet Swara conducted the training programme. People from the tribal belt of Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Maharashtra took part in the training programme.

The concept behind CGNet Swara is that it is a voice-based portal, freely accessible via mobile



Workshop on Mobile Radio in progress in Gandhi Darshan.



(Above and below): Participants at the discussion during the workshop in Gandhi Darshan.

phone that allows anyone to report and listen to stories of local interest. Reported stories are moderated by journalists and become available for playback online as well as over the phone.

Speaking at the seminar, Shri Shubhranshu said, “We have built and deployed CGNet Swara: a voice portal that enables ordinary citizens to report and discuss issues of local interest. To use it, they call a phone number using any mobile (or fixed line) phone. Once a message is recorded from the field, trained journalists access the system using a Web-based interface, review and verify the report. Approved reports are then made available for playback over the phone”.

National Planning Meeting Conducted

A two-day *National Planning Meeting* was held on August 5-6, 2014 to discuss and finalise the programmes of the Samiti for the year. About 60 participants from different parts of the country participated in this Planning Meeting.

In her welcome address, Ms Manimala, Director, GSDS highlighted the importance of



Glimpses from the National Planning Meeting organised in Gandhi Darshan in progress.

bringing together like-minded organizations and individuals from all over the country for the purpose of conceptualisation as well as implementation of programmes of the Samiti in order to spread the Gandhian message far and wide.

The first session of the Meeting was chaired by Dr Y P Anand, a senior Gandhian and former Director, National Gandhi Museum, Rajghat. He underlined the importance of looking into issues like socio-economic development and political economy from Gandhian perspective in contemporary context.

He stated that these issues were being subject of major discussions globally and felt that GSDS should organize conference/seminar on these themes. Serious economic and political thinkers should be included in this endeavour. He also suggested that an interesting and meaningful dialogue on the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's concept of 'Trusteeship' in today's advanced scientific and technological era should be planned.

Dialogue on Mahatma Gandhi's Leadership Values & Contemporary World Scenario

A dialogue on Mahatma Gandhi's Leadership Values & Contemporary World Scenario was organized on September 18, 2014 in Gandhi Darshan. A high

power delegation of the US Government officials including representatives from Republicans and Democrats took part in the discussion that was presided by Dr Y P Anand, former Director of National Gandhi Museum. Dr. Rashid Choudhary, Programme Coordinator of the delegation also



(Above & below): Dr. Y P Anand, former Director, National Gandhi Museum leading the dialogue as the participants keenly listens.

took part in the programme.

The delegation included: Mr. Mark Falnders, Executive Director, Legislative Services Commission, Columbus Ohio; Ms. Barcy Mc Neill, Director of Administration, Public Utilities Commission; Mr. Manny Flores, Acting Secretary, Illinois Department of Financial & Professional Regulation, Chicago; Mr. Palmer McNeal; Ms. Alexis Penrod, Legislative Staff, Ohio House of Representatives; Mr. Vladamir, Miss Anna and Mr. Harrison from the US State Department.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Anand stressed on the emerging conflicts in the world and strongly advocated that the necessity of peace and non-violence is key towards the preservation of the human civilization. Commenting on the eternal philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr Anand exhorted that Gandhian principles are relevant not just in India, but can be applied for the restoration of a peaceful world order, since Gandhi always believed in mutual co-existence and dialogue for reducing tensions.

A visit to the exhibition *My Life is My Message* in Gandhi Darshan was arranged for the delegation before the interaction.

National Conference on “Supply Chain Model for No Child Labour in Home Based Craft Sector in India”



Ms. Manimala joins Shri Mallikarjuna lytha in the lamp lighting ceremony.

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with Fair Trade Forum India, **opportunejobs.com**, Trade Craft and CEC organized a National Conference on 'Supply Chain Model for No Child



Cultural performances by children were the highlight of the programme.

Labour in Home Based Craft Sector” in Gandhi Darshan on December 8, 2014. The programme under the theme *Aao Manaye Bachpan* made an attempt towards celebrating childhood.

The programme also aimed towards highlighting the changes the 'forum' has been able to bring – as part of their project – to the lives of children and their families. The objective of this project is: “To develop an effective model for addressing child labour issues in the home-based crafts sector in India, and gain the support of key stakeholders to ensure the implementation of this model.” Over 200 participants from different parts of the country took part in the conference.

During the conference, various sessions and individual panel discussions were held to discuss – as well as implement – multiple issues such as: Wages & Social Security, Public Provisioning, Supply Chain Management, Awareness & Participation and Education & Schooling.

Mahatma Gandhi and Religion – A Discussion

A group of senior Gandhian scholars, academicians, researchers and thinkers of various religion and students met at Gandhi Darshan on January 21, 2015 to discuss the different dimensions



(Left): Shri Laxmi Das, Secretary, Harijan Sevak Sangh addresses the gathering as other speakers and participants (Right) are all ears.

of religion and Mahatma Gandhi's perspectives on essential unity of all religion.

The speakers felt that religion in many ways is misused by people with vested interests and it is this aspect which needs to be checked so that religious harmony can prevail. The participants discussed the true meaning of religion as understood and practiced by Mahatma Gandhi and its practical applications in our day-to-day life. It was pointed out that Mahatma Gandhi translated religious secularism into ethical actions.

The day long programme brought forth many views on religion leading to the conclusion that they all teach humanity and the basic values of life. The distinguished speakers included Dr. Y.P. Anand, Sh. Laxmi Das, Dr. Shiv Shakti Nath Bakshi, Prof. Amrit Kaur Basra, Dr Nisha Tyagi, Dr. AK Merchant, and Sh. Shiv Kumar Mishra, Dr. M D Thomas, Dr. Farida Khanam and students from the Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia.

Shri Laxmi Das, Secretary, Harijan Sewak Sangh delivered the key note address and explained how Mahatma Gandhi's religious ideas were based on 'Sarva Dharma Sambhav' – equality of all religion. He said that the term 'Sarva Dharma Sambhav' as coined by Mahatma Gandhi is 'secularism' in the true sense of the term and is in consonance with the true Indian spirit.

Dr Shiv Shakti Nath said Mahatma Gandhi's principle of 'Sarva Dharma Sambhav' is based on harmony, nonviolence and peace.

Prof Amrit Kaur Basra opined that Mahatma Gandhi used to think that Bhajans (Prayers) are the way to reach God. The days spent by him in Noakhali during Hindu Muslim riots occupy a crucial place in Indian history. His religion was based on humanity and non-violence.

According to Dr. A. K. Merchant, a Bahai exponent, Gandhiji was deeply concerned about two things – first, struggle for independence and secondly, the future of majority of poor Indians. Keeping in the mind these two problems and to mitigate them, he evolved a simple concept of religion for a multi religious Indian society that he practiced throughout his life.

Dr M D Thomas, an expert on Christianity said that good governance is that where all the religions and sects under the patronage of a government are given equal opportunity.

Ms Farida Khanam, an expert on Islam said that though we follow different paths but our goal is same. If we can live harmoniously in a family then why can't we live in a country? World has become a global village. Globalization has made humanity interdependent on each other. This facilitates humanity to live harmoniously with each other. Though our rituals are different but spirit is the same. It is imperative to learn from every religion to develop our own personality. Gandhiji has taught this and the goodness for us as well as the country lies in this.

The participating students from Delhi University also expressed their views on equality of religions as they all lead to the same goal of oneness with the creator.

Workshop on Integrating Handicraft with Education

A workshop on “Integrating Handicrafts with Education” was organized by GSDS in association with Nai Talim Samiti (N.T.S.), Sewagram and Majhihira National Basic Educational Institution (M.N.B.E.I.), West Bengal from January 16-19, 2015 in the premises of M.N.B.E.I. Sixty teachers,



Women participants from the community in group exercise during the workshop.

educationists from six different states, viz. Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and also thirty teachers of MNBEI School and Primary Teachers' Training Institute along with their students participated in the workshop. 15 artisans and craftsmen producing different articles from locally available raw materials guided the participants in their endeavour.

The president of Nai Talim Samiti, Dr Sujan Baranth chaired the inaugural session. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Shri Shirish Chaudhari (former M.L.A. M.S.). Shri Chitta Bhushan Dasgupta founder of M.N.B.E.I. and Shri Prasad Dasgupta Executive Secretary of M.N.B.E.I. also spoke on the occasion.

The speakers pointed out that the present mainstream educational system has to strive hard and change its course for character building. Mahatma Gandhi believed that if education is imparted through handicrafts, it will bring the best of creativity of a child.

In the second session the participants were divided into eight groups, one for each craft practiced by different communities in the area. They were: (1) Pottery (Kumbhakar), (2) Metal craft, iron and aluminium, (Karmakar), (3) Wood craft (Sutradhar), (4) Batique fabric dying, (5) Bamboo craft 1 (Kalindi/Dom), (6) Bamboo craft 2 (Mahili), (7) Chatai weaving (Saontal) and (8) Grass Craft (Shabar).

Shri Samar Bagchi, former director of Birla Science Museum, Kolkata, Dr Swapan Sen, Smt. Prabha Shrivastav, educationist and cultural activist, Shri Soumyanath Mallik, Social activist and former banker, Shri Kajal Sen, Social Activist and local history expert, Shri Shantanu Datta Choudhury, Educationist, Banipur, Gyanda Kalanavagram Shiksha Niketan Basic School, Shri Amiyo Choudhury, Social Activist and expert in Nai Talim were resource people who guided the groups for making the study materials.

The third day began with group presentations in which, each group presented their findings on the modalities that has to be adopted while teaching in schools and drew their conclusion of what can be taught at schools and in which standard. *Shramdaan* and field activities marked the third day of the workshop.

Cultural presentations on folk songs in ode to humanity and nature Milan Hobe Koto Dine” (How long before we unite) was presented by the artistes of “Lalan Academi” from Kolkata. Renowned folk artistes, Shri Shubhendu Maity, Shri Shubhoprasad Nandi, Smt. Tapasi Roy Choudhari and their co-artistes enthralled the participants with their presentations. Also regional folk dance “Chhow” was presented by the children's' group of Majhihira village.

Consultation on Gandhian Philosophy

A consultation on *Gandhian Philosophy and Contemporary Issues* was held on February 16, 2015 at the Atal Behari Vajpayee Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti.

Eminent litterateur Shri Ramesh Dev said that the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi is much more relevant today for making the world happy, peaceful and most importantly develop a sense of compassion. "Adherence to Gandhiji's principles of peace, non-violence and truth would make this world beautiful. Non-violent and harmonious services, love; knowledge and forgiveness were the four virtues of Gandhiji for which Acharya Vinoba Bhave merited him with the title of *Krishna Chaturvedi*. Citizenship rights and duties respectively were the first, second and third of Mahatma Gandhi's principles".

He further condemned the massacre of 135 children in the Army School in Pakistan and killing of 15 media persons in Paris, and called these as the greatest challenge for humanity. "The relevance of Mahatma Gandhi is more pertinent today all the more", he concluded.

Earlier, Prof. Mohanlal Chhipa, Vice-Chancellor of the University spoke on the contemporary of Gandhian economics and social structure in the inaugural session.

Presiding over the lecture series, Prof. Pavan Kumar Sharma argued that Gandhi was not against modernity. According to him, Gandhiji wanted to create a balance between tradition and modernity vis-à-vis Indian values.

Other speakers included, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Giri, Dr. Kanhaiya Lal Tripathi, Dr. Vivekanand Upadhyaya. Staff from Dr. Hari Singh Gaur University, students from different colleges under the University also took part in the programme.

Seminar on "Mahatma Gandhi's Diverse Dimensions"

The Samiti in association with *Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya Foundaton*, in Balrampur, Uttar

Pradesh organized a day-long seminar on *Mahatma Gandhi's Diverse Dimensions* on February 3, 2015. The programme was organized at Maharani Lal Kumari Mahavidyalaya which is under the aegis of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh Vishwavidyalaya, U.P. Shri Ravi Prakash Arora, Commissioner of Devipatan Mandal, along with Dr. Avdesh Kumar Singh, Principal of the Mahavidyalaya inaugurated the seminar. MLA, Ms Indrani Verma was also present on the occasion. About 200 students participated in the seminar.

The speakers said that the life of Mahatma Gandhi should serve as a beacon of light to guide humanity to a better world. He taught a lesson on how to work for social and political changes for the betterment of humanity in every walk of life.

Save Ganga Movement

A Gandhian Non-Violent Movement for Saving the Ganga and the Himalayas

As part of the celebration to mark the 85th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Dandi March, the Samiti organized a panel discussion on 'Save Ganga' and 'Save Himalayas' in Gandhi Darshan on March 12, 2014 in association with *Mokshda Paryavaran Evam Van Suraksha Samiti* and *Save Ganga Movement*. Activists working in the grassroots; scientists working on preservation of river base and dams, media persons and people



Sushree Uma Bhartiji, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation speaking at the programme as other delegates are in rapt attention.



In the Pix (from L to R): Speakers at the dialogue on “Save Ganga Movement” in Gandhi Darshan.

from different streams of the society took part in the discussion that focussed on ecological/ environmental issues including the preservation /cleaning of the river Ganges.

Smt. Rama Rauta, Expert Member, NGRBA, Government of India, and Convener of the *Save Ganga Movement* initiated the discussion reiterating that the initiative is a Gandhian Non-violent Movement (to Save the Ganga) that symbolizes all rivers and water bodies and the Giriraj Himalayas that symbolizes all mountains, forests and wildlife.

The programme was inaugurated by Sushree Uma Bhartiji, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, who was the Chief Guest in the function.

Among others who were present included: Prof. Vinod Tare, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Co-ordinator, Ganga River Basin Management Plan who gave the keynote address.; Parampujya Swami Nikhilanandaji, Regional Head, Chinmaya Mission, New Delhi; Parampujya Acharya(Dr.) Sri Lokesh Muni, President, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, New Delhi; Revered Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Chief Imam, All India Imam Organization, New Delhi; Parampujya Swami Bhakt Rasmrita, ISCKON, Mumbai; Rev. Fr. Dominic Emmanuel, Archbishop House, New Delhi; Shri Paramjeet Singh Chandok; Revered Acharaya Vivek Muni; Dr. Mohan Singh Rawat Gaonwasi, Former Minister of Uttarakhand & Expert Member NGRBA; Shri M.C. Mehta, noted

environmentalist & Supreme Court Advocate; Shri Hemant Mehta, singer & executive producer, Himalaya Films Media Entertainment, Mumbai; Shri R.P.Sharma, Ex. Joint Secretary, MOEF, Govt of India; Shri Vinod Kumar Agrawal, Mokshda, New Delhi; Dr J K Bassein, Senior scientist NEERI (CSIR); Mr Raman Tyagi, Director, NEER Foundation, Meerut, UP and others.

Recommendations

Some of the following 'Save Ganga' and 'Save Himalayas' recommendations were that were discussed during the proceedings and presented to Sushri Uma Bharati included:

1. The Ganga must be constitutionally declared as the National River with statutory provisions that ensure due respect and protection to her, considering her (National River) status analogous to the 'Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act' for the National Flag and Anthem respectively.
2. Adoptions of zero discharge of sewage or waste in any forms into the rivers, and promote re-use and recycle of wastewater after proper treatment (tertiary-level treatment);
3. Promotion of organic farming of the sewage waste for decreasing the non-point sources of pollution of rivers from hazardous chemicals released from different sources from land to industries;

4. The highly earthquake-prone, eco-fragile and ecologically, aesthetically and religiously invaluable Uttarakhand region of the Ganga Basin must be declared “Ecologically Fragile and a Sanctuary for Himalayan Flora and Fauna” and its rivers “wild rivers” and all steps must be taken to preserve its rivers and vegetation in pristine condition.
5. No encroachment should be allowed on either side of the banks of Ganga within 200-300 meters. Construction of permanent structures for residential, commercial or industrial purposes in the active flood plains of any river must be prohibited.
6. Need for a law protecting river rights, and river guards to prevent crimes against rivers and River Courts to try crimes against rivers.
7. The *National Ganga River Basin Authority* (NGRBA) must take the full responsibility of the protection of our national river. Since the Ganga flows through many states, it would be the best course if NGRBA takes the full responsibility of making and keeping the Ganga and its tributaries completely and permanently free from pollution through time-bound steps, leaving no scope for the central and state government authorities blaming each other for the failures.

The meeting unanimously felt on the immediate need for a high-powered “National Himalayan Ecology Preservation and Restoration Authority” headed by the Prime Minister to save the highly fragile invaluable ecology of the young Himalayas. They felt that the impending catastrophe of fast receding of Himalayan glaciers has to be understood and tackled at a regional and global level.

At the regional level, it must involve all Himalayan nations. India should take a major global initiative in this direction to tackle this regional and global crisis.

3rd Gandhi Literature Festival

The Samiti organized the nine-day Gandhi Literature Festival in Gandhi Smriti from December 16-24, by inviting different publishers to participate at the book fair organized as part of the Festival. The publishers who took part in the festival included: Orient Paperbacks, Universal Publishers, Children's Book Trust, Sastha Sahitya Mandal, Bharatiya Jnanpith, Mahavir Publishers, Publication Division, Hind Pocket Books, Noyogi Books and GSDS.

The festival was inaugurated on December 16, in Gandhi Smriti by Prof. Talat Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, Dr. Sadhana Rout, Additional Director General In-Charge, Publications Division and Justice L. Narayanswamy.

The inaugural programme also saw the release of some of the publications of the Samiti by the distinguished guests. The books that were released included: *The Unarmed Prophet* in English and its



In the Pix (top to bottom): Moments from the inauguration of the 3rd Gandhi Literature Festival in Gandhi Smriti



In the Pix (top to bottom)
Cultural presentation by Shri R Shreedhar and accompanists.
Release of book “Sirf Ek Awaz” and
Renowned environmentalist,
Ms. Medha Patkar leads a panel discussion.

Hindi translation, *Nihatta Paigambar* by Dr. Sachidanand Sinha. The Moniya Series, a compilation of story books on the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi from his childhood, *Dost Mohandas* was also released on the occasion.

Another highlight of the programme was a special instrumental invocatory performance by Shri S.Sreedhar who mesmerized the audiences with his music playing favourite hymns of Mahatma Gandhi on the violin.

Daily activities that marked the nine-day festival included:

On December 17, a day-long dialogue on *Understanding Hind Swaraj* was organized in which Prof. John Moolakkattu, Editor “Gandhi Marg” journal, and Dr. Y P Anand, former Director, National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi, underlined the significance of *Hind Swaraj* in the contemporary times.

In his address, Prof. John Moolakkattu said that interpretations of Hind Swaraj relied mainly on the Gujarati translation. Gandhi's analysis of civilization is mostly derived from his original writings and is widely acknowledged by the academicians. *Hind Swaraj* is perceived as a way of life and also an ideology, and the very term is apolitical in nature.

“Gandhi's views”, Prof. Moolakkattu said, “Are relevant especially for the middle class. The modern civilization, as described by him was “satanic in nature and is bound to fail leading to the withering away of the state”, adding, “Nevertheless, *Hind Swaraj* continuously inspires pacifists, ecologists and traditionalists who find in this seminal work of M K Gandhi, a very reflective and positive vibes.

Dr. Y P Anand, while referring to the *Hind Swaraj* reflected upon the times when it was written in 1909. “This work”, he said, “Was banned



Various publishing houses displayed their publications during the ‘festival’.

by the British Government in 1910”.

According to him, Gandhi felt it necessary to write *Hind Swaraj* because he wanted to present to his countrymen – and the world – his views about society. “Gandhi”, he said, “Was pained that we willingly led ourselves into the slavery”, adding, “In Gandhi's views, civilization has multi-dimensional meaning. It can make or break societies and cultures. Western civilization is primarily self-centered and is individualistic, whereas, 'Swaraj' is self rule and for all”.

He continued: “The concepts of *Sarvodaya* and *Antyodaya* came from this broadly taking in itself

oppression. He further said that *Dalit chetna*, was aroused that brought to light the firsthand knowledge of caste-based oppression and atrocity and resulted in the political goal of a liberating awakening.

The others who spoke on the occasion were Shri Shiv Kumar Mishra and Ms. Manimala, Director GSDS. The author of collected work Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Giri shared his experience about the compilation of the short stories.

On December 20, 2014, a *Discussion on Contemporary writings on Development and how they reflect Gandhian Philosophy* was held in



Discussions and dialogues were part of the nine-day Gandhi Literature Festival involving senior Gandhians, authors, artists and others.

the welfare of the people. *Hind Swaraj* guides us towards a new direction and how to make the socio-economic progress applicable to all was Gandhi's main concern through this work”.

December 19, 2014 saw the release of the book *Sirf Ek Awaz*, a collection of short stories of Premchand by Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Giri. The main focus of the discussion was the immense pain and hardships experienced by the Dalits in the social arena. Munshi Premchand's works and short stories precisely captured these experiences in the most touching manner and were extremely thought provoking. The book was released by Shri Kishan Kaljayee, Editor of *Sablok* and *Samved* and Shri Shiv Kumar Mishra, Sr. Journalist.

Releasing the book, Dr. Kaljai said that Premchand's creative outpour raised the moral consciousness of the people, not just the Dalits, but in general, the writings established the forum for moral and social renaissance against the

Gandhi Smriti which was led by noted social activist, Ms. Medha Patkar. Almost 50 participants comprising students from different colleges, educational institutions, and people from different streams of the society, took part in the programme.

Questioning the model of development that is flourishing in terms of economy, politics, science and technology and so on, she said, “I wonder if Mahatma Gandhi today is just a mere symbolic figure whose portrait is being hung in the walls of different offices, institutions. We cannot delineate Mahatma Gandhi from society or vice versa, because his ideals of nationhood and an equitable society were solely based on the eternal principles of truth and right values, which he has time and again in different context, using different terminologies, mentioned in the *Hind Swaraj*”.

She further added, “Unfortunately society, and that includes the entire fabric of social structure, is alienating itself from such core principles that is the



Above: Students of Sun Valley International School; and Students of Zakir Hussain College (below) participating in the festival.

basic foundation of any social structure, and so there is a complete more, ethical degeneration of values”.

Speaking about the qualities that humankind must possess and which governs the progress of any civilization, Medha Patkar reminded that forthrightness and commitment are the core principles that Gandhiji showed to the world. “Gandhiji was not just committed to his ideas and principles, he, actually followed and practiced it with fearlessness, which he cultivated only by being truthful and not greedy”, she said, adding, “The dharma of service, sacrifice, *sarvodaya* guided him throughout his entire life. He based people's welfare as his most important socio-political agenda, which unfortunately today is missing, and there is an urgent need to re-think and reflect upon it”.

That citizens must have the right courage to raise issues of inequality (in every sphere of life), even if that costs them to name their elected representatives whom they have chosen to work for the welfare of the people and who have failed was strongly advocated by her.

While making a reference to the settlement near the Narmada Valley, she said that the policy makers are trying to uproot the people from their homes in the name of development. She however informed that people within the community, even at the level of the Sarpanch (village head) protested against such actions being implemented. “This is what is called courage and fearlessness. You have to rise for your rights”, she exhorted.

She continued: “Humility, according to Mahatma Gandhi was not any form of cowardice, and he adopted the humble path of non-violent protest. Any form or attitude that causes disturbance to the moral, physical, social, cultural and ethical values is – and must be – treated as violence and people should voice their protest if these basic things are violated”.

On December 21, a discussion on *Mahatma Gandhi influence in Indian Languages* was held, in which Dr. Syed Mumtaz Alam Rizvi and Shri Ansar Ali interacted with the participants. Present on the occasion were also Editor of *Hamara Samaj*, Shri Aamir Saleem Khan.

The speakers felt that though writings of Gandhi and his thoughts have found a considerable place in Urdu Literature, more needs to be done so that the thoughts and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi reaches out to a larger audience. They felt that even if books on Gandhiji in Urdu are available in the libraries of different organizations, these are rarely consulted. The need for publishing more books in Urdu for children was mooted during the discussion.

A street play performance by Anurag Thakur and Richa Tiwari from *Virag* theatre group, entitled *Paigam* depicting the injustices in the society and eluding Gandhian principles was a special



Visitors from all over the world thronged during the festival.

highlight of the programme.

On December 22, about 150 students from different schools of Delhi and NCR, including NGOs took part in the ***Short Story Writing Competition on Gandhian Values***. A street play by students of Sun Valley International School on ***Clean India Campaign*** was a major highlight of the programme.

During the programme, Director GSDS, Ms. Manimala also felicitated Dr. Rakesh Rafique

author of Mahatma Gandhi ki Shiksha Drishti – Nai Talim. Dr. Rafique book had earlier won the prestigious Madan Mohan Malviya award from Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan.

The valedictory function was organized on December 24 in which Ms. Manimala appreciated the role of the publishers for taking part in the nine-day festival and all were felicitated. Some of them also gave their inputs and suggestions for improvement.



In Prison

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti as part of its outreach programmes has been regularly organising various activities for the inmates living in prison. A major thrust of the Samiti's programme with the inmates is to orient them with the life's message and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi through workshops, health camps, with an aim towards their holistic development.

Some of the programmes that the Samiti organised during the year 2014-15 were:

In Tihar

■ Free-Eye Check up Camp organized

Dr. Manju Rani Aggarwal on behalf of the GSDS conducted a free-eye check-up camp at Central Prisons Tihar in Jail No 5 on April 22, 2014. The collaboration was done with the Department of Ophthalmology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). 224 inmate patients were benefited by this eye camp.

To further enhance the creativity of the inmates through art, the Samiti started the programme *Mahatma Gandhi – An Artistic Expression* wherein series of orientation programmes were conducted for the inmates of different jails in Tihar Central Prisons.

The first such interactive session was held on May 31, 2014 for the inmates of Jail No 5. About 50 inmates actively took part in the programme



In the Pix: (Above) - AIIMS Doctors conducting the eye check-up and (Below): Dr. Vimla Mehra (second from right) with the Doctors of AIIMS and Dr. Manju Aggarwal.

during which they painted their thoughts of their understanding of Mahatma Gandhi and his



An inmate paints a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi (above) and the jail authorities addresses the participants as members of GSDS looks on.

message. Many inmates also wrote about their understanding of Gandhiji's life's philosophy. There were others who spoke in brief on subjects such as: 'peace and nonviolence', the 'Satyagraha movement' under Gandhiji's leadership and 'khadi'. Director GSDS Ms. Manimala who was



Ms. Manimana, Director GSDS interacts with the inmates.

there on the occasion recollected her assignment as a scribe for a newspaper said that she had the first hand experience of visiting jails and understanding the life the inmates live within the four walls of prison.

The others who were present on the occasion were Shri Navin Saxena, Superintendent Jail No 5, Shri Zakir Hussain, Welfare Officer, Ms. Meena Lukhar, Deputy Superintendent, Shri A. Kashyap, Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. Bhatia. The second interactive-cum-artistic endeavour with the inmates was organised at CJ-6. About 30 inmates took part in the programme. The Deputy Superintendent Shri Prakash Chandra, Asst. Suptd. Ms. Sunita and Ms. Kiran, Ms. Poonam, Ms. Promila and Ms. Anju welcomed the staff of the Samiti and felicitated them.

Dr. Manju Aggarwal, resource person of Srijan, GSDS, coordinated the programmes. Shri Vedabhyas Kundu, Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Ms Renu Puhar, Ms Namrata Misra, Shri Sameer Banarjee, Shri Umesh Tyagi, Shri Genda Lal, Shri Madan and Shri Ravinder Singh took part in the programme on behalf of the Samiti.

Another programme for the inmates of Jail No 6, (female ward) was organised on September 6, 2014 which saw the participation of 30 inmates. The Deputy Superintendent Shri Prakash Chandra, Asst. Suptd. Ms. Sunita and Ms. Kiran, Ms.



Shri Naveen Saxena, Jail Suptd. greets Director GSDS on the occasion.



Programme was conducted in the women cell also and certificates were awarded by Shri Vedabhyas Kundu and Dr. Manju Aggarwal.

Poonam, Ms. Promila and Ms. Anju welcomed the staff and coordinator from the GSDS. Along with the Programme Unit,

The other programmes that are being continued in Tihar are:

- **Medical services to the inmates in CJ – 4.** In March 2015, 272 patients have come and got the treatment. 65 new patients and 207 old patients were treated.
- **Cutting and Tailoring Unit** – In this unit, eight inmates are working. In the month of March, they have done the job work for Rs 15000/- of that 10% has been deposited in Prisoners Welfare Fund
- **Kargha Unit** – The Kargha Unit (an initiative of the GSDS) which started during the month of July 2013 still continues to function with four Nigerians and six Indians regularly working on it.
- Regular spinning, weaving and naturopathy programmes are continuing.

Cherlapally Jail, Hyderabad

Three months Certificate Course on Gandhian Thought Concluded

The Samiti in association with the *Gandhi King Foundation* in Andhra Pradesh organized the valedictory function of the three months certificate course on *Mahatma Gandhi's Life and Thought* by distributing certificates to the 74 inmates of the Cherlapally Open Jail in Hyderabad. The programme was organized on August 17, 2014. Each inmate was given a Telugu translation of Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography. Ms Manimala, Director, GSDS was present on the occasion along

with Shri G V V Prasad, Managing Trustee of the Gandhi King Foundation. The chief guest on the occasion was the District Court Judge, Hyderabad. The Superintendent of the Jail, Sri Rajender, Jailor and other prison authorities attended the programme.

The jail has about 120 inmates who work in the agricultural farm, producing vegetables, fruits, milk and other agricultural produce. They have a petrol bunk run by the inmates of the Prison. The inmates work on the farm - in various agricultural activities - ploughing, irrigating, harvesting, transporting, selling etc.

A documentary film was made on this effort which recorded the impact and transformation of inmates of the prison through Gandhian values.

Sri Prasad who coordinated the programme on behalf of the GSDS said that prison life should be taken as an opportunity to develop skills and attitudes for future. "This would help them develop their personalities and become 'Sarvodaya Karyakarthis' and work for a better society", he added.

"An inmate, Bhoomiah was a shepherd but can now talk about Gandhi and his teachings with conviction. He wants to spread Gandhi's teachings after his release," said Dr Prasad.

During an interaction with the inmates on what they learnt about the course, one of the prisoners shared some salient features of his understanding of Mahatma Gandhi:

- That Mahatma Gandhi's *Ekadash Vrata* was intended towards self-refinement.
- The 18-point Constructive Programme was aimed towards social reconstruction and truth and non-violence
- That *satyagraha* and *ahimsa agraaha* can help people go the right path to justice
- That *swadeshi* and *swaraj* will lead to social reconstruction



Programmes in Hindi Language

A Flow of Creativity Displayed During Hindi Pakhwara

The Samiti had celebrated the *Hindi Pakhwara* in both Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan from September 16-30, 2014 for which various competitions were organized. The results were announced during October 2014. The judges for the competitions were Shri Dharmendra Sushant and Shri Rajeev Ranjan Giri. The results are as under:

- **Essay Competition – Theme: *Mera Drishti me Gandhiji* (Category - 1)**
 - First Prize: Vijay Kumar
 - Second Prize: Dilip Kumar
 - Third Prize: Dharamraj
 - Consolation/ Appreciation Prize: Manjit and Deshvair Singh
- **Essay Competition – Theme: *Satya Ke Pujari Gandhiji* (Category - 2)**
 - First Prize: Rakesh Sharma
 - Second Prize: Krishan
 - Third Prize: Neha Arora
 - Consolation/ Appreciation Prize: Manish and Reena Mishra
- **Poetry Competition (Graduates):**
 - First Prize: Shyam Doria
 - Second Prize: Uma
 - Third Prize: Rakesh Sharma
 - Consolation/ Appreciation Prize: Rachna and Pankaj Sharma
- **Poetry Competition (XIIth standard):**
 - First Prize: Vijay Kumar
 - Second Prize: Renu
 - Third Prize: Dharamraj Kumar
 - Consolation/ Appreciation Prize: Sandeep (1) and Rita Kumari

*Glimpses from the Hindi Pankwara
in progress in GSDS.*





Programmes in the North East

Follow-up Programme of Matrishakti

Orientation Programme of Girl's Peace Volunteers Group

An orientation programme was organized for Girl's Peace Volunteers Group of the Handique Girls College on May 7, 2014. The orientation was conducted by the Coordinators of Surovi Shishu Panchayat, Mr Rihan Ali and Priyanka Chetri and was a follow-up of the programme on role of women in peace building organized on March 6-8, 2014 by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. The thrust of the orientation was how the student of the Handique Girl's College could volunteer in the community.

Mr Rihan Ali explained the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi. He talked about the traits of a good volunteer and how volunteers can contribute to community building.

The Girl's Peace Volunteers Group under the leadership of Ms Chetna Sharma, a BA 2nd Semester student discussed some initiatives to be taken up by the Group like teaching poor children, creating awareness on the importance of health, sanitation and maintaining a clean environment. It was felt that the Samiti's initiative to bring together girl students to volunteer should be expanded to

other colleges outside Guwahati and in the entire North-East. The students felt some training programmes were necessary which would enable them to take up concrete work for the betterment of the society.

Ms Priyanka Chetri, talking about the experiences of the Surovi Shishu Panchayat and its volunteers underlined the need to learn the importance of collective living, mutual respect and working as a team. She felt the Girl's Peace Volunteers Group could go a long way in promoting bonds of friendship and collective action on social concerns.

Dr Nabajyoti Dutta of the Handique Girl's College felt the Group could be nurtured to contribute to the Gandhian principles of peace and nonviolence.

Later on it was proposed to organize a dialogue between the members of the Group, students of different colleges in Guwahati and other stakeholders on 6th July, 2014 with a hope to form a concrete mechanism towards a self sustaining 'Girls Peace Volunteer Group' which will be followed by small interaction and leadership development programmes. The dialogue will be organized under auspices of the Samiti in Sarania Ashram, Guwahati.



Field work by Mr Rihan Ali and team in progress.



Regular Activities

The regular programmes undertaken are:

1. Rendering of Gandhi Bhajans and songs on communal harmony,
2. Charkha spinning, and
3. Film shows on Gandhi, freedom movement and national leaders.
4. Programmes with schools for undertaking study tours of Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan museums.

Other regular programmes are:

Srijan–Gandhi Smriti Shikshan Kendra

Srijan imparts vocational training to children through its regular creative activities like tailoring, embroidery, pottery making, story telling and creative writing, mime and music, besides the six vocational courses recognised by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). School drop outs and the underprivileged section of the society are the prime beneficiaries of these vocational programmes.

Guiding visitors to Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan Museum, regular charkha demonstration to visitors, orientation of children are other regular activities undertaken by the Samiti in its everyday working.





Book Fair

1. **Delhi Book Fair, 2014** – (August 23 – 31, 2014). Coordinators included: Shri Sushil Kumar Shukla, Ms Rachna Rathor, Ms Reeta Kumari, Shri Arun Tade and Ms. Kalpana Ashok
2. **Uttari Dilli Nagar Nigam Pustak Utsav**, (December 13 – 18, 2014). Coordinators included: Shri Ramesh Kumar and Shri Manoj Kumar
3. **Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Book Fair 2014**, Wardha (December 28 – 31, 2014). Coordinators included: Shri Arun Tade and Shri Shrirang Dabbe
4. **Lucknow Book Fair 2014** (January 2 – 11, 2015); The coordinators were: Shri Ramesh and Shri Manish
5. **Aligarh Book Fair** (February 9 – 20, 2015). The coordinators were: - Shri Arun Tade and Shri Umesh Kumar
6. **World Book Fair 2015** (February 14 – 22, 2015); coordinated by Mr. Mohan, Mr. Rohit, Ms. Renu, Mr. Ramesh, Mr. Reeta, Ms Namrata, and Ms. Indu Sharan



A view of the Samiti's participation in the book fair in New Delhi.



Library & 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, the Gandhi Darshan Library has a collection of nearly 15,000 books on Gandhiji's life culture, history, economics, politics, religion, archaeology, including reference books, namely World Atlas, Encyclopedias and Dictionaries.

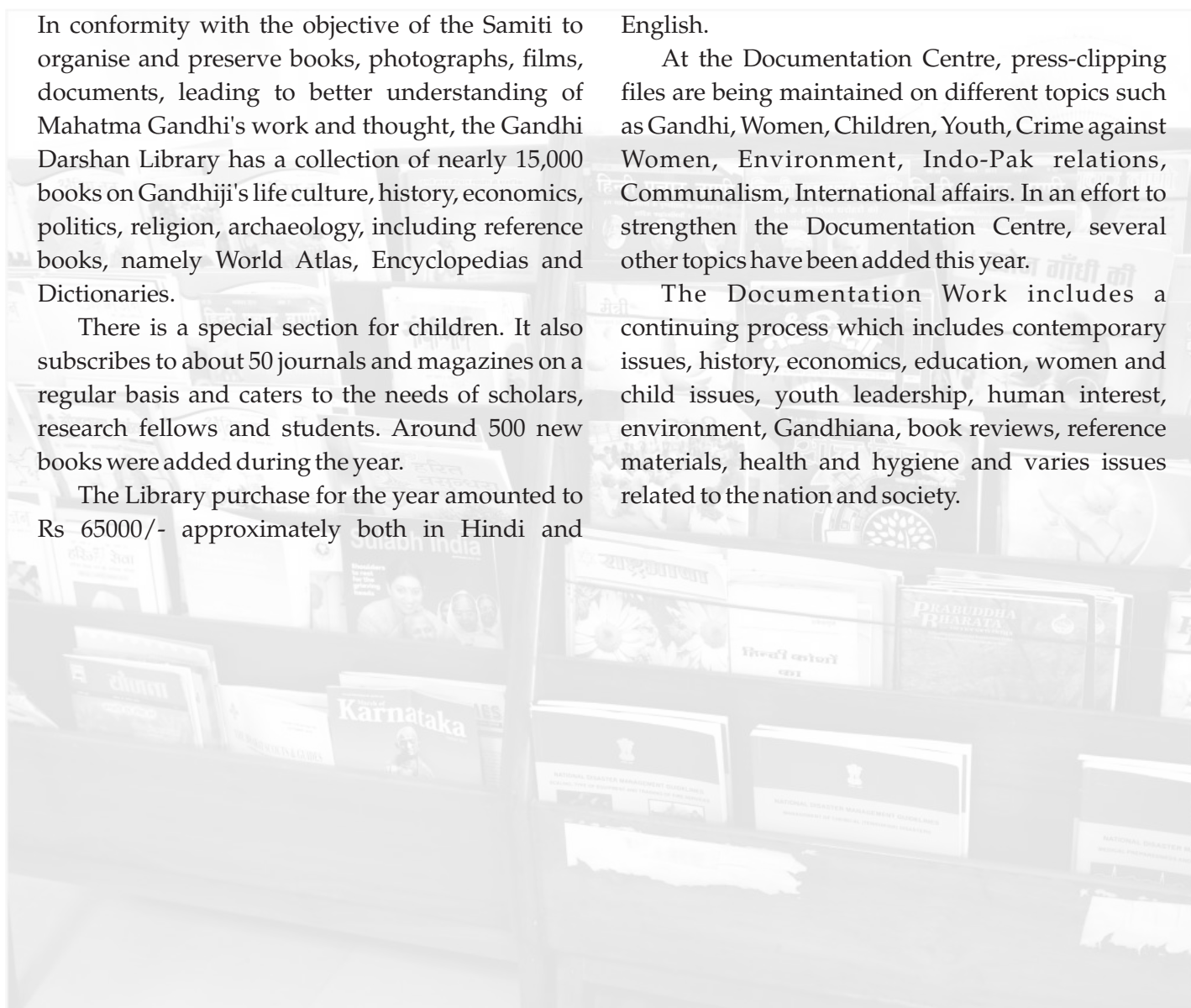
There is a special section for children. It also subscribes to about 50 journals and magazines on a regular basis and caters to the needs of scholars, research fellows and students. Around 500 new books were added during the year.

The Library purchase for the year amounted to Rs 65000/- approximately both in Hindi and

English.

At the Documentation Centre, 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. In an effort to strengthen the Documentation Centre, several other topics have been added this year.

The Documentation Work includes a continuing process which includes contemporary issues, history, economics, education, women and child issues, youth leadership, human interest, environment, Gandhiana, book reviews, reference materials, health and hygiene and various issues related to the nation and society.







Publications

– *Antim Jan* (the GSDS monthly news magazine)

Issues published so far in chronological order:

- o Year 4, Issue 1, January 2015
- o Year 3, Issue 12, December 2014
- o Year 3, Issue 11, November 2014
- o Year 3, Issue 10, October 2014
- o Year 3, Issue 09, September 2014
- o Year 3, Issue 08, August 2014
- o Year 3, Issue 7, July 2014
- o Year 3 Issue 6, June 2014
- o Year 3, Issue 5, May 2014
- o Year 3, Issue 4, April 2014
- *Annual Report 2013-2014 in English and Hindi;*
- *Moniya and Uka Ka Moniya* (book on the childhood of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi) in English ;
- *Uka Ka Moniya – 2nd in the series – Hindi; also reprinted*
- *Moniya Khel Khel Me – 3rd in the series – Hindi (2014), also reprinted*

– *Dost Mohandas – 4th in the series – Hindi (2014), also reprinted*

– *Satyagrahi Mohandas – 5th in the series – Hindi (2014), also reprinted*

o *Moniya* also published in **Hindi** (reprinted), **English, Urdu, Marathi, Assamese, Malayalam, Tamil, Gujarati** (reprinted)

o *Moniya- 1st in the series* printed in Bhojpuri and Punjabi (2014).

– *The Unarmed Prophet*, written by Sachichidanand Sinha (First Published: 2014) (English and Hindi)

– *Mahatma Gandhi ki Shiksha – Drishti – Nai Talim*, writted by Dr. Rakesh Rafiq (March 31, 2014)

– *Sirf Ek Awaz – a collection of short stories on the life of the Dalits* edited by Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Giri (2014) in Hindi

– *Malayalam Me Gandhi* written by Prof. N Mohanan and Prof K Vanja (2014) in Hindi

– *Purusharth, Tyag aur Swaraj*, written by Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Giri, reprinted in 2014



Visitors

Minister of Culture and VC GSDS Dr. Mahesh Sharma Visits Gandhi Smriti



Above: Dr. Mahesh Sharma hon'ble VC GSDS and Minister of Culture offers tributes to Mahatma Gandhi
Below: The staff of GSDS greets its new Vice-Chairperson Dr. Mahesh Sharma.

The Samiti welcomed its new Vice Chairperson, Dr. Mahesh Sharma who is also the Minister of Culture, Government of India in Gandhi Smriti on January 20, 2015. Dr. Sharma offered his tributes to Gandhiji at the Martyr's Column and visited the Gandhi Smriti Museum. Director GSDS, Ms. Manimala also briefed Dr. Sharma about the structure, aims and objectives and functioning of the organization. Dr. Sharma also visited the Gandhi Smriti Museum and interacted with the staff of the Samiti. The Member Secretary of the Samiti, also the Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture, Ms. Sreya Guha, Ms. Bandana Sharma, Director Ministry of Culture and other staff members were also present on the occasion.

Philip Hammond Visits Gandhi Darshan Museum

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond who was on a state visit to India visited Gandhi Darshan Museum *My Life is My Message* on March 12, 2015 – on the 85th anniversary of the historic Dandi March – and paid his tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. He was accompanied by James Bevan, High Commissioner to the British High Commission in India.

Talking to the media about the significance of his visit to Gandhi Darshan two days before the unveiling of the stature of Mahatma Gandhi at Parliament Square, London, Philip Hammond said, "That statue will be a tribute to the inspiration



Mr. Philip Hammond during his visit in Gandhi Darshan.

Gandhi provided, not only to India, but to the people of the world” and added, “I am delighted to be making my first visit to India as Foreign Secretary. The UK's partnership with India is indispensable for both our countries' prosperity and security”.

Earlier, writing his thoughts after the visit at the Gandhi Darshan Museum – where the boat that Mahatma Gandhi used to cross the river Mahi during the significance of the Dandi March and other priceless photographs of the 79 years of Gandhi's sojourn on earth – Philip Hammond wrote: “It is fitting that the man (Mahatma Gandhi) who founded the world's largest democracy, should look across the square at the world's oldest parliament (in Britain)”.

“Our partnership is deeply rooted in our overlapping histories, cultures and values. This Saturday, the long-awaited statue of Mahatma Gandhi in London's Parliament Square will unite citizens from both our democracies in admiration for his teaching of civil rights and non-violence.”

Britain's Foreign Minister and Chancellor Visits Gandhi Smriti

Rt. Hon William Hague MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Mr. George Osborne, MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom visited Gandhi Smriti on July 8, 2014 and offered their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyrs Column.

H.E. Mr. James David Bevan, British High Commissioner to India, Mr. Julian Evans, Deputy High Commissioner, Lord Meghnad Desai and other delegation from the British High Commission and Ministry of External Affairs accompanied the delegation.

Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Ms. Manimala, received the delegation. Programme Officer Mr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Academic Associate Dr. Sita Ojha and Research Associate, Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli and others were present on the occasion.

Heartfelt Tributes: Rt. Hon William Hague MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyr's Column accompanied by Director GSDS, Ms. Manimala (R).



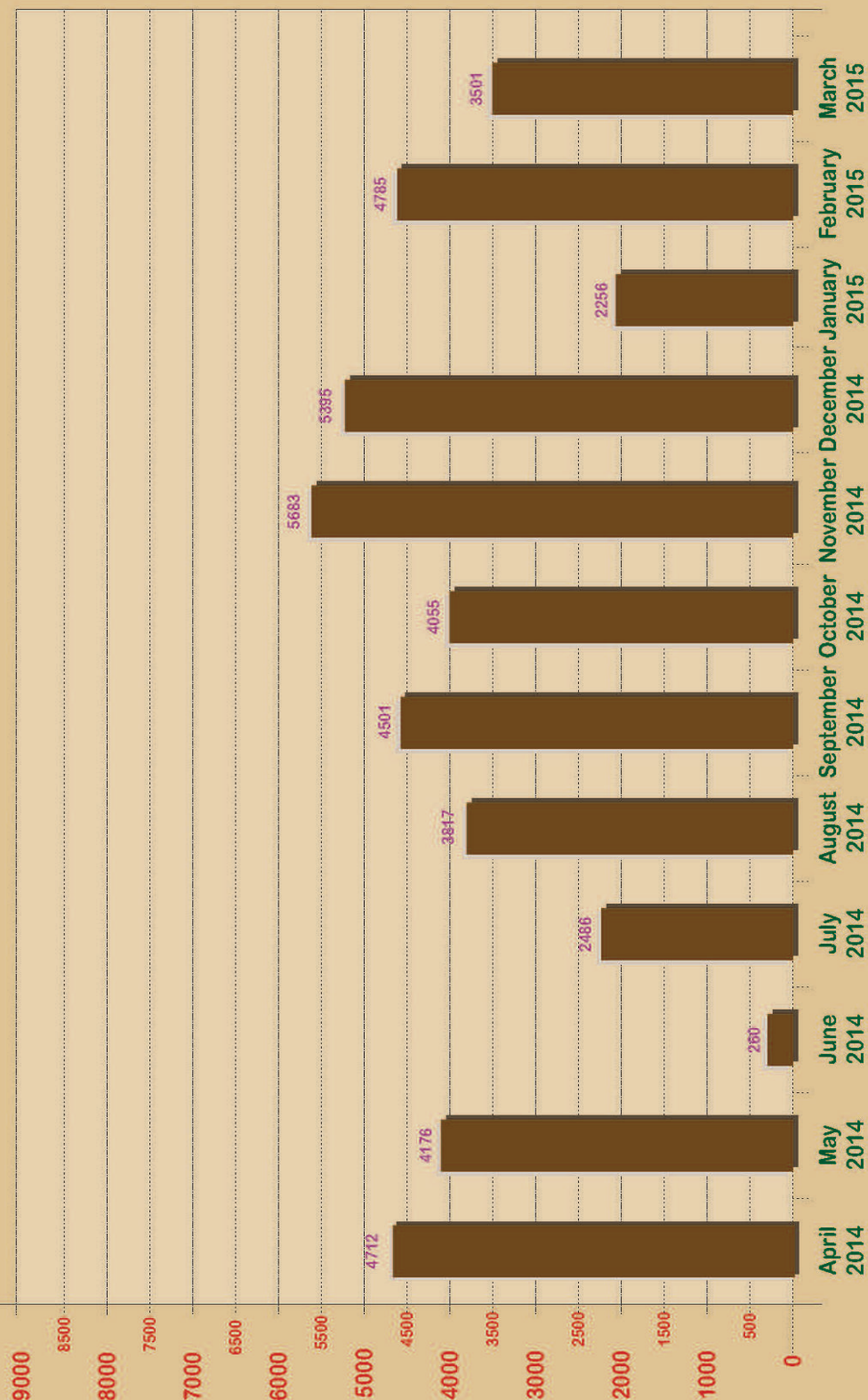
Other Visitors to GSDS During the Year

- German Foreign Minister, Mr. Frank Walter Steinmeier visited the Museum on 7th September, 2014. He was accompanied by a delegation headed by The Ambassador of Germany, Mr. Michael Steiner.
- Dr. S. P. Varghese, State President, National Forum for People's Rights (Kerala), visited the Museum on 10th September, 2014.
- Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry of South Africa, Mr. Senzeni Zokwana visited the Museum on 12th September, 2014 along with a ten member delegation from the Embassy of South Africa.
- Ms. Kathleen Stephens, interim Ambassador of USA visited the museum on 20th September, 2014.
- Rt Hon Mr Sajid Javid MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, United Kingdom along with other officials visited Gandhi Smriti on October 16, 2014.



MONTH-WISE VISITORS IN **GANDHI SMRITI**

April 2014-March 2015



MONTH-WISE VISITORS IN **GANDHI DARSHAN**

April 2014-March 2015





Farewell to Staff

Shri Brij Pal II

Shri Brijpal II, who worked as a Safai Sevak in Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in both the campuses – Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan over a period of 30 years retired from his services on March 31, 2014.



Shri Sushil Kumar Yadav

Shri Sushil Kumar Yadav was given a befitting farewell by the Director and staff of the Samiti on July 31, 2014. Shri Yadav had joined the Samiti on April 1972 and served the institution for 42 long years. He joined the Samiti as security personnel and later the throbbing art and exhibition unit of the Gandhi Darshan Exhibition, as an Exhibition Assistant. He also participated in various exhibitions on Mahatma Gandhi in Delhi and different parts of the country.



Shri Ram Juari and Shri Shankar Lal

Shri Ram Juari retired from his services as a Farash on October 21, 2014. Shri Ram Juari who also served in both the campuses of Gandhi Darshan and



Gandhi Smriti during his tenure as a Safai Sevak

retired on November 30, 2014. Both of them were given farewell on the same day on November 30, 2014.

Shri Ashok Kumar

Shri Ashok Kumar retired from the services of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on January 31, 2015 after almost 41 years of services. During his long innings in Gandhi Smriti, Shri Ashok evolved himself as a committed worker who rose from the post of a Project Operator to an Assistant Estate Manager. In Gandhi Smriti, where Shri Ashok Kumar served most of his years, he made the place a home to strangers who visit to pay their reverence to Mahatma Gandhi who completed his sojourn on earth at that place.



Mrs. Jai Raheja

Ms. Jaya Raheja who joined her services with the Samiti in the early 80's, worked first as a receptionist in Gandhi Smriti, where she also served as a guide at the museum. Later, she was elevated to the Accounts Department where she remained till March 31, 2015 till her retirement. A sincere worker Mrs. Raheja was also very helpful in her nature towards her co-workers.





Heartfelt Tributes

Shri Ram Sagar

Shri Ram Sagar, Security Guard with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti was retired from his 33 years of service on August 31, 2013 died a year later after suffering from prolonged illness. Shri Ram Sagar will be remembered

Shri Ram Sagar will be remembered for his infectious smile and humility that personified his gentle nature. The staff and members of the Samiti pays tribute to this gentle soul.



Shri O. P. Chauhan

Shri Om Prakash Chauhan joined Gandhi Darshan on October 2, 1972 as a sanitation incharge. He retired as an Estate Manager from his services on October 31, 2007. A dedicated worker, Shri Chauhan passed away on September 21 2014 after a prolonged illness.

