**Report for**

**Two Day National Seminar on Gandhi’s Writings on Indian Culture**

On 27th & 28th February, 2020 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, an Autonomous Body under Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in association with Department of Philosophy, SIES College of Arts, Science & Commerce (Autonomous), Mumbai organized National Seminar on “Gandhi’s Writings on Indian Culture” to commemorate 150 years of Gandhi’s birth anniversary and to find new meanings and insights in Gandhi’s writings from historical, philosophical and cultural perspectives.

The Guest of Honour H.E. Tang Guocai, Consul-General of the People's Republic of China, in the Keynote Address said, “even though Gandhiji never visited China in his lifetime, his philosophy of ‘peace and non-violence’ continues to strike a chord among people of the world today.” He added, Chinese and Indian civilization being one of the ancient wisdom and this legacy on either side of the Himalayas has many things in common such as the spinning wheel, age-old remedy for having good health and teachings of wise seers. He highlighted that “India and China in a big way is entering together towards environmental challenges, finding cure for diseases by setting up medical organizations through the Global Village Community”.

The occasion of Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din coincided well in keeping the spirit of the seminar, by emphasizing the significance of language in Indian Culture. A small event “Vaachu Anande” reading and reciting select Marathi poems written by eminent poets of Maharashtra added the right flavour, colour and energy to the seminar.

Padmashree and Sahitya Akademi awardee Dr. Ganesh Devy, Linguist and Literary Scholar, in the Special Address stated that Gandhiji believed that ‘greed was the birth of violence.’ He emphasized that “for harmonizing a better future we have to use Satyagraha as a political act by involving women and young adults to fulfill Gandhi’s principles of economy and ecology.”

The invited speakers, in various ways reiterated India can be the great nation, Ms. Prerana Desai, Edelweiss Agriculture Services and Credit mentioned spoke about preserving ancient practices, solving problems amicably. Satyagraha in ancient and modern times has the power of telling truth gently and in non-violent way. Prof. Shyam Pakhare, quoted “In any violent incident there are only men who lost life, as women always tend to follow non-violent path.” He stated, ‘Positive masculine’s and positive feminism makes a complete human.’ Ms. Swati Prabhu, Research Fellow, MAKAIAS, Kolkata mentioned sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations.

Mr. Aparajit Shukla, Author, Film maker in his valedictory address stated, “Gandhi makes us realize through Indian cultural history the importance of creativity, its originality, devotional spirit of virtue in order to reinvent social responsibility.”

Dr. Uma Shankar in her concluding remarks said, “this seminar was indeed a great collaborative experience along with MAKAIAS in relearning Gandhi’s courage of conviction, truth, forgiveness, reconciliation and fearlessness.” An article was reported on 28th Feb, 2020 in “The Indian Express” about the seminar reaching out its message to large readers.