

GANDHIJI TODAY

Promoting Truth, Non-Violence, Communal Harmony, Humanitarian Service & Peace in Contemporary Society
Newsletter of Sarvodaya International Trust (SIT) for 2016
(covering activities upto end February 2017)

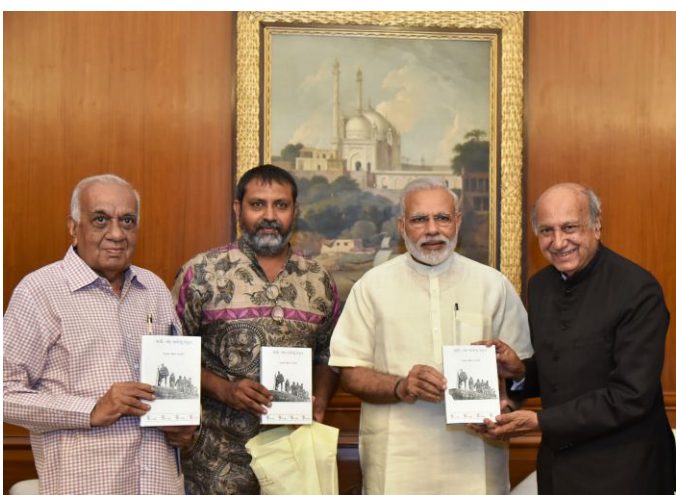
The highlights of SIT's activities within India and abroad during this period were the presentation of the Gujarati edition of the widely acclaimed SIT publication 'Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the releases of its Nepali, Swedish, Dutch, Hungarian and Serbian editions at Kathmandu, Stockholm, Amsterdam, Budapest & Belgrade and the seminar about its German edition at the renowned Heidelberg University.

The Foreword for all the mentioned European language editions has been written by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. An extract from it is as under :

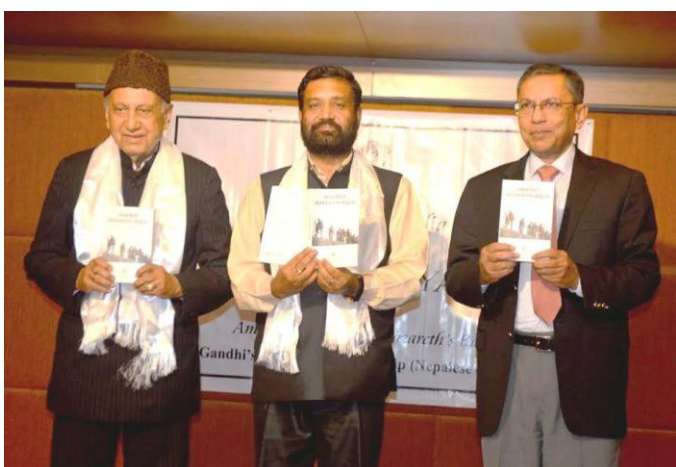
"We live in a world where many old threats to humanity's existence still exist and more challenging and formidable ones have been added to them. People are anxiously looking for a way out of this critical situation. One of the most promising ways of doing so has been indicated by Mahatma Gandhi : humanity should forsake violence.

Leo Tolstoy's writings had a great impact on the youthful Gandhi who read and pondered over them deeply. The great Russian poet Tyutchev, in his poem "Two Unities" has written : "Unity can only be welded by iron and blood some oracles have said. Well, try welding it with love and see which lasts the longer." Even though these lines were written many years ago and in quite a different scenario, its profound message still remains true .

Alan Nazareth has chosen an important aspect of Gandhi's personality to focus on. Even the many who recognize Gandhi as an outstanding figure still consider him to be only a thinker, almost "a dreamer". In his book, the author presents Mahatma Gandhi as an outstanding modern leader, who greatly influenced other leaders during his lifetime and has continued to do so after his death."



At PMO New Delhi on July 13, 2016



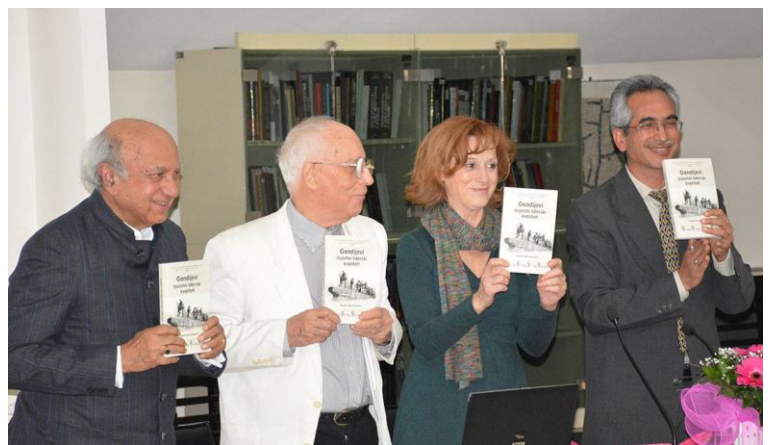
At Marriot Hotel, Kathmandu on October 2, 2016



At Leiden University, Amsterdam on October 21, 2016



At Central European University, Budapest on October 24, 2016



At Belgrade City Library on October 31, 2016



Ambassador Gurjit Singh speaking about the German Edition at Heidelberg University on October 27, 2016.

As in previous years, Gandhi Jayanti was joyfully celebrated with concerts of music and dance in Bangalore, Bhubaneshwar Chennai, Goa, Hyderabad, Mumbai, New Delhi Ahmedabad, and Jammu. Brief details of some of these concerts, organized by SIT Regional Chapters, are as under :

At Bangalore, the Gandhi Jayanti Ahimsa Mahotsav was held at the Raj Bhavan Glass House and nationally telecast by Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra on its Chandana channel. It featured two Bharatanatyam dance items titled 'Namo, Namo' and 'Gandhi Tathana', folk dances from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka (by Bangalore based foreign students) and Frank Antony High School choir/band presenting Gandhiji's favourite hymns. The Karnataka Governor Sri Vajubhai Vala was Chief Guest. Among the many who attended it were many senior civil / military officers and the Consuls General of UK, Germany & Japan .

The New Delhi Chapter presented 'Dastan -e- Gandhi' (a Dastangi narration of Gandhiji's life') & 'Sounds of Peace' (by Springdales School band), at India International Centre.

The Maharashtra chapter presented Sri Uday Mazumdar with a recital of Gandhiji's favourite bhajans at Bharaituya Vidya Bhavan, Mumbai

The Andhra & Telengana chapter had a specially choreographed ensemble dance titled 'Mahatma', by the Sri Lasya Priya Dance School of Chennai, at Hindi Mahavidyalaya, Hyderabad.

For its 2016 Gandhi Jayanti celebration the Orissa chapter presented the INS CHILIKA Navy and Odisha Military Police bands together in an hour long " Peace Symphony " concert at the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Bhubaneshwar.

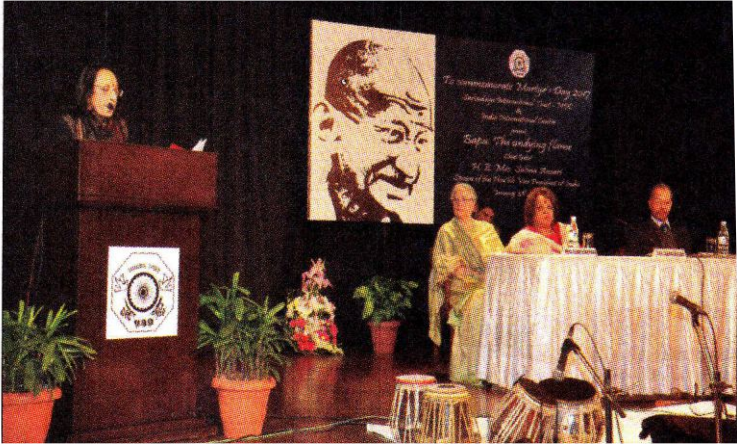


The Tamilandu Chapter's Gandhi Jayanti celebration was held at Gnanodaya High School, Venkatapura. Its students put up tableaux of historic events in Gandhi's life.

SIT supported Jaipur Bal Bhavan's multi faceted three day Gandhi Jayanti celebration titled 'Bapu ki Godh me theen din'. (three days in Gandhiji's arms), with spinning, elocution and painting contests, clay modeling, singing and dancing and sports

Among the many organizations which supported these Gandhi Jayanti concerts in various state capitals with financial grants and advertisements in the souvenir brochures were Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Godrej Industries, Apollo Hospitals, Power Grid India, Sharavthy Conductors, Megha Engineering, Kuduma Industries, Ram Ceramics and Ranka Brothers.

Meaningful observances of Gandhiji's martyrdom day were also held by Regional Chapters at New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bhubaneshwar. The most notable of these



was 'Bapu : The Undying Flame' , organized by the New Delhi Chapter at India International Centre at which the distinguished wife of the Vice President of India Mrs Salma Ansari was chief Guest.

During 2016 financial assistance was provided by SIT to the following Gandhian and humanitarian institutions in various parts of India :

- I) Rs 15,000 to Mahorgi Seva Samiti, Anandwan, Maharashtra
- ii) Rs 15,000 to Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu
- iii) Rs 10,000 to Kumarappa Institute of Gram Swaraj, Jaipur.
- iv) Rs. 10,000 to Gandhi Peace Foundation (Karnataka)
- v) Rs 10,000 to National Muslim Women Welfare Society, Jaipur.
- vi) Rs. 10,000 to Loyola High School, Zakhama, Nagaland.

Separately, honoraria of US \$ 1000 each was paid to translators of the Dutch, Hungarian, and Swedish editions of the SIT publication 'Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership'


Book Presentations :

Gandhian books / Journals were presented to the Centre for Gandhian Studies of PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore in October 2016 and St. Agnes College, Mangalore in January 2017

Workshops :

The Orissa Chapter organized a workshop for management students from business and rural disciplines on Januray 30, 2017 at the KIIT School of Management Bhubaneshwar, on " Mahatma Gandhi : Salute or Pollute " . Among those who conducted it were Prof Dr Mrinal Chatterjee , Director IIMC and Prof Dr SN Misra , Dean KSOM. The latter spoke about "Tolstoy Farm "

Lectures



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

Guest Lecture

"The Indian Embassy Stockholm, the Forum for South Asia Studies, Uppsala University, and the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, cordially invite you to participate in a book launch on

Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership

18 October 2016
14:00-16:00, Ia 2
Gårdsgränd 3, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University

Speaker
Pascal Alan Nazareth

The lecture is open to the general public.

This book provides the first comprehensive and interdisciplinary view of Mahatma Gandhi in the context of his initiatives by analyzing and presenting the vision and consequences of Gandhi's leadership and its impact on India and the world in diverse fields including politics, economics, social structures, economic development, national liberation movements, culture and creativity, minority, religious minorities and women, labor problems and the environment. It compares Gandhi's leadership with that of other modern leaders from Napoleon to Hitler, Stalin & Mao and presents the vision and enduring effects of the manner in which Gandhi led India to the better. This book also presents Gandhi as the ideal leadership model in all walks of life by highlighting the importance of non-violent resistance (Satyagraha), which has a pragmatic message for our contemporary world. The foreword for the most recent edition of the book was written by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The book is published by The Golden Shore Verlagsgesellschaft, Nuremberg Germany

SIT Managing Trustee delivered a lecture titled 'Gandhi Outstanding Leadership' at the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies of Uppsala University Stockholm on October 18, 2016 and a lecture titled 'Gandhi : Soul Force Revolutionary' at the

South Asia Institute of Hiedelberg University in Germany on October 27, 2016. He moderated a lecture on 'Rising Radicalisation and Terrorism in the Middle-East and Turkey' by Prof. Anwar Alam, Senior Fellow, Policy Perspectives Foundation, New Delhi at the Narional Law School of India University, Bangalore on January 21, 2017.

Having gone through this news letter if you would like to support the diverse Gandhi promotion activities of Sarvodaya International Trust, you could do so by sending cross bank drafts or cheques drawn in favour of Sarvodaya International Trust, to its Managing Trustee, 2 Ware Road, Bangalore 560 005. Tel : 080-4125 3517