

Brief Report of National Level Cultural Celebration on

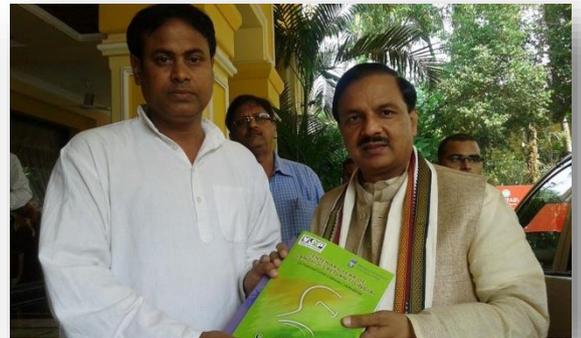
Centenary year of Gandhi's return to India

11-12 September 2014, Jayadev Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Happily, 2014 is also the 100th Year of Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi and Kasturba's return to India from South Africa. just three days after his arrival Gandhi was honored by the people of Bombay at a magnificent reception. Even the then colonial Government of India had joined with the people in showering honours on Gandhi with a "Kaiser-I-Hind" gold medal in the King's birthday honours list of 1915. He had come back to India after successfully leading a huge people's movement for the basic human rights of Indians in South Africa. Within years he provided a dynamic leadership to the freedom struggle in India leading to independence following the principles of truth and non- violence.



The first individual satyagrahi of freedom struggle and pioneer of Bhoodan movement Vinayak Narahari "Vinoba" Bhave's 120th birthday falls on September 11. The Vinoba Seva Prathisthan(VSP) has been celebrating this day since its inception. The anniversary as well as the centenary commemorated in Jayadev Bhavan, Odisha on 11th & 12th September 2014. Eminent Gandhian and Sarvodaya leaders and thinkers, social workers, students and academicians were participated in the two days event.



Objectives of the Observation

In the program, we look into the objectives so as:

- Invite everyone who believes in the spirit of Gandhian Philosophy, to share a common living with Gandhian Fellows;
- To promote National Integration and Indian Culture as Gandhijis dreamt for;
- To create a platform of people and institutions having common thoughts and views for a collective living with peace, harmony and universal brotherhood;
- To endeavour to revive, promote, spread and reinforce Gandhian values of truth, non-violence, self reliance, swadeshi, national integration and sustainable development;
- To endeavour to infuse the spirit of Gandhi deep into the prevailing social, economic and cultural life of the society we live in;
- Create Awareness among participants and a pulse among the general public on the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the 21st century
- Development of a plan of action to implement as well as carry forward Bapu's principles, ideas and constructive activities to inspire the generations to come;
- To rejuvenate volunteerism and humanism in the society

Date : 11.09.2014

INAUGURAL SESSION:

The program was inaugurated by **Shri Baisnav Charan Parida, MP, Shri Bhabani Charan Pattnaik**, Freedom Fighter and Ex-MP, **Shri Tejeswar Parida**, President, Odisha Khadi & Village Industries Board and **Shri Niten Chandra, IAS** and Special Secretary, General Administration Department, Govt. of Odisha. Initially Gandhiji's favorite song "*Vaisnab Janato Tene Kahiye*" played by chorus group and garlanding with lightening the candle before the photo of Gandhiji & Vinobaji.



Dr. Bhagbanprakash, Advisor, Election Commission of India and president of VSP presided over the meeting and said that the Gandhian value is the way to save the society from the dire consequences of present style of living of the people as well as the current system of western education. **Shri Manoj Jena**, the General Secretary of VSP announced the detailed aims & objectives of the two days program .



The guests of the inaugural session had expressed their concern on the present form of social existence with equality to human & nature. Currently, the greed is overriding the settled form of the nature and human behavior is totally micro, which is against the Indian culture and integrity. Tranquility completely disappeared from the way of living. Hence, this is high time to live life of Gandhian way to save the planet. The guests presented their views on Gandhian principle in the Present Context.

Shri Baisnav Charan Parida expressed concern over the increasing expenditure on arms and ammunition by the developing countries, stressed more attention on basic necessities of poor. The government should remove poverty, he suggested. He expressed his happiness to be the part of this great Samagam and said the mission of Vinobajee remains unfulfilled as still thousands of landless people exist in our country. Bhoodan's land is being encroached by the land mafias. The

government must recover the missing lands and distribute it among the landless to establish a just society.

While **Shri Tejeswar Parida** expressed his concern over the continuous decrease of Khadi and Village Industries, which leads to massive unemployment among the youth. His Board is planning to raise huge employment in Maoist districts, the tribal youths would be nurtured with their culture and tradition through OKVI.

Eminent Freedom fighter **Bhabani Charan Pattnaik** quoted Vinobajee, “Union of heart is the pre-requisite for peace and non-violence”. The Program aims to remind and remember the ideals of Gandhijee and Vinobajee.

THEMATIC SESSION:

The deliberation session started with the presentation of **Prof. Acharya Bhabananda** on “Gandhi & Globalization”. He shared his experience in Harvard University as Professor in Gandhian education and found that the honesty of Gandhian education mostly attracted the Globe, the birth day of Gandhiji is accepted by United Nations as the world non-violence day. Youth should be the torch bearer of Indian heritage of peace and non-violence. Now, the globe is in search of peace on the lines of Gandhian ideals against the increasing war and terrorism.

The pioneer of Sovaniya movement, **Ms Arundati Devi** expressed her grave concern for degrading values of our culture, The Young Indian needs to be understood their rich culture and tradition so a massive campaign has been started by International Decency Movement to save our rich culture.

Shri Prafulla Sahoo, Chairman of Center for Youth and Social Development (CYSD) had enlightened “the role of Youth in social change”. The present scenario of corruption irritated the youth mass. Each and every sector using youth for their enrichment. Hence, youth should decide the way beneficial to him or her and his surrounding society. Gandhian approach may change the youth to be the non-violent tool for social change. He said that the youth should be thought the ideals of Gandhi and Vinoba.

Shri Gouranga Chandra Mohapatra, Convener, Bhoodan-Gramdan Samiti of Sarva Seva Sangha, Wardha expressed his views on “Bhoodan & Gramdan in the context of sustainable livelihood”. He added that the Bhoodan & Gramdan is the product of Gandhian Philosophy of trusteeship and implementation of the policy as written in “Hind Swaraj” by Gandhijee.

Since the initiation of Bhoodan, Shri Mohapatra shared a statistical data from 1842 to 1951 about the landlessness and availability of agriculture land for livelihood. After taking over the power of

East India Company in 1858 by British, the exploitation on collection of Land Revenue & different taxes increased and the poor farmers left their land and live on agriculture labour. The number of landless people was 50 million out of 300 millions of population in India in 1951.

Therefore, livelihood of 50 million people in the Independent India had created an economic gap between the Land Lord & Landless. Some radical groups have been united and tried to dispossessed the Land Lords from their land by bloody violence. It was the great massacre of morning of the Independence. Vinoba took the risk to resolve the issue through non-violence and called for donation of Land.

Mr. Ramachandra Reddy of Panchampalli in the Telengana region of Andhra Pradesh had donated 100 acres of land. From that date Vinobajee trekked India for 14 years & covered eight thousand miles in each Block of the country for collection of land.

In India 4.8 million acres of land have been collected and 50% of land still pending for distribution due to non-co-operation of field revenue authorities of State Governments which is now creating opportunity for the land mafias, builders and corporate houses as well as big projects promoters of the country.

Meanwhile, the poverty is simultaneously increased in comparison with development. But sustainable living of the poverty stricken people is absolute and accountability of the welfare Government. Bhoodan land is only meant for the poor and landless people to ensure the sustainable livelihood of marginal masses in the country. Since, the Bhoodan movement is now in moribund stage, so, promotion of economic condition of the landless people could not be enhanced. Now the time is to promote Bhoodan ideals.

A special souvenir had been released by the guests on this occasion, A beautiful evening was more beautified with special cultural program by Srikhetra Groups and NYP Team.

Bharat Ki Santan performed by NYP team, it embodied the unity in diversity of Indian culture and languages. The patriotic song with dance performed by Srikhetra Cultural Groups.

The artists were falicited by Guests on their enthralling performance.

Date : 12.09.2014

The program started at 10.00 AM. The sarvodaya workers assembled from the various parts of the Country had shared their experience regarding Sarvoday life & work. More than 20 participants have taken part in this discussion and the feelings they shared was very heart touching.

Discussion session was started at 11.00 a.m. Former Union Minister & President of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash International Institute of Education & Research **Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy**

delivered his speech on Transparency in Governance: challenges before Government & Civil Society.



He disclosed more pockets where the Government and Civil Society is lacking their accountability on the transparency of Governance. Role to this effect by the conscious citizen, who are not coming under any civil society fold had been requested to continue their work in the

rural & urban pockets to sensitize both Government & Civil Society. The Gandhian people may shoulder this responsibility to enhance the trust in the society on honesty & transparency.

Identifying the challenges before Government, he said that the transparency may check the corruption from the Government sector, the head of the department should honestly try to maintain transparency in the activities so far carried out in daily routine.

Prof Fani Bhusan Das termed peace as a ‘Science’ while speaking the convention adding that development without peace and social harmony is meaningless. He felt the necessity of a humanistic management approach at schools level in order to bring peace in the society. “Peace education is required from womb to tomb”, he opined.

Shri Bikram Keshari Berma, Ex-MLA and Former President of Odisha Cashew Corporation emphasized on Non-violence and Satyagraha as weapon against social renaissance. Gandhijee introduced non-violence in politics. The increasing violence is due to lack of development in tribal regions he asserted.

Smt. Lopamudra Mohanty, Ex- Chairperson, Odisha State Women Commission, expressed her views on the topic of women empowerment : Then & Now. She admired the women self help groups for participating in the different socio-economic programs launched by Government. The awareness among women has increased but still they have to prove like Laxmibai. However, she pointed out towards education of Girl Child and appointment of Women in different Sectors. This is good sign but we have to encourage them to go forward.

Prof. Kailash Acharya, an eminent economist & the ardent follower of Gandhi & Vinoba had shared the topic of Today's consumerism vs self sufficient economics. Prof. Acharya said that the process initiated by Gandhi & Vinoba, which was multiplied by Dr. Kumarppa in very simplest form to introduce in rural areas. He narrated his experience in Bhoodan-Gramdan work and the process to live without money in the tribal pockets in the State.

The present economic condition has created challenge for the self sufficient economy. Each and every person desires to be self sufficient through corruption or by exploiting numbers of people. This is cruelty and not the way of Gandhi & Vinoba. Equal distribution of Wealth & Trusteeship feelings is now the dream for the citizens. So we have the accountability and responsibility to introduce the self sufficient economic behavior & manage to self through this process to challenge present consumerism and to provide a long lasting economic condition to the society.

This Process has to be introduced in the education system to aware our future citizen about good effect of the Gandhi-Vinoba economy to save the society from the present materialistic and inhuman condition.

Shri Sai Prasan, an eminent journalist and activist dedicated for the social transformation had presented his work experiences in resolving various problems in different movement by using Gandhian methods. He said that Gandhi was the votary of decentralisation of economy and politics. But, it is unfortunate that in the post-globalisation, the economic and political power is getting centralised. The small and medium scale industry is in problem and the big industrial houses are increasingly establishing monopoly in all the sectors. This is leading to unemployment among youth which is the root cause for the militancy in society. Similarly, he said, huge money is being spent in elections which are keeping away the good able candidates from elections or entering the state Assemblies or Parliament. The current day politics is following the formula of 'Money begets power and Power begets money'

He said that it is the need of the hour for all of us to have self-introspection and follow the Gandhian idea of decentralization both in economic and political sphere which will ensure the development of the backward regions and deprived sections in Odisha and elsewhere.

VALEDICTION:

In the valedictory session, **Shri A.V. Swamy**, MP, **Smt Namrata Chadha**, former member, Odisha State Commission for Women, **Acharya Bhavananda**, Eminent Gandhian Scholar, **Smt. Krishna Mohanty**, Eminent Sarvodaya Leader and **Dr. Bhagbanprakash**, Chief Advisor, Election Commission of India.



Democracy is meaningless in a capitalistic society. The Government should focus on small projects rather than big, Prof Radhamohan said.

Smt Namrata Chadha emphasized the ethical distribution of Bhoodan land and other natural resources among the tribal and dalits for restoration of social justice.

Shri Abasar Beuria said that the people’s voice becomes meek against the injustice hence violence is increasing in our society. Presiding over the session **Krishana Mohanty** expressed her concern about increasing farmers’ suicide and forceful displacement. Land is a medium for a self sufficient society that the Government must act for the landless, she asserted.

The sarvodaya workers from various parts of Odisha who have dedicated their life for social cause on the path of Gandhi-Vinoba, were felicitated with Gandhi Vinoba Peace Award by the Guest & distinguished persons.



The following points resolved as follow-up action for one year.

- Regional and district level training program will be organized for the youths.
- School and College level talk on Gandhiji
- Participatory democracy approach will be carried to visualize Gandhiji’s Gramswaraj.
- Gandhian model village will be developed
- Gandhijis constructive work like cleaning (Swachhata), promotion of Khadi & village Industries, anti liquor campaign etc will be taken up.
- Promotion of Indian Culture and National Integration by .

The **Gandhi–Vinoba Peace Award 2014** was given to eminent persons who have great contribution to the different field of the society.

The program was more enthralled with cultural program of classical and patriotic song and dance by **Tridhara** and **Kalashree Academy**.

The program was concluded with the song *“De dee hume azadi bina khadag bina dhal-sabarmati ke santh tune karadia kamal”*.

JAI JAGAT