150 years of celebrating the Mahatma

INTACH
Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage
MORALITY IS THE BASIS OF THINGS AND TRUTH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF ALL MORALITY.

Mahatma Gandhi
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, famously revered as 'Mahatma' was born in Porbandar, Gujarat on 2nd October 1869 into a Hindu Modh family. His father was the Chief Minister of Porbandar, and his mother’s religious devotion meant that his upbringing was infused with the Jain teachings of mutual tolerance, non-injury to living beings and vegetarianism. Born into a privileged caste, Gandhi was fortunate to receive a comprehensive education in India and London. In May 1883, aged 13, Gandhi was married to Kasturba Makhanji, a girl also aged 13, through the arrangement of their respective parents, as was the custom. Determined to adhere to Hindu principles, which included vegetarianism as well as alcohol abstinence, he found London restrictive initially, but once he had found kindred spirits he flourished, and pursued the philosophical study of religions, including Hinduism, Christianity, and Buddhism. In addition to a Law degree and called to the Bar in 1891 at 22 years of age. After spending two uncertain years in India, he moved to South Africa. The rest is history.
The 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated by several INTACH Chapters pan India with great fervor and enthusiasm. The values of the great Mahatma continues till today inspiring the entire world with various facets of his philosophy and teachings to be implemented in daily life. Mahatma Gandhi had rightly said, *Sanitation is more important than Independence.*

He was aware of the pathetic situation of the Indian rural people at that time and dreamt of a clean India so he emphasized on cleanliness and sanitation as an integral part of living. Unfortunately, after 67 years of Independence only about 30% of the rural households in India have access to toilets.

President Pranab Mukherjee, in his address to Parliament in June 2014, said, *For ensuring hygiene, waste management and sanitation across the nation a ‘Swachh Bharat Mission’ will be launched. This will be our tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary to be celebrated in the year 2019.*
**Objectives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**

- Eliminate or reduce open defecation.
- Construct individual, cluster and community toilets, and work towards establishing an accountable mechanism of monitoring their use.
- Create public awareness about the drawbacks of open defecation and promotion of toilet use.
- Recruit dedicated ground staff to bring about behavioural change in toilet use.
- Change people’s mindset towards proper sanitation.
- Keep villages clean.
- Ensure solid and liquid waste management through gram panchayats.
- Lay water pipelines in all villages, ensuring water supply to all households by 2019.
Allahabad

The Chapter organised a meeting in cooperation with the Allahabad Senior Citizens Legal Forum to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. Prabhat Agarwal, Sudhanshu Agarwal, Liticia Hermit, Arvind Srivastava, Hemant Pandey, Pawan Srivastava, Prof. Sohail Ahmed, Pradeep Chandra, Himanshu Agarwal, Maya Bajpai, Prof. Ashok Kumar, J.C. Bharadwaj, and Anupam Parihar, spoke at the meeting and paid rich tributes to Gandhiji. Convenor Shambhu Chopra initiated and moderated the discussion.

Alwar

A ‘Padyatra Prabhat Pheri’ in homage to Gandhiji was organized by the Chapter to create awareness about the Father of the Nation amongst students and locals alike by spreading the message of his lifestyle and teachings. Students, dressed in the garbs of Gandhiji, gathered at Nangali Circle in the town and began their walk towards Shaheed Smarak Company Bagh. Gandhiji’s principles of non-violence and peace were reinforced to all present. On reaching the Smarak, Chapter Convenor Sunita Mittal welcomed everyone and shared some highlights of INTACH’s work and ethos. There was an open discussion organized by Prof. D.C. Chaubey on Mahatma Gandhi’s life and struggles.
Ambala

Celebrations were held at Indra Chowk, Ambala with the participation of over 50 children and teachers from various schools. The children assembled at Indra Chowk singing patriotic songs and shouting slogans whilst displaying their banners for public awareness of Gandhi Jayanti. Following which, Convenor Colonel R.D. Singh and Co-Convenor Reena directed the children to conduct a Safai Abhiyan on the Jagadhri Road. Cleaning was undertaken by picking up litter and collecting it in garbage bins. Subsequently a Quiz Competition was organised by Madhu Singh of Army School. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Convenor.

On 12th December 150 students from 20 schools participated in the Gandhi@150 National Essay and Painting Competition organised by the Chapter and Heritage Education and Communication Service (HECS) held at KV1, Ambala Cantt. Major General Anil Chowdhary was invited as the Chief Guest. Sister Shaily, Dayal Bagh Brahmakumaris Centre was invited as the Guest of Honour. Also present were renowned artist H.S. Purewal, Rotarian Captain Baldev Singh and Vinay Malhotra amongst others.

Convenor Ambala Chapter Colonel R.D. Singh conducted the briefings for the competition, Madhu Singh member INTACH and a senior teacher of Army Public School were the Master of Ceremonies and shared very interesting anecdotes on Gandhiji. Co-Convenor Reena and other members assisted in the program. Sister Shaily delivered an interesting talk on Bapu. She asked the children to imbibe Gandhiji’s teachings and be peace loving and responsible citizens of the country. She described Gandhiji as a concept to be followed by all. A skit on Swachhata Abhiyan was presented by the students of the Cantonment Board.
Balangir

A seminar was organized by the Chapter on 14th September to observe the birth anniversary of Gandhi. Prof. Madhusudan Pati and Dr. Nachiketa Sharma Associate Professor, Shiksha Anusandhan University, Bhubaneswar, were the Guest Speakers. Convenor Dr. S. P. Nanda presided over the meeting and senior member Banchhanidhi Rath gave the vote of thanks. Students from various colleges and citizens of the town attended the event.

Bettiah

Celebrations were held in the Champaran region, which marked the beginning of the Satyagraha Movement by Gandhiji. A Prarthana Sabha and Bhajan program was organised in the Bhitiharwa Ashram in Champaran. It was attended by school children, freedom fighters and local administrators. A photo exhibition, workshop on making solar lamps, charkha spinning session and a movie screening on Mahatma Gandhi was organised at Kasturba Kanya Ucch Madhyamik Vidyalaya. Large numbers of students attended it. Prabhat Pheris were also conducted in Bettiah, Bagaha, and Mainatand to further spread the message of Gandhiji.
Bhadrak

On 15th December, Gandhi@150 National Essay and Art Painting Competition organised by HECS and the Chapter was conducted at Nityananda Bhawan of Bhadrak District Retired Govt. Employees Association, Kuansh. 38 students from 11 schools participated. Prof. Dr. Sanatan Mohanty, Advisor of the Chapter, in presence of the Convenor Retired Commissioner Digambar Mohanty, Co-Convenor S.M. Farooque and Addl. Co-Convenor, a President Awardee retired Headmaster, Pravakar Mallik conducted the competition.

Bhubaneswar

On 2nd October, Bhubaneswar Chapter held a seminar on ‘Life and Philosophy of Gandhiji’ at the Pantha Niwas Bhubaneswar. The Chief Guest and main speaker of the evening was Narasingha Mishra, former Minister and Opposition Leader of the Odisha Legislative Assembly. The Guest speaker was Dr. Priyambada Hezmadi Mohanty, an academician and former Vice- Chancellor of Sambalpur University.
Narasingha Mishra asserted that even after 72 years of Independence the principles and philosophies of Gandhiji are still so relevant. He highlighted the Seven Sins to be aware of which Gandhiji continuously reinforced. He further opined that the gap between the rich and the poor must be minimised as Gandhiji was always concerned that no individual should go hungry in our society.

Pritambada Mohanty recollected incidents when Gandhiji visited their home for a meeting of the leaders on his visit to Odisha and recounted how her father was financing the freedom fighters for their movement. Her mother had donated all her ornaments to Gandhiji on that occasion. She highlighted Gandhiji’s love for music and truthfulness.

The evening started with the soulful rendering of Gandhi bhajans by Anima Panigrahi, spouse of Chapter member Debabrata Panigrahi along with State Convenor and guests who placed flowers on the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi.
A book in Oriya language with articles on various issues on heritage and its conservation was also released, authored by A.B. Tripathy, State Convenor who also spoke about the relevance of Gandhiian philosophy in today’s world.

**Gandhi@150 National Essay-Painting Competition** was conducted on 18th December, at DAV School, Chandrasekharpur, Orissa. 89 students from 6 schools participated in the competition. State Convenor A.B. Tripathy addressed the students and spoke about Gandhi ji's life and his contribution to the society. Convenor Baikuntha Panigrahi conducted the program and Co-Convenor Debasis Mohapatra offered the vote of thanks.

A **Padayatra** was organised from the Jagannath Temple, Puri on 22nd February, followed by a meeting at Saradhabali, Puri for the public. Senior members of the Chapter, senior citizens of Puri and representatives of the media participated by walking the 4 km stretch with placards in their hand which displayed the teachings of Gandhiji. In fact Gandhiji had undertaken the famous Padayatra on the same route in May 1934 when he stopped twice in Odisha to launch a Padayatra for uplifting the harijans and abolishing untouchability. In the meeting State Convenor emphasized on the early life of the Mahatma and his service for the deprived and reinforced his efforts in nation building.
**Bilaspur**

Bilaspur Chapter organised an event on 3rd October to commemorate Gandhiji’s anniversary at Hotel East Park, Bilaspur.

Dr. Jaiprakash S. Rao, recently honoured in the London House of Commons with the *Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award*, was the Chief Guest at the program. For over five years, Dr. Rao has been extensively involved in charity. He paid his respects by garlanding the statue of Gandhiji and shared his thoughts about the Mahatma and his experiences of living along the lines of his philosophy of strength, strong will, kindness, and love. The talk was well attended by several Members of INTACH and others.

**Burhanpur**

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the birthday of Lal Bahadur Shastri, and World Tourism Day, the Chapter organised a competition ‘Aap Bole Hum Sune, Burhanpurke Paryatan ke Gaane’. The event attempted to enhance awareness about the advantages of tourism amongst the locals and provide a plan for growth of tourism in the city.

The Chapter awarded some eminent personalities who had contributed to the conservation of heritage in the region. A walk was organized on 3rd October, to the major heritage attractions of the city attended by 250 students from 15 schools. A workshop was held on cleanliness and abolition of plastic from our daily lives.
Calicut

The Chapter organized an event to honor the Father of the Nation by coinciding the time of the event with the time when the Mahatma was tragically shot by the assassin Nathuram Godse at 6 pm. Veteran journalist and a practicing Gandhian, Balakrishnan Tharamel addressed the audience and spoke on the life of the Mahatma as his message. The event featured the bhajans and hymns enjoyed by Mahatma Gandhi such as *Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram* and *Vaishnav Jan to*, and *Christian hymns Lead kindly light* and *Abide with me*. During the bhajans and the talks, the audience spent spells of silence meditating on the life and messages propagated by the Mahatma.

Chennai

On 22nd October, a talk was organized by the Chapter on ‘Where Gandhi Still Lives’ by Ashish Kothari. The lecture tried to delve into questioning the very fundamentals of today’s political and economic power with reference to Gandhiji’s proponents.

Ashish Kothari is an Indian environmentalist working on development, environment interface, biodiversity policy, and alternatives. He is one of the founders of *Kalpavriksh*, a non-profit organisation in India which deals with environmental and developmental issues.
**Darbargarh, Porbandar**

INTACH started documentation of Darbargarh, Porbandar on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi 150th year centennial. Porbandar, being the birth place of Gandhi, has numerous heritage buildings with high cultural significance and needs to be documented. The documentation is being done by Architectural Heritage Division. The palace is about 400 years old and belongs to H.H. Bhavinsinhji of Jetwa Dynasty. Swami Vivekananda also stayed in the palace for some days during his visit to Porbandar. The palace will be converted into a craft and cultural centre for the region after restoration. The reuse plan will be made by Heritage Craft and Community Division.

**Dehradun**

*Gandhiji@150 National Painting and Essay Competition* was organized by the Chapter and HECS on 19th November, at Jaswant Modern Sr. Sec. School, Rajpur Road, Dehradun. Dr. Lokesh Ohri addressed 122 students from 4 schools on the principles and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. He stressed on Gandhiji’s simplicity, his philosophy of working by hand, non-violence and pursuit of truth. An interactive session was held at the beginning of the event. He answered questions about Gandhiji and his life.
1. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
2. Bombay Meet
3. Publication by INTACH
4. After breaking the Salt Law
5. Diary of Raj Kumar Shukla
6. Great Trial of 1922
7. Scene from hollywood film GANDHI enacted by Ben Kingsley
Delhi

Celebrating World Heritage Week and commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji, HECS organized Gandhi@150 National Essay and Painting Competition for school children on 20th November at INTACH. It was attended by around 172 students from 43 schools. The Chief Guest was eminent poet, art and literary critic and former civil servant Ashok Vajpeyi. He also released the new Young INTACH website developed by HECS. During his address, he spoke about Satyagraha and the ways in which Gandhiji unleashed change through non-violent actions. Stressing on the relevance of his philosophy - then and now, he encouraged students to embrace Gandhism at all levels. The session concluded with rendering of a well known song associated with Gandhiji, ‘Vaishnav Jan to’ facilitated by Ruknuddin Mirza Assistant Director, Architectural Heritage Division, INTACH. The audience, including students, teachers, INTACH representatives, and Convenor Ghosh, Jharkhand Chapter, joined in. The students and teachers had an opportunity to participate in a live-charkha spinning session conducted by Balwan Singh, resource person and representative from the Charkha Gandhi Museum, Khadi & Village Industries Commission. A special edition pamphlet on Gandhi@150 published by HECS was shared with all present.
Dhar

A discussion titled *Gandhi Charcha* was organized by the Chapter. The event focussed on the Gandhian way of life, and how those principles have managed to improve the country.

The theme of the discussion centered around the widespread use of intoxicants amongst the youth and how dangerous it is for the country. Renowned Gandhian politician, Chinmaya Mishra, led the discussion by speaking about how the Mahatma and his principles influence life in India. Ajay Pilankar spoke thereafter on the adverse effects of drug and alcohol consumption on today’s youth, and how Mahatma Gandhi was against such practices.

Durg-Bhilai

The Chapter organized events in various schools to increase awareness about Mahatma Gandhi’s life, legacy and principles. Several discussions, talks, elocutions, poetry readings, quizzes, painting and *rangoli* competitions were arranged to achieve the goal.

Two months of intensive celebrations began with a discussion on the ‘Relevance of Gandhi’ on 6th October at Nehrunagar. It was chaired by Dr. M.S. Dvivedi, who has made a significant contribution in the field of leprosy eradication. He said that in 1936, Gandhiji had stated that as long as the leprosy patients
are deprived of their care, India is not completely independent. The General Secretary of the Chhattisgarh State Hindi Literature Seminar Ravi Shrivastav emphasized on adoption of the principles of truth, love, non-violence and a lifestyle akin to Gandhiji. Educationist Dr. Harinarayan Dubey, Principal of the Swarupanand Mahavidyalaya, renowned satirist Dr. Hansa Shukla, Vinod Sav, Dr. B.P. Mukherji and Chapter Convenor Dr. D.N. Sharma also spoke on the relevance of the moralities of Gandhiji. Principal Shankaracharyya Mahavidyalaya Dr. Raksha Singh explained the relevance of the concept of village autonomy by Gandhiji.

A discussion was organized on 22\textsuperscript{nd} October including a speech and quiz competition for the students at Camp II in association with Bhilai Janta Higher Secondary School. The discussion was on the concept of principles of truth, love, non-violence lifestyle based on Gandhiji’s lifestyle. Chapter Convenor said that the relevance of Gandhiji’s thoughts is applicable worldwide.

A popular event The National Essay and Painting Competition Gandhi @150 organised by HECS and the Chapter included writing and drawing, concluding with the award distribution program for students held on 17\textsuperscript{th} November at Shri Shankaracharyya Vidyalaya, Amadinagar. The renowned literateur novelist Dr. Pardesi Ram Verma briefed the students about the activities of Gandhiji in and around Bhilai and Chhattisgarh and informed that Chhattisgarh adopted Gandhiji’s culture of harmony to live.
A discussion on the *Concept of Gandhi* for students was held on 23rd November in association with the Tularam Arya Girls School. Chief Guest former Judge Maitri Mathur said that Gandhiji gave a prominent place to truth and discipline in his life. Mukund Kaushal briefed the students about the various stories of Gandhiji’s lifestyle, protests and efforts for the people of the India.

**East Godavari**

The Chapter, along with various other organisations, celebrated the occasion by orchestrating a Peace March. The March was flagged off by the City Mayor and was joined by 150 residents and students of Kakinada. The walk ended at the Gandhi Bhawan, where the participants sang Gandhiji’s favourite *bhajans* such as *Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram* and *Vaishnav Jan to*. The group also planted saplings to commemorate the occasion. Prominent author HVK Ranga Rao discussed his various books on Mahatma Gandhi in the presence of the participants. Singing, elocution, and essay writing competitions centred around the theme of Mahatma Gandhi were also organised at 60 schools in the city.

On 15th December 244 students from 16 schools participated in the *Gandhi@150 National Essay and Painting Competition* at Govt. Polytechnic for Women organized by HECS and the Chapter. District Collector of Kakinada was also present and encouraged the students.
Faridkot

99 students from 10 schools participated in the *Gandhi@150 National Essay and Painting Competition* held on 20th November at Faridkot organized by HECS and Faridkot Chapter.

Gorakhpur

On 1st December, 100 students from 10 schools participated in the *Gandhi@150 National Essay and Painting Competition* which was held at M.G. Intercollege organized by the Chapter and HECS. Dr. Amit Kumar Upadhyaya, Assistant Professor Political Science Department at D.D.U. Gorakhpur University conducted a session for the children outlining Gandhiji’s love for heritage. Chapter Members and other heritage lovers were present.
Assam State Chapter in collaboration with the Department of Archaeology, Cotton University organized a lecture titled *Following the Mahatma: Kanaklata’s March to Freedom* by Prof. Shiela Bora. The program was chaired by Shantikam Hazarika, former Director, Assam Institute of Management and former Chairman Board of Secondary Education, Assam. In her lecture, Prof. Bora shed light on the lesser known yet significant sacrifice of freedom fighter Kanakalata from Assam, who was shot dead at the age of 17 while leading a procession bearing the National Flag during the Quit India Movement. Prof. Bora gave a comprehensive narration on the role of Assamese women in the freedom movement.

**Guwahati**

**Gwalior**

At two-day exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi was organized by the Chapter. The exhibits included utensils used by him, his newspaper Young India, Charkha used for weaving Khadi, his autographs on Khadi fabric, Coins, Stamp Issued by India Post in his honour amongst other collectables. These
items belonged to the personal collection of Madhya Pradesh State Convenor Dr. H.B. Maheshwari Jaisal and Gwalior Convenor Dr. Neelkamal Maheshwari.

A quiz competition was also organised for the students from Shivpuri, Burhanpur, Gwalior, Mandla, and Jabalpur. People associated with adopting the Gandhian lifestyle in their lives were also awarded and acknowledged for their contribution to the promotion of his principles.

**Jabalpur**

“Gandhi at 150” had ninety-three children at the Rani Durgavati Sangrahalaya gathered together from four schools to mark the special occasion. They listened in rapt attention to Dr. Rajendra Chandrakant Rai speaking about the life and teachings of Gandhi, especially his childhood which was naturally of great interest to them. While Convenor R.K. Sharma apprised them of the competition details, Member Dr. Lakshminath Sharma told them about the Jabalpur visit of Mahatma Gandhi. They were asked to use either pen or paint to encapsulate what they had learned about the Father of their Nation.
Jajpur

The Chapter organised a rally on *Swachhata Abhiyan and No Plastic Use* campaign from the college campus to the local bazaar. More than 200 students and staff participated in the rally. On the next day, an essay writing and painting competition was also held, followed by an oath taking ceremony where the participants pledged to not use plastic and raise awareness against its use as well. A function was also organised in the A.B. Women’s Higher Secondary School, presided by the Principal and Convenor Jajpur Chapter. Several speakers spoke about the importance of a clean environment.

Jalandhar

The *Gandhi@150 National Essay Writing and Painting Competition* for the children of Army Public School was conducted by Jalandhar Chapter and HECS on 18th October. A total of 262 students from various schools participated. The competition was a resounding success with the immense support of the school Principal Lavleen Rajput. The objective of the competition was to apprise the children about the Father of the Nation and his efforts to achieve independence for India by peaceful and non-violent means.

Maj. Gen. Balwinder Singh, VSM (Retd.) briefed the participants about the purpose of this significant occasion and highlighted the importance of the tangible and intangible culture and heritage of India.
**Kangra**

An Environment Awareness rally with the slogan *Say No to Plastic and Yes to Jute and Cloth Bags* was organised on 18th September at Dharamshala by the Chapter. The walk began from Gandhi Vatika and ended at Hanuman Mandir. The Chapter was joined by other NGOs such as Educare India, Jan Chetna, Waste Warriors, Dhauladhar Cleaner, Tibetan Environment Desk, Mahila Mandal, as well as students from schools and colleges. The participants pledged to keep the environment clean.

**Kolkata**

Kolkata Chapter organized an event to felicitate Roberto D’Andrea, a tram conductor from Melbourne who has been championing the cause of conserving the heritage of Trams in Kolkata. The program was held at the Esplanade Tram Depot on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on 2nd October. It was an occasion to create awareness of the heritage of trams in the city and promote a cleaner environment, based on the objectives outlined in the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*.

A heritage walk was also conducted by the Chapter for visiting school children attended by Convenor G.M. Kapur and Chapter Member Kamal Banerjee.
Mahoba

The Chapter organised a cleaning campaign on 2\textsuperscript{nd} October at the Surya Temple in Raheliya, Mahoba.

The event was attended by Chapter members, students and teachers of primary schools in Raheliya. The participants were briefed by the Chapter Convenor Pramod Paliwal and other members. The students were informed about the life of Mahatma Gandhi, the ideology behind the cleaning campaign and how cleanliness is the way forward towards a better and healthier lifestyle. They were explained the disadvantages of using polythenes. Subsequently, the garbage and waste was collected in the Surya temple complex and discarded into a hole created in the ground for this purpose.

Nagaland

‘Gandhiji @ 150’ National Essay and Painting Competition organised by HECS and the Chapter was held on 25\textsuperscript{th} October at Don Bosco Institute for Development Learning in Dimapur. Dr. Hesheto Chishi, Director, Indigenous Cultural Society was invited to deliver a talk on Gandhiji’s contribution to the cultural heritage of India. He gave an inspirational presentation and interacted with the students. 93 students from 9 schools participated in the national event.
Nagercoil

The Chapter and HECS organized the National Essay and Painting competition on 16th November on the theme Gandhiji @ 150 at Scott Christian School.

The Nagercoil Convenor, Dr. R.S. Lal Mohan, spoke about the contribution of Gandhiji to Indian politics and society, and his principles of Ahimsa or Non-violence and the support received world-wide. He told the students about Gandhiji’s advice to children about being disciplined and following the path of truth at all times. He explained how the Mahatma’s teachings have stimulated the younger generation and stand as a strong principle for the youth.

Rohilkhand

More than 200 students participated in the competition Gandhiji@150 was organized by HECS and the Chapter on 27th November at Rajkiya Higher Primary School, Khempur Village, Rampur. Admirers of Indian art and culture, Roman Foster of Southern Sands Design Company, Marcus Coach and Chris Issac Marketing Guru attended the program as Chief Guests and said that Mahatma Gandhi is very well known in their country. Chapter Convenor Nawab Kazim Ali Khan said that real India lives in its villages. He emphasized that without visiting the villages, foreigners will not be able to understand India. He said that there is a worldwide interest in Indian archaeology and it is heartening to observe that INTACH is working to conserve it. The guests also visited the Gandhi Samadhi.
Srikakulam

The Chapter celebrated the event at the Government Women’s College, Srikakulam and Santi Niketan Junior College, Srikakulam. The statue of Mahatma Gandhi was garlanded by all INTACH Executive Committee Members and Principals of the several colleges invited as Chief Guests. Various competitions were conducted on the life of Gandhiji and prizes were awarded to the respective winners. On the same day, Swachhata Sewa Program was conducted at the Government Men’s College, Srikakulam. District Collector J. Nivas, and other officials and students participated and cleaned the college campus.

Gandhi@150 National Essay and Painting Competition organised by HECS was conducted on 28th November in Tagore School. 175 students from 15 schools participated. It was also held in the tribal and city area simultaneously. Coordinator Gandhi Marg MVVS Sastry was invited as the Chief Speaker and Director Tagore School B. Sridevi was invited as Special Guest. In this program Co-Convenor S. Mohana Rao, District Tourism Department representative N. Narayana Rao, Drawing Teacher, Krishna Rao, former Sarpanch Deva Bhushan Rao and T. Rama Rao from INTACH participated. Convenor Radha Prasad along with other members honoured the guests.
Varanasi

Varanasi Chapter in association with ICCR and Theosophical Society, Indian Section organised a music program based on Gandhiji’s favourite *bhajans* on 2nd October. Pradip Gohil, General Secretary, Indian Section, Theosophical society welcomed all. Ashok Kapoor, Convenor introduced the artists. The recital began with a superb rendition of ‘Payo ji mai ne ram ratan dhan payo’. This was played by Sarada Prasanna Das on violin. Thereafter Pandit Ashok Jha sang famous *bhajans* like ‘Vaishnav Jan to’. Pandit Kuber Mishra of Banaras tabla *gharana* accompanied him on tabla. The program was attended by INTACH Life Members Manju Sundaram, Veena Agrawal, Pradip Ginaudia and others. Several Theosophical Society members from across India attended the program.

Warangal

On 6th December, 155 students from 9 schools participated in the popular *Gandhi@150 National Essay and Painting Competition* for schools of rural and urban area at Vaagdevi Girl’s High School Hanamkonda, Warangal.

The Chapter organised a Cycle Rally and seminar on ‘Swachh Bharat and Water Conservation Strategies’ at Sri Padmakshi Temple, Warangal. Convenor Prof. M. Pandu Ranga Rao addressed the students on Kakatiya heritage and
their water usage techniques. This exercise was intended to create awareness among the youth of this region, inculcate the spirit of adventure and togetherness and also expose them to participate in Swachh Bharat Mission and Water Conservation programs. The event began with the Chief Guest D. Vinay Bhaskar, Chief Whip, Telangana State Legislative Assembly, addressing the participants on the Swachh Bharat Mission and its purpose. Several other speakers also addressed the gathering and shared their views on Gandhian philosophy and the importance of cleanliness.

Yamunanagar

On 14th December Gandhi@150 National Essay and Painting Competition was organized by HECS and the Chapter at Swami Vivekanand Public School, Yamunanagar, attended by almost 100 students from various schools. Dr. Rupinder Singh was invited as the Chief Guest and he spoke on the values of life skills that should be inculcated. He also inspired all present to be motivated by ideal personalities like Gandhiji.
An Icon of Change

On the occasion of *Gandhi@150*, a special edition pamphlet was brought out by HECS. It is an interesting and enlightening read for children, sprinkled with stories, anecdotes, thoughts and ideas that exemplify his inspirational life journey. Gandhiji presented an evolved, ethical and spiritual self for creating a much better world. An Icon of Change with a vision that influenced Indian heritage, culture and society!

Gandhi Symbol - The Charkha

Charkha (spinning wheel) is used for spinning thread or yarn from natural or synthetic fibres. It can be used to spin fibre, such as cotton into yarn. It was a powerful symbol of Nationalism, Freedom and Empowerment. It resonates with a message of self-sufficiency and offers an inspiration to all citizens.
Statue commemorating the 1930 Salt March by Gandhi and his followers – leading Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Harijans and others in peaceful protest

- At Mother Teresa Crescent, New Delhi