

REPORT ON GANDHI JAYANTHI

On **2nd October 2019**, 150th Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated at Saukar Chennaiah Hall, VVCE, Mysuru. There were about 400 faculty participants from various institution of VV Sangha®. Dr. K Anantharamu, Rtd. Kannada Professor, Mysore University graced the occasion. Sri Gundappagowda, President, VV Sangha®, Er. P. Vishwanath, Secretary, VV Sangha® were present.



Beginning his speech he said that Gandhi Jayanti is also commemorated as the International Day of Non-Violence. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi or Bapu, as he was called popularly, was known for his principles of non-violence and Satyagraha the world over. The tallest leader of the Indian Independence movement, the Mahatma spoke about courage and conviction as he led Indians to the path of freedom. He inspired political leaders and the common people alike with his words on life and its philosophies. During his speech he highlighted the Gandhian quote “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” Today it is the hands of younger generation tom change the world. They should not object to whatever is happening around them

but they should strive to bring change. As Gandhi himself said “The very first step in nonviolence is that we cultivate in our daily life, as between ourselves, truthfulness, humility, tolerance, and loving kindness.” We must build societies that are inclusive of all religions, races and gender, and that solve disputes without recourse to violence. New thinking is also required to address the inequality that continues to blight the existence of many.

Like Gandhi, we should not be afraid to stand up and transform our societies for the better. Gandhi also modelled the expression of political dissent through non-violent opposition. Gandhi’s 240 mile peaceful march across Western India to protest against the tax on salt created a path for countless other non-violent political movements throughout the 20th and 21st Centuries. We continue to see this power today as our young people march to effect change across the globe. Creating a safe space for the expression of different ideas; for political debate and dialogue whether it be on the streets or online remains an essential part of democratic and pluralistic societies. It is critical in resolving tensions in a peaceful manner.

Concluding his speech on the relevance of Gandhi Principles he said, I believe that Gandhi’s legacy is as relevant today as it ever was, It calls on us to reject bigotry and intolerance, and embrace kindness and truth. It calls on us to strive for equality, no matter how difficult and entrenched systems are. And it demands that we recognize the lasting value of peace. Let us all recommit to those principals as we acknowledge 150 years of an enormous legacy.