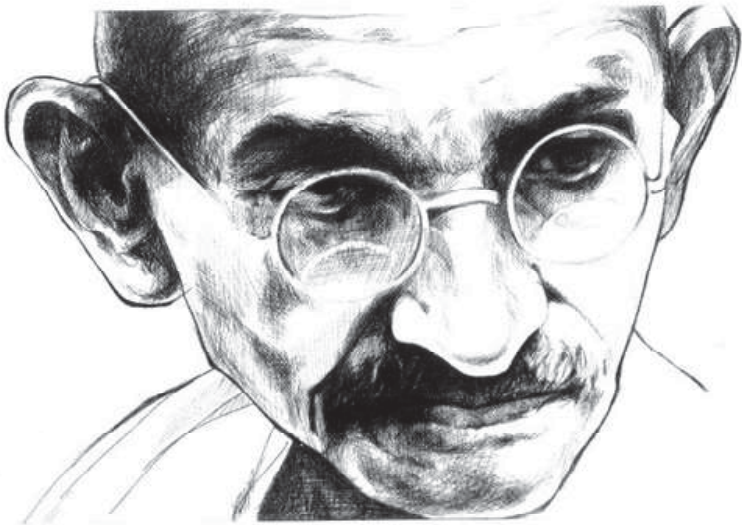


ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



BOMBAY SARVODAYA MANDAL

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In today's materialistic world, everyone is striving for personal material growth leading to cut throat competition. At such a time, Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal is working to propagate the value-based ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba. Like every year, this year too, we organized various constructive programs with the help of our generous donors to convey Gandhiji's values of peace, love, non-violence to the common people. Our basic aim is to impart these moral values to the younger generation and bring about a change in their thinking and lifestyle.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ☞ During this year the Mandal sold books worth Rs. 22 lakhs on Gandhi-Vinoba-Sarvodaya
- ☞ Sale of 5,900 copies of Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi (Full and Abridged editions) during the year
- ☞ 550 students from colleges in Mumbai participated in the Hiroshima Day Peace Rally on 6th August
- ☞ A total of 10,500 students from 37 schools and 12 colleges in Maharashtra appeared for the Gandhi Peace Examination.
- ☞ About 722 inmates of 12 jails in Maharashtra appeared for the Gandhi Peace Examination
- ☞ Conducted 'Charkha (spinning wheel) classes' for the children in remand home in Mumbai
- ☞ Organized 'Purse and blanket making training' for 104 female inmates of Thane Central Jail

- ☞ Our Mahatma Gandhi one spot information website: www.mkgandhi.org is top rated on Google and other major search engines. The website is regularly updated and six to seven thousand people visits the website every day
- ☞ One quote by Gandhi is sent on e-mail, WhatsApp, and other social media daily. Around one lakh people from all over the world are connected to Gandhian thoughts through this daily campaign which has been going on for more than a decade

PROPAGATION OF GANDHIAN LITERATURE

Great souls do not always live among us physically, but they do continue to inspire us and provide guidance through their thoughts. Gandhiji's thoughts are a beacon for solving many problems of the present day and provide guidance at every moment.

Like every year this year too, with the financial support of Babulnath Mandir Charities, we organized an exhibition-cum-sale of more than 200 books on and by Mahatma Gandhi, Acharya Vinoba Bhave and Sarvodaya from January 30 to



February 4, 2023, at Hutatma Chowk and at Gandhi Book Centre where we sold books at 50% discount worth Rs. 2,60,000/-.

To spread Gandhian values to all sections of the society, Gandhi books are distributed free to schools and libraries of Zilla Parishad and Municipal Corporations so that Gandhian ideas reach even those who cannot afford to purchase the books and are deprived of learning about Gandhi. We also distributed Gandhi books and Gandhi diaries to our donors.

SOCIAL AWARENESS YOUTH CAMPS AND LECTURES FOR STUDENTS

Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal, for the last thirty years, has been organizing 'Personality Development and Character-building Youth Camps' to inculcate values of self-reliance among students. The aim of these camps is to implant Gandhian ideas in the minds of the young generation. In the present milieu of increasing violence and unrest in the society, such camps are aimed at diverting the energy of the youth towards social welfare, arousing the feeling of peace, love, and brotherhood,



developing qualities of cleanliness and happiness and making them aware of the relevance of Gandhi's thought even today. These camps have been proving to be valuable in enlisting new volunteers for the propagation of Gandhian ideas.

A youth personality development camp was organized at Sant Balji Ashram, Mahavir Nagar, Chinchni, as a joint initiative of Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal and Gandhi Smarak Nidhi Mumbai, from 10th to 15th May 2022 in which 40 National Service Scheme (NSS) students from 11 colleges of University of Mumbai participated.

The daily routine of the camp was morning prayers and yoga. The rest of the day was spent on discussions on value-education, *shram daan*, revolutionary songs on social change, lectures by resource persons on various social topics, group discussions, sports, cultural programs, and finally evaluation of day-long program, and diary writing. Resource persons from various fields and social workers guided the students.

Many campers felt that this camp had a lot of impact on their lives as they grew in confidence and found the right path for value-based personality development. They learned a lot about Mahatma Gandhi also.

'YOUTH CULTURE CAMP' IN BHANDARA

Under the joint auspices of Gandhi Vichar Manch, Bhandara, Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal and other like-minded organizations, a camp was organised on the



topic of 'Gandhi's Life and Thoughts' from 25th to 30th March 2022. This camp was attended by 141 youth; all of them were students of B.Ed./D.Ed. who are going to be the future teachers and professors. The camp consisted of book reading, group discussion and questions and answers sessions. An important goal of dispelling widespread misconceptions about Gandhi was achieved.

The second camp was organized from May 2 to May 10, 2022. A total of 152 students participated in this '*Grishma Sanskar Shibir*'. Various activities like competitions, lectures, revolutionary songs were a part of the camp. All the students appeared for the 'Gandhi Chintan Parichaya exam' and were felicitated with certificates.

PROGRAMS FOR PEACE AND COMMUNAL HARMONY

Hiroshima is a living example of atomic destruction. Even after 77 years, the effects of nuclear annihilation have not fully faded from the world. Yet the nations of the world learn nothing from this experience. Instead of trying to get rid of poverty, hunger and ignorance, the countries of the world are busy competing to build nuclear weapons.



With the clear intention of making the world nuclear-free, non-violent and communally harmonious, programs like seminars, workshops, peace marches are organized on special occasions like Hiroshima Day.

This year marked the 77th anniversary of Hiroshima – Nagasaki Day. Like every year, this year too, anti-nuclear peace march was organized on August 6 in which 550 NSS students of 28 colleges of University of Mumbai and SNDT University, social workers and peace-loving citizens marched from Azad Maidan to Hutatma Chowk. The students marched from Azad Maidan to Hutatma Chowk, holding up placards, banners and flags with slogans such as ‘No More Hiroshima’, ‘We Want to Grow, Not to Blow Up’, and ‘No-Bomb, Yes-Peace’, ‘No War, Yes Peace’.

The coordinator of the NSS department of University of Mumbai administrated a pledge at Hutatma Chowk to work for world peace and strive for a nuclear-free world. This Peace March was organized jointly by the NSS unit of University of Mumbai as well as SNDT University and Sarvodaya Mandal. Between 1,29,000 and 2,25,000 people were killed in bombs dropped by America on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The aim of the rally was to aware the students about the devastating effect of nuclear bombing and join hands for world peace.

‘SADBHAVNA FOOT-MARCH’ ON THE OCCASION OF 30TH JANUARY - MARTYRS’ DAY

With the aim of increasing mutual love and brotherhood in the present situation of increasing violence and hatred in the society, a ‘Sadbhavna Foot-march’ was organized by the Mandal from Mani Bhavan Gandhi Museum to Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal on Gandhiji’s 75th Nirvana Day on January 30. A large number of NSS students from different colleges of Mumbai

participated in this walk. The trustees of Sarvodaya Mandal addressed the students. At 5:17 hours in the evening (the time Gandhiji was assassinated) the program was concluded by paying tribute to Gandhiji.

GANDHI JAYANTI AND INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE - OCTOBER 2

2nd October – Gandhi Jayanti – was declared ‘International Non-violence Day’ by UNO in 2007. Like every year, this year too, various programs were organized by Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal to mark the 153rd birth anniversary of Gandhiji. About 200 books on Gandhi-Vinoba-Sarvodaya were exhibited at Gandhi Book Centre and books worth about Rs. 1.25 lakh were sold from 2nd to 11th October at 50% discount.

Elocution, drama and group-singing competition for college students was organised jointly by the NSS unit of University of Mumbai and Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal. A total of 100 students participated. Shri Jayant Diwan, Shri Bajrang Sonwane and Shri Suraj Bhoire served as judges from Sarvodaya Mandal. The first three winners were given a certificate and a trophy by veteran freedom fighter Dr. G.G. Parikh.



Two years ago the Sarvodaya Mandal initiated a special program called 'Baat Gandhi Ki' on YouTube channel of Sarvodaya Mandal from October 2 – Gandhi Jayanti to October 11 – J.P. Jayanti. Scholars from various fields present their views on Mahatma Gandhi's ideas and their relevance in the present context in the video which was uploaded at 10am every day during those ten days. The idea behind this initiative is to connect more and more people with Gandhian thoughts through effective use of social media which received a great response. Shri Jayant Diwan, a trustee of Sarvodaya Mandal actively cooperated in the planning and execution of this program.

Shri Satyaranjan Dharmadhikari, retired Judge, delivered a motivational lecture on 'Crisis on Democracy and Jayaprakash' on 11th October, birth anniversary of Jayaprakash Narayan, describing in detail the personality and experiences with Jayaprakashji and reviewed the current political situation. The meeting was conducted by Sheikh Hussain, Secretary of Sarvodaya Mandal.

GANDHI PEACE EXAMINATION IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Sarvodaya Mandal conducts 'Gandhi Peace Examination' in the schools and colleges of Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra throughout the year to impart an understanding of Gandhiji's



life and work to school and college students which would inspire them to follow Gandhian values like truth, non-violence, peace and love. This year, the examination was organized in 37 schools and 12 colleges in Mumbai and Maharashtra, in which a total of 10,500 students participated. Certificates were given to all the participants.

GANDHI PEACE EXAMINATION AND REFORMATION PROGRAMS FOR JAIL INMATES

Gandhiji believed that a person is not born a criminal, circumstances make him commit a crime. The human being inside him does not die due to this. It is possible to bring about a change of heart with love and goodwill. Inspired by such thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi, Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal tries to instill a sense of repentance in the criminals by organizing Gandhi Peace Exams and other reformation programs in all the Jail of Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra. This ongoing initiative being followed for the past 15 years received very good feedback as it serves to channelize the minds of the criminals to follow the path of Gandhiji's ideas of truth, non-violence and love.

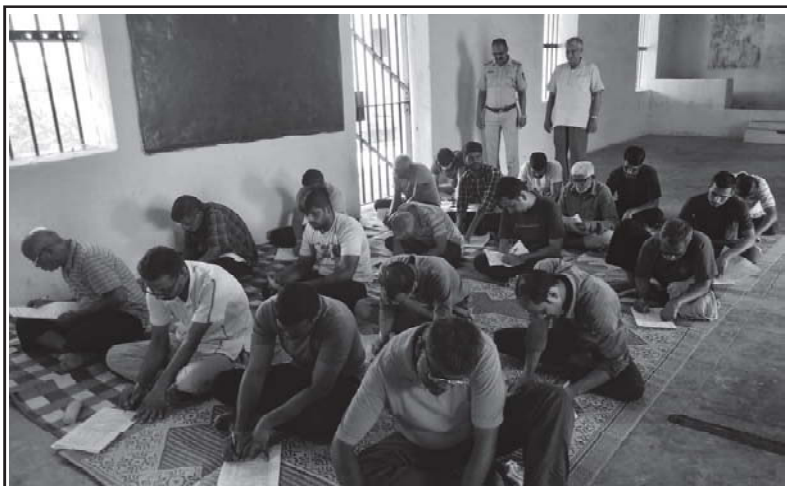
As life returned to normal from the Covid epidemic and the ban on movement of people ended, the Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal resumed their prison programs from October 2021.

A total of 127 people – prisoners and staff – took the Gandhi Peace Exam in Dhule District Jail on October 21, 2021. Twenty-three prisoners of Jalna District Jail participated on 22nd January 2022. 56 male inmates and 11 female inmates participated in the Gandhi Peace Examination held on 12 April, 2022 in Thane Central Jail. On May 30, 2022, twenty inmates took part in the Gandhi Peace Exam in Kalyan Central Jail. All of them were

given Gandhi books before the exam and rewarded with Khadi towels, certificates and prizes after the exam.

Sarvodaya Mandal held a Gandhi Peace Exam for 25 girls in Dongri on 9th June 2022. All the girls were given khadi towels and certificates. These girls are being trained to use the spinning wheel (charkha) for one hour, five days a week. They were given a 'box-charkha' (spinning wheel) by the Sarvodaya Mandal. The children of the Children's Remand Home are also being trained to use the spinning wheel. Twenty-five among them appeared for the Gandhi Peace exam on June 24. These children are less than 18 years old.

Gandhi Peace Examination was held in Mumbai Central Jail on 17th June 2022. Twenty-three general prisoners and two *anda* cell (high security cell) prisoners participated in the examination. A training class on 'purse and blanket making' is conducted for female inmates of Thane Central Jail thrice a week since June, so that they can become self-reliant after their release from jail. So far, about 104 female inmates have benefited from this initiative.



'Gandhi Peace Examination' was also organized in Kolhapur District Jail in January 2023 in which a total of 127 inmates including jail staff participated. All the participating inmates were presented with certificates and khadi clothes by the Jail Superintendent on January 30, the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal was honoured with a 'letter of appreciation' from the Jail Administration for the successful and invaluable work being done by them.

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

It is hereby certified that the Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal, Mumbai organized a Gandhi Peace Examination on 7th January, 2023, for the reformation and rehabilitation of the inmates of Kolhapur District Jail. The inmates enthusiastically participated in this program in large numbers and the response was heart-warming. This provided an opportunity to the prisoners to learn about the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. Through this initiative, a very noble task has been achieved to instill in the minds of the prisoners the sacred life values like Ahimsa, Satya, a feeling of guilt for wrong doing, and to instill the importance of peace. A bridge of intimacy and affection was created when inmates who participated in the examination were given certificates and prizes. Bombay Sarvodaya Mandal and its workers are felicitated by this certificate from the authorities of Kolhapur District Jail for this work of inculcating values of self-respect and social responsibilities among the prisoners. The Jail-Administration is very grateful to you for this noble work.

30th January, 2023

Superintendent
Kolhapur District Jail

FEEDBACK OF SOME PRISONERS

- ✂ These types of exams help to raise the intellectual level and also help in reviving the values and ideas of Gandhiji. Such exams should be held frequently.
- ✂ The best exam to understand our own strengths and weakness and to transform oneself.
- ✂ A good opportunity to learn the path of Satyagraha. We should do everything peacefully and always be on the side of truth.

Our future plans are to organize Gandhi Peace Exams in Jails of Byculla, Taloja, Alibag and all other jails in Maharashtra. A special permission to organise these reform programs is taken from the Upper Director General of Police as well as the Inspector General, Jail Reforms Services (IG, prison), and all the work is done with the unprecedented support of all Jail senior authorities, *Guruji* and staff. Without their cooperation the success of these programs would not be possible.

GANDHI AND PROMOTION OF NONVIOLENCE THROUGH WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A WEBSITE ON GANDHI VISITS BY 6,500 PEOPLE PER DAY

When the whole world is in the grip of crises, hate and conflicts, the popularity Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation of India, is unwavering on the earth. Our Website <https://www.mkgandhi.org> (desktop version) and <https://m.mkgandhi.org> (mobile-friendly version) is on top position, be it Google or Bing search. This site stands in top ranking when you type 'Mahatma Gandhi' or 'M.K. Gandhi' which provides a treasure trove for researchers, scholars, workers, students and all interested in Gandhi.

The server reports that around 6,500 visitors from 194 countries visit this website every day. The highest number of visits are from India, followed by USA, Canada, Poland, UK and others.

This website is being updated daily for the last 22 years. There are 50 icons on the home page that take the visitor to different areas of Gandhi. On the site, information about Mahatma Gandhi's life, philosophy, books, biographies, peace, non-violence, Gandhi museums and resource persons from around the world are available including 300 Gandhi e-books for free download, 500 photographs and about 1,50,000 pages on Gandhi's work and writings are available here.

To make the website user friendly, more than 950 articles on Gandhi have been divided into various categories and topics such as relevance of Gandhi, peace, non-violence, women, environment, education, politics, Gandhi and



management, etc. for easier reference. A 'Gandhi thought' is being sent on email or WhatsApp every day to more than 10,000 people.

FEEDBACK FROM THE SITE VISITORS IS WORTH NOTING:

✍ I am grateful to you for the wonderful collection on dear Mahatma Gandhi. This is the only site I have seen where I can download books for free. Your effort is appreciated. I am indebted to you for your goodwill.

- *Atit Shah*

✍ Thanks for sending a Gandhi quote every day. Every day you are reminded that the truth is to be found. To help others and bring peace to humanity in this warring world.

- *Kenith Lingas, Norway*

OUR GRATITUDE

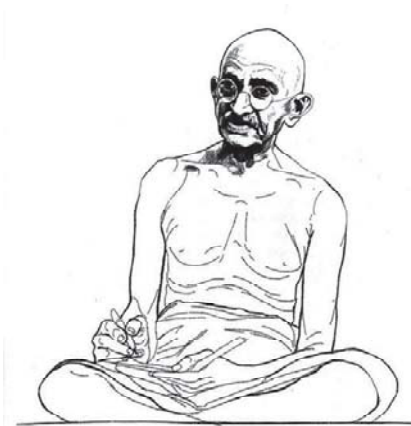
- ☞ The NSS units of SNDT and Mumbai University
- ☞ Chandaramji High School
- ☞ Shree Brihad Bhartiya Samaj
- ☞ Babulnath Mandir Charities
- ☞ Gandhi Research Foundation
- ☞ Shroff Family Charitable Trust
- ☞ Sheth Tapidas and Tulsidas Vajradas Charitable Trust
- ☞ Triveni Kalyan Foundation
- ☞ The Motibai Thackersey Charities
- ☞ Bajaj Group of Trusts
- ☞ Mahalakshmi Mandir Charities
- ☞ Mumbadevi Mandir Charities
- ☞ Print and Electronic Media

LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST

The Sarvodaya Mandal expresses its gratitude to all, including all our donors, well-wishers, friends, volunteers, colleagues and workers of the Mandal, and collaborating individuals and institutes, who have helped in pursuit of our efforts to spread the word of Gandhi to create a better society and humankind.



If you wish to receive 'Thought For The Day' (Gandhi Quotes) and our other newsletters in your mailbox or on your smartphones, please write to us at info@mkgandhi.org or WhatsApp us : +91-90224 83828.



My Life is My Message. - M.K. Gandhi

BOMBAY SARVODAYA MANDAL - GANDHI BOOK CENTRE

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