



Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri

Source: PIB

Why in News?

Prime Minister of India paid tributes to [Mahatma Gandhi](#) and [Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri](#) on their birth anniversaries, recalling their invaluable contributions to India's freedom, integrity, and nation-building.

Mahatma Gandhi

- **Early Life:** Born on **2nd October 1869 at Porbandar**, Gandhi married Kasturbai in 1882 and studied law in **England (1888-91)**. His legal career soon merged with his moral quest for justice.
- **Experiences in South Africa:** In **1893**, racial humiliation at Pietermaritzburg shaped his resolve against injustice.
 - He founded the **Natal Indian Congress (1894)**, launched the newspaper **Indian Opinion**, established **Phoenix Settlement (1904)** and **Tolstoy Farm (1910)** where he evolved **Satyagraha** as non-violent resistance.
- **Return to India:** Gandhi returned on **9th January 1915** (now celebrated as [Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas](#)) and set up **Sabarmati Ashram (1917)**. He rooted his politics in simplicity, truth, and self-reliance.
- **Major Movements:** His leadership shone in [Champaran Satyagraha \(1917\)](#), [Kheda Kheda Satyagraha \(1918\)](#), and the [Rowlatt Satyagraha \(1919\)](#). Later, he guided the nation through the [Non-Cooperation Movement \(1920-22\)](#), the [Civil Disobedience Movement with Dandi March \(1930\)](#), and the [Quit India Movement \(1942\)](#).
- **Writings & Ideas:** Gandhi articulated his vision in **Hind Swarajya** and his Autobiography titled "**An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth**".
 - He promoted **Khadi and the Charkha** as tools of self-reliance and dignity of labour, and established institutions like the **All India Spinners' Association (1925)** and the **Harijan Sevak Sangh (1932)** to further social and economic reform.
- **Legacy:** Gandhi's last years were devoted to **communal harmony and upliftment of Harijans**. He was assassinated on **30th January 1948**.
 - Gandhi revered as the "**Father of the Nation**," his legacy of truth and non-violence remains globally relevant.
 - 2nd October is celebrated as **Gandhi Jayanti** and globally as the [International Day of Non-Violence](#), as declared by the United Nations.

Gandhian Philosophy in Contemporary Initiatives

Initiative	Gandhian Philosophy
Swachh Bharat Mission	Cleanliness is next to godliness
Self-Help Groups (SHGs)	Cooperative economics & grassroots empowerment
Khadi & Village Industries	Swadeshi & village-based production
SVAMITVA Scheme	Village self-reliance & Panchayati Raj

<u>PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PM JUA / DAJGUA)</u>	Tribal advancement for national development
<u>MGNREGA</u>	Right to dignified work & inclusive development



Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi



“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”

Brief Description

Birth: 2nd October 1869, Porbandar (Gujarat).

2nd October is observed as **International Day of Non-Violence**.

Profile: Lawyer, Politician, Social activist, Writer and led Nationalist Movement.

Father of the Nation (first called by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose).

Ideology: Believed in the ideas of non-violence, Truth, Honesty, Care for Mother Nature, Compassion, Welfare of Downtrodden etc.

Political Mentor: Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Death: Shot dead by Nathuram Godse (30th January, 1948).

30th January is observed as **Martyrs' Day**

Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five times.



Gandhi in South Africa (1893-1915)

Used satyagraha against racist regime (Native Africans and Indians were discriminated).

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year on 9th January, to commemorate his return from South Africa.

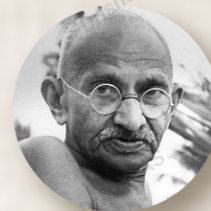
Contribution in India's Freedom Struggle

Small-scale movements like Champaran Satyagraha (1917)—First Civil Disobedience, Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)—First Hunger Strike, and Kheda Satyagraha (1918)—First Non-Cooperation.

Nationwide Mass Movements: Against Rowlatt Act (1919), Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-34), Quit India Movement (1942).

Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931): Between Gandhi and Lord Irwin that marked the end of a period of civil disobedience.

Poona Pact (1932): Between Gandhi and **B.R. Ambedkar**; this abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).



Books Written

Hind Swaraj, My Experiments with Truth (Autobiography)

Weeklies

Harijan, Navjivan, Young India, Indian Opinion.

Gandhi Peace Prize


is given by India for social, economic, and political transformation through Gandhian methods.

“Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.”

“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty”

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri

- **Early Life:** Lal Bahadur Shastri was born on **2nd October 1904** at **Mughalsarai, Uttar Pradesh**. He was deeply inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement (1920)**.
 - Studied at **Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi**, where he earned the title "**Shastri**," which later became part of his name.
- **Role in Freedom Struggle:** Actively participated in **Civil Disobedience Movement** and got arrested multiple times he spent **over seven years in British jails**.
- **Political Career Post-Independence:** Became **Parliamentary Secretary** in Uttar Pradesh (1946), later rising to **Home Minister** of the state. Later held important Union portfolios (**Railways, Transport & Communications, Commerce & Industry, Home Affairs**).
 - He is well known for **resigning as Railway Minister (1956)** taking moral responsibility for a train accident, a rare act of political accountability.
- **Leadership Qualities:** Admired for **integrity, humility, and efficiency**, earning the title "**little dynamo of a man**."
- **Prime Ministership:** Lal Bahadur Shastri succeeded **Jawaharlal Nehru** as Prime Minister.
 - As Prime Minister (1964-66), Shastri showed firm leadership in the **1965 Indo-Pak war**. His enduring legacy lies in the slogan "**Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan**," highlighting the twin pillars of national security and food security.
 - Shastri died suddenly in Tashkent on 11th January 1966, shortly after signing the [**Tashkent Declaration**](#).



Lal Bahadur Shastri

The Man of Peace

▲ **1935:** General Secretary of UP Pradeshik Congress Committee (PCC)

▲ **1940:** Participated in **Individual satyagraha** and sent to prison

▲ **1942:** Released from jail; Participated in the **Quit India Movement**

Post-independence Journey

▲ **1952:** Minister of Railways and Transport

▲ **1959:** Minister of Commerce and Industry

▲ **1961:** Minister of Home Affairs

Prime Minister of India (1964-66)

▲ **1964:** Second Prime Minister of the Republic of India

▲ **1964:** Took initiative of White Revolution

▲ **1965:** Established National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)

▲ **1965:** Took initiative for Green Revolution

Wars During His Tenure

▲ **1962:** War with China

▲ **1965:** War with Pakistan

Death

▲ **11th January 1966:** Died in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

▲ Just one day after signing the peace treaty to end the 1965 war with Pakistan

▲ **1978:** A Book '**Lalita ke Aansoo**' was published by M.L Verma

▲ Tragic story of his death is narrated by his wife Lalita Devi

▲ **1977:** Raj Narain committee: To look into the mysterious death of Shastri ji

▲ **Vijay Ghat:** Shastri ji's resting place (Delhi)

▲ **IAS training institute, Mussoorie:** Named as Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)

Brief Description

▲ **Birth:** 2nd October 1904, Mughalsarai (Uttar Pradesh)

▲ **Kashi Vidyapeeth:** Degree in Philosophy and Ethics

▲ **Famous Slogan:** 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'

▲ **Bharat Ratna (1966):** Awarded Posthumously


▲ **Lifetime Member:** Lok Seva Mandal (founded by Lala Lajpat Rai)

Political Journey

▲ **1928:** Joined Indian National Congress

▲ **1930:** Joined Freedom Movement

"Discipline and united action are the real source of strength for the nation."



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. When is the International Day of Non-Violence observed and why?

It is observed on 2nd October, Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, as declared by the UN in 2007, to spread Gandhian ideals of peace and non-violence.

2. Which was Mahatma Gandhi's first successful Satyagraha in India?

The Champaran Satyagraha (1917), addressing indigo farmers' exploitation in Bihar.

3. What was Lal Bahadur Shastri's famous slogan and its significance?

"Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" (1965), highlighting the twin pillars of national defense and food security.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Who among the following is associated with 'Songs from Prison', a translation of ancient India religious lyrics in English? (2021)

- A. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- B. Jawaharlal Nehru
- C. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
- D. Sarojini Naidu

Ans: C

Q: With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements: (2019)

1. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'.
2. In Lord Chelmsford's 'War Conference', Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
3. Consequent upon the breaking of the Salt Law by the Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Ans: B