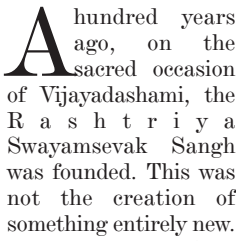


**■ NARENDRA MODI**



Moreover, India's defense research capabilities, through agencies like DRDO and ISRO, have ensured steady progress in missile technology, space-based surveillance, and indigenous weapon systems. The successful test of the Agni-V ballistic missile, the development of anti-satellite weapons, and the growth of indigenous platforms like the Arjun tank and INS Vikrant showcase a military that is increasingly self-reliant.

Human civilisations thrived on the banks of great rivers. Similarly, countless lives have flourished due to the impact of the Sangh. A river enriches each part of the land that it touches with its waters. Likewise, the Sangh has nourished every part of our nation, every sphere of our society. A river often multiplies into many streams and expands its impact. Something similar has happened in the Sangh's journey. Through its various affiliated organisations, the Sangh works in every domain of life, such as education, agriculture, social welfare, tribal welfare, women's empowerment and more.

Along this journey, there were conspiracies and attempts to crush the Sangh. Its second Sarsangchalak, Param Pujya Gururji, was falsely implicated in a case and even imprisoned. But the Sangh never allowed bitterness to take root, because Swamymsevaks believe, "We are not separate from society. Society is formed of us." This feeling of oneness with society and unshakable faith in the Constitution and constitutional institutions gave the Swamymsevaks steadiness of mind.

For centuries, social ills such as caste discrimination and untouchability have been challenges for Hindu society. From the time of Dr. Hedgewar Ji until today, every member of the Sangh, every Sarsanghchalak, has fought against such discrimination. Param Pujya Guruji constantly carried forward the spirit of 'Na Hindu Patito Bhavet', meaning 'no Hindu can ever be fallen'. Pujya Balasaheb Deoras Ji declared: 'If untouchability is not wrong, nothing else is wrong in the world.' Later, Pujya Rajju Bhaiya Ji and Pujya Sudarshan Ji, too, carried this message forward. In the current times, the present Sarsanghchalak, respected Mohan Bhagwat Ji, has given a clear call for unity and calling for one well, one temple, one crematorium.

Guided by these resolutions, the Sangh now begins its journey into its next century. In the mission of building a developed India by 2047, the contribution of the Sangh will be crucial. Once again, my best wishes to every Swayamsevak.

(The writer is Prime Minister of India.)

■ **RAJNATH SINGH**

► Through daily shakhas and volunteer-driven initiatives, the RSS has sought to foster discipline, resilience, and pride in India's cultural heritage, shaping individuals who view service to

► This spirit endured beyond Partition. During the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, the RSS again stepped in as a

► The RSS's role in the country's integration is even less known. From Kashmir to Goa to Dadra and Nagar Haveli, it has played a decisive role in preserving India's territorial integrity. When Pakistan-backed tribal invaders attacked Jammu & Kashmir, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel sought Shri Guruji's help to persuade Maharaja Hari Singh to join India. Shri Guruji travelled to Srinagar and impressed upon him the strategic necessity of immediate action.

▶ Thus, RSS has always fought for strengthening India and its spirit. During the 1975 Emergency, the Sangh became the resistance's backbone, mobilizing millions to defend India's constitution. According to The Economist, published in January 1976, "The shock troops of the movement come largely from the Jana Sangh and its affiliate RSS, which claim a combined membership of 10 million, of whom 80,000, including 6,000 full-time workers, are in prison." At a time when people and institutions were willing to crawl when told to bend merely, the RSS fought against authoritarianism and worked towards strengthening Indian democracy.

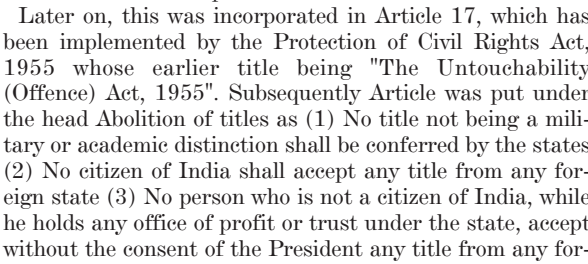
► The RSS is also often unfairly criticized regarding its relationship with Mahatma Gandhi. While it is true that there were some differences of opinion between Mahatma Gandhi and the RSS on certain issues—just as there were within the Congress fold itself—it would be misleading to portray their relationship in terms of hostility or rivalry. Their differences never stood in the way of the mutual regard they shared. This was evident in 1934, when Gandhi Ji visited an RSS camp in Wardha. He was struck by the organization's "discipline, complete absence of untouchability, and rigorous simplicity". On September 16, 1947, amid the Partition mayhem, Gandhi Ji addressed an RSS meeting in Delhi, praising its spirit of service and sacrifice. The RSS too, soon after Mahatma Gandhi's assassination

▶ As the RSS completes a century of service, its contribution to nation-building remains steadfast and ever-growing. A recent testament to this spirit was seen during the COVID-19 outbreak, when in May 2021, nearly 300 swayam-sevaks revived the long-defunct BGML hospital in Kolar within two weeks, offering much-needed relief to hundreds of patients. Such examples reflect how, even after a hundred years, the RSS continues to quietly perform its role as it was envisioned a century ago.

(The writer is Union Minister of Defence, Government of India)

■ **ISHER SINGH JASROTIA**

After he returned from South African country, he could not put up with the injustice being meted out to the Indians. Henceforth, he followed the philosophy and ideologies of non-violence, truthfulness - an ultimatum for realistic prevalence not only in India but also across the world over. His symbolic characteristic is praiseworthy for his ambition of converting the knowledgeable society into egalitarian society.



He had great passionate admiration for the children and it

Like other great leaders, he disseminated the message of brotherhood, love, truth and non-violence and existence of human excellence. His admiration for the education of the children & belief that the education being basic factors for all round development of the children, they being tendered heart, need to be handled carefully by the parents and the teachers as well.

He gave the ultimatum to the freedom movement and method of struggle; "Any great movement for liberation today must necessarily be a mass movement, and mass movements must essentially be peaceful, except in times of organized revolt..... And if the principal movement is a peaceful one, contemporaneous attempts at a sporadic violence can only distract attention and weaken it".

Let us take pledge to commemorate the memories of our great leader Mahatma Gandhi whose ideologies & philosophy will be followed from generation to generation in the educational institutions and other associated establishments relating to the educations so as to disseminate and give wide publicity to his heroic characteristics, great personality and traits not only in India but across the world over.

(The author is Chairman of CBSE School under aegis of  
Modern Educational Society 2006 at Kathua)