



**GANDHI BHAWAN**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**  
**April 2015 to June 2015 Events**  
**Report**

**Special talk on “Gandhi ji and Youth”**



**An Interactive session on ‘Gandhi ji and Youth’ was organized at Gandhi Bhawan 27 April 2015.**

Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor *Prof. Dinesh Singh*, *Shrimati Tara Gandhi Bhattacharyajee* and *Shri A. Annamalai* were the invited speakers. The programme started with a welcoming speech by *Prof. Anita Sharma*, Director (Hony.) Gandhi Bhawan. *Prof. Sharma* introduced the speakers and also informed the audience that to commemorate hundred years of the Mahatma Gandhi’s return to India from South Africa, and also his visit to St. Stephens, a Delhi University college, on 13 April 1915, Gandhi Bhawan will be holding a series of lectures for one year. Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, *Prof. Dinesh Singh* suggested that one has to live Gandhi and that each one of us should make an effort to search the Truth within one’s own self. *Shrimati Tara Bhattacharyajee*, former Vice Chairperson of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, daughter of *Shri Devdas Gandhi* and *Shrimati Lakshmi Devdas Gandhi*, talked about her childhood association with Gandhi ji. She suggested not to mechanize nonviolence but to realise the potential of the inner strength within. She highlighted the (Adwaita) non-dual nature of the philosophy of the Mahatma, his ideas on ‘Khaadi’ and ‘Matra shakti. She interpreted his simplicity of clothes as like that of an Indian farmer. She emphasized the need to understand Gandhi as a man full of compassion and suggested that everyone should understand Gandhi through one’s own self searching. *Shri Annamalai*, Director, National Gandhi Museum, through

a power point presentation showed clippings of Gandhi ji's documentary to show that Mahatma was a simple, truthful and a man whom even the then Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin could trust. A traveler Gandhi interacted with masses and mobilized masses through charkha spinning and Swadeshi movement and demonstrated that the path of nonviolence can be achieved by uniting ethics, economics and politics. The session ended with a vote of thanks by *Dr Nisha Bala Tyagi*.

## **Bhajan Sandhya**



**Bhajan Sandhya was organised at Gandhi Bhawan on 28 April 2015.**

*Prof. Anita Sharma*, Director (Hony.), Gandhi Bhawan in her welcome speech introduced *Dr. Sita Bimbrahw* for the Bhajan Sandhya. She announced the beginning of a regular feature of the Bhajan Sandhya at Gandhi Bhawan. *Dr. Sita Bimbrahw* started with 'Hey vishwa vandhya bapu tum ko karte pranaam...' lyrics of *Ram Das Mishra* followed by *Kabir's* 'Jab lagi daya dharam nahi man mai...', and Gandhiji's priya bajan 'Vaishnav jan to...', followed by *Harikrishna Premi's* 'Haas ko tune rulaaya aur aasu ko tha hasaya...' and *Sitaji's* own poem on *Kasturba* 'Jai jag vandit Kasturba Ma...' and *Maithilli Sharan Gupt's* 'Vicharlo ke martya ho na mrityu...'. Bhajan Sandhya ended with the peace dome of Gandhi Bhawan vibrating with Ramdhun.

## **Film Show: Mahatma Gandhi: The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Prophet**

**A documentary 'Mahatma Gandhi: the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Prophet' by Shri A. K. Chettiar (1911-1983) was screened at Gandhi Bhawan on 15 May 2015.**



### **About the documentary**

A. K. Chettiar (1911-1983), a travelogue-writer, journalist and documentary film maker from Tamilnadu, decided to make a documentary on the life of Mahatma Gandhi in 1937. Over the next few years he travelled nearly 1,00,000 miles and collected 50,000 feet of film footage. The footage had been shot by about a hundred different cameramen, over three decades, across four continents. In 1940, he edited this into a 12,000 feet documentary. It was released with Tamil commentary in Madras Presidency on August 23, 1940, and shortly after, with a Telugu voice-over. On 14 August 1947, the film was screened at Regal Theatre in New Delhi in the presence of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the President. A few years later, he got the film re-edited in Hollywood, with commentary in English. It was screened at Du Pont Theatre in Washington on February 10, 1953 in the presence of President Eisenhower. A. K. Chettiar, later on, handed over the film to Gandhi Smarak Nidhi who applied for a Censor Certificate in 1959. This is the original copy of the film given to Gandhi Smarak Nidhi.

The documentary was appreciated by students and teaching and nonteaching staff as it revealed Mahatmas original speeches and actions for a period of three decades during his lifetime, collected by Shri Chettiar. *Prof. Anita Sharma*, Director (Hony.) Gandhi Bhawan, thanked the audience for their participation.

## Special talk on “Yoga and Ayurveda”



### **Gandhi Bhawan organised a Special Talk on ‘Yoga and Ayurveda’ on 29 May 2015.**

The programme began with a welcoming address by *Prof. Anita Sharma*, Director (Hony.) Gandhi Bhawan followed by *Dr. Laxmi Kant Tripathi*'s talk. *Dr. Tripathi*, an Ayurvedic Physician from Times of India group, in his speech informed that Nature (Prakriti) and Ayurveda are very close and all defects or illness is due to the imbalance of the three basic elements –air, water and fire in the body. He suggested that i) one should take fresh and light food; ii) one should do ones karma's without thinking of it's results (nishkamakarma); iii) because mind is a pendulum which oscillates between 'sukh and dukh'(pleasure and pain), one should do yoga to keep the 'citta'(mind) in balance. *Prof. Shrimati Chakrabarti*, Dean, Faculty of Social Science who was invited as the chief Guest, appreciated the event. *Prof. Dinesh Singh*, Vice Chancellor, Delhi University and *Mrs. Nilanjana Singh*, Delhi University Women's Association President were also present at the event. Programme ended with a vote of thanks by *Dr. Nisha Bala Tyagi*.

## World Environment Day Celebrations



**World Environment Day was organised by Gandhi Bhawan on 5 June 2015.**

On the World Environment Day, Gandhi Bhawan organized a special ‘**Plantation Ceremony**’. Saplings were planted by the students, teaching and nonteaching staff of the University of Delhi at Gandhi Bhawan.



The same day, a special programme on ‘Disaster Preparedness: Future Challenges’ was arranged and two speakers were invited for presentations. *Mr. A. K. Malik* from the Delhi Fire Service spoke on ‘Fire Safety during Disaster’ and suggested safety measures and the need for education and preparedness on any eventuality of fire. *Dr. Ritu Saxena*, CMO, Deptt. of Accident & Emergency, Lok Nayak Hospital spoke on the ‘Pre hospital care in case of any disaster’. *Dr. Ritu*, with the help of a ‘dummy’ demonstrated ways of giving first aid to the victims of disaster. Teachers attending the Orientation Course at *Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education* and other faculty members and students attended the programme. *Prof. Anita Sharma* gave her vote of thanks at the end of the session.

## International Yoga Day Celebrations



**On 21 June 2015, the ‘International Yoga Day’, Yoga and Meditation sessions, Bhajans, Charkha session, documentary film and presentations on ‘The Relevance of yoga in the Modern Times’ were organised at Gandhi Bhawan.**

The programme started with a welcome by *Prof. Anita Sharma*, Director (Hony.) Gandhi Bhawan followed by Yoga and Meditation sessions for all under the guidance of Mr. Ramam. Students, teachers and the nonteaching faculty in large number were present for the same. On this occasion, the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, *Professor Dinesh Singh* addressed the audience and spoke of the inner goodness and the relevance of yoga for everyone. He asked the audience to recognize and realise one’s ‘swadharma’ to be able to understand Yoga. A documentary ‘Common Yoga Protocol’ from the Ministry of Ayush was also screened. Also, to understand the ‘Asanas and their Relevance in the Modern Times’, a presentation by *Mr. I. N. Raman*, the Yoga organiser of Gandhi Bhawan was organized. It was followed by an elaborative practical application of ‘Pranayam’ by *Yoga guru Gopal Krishan* from Anand Amrit Yoga Centre and a member of Ministry of Ayush. To mark the day, Gandhiji’s favourite Bhajans and a special charkha spinning session by *Dr. Sita Bimbrahw* was also organised. In her vote of thanks *Dr. Nisha Bala Tyagi* added that "It feels good to see people accepting the age old Indian tradition of Yoga. She said, “I am glad 'now' people shall understand the meaning of ‘atha yoga anushasanam’ which is the beginning of Patanjali's Yoga Sutra meaning ‘now I am prepared to unite within with the discipline undertaken’ and that Gandhi Bhawan shall continue to reach the community at its best".

Compiled by *Dr. Nisha Tyagi*  
Dy. Dean Academic, Gandhi Bhawan

**Prof. Anita Sharma**  
**Director (Hony.) Gandhi Bhawan**

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