

The Gandhi Information Centre, Berlin

Spreading the message of peace



The founder of the Gandhi Information Centre in Berlin, Peter Rhe, talks about its history and its mission.

The Gandhi Information Centre was founded by Peter Rhe, a scholar on Gandhian Philosophy in his own right, in 1983. Here are some excerpts of his interview to Doordarshan early this year.

What are the activities of the Centre outside India?

We provide research facilities for those who do indepth studies on Gandhian thought and we inspire common people to study Gandhi's life and work. We show exhibitions, not only in Germany but also in Denmark, England, Israel and even India.

We organize lectures and seminars and show films and slides to school-children and interested people. Gandhi Information Centre is a charitable public association supported by the German government.

We believe that everyone can benefit of a profound study of Gandhian thoughts. We produce own media on this subject and support others who work in the same line.

We have initiated a network of Gandhian groups in Europe, United states, Asia, Africa and Australia. In this network we exchange views, experiences and material regularly.

What are your future plans?

We'd like to develop this promising undertaking, the drawing competition I was just talking about, and ex-

tend it to a state or even nationwide event similar to Shankar's drawing competition. We find it a good and appropriate way to inspire children and youth to learn more about Gandhi's life and work and to think about its relevance for us today.

It also helps our children in the West to come in touch with Gandhian thoughts because the pictures of the drawing competition are given to children of the same age group in Ger-

"Gandhi Photo Service" in Bombay which shall trace, preserve and make photographs available of Gandhiji and India's freedom struggle.

Another project I am working on at present is the preparation of a Gandhi Study Kit to be distributed internationally on the occasion of Gandhi's 125th birth anniversary in 1994.

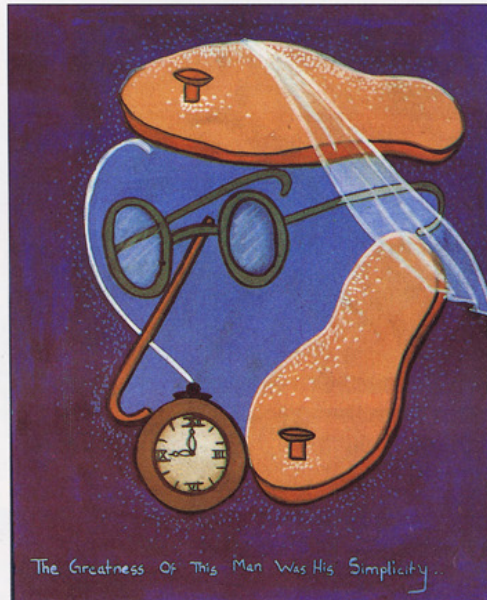
I am also organising an International Gandhi Memorial Bicycle Tour which will start in Porbandar on 2nd October 1994. The yatra has three major aspects:

(1) To show the participants authentic places of Gandhi's life and work and thus give more information about his activities and thoughts.

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(2) Since we shall have overnight halts exclusively at Gandhian institutions the participants will get an insight in the application of Gandhian thoughts in India today.

(3) Since we expect people to participate from all over the world having a certain background in non-violent life, human rights, protection of environment, peace work etc. it will be a good chance to exchange views, experiences amongst the participants. ■



One of the paintings from the children's drawing competition, "Gandhi As I See Him".

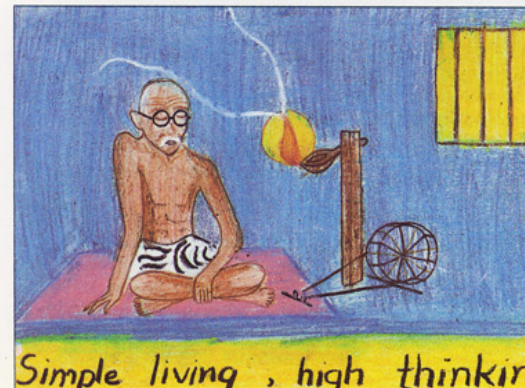
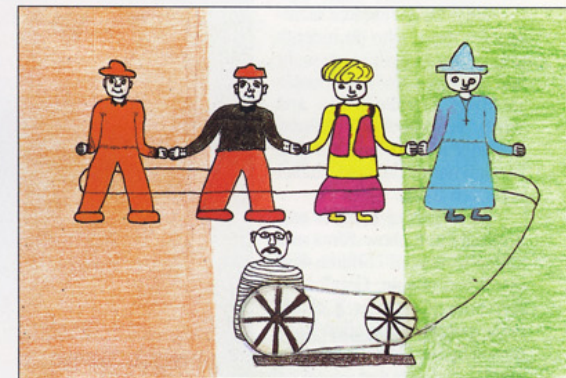
many, England, United States and Soviet Union. In Rajkot a Gandhi Resource and Education Centre will be set up at Rashtriyashala soon.

Its major task will be to care for the drawing competition in the future. Further I am helping to establish a

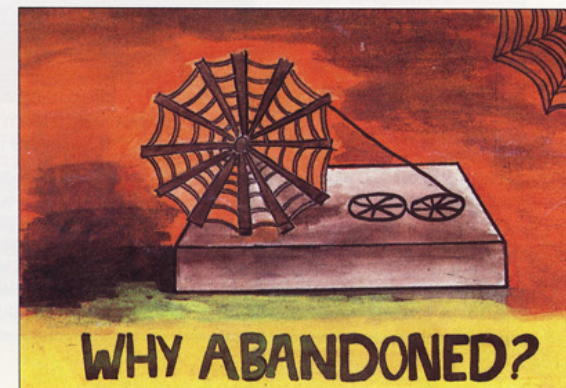
"Gandhi As I See Him"



What does Mahatma Gandhi mean to children today? A selection from the painting competition, 'Gandhi as I see him' organised in India by Peter Rhe.



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