



Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



Gandhiji's Talisman

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

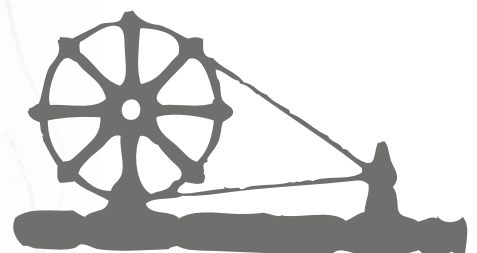
Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj for the hungry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

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

M. Gandhi



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

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Foreword

Whether mankind will consciously follow the Law of Love, I do not know. But that need not perturb us. The Law will work, just as the Law of Gravitation will work, whether we accept it or not. And just as a scientist will work wonders out of various applications of the laws of Nature, even so a man, who applies the Law of Love with scientific precision, can work greater wonders. – *Mahatma Gandhi, Young India, October 1, 1931*

As the world is reeling under the scourge of the coronavirus pandemic, human beings more than ever before need to realize the futility of conflicts and disputes. Instead, they need to draw their energy to promote love, affection and solidarity. The virus has taught, why concern for each other and deep connections are required for harmonious coexistence. The deep spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood is the need of the times. The views of Mahatma are so poignant, when he points that, “Brotherhood is not a mercantile affair. And my philosophy, my religion teaches me that brotherhood is not confined merely to the human species; that is, if we really have imbibed the spirit of brotherhood, it extends to the lower animals.” (August 15, 1925, Amrita Bazar Patrika).

During the course of the year, in the midst the pandemic, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti precisely tried to promote and encourage the spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood and human solidarity. By reaching out to groups and institutions, not only within the country, but also internationally, the Samiti tried to bring practitioners, scholars, students and academicians together to spread the message of the Mahatma for peaceful coexistence.



The Samiti managed to expand its programmes to new levels during the course of the year involving leading international experts, universities/educational institutions across different continents and different varieties of organizations. To counter the challenges faced by the Covid restrictions, we organized almost all our programmes through digital platforms. This offered new opportunities.

Our course on ‘nonviolent communication’ which we initiated during the lockdown period has now got major traction both nationally and internationally. We collaborated with the Central Board of Secondary Education and our course found its place in CBSE website. It is also featured in the MyGov platform. Besides it is getting translated in different Indian languages.

During the course of the year, we also initiated an International E-Dialogue series where we could invite globally recognized peace practitioners talking on different aspects of Gandhian philosophy. Another important initiative was ‘Dialogue on Mediation’, where to promote the spirit of mediation, we invited mediators from across the world to discuss on different dimensions of mediation.

Another course which the Samiti launched during the year was ‘Strategies of Conflict Resolution in Schools’.

As the world is reeling under the scourge of the coronavirus pandemic, human beings more than ever before need to realize the futility of conflicts and disputes. Instead, they need to draw their energy to promote love, affection and solidarity. The virus has taught, why concern for each other and deep connections are required for harmonious coexistence. The deep spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood is the need of the times.

Organisation. Further, through regular health camps in different parts of the city to generate awareness on coronavirus, GSDS also got the COVID-19 tests conducted in close coordination with team of doctors and lab technicians who drove across the city to in their efforts to reach out to a maximum number of people.

What we all learnt is gratitude and a deep sense of gratification towards everyone who stood out in their humble manner to reach out to people affected by the pandemic. It becomes all the more important for us to understand in true sense and put in practice the ideals of human interconnectedness and nonviolent society as espoused by the Mahatma.

The Samiti is committed to promote and propagate these ideas amongst all sections of the society for peaceful coexistence.

Aimed for teachers, the course focuses on how to promote peace schools. The Samiti also initiated a course on mindfulness training during the year. Besides, we initiated a major programme for students of schools and colleges on 'peer mediation'.

Besides, we could organize numerous E-Workshops on important themes related to the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. These included initiatives on human interconnectedness, human solidarity, Gandhian ethics, peer mediation, volunteerism, conflict competences, health and mental wellness and conflict resolution.

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti empathize with all those who lost their near and dear ones during the pandemic. This year and till the time the menace of COVI-19 remains, are going to be challenging times for the entire humankind.

The Pandemic provided an opportunity for us to think differently and innovate new ideas and give new dimensions to our programmes. The unit of Srijan GSDS has been equally proactive in making khadi masks which reached thousands of people in different parts of the country.

In reaching out to people in distress posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic, GSDS sent COVID safety kits to different parts of the country in association with Lupin Social Welfare

"Brotherhood is not a mercantile affair. And my philosophy, my religion teaches me that brotherhood is not confined merely to the human species; that is, if we really have imbibed the spirit of brotherhood, it extends to the lower animals." (August 15, 1925, Amrita Bazar Patrika).

Mahatma Gandhi

**Dipanker Shri Gyan
Director**

Introduction



A view of the Gandhi Smriti Museum.

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:

Visual Aspects to perpetuate the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and the noble ideals they represented,

1. *Educative Aspects* to focus concentrated attention on certain values of life that made Gandhi a Mahatma and
2. *Service Aspects* to introduce activities in order to sub-serve certain felt needs.

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

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

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'.



A view of the Prayer Ground in Gandhi Smriti, the footsteps indicating the final journey of Mahatma Gandhi to his Martyrdom.

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

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.

*Mahatma
Gandhi's room in
Gandhi Smriti.*



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

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

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

Digital installations depicting the history of freedom struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi has been set up in the museum as a tribute to the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. One of the interactive installations lead the visitors to witness artistes from their countries (across the globe) singing *Vaishnava Jana Tau*, which the Government of India and the Ministry of External Affairs had undertaken with the inspiration of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to have singers from over 124 countries of the world sing the hymn in the traditional style in Hindi.

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 where portraits drawn by famous artistes on Mahatma Gandhi from his life – which have been received from the National Gallery of Modern Art – have been depicted. This section has also an auditorium with facilities to screen films on Mahatma Gandhi where visitors engage themselves with the Holographic Gandhi. These initiatives have been taken with the Department of Science and Technology. Further photographic panels depicting the last 48 hours of Gandhiji's life adorn the walls of this section.

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'.



A view of visitors entering Mahatma Gandhi's Room in Gandhi Smriti

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

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

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

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

The *pergola* – which provides an interface with the visiting mass of humanity – is now a walking art gallery, which provides an opportunity to artists from all segments of our society and all parts of the world to witness the journey of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to Mahatma Gandhi in the sprawling exhibition *From Mohan to Mahatma* prepared by senior Gandhians like Shri Anupam Misra and developed by the National Archives of India. The exhibition was

inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Culture and VC GSDS Dr. Mahesh Sharma on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2015 in Gandhi Smriti.

While on their journey, the visitors also witness the magnificent World Peace Gong that stands facing the roof top where the mortal remains of the father of the nation was kept on January 31, 1948 for thousands of people to pay their last tributes. The Peace Gong, gifted to Gandhi Smriti by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India after being received from the World Peace Gong Committee of Indonesia was inaugurated at a special function commemorating the 100 years of Satyagraha on September 11, 2006. This is a gentle reminder to the world of the enormous struggles by peace marchers across the world to live in harmony with one another.

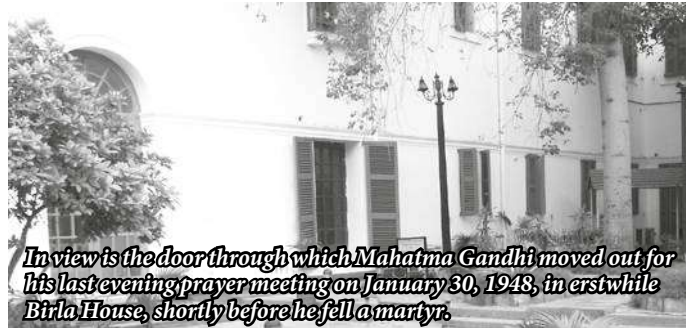
From here the visitors are guided into the room where Bapuji spent the last 144 days of his life. As they come out of this room they are acquainted with history of these 144 days through the Photo Exhibition accompanied by narratives culled out from the accounts of the eye witnesses.

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

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



A view of the photo exhibition gallery inside the Gandhi Smriti museum.



In view is the door through which Mahatma Gandhi moved out for his last evening prayer meeting on January 30, 1948, in erstwhile Birla House, shortly before he fell a martyr.

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 fibre, 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.



Children from different schools are engrossed in seeing the exhibition on 'Charkha and its significance' in display at the Eternal Gandhi Museum' in Gandhi Smriti.

A view of the Gandhi Darshan complex in Rajghat.



A view of the exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi and his life entitled "My Life is My Message" in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.

(b) Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat

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

There are two exhibitions – which were established in 1969 – today 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 Birla House to Rajghat.



To mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, an Interactive Digital Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi having 'Smart Interface for Multiuser Engagement' and a '360° Video-Immersive Experience in a Circular Dome' was inaugurated in Gandhi Darshan Rajghat on November 6, 2020.

- 4) There are models of:
 - a) Gandhiji's house at Porbandar in Gujarat
 - b) Sabarmati Ashram
 - c) 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.

In addition, as part of the celebrations to mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, an interactive digital exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi showcasing his life, his struggle, his visions, and the journey of his transcendence from Mohandas to 'Mahatma' having 'Smart Interface for Multiuser Engagement' and a 360° *Video-Immersive Experience in a Circular Dome* were inaugurated in Gandhi Darshan Rajghat on November 6, 2020 by honourable Minister of Science and Technology and Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harshvardhan, along with honourable Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Vice Chairperson Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

Infrastructural Facilities:

Facilities available at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat

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

The objectives of the Samiti are:

1. To plan and carry out activities for the promotion of Gandhian ideals and philosophy.
2. To keep Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti open for public as per standard rules related to museum and maintain it to provide maximum convenience to visitors.
3. Promote Audience Development and Museum Management Framework in both Gandhi Smriti Museum and Gandhi Darshan Exhibition.



Boat used by Mahatma Gandhi during the historic Dandi March, of 1930.



Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Smt. Nirupama Kotru along with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan is seen visiting the exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Darshan.

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 the entire foregoing mandate and to cooperate and seek cooperation from other institutions for the aforesaid purposes.

Structure of the Samiti

GOVERNING BODY

Chairman

The Hon'ble Prime Minister

Vice-Chairperson

Shri Prahlad Singh, Hon'ble Minister of Culture

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 Narayan Bhai Bhattacharjee

Dr. Harsh Vardhan Kamrah

Ms. Neelima Vardhan

Dr. Suparna Gooptu

Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Information Advisor to the Prime Minister

Chief Engineer, CPWD

Secretary, (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance

Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development

Commissioner of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi

President/Administrator, New Delhi Municipal Committee

Member Secretary

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Executive Committee

Chairperson

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel

Members

Shri Laxmi Das

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal

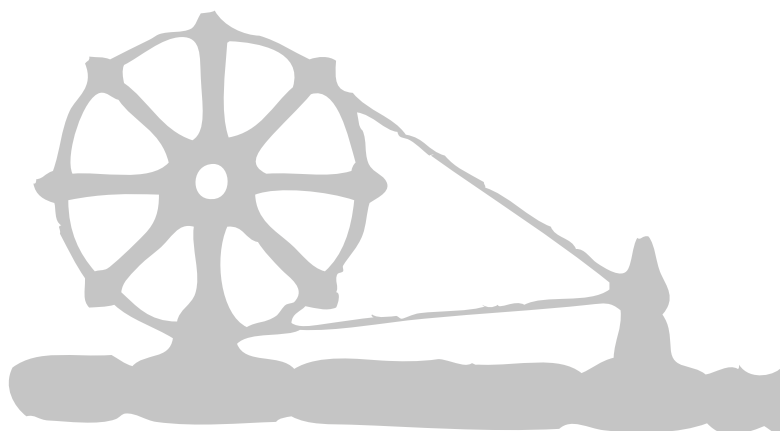
Ms. Rajni Bakshi

Member Secretary

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture,
Government of India

Director

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



Time Line of Programmes

GANDHI SMRITI AND DARSHAN SAMITI Activities Undertaken during the Year 2020-2021 (till March 2021)

S. No.	Approved Programmes in April 2020 to January 2021	Date of the Programme	Venue	About the Programme
1	Initiation of on-line free certification program on Non-Violence Communication	April 2, 2020	New Delhi	The Samiti initiated an on-line free certification programme on Non-Violence Communication on April 2, 2020 for teachers, students of different schools and colleges and people in different services. The course designed in three modules provided a critical understanding in both theory and practice the process of achieving NVC. Participants of the course are expected to respond by writing their understanding in question-answer format.
2	Tribute to Kasturba Gandhi on her 151st Birth Anniversary	April 11, 2020	New Delhi	Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice-Chairperson of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel paid rich tributes to Kasturba Gandhi in the social media by tweeting the following: मातृशक्ति की मिसाल, जिन्होंने देश के लिए अपना सर्वस्व न्योछावर किया और जो साधना एवं त्याग की प्रतिमूर्ति हैं, ऐसी महाम स्वतंत्रता सेनानी श्रीमती कस्तूरबा गाँधी जी की जयंती पर उन्हें कोटि कोटि नमन (My tribute to Srimati Kasturba Gandhi who is an example of Matri Shakti, one who dedicated her entire life towards the service of the country). GSDS also joined in paying rich tributes to Ba on her 151st birth anniversary on April 11, 2020.
3	Tribute to the Jallianwala Bagh Martyrs	April 13, 2020	New Delhi	GSDS paid tributes to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 2020 as part of the commemoration of the 101 years of the massacre on April 13, 1919 by General Dyer. A collage of the Jallianwala Bagh memorial with photographs commemorating the event was tweeted by GSDS. On this occasion, Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan also reminded about the first imprisonment of Mahatma Gandhi on Indian soil in Palwal Haryana on April 10 1919 when Gandhiji was on his way to Punjab to protest against the Rowlatt Act.
4	Tribute to Dr. B R Ambedkar on his 129th Birth Anniversary	April 14, 2020	New Delhi	Rich tributes were paid to the architect of the Indian Constitution Dr. B R Ambedkar on his 129th birth anniversary on April 14, 2020. Participants mostly from the GSDS shared their thoughts on Dr. Ambedkar through video and audio messages. The theme was drawn from one of Baba Saheb's own words: "If you believe in living a respectable life, you believe in self-help which is the best help". Earlier in the day, Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice-Chairperson GSDS Shri Prahlad Singh Patel paid tributes to Dr. B R Ambedkar at his New Delhi residence by garlanding his portrait and offering flowers to Baba Saheb.
5	On line meeting to discuss on programmes GSDS could initiate during lockdown	April 14, 2020	New Delhi	GSDS Director, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan conducted an online meeting to discuss on the possibility of organising programmes through online in view of the lockdown due to the pandemic COVID-19. Discussions featured on engaging senior resource persons through webinars on various issues. Also it was suggested to upload audio/video files on different themes for reaching a wider audience.

6	Champaran revisited through online lecture and stories on Champaran Satyagraha	April 15-20, 2020	New Delhi	In a unique way to re-live the historic Champaran Satyagraha of 1917, the Samiti started an online web series of story-telling through different episodes that unfolded in Champaran, where a poor peasant Raj Kumar Shukla provided Lawyer Gandhi a platform to test the power of Satyagraha on the Indian soil. The recording of episodes began with the Dean of Gandhi Chair of Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwa Vidyalyaya Prof. Manoj Kumar speaking on the Champaran Satyagraha. Ms. Mansi from GSDS also narrated the story of the Champaran Satyagraha in the form of a story-telling through six episodes.
7	On line lecture as part of Earth Day by Shri Laxmi Dass	April 22, 2020	New Delhi	On the occasion of Earth Day on April 22, 2020 GSDS as part of the on-line lecture series invited Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President of Harijan Sevak Sangh and EC Member GSDS to deliver a lecture on the theme: <i>Epidemic, Earth and Mahatma Gandhi</i> .
8	On-line lecture on Champaran Satyagraha	April 27, 2020	New Delhi	Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan addressed an interactive live online lecture on the history of Champaran Satyagraha on April 27, 2020. The online lecture was organized by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Shri Priyank Kanoongo moderated the discussion.
9	Distribution of food to construction labourers	April 28, 2020	New Delhi	The Samiti distributed packets of biscuits and snacks to the construction labourers working in the GSDS campus on April 28, 2020. Shri Vivek, Shri Rakesh, Shri Pankaj Chaubey, Shri Dharamraj along distributed these packets, which was provided by the Central Prisons Tihar
10	Online Lecture on Solidarity, Nonviolent Communication and Coronavirus	April 20, 2020	Madhya Pradesh	Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS delivered an on-line lecture on "Solidarity, Non-Violent Communication and Coronavirus" for the students of the National Law University Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on April 20, 2020. This is part of the online 'lecture series' initiated by the GSDS during the period of lockdown in view of COVID-19. Speaking about the programmes of the GSDS, Dr. Kundu highlighted the initiatives the GSDS had taken with the Judiciary.
11	Webinar on "Need for Effective Dialogue for a Culture of Peace"	May 2, 2020	New Delhi	The Samiti as part of the series of on-line lecture series organized a webinar on "Need for Effective Dialogue for a Culture of Peace" on May 2, 2020. Eminent Gandhian scholar and thinker Prof. N Radhakrishnan and Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University and an eminent academic were the key speakers on the occasion. The technical support was provided by 'Digital India'. Almost 137 participants took part in the webinar. The webinar discussed the application of peace methodologies in day-to-day life for establishing a culture of dialogue which the 'vedas', and 'upanishads' talked about and how leading practitioners of peace and non-violence from HH the Dalai Lama to Swami Vivekananda, to Mahatma Gandhi, Daisaku Ikeda and others advocated throughout their life's teachings and mission.
12	Cleanliness Drive in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan	May 4-5, 2020	New Delhi	During lockdown in both Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan, the staff members residing in the quarters at both the places in Tees January Lane and Gandhi Darshan complex respectively initiated a massive cleanliness drive on May 4-5, 2020 by cleaning the entire campus. In Gandhi Smriti led by Shri Narendra, the members joined in cleaning the entire campus. In Gandhi Darsahn, this initiative was led by Shri Mohit Mohan. Sanitizing and disinfecting public places and vehicles were also done by the members in Gandhi Darshan.
13	Gratitude to Covid Warriors	May 5, 2020	New Delhi	The Samiti paid its gratitude to Covid Warriors through its Tweeter handle as well as in the GSDS You-tube channel during May 2020. In this endeavour the Samiti also showcased the work done by the GSDS members in making masks, distributing food to people in need to feeding street animals. Further as part of the GSDS initiative, about 500 masks were made by the teachers and volunteers of Himalayan Buddhist School in Dharamshala Himachal Pradesh, led by the Principal of the school Ms. Palki Thakur, which was later handed over to the SDM of Manali for distribution to the needy.

14	Mask Making begins at Five places in Delhi	May 6, 2020	New Delhi	The Samiti in association with Healthy Aging India (HAI) run by doctors of AIIMS and CRPF have started mask making at five different places in Delhi for free distribution. In view of this, led by Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, few of the staff members handed over khadi and cotton cloth rolls to members of HAI on May 6, 2020 in Gandhi Darshan.
15	Tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore	May 7, 2020	New Delhi	The Samiti paid rich tributes to Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on his 159 th birth anniversary by organizing an on-line lecture by eminent Gandhian thinker and an academic Shri Bhagwan Singh on May 7, 2020. Further, an on-line musical tribute to Gurudev was also paid by GSDS through a presentation of a song written by Narain Bhai Desai "Ma Bharti Ke Snehabhav Bhige...." on the mutual respect and admiration of the poet and the <i>karmayogi</i> Mahatma Gandhi. This song was earlier sung by almost 500 children during the Inter-faith prayer in Gandhi Smriti. Both the audio-video of the lecture and the song were uploaded in the You-tube channel of GSDS.
16	Meeting on Post Lockdown initiatives by GSDS	May 13, 2020	New Delhi	Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened an on-line meeting on May 13, 2020 to discuss initiatives the Samiti could take up post lockdown. He began by reiterating what the hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi had mentioned in his address to the Nation on May 12, 2020 on his vision of launching a Self-Reliant India Movement" (<i>Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhyan</i>) and shared the Gandhian concept of the revitalization of the economy. While referring to J C Kumarappa's <i>Economy of Permanence</i> , Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said that answers towards self reliance could be found in this book which could well be modified in today's context.
17	Webinar on Non Violent Communication – Elements and Applications	May 15, 2020	Mangalayatan University (MU), Aligarh	GSDS in association with Mangalayatan University (MU), Aligarh organized a webinar on "Non Violent Communication – Elements and Applications" on May 15, 2020. The key speakers in this webinar included: Prof. Shivaji Sarkar, Dean and Director Mangalayatan University; Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS and Dr. Dhiraj Kumar Garg, Joint Director M.U. Almost 100 participant attended the webinar.
18	Webinar on Nonviolent Communication	May 16, 2020	New Delhi	The Samiti as part of the 'Webinar Series: Covid -19 Outbreak" organized a webinar on "Non-Violent Communication" on May 16, 2020. The webinar was organized in association with Blue Bells group of Schools, Gurugram. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu Programme Officer was the key speaker at the workshop. The webinar was moderated by Ms. Mansi of GSDS. 78 participants took part in this webinar.
19	Relationship Management during lockdown using Nonviolent Communication	May 22, 2020	New Delhi	Nonviolent Communication offers individuals strategies to fight the challenges emerging out of relationship and stress management issues accentuated by the Covid-19 crisis. At a time when large number of individuals finds themselves in lockdown due to the Coronavirus, many people are experiencing increasing friction and strain in relationship with those who are staying around them continuously. The significance of nonviolent communication in such situations was discussed at a webinar organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Delhi Metropolitan Education on May 22, 2020. 163 participants took part in this webinar.
20	Strengthening Immunity during Pandemic	May 23, 2020	New Delhi	Good Immunity is the most essential key measure that one must take care to fight with any form of viruses in our lives. The Covid-19 pandemic has focused on the role of the immune system more than ever before. The significance of good immune system and how to develop a good and strong immune system was discussed in an online Webinar on the theme "Boosting Immunity and Maintaining Health with Alternate Medicine", organized by Gandhi Samiti and Darshan Samiti on May 23, 2020. The webinar included 80 members including health experts, students, trainees, academics yogacharyas and GSDS staff members.

21	District Administration Dholpur receives 70000 masks from GSDS-Lupin Srijan centre	May 2020	Dholpur, Rajasthan	District Administration Dholpur received 70000 masks from the GSDS-Lupin Srijan training-cum-production centre as part of the initiative of the Samiti to produce masks in this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The masks were handed over to the DM during May 2020 for free distribution to the poor and needy. This work has been done under the supervision of Shri Sita Ram Gupta, Executive Director Lupin Human Welfare Foundation. The centre since the outbreak of the Pandemic and lockdown has been producing masks and distributing it to the needy in the nearby localities, township, anganwadis, schools, etc. Srijan Garment Production Stitching and Training Centre was established by GSDS in association with Lupin Human Welfare Foundation in Bharatpur, Dholpur in Rajasthan as part of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
22	Need to shift from problem based to solution based journalism: K G Suresh	May 27, 2020	New Delhi	Senior journalist, columnist, academician and former Director General of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, Prof. K G Suresh stressed the urgent need to shift from problem-based journalism to solution-based journalism. He even proposed to draw the framework of such courses in media education. Prof. Suresh was speaking at a Webinar on "Non-Violent Communication" (NVC) organised by the largest journalists' organisation of the National Capital, Delhi Journalists Association (DJA) in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on May 27, 2020. Delhi Journalists Association (India) proposed to take the discussion on NVC to all over the country.
23	Joint Secretary MoC visits GSDS Museums	May 27 & 29, 2020	New Delhi	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture Government of India, Smt. Nirupama Kotru visited Gandhi Smriti museum on May 27, 2020. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan briefed the JS about the digital installations in the Gandhi Smriti. Further on May 29, 2020, Smt. Nirupama Kotru visited the Gandhi Darshan exhibition "My Life is My Message" as well as the Digital Dome set up by the Samiti as part of Gandhi: 150 in association with the DST. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan explained her about the digital installations and also about the photographic exhibition which attracted Smt Kotru a lot. Officials of the DST including GSDS staff were present during the visit.
24	Secretary Rural Development, Government of India Shri N N Sinha flags off kits for COVID -19 to Jharkhand Administration	May 29, 2020	New Delhi	In its fight against COVID -19, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti New Delhi and Lupin Human Welfare Association, Rajasthan on May 29, 2020 sent 200 PPE Kits, 50 Thermometer, 10,000 PCS NITRILE GLOVES, 11000 masks and 500 FACE Shields to tribal district Khunti, Jharkhand free of cost for use by the District Administration. This consignment was flagged off by Shri N N Sinha, IAS, Secretary, Rural Development, Government of India, at Krishi Bhawan. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and Shri Sita Ram Gupta, CEO Lupin Human Welfare, Organisation were also present at the flagging off ceremony. Together, the GSDS and Lupin, since the breakdown of the pandemic COVID-19 has been regularly supplying masks and above noted materials free of cost to different organisations, government departments and to poor and needy people.
25	Webinar as part of 32nd World No Tobacco Day	May 31, 2020	New Delhi	"Addiction is a form of escapism and there's no link of chewing tobacco with any such symptoms as constipation, depression, anxiety or mental tension", said Dr. Prashun Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Geriatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi. Dr. Chatterjee was addressing a webinar organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti as part of the 32nd World No Tobacco Day
26	Non-violent communication to be part of course in Central University South Bihar's Media Dept.	May 28, 2020	Department of Mass Communication and Media of the Central University of South Bihar	The Samiti, in association with the Department of Mass Communication and Media of the Central University of South Bihar organised a Webinar on "Non-Violent Communication" on May 28, 2020. The speakers included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS and Prof. Atish Parashar, Dean & HOD DMCM CUSB. Almost 70 participants took part in the webinar. The University has decided to include non-violent communication in the curriculum as a new subject in the Mass Communication Department. Prof. Atish Parashar chaired the session.

27	Promoting Volunteerism through Nonviolent Communication	May 30, 2020	P S G College of Arts and Sciences, Coimbatore	An important strategy to promote volunteerism and altruism in the society is the use of nonviolent communication. In a webinar organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with P S G College of Arts and Sciences, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on May 30, 2020 it was underlined that as effective volunteerism necessitated relationship development and making connections, healthy communication practices was the key. About 100 students and teachers took part in the Webinar on "Promoting Volunteerism using Nonviolent Communication: Let's all volunteer for a better world".
28	Handling Classroom Conflicts Using Non-Violent Communication – A National Webinar	June 1, 2020	Department of Education, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi	The Samiti in association with the Department of Education, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi organised a national webinar of June 1, 2020 on "Handling Classroom Conflicts Using Non-Violent Communication". The chief speakers in the webinar were Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and Programme Officer GSDS Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu. The organising committee members of the webinar included Dr. Renu Malaviya; Ms. Rashi Dubey Mishra; Dr. Vinod Kumar Kalra; Dr. Suraj Kumar and Dr. Stuti Srivastava. 155 participants took part in the webinar.
29	Webinar on Promoting Community Volunteers: Serving the Society in Covid-19	June 5, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi	On the occasion of 'World Environment Day' Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organised a Webinar on Promoting Community Volunteers: Serving the Society in Covid-19 on June 5, 2020. Almost 46 participants from Uttarakhand, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Indore, West Bengal, Bihar and New Delhi took part in the programme and shared the initiatives they took in their respective areas during COVID-19 as 'Covid Warriors'. The technical support was provided by Ms. Purna during the discussion.
30	Tribute to former employee of GSDS Shri Khyali Ram Naliwal	June 5, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi	Shri Khyali Ram Naliwal former employee of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti passed away in his hometown in Haldwani, Uttarakhand on June 5, 2020. He joined the GSDS in the year 1969 and retired as a senior attendant (Peon) in 1998. The staff of the Samiti led by Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan paid tributes to Late Shri Khyali Ram at an on-line condolence meeting organised as a mark of respect to the departed soul. Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS and Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, Ex Librarian of GSDS shared their memories of knowing Shri Khyali Ram.
31	Strategies of conflict resolution in classroom, an exploration discussed in e-workshop	June 9-10, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi	A two-day e-workshop on "Strategies of Conflict Resolution in Classroom" was organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on June 9-10, 2020 for students and teachers of different colleges and universities across the country. Dr. Sazia Mansoori, Assistant Professor Aligarh Muslim University was one of the key speakers along with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS who gave an introductory address to the webinar; and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. The Webinar underlined the necessity for an effective measure to be taken in the classrooms and establish a cultural of peace & making connection with students for a healthy environment. 45 participants took part in the two-day e-workshop.
32	From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom conflicts using Nonviolent Communication	June 12, 2020	Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan's Mehta Vidyalaya (BVBMV) New Delhi	The Samiti in association with Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan's Mehta Vidyalaya (BVBMV) New Delhi organised a webinar on "From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom conflicts using Nonviolent Communication" on June 12, 2020. The key speakers at the webinar included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. (Mrs) Anju Tandon, Principal, BVBMV and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Director GSDS. Over 100 participants from Delhi NCR, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan's NSCB Vidyaniketan Haldia, Bangalore, Hyderabad, teachers from the Holy Child Sr. Sec. School Tagore Garden joined the webinar.
33	Meeting on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)	June 13, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi	Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened an on-line meeting on the functioning of a project sanctioned by the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the aegis of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India to Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. The virtual meeting on June 13, 2020 was attended by Shri Basant Singh (Karigar Panchayat); Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS; Shri S A Jamal, former Administrative Officer, GSDS; Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive, GSDS; Shri Bishwajit Singh, Project Lead/Head of the sanctioned project with his team of Ms. Pooja Singh, Mr. Chandan Gupta, Mr. Mukund Milind, Ms. Ruby Mishra; Ms. Kanak Kaushik, GSDS and Ms. Purna Jindal, GSDS.

34	E-workshop on Strategies of Conflict Resolution in Classrooms: An Exploration	June 16-17, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi	GSDS organised its second e-workshop on “Strategies of Conflict Resolution in Classrooms” on June 16-17, 2020 with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr Shazia Mansoori, Assistant Professor, Aligarh Muslim University and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu as the key speakers. 45 participants took part in the two-day e-workshop.
35	Immunity Enhancement through Yoga and Meditation	June 21, 2020	PGDAV College (Evening), University of Delhi	The Samiti in association with the Yoga Club & IQAC of PGDAV College (Evening), University of Delhi jointly celebrated the 6th International Day of Yoga (IDY) through an on-line lecture-cum-demonstration by Dr. Navodita Pande on Acu Yoga and Ms. Anuradha Mehra on Breathology.
36	Surya Namaskar virtual campaign initiative undertaken	June 21, 2020	Health Fitness Trust, New Delhi	GSDS in association with Health Fitness Trust under the aegis of the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), an autonomous body under Ministry of Ayush organised a virtual campaign of inviting participants from different states to join in a virtual ‘Surya Namaskar Virtual Training Series’ as part of the celebrations to mark the 6th International Yoga Day on June 21. The campaign began from June 1 to June 21, 2020 and saw an overwhelming response from participants not just from Indian states, but also from Germany, Doha, Qatar, London (UK) and Philadelphia (US). Asian Marathon Champion, Dr. Sunita Godara initiated the campaign through which a great number of videos and photographs of participants performing the ‘Surya Namaskar’ was shared. The tag line of this years’ campaign was 21 ko 21 baar Surya Namaskar @home.
37	Secretary Ministry offers tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Martyrs Column	June 22, 2020	New Delhi	Secretary Ministry of Culture, Government of India Shri Anand Kumar, IAS offered tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyrs Column in Gandhi Smriti during his visit to the memorial on June 22, 2020. Shri Anand Kumar also visited the Gandhi Smriti Museum and the digital exhibition. Ms. Nirupama Kotru, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture was also present on the occasion. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan who welcomed the gathering briefed them about the functioning of the Samiti and the museum. Members from the DST (Department of Science and Technology) were also present on the occasion.
38	Covid-19 Safety Kit flagged off from Gandhi Darshan	June 26, 2020	Lupin Human Welfare Organization	GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation jointly sent COVID-19 Safety Kit to Begusarai and Bettiah on June 26, 2020 from Gandhi Darshan. The kit containing 250 PPE KIT; 50 IR Thermometer; 1000 Face Shield; 200 N-95 Mask; 6000 (three layer cotton mask) and 4000 hand gloves for each of the districts in Bihar was flagged off from Gandhi Darshan by Shri Sita Ram Gupta, CEO of Lupin Human Welfare Organization and Sh. Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.
39	Webinar on Empowered Village – Empowered Nation	June 26, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi	“We have to thank our villages, our villagers for their culture, their self-sustained methodologies and their belief in their traditional systems that has proved a boon during this pandemic”, said Shri Ram Lalji, All India Chief Coordinator of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh while addressing the webinar on “Empowered Village – Empowered Nation” organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in the light of Covid -19 and the present scenario on June 26, 2020.
40	GSDS undertakes plantation of trees as part of Sankalp Parva	June 28, 2020	Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti	The Samiti led by the Staff of GSDS in plantation drive during the Sankalp Parva
41	Webinar on Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj	June 7, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi	About 55 participants from Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand, Kanpur, Punjab which included senior journalists, social thinkers, students, research scholars, took part in the programme. Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, Chairman Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) delivered the key-note address.
42	E-Workshop on Sustainable Lifestyle and Non-Violent Communication	June 8-9, 2020	State Bal Bhawan, Assam	The two-day workshop saw several interactive sessions with the participants wherein they were briefed about different concepts of Non-Violent Communication (NVC); the importance of mutual coexistence and its necessity in the present day and time when the entire world is gripped by the COVID -19 pandemic. Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator of GSDS coordinated the programme along with Ms. Prerna Jindal, Project Coordinator Srijan Kendras GSDS. Ms. Binjmoni Das, President State Bal Bhawan, Assam, Ms. Kavita Bhattacharjee and others were present.

43	Webinar on Non-Violent Communication in our Daily Life	June 11, 2020	Auro University's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Surat, Gujarat	52 participants took part in the Webinar. The speakers included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. Prof. Shyam Parekh, Dean, Dept of Mass Communication, Auro University was also present on the occasion. Prof. Sayantani Roy Assistant Professor, Dept of Mass Communication of Auro University moderated the session.
44	International E-Dialogue on 'Increasing visibility of women in conflict resolution, negotiations and mediation'	June 13, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	An International e-dialogue was organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on June 13, 2020 on "Increasing visibility of women in conflict resolution, negotiations and mediation". Dr. Vidya Jain, former SG APPRA & Convener, Nonviolence Commission, IPRA (International Peace Research Association); Dr. Bernedette Muthien, Facilitator, Researcher and Poet in South Africa founder of African Peace Research Association; Prof. Matt Meyer, Co-Secretary General, IPRA; Prof. Janet Gerson, (Peace Educator) Education Director, International Institute on Peace Education and Ms. Dinah Lakehal, Programme Officer, Global Network of Women Peace-builders were the key speakers.
45	<i>E-Conference on "Why Human Interdependence Matters today to fight Global Environment Crises"</i>	June 20, 2020	Noble International University (USA)	Padma Shri Shri Ashok Bhagat, Founder Secretary Vikas Bharati Bishunpur, Jharkhand; Prof. Dr Roger Hansell, President Noble International University (USA); Prof. Dr. Biswajit (Bob) Ganguly, Chancellor & CEO Noble International University (NIU) (USA), President & CEO Noble Institution for Environment Peace (Canada) and Prof. Dr. Marijo Readey, Dean of Studies, NIU, USA were the resource persons. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan inaugurated the E-conference. 50 participants from in and around the world took part in the discussion. Prof. Tanima Bhattacharjee from Noble University along with Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu Programme Officer GSDS moderated the session.
46	Webinar on "Towards Mental and Physical Wellness"	June 21, 2020	GSDS in association with Global Rainbow Foundation Mauritius	The webinar began with the introductory remarks by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan who, while pointing to the fact that yoga enables the holistic development of an individual, said "Yoga is a culture and tradition in India, a tradition that is more than 5000 years old which technically means to unite and live healthy". 55 participants took part in the webinar.
47	Launch of the course on "Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony", wherein several courses – for youth, children, women, prison inmates..	July 1, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	The Samiti organised a discussion on "Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony" with Dharmacharya Shri Shantam Seth (Mindfulness teacher, Ahimsa Trust); Sister Rama (senior Rajyogi Faculty, Brahma Kumaris); Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS and Ms. Kanak Kaushik, Course In-charge. The webinar saw the launch of the course on "Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony", wherein several courses – for youth, children, women, prison inmates.. 89 participants took part in the launch programme.
48	Skill Development for Effective Volunteering	July 7-8, 2020	Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (Bhagat Phool Singh Women's University), Sonapat, Government of Haryana,	The Samiti in association with the Dean Students' Welfare Department of Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (Bhagat Phool Singh Women's University), Sonapat, Government of Haryana, organised an e-workshop on Skill Development for Effective Volunteering on July 7-8, 2020. Vice-Chancellor, BPSMV Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat, Haryana, Prof. Sushma Yadava was the patron of the programme. The distinguished speakers included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS; Mr. Gulshan Gupta, NE Coordinator, GSDS.
49	Webinar on "From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom conflicts using Nonviolent Communication"	July 11, 2020	Rashtra Shakti Vidyalaya Hastasal New Delhi	250 participants from Rashtra Shakti Vidyalaya Hastasal New Delhi took part in a webinar on "From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom conflicts using Nonviolent Communication" in which elements, strategies of conflict resolution and making classroom cohesive were discussed by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS
50	11 th Prabhash Joshi Memorial Lecture	July 12, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Prabhash Parampara Nyas	Padmashri Dr. Abhay Bang delivered the 11 th Prabhash Joshi Memorial Lecture on July 12, 2020 organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Prabhash Parampara Nyas on the birthday of Prabhash Joshi, founder editor of Jansatta, on the subject: "What would Gandhi have done today - Nine Point Program".

51	Neuro Rehabilitation and Wellness through Physiotherapy in Stroke Patients	July 15, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	A webinar on “Neuro Rehabilitation and Wellness through Physiotherapy in Stroke Patients” was organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on July 15, 2020 with Dr. Rahul Sharma, Physiotherapist from the Department of Neurology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Dr. Aman Kanda, a Naturopath and student of physiotherapy from Banarsidas Chandiwal Institute of Physiotherapy. 67 participants took part in the webinar.
52	Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony	July 16, 2020	KAMS Convent School, New Delhi	A webinar on “Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony” in association with KAMS Convent School, New Delhi on July 16, 2020. The webinar was graced with the august presence of Sister Vidhatri from Brahmakumaris. Ms. Soniya Saini (Principal-KAMS convent School), Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu (Programme Officer, GSDS), Mr. Rajdeep Pathak (Programme Executive, GSDS) and Ms. Kanak Kaushik (Course Incharge-Mindfulness, GSDS).
53	Karigari Aur Samruddh Gramya-Jivan (Sustainable Rural Life of Craftsperson)	July 17, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	A webinar on “Karigari Aur Samruddh Gramya-Jivan (Sustainable Rural Life of Craftsperson)” organised by GSDS on July 17, 2020. Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President Harijan Sevak Sangh and EC Member Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti addressed the gathering of 86 participants.
54	On-line training program on use of social media	July 19, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	An on-line training program on use of social media was organised by the Samiti for its staff members on July 19, 2020. Shri Pankaj Sharma, Technical Associate GSDS conducted the training programme
55	Virtual on-line course on “Non-Violent Communication” in Tamil launched	July 20, 2020	PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore	Smt. Nirupama Kotru, Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture, Government of India launched the virtual on-line course on “Non-Violent Communication” in Tamil translated by PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on July 20, 2020.
56	Two-day on-line workshop on “Strategies on Conflict Resolution in Classrooms: An Exploration” for Teachers/Lecturers	July 22-23, 2020	Department of Education Kargil, LAHDC Kargil Ladakh in collaboration with GSDS	Hon'ble CEC LAHDC Kargil Shri Feroz Ahmad Khan inaugurated the online workshop and also launched a free on-line course “Strategies of Conflict Resolution for Peaceful Schools” for teachers, B.Ed, M. Ed and Education Researchers. Dr Vedabhyas Kundu Programme Officer GSDS was also present along with the Resource Person Dr. Shazia Mansoori Asst. Prof AMU, and other dignitaries.
57	Webinar on “From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom Conflicts using Non-Violent Communication”	July 27, 2020	GSDS and Government College of Education, Cluster University, Srinagar	The Samiti in association with the Government College of Education, Institute of Advance Studies in Education (IASE), Cluster University, Srinagar organised a webinar on “From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom Conflicts using Non-Violent Communication” on July 27, 2020. 205 participants took part in the webinar and discussed different aspects and strategies of using nonviolent communication techniques.
58	Celebrations to mark the Sankalp Parva	July 6, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	As part of the celebrations to mark the Sankalp Parva, Programme Officer GSDS Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu and Research Officer GSDS Smt. Geeta Shukla planted Banyan and Neem trees in Gandhi Darshan. Housekeeping staffs, volunteers also planted trees in their respective homes. The Samiti has been regularly updating the activities during the <i>Sankalp Parv</i> in the social media.
59	Covid-19 safety kit sent to Raipur and Mahasamund in Chattisgarh	July 9, 2020	GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation	On July 9, 2020, Covid-19 safety kit containing 300 PPE Kits, 7500 cotton masks, 300 face shields, 3000 pair of hand gloves, 250 pieces goggles, 30 pieces of IR Thermometer and 15 pieces of Oximeter were sent to Raipur and Mahasamund in Chattisgarh respectively.
60	Covid-19 safety kit sent to Damoh in Madhya Pradesh	July 17, 2020	GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation	On July 17, 2020, 50 washable PPE kits; 10 disposable PPE kits, 200 face shields, 20 N-95 masks, 2000 pair hand gloves and 3000 cotton masks were sent to Damoh, Madhya Pradesh
61	Covid-19 safety kit sent to Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh	July 21, 2020	GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation	On July 21, 2020 16 pieces of washable PPE kits, 20 pieces of disposable PPE kits, 50 face shields, 30 N-95 masks, 1000 pairs of hand gloves, 1000 pieces of cotton masks, 10 IR thermometer, 15 oximeter and 50 goggles were sent to Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh

62	COVID-19 rapid antigen test in Gandhi Darshan	July 22 and 24, 2020	GSDS & SDMC	On July 22 and 24, 2020 the Samiti in association with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) conducted COVID-19 rapid antigen test. In these two days almost 345 tests were conducted for staffs of GSDS, Khadi and Village Industries Corporation (KVIC), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), workers at the construction site of the Rashtriya Swachhata Mission and people residing in and around Gandhi Darshan campus.
63	Covid -19 safety kit sent to Mumbai, Maharashtra	July 28, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation	On July 28, 2020, Covid -19 safety kit comprising five pieces of PPE Kit, 50 pieces of face shield, 50 pairs of hand gloves, 50 pieces of cotton mask, one oximeter, 50 goggles, 5 pieces of N-95 masks were sent by GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation to Shri V S Iyer, Ex. Scientific Officer (E) Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Government of India, Govandi East, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
64	Covid -19 safety kit sent to Bhagalpur, Bihar	July 28, 2020.	GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation	Another set of Covid-19 safety kit comprising of 276 PPE Kits, 300 pieces of face shield, 100 N-95 masks, 8500 pair of hand gloves, 7800 pieces of cotton masks, 30 pieces of IR Thermometer, 100 pieces of oximeter and 225 goggles were sent to Bhagalpur, Bihar on July 28, 2020.
65	COVID-19 rapid antigen test for the Gandhi Smriti staff members	July 29 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti & SDMC	On July 29 2020 the Samiti in association with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) conducted COVID-19 rapid antigen test for the Gandhi Smriti staff members. A total of 42 people were tested negative during the test.
66	E-workshop on “Exploring a Nonviolent Communication Ecosystem”	July 2, 2020	Trincomalee Campus Eastern University, Sri Lanka	E-workshop on “Exploring a Nonviolent Communication Ecosystem” on July 2, 2020 with key speakers as Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS. 177 participants took part in the workshop.
67	E-conference on “Practicing Non-Violence in our Daily Lives	July 8, 2020	Beti and Shiksha Foundation in association with High Commission of India in Port of Spain Trinidad and Tobago and Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Co-Operation	E-conference on “Practicing Non-Violence in our Daily Lives” on July 8, 2020. Key speakers included: H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS, Mrs. Renu Sharma, B & S Foundation. The conference was chaired by Dr. Pandita Indrani Rampersad. 50 participants from India, Surinam, Guyane and Trindad took part in the e-conference.
68	Leaders Dialogue on Active Peace Building for Community Cohesion in the midst of Covid -19	July 21, 2020	Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore	90 participants including academics, peace workers, researchers, youth volunteers from Europe, Asia and Africa took part in the webinar on July 21, 2020 that began by singing Mahatma Gandhi’s favourite hymn <i>Vaishnavajana Tau</i> which was followed by an inter-faith prayer.
69	International E-dialogue on “How do I cultivate non-violence in my daily life?”	July 25, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	70 participants from several countries took part in an international E-dialogue organized on July 25, 2020. Dr. Vidya Jain, Former SG APRA & Convenor, Nonviolence Commission, IPRA mentored the entire discussion. Dr. Bernedette Muthien Peace Researcher, Poet and facilitator in South Africa, chaired the session.
70	RT-PCR, antigen, antibody TrueNAT test for the GSDS staff members	August 6, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and SDMC	In light of COVID-19, as part of its initiative towards safeguarding the health of the staff members, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with team of doctors from the South Delhi Municipal Cooperation conducted the RT-PCR, antigen, antibody TrueNAT test for the GSDS staff members on August 6, 2020.
71	Poetry recitation and singing on “Patriotism” on the eve of 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement	August 8, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti,	From the eastern most corner of the country in Assam to down South in Karnataka; to Bengal and Odisha, to the Western belt of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab; the enthusiasm of almost 129 children from 15 states knew no bounds as they gathered virtually in a webinar taking part in a national programme on poetry recitation and singing on the theme of “Patriotism” on August 8, 2020. Organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti,

72	E-Dialogue on “Nourishing Happiness through Communication”	August 11, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	The Samiti organized an E-Dialogue on “Nourishing Happiness through Communication” on August 11, 2020 for participants who had undertaken the free on-line certificate program on “Non-violent communication” run by the GSDS. The dialogue was organized with the participants who not only undertook the course, but also have taken initiative at their individual level towards promotion of the free course and further involved various stakeholders in understanding the dynamics of the course and the change within that was equally reiterated by the presenters during the dialogue.
73	Independence Day in Gandhi Darshan	August 15, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan hoisted the Tricolour in Gandhi Darshan on August 15, 2020 on the occasion of the 74 th Independence Day. The celebration culminated with GSDS staff in residential quarters taking part in the programme.
74	E-conference on “The Role of Indigenous Folk Traditions in Value Creation	August 18, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Raja Narendra Lal Khan Women's College, West Bengal	138 participants took part in the e-conference that was addressed by chief guest Shri Giridhar Gamang, former Chief Minister of Odisha. The programme focused on the rich folk traditions of the tribals and how it is important for the new generation to know the values that have preserved this rich heritage.
75	COVID-19 safety kit sent to Bhagalpur, Bihar	August 22, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation	As part of its initiative to provide COVID-19 safety kit to different parts of the country as per requirement, the Samiti on August 22, 2020 sent Covid safety kit with 10,000 cotton masks and 200 pieces of oximeter to Bhagalpur, Bihar. The kits are proposed for distribution to Munger, Baka, Bhagalpur and Jamui.
76	E-webinar on Impact of Mahatma Gandhi in our Education Policy	August 19, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	An e-webinar on Impact of Mahatma Gandhi in our Education Policy where Shri Vijay Prakash, IAS (Retd.), and Prof. P. K. Mishra, IIT BHU addressed the gathering of almost 54 participants on “Entrepreneurship through Innovation for students of marginalized communities” and “From Lab to Land: Innovation and it's practical implications in Educational Institutions: A Gandhian Approach”.
77	E-conference on the theme “Nurturing Happiness through Nonviolent Communication”	August 28, 2020	Eliezer Joldan Memorial (EJM) College, Leh,	Prof. Deskyong Namgyal, Principal EJM College; Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator, GSDS as the main speakers. Assistant Professor of EJM College, Ms. Hajira Bano moderated the session. 35 participants took part in this session. Through various examples from daily life on how to conduct one and how to frame one's communication, Shri Gulshan Gupta spoke on the essence of words that have both the power to destroy and heal.
78	Covid-19 safety kit sent to Jamui Bihar	August 23, 2020	GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organization	The Samiti in association with the Lupin Human Welfare Organisation, Bharatpur Rajasthan as part of its initiative towards providing Covid-19 safety kit to different parts of the country had sent kits to Bihar for distribution. These safety kits were distributed in a small function in Jamui Bihar on August 23, 2020.
79	Covid-19 safety kit sent to Munger, Bihar	August 30, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation	The COVID-19 safety kit by GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation was also distributed in Haveli Kharagpur District of Munger on August 30, 2020. Shri Basant Singh, former advisor to GSDS coordinated this initiative. PPE Kits, masks, oximeter, hand gloves, hand sanitizers, face shields were distributed amongst the villagers and health care workers in Teliadiah.
80	Covid-19 safety-kit distributed in different districts of Chattisgarh	August 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation	GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation distributed Covid-19 safety-kit was also distributed in different districts of Chattisgarh such as Durg, Rajnand Gaon, Mahasamund and Raipur. Almost 700 children of the pottery community/complex received the COVID-19 safety kits.
81	The significance of Non-violent communication in Understanding the Self”	August 01, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with Ateneo de Davao University, Philippines	Approximately 97 students from different disciplines such as sociology, psychology and anthropology of the respective university had enthusiastically participated in this interactive session. The session ended with the question-answer round shared in between Dr. Kundu and the participants such as – How can Non-violent communication be applied in this pandemic?;

82	4 th International E-dialogue on <i>Peace Education – Building a just and Peaceful Future</i>	August 13, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti,	The programme was mentored by Prof. Vidya Jain (Convenor, Non-Violence Commission, IPRA); chaired by Dr. Janet Gerson (Education Director, International Institute on Peace Education, USA) including individual sessions by Prof. Tony Jenkins (Managing Director, International Institute on Peace Education, USA), Prof Herbert B Rosana (Associate Dean, Graduate School, Bicol University, Philippines) and Dr. Steve Sharra (Education Policy Analyst and Peace Education, Malawi). 62 participants took part in the webinar.
83	International E-Conclave on Countering Online Hate Narratives through Nonviolent Communication	August 26, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and UNESCO-Media and Information Literacy University Network of India	The e-conclave was chaired by Prof. Jagtar Singh [Coordinator, Media and Information University Network of India (MILUNI)]. The other speakers at the conclave included: Mr. Alton Grizzle (Programme Specialist UNESCO, Paris); Mr. Bram Van Haver (Program Management Specialist, UNAOC, New York), Ms. Sara Gabai (Communication Expert, European Union SWITCH-Asia), Ms. Maha Bashri (Associate Professor of Communication, United Arab Emirates) and Mr. Mathew Johnson (Director of Education, Media Smarts, Canada) were the honourable speakers of the day. Almost 90 people from different areas of the world joined the conclave.
84	Virtual international conference on “Mahatma Gandhi’s journey through Europe and Africa in the Shaping of his philosophy of Swaraj through Satyagraha”	September 12, 2020	GSDS in association with (ARSP) & Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC)	Shri V Muraleedharan Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India was the chief guest on the occasion. 65 participants took part in the webinar that included speakers such as Smt. Ela Gandhi, Chairperson Gandhi Development Trust (Durban), South Africa who delivered the key note address; Amb. Virendra Gupta, President (ARSP); Amb. Anup Mudgal, Chairman, DRRC; Shri Dipanker Shru Gyan, Director GSDS in the inaugural session that was chaired by Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General ARSP. The second session was chaired by Amb. Anup Mudgal.
85	International webinar on “Imperatives of Human Solidarity in times of Global Pandemic Crisis”	September 14-15, 2020	The Malviya Centre of Peace Research (MCPR), UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding, BHU and GSDS	On Day one, Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair for Peace, Malviya Centre for Peace Research, FSS, BHU who chaired the session. The conference began with the welcome address given by Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS. 80 participants took part in the webinar. Day two included the “Young Researchers Forum” where speakers from different parts of the world shared their ideas.
86	Hindi Pakhwara	September 14-28, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	The Samiti organised the ‘Hindi Pakhwara’ from September 14-28, 2020 in both the campuses of the GSDS – Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan respectively. On account of COVIC-19, on-line competitions such as Essay Writing on “Gandhi aur Hindi” and poetry writing “ <i>Rashtriya Ekta Ka Pratik Hindi</i> ” were organised in which the staff of the GSDS took active part.
87	Swachhatta Pakhwara	September 16-30, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	The Samiti organised the ‘Swachhatta Pakhwara’ from September 16-30, 2020. During this period, awareness on cleanliness was highlighted by the Samiti through its social media platforms. Also all the in-house staff participated in a massive cleaning of the Gandhi Darshan campus in the lawns. Each staff also cleaned their respective offices during this period.
88	<i>The Mahatma in Me</i> : Inviting Videos on understanding of the enigmatic life of Mahatma Gandhi	September 13-20, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Doordarshan Kendra	The programme in both Hindi and English entitled ‘ <i>Mujh Me Hai Mahatma</i> ’ and ‘ <i>The Mahatma in Me</i> ’ invited entries on any one of the following subjects – 1. <i>How do I Practice Non-Violence in my Daily Life?</i> 2. <i>How do I contribute towards a culture of peace?</i> 3. The most important Gandhian value which the world should follow today and 4. What is the most important thing I learnt from the life of Mahatma Gandhi? Almost 200 entries were received as part of the initiative, for which the Doordarshan Kendra also made a promo of the same in their national network. The programme was launched on October 2, 2020 commemorating the 151 st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
89	Seminar on “The relevance of Gandhiji’s ideas in today’s era”	September 26, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Delhi Public Library	The virtual seminar was chaired by Dr. Ramsharan Gaur, President of Delhi Public Library Board. The other speakers included Shri Subhash Chandra Kankheria, President, Programme Committee and Shri Dipanker Shru Gyan, Director, GSDS. Delivering the keynote address, Shri Dipanker Shru Gyan spoke on the historic Champaran Satyagraha.

90	COVID-19 test for October 2 nd Gandhi Jayanti Prog	September 28, 29, 30, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	To ensure safety for the 151 st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, GSDS conducted COVID-19 test for all the GSDS staff members, officials from Ministry of Culture, Dharm Gurus and Bhakti Sangeet Artist in Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti on September 28, 29, 30, 2020. Tests were conducted in Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti respectively.
91	Tributes to Minister of State for Railways Shri Suresh Angadi	September 23, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	The Samiti paid rich tributes to Minister of State for Railways Shri Suresh Angadi who passed away on September 23, 2020 due to COVID-19. Tributes were also paid to singer Padmashri Dr. S P Balasubramaniam who died post COVID-19 on September 25, 2020.
92	E-publications of the Samiti – Anasakti Darshan (Hindi)	July 2019 to August 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	E-publications of the Samiti – Anasakti Darshan (Hindi) from July 2019 to August 2020 focussing on Mahatma Gandhi and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was published as part of the 150 th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi during September 2020.
93	Publications: <i>Antim Jan</i> (Year 3, Issue 1, SI 11)	September 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	The Samiti's monthly publication <i>Antim Jan</i> (Year 3, Issue 1, SI 11) for the period May-August 2020 was also e-published during September 2020.
94	Publications: Gandhi Across The Boundaries	September 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Gandhi Across The Boundaries" edited by Dr. Devendra Kumar of Ram Lal Anand College containing proceedings of the International Conference on "Gandhi Across the Boundaries" organised by Gandhi Study Circle of Ram Lal Anand College, University of Delhi and GSDS during October 23-24, 2019 – as part of Gandhi:150 was jointly published by GSDS and Ram Lal Anand College.
95	Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating the 151 st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence	October 2, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi offered rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti on October 2, 2020 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating the 151 st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence. Inter-faith prayer by leaders from different religious groups (Dharm Gurus).
96	Free online course on nonviolent communication for CBSE launched	October 2, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and CBSE	In a major initiative to reach out to students, teachers, principals and parents from across the country, the Samiti in association with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), launched its ongoing free online course on nonviolent communication. The Samiti has been running the course since April 2020.
97	Charkha demonstration at Jantar Mantar	October 2, 2020	Archaeological Survey of India	Eight spinners from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti participated in a charkha demonstration at Jantar Mantar on October 2, 2020 in a programme hosted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on October 2, 2020 to highlight the message of simplicity and economic independence that Mahatma Gandhi aroused amongst the citizens during the freedom struggle.
98	Weekly lecture series with the Central Board of Secondary Education	October 21 and 29, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE),	As part of its online course on nonviolent communication, the Samiti is organizing a weekly lecture series with the Central Board of Secondary Education. The first lecture series was organized on October 21, 2020 which provided a general introduction to nonviolent communication. The second lecture was organized on October 29, 2020 and it focussed on how we can encourage nonviolent communication ecosystems for peaceful schools. The GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu delivered both the lectures.
99	Practicing Mindfulness for Healthy Living	October 22, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti conducted an orientation programme on "Practicing Mindfulness for Healthy Living" on October 22, 2020. 80 participants that included children from The Aditya Birla Group of School at Renu Sagar Uttar Pradesh, GSDS staff members attended the orientation programme conducted by Ms. Surbhee Singh, ICF Certified Coach, NLP Master Practitioner.
100	Virtual meeting to discuss the modalities of celebrations to mark the 125 th Birth Anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave.	October 27, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS)	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) in collaboration with the Acharya Vinoba Bhave 125 th Birth Celebration Citizen's National Committee organized a virtual meeting on October 27, 2020 to discuss the modalities of celebrations to mark the 125 th Birth Anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

101	A meeting for 'Audio Guide Apps' to Gandhi Smriti	October 28, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti with <i>Hop on India</i>	A meeting was organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti with <i>Hop on India</i> for providing 'Audio Guide Apps' to Gandhi Smriti for the museum there. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS conducted the proceedings of the meeting with Ms. Shalini Bansal and Sh. Akash Gautam of <i>Hop on India</i> on October 28, 2020. This was done with a purpose to initiate this project in Gandhi Smriti Museum for helping the visitors to download an app of GSDS which could give a guided tour to them during their visit to the museum in Gandhi Smriti.
102	E-workshop on "In the Footsteps of Mahatma, reaching out to communities through constructive dialogues"	October 28, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with the Department of Social Work and IQAC, Rajagiri College of Social Science	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with the Department of Social Work and IQAC, Rajagiri College of Social Science an autonomous body organized an "E-workshop on "In the Footsteps of Mahatma, reaching out to communities through constructive dialogues" on October 28, 2020.
103	<i>Vigilance Awareness Week</i>	October 29, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	As part of the <i>Vigilance Awareness Week</i> (October 27 to November 2), Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan administered the vigilance awareness pledge to the GSDS staff members on October 29, 2020. The theme this year is "Vigilant India, Prosperous India".
104	Pledge on 'National Unity Day' (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas),	October 31, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	To mark 'National Unity Day' (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas), pledge taking ceremony was organised in Gandhi Darshan on October 31, 2020 at the Kalpana Chawla Jagriti Park in Gandhi Darshan. The pledge was administered by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS to the staff members. The 31st October is observed as the National Unity Day across the Country not only to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of National Integration of the Independent India, but also to reaffirm the commitment of the citizen of India to uphold the security, unity and integrity of the country.
105	Online orientation programme with Online University of Kyrgystan on "Nonviolent Communication"	October 20, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti hosted an online orientation programme with Online University of Kyrgystan on "Nonviolent Communication" on October 20, 2020. The key speaker in this orientation programme was Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. The welcome address was given by Dr. Elira Turbudaeva, President, Online University. 63 participants from Kyrgistan and India joined the orientation program virtually.
106	E-conference on "Resisting Disinformedic: Using Media and Information Literacy for Peaceful Coexistence"	October 30, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	An E-conference on "Resisting Disinformedic: Using Media and Information Literacy for Peaceful Coexistence" was organised on October 30, 2020 by GSDS in association with Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS), Malviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding (UniTwin). Delivering the key note address, Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya said that information and media literacy has become a crucial component in the lives of the civilians.
107	<i>Inauguration of Digital Exhibition and 360° Video-Immersive Experience in Circular Dome</i>	November 6, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	An interactive digital exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi showcasing his life, his struggle, his visions, and the journey of his transcendence from Mohandas to 'Mahatma' having 'Smart Interface for Multiuser Engagement' and a 360° <i>Video-Immersive Experience in a Circular Dome</i> were inaugurated in Gandhi Darshan Rajghat on November 6, 2020 by honourable Minister of Science and Technology and Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harshvardhan, along with honourable Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Vice Chairperson Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.
108	<i>Non Violent Communication Lecture Series</i>	November 4 11 and 18, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Central Board of Secondary Education	November 4, 2020: The focus of the lecture was on how to resolve conflicts through nonviolent communication. November 11, 2020: The fourth lecture series with CBSE focussed on <i>Anger Management</i> . Conducted by Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator of GSDS programmes, the workshop focused on understanding the psychology behind anger and defusing anger. November 18, 2020: The focus of the lecture was on understanding self through nonviolent communication. The focus was on techniques of being self-aware and how our self-talk and inner dialogue should be nonviolent in nature.

109	'MUDITA' a Workshop on 'Promotion of volunteerism for Constructive Work'	November 7, 2020	GSDS and Shahed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women, University of Delhi	Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS and Shri Gulshan Gupta, GSDS Coordinator North East Programmes conducted the interactive workshop. Almost 89 participants took part in the discussion. The speakers shared their real-life experiences of volunteering at various places and how they coped up with various challenges like disputes, not achieving expected results and so on.
110	Reading of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution	November 26, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	As part of the celebrations to mark the 71st Constitution Day on November 26, 2020, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organized the reading of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution in Hindi and English in both its campuses in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti at Tees January Marg at 11.00 A.M. All the staff members joined in both the campuses during the ceremony.
111	Webinar on 71st Anniversary of the Constitution of India	November 26, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Addressing a gathering of almost 79 students, volunteers, faculty members of NUSRL, lawyers and several other people who joined the webinar, keynote speaker Justice Vikramaditya Prasad said the impact of Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts and vision can be seen reflecting in the Constitution of India, as Gandhiji's ideas of all aspects of human life, from socialism, to <i>sarvodaya</i> , to welfare of women and other issues. During the webinar, at 11.00 A.M. the Preamble to the Indian Constitution was read out in Hindi and English. GSDS officials joined in reading the Preamble in both the campuses in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti at Tees January Marg.
112	Launch of On-line Certificate Course on Nonviolent Communication	November 19, 2020	University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB)	100 participants from the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB) took part in a webinar during the launch of the On-Line Certificate Course on Nonviolent Communication organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on November 19, 2020. Initiating the discussion, Prof. Jude William R. Genilo, Professor and Head of MSJ-ULAB spoke about his organization and the value of tolerance the institution promotes.
113	Exploring Nonviolent Communication – A Workshop	November 12, 2020	Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain	A session on "Exploring Nonviolent Communication" for the students of Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain was conducted on November 12, 2020 by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS who gave the key note address.
114	Webinar on "Why Nonviolent Communication – Matters for Peaceful Coexistence?"	November 12, 2020	The Catholic University of Malawi	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with The Catholic University of Malawi organized a webinar on "Why Nonviolent Communication – Matters for Peaceful Coexistence?" on November 12, 2020. Mrs. Chimwemwe Demetria Kandodo, Head Political Leadership, Department, The Catholic University of Malawi coordinated the event and presented her reflections. The key note address was delivered by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS.
115	E-workshop on 'Conflict Competence through Nonviolent Communication'	November 24, 2020	Online University of Kyrgyzstan	In the E-Workshop organized by the Samiti in association with the Online University of Kyrgyzstan on November 24, 2020, the GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu conducting the session talked on how we can enhance our conflict competence through nonviolent communication. He talked on the attitudinal, emotional and behavioural skills needed for conflict competence and the essence of the elements of nonviolent communication in developing these skills.
116	Shri Rahul Jain, PS to Hon'ble Minister of Culture and VC GSDS visited Gandhi Darshan	November 7, 2020	Gandhi Darshan	Shri Rahul Jain, PS to Hon'ble Minister of Culture and VC GSDS visited Gandhi Darshan along with his family on November 7, 2020. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, welcomed the guests who saw 360° Video-Immersive Experience in a Circular Dome and 'Mahatma' having 'Smart Interface for Multiuser Engagement' along with the photographic exhibition <i>My Life is my Message</i> .

117	Representatives from the Election Commission of India visited Gandhi Darshan	November 12, 2020.	Gandhi Darshan	Representatives from the Election Commission of India which included Deputy Election Commissioners, SDM North West Delhi and Central Delhi along with other delegates visited Gandhi Darshan on November 12, 2020. They visited the 360° <i>Video-Immersive Experience in a Circular Dome</i> and 'Mahatma' having 'Smart Interface for Multiuser Engagement'. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan hosted the delegates in Gandhi Darshan. Shri Sachidanand Swamy of the DST, explained them the digital installations that was inaugurated on November 6, 2020 by Dr. Harshvardhan, Union Minister for Science and Technology and Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of Culture and VC GSDS.
118	Shri Mansukh L Mandaviya, Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Independent Charge) visited Gandhi Smriti	November 29, 2020	Gandhi Smriti	Shri Mansukh L Mandaviya, Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (Independent Charge) visited Gandhi Smriti on November 29, 2020 and offered tributes at the Martyr's Column.
119	COVID-19 Health Camp at Vijay Ghat slums	December 5, 15, 19 2020	Vijay Ghat, New Delhi	Health Camp was conducted in the Slum of Vijay Ghat on December 5, 2020. Rapid Antigen and RTPCR tests were conducted for 100 patients by the team of Doctors from UPHC Daryaganj New Delhi.
120	COVID Safety kits distributed in Chhapra, Bihar	December 5, 2020	GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation	GSDS in association with Lupin Human Welfare Organisation Rajasthan and Mahila Vikas Sansthan Basantpur, Chhapra, Bihar distributed the COVID safety kits to the doctors at the city hospital. Social worker Shri Viswas Gautam coordinated the distribution programme on behalf of the GSDS. Dr. Madeshwar Jha Civil Surgeon received the PPE kits, face masks, gloves and oximeter on December 4, 2020.
121	Lecture on Concepts and Dimensions of Nonviolence	December 7, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, BHU	The second lecture in the series was on Nonviolent Communication on December 9, 2020. The GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu focused on the need of nonviolent communication, what was nonviolent communication and how it could be used in our daily lives. He also gave a theoretical orientation on nonviolent communication.
122	Rapid Antigen and RTPCR Tests conducted in Gandhi Darshan	December 8, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Team of Doctors led by Dr. Sunil Minj, In-charge UPHC Daryaganj, conducted the Rapid Antigen and RTPCR tests for the Dharam Gurus and the GSDS officials. The results of 20 persons who were conducted the tests was negative.
123	Religious leaders perform 'Sarva Dharma Prarthana' at foundation stone laying ceremony of new Parliament building	December 10, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Various religious leaders performed the 'Sarva Dharma Prarthana' (inter-faith prayer) on December 10, 2020 at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the new Parliament building. The religious leaders chanted prayers in various languages. Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti facilitated the <i>inter-faith prayer</i> on the occasion.
124	Workshop on UN Human Rights Day	December 10, 2020	GSDS and Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science, Coimbatore	On the occasion of the United Nations World Human Rights Day 2020, School of Political Science and School of Visual Communication, Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science, Coimbatore in association with GSDS organized a virtual workshop on UN Human Rights on the theme "Recover Better: Stand Up for human Rights" on December 10, 2020. The keynote address was delivered by Lordship Justice K. G. Balakrishnan, former Chief Justice of India and former Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India.
125	National Seminar on Swami Vivekananda, Indian Culture and Global Peace	December 11-13, 2020	Society for Social Empowerment and Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi	A three-day national seminar on "Swami Vivekananda, Indian Culture and Global Peace" was organized by Society for Social Empowerment from December 11-13, 2020 by Society for Social Empowerment and Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi. Gandhi Smriti and Drashan Samiti and Choudhury Bansilal University, Bhiwani, Haryana were the knowledge partners. Historians, academicians, authors, writers, spoke on the occasion during different sessions on varied subjects.

126	On-line workshop on "Preservation and Promotion of Ladakhi Art and Craft"	December 11, 2020.	Government Degree College Kargil and GSDS	30 girl students engaged in training and production of ethnic Ladakhi crafts like shawls, embroidery items, decorative items, traditional knitted wear products, etc. took part in the workshop and demonstrated their crafts for the promotion and preservation of indigenous craft. Shri Basant Singh, Former Advisor, GSDS was special guest on the occasion as an expert assessor.
127	Pension Adalat	December 18, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened a "Pension Adalat" in Gandhi Darshan on December 18, 2020 that addressed the grievances of the pensioners regarding their various grievances that included issues regarding the Seventh Pay Commission and others. Pensioners of GSDS joined the meeting both virtually as well as physically.
128	GSDS Peace and Nonviolent lecture by Lord Bhikhu Parekh On How Nonviolent is Gandhi's Nonviolence?	December 18, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	As part of the GSDS Peace and Nonviolent Lecture series, the Samiti organized a lecture on "How Nonviolent is Gandhi's Nonviolence"? on December 18, 2020. Padma Bhushan Lord Bhikhu Parekh delivered the online lecture that was chaired by Prof. Vidya Jain, Convener, Nonviolence Commission, and International Peace Research Association.
129	Fourth Anupam Mishra Memorial Lecture	December 22, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President Harijan Sevak Sangh and Executive Member GSDS was addressing a webinar while delivering the fourth Anupam Lecture series on the theme "Sansthai Narayan Parayan Bane" (Organisations must be oriented towards the greater common good) in Gandhi Darshan on December 22, 2020.
130	Woollen clothes distributed in Tihar CJ-4	December 23, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with Inner Wheel Club of Delhi and Tihar Jail	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with Inner Wheel Club of Delhi...Civil lines Achievers, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad North provided 350 set of warmers to the inmates in Central Jail No 4, Tihar Prisons on December 23, 2020
131	E-workshop on Practicing Nonviolent Communication	December 23, 2020	Institute of Technology and Science, Ghaziabad	450 students, faculty members of Institute of Technology and Science, Ghaziabad took part in an on-line E-workshop on "Practicing Nonviolent Communication" on December 23, 2020. The e-workshop was conducted by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS.
132	Tribute to Justice Vikramaditya Prasad	December 28, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	GSDS staff offered condolence to hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikramaditya Prasad retired Judge of High Court of Jharkhand on December 28, 2020 at a condolence meeting organized in Gandhi Darshan. Justice Vikramaditya died on December 28 at the age of 78 in Ranchi. Well-known for his oratory skills, Justice Vikramaditya Prasad recently delivered the key-note address at a webinar organized by the GSDS on the 71 st anniversary of the Constitution of India.
133	Condolence meeting organised	December 29, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	GSDS staff paid rich tributes to Shri Sri Ram Shastri, father of Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli's Research Associate of GSDS, on December 29, 2020. Dr. Sailaja's father passed away at his native home in Anantpur District in Andhra Pradesh. He was 80. Tribute was also paid to Shri Prayag Mahto, father-in-law of Smt. Rita Kumari, ex GSDS worker. Shri Mahto passed away on December 24, 2020. Further the Samiti also offered their tribute to Smt. Savitri and Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav who passed away on November 21 and 23, respectively.
134	E-Workshop on "Come, Let Us Practice Nonviolent Communication"	December 15, 2020	Herat's Children's Peace Builders Forum, Afghanistan	The Samiti organized an on-line lecture on "Come, Let Us Practice Nonviolent Communication" in Herat Afghanistan in association with Children's Peace Builders Forum Afghanistan on December 15, 2020. Ms. Maleeka Hussaini and Ms. Fatima Haldari from Herat's Children's Peace Builders Forum, Afghanistan took part in the webinar that was conducted by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS.
135	E-Workshop on Human Interconnectedness and Nonviolent Communication	December 23, 2020	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Online University, Kyrgyzstan	As part of the series of E-Workshops with the Online University, Kyrgyzstan, the third e-workshop was organized on December 23, 2020. The theme was Human Interconnectedness and Nonviolent Communication. Conducting the e-workshop, the GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu cited the 2020 Human Development Report which points out that the pressures we exert on the planet have become so great that scientists are considering whether the Earth has entered an entirely new geological epoch: the Anthropocene, or the age of humans.

136	Release of the book 'Making of a Hindu Patriot'	January 1 & 2, 2021.	Centre for Policy Studies and GSDS	Sarsanghchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat was the chief guest in the book release of 'Making of a Hindu Patriot' authored by Dr. Jitendra Kumar Bajaj and Prof. M D Srinivas, published by Centre for Policy Studies in association with Har Anand Publishers.
137	Enhancing Conflict Competence through Nonviolent Communication	January 11, 2021	<i>Women's Peace Builders Network, Cameroon</i>	The programme was chaired by Ms. Adah Mbah Muyang, Coordinator, <i>Women's Peace-builders Network</i> . Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS delivered the key note address.
138	Virtual dialogue on "Understanding Self" on January 12, 2020, celebrating the 158th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda	January 12, 2020	GSDS in association with SABDAM and State Bal Bhawan Assam	Ms. Barnali Chakraborty from the Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari, Assam Prant was the key note speaker on the occasion
139	72 nd Republic Day celebrations in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat	January 26, 2021	GSDS	Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan hoisted the Tricolour and addressed the GSDS staff who took part in the programme with full enthusiasm. He reiterated the concept of ahimsa and truth and called on the people to work towards the promotion of well-being of others and become pro active towards self reliance.
140	Shri Ram Niwas Goel, Hon'ble Speaker Delhi Legislative Assembly visited Gandhi Darshan	January 27, 2021	Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat	Hon'ble Speaker saw the digital exhibition. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan received the distinguished guest and also felicitated him.
141	Commemorating the 73 rd Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi	January 30, 2021	Gandhi Smriti	Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu along with hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the entire nation in paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Harshvardhan; hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice-Chairperson GSDS Shri Prahlad Singh Patel; hon'ble former Vice President Dr. Mohd Hamid Ansari; former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Secretary Ministry of Culture, Shri Raghvendra Singh; Secretary Ministry of Rural Development Shri N N Sinha, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and former VC GSDS, Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi Shri Shrikrishna Kulkarni, Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture, Smt. Nirupama Kotru, artists, former diplomats and others took part in the programme and offered their tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. A two-minute silent tribute was also observed on the occasion.
142	The Dialogical Dimension of Gandhi-Subhash Relationship	January 23, 2021	GSDS in association with KGID, Manipur	GSDS in association with Dr B R Ambedkar University, Delhi University and Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development, Manipur paid a befitting tribute to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his 124th birth anniversary on January 23, 2021. Prof. Salil Misra, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dr. B R Ambedkar University delivered the key note address.
143	Hon'ble Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Government of India visited Gandhi Darshan on	January 27, 2021	Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat	Hon'ble Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Government of India visited Gandhi Darshan on January 27, 2021 and was received and facilitated by Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan. The hon'ble minister also interacted with the children who participated in the 72nd Republic Day celebrations at Rajpath.
144	COVID-19 Health awareness camp in Unnati Girls Rainbow Home, Tees Hazari, Delhi	January 16, 2021	GSDS in association with SDMC	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organised COVID-19 Health awareness camp in Unnati Girls Rainbow Home, Tees Hazari in association with the South MCD. Lab Technician Mr. Ashfaque conducted the RTPCR tests to 36 children from the Home and distributed GSDS-Lupin masks. The Programme organised on January 16, 2021 was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal from GSDS.
145	COVID-19 Health awareness camp	January 21, 2021	GSDS in association with SDMC	COVID-19 Health awareness camp was organized in several places on January 21, 2021. 101 people were tested for RTPCR today in Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM) Daryaganj, Civic Centre, Delhi, Ansari Road Daryaganj and Parda Bagh. GSDS-Lupin Face mask were distributed near DM Officer Parda Bagh by GSDS. Mr. Ashfaque conducted the RTPCR tests. The Programme was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal from GSDS.

146	COVID-19 RTPCR test for GSDS Staff	January 27, 2021	GSDS	COVID-19 RTPCR test was conducted for 150 people by GSDS on January 27, 2021 in association with UPHC Daryaganj as a prelude to the preparation for January 30th 2021 in Gandhi Smriti. Dr. Manju Aggarwal coordinated this test on behalf of GSDS.
147	The fifth international e-dialogue on "Revisiting Gandhian Ethics in Contemporary Era"	January 18, 2021	GSDS	Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS delivered the welcome address; Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, former Vice-Chairperson GSDS who delivered the special address and Dr. Vidya Jain, Convener, Nonviolence Commission, International Peace Research Association (IPRA) and Prof. Lester R. Kurtz, Professor of Public Sociology at George Mason University, U.S.A delivered the key note address. The session also saw two young speakers – Ms. Yen Phoebe Mok Hsin from Soka University, Japan and Shri Vidur Bharatram, Photographer and Film Maker share their perspectives. Dr. N Radhakrishnan, Gandhian thinker, peace-activist, educator and author and Former Director, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti chaired the session.
148	6 th International E-Dialogue on "Promoting Conflict Competence through Gandhian Approach of Communication"	January 20, 2021	GSDS in association with Amity School of Communication	The main agenda of discussion was, the importance of non-violent communication in resolving a conflict. The panel consisted of various speakers such namely, Prof. Simon Howden (Australia), Prof. Drissia Chouit (Morocco), Ms. Elizabeth Katherine Gamarra (Japan), Prof. Fatima Haidari (Afghanistan), Mr. Dipanker Shri Gyan (Director GSDS), Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu (Programme Officer, GSDS) and Dr. Anshu Arora.
149	Covid-19 Health Camps organised	February 3, 2021	Rajghat Bus Depot No 1, Rajghat for the DTC mechanics.	GSDS in association with team of doctors from UPHC Daryaganj organised a health awareness camp at Rajghat Bus Depot No 1, Rajghat for the DTC mechanics. 51 RTPCR tests were conducted on February 3, 2021. Dr. Manju Aggarwal coordinated this event on behalf of GSDS.
150	Gandhi through the eyes of his followers – A Reflection	February 12, 2021	In association with Malviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University (BHU)	Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS spoke on two eminent stalwarts and Gandhian thinkers, Baba Amte and Natwar Thakkar. Titled, "Gandhi through the eyes of his followers. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu reflected on the immense selfless contribution of these stalwarts for the emancipation of the people and the society.
151	Health Awareness programme in Tihar conducted	February 16, 2021	in Central Jail no 4, Tihar Prisons	A health awareness programme was conducted in Central Jail No 4. Dr Manju Aggarwal who conducted the awareness programme, also distributed masks from Lupin Human Research and Welfare Organisation to the inmates.
152	Workshop on 'Peer Mediation: An Approach to Constructive Dispute Resolution	February 18, 2021	In association with Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), SRCASW, a flagship program of MHRD and departments of English and Biochemistry	The main objective of this dialogue was to develop meditation capabilities amongst young people and ensure harmonious transformation of relationships. The eminent speakers of the workshop included: Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS; Mr. Gulshan Gupta, North-east Coordinator, GSDS. During their interaction asked them about the conflicts they face and how they resolved them. Then he explained the importance of peer mediation and how to effectively be a peer mediator. He also discussed the qualities that are necessary for a peer mediator. He very beautifully linked non-violence and peer mediation.
153	Kasturba Gandhi remembered on her 77th Nirvan Divas	February 22, 2021	Gandhi Darshan	As a tribute to Kasturba Gandhi on her 77th death anniversary, Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led the GSDS staff in paying tribute to Kasturba Gandhi in Gandhi Darshan.
154	Tihar inmates pay their tribute to 'Ba' through art	February 22, 2021	Central Jail No 4	GSDS observed the 77th death anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi on February 22, 2021 in association with Tihar Prisons CJ-4 and Inner Wheel Club of Delhi Achievers involving inmates who paid tributes to luminaries of the freedom struggle – Mahatma Gandhi, Kasturba Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhawe through their paintings. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal at CJ-4. 48 inmates from CJ-4 School of Arts took part in the programme.
155	Tributes to Ba pour in from Varanasi	February 22, 2021	Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi	Tribute was paid to Kasturba Gandhi on her 77th death anniversary on February 22, 2021 in Varanasi. Principal of the school, Smt. Anita Singh, teachers and students joined in remembering Ba on her Nirvan Diwas. Songs and prayers marked the occasion.

156	Padmashri Dr. Kailash Madbaiya felicitated	February 27, 2021	In association with Gandhi Global Foundation in Gandhi Darshan	Speakers at the function while speaking of Dr. Kailash Madbaiya mentioned on how he had revived Bundeli literature despite all his administrative engagements, which they felt is incomparable, and an inspiration to lovers of Hindi dialects. A tree plantation programme was also organised on the occasion where Mr. Madbaiya planted a tree in the memory of the freedom fighters Chandrashekhar Azad and Sant Ravidas ji.
157	E-Workshop on "A Journey to Volunteering"	February 27, 2021	Virtual programme in association with Bangabasi Morning College (BMC), Kolkata	The speakers spoke on Volunteering and said that it is all about contributing out of one's own free will. But an effective and responsible volunteer cannot make choices on the fly" and added, "To be a good volunteer, discovering and honoring the self is crucial".
158	<u>SERIES ON DIALOGUE ON MEDIATION</u> Series I – Specialist in Alternative Mechanisms for Conflict Resolution from Peru, Mr. Gustavo Anay Centeno and TEDx Speaker and expert on Peace and Conflict Studies, Ms. Elizabeth Katherine Gararra from Japan were the speakers	February 6, 2021	Virtual organized by GSDS	Discussions on Mediation that it is a process of negotiation which includes a third party and that Mediation can happen both at personal level as well as institutional level. This way is shaped by one's own philosophy, educational background and how one has been formed into a mediator. In order to be a mediator, one needs to let go of many unwanted things in this process.
159	Series II – Executive Director Asia Pacific Centre for Arbitration and Mediation, Delhi, Ms. Iram Majid	February 8, 2021	Virtual organized by GSDS	During her interaction among other things said that "litigation is about who is right whereas mediation is about what is right. Mediation is a way of life. It is about human-human connection and therefore discourages evaluation. The purpose of mediation is to find underlying interests behind the issues.
160	Series III Advocate, Mediator, Conciliator, Golfer and Peacemaker, Shri Vikram Singh took part.	February 10, 2021	Virtual organized by GSDS	He said, "Dispute resolution is best handled within parties themselves. Ego, miscommunication and other such things hamper a dialogue, here mediation comes into play. Mediation is all about conversations centred around circumstances. It is an informal process which can happen anywhere say road, school, park. Mediators need not be trained people but people with mediation mindset.
161	Series IV with internationally acclaimed speaker on 'mediation' and body language, Simon Howden from Australia spoke on a variety of issues on mediation	February 11, 2021	Virtual organized by GSDS	He said, "The mediator's responsibility is to make safe space where people feel that they can deliver and communicate. People often get over educated. Education is merely a tool. It gives you knowledge, but that knowledge needs to be put into practice.
162	Series V with Ms. Roberta Wall, a mediator and a coach in nonviolent communication and conflict resolution	February 11, 2021	Virtual organized by GSDS	She said that at any stage a mediator does not have to know it all. The World today is full of conflict everywhere and mediators must desire to be peaceful communicators".
163	Dialogue with Kyrgyzstan on reflections on peace	February 5, 2021	In association with Online University of Kyrgyzstan	The theme of the dialogue was "Peace Matters" where the following participants presented their ideas. 11 speakers shared their ideas and reflection on the issues. Prof. Elira Turdubaeva, President Online University of Kyrgyzstan coordinated the discussion. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS conducted the session with the participants.

164	Hon'ble President of India inaugurates statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Ram Manohar Lohia and Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya	March 7, 2021	GSDS	<p>Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind virtually inaugurated the bronze statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Ram Manohar Lohia and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya at Belatal Damoh on March 7, 2021. The statues have been sculpted by eminent sculptor Padmashri Shri Ram Sutar and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti initiated the making of the statues and their installation too.</p> <p>The hon'ble President also inaugurated the conservation works at Singorgarh Fort in Damoh district at Madhya Pradesh, and laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of Singorgarh Fort in Singrampur village of Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh. The hon'ble President also addressed the State Level Tribal Conference at Singrampur village in Damoh. The program was organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Tribal Affairs Department of Madhya Pradesh. Shri Ram Nath Kovind also paid floral tributes at the statue of Rani Durgavati in Singrampur village.</p>
165	75 Years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav launched and Dandi Yatra flagged off from Sabarmati by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi	March 12-15, 2021	GSDS in Gujarat	<p>Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi flagged off a symbolic 386-kilometre – 25-day long 'Dandi March' from Ahmedabad, which will culminate on April 6 at Dandi in Navsari district from Sabarmati on March 12, 2021, commemorating the 91st anniversary of the historic Dandi March. Shri Narendra Modi also launched the 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' event on the occasion. The mahotsav will continue till August 15, 2023. India will celebrate the 75th Independence Day on August 15, 2022.</p> <p>The honourable Minister of Culture and Vice-Chairman GSDS Shri Prahlad Singh also began his <i>padyatra</i> (march) on this occasion from Sabarmati to Nadiad. Leading a team of almost 27 volunteers from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti along with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and other officials, and a total of 110 volunteers, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel covered a distance of 75 kilometres before reaching Nadiad. Before reaching Nadiad, he covered places such as Chandola Talav; Aslali, Bareja, Navagam, Wasna, Matar and Dabhan.</p> <p>Participating in the yatra are Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS, Shri Rizwan Ur Rahman, Shri Jagdish Prasad, Shri Arbindo Mohanty, Shri Dilip Kumar, Shri Narendra Kumar, Shri Yatendra Singh, Shri Praveen Dutt Sharma, Shri Piyush Haldar, Shri Vivek Kumar, Shri Deepak Tiwari, Shri Deepak Pandey, Shri Sunil, Shri Naveen, Shri Mahendra Singh, Shri Dharam Pal, Shri Rakesh Sharma, Shri Harendra, Shri Ganesh, Shri Manish, Shri Dhanraj, Shri Manish Kumar, Shri Dharamraj Kumar, Shri Arvind Kumar and Shri Arun Saini.</p> <p>The 75 kilometers Dandi Yatra led by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel culminated at Nadiad. 110 padyatris (foot marchers) from far-flung of the country joined in this Yatra along with Shri Patel. Shri Vijay Ramniklal Rupani, hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat; Member of Parliament from Kheda, Shri Devusinh Chauhan; Member of Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Shri Vikram Singh and others were present at the evening programme that was organised to honour the Yatris.</p>
166	Seminar on Dandi March and 75 years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav	March 12, 2021	Champaran, Bihar	<p>As part of the celebrations to mark the 91st anniversary of the historic Dandi March and the 75 years of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, GSDS in association with Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya Brindaban School at West Champaran organised a seminar on "Satyagraha and Swaraj" on March 12, 2021 at Brindaban, Champaran, Bihar. Shri Sanjay Jaiswal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Bihar and Hon'ble Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly Shri Umakant Singh were the distinguished guests on the occasion. Teachers and students of the school that was established by Mahatma Gandhi took part in the programme very enthusiastically.</p> <p>A padyatra was also taken out by the teachers and students of the school to Babu Kutir. Shri Sanjay Jaiswal and Shri Umakant Singh led the yatra.</p>
167	Ba Ki Rasoi in Gandhi Haat re-opened	March 1, 2021	Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat	<p>Ba Ki Rasoi (the kitchen of Ba or Kasturba Gandhi) was re-opened and inaugurated in Gandhi Haat at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, on March 1, 2021 by Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President, Harijan Sevak Sangh and Member GSDS Executive Committee. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan was also present on the occasion. Dr. Manju Aggarwal too also joined during the inaugural ceremony.</p>

168	National Seminar on Ethics and Truth in Journalism	March 1, 2021	Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) and Delhi Journalist Association (DJA) organised a seminar on “Ethics and Truth in Journalism” (Patrakarita me Satya Sadhana) in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat on March 1, 2021. North Delhi Mayor, Shri Jai Prakash was the chief guest on the occasion. Also present on the occasion were Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Shri Omkareshwar Pandey, senior journalist; Shri Manohar Singh, President, DJA; Shri Amlesh Raju, Senior Journalist, DJA; Shri Manoj Mishra, senior journalist, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS and others from the media fraternity and academics. Chairperson Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) Padma Shri Shri Ram Bahadur Rai joined virtually on the occasion.
169	Seminar on Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave	March 5, 2021	Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat	A seminar on Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave was organised on March 5, 2021 in Gandhi Darshan by Khadi institutions and federations of North Zone jointly with GSDS. The chief guest was Shri Basant Kumar, Member Khadi and Village Industries Commission, North Zone. It was presided over by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan. Shri Laxmi Dass and Shri Mam Chand Sharma also address the gathering. Various from the representatives and office bearers of Khadi institutions also spoke.
170	Masks distributed at UPHC, Daryaganj	March 5, 2021	UPHC Daryaganj (Dispensary) Daryaganj	GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare organisation distributed masks at UPHC Daryaganj (Dispensary) on March 6, 2021 to the team of doctors. Shri Basant Kumar and Dr. Manju Aggarwal were present at the distribution ceremony. Dr. Sunil Minz, Medical Officer In-charge, UPHC Darya Ganj & Sub Centre Vikarm Nagar, South Delhi Municipal Corporation along with Dr. Sheetal, Gynecologist and their team of doctors and nurses received the masks from GSDS.
171	Dialogue on Mediation Part-VI on Neuro-Linguistic-Programming	March 8, 2021	Virtual	The Samiti organised a dialogue on Mediation on ‘Neuro Linguistic Programming’ (NLP) on March 8, 2021. This was sixth in the series of the dialogue which was delivered by Ms. Salony Priya, Director Umeed Counselling and Consulting Services and Consultant with Centre for Cultural Research and Training (CCRT). Ms. Mansi Sharma conducted the dialogue, during which Ms. Saolny Priya spoke on various issues related to NLP and described in details what it actually meant. She said, “‘Neuro’ refers to the neurological system through which experiences are translated into conscious or unconscious thought”; “‘Linguistic’ refers to how people communicate and how language is used to make sense of experiences” and “‘Programming’ refers to the fundamental NLP concept that behaviour and thinking can be coded and consequently reproduced”.
172	Peace Prayer organised	March 10, 2021	Gandhi Smriti	Guild of Services, War Widows Association and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti jointly organised a Peace Prayer in Gandhi Smriti on March 10, 2021. Tributes were offered to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyr’s Column. An inter-faith prayer was organised on the occasion. A pledge to stop violence against women was also administered on the occasion. The pledge was read out by Dr. Vandana Shiva. A campaign “No Silence for Violence” was proposed by the Guild of Services to help bring a change in mindsets. The concepts of universal ideals of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity were reiterated by members present on the occasion. Songs and hymns on empowerment of women marked the occasion.
173	Health Awareness camp conducted Delhi Gate	March 10, 2021	Gandhi Darshan	As part of health awareness programme of GSDS 36 RTPCR Test were conducted at the de-addiction centre at Delhi Gate on March 10, 2021 by team of doctors from UPHC Daryaganj. Free distribution of face mask by GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation was also done. Dr. Manju Aggarwal conducted the camp.
174	Inner Wheel Club of Delhi Achievers and GSDS donate RO water Purifier to UPHC Dispensary, Daryaganj	March 10, 2021	UPHC Daryaganj (Dispensary) Daryaganj	The Inauguration of RO water purifier machine donated by Inner Wheel Club of Delhi Achievers 2020-21 in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti at UPHC Dispensary Daryaganj New Delhi commenced on March 10, 2021 by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Smt. Bindu Sangal, Smt Geeta Shukla, Dr Manju Aggarwal and others in the presence of Dr Sunil Minz and other team of Doctors at a solemn function in Daryaganj. The initiative by GSDS was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal.

175	Felicitation of Padyatris in Gandhi Darshan	March 23, 2021	Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat	Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened a meeting on March 23, 2021 in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat to facilitate the Padyatris of the Dandi Yatra who took part in the Yatra from March 12 to March 15, 2021 from Sabarmati to Nadiad under the leadership of Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice Chairman GSDS after the yatra was flagged off by Shri Narendra Modi, hon'ble Prime Minister while launching the 75 years celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' and marking the 91st anniversary of the historic Dandi March.
176	Free Eye Camp conducted in Tihar CJ-4	March 24, 2021	Central Prisons Tihar CJ-4	A free-eye camp by GSDS was organised in Tihar Central Prisons CJ-4 in association with Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Aggarwal Foundation on March 24, 2021. The camp was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal from Srijan GSDS. Smt. Neelam Sharma and Ms. Asha Rani from GSDS also took part in the camp. Superintendent of Tihar Prisons CJ-4 Shri Rajkumar, Deputy Superintendent Shri Manmohan and Warder Shri Amarjeet were present on the occasion.
177	'Meet the Author' organized	March 24, 2021	Hansraj College, University of Delhi	Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organized a 'Meet the Author' programme in the auditorium of Hansraj College, University of Delhi on March 24, 2021. In this program, senior litterateur Prof. K N Tiwari's book: "Uttar Kabir-Nanga Fakir" was discussed. This book has been published by the GSDS. On this occasion, in his speech Dr. Omprakash said that literature serves as an inspiration for the society. In this book, the author exposes the discrepancies of the country and society through imaginary dialogue of Kabir and Gandhi.
178	Meeting with Pensioners of GSDS	March 31, 2021	Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat	GSDS Director, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened a meeting with pensioners of GSDS on March 31, 2021. 20 pensioners joined the meeting to discuss issues related to the CGHS, seventh pay commission and so on.
179	E-Workshop on Expanding Conflict Competences through Nonviolent Communication	March 1, 2021	Virtual International Programme	The E-Workshop on "Expanding Conflict Competences through Nonviolent Communication" was organized by GSDS on March 1, 2021 in association with Universitat Jaume, Spain, UNESCO and Deep Network. It was conducted by the Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu. He talked on conflict competencies, the Gandhian approach to conflict resolution and nonviolent communication.
180	E-dialogue on Countering Hate Speech through Nonviolent Communication	March 18, 2021	Virtual International Programme	GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu introduced the Gandhian model of Nonviolent Communication to counter the menace of Hate Speech. Prof. Juan Pedro Universidad Complutenses de Madrid, Spain moderated the discussion on March 18, 2021 at the E-dialogue on Countering Hate Speech through Nonviolent Communication in association with Universidad Completeness de Madrid, Spain.
181	Spouse of Commander, Pacific Air Force visited Gandhi Smriti	March 2, 2021	Gandhi Smriti	Mrs Cindy Wilsbach, spouse of Commander, Pacific Air Force, with her team, visited Gandhi Smriti on March 2, 2021. Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli, Research Associate GSDS welcomed the visitors and made a guided tour at the Gandhi Smriti museum.
182	Mayor, South Delhi Municipal Corporation visits Gandhi Darshan	March 4, 2021	Gandhi Smriti	Ms. Anamika Mithilesh, Mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation visited Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat on March 4, 2021. She took keen interest in the exhibitions displayed at the sprawling campus. She was felicitated by the Director (GSDS) Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan.
183	Hon'ble Defence Minister of the Republic of South Korea, Mr. Suh Wook	March 26, 2021	Gandhi Smriti	Hon'ble Defence Minister of the Republic of South Korea, Mr. Suh Wook along with other officials visited Gandhi Smriti on March 26, 2021 and offered their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. A guided tour of the museum was given by Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli, Research Associate, GSDS.
184	Officials from National Defence College visit Gandhi Smriti	March 30-April 1, 2021	Gandhi Smriti	Senior officials from National Defence College paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyr's Column in Gandhi Smriti on March 30 and April 1, 2021. Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli, Research Officer GSDS gave a guided tour to the delegation.



Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

Tributes pour in on Gandhi Jayanti



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi offered rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti on October 2, 2020 on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, commemorating the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and International Day of Non-Violence. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, as per MHA protocol, only 100 invitees attended the programme and paid their tribute to the Father of the Nation. Secretary Ministry of Culture, Shri Raghavendra Singh; Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture, Smt. Nirupama Kotru; granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and former Vice-Chairperson GSDS, Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee also remembered Gandhiji in their own solemn way. Representatives from various Embassies and High Commissions took part in the programme.

The evening prayer meet began by telecasting a short film by Doordarshan Kendra, which was followed by the telecast of an initiative by DDK and GSDS *The*



Hon'ble Union Health Minister Dr. Harshvardhan pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi.



Hon'ble Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee (C) is seen offering tributes to her grandfather Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, as Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Smt. Nirupama Kotru along with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan joins Smt. Bhattacharjee into offering tributes to the Mahatma.

Mahatma in Me (Mujh Me Hai Mahatma) wherein almost 200 video entries were received from across the country on people's understanding of the life, message and philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi on four different categories. The 25-minute documentary featured change ideas from participants of different age groups, young and old besides how they have imbibed the ideals as espoused by Mahatma Gandhi in their daily life.

Inter-faith prayer by leaders from different religious groups such as Buddhism, Christian, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Sikhism, Judaism, Bahai, Shabad Kirtan marked the commemorative programme. Led by senior Gandhian Km. Indu Bala, spinners spun on the charkha during the programme.



Religious leaders from different faiths are seen offering tributes to Mahatma Gandhi during the inter-faith prayer.

Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF representative on behalf of the United Nations in India read out the message of the UN Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres. The extract of the message is as under:

In marking the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, this International Day highlights the remarkable power of non-violence and peaceful protest. It also a timely reminder to strive to uphold values that Gandhi lived by: the promotion of dignity, equal protection for all, and communities living together in peace.

On this year's observance, we have a special duty: stop the fighting to focus on our common enemy: COVID-19. There is only one winner of conflict during a pandemic: the virus itself.



Hon'ble Madam Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF Representative in India is seen offering tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Martyr's Column.

As the pandemic took hold, I called for a global ceasefire. Today we need a new push by the international community to make this a reality by the end of this year. Ceasefires would ease immense suffering, help to lower the risk of famine, and create space for negotiations towards peace.

Deep mistrust stands in the way. Yet I see reasons for hope. In some places, we see a standstill in the violence. A great many Member States, religious leaders, civil society networks and others back my call. Now is the time to intensify our efforts. Let us be inspired by the spirit of Gandhi and the enduring principles of the UN Charter.

Renditions of songs of Saint Kabir, Gurudas, Guru Nanak, Meerabai reverberated in the prayer ground in



Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi greets the religious leaders on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti in Gandhi Smriti.



Padma Shri Pt. Madhup Mudgal is seen rendering the Bhakti Sangeet as a tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti 2021 in Gandhi Smriti. (Photo Courtesy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yti6EweEjSY>)

Gandhi Smriti as Padma Shri Pandit Madhup Mudgal led the bhakti sangeet on the occasion. Favourite hymns of Mahatma Gandhi and Ram Dhun were also sung on the occasion.

Earlier GSDS ensured the safety of the visitors with the involvement of the DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) who carried out disinfection and sanitised the entire Gandhi Smriti campus in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

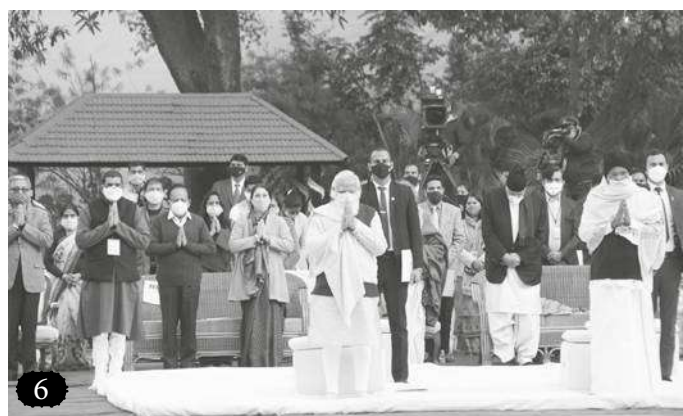


Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan is seen felicitating Padma Shri Pt. Madhup Mudgal with a Charkha.

73rd Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi observed

Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu along with hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the entire nation in paying tributes to Mahatma Gandhi from Gandhi Smriti, the place of Gandhiji's martyrdom on January 30, 2021 commemorating the 73rd Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi. Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Harshvardhan; hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice-Chairperson GSDS Shri Prahlad Singh Patel; hon'ble former Vice President Dr. Mohd Hamid Ansari; former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah; Secretary Ministry of Culture, Shri Raghvendra Singh; Secretary Ministry of Rural Development Shri N N Sinha, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and former VC GSDS, Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi Shri Shrikrishna Kulkarni, Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture, Smt. Nirupama Kotru, senior Gandhian and member KVIC north zone, Shri Basant Singh and east zone Shri Manoj Kumar Singh, Padmashri Kamal Singh Chauhan; artists, former diplomats and others took part in the programme and offered their tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. Earlier during the day, Member of Parliament, Shri Rahul Gandhi offered his tributes to the Father of the Nation in Gandhi Smriti.

Conducted by Shri Narendra Pal Gill, musicians from All India Radio, Delhi offered a musical presentation whereby they performed compositions on *Vande Mataram*, *Vaishnavajana Tau*, *Raag Jog* and *Ram Dhun*.



This presentation was jointly organized by the GSDS and AIR.

Inter-faith prayer by religious leaders from different religions such as Buddhist Prayer (Japanese and Tibetan); Bahai, Christian, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Jainism, Sikh and Hindu offered prayers on the occasion, as spinners were seen spinning on the 'charkha' throughout the programme.

Renowned artist, Padma Shri, Shri Anup Jalota led the *bhakti sangeet* on the occasion with his mellifluous performances of devotional songs on Ram and Krishna including prayers from the Upanishad, Goddess Saraswati and Ram Dhun.

A two-minute silent tribute was also observed on the occasion.

1. *Hon'ble Prime Minister of India pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti.*
2. *Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture & VC GSDS, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel offers homage to Mahatma Gandhi.*
3. *Hon'ble former Vice President of India, Dr. Mohd. Hamid Ansari pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.*
4. *Padma Shri Shri Anup Jalota is seen performing Bhakti Sangeet as a tribute to Gandhiji.*
5. *Artists from All India Radio, Delhi offered an instrumental tribute to the Father of the Nation.*
6. *Silent tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 73rd death anniversary.*



Significant Initiatives

Initiation of on-line free certification program on Nonviolent Communication

The Samiti initiated an on-line free certification programme on Nonviolent Communication on April 2, 2020 for teachers, students of different schools and colleges and people in different services. The course intended towards providing an understanding of the principles of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) highlights the key Gandhian principles of NVC and the applications it emphasises towards adopting a non-violent approach in communication in day-to-day life. The course designed in three modules provided a critical understanding in both theory and practice the process of achieving NVC. Participants of the course are expected to respond by writing their understanding in question-answer format. Till date almost thousands participants from different parts of India have registered for the course.

COIMBATORE

"Mahatma Gandhi was an actionist. For him communication was a key for establishing relationships. Despite many atrocities that he faced during the freedom struggle, Gandhiji never used any harsh or abusive words", said Smt. Nirupama Kotru, Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture, Government of India while **launching the virtual on-line course on "Non-Violent Communication" in Tamil** by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore **on July 20, 2020.**

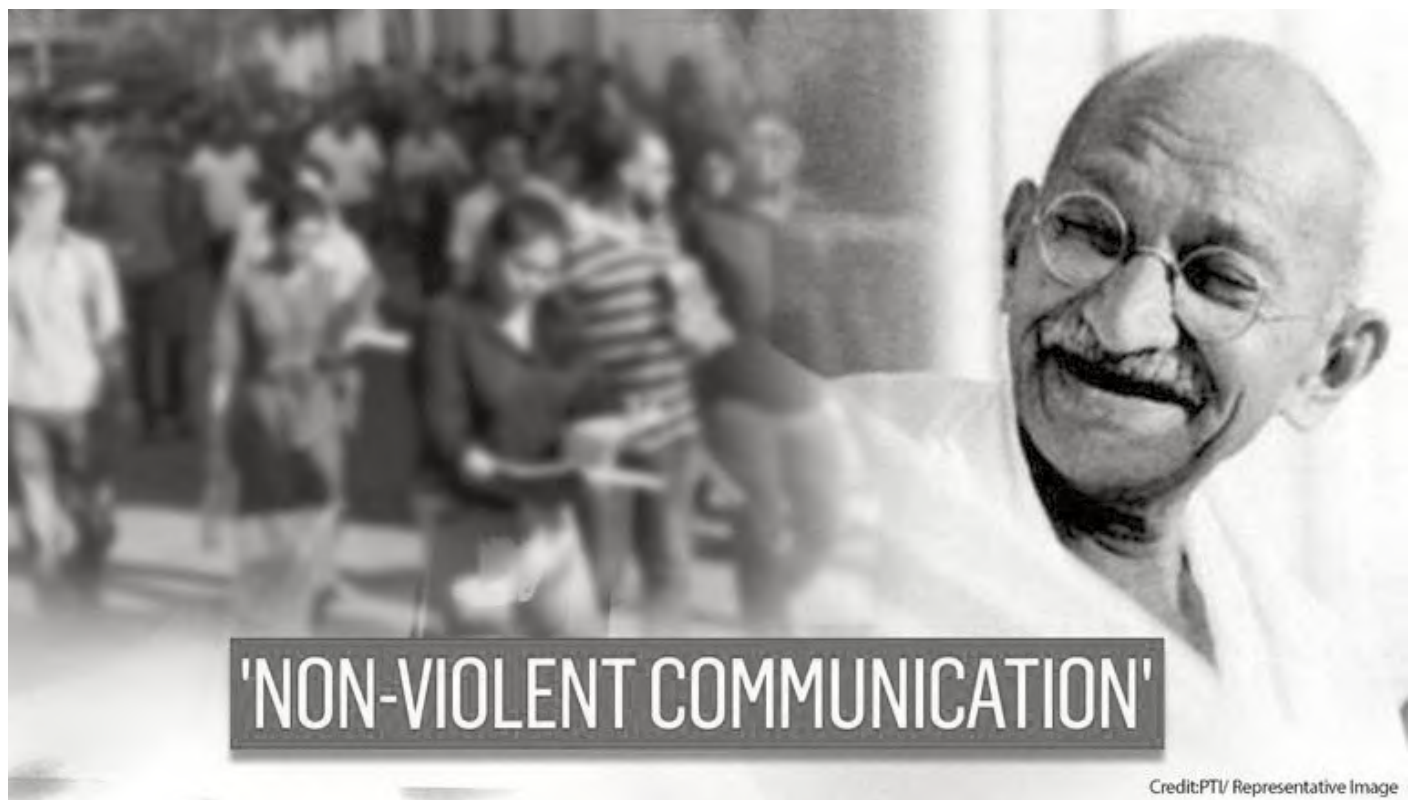
Speaking to almost 163 participants that included people from the academics and students including staff of GSDS, Smt. Nirupama Kotru said, "Mahatma Gandhi shunned any form of violence in his actions. He would go fast unto death to resolve conflicts and curb outpour of violence".

Orientation Course on Nonviolent Communication launched by CBSE across India

In a major initiative to reach out to students, teachers, principals and parents from across the country, the Samiti in association with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), launched its ongoing free online course on nonviolent communication. The Samiti has been running the course since April 2020 and with the collaboration with CBSE it is expected to reach the length and breadth of the country.

The initiative was part of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. CBSE has issued notification to all its affiliated schools across the country. As part of the endeavour, the Samiti will be organizing weekly lectures based on the course for teachers, students and parents.

Already 70,000 participants have enrolled for this course. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS who had structured and developed the entire course is conducting this orientation programme with different schools, universities not only in India, but abroad too.



Digital Exhibition and 360° Video-Immersive Experience in Circular Dome Inaugurated

An interactive digital exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi showcasing his life, his struggle, his visions, and the journey of his transcendence from Mohandas to 'Mahatma' having 'Smart Interface for Multiuser Engagement' and a 360° Video-Immersive Experience in a Circular Dome were inaugurated in Gandhi Darshan

Rajghat on November 6, 2020 by honourable Minister of Science and Technology and Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harshvardhan, along with honourable Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Vice Chairperson Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

The Department of Science & Technology used the tools of Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality (VR &



Honourable Minister of Science and Technology and Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harshvardhan, along with Honourable Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Vice Chairperson Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel at the inauguration of the Digital Dome in Gandhi Darshan.



Honourable Dr. Harshvardhan, along with Honourable Shri Prahlad Singh Patel viewing the 3D exhibition at the Digital Dome in Gandhi Darshan.



Honourable Minister of Science and Technology and Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harshvardhan, along with Honourable Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge) and Vice Chairperson Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel inaugurating the 360 degree video-immersive Digital Dome in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.

AR) for developing the 360° video-immersive experience in a circular dome. The project has been implemented by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. Four films on the life of Mahatma Gandhi (both Hindi & English versions) each of 10-minute duration on *Mohan to Mahatma*; *The Last Phase*; *Freedom from Fear* and *Gandhi Forever* and a combined film of all four have been produced and exhibited. The eight meter Dome, having capabilities of 3D Immersive Experience of events from the life of Mahatma Gandhi, has a capacity of accommodating 40 viewers (seated) or about 60 (standing).

Further, the digital exhibition has 'Smart Interface for Multiuser Engagement' with long multiuser interactive digital touch-screen table (size: around 8x2 feet). Almost six users can use the table (three standing on each side of the long surface) simultaneously and independently. They can also interact among themselves by interacting with and dragging the content pieces. The exhibits also offer interactive and audiovisual experience to each user independently. The soft music in the background provides a soothing experience for the visitors to be engaged with the latest state-of-the-art technology.

The digital exhibition has been granted financial approval by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. It has been conceptualized by Vigyan Prasara, Department of Science and Technology, and implemented by Invoxel Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and Interactive12.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Harshvardhan expressed his pleasure and honour for working on a project on Mahatma Gandhi, whose personality, he said, "is vast". He also shared his experience of visiting the home of Mahatma Gandhi in South Africa and said that "it was a moment of introspection". He said, "It is a very noble and equally big vision of Mahatma Gandhi who always advocated for using science and technology in the interest of the people".

Reiterating the vision of the honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on 'Swachh Bharat Mission' that has changed the thought process of the citizens of the country, Dr. Harshvardhan said, "It is because of the Swachh Bharat Mission, that the country has seen major transformation in taking health and hygiene at a primary level", and added, "The ideas of Mahatma Gandhi on sanitation and cleanliness are everlasting and this

has been the key guiding principles in taking this Mission forward”.

Expressing happiness over the project undertaken by the Department of Science and Technology towards bringing the eternal ideas of Mahatma Gandhi before the general public through the digital medium by this exhibition, Dr. Harshvardhan complimented the DST and GSDS for this successful project and said, “We are achieving glory in the field of science and technology in the whole world”, adding, “Today, we are capable of digitally converting all the memorials in the country”. “It is important that we adopt the Gandhian principles today, instead of just worshipping him”, he concluded.



From Top to Bottom:

1. Hon'ble Dr. Harshvardhan is seen addressing the gathering at the inauguration of the Dome in Gandhi Darshan.
2. Hon'ble Shri Prahlad Singh Patel addresses the gathering.
3. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan is seen addressing the gathering, as, distinguished guests on dais grace the occasion.

Addressing the gathering that included secretaries and joint secretaries from the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Science and Technology, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel said, “While anniversaries and centenary years of great people are celebrated for one year, the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi has been celebrated by the Government of India all across the country for two years adding different dimensions to various projects that have been initiated during this period.”



Hon'ble Dr. Harshvardhan along with hon'ble Shri Prahlad Singh Patel are seen viewing the 3D presentation of Gandhi Smriti in the Dome after the inauguration.

He further added, “We have tried to bring science and culture together under one common umbrella so that we can maximize our reach to youth and make them realize the vividness of this country and at the same time, help them understand the building of this nation by these stalwarts”.

Shri Prahlad Singh further said, “The ideas reflected in the vision of Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya are similar. It is important to realise that these ideas are eternally relevant. It is also equally vital to add new dimensions to them. But we must remember that it is impossible to remove any of those ideas”.

He congratulated GSDS and DST for this achievement and hoped that they will be able to engage the youth of the country in taking the message of peace, nonviolence and gratitude to the future generation.

Earlier Secretary DST, Shri Ashutosh Sharma delivered the welcome address. The vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, who also felicitated the guests on the occasion.

Among others, Shri Raghvendra Singh, Secretary Ministry of Culture, Joint Secretary MOC, Ms. Nirupama Kotru were present on the occasion. Members from the DST led by Shri Sachidanand Swamy also gave a guided tour to the distinguished gathering on the occasion at the ‘360° Video-Immersive Experience in a Circular Dome’ and the ‘Smart Interface for Multiuser Engagement’ digital exhibition.

Religious leaders perform 'Sarva Dharma Prarthana' at foundation stone laying ceremony of new Parliament building

Various religious leaders performed the 'Sarva Dharma Prarthana' (inter-faith prayer) on December 10, 2020 at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the new Parliament building. The religious leaders chanted prayers in various languages. Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti facilitated the *inter-faith prayer* on the occasion.

Amidst chanting of hymns by priests, the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the New Parliament Building in Parliament House Complex. The Prime Minister also unveiled a plaque on the occasion.

According to a release by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the new building is an intrinsic part of the

vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and will be a landmark opportunity to build peoples' Parliament for the first time after independence, one which will match the needs and aspirations of 'New India' in the 75th anniversary of independence in 2022.

"The new Parliament building will be modern, state-of-the-art and energy-efficient, with highly non-obtrusive security facilities to be built as a triangular-shaped building, adjacent to the present Parliament. Lok Sabha will be three times of the existing size and Rajya Sabha will be substantially bigger," the release said.

Among other leaders, Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman foreign Envoys and Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, Industrialist Shri Ratan Tata also attended the ceremony.



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone of the New Parliament Building in Sansad Marg by unveiling the plaque. Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla along with Deputy Chairperson Rajya Sabha, Shri Harivansh joins the inaugural ceremony.



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi is seen addressing a galaxy of distinguished people at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the New Parliament Building on December 10, 2020.



Religious leaders from different faith are seen performing prayers at the inter-faith prayer meet organised on the occasion of the foundation stone laying ceremony of the New Parliament Building. (Photo Courtesy: googleimages).

- **DAMOH, MADHYA PRADESH**

Hon'ble President of India inaugurates statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Ram Manohar Lohia and Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya



Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind (Centre) along with distinguished gathering at the State Level Tribal Conference at Singrampur village in Damoh, where he virtually inaugurated the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Ram Manohar Lohia. Also seen is Hon'ble Shri Prahlad Singh Patel (Right), Minister of Culture, addressing the gathering during the inaugural ceremony.

Hon'ble President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind virtually inaugurated the bronze statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Ram Manohar Lohia and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya at Belatal Damoh on March 7, 2021. The statues have been sculpted by eminent sculptor Padmashri Shri Ram Sutar and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti initiated the making of the statues and their installation too.

The hon'ble President also inaugurated the conservation works at Singorgarh Fort in Damoh district at Madhya Pradesh, and laid the foundation stone for the conservation works of Singorgarh Fort in Singrampur village of Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh. He further inaugurated the newly carved Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India. Hon'ble Madhya Pradesh Governor Her Excellency Smt Anandi Ben Patel, Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) and Vice-Chairperson GSDS, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State for Steel Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste, Madhya Pradesh Minister for Tribal Affairs Department Shri Meena Singh Mandwe and Minister for Urban Development and Housing Department Shri Bhupendra Singh were also present on this occasion.

The hon'ble President also addressed the State Level Tribal Conference at Singrampur village in Damoh. The program was organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Tribal Affairs Department of Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind also paid floral tributes at the statue of Rani Durgavati in Singrampur village.

Addressing the audience, the President said that the welfare and development of the tribal community

is inter-linked to the welfare and development of the entire country. He said that we should work together so that our tribal brothers-sisters get the benefit of modern development without losing their tribal identity. He was happy to note that special emphasis is being laid on construction and operation of Eklavya Model Residential Schools in Madhya Pradesh. For the promotion of literacy and education among tribal girl students, priority is being given to the construction of girls' education campuses in Madhya Pradesh.

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism thanked Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji for inauguration of the conservation program of the Singorgarh Fort.

Thousands of people from far and wide attended this grand event in which women and children also participated in large numbers. They enjoyed the delightful performances during the cultural programs.

- **SABARMATI, GUJARAT**

75 Years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav launched and Dandi Yatra flagged off from Sabarmati

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi flagged off a symbolic 386-kilometre – 25-day long 'Dandi March' from Ahmedabad, which culminated on April 6 at Dandi in Navsari district from Sabarmati on March 12, 2021, commemorating the 91st anniversary of the historic Dandi March. Shri Narendra Modi also launched the 'Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' event on the occasion. The mahotsav will continue till August 15, 2023. India will celebrate the 75th Independence Day on August 15, 2022.



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi is seen flagging off a symbolic 386-kilometre – 25-day long 'Dandi March' from Ahmedabad from Sabarmati Ashram, Gujarat commemorating the 91st anniversary of the Dandi March. Shri Narendra Modi also launched the 75 years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav on the occasion.



Hon'ble Minister of Culture and VC GSDS, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel led the padyatris on this occasion from Sabarmati to Nadiad with a team of 110 volunteers, covering a distance of 75 kilometres from Sabarmati Ashram to Nadiad during which he visited the places which Gandhiji had visited during the Salt March of 1930.

The honourable Minister of Culture and Vice-Chairman GSDS Shri Prahlad Singh also began his padyatra (march) on this occasion from Sabarmati to Nadiad. Leading a team of almost 27 volunteers from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti along with Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and other officials, and a total of 110 volunteers, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel will cover a distance of 75 kilometres before reaching Nadiad. Before reaching Nadiad, he covered places such as Chandola Talav; Aslali, Bareja, Navagam, Wasna, Matar and Dabhan.

Participating in the yatra were Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS, Shri Rizwan Ur Rahman, Shri Jagdish Prasad, Shri Arbindo Mohanty, Shri Dilip Kumar, Shri Narendra Kumar, Shri Yatendra Singh, Shri Praveen Dutt Sharma, Shri Piyush Halder, Shri Vivek Kumar, Shri Deepak Tiwari, Shri Deepak Pandey, Shri Sunil, Shri Naveen, Shri Mahendra Singh, Shri Dharam Pal, Shri Rakesh Sharma, Shri Harendra, Shri Ganesh, Shri Manish, Shri Dhanraj, Shri Manish Kumar, Shri Dharamraj Kumar, Shri Arvind Kumar and Shri Arun Saini.



A glimpse of the Dandi Yatra from Sabarmati to Dandi by the Padyatris in Gujarat led by Hon'ble Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

Before the padyatra commenced, Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan cheered up the volunteers from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and narrated them about the importance of the Dandi Yatra and asked them to participate with full determination enthusiasm in the interest of nation-building and to remember the martyrs.

The Yatris led by Hon'ble Minister of Culture and VC GSDS Shri Prahlad Singh Patel started from Sabarmati Ashram, passing through Aslali and reached Jaitalpur,

where he offered his salutations to Lord Swami Narayan at the Swami Narayan Dham (Mandir) and also sought the blessings of Rev. P.P.Swamiji, the Mahant of the Dham. He then reached Bareja on Day two. It was at Navagam, where Gandhiji had also halted her on March 13, 1930 during his epic Salt Satyagraha that the padyatris had halted on March 13, 2021. Shri Devusinh Chauhan, hon'ble Member of Parliament from Kheda Gujarat also joined Shri Prahlad Singh Patel here.



Glimpses from the Dandi Yatra from Sabarmati to Dandi led by Hon'ble Shri Prahlad Singh Patel along with the Padyatris and team from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti.

On March 14, as the yatris led by the Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C) and Vice Chairperson GSDS Shri Prahlad Singh Patel left from Navagam Dharamshala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, honourable Shri Giriraj Singh joined the yatris on the occasion. They reached the Primary School of Govindpura, where in 1930 Mahatma Gandhi had stayed, where a grand welcome was given by the locals to the padyatris. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel offered tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi.

Travelling through the pious land of Gujarat the padyatris reached Vashna (Vasna) Bujarg by the evening.

The yatra then proceeded towards Matar, a village, where Mahatma Gandhi had halted during the night of March 14, 1930 and where he led a prarthana sabha. Here an inter-faith prayer organised at Shri Natarwal Chottalal Parik Sarvodaya Vinay Mandir in Matar village. Here Shri Prahlad Singh Patel along with other dignitaries, were given a warm welcome.

Addressing the gathering that included the yatris besides many other people from the Matar Village, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel said that there is a need to rededicate ourselves to the cause of nation and live our dreams of making India strong, vibrant and self-reliant.

A drama on 'Salt Satyagraha' and a musical presentation were other highlights of the evening programme on March 14, 2021.

The fourth day of the Dandi Yatra began in the morning from Matar on March 15, 2021. At Matar, the sight of children and women showering rose petals on the padyatris led by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel brought in tears of joy to many eyes as they proceeded on their journey from Matar to Dabhan.

On route to Nadiad, the Yatris reached Dabhan Dharamshala via Sokhra, Sandhana, Palana, Davra. It was in Dabhan Dharamshala that Gandhiji had also rested during his epic 1930 march to Dandi. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel thereafter led the Padyatra from Dabhan for Nadiad.

The yatris then reached New English School & C B Patel Arts College in the late afternoon of March 15, 2021. Local Artists through a rich colourful presentation of the art and culture of Gujarat, the land of saints and seers and of Mahatma Gandhi, extended their greetings to Shri Prahlad Singh Patel as he led the Padyatris to Patel Chowk where a grand welcome was given to the Union Minister of Culture and VC GSDS along with the Yatris. It was at Patel Chowk in Gujarat where Mahatma Gandhi had halted and addressed the gathering during his epic Dandi March of 1930.

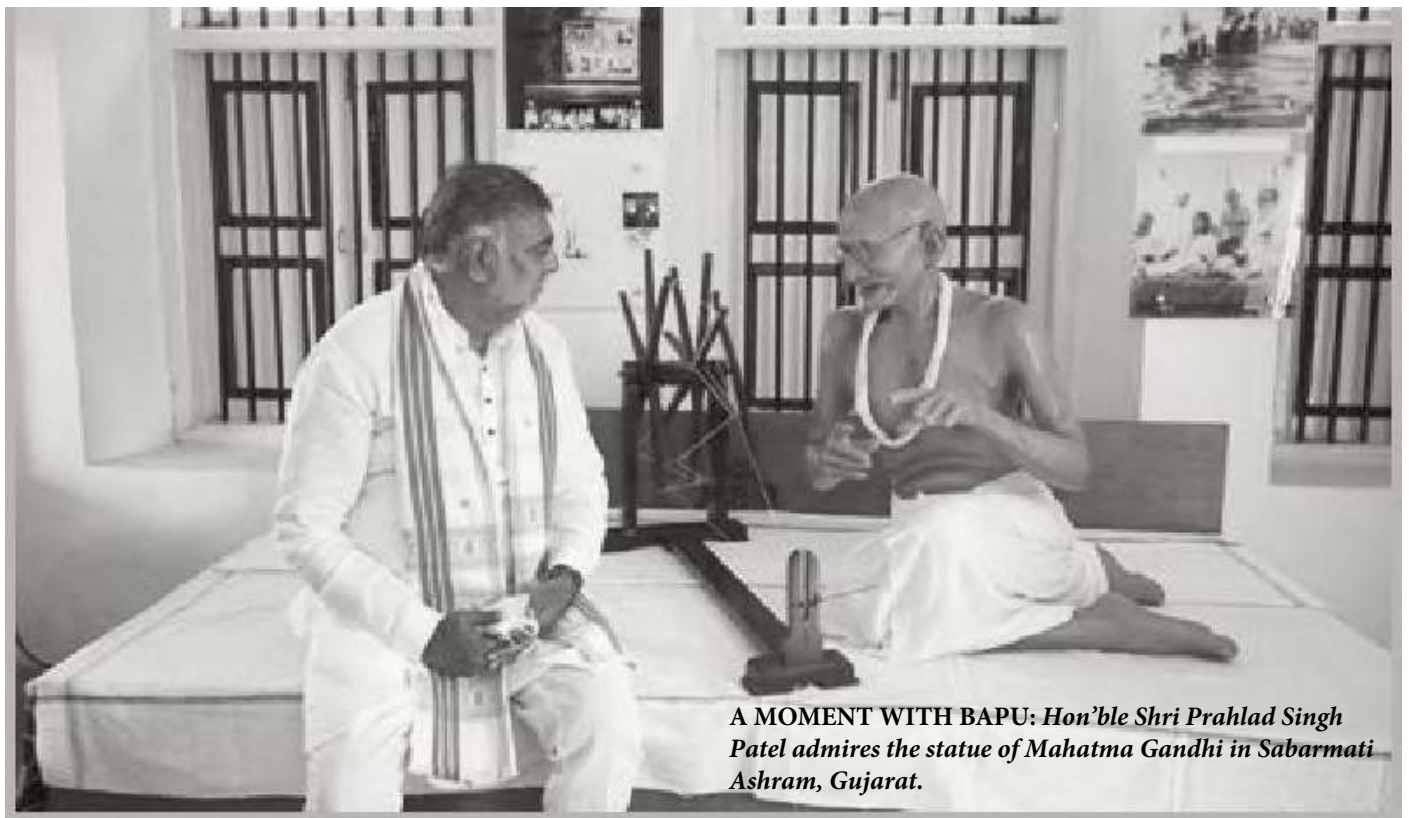
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijay Ramniklal Rupani also marched along from here with Shri Prahlad Singh Patel for the culminating point at Shree

Santram Samadhi Sthan (Santram Mandir). The holy room of the Santram Mandir in Nadiad, Gujarat is the place where Mahatma Gandhi had stayed on 15 March 1930.

Here the 75 kilometers Dandi Yatra led by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel culminated. 110 padyatris (foot marchers) from far-flung of the country joined in this Yatra along with Shri Patel. Shri Vijay Ramniklal Rupani, hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat; Member of Parliament from Kheda, Shri Devusinh Chauhan; Member of Legislative Assembly, Hon'ble Shri Vikram Singh and others were present at the evening programme that was organised to honour the Yatris.



Hon'ble Shri Prahlad Singh Patel is seen addressing a huge congregation of Yatris at the culminating point at Shree Santram Samadhi Sthan (Santram Mandir), as he is joined by Hon'ble Shri Vijay Ramniklal Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat (Second from Right) and other distinguished guests on dais.



A MOMENT WITH BAPU: Hon'ble Shri Prahlad Singh Patel admires the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Sabarmati Ashram, Gujarat.

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel also addressed a huge congregation of the yatris who marched along with him as well as the general public who attended the concluding ceremony. The Union Minister of Culture thanked everyone for their sincerity dedication and commitment and asked them to contribute their services for the development of the nation.

The Yatra, however, continued further led by many other leaders which included chief ministers of different states, members of Parliament local leaders, and others culminated at Dandi on April 6, 2021.

- **CHAMPARAN, BIHAR**

Seminar on Dandi March and 75 years of Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav



(Above): Shri Sanjay Jaiswal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Bihar and Hon'ble Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly Shri Umakant Singh offered their tributes to statue of Gandhiji at Bapu Kutir.

(Below): Shri Sanjay Jaiswal and Shri Umakant Singh led the padyatra from the Buniyadi Vidyalaya to Bapu Kutir, as participants joined with great enthusiasm.



Hon'ble Shri Sanjay Jaiswal, and Hon'ble Shri Umakant Singh are seen engaged in a discussion with the participants during the programme in Champaran.

As part of the celebrations to mark the 91st anniversary of the historic Dandi March and the 75 years of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav, GSDD in association with Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya Brindaban School at West Champaran organised a seminar on "Satyagraha and Swaraj" on March 12, 2021 at Brindaban, Champaran, Bihar. Shri Sanjay Jaiswal, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Bihar and Hon'ble Member of Bihar Legislative Assembly Shri Umakant Singh were the distinguished guests on the occasion. Teachers and students of the school that was established by Mahatma Gandhi took part in the programme very enthusiastically.

A padyatra was also taken out by the teachers and students of the school to Bapu Kutir. Shri Sanjay Jaiswal and Shri Umakant Singh led the yatra.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Jaiswal reiterated the contributions of the freedom fighters and the role of Mahatma Gandhi who had inspired an entire generation to lead non-violent protest in their struggle against the British.

He further evoked the spirit of the historic Champaran Satyagraha and called Champaran as the *karambhumi* of Mahatma Gandhi. He also emphasised on the important role the teachers play in shaping the child's overall personality and how they could render their services to the nation.

He further necessitated the need for the contribution of the teachers and students of the Vidyalaya in the celebrations of the 75 years of Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav.

GSDS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR GANDHIAN STUDIES AND PEACE RESEARCH



*Creating
Connectivity*

International Programmes

E-Dialogue on 'Increasing visibility of women in conflict resolution, negotiations and mediation'

Women are the reservoir of moral force, love and compassion – Vidya Jain

An International e-dialogue was organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on June 13, 2020 on "Increasing visibility of women in conflict resolution, negotiations and mediation". Dr. Vidya Jain, former SG APPRA & Convener, Nonviolence Commission, IPRA (International Peace Research Association); Dr. Bernadette Muthien, Facilitator, Researcher and Poet in South Africa founder of African Peace Research Association; Prof. Matt Meyer, Co-Secretary General, IPRA; Prof. Janet Gerson, (Peace Educator) Education Director, International Institute on Peace Education and Ms. Dinah Lakehal, Programme Officer, Global Network of Women Peace-builders were the key speakers. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS moderated the session. The e-dialogue underlined that voice of women and their rights are equally important. 105 participants from different countries, which included academics, writers, social activists, pioneer of women movement in the USA, youth from different universities and others.

Beginning the session with his welcome address, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan spoke on the patriarchy society and domestic issue in a day to day life of women, focussing on the need to increase the visibility of women in this era. While speaking about society that has recognized male as mediators, he said that even in the most conflict zones, it is women who have come to the forefront for restoration of peace dialogues.

In her address, Dr. Vidya Jain spoke on how the role of women has emerged from traditional era to modern era also emphasizing the issue of sexual harassment against women and the need to address them during this hour. She said that through non-violence, "We can build bridges of understanding and reconciliation. With peace in our minds and souls, we can build our common future", adding, "The need today is to actively think, analyze and participate in several transnational alliances to create a culture of peace".

While terming 'patriarchy as a bigger virus than Coronavirus', Dr. Jain said that masculinity is more toxic than COVID-19 and said that of all the inequalities in terms of caste, class, race, religion, "The most comprehensive and pervasive of all inequalities is of gender. These profound inequalities extend to every aspect of life, nutrition, education, livelihood, leisure, etc within homes and at work places".

Calling "Women as the reservoir of moral force, love and compassion", Dr. Jain said that women can be very good at persuasion and negotiation. "These qualities were redefined and remodeled by Mahatma Gandhi who in fact desired universalisation of these so-called womanly traits of care, compassion and patience", and added that "Gandhi constructs a new woman who has compassion and courage; who is caring, but firm and who has the moral force to protect any attempt made on her chastity and honour. He creates a woman as powerful as Kali and Durga who by her own resolute will fight for her future".

Dr. Bernadette Muthien spoke on the violence against women and how they are battling it each day. She also emphasized on cultural, social, political violence against women. "As an individual we all need to make a community for women that provide them quick redressal to their problems", she said. Addressing issues ranging from conflict, peace and violence, she highlighted both structural violence, direct violence as well as cultural violence. She said, "These concepts of peace by our favourite peace gurus were previously used by, among others, Martin Luther King in his 1953 "Letter from a Birmingham Jail", in which he wrote about "negative peace which is the absence of tension" and "positive peace which is the presence of justice." Even earlier, Jane Addams' *Newer Ideals of Peace* of 1907 speaks to this topic".

She also dealt with sex and gender in details and further underlined the segmenting role of state vs

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi

International E-Dialogue
Increasing the Visibility of Women
in Conflict Resolution, Negotiations and Mediation

June 13, 2020, 8.30 p.m. (IST), 5 p.m. (SAT), 11 a.m. (EDT)

Chair by:
Vidya Jain
Former SG APPRA & Convener, Nonviolence Commission, IPRA

Bernadette Muthien
facilitator, researcher and poet in South Africa.

Matt Meyer
Co-Secretary General, International Peace Research Association

Janet Gerson
Education Director, International Institute on Peace Education

Dinah Lakehal
Program Officer, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

For Registration: <https://forms.gle/opnAyPDnkXJvftqg9>

/gsdsnewdelhi

community and called for understanding the role played by what she called, 'ordinary women who are battling life in the open amidst challenging circumstances and working towards peaceful reconciliation. She said, "It is these ordinary women on the Cape Flats, dodging gangster bullets eking subsistence, women mediating between the army supposed to combat gangsterism, but sometimes abusing residents, between deadly gangs who are in economic and power struggles variously, between extractive religious leaders who care only about enriching themselves rather than supporting the community, communities dealing with a pandemic like covid19, combating poverty inequality and unemployment. These, as Betty Reardon has pointed out, are our everyday heroes or sheroes, our ordinary peacemakers, these women struggling for survival among so much unspeakable violence. It is they who deserve the accolades, the salaries and benefits, the peace prizes and cash, the support and celebration. For, it is these usually unsung women who comprise the state, who comprise the international, who populate the planet, who need us the most".

It is these ordinary women on the Cape Flats, dodging gangster bullets eking subsistence, women mediating between the army supposed to combat gangsterism, but sometimes abusing residents, between deadly gangs who are in economic and power struggles variously, between extractive religious leaders who care only about enriching themselves rather than supporting the community, communities dealing with a pandemic like covid19, combating poverty inequality and unemployment.

In conclusion, Dr. Bernedette said, "When violence is perpetrated, not only the victim of violence suffers. The perpetrator is brutalised before committing violence and through their very acts of violence. Witnesses to the violence also suffer of vicarious trauma. So, all of society suffers when violence is perpetrated. No one is immune from violence. Yet everyone benefits from peace". She further quoted what President Thomas Sankara of Burkina Faso once said: "We do not talk of women's emancipation as an act of charity or because of a surge of human compassion. It is a basic necessity for the triumph of the revolution. Women hold up half the sky."

Prof. Matt Meyer emphasized on Gandhian studies as women peace builder, and constructing institutions for women for their growth and more participation and women leaderships. "Women in conflict resolution of view from the invisible eyes" stated with various case studies the role of women in peace building and reiterated the necessity of what he said, "How to truly increase visibility in more than simply a tokenistic manner". Referring to Smt. Ela Gandhi granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and former African National Congress member and Member of Parliament, Prof. Matt said that Mahatma Gandhi believed that working at grassroots "Trains one in democracy to consult to value opinions of the people not to have a judgment not to make

up your mind in drawing-room or something else to go out to the community and experience what the community is experiencing to work with them to listen to what they are saying that is the one way we can really make a difference to empower of communities and educate them", for this would enable people to govern and empower women with skills and much greater opportunities.

Further referring to the African liberation movements, Prof. Meyer said, "All the research all the scientific evidence accumulated especially over the last decades points to the clear and simple fact that women peace-builders engaged at all levels of conflict resolution negotiation mediation and building alternative institutions and constructive programs". He also spoke about the significant contribution of Mozambican Leader Graça Machel in Minister of Education of her own post independence Mozambique and as in some ways the key mobilizer of a global consciousness around the right of children and youth to not be conscripted, to not be engaged and to not be forced into armed conflict. So looking at women and of course looking at women and children and youth has been a center point of Graca's leadership which even the United Nations took cognizance of in its outlook at conflict and violence and war.

Prof. Meyer also shared stories of women leaders – from Ana Garcia, who's intellectual work on BRICKS the new sub imperialist sub-regional Brazil Russia India China and South Africa; to some of the work of indigenous women and women leaders in Mexico the Zapatistas and others to stories of women from Kashmir to a new cutting edge network developing of people from occupied territories sharing resources and stories the women of occupied West Papua and Western Sahara – who are leading new generations of new movements looking at the connections between means and ends advocating tactics of civil resistance in the face of structural institutional interpersonal and all forms of violence. He also specifically mentioned about Dr. Betty Reardon, who taught him that his job as peace researcher and activists was not just to resolve conflict "but rather to foment creative conflict especially for the empowerment of young women and for an end to the war against the earth known as the climate crisis". He also shared his inputs on the movement in the US against the death of a Black citizen and called for many other women to push towards visibility and also to actual power for urgent positive social political and environmental change.

Dr. Janet Gerson, spoke upon the motto of conflict resolution and how we can overcome this in a more harmonic way without dominating other person's view. She called upon people to join peace initiatives as a nonviolent peace builder and join the community of global civil society peace-builders. She spoke her role as a woman, how she was raised to be, what she termed as 'good wife' and how to be 'beautiful and graceful' and she had refused to be the property of a man and therefore, "We thousands and thousands of women actually disrupted

this view by working together by helping each other in communication in conversation we could talk about our feelings our thoughts and we could strategize for actions and we could support each other in those actions and in that way we opened up the place for women in many dimensions”, adding, “We practiced dialogue, community building and we practiced thinking together and learning from and with each other in relation to challenging the problems that we were facing and worked for conflict resolution”.

Dr. Janet further emphasized on rewriting stories of conflict and reframing conflicting dialogues. She said, “The idea was how can we be nonviolent and work out problems without dominating, yelling, pounding, eliminating the other person’s view; how can we or I would say conflict resolution is a practice of rewriting the story of a conflict, to reframe one person or one group or one community against another – me against you and him against or her – we reframe the story through discussion and dialogue and open listening and identifying what we have in common and how we’re interconnected and bring our resourcefulness, our limits and our capacities to challenge the existing conflicting situations to dialogue and mediation”.

She also mentioned about Dr. Betty Reardon who she said has been very active in challenging the idea that only governments can speak and has been instrumental in shaping policies related to human rights issue at the United Nations and the treaty called the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women that came into force. While reiterating the fact that many battles have been won at international platforms on ensuring security for women against any form of violence, Prof. Janet said that “These are not battles that are simply won, these are not conflicts that are simply resolved, but their ongoing struggles that take constant vigilance... they take the skills of community building, of dialogue, negotiation, mediation, conflict resolution and at the UN level the global international or global civil society level they take deliberation in using all those skills for policy negotiation, policy formulation and decision-making and strategy organizing to move forward”.

Dr. Dinah Lakehal, programme officer ,global network of peace builders said that gender inequality is the key driver of conflict, if we think of changing others then that change must come from within and this will happen by building women stronger be it politically, structurally, culturally, economically, so that future generations won’t have to experience these conflicts and inequality that they have been part of and much more involvement if women in peace building processes, sustainable peace has to be inclusive of our diversities and communities.

Dr. Dinah while speaking of her global network of woman peace builders said that her organization is an international coalition of more than 100 women’s rights organizations and civil society from over 40

different countries who are experienced in conflict or humanitarian crises we work to build equal resilient and peaceful commune and we work with the UN with governments other international organizations. She pointed out that while the UN this year is celebrating its 75th anniversary, 75 years ago the UN was tasked with promoting international peace and security along with human rights and development. But “It was only 20 years ago after the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security that it was formally recognized that women experienced war and conflict differently; that conflict had an inordinate impact on women on young women and on girls; that it exacerbated gender inequalities across the board and in every way possible by excluding and marginalizing women socially, politically, economically, culturally; that sexual violence and rape was used as a tool of war; that there were higher rates of illiteracy for women and girls with increasing numbers in forced and child marriages; that there are over representations of women and girls in refugee and international and internally displaced populations to name a few of the outsized impacts of conflict that that women face”.

These are not battles that are simply won, these are not conflicts that are simply resolved, but their ongoing struggles that take constant vigilance... they take the skills of community building, of dialogue, negotiation, mediation, conflict resolution and at the UN level the global international or global civil society level they take deliberation in using all those skills for policy negotiation, policy formulation and decision-making and strategy organizing to move forward.

She also said that while the Security Council is the body that adopted 1325, “It was actually a product of women led civil society organizations who have been championing this long before the Security Council adopted it on paper and while the Security Council sits in the comfortable chairs and chambers, it’s really grassroots women’s rights or organizations and civil society who are breathing life into these (WPS) women peace and security resolutions; it’s local women who are translating the resolutions into necessary actions on the ground who are using them as instruments to demand participation and leadership and decision-making and conflict prevention and peace building so that future generations will not experience the war and conflict and inequality that they themselves experienced”.

Dr. Dinah further lamented that the work of grassroots women’s rights organizations and peace building organizations is not sufficiently recognized or supported by governments by international organizations including the UN by the media and sometimes even by academics. She said, “We now have more and more evidence of the link between gender inequality and conflict”, adding, “Gender inequality is one of the key

drivers of conflict and at the same time gender equality is a key driving force of peace. We have overwhelming empirical evidence that women's participation and peace processes have a positive impact on peace and security and on the durability of peace agreements. Sustainable peace has to be inclusive and reflect the needs and priorities and realities of the diversity of participation of women from all sectors".

She concluded by pointing the necessity to look beyond just numbers and the physical presence of women in the room and said, "Instead we have to define meaningful participation as direct substantive and formal inclusion of diverse women in positions of power that can influence the outcome of negotiations and other processes as well as their implementation", and added that "Enabling meaningful participation requires valuing and legitimizing the work of diverse women and creating and safeguarding the opportunities for them to speak for themselves rather than to be spoken for consultations and that women must be given the opportunity to set and shape agendas and experience the tangible benefits of their engagement meaningful participation".

Founder and director of the Peace Education Center and Peace Education Graduate Degree Program at Teachers College, Columbia University Dr. Betty Reardon, a leader in peace education and a scholar in human rights education and a mentor to many leading women activists, shared her experiences on the occasion and expressed her hope and delight on one of the first ground-level was within the church movement which she said, "Like all institutions was infected with patriarchy". She further added, "It is wonderful to see the depth and variety of positions and the richness of substance of young women who are doing the work of 1325 to the young women who are in our streets during these past weeks and to the young women who brought the climate crisis to the conscious of the whole world".

Enabling meaningful participation requires valuing and legitimizing the work of diverse women and creating and safeguarding the opportunities for them to speak for themselves rather than to be spoken for consultations and that women must be given the opportunity to set and shape agendas and experience the tangible benefits of their engagement meaningful participation.

The international E-dialogue concluded with a poem on "Peace" by Ms. Rumana from Pakistan on Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King.

E-Conference on "Why Human Interdependence Matters today to fight Global Environment Crises"

The GSDS' in association with Noble International University (USA) organised an international E-conference

on "Why Human Interdependence Matters today to fight Global Environmental Crises" on June 20, 2020 with the following key speakers – Padma Shri Shri Ashok Bhagat, Founder Secretary Vikas Bharati Bishunpur, Jharkhand; Prof. Dr Roger Hansell, President Noble International University (USA); Prof. Dr. Biswajit (Bob) Ganguly, Chancellor & CEO Noble International University (NIU) (USA), President & CEO Noble Institution for Environment Peace (Canada) and Prof. Dr. Marijo Readey, Dean of Studies, NIU, USA. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan inaugurated the E-conference. 50 participants from in and around the world took part in the discussion. Prof. Tanima Bhattacharjee from Noble University along with Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu Programme Officer GSIDS moderated the session.

Giving his welcome address, Shri Dipanker Shri Gya, Director GSIDS said that the pandemic has, what he called, "Given us opportunity to connect to the world, understand their culture and traditions and evolve our knowledge base". He also looked at the positive side that the pandemic has brought back to the environment, which he said has started rejuvenating. He further called for protection of the environment which is now a greater challenge before humankind. Saying that mankind has destroyed environment for their greed, he cautioned, "If the environment gives back in its severity, it will be difficult for humankind to survive".

Addressing the gathering, Padmashri Shri Ashok Bhagat who chaired the session spoke about protection of natural resources as the most essential element and criteria for survival of all the species of Earth, especially human beings. He said that the COVID -19 pandemic has disturbed the entire world, but people in villages because of their self sustaining spirit are fighting the pandemic because of their strong belief in Nature and natural resources which they have protected over the years. He said, "Human beings are social animals who cannot survive sans community. Interdependence forms a natural part of our existence. Before the pandemic we had taken this interdependence for granted. Now self-realization has crept in and we are revisiting these interdependences in such uncertain and testing times".

He also spoke of environmental crisis, which he said, "Are unpredictable and often results in revisiting, analyzing, restructuring and strengthening human interdependence", and added that "The current global crisis presents a crucial opportunity to discuss the broad spectrum of interrelated rights issues and how they may be understood and reconciled".

While pointing to the work his organization Vikas Bharti has been undertaking for over three decades with the Tribals by adopting the strategy of going back to the people, living among them, learning from them, working and planning with the same people and start learning by doing, Shri Ashok Bhagat emphasised the importance

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi
(International Centre of Gandhian Studies and Peace Research)

International E- Conference
Why Human Interdependence matters today to fight Global Environment Crises.

June 20, 2020, 08.30 P.M (India), 08 A.M (USA), 11 A.M (Canada)

Chair By-
Padma Shri Ashok Bhagat
Founder Secretary, Vikas Bharati, Bahunpur, Jharkhand

Prof. Dr. Roger Hansell
President Noble International University (USA)

Prof. Dr. Biswajit (Bob) Ganguly
Chancellor & CEO Noble International University (USA), President & CEO Noble Institution for Environmental Peace (Canada)

Prof. Dr. Marijo Readey
Dean of Studies, Noble International University (USA)

Registration Link ⇨ <https://rb.gy/zivzqk>

www.niuniversity.org www.niep.ca [@gdsnewsdelhi](#)

of building community faith on traditional practices, promoting indigenous knowledge systems and publicizing them at the community level.

He concluded by pointing that “The Pandemic, one of many collective-action problems facing humankind has shown that it is non-existential dangers, but rather everyday economic activities that reveal the collective, connected character of modern life” and called upon the people to leave the Tribals and their forests untouched to protect the environment.

Inventor Scientist Prof. Dr. Biswajit (Bob) Ganguly shared his ideas of green technology and other work that Noble International University USA has been undertaking as part of their research towards environmental protection. A person who created the concept of ‘Environmental Peace’ with his colleague Professor Roger I.C Hansell at the University of Toronto, Prof. Ganguly spoke of the various applied technologies he and his team had developed in the field of ‘environmental pollution control’, to protect this planet. He further spoke of his inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Teresa in erst while Calcutta and Sir Joseph Rotbalt in London. Calling that his mission is to promote the concept of ‘environmental peace’ around the world, Prof. Ganguly referred to the vision of Swami

Vivekananda also and said, “We have to unite all together with all technologies to fight the environmental crisis and also raise the consciousness amongst humankind that we have no alternative planet”.

Echoing the sentiments of Shri Ashok Bhagat, Prof. Dr. Marijo Readey highlighted the key structures of the society. In her presentation titled: “Animal Behaviour, Human Competition, Human Cooperation and Mixed Hope for Compassion for our Mother Earth” Dr. Readey presented different dimensions ranging from the dichotomies of I and Thou to the parables of odd and even. In presenting through different situational analysis, she said that “The gift of science is revision and at times even new experiment leads to odd reactions”.

Dr. Readey further highlighted the ideas of the origin of violence and pointed to the psychological, physiological, sociological and political ideas about the root causes of violence and said, “When someone thinks he or she has an idea about the causes, and is ready to publish something, the exception to the rule comes up and

The Pandemic, one of many collective-action problems facing humankind has shown that it is non-existential dangers, but rather everyday economic activities that reveal the collective, connected character of modern life.

therefore we have to go back, do more research”. She also spoke about the behaviourists approach and pointed to the cross-generational history (evolutionary history) of the behaviour and what developmental processes (physical and psychological) shaped the behaviour, including the adaptive advantage of the behaviour and also discussing why it is maintained and not eliminated from a population?”

Dealing into the I-Thou dichotomy, Dr. Readey said, “Like our nocturnal roaches, humans everywhere seem to divide the world into ‘us’ and ‘them’ sometimes with fuzzy borders between groups”, adding, “When we find those cultural traits that are universal or near universal, it’s like finding the nocturnal roaches; there may be exceptions, but there’s a definite trend suggesting there is some hardwiring for the behaviour or categorization process”.

Terming peace, love and joy as lofty goals for humankind, she said that “They are the ones that have proven elusive for our species and strangely virtually everyone claims that they want peace. However, most of us also suspect that we would be in a state of perpetual peace, if it were not for some other person or group that just doesn’t understand our goal because of their savage nature”.

She further said that while we typically don’t see our role in the destruction of the planet, any more than

we usually see our role in interpersonal conflicts, we tend to underestimate our personal contribution to the destruction of the planet while overestimating the damage caused by others and mentioned that the “Flexibility of the I-Thou dichotomy also provided a defense against outside oppression”. While referring that the environment is under attack, for humankind has long claimed the right to move into the remaining territories of other species and to claim its resources for our own use, but this pandemic has given the wildlife an opportunity to reclaim some of its habitats, but massive exploitation of resources has diminished supplies even as the world population and consumption level have increased.

While we typically don't see our role in the destruction of the planet, any more than we usually see our role in interpersonal conflicts, we tend to underestimate our personal contribution to the destruction of the planet while overestimating the damage caused by others.

She concluded by referring to Swami Vivekananda's world view and appealing humankind to come together as a planet against these common problems. “Literacy provides a feed-back mechanism that shapes our world view” and to “Relinquish our hold on some of ‘their’ lands – their shares of the world's resources to save ourselves and in that process truly extend our compassion to the other living creatures of this world”.

Prof. Dr. Roger Hansel in his address expressed hope that the pandemic will create a global network of people to fight the environmental crisis and work towards bringing about a change in the conscience of humankind and use our social skills to spread awareness about the species around us.

Harnessing natural resource wealth is the great transformative opportunity for many developing nations. Resource extraction generates the largest source of exports, inward investment and potential for government revenues for over sixty low-income countries. However, mismanagement can carry a high cost, with the potential to fuel corruption; economic, environmental, and social damage; and even conflict.

Sharing his perspective about the webinar, Dr. Mostafizur Rahman, Chairman, Department of Folklore Studies, Islamic University, Bangladesh said, “As stewards of their extractive and land resources, governments have the responsibility to manage and regulate the extraction process, and to transform natural assets into sustained prosperity for both current and future generations. This includes the good governance of land and security of tenure especially for the rural poor. In addition, companies must take steps that go beyond minimum legal requirements by ensuring that they do not infringe on the rights of individuals and should strive to comply with

high environmental, social, and human rights standards. In part, this means avoiding corruption, contributing to sustainable development outcomes, and making pertinent project information public and accessible. Human beings have to be considerate in behaving with the mother earth for the sake of our sustainable habitation. Environment is not merely a word but a process and we need to protect it collective by our sensible responsibilities and actions.

Webinar on “Towards Mental and Physical Wellness”

As part of the celebration to mark the 6th International Yoga Day on June 21, 2020, GSDS in association with Global Rainbow Foundation Mauritius organised a webinar on “Towards Mental and Physical Wellness”. The key speakers in this webinar included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director, GSDS; Shri Armoogum Parsuramen, Founder President Global Rainbow Foundation (GRF); Dr. Manju Rani Aggarwal, Naturopath; and Ms. Ruma Chakravarty, Indian music therapist and founder-president ‘Factorize’. 55 participants took part in the webinar.

The webinar began with the introductory remarks by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan who, while pointing to the fact that yoga enables the holistic development of an individual, said “Yoga is a culture and tradition in India, a tradition that is more than 5000 years old which technically means to unite and live healthy”. He also spoke of yoga as a discipline and how it imbibes the spirit of oneness. Referring to the ‘Adi Yogi’ Mahadev in the Indian religion, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan stated that different yogic postures remind us of a disciplined state of mind and the process of attaining this discipline in order to remain healthy.

Recalling his visit to Gandhi Smriti where he draws his inspiration for his mission and service to humanity, Shri Armoogum Parsuramen spoke about the work of GRF to serve the most vulnerable section of the society, and how he chose to work for the welfare of persons with disabilities. “Yoga is all about creating a balance in our life. It is our balancing our senses, our soul and mind in order to live healthy and live in peace”, he said.

He also acknowledged the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi for mooted the proposal to the UN General Assembly in 2015 and giving this gift of yoga to the world when the whole world joins in celebrating this gift of yoga on June 21 every year. Terming that yoga has spread all over the world and that yoga acts as a therapeutic, preventive and rehabilitative potential and is universally beneficial to all, Shri Parasuramen said, “Its holistic and spiritual prowess has proven its wonders on the physical, mental, emotional, personal and social well-being”.

He further said that while most children with physical disabilities cannot get access to yoga benefits, through GRF the mission has been to take the concept of yoga and its therapeutic powers to all the schools in Mauritius, especially to children with disabilities, as

they should not be excluded from the benefit of yoga practices. He emphasized that GRF has introduced four therapies – yoga, music therapy, laughter therapy and art therapy which he said that has given children a lot of transformation.

In her presentation, Dr. Manju Aggarwal highlighted the concepts of naturopathy as a system of stimulating the body's inherent power to regain health with the help of five elements of Nature – Earth, Water, Fire, Ether and Air and explained the broad classifications of each of these elements through naturopathy such as fasting, pranayam, sun bath, colour therapy and various types of baths, enema; mud therapy and diet therapy.

She further elaborated on the affects of naturopathy on the physical, mental, moral and spiritual planes of living. She said that "Naturopathy is the science of health and healthy living and it helps in attaining freedom from diseases," adding, "Naturopathy helps in changing the living habits of people and teaches them correct and healthy lifestyle". She also pointed that 'naturopathy' increases vitality, work efficiency and keeps the mind and body in a balanced state.

The talk by Ms. Ruma Chakravarty on "Therapeutic Influence of Indian Music" started with how Nada and Indian music are very much part of our Yogic practices and Nada Yoga. She explained how our internal Nada and breathing are important aspects of balanced and harmonious living. Indian music that we hear or producing through singing and instruments is a manifestation of our inner Nada that originates from Brahmagranthi and moves upwards and expresses as *Saptaswaras* through different body parts. She further emphasized on how to be able to connect to that internal Nada we need to listen to suitable music especially for today's professions, youngsters and students. We also need to practice our silence, as silence produces best of music that echoes our internal sound.

She also discussed how Indian music therapy is employed to the children having special needs along with demonstration of few musical elements and techniques; essential pointers to keep in mind like structured and targeted music therapy approach, repetition etc. and also emphasised on two very important ingredients, that are love and compassion. Through her demonstrative lecture, Ms. Ruma Chakravarty further pointed how (with compiled pictures of one session) sessions are conducted for elderly with multimodal approach having Yogasana, meditation, therapeutic musical games, art & craft therapy etc. as part of it with Indian music at the centre. Explained how we design music therapy activities keeping in mind both mental and physical wellness.

Videos of Surya Namaskar by Yogacharya Varun Nautiyal were also shown during the webinar. Shri Manish from Bhuma Infotech provided the technical support.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Ms. Natasha, art therapist and yoga trainer from Global Rainbow Foundation, Mauritius. Shri Parasuramen felt the need for integrating the three for effective results. GSDS as part of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India's initiative has been actively using the social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube to spread the message of yoga through #Namasteyoga and #10MillionSuryanamaskar.

E-workshop on "Exploring a Nonviolent Communication Ecosystem"

The Samiti in collaboration with Trincomalee Campus Eastern University, Sri Lanka organised an E-workshop on "Exploring a Nonviolent Communication Ecosystem" on July 2, 2020 with key speakers as Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS. 177 participants took part in the workshop. The moderator of the E-workshop was Ms. Sivapriya Sriram. Ms. Nisansala Jayawardhana coordinated the programme.

As a key speaker, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu through his presentation "Exploring Non-Violent Communication", underlined the key concepts of communication and how lack of communication can lead to several gaps, which

Exploring a Nonviolent Communication Ecosystem E-Workshop

Inaugural Address By:

**Mr. Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director, Gandhi Smriti
and Darshan Samiti to inaugurate the Workshop**

ultimately may lead to conflicting situations. He referred to the Buddha and said that the concept of non-violent communication was first used by the Buddha.

Commenting on the power of words, he quoted the Buddha and said, "Words have both the power to destroy and heal. When words are both true and kind, they can change our world". Dealing with various situational analysis Dr. Kundu pointed to the teachings of the Buddhist Zen Master Rev. Thich Nhat Hanh and said that around the world are accepting his teachings of love and compassion. He quoted what Rev. Thich Nhat Hanh had said, "When we say something that nourishes us and uplifts the people around us, we are feeling love and compassion. When we speak and act in a way that causes tension and anger, we are nourishing violence and suffering".

He also threw insight on the power that words have on others. He said, "The words we say are nourishment. We can use words that will nourish ourselves and nourish another person. What you say, what you write, should convey, only compassion and understanding. Your words can inspire confidence and openness in another person" and referred to what Thais Mazur and Wendy Wood wrote in their book "Do not Harm: Mindful Engagement for a World in Crisis" on words that "Hold power that can be used to instigate or neutralise any given experience. They can be used as weapons – either offense or defence. We need to be aware of the energy that our language, our words, hold and use them for the greater good".

Further speaking about the challenge of communication today, Dr. Kundu said, "The increasing fragmentation of society is inextricably linked to a failure of communication that is resulting in increasing

aggressiveness" and emphasised on the need to be careful of the negative aspects of information technology.

He dealt with in details on the techniques of non-violent communication skills, power of empathy, use of language, etc and said that these have become essential for humankind to bring peace to oneself. He also referred to what Marshall Rosenberg had said: "Nonviolent Communication is founded on language and communication skills that strengthen our ability to remain human, even under trying conditions. It guides us in reframing how we express ourselves and hear others" and said that "Nonviolent communication helps us connect with each other and ourselves in a way that allows our natural compassion to flourish. It guides us to reframe the way we express ourselves and listen to others by focussing our consciousness on four areas – what we are observing, feeling and needing and what we are requesting to enrich our lives".

He said that the challenge is how "Our communication ecosystem becomes a source of positive coexistence and creation of values and we promote soul-to-soul communication", which will promote empathy and compassion, promote acts of kindness, generosity and other expressions of altruistic tendencies, for which he suggested that one should develop the practice of active listening, connect with needs of others, express gratitude and elicit positive reactions and responses, which he said are essential Gandhian techniques of nonviolent communication.

Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator spoke about the knowledge of media literacy and how important it is in today's overflowing information age. He said that

there's a need to critically analyse media and information that one hears, gathers and transmits. He also shared the concept of cyber fasting with examples of how and when this could be done by individuals for long term positive effect. Question answers by participants formed a major part of the e-workshop.

International E-Conference on Practicing Non-Violence in our Daily Lives

***Violence can never be a tool in balancing power:
H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu***

The Samiti jointly with Beti and Shiksha Foundation in association with High Commission of India in Port of Spain Trinidad and Tobago and Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Co-Operation organised an E-conference on "Practicing Non-Violence in our Daily Lives" on July 8, 2020. Key speakers included: H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS, Mrs. Renu Sharma, B & S Foundation. The conference was chaired by Dr. Pandita Indrani Rampersad. 50 participants from India, Surinam, Guyane and Trindad took part in the e-conference.

In his remarks, High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu spoke about the adoption of the

resolution by the United Nations to mark October 2, birthday of Mahatma Gandhi as the International Day of Non-Violence every year and said that this was a great initiative taken by India in recognition to the principles of peace and nonviolence that are fundamental to human interdependence. Speaking about Mahatma Gandhi's principles of truth and nonviolence, Mr. Sahu believed that only ideas and practical applications of peaceful strategies and nonviolence can usher in world peace and bring semblance in human coexistence.

He further said that one need to clearly understand the tools for external control of one's actions and "Focus on internal cleansing, for we are in a constant state of internal struggle", and added, "Mahatma Gandhi's ideas are not bound to Indians alone, but for the entire world to practice them in daily life. Violence can never be a tool in balancing power".

Dr. Pandita Indrani Rampersad in her brief address spoke of the increasing rate of domestic violence in this pandemic and also said that global violence has increased. She spoke of the eternal relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's principles for world peace and said that the foundation of a peaceful society can be established through the principles of nonviolent communication, its strategies, and most importantly through empathy, compassion and acceptance.






Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi
गांधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति, नई दिल्ली

High Commission of India
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Mahatma Gandhi Institute for
Cultural Co-Operation

You are invited to E-Conference in collaboration with High Commission of India in Port of Spain Trinidad and Tobago and Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Co-Operation with Gandhi Smriti Darshan Samiti and B & S (Beti and Shiksha) Foundation.

**PRACTICING NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION IN OUR
DAILY LIVES -**
on July 10th 2020 at 8 PM (IST) , 10.30 AM (AST)



H.E. Arun Kumar Sahu
High Commissioner Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago



Introduction:
Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan,
Director,
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti



Keynote Address:
Dr Vedabhyas Kundu,
Programme Officer,
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti



Chair: Dr. Pandita Indrani
Rampersad,
PhD



Moderator:
Mrs Renu Sharma

Through his presentation on application of 'Nonviolent Communication in our daily lives', Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu brought out the key elements of nonviolent communication, and its applications in day-to-day life for arriving at a more cohesive culture of peace. He also referred to the summon issued to Mahatma Gandhi during his visit to Champaran, when Gandhiji was asked to leave immediately and he, in a very humble and nonviolent manner refused and stood firm. Dr. Kundu said that Gandhiji had never showed any arrogance in his speech and actions throughout his struggle for India's independence even though he was faced with most bitter opponent. He spoke about body posture, language, attitude while citing examples of nonviolent communication (NVC) techniques.

Further referring to senior Gandhian thinker Late Padmashri Shri Natwar Thakkar, Dr. Vedabhyas said that according to Shri Natwar Thakkar, nonviolent communication is both an art and science and how we deal with them in our daily life, for Shri Natwar Thakkar had said, "Nonviolent communication also means complete lack of violence in the way we deal with others".

Dr. Vedabhyas further spoke about the need for sensitive listening, having a compassionate attitude and becoming more flexible. Saying that "Language is nourishment", he said that the through the practice of nonviolent communication, the transformation of an aggressive person into a more benevolent human being can be seen.

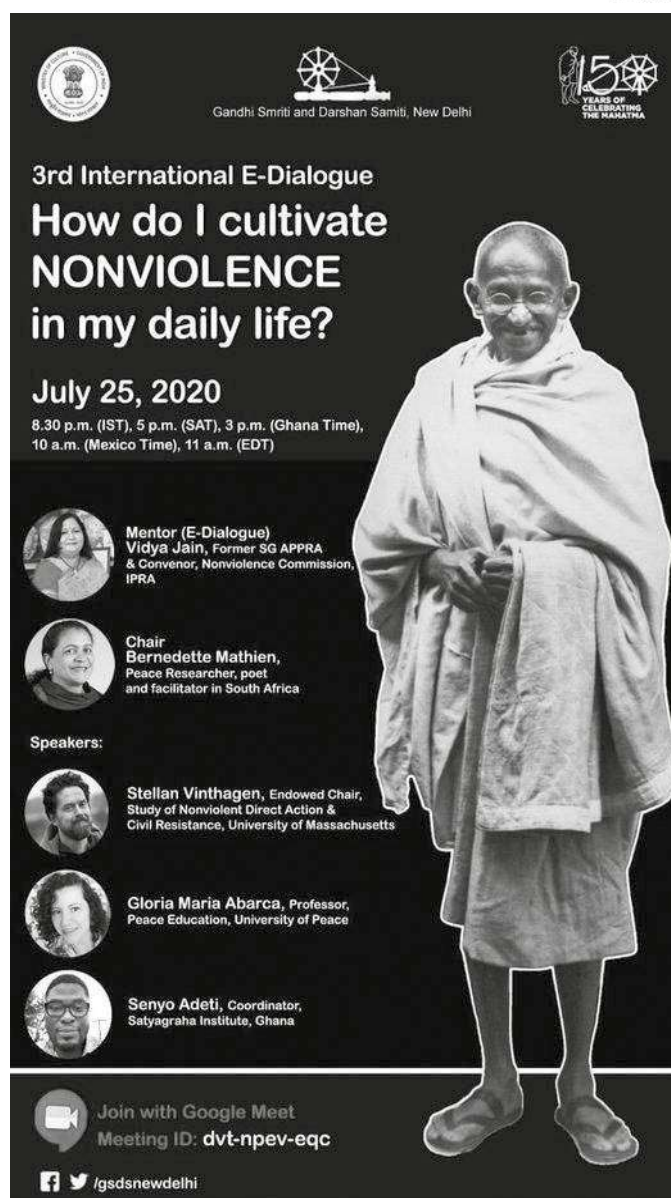
Responses from Dr. Madhuri, Associate Professor from Delhi University for integrating nonviolent communication skills in schools to Ms. Shashikara Samdadia's understanding of human solidarity; to Dr. A R Patil's observation of including NVC in curriculum and promoting discourses on Gandhiji's approach to education; to Shri Milan Acharya's pointer on the relationship between NVC and the never-ending desire of human being with special reference to environmental degradation to Ms. Seeta Darloo's idea of peace, made the interactive session more interesting.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. Renu Sharma on behalf of B& S Foundation and by Mr. Rajdeep Pathak on behalf of GSDS.

E-dialogue on "How do I cultivate non-violence in my daily life"

70 participants from several countries took part in an international E-dialogue on "How do I cultivate non-violence in my daily life?" organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on July 25, 2020. Dr. Vidya Jain, Former SG APPRA & Convenor, Nonviolence Commission, IPRA mentored the entire discussion.

Dr. Bernedette Muthien Peace Researcher, Poet and facilitator in South Africa, chaired the session. Prof. Stellan Vinthagen, Endowed Chair, Study of



3rd International E-Dialogue
How do I cultivate NONVIOLENCE in my daily life?
July 25, 2020
8.30 p.m. (IST), 5 p.m. (SAT), 3 p.m. (Ghana Time), 10 a.m. (Mexico Time), 11 a.m. (EDT)

Mentor (E-Dialogue)
Vidya Jain, Former SG APPRA & Convenor, Nonviolence Commission, IPRA

Chair
Bernedette Mathien, Peace Researcher, poet and facilitator in South Africa

Speakers:

Stellan Vinthagen, Endowed Chair, Study of Nonviolent Direct Action & Civil Resistance, University of Massachusetts

Gloria Maria Abarca, Professor, Peace Education, University of Peace

Senyo Adeti, Coordinator, Satyagraha Institute, Ghana

Join with Google Meet
Meeting ID: dvt-npev-eqc
/gsdsnewdelhi

Nonviolent Direct Action & Civil Resistance, University of Massachusetts USA; Prof. Gloria Maria Abarca, Professor, Peace Education, University of Peace, Mexico and Prof. Senyo Adeti, Coordinator, Satyagraha Institute, Ghana were the key speakers. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan delivered the inaugural address and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS coordinated the e-dialogue.

E-workshop on, "The significance of Non-violent communication in Understanding the Self"

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with Ateneo de Davao University, Philippines organized an e-workshop on, "The significance of Non-violent communication in Understanding the Self" on August 01, 2020. Approximately 97 students from different disciplines such as sociology, psychology and anthropology of the respective university had enthusiastically participated in this interactive session. The session ended with the question-answer round shared in between Dr. Kundu



The Significance of Nonviolent Communication in Understanding the Self

August 01, 2020 ; Saturday

6:00 PM Philippine Standard Time (PST);
3:30 p.m. Indian Standard Time (IST)



Inaugural Address
Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan
(Director, GSDS)



Welcome Address
Prof. Teresita Mirafuentes,
(Psychology Department
Ateneo de Davao University)



Key Note Address
Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
(Programme Officer, GSDS)

Organized by:
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi
Ateneo de Davao University, Philippines

Non violent COMMUNICATION
Orientation Course  /gsdsnewdelhi

and the participants such as – How can Non-violent communication be applied in this pandemic?; How to convince someone to be positive or to gain compassion if his experience is disrupting him to be positive or be compassionate?, etc. Dr. Kundu answered all of the questions and cleared their doubts one by one.

E-dialogue on Peace Education – Building a just and Peaceful Future



4th International E-Dialogue Peace Education: Building a Just and Peaceful Future

Organised by:
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
(International Centre of Gandhian Studies & Peace Research, New Delhi)



Mentor (E-Dialogue)
Prof. Vidya Jain
Convener, Nonviolence Commission, IPRA



Chair
Dr. Janet Gerson
Education Director,
International Institute on Peace Education



Prof. Tony Jenkins
Managing Director,
International Institute on
Peace Education, USA



Prof. Herbert B Rosana,
Associate Dean,
Graduate School,
Bicol University, Philippines

August 13, 2020
8:30 a.m. Indian Standard Time,
11 a.m. EDT, 5:00 a.m. Malawi Time,
11 p.m. Philippines Time

On August 13, 2020, International Centre of Gandhian Studies and Peace Research of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, organized the 4th International E-dialogue on *Peace Education – Building a just and Peaceful Future*. The programme was mentored by Prof. Vidya Jain (Convener, Non-

Violence Commission, IPRA); chaired by Dr. Janet Gerson (Education Director, International Institute on Peace Education, USA) including individual sessions by Prof. Tony Jenkins (Managing Director, International Institute on Peace Education, USA), Prof. Herbert B Rosana (Associate Dean, Graduate School, Bicol University, Philippines) and Dr. Steve Sharra (Education Policy Analyst and Peace Education, Malawi). 62 participants took part in the webinar.

Countering Online Hate Narratives through Nonviolent Communication



E-Conclave Countering Online Hate Narratives through Nonviolent Communication

August 26, 2020

8:00 p.m. (IST), 4:30 p.m. (CEST), 6:30 p.m. (UAE), 10:30 a.m. (EDT), 9:30 p.m. (ICT)

Organised by:
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
UNESCO-Media and Information Literacy University Network of India



Chair
Prof. Jagtar Singh
Coordinator, Media and Information University
Network of India (MILUNI)



Alton Grizzle
Programme Specialist, UNESCO, Paris



Sara Gabai
Communication Expert, European Union SWITCH-Asia



Maha Bashri
Associate Professor of Communication
United Arab Emirates University



Matthew Johnson
Director of Education, MediaSmarts, Canada

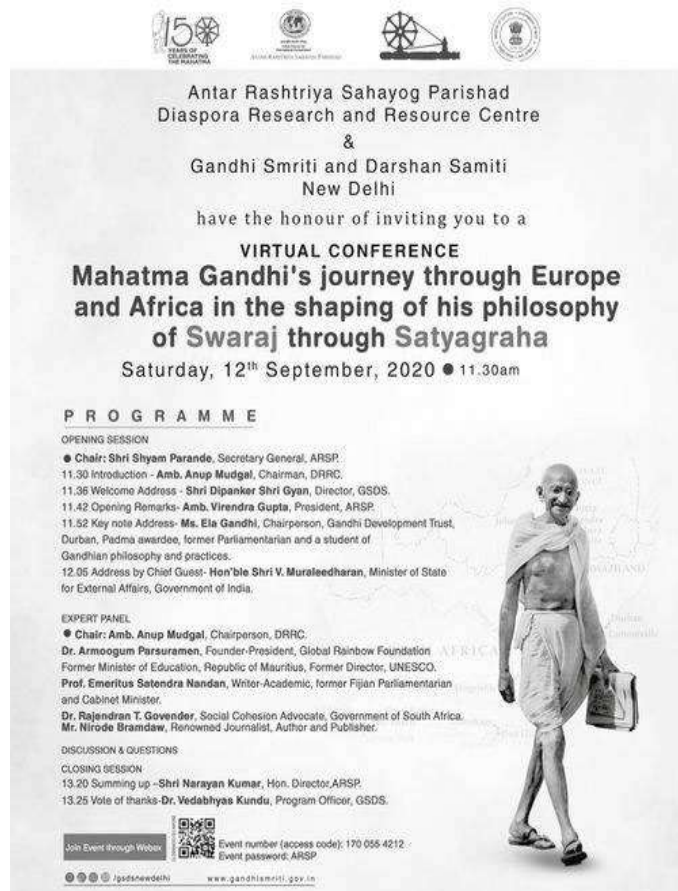
www.gandhismiti.gov.in  /gsdsnewdelhi **Scan QR Code for registration** 

An international E-Conclave on Countering Online Hate Narratives through Nonviolent Communication was jointly organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and UNESCO-Media and Information Literacy University Network of India on August 26, 2020. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (Director, GSDS) delivered the welcome speech. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu (Programme Officer, GSDS) moderated the session. The e-conclave was chaired by Prof. Jagtar Singh [Coordinator, Media and Information University Network of India (MILUNI)]. The other speakers

at the conclave included: Mr. Alton Grizzle (Programme Specialist UNESCO, Paris); Mr. Bram Van Haver (Program Management Specialist, UNAOC, New York) , Ms. Sara Gabai (Communication Expert , European Union SWITCH- Asia), Ms. Maha Bashri (Associate Professor of Communication, United Arab Emirates) and Mr. Mathew Johnson (Director of Education, Media Smarts, Canada) were the honourable speakers of the day. Almost 90 people from different areas of the world joined the conclave.

International conference on “Mahatma Gandhi’s journey through Europe and Africa in the Shaping of his philosophy of Swaraj through Satyagraha”

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) in association with Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) organised a virtual international conference on “Mahatma Gandhi’s journey through Europe and Africa in the Shaping of his philosophy of Swaraj through Satyagraha” on September 12, 2020. Shri V Muraleedharan Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India was the chief guest on the occasion. 65 participants took part in the webinar that included speakers such as Smt. Ela Gandhi, Chairperson Gandhi Development Trust (Durban), South Africa who delivered the key note address; Amb. Virendra Gupta, President (ARSP); Amb. Anup Mudgal, Chairman, DRRC; Shri Dipanker Shru Gyan, Director GSDS in the inaugural session that was chaired by Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General ARSP.



Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad
Diaspora Research and Resource Centre
&
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
New Delhi
have the honour of inviting you to a
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
**Mahatma Gandhi's journey through Europe
and Africa in the shaping of his philosophy
of Swaraj through Satyagraha**
Saturday, 12th September, 2020 • 11.30am

PROGRAMME
OPENING SESSION
● Chair: Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP.
11.30 Introduction - Amb. Anup Mudgal, Chairman, DRRC.
11.36 Welcome Address - Shri Dipanker Shru Gyan, Director, GSDS.
11.42 Opening Remarks - Amb. Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP.
11.52 Key note Address - Ms. Ela Gandhi, Chairperson, Gandhi Development Trust, Durban, Padma awardee, former Parliamentarian and a student of Gandhian philosophy and practices.
12.05 Address by Chief Guest - Hon'ble Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India.

EXPERT PANEL
● Chair: Amb. Anup Mudgal, Chairperson, DRRC.
Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen, Founder-President, Global Rainbow Foundation
Former Minister of Education, Republic of Mauritius, Former Director, UNESCO.
Prof. Emeritus Satendra Nandan, Writer-Academic, former Fijian Parliamentarian and Cabinet Minister.
Dr. Rajendran T. Govender, Social Cohesion Advocate, Government of South Africa.
Mr. Niroda Bramdaw, Renowned Journalist, Author and Publisher.

CLOSING SESSION
13.20 Summing up - Shri Narayan Kumar, Hon. Director, ARSP.
13.25 Vote of thanks - Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Program Officer, GSDS.


Join Event through Webex
Event number (access code): 170 055 4212
Event password: ARSP

www.gandhismiti.gov.in

The second session was chaired by Amb. Anup Mudgal and had speakers such as Dr. Armoogum Parsuramen, Founder-President, Global Rainbow Foundation, Mauritius; Prof. Emeritus Satendra Nanda, Writer-Academic and former Fijian Parliamentarian and Cabinet Minister; Dr. Rajendran T. Govender, Social Coalition Advocate, Government of South Africa and Mr. Niroda Bramdaw, renowned journalist, author and publisher. Shri Narayan Kumar, Hon. Director ARSP and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS were also present on the occasion.

Imperatives of Human Solidarity in times of Global Pandemic Crisis

The Malviya Centre of Peace Research (MCPR), UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding Banaras Hindu University and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organised an international webinar on “Imperatives of Human Solidarity in times of Global Pandemic Crisis” on September 14-15, 2020.



Malaviya Centre for Peace Research
UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding
Banaras Hindu University
in collaboration with
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
Ministry of Culture, GOI
Cordially invites you to join an International E-Conference on
**IMPERATIVES OF HUMAN SOLIDARITY
IN TIMES OF
GLOBAL PANDEMIC CRISIS**
14th September, 2020 7.00pm

Chair: Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya
UNESCO Chair for Peace
Malviya Centre for Peace Research, FSS, BHU

Speakers:
Veronika Yarnykh
UNESCO Chair on
Media and Information Literacy and
Media Education of Citizens
Moscow Pedagogical State University

Speakers:
Dr. M. Satish Kumar
Director, Internationalization,
School of Natural
and Built Environment
Culture and Society

Speakers:
Milena Dragulevic-Babic
UNESCO Chair in Studies of
Interculturalism,
Art and Cultural Management
& Mediation in the Balkans

Welcome Address:
Shri Dipanker Shru Gyan
Director, GSDS
Ministry of Culture, GOI

Moderator:
Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
Programme Officer, GSDS
Ministry of Culture, GOI

Vote of thanks:
Dr. Manoj K. Mishra
Coordinator
Malaviya Centre for Peace Research
FSS, BHU

The conference will be held on Webex
For registration:
<https://qrco.page.link/xHtpM>
www.gandhismiti.gov.in
www.gsdsondelhi

SCAN TO CONNECT

Malaviya Centre for Peace Research
UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding
Faculty of Social Sciences
Banaras Hindu University
www.mcpr-bhu.org

On Day one, the conference began with the welcome address given by Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS. 80 participants took part in the webinar. Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair for Peace, Malviya Centre for Peace Research, FSS, BHU who chaired the session. The other speakers in the two-day deliberations included: Ms. Veronika Yarnykh, UNESCO Chair on Media

and Information Literacy and Media Education of Citizens Moscow Pedagogical State University; Dr. M. Satish Kumar, Director Internationalization School of Natural and Built Environment Culture and Society; Ms. Milena Dragidevic Sestic, UNESCO Chair in Studies of Interculturalism Art and Cultural Management and Mediation in the Balkans; Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and Dr. Manoj K Mishra Coordinator (MCPR).

Malaviya Centre for Peace Research
UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding
Banaras Hindu University

in collaboration with
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India

Cordially invites you to join an International Conference on

**IMPERATIVES OF HUMAN SOLIDARITY
IN TIMES OF
GLOBAL PANDEMIC CRISIS**

15th September, 2020 | 7.00pm

YOUNG RESEARCHERS FORUM

OUR SPEAKERS

Razafimamonjy Faniriantsoa Rindranirina Antananarivo University Madagascar	Victor Alinase Chipofya Gandhi Consultative Forum Malawi
Jyoti Singh PhD Student, Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan	Mushtaq ul Haq Ahmad Sikander, MPhil, Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Srinagar, J&K
Hsin Yen Phoebe Mok Master - Graduate School of International Peace Studies Soka University, Japan	Puja Raj PhD Scholar, Delhi University
Debika Mitra PhD Scholar, University of Burdwan, West Bengal	Hina Mushtaq PhD Scholar, Delhi University
	Tom Davis PhD Scholar MCPR Banaras Hindu University India

The conference will be held on Webex
FOR REGISTRATION:
<https://qrqo.page.link/SQ992>
www.gandhismiti.gov.in
SCAN TO CONNECT

Malaviya Centre for Peace Research
UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding
Faculty of Social Sciences
Banaras Hindu University
www.mcpr-bhu.org

Day two included the “Young Researchers Forum” where speakers from different parts of the world shared their ideas. The speakers included: Mr. Razafimamonjy Faniriantsoa Rindranirina from Antananarivo University Madagascar; Ms. Jyoti Singh PhD student from Bahasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan (India); Ms. Hsin Yen Phoebe Mok Master –Graduate School of International Peace Studies, Soka University of Japan; Ms. Debika Mitra, PhD Scholar, University of Burdwan, West Bengal (India); Mr. Victor Alinase Chipofya from Gandhi Consultative Forum, Malawi; Mr. Mushtaq ul Haq Ahmed, Sikander M.Phil, Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Srinagar, J & K (India); Ms. Puja Raj, PhD Scholar and Ms. Hina Mushtaq PhD Scholar from University of Delhi and Mr. Tom Davis PhD Scholar, MCPR, Banaras Hindu University, India.

• **KYRGYSTAN**

Orientation on Nonviolent Communication

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti hosted an online orientation programme with Online University of Kyrgystan on “Nonviolent Communication” on October 20, 2020. The key speaker in this orientation programme was Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. The welcome address was given by Dr. Elira Turbudaeva, President, Online University. 63 participants from Kyrgistan and India joined the orientation program virtually. The webinar which was live-streamed in the GSDS Facebook page was had 632 viewership's presence. The discourse was simultaneously translated in the local language.

ONLINE UNIVERSITY

Non violent
Communication
Orientation Course

**NONVIOLENT
COMMUNICATION
in Kyrgystan**

20 OCTOBER, 2020
4:00 pm (Kyrgystan Time), 3:30 pm (IST)

OUR SPEAKERS

Introductory Address Mr. Dipanker Shri Gyan Director, GSDS	Keynote Address Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu Programme Officer, GSDS	Welcome Address Dr. Elira Turbudaeva President, Online University
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For more information
+996 700 09 30 97

Describing various tenets of nonviolent communication, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu spoke of the communication process not just within ourselves, but with the outside world. He said that communication can either build or mar relationship. Referring to the Buddha, Dr. Vedabhyas quoted, “Words have both the power to destroy and heal. When words are both true and kind, they can change our world”. Citing various examples and day-to-day activities, he further outlined the necessity of positive and non-violent communication for he said, “It can either spoil relationships or unite conflicting parties. It can offer wisdom and help to a friend or a stranger or offer abuse and perpetuate hatred and negativity”.

On the importance of our communication with others, he further added, “Our communication helps mould our realities, our perspectives and emotions. It makes us to feel more connected to each other. It is a reflection of the inner workings of our mind. Everything we communicate originates from the contents of our mind”.

He also shared ideas about communication ecosystem and how it becomes a source of positivity for creation of values. “By this we promote soul-to-soul communication and communication that heals and nurtures constructive dialogue, then human beings can become truly human”, he added.

He categorically informed that there isn't any magical formula for this. It has to come from within. It will reframe our thought process. “Use of non-violent communication will guide us to reframe our thoughts and communication” said Dr Vedabhyas, adding, “Reframing helps us to recognize that the frame we place to make sense of a situation or relationship is not neutral. The decision as to which frame to place involves a conscious choice and we will notice the change our way we talk, help in building relationship and bring people closer to us”.

He also spoke on the five pillars of Gandhian nonviolence – *respect, understanding, acceptance, appreciation and compassion* and went on to explain the elements of nonviolent communication – verbal and nonverbal and further delved into the essence of thought process and ideas, and said, “When we are violent in our interactions, we are humiliating the other person”.

Dr. Vedabhyas outlined seven sub-basic elements of non-violent communication – *understanding self; learning to communicate with ourselves; constructive inner dialogue; practicing the habit of self-introspection; deep listening to our self-talk; importance of self-awareness and the need for self mental cleansing in order to heal the wounds.*

Taking the discussion forward, Dr Kundu highlighted the importance of appropriate and positive dialogue; the need for expanding emotional vocabulary, which helps to express “Our feelings and needs in a freer and better way and thereby help improving our relationships and interactions with others”. He necessitated the need for avoidance of moralistic judgements; avoiding stereotypes; avoiding evaluative language and most importantly on the whole dimension and power of empathy, which he said, “By empathising with others, we can touch their humanness, and also we can heal ourselves as we connect with the needs of others which can be achieved by practicing deep and active listening skills as the art of listening is linked to the ability to connect with another person. He also advocated the need for having a compassionate attitude towards others.

He further quoted the Tibetan Buddhist Scholar Thupten Jinpa who believed that “Compassion is a sense of concern that arises when we are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to see that suffering relieved. It is what connects the feeling of empathy to acts of kindness, generosity and other expressions of altruistic tendencies”.

The webinar concluded with participants presenting their viewpoints and responding to several queries.

E-Conference on Resisting Disinfomedic: Using Media and Information Literacy for Peaceful Coexistence

**Need to use the Cyber Frankenstein with caution:
Priyanka Upadhyay**

An E-conference on “Resisting Disinfomedic: Using Media and Information Literacy for Peaceful Coexistence” was organised on October 30, 2020 by GSDS in association with Indian Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (IATLIS), Malviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding (UniTwin). The key speakers who spoke on the occasion were Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya, UniTwin; Dr. K S Arul Selvan, Associate Professor, School of Journalism & New Media Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU); Prof. Anubhuti Yadav, Head Department of New Media and Information Technology, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS delivered the welcome address. The entire proceeding of this conference was moderated by Prof. Jagtar Singh, Coordinator, Media and Information Literacy, University Network of India (MILUNI).



**E-CONFERENCE
RESISTING DISINFODEMIC:
USING MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY
FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE**

**OCTOBER 30, 2020
5:30 P.M. IST**

OUR SPEAKERS

 Moderator Prof. Jagtar Singh Coordinator, Media and Information Literacy University Network of India (MILUNI)	 Key Note Address Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya UNESCO Chair for Peace and Intercultural Understanding	 Welcome Address Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan Director, Gandhi Centre and Shri Gyan Centre, New Delhi
 Prof. Anubhuti Yadav Head, Department of New Media & Information Technology, Indian Institute of Mass Communication	 Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu Programme Officer, Gandhi Centre & Gandhi Centre, New Delhi	 Dr. K S Arul Selvan Associate Professor, School of Journalism & New Media Studies, Indira Gandhi National Open University




The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Jagtar Singh, as Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan could not join due to low bandwidth speed.

Delivering the key note address, Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya said that information and media literacy has

become a crucial component in the lives of the civilians. The new social media has brought transformational changes and has done wonders, but at the same time, it has come up with challenges of being misused, like any other energy becoming, in what he termed as “Cyber Frankenstein” and cautioned that society need to be critically aware of using this Frankenstein for it may otherwise be dangerous. Furthermore, social media has brought the evil out of us, and India has been affected badly due to the diversity in the nation. The so-called educated people too are going by the spread of misinformation. Therefore, to promote good knowledge, UNESCO has formulated an approach of intercultural dialogue by bringing the religious leaders together.

Prof. Upadhyaya further said that the irony of not knowing much about our religion than other’s religion has created a gap between the facts and the truth. Moreover, tools like deep fake have brought insecurity, digital and cognitive divide among the individuals. In a world where the majority of young children lack in data and information, they fall for what is shown and not for what is real. They are easily fooled for hate and toughness by the media and have also developed a feeling existential anxiety among them, either towards different nation or religion.

Taking these ideas forward, Prof. Anubhuti Yadav focused on the antidote. As stated by Prof. Anubhuti, the problem of misinformation and disinformation has been a part of this world since ages but the invention of social media has amplified the problem. Click paid fonts on different websites are one of the latest trends where the consumer needs to be skeptical about the headlines. But to counter the disinfodemic, fact-checking is the need of the hour.

She further informed that a module based on the skill of media literacy will be introduced for all the CBSE students from grade 7 onwards. Also, 100 days of learning will be provided for the teachers too. Prof. Yadav also appealed to the general public to follow four basic steps to curb the disinfodemic:

1. Fact Checking – This step involves checking the source of the information. The authentication of the source places an important role. One can use tools like social media audit, Google reverse image search, etc. to be a responsible citizen.
2. Analyzing – It should be the responsibility of the individual to consider the objective of the information generator after consuming the media content.
3. Reflecting – Introspection is the key. It becomes equally important to check on self-behavior or liking towards a particular content.
4. Act – After all the above measures taken, it’s essential to do the final reporting. One should be aware about the right organizations to file a complaint.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu shared information about the already ongoing Gandhian Media Literacy program in various educational institutions across the globe and also informed about the course on Non-Violent Communication launched with the CBSE across India. He further urged that people from the media fraternity should also undertake the free course on non-violent communication. He told that the journalists too need to be trained to counter hate speech, especially when the commercial media is working based on a TRP model. He also agreed to the proposition of proper strategic intervention against disinformation from the school module.

Dr K S Arul Selvan, Associate Professor at School of Journalism and New Media Studies, IGNOU concluded the conference by stating a couple of approaches to retaliate against disinfodemic. According to him, “India has the second-largest users of social media who tend to share information with their connections via mainstream media. Unfortunately, unlike prior to 2004 media, there is no gatekeeper to these websites; neither the misinformation is circulating in a sophisticated manner”.

He, however, blamed the corporate nature behind the same who has controlled the information on the grounds of commercialization or politics. Dr. Selvan also compared the misinformation with a tsunami of manipulation as it exploits the privacy policy for profit-oriented interests. “Today, when the internet is easily able to grab the audience with a minimal cost, it becomes an important factor who is consuming what and how”?

Chunks of the audience are now in the range of internet; therefore, there is need to be ready with these solutions he offered:

1. Short-term: In this case, we can only spread awareness among the consumers. Different campaigns on news literacy on different platforms can be organized.
2. Holistic Approach: Due t the availability of time, we can bridge the gap of digital inequality, bring up topics like commercial interests in the media domain for the local public, and of course intervene through educational institutions and giving them a better idea on positive utilization of such a resource.

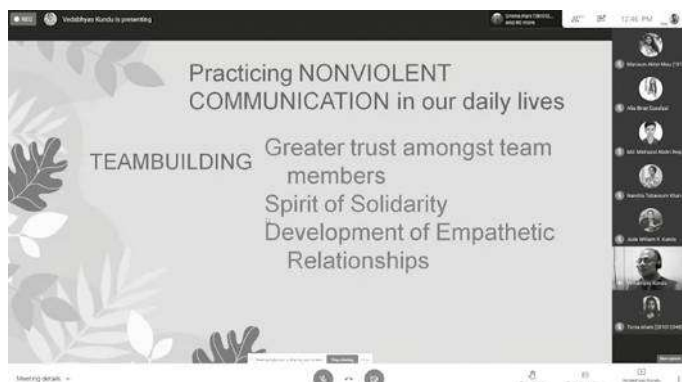
In his concluding remarks, Prof. Jagtar Singh summed up the presentations of all the speakers and agreed with the critical analysis theory towards media information to oppose disinformation.

• BANGLADESH

Launch of On-line Certificate Course on Nonviolent Communication

100 participants from the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh (ULAB) took part in a webinar during the

launch of the On-Line Certificate Course on Nonviolent Communication organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on November 19, 2020.



(Above and Below): Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS conducting the orientation session on Nonviolent Communication with University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh.

Initiating the discussion, Prof. Jude William R. Genilo, Professor and Head of MSJ-ULAB spoke about his organization and the value of tolerance the institution promotes. He said, "Tolerance is about opening one's heart to others. It is about treating all humanely and goes with courage". Terming non-violence communication as "compassionate and collaborative communication", he further stressed on the importance of 'negotiation and dialogue'. "The goal is to identify shared needs and being collectivistic, which develops cultural connectivity.

Echoing a similar sentiment, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS spoke about the atrocities against the vulnerable groups and said that non-violent communication can address multiple issues of conflicts amicably.

Sharing inputs on the course, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan further said that the course is aimed to understand the needs of others and engages the participants in tools for negotiation. Terming it a "Life-skill learners self capacity building programme", he underlined the essence of engaging in dialogue and compassion.

Drawing references from the Indian and Western philosophies, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS spoke of methods that improves interpersonal relationships, increases one's ability to express oneself clearly and develop compassion using skills and tools of non-violent communication. He said, "Nonviolent Communication helps you resolve your deepest conflicts within yourself and with others through the power of empathy, respect, gratitude, compassion, being non-judgmental", adding, "There are times when we find ourselves resorting to criticism, insult, and blame when trying to resolve conflicts, which only leaves everyone hurting, angry, or depressed. Non-violent communication can transform yourself as well as difficult situations positively by learning how to focus more on treating people with a more profound respect".

Earlier perspectives were shared by M. Farzana Akther and Marioum Akther of ULAB who necessitated the need to realize how we communicate with others and should address issues with compassion.

• SPAIN

Exploring Nonviolent Communication – A Workshop

A session on "Exploring Nonviolent Communication" for the students of Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain was conducted on November 12, 2020 by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS who gave the key note address.



Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu spoke about serious conflicts which he said often seem impossible to escape, especially when resentment, anger, or frustration get in the way. "With Nonviolent Communication, one will be able to address problems while honouring others

including oneself”, and added, “It is important to be aware of self-judgment, as well as recognize your feelings and needs as these enable you to carve the path towards self-forgiveness instead of the way that leads to guilt, shame, anger, or depression”. He further outlined that living compassionately is also about your attitude towards life.

- **MALAWI**

Webinar on “Why Nonviolent Communication – Matters for Peaceful Coexistence?” organized

WHY
NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION
MATTERS FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE?

Nonviolent Communication in Malawi

12th November, 2020
2:30 pm IST, 11:00 am Malawi time

OUR SPEAKERS

Welcome Address
Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan
Director, GSDS
Ministry of Culture, GOI

Reflections
Mrs. Chimwemwe Demetria
Kandodo
Head, Political Leadership
Department, The Catholic
University of Malawi

Keynote Address
Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
Programme Officer, GSDS
Ministry of Culture, GOI

Moderator
Victor Alianse Chipofya
Gandhi Consultative Forum
Malawi

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with The Catholic University of Malawi organized a webinar on “Why Nonviolent Communication – Matters for Peaceful Coexistence?” on November 12, 2020. Mrs. Chimwemwe Demetria Kandodo, Head Political Leadership, Department, The Catholic University of Malawi coordinated the event and presented her reflections. The key note address was delivered by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS, delivered the welcome address. Ms Shuchi Sharma, an educator and life skills trainer and a Gandhian peace builder and programme trainer at the Global Education and Leadership Foundation conducted the session with the participants. Mr. Victor Alianse Chipofya, Gandhi Consultative Forum, Malawi moderated the webinar.

Citing examples of her interaction with hundreds of participants who had undergone the certificate course on non-violent communication of the Samiti and their understanding of the concepts and practical application of the course in their day-to-day life, Ms. Shuchi highlighted that nonviolent communication “Can be a useful tool to resolve interpersonal conflict, to explore what our feelings mean, to take accountability for our actions, to improve

ourselves and the way we communicate”, for which she said that a person need to develop active listening skills and understand the need of others.

- **KYRGYZSTAN**

E-workshop on ‘Conflict Competence through Nonviolent Communication’

Conflict competence is the ability to develop and use cognitive, emotional, and behavioral skills that enhance productive outcomes of conflict while reducing the likelihood of escalation or harm. The results of conflict competence include improved quality of relationships, creative solutions, and lasting agreements for addressing challenges and opportunities in the future. As we find ourselves in different types of conflicts in our daily lives it is important how we can enhance our conflict competence.

ONLINE UNIVERSITY

Non violent
communication
Foundation Course

RESOLVING CONFLICTS
USING NONVIOLENT
COMMUNICATION

24th November, 2020
4:00 pm (Kyrgyzstan Time), 3:30 pm (IST)

OUR SPEAKERS

Introductory Address
Mr. Dipanker Shri Gyan
Director, GSDS

Keynote Address
Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
Programme Officer, GSDS

Welcome Address
Dr. Ellira Turduvaeva
President, Online University

For more information
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In the E-Workshop organized by the Samiti in association with the Online University of Kyrgyzstan on November 24, 2020, the GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu conducting the session talked on how we can enhance our conflict competence through nonviolent communication. He talked on the attitudinal, emotional and behavioural skills needed for conflict competence and the essence of the elements of nonviolent communication in developing these skills.

The President of the Online University, Prof Ellira Turduvaeva talked on the importance of conflict competence in our daily lives. Later during the interaction with the participants there was in-depth discussion on the importance of self-awareness for conflict competence.

- **HERAT, AFGHANISTAN**

E-Workshop on Come, Let Us Practice Nonviolent Communication



The Samiti organized an on-line lecture on “Come, Let Us Practice Nonviolent Communication” in Herat Afghanistan in association with Children’s Peace Builders Forum Afghanistan on December 15, 2020. Ms. Maleeka Hussaini and Ms. Fatima Haldari from Herat’s Children’s Peace Builders Forum, Afghanistan took part in the webinar that was conducted by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. The E-workshop focused on integrating nonviolent communication in conflict regions and how young people can use their conflict competencies through NVC.

- **KYRGYZSTAN**

E-Workshop on Human Interconnectedness and Nonviolent Communication

As part of the series of E-Workshops with the Online University, Kyrgyzstan, the third e-workshop was organized on December 23, 2020. The theme was Human Interconnectedness and Nonviolent Communication. Conducting the e-workshop, the GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu cited the 2020 Human Development Report which points out that the pressures we exert on the planet have become so great that scientists are considering whether the Earth has entered an entirely new geological epoch: the Anthropocene, or the age of humans. The Report calls for a just transformation that expands human freedoms while easing planetary pressures. It notes, “Today almost 80 percent of the world’s people believe that it is important to protect the

planet. But only about half say they are likely to take concrete action to save it. There is a gap between people’s values and their behaviour.”

In this context, Dr Kundu stressed how nonviolent communication encapsulates the understanding of the intricate relationship between nature-human-and all other living beings. He underlined how it was important to practice nonviolent communication not just with other human beings but with nature and other living beings. Prof Ellira Turdubaeva of the Online University, Kyrgyzstan moderated the e-workshop.

- **CAMEROON**

Enhancing Conflict Competence through Nonviolent Communication

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with *Women’s Peace Builders Network, Cameroon* organised a webinar on “Enhancing Conflict Competence through Nonviolent Communication” on January 11, 2021. The programme was chaired by Ms. Adah Mbah Muyang, Coordinator, *Women’s Peace-builders Network*. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS delivered the key note address.

In his address, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu said that when we use Nonviolent Communication (NVC) for conflict resolution, the results are often transformative and long lasting. He also focussed on developing strong compassionate communication skills for resolving conflicts. “In NVC, we define needs as Universal Human Needs. When we use Compassionate Communication (NVC) skills for resolving conflicts, we go deeper than interests, to the universal human needs underlying them”.

Revisiting Gandhian Ethics in Contemporary Era

The fifth international e-dialogue on “Revisiting Gandhian Ethics in Contemporary Era” was organised by GSDS on January 18, 2021. Speakers at the dialogue included: Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti who delivered the welcome address; Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, former Vice-Chairperson GSDS who delivered the special address and Dr. Vidya Jain, Convener, Nonviolence Commission, International Peace Research Association (IPRA). Prof. Lester R. Kurtz, Professor of Public Sociology at George Mason University, U.S.A delivered the key note address.

The session also saw two young speakers – Ms. Yen Phoebe Mok Hsin from Soka University, Japan and Shri Vidur Bharatram, Photographer and Film Maker share their perspectives. Dr. N Radhakrishnan, Gandhian thinker, peace-activist, educator and author and Former Director, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti chaired the session.



In his key note address, Prof. Lester Kurtz, speaking on *Gandhian Ethics: A Sociological Perspective*, points out at the ethical paradoxes or opposites. For example, Gandhi was a warrior for justice, pacifist and non-violent activist. He brought 'Cultural Revolution' through nonviolent constructive work. Some of the interesting paradoxes drawn by Mr. Kurtz include the dimensions of warrior-pacifist, spiritual-material, traditional-modern, rights-duties, individual-collective, ethics-economics, theory-practice, means-ends and resist and construct. He points out that Gandhi's ethics is truth=God=Ahimsa. These concepts are fundamental to the greater motive of Satyagraha and the coordination between thoughts, words and deeds brings about transformation through compassion.

Promoting Conflict Competence through Gandhian Approach of Communication



The Samiti in association with Amity School of Communication organised the 6th International E-Dialogue on "Promoting Conflict Competence through Gandhian Approach of Communication" on January 20, 2021. The main agenda of discussion was, the importance of non-violent communication in resolving a conflict. This program was coordinated by Dr. Anshu Arora (Associate Professor, Amity School of Communication). The panel consisted of various speakers such namely, Prof. Simon Howden (Australia), Prof. Drissia Chouit (Morocco), Ms. Elizabeth Katherine Gamarra (Japan), Prof. Fatima Haidari (Afghanistan), Mr. Dipanker Shri Gyan (Director GSDS), Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu (Programme Officer, GSDS) and Dr. Anshu Arora.

Dialogue with Kyrgyzstan on reflections on peace

The Samiti organised a session with Online University of Kyrgyzstan on February 5, 2021 with participants who had undertaken the course and sessions on "Non-violent communication" designed by the GSDS. Participants shared their experiences of their understanding on the course study and reflected on how they would take it forward in their daily life. The theme of the dialogue was "Peace Matters" where the following participants presented their ideas. They were: Nuzriza Abdumuhammed; Nurhan Orozbaeva; Gulzada Sydkova; Eliza Turusbava; Sezim Sagynbekova; Ainisa Keneshbekova; Kamiljan Kzy Havaskhon; Elvira Iskakova; Guliza Tillanova; Gulsaira Mahmadsabyr and Eliza Omurzakova. Prof. Elira Turdubaeva, President Online University of Kyrgyzstan coordinated the discussion. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS conducted the session with the participants.

E-Workshop on Expanding Conflict Competences through Nonviolent Communication



The E-Workshop on "Expanding Conflict Competences through Nonviolent Communication" was organized by GSDS on March 1, 2021 in association with Universitat Jaume, Spain, UNESCO and Deep Network. It was conducted by GSDS Programme Officer, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu. He talked on conflict competencies, the Gandhian approach to conflict resolution and nonviolent communication.

According to the Gandhian approach:

- Conflict is bad, but not the people involved in it. It underlines the humanistic principles.
- Define and understand the conflict well. State your own goal clearly. Try to understand your opponents goals. Emphasize on the common and compatible goals.
- See the conflict as an opportunity to meet the opponent and to transform society and to transform yourself.
- Do not polarize. Distinguish between antagonism and the antagonist. Maintain engagement and contact. Empathize with your opponent's position.
- We should try to solve conflict. Always try to seek negotiation with the opponent. Seek positive social transformation. Seek human transformation of self and opponent.
- The aim should be conversion and not coercion. Seek solutions that are acceptable to yourself and your opponents. Never coerce with your opponent. Convert your opponent into a believer of the cause.
- Positive nonviolence is never afraid of dialogue and mutual learning.

The options available when there is a conflict?

- Living with it or strategy of avoidance
- Going to battle or possible litigation
- Work out differences through negotiation
- Invite intervention of a third party to expand the dialogue and resolve the differences

Three basic categories to look at conflict are: perception, emotion and communication. He said developing conflict competence would mean how it would help individuals and groups to dissect beneath the surface the hidden meanings and likely causes of the conflict. There could be an underplay of wide ranging phenomenon which are triggers for a conflict – these include fears, desires, interests, cultural issues, economic issues, emotions, inequalities, historical issues and intentions. A conflict competent individual or groups have the capabilities to understand and analyze these from a broad perspective.

His model of nonviolent communication entails nonviolence in all aspects – verbal, nonverbal, thoughts and how the mind, heart and body remain disciplined at every stage.

Importance of nonviolent persuasion as an attribute of nonviolent communication process:

- I. Essence of nonverbal symbolism which aims at encouraging self-introspection and self-discipline, struggle for justice and emotionally connect with the people even the adversaries.
- II. Gandhi's model of nonviolent communication encompasses principles of human interdependence and underlines the importance of the cosmocentric approach to human nature.
- III. His strategy involved in reaching the hearts of the masses through constructive work for social and economic emancipation. For instance, his Talisman is a powerful statement of how each individual need to introspect on what they are doing for the last person of the society- the essence of empathetic connections.
- IV. His five basic pillars of nonviolence – respect, understanding, acceptance, appreciation and compassion can be considered as foundational architecture of a nonviolent communication ecosystem.
- V. The Gandhian model entails the evolution of an individual to a higher plane of values and ethics and respect for human dignity.
- VI. His communication model underlines the importance of being morally disciplined, strictly adhering to the principles of ahimsa and truth, meticulous planning, creative and innovative, open and flexible.

E-dialogue on Countering Hate Speech through Nonviolent Communication

It is a defect in language that words suggest permanent realities and people do not see through this deception. But mere words cannot create reality. Thus people speak of a final goal and believe it is real, but it is a form of words and the goal as such is without substance. The one who realizes the emptiness of objects and concepts does not depend on words. Perfect wisdom is beyond definition, and pathlessness is the way to it.
– Prajnaparamita

The UN Secretary General at the launch of the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech in 2019 pointed out, "Hateful and destructive views are amplified exponentially through digital technology and extremists are gathering online, radicalizing new recruits. He urged everyone to treat hate speech "like any other malicious act: by condemning it unconditionally; refusing to amplify it; countering it with the truth; and encouraging the perpetrators to change their behavior".

The poster is for an event titled "COUNTERING HATE SPEECH THROUGH NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION". It is dated "18th March, 2021" at "08.30 pm IST & 04.00 pm Spain time". The event is organized by "GANDHI SMRITI & DARSHAN SAMITI" in association with "UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE MADRID". The speakers are "Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu" (Keynote Address, Programme Officer, GSDS, Ministry of Culture, GOI) and "Prof. Joan Pedro" (Chair, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain). The poster features a large silhouette of Mahatma Gandhi on the right and a circular graphic on the left containing the speakers' photos and names. Logos for the 75th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Universidad Complutense Madrid, and Gandhismriti are at the top. Social media handles and the website "www.gandhismriti.gov.in" are at the bottom right.

In this context, the GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu introduced the Gandhian model of Nonviolent Communication to counter the menace of Hate Speech. Prof. Juan Pedro Universidad Complutenses de Madrid, Spain moderated the discussion on March 18, 2021 at the E-dialogue on Countering Hate Speech through Nonviolent Communication in association with Universidad Completeneses de Madrid, Spain.

He said there were different ways to counter hate speech. These included:

- Raising awareness through community-held trainings or educating friends and family on the dangers of discrimination and intolerance
- Reporting social media posts which spread rumours or misinformation
- Boosting positive messages of peace and tolerance on social media and online platforms
- Supporting individuals or groups who are targeted by hate speech and encouraging policymakers to take action against discriminatory language or policies
- Hosting workshops on conflict sensitive journalism in order to help journalists develop the ethical capacities to identify sources of conflict, and to report news fairly and accurately
- Developing an army of nonviolent communicators to counter the challenges of hate speech.

Detailed discussions were held on the Gandhian praxis and its different dimensions to counter hate speech.

GSDS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR GANDHIAN STUDIES AND PEACE RESEARCH



Dialogue on Mediation

SERIES ON DIALOGUE ON MEDIATION

Mediation is a process of negotiation which includes a third party. This third party could be a professional mediator, it could be another person, it could be a group of people or even an institution which is involved in such a dispute. Mediation can happen both at personal level as well as institutional level. This way is shaped by one's own philosophy, educational background and how one has been formed into a mediator. In order to be a mediator, one needs to let go of many unwanted things in this process.

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organised a five-part series of "Dialogue on Mediation" with both national and international experts. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSIDS and Ms. Mansi Sharma from Punjab University took part in the discussion and also moderated the session.

- **Series I – Specialist in Alternative Mechanisms for Conflict Resolution from Peru, Mr. Gustavo Anay Centeno and TEDx Speaker and expert on Peace and Conflict Studies, Ms. Elizabeth Katherine Gararra from Japan were the speakers on February 6, 2021.**



Sharing their perspectives, Gustavo said: "As a specialist in the field of mediation I have travelled to different parts of Latin America and I have observed that in order to mediate you don't necessarily need to be a lawyer or be within the legal field", adding, "Mediators are the middle part and with active listening they can really get to understand people's needs at much deeper level. A good mediator is one that really understands the social context and can get involved with the issues at a personal level".

Elizabeth believes that self-awareness is often overlooked. A mediator should practice self-awareness every day. Polishing skill sets is important for both young and expert mediators. Discussing challenges with colleagues, practicing co-mediation, taking feedback can come in handy.

Mediation calls for someone who understands the culture of peace. Social and economic differences need to be examined carefully. The job of a mediator is to make people part of the process. S/He should have an understanding of the body language as well as good listening skills.

- **Series II – Executive Director Asia Pacific Centre for Arbitration and Mediation, Delhi, Ms. Iram Majid during her interaction on February 8, 2021** said that "litigation is about who is right whereas mediation is about what is right. Mediation is a way of life. It is about human-human connection and therefore discourages evaluation. The purpose of mediation is to find underlying interests behind the issues. People have different perceptions, emotions and temperatures/ temperaments. Mediation is about bridging these gaps and bringing them on the same page. With effective communication a mediator can navigate issues and turn them into opportunities for growth of the parties".



She further said, "In a mediation room there are three voices/ echoes, the mediator's voice is a connecting voice", adding, "A mediator therefore needs to understand both verbal and nonverbal communication of parties. Curiosity to understand must be accompanied with compassion and empathy".

- **Series III – Advocate, Mediator, Conciliator, Golfer and Peacemaker, Shri Vikram Singh took part on Series III on February 10, 2021 at the dialogue.** Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Dispute resolution is best handled within parties themselves. Ego, miscommunication and other such things hamper a dialogue, here mediation comes into play. Mediation is all about conversations centred around circumstances. It is

an informal process which can happen anywhere say road, school, park. Mediators need not be trained people but people with mediation mindset. You cannot train people into mediation. A mediator needs to have an inbuilt good intention”, adding, “A mediator should never assume that a person knows everything and should convey meanings clearly. Any communication is nonviolent if the intention is good”.



- **Series IV – Internationally acclaimed speaker on 'mediation' and body language, Simon Howden from Australia spoke on a variety of issues on mediation on February 11, 2021, in a session that was based on question and answers and**



reflections on day-to-day activities. He said, “The mediator’s responsibility is to make safe space where people feel that they can deliver and communicate. People often get over educated. Education is merely a tool. It gives you knowledge, but that knowledge needs to be put into practice. Theory alone does no good. It is the practice that makes a master mediator even if less theorized,” adding, “The mediator has a neutral role to assist working towards a mutual agreement. S/He should not give advice or direction. Also, confidentiality of the conversation should be strictly maintained. Mutual respect is another essential element of the process”. He also pointed that “Mediators have to be prepared”.

- **Series V – Another session on February 11, 2021 was held with Ms. Roberta Wall, a mediator and a coach in nonviolent communication and conflict resolution, where she spoke on the positive role of a mediator in conflict resolution. She further said that at any stage a mediator does not have to know it all. The World today is full of conflict everywhere and mediators must desire to be peaceful communicators”.**



- **Dialogue on Mediation Part-VI on Neuro-Linguistic-Programming**

The Samiti organised a dialogue on Mediation on ‘Neuro Linguistic Programming’ (NLP) on March 8, 2021. This was sixth in the series of the dialogue which was delivered by Ms. Salony Priya, Director Umeed Counselling and Consulting Services and Consultant with Centre for Cultural Research and Training (CCRT).

Ms. Mansi Sharma conducted the dialogue, during which Ms. Saolny Priya spoke on various issues related to

NLP and described in details what it actually meant. She said, “‘Neuro’ refers to the neurological system through which experiences are translated into conscious or unconscious thought”; “‘Linguistic’ refers to how people communicate and how language is used to make sense of experiences” and “‘Programming’ refers to the fundamental NLP concept that behaviour and thinking can be coded and consequently reproduced”.

She further explained that the four main cornerstones of NLP are: Rapport; Sensory awareness; Outcome thinking and Behavioural flexibility” and said, “NLP doesn’t make the world a better place – it simply helps you change the way that you observe/perceive your world. NLP allows you to perceive the world differently helping you to be more effective and lead a more fulfilling successful life. The power of this simple technique is tremendous. It can be a huge add-on to NVC in mediation. NLP is very simple, extremely functional and deals with everyday communication. Unlike other psychological perspectives, a little bit of knowledge is enough for its implementation”.

The detailed techniques of NLP were also discussed during the dialogue. Ms. Salony Priya further said, “NLP techniques are based on ‘using basic senses’, they are all about healing through’ power of ones’ own voice’. It requires a language which creates neurological signal of positivity”.

Various other technical aspects were also discussed during the dialogue that was also moderated by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS.





Orientation Programmes

Webinar on Non Violent Communication – Elements and Applications



Participants at the e-workshop on “Nonviolent Communication” in association with Mangalayatan University, Aligarh.

GSDS in association with Mangalayatan University (MU), Aligarh organized a webinar on “Nonviolent Communication – Elements and Applications” on May 15, 2020. The key speakers in this webinar included: Prof. Shivaji Sarkar, Dean and Director Mangalayatan University; Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS and Dr. Dhiraj Kumar Garg, Joint Director M.U. Almost 100 participant attended the webinar.

Webinar on Nonviolent Communication

The Samiti as part of the ‘Webinar Series: Covid -19 Outbreak’ organized a webinar on “Nonviolent Communication” on May 16, 2020. The webinar was organized in association with Blue Bells group of Schools, Gurugram. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu Programme Officer was the key speaker at the workshop. The webinar was moderated by Ms. Mansi of GSDS. 78 participants took part in this webinar.



Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS, is seen addressing the participants during the webinar on ‘Nonviolent Communication’.



The webinar began with the address of Mrs. Alka Singh, Principal Blue Bells Modern School who spoke about the necessity of one-to-one communication and how communication influences our and others’ behaviour.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS in his welcome address necessitated the need of establishing peaceful communication at all level and stressed on reducing misunderstanding amongst peer groups. Expressing his lament that violence has crept in the society, he said most of the time the reactions are quite impulsive and this impulsiveness creates repulsive reactions. He said that what should be done is to realize that ‘heat’ doesn’t emerge during communications with one another and relationships should be established.

Conducting the workshop on Non Violent Communication (NVC), Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu spoke of different theories and their practical applications. Speaking about the five key elements of communication, he spoke on the context of the Indian Culture and pointed to the five pillars of NVC – ‘Respect’, ‘Understanding’, ‘Acceptance’, ‘Appreciation’ and ‘Compassion’.

Elaborating his point further, Dr. Kundu quoted Marshall Rosenberg, according to whom: “Nonviolent Communication is founded on language and communication skills that strengthen our ability to remain human, even under trying conditions. It guides us in refraining how we express ourselves and hear others” and said that there is a need to develop a ‘cosmo-centric’ approach towards human beings and living creatures around us. While referring to eminent Gandhian Late Natwar Thakkar, Dr. Kundu said that there’s a need to understand inner self and go deep within.

Through his presentation he reflected on the power of language, compassion, positivity and mentioned that one needs to avoid moralistic judgment and also avoid stereotyping. Dr. Kundu stressed on the art of compassionate listening which he felt should be cultivated.

The interactive session of the webinar saw a number of participants asking varied questions on principles of NVC and its relevance today. Among those who interacted included Ms. Siddhika Sharma, Dhairya Kumar, Kunika Sharma, Sanya, Riya Bhatia, Mayank Sharma, N. Vashistha and Vanshikha.

Relationship Management during lockdown using Nonviolent Communication

Nonviolent Communication offers individuals strategies to fight the challenges emerging out of relationship and stress management issues accentuated by the Covid-19 crisis. At a time when large number of individuals finds themselves in lockdown due to the Coronavirus, many people are experiencing increasing

Nonviolent



COMMUNICATION

Orientation Course

friction and strain in relationship with those who are staying around them continuously. The significance of nonviolent communication in such situations was discussed at a webinar organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Delhi Metropolitan Education on May 22, 2020. 163 participants took part in this webinar.

Delivering the Webinar lecture, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) discussed the different elements of nonviolent communication and how these could be used in relationship management during these times of lockdown. The Dean of Delhi Metropolitan Education, Dr Ambrish Saxena moderated the session.

The session talked about the stress on relationship management and friction in families due to lockdown. It stated Gandhian Pillars of nonviolence- mutual respect, understanding, acceptance, appreciation and compassion.

The webinar included 255 participants including Counselors, Spiritual healers, Life- coaches, Students, Relationship experts giving their advice to people in psychological distress due to pandemic in different ways.

Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, conversed about importance of non violent communication under this struggling stage and its importance. He stated that 'due to this lockdown many people find themselves drifting towards the well of ill mental health and negative psychological effects including post-traumatic stress symptoms, confusion, and anger. Stressors included longer quarantine duration, infection fears, emotional distrust, frustration, boredom, inadequate supplies, inadequate information, financial loss, and stigma, many are being forced to compromise with unfortunate situation overall everyone is suffering from 'corona fatigue.'

He also stated that 'imbibing nonviolence in our speech, action, thoughts and perspectives, we can become less aggressive. This will have calming effects on

us and we will avoid being aggressive in our relationships'.

Another aspect discussed in the webinar was self-introspection, that how people are running after the materialistic gains and luxurious life. People should find this crisis as an opportunity to encourage themselves for their intrapersonal communication. They must reinvent themselves and should try to unearth their hidden talents. This is a stage when one must widen their emotional vocabulary. Inappropriate use of language and words can contribute to conflicts and chaos. One must practice empathy to live a peaceful and a fuller life. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu said, "The more empathetic we are towards others, we should expect more empathetic behaviour from others. Hence we will be able to promote empathetic connections which in turn will be able to reduce the stress level in houses".

People must be compassionate to others. They should understand each other's concerns and difficulties. We should show compassion and respect to all the workers across the world. One must also express one's gratitude to all the health workers, doctors, all the people who are working tirelessly to ensure that we are safe and healthy.

Strengthening Immunity during Pandemic

Good Immunity is the most essential key measure that one must take care to fight with any form of viruses in our lives. The Covid-19 pandemic has focused on the role of the immune system more than ever before. The significance of good immune system and how to develop a good and strong immune system was discussed in an online Webinar on the theme "Boosting Immunity and Maintaining Health with Alternate Medicine", organized by Gandhi Samiti and Darshan Samiti on May 23, 2020. The webinar included 80 members including health experts, students, trainees, academics yogacharyas and GSDS staff members. Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive GSDS moderated the session. Shri Pankaj Sharma, Technical Associate GSDS provided technical support by hosting this session.



Initiating the discussion, Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan spoke about the growing concern of health amongst children and adults and people in general in this time of coronavirus that has engulfed humanity. He also highlighted the benefits of nature cure treatment and said how Mahatma Gandhi strongly believed in this whole form of cure which he applied to himself, his wife and also his children whenever they required.

Delivering the online interactive lecture Dr. Manju Rani Aggarwal, from the NITRD (National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases) shared valuable inputs about different types of "pranayama" (Yoga) to stay safe and healthy and boost immunity. She reflected on several *asanas* such as: *Anulom Vilom pranayama* facilitates proper functioning of body. She said, "*Padmasan*" is the easiest and the most vital *pranayama* to control health and mind".

She stated many therapies like Naturopathy is a drugless therapy that involves the use of "panchmahabhutas" or the five elements of nature to restore and build up health. She said that 'Naturopathy' restores vitality by supporting body's own healing mechanism naturally. She also described in details the concept of 'Chromotherapy' or the therapy associated with colours. "These colours shows different treatments for different diseases when water and oil are exposed to sun", she said. White colour symbolizes skeletal system and provides natural calcium to bones, violet for good sleep; indigo for anti-inflammatory diseases; blue for nervous system and throat; green for ailments for eyes and liver; yellow helps in full excretion; orange increases appetite. While reflecting on 'Hydrotherapy' or the use of water – to relieve discomfort and promote physical well being – Dr. Aggarwal said that 'Hydrotherapy' relaxes, stimulates immune system, reduces stress and reduces inflammation. Thereafter, Dr. Aggarwal spoke about proper intake of nutrients while discussing about food therapy.

Through various "hast mudras" or yoga through hand postures – that can be practiced anytime and anywhere – Dr. Manju spoke about 'Gyan mudra' (the

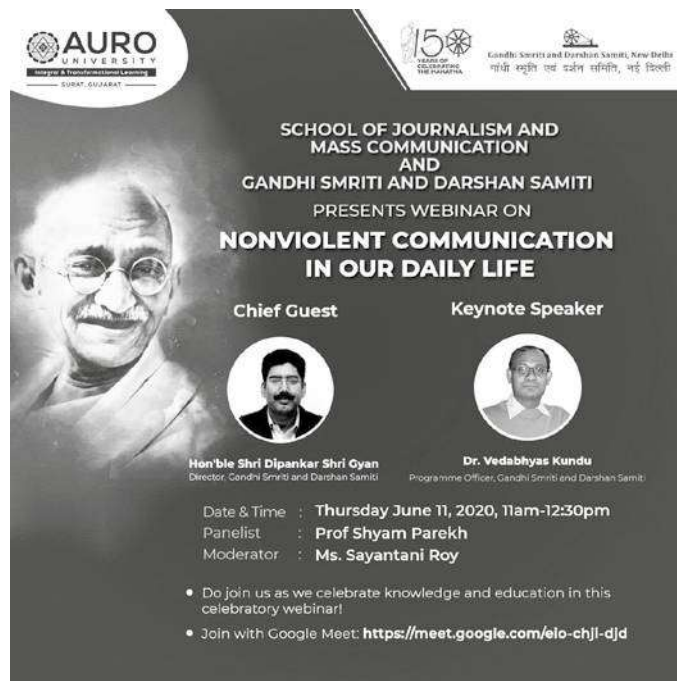
most effective hand gesture that works on uniting the soul to the ultimate supreme soul); 'Vaata mudra' (the simplest and most effective method of calming vaata, pitta and kapha); 'Apan mudra' (that helps in improving the lower body) and ('Pran mudra' represents life force and activates the flow of life forces.

The interactive session saw several queries related to the therapies with special emphasis on the procedures and use the colour therapy for effective results.

SURAT, GUJARAT

Webinar on Non-Violent Communication in our Daily Life organised

GSDS in association with the Auro University's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Surat, Gujarat organised a webinar on "Nonviolent Communication (NVC) in our Daily Life" on June 11, 2020. 52 participants took part in the Webinar. The speakers included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. Prof. Shyam Parekh, Dean, Dept of Mass Communication, Auro University was also present on the occasion. Prof. Sayantani Roy Assistant Professor, Dept of Mass Communication of Auro University moderated the session.



The webinar began with an introduction to the Gandhian approach to NVC by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS. While referring to different dimensions of the Gandhian framework of NVC, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan also emphasised that the style of communication has changed over the years and more so in the present day context when too much pressure – from different streams – have gripped humanity. He referred to the importance of handling pressure with a calm and quiet frame of mind.

Saying that Mahatma Gandhi never used harsh words for his opponents, and thereby acquired mutual admiration, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan spoke of the ancient Indian culture and tradition which he said paved a way for empathetic understanding of issues and mitigating towards solving problems peacefully through dialogues.

Further referring to both verbal and non-verbal communication, he asserted that the art of positive and fair communication must begin from home that is carried forward in the society, at work place and so on. "We have to change ourselves, talk within us, internally introspect", he said, adding, "Peace needs to be established within us first to establish a peaceful coexistence amongst others in the outer world".

The interactive dialogue saw a question-answer session between the participants, the key speaker Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu and the moderator Prof. Sayantani while delivering on the principles of non-violent communication (NVC), highlighted several key points with special reference to mindfulness dialogue between oneself and with others. He also pointed to the various elements of NVC and stressed on the five Gandhian pillars of NVC that form the basis of everyday life.

Speaking on the constructed news and the negative narratives, he urged the participants to use such views with one's conscience and strategically. He also referred to the use of mindfulness journalism by many of in the South East Asian Region and said that collaborative approach is another technique to deal with conflicting situations. He concluded by stressing on the need to create a communication ecosystem.

Amongst those who participated in the interactive question-answer session included: Prof. Shyam Parekh, Ms. Gyatri Deshmukh, Ms. Maitri Desai, Ms. Asiya Naqvi, Mr. Malik Mohd. Ashfaq, Shri Rajdeep Pathak and Shri Gulshan Gupta.

KARGIL

Workshop on "Strategies on Conflict Resolution in Classrooms: An Exploration"

Department of Education Kargil, LAHDC Kargil Ladakh in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti initiated a two-days on-line workshop on "Strategies on Conflict Resolution in Classrooms: An Exploration" for Teachers/Lecturers on July 22-23, 2020. Honble CEC LAHDC Kargil Shri Feroz Ahmad Khan inaugurated the online workshop and also launched a free on-line course "Strategies of Conflict Resolution for Peaceful Schools" for teachers, B.Ed, M. Ed and Education Researchers.

Shri Nazir Ahmad Wani CEO Kargil welcomed all the Guests and Participants. Dr Vedabhyas Kundu Programme Officer GSDS was also present along with the Resource Person Dr. Shazia Mansoori Asst. Prof AMU, and other dignitaries. The programme was moderated by



Mr. Syed Sajjad Agha, Programme Coordinator, Education Department, Kargil. In both the two days of the workshop 95 students took part.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom Conflicts using Non-Violent Communication



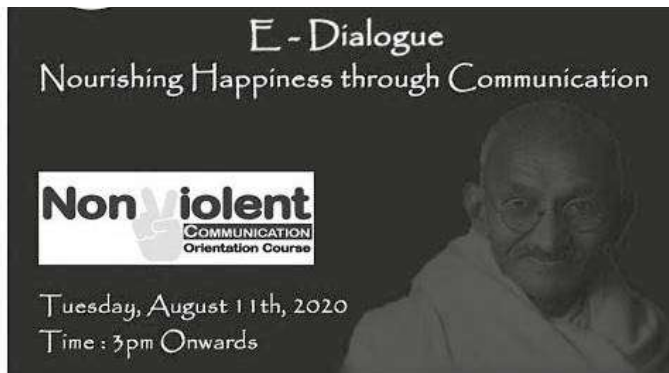
The Samiti in association with the Government College of Education, Institute of Advance Studies in Education (IASE), Cluster University, Srinagar organised a webinar on "From Retribution to Restorative Practices

– Handling Classroom Conflicts using Non-Violent Communication” on July 27, 2020. 205 participants took part in the webinar and discussed different aspects and strategies of using nonviolent communication techniques.

Prof. (Dr) Ruhi Jan Kanth, Principal Government College of Education, IASE, Kashmir, Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and Programme Officer GSDS Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu were the key speakers. The webinar was moderated by Shri Anjuman Qureshi. The programme began with a *musical tarana* by Mr. Syed Iqbal.

E-Dialogue on “Nourishing Happiness through Communication”

Under the International Centre of Gandhian Studies and Peace Research of the GSDS, the Samiti organized an E-Dialogue on “Nourishing Happiness through Communication” on August 11, 2020 for participants who had undertaken the free on-line certificate program on “Non-violent communication” run by the GSDS. The dialogue was organized with the participants who not only undertook the course, but also have taken initiative at their individual level towards promotion of the free course and further involved various stakeholders in understanding the dynamics of the course and the change within that was equally reiterated by the presenters during the dialogue.



The dialogue which was moderated and coordinated by Ms. Perna Jindal of GSDS had the following speakers – Ms. Malika Hussaini a student from Afghanistan; Ms. Sohini Jana, Director, J K Policy Institute, Jammu and Kashmir; Mr. Nikhil Tripathi, Advocate from Madhya Pradesh; Ms. Suchi Sharma, Educator from Delhi; Mr. Vinayak Trivedi, a student from Delhi Public School, Gurugram, Ms. Marzia Bano, Government Teacher from Kargil and Ms. Sonam Chorol, a student from Leh.

LECTURE SERIES UNDERSTANDING WITH CBSE – I & II

Weekly Lecture Series on Nonviolent Communication

As part of its online course on nonviolent communication, the Samiti is organizing a weekly lecture series with the Central Board of Secondary Education. The first lecture series was organized on October 21,

2020 which provided a general introduction to nonviolent communication. The second lecture was organized on October 29, 2020 and it focussed on how we can encourage nonviolent communication ecosystems for peaceful schools. The GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu delivered both the lectures.

1. **November 4, 2020:** The focus of the lecture was on how to resolve conflicts through nonviolent communication. The talk focused on strategies of conflict resolution and the centrality of nonviolent communication in resolving disputes through win-win solutions.



2. **November 11, 2020:** The fourth lecture series with CBSE focussed on *Anger Management*. Conducted by Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator of GSDS programmes, the workshop focused on understanding the psychology behind anger and defusing anger. Discussions took place on various topics related to anger; from distinction between good and bad anger, to what are the factors that trigger anger more frequently in teenagers than in any other person. The audience also got to learn about the important implications of a few essential words like ego, knowledge, confidence, jealousy and most importantly success; striving to achieve one's dreams and success is the key to distract oneself from rage and staying happy
3. **November 18, 2020:** The focus of the lecture was on understanding self through nonviolent communication. The focus was on techniques of being self-aware and how our self-talk and inner dialogue should be nonviolent in nature.

Lecture on Concepts and Dimensions of Nonviolence

As part of the lecture series on nonviolence organized by GSDS in association with the Malaviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University, the focus of the first lecture on December 7, 2020 was on different concepts and dimensions of nonviolence. The GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu delivered the lecture. He spoke on different theoretical and practical notions of nonviolence, the Indian traditions of nonviolence, the Gandhian approach and contemporary issues related to nonviolence.



The second lecture in the series was on **Nonviolent Communication on December 9, 2020**. The GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu focused on the need of nonviolent communication, what was nonviolent communication and how it could be used in our daily lives. He also gave a theoretical orientation on nonviolent communication.

Workshop on UN Human Rights Day organised

On the occasion of the United Nations World Human Rights Day 2020, School of Political Science and School of Visual Communication, Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science, Coimbatore in association with GSDS organized a virtual workshop on UN Human Rights on the theme "Recover Better: Stand Up for human Rights" on December 10, 2020. The keynote address was delivered by Lordship Justice K. G. Balakrishnan, former Chief Justice of India and former Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India.

In his address, Justice Balakrishnan spoke about the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and also its various articles. He observed how the basic principles of human rights were an intrinsic aspect

of the Indian Constitution right from its outset, and how that allows for greater freedom of the Indian citizen in matters like judicial rights. He recalled his time as the chairman of the NHRC and the processes that enabled implementation of his commission's recommendations for the benefit of various states. Stating that the Covid-19 pandemic requires human rights to ensure stability, he emphasized the need for governmental authorities to focus on creating solutions that cater to the common man's problems that go beyond the primary concern of health. He concluded with the four basic human rights – life, liberty, equality and fraternity – the four pillars of the UDHR.



To promote awareness about Human Rights and the UN Human Rights Declaration, KCLAS Coimbatore conducted three competitions for school and college students, the prizes for which were announced by the Chief Guest during the live programme.

The winning entries were also screened. The poster-making competitions were on the themes "Gender Equality" and "Women Empowerment", the 2000-word essay competition was on the theme "Recover Better: Stand Up for Human Rights" and the 2-minute short video presentation competition was on the theme "Child Rights Awareness". The participation for this competition was from students of 92 cities/towns/villages, from 23 states of India.

A special video by Team KCLAS was also screened, which had been prepared for the UNHR website that listed all 30 articles of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. The event was streamed live on the Facebook and YouTube pages of KCLAS.



Orientation Programmes for Children

From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom conflicts using Nonviolent Communication

***We need to create a culture of acceptance:
Vedabhyas Kundu***

250 participants from Rashtra Shakti Vidyalaya Hastasal New Delhi took part in a webinar on “From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom conflicts using Nonviolent Communication” in which elements, strategies of conflict resolution and making classroom cohesive were discussed by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS where he underlined the need for creation of a culture of acceptance and increase practice of gratitude in our daily life. The webinar was organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with Rashtra Shakti Vidyalaya on July 11, 2020.



In her initial remarks, Mrs. Shashi Tyagi, Director of Rashtra Shakti Vidyalaya underlined the necessity of the webinar at a time when the entire world is gripped by violence. She called for understanding, empathy and compassion and negated the whole idea of retribution, which she felt results in creating more conflicting situations. She emphasised on the need to develop trust and confidence amongst one another and that is only possible through words.

Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu through his presentation highlighted the various ideas of non-violent communication (NVC) with specific emphasis on the Gandhian principles of NVC – respect, understanding, acceptance and appreciation – and highlighted on the importance of encouraging interpersonal literacy amongst teachers. He said, “The aim should be for the evolution of a value-based classroom culture where both the students and teachers are able to work together coherently”.

While talking about various methodologies and techniques of applying NVC in classrooms to avoid retribution, he called upon the teachers to avoid being stereotyped and evaluative. Instead he hoped that teachers should be empathetic and attempt towards

understanding the reason behind the ‘disruptive’ or such behaviours of the students.

Saying that “Teaching is an emotional and demanding job”, Dr. Kundu necessitated the essence of mutual respect, and called for developing a hegemonic relationship. He further laid importance on the need of gratitude from home to schools, and underlined the whole idea of establishing positive relationship with others by promoting collaborative methods and understanding the need of others. He also asked the teachers to develop their observation skills, empathising with others’ problems or needs and having a compassionate attitude towards fellow human beings, which he felt can only be possible when one practices active listening.

Ms. Deepali Sharma, Ms. Hema Shama, Ms. Priyanka Rajput, Ms. Shilpi Mason and others interacted with Dr. Kundu during the question-answer session. Mrs. Shashi Tyagi requested the Samiti for more such training workshops in future.

From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom conflicts using Nonviolent Communication

***With pleasing words you can get connected:
Anju Tandon***

The Samiti in association with Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan’s Mehta Vidyalaya (BVBMV) New Delhi organised a webinar on “From Retribution to Restorative Practices – Handling Classroom conflicts using Nonviolent Communication on June 12, 2020. The key speakers at the webinar included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. (Mrs) Anju Tandon, Principal, BVBMV and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Director GSDS. Over 100 participants from Delhi NCR, Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan’s NSCB Vidyaniketan Haldia, Bangalore, Hyderabad, teachers from the Holy Child Sr. Sec. School Tagore Garden joined the webinar.

Giving his introductory remarks and initiating the dialogue, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan highlighted the traditional Indian system of mitigation of conflicts amongst parties and also spoke on the concept of ‘panch parameshwar’ which governed the society and handled all the disputes, which was finally sorted out or decided by the head of that system. He said, ‘Establishing peace is the ultimate aim humankind wants to attain’. While speaking about the competition amongst peer groups, society, in education, jobs and so on, he said that if healthy competitions develop then the process of establishing communication between groups becomes easier. He also laid stress on the challenges teachers face in their day-to-day life and appreciated their patience in handling students with different behaviour, attitude and mannerisms and felt that a more integrated approach through the methodologies of non-violent communication can bring in great changes not

just in the students but also the teachers because when communication bridges the gap, problems solve and does not precipitate.

retribution, he called upon the teachers to avoid being stereotyped and evaluative. Instead he hoped that teachers should be empathetic and attempt towards



Gandhi Smriti And Darshan Samiti,
New Delhi





150
YEARS OF
CELEBRATING
THE MAHATMA

Webinar on

From Retribution to Restorative Practices

Handling Classroom Conflicts Using Non-Violent Communication

Day & Date : Friday, June 12, 2020

Time: 11.30 AM onwards

Organized by

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

In association with

Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan's Mehta Vidyalaya



Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan
(Director G.S.D.S)



Dr. Anju Tandon
Principal
Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan's
Mehta Vidyalaya



Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
(Programme Officer G.S.D.S)






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Dr. (Mrs) Anju Tandon in her address reflected on the necessity of communication and said that it is not possible for humankind to not to communicate. There is communication within, outside at each and every moment. She emphasised on the need to develop trust and confidence amongst one another and that is only possible through words. "Both or verbal as well as non-verbal communication matters and takes us a long way in building establishing relationship", said Dr. Tandon, adding, "With pleasing words you can get connected, for words are the most important force in the hands of humankind".

Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu through his presentation highlighted the various ideas of non-violent communication (NVC) with specific emphasis on the Gandhian principles of NVC – respect, understanding, acceptance and appreciation – and highlighted on the importance of encouraging interpersonal literacy amongst teachers. He said, "The aim should be for the evolution of a value-based classroom culture where both the students and teachers are able to work together coherently".

While talking about various methodologies and techniques of applying NVC in classrooms to avoid

understanding the reason behind the 'disruptive' or such behaviours of the students. He also defined the concept of TEACHER through an acronym as – T- Truthful/ trustworthy/transparent; E- Empathetic; A- Acceptance; C- Compassionate; H- Humane/Humorous; E- Enlightened and R- Reassuring/Reliable and said, "Teaching is an emotional and demanding job", adding, "Teaching is mediated by knowing the needs of students and creating a climate where the students are actively engaged".

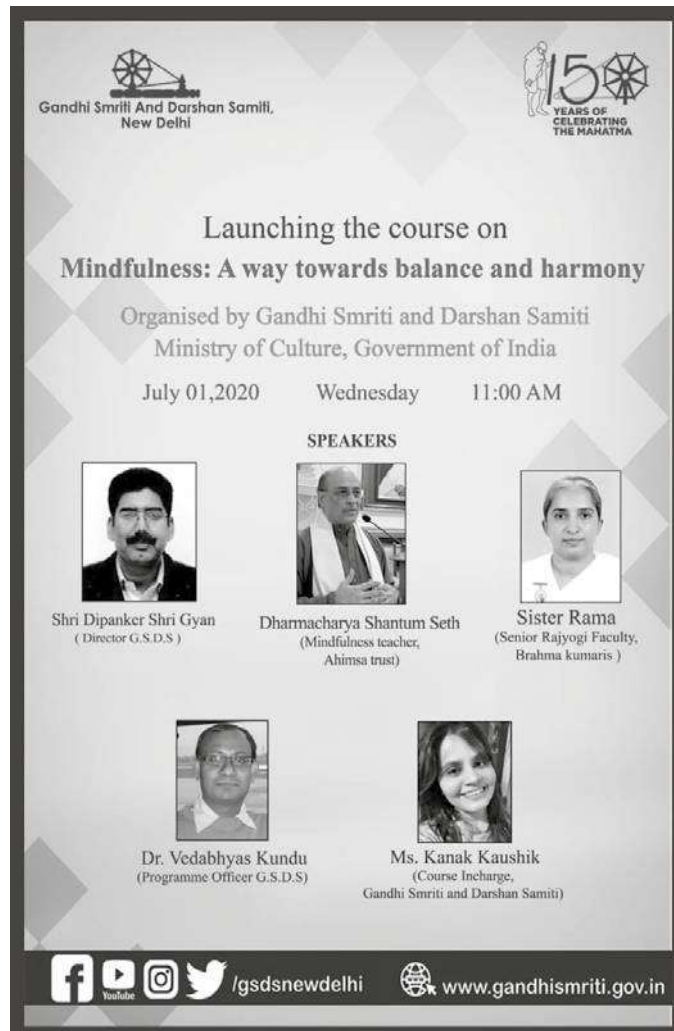
He also pointed to the need for practicing how our thought processes are also nonviolent by nature and called for encouraging constructive dialogue, for which he underlined the need for developing active and deep listening skills.

Laying importance on the need of gratitude from home to schools, Dr. Kundu concluded his presentation by asking teachers to promote peer mediation practices and making learning fun.

The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Ms. Alka Jayaswal, Academic Coordinator of Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan's Mehta Vidyalaya. Dr. Anju Tandon proposed for including more such topics as

emotional intelligence, social awareness and reflection exercises. Ms. Anupama Nagendra, Ms. Anny Narang, Ms. Sunita Jha, Ms. Subhashree Praide and others also interacted with the panellists.

Workshop on “Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony”



Gandhi Smriti And Darshan Samiti, New Delhi


15 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA


Launching the course on
Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony


Organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
Ministry of Culture, Government of India


July 01, 2020 Wednesday 11:00 AM


SPEAKERS

 Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan
(Director G.S.D.S)

 Dharmacharya Shantum Seth
(Mindfulness teacher,
Ahimsa trust)

 Sister Rama
(Senior Rajyogi Faculty,
Brahma kumaris)

 Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
(Programme Officer G.S.D.S)

 Ms. Kanak Kaushik
(Course Incharge,
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti)

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Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organized a Workshop on “Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony” in association with KAMS Convent School, New Delhi on July 16, 2020. The webinar was graced with the august presence of Sister Vidhatri from Brahmakumaris. Ms. Soniya Saini (Principal-KAMS convent School), Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu (Programme Officer, GSDS), Mr. Rajdeep Pathak (Programme Executive, GSDS) and Ms. Kanak Kaushik (Course Incharge-Mindfulness, GSDS).

38 teachers and students of KAMS convent school along with staff members of the Samiti participated in the webinar that began with the welcome address by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu who enumerated the benefits of mindfulness.

Orientation on Practicing Mindfulness for Healthy Living

We are in a journey of inner peace and not a race:
Surbhee Singh

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti conducted an orientation programme on “Practicing Mindfulness for Healthy Living” on October 22, 2020. 80 participants that included children from The Aditya Birla Group of School at Renu Sagar Uttar Pradesh, GSDS staff members attended the orientation programme conducted by Ms. Surbhee Singh, ICF Certified Coach, NLP Master Practitioner.

The programme began with the welcome address by Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS who while pointing out that mindfulness is a life skill, said, “Mindfulness is as old as the Upanishads. Every saint and seers have again and again given us the principles of mindfulness to follow in our daily life”, and added, “There are however challenges to achieve this and the world today is gripped by different forms of violence – mental, physical, emotional and so on. One has to regularly practice it to achieve the desiring results for it is not at all theoretical”. She also referred to the Buddhist Zen Master Rev. Thich Nath Han who has given a direction to many thousands towards being mindful in their daily life.

Delivering the key note address, Ms. Surbhee Singh dealt with both practical as well as theoretical solutions as she pointed out the reasons for stress in what she referred to ‘expectations’ that have increased and so are the challenges, which have necessitated the need for mindfulness training in this age.

Sharing anecdotes and stories from Guru Nanak to examples by leading practitioners, Ms. Surbhee Singh

In one second, we get four million bits of information, and the brain starts filtering the information; what is needed is how and what we should focus upon”, for, which, there’s a need to let go the past so that we don’t loose on the present.

highlighted the need for “quality of engagement” at all level for what she said will lead to “Moment by moment awareness, which is called mindfulness”. She spoke of different levels of engagement – level I, II and III – where quality of engagement has to be self introspected at level one and two and globally at level III – thinking of various other people who have been involved in the



process and thanking them. “This is the deepest level of engagement”, said Ms. Surbhee.

Ms. Surbhee further asserted on the power of listening for absorption and thereafter observation and advised for appreciating and respecting nature in a bigger framework. Saying that “In one second, we get four million bits of information, and the brain starts filtering the information; what is needed is how and what we should focus upon”, for which she pointed that “There’s a need to let go the past so that we don’t loose on the present”.

Explaining various models such as the “Iceberg Model”, Ms. Surbhee Singh further explained that the ‘circle of influence’ and the ‘circle of control’ she said that while the former reflect ‘your thoughts, feelings and words’, the latter is external and not in one’s individual control. But, “We should not let the outer circle shrink the inner circle.

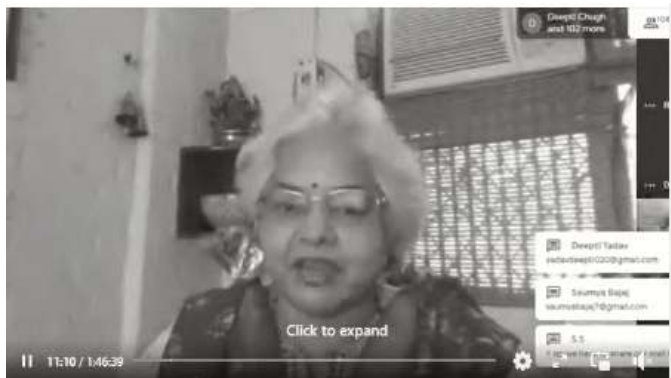
Ms. Surbhee further conducted a practical demonstration of what she called the “I” exercise that helps an individual to understand oneself, good and bad and also to help to talk of one’s fears, which she said, if practiced consistently, would lead to gradual changes. “We are in a journey of inner peace and not a race”, she concluded.



Orientation Programmes for Youth

Handling Classroom Conflicts Using Non-Violent Communication – A National Webinar

The Samiti in association with the Department of Education, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi organised a national webinar of June 1, 2020 on “Handling Classroom Conflicts Using Non-Violent Communication”. The chief speakers in the webinar were Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and Programme Officer GSDS Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu. The organising committee members of the webinar included Dr. Renu Malaviya; Ms. Rashi Dubey Mishra; Dr. Vinod Kumar Kalra; Dr. Suraj Kumar and Dr. Stuti Srivastava. 155 participants took part in the webinar.



A participant from Lady Irwin College is seen sharing her perspectives during the webinar on June 1, 2020.

Giving his introductory remarks, Director GSDS spoke of communication management and role of future teachers in shaping the lives of the future citizens of the country. He addressed the issue of conflict management in the classrooms and said that teachers handling a large number of students together find it difficult to engage with one and all, but they are the best mentors to bridge the communication gap by involving the students in positive communication. He also underlined the Gandhian concept of conflict resolution, which he said is applicable to all forms of conflict resolution.

Giving the key note address on the subject of handling classrooms using non-violent communication (NVC), Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu explained the elements of NVC with specific reference to the Gandhian principles of NVC. While speaking about the disruptive behaviour of students in classroom, he underlined that breakdown of communication could lead to problems and said that the teachers should develop the ingenuity of communication to handle such students who present complex dynamics in the classroom. He also stressed on the need to develop a communication ecosystem in the classroom.

While emphasising on the Gandhian principles of NVC, Dr. Kundu asked the future teachers to develop empathy towards the students and avoid stereotype behaviours. He said there is a need to create avenues for greater dialogues, which will develop a sense of belonging. He asked the future teachers to avoid

retributive attitude towards the students for either their lack of interest or disruptive behaviour. He further said that avoidance or neglect only aggravates the problem and therefore suggested teachers should have a positive and collaborative role in handling their students which in turn will build relations and thereby help in instilling the importance of interdependence with compassion towards nature and all other living beings amongst the students. “Connecting with the needs of others and understanding student-teacher, student-student relationship and resolving their differences is the key towards transforming aggressive or disruptive behaviours into more constructive work. This helps in developing a sense of belonging”, said Dr. Kundu.

The question answer session saw teachers engaging in a myriad discussion on attitude and behaviour of students ranging from their being attention seekers to use of abusive language and also parental behaviour with teachers. Dr. Stuti Srivastava, Ms. Varsha Rani, Ms. Rukshaar Siddiqi, Prof. Priyanka, Ms. Chandrika Sanwal and others interacted with Dr. Kundu. It was felt that the ingenuity of teachers in connecting with each student individually will also develop in them a sense of gratitude and respect, which will lead them forward. Dr. Kundu also pointed that media literacy education for each teacher is very important.

Strategies of conflict resolution in classroom, an exploration discussed in e-workshop

150 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA

Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Culture)

E- WORKSHOP ON
“STRATEGIES OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION
IN CLASSROOMS: AN EXPLORATION”
(June 9-10, 2020, 3.00 p.m.- 4.45 p.m.)

Chief Guest
Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan
(Director, GSDS)

Resource Person
Dr. Shazia Mansoori
(Assistant Professor, AMU)

Resource Person
Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
(Programme Officer, GSDS)

Hands- on sessions by resource persons to

- Promote a Culture of Peace through Conflict Resolution in the Classroom
- Develop an empathetic classroom
- Devise ways to increase cooperation and collaboration among learners
- Use Nonviolent Communication in classroom
- Commit to restorative practices

Who can attend the workshop? Teacher Educators, School Teachers and Teacher Trainees

- No Registration Fee
- LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE
- Format for the E-Workshop: Presentation and Hands- on exercises, followed by questions and answers
- Duration each day: 3 Sessions each day (30 mins each)
- Technology: Google Meet
- Certificates will be issued to only those participants who attend the workshop and submit the assignment on specified time of 15 days.

E- Workshop Registration link: <https://forms.gle/PE25T8HmKujmsRox8>

For any query write to: gdspeacestudies@gmail.com
@gdsnewdelhi

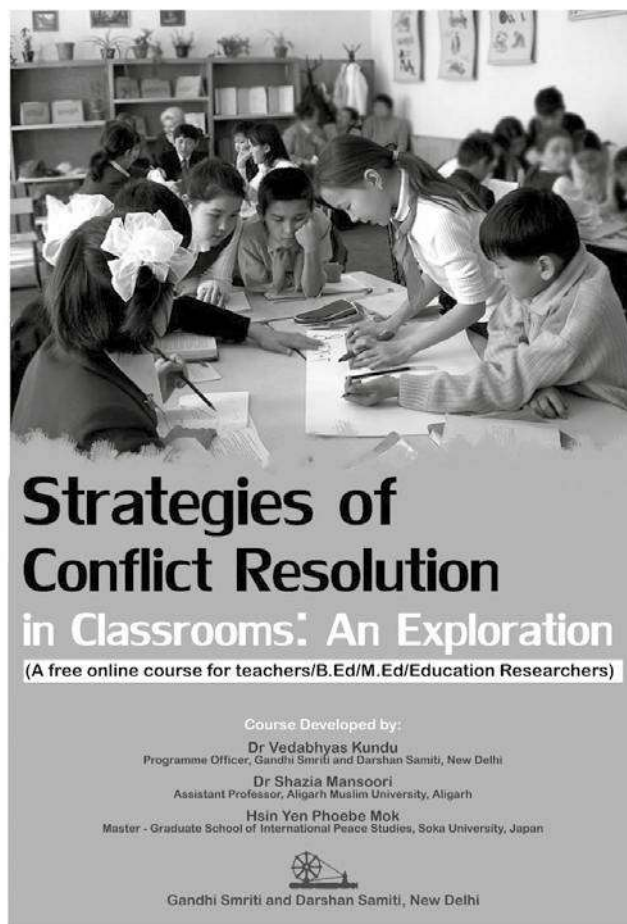
A two-day e-workshop on “Strategies of Conflict Resolution in Classroom” was organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on June 9-10, 2020 for students and teachers of different colleges and universities across the country. Dr. Sazia Mansoori, Assistant Professor Aligarh Muslim University was one of the key speakers along with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS who gave an introductory address to the webinar; and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. The Webinar underlined the necessity for an effective measure to be taken in the classrooms and establish a cultural of peace & making connection with students for a healthy environment. 45 participants took part in the two-day e-workshop.

Delivering the webinar’s keynote lecture Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS explained the different dimensions of conflict resolution in classrooms via using non violent communication techniques. He talked on how conflict management helps in reducing stress and friction and referred to the Gandhian approach of non-violent communication skills. He further said that Mahatma Gandhi was one of the greatest volunteers. He talked on gandhian approach of volunteering.

Dr. Kundu, further observed that in today’s scenario one can only calm a confronting situation by controlling one’s thoughts and actions by avoiding stereotypes, evaluating language and be more empathetic towards others. Dr. Kundu integrated the nonviolent communication techniques with media literacy which he said was very important for teachers in taking students in the right direction in today’s media scenario.

Dr. Shazia, through her interactive presentation talked in detail on how to deal with this situation of mapping language, integrated design thinking, measures to overcome in a scenario and how to create real life empathy opportunities. Different analysis of conflicting situations arising in family, school and offices were also discussed during the webinar. Various situations in which peer mediation is encouraged amongst students were also discussed.

Earlier, Mr. Dipanker Shri Gyan inaugurated the session. He spoke on the anger management issue and resolving them without the conflict. He focused on the Gandhian approach to deal with conflicting situation. He also spoke on mutual communication as an essential feature of mediation. Through his presentation he addressed the reasons of conflict in classroom and also discussed the ways of resolving conflicts. While talking about culture all over the world that practices settlement of arguments by peaceful persuasion rather than power, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said that ancient villages had one skilled leader who would help people solve their problems. He further stressed on the necessity to develop a culture of dialogue for which the participants need to be allowed to express their feelings and needs. He further stressed



on the essence of team work and shared the ideas of active listening for bridging the communication gap.

The webinar concluded by sharing assignments to the participants that included creative reflection exercises which could be used to achieve a win-win-situation for the conflicting parties by establishing dialogue, understanding sentiments with and empathetic attitude and having an open mindset.

E-workshop on Strategies of Conflict Resolution in Classrooms: An Exploration

GSDS organised its second e-workshop on “Strategies of Conflict Resolution in Classrooms” on June 16-17, 2020 with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr Shazia Mansoori, Assistant Professor, Aligarh Muslim University and Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu as the key speakers. 45 participants took part in the two-day e-workshop.

Giving his introductory remarks Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan spoke on the genesis of conflict which is in mind. He called for healthy competition amongst peer groups, teachers and students, students and students and called for understanding and empathetic approach. He reiterated the concept of *panch parameshwara* in settling conflicting situations in the community and said that conflict management isn’t a Western concept, rather it



has its origin in the ancient Vedas. He further highlighted that conflict management according to the Gandhian principles is a win-win situation, where no one wins and no one loses. He reiterated that in conflict it is not just that we go on arguing, we also must patiently listen. Calling classrooms as real nursery, he called teachers as the real trainers of life.

Through her demonstrative lecture and online polls, Dr. Shazia made an engaging connect with the participants through her presentation on different dimensions of conflict management. Discussing various theories and their practical approach in mitigation of conflicting ideas Dr. Shazia also analysed various situations teachers face in classrooms ranging from attitudinal behaviours to strange ideas that cause conflicting situation. She also asked participants to explore their role as peace-makers.

Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu in his address on the first day spoke on the need for the promotion of pro-social behaviour and asserted the need for creating a cohesive classroom. He emphasised on the need for greater mutual cooperation and hoped teachers become non-judgemental.

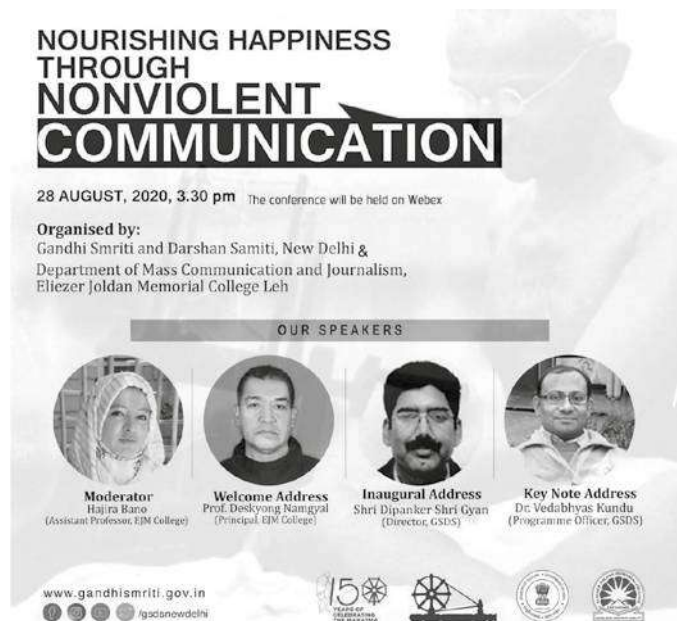
The second day of the e-workshop saw the participants engage in different exercises. Dr. Shazia necessitated the importance of dialogue and mediation and highlighted that kindness need to be practiced along with the art of receiving vis-à-vis giving that needs to be cultivated.

Dr. Vedabhyas spoke of dialogue as an inclusive process where communication is based on mutual respect, encouraging listening and carefully solving problems. He stressed on the need for creating a safe space and spoke on the five key Gandhian pillars of conflict resolution. He also stressed on the importance of media literacy and said that media literacy is important for it teaches the ability to critically analyse media messages.

The e-workshop concluded by giving assignments to the participants followed by interactive question and answer session posed by several teachers and academics.

E-conference on the theme “Nurturing Happiness through Nonviolent Communication

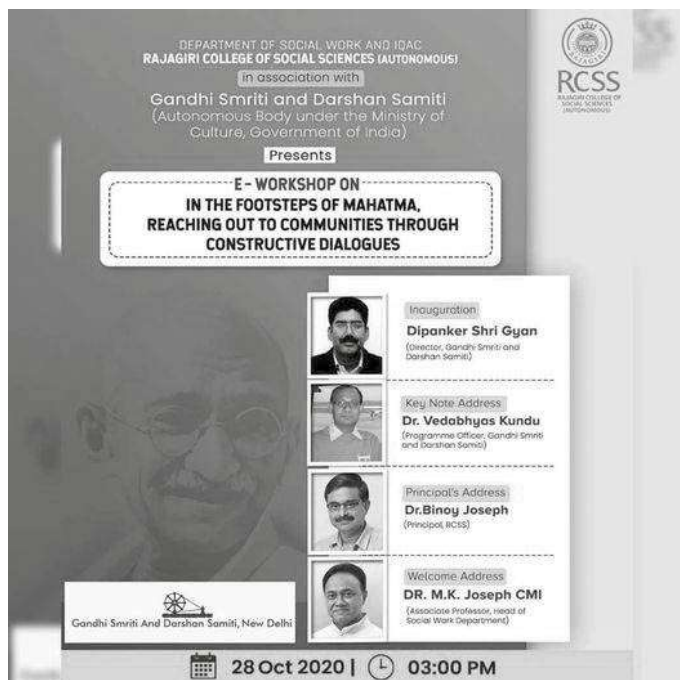
The Samiti in association with the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Eliezer Joldan Memorial (EJM) College, Leh, organised a e-conference on the theme “Nurturing Happiness through Nonviolent Communication” on August 28, 2020 with Prof. Deskyong Namgyal, Principal EJM College; Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator, GSDS as the main speakers. Assistant Professor of EJM College, Ms. Hajira Bano moderated the session.



35 participants took part in this session. Through various examples from daily life on how to conduct one and how to frame one's communication, Shri Gulshan Gupta spoke on the essence of words that have both the power to destroy and heal. He also quoted Mahatma Gandhi who had said that “The force of love is the same as the force of the soul or truth...”

E-Workshop on “In the Footsteps of Mahatma, reaching out to communities through Constructive Dialogues”

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with the Department of Social Work and IQAC, Rajagiri College of Social Science an autonomous body organized an “E-workshop on “In the Footsteps of Mahatma, reaching out to communities through constructive dialogues” on October 28, 2020. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS inaugurated the E-workshop. The key-note address was given by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS. Principal of the College Dr. Binoy Joseph, also spoke on the occasion. Dr. M K Joseph (CMI), Assistant Professor, HOD Social Work Department of Rajagiri College delivered the welcome address. Dr. Mary Venus Joseph, Dean (Research) and Coordinator of IQAC, Rajagiri also spoke on the occasion. 72 participants joined the programme. Dr. Anand K moderated the session.



Welcoming the participants on behalf of the Rajagiri College, Dr. M K Joseph highlighted the needs that the COVID-19 pandemic produced and necessitated the need for focussing back to rural reconstruction and 'gram swaraj' which Mahatma Gandhi had espoused for, his concept of village self sufficiency and constructive programme taking everybody back to the roots that villages are safe and that local environment poses far less danger than the urban livelihood.

In his address, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan congratulated the Rajagiri College for winning the Swachhata Award and said that they are one among the torchbearers to apply the philosophies of Mahatma Gandhi practically. He focussed on how humankind has been lacking in compassion and has become aggressive, because, "We feel that we are superior to others. We push our views and are not ready to hear others" and added, "Until and unless there is peace within, one cannot achieve sustainable peace, which can happen only when healthy communication takes place".

Speaking about the Gandhian model of communication, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan further pointed that Mahatma Gandhi used the same communication skills that he used either in his dealings with the British or even the masses and all were equally impressed with his messages. Referring to the incident when Gandhiji was thrown out of the train on his way to South Africa, despite having a first class ticket, he further added, anger never took over Gandhiji and he never reacted aggressively. It was what was taught to him by his parents and teachers that harnessed his communication skills.

"It is a real challenge before humankind that we are not trying to develop an understanding between

each of us and just trying to prove that our views are superior to others. We are not ready to coexist with our family, environment and we must learn how to coexist with ourselves and others. Mahatma Gandhi will remain relevant, because his philosophies are universal, pro-environment pro-humankind and are on the basics of all religion", he said.

Conducting the session, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu focussed on elements of communication and communication per se. He pointed on the need to learn and revisit the constructive dialogue that Mahatma Gandhi engaged in this daily life, as it is essential for breaking the domain of 'frozen communication' and 'trust deficit' that has gripped individuals. He stressed on continuous engagement and soul-to-soul dialogue that helps in developing relationship and emotional bridge-building amongst individuals.

Addressing students from the social work department of Rajagiri College, Dr. Kundu through various practical examples highlighted the importance of establishing and engaging in dialogues for working in the communities effectively. He quoted Nelson Mandela who had stressed on the importance of negotiation, dialogue and reason. He had said, "In almost every part of the world, human beings find reasons to resort to force and violence in addressing differences that we surely should attempt to resolve through negotiation, dialogue and reason".

It is a real challenge before humankind that we are not trying to develop an understanding between each of us and just trying to prove that our views are superior to others. We are not ready to coexist with our family, environment and we must learn how to coexist with ourselves and others. Mahatma Gandhi will remain relevant, because his philosophies are universal, pro-environment pro-humankind and are on the basics of all religion.

Hespoke on the five pillars of Gandhian nonviolence – 'respect, understanding, acceptance, appreciation and compassion and pointed that "Dialogues strengthens relationships and helps in forging alliances. It further brings people into alignment on goals and strategies and forges channels of communication which is transparent and promotes collaboration empathetically" and which could be challenging for complexities may evolve (as many of us may be from different backgrounds). We must not fall into the trap of stereotyping and moralistic judgments and develop mutual respect and even consensus for others".

He further pointed that there is a need for collaboration and cooperation is essential and focussed on the different elements of nonviolent communication such as *power of empathy; importance of compassion; flexibility and openness; developing active and deep listening skills, connecting with the need of others and express gratitude.*

Dr. Kundu concluded by quoting Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General who had reaffirmed on the 76th anniversary of the United Nations that, "In all circumstances in the world – even the most difficult circumstances – we need to push for dialogue".

'MUDITA' a Workshop on 'Promotion of volunteerism for Constructive Work'

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), Shahed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women (SRCASW), a flagship program of MHRD in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organized 'MUDITA', a Workshop on 'Promotion of Volunteerism for Constructive Work' on November 7, 2020. The main objectives of this program were:

- Instil amongst youth a spirit of volunteerism
- Exposition of Gandhian constructive work
- Explore & develop ideas for volunteer work
- Preparing young people to contribute to community & nation-building
- Developing capacities of young people in leadership & team-building

Shaheed Rajguru College of Applied Sciences for Women
University of Delhi
(under the aegis of IQAC)

UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN
(A Flagship Programme by Ministry of Education, India)

in association with
GANDHI SMRITI AND DARSHAN SAMITI
is organising
'MUDITA'
A Workshop on
'Promotion of Volunteerism for Constructive Work'

Speakers:

Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
Programme Officer,
GSDS

Mr. Dipanker Shri Gyan
Director, GSDS

Mr. Gulshan Gupta
Northeast Coordinator,
GSDS

Date: 7 November, 2020 Time: 11 AM onwards

Register here:
<https://forms.gle/2o8CP7zVYNULzkhg6>

e-certificates of appreciation will be awarded to the participants

Dr. Lakshmi Sarin
(Convener, UBA)

Dr. Payal Mago
(Chairperson, UBA)

Dr. Mohita Bhagat
(Co-Convener, UBA)

For further information, contact:

Mr. Rituraj Anand: 8802219419
(Teacher coordinator)

Jahnavi Sharma: 9416786786
(Student coordinator)

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Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS and Shri Gulshan Gupta, GSDS Coordinator North East Programmes conducted the interactive workshop. Almost 89 participants took part in the discussion.

The essence and meaning of volunteerism were explained in a beautiful manner. The skills required for successful volunteerism like communication skills, leadership skills, public relations skills were explained in a very comprehensive manner. The importance of team spirit, trustworthiness, empathy, self confidence in volunteerism was also spoken about.

Questions like 'When should we start volunteering? How should we volunteer? Where should we volunteer? When should we stop volunteering? Can you earn in volunteering? Does donation account to volunteering?' etc., were addressed in the workshop. The speakers further shared their real-life experiences of volunteering at various places and how they coped up with various challenges like disputes, not achieving expected results and so on.

E-workshop on Practicing Nonviolent Communication

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

IIS
Institute of Technology & Science
Ghaziabad

GANDHI SMRITI & DARSHAN SAMITI

My unchangeable creed is
nonviolence & universal brotherhood.
— Mahatma

**PRACTICING
NONVIOLENT
COMMUNICATION**

DECEMBER 23, 2020, 10.15AM

Welcome Address:
Shri Arpit Chaudha
Vice Chairman
I.T.S-The Education Group

Introductory Address:
Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan
Director, GSDS
Ministry of Culture, GOI

Keynote Address:
Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
Programme Officer, GSDS
Ministry of Culture, GOI

Presided By:
Dr. Sanjiv Kumar Pandey
Director - IT & UG
I.T.S, Ghaziabad

Welcome Address:
Prof. Nancy Sharma
Vice Principal, UG Campus
I.T.S, Ghaziabad

Chair by:
Prof. Uttam Sharma
Chairperson - BBA
I.T.S, Ghaziabad

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450 students, faculty members of Institute of Technology and Science, Ghaziabad took part in an on-line E-workshop on "Practicing Nonviolent Communication" on December 23, 2020. The e-workshop was conducted by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Nancy Sharma, Vice Principal UG Campus, I.T.S. Ghaziabad. Prof. Uttam Sharma, Chairperson BBA, I.T.S. Ghaziabad chaired the session.

Conducting the workshop on Non Violent Communication (NVC), Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu spoke

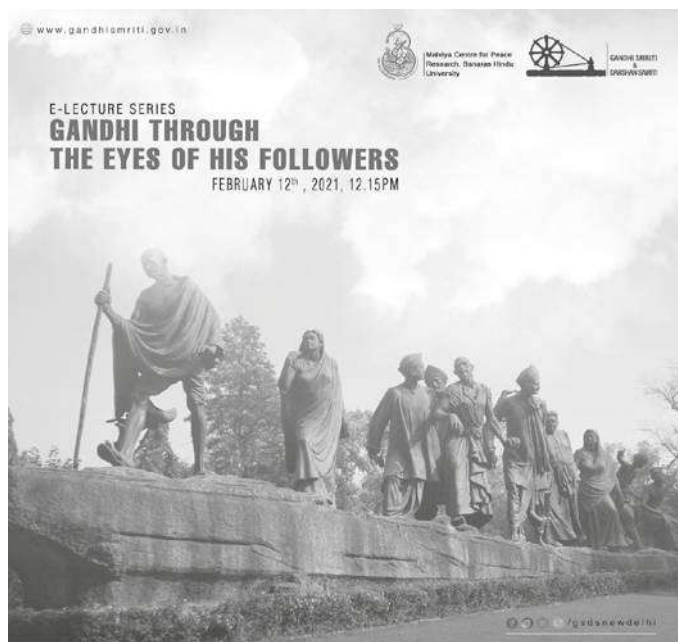
of different theories and their practical applications. Speaking about the five key elements of communication, he spoke on the context of the Indian Culture and pointed to the five pillars of NVC – 'Respect', 'Understanding', 'Acceptance', 'Appreciation' and 'Compassion'.

Elaborating his point further, Dr. Kundu quoted Marshall Rosenberg, according to whom: "Nonviolent Communication is founded on language and communication skills that strengthen our ability to remain human, even under trying conditions. It guides us in refraining how we express ourselves and hear others" and said that there is a need to develop a 'cosmo-centric' approach towards human beings and living creatures around us. While referring to eminent Gandhian Late Natwar Thakkar, Dr. Kundu said that there's a need to understand inner self and go deep within.

In addition, he explained how we can bring non-violent dialogue into our lives. And what are the things that we need to keep in mind during our speech - such as promoting creativity within ourselves, keeping ourselves aware, avoiding prejudice, not being judgmental towards anyone, other's Understanding the problems, these are all the ways through which we can increase non-violent dialogue.

Gandhi through the eyes of his followers – A Reflection

GSDS in association with Malviya Centre for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) organised an on-line reflection by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS when he spoke on two eminent stalwarts and Gandhian thinkers, Baba Amte and Natwar Thakkar. Titled, "Gandhi through the eyes of his followers", the programme was organised on February 12, 2021. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu reflected on the immense selfless contribution of these stalwarts for the emancipation of the people and the society.



Late Murlidhar Devidas Amte, commonly known as Baba Amte, was an Indian social worker and social activist known particularly for his work for the rehabilitation and empowerment of people suffering from leprosy.

Late Natwar Thakkar, popularly known as Natwar bhai, was an Indian social worker who worked in Nagaland. He came from Maharashtra but migrated to Nagaland for social work at the age of 23 at the peak of insurgency in Nagaland. He founded the Nagaland Gandhi Ashram at Chuchuyimlang village in the Mokokchung district of Nagaland.

Workshop on 'Peer Mediation: An Approach to Constructive Dispute Resolution

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), SRCASW, a flagship program of MHRD and departments of English and Biochemistry in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti is organizing 'MUDITA' - Workshop on 'Peer Mediation: An Approach to Constructive Dispute Resolution' on February 18, 2021. The main objective of this dialogue was to develop meditation capabilities amongst young people and ensure harmonious transformation of relationships. The eminent speakers of the workshop included: Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS; Mr. Gulshan Gupta, North-east Coordinator, GSDS.



Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu during his interaction asked them about the conflicts they face and how they resolved them. Then he explained the importance of peer mediation and how to effectively be a peer mediator. He also discussed the qualities that are necessary for a peer mediator. He very beautifully linked non-violence and peer mediation.

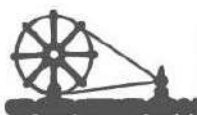
Mr. Gulshan Gupta in his presentation said that mediation is also only possible when the other parties want to mediate. Also, he explained how one can help when situations are such that one cannot act as a mediator due to age differences like between children and parents. He also said that sometimes we need to give the parties time and space to sort things out instead of actively resolving.

E-Workshop on "A Journey to Volunteering"

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with Bangabasi Morning College (BMC), Kolkata organised an e-workshop on "On a journey to volunteering" on February 27, 2021. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS conducted the session. Dr. Tulika Chakravorty, Assistant Professor and NSS Program Officer, BMC Kolkata also spoke on the occasion.



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



GANDHI SMRITI
&
DARSHAN SAMITI



BANGABASI MORNING COLLEGE
Re-Accredited with Grade "A" by NAAC
Affiliated with the University of Calcutta

ON A JOURNEY to VOLUNTEERING

Saturday 27 FEBRUARY, 2020 11.00am

The conference will be held on Webex

O U R S P E A K E R S



Inaugural Address

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan
Director, GSDS
New Delhi



Key Note Address

Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
Program Officer, GSDS
New Delhi



Address

Shri Rajdeep Pathak
Program Executive, GSDS
New Delhi



Chair

Dr. Tulika Chakravorty
Assistant Professor, BMC
Kolkata



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In his addresses, while discussing the different dimensions of volunteering and its importance in the role of societal development Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu said, "Volunteering is the fundamental building block of civil society. It brings to life the noblest aspiration of humankind-the pursuit of peace, freedom, opportunity, safety and justice for all people", and said that all people in the world should have the right to freely offer their time, talent and energy to others and to their communities.

He further said that "Volunteering is all about contributing out of one's own free will. But an effective and responsible volunteer cannot make choices on the fly" and added, "To be a good volunteer, discovering and honouring the self is crucial".



Lectures/Discussions/Seminars/ Dialogues/Conferences

On-line lecture as part of Earth Day

Saving the Earth is responsibility of 700 crore people: **Laxmi Dass**



Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President, Harijan Sevak Sangh and Executive Member GSDS is seen delivering the lecture.

On the occasion of Earth Day on April 22, 2020 GSDS as part of the on-line lecture series invited Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President of Harijan Sevak Sangh and EC Member GSDS to deliver a lecture on the theme: *Epidemic, Earth and Mahatma Gandhi*.

Shri Laxmi Dass began by appealing to humankind to abide by the rules laid by the Government in tackling the pandemic COVID -19. He also appealed to the scientists to join together in doing a research to find a solution to kill the virus for this virus has affected the economy and large number of people's livelihood.

He also spoke on Mother Earth how we worship her in different forms and that the size and speed of the earth cannot be reduced or increased. He said, "Humans may or may not think of Mother Earth, but Mother Earth does always think of all the living beings and this Earth Day is a reminder of how we must save and nurture the Mother Earth", adding, "Time and again in several seminars and dialogues on saving the earth, it has been reiterated that over population has over burdened the earth, but I have a different opinion. Earth has a capacity to provide for all beings for their need not for their greed. We have two hands and one mouth. The question is how do we give work to our hands to feed this single mouth?"

Shri Laxmi Dass further said that this idea of need versus greed has been strongly advocated by Mahatma Gandhi also and he always laid stress on the use of hands. However in our greed to amass more and more wealth and in the name of industrialization, we have shifted our focus from individual well-being towards use of machines and materialism and society has become corrupt for this greed has resulted in the exploitation of the many by some. It should be our priority to explore avenues for

poor people to work and be self sustained, which was also the key idea and belief of Mahatma Gandhi, who was not against modernization.

He also lamented that in the name of modernization, the tendency today is exploitation of resources provided by Mother Earth. We must grow trees scientifically so that forests grow and use it scientifically and not recklessly. This should be our prime agenda and the entire humanity should pledge towards refraining from exploitation of nature, human and wild life and create a mutual coexistence.

Referring to Gandhiji's Hind Swaraj, Shri Laxmi Dass said that like what Mahatma Gandhi had asked us to use our local resources for development, we must also start using the local resources and not exploit them.

He further stressed upon the fact that there is a need to seek out for alternatives. The earth is nobody's strength. "We mustn't dry the earth of its nurturing capacity. There's a need to create a balance in the world and not exploit the resources for creating a non-violent atmosphere around us for greed only gives way to violence. We cannot create earth and therefore saving the earth is the responsibility of 700 crore people of the world not individuals alone by limiting our greed and stopping the exploitation of the earth's abundant resources.

On-line lecture on Champaran Satyagraha



Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS is seen delivering the on-line lecture on 'Champaran Satyagraha'.

Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan addressed an interactive live online lecture on the history of Champaran Satyagraha on April 27, 2020. The online lecture was organized by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Shri Priyank Kanoongo moderated the discussion.

Speaking about the first satyagraha of Mahatma Gandhi in Indian soil, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan spoke of the essential features of the Champaran Satyagraha, its historical background. He stressed on the fact that this event had again taught humanity a lesson that establishing communication with the people in order to know their grievances and issues is vital for undertaking any social work. He further enumerated upon the role entrusted by Mahatma Gandhi to his wife Kasturba Gandhi who started developing connectivity with the women and educated them in cleanliness, sanitation and health and hygiene.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan also said that through his experiments with truth, Mahatma Gandhi in Champaran began to understand the plight of the people and placed their issues in the right forum. “This wasn’t a fight for revolution but for development for political change for the first time”, said Shri Gyan.

MADHYA PRADESH

Online Lecture on Solidarity, Nonviolent Communication and Coronavirus

Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS delivered an on-line lecture on “Solidarity, Non-Violent Communication and Coronavirus” for the students of the National Law University Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh on April 20, 2020. This is part of the online ‘lecture series’ initiated by the GSDS during the period of lockdown in view of COVID-19.

Speaking about the programmes of the GSDS, Dr. Kundu highlighted the initiatives the GSDS had taken with the Judiciary.

Webinar on “Need for Effective Dialogue for a Culture of Peace”

The Samiti as part of the series of on-line lecture series organized a webinar on “Need for Effective Dialogue for a Culture of Peace” on May 2, 2020. Eminent Gandhian scholar and thinker Prof. N Radhakrishnan and Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya, UNESCO Chair for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University and an eminent academic were the key speakers on the occasion. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS along with other GSDS staff took part in the discussion that was moderated by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer. The technical support was provided by ‘Digital India’. Almost 137 participants took part in the webinar. The webinar discussed the application of peace methodologies in day-to-day life for establishing a culture of dialogue which the ‘vedas’, and ‘upanishads’ talked about and how leading practitioners of peace and non-violence from HH the Dalai Lama to Swami Vivekananda, to Mahatma Gandhi, Daisaku Ikeda and others advocated throughout their life’s teachings and mission.



Giving an introduction to the dialogue, Dr. Vedabhyas said how dialogue create space in which participants learn, which in turn generates cooperation. He said that ‘Dialogue is a communication that honours relationship’.

Welcoming the participants, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan threw some insights into the essence and neutrality of dialogue and why dialogue is necessary for establishing peace in the society. Expressing his anguish that human beings are themselves the destroyer of peace, Shri Gyan called upon people to develop empathy towards others for which there is a need to patiently hear others’ view point, understand their point and reach a level of mutual agreement.

Prof. N Radhakrishnan based his talk on the two principles of *Vasudaiva Kutumbhakam* (the world is one family) and the ‘Middle Path’ of the Buddha. He reflected upon the power of dialogue as an instrument and practice, to foster better relationship and said that dialogue is a process to enable one to discover oneself and one’s own potential. He further said that dialogue develops refreshing strategies and infuses courage, confidence and consciousness.

Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya in his address Reflecting on the concept of *vasudaiva kutumbhakam* (the world is one family), Prof. Priyanka Upadhyaya said that the Indian tradition of culture of peace and non-violence has been accepted by the world. Calling non-violence as one of the major foundation stone of any society, Prof. Upadhyaya reiterated the nonviolent advocacy strategies of Mahatma Gandhi that he continuously followed in his struggle against the British.

Saying that building peace is a continuous process, he referred to what Mahatma Gandhi had said: “The world will live in peace, only when the individuals composing it make up their minds to do so.” He elaborated further that “The idea of peace has long been presented as one of the most cherished goals of humanity”, adding, “a vital precondition to fulfilling its potential. Peace is an overarching expression that denotes the ambitious quest of living together in harmony”.

He further said that “Peace is a continuous process and a journey of discovery”. “The deep fissures in social justice and surges of radicalization and violent extremism in recent years clearly indicate that the values of pluralism and tolerance embedded in a culture of peace have yet to be assimilated in our societies. The respect for diversity in everyday life is a sine quo non for positive peace, denoting the optimum realization of human potential. This can only be achieved through structures and processes that nurture constant dialogue through the active participation of individuals and communities. There is an urgent need

for encouraging dialogue and peace rather than conflict and violence and the role of peacekeepers are crucial and equally exemplary.

Need to shift from problem based to solution based journalism: K G Suresh

दिल्ली पत्रकार संघ (डीजेए)
(संबद्ध : गैहानल सुनियन ऑफ जर्नलिस्ट्स (इंडिया))
और गाँधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति, राजघाट
की अभिनव पहल

अहिंसात्मक संवाद

कार्यशाला एवं संगोष्ठी
दिनांक: 27 मई 2020, समय: 12.00-13.50,
मंच: Zoom, ID: 9572662389, Key Word: DJA

विशिष्ट वक्तागण

श्री वेदभ्यास कुन्दु
विभाग, राष्ट्रीय स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति

श्री केजी सुरेश
पूर्व सहसंचालक, भारतीय जनता पार्टी, नई दिल्ली

श्री. वेदभ्यास कुन्दु
कार्यका अतिथि, गाँधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति

हस्तक्षेप

श्री मनोज मिश्रा
अध्यक्ष, गैहानल सुनियन ऑफ जर्नलिस्ट्स (इंडिया)

श्री उमेश चतुर्वेदी
कोषाध्यक्ष, गैहानल सुनियन ऑफ जर्नलिस्ट्स (इंडिया)

श्री. प्रमोद कुमार
पूर्व सचिव, एनयूजे (आई) स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति

संचालन

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Senior journalist, columnist, academician and former Director General of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, Prof. K G Suresh stressed the urgent need to shift from problem-based journalism to solution-based journalism. He even proposed to draw the framework of such courses in media education. Prof. Suresh was speaking at a Webinar on “Non-Violent Communication” (NVC) organised by the largest journalists’ organisation of the National Capital, Delhi Journalists Association (DJA) in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on May 27, 2020. Delhi Journalists Association (India) proposed to take the discussion on NVC to all over the country.

The prominent speakers who joined the discussion included Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme officer GSDS; Shri Manoj Mishra, President, National Union of Journalist (India); Shri Umesh Chaturvedi, journalist, author and researcher; Dr. Pramod Kumar, author and social thinker, Shri Manohar Singh, Chairman Delhi Journalist Association and Shri Amlash Raju, General Secretary, Delhi Journalist Association. Around 30 participants mostly academics, journalists, social workers, educationists

from Chandigarh, Bihar, Delhi, Indore and Rajasthan took part in the webinar. The discussion was moderated by Shri Manohar Singh.

Initiating the discussion, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu spoke of the elements of Non Violent Communication (NVC) in context of Indian culture and also stated the Buddhist principles of coexistence and compassion. Calling Mahatma Gandhi as the progenitor of non-violence, Dr. Kundu said that even during the most crucial phase of the freedom struggle, Mahatma Gandhi kept the channels of communication open in his dealings with the British. He also stressed on the need to include the Gandhian approach to NVC in the syllabus/curriculum of media studies.

In his address, Shri K G Suresh while reiterating what Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu spoke expanded further by saying that the tradition of communication in India is there since ancient times from the Vedas and the Upanishads and said that the Indian tradition of communication has never been adversarial; instead it has been of acceptance. Elaborating further, he said that there’s a need to adopt the Indian model of communication from Buddha to Swami Vivekananda to Mahatma Gandhi who were one of the greatest communicators.

While saying that media’s role is not just to spread information, it is also to educate people, Shri K G Suresh said, “There is an urgent need to shift from problem-based journalism to solution-based journalism”. Shri Suresh also proposed for drawing a framework of courses in journalism.

Shri Manoj Mishra in his address spoke of Mahatma Gandhi’s distinctive process of finding out the truth in his sojourn in Champaran and that never in his dealings with either the peasants or the British authorities Mahatma Gandhi had instigated the people to take law in their hands. He also spoke about the effective role of media which he said can diffuse any amount of tension.

Speaking about what he called the ‘tamasha’ culture of television journalism, Shri Umesh Chaturvedi drew the context of the present COVID-19 pandemic and said that the problems which the migrants have been facing could easily have been prevented, had television media played a more proactive and informative role in giving people the right information instead of aiding in spreading rumours.

Dr. Pramod Kumar touched the ideas of journalism of both Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya and Mahatma Gandhi and said that negative news that has taken over the media today has to be avoided and journalists must adhere to such principles even in trying times. He also reflected upon the culture of language while speaking about the

electronic media which he felt has gone from bad to worse.

The tradition of communication in India is there since ancient times from the Vedas and the Upanishads. The Indian tradition of communication has never been adversarial; instead it has been of acceptance. There's a need to adopt the Indian model of communication from Buddha to Swami Vivekananda to Mahatma Gandhi who were one of the greatest communicators.

Among others who also took part in the webinar included senior Gandhian social worker Shri Dina Nath Prabodh from Gandhi Gyan Mandir, Madhepura, Bihar, Shri Suresh Sharma, Shri Dheeraj Arya, Smt. Kamna Jha, Shri Ramesh Chand Sharma, Shri Ashok Malik, Shri Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Shri Hardayal Kushwaha, Shri Manmohan Sharma. Shri Amlesh Raju proposed the vote of thanks.

Webinar as part of 32nd World No Tobacco Day

Addiction is a form of escapism: Prashun Chatterjee

"Addiction is a form of escapism and there's no link of chewing tobacco with any such symptoms as constipation, depression, anxiety or mental tension", said Dr. Prashun Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, Department of Geriatrics, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi. Dr. Chatterjee was addressing a webinar organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti as part of the 32nd World No Tobacco Day.



WEBINAR:
World No Tobacco Day

31st May, 2020
11.00 a.m.

Inaugural speech-
Mr. Dipanker Shri Gyan,
(Director, Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti)

Key Note Speakers-
Dr. Prasun Chatterjee
(Geriatrician at AIIMS)
-Dr. Rajneesh Kumar
(President of Akhil Bhartiya Nasha Bandi Parishad)

Organised by:

Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti

    /gsdsnewdelhi

Citing several health hazards that has its long term effect not just on the person suffering, but their entire family, Dr. Chatterjee said that tobacco industries use radioactive chemicals that has its long term detrimental implications in the form of cancer, stroke and other form of serious infections. Sharing his personal experiences, Dr. Chatterjee said that the worst sufferers are the middle class, where patients who are passive smokers are also affected. He also said that women are the largest consumers of tobacco and this has an adverse impact on pregnant women too.

Shri Rajnish Kumar in his address said that there is a need to generate awareness which needs to be multiplied. He also spoke about the role of AIPC in taking up the Gandhian way of reaching out to people with addiction of different kinds and helping them in de-addiction. Citing early historical reference to the arrival of tobacco in India in Akbar's court for the first time in India, Shri Rajnish said that Mahatma Gandhi had always spoken in details about prohibition and advocated it in his social mission. He also spoke about the social and economic implications on people being affected with diseases due to consumption of tobacco. He further said that the exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi's views on 'Prohibition' made by the GSDS and gifted to the AIPC has been taken to almost 60 places across the country.

Earlier welcoming the speakers at the webinar, Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan highlighted the timeliness of the webinar as tobacco has affected millions across the country. Reiterating Mahatma Gandhi's views that he considered consumption of alcohol and other such ill habits as 'social evil', Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said that consumption of tobacco has destroyed and ruined many families. He also hoped that the discussion by experts like Dr. Prashun and Shri Rajnish whom he called a social engineer would help in understanding the issue and promote youth towards volunteering for spreading awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco consumption.

Participants also put forward their views and asked questions before the panelists during the session.

BIHAR

Nonviolent communication to be part of course in Central University South Bihar's Media Dept.

The Samiti, in association with the Department of Mass Communication and Media of the Central University of South Bihar organised a Webinar on "Non-Violent Communication" on May 28, 2020. The speakers included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS and Prof. Atish Parashar, Dean & HOD DMCM CUSB. Almost 70 participants took

part in the webinar. The University has decided to include non-violent communication in the curriculum as a new subject in the Mass Communication Department. Prof. Atish Parashar chaired the session.

Head of the media department Prof. Parashar said that this course would see unexpected changes in the lives of students. He said that after assimilating this subject, students will be able to understand disciplinary and fundamental knowledge in their life closely, with which they would be able to build a better society.

Describing this course as the need of the hour, he said that this theme of nonviolent communication is based on the principle of Mahatma Gandhi and from Mahatma Buddha's *taphbhoomi* (Bihar) will introduce India's spirituality and philosophy in a new way on the global stage. History is witness that India has not given war to the world, but the teachings of Buddha through Buddha.

Sharing his idea, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said that non-violent communication is the need of the hour today. He said that youth today is engaged in the most aggressive dialogue, due to which it is becoming difficult to establish peace, because of which the Samiti had thought of initiating this course.

Making his presentation on the elements of non-violent communication, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu underlined the importance of language and words, and called for a concerted effort to make the communication ecosystem non-violent and said that non-violent dialogue has been a part of Indian culture referring to Mahatma Gandhi who used it for Indian independence.

He discussed in detail the need to increase non-violent dialogue and avoid hate speech by underlining the five Gandhian pillars of (non-violent) dialogue - Respect for each other; Understanding each other; Accepting each other; Encourage each other's positive things and Idea of Competition.

In addition, he explained how we can bring non-violent dialogue into our lives. And what are the things that we need to keep in mind during our speech - such as promoting creativity within ourselves, keeping ourselves aware, avoiding prejudice, not being judgmental towards anyone, other's Understanding the problems, these are all the ways through which we can increase non-violent dialogue.

An interactive session with the participants was also organized during the webinar that saw an overwhelming response.

COIMBATORE

Promoting Volunteerism through Nonviolent Communication

An important strategy to promote volunteerism and altruism in the society is the use of nonviolent communication. In a webinar organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with P S G College of Arts and Sciences, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu on May 30, 2020 it was underlined that as effective volunteerism necessitated relationship development and making connections, healthy communication practices was the key. About 100 students and teachers took part in the Webinar on "Promoting Volunteerism using Nonviolent Communication: Let's all volunteer for a better world".

PSG College of Arts & Science
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Civil Aerodrome Post, Coimbatore-641 014

National Service Scheme, PSG CAS
Organizes a Webinar for NSS Volunteers on
**Promoting Volunteerism using
Nonviolent Communication: Let's
all volunteer for a better world**

in association with
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi
An Autonomous body under Ministry of Culture,
Government of India

Resource Person
Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu
Programme Officer
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
New Delhi

Organizers
Dr. R Kavitha 98940 86395
Mr. SM Saravanakumar 90035 03553
Mr. R Kanagaraj 96776 61266
Dr. V Sumathi 98947 51244

Programme Officers
National Service Scheme
PSG CAS

DATE
30.05.2020

TIME
10.00 am to 12.00 noon

Registration Link
<https://tinyurl.com/psgcasnss>

Delivering the Webinar Key Note Lecture, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDD, explained the different dimensions of nonviolent communication and how each one of them was important in volunteering efforts. He talked about volunteerism in Indian tradition and how Mahatma Gandhi was the greatest volunteer of India. He talked in details of the Gandhian approach to volunteerism.

Dr Kundu observed that for effective volunteering, a volunteer needed to avoid stereotypes, moralistic

judgements and evaluative language. He felt altruistic love; empathy and compassion were important attributes of an efficient volunteer.

Earlier, Mr Dipanker Shri Gyan inaugurated the Webinar. He talked about how NSS volunteers across the country were following the tradition of volunteering laid down by Mahatma Gandhi.

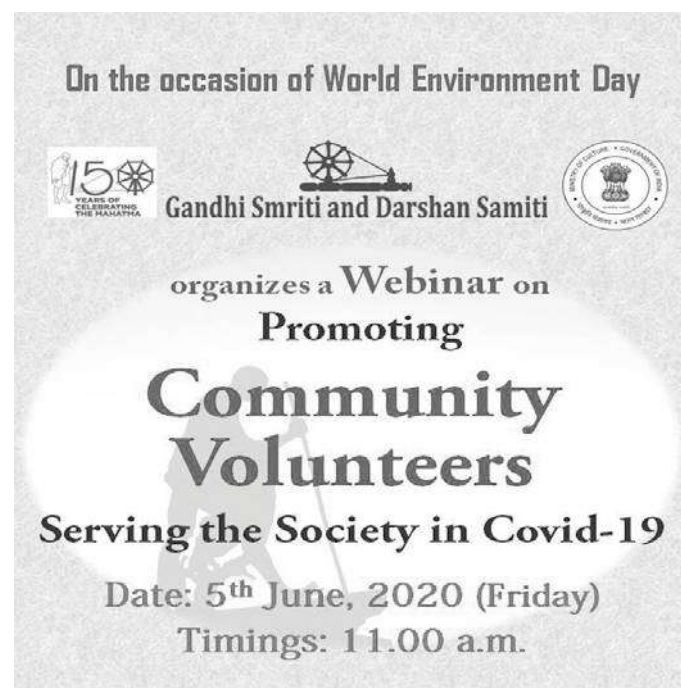
Dr R Kavitha of the Department of Social Work moderated the session and underlined how the NSS volunteers of the College were involved in volunteer work in the community.

The organizers from Coimbatore included Programme Officers (NSS PSG CAS) Dr. R Kavitha, Mr. S M Sarvanakumar, Mr. R Kanagraj and Dr. V Sumathi. The webinar has been organized as part of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Webinar on Promoting Community Volunteers: Serving the Society in Covid-19

***We have to convert fear into opportunity:
Dipanker Shri Gyan***

On the occasion of 'World Environment Day' Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organised a Webinar on Promoting Community Volunteers: Serving the Society in Covid-19 on June 5, 2020. Almost 46 participants from Uttarakhand, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Indore, West Bengal, Bihar and New Delhi took part in the programme and shared the initiatives they took in their respective areas during COVID-19 as 'Covid Warriors'. The technical support was provided by Ms. Perna during the discussion.



Sharing his experiences, Mr. Shakeel Khan of GSDS informed how he and his team helped children from Bihar below fifteen years reach their home by making arrangement of bus and taking care of their food expenses during their journey back home.

Shri C P Joshi from Dastak Samajik Sansthan in Dwarahat Uttarakhand informed that their organization reached almost twenty districts and helped 127 families by distribution of food and ration settled in the remote areas of their state. He further informed that they had distributed about 750 masks and also helped the specially-abled people. Shri Joshi said that Covid-19 has taught humanity a lesson not to respect nature.

Shri Gulshal Gupta, Coordinator North East Programmes of GSDS who moderated the session spoke of Shri Rajendra Negi of the same organization who have been regularly taking yoga sessions with patients in the quarantine centres at Rudraprayag.

Ms. Sadia Afreen of Nari O Shishu Kalyan Kendra West Bengal also spoke about the initiatives the Kendra has undertaken to reach out to the people in need even in the remote areas and in Howrah, which has been badly affected by the pandemic. She also informed about the recent cyclone Amphan that has rocked West Bengal and said that the organization has begun the relief work at the same time. She further informed that they have started tele-calling in association with 'Save The Children' organization and 1000 people were distributed dry rations and sanitary napkins.

Joining the conversation further, Mr. Rahul Pareek informed through statistics about the number of families they have been able to reach so far since the beginning of March when the lockdown was announced. He said their volunteers of their organization have been able to distribute ration to almost 19000 families and till date almost 3750 masks have been distributed. They have also been able to conduct on-line classes for almost 26500 needy children of their region.

Dr. Sanjay Tiwari, Member of the Indian Sociological Society and Director of UP Sports Authority of India said that in order to boost up the morale of sportspersons who are without any form of training, etc, they organised several on-line workshops with leading sports personalities like P T Usha, Anju Bobby George and others. They have also undertaken the initiative of mass distribution to the needy.

Mr. Riham Ali of Assam acknowledged the role of many people from far and wide who have joined them in their work to support families which Riham and his friend Himanshu Sharma had never met earlier but who after initial hitch accepted them and their help. They have so far reached 750 families in an around several districts

of Assam. Rihan also informed about their initiatives with the folk/local artistes who have been victims of this pandemic and have been documenting their art and music. They have a plan to start uploading their videos on social media for fund generation.

Mr. Prosenjit Roy Choudhury from Silchar Assam who is also associated with Sanskar Bharati has also been taking care of artistes and in this period they have created a database of 350 artistes. He informed that stage artistes who would get between rupees one-two lacs have also ran into difficulty and Mr. Roy Choudhury along with his team have reached out to those artistes.

Sharing his reflections in this period of the pandemic, Mr. Neeraj Soni from Uttar Pradesh said that farmers also have been hugely affected during this period and he along with his team has been working to provide food to these families. They have also provided seeds for future cropping and they are planning to create a 'seed bank' for providing good quality seed to the farmers.

Formerly associated with the GSDS and active in the social field, Ms. Rita Kumari spoke about her initiatives with the domestic workers and how farming in the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi has stopped, which has affected such families. She along with her close associates are closely monitoring this situation and providing aids to these families. Ms. Rita have also helped people like Rihan Ali in their endeavours in the North East by generating funds.

Dr. Manju Aggarwal spoke of her simple efforts in providing medical aid to families in need with the Resident Welfare Association in her area. Similarly Ms. Renu Sharma of Beti and Shiksha Foundation who is also an entrepreneur has taken care of quite a number of the jeweler community.

We have to create resources for people who have gone back in order to fill the gap. While Covid -19 has created a fear, but it has also taught people to convert fear into opportunity. The world, post Covid-19 must take up a campaign to have a 15-day lockdown every year for the environment to rejuvenate.

In her reflections, Dr. O Sareeta Devi of Kasturba Gandhi Institute of Development in Manipur said that Covid 19 has taught the spirit of volunteerism to people of all age groups once again. She informed that her centre along with the help of volunteers has started on-line delivery of fresh vegetables. In their support to the artisans and their craft, KGID endeavoured in buying the crafts of the artisans so that they do not face financial problems.

Speaking about fear amongst villagers which often turn into violence when they see anybody from the city enter their village thinking that the person is the pandemic, Shri Hardayal Khushwaha from Bargad said that while he started his work in the city, he later moved to his village in Madhya Pradesh and started working with the Gram Panchayats and District Administration in raising awareness about the disease and how it could be prevented. He has also made an attempt in taking this initiative to nearby districts too.

In his concluding remarks, Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan reiterated the sentiments of the experiences shared by the participants and applauded their efforts in connecting with many unknown people in this period and hoped this association develops into long lasting relationships for working together for the betterment of the society. He also expressed his concern about the unorganized sector and of those who haven't migrated and lost their job too and appealed the partners to start working on these lines. "We have to create resources for people who have gone back in order to fill the gap", he said. He further added, "While Covid -19 has created a fear, but it has also taught people to convert fear into opportunity". Saying that the environment has rejuvenated, he hoped that the world, post Covid-19, takes up a campaign to have a 15-day lockdown every year for the environment to rejuvenate.

While appreciating the efforts of all, he also mentioned about people like Ms. Perna who has been taking care of the stray and street animals. Others like Rajdeep Pathak shared a few of the GSDS initiatives during the discussion.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan also hoped for a near future e-conference on creating opportunities and self reliance (*Atmanirbhar Bharat*) on Gandhian principles of Gram Swaraj for evolving strategies for creating a model of Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a village of self-reliant people. Many participants shared their humble initiatives of making incense sticks, urban farming etc through which they have created employment for others.

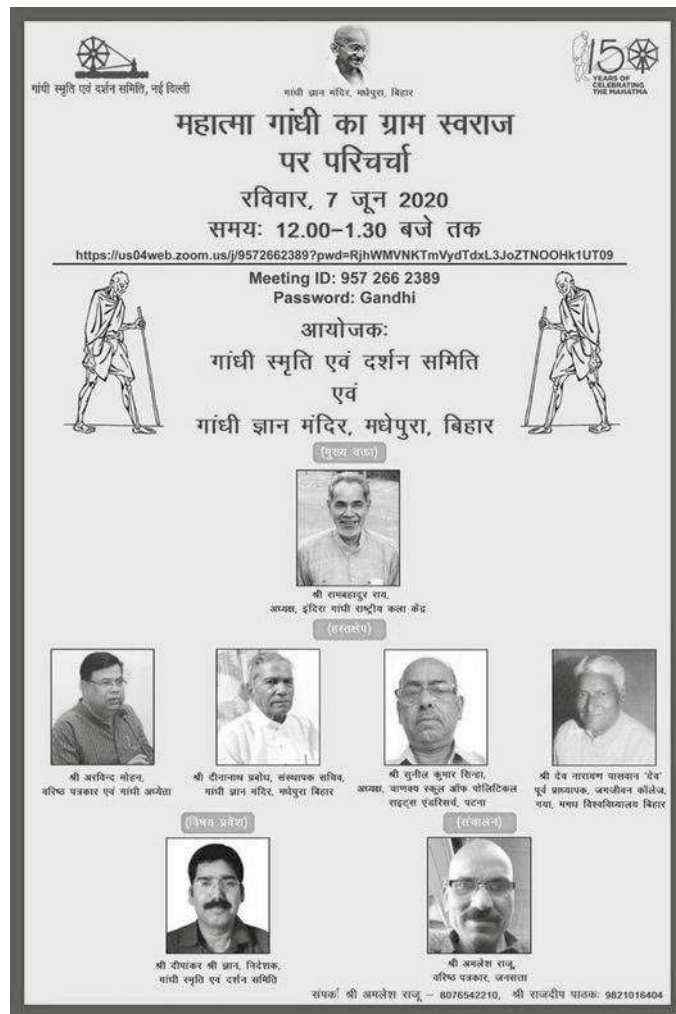
MADHEPURA, BIHAR

Webinar on Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj

We have to change the definition of Self-Rule:
Ram Bahadur Rai

"Mahatma Gandhi did not talk anything new when he spoke about the concept of 'gram swaraj' while presenting a solution for the village of his dreams. What he presented before humanity was the ancient Indian tradition of making India self-reliance once again which the Vedas and the Upanishads had given us", said Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, Chairman Indira Gandhi National Centre

for Arts (IGNCA) while delivering the key-note address at a webinar on “Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of Gram Swaraj” organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi in association with Gandhi Gyan Mandir, Madhepura, Bihar on June 7, 2020.



महात्मा गांधी का ग्राम स्वराज पर परिचर्चा

रविवार, 7 जून 2020

समय: 12.00-1.30 बजे तक

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9572662389?pwd=RjhWMVNMKTmVydTdxL3JoZTNOOHk1UT09>

Meeting ID: 957 266 2389

Password: Gandhi

आयोजक:

गांधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति एवं गांधी ज्ञान मंदिर, मधेपुरा, बिहार

(मुख्य वक्ता)

श्री रामबादुर राय, अध्यक्ष, हरिद्वार गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र (हरदोप)

(विशेष अतिथि)

श्री अरविन्द मोहन, वरिष्ठ पत्रकार एवं गांधी अध्येता

श्री दीनानाथ प्रसाद, संस्थापक सदस्य, गांधी ज्ञान मंदिर, मधेपुरा बिहार

श्री सुनील कुमार शिन्हा, अध्यक्ष, वागमय स्कूल ऑफ पोलिटिकल स्टडीज एंड रिसर्च, पटना

श्री देव नारायण वासुदेव 'देव', पूर्व प्राध्यापक, जयजीवन कोलेज, गया, मध्याह्न विश्वविद्यालय बिहार

(संचालन)

श्री अमरेंद्र राय, वरिष्ठ पत्रकार, जनसत्ता

संपर्क: श्री अमरेंद्र राय – 8076542210, श्री राजदीप पांडेय: 9821016404

ideas were never followed as leaders both at the centre and the states took it as a role model for idolizing and never looked with depth into its practical implementations.

Speaking about Gandhiji's idea of Swaraj, Shri Ram Bahadur Rai linked it to the functioning of Indian Democracy and said that democracy is inherent in the land, culture and traditions of India. He also specifically pointed about twelve principles laid down by Mahatma Gandhi which he believed are vital for human's welfare.

They are:

1. Make people happy and skilful
2. Body labour
3. Principles of equality
4. Behaviour and relation, etc
5. Trusteeship
6. Decentralization
7. Swadeshi/Local
8. Self-reliance
9. Mutual participation
10. Inter-faith
11. Panchayati system and
12. Nai Talim.

Shri Ram Bahadur Rai further said that while Gram Sabhas and Panchayats in Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Karnataka are functioning very well, there is a need to initiate a nation-wide campaign to force our leaders at all levels to strengthen the village Gram Sabhas and the Panchayats. “The definition of ‘self rule’ has to be changed. Self-Rule means that Gram Panchayats and Gram Sabhas are empowered to take decisions without any interference”.

Addressing about 55 participants from Bihar, Delhi, Jharkhand, Kanpur, Punjab which included senior journalists, social thinkers, students, research scholars, Shri Ram Bahadur Rai said that it is the inherent strength of the Indian villages and their model of self-reliance, Gram Panchayats, etc that India has withstood several currents and waves over centuries”.

“Gandhiji's thoughts were inspired by the ancient Indian thoughts on development and human welfare, which were enshrined in the ancient scriptures of India and partly spelt out in the masterly treatise on economics and statecraft, called Kautilya Arthashastra of sixth century BC”, he said.

He also spoke about the ‘Last will and Testament’ of Mahatma Gandhi which he drafted on January 29, 1948 a day before his death and lamented that unfortunately since the beginning of Independence and after that such

“Gram Swaraj, or village self-rule, was a pivotal concept in Gandhi's thinking. It was the centerpiece of his vision of economic development in India. Gandhiji's Gram Swaraj was not the reconstruction of the old village but the formation of fresh independent units of villages having self-sufficient economy”, he concluded.

Senior journalist and author of several books Shri Arvind Mohan spoke of decentralization and diversity in production to ensure sustainability and said that these were also the major ideas reflected in Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts on ‘gram swaraj’. He also raised the issue of the migrant labourers who had to undergo various hurdles during the pandemic Covid-19 and called for the leadership at the centre and the states to formulate policies for the development of the villages so that such people do not have to face future problems. He said that corona period can be a major challenge which if turned into a fruitful opportunity for the development of the villages through

change in policies can fulfill the Gandhian vision of self-sufficiency, which the Mahatma thought as one of the fundamental conditions of village reconstruction.

The others who spoke on the occasion were Shri Dinanath Prabodh Founder Director of Gandhi Gyan Mandir who shared his experiences of the Bhoodan Movement and reflected how the model of education from learning life-skills has shifted to a more mechanical pattern. He also shared his memories of how the Buniyadi Vidyalaya established by Gandhiji where he was enrolled provided training in life skill and gave each student a portion of land for agricultural production.

Earlier laying the forum of discussion, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS threw light on Mahatma Gandhi's Hind Swaraj which not just questioned the model of development, but also provided solutions. He further lamented the whole idea that the concept of Gram Swaraj as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi has been restricted to 'rural development' by policy makers and therefore the delineation from villages.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said: "The British believed in centralised, industrialised and mechanised modes of production, which Mahatma Gandhi turned this principle and envisioned a decentralised, homegrown, hand-crafted mode of production. Mahatma Gandhi laid stress not on mass production, but production by the masses. For Gandhiji, true independence for India meant a comprehensive transformation of Indian society and polity. He wanted political power to be distributed among the villages in India".

He further added that Gandhiji preferred the term 'Swaraj' to describe what he called true democracy. "This democracy is based upon freedom. According to Mahatma Gandhi, utilization of the local resources is quite fundamental to the development of the Panchayat Raj system. The Panchayats with the Gram Sabhas should be so organized as to identify the resources locally available for development in the agricultural and industrial sectors".

He lamented that in this crucial time, it becomes all the more pertinent to realize if Mahatma Gandhi's vision of 'gram swaraj' has been established; whether his ideals have been forgotten and if the ideas of sustainability and development of all has been compromised?

The others who spoke on the occasion included Shri Dev Narayan Paswan "Dev", Ex Professor, Jagjivan College, Gaya Magadh Vishwa Vidyalaya and Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha, President, Chanakya School of Political Studies and Research, Patna. Shri Amlesh Raju, senior journalist of Jansatta moderated the discussion. The technical support was provided by Shri Ashutosh Singh, of Swasth Bharat Nyas. The vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Sunil Kumar Sinha.

Webinar on Empowered Village – Empowered Nation

Ethics, Economy and Ecology are necessary for Sustainable Development: Shri Ram Lal

"We have to thank our villages, our villagers for their culture, their self-sustained methodologies and their belief in their traditional systems that has proved a boon during this pandemic", said Shri Ram Lalji, All India Chief Coordinator of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh while addressing the webinar on "Empowered Village – Empowered Nation" organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in the light of Covid -19 and the present scenario on June 26, 2020.

Applauding the efforts of the villages in handling the pandemic despite the influx of migrants from the cities to their respective homes in the villages, Shri Ram Lal said, "We have to pay respect to the dignity of labour", adding, "Despite their hardships and sufferings, the people who left cities for their villages never showed any sign of revolt in their journey back home".

Reiterating what Shri Sita Ram Gupta, CEO of Lupin Human Welfare Organisation (LHWO) and Shri Narendra Meherotra of Mission Samridhhi had said, Shri Ram Lal further stated that the pandemic has made this new generation and the youth of today realise the essence of service. "This generation has started living together with their family; they have been more aware of 'swadeshi' (local made) products and 'swavlambhan' (self-reliant)", adding, "They have now become alert about the three E's – Ethics Ecology and Economy which are necessary for sustainable development".

Sharing the ideas of Sarvodaya, Antodaya of Mahatma Gandhi, Acharya Vinoba Bhawe, Pt. Deen Dayala Upadhyaya, Shri Nanaji Deshmukh, he said that while everybody spoke of development, their key idea was reflected in reaching out to the last man in the society and going back to the villages where there are ample opportunities waiting there for youth to be engaged to reduce the gap of unemployment. He said that the challenge that has been thrown upon all of us today because of the pandemic, is also an opportunity before us to make India self-reliant or what he called 'atmanirbhar' for he believed that this is the true religion of India, which he said, "Bharat me dharm ka arth kartavya hai".

Shri Sita Ram Gupta in his address present various success stories of the initiatives taken by LHWO in different places such as Dhule, Maharashtra; Nandurbar, Maharashtra; Indore, Bharatpur, Vidhisha where a little effort in engaging the villagers in raising their confidence has generated great results for once struggling women becoming entrepreneurs and has helped in employment generation. Expressing his concern that there needs to be

a paradigm shift in our thought process to reduce, what he felt, “The mismatch of what we are and what we think”.

He further called upon tapping the untapped potential of India, in order to address the issues of poverty, malnutrition and unemployment and thereby raise the ‘Human Development Index’. “We have to have critical thinking on how to convert problems into opportunity”, he said and hoped that a cabinet committee on agriculture is formed by the Government.

Shri Sita Ram Gupta further highlighted the need for strengthening the three K’s – Kisan (farmers), Karigar (artisans) and Kamgar (labourer) and ensure dignity to them for which he suggested the convergence of corporate sectors with the government and hoped that the trinity – corporate, civil society and government together will be able to generate self-sustained model of employment and fulfil the dream of an *Atmanirbhar Bharat*.

Shri Narendra Mehrotra of Mission Samriddhi who was another key speaker in his address highlighted the traditional Indian system of governance where there was unison among what he termed as kisan-karigar-udyami (farmer-artisan-entrepreneur). Speaking about the concept of true democracy where one has the right over resources, he shared that this traditional system provided both the right and responsibility in equal footing.

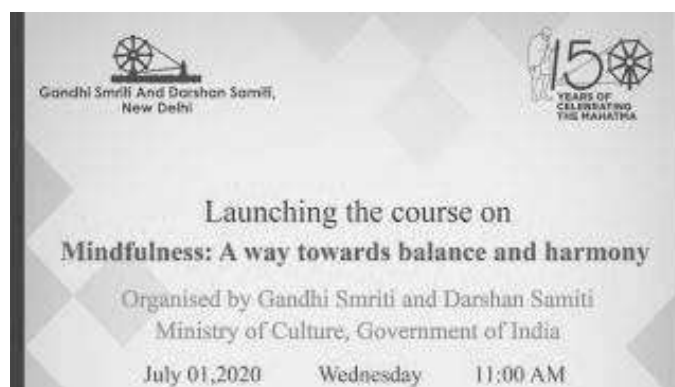
While sharing his thoughts on the advent of the British and how the Indian economy was plundered, Shri Narendra Mehrotra echoed the sentiments of Shri Sita Ram Gupta who he said had offered practical solutions. He also shared some of the success stories of Mission Samriddhi’s rural development schemes with the Government and shared that the experiences in the tribal region of Yavatmal in Maharashtra and Wardha. He also stressed for development in the local/rural areas and shared his thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi’s vision of Gram Swaraj.

Earlier, the webinar began with the welcome address by Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan who also shared his inputs on the webinar. Almost 35 participants from Bihar, Lucknow, Delhi, Rajasthan took part in the webinar.

Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony

The Samiti organised a discussion on “Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony” on July 1, 2020 with Dharmacharya Shri Shantum Seth (Mindfulness teacher, Ahimsa Trust); Sister Rama (senior Rajyogi Faculty, Brahma Kumaris); Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS and Ms. Kanak Kaushik, Course In-charge. The webinar saw the launch of the course on “Mindfulness: A way towards balance and harmony”, wherein several

courses – for youth, children, women, prison inmates – were launched. 89 participants took part.



Amidst the sound of the bell of breath and smile, Dharmacharya Shantum Seth, who is a Buddhist practitioner led the participants into a virtual mindful exercise where he emphasised on the three essential techniques to be practised everyday – to stop, breathe and smile. While launching the course, he said, “Mindfulness can take us to happiness. The main thing is to come to the present moment for the past is gone, the future is an idea and what we have is the present moment. He further said that practice of mindfulness creates a balance, an awakening and nourishes oneself. He further threw light on the effect of smile that has a neurological effect and which he said is a simple mindfulness technique of getting relieved from stress and depression.

Sister Rama joined the conversation with a breathing exercise and drawing attention to the self through a journey into silence. She thereafter in her address to the gathering said, “The principles of mindfulness are ingrained in the land of Bharat (India) and referred to Mahatma Gandhi’s principles of non-violence which she said, “Is in deepest sense is an act of mindfulness, for then we don’t even create a thought that violates peace within us”.

She further added, “The biggest slavery, trap, bondage that people are living today is the bondage of our negative thoughts”, and presented a choice to people to distance themselves from such negativities and create positive vibrations around them, for, she said, “It is than that one is able to attain soul consciousness, when one is aware of peace, of truth, of nonviolence and above all of oneself”.

Calling spirituality as an art of balancing and knowing oneself and others, Sister Rama emphasised on the freedom of choice and said that “Channels of knowledge and self empowerment is essential to understand the flow of communication, which enables us to observe ourselves and carry it every time with us”.

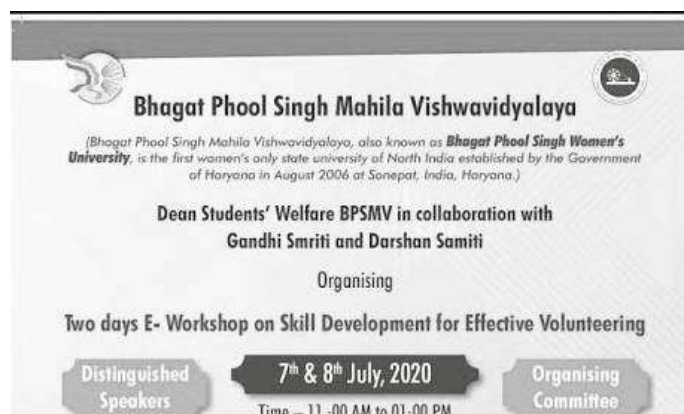
Earlier Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan shared the necessity of the course and its timeliness at a point when depression has overcome many individuals. He said that students staying at home for such a long period of time, missing their peer groups have also made things difficult for them. Stating that this course will help people to understand their self, he said that it is needed for 'A happy mind is a free mind'.

Ms. Kanak Kaushik spoke on what the course offers for the women/housewives; school children; youth and jail inmates and said that the course will help in practicing self-compassion.

Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu proposed the vote of thanks on the occasion and called people to join this free course that has been launched by GSDS.

E-Workshop on Skill Development for Effective Volunteering organised

The Samiti in association with the Dean Students' Welfare Department of Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya (Bhagat Phool Singh Women's University), Sonapat, Government of Haryana, organised an e-workshop on Skill Development for Effective Volunteering on July 7-8, 2020. Vice-Chancellor, BPSMV Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat, Haryana, Prof. Sushma Yadava was the patron of the programme. The distinguished speakers included Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS; Mr. Gulshan Gupta, NE Coordinator, GSDS. The organising committee included Prof. Vijay Nehra, DSW and E-Workshop Director; Dr. Shafali Nagpal, Associate DSW Co-Director; Dr. Vandana Tehlan Dahiya, Asst. DSW Convener and Dr. Deepali Mathur, Asst DSW Convener. On day one 107 participants took part and Face Book was viewed by almost 400 viewers.



Giving the inaugural address Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said that the workshop is being organised at an appropriate moment given that the pandemic has given opportunity to people all across the world to develop their skills in volunteering. Terming volunteerism as

"Selfless service through one's inner conscience", he said that "Volunteerism is guided by empathy". He also cited examples of initiatives taken by individuals towards plasma donation or blood donation and said that these are examples of true volunteerism where people have come forward to help others.

He further added that this inspiration comes from family, which is inherent and through training where tools are acquired. "Volunteerism is a result of both self and internal satisfaction".

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu highlighted the concepts related to volunteerism and said that volunteering is a distinct human characteristic, where sharing, creating new alliances, having solidarity are important features. Saying that volunteering is part of the Indian tradition, he highlighted the selfless tradition of volunteering. He also referred to Swami Vivekananda and Mahatma Gandhi and their unique dimension that they added towards volunteerism, and thereby brought an inclusive nature of volunteering in the whole domain of service.

Citing various examples of how youth led volunteerism has helped the society in many ways, he said that the essence is of "How one manages one's time for this cause". He further said that studies have revealed that youth take up volunteering because they want to "Gain knowledge, learn new experience and skills, work with interdisciplinary group, create resource building, and above all because it gives them personal satisfaction".

He also spoke on challenges to resource mobilisation and stressed on the need to inculcate self-discipline and perseverance. Saying that volunteering teaches compassion, Dr. Kundu called for honesty and trust building as the essential criteria of a volunteer. He necessitated the need for volunteers to focus on small things and time management and to develop a framework with clear goals and objectives.

He further said that Mahatma Gandhi laid great emphasis on the selfless nature of service. In his Booklet, 'From Yervada Mandir', he writes, "Voluntary service for others demands the best of which one is capable, and must take precedence over service of self. In fact, the pure devotee consecrates himself to the service of humanity without any reservation whatever." In fact, so much so, Gandhi likes the spirit of service to character".

In his session, Shri Gulshan Gupta highlighted the essence of service and what individuals in their capacity must give back to the society, which gives them so much. Saying that "Humankind are lifetime volunteers", Shri Gulshan spoke of initiatives such as Radio Udaan that is dedicated to persons with disability and functions on entirely voluntary network. He further called upon the youth

to improve their networking and communication skills and hoped that the participants will switch themselves to what he termed as “Auto Alarm” mode in their selfless service to society.

Day two, July 8, was attended by almost 96 participants. Discussions on different elements of nonviolent communications were shared with the participants by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu. He also spoke about the necessity of sharing ideas, thoughts and ideas through dialogue and said, “Dialogue is a process of genuine interaction between two people, focussed to make communication inclusive”. He further underlined the necessity of establishing relationship through dialogue and shared the importance of dialogue that creates safe space and develops mutual respect; learn new things/skills; use nonviolent communication skills; develop relationship and so on.

Further Dr. Vedabhyas spoke on the concept of on-line volunteering which he said, in today’s pandemic period has become very effective in not just mobilising of people and resources, but in providing aid to innumerable people across the world. He also referred to various methodologies associated with it such as online mentoring, online tutoring, online developing, researching, social media campaigns, etc through this platform.

He further referred to team-building as one of the key factors for promoting volunteerism where he dwelt with the five stages of team development from formation of the team to sharing of ideas, often conflicting ideas, participation in the group performing together as a unit and forming what he termed, “A cohesive group structure”. He further threw light upon the effective leadership qualities of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela and why people still look up to them as their leaders in social reconstruction instead of leaders like Hitler and others. Saying that there is a need to motivate people towards volunteerism, Dr. Kundu referred to what Swami Vivekananda and quoted Swamiji who had said: “Asks nothing; want nothing in return. Give what you have to give; it will come back to you – but do not think of that now, it will come back multiplied a thousand fold – but the attention must not be on that. Yet have the power to give; so give willingly. If you wish to help a man, never think that the man’s attitude should be towards you.”

In his presentation, Shri Gulshan Gupta through various examples spoke of the importance of communication skills, body language, observation skills, dedication, and intrinsic motivation for becoming a good volunteer, for a volunteer is an individual who has to go to the field to work, meet people, communicate, share ideas and work with them for them.

He shared that in today’s age when there is an overflow of communication and information,

misinformation also travels faster than any other form and therefore emphasised on the need of becoming communication or what he called, “Media literate”. While sharing his thoughts on teambuilding, Shri Gulshan through many examples brought out the essence and spirit of a leader, a team and also pointed out that, “You don’t build a team of people you actually build a team with a motto or service”.

He further stressed that it is essential that one learns from a leader, for in this field of volunteerism, “One could face disappointment, neglect and dejection. One may not even be acknowledged. Therefore a leader teaches and trains on the tools and sets examples which become the guiding force for others”. While speaking of challenges and failures, Shri Gulshan cautioned that an individual must know when to take the leap and change track if one feels that one’s role in a particular set up or work has exhausted.

An interactive session with the participants formed an integral part at the end of the two-day workshop where the participants were asked to undertake the free course of GSDS on ‘Non-Violent Communication’.

Prabhash Joshi Memorial Lecture organized



Shri Prabhash Joshi

Dr Abhay Bang believes that in today’s time, ‘Health is a great need for Swarajya’. He said, “Your lifestyle should be healthy. Natural diseases, abstinence lifestyle, alcoholism and tobacco cessation all cures many diseases on their own. To be healthy means to be self-sufficient. In this global epidemic and crisis period of Corona, there is a shortage of such a great hero and guide who cannot be seen anywhere in the world.

“The greatest superhero of our era is Mahatma Gandhi. Today Gandhiji is being remembered again and again. If Gandhi had been in the global epidemic, economic and environmental crisis, he would have presented a message to us like a great hero”, he said.

Dr. Bang further referred to Gandhiji’s saying that Gandhiji had said that my life is my message and added, “In today’s challenging period, we should find Gandhi’s message and solutions in our lives”.

Padmashri Dr. Abhay Bang said this while delivering the 11th Prabhash Joshi Memorial Lecture on July 12, 2020 organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Prabhash Parampara Nyas on the birthday of Prabhash Joshi, founder editor of Jansatta, on the subject: “What would Gandhi have done today - Nine Point Program”.

Karigari Aur Samruddh Gramya-Jivan (Sustainable Rural Life of Craftsperson) – A dialogue

“A nurturer, supporter and innovator of handmade and handcrafted products and artisans, Gandhiji helped India’s economy and gave the craftspersons a platform to grow”, said Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President Harijan Sevak Sangh and EC Member Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) while addressing a dialogue on “Karigari Aur Samruddh Gramya-Jivan (Sustainable Rural Life of Craftsperson) organised by GSDS on July 17, 2020.

गांधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति, नई दिल्ली
कारिगरी और समृद्ध ग्राम्य-जीवन
 17 जुलाई, 2020, दोपहर 3.30 से सांय 5.00 तक
 मुख्य अतिथि :
 श्री राम लाल जी, अ. भा. सहसंपर्क प्रमुख, राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ
 मुख्य वक्ता :
 श्री लक्ष्मीदास, सदस्य, गांधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति,
 पूर्व अध्यक्ष खादी ग्रामोद्योग आयोग, भारत सरकार
 डॉ. विभा गुप्ता, अध्यक्ष, मगन संग्रहालय समिति वर्धा, महाराष्ट्र
 स्वागत एवं विलय प्रवेश:
 श्री दीपंकर श्री ज्ञान, निदेशक, गांधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति
 Google meet Meeting ID: nbb-qxqn-pmk /gdsnewdelhi

Addressing a gathering of 86 participants which included people who gave their life towards the upliftment of the artisans and craftsperson, including senior Gandhian workers, social entrepreneurs and people from other segments of the society, the speakers unanimously necessitated the idea of providing job opportunities in the villages by empowering the rural youth in different skills which can guarantee them their livelihood so that they do not migrate to urban areas.

Leaders Dialogue on Active Peace Building for Community Cohesion in the midst of Covid -19

A webinar on “Leaders Dialogue on Active Peace Building for Community Cohesion in the midst of Covid -19” was organised by Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore in association with GSDS, Arigatau International, Centre for Child and Public Health and Mahatma Gandhi Institute with the following panelists: Ms. Maria Lucia, Director, Arigatau International – Ethics Education for Children –Geneva; Dr. A Suryakanthi, Former Professor, Gandhigram Rural University & Trustee, Shanti Ashram; Dr. Priya.M. Vaidya, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai; Ms. Karuna Sagari Venkatachalam Director, Bhakti Natya Niketan and Bharatnatyam dancer; and Ms. Pavithra Rajagopalan, Auxiliary Trainer, Association Montessori Internationale.

Leaders Dialogue
 Active PEACE building for COMMUNITY cohesion in the midst of COVID-19 - Session #01
 Tuesday | 21 July 2020 | 3.00 - 5.00 PM | WEBINAR
 The Leaders:
 WHY A LEADERS DIALOGUE DURING COVID-19
 Dr. Kanchan Arora
 ACTIVE PEACE BUILDING:
 Understanding & implementing it in a leader's action plan
 Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe
 Shri. Dipankar Shrivastava
 Ms. Chandra Prasad
 Shri. G. Vijayapalan
 Ms. K. Deepakshanti
 Ms. Karuna Sagari
 Ms. Pavithra B
 Dr. Suryakanthi
 Dr. Priya M. Vaidya
 Zoom Meeting ID: 841 3391 2994 | PASSCODE: 123456

Dr. K Vinu Aram, Founder Director Shanti Ashram also addressed the gathering. 90 participants including academics, peace workers, researchers, youth volunteers from Europe, Asia and Africa took part in the webinar on July 21, 2020 that began by singing Mahatma Gandhi's favourite hymn *Vaishnavajana Tau* which was followed by an inter-faith prayer.

E-conference on “The Role of Indigenous Folk Traditions in Value Creation”

The Role of Indigenous Folk Traditions in Value Creation
 August 18, 2020, 11.00 am.
 Organised by:
 Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with
 Raja Narendra Lal Khan Women's College, West Bengal
 Chief Guest:
 Shri. Giridhar Gamang
 Former Union Chief Minister of Odisha
 Padmasri Ashoka Bhagat
 Founder Secretary of Vikas Shanti Bhawan

The Samiti in association with Raja Narendra Lal Khan Women's College, West Bengal organised an E-conference on “The Role of Indigenous Folk Traditions in Value Creation” on August 18, 2020.

138 participants took part in the e-conference that was addressed by chief guest Shri Giridhar Gamang, former Chief Minister of Odisha. The other distinguished speakers at the webinar included Padmasri Shri Akshok

Bhagat, Founder Secretary, Vikas Bharti, Bishunpur, Jharkhand and National Awardee Jhumur singer and choreographer Ms. Madhushree Hatial, Jhumur Singer.

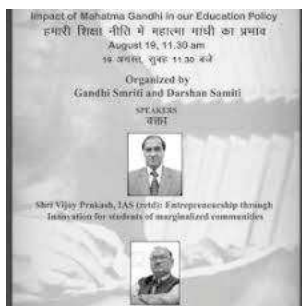


In the Picture: Founder Secretary, Vikas Bharti, Bishunpur, Padma Shri Sh. Ashok Bhagat; former Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Giridhar Gamang and folk singer, Ms. Madhushree Hatial are seen taking part in the webinar.



The programme focused on the rich folk traditions of the tribals and how it is important for the new generation to know the values that have preserved this rich heritage. Ms. Kanak Kaushik of GSDS moderated the discussion.

E-webinar on Impact of Mahatma Gandhi in our Education Policy



Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on August 19, 2020 organized an e-webinar on Impact of Mahatma Gandhi in our Education Policy where Shri Vijay Prakash, IAS (Retd.), and Prof. P. K. Mishra, IIT BHU addressed the gathering of almost 54 participants on

“Entrepreneurship through Innovation for students of marginalized communities” and “From Lab to Land: Innovation and its practical implications in Educational Institutions: A Gandhian Approach”.

The programme was moderated by Ms. Mansi Sharma who argued the need to build an ethical and rational character among the children of this country, as she said that “In the next decade India will have the highest youth population in the world. And, therefore we are here to discuss what exactly the New Education Policy of India talk about and how is it extracted from the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi?”

National Seminar on Swami Vivekananda, Indian Culture and Global Peace

A three-day national seminar on “Swami Vivekananda, Indian Culture and Global Peace” was organized by Society for Social Empowerment from December 11-13, 2020 by Society for Social Empowerment and Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi. Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Choudhury Bansilal University, Bhiwani, Haryana were the knowledge partners.

Historians, academicians, authors, writers, spoke on the occasion during different sessions on varied subjects.



Shri Arif Mohammad Khan, Hon'ble Governor of Kerala who was the chief guest expressed his concern regarding what India faced due to the long spell of foreign domination. We started neglecting our own ethics and heritage. He said that all people cannot be confined to one interpretation. It is not a question of dogma or faith, but a question of anubhuti (experience). Dharma and religion is completely different from each other. Dharma is an antonym of selfishness. He went on to add that when Vivekananda addressed the Parliament of Religions in Chicago, he talked about inclusivity, divinity, equality of mankind.

Prof. Jagmohan Rajput, Former Director, NCERT delivered the key-note address and outlined Swamiji's opinion about education and the role of a teacher in building society through inculcating character building of the students. He said that Swamiji not only ensured that the world should not only know India but should be interested in India

Earlier delivering the welcome address, Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan opined that Mahatma Gandhi was very much influenced by Swami Vivekananda. Gandhiji understood the cardinal lesson from the philosophy of Swamiji and sacrificed his life to ensure equality in India. Beside independence movement, social reforms therefore remained an integral part of Gandhi and it has been duly incorporated into the Indian constitution which remains the ruling book of the independent India.

All people cannot be confined to one interpretation. It is not a question of dogma or faith, but a question of anubhuti (experience). Dharma and religion is completely different from each other. Dharma is an antonym of selfishness. When Swami Vivekananda addressed the Parliament of Religion in Chicago, he talked about inclusivity, divinity, equality of mankind.

Some of the subjects on which discussions were held during the three-day seminar included:

- i. Humanism and Global Peace: Swami Vivekananda Perspective
- ii. Cubicles of Development and Marginalization: Understanding the Alternatives in Swami Vivekananda
- iii. Vivekananda, Vedanta and Spiritual Awakening
- iv. The relevance of spiritual humanitarianism of Swami Vivekananda in the midst of Corona Pandemic
- v. Relevance of Vivekananda's Views on Women Education in Current Scenarir
- vi. Saints of India – Swami Vivekananda, Beyond the Realm of Time and Space
- vii. Rediscovering Global Peace With Spiritual Humanity of Swami Vivekananda in Contemporary Times
- viii. Swami Vivekananda and the Politics of Religion
- ix. Emerging Cultural Diplomacy and the Legacy of Swami
- x. Imagining Modern India Through the Lens of Vivekananda
- xi. Relevance of Swami Vivekananda in India Today
- xii. Practicality of Vedanta in Indian Society and Vivekananda
- xiii. The Art of Seva, Sadhana and Public Welfare: How to (Re) locate Swami Vivekananda in Contemporary Time?
- xiv. Contextualizing Swami Vivekananda's View on Social Integration
- xv. Swami Vivekananda and Vedanta – A Panacea for Humanity
- xvi. Vivekananda and Global Order
- xvii. Vivekananda's philosophy on social ideology and cosmopolitanism

Workshop on "Preservation and Promotion of Ladakhi Art and Craft"

Sit with the Karigars to learn their art for they infuse positivity – Shri Basant

Government Degree College Kargil under the aegis of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Kargil, in association with GSDS organized an on-line workshop on "Preservation and Promotion of Ladakhi Art and Craft" on December 11, 2020. Almost 68 participants took part in the workshop. 30 girl students engaged in

training and production of ethnic Ladakhi crafts likes shawls, embroidery items, decorative items, traditional knitted wear products, etc. took part in the workshop and demonstrated their crafts for the promotion and preservation of indigenous craft. The speakers included: Dr. Javed I Naqui, Coordinator, Kargil Crafts Skill Centre; Shri Bishwajit Singh, Project Head, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushal Yojana; Ms. Tashi Yanskit, Senior Artisa, Ladakhi Traditional Dress; Ms. Aqila Akhtar, Young Craft Trainer and Entrepreneur, Kargil, Ms. Rahima Khatun, Secretary Nari O Sishu Kalya Kendra, Howrah, West Bengal, Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS and Ms. Roopa Rawat, In-Charge Srijan GSDS. Shri Basant Singh, Former Advisor, GSDS was special guest on the occasion as an expert assessor.



Initiating the discussion, Dr. Javed I Naqui spoke of the initiative of the college in the promotion of the traditional art and craft.

Welcoming the delegation, Smt. Geeta Shukla briefed the gathering about the different initiatives of the GSDS towards promotion of skill amongst youth. She highlighted the Government of India's Pradhan Mantri

Kaushal Vikas Yojana and informed about Samiti's initiatives in taking up several skill related projects towards empowerment of women and local people in states such as Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and Madhya Pradesh. She also informed about the successful implementation of the RPL project with the auto drivers in Delhi in which almost 2000 auto drivers were trained.

Sharing his inputs in the discussion, Shri Bishwajeet stressed on the need for up-skilling of the trainers. He stressed on livelihood opportunities and income generation. He also said that there is a need for recognition, for it paves the way branding, which in turn expands sale.

Smt. Rahimaji while briefing about her organization necessitated the idea of involving the Ministry of Textiles for skill upgradation and design development. She said that during her work on skill development projects, she has understood the necessity of linking the artisans with crafts persons, and bringing them to the forefront for their exposure, which gives them opportunities.

Experience sharing by Ms. Aquila Akhtar, who is trying to revive traditional designs of Ladakh and Ms. Tashi Yanskit were other highlights of the programme. Ms. Roopa Rawat of Srijan GSDS also highlighted the work of Srijan and how they are introducing new designs as per requirement.

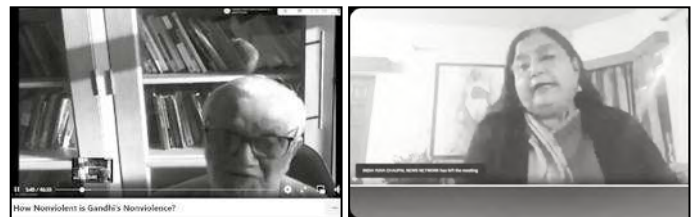
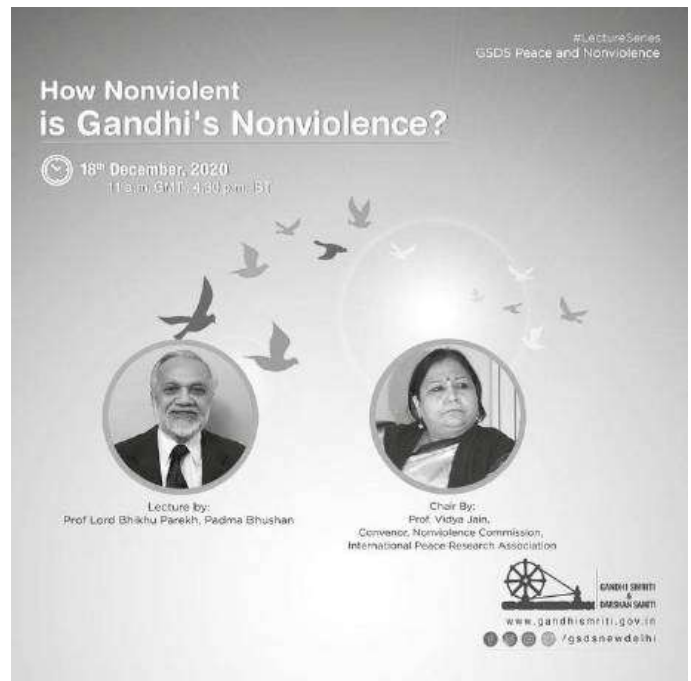
Shri Basant Singh began his address by suggesting a Karigar Mela in Kargil as part of the Ladakh Fest. He also stressed on linking the artisans from Ladakh to Lakshwadeep to Kurukshetra together and suggested that the artisans from Ladakh visit the skill centre in West Bengal that is being run by Ms. Rahima Khatun. He expressed hope that COVID-19 has proved the strength of the artisans, whose work, he said, "Hasn't stopped".

While expressing the need for adopting new techniques and how traditional designs could be combined with these new techniques, Shri Basant said, "We have to understand that the market has changed and therefore packaging has to be taken care of with a new outlook", and added, "Karigars has to be inspired and trained on this line of thought also. They infuse positivity. There is a need to sit with them and learn their art and expose them and their craft to outside world, for exposure leads to energy".

In his concluding remarks, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS while speaking about the necessity of practicing this art to take it further, stressed on constructively utilizing the knowledge to upgrade this skill so that the talent or art is not lost. "We have to also provide marketing skill along with production skill and training in soft skill", he said, and added that GSDS could link such people for their training and empowerment.

The webinar concluded with a demonstration of the products of the crafts persons from Ladakh by the instructor Ms. Zarena Bano along with Dr. Javed. Ms. Bano shared her inputs on cultural designs and the need for reviving traditional designs. She hoped that they get advanced machines to take forward their work.

GSDS Peace and Nonviolence lecture by Lord Bhikhu Parekh



Padma Bhushan, Lord Bhikhu Parekh (Left) is seen delivering the on-line GSDS Peace and Nonviolence Lecture from London, as Dr. Vidya Jain (Right) makes a point during the discussion.

As part of the GSDS Peace and Nonviolence Lecture series, the Samiti organized a lecture on "How Nonviolent is Gandhi's Nonviolence"? on December 18, 2020. Padma Bhushan Lord Bhikhu Parekh delivered the online lecture that was chaired by Prof. Vidya Jain, Convenor, Nonviolence Commission, and International Peace Research Association.

Sharing his view on the subject, Lord Bhikhu Parekh spoke of South Africa which was a turning point in Gandhi's life and said that it confronted him with many unusual experiences and challenges, and profoundly transformed him. "During his 21 years in South Africa, Gandhi's ways of thought and life underwent important changes. Indeed the two became inseparable for him.

Thought came to have no meaning for him unless it was lived out, and life was shallow unless it reflected a carefully thought-out vision of life. Every time Gandhi came across a new idea, he asked if it was worth living up to" and added, "After his arrival in India, Gandhi thought that the method of *satyagraha* that he had developed in South Africa was India's best hope. For Gandhi the well-planned *satyagrahas* and the Constructive Programme, especially the latter, held the key to India's moral regeneration and political independence".

Fourth Anupam Mishra Memorial Lecture organized

The Individual is a Mobile Institution and has to continuously introspect: Laxmi Dass

"Organisations should be flexible. Every individual has to be independent in their functioning. This was the message of Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave who had laid impetus on individual development of the workers for their overall growth", said Shri Laxmi Dass. He further added, "Every organization has to be self-dependent organization, with faith in the God. They have to realize that they have a greater role towards the welfare of the society and have to depend on the established norms".

Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President Harijan Sevak Sangh and Executive Member GSDS was addressing a webinar while delivering the fourth Anupam Lecture series on the theme "*Sansthain Narayan Parayan Bane*" (Organisations must be oriented towards the greater common good) in Gandhi Darshan on December 22, 2020.



(Above & Below): Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President, Harijan Sevak Sangh and Executive Member GSDS is seen delivering the fourth 'Anupam Mishra Memorial Lecture' in Gandhi Darshan, as participants below are all ears.

Addressing journalists, social thinkers, academicians and youth in the webinar, Shri Laxmi Dass said that many volunteer organisations have devoted their entire framework towards serving the society in areas of rural development, women empowerment, children and others. They have reached the interior parts of the country to serve the needy. "The role of these voluntary organisations is exemplary. Even where governments could not reach, there are many such organisations and people who have reached these most underdeveloped places and have worked towards providing education, health and dignity to those people. This is what Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave had envisioned when they spoke of the greater common good which organisations have to work for".

Shri Laxmi Dass nevertheless lamented that there have been many instances where many such organisations have come under the scanner in charges of misutilisation of resources and funding from government or other private and public sources, and said that there are equally many others who have taken the initiative to serve the poor and the needy.



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (R) felicitates Shri Laxmi Dass (L) with a Charkha memento during the programme.

Saying that he would prefer to call such non-governmental organisations as voluntary organisations (VOs), Shri Laxmi Dass said, "Mahatma Gandhi did not make any NGOs. Neither the soul of voluntary organisations was created by the NGOS. By labeling them as NGOs, the spirit of volunteerism took a back seat and that it affected, what he called the *swayam sevi prayas* (the effort of self service)".

He added, "The thought behind the idea of such voluntary effort is that it is intended towards the welfare of the society. For, the welfare of the society cannot be seen. It is an ongoing process and this process continues".

He stressed for a framework of a society where no need occurs for one to exploit the others. "There is

a need to self introspect which we rarely do. *Vyakti bhi sanstha ho sakti hai* (The individual is a mobile institution), which like Mahatma Gandhi, Vinoba Bhawe and others have led the entire nation by their selfless sacrifice and service towards the common good and who were not associated with any organization themselves. We need to do individual audit every evening”, he concluded.

Earlier Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, while delivering the welcome address said that the subject of the fourth Anupam Mishra lecture is a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and his disciple Acharya Vinoba Bhawe, whose 125th birth anniversary we are celebrating. He said that the subject is of prime importance today, given the changing dimensions of the organisations, where we often forget the common good.

Shri Basant while proposing the vote of thanks, asked people to reflect the last will and testament of Mahatma Gandhi.

National Seminar on Ethics and Truth in Journalism

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) and Delhi Journalist Association (DJA) organised a seminar on “*Ethics and Truth in Journalism*” (*Patrakarita me Satya Sadhana*) in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat on March 1, 2021. North Delhi Mayor, Shri Jai Prakash was the chief guest on the occasion. Also present on the occasion were Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Shri Omkareshwar Pandey, senior journalist; Shri Manohar Singh, President,



Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice President, Harijan Sevak Sangh and Executive Member GSDS is seen addressing the gathering during the programme.



Senior Journalist Shri Arvind Mohan shares his perspective during the national seminar in Gandhi Darshan.



Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS addresses the distinguished gathering during the national seminar.



Distinguished gathering at the national seminar on ‘Ethics and Truth in Journalism’ in Gandhi Darshan, join together in releasing the news magazine during the programme.

DJA; Shri Amlesh Raju, Senior Journalist, DJA; Shri Manoj Mishra, senior journalist, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS and others from the media fraternity and academics. Chairperson Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) Padma Shri Shri Ram Bahadur Rai joined virtually on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion Shri Jai Prakash said that the North Delhi Municipal Corporation is preparing to start the corona virus vaccination campaign smoothly. He appealed to the public to fully cooperate with the authorities in this work, saying that “By applying the vaccine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the message to the world that the vaccine developed in India is completely safe and effective”. He said that during the Corona period, the Delhi North Delhi Municipal Corporation, in collaboration with the Central and State Government, successfully fought the Covid-19. “If there is a strong desire to work in the mind, then by cooperating from the Centre to the local body level, we can accomplish the biggest work successfully”, he said.

He further called upon journalists to work impartially and fearlessly and lend their support for the cause of the development of the nation. The program was presided over by the former Chairman of National Khadi and Village Industries Board and Vice President of Harijan Sevak Sangh, Shri Laxmi Das.

Seminar on Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhawe



Shri Laxmi Dass, former Chairman KVIC and Vice President Harijan Sevak Sangh is seen sharing his views at the seminar in Gandhi Darshan, as distinguished guests on dais including Shri Mam Chand Sharma (L), Shri Basant (C) and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (R) are all ears.

A seminar on Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave was organised on March 5, 2021 in Gandhi Darshan by Khadi institutions and federations of North Zone jointly with GSDS. The chief guest was Shri Basant Kumar, Member Khadi and Village Industries Commission, North Zone. It was presided over by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan. Shri Laxmi Dass and Shri Mam Chand Sharma also address the gathering. Various from the representatives and office bearers of Khadi institutions also spoke.



Participants from various places of Delhi and NCR took part in the seminar in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.



Mahatma Gandhi resided here in Sarania Ashram, Guwahati Assam for three days from 9th to 11th January, 1946 and started the Provincial Kasturba Gram Sevika Vidyalaya

Programmes in the North East

ASSAM, GUWAHATI

E-Workshop on Sustainable Lifestyle and Non-Violent Communication

About 55 participants from State Bal Bhawan, Assam took part in a two-day e-workshop on “Sustainable Lifestyle and Non-Violent Communication” organised by GSDS on June 8-9, 2020 to understand the concept of mutual coexistence between nature, human and wildlife and sustainable lifestyle was discussed. The process of how non-violent communication is used in daily life was also discussed. Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator of GSDS coordinated the programme along with Ms. Prerna Jindal, Project Coordinator Srijan Kendras GSDS. Ms. Binjumoni Das, President State Bal Bhawan, Assam, Ms. Kavita Bhattacharjee and others were present on the occasion.

Speaking to the children Shri Gulshan Gupta shared the Gandhian principles of NVC and how these principles could be applied in the environment to reduce what he called ‘violence in environment’. Through various examples of mutual coexistence for sustainable life style, Shri Gulshan Gupta reiterated the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi who said that Earth provides for man’s need but not greed.

While sharing her ideas on the whole subject, Ms. Kavita Bhattacharjee said that children and adults need to avoid small frictions either within the families or outside as she believed this could pave the way for mutual respect and develop team spirit. She welcomed the efforts of the GSDS in initiating this virtual workshop and said that the pandemic has brought many unknown, unheard families together.



As part of the two-day workshop, children took part in planting saplings in their effort of conservation of environment. This initiative was coordinated by team from GSDS through on-line mode.

The two-day workshop saw several interactive sessions with the participants wherein they were briefed about different concepts of Non-Violent Communication (NVC); the importance of mutual coexistence and its necessity in the present day and time when the entire world is gripped by the COVID -19 pandemic.

Echoing a similar statement, Ms. Rumjhum told the participants (mostly children) that they should learn good things and ideas and apply this in their daily life. She told the children that they should begin from their room, by cleaning the room, switching off the lights before leaving the room and so on, which she believed would make the environment more compatible.

Ms. Prerna Jindal also conducted a few reflective sessions and left the children with questions and exercises related to the whole idea of tackling a fight through nonviolent methodologies due to some misunderstanding; managing unwanted situation in the family; or methods for controlling anger to avoid disputes.

The two-day workshop saw several interactive sessions with the participants wherein they were briefed about different concepts of Non-Violent Communication (NVC); the importance of mutual coexistence and its necessity in the present day and time when the entire world is gripped by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The second day of the workshop started with a Motivational Speech on Non violent Communication by Ms. Madhurima Choudhury, Prominent and Popular Actress and Artist of Assam. The children were quite inspired and motivated by the speech. Children came up with their own stories, sharing their experiences. The children (participants) displayed their presentations and reflections through art, poetry and speech.

The session was co-ordinated by Ms. Perna Jindal and Mr. Gulshan Gupta. This was followed by a theme speech by Ms. Perna. The interactive session was very lively. There was a video play session where videos of dance, song and mime acts related to environment conservation and COVID-19 awareness, performed by some participants of State Bal Bhavan, were played.

Children came up with their own stories, sharing their experiences. They also took part in planting trees and saplings as part of the exercises given during the workshop, while maintaining social distancing norms.

Dialogue on “Understanding Self”

January 12, 2021

The Samiti in association with School of Recitation (SABDAM) and State Bal Bhawan Assam, organised a virtual dialogue on “Understanding Self” on January 12, 2021, celebrating the 158th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Ms. Barnali Chakraborty from the Vivekananda Kendra Kanyakumari, Assam Prant was the key note speaker on the occasion.



(From Top to Bottom): Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator is seen coordinating the workshop, as children below share their perspectives and also are seen taking part in cultural presentations on ‘unity in diversity’.

Addressing the gathering that included youth and students from Assam Bal Bhawan, Ms. Barnali Chakraborty referred to writer Jiddu Krishnamurti who once wrote, “If you begin to understand what you are without trying to change it, then what you are undergoes a transformation.”

She further said that the root of all change starts with self-understanding. “If you don’t understand yourself, your efforts will be lost, and spent on things that are actually not under your control. Self-understanding is a

journey. There will always be new things to discover about yourself—and new paths to success as a result of that understanding”.

Dialogue on “The Dialogical Dimension of Gandhi-Subhash Relationship”

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi | Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti | Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development

124th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
'Parakram Diwas'




E-Dialogue on
The Dialogical Dimension of Gandhi-Subhash Relationship

Saturday, January 23, 2021
Time: 3.30 P.M. onwards (IST)

Organized by
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

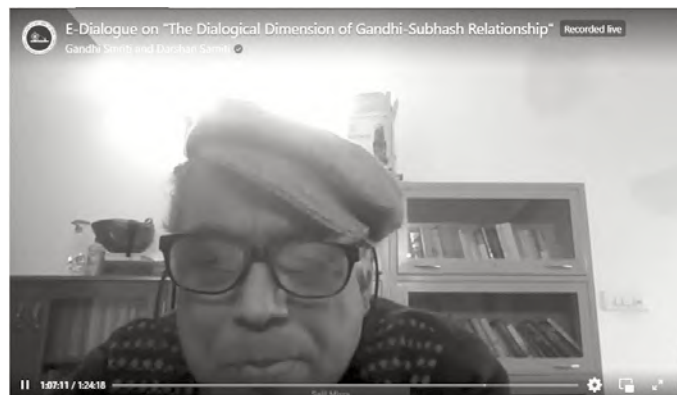
In association with
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi
&
Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development, Manipur

OUR SPEAKERS

Welcome Address	Key Note Address	INA in Manipur (A Perspective)
 Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti	 Prof. Salil Misra Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University, Delhi	 Dr. O. Sareeta Devi Secretary Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development, Manipur

GSDS in association with Dr. B R Ambedkar University, Delhi University and Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development, Manipur paid a befitting tribute to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on his 124th birth anniversary on January 23, 2021. Prof. Salil Misra, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dr. B R Ambedkar University delivered the key note address on “The Dialogical Dimension of Gandhi-Subhash Relationship” and based his talk on how despite their ideological differences, each stood for the a common cause – their motherland.

He divided his lecture into three phases – the twenties, thirties, the role of INA and disappearance and drew similar parallels between Mahatma Gandhi’s doctrine of non-violence and how Subhash was equally inspired by Gandhiji’s movements like the Quit India, the very year that saw the formation of the INA with the efforts of iconic figures like Rashbehari Bose and Captain Mohan Singh.



Prof. Salil Misra, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dr. B R Ambedkar University is seen delivering the special lecture as part of the 124th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Discussions also focused on how reading this news of Quit India launched by Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji who was in Berlin told his close associate CN Nambiar that he needed to “be with Gandhiji”.

It was around the same time that Subhas Chandra Bose was in the process of formation of Azad Hind Fauj to launch attacks on the British. In his Azad Hind Radio message from Berlin, Subhas Chandra Bose had called the Quit India Movement of Mahatma Gandhi, the “non-violent guerilla warfare”. It was no coincidence that Subhas Chandra Bose had named the Azad Hind Fauj brigades after Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Maulana Azad and himself.



Special Programmes

On-line talent search by children during Covid -19 first phase lockdown

One of the most significant public health measures implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic has been extended periods of 'lockdown' where whole populations were advised to remain in their households other than to collect necessary supplies, to care for others, or to exercise. Children and families have been deprived of their educational, work, and sport activities, but also from all their friendship and relational contacts.

As enlightened by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020a,b), this situation could have had long-term negative consequences on psychological well-being and there has been a continuous urge by organisations across the world on the need to invest in mental health services and ensure that the creativity in children does not elude.

In order to engage children in creative pursuits, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti invited participants from different schools of Delhi and NCR to take part in a "Talent Search" activity-based learning, wherein entries were invited from children across different age groups such as 6-11 years and 11-16 years.

The invitation to the schools included children to participate in different subjects such as:

- Drawing on "Personal Hygiene"
- Drawing on "Peace – As I see it"
- Poetry (Hindi and English) on "Service"
- Story-telling on "Mutual Co-Existence – Nature, Human and Wildlife"
- Short voice messages on what children understand on "Peace" and
- "Food for Thought" inviting 'Little Chefs' to send two-three minutes videos of any vegetarian dish prepared by children under the guidance of their parents.

Over 500 entries were received from different schools including children from Chattisgarh's Geetabitan Kala Kendra that proved the enthusiasm of the children and their parents in engaging their children to different creative pursuits and infuse in them positivity amidst the lockdown and the panic caused by the coronavirus.



ONLINE TALENT SHARING BY CHILDREN

Imagination of Young Mind in Contemporary Context of COVID '19

Come, join with your friends in this unique talent expedition while you are at home. We know that you have wonderful ideas.

Come share your innovative ideas with Us.

In this time of Lockdown, when the entire world is gripped with the tension of the pandemic COVID -19,

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti invites children to express their creativity through different forms such as drawing, poetry, storytelling, Food for Thought, short Voice Messages on your thought on 'peace'

STORY-TELLING

POETRY

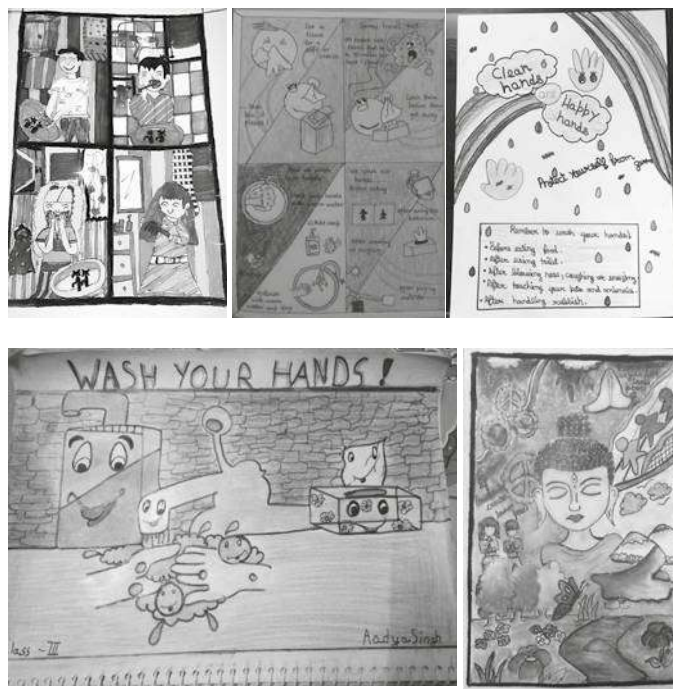
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

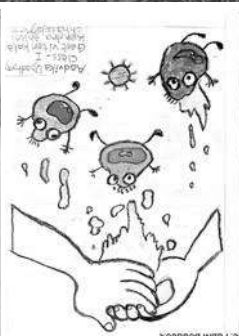
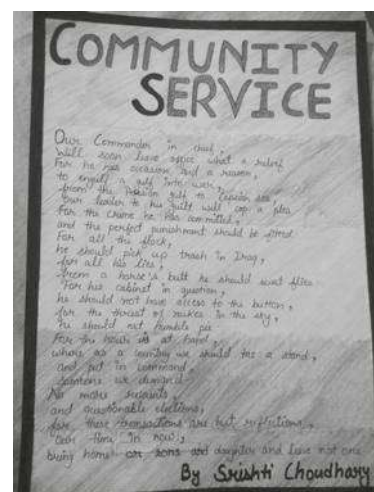
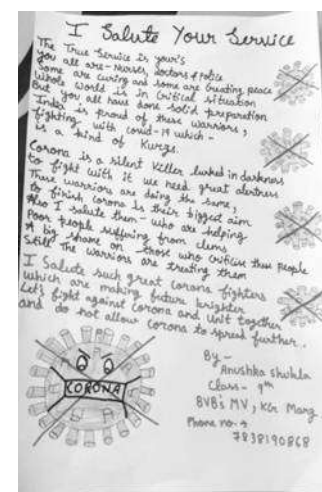
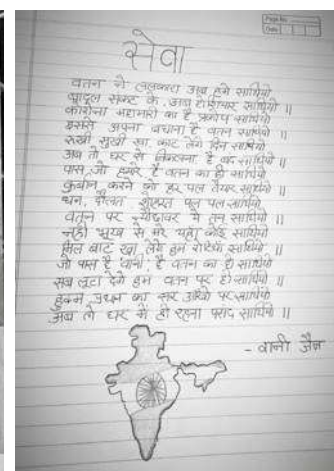
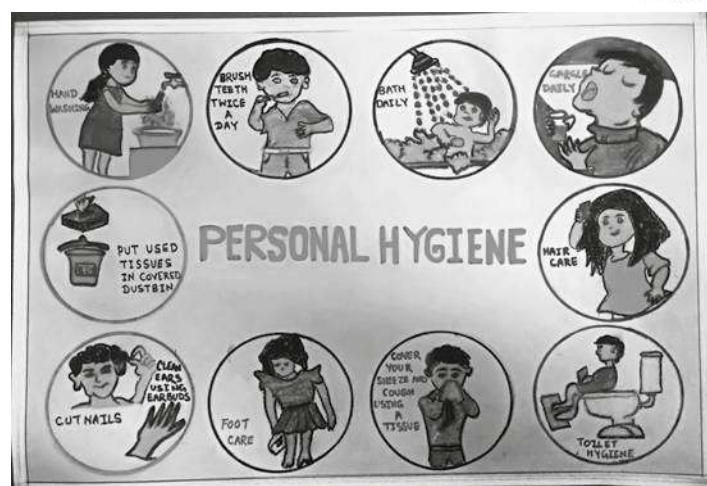
DRAWING

VOICE MESSAGES

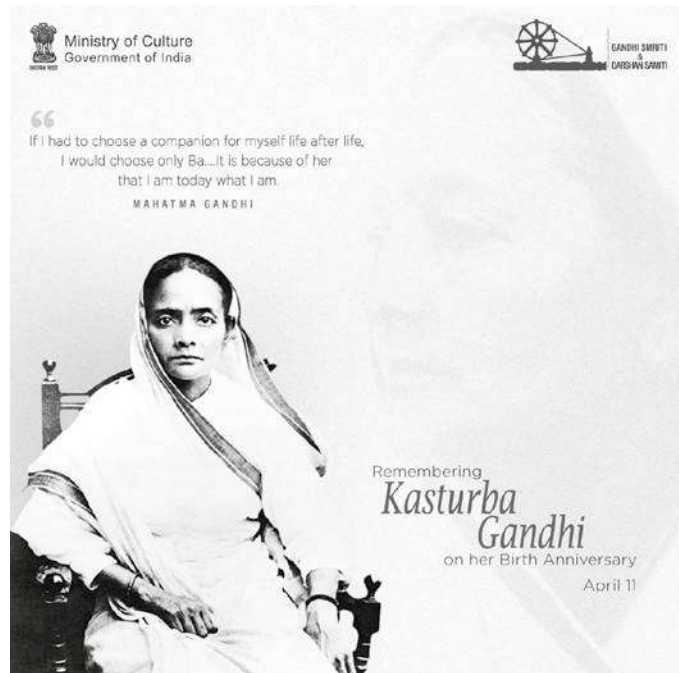
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Tribute to Kasturba Gandhi on her 151st Birth Anniversary



Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice-Chairperson of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel paid rich tributes to Kasturba Gandhi in the social media by tweeting the following: मातृशक्ति की मिसाल, जिन्होंने देश के लिए अपना सर्वस्व न्योछावर किया और जो साधना एवं त्याग की प्रतिमूर्ति हैं, ऐसी महाम स्वतंत्रता सेनानी श्रीमती कस्तूरबा गाँधी जी की जयंती पर उन्हें कोटि कोटि नमन (My tribute to Srimati Kasturba Gandhi who is an example of Matri Shakti, one who dedicated her entire life towards the service of the country). GSDS also joined in paying rich tributes to Ba on her 151st birth anniversary on April 11, 2020.

Tribute to the Jallianwala Bagh Martyrs



GSDS paid tributes to the martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 2020 as part of the commemoration of the 101 years of the massacre on April 13, 1919 by General Dyer. A collage of the Jallianwala Bagh memorial with photographs commemorating the event was tweeted by GSDS.

On this occasion, Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan also reminded about the first imprisonment of Mahatma Gandhi on Indian soil in Palwal Haryana on April 10 1919 when Gandhiji was on his way to Punjab to protest against the Rowlatt Act.

Tribute to Dr. B R Ambedkar on his 129th Birth Anniversary



Rich tributes were paid to the architect of the Indian Constitution Dr. B R Ambedkar on his 129th birth anniversary on April 14, 2020. Participants mostly from the GSDS shared their thoughts on Dr. Ambedkar through video and audio messages. The theme was drawn from one of Baba Saheb's own words: "If you believe in living a respectable life, you believe in self-help which is the best help". This was intended towards promising ourselves to make self help our life goal.

Earlier in the day, Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice-Chairperson GSDS Shri Prahlad Singh Patel paid tributes to Dr. B R Ambedkar at his New Delhi residence by garlanding his portrait and offering flowers Baba Saheb. In a tweet, Shri Prahlad Patel called Dr. Ambedkar as a person who gave individuals the right to live with dignity and equality through the provisions enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

Champaran revisited through online lecture and stories on Champaran Satyagraha

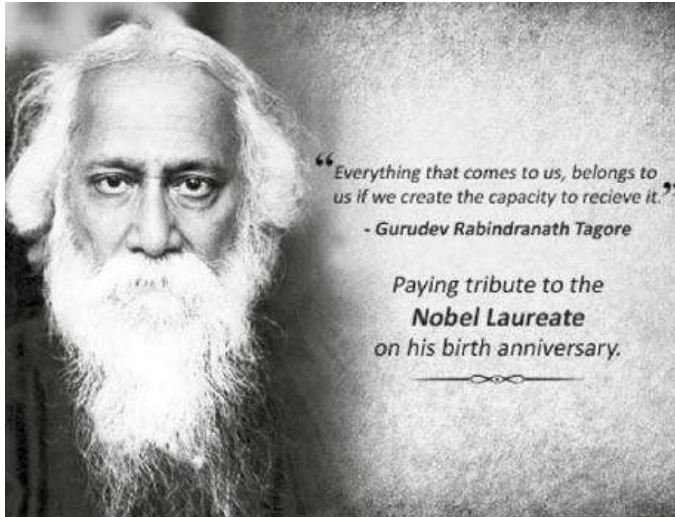
In a unique way to re-live the historic Champaran Satyagraha of 1917, the Samiti started an online web series of story-telling through different episodes that unfolded in Champaran, where a poor peasant Raj Kumar Shukla provided Lawyer Gandhi a platform to test the power of Satyagraha on the Indian soil.



The recording of six episodes began with the Dean of Gandhi Chair of Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Vishwa Vidyalaya Prof. Manoj Kumar speaking on the Champaran Satyagraha. Ms. Mansi from GSDS also narrated the story of the Champaran Satyagraha in the form of a story-telling through six episodes.

Tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

The Samiti paid rich tributes to Nobel Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on his 159th birth anniversary by organizing an on-line lecture by eminent Gandhian thinker and an academic Shri Bhagwan Singh on May 7, 2020.



Further, an on-line musical tribute to Gurudev was also paid by GSDS through a presentation of a song written by Narain Bhai Desai "Ma Bharti Ke Snehabhav Bhige...." on the mutual respect and admiration of the poet and the karmayogi Mahatma Gandhi. This song was earlier sung by almost 500 children during the Inter-faith prayer in Gandhi Smriti. Both the audio-video of the lecture and the song were uploaded in the You-tube channel of GSDS.

Poetry recitation and singing on "Patriotism" on the eve of 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement

OBSERVING THE 75th HIROSHIMA MEMORIAL DAY, AUGUST 6, 2020
78th ANNIVERSARY OF QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT, AUGUST 8, 2020



GANDHI SMRITI AND DARSHAN SAMITI
EXTENDS ITS INVITATION FOR NATIONAL PARTICIPATION IN

ON-LINE POETRY RECITATION
& MUSIC (VOCALS) SOLO/GROUP ON THE THEME

"PATRIOTISM"

AUGUST 8, 2020, 11.30 am

From the Eastern most corner of the country in Assam to down South in Karnataka; to Bengal and Odisha, to the Western belt of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab; the enthusiasm of almost 129 children from 15 states knew no bounds as they gathered virtually in a webinar taking part in a national programme on poetry recitation and singing on the theme of "Patriotism" on August 8, 2020. Organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, the programme was organised as part of the commemoration of the 75th

anniversary of the Hiroshima Day (August 6) and the 78th anniversary of the historic Quit India movement launched under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi on August 8, 1942.



ON LINE POETRY RECITATION & MUSIC VOCALS SOLO GROUP ON THE THEME "PATRIOTISM"
110 views • Aug 9, 2020

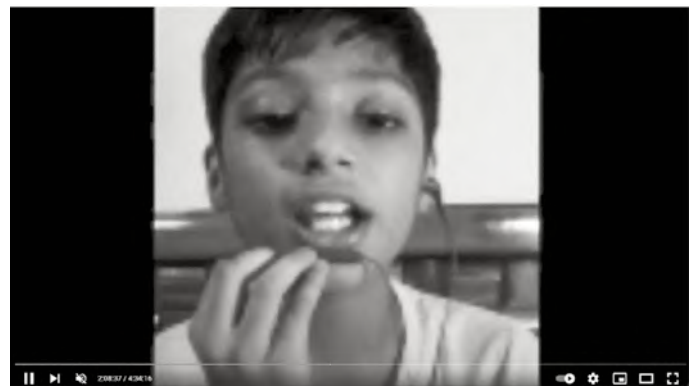


Photo garbs of students from different parts of the country taking part in the on-line patriotic singing competition on August 8, 2020.

Participants from Assam, Agartala, Bihar, Bengal, Haryana, Hyderabad, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Gurugram, Varanasi, and Delhi joined in this four hour online celebration of ideas through their poems and songs of harmony.

74th Independence Day celebrated



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan unfurls the Tricolour on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day celebrations in Gandhi Darshan, as GSDS staff from residential quarters join the pious ceremony.

Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan hoisted the Tricolour in Gandhi Darshan on August 15, 2020 on the occasion of the 74th Independence Day. The celebration culminated with GSDS staff in residential quarters taking part in the programme. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan called upon the staff to contribute towards nation-building and attain different sustainable skills that would go a long way in making one self-reliant. The sound of Jana Gana Man, the National Anthem reverberated in the pleasant morning as an inspiration to all.

The Mahatma in Me: Inviting Videos on understanding of the enigmatic life of Mahatma Gandhi



Ms. Sana Shrivastava shares her experience of her understanding of Mahatma Gandhi in the initiative of GSDS and Door Darshan Kendra on “The Mahatma in Me” in Gandhi Smriti.

As a culmination to the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, GSDS and Doordarshan collaborated together in a unique initiative from September 13-20, 2020 of inviting video entries from participants all across the country on their understanding of the enigmatic life of Mahatma Gandhi and how they have imbibed the Gandhian values in their lives.



Perspectives of participants from different parts of the country sharing their thoughts on “The Mahatma in Me”.

The programme in both Hindi and English entitled ‘Mujh Me Hai Mahatma’ and ‘The Mahatma in Me’ invited entries on any one of the following subjects – 1. How do I Practice Non-Violence in my Daily Life? 2. How do I contribute towards a culture a peace? 3. The most important Gandhian value which the world should follow today and 4. What is the most important thing I learnt from the life of Mahatma Gandhi?

Almost 200 entries were received as part of the initiative, for which the Doordarshan Kendra also made a promo of the same in their national network.

The programme was launched on October 2, 2020 commemorating the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and was presented by the Doordarshan through its DD National and DD Bharati channels during the live telecast of the inter-faith prayer meeting from Gandhi Smriti on October 2.

Remembering the Mahatma through spinning

Eight spinners from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti participated in a charkha demonstration at Jantar Mantar on October 2, 2020 in a programme hosted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on October 2, 2020 to highlight the message of simplicity and economic independence that Mahatma Gandhi aroused amongst the citizens during the freedom struggle. In total 16 portable spinning wheels were placed to educate and inform people about the thread spinning activity and its connection with Mahatma Gandhi during the programme.



Team from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti led the spinning on the charkha as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2021 in Jantar Mantar.

For many like the nine-year-old Prashasti, it was fun to spin on the charkha. Many others like Mr Gurpreet Singh had used the charkha for the first time in his life. Others like Ms. Poonam Gaur, an MCom student who also tried her hand on the charkha said, "It is a little tricky to deal with, but I am enjoying the experience. It is fun and educative to know how one can easily spin thread from just wool".



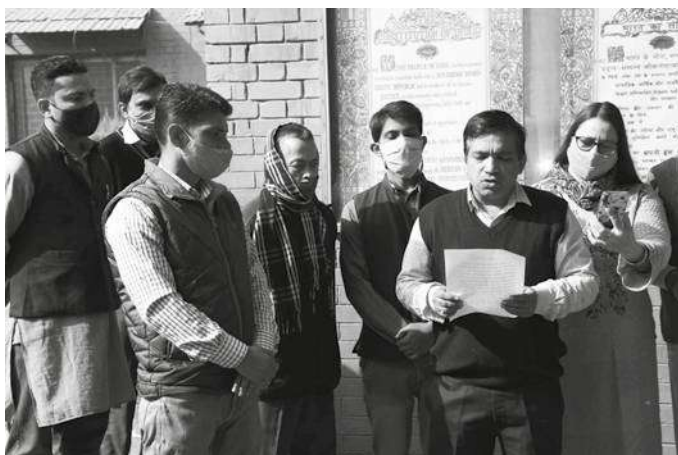
(From L to R): Shri Ganesh, Shri Shyam Lal and Shri Krishan from GSDS along with Ms. Smita Bhan took part in the Charkha demonstration on Gandhi Jayanti 2020 at Jantar Mantar.

The Samiti had also set up an exhibition of books on and by Mahatma Gandhi including various other GSDS publications during the programme. Representatives of the GSDS also taught visitors to spin on the charkha. The programme was coordinated by Smt. Geeta Shuka, Research Officer. Mr. Manish, Mr. Krishan, My Shyam Lal, Ms. Smita Bhan, Shri Ganesh, Shri Arun Saini and Ms. Neha Arora took part in the programme.

Reading of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution organized



GSDS created a Preamble Wall as part of the celebrations to mark the 71st Constitution Day on November 26, 2020.



As part of the celebrations to mark the 71st Constitution Day on November 26, 2020 GSDS staff joined together in both Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan to read the Preamble in both Hindi and English.

As part of the celebrations to mark the 71st Constitution Day on November 26, 2020, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organized the reading of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution in Hindi and English in both its campuses in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti at Tees January Marg at 11.00 A.M. All the staff members joined in both the campuses during the ceremony.

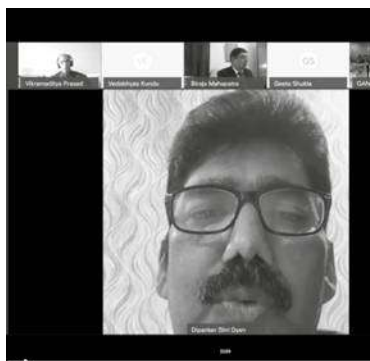
In Gandhi Darshan, the Preamble was read in Hindi by Shri Praveen Dutt Sharma and the English text was read by Shri Rajdeep Pathak. Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli led the staff in Gandhi Smriti Prayer Ground in reading the Preamble.

Further the Preamble has also been depicted in the wall at the Gandhi Darshan complex in both the languages.

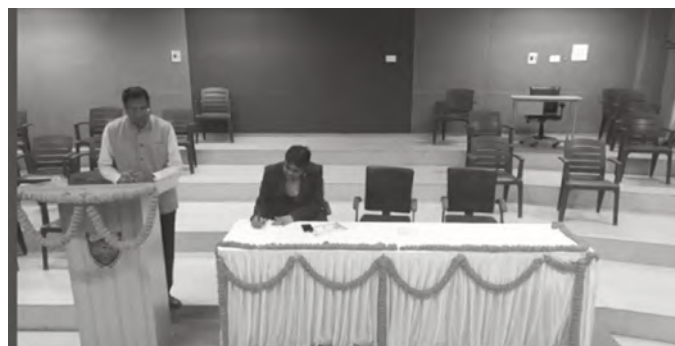
71st Anniversary of the Constitution of India

***The Preamble constitutes the soul of the Constitution:
Justice Vikramaditya Prasad***

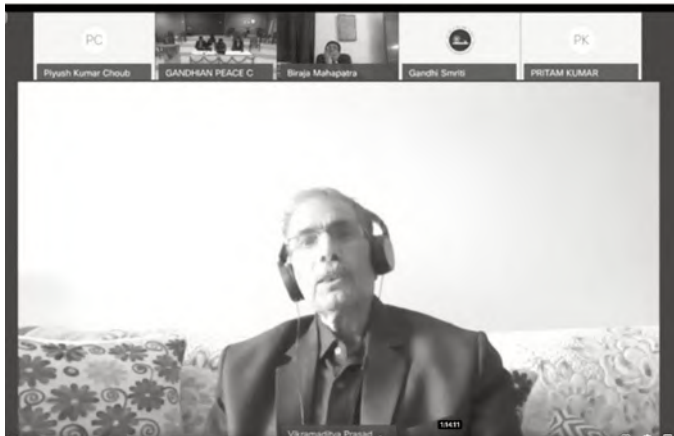
“Mahatma Gandhi is an experimental scientist who had his impact on every aspect of a person’s life and touched the soul of the nation when he reached out to the last person of the society”, said Justice (Retd) Shri Vikramaditya Prasad. He further added, “Mahatma Gandhi’s concern for persons who are in the last row of the society, helped the drafting members of the Constituent Assembly while drafting the Constitution of India”.



(From Top to Bottom):
***Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan,
Director GSDS; Shri
Biraja Mahapatra, Sr.
Advocate, The Supreme
Court of India and Prof.
Kesava Rao Vurrakula,
Vice Chancellor, NUSRL
addressing the gathering at
the on-line webinar.***



Justice Vikramaditya Prasad, who retired as a judge from the High Court of Jharkhand said this while delivering the key-note address at the webinar on “Influence of Mahatma Gandhi on Constitution of India” on November 26, 2020 organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) in association with the Gandhi Peace Club of National University of Study in Research in Law (NUSRL), Ranchi as a celebration of the 71st Constitution Day.



Justice Vikramaditya Prasad, Chief Guest for the webinar, addressing the gathering on the celebrations to mark the 71st Constitution Day.

Addressing a gathering of almost 79 students, volunteers, faculty members of NUSRL, lawyers and several other people who joined the webinar, Justice Vikramaditya Prasad said the impact of Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts and vision can be seen reflecting in the Constitution of India, as Gandhiji's ideas of all aspects of human life, from socialism, to *sarvodaya*, to welfare of women and other issues.

Informing that the first constitution drafted by Mahatma Gandhi was princely stately of Aundhia in Maharashtra, which had 72 villages, Justice Vikramaditya Prasad said that the prince of Aundhia approached Mahatma Gandhi to draft a constitution who agreed to do so on condition which the prince had to accept. Justice Prasad said, “The prince met Gandhiji in Sewagram Ashram and it was Gandhiji who set the conditions that the prince would live like a villager in a hut for ten years; spend only Rs 50/- per month for individual expenses; wear cloth sewn in the handloom in the village, which the prince agreed from 1939 to finally 1948 when Aundhia was merged with the Indian Republic”, which implied that even a king has to live like a villager to understand the pulse of the state.

Referring to Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's remarks that Mahatma Gandhi's spirit is hovering at the Constituent Assembly when he didn't find him there, Justice Vikramaditya Prasad said that both the essence of Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties when

critically examined has ideas of constructive programmes reflected in various sections of the Indian Constitution.

Speaking about the essence of the Preamble, Justice Vikramaditya Prasad said, “Even if the entire Constitution is kept aside, and if people honestly abide by all the words in the Preamble, there will not be a need to amend the Constitution again, for it contains the essential features of the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi which he always advocated for, i.e. ‘Justice’, ‘Liberty’, ‘Freedom’ and ‘Socialism’. This is the reason why the Preamble constitutes the soul of the Constitution”.

He concluded that the greatest challenge is how to apply the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi practically and apply it carefully for, what he said, Experiments must go on; scientific principles are lasting, but technology changes. But the need is that citizens should be worthy of their rights first”.

In his introductory remarks, Prof. Kesava Rao Vurrukula, Vice Chancellor of NUSRL spoke on the two important aspects of the Constitution – The Preamble and Fundamental Rights and how they are essentially linked to Fundamental Duties which all citizens must abide by in all their sincerity.

He spoke of the charter of duties and stressed on the unity of the entire nation. Speaking about ‘gram swaraj’, he laid emphasis on political sovereignty. He spoke about concepts of ‘sarvodaya’ and shared his ideas on the economic, social and secular order which the Constitution empowers. Saying that the “Influence of Mahatma Gandhi on the Constitution of India is profound”, Prof. Kesava Rao Vurrukula said that the core values preached, practiced and experimented by Mahatma Gandhi are enshrined in Article 50 of the Constitution of India which speaks of governance, harmony and brotherhood, truth (*satya*) and unity.

In his address during the webinar, Shri Biraja Mahapatra, Founder Director of Build India Group, a civil society organization and senior lawyer of the Supreme Court of India while explaining the historicity of the framing of the Indian Constitution, also threw light on the Constitution Day and spoke of the role of stalwarts like Sardar Patel in unifying India by bringing together the princely states and the role of Dr. B R Ambedkar in drafting the Indian Constitution.

He pointed out that the prime issue that surfaced at that point of time was the issue of what would happen to the status of common people of India and said that “The significance of the Constituent Assembly and the Preamble guaranteed that all Indians became ‘bonafide’ owners of the country and that the citizens have a duty to run the country”, adding, “The country is an extension of home and the citizens have a duty to run it in the building of a nation.

Referring to Mahatma Gandhi's influence on Indian Constitution, Shri Biraja Mahapatra pointed after 1947 on dissolving the Congress and formation of a 'Lok Sevak Sangha'. He further pointed that Mahatma Gandhi laid emphasis on the Panchayat Raj System because Gandhiji believed in the minimum interference of the kings. Quoting the Panchatantras, Shri Mahapatra emphasized on the essence of Gram Sabhas which promulgate the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi on Gram Swaraj at the grassroots level, the benefits of which reach the last person.

Talking about Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties, Shri Biraja Mahapatra categorically emphasized the need for understanding one's responsibilities towards the country. "To be a good Indian, one has to be a good citizen", he concluded.

Earlier, while delivering the welcoming address, Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan referred to his reading of the deliberations of the Constitution of India and said that while the influence of Mahatma Gandhi is not directly felt on the Constitution, the issues of rights and duties that influenced Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi during his journey to South Africa when he was thrown out of the train despite having a first class ticket, has been ingrained in the leaders, who during the drafting procedures and deliberations of the Indian Constitution kept the essence of human rights and dignity at the prime level and said that the Directive Principles of State Policy are the governing principles that aim to create social and economic conditions under which the citizens can lead a good life, besides aiming towards establishing social and economic democracy through a welfare state, which ultimately benefits the common man.

He further pointed that the "Directive Principles of State Policy, which though not justiciable, are 'fundamental in governance of the country', and it is the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws and further promoting the welfare of people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may, a social order, in which justice-social, economic and political-shall form in all institutions of national life.

During the webinar, at 11.00 A.M. the Preamble to the Indian Constitution was read out in Hindi and English. GSDS officials joined in reading the Preamble in both the campuses in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti at Tees January Marg.

The webinar concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Satyavrata Mishra, Assistant Professor of Law and Member Gandhi Peace Club, NUSRL, Ranchi. Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive GSDS proposed the vote of thanks on behalf of the GSDS.

Kasturba Gandhi remembered on her 77th Nirvan Divas



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (above) is seen paying tributes to Kasturba Gandhi on her 77th Nirvan Divas in Gandhi Darshan. Staff of GSDS joined the commemorative prayer organised as part of the death anniversary of 'Ba'.

As a tribute to Kasturba Gandhi on her 77th death anniversary, Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led the GSDS staff in paying tribute to Kasturba Gandhi in Gandhi Darshan on February 22, 2021. Floral tributes were offered on the occasion to 'Ba', as Kasturba Gandhi was popularly called. The programme concluded with Ram Dhun and a two-minute silent tribute.

Tributes to 'Ba' pour in from Varanasi

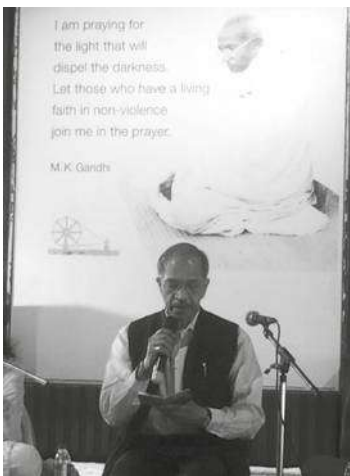


Teachers and staff members of the Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi are seen paying rich tribute to Kasturba Gandhi on her 77th death anniversary.



Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, paid rich tributes to Kasturba Gandhi on her 77th death anniversary on February 22, 2021 in Varanasi. Principal of the school, Smt. Anita Singh, teachers and students joined in remembering Ba on her Nirvan Diwas. Songs and prayers marked the occasion.

Peace Prayer organised

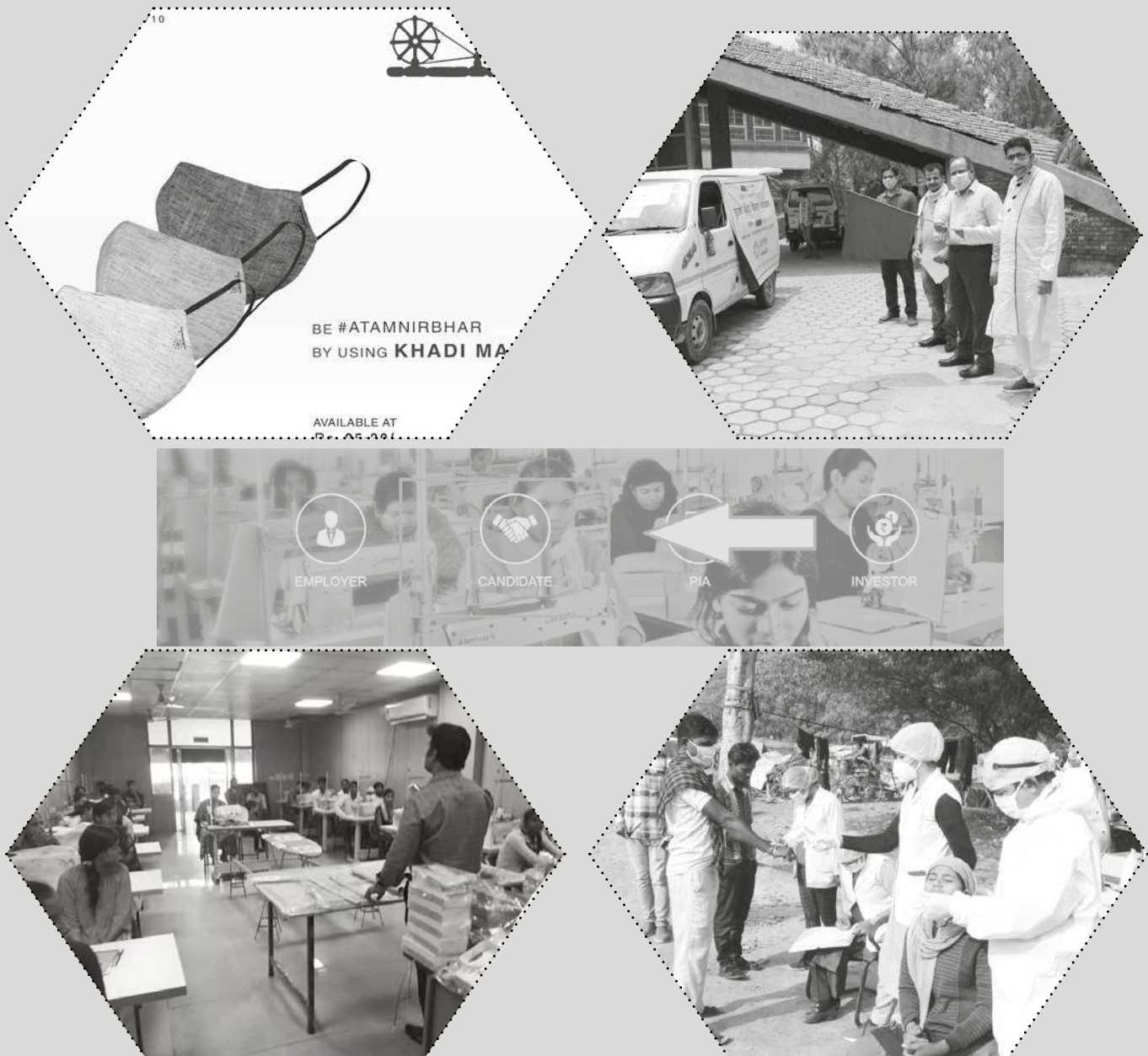


Dr. A K Merchant partakes in the inter-faith prayer meet in Gandhi Smriti during the 'Peace Prayer' organised by Guild of Services in association with GSDS.

Guild of Services, War Widows Association and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti jointly organised a Peace Prayer in Gandhi Smriti on March 10, 2021. Tributes were offered to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyr's Column. An inter-faith prayer was organised on the occasion. A pledge to stop violence against women was also administered on the occasion. The pledge was read out by Dr. Vandana Shiva.

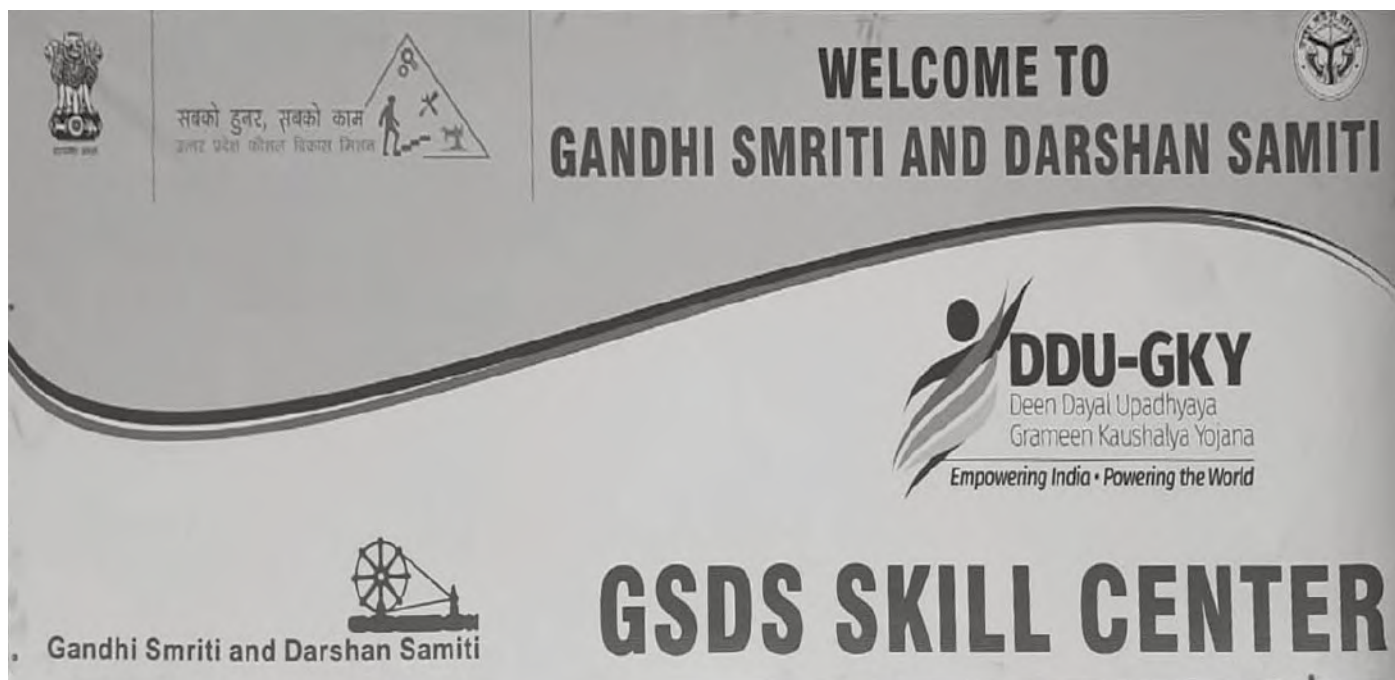
A campaign "No Silence for Violence" was proposed by the Guild of Services to help bring a change in mindsets. The concepts of universal ideals of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity were reiterated by members present on the occasion. Songs and hymns on empowerment of women marked the occasion.





Srijan and COVID-19 Initiatives

Meeting on Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)



Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened an on-line meeting on the functioning of a project sanctioned by the Government of Uttar Pradesh under the aegis of the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India to Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti. The virtual meeting on June 13, 2020 was attended by Shri Basant Singh (Karigar Panchayat); Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS; Shri S A Jamal, former Administrative Officer, GSDS; Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive, GSDS; Shri Bishwajit Singh, Project Lead/Head of the sanctioned project with his team of Ms. Pooja Singh, Mr. Chandan Gupta, Mr. Mukund Milind, Ms. Ruby Mishra; Ms. Kanak Kaushik, GSDS and Ms. Purna Jindal, GSDS.

The meeting began with a presentation by Shri Bishwajit who elaborated on the success story of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushalya Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) that was initiated by the GSDS and almost 2000 auto drivers from Champaran Bihar plying their autos in Delhi were trained along with another 2000 auto drivers who were trained in the second phase in 2018-19. He mentioned that it was not just a training that catered to their certification and assessment (as per the RPL program), an overall development in terms of their education, health and finance management was also taken care. He mentioned that for the first time the auto drivers felt empowered with their certification and when their children were enrolled with the IGNOU for various correspondence courses, they family felt much more happier and hopeful.

While presenting the modalities of the DDU-GKY project that has been sanctioned, Shri Bishwajit said that

DDU-GKY is the flagship Skilling program under Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India, specifically and broadly formulated for employment of the rural youth of India.

The major highlight of the program is that it focuses on complete hand holding of rural youth starting from their travel to lodging and food, dress up to skilling and placement. So much effort is worth the view point that financial deprived rural youth does not have to worry about any logistics and they should focus on skilling and excelling in life.

The most important part of the project is that it does not simply focuses on placements. It actually focuses on what he called, 'sustained', 'continuous' and 'progressive' placement to empower rural youth to empower India in what the Prime Minister also stated in his address to the Nation on 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

He further mentioned that the projects sanctioned under the DDU-GKY are presently for Uttar Pradesh in the districts of Lucknow and Sonbhadra where initiatives will also be taken towards: a) empowering people in stitching and embroidery and b) for imparting training in GST. Stressing on the impact on employment that will be generated, Shri Bishwajit also mentioned that more impetus will be provided on value addition for all the training that will be provided as part of this project.

He also spoke on the modalities of the DDU-GKY project stating the number of candidates to be accommodated per training, the monetary aspect of the entire project, the linkages between the UPSCM (Uttar Pradesh Skill Development Mission); SRLM (State Rural

Livelihood Mission); MORD (Ministry of Rural Development – the apex ministry) and so on.

Several queries were raised beginning with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan who while expressing the challenges for the timely completion of the project, to the disbursement of sanctioned budget in four instalments, to a *modus operandi* curriculum, hostel management (in specific areas). He also stressed on the value addition training to be provided by the GSDS which he felt should be sent as guidelines to the States for implementation and should work towards what he called a 'centre of excellence'.

Shri Basantji while congratulating the team for getting the project sanctioned said that this project could see many Gandhian organisations come back to life once again for these organisations can provide training, but not placements. He also shared his concern over the challenges between distance and the professional training that has to be covered and pointed to catering to local experts and resources. "We have to go to the villages he said". He also pointed his idea of outsourcing and made it clear that whosoever works for the project, must be initially told clearly about the same.

True to the mandate and legacy of GSDS, the chosen location and job roles of the project, are completely aimed at livelihood generation for the rural population, which has also been a major thrust area for the government due to COVID impact on local society and local economy apart from the macro impact.

Therefore, the tribal area of Sonebhadra and the textile artisan populated area of Lucknow are very pertinent and so are the job roles of Swing machine operator and GST Executive. Further, it is important to note that both job roles have been clubbed with add on training of supplementary job roles to ensure Sustained, Continuous and progressive placement to empower rural youth, which is the core focus of DDU-GKY, reliving the dreams of Sarvodaya of Mahatma Gandhi and Antodaya of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

Director GSDS concluded the meeting by authorising Shri Bishwajit to make necessary changes in the project. The next meeting is scheduled for June 28 to discuss the implementation strategies and other necessary details related to the project.

COVID-19 INITIATIVES

Distribution of food to construction labourers

The Samiti distributed packets of biscuits and snacks to the construction labourers working in the GSDS campus on April 28, 2020. Shri Vivek, Shri Rakesh, Shri Pankaj Chaubey, Shri Dharamraj along distributed these packets, which was provided by the Central Prisons Tihar.

Gratitude to Covid Warriors

The Samiti paid its gratitude to Covid Warriors through its Tweeter handle as well as in the GSDS YouTube channel during May 2020. In this endeavour the Samiti also showcased the work done by the GSDS members in making masks, distributing food to people in need to feeding street animals. Khadi cloth masks made by Ms. Madhu – who left her home voluntarily to stay in Gandhi Darshan – and Ms. Simran of *Srijan* that have been distributed to GSDS staffs and others who were in need were showcased through the video. Initiatives taken by Ms. Prerna Jindal of GSDS in providing food to the needy and feeding street animals; home-made masks made by Ms. Smita Bhan for distribution to the needy was also showcased.

Further as part of the GSDS initiative, about 500 masks were made by the teachers and volunteers of Himalayan Buddhist School in Dharamshala Himachal Pradesh, led by the Principal of the school Ms. Palki Thakur, which was later handed over to the SDM of Manali for distribution to the needy.

Mask Making begins at Five places in Delhi



Ms. Madhu Sharma from Srijan GSDS and Shri Mohit Mohan Office Supervisor GSDS, handed over Khadi and cotton cloth rolls to a member of Healthy Aging India.

The Samiti in association with Healthy Aging India (HAI) run by doctors of AIIMS and CRPF have started mask making at five different places in Delhi for free distribution. In view of this, led by Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, few of the staff members handed over khadi and cotton cloth rolls to members of HAI on May 6, 2020 in Gandhi Darshan.

District Administration Dholpur receives 70000 masks from GSDS-Lupin Srijan centre

District Administration Dholpur received 70000 masks from the GSDS-Lupin *Srijan* training-cum-production centre as part of the initiative of the Samiti to produce masks in this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The masks were handed over to the DM during May 2020 for free distribution to the poor and needy. This work has been done under the supervision of Shri Sita Ram Gupta, Executive Director Lupin Human Welfare Foundation. The centre since the outbreak of the Pandemic and lockdown has been producing masks and distributing it to the needy

in the nearby localities, township, *anganwadis*, schools, etc. *Srijan Garment Production Stitching and Training Centre* was established by GSDS in association with Lupin Human Welfare Foundation in Bharatpur, Dholpur in Rajasthan as part of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Secretary Rural Development, Government of India Shri N N Sinha flags off kits for COVID -19 to Jharkhand Administration

In its fight against COVID -19, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti New Delhi and Lupin Human Welfare Association, Rajasthan on May 29, 2020 sent 200 PPE Kits, 50 Thermometer, 10,000 PCS NITRILE GLOVES, 11000 masks and 500 FACE Shields to tribal district Khunti, Jharkhand free of cost for use by the District Administration. This consignment was flagged off by Shri N N Sinha, IAS, Secretary, Rural Development, Government of India, at Krishi Bhawan. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and Shri Sita Ram Gupta, CEO Lupin Human Welfare, Organisation were also present at the flagging off ceremony.



(Above): Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Shri N N Sinha flags off the COVID-19 safety kit to Jharkhand Administration, as, Sh. Sita Ram Gupta, CEO Lupin Welfare Association and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS joins the ceremony.

(Below): Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan examines the containment kit.

Together, the GSDS and Lupin, since the breakdown of the pandemic COVID-19 has been regularly supplying masks and above noted materials free of cost to different organisations, government departments and to poor and needy people.

Covid-19 Safety Kit flagged off from Gandhi Darshan

GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation jointly sent COVID-19 Safety Kit to Begusarai and Bettiah on June 26, 2020 from Gandhi Darshan. The kit containing 250 PPE KIT; 50 IR Thermometer; 1000 Face Shield; 200 N-95 Mask; 6000 (three layer cotton mask) and 4000 hand gloves for each of the districts in Bihar was flagged off from Gandhi Darshan by Shri Sita Ram Gupta, CEO of Lupin Human Welfare Organization (LHWO) and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.



Sh. Sita Ram Gupta, CEO Lupin Welfare Association along with Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and other members flags off the vehicle containing COVID-19 safety kit to Begusarai, Bihar.

Earlier too in its efforts towards providing relief to the poor and needy GSDS and LHWO had sent similar kit to Jharkhand on May 29, 2020 that was flagged off by Shri N N Sinha, IAS, Secretary, Rural Development, Government of India from Krishi Bhawan.

The Samiti in association with Lupin Human Welfare Organisation, Bharatpur took the following initiatives during July 2020:

1. On July 9, 2020, Covid-19 safety kit containing 300 PPE Kits, 7500 cotton masks, 300 face shields, 3000 pair of hand gloves, 250 pieces goggles, 30 pieces of IR Thermometer and 15 pieces of Oximeter were sent to Raipur and Mahasamund in Chattisgarh respectively.



The authorities at Raipur, Chattisgarh are seen receiving the COVID-19 safety kits from GSDS New Delhi and Lupin Welfare Association, Bharatpur.

2. On July 17, 2020, 50 washable PPE kits; 10 disposable PPE kits, 200 face shields, 20 N-95 masks, 2000 pair hand gloves and 3000 cotton masks were sent to Damoh, Madhya Pradesh.
3. On July 21, 2020 16 pieces of washable PPE kits, 20 pieces of disposable PPE kits, 50 face shields, 30 N-95 masks, 1000 pairs of hand gloves, 1000 pieces of cotton masks, 10 IR thermometer, 15 oximeter and 50 goggles were sent to Sonbhadra in Uttar Pradesh.
4. Further on July 22 and 24, 2020 the Samiti in association with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) conducted COVID-19 rapid antigen test. In these two days almost 345 tests were conducted for staffs of GSDS, Khadi and Village Industries Corporation (KVIC), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), workers at the construction site of the Rashtriya Swachhata Mission and people residing in and around Gandhi Darshan campus.



Rapid Antigen tests being conducted for GSDS Staff by Shri Ashfaque, Lab Technician, UPHC, Daryaganj.



(Above & Below): Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS handing over a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Sunil Minj, In-Charge UPHC, Daryaganj and his team for their noble efforts as COVID warriors. Dr. Manju Aggarwal along and other GSDS staffs were present on the occasion.



5. On July 28, 2020, Covid -19 safety kit comprising five pieces of PPE Kit, 50 pieces of face shield, 50 pairs of hand gloves, 50 pieces of cotton mask, one oximeter, 50 goggles, 5 pieces of N-95 masks were sent by GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation to Shri V S Iyer, Ex. Scientific Officer (E) Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, Government of India, Govandi East, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
6. Another set of Covid-19 safety kit comprising of 276 PPE Kits, 300 pieces of face shield, 100 N-95 masks, 8500 pair of hand gloves, 7800 pieces of cotton masks, 30 pieces of IR Thermometer, 100 pieces of oximeter and 225 goggles were sent to Bhagalpur, Bihar on July 28, 2020.
7. On July 29 2020 the Samiti in association with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) conducted COVID-19 rapid antigen test for the Gandhi Smriti staff members. A total of 42 people were tested negative during the test. Dr. Sunil Kumar Minj, Medical Officer In-charge UPHC Darya Ganj and Sub Centre Vikram Nagar, South Delhi Municipal Corporation along with his team comprising Mr. Md Ashfaque (Lab Technician), Ms. Geeta (ANM), and Ms. Partima (ANM) conducted the tests in Gandhi Darshan. Later Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan felicitated the Covid-19 warriors with Khadi stolls (angavastram) and a model of charkha (spinning wheel).

RTPCR tests conducted

In light of COVID-19, as part of its initiative towards safeguarding the health of the staff members, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with team of doctors from the South Delhi Municipal Cooperation conducted the RT-PCR, antigen, antibody TrueNAT test for the GSDS staff members on August 6, 2020. Dr. Sunil Kumar Minj, Medical Officer Incharge UPHC Darya Ganj and Sub Centre Vikram Nagar, South Delhi Municipal Corporation

along with his team comprising Mr. Md Ashfaque (Lab Technician) and others conducted the Serology test in Gandhi Darshan for 50 people in the category of 05-18 years; 18-50 years and 50 years and above.

Covid Safety Kits sent to Bhagalpur, Bihar

As part of its initiative to provide COVID-19 safety kit to different parts of the country as per requirement, the Samiti on August 22, 2020 sent Covid safety kit with 10,000 cotton masks and 200 pieces of oximeter to Bhagalpur, Bihar. The kits are proposed for distribution to Munger, Baka, Bhagalpur and Jamui. Shri Mukund Milind coordinated the programme.

- The Samiti in association with the Lupin Human Welfare Organisation, Bharatpur Rajasthan as part of its initiative towards providing Covid-19 safety kit to different parts of the country had sent kits to Bihar for distribution. These safety kits were distributed in a small function in Jamui Bihar on August 23, 2020. The distribution programme for the health workers and social workers was led by senior member of the Farmers and Fertilizer Production Organization Arjun Mandal. Several people including Dr. D K Dhusia, Medical Officer In-charge, Health Manager Shri Mahesh Ranjan were present on the occasion.
- The COVID-19 safety kit by GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation was also distributed in Haveli Kharagpur District of Munger on August 30, 2020. Shri Basant Singh, former advisor to GSDS coordinated this initiative. PPE Kits, masks, oximeter, hand gloves, hand sanitizers, face shields were distributed amongst the villagers and health care workers in Teliadiah.
- GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation distributed Covid-19 safety-kit was also distributed in different districts of Chattisgarh such as Durg, Rajnand Gaon, Mahasamund and Raipur. Shri Kalyan Srikrishnan, State Coordinator of BIRD (Belugam Integrated Rural Development) Foundation, took the initiative to distribute the COVID-19 safety kits to these areas and also to different hospitals, police stations, government schools, Anganbadi kendras and to the needy. This was done during the month of August 2020 on different occasions.

Almost 700 children of the pottery community/complex received the COVID-19 safety kits. Coordinator Shri Madan Lal Sahu informed that under the campaign of "Tuhar Duar" all the schools where children have been asked to maintain social distance, use masks, sanitizers and soap.

COVID-19 test for October 2nd Gandhi Jayanti Programme

To ensure safety for the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, GSDS conducted COVID-19 test for all the GSDS staff members, officials from Ministry of Culture, Dharam Gurus and Bhakti Sangeet Artist in Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti on September 28, 29, 30, 2020. Tests were conducted in Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti respectively.



Rapid Antigen as well as RTPCR tests being conducted by GSDS by Shri Ashfaque, Lab Technician, UPHC, Daryaganj, as a prelude to the Gandhi Jayanti programme.

Also members of the Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat, where similar inter-faith prayer is organised and which is attended by VVIPs also conducted the COVID-19 test for its staff. In GSDS both RTPCR and Rapid Antigen tests were conducted by team of doctors from the Delhi Government. Dr. Sunil Minz, led by his team of Dr. Ashfaque and Dr. Nirmala conducted the test for almost 150 members.

COVID-19 Health Camp at Vijay Ghat slums organized

Health Camp was conducted in the Slum of Vijay Ghat on December 5, 2020. Rapid Antigen and RTPCR tests were conducted for 100 patients by the team of Doctors from UPHC Daryaganj New Delhi.. GSDS representatives Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS, Dr. Manju Rani Aggarwal, Coordinator Health Programmes GSDS, Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive, GSDS and Shri Arvind Yadav attended the camp. The team of doctors comprising of Dr. Sunil Minz, Medical Officer In-charge, UPHC Daryaganj, Dr. Sheetal, Gynaecologist, Sister Prem Bala and Shri Ashfaque conducted the camp.



Rapid Antigen as well as RTPCR tests being conducted by GSDS through the team of doctors from UPHC Daryaganj at Vijay Ghat slums.

- Another health camp was organized on December 15 for the slums of Bela Gaon and Rajghat Power

House where almost 121 people were conducted tests for RTPCR.

- At another camp organized on December 19, 2020 at Rajasthani Basti, RTPCR was conducted for 304 people by team of doctors from SDMC UPHC Daryaganj.

COVID Safety kits distributed in Chhapra, Bihar

GSDS in association with Lupin Human Welfare Organisation Rajasthan and Mahila Vikas Sansthan Basantpur, Chhapra, Bihar distributed the COVID safety kits to the doctors at the city hospital. Social worker Shri Viswas Gautam coordinated the distribution programme on behalf of the GSDS. Dr. Madeshwar Jha Civil Surgeon received the PPE kits, face masks, gloves and oximeter on December 4, 2020.

Rapid Antigen and RTPCR Tests conducted in Gandhi Darshan

Team of Doctors led by Dr. Sunil Minj, In-charge UPHC Daryaganj, conducted the Rapid Antigen and RTPCR tests for the Dharam Gurus and the GSDS officials on December 8, 2020. The results of 20 persons who were conducted the tests was negative.

- Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organised COVID-19 Health awareness camp in Unnati Girls Rainbow Home, Tees Hazari in association with the South MCD. Lab Technician Mr. Ashfaq conducted the RTPCR tests to 36 children from the Home and distributed GSDS-Lupin masks. The Programme organised on January 16, 2021 was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal from GSDS.

- Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organised COVID-19 Health awareness camp in association with the South MCD in several places on January 21, 2021. 101 people were tested for RTPCR today in Society for Promotion of Youth and Masses (SPYM) Daryaganj, Civic Centre, Delhi, Ansari Road Daryaganj and Parda Bagh. GSDS-Lupin Face mask were distributed near DM Officer Parda Bagh by GSDS. Mr. Ashfaq conducted the RTPCR tests. The Programme was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal from GSDS.
- COVID-19 RTPCR test was conducted for 150 people by GSDS on January 27, 2021 in association with UPHC Daryaganj as a prelude to the preparation for January 30th 2021 in Gandhi Smriti. Dr. Manju Aggarwal coordinated this test on behalf of GSDS.

Covid-19 Health Camps organised

GSDS in association with team of doctors from UPHC Daryaganj organised a health awareness camp at Rajghat Bus Depot No 1, Rajghat for the DTC mechanics. 51 RTPCR tests were conducted on February 3, 2021. Dr. Manju Aggarwal coordinated this event on behalf of GSDS.

Masks distributed at UPHC, Daryaganj

GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare organisation distributed masks at UPHC Daryaganj (Dispensary) on March 6, 2021 to the team of doctors. Shri Basant Kumar and Dr. Manju Aggarwal were present at the distribution



Rapid Antigen as well as RTPCR tests being conducted by GSDS through the team of doctors from UPHC Daryaganj at different places in Delhi, being coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal.

ceremony. Dr. Sunil Minz, Medical Officer In-charge, UPHC Darya Ganj & Sub Centre Vikarm Nagar, South Delhi Municipal Corporation along with Dr. Sheetal, Gynecologist and their team of doctors and nurses received the masks from GSDS.



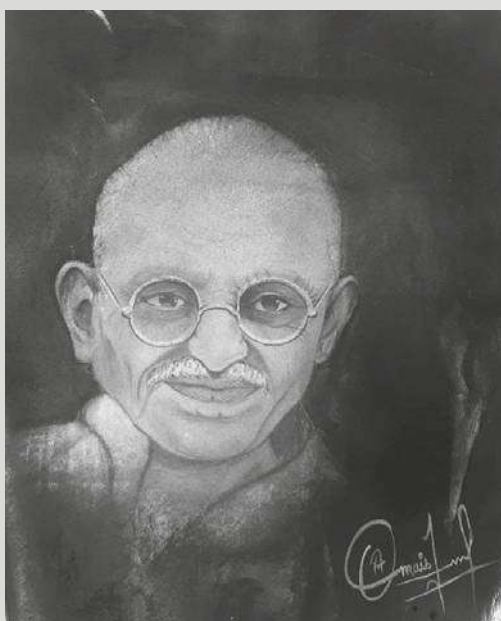
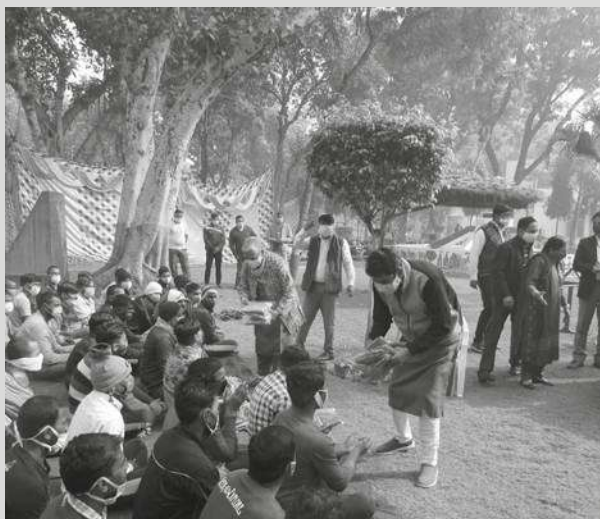
Senior Gandhian, Shri Basant handing over the masks to team of doctors from UPHC Daryaganj along with Dr. Manju Aggarwal and Shri Umesh Tyagi from GSDS.

Health Awareness camp conducted Delhi Gate

As part of health awareness programme of GSDS 36 RTPCR Test were conducted at the de-addiction centre at Delhi Gate on March 10, 2021 by team of doctors from UPHC Daryaganj. Free distribution of face mask by GSDS and Lupin Human Welfare Organisation was also done. Dr. Manju Aggarwal conducted the camp.



Shri Ashfaque, Lab Technician UPHC Daryaganj is seen conducting the RTPCR tests for children (L), as Dr. Manju Aggarwal from GSDS coordinated the health awareness programme for the children (Right).



Programmes in Tihar

Woolen clothes distributed in Tihar CJ-4

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with Inner Wheel Club of Delhi...Civil lines Achievers, Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad North provided 350 set of warmers to the inmates in Central Jail No 4, Tihar Prisons on December 23, 2020.



(Above): Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan is seen felicitating former DG Tihar Prisons Dr. Vimla Mehra with a Charkha.

(Below): Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan is seen handing over the woolen clothes to the inmates of Central Jail No.4.



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan is seen with officials from Central Jail No 4, former DG Tihar prisons and with the team from Inner Wheel Club of Delhi Achievers during the programme in Central Prisons, Tihar.

Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, former D.G. Tihar Prisons Smt Vimla Mehra, Inner Wheel Club Delhi Civil lines President Ms. Renu Grover , Achievers President' Smt Bindu K Sangal, Secretary Ms. Anu Nagpal along with GSDS Tihar Coordinator Dr Manju Aggarwal, Programme Executive Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Shri Raj Kumar Superintendent CJ 4; Shri Rajesh Chauhan, Superintendent CJ 1&7, Deputy Superintendent Shri Manmohan, Welfare Officer Shri P. L. Meena and Warder Shri Amarjeet were present on the occasion. Face masks were also distributed during the programme.

Health Awareness programme in Tihar conducted



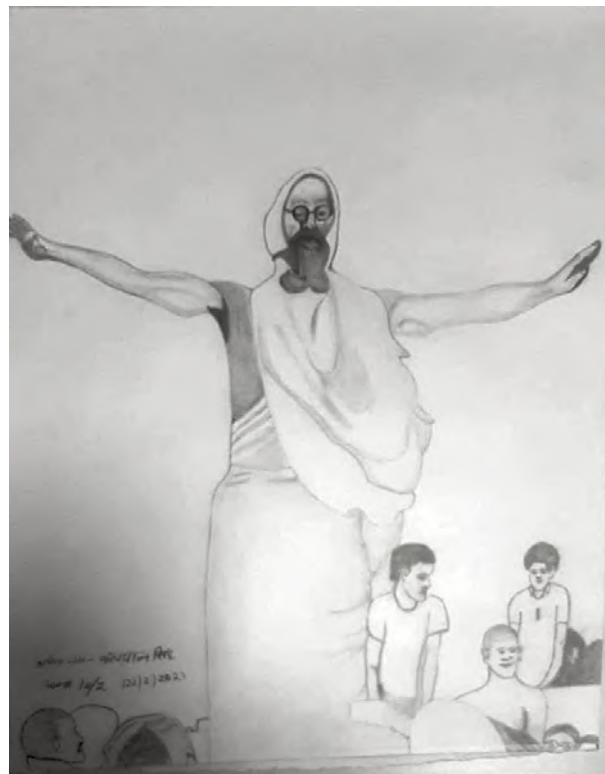
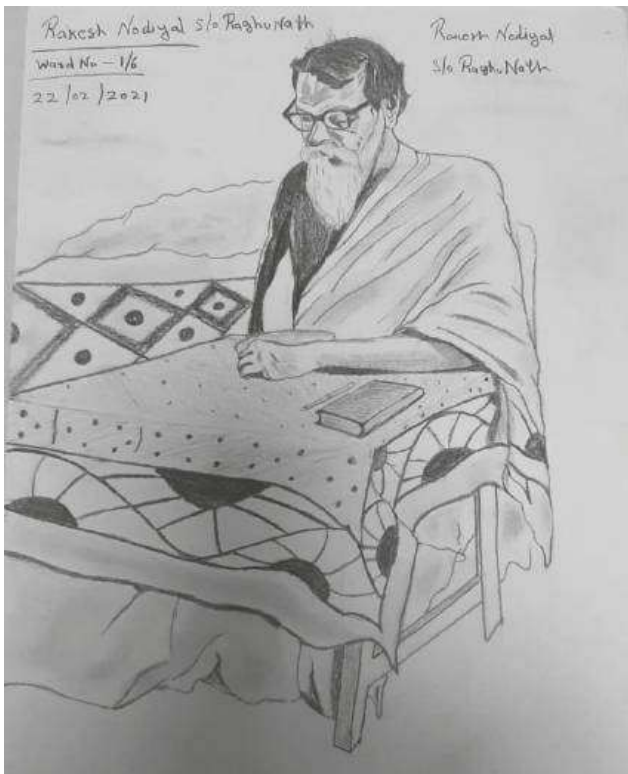
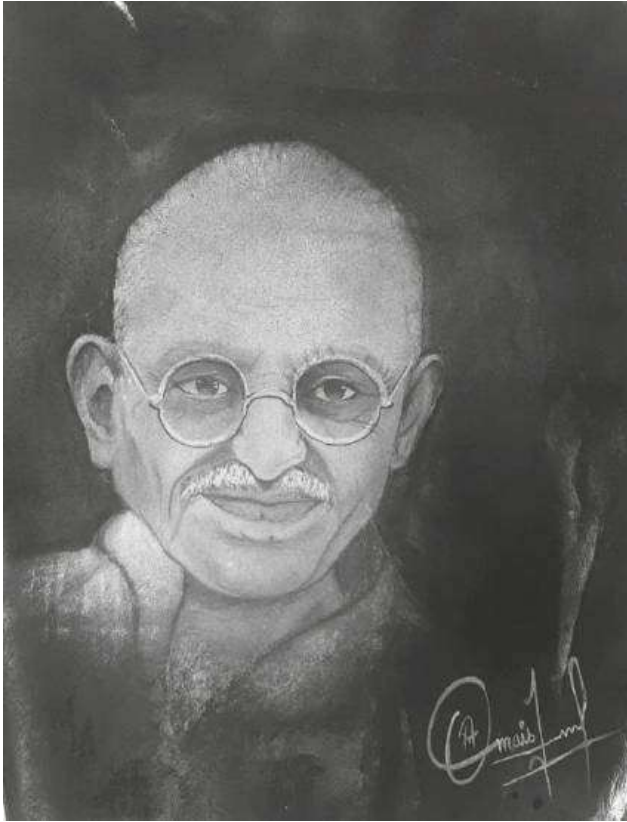
(Above): Superintendent CJ -4 Tihar Prisons Shri Rajkumar is seen giving away masks to an inmate, as Dr. Manju Aggarwal (Below), join the distribution programme on behalf of GSDS.

A health awareness programme was conducted in Central Jail No 4 by GSDS on February 16, 2021. Dr Manju Aggarwal who conducted the awareness programme, also distributed masks from Lupin Human Research and Welfare Organisation to the inmates.

Superintendent Shri Rajkumar, Deputy Superintendent Shri Manmohan and Warder Shri Amarjeet were present on the occasion. A health talk was also given by Dr. Aggarwal to the inmates.

Tihar inmates pay their tribute to 'Ba' through art

GSDS observed the 77th death anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi on February 22, 2021 in association with Tihar Prisons CJ-4 and Inner Wheel Club of Delhi Achievers involving inmates who paid tributes to luminaries of the freedom struggle – Mahatma Gandhi, Kasturba Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhawe through their paintings. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal at CJ-4. 48 inmates from CJ-4 School of Arts took part in the programme.



Free Eye Camp conducted in Tihar CJ-4

A free-eye camp by GSDS was organised in Tihar Central Prisons CJ-4 in association with Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Aggarwal Foundation on March 24, 2021. The camp was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal from Srijan GSDS. Smt. Neelam Sharma and Ms. Asha Rani from GSDS also took part in the camp. Superintendent of Tihar Prisons CJ-4 Shri Rajkumar, Deputy Superintendent Shri Manmohan and Warder Shri Amarjeet were present on the occasion.

Doctors from AIIMS screened 204 patients. Spectacles will be provided to 144 patients. Dr. Praveen Vashist, Prof. and Officer In-Charge, Community Ophthalmology, Dr. R P Centre, AIIMS was the chief guest on the occasion. During the programme Dr. Manju Aggarwal gave a health talk on health and hygiene at FM TJs. Sister Kamlesh from AIIMS also gave a health talk on 'eye donation'.



(IN THE PICTURES): Doctors from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Aggarwal Foundation in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti conducting the free eye camp in CJ-4. Also seen is Dr. Manju Aggarwal conducting the health awareness camp for the inmates (Below, Right).



Programmes to Promote Hindi

Hindi Pakhwara organised



The Samiti organised the 'Hindi Pakhwara' from September 14-28, 2020 in both the campuses of the GSDS – Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan respectively. On account of COVID-19, on-line competitions such as Essay Writing on "Gandhi aur Hindi" and poetry writing "Rashtriya Ekta Ka Pratik Hindi" were organised in which the staff of the GSDS took active part.

Swachhatta Pakhwara



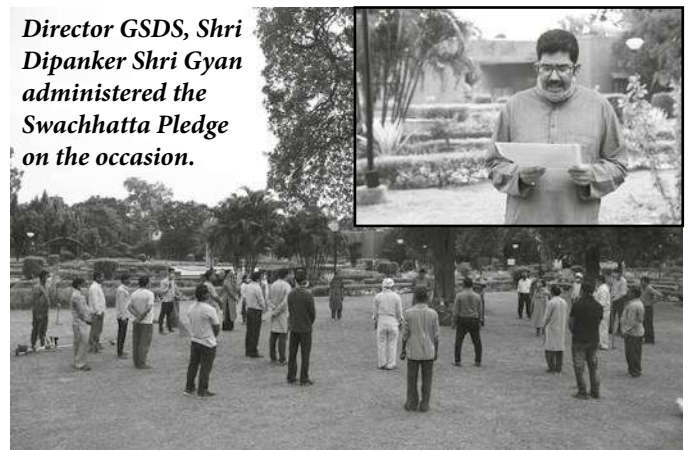
Staff of GSDS enthusiastically cleaned the GSDS campus as part of the Swachhatta Pakhwara.



Glimpses of the GSDS Staff enthusiastically participating in cleanliness drive as part of the Swachhatta Pakhwara.

The Samiti organised the 'Swachhatta Pakhwara' from September 16-30, 2020. During this period, awareness on cleanliness was highlighted by the Samiti through its social media platforms. Further initiatives by the GSDS staff were also taken towards uplift of both the Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan campuses where staff

Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan administered the Swachhatta Pledge on the occasion.



led by the Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan participated in a cleanliness drive on September 26, 2020. Also all the in-house staff participated in a massive cleaning of the Gandhi Darshan campus in the lawns. Each staff also cleaned their respective offices during this period.

The relevance of Gandhiji's ideas in today's era

As part of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Delhi Public Library (DPL) and GSDS organised a seminar on “The relevance of Gandhiji’s ideas in today’s era” on September 26, 2020. The virtual seminar was chaired by Dr. Ramsharan Gaur, President of Delhi Public Library Board. The other speakers included Shri Subhash Chandra Kankheria, President, Programme Committee and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director, GSDS.

राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गाँधी जी की 150वीं जयंती के उपलक्ष्य में

“गाँधीजी के विचारों की आज के दौर में प्रासंगिकता”

विषय पर

संगोष्ठी (वेबिनार) का आयोजन

शनिवार, दिनांक 26 सितम्बर 2020

दोपहर 12.30 बजे

अध्यक्ष
डॉ. रामशरण गौड़
अध्यक्ष, दिल्ली लाइब्रेरी बोर्ड

सानिध्य
श्री सुभाष चंद्र कंखेरिया
अध्यक्ष, कार्यक्रम समिति, दि.प.ला.

प्रमुख वक्ता
श्री दीपंकर श्री शान
निदेशक, गाँधी स्मृति एवं दर्शन समिति

आयोजक: दिल्ली पब्लिक लाइब्रेरी

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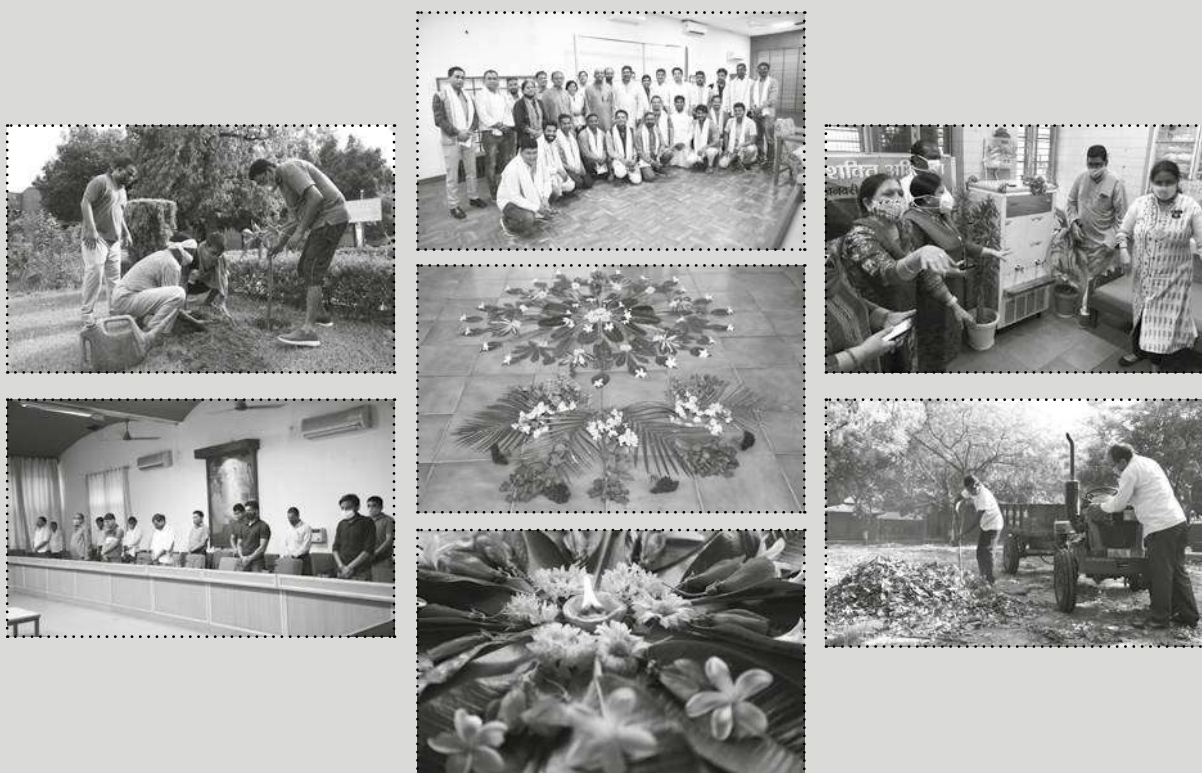
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Delivering the keynote address, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan spoke on the exemplary life of Mahatma Gandhi and said that it is not merely a life, but an ideal principle which people should follow. Throwing insights into the concept of nonviolence, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan spoke on the historic Champaran Satyagraha which he said was truly a fight for the rights of the farmers and further pointed that the governments of all time have given importance to the welfare of the farmers. He also spoke on the New Education Policy and hoped that different stakeholders and educational institutions would once again teach different vocations to children in order to empower them, in what he called, "Opening the scope for entrepreneurship".

He also shared his thoughts on how technology has impacted and benefitted all of us and called for sustainable living in this time of COVID-19. Reiterating his firm faith in what Gandhiji would have done during COVID-19 pandemic, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan further laid importance of selfless service towards humankind and said that mission 'swachhatta' must be the conscience of every human being.



Miscellaneous Programmes

On line meeting to discuss on programmes GSDS could initiate during lockdown

GSDS Director, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan conducted an online meeting on April 14, 2020 to discuss on the possibility of organising programmes through online in view of the lockdown due to the pandemic COVID-19. Discussions featured on engaging senior resource persons through webinars on issues such as Champaran Satyagraha, Mediation, etc. Also it was suggested to upload audio/video files on different themes for reaching a wider audience.

Cleanliness Drive in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan



Disinfection and cleanliness drive were conducted by GSDS staff themselves during lockdown in both Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan.

Despite lockdown in both Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan, the staff members residing in the quarters at both the places in Tees January Lane and Gandhi Darshan complex respectively initiated a massive cleanliness drive on May 4-5, 2020 by cleaning the entire campus. In Gandhi Smriti led by Shri Narendra, the members joined in cleaning the entire campus. In Gandhi Darshan, this initiative was led by Shri Mohit Mohan. Sanitizing and disinfecting public places and vehicles were also done by the members in Gandhi Darshan.

Meeting on Post Lockdown initiatives by GSDS

Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened an on-line meeting on May 13, 2020 to discuss initiatives the Samiti could take up post lockdown. He began by reiterating what the hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi had mentioned in his address to the Nation on May 12, 2020 on his vision of launching a Self-Reliant India Movement ("Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhyan") and shared the Gandhian concept of the revitalization of the economy. While referring to J C Kumarappa's *Economy of Permanence*, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said that answers towards self reliance could be found in this book which could well be modified in today's context. He further

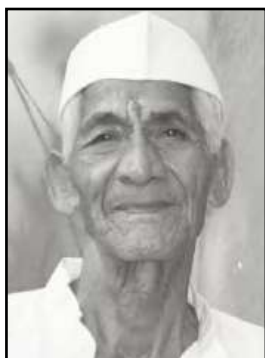
said that post lockdown GSDS as an organization has to parallel cater to the existing heritage and the economy.

The other points that evolved during the discussion were:

1. It was informed of the webinars that has been started should be continued in the wake of Covid 19 and that other similar programmes must be initiated. A mention of the course on Non-Violent Communication was also done and it was informed of the overwhelming response received.
2. It was also pointed that a committee will be formed for selecting the entries of the "Talent Search" initiative for selecting poetry/posters/videos/peace messages/story telling etc and then these could be uploaded in the GSDS You Tube Channel through Shri Pankaj Sharma, Technical Associate. Also the selected posters and poetry will be published from time to time in *Antim Jan*. Special certificates will be issued to the selected candidates and all the participating candidates will be given certificate of participation.
3. State Governments of Bihar and Jharkhand have approached the GSDS for Mask.
 - a. Director GSDS informed that Jharkhand Government has ordered for 10000 masks which in the coming days will be finalized once a go ahead is given. He further informed that he had spoken to the Srijan centre at Bharatpur regarding the same and is waiting for their response.
 - b. It was therefore stressed that Mask production be intensified by Srijan and this initiative should also be explored by different centres of Srijan and also Tihar. Dr. Manju Aggarwal said that she would contact the Jail authorities regarding this. Ms. Perna also informed that several Srijan centres could be roped in for mask production.
 - c. It was also pointed that activities with the Jail be increased.
4. Director GSDS also informed on the need to make *gamchas*/towels (a hand scarf) as the requirement for this item has also increased. He also necessitated the increase of the production of *Angavastrams* (that is used to felicitate/honour guests) side by side.
5. That the entire office would be sanitized on Friday, May 15, 2020 was also pointed out as offices are to resume since Monday May 18, 2020 onwards.

6. It was informed that while the Museums in both Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan will remain closed until further directives from the Government, essential staffs who have their own conveyance may apply for pass to come to office.
7. It was pointed out that posters of 6x4 sizes be made along with Gandhi's quotations and soft copy of the same could be sent to the partner organizations who are involved in relief and rehabilitation work at this moment as this will also build a wide outreach of the GSDS as the posters will carry the GSDS logo and the partner organizations will give due recognition to GSDS.
8. Shri Rizwan pointed out that there has been a delay in salary since the office is yet to receive grant, which it is hoped will be sorted out within a week.
9. As it was proposed to reopen office from Monday, May 18, 2020, entry would be made from Gate No 4 and it was mandatory to ensure updation of the Aarogya Setu App for monitoring of health updates related to Covid -19.

Tribute to former employee of GSDS Shri Khyali Ram



Shri Khyali Ram Naliwal former employee of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti passed away in his hometown in Haldwani, Uttarakhand on June 5, 2020. He joined the GSDS in the year 1969 and retired as a senior attendant (Peon) in 1998. The staff of the Samiti led by Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan paid tributes to Late Shri Khyali Ram at an on-

line condolence meeting organised as a mark of respect to the departed soul. Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS and Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, Ex Librarian of GSDS shared their memories of knowing Shri Khyali Ram.

Speaking on the occasion daughter of Shri Khyali Ram, Smt. Sunita Joshi, Assistant Librarian GSDS very emotionally expressed her despair of not being with her father at this point of time. The meeting concluded with a *shanti mantra* (peace prayer) in memory of the departed soul.

Immunity Enhancement through Yoga and Meditation

The Samiti in association with the Yoga Club & IQAC of PGDAV College (Evening), University of Delhi jointly celebrated the 6th International Day of Yoga (IDY) through an on-line lecture-cum-demonstration by Dr. Navodita Pande on *Acu Yoga* and Ms. Anuradha Mehra on *Breathology*.

The lecture began with the welcome address by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS where he outlined the importance of yoga in creating a self discipline amongst individuals. He also spoke about the gift of yoga which the world is acknowledging today in this time of stress. This was followed by the address by Dr. R K Gupta, Principal, PGDAV College, Evening. The others who addressed the gathering included Dr. Shruti Vip, Convener, Yoga Club, PGDAV College, Evening. Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator GSDS moderated the session along with Dr. Shruti.



(In the Pictures): GSDS North East Coordinator, Shri Gulshan Gupta (L) and Dr. Navodita Pandey are seen conducting the workshop on 'Immunity through Yoga and Meditation' as part of the 6th International Yoga Day on June 21, 2020.

In his address, Dr. R K Gupta while reiterating the theme of the 6th IDY stated that yoga is not merely a physical exercise. It is a concept that elevates the body and mind at a spiritual level. He also spoke about the activities of the 'Yoga Club'. He also said that in this pandemic, yoga is being taken as a catalyst to boost the immunity of the body.

The session saw a demonstrative lecture by Dr. Navodita Pande, who besides explaining the concepts of 'Acu Yoga' and also based her lecture on how pressure points assists in helping reduce physical ailments. She also spoke on 'yoga for immunity through five *asanas*'. She said that "Yoga stimulates meridians which can heal the body and which play a major role in energising those meridians that assist in the flow of energies in the body". While mentioning about acupressure, Dr. Navodita said that ancient India practised acupressure and is used for messages in a scientific way for spiritual and physical transformation. Through various exercises Dr. Navodita showed how regular practise of these *yogasanas* can benefit people and rid them of various illness.

In her session on *Breathology*, Ms. Aradhana from Chandigarh demonstrated the various techniques of healing through breathing exercises and led the participants into a journey of the mind through these techniques. She said that easy and reflective breathing can help not just in reducing stress and anxiety it can also heal people overcome difficult times.



Surya Namaskar virtual campaign initiative undertaken

GSDS in association with Health Fitness Trust under the aegis of the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), an autonomous body under Ministry of Ayush organised a virtual campaign of inviting participants from different states to join in a virtual 'Surya Namaskar Virtual Training Series' as part of the celebrations to mark the 6th International Yoga Day on June 21. The campaign began from June 1 to June 21, 2020 and saw an overwhelming response from participants not just from Indian states, but also from Germany, Doha, Qatar, London (UK) and Philadelphia (US). Asian Marathon Champion, Dr. Sunita Godara initiated the campaign through which a great number of videos and photographs of participants performing the 'Surya Namaskar' was shared. The tag line of this year's campaign was *21 ko 21 baar Surya Namaskar @home* (on June 21, 21 times Surya Namaskar @home).

Thirty seconds video of 'Surya Namaskar' by children of four years to septuagenarian Smt. Manju Aggawal, retired yoga promoter and instructor from Delhi Government to first timer Mr. Anand Singh, Chemical Engineer in KHD Humboldt Wedag India Pvt Ltd I Kandharpur, Kihandour Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh, the participants enthusiastically joined in the campaign was shared keeping with the theme "Build Immunity and Stay Healthy". Participants from New Delhi, Jaipur (Rajasthan), Vadodara (Gujarat), Chandigarh (Punjab), Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Mumbai and Tamil Nadu participated. Many athletes from "Delhi Fit Youth Wing", yoga professionals, yoga instructors, gym instructors and others joined in this campaign. Even video of family members performing 'Surya Namaskar' was also shared.

GSDS undertakes plantation of trees as part of Sankalp Parva

In line of the vision of the Honourable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, to plant more and more trees for the purpose of keeping the Environment clean and healthy, Ministry of Culture, Govt of India decided to organise "Sankalp Parva" to motivate and urge people to plant trees in their surroundings. In view of this, Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led the staff residing in the quarters of Gandhi Darshan complex Rajghat in plantation of trees in Gandhi Darshan on June 28, 2020 as part of the celebration of 'Sankalp Parva'. Shri Rakesh, Shri Raman, Shri Umesh, Shri Dharamraj, Shri Mohan joined the plantation drive on the occasion by planting various trees and saplings.

Organised BY:

HEALTH FITNESS


Under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India

Under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India


International Day of Yoga

21 JUNE 2020 "My Life My Yoga"


Build Immunity & Stay Healthy



Virtual Training



15 YEARS OF CELEBRATING THE MAHATMA



PAN INDIA VIRTUAL CAMPAIGN

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30 sec video send on whatsapp 8587852410
With Name-city-state
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Instagram & Whatsapp groups
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Health Fitness Trust
sunitagodara@gmail.com
Dr. Sunita Godara

Asian Marathon Champion 1992 Director, Health Fitness Trust

WE ENABLE ENSURE EVERYONE EXERCISE EVERYDAY



Director GSDD, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (Right) is seen planting trees along with the other GSDD staff in Gandhi Darshan, as part of the 'Sankalp Parv'.

The staff of the Samiti also took part in the plantation drive by planting trees, sapling of plants in their respective home on June 29, 2020. Director GSDD called for 'owning of a tree' by individuals. A pledge was also prepared and administered by the Samiti on the occasion.

Further, during July 2020, Programme Officer GSDS Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu and Research Officer GSDS Smt. Geeta Shukla planted Banyan and Neem trees in Gandhi Darshan. Housekeeping staffs, volunteers also planted trees in their respective homes. The Samiti has been regularly updating the activities during the *Sankalp Parv* in the social media such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.





Tree plantation by GSDS staff led by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS, as part of the 'Sankalp Parv'.

Also in association with *Ped Panchayat*, the Samiti planted five life-giving trees on July 6, 2020. Shri Prabod Raj Chandol gifted Bel, Neem, Amla, Bargad and Peepal. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan also planted the trees on the occasion. Shri Chandol also joined the plantation drive. Dr. Manju Aggarwal coordinated with the *Ped Panchayat* in getting the trees for the plantation drive. Senior citizens who are members of *Ped Panchayat* joined the ceremony and planted trees on the occasion.

Webinar on “Neuro Rehabilitation and Wellness through Physiotherapy in Stroke Patients”

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to part of your brain is Interrupted or reduced, preventing brain tissue from getting oxygen and Nutrients. Brain cells begin to die in minutes. A stroke is a medical emergency, and prompt treatment is crucial. Early action can reduce Brain damage and other complications. As we all know, physiotherapists Acts as catalyst to heal the aids of society without drugs.

All these and many more issues were discussed at a webinar on “Neuro Rehabilitation and Wellness


E-Lecture On

Neuro Rehabilitation And Wellness Through Physiotherapy in Stroke Patients


Day & Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2020; Time: 3:00 PM

Organised by
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, New Delhi - 110002

SPEAKERS




Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan
Director
Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti



Dr. Rahul Sharma (PT)
Neurophysiotherapist
AIIMS, New Delhi

MODERATED BY



(Mr. Aman Kanda)
Physiotherapy Student
Banarsidas Chandiwal
Institute of Physiotherapy

through Physiotherapy in Stroke Patients” was organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on July 15, 2020 with Dr. Rahul Sharma, Physiotherapist from the Department of Neurology at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Dr. Aman Kanda, a Naturopath and student of physiotherapy from Banarsidas Chandiwal Institute of Physiotherapy. 67 participants took part in the webinar.

Training program on use of social media

An on-line training program on use of social media was organised by the Samiti for its staff members on July 19, 2020. Shri Pankaj Sharma, Technical Associate GSDS conducted the training programme that began with an address of Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan who said that knowledge of using social media sites have become a necessity in view of the on-line programmes are being organised regularly.

Shri Pankaj during his presentation to almost 30 members who attended the training programme spoke of the methodologies of using social sites for wide coverage and reach out of the GSDS initiatives. Explaining the difference and uses of hash tags and @ symbols for Twitter or Facebook or You Tube channels, he went on to

explaining the procedures of joining a webinar through 'Google Meet', which GSDS is using for all its on-line programmes/webinars. He further explained the process of using Facebook, tagging photographs, etc. He also gave examples of using Google Tools such as Google Calendar, Google Drive, Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Slide, Google Sheet, etc.

Tribute to Shri P M Tripathi

Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan led the GSDS staff in paying tributes to former President of Association for Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD), Shri P M Tripathi who passed away on September 13, 2020. Rich tributes were also paid to Shri M M Kundu, father of Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer GSDS. Shri M M Kundu died on September 20, 2020 after a brief illness. GSDS staff paid a silent tribute on September 22, 2020 at a condolence meeting held for the departed souls.

Tribute to Shri Suresh Angadi

The Samiti paid rich tributes to Minister of State for Railways Shri Suresh Angadi who passed away on September 23, 2020 due to COVID-19. Tributes were also paid to singer Padmashri Dr. S P Balasubramaniam who died post COVID-19 on September 25, 2020.



(Above, Right): Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS, leads the GSDS staff into paying rich tributes to Shri Suresh Angadi and Dr. S P Balasubramaniam.

Meeting to discuss modalities to celebrate the 125th Birth Anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) in collaboration with the Acharya Vinoba Bhave 125th Birth Celebration Citizen's National Committee organized a virtual meeting on October 27, 2020 to discuss the modalities of celebrations to mark the 125th Birth Anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave. The meeting was moderated by Dr Sanjeev Kumar.

Initiating the discussing Prof N Radhakrishnan called for working out a sustainable framework that would pay a befitting tribute to the saint who marched to

provide justice to the last person, working on the visions of Mahatma Gandhi.

Taking the discussing forward, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS presented a two-phased agenda for the 125th birth anniversary celebration of Acharya Vinoba Bhave. These are:

Phase I includes celebrations via seminars and workshops, far and wide in India to generate mass awareness on the life and philosophy of Acharya Vinoba Bhave.



Phase II he proposed should be a more tangible effort that would be taken towards land reforms. According to him, "Our tribute to the pioneer of the Bhoodan and Gramdan movement will only be successful when we would be able to reach out different states, districts, and even villages through the Panchayats and promote the policies related to land. It should be our utmost responsibility to fulfil the dream of Vinobaji by creating a land-conflict-free society".

Lamenting over the fact that the whole movement started by Acharya Vinoba Bhave have been dumped by the policy makers, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said that "Chakbandi was never allowed to succeed by the vested groups".

He further called upon Harijan Sevak Sangh as an organization which he said has a 'lively presence' all across the country for support up to the Panchayat level to take forward the idea of drawing a framework for land reforms by involving different stakeholders.

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal, President Harijan Sewak Sangh spoke of the problem of concentrated power

in the hands of the feudal lords since independence. He further referred to the struggle and sacrifices made by Acharya Vinoba Bhave towards taking forward the concept and essence of Gram Swaraj as followed by Mahatma Gandhi. While he welcomed new and concrete ideas, he outlined the following suggestions:

1. Organise online webinars (in view of the COVID-19 pandemic) on "Gandhi in New Era and Vinoba Bhave" series, which was inaugurated by Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, hon'ble Vice President of India.
2. Selection of simple books and writings of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave in different languages and circulating them in different universities.
3. Having essay writing competition on a national level with the same topic, and having collaborated meetings/ exhibitions/ programs on Gandhi and Vinoba.

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal further assured full cooperation on behalf of Harijan Samaj Sevak and associated organizations in arranging similar programs.

Dr. Akash Ouchi said that Acharya Vinoba Bhave's vision is reflected by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is taken by the civil societies, international agencies and many others. He advised people to study Acharya Vinoba Bhave's ideas in light of SDGs and function accordingly.

In conclusion, Prof. Radhakrishnan explained the need of the hour and necessitated the need to go beyond discussion tables. Speaking about Acharya Vinoba Bhave Prof. Radhakrishnan said that the saint philosopher tracked every bit of this country called Bharat and conveyed the message of love, compassion and giving. He was able to collect almost four (04) million lands and distributed it to the landless.

Reiterating the concepts movements launched by Acharya Vinoba Bhave from Bhodan to Gramdaan to Jeevan Daan, Prof. Radhakrishnan said that this jolted the entire nation. Calling him the successor of Mahatma Gandhi, Prof. Radhakrishnan further spoke about how Acharya Vinoba Bhave initiated the Jai Jagat and then launched his master, Mahatma Gandhi's ideas by launching the Shanti Sena where soldiers of peace would be all across the country working for hope; harmony and growth.

Prof. Radhakrishnan further called for strengthening the spiritual growth and roots and outlined the following seven key role that could be taken towards paying a befitting tribute to Acharya Vinoba Bhave on his 125th birth anniversary. These seven point agenda that he outlined are:

1. Land Reforms that need to be discussed at length and concrete framework be presented to the Government of India for its implementation
2. Address the issue of poverty and providing food for all,

3. Jobs for all,
4. House for all,
5. Justice for all,
6. Peace for all and
7. Develop 'Shanti Sena'.

He called for a national effort where government organizations and other bodies both at the national and international level come forward collectively to address these issues and pave the way for transformation.

Shr A R Patil from Belgaum Karnataka raised the critical issue of 'climate change' and how it has affected society. He said, "Only if we get together now and use our human intellect to find necessary solutions to save our planet", and offered the following ideas that could be incorporated as part of the initiatives to mark 125th birth anniversary celebrations of Acharya Vinoba Bhave:

1. We must work to reduce poverty which limits access for many people around the world for reducing or eliminating pressure on ecosystems and harm to the environment;
2. Those who are able must think about how our often unsustainable lifestyles and individual actions may negatively impact the natural world and future generations
3. We must tackle the problem of human overpopulation and the astounding proliferation of farmed animals and industrial agriculture and
4. We must balance our need for economic development with the realization that our planet has finite resources. We rely on these resources for clean air and water, and millions depend on them for their livelihood. If we treat our natural resources as if they are infinite and if human population continues to increase, there will be no hope. Indeed, in some places, natural resources are being consumed more rapidly than nature can restore them.

He further said, "My request on celebration of Acharya Vinoba Bhave's 125th birth anniversary is to think and act to save our Mother Earth". The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Ramesh Kumar, Secretary Harijan Sevak Sangh.

Meeting for the Audio Guide App for Gandhi Smriti Museum

A meeting was organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti with *Hop on India* for providing 'Audio Guide Apps' to Gandhi Smriti for the museum there. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS conducted the proceedings of the meeting with Ms. Shalini Bansal and Sh. Akash Gautam of *Hop on India* on October 28, 2020. This was done with a purpose to initiate this project in Gandhi Smriti Museum for helping the visitors to

download an app of GSDS which could give a guided tour to them during their visit to the museum in Gandhi Smriti. Further the visitors could carry back the downloaded app as a memorabilia back home as they could also use it on offline mode. This would further create a possibility of establishing connections globally.

During the discussion, Ms. Shalini Bansal informed the modalities of the App, its functions and usefulness. She informed that the App basically functions as a guide to the visitors coming to the Gandhi Smriti museum. She informed that as the visitors come, they are expected to scan QR Code and download the App and that the App offers two kinds of tours – GPS and Narrative Tour.

She further informed that while there is option for getting the tour package free, one could also opt for a payment package.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan pointed that no fees will be charged from any visitor for downloading the App while entering Gandhi Smriti, like they aren't being charged any even now. But he stressed on the need for registration of the visitors in order to have a databank of all demographically (from all over the world), with their name, email-id, phone numbers, and so on.

Ms. Shalini informed the possibility of getting this done. She further proposed a GPS system in the App for Gandhi Smriti and suggested that the App could also have a narrative tour and that the App could also be operated on – a) *Virtual Mode (when one is static) and Navigate Mode (when one is present at the site).*

Through a presentation of a demo tour that *Hop on India* had done for the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai, a presentation was made by Sh. Akash Gautam. Ms. Shalini said that the tour in Gandhi Smriti tour could start at the entrance, where possibilities of choosing a particular language could be selected by the visitor – to begin it could be Hindi and English. Once the tour is completed, a 'PROMPT' is given for social media which could be shared in different social media sites.

Regarding giving a personal touch to the App, Ms. Shalini mentioned that a story line has to be created, which will be done on providing the content related to the photographs and images in Gandhi Smriti museum, after which the story would be written by creative experts and thereafter recorded in a studio. She also pointed that the App would contain the logo, etc of the GSDS.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan informed that GSDS already has the content, which could be shared with the experts as on when things are finalized as per tender through GFR. The commercial inputs were shared during the meeting where Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan further proposed providing the in-built ARPR in the App for providing cloud space and cyber security.

On query regarding the project undertaken by *Hop on India* for the National Museum, New Delhi, Ms. Shalini Bansal mentioned that that the work was as a pilot project, which was appreciated by the officials of National Museum and they plan to extend it further.

The meeting concluded by deciding a time-frame for the completion of the project, which Ms. Bansal informed would require a maximum of three months with complete data availability, to which Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan set the target for the launch of the *GSDS Audio Guide Tour App* by January 30, 2021 and that the Programme Officer, Research Officer and Research Associate would help in finalizing the same. A meeting has also been scheduled with the technical team from *Hop on India* shortly in GSDS.

Pledge for honesty and transparency administered



Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS, administers the integrity pledge to GSDS staff members as part of the celebrations to mark the Vigilance Week.

As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week (October 27 to November 2), Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan administered the vigilance awareness pledge to the GSDS staff members on October 29, 2020. The theme this year is "Vigilant India, Prosperous India". Observance of Vigilance Awareness Week every year during the last week of October

is taken up to encourage all stakeholders to collectively participate in the prevention of, and the fight against corruption and to raise public awareness regarding the existence, causes and gravity of and the threat posed by corruption.

Pledge for national unity marks 'National Unity Day'

To mark 'National Unity Day' (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas), pledge taking ceremony was organised in Gandhi Darshan on October 31, 2020 at the Kalpana Chawla Jagriti Park in Gandhi Darshan. The pledge was administered by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS to the staff members. The 31st October is observed as the National Unity Day across the Country not only to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of National Integration of the Independent India, but also to reaffirm the commitment of the citizen of India to uphold the security, unity and integrity of the country. The pledge read: *I solemnly pledge that I dedicate myself to preserve the unity, integrity and security of the nation and also strive hard to spread this message among my fellow countrymen. I take this pledge in the spirit of unification of my country which was made possible by the vision and actions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. I also solemnly resolve to make my own contribution to ensue internal security of my country.*

Diwali celebrated



GSDS Staff led by Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, special guest Ms. Sangeeta Verma joined in the celebrations in Gandhi Darshan complex Rajghat on November 13, 2020. Ms. Shubhanghi Girdhar made a traditional decoration with leaves and earthen lamps.



Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS celebrates Diwali with the staff of GSDS in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.

Pension Adalat conducted

Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened a "Pension Adalat" in Gandhi Darshan on December 18, 2020 that addressed the grievances of the pensioners regarding their various grievances that included issues regarding the Seventh Pay Commission and others. Pensioners of GSDS joined the meeting both virtually as well as physically. In the meeting, it was informed that the



Retired employees of GSDS join for a group photograph in Gandhi Darshan during their meeting of 'Pension Adaalat'.

grievance has already sent to the Ministry. The Director further informed that the Samiti did not have resources of income and that the Samiti does not even take any ticket for the museum. He also brought to the notice that there aren't enough sufficient funds for reimbursement of medical bills. Various other grievances were addressed during the meeting.

Tribute to Justice Vikramaditya Prasad



GSDS employees are seen paying rich tributes to Justice Vikramaditya Prasad in Gandhi Darshan, Rajgaht.



GSDS staff offered condolence to hon'ble Mr. Justice Vikramaditya Prasad retired Judge of High Court of Jharkhand on December 28, 2020 at a condolence meeting organized in Gandhi Darshan. Justice Vikramaditya died on December 28 at the age of 78 in Ranchi. Well-known for his oratory skills, Justice Vikramaditya Prasad recently delivered the key-note address at a webinar on the 71st anniversary of the Constitution of India on "Influence of Mahatma Gandhi on Constitution of India" organized by the GSDS in association with National University of Study and Research in Law Ranchi on November 26, 2020. A two-minute silence was also observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul. Family members of Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and son on Justice Vikramaditya Prasad also joined the meeting virtually from Ranchi.

Condolence offered to Shri Sree Rama Sastry



GSDS staff paid rich tributes to Shri Sree Rama Sastry, father of Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli's Research Associate of GSDS, on December 29, 2020. Dr. Sailaja's father passed away at his native home in Anantpur District in Andhra Pradesh. He was 80. Tribute was also paid to Shri Prayag Mahto, father-in-law of Smt.

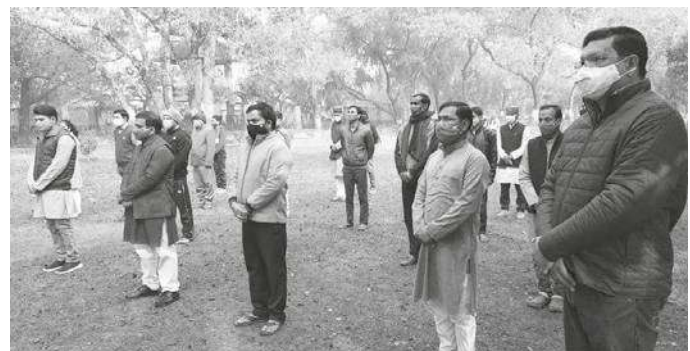


Rita Kumari, ex GSDS worker. Shri Mahto passed away on December 24, 2020. Further the Samiti also offered their tribute to Smt. Savitri and Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav who passed away on November 21 and 23, respectively.

72nd Republic Day celebrations in Gandhi Darshan



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan unfurls the Tricolour in Gandhi Darshan as a celebration to mark the 72nd Republic Day, as staff join the moment.



Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti celebrated the 72nd Republic Day celebrations in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat on January 26, 2021. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan hoisted the Tricolour and addressed the GSDS staff who took part in the programme with full enthusiasm. He reiterated the concept of ahimsa and truth and called on the people to work towards the promotion of well-being of others and become pro active towards self reliance.

Padmashri Dr. Kailash Madbaiya felicitated

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti joined hands with Gandhi Global Foundation in felicitating Padma Shri awardee Dr. Kailash Madbaiya on February 27, 2021 in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. Shri Gulshan Gupta, North East Coordinator of GSDS felicitated Dr. Kailash Madbaiya at a ceremony in which General Secretary of Gandhi Global Foundation Shri Hardayal Kushwaha, senior journalist Mahendra Yadav and others were also present.



(Above): Shri Hardayal Kushwaha is seen addressing the gathering during the programme.

(Below): Tree plantation was done by the dignitaries, including Dr. Kailash Madbbaiya.

Speakers at the function while speaking of Dr. Kailash Madbaiya mentioned on how he had revived Bundeli literature despite all his administrative engagements, which they felt is incomparable, and an inspiration to lovers of Hindi dialects.

A tree plantation programme was also organised on the occasion where Mr. Madbaiya planted a tree in the memory of the freedom fighters Chandrashekhar Azad and Sant Ravidas ji.

Among others who were present on the occasion included: social worker and convenor of Bundelkhand Development Council Shri Adish Kumar Jain, Director of the program convenors Shri Rashid Ahmad Mansuri, Shri Sandeep Mandwagadhi and Shri Rahul Singh. Pali Culture Foundation President Narottam Ranariddh Kushwaha was also present.

Ba Ki Rasoi in Gandhi Haat re-opened

Ba Ki Rasoi (the kitchen of Ba or Kasturba Gandhi) was re-opened and inaugurated in Gandhi Haat at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, on March 1, 2021 by Shri Laxmi Dass, Vice-President, Harijan Sevak Sangh and Member GSDS Executive Committee. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan was also present on the occasion. Dr. Manju Aggarwal too also joined during the inaugural ceremony.

Ba Ki Rasoi, which was opened on February 22, 2020 during the inauguration of the Gandhi Haat by Dr. Karan Singh in Gandhi Darshan. It again re-opened with full swing post lock down and is being managed by the employees of Srijan, GSDS.

Inner Wheel Club of Delhi Achievers and GSDS donate RO water Purifier to UPHC Dispensary, Daryaganj



Inauguration of RO water purifier machine donated by Inner Wheel Club of Delhi Achievers 2020-21 in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti was done by Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (Above - Right) along with members from Inner Wheel club of Delhi Achievers.

The Inauguration of RO water purifier machine donated by Inner Wheel Club of Delhi Achievers 2020-21 in association with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti at UPHC Dispensary Daryaganj New Delhi commenced on March 10, 2021 by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Smt. Bindu Sangal, Smt Geeta Shukla, Dr Manju Aggarwal and others in the presence of Dr Sunil Minz and other team of Doctors at a solemn function in Daryaganj. The initiative by GSDS was coordinated by Dr. Manju Aggarwal.

Felicitation of Padyatris in Gandhi Darshan



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan congratulates team GSDS and the 'Padyatris' for their successful yatra in Gujarat beginning from Sabarmati Ashram that was flagged off by hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 12, 2021 launching the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav'.



Shri Anshuman Bhargava, Administrative Officer GSDS is seen felicitating Shri Mahender Singh, one of the Yatris from GSDS during the felicitation ceremony, as all the participants join for a group photograph.



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened a meeting on March 23, 2021 in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat to facilitate the Padyatris of the Dandi Yatra who took part in the Yatra from March 12 to March 15, 2021 from Sabarmati to Nadiad under the leadership of Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice Chairman GSDS after the yatra was flagged off by Shri Narendra Modi, hon'ble Prime Minister while launching the 75 years

celebration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohatsav' and marking the 91st anniversary of the historic Dandi March.

Administrative Officer, Shri Anshuman Bhargava felicitated the yatri on the occasion. Later Director GSDS also officially introduced Shri Anshuman Bhargava before the staff as he had resumed charge as the Administrative Officer of the Samiti.

Meeting with Pensioners of GSDS

GSDS Director, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan convened a meeting with pensioners of GSDS on March 31, 2021. 20 pensioners joined the meeting to discuss issues related to the CGHS, seventh pay commission and so on.



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (Above - Centre) is seen addressing the retired employees of GSDS during the meeting with pensioners in Gandhi Darshan.



Library, Books & Publication and Documentation

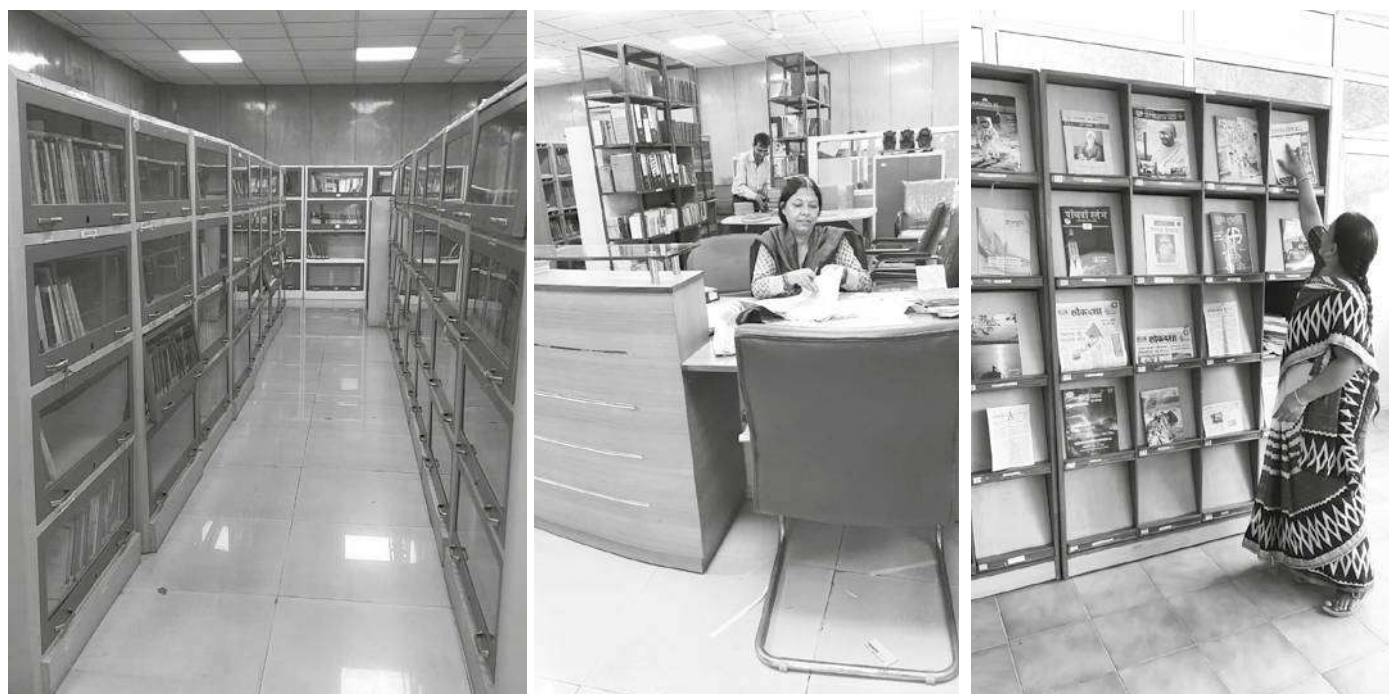
LIBRARY

In conformity with the objective of the Samiti to organise and preserve books, photographs, films, documents, leading to better understanding of Mahatma Gandhi's work and thought, a Library and Documentation Centre functions. The library has a collection of approximately 10,650 books on Gandhiji's life and thought, art, culture, history, economics, politics, religion, archaeology, including reference books, namely World Atlas, Encyclopedias and Dictionaries. There is a special section for children. It also subscribes to various journals and magazines on a regular basis and caters to the needs of scholars, research fellows and students. New books were added during the year.

At the Documentation Centre – an inherent part of the Library – press-clipping files are being maintained on different topics such as Gandhi, Women, Children, Youth, Crime against Women, Environment, Indo-Pak relations, Communalism, International affairs. This is done in an effort to strengthen the Documentation Centre. Other topics are regularly added. The process of digitalization of the library is almost over with new publications being procured from time to time.

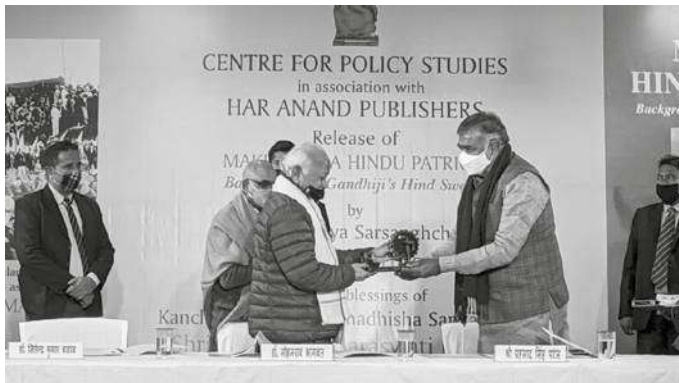


A view of the Gandhi Smriti Library-cum-book sale counter at 5, Tees January Marg.



A view of the Gandhi Darshan Library at Gandhi Darshan complex, Rajghat.

'Making of a Hindu Patriot' book released



Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Vice Chairman GSDS, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel presenting a Charkha to Hon'ble Sarsanghchak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat during the launch of the book "Making of a Hindu Patriot" in Gandhi Darshan, as other distinguished guests join the felicitation ceremony.



Hon'ble Dr. Mohan Bhagwat (centre); hon'ble Shri Shri Prahlad Singh Patel (right) along with the author of the book "Making of a Hindu Patriot", Dr. Jitendra Kumar Bajaj (left) and Shri Narendra Kumar(second from right) releasing the book in Gandhi Darshan.

"Gandhiji said that my patriotism originates from my religion. I will understand my religion and become a good patriot and inspire others to do the same." This was said by Sarsanghchak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat. Shri Bhagwat was speaking on the occasion of the release of the book 'Making of a Hindu Patriot' organized at Gandhi Darshan at Rajghat on January 1, 2021. Authored by Dr. Jitendra Kumar Bajaj and Prof. M D Srinivas, the book has been published by Centre for Policy Studies in association with Har Anand Publishers. Dr. Mohan Bhagwat released the book containing 1043 pages on the occasion.

Speaking to an august gathering that included scholars, academicians, social thinkers, Dr. Bhagwat said

that Gandhiji had expressed his views about religion and said that my religion is the religion of all religions, that is, the religion that carries all religions together is my religion.

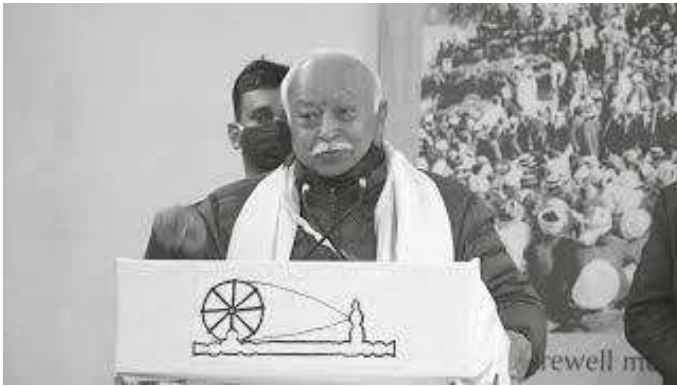
Dr. Bhagwat said that Gandhiji has written a lot, but he became an example of what he wrote and practiced it to the core. In fact, the ideal people are such that instead of preaching to others, they set an example for themselves. He said that the fight for freedom for Gandhiji was not just a fight to change the power sitting in the state, but it was a fight to rebuild India. Gandhiji has called it a struggle of civilizations and said that "To understand what Swaraj is, we have to understand Swadharma. Till we do not understand Swadharma, we cannot understand Gandhiji's Swaraj".

Hon'ble Sarsanghchak ji further added that Mahatma Gandhi's values and thoughts are more thoughtful and exemplary today. But he lamented that we

are not able to follow them. "We should follow his life and thoughts", he said and called upon the people present to teach all the people of the society the religious conduct and instill in the people a sense of affinity towards all religions. "Only then will Gandhiji's dream of Swaraj come true", he said.

Regarding the released book 'Making of the Hindu Patriot' he said that this book is a certified researched book. If Gandhiji is to be understood understand, then it is necessary to read this book.

In his address, Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) and Vice-



Hon'ble Sarsangchalak Dr. Mohan Bhagwat addressing a distinguished gathering at the launch of the book "Making of a Hindu Patriot" in Gandhi Darshan.

Chairman of GSDS, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel said, "I have tried to read and live Gandhiji as per my ability" and added that the context and timing of this book is important and congratulated the author duo for the release of this book.

Earlier the Shankaracharya of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham, Reverend Vijayendra Saraswati said that Gandhiji was associated with religion. On 15

October 1927, he discussed a wide range of topics with Shri Chandrasekaran Saraswati in Kerala. He said that patriotism and devotion should go together. "Gandhiji was a social and religious person. The publication of an authentic book about him is a commendable work", he said.

Author of the book Dr. J K Bajaj gave a detailed insight about the book. He said that by studying Gandhiji, he found that Gandhiji had seen religion in everything he does.

On this occasion, the co-author of the book, Prof. M D Srinivas also expressed his views through the virtual medium. At the release ceremony, the Chancellor of the Central University, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Shri Narendra Kumar of Har Anand Publication, Shri Basant, former Advisor GSDS, Shri Govindacharya, Shri Dattatreya Hosabole along with other dignitaries were present.

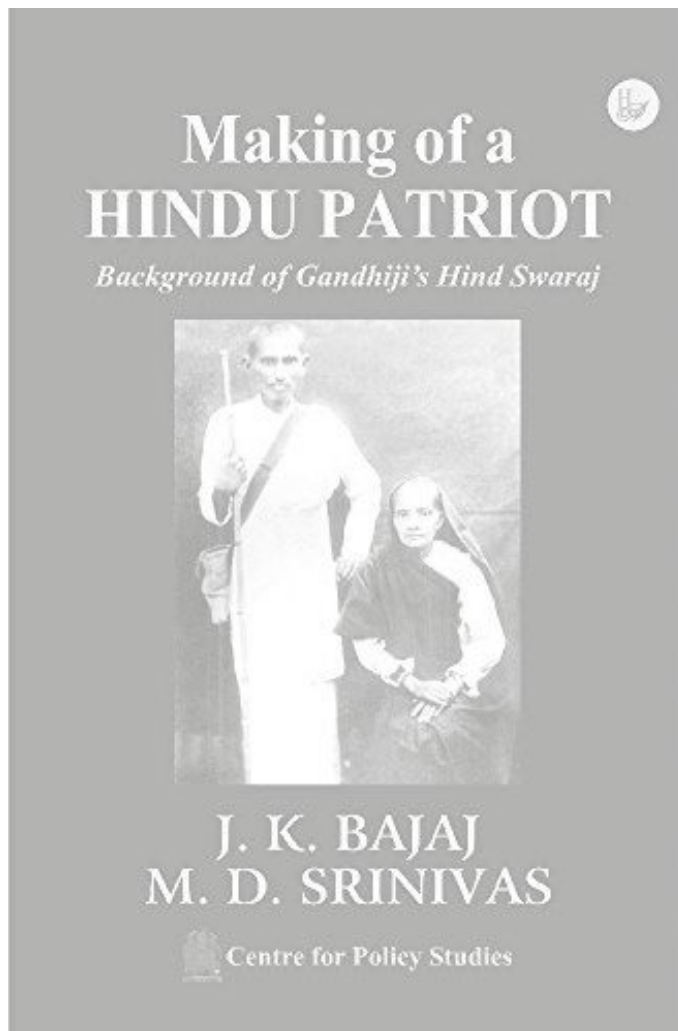
The programme also telecasted recorded Ramdhun by Pt. Dattatreya Vishnu Paluskar, along with Gandhiji's favourite hymn (recorded) 'Vaishnav Jan' sung by Smt. M S Subbulaxmi and recorded Vande Mataram by Bharat Ratna Pt. Bhimsen Joshi.

'Meet the Author' organized

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organized a 'Meet the Author' programme in the auditorium of Hansraj College, University of Delhi on March 24, 2021. In this program, senior litterateur Prof. K N Tiwari's book: "Uttar Kabir-Nanga Fakir" was discussed. This book has been published by the GSDS.

Dr. Omprakash Singh, Professor JNU was present as the keynote speaker. The principal of Hansraj College, Dr. Rama, the editor of the GSDS Mr. Praveen Dutt Sharma and the book's author Prof. K. N. Tiwari were also present.

On this occasion, in his speech Dr. Omprakash said that literature serves as an inspiration for the society. In this book, the author exposes the discrepancies of the country and society through imaginary dialogue of Kabir and Gandhi.



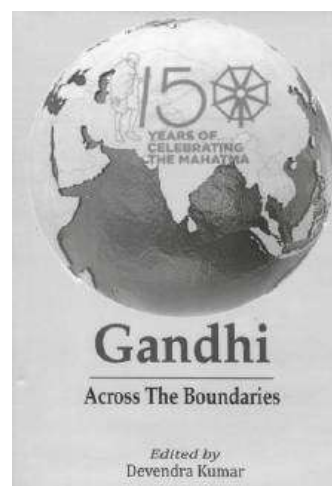
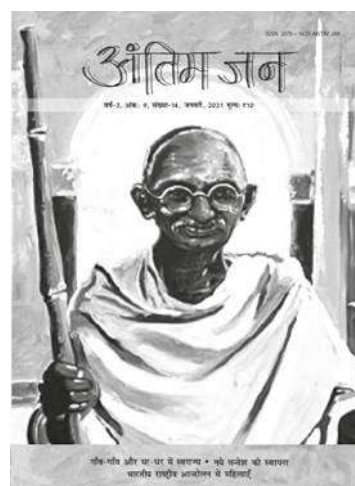
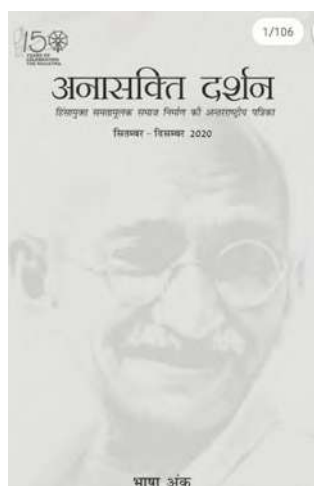
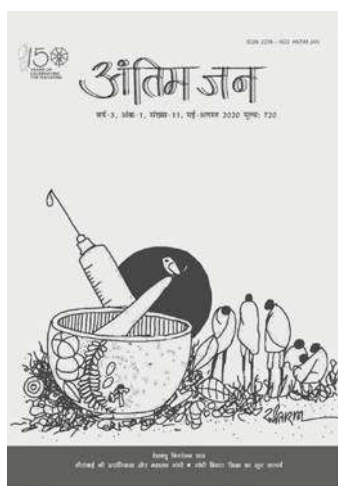
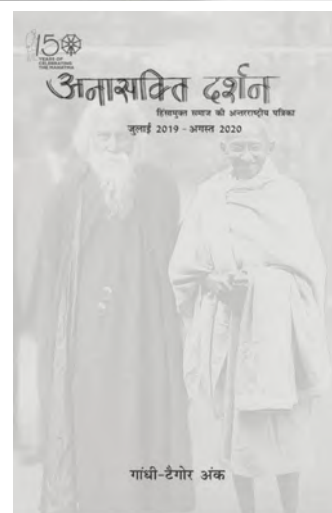
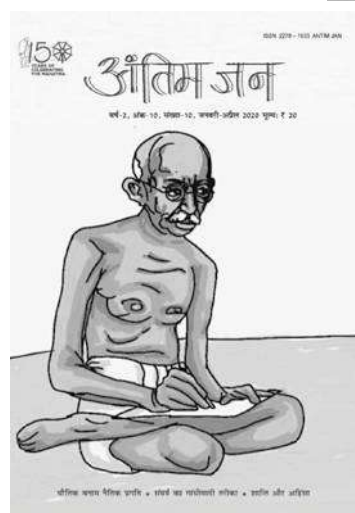
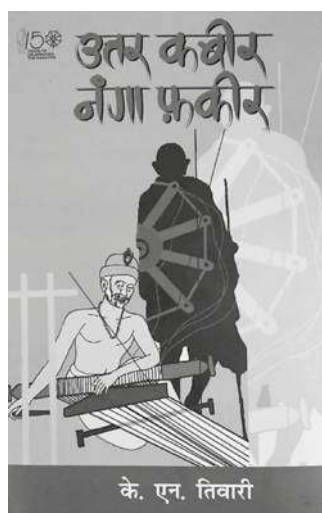
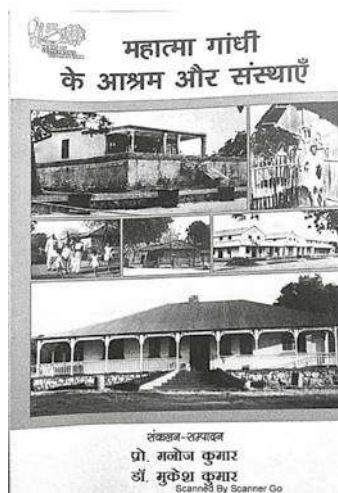
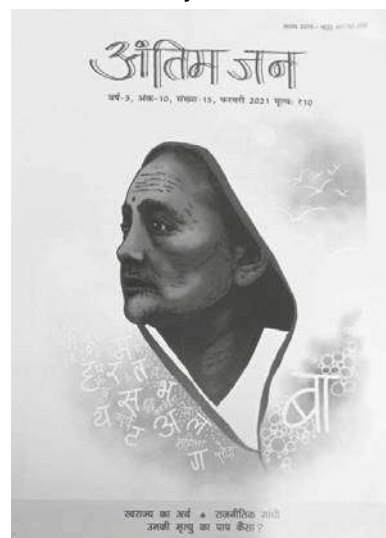
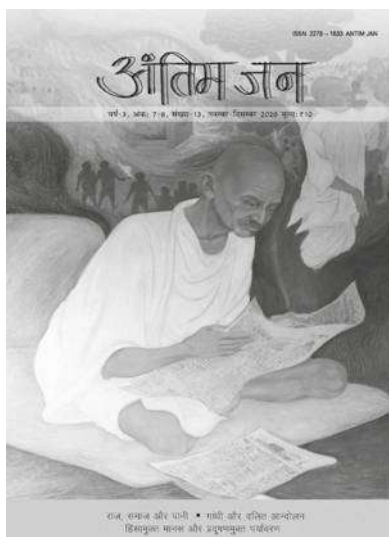
PUBLICATIONS

The Samiti undertook the following publications during the financial year 2020-21 as a humble step to take the message and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi across the society and also introduce different concepts and subjects that are crucial for the peaceful existence of humankind. The lists of the so-far published books are:

1. E-publications of the Samiti – Anasakti Darshan (Hindi) from July 2019 to August 2020 focussing on Mahatma Gandhi and Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was published as part of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi during September 2020.

The Samiti's monthly publication *Antim Jan* (Year 3, Issue 1, SI 11) for the period May-August 2020 was also e-published during September 2020.

2. "Gandhi Across The Boundaries" edited by Dr. Devendra Kumar of Ram Lal Anand College containing proceedings of the International Conference on "Gandhi Across the Boundaries" organised by Gandhi Study Circle of Ram Lala Anand College, University of Delhi and GSDS during October 23-24, 2019 – as part of Gandhi:150 was jointly published by GSDS and Ram Lal Anand College.





Visitors

Joint Secretary MoC visits GSDS Museums

Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture Government of India Smt. Nirupama Kotru visited Gandhi Smriti museum on May 27, 2020. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan briefed the JS about the digital installations in the Gandhi Smriti.

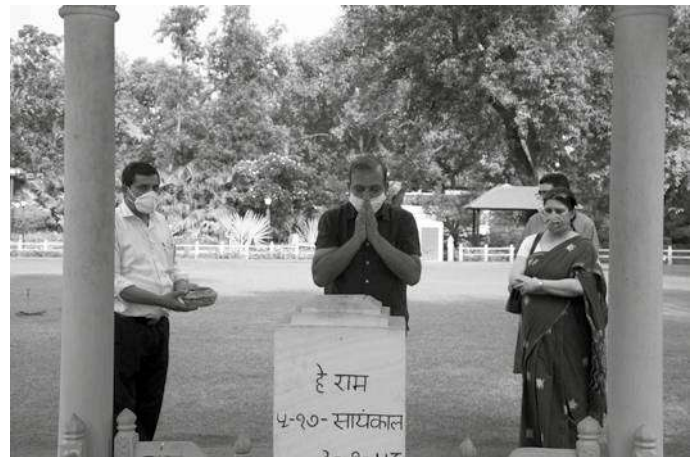


(From Top to Bottom): Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture, Smt. Nirupama Kotru is accompanied by Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, during her visit to Gandhi Darshan on May 27, 2020.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan is seen briefing Smt. Nirupama Kotru about the digital exhibition in Gandhi Smriti during her visit on May 29, 2020.

Further on May 29, 2020, Smt. Niupama Kotru visited the Gandhi Darshan exhibition "My Life is My Message" as well as the Digital Dome set up by the Samiti as part of Gandhi: 150 in association with the DST. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan explained her about the digital installations and also about the photographic exhibition which attracted Smt Kotru a lot. Officials of the DST including GSDS staff were present during the visit.

Secretary Ministry of Culture offers tribute to Mahatma Gandhi



Secretary ,Ministry of Culture, Shri Anand Kumar offers tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyr's column, as Joint Secretary, MoC, Smt. Nirupama Kotru and Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan joins in reverence.



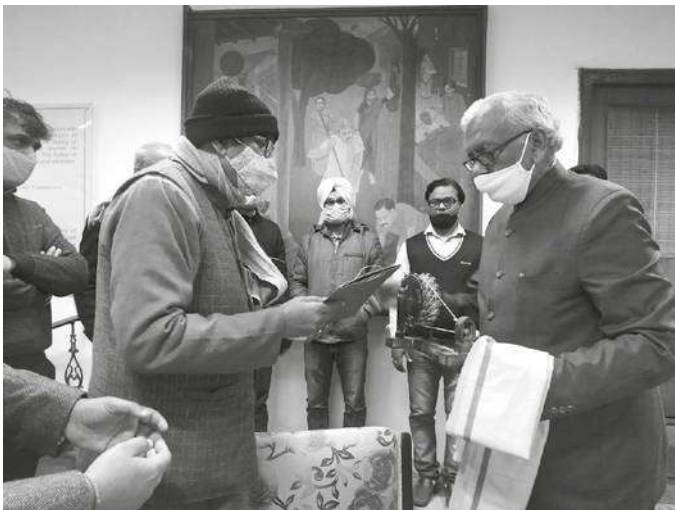
Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Shri Anand Kumar visits the children's section of the Multi Media Exhibition in Gandhi Smriti during his visit, accompanied by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan.

Secretary Ministry of Culture, Government of India Shri Anand Kumar, IAS offered tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyrs Column in Gandhi Smriti during his visit to the memorial on June 22, 2020. Shri Anand Kumar also visited the Gandhi Smriti Museum and the digital exhibition. Ms. Nirupama Kotru, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture was also present on the occasion. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan who welcomed the gathering briefed them about the functioning of the Samiti and the museum. Members from the DST (Department of Science and Technology) were also present on the occasion.

1. Joint Secretary Ministry of Culture Ms Nirupama Kotru visited Gandhi Darshan to oversee the preparation of January 30th programme in Gandhi Smriti on January 27, 2021. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan briefed her about the preparation for the commemorative programme.
2. Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Hon'ble Minister of Culture and VC GSDS visited Gandhi Darshan on January 27, 2021 and interacted with the participating children of the 72nd Republic Day programme. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan received the distinguished guest.

Shri Ram Niwas Goel visits Gandhi Darshan

Shri Ram Niwas Goel, Hon'ble Speaker Delhi Legislative Assembly visited Gandhi Darshan in January 27, 2021 and saw the digital exhibition. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan received the distinguished guest and also felicitated him.



(Above): Shri Sachidanand Swamy explains the digital exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi to hon'ble Shri Ram Niwas Goel, as Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, looks on.

(Below): Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, felicitates hon'ble Shri Ram Niwas Goel with Angavastram, Charkha and Khadi masks prepared by Srijan unit of GSDS.

Spouse of Commander, Pacific Air Force visited Gandhi Smriti



Spouse of Commander, Pacific Air Force, Ms. Cindy Wilsbach (Third from Left) visits the World Peace Gong in Gandhi Smriti.

Mrs Cindy Wilsbach, spouse of Commander, Pacific Air Force, with her team, visited Gandhi Smriti on March 2, 2021. Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli, Research Associate GSDS welcomed the visitors and made a guided tour at the Gandhi Smriti museum.

Mayor, South Delhi Municipal Corporation visits Gandhi Darshan



Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS explains the digital exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi to Ms. Anamika Mithilesh, Mayor of SDMC during her visit to Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.

Ms. Anamika Mithilesh, Mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation visited Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat on March 4, 2021. She took keen interest in the exhibitions displayed at the sprawling campus. She was felicitated by

the Director (GSDS) Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan. Programme Officer (GSDS), Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, General Secretary of Delhi Journalist Association, Shri Amlesh Raju along with journalist from Jansatta Shri Priya Ranjan were also present on the occasion.



(Above): Ms. Anamika Mithilesh, Mayor SDMC, looks at the bench used by Mahatma Gandhi during the Dandi March of 1930 during her visit to Gandhi Darshan museum.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan felicitates Ms. Anamika Mithilesh with the Khadi angavastram during her visit to Gandhi Darshan.

Hon'ble Defence Minister of the Republic of South Korea, Mr. Suh Wook visits Gandhi Smriti



Hon'ble Defence Minister of the Republic of South Korea, Mr. Suh Wook looks at the digital exhibition in Gandhi Smriti.



Mr. Suh Wook signs the visitors book during his visit to Gandhi Smriti.

Hon'ble Defence Minister of the Republic of South Korea, Mr. Suh Wook along with other officials visited Gandhi Smriti on March 26, 2021 and offered their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. A guided tour of the museum was given by Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli, Research Associate, GSDS. He also took a special interest in seeing the digital exhibit featuring Vaishnavajana Tau sung in Hindi by singers of 155 countries across the globe as part of the initiative of Government of India to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Officials from National Defence College visit Gandhi Smriti

Senior officials from National Defence College paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Martyr's Column in Gandhi Smriti on March 30 and April 1, 2021. Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli, Research Officer GSDS gave a guided tour to the delegation.



The pillar at the entrance of the Gandhi Smriti museum with inscriptions of the Bhagawat Gita.

A Photo Tribute to the Corona Warriors



RESPECT
TO ALL
THE
HEROES



FIGHTING
AGAINST
CORONA
VIRUS



Image source: (Google Images)

My life is my message...



