

## GANDHIJI (CREST HERE) TODAY

Promoting Truth, Non Violence, Communal Harmony and Peace in Contemporary Society  
Newsletter of Sarvodaya International Trust (SIT) for 2015  
(covering activities upto end February 2016)

The highlight of SIT's broad spectrum activities during this period were the reconstitution of the SIT (J&K) chapter with Justice Pramod Kohli, former Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court, as Chairman. Its other highlights were the releases of the Italian and German editions of the SIT publication 'Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership' at the Vatican's Pontifical Gregorian University at Rome on October 1 and Humboldt University in Berlin & October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Foreword for both these editions has been written by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The SIT (J & K ) chapter, set up in March 2008, had functioned well for the first two years but with the resignation of its chairman in September 2010, became inactive for some months. In early 2011 its vice chairman Prof. G.M.Bhat, took charge of it as Acting Chairman and in September 2011 arranged a well attended talk by SIT Managing Trustee, titled 'Gandhi : National Liberator, Social Emancipator and Non Violent Revolutionary' at University of Kashmir Gandhi Bhavan in Srinagar. Thereafter he and Managing Trustee Dr. Renu Nanda, focused on finding a new chairman and few more Trustees. Their efforts achieved success when Justice Pramod Kohli, former Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court, consented to be a Trustee / Chairman of this chapter. He was formally inducted as Trustee / elected as its chairman, at its meeting in Jammu, on March 31, 2015. The three new Trustees also inducted were Major General(Retd) S.K.Sharma, Mr. Robert Gill and Mr. Kaushal Jain.



Seen in this photo, left o right, are Mr.Ravinder Singh, Mr. Tsering Angchuk, Ms Renu Nanda, Prof G.M.Bhat, P.A.Nazareth, Justice Pramod Kohli and Mr. Robert Gill

The press release about the release of the GOL Italian edition, made by Vatican Radio, is as under :



**(Please reduce this Vatican crest to 1" square and insert it alongside the text hereunder )**

**Italian Edition of book on Gandhi released at Gregorian University : 02/10/2015 15:53**



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(Vatican Radio) The Italian edition of former ambassador of India, Pascal Alan Nazareth's book 'Gandhi's Outstanding leadership' was released at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome yesterday, by its Rector, François-Xavier Dumortier SJ.

Roberto Catalano, Director of the Focolare Centre for Interreligious Dialogue presided at this event and highlighted the importance of this book. Friday,

While releasing the Italian edition of this book titled, 'La straordinaria leadership di Gandhi', Dumortier, lauded Gandhian values, which he said are similar to the non-violence preached and practiced by Jesus Christ and echoed the beatitudes of Christ.

He expressed great joy that Ambassador Nazareth was a Jesuit Alumnus and wished him further success to spreading the message and leadership style of Mahatma Gandhi.

Ambassador Nazareth spoke of the great honour he felt that the Italian Edition of his book, which was its ninth foreign language edition, had been released on the sacred soil of the Vatican. He spoke of Gandhi's great reverence for Christ and of his determined effort to actually live the Sermon on the Mount and narrated anecdotes related to this by reading out extracts from his book.

Ambassador draped the distinguished Rector with an embroidered Indian shawl as a mark of his great esteem and deep gratitude to him.

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The press release made by the Embassy of India, Berlin about the release of the GOL German edition at Humboldt University Berlin was as under :



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The German edition of former ambassador of India, Pascal Alan Nazareth's widely acclaimed book 'Gandhi's Outstanding leadership' was released by Dr. Christian Bartolf, President of Gandhi Information Zentrum, at the Humboldt University in Berlin on October 16. In doing so he spoke about what Gandhi means to Germans and Germany.

Ms. Pragya Gerig, Editor in Chief of The Golden Shore, which has published the German edition, made the welcome address.

Former German Ambassador to Japan Dr. Wilhelm Haas, who has known Ambassador Nazareth for many years, recalled his many

notable achievements and the unprecedented success of his book, the German edition of which was its tenth foreign language one.

Ms. Shubdarshini Tripathi, DCM, Embassy of India to Germany, who chaired this event, read out Ambassador Vijay Gokhale's message in which he interalia stated "of all the towering personalities, both famous and infamous, who lived in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Gandhiji's legacy alone stands the test of time"; that "Today's Germany exemplifies Gandhiji's message of peace, tolerance and non violence" and that "Ambassador Nazareth's book will help to spread his message to a new generation of Germans".

In his message Former German Ambassador to India H.E. Heinrich Dietrich Dieckman highlighted the continuing pertinence of Gandhi and affirmed "Gandhi's policies of nonviolence have lost nothing of their exemplariness, and his message of religious tolerance nothing of its validity".

Ambassador Nazareth spoke of what Gandhi meant to him as an Indian Christian diplomat and contrasted the over fifty million people killed in WWII in bringing down three ruthless dictators in Germany, Italy and Japan with the less than fifty thousand who had lost their lives in the subsequent non violent struggles which had secured freedom for over 100 former colonies, brought down all Eastern European communist dictatorships, Fascist dictators in the Phillipines and Chile and ended racial discrimination in the US and South Africa.

In conclusion, the music group of the Sri Chinmoy Centre in Berlin presented two Sri Chinmoy composed songs on Gandhi.

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As in previous years, Gandhi Jayanti was joyfully celebrated with concerts of music and dance in Bangalore, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, 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 on October 2<sup>nd</sup> was held at the Raj Bhavan Glass House and nationally telecast by Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra on its Chandana channel. It featured a specially choreographed dance item titled 'Namo Gandhi' and presented by Sai Arts International, traditional dances from Afghanistan, Ghana, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka presented by Bangalore based foreign students from these countries and the Frank Antony Public School brass band and choir presenting Gandhiji's favourite hymns and the National Anthem. The Governor of Karnataka Sri Vajubhai Vala was Chief Guest at this event attended by over a thousand persons among whom were many senior civil and military officers and the Consuls General of the UK, Germany, France & Japan .

At Hyderabad, the Andhra Pradesh & Telengana chapter presented Mallika Sarabhai's 'SVA Kranti' dance drama at the JRC Convention Centre, Hyderabad on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.



At Mumbai, the Maharashtra chapter presented

at the National Centre for the Performing Centre (NCPA)

The Tamilandu Chapter presented, in collaboration with Assema Trust a three day programme of spinning, compost making, Gandhi Katha recitals and dance presentation at the Vallipuram Patshala ( about 80 miles from Chennai )



Dance presentation at the Vallipuram Patshala

The New Delhi Chapter presented, in collaboration with National Gandhi Museum, a photo exhibition titled 'Non Violence in Action - Gandhiji's Peace Mission in Noakhali' at India International Centre.

The Rajasthan Chapter in collaboration with Bal Bhavan at Jaipur organized a 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

The Orissa chapter presented a music concert titled .....was the was Chief Guest on this occasion.

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, Hotel Association of India & Prestige Group. The Bangalore concert was also supported by the Raj Bhavan, Karnataka Government's Department of Kannada & Culture, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) and Sri Dharmasthala Educational Society.

Meaningful observances of Gandhiji's martyrdom day were also held by Regional Chapters at New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwar and New Delhi. The most notable of these was a poetry recital titled 'Gandhi Ek Khoj', organized by the New Delhi Chapter at India International Centre at which Dr. Sayeeda Hamid recited poems by eminent Urdu poets and Ms, Rene Singh sang *Bapu Geet*.

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#### Lectures

On October 1, 2015 SIT Managing Trustee delivered a lecture on 'Gandhi, Christ and Christianity' at the Vatican's Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome

On October 16, 2015, Managing Trustee delivered a lecture on 'Gandhi : Non violent Revolutionary' : at Humboldt University, Berlin

On December 30, 2015, the Andhra Pradesh & Telengana chapter's 2015 Gandhi Memorial Lecture, titled 'Gandhiji in the context of Terrorism ' was delivered by Prof. Aqil Bilgrami of Columbia University, New York

During 2015, financial assistance was provided to the following institutions in various parts of India:

- 1) Rs 15,000 to Agha Khan Palace Gandhi Memorial Museum, Pune

- 2) Rs 10,000 to Sevagram Ashram Pratisthana , Sevagram
- 3) Rs 10,000 to Sarva Seva Sangh, Wardha
- 4) Rs 10,000 to Nagaland Gandhi Ashram, Chuchu -Yimlang
- 5) Rs 10,000 to Kasturba Mahila Utthan Mandal, Kasauni
- 6) Rs 10,000 to Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal
- 7) Rs 10,000 to Mohalla Committee Movement Trust, Mumbai
- 8) Rs 10,000 to Swami Vivekananda Tribal Welfare Centre,  
Kenchanahalli, Mysore State.
- 9) Rs 10,000 to Bal Bhavan Shiksha Samiti, Jaipur.
- 10) Rs 10,000 to Missionaries of Charity, Bhubaneshwar
- 11) Rs 10,000 to HELP Foundation Srinagar
- 12) Rs 10,000 to Mata Rukmini Ashram, Dimrapal Village , Bastar  
District

The total of these twelve donations was Rs 1.25 lakhs.

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Having gone through this news letter if you might wish to support the wide spectrum 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 at Regency Alandon # 3A, 2 Ware Road, Bangalore 560 005. (Tel : 080-4125 3517 ; 91- 98458 00056.)

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