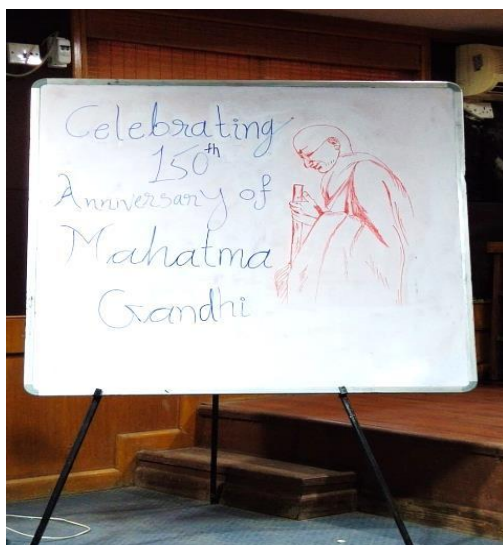


REPORT ON GANDHI JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS (2019) BY UNDERGRADUATE AND MASTERS STUDENTS

The Under-graduate and Post-graduate students of **L.D College of Engineering, Ahmedabad** celebrated **150th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji on 30th September, 2019**. Approx.75 persons (Professors, students & staff)attended the event. The celebrations for Gandhi Jayanti started welcoming all the teachers and students explained the significance of the day. The programme began with lighting of the lamp by the Chief Guest,**Mr. Dharmendra Joshi** with a meaningful prayer service in the form of ‘**Sarva Dharma Prarthana**’



Mr. Dharmendra Joshi conveyed the message to follow the path of harmony and peace as preached by Mahatma Gandhi. He said that people take this day to remember a man who is responsive in a huge way for the lives they are leading today. He reminded the importance of kindness, truth, non-violence, resilience, simplicity and peace – all the things Mahatma Gandhi stood for.

Mr Dharmendra Joshi sang a song based on the truth and non-violence message of Bapu, recite poems and present their own sights on the Gandhian philosophy by the speeches and recitations. This was followed by the talk which helped the audience revisit the transforming incidents of Gandhi's life, including his meeting with Rabindranath Tagore which saw the birth of the well-known musical, Chandalika wherein a young girl born into an untouchable family and was shunned by others in society until she was visited by a Buddhist monk, Ananda. She learns here that all human beings are equal in the eyes of God.



Then, he moved forward with his speech and gave light about **“Gandhi and Geeta”**. He told that Gandhiji has often acknowledged its profound effect on his life. Then he narrated a story about the relationship between Geeta and Gandhiji. It was strange but interesting to learn that Gandhiji's first introduction to Gita was in England and through two English brothers. Gandhi at that time was studying law. The brothers read Gita regularly and asked Gandhi to join in. Perhaps they thought that they may get to know the text in Sanskrit better. But Gandhi felt sad, because of his lack of Sanskrit knowledge. He read English version by Sir Edwin Arnold as recommended by his English friends, and was captivated for life by Gita's message. He specially liked the last nineteen verses of the Chapter II. He felt, his concept of dharma was summarized in those verses. He took to reading Gita everyday, later, in the original Sanskrit language. During his imprisonment years, he studied the book in detail. Due to insistence from his friends, he translated it into Gujarati, his mother-tongue. Later English translation appeared.

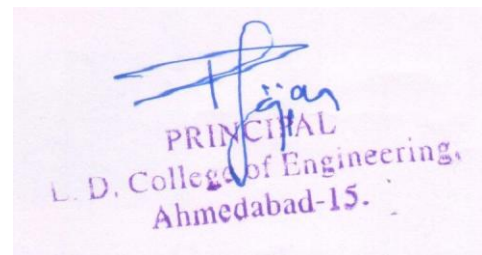
Krishna of Bhagavad-Gita is wisdom personified, to Gandhi. Mr Joshi also told that Gandhiji might or might not be an incarnation of God. That point was immaterial. A person who thinks or acts ahead of his times and who is a deeply religious person is considered 'Avatarapurusha'. Bapu, saw complete emancipation in Lord Krishna.



Self-realization or liberation may be the goal of Hindu philosophy. But for Gandhi, Gita's stress is on attaining liberation through selfless action. Renunciation of all desire of action was ultimate message. Then he shared Gandhiji thoughts and quotes on Geeta. He told -

“The Gita is the universal mother. She turns away nobody. Her door is wide open to anyone who knocks. A true votary of Gita does not know what disappointment is. He ever dwells in perennial joy and peace that passeth understanding. But that peace and joy come not to skeptic or to him who is proud of his intellect or learning. It is reserved only for the humble in spirit who brings to her worship a fullness of faith and an undivided singleness of mind. There never was a man who worshipped her in that spirit and went disappointed. I find a solace in the Bhagavad-Gita that I miss even in the Sermon on the Mount. When disappointment stares me in the face and all alone I see not one ray of light, I go back to the Bhagavad-Gita. I find a verse here and a verse there, and I immediately begin to smile in the midst of overwhelming tragedies -- and my life has been full of external tragedies -- and if they have left no visible or indelible scar on me, I owe it all to the teaching of Bhagavad-Gita”.

Finally the speech ended with a patriotic feeling in the hearts of all students and staff. On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the great deeds of Bapu were remembered and the audience was left with a sense of pride. The event ended with his favorite prayer, **‘Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram’**



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