

## GOOD TURNOUT

The third phase of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) elections witnessed an impressive voter turnout, marking a significant moment in the democratic process of the region. As voters headed to the polls, the atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm and anticipation, reflecting the people's desire to actively participate in shaping their political landscape.

Reports indicate that voter participation in this phase exceeded expectations, with turnout figures reaching nearly 70%. This is a remarkable achievement, especially considering the historical context of elections in J&K, where political engagement has often been influenced by a range of factors, including security concerns and political instability. The increase in turnout signals a growing confidence among the populace in the electoral process and their eagerness to exercise their democratic rights. Robust security arrangements were put in place to ensure a smooth electoral process. The authorities deployed a significant number of security personnel to maintain peace and order; particularly in sensitive areas. This proactive approach not only helped mitigate potential disruptions but also reassured voters, encouraging them to step out and cast their ballots. Moreover, efforts were made to enhance accessibility to polling stations. Mobile polling units and additional facilities for differently-abled voters were introduced, ensuring that every eligible citizen had the opportunity to participate. This commitment to inclusivity is a positive step toward strengthening democracy in the region. In the lead-up to the elections, various voter awareness campaigns were launched to educate citizens about the importance of voting and the electoral process. These initiatives, spearheaded by local organizations and the Election Commission, aimed to dispel misconceptions about the electoral process and encourage participation. The outreach efforts particularly resonated with younger voters, many of whom were voting for the first time. The presence of social media and local influencers also played a crucial role in mobilizing the electorate. The third phase of the J&K elections saw candidates from various political parties contesting, highlighting the region's diverse political landscape. National and regional parties alike fielded candidates, allowing voters to make informed choices based on their preferences and priorities. This competitive environment is essential for a healthy democracy, as it encourages dialogue, debate, and the representation of a wide array of views and interests. As voters emerged from polling stations, many expressed their hopes for change and improvement in governance. Issues such as development, employment opportunities, and basic amenities were at the forefront of their concerns. The enthusiasm observed among voters indicated a strong desire for accountable leadership and effective administration. Voters shared their aspirations for a future that prioritizes stability, peace, and prosperity in J&K. The election saw notable participation from women and young voters, reflecting a shift in the political engagement landscape. Women, who have historically been underrepresented in the electoral process, actively participated in the elections, both as voters and candidates. Similarly, the youth demographic demonstrated a keen interest in shaping their future, with many expressing a sense of responsibility to be part of the democratic process.

The encouraging turnout in the third phase of the J&K elections is a testament to the resilience of the region's citizens and their commitment to democracy. As the electoral process continues, it will be crucial for political leaders to listen to the voices of their constituents and address the pressing issues facing the region. The success of this phase can serve as a catalyst for future electoral participation and democratic engagement in J&K. In conclusion, the third phase of the J&K elections not only marked a milestone in voter participation but also reinforced the significance of democratic values in the region. With citizens actively engaging in the electoral process, there is hope for a more vibrant and accountable political landscape in Jammu and Kashmir.

## RECORD-SHATTERING PERFORMANCE

In a breathtaking display of batting prowess, India delivered a record-shattering performance against Bangladesh in the second Test held at Kanpur. This match not only showcased India's dominance but also set new benchmarks in Test cricket, particularly with their astonishing run rate and aggressive batting style. The second Test against Bangladesh was particularly significant as it took place amid challenging weather conditions, with two and a half days lost to rain. However, the resilience of the Indian team shone through, as they capitalized on the available playtime to secure a decisive victory by 7 wickets. The win marked India's second consecutive victory over Bangladesh in this series, further solidifying their cricketing supremacy. One of the most remarkable aspects of this match was India's staggering run rate of 7.36, which set a new record for the highest run rate in Test cricket history. This achievement broke a 19-year-old record held by South Africa, who had previously recorded a run rate of 6.80 against Zimbabwe in 2005. India's performance was nothing short of extraordinary, with an explosive scoring rate that dazzled fans and analysts alike. In their innings, India not only broke the overall run rate record but also set new milestones for the fastest team scores in various brackets: the quickest 50, 100, and 200 in a single innings. The batting unit, led by dynamic performances, showcased an aggressive style that kept the pressure firmly on the Bangladeshi bowlers. Before the batting fireworks, India's bowlers laid the groundwork for victory. On Day 4, Bangladesh's first innings was curtailed at 233 runs, with Jasprit Bumrah leading the charge, claiming 3 crucial wickets. The Indian bowling attack was disciplined and strategic, ensuring that the opposition could not build significant partnerships. This early control was pivotal in setting up India's dominant position in the match. As Day 4 came to a close, India's bowlers struck twice more just before stumps, leaving Bangladesh reeling and setting the stage for a commanding Day 5. On the final day, India maintained their momentum, bowling out Bangladesh for a mere 146 runs. With a target of just 95 runs to chase, the Indian batsmen came out firing on all cylinders. The aggressive approach was epitomized by Yashasvi Jaiswal, whose brilliant fifty played a crucial role in guiding India to victory. His performance, along with contributions from other batsmen, ensured that India crossed the finish line comfortably, with 7 wickets in hand. The aggressive batting approach, characterized by quick singles and boundaries, was a testament to India's evolving strategy in Test cricket. This high-risk, high-reward style of play not only entertained but also left an indelible mark on the format. In addition to the team's record-breaking achievements, individual players also reached significant milestones. Ravindra Jadeja became the second-fastest player in history to achieve the double of 3,000 runs and 300 wickets in Test cricket. His all-round capabilities have been a tremendous asset to the Indian team.

Meanwhile, Ravichandran Ashwin matched the legendary Muttiah Muralitharan's record for the most Player-of-the-Series awards in Test cricket, each securing an impressive 11 accolades. Ashwin's mastery in spin bowling has continued to be a vital component of India's success, and this achievement further cements his legacy in the game.

India's dominant win over Bangladesh in Kanpur was a watershed moment in Test cricket, characterized by record-breaking performances, strategic brilliance, and individual milestones. The combination of a relentless batting approach and disciplined bowling ensured that India not only won the match but also etched their name in the annals of cricket history. As fans celebrated this monumental achievement, it was clear that this Indian team is not only a force to be reckoned with but also a beacon of innovation and excellence in the evolving landscape of cricket.

## Gandhi Jayanti: Inspiring a Legacy of Non-voilence

■ DR. BANARSI LAL

Every year 2nd of October is observed as the International Day of Non-violence to mark the birth anniversary of Mohan Dass Karam Chand Gandhi who is known as the Father of Nation. On this day various purposeful activities are organised across the nation with great enthusiasm and fervor .

This day has been declared as the International Day of Non-violence by the United Nation General Assembly on 15th of June, 2007.This day is celebrated to pay tribute to the legend Mahatma Gandhi who struggled throughout his life against the British rule for the independence of India. Gandhi ji was the preacher of non-violence and always guided others to follow the path of non-violence for the independence of the country.

He will always be remembered as the symbol of peace and truth. According to Gandhiji "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind."He was a great leader of the Indian Independence movement and pioneer of non-violence.His concept of non-violence was that of harmony and not of conflict.It was a new rationale for change.Truth and non-violence meant to him was the emancipation of man,the reawakening of his inner self and the pursuit of collective prosperity.

Man is still full of greed, jealousy, lust, hate, castisms, regionalism, regionalism and above all violence. The greatest enemy of mankind is man himself. We observe that domestic violence is increasing day-by-day. Due to increase in the domestic violence homes become hell for many people.

Many institutions in the cities come forward to take care of them. The earning women do not find difficulty to survive when they are torn off from the moorings of the family. But mostly the

women find it difficult to survive when they are expelled from their families. Divorce and separation are not a permanent solution of the problem. These are the last things to settle the matter. Many women and children suffer throughout their life. Domestic violence does not mean only the wife beating but it means regular quarrelling between the parents affecting the quality of life of the children. The children do not face any problem if the parents are happy. The parents should think that they cannot solve the problem of adjustment through bickering, words of abuse or physical violence.

We consider our modern society as more civilized as compared to the Stone Age. If civilization means modern electronic media, nuclear energy, genetic engineering, space discoveries, high tech agriculture and many other achievements, then we have exceeded much ahead than primitive man. But the real meaning of modern civilization is something else. There is dire need to change the mindset of the people. The violence is increasing in every part of the world. Every day we listen about violence. We fear from violence.

It is initiated from the smallest unit of the society and spreads at large scale. Domestic violence is observed when husband and wife, brothers, friends and other relatives do not live amicably.

It is admitted that when the spouses are from different backgrounds, definitely there will be difference between them. Marriage is a legal institution that enjoins both husband and wife to live together with compromise and adjustments. A good parent nourishes their children happily and develops good morals and ethics in them. Broken home spawns juvenile delinquency.

Many people inflict both the mental and physical violence on the wife or daughter-in-law for dowry and also

cause mental cruelty on the parents of girl to extract money in the form of dowry. The violence is initiated from day number one by the docile husband, mother-in-law, father -in-law and also from sisters-in-law. There is limit of demands which the parents can bear. When she is excessively tortured for dowry, she ends her life by setting herself aflame or by some other methods. Greedy in-laws conspire to get rid of the woman who is helpless in satisfying the insatiable greed for money in the form of money.

They don't realize their condition whenever they have to marry their own daughter. Increasing domestic violence indicates that moral and ethical values are not followed. There is need to develop complementary understanding between husband, wife and other family members.

They need to have equal balance in order to reduce the domestic violence. Man builds the home but woman makes the home. Man is the breadwinner but the contribution of woman is equally important for mentally, physically, emotionally, inteellectually and physically development of the children.

Violent family creates social friction and stress to the other members of society also.We are having a plural society in which the people of different faiths, cultures, languages, morals and ethics live together. India is a very big garden where we find flowers of different colours and aroma. Our greatness is known to preserve this great variety of garden. Any subtle attempt to change the texture of our society by force will sap the roots of our society.

Violence in the name of religion, caste and language has caused a great harm to our country. Killings of one group of people by another group has been counterproductive, bloodshed breeds more bloodshed and kindles hate and fear. It

tears apart the fabric of peace in the country.

Violence is not the permanent solution to solve the misunderstanding between different communities/nations/groups. The people should come together to understand each other, learn from each other, understand each other culture and learn the spirit of tolerance.

No two human beings are similar. Even the two brothers of a family are not similar to each other. The Almighty God has provided variety everywhere. There are different sects in Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism and other religions. The Hindi spoken in Uttar Pradesh may be different from that spoken in Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan. The Tamil spoken in Thanjavur may be different from that spoken in Kanyakumari.

We have ego that one religion is superior and other is inferior, one language is superior and other is inferior and one caste is superior and another is inferior. Same God has created the Indian, the Chinese, the Englishman etc.

Then why we think that we are different when we all belong to the one family of Man? Charles Freer Andrews, a great friend of Ghandhi said that violence cannot be overcome by violence and evil cannot be overcome by evil but only by goodness.

The victory of violence ends in a festival of mourning. The more weapons of violence, the more misery to mankind. Buddha, Mahavira, Jesus Christ, Gandhiji and many other great personalities have taught the values of non-violence.

Their voice has fallen on deaf ears. We should realize that violence doesn't pay. We have already irreparable damage due to violence. Nothing durable ever can be achieved by force.

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## The Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi: A Beacon of Peaceful Resistance.

■ AYAAN SAROORI

When reflecting on our historical past, particularly the era of colonial rule in India, one figure stands out as a national hero-Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Known across generations, from children to the elderly, Gandhi's name is synonymous with his unique ideology and the pivotal role he played in India's struggle for independence. Born on October 2, 1869, in the coastal town of Porbandar in Gujarat, Gandhi embarked on a path that would eventually change the course of history. In 1888, he travelled to London to pursue his legal education at University College London.After completing his degree, Gandhi returned to India in 1891, intending to build a legal career. However, in 1893,he accepted a one-year contract as a legal advisor in South Africa-a decision that extended into a 21-year stay. During his time in South Africa,Gandhi encountered harsh racial discrimination,which deeply influenced his thinking.It was there that he conceived the idea of Satyagraha, the philosophy of nonviolent resistance.In 1906,Gandhi launched his first major Satyagraha campaign,marking the beginning of a lifelong journey of peaceful activism.

How Gandhi saved India from Colonial rule?

We can easily understand this topic as there are various unforgettable sacrifice which a part of our history.Dandi March a foot walk from Gandhi Ji's Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi was a mark of courage and true leadership is their as

Gandhi has started for Dandi with seventy-eight followers but he was greeted by thousands of his other followers during foot walk towards Dandi.This is the smallest example of Gandhi Ji's following and engagement with people and this whole sacrifice has been started with one objective that was to provide and make people of India nominee of salt as it was ours.

Gandhi's bonfire was also a movement against the British and colonizers. This bonfire began during the Swadeshi movement, leading to the boycott of British goods. Gandhi, supported by a large crowd, symbolically burned non-Indian clothes.

During this event, gathered people collected shirts, trousers, and caps to fuel the bonfire of foreign goods. Furthermore, he urged people not to attend British schools or courts.

His ultimate aim was for the people to govern themselves without British interference.These actions exemplify how the British Empire faced challenges in India,largely due to Mahatma Gandhi and his profound philosophy of peaceful protest.

Why 'Mahatma' and who bestowed this title.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, widely known as Mahatma Gandhi, was a central figure in India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule. While "Mahatma" is a title that signifies "Great Soul" in Sanskrit, it was bestowed upon him by the renowned poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1915. This title reflects the

deep respect and admiration that many held for Gandhi due to his profound moral and ethical principles.

Despite the honour associated with the title, Gandhi himself was somewhat uncomfortable with it. He preferred to be addressed as "Bapu," which means "Father" in Hindi. Gandhi was a person of exceptional integrity, characterised by a clear-hearted approach, straightforwardness in his ideology, and unwavering truthfulness.

He was known for his commitment to honesty, never making false promises to his followers, and maintaining a consistent and principled stance in his dealings with the British authorities. This unwavering dedication to truth earned him the respect of millions and positioned him as a moral leader in the fight for justice.

One of the most notable aspects of Gandhi's philosophy was his rejection of violence as a means of achieving political objectives. Instead of resorting to weapons or oppressive tactics, he advocated for Satyagraha, a concept that emphasises non-violent resistance and peaceful protest against injustice.

This approach was revolutionary at the time and set him apart from many contemporary leaders who relied on force.

Gandhi's strategy involved mobilising the masses through peaceful means, such as the promotion of swadeshi-using locally made products-and organising protests that highlighted the injustices faced by Indians under British rule.

## Gandhi-An apostle of peace and non-violence

■ OMKAR DATTATRAY

Mohandas KaramChand Gandhi popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1869 at Porbander located in Gujarat.His father's name was KaramChandUttamChand Gandhi who served as Deewan (Prime Minister).Mahatma Gandhi was one of the greatest men the world ever produced.Mahatma Gandhi is also known as Bapu and was held in high esteem not only in India but was respected and revered in the whole world.Gandhi is the greatest man in the Indian history unarguably. The way he shaped and gave direction to Indian freedom struggle is worthy of standing ovation.He sacrificed his life for the freedom and secularism of the country.Mahatma Gandhi is popularly called the father of the nation-Rashtra Pita.The respect that he earned for himself despite leading a simple life is appreciable.His non-violent ways and peaceful methods & means were the foundation for gaining freedom from the British.Gandhi was a multifaceted personality.Bapu was a

leader,politician,saint,philosopher,thinker,writer,social reformer,advocate,educationalist,the true follower of BhagwadGita and what not.It is very difficult to pen down his personality in few words.Gandhi was the educationist par excellence and his scheme of basic education is the corner stone of Indian education system.His was a divine personality.His simple living and high thinking has inspired of people in India and abroad.Gandhi was a political and spiritual leader of India and his

novel technique of non -violent agitation which he called Satyagraha or moral domination was the basic characteristic of his personality and functioning.United Nations international day of non-violence is also held on October 2nd each year to coincide with the Mahatma Gandhi's birthday.Gandhi is also called the father of the Indian independence movement.He was the man who preached and practiced non-violence and inspired millions around the world and even the Americas own apostle of peace Martin Luther King was inspired by Gandhi.Though one may not typically think of Gandhi as a philosopher,he was in fact a profound philosophical thinker.He was not an academic philosopher. But he wrote a lot and so he can be called a philosopher.Gandhi was a great and prolific writer and had written many books and articles.He had written his autobiography entitled. My experiments with truth, Truthfulness were the corner stone of his thinking, philosophy and personality.He has said, "There is no good higher than truth".Though Gandhi was not a typical philosopher but his philosophy and thinking changed history in a dramatic way.He was a strong and staunch Hindu and believed in equal respect to all religions.Bapu was a great freedom fighter who fought through non-violence.He was married to Kasturba Gandhi.Gandhi went to South Africa after marriage and worked there for twenty long years.There he had his first feel of the apartheid.He vowed to erase the apartheid from the face ofthe globe.His contribution to freedom struggle of India cannot be exaggerated. He

started his non-cooperation movement which officially beganGandhian era in India.It was one of the series of the non violent protests nationwide.It made Indians aware that British can be opposed and it works as a check on them.Civil disobedience movement was another non-violent movement spearheaded by Gandhi.It was more active than the non cooperation movement.It brought a revolution in the country.It was agitation against land revenue,abolition of salt tax,cutting down ofmilitary expenditure,leaving duty on the foreign clothes etc.Salt satyagraha wasimportant part of this movement.Gandhi took to Dandi March as a protest against the salt tax.He started Quite India movement in 1942.Its aim was to bring the British government to a negotiating table.A call for immediate independence was given.The slogan of do or die was adopted.Gandhi went to fast for twenty one days to secure release of those jailed and got them released.Entire India was united in the movement for freedom. Besides a freedom fighter Gandhi the slogan of complete freedom was given.India got freedom on 15th august 1947 after making much sacrifices and efforts.Besides a freedom fighter Gandhi was against the practice of untouchability.He revered the weak,down trodden, and the people belonging the lower castes.He gave the lower castes the name of Harijan.He was a true Hindu and BhagwadGita was his guru. He was the propounderand believer of Hindu Muslim unity and was the true secularist that India ever produced.Gandhi was the believer in

Sanatan Dharma.He was an economist as well and believed that small scale and rural and handieraft industries can bring great revolution in rural economy. He was the advocate of cottage and small scale and tiny industry. Gandhi Ji did not believe in religious education but believed in the imparting of education about religions. He was of the view that there should be religious and righteous minded people in politics. He had asked for disbanding of Indian National congress soon after freedom. Gandhi had penned down many books. His was a practical and pragmatic personality. His love and crusade for cleanliness and sanitation is famous throughout India. He believed in the principle of work is worship and also emphasized the principle of the service of mankind and believed that service to man is service to God. Bapu was a staunch supporter of Khadhi and village industry and used to spun cotton himself with charkha-wooden wheel. Gandhi ji was a multi-dimensional personality. He was a politician, leader, statesman, philosopher, thinker, educationist, saint, social reformer and above all a freedom fighter. Albert Eienten has rightly remarked that future generation will wonder if ever such a man has walked on the earth. Alas, this man of peace was assassinated by a fanatic NathuramGodasse on January 30, 1948 and the whole nation wept and wailed and mourned his death so the day is remembered as Martyr Day. Let us imbibe the life and teachings of Gandhi and make India of his dreams. That will be a befitting tribute to this great man on his birthday.

