

CENTRE FOR GANDHIAN STUDIES
ALPHONSA COLLEGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

The Centre for Gandhian Studies continued its diverse initiatives for the promotion of Gandhian values among students and the society at large during the academic year 2018-19.

Special Lecture: *Is there an Epistemic Bond Between Gandhi and Ambedkar?*

In association with the School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, Mahatma Gandhi University, the Centre for Gandhian Studies organised a Special Lecture by Prof. Valerian Rodriguez, Ambedkar University, Delhi on the theme *Is there an Epistemic Bond Between Gandhi and Ambedkar?* on 24 October 2018. While there is often a tendency to focus on the personalities, contradictions and responses to specific issues and events in their socio-political context, Prof. Rodriguez provided a deeper understanding of the philosophical and theoretical underpinnings of these two leaders on the basic philosophical core of their ideas. He explained how the discourses between Gandhi and Ambedkar were not entirely antithetical and that it is possible to think in terms of common concerns. The programme facilitated an understanding of the debate in its entirety, with all its implications for today's India. Prof. Rodriguez stressed the fact that while Gandhi and Ambedkar differed in their understanding of modernity, in assessing traditions and in proposing options for India and the world, yet there was much that united them.

Special Lecture on *The Little Known Aspects of Mahatma Gandhi*

The Centre also organised a Special Lecture on *The Little Known Aspects of Mahatma Gandhi* by Dr. M. S. John, Professor of International Relations, Centre for Global Studies, Central University of Kerala, Kasargod and Editor, *Gandhi Marg* on 17 September 2018. Prof. John spoke of the importance that Gandhi gave to time, cleanliness, alternative dispute resolution, nonviolence, the environment, sustainable development, relational world view and the various social movements that were founded based on the Gandhian vision. Based on several anecdotes he also gave an account of Gandhi's careful use of resources, his routine of keeping accounts, his punctuality, nursing skills, multi-tasking abilities and use of the mass media, thus providing the students insights into the Gandhian way of life.

Environment Day

As part of Environment Day celebrations the members of the Gandhi Forum distribute the Centre's booklet on waste management among the students of the college. Saplings were also planted on campus by the students.

Intracollegiate Quiz on Mahatma Gandhi and India's Struggle for Independence

In connection with Independence Day, the Centre organised a Quiz competition for students on the theme – *Mahatma Gandhi and India's Struggle for Independence* on 13 August 2018. Shafnamol Shereef of I DC History won the first prize. The second prize was shared by Arya Mohan of III DC English and Athira Madhu of II DC Botany. Angel George won the third prize.

Discovering Gandhi Quiz Competition on Mahatma Gandhi's Autobiography

As part of celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and to encourage students to read Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography, the Centre is organising a weekly quiz competition *Discovering Gandhi*. Organised every Tuesday, the quiz is based on five chapters of Gandhi's autobiography – *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*. Winners of the quiz are as follows:

- # 1: 24.9.2018 (Part I, Chapters 1-5): Leosha Vincent, III DC English
- # 2: 8.10.2018 (Part I, Chapters 6-10): Liz Mariya Sebastian, II DC English
- # 3: 16.10.2018 (Part I, Chapters 11-15): Minnu Maria Suresh, II DC English
- # 4: 30.10.2018 (Part I, Chapters 16-20): Minnu Maria Suresh, II DC English
- # 5: 18.12.2018 (Part I, Chapters 21-25): Annu Ann Babu, III DC English
- # 6: 7.1.2019 (Part II, Chapters 1-5): Annu Ann Babu, III DC English
- # 7: 15.1.2019 (Part II, Chapters 6-10): Annu Ann Babu, III DC English
- #8: 23.1.2019 (Part II, Chapters 11-17): Sreelakshmi Haridas, III DC Economics
- # 9: 30.1.2019 (Part II, Chapters 18-23): Sreelakshmi Haridas, III DC Economics
- # 10: 7.2.2019 (Part II, Chapters 24-29): Anjaly Tom, I DC Botany.

Gandhi Jayanthi

Gandhi Jayanthi was celebrated with a cleaning programme on campus on 1 October 2018. A poster exhibition of photographs of Mahatma Gandhi was also organised on the occasion. A quiz based on the photos exhibited witnessed an overwhelming response. Anupama Sebastian of II DC Physics won the first prize.

Paryaptha-2018: Promoting Eco-Friendly Self-Reliance

With the aim of promoting eco-friendly self-reliance, the Centre organised *Paryaptha-2018*, an exhibition cum sale of items made by students on 6 September 2018. A special feature of this year's *Paryaptha* was the theme – “Celebrating 150 years of the Mahatma”. The exhibition focused on organising a zero waste programme, based on the concept of ‘reduce, reuse, recycle’ as well as providing students with the opportunity to ‘earn while you learn’. 326 students put up items for sale at the exhibition. A motivating factor for students was the stall consisting of items made by teachers. The Commerce Department won the ever-rolling trophy for the best Department that reflected the spirit of *Paryaptha*, and Elizabeth Thomas of I DC English won the prize for best participant.

Bag Making Class

As part of its initiatives to restrict the use of plastic carry bags, the Centre organised a paper bag making and screen printing class for students by Sri. K.P.Chandran on 17 September.

Mime on the Declining Gandhian Values in Contemporary Society

In commemoration of Martyrs Day, members of the Gandhi Forum presented a Mime on 30 January 2019 on the declining Gandhian values in contemporary society.

SERVICE-LEARNING AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Flood Relief

Members of the Gandhi Forum made their own contribution to alleviate the suffering of the people affected by one of the worst floods in the history of Kerala. Members collected 400 kits costing approximately Rs. 430/- per kit and consisting of a bucket, 1 bottle of

drinking water, 5 kg rice, 500 grams dal, 500 grams green gram, 1 kg sugar and 1 pkt of sanitary napkins. Twenty one students and two teachers visited the flood affected Ward No. 13 of Thiruvvarppu Panchayat in Kottayam on 30 August and distributed the kits to the needy families.

Donation of Stationery and Study Materials for the children of Snehibhavan

At the beginning of this academic year, members of the Gandhi Forum collected note books, stationery items including pens, pencils, instrument boxes, pencil boxes, scales, erasers, sharpeners, etc; school bags and umbrellas and donated them to the inmates of Snehibhavan a care home for orphaned girls in Melukavumattom.

Visit to Sub Jail, Pala

As part of the Centre's mission of promoting a sense of social commitment among the students as well as contributing to the development of society, members of the Gandhi Forum visited the Sub Jail, Pala on 29 January 2019 and donated 85 books to the Jail library and several indoor games for the inmates. Copies of Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography and booklets published by the Centre on green living, the hazards of plastic, waste management and RTI were also distributed to all the inmates and officials of the jail.

Gandhi Forum

The Centre strives for the all-round development of the students, based on Gandhi's dictum that 'by education, I mean the all-round development of body, mind and spirit.' Gandhi Forum, an organisation of students functioning under the auspices of the Centre organises all the programmes of the Centre and spearheads all the activities of the Centre. The following members were elected as the Executive Committee members for the year 2018-19.

President: Merlin Titus, II DC English

Vice President: Liz Mariya Sebastian, II DC English

Secretary: Niyathi Krishnan M.R., II DC Physics

Participation in the All India University Students Camp at Wardha, Maharashtra

The following students were deputed to participate in the All India University Students Camp organised by the Institute of Gandhian Studies at Wardha, Maharashtra from 22 to 31 December 2018.

Leosha Vincent, II DC English

Annu Ann Babu, III DC English

Varsha R., II DC Mathematics

Merlin Titus, II DC English

Liz Mariya Sebastian, II DC English

Niyathi Krishnan M.R., II DC Physics