

“Gandhi Ji’s life remains his message - A message of peaceful and sustainable living. His emphasis on self sustainability is relevant even more in today’s world. I hope that the youngsters can learn from his principles. His life, his teachings have the power to solve many of present day problems.”

~ Professor Manvi Seth

Dean (Academic Affairs) & Head of the Department,  
Museology, National Museum Institute, New Delhi

“As the world is all set to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the declaration of October 2, Mahatma Gandhi’s birth anniversary as International Day of Nonviolence, it would be prudent to understand Gandhi in praxis in the backdrop of the age of the Metaverse and Post-humanism. Traditional discourses and work on Gandhian philosophy are mostly limited to the historical construct of his nonviolent action, life and message. Not much attempt has been made to link Gandhian approaches and philosophy to the larger emerging domain of knowledge. Gandhian values are transcending but researchers and practitioners need to develop the skills and mindset to take Gandhi from the limited historical construct to areas like the Metaverse and a post-human society.”

~ Dr Vedabhyas Kundu

Program Officer

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi

“The first thing that comes to my mind when I hear about Gandhiji is the simplicity of his soul and his gentleness. His humility and disciplined life. He was leading a revolution having the qualities of a saint. He showed to the world that is concept of Satyagraha and non violence was successful in bringing about the desired change peacefully.”

~ Ms. Sangita Mathur

Assistant Director of the Archives (Retired)  
National Archives of India, Delhi

“गांधीजी ने देश में अपने योगदान के लिए ही नहीं बल्कि आदर्शों से भी लोगों के दिलों में खास जगह बनाई है। उनकी शिक्षाएं हमारे जीवन की कठिनाइयों को आसान बनाती हैं। उनका सत्य और अहिंसा से हमें प्रेरित करना, समय को महत्व देना, भेदभाव की आलोचना करना और गलती होने पर माफी मांग लेना जैसे कुछ प्रसंगों को अपने जीवन के आदर्श बनाने से हमें कठिन समय भी आसान लग सकता है।”

~ Shri Tejpal Singh

Curator (retired), Department of Archaeology  
National Museum, New Delhi

“Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was the man of the millennium. It was his weapon of non-violence he fought with the mighty British rule. In fact his idea is very relevant in present India as the Gandhian Model of self Reliance. Now it has been the basis of making India Atmanirbhar or self-reliant by the Govt of India. He said that the soul of India remains in villages and the cities are the body. Thus the idea and philosophy of Gandhiji has great reliance in the present context of human society.”

~ Professor Jayanti Dora

Head of the Department of History and Directory,  
School of Woment Stuidies, Utkal University, Orissa

“For me, Mahatma Gandhi has been one of the biggest inspirations. When I visited the sabarmati Ashram, the simplicity with which he was living compared to the palatial homes that the British colonialists had built, was a reflection of how much a grassroot-level leader he was.”

~ Ms. Annu Kaushik

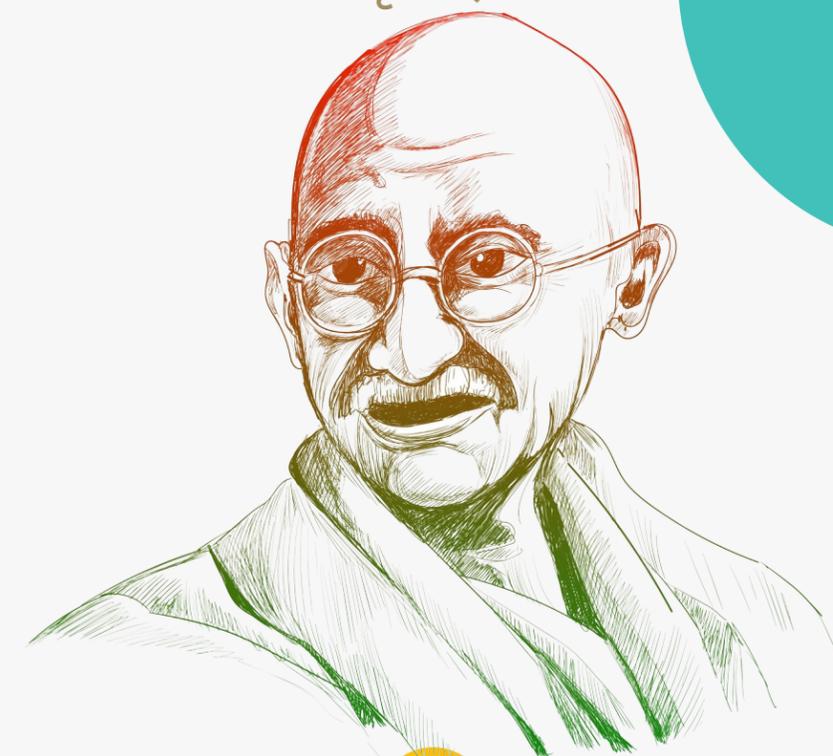
Senior Sub Editor, Firstpost

“Gandhian principles of non violence, self reliance and truth has worldwide acceptance. His philosophy has inspired and ignited young minds and will keep motivating the generations to come. Jai hind.”

~ Ms. Shalini Chaturvedi

PGT History, DPS Dwarka, New Delhi

# A Tribute to the Father of the Nation



An initiative by

**Ms. Somya Malik, Head**

**Department of Archives and Museology**

**Centre for History and Archaeology**

# Introduction



To mark the 153<sup>rd</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, on 2nd October, the Department of Archives and Museology, Centre for History and Archaeology brings out the thoughts and perspectives of our eminent scholars and personalities of what they think of Gandhiji. This initiative is a mark of respect and gratitude to the sacrifices and contributions of Bapu for the country.

Born on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was a lawyer by profession, his many beliefs and principles like that of non-violence and truthfulness are still being globally respected and appreciated.

In the light of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, Department of Archives and Museology, Centre for History and Archaeology, Asiatic Society for Social Science Research, express our tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, for we together can bring a change not just in the society but in oneself too.

## Thoughts

"Mahatma Gandhi was truly a mass leader who united the different sections of Indian society and motivated them for self freedom and independence for the country. He is a leader of the millennium. Present generation can't even imagine the power of *satyagrah* and non violence. His philosophy is relevant for centuries to come. We as a nation are indebted to him. We have to learn a lot from him."

~ Dr Ritu Kohli

Associate Professor, Deptt of Political Science  
Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi

"Gandhian thinking and praxis is famous for: Transforming an individual and society for a better human order. In the turbulent times we are living, where the world is grappled with so many complex problems, it is imperative to strive to inculcate Gandhian philosophy in various facets in life and governance to follow it for harmony and a sustainable future."

~ Dr Pramod Kumar Ray  
Vice President, ASSSR and Consultant, Directorate  
of Higher Secondary Education, Govt. of Odisha

"सत्य, अहिंसा ये शब्द जब भी हम सुनते हैं तो सबसे पहले महात्मा गाँधी का ही नाम याद आता है। दुर्बल से नजर आने वाले इस सशक्त व्यक्तित्व ने हमें 'Be the Change' खुद से बदलाव आरंभ करने का मंत्र दिया, जो कि हम सभी के लिए अनुकरणीय है। नमन ऐसे युगपुरुष को!"

~ Dr Ambika  
Assistant Curator, Department of Pre- Columbian and  
Western Art, National Museum, New Delhi

"The things that come to my mind, are, the 'initiative' of Gandhi ji when, he raised his voice against ethnic discrimination in South Africa, the 'visionary leadership' of Gandhi ji which converted our freedom movement into a mass movement, the 'strong willpower & decisiveness' when he started the Quit India movement giving the mantra "Do or Die: we shall either free India or die in the attempt", I find it one of the most inspirational phases of our freedom movement, I can not refrain myself visiting 'August Kranti Maidan' & to sit there for a while, everytime I visit Mumbai. In today's time, where countries are using 'chemical' 'biological' 'radiological' & 'nuclear' weapons, I still find the 'non-violence' as the most powerful one."

~ Shri Abhishek Kumar Mishra  
Archivist, IIM Ahmedabad, Gujarat

"The life, ideas and practices of Gandhi stood for the promises of modernity challenging its flawed practices. Mahatma and his Ahimsa both were a new intervention in the modern public sphere in the sense that they were intervening in a society where violence and counter-violence was an everyday fact of life. To explore how the 'mainstream' society and the 'people on margins' interacted and responded to the reformative practices of Mahatma Gandhi, that shaped, and are still shaping, the peoples, identities, outlooks, institutions and economy, one could locate Gandhian approach and its relevance to modern human rights as an holistic alternative to the other dominant ideologies from eighteenth century European enlightenment onwards. Through his ideas and practices a counter-ideology of modernity was being created, which was not practiced in the metropolitan World or the Universities but in the minds of the illiterates of mofussil regions through constant engagements and dialogues. Here was a leader who was desperately trying to argue that freedom struggle must aspire to change social conditions and his political 'satyagraha' connoted a spiritual self-purification that pragmatically involved constructive contribution to the modern society."

~ Professor Santhosh Kumar Rai  
Department of History, University of Delhi

"Gandhiji is synonymous with a life of high principles guided by moral values and simplicity that is marked for its universal appeal. India needs Gandhian values in public life now more than ever."

~ Sqn Ldr Rana China  
Secretary and Editor  
United Service Institution of India (USI) Centre for Armed  
Forces Historical Research, New Delhi