(Published in *Daily Lokmat*, Maharashtra, India, October 2, 2012)

## American professor pays numerical tribute to Mahatma

Sachin Diwan

Mumbai, October 1 - Underlining relevance of Gandhism in today's fragmenting and violent world, an American professor has paid special numerical tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 143rd birth anniversary. Professor Aziz Inan brings to our notice a peculiarity associated with the date that the number 2102012 is a palindrome and same would reoccur after 1000 years.

A professor in Electrical Engineering at University of Portland, Oregon, USA - Aziz S. Inan has keen interest in numbers and draws attention to special numerical properties that Gandhi's 143rd birthday possesses. Using the day-month-year date format, the full date of October 2, 2012 expressed as 2-10-2012, or simply 2102012 is a palindrome day. The number reads the same from both the ends. This unique coincidence with Gandhi's birth anniversary will occur 1000 years later, on October 2nd, 3012 when the number 2103012 will again be a palindrome. Inan has written a complete article explaining various numerical peculiarities with Gandhi's 143rd birth anniversary which is available on the web at:

http://faculty.up.edu/ainan/Gandhi143rdPalindromeBirthday2102012.pdf

Eager to redraw the attention to Gandhi's works, Inan made it a point to call Lokmat all the way from the US.

His interest in Gandhi is not just numerical. Inan emphasized that in today's fragmenting and violent world where tolerance is taking a backseat, Gandhism offers a ray of hope to make the world a better place to be on. "Martin Luther King was influenced by Gandhi's ideas. Even today, many people in the US, irrespective of their religion find Gandhi's philosophy relevant and revere it. But it is a challenge to make the youth the world over to walk on the path prescribed by Mahatma. I am trying to attempt the same through this exercise," said Inan over telephone.