A REPORT ON GANDHIAN VALUES

A Meeting on Gandhian Values was conducted on 12th September 2019, in commemoration of 98th Anniversary of Subramania Barathi. A multifaceted personality Thiru Baskaran Krishnamurthy was the Chief Guest of the Meeting. He is not only an Income Tax Officer in Chennai, but also a Gandhian Activist, a popular Writer, and a Motivating Speaker. He spoke on the relevance of “Gandhian values”, such as (1) Satya-Truth, (2) Ahimsa-Nonviolence, (3) Brahmacharya-Celibacy (4) Asteya-Non-stealing, (5) Aparigraha -Non-possession (6) Sharira-Shrama - Physical labour (7) Abhaya-Fearlessness, (8) Sarva-Dharma-Samanatva- Equal respect for all Religions, (9) Swadeshi--Duty towards Neighbour and (10 ) Asprishyatanivarana - Removal of Untouchability.

The Chief Guest started the discussion with a question to the audience that is, who does’nt like Gandhi. Some of the Students have raised their hands. He called them to explain the reason therefor.

Students expressed that they only like the style of Subhash Chandra Bose and not of Gandhi. Bose believed that Mahatma Gandhi's tactics of non-violence would never be sufficient to secure India's independence, and advocated a more aggressive resistance. After returning to India in 1921 from London, Bose came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi and joined the Indian National Congress. But even there were ideological differences between them; Bose was elected president of the Indian National Congress for two consecutive terms. They didn’t dislike each other. They fought for the independence in their unique methods.

The Chief Guest recalled several incidents in the life of Mahatma Gandhi, to explain the Gandhian Values. Some of the incidents are as follows:

While he was travelling by train to Pretoria, Gandhi, despite carrying first class ticket, was thrown out of the train by the authorities because a white man complained of an Indian sharing the space with him.

Gandhiji renounced his traditional attire in Madurai and became a half-naked to identify himself with the poor masses. His entry into the Meenakshi Temple with Harijans was a landmark event.
Churchill had said: “It is alarming and also nauseating to see Mr. Gandhi, now posing as a half-naked fakir up the steps of the Viceregal palace.

US President Barack Obama has said given a chance he would like to have dinner with Mahatma Gandhi, whom he considered a real hero. Obama expressed his desire in response to a question from a student of High School in Arlington Virginia.

The Chief Guest recalled the ideas of Gandhi about eradicating the unemployment through khadi and village industries. His ideas were time tested, not against ecological imbalance, not against mechanization, but labour-centric ideas that involve the masses.

He quoted the real life incident of K.Kamaraj the then Chief Minister, who was about to be manhandled by a unknown farmer in Andhra Pradesh, simply because of entering into the waterway alongside of the paddy field.

**Famous Quotes by Mahatma Gandhi:**

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." "An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind." "The greatness of a Nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." "There is more to life than increasing its speed."

Finally he advised the students to practice the Gandhian Values in their life, so as to have a clear conscience and good Nation.