



Dear Children,

Mahatma Gandhi, known as the Father of the Nation, was one of the most influential leaders in India's fight for independence. Gandhi Jayanti, observed every year on October 2, celebrates his life and teachings. It reminds us of the power of peace and truth in overcoming injustice. For children, Gandhi Jayanti is a day to reflect on the values of kindness, honesty, and the importance of standing up for what is right. His life shows us that no matter how difficult the challenge, patience and non-violence can bring about meaningful change.

Born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, Gujarat, as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, he went on to study law in London before moving to South Africa, where he first encountered racial discrimination. It was there that he began to develop his philosophy of non-violent resistance, which he later brought back to India to lead the country's struggle for freedom from British rule.

Gandhi's contributions to India's independence are unparalleled. Through his method of Satyagraha, which means "truth force," he led several peaceful protests, boycotts, and non-cooperation movements against the British. Some of his most famous movements include the Salt March and the Quit India Movement. His philosophy was deeply rooted in truth (Satya) and non-violence (Ahimsa), emphasizing that real change could be achieved without violence or hatred.

Some interesting facts about Mahatma Gandhi include his simple lifestyle. He wore only a hand spun cloth, called khadi, and lived modestly, promoting

self-reliance and simplicity. Despite leading a major movement, he believed in the power of the smallest act of kindness. His ideas of ahimsa not only influenced India's independence but also left a lasting impact on global leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and even the Dalai Lama, all of whom adopted Gandhi's approach to non-violent resistance in their own struggles for justice.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, we pay our deepest homage to Mahatma Gandhi, the beacon of truth and non-violence. His life and work continue to inspire generations to pursue justice with compassion and resolve. As we reflect on his immense contribution to the freedom of our nation, we are reminded of his unwavering belief in peace, equality, and the strength of unity.

Lal Bahadur Shastri, India's second Prime Minister, was known for his simplicity, humility, and strong leadership. Born on October 2, 1904, in Uttar Pradesh, Shastri was deeply inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and joined the Indian freedom struggle at a young age. He actively participated in key movements such as the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Salt March, even facing imprisonment for his involvement.

As a freedom fighter, Shastri was committed to the cause of India's independence from British rule. He later held important positions in independent India, including as Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Railways. His most notable contribution as Prime Minister was leading the nation during the 1965 Indo-Pak War and giving the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" (Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer), emphasizing the importance of both defence and agriculture for India's progress.

Shastri's leadership and dedication to the nation continue to inspire generations, reminding us of the values of selflessness, hard work, and patriotism.

Today, let us all renew our commitment to the values he held dear—truth, non-violence, and harmony—so that we may build a world where justice prevails without hatred or division. May their spirit guide us always. As we celebrate Gandhi Jayanti and Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti, let us remember their message of love, truth, and peace. Wishing you all a peaceful and inspiring Gandhi Jayanti! HPMI Family