



सत्यमेव जयते

Hon'ble Governor of Andhra Pradesh

Sri Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

participates as Chief Guest at the 72nd Martyrs' Day even

on the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's Death Anniversary

at 11 AM on 30th January 2020

at Andhra Loyola College Seminar Hall, Vijayawada

Sri Mandali Buddha Prasad, Former Deputy Speaker, Sri R.K. Paliwal, Director General, Income tax (Investigation), AP & Telangana, Dr. Gandhi P.C. Kaza, Chairman of Andhra Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Rev. Father Victor Imanuel, Principal, Andhra Loyola College, Sri K. Raghottaman, Former S.P., CBI. Friends from media, SODARA SODAREEMANULU. ANDARIKI NAMASKARAM.

I consider it my privilege to pay Homage to Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation, on the occasion of his 72nd Death Anniversary, which is observed as National Martyrs' Day across the country, as a mark of respect for the leading figure of the country's freedom struggle and in the honour of all those who laid their lives for the country.

Gandhiji played a significant role in leading the country towards independence by fighting the British through non-violence means. Gandhiji's non violent resistance shook the very foundation of British rule and for the first time, the British saw in India, a silent opposition of an entire people to a mighty Government.

He was a great freedom fighter who taught the lesson of non-violence and worked on building the unity of the nation which was broken by the British. After India got Independence in 1947, Bapuji stayed away from mainstream politics and started working to foster harmony, peace, and brotherhood among the people.

On this occasion, it is apt to recall Mahatma Gandhi's words about Martyrdom. He said:

"Let us all be brave enough to die the death of a martyr, but no one lust for martyrdom."

The magnitude of Gandhiji's public role in social and political reform was such that his ideas, movements and his work was keenly followed by top politicians and statesmen in across the globe.

Gandhiji was one of the pioneers of environmental sustainability. The quintessential Gandhian question- "How much should a person consume?" still rings true today. His model of sustainability is relevant even today. Gandhiji was the driving force behind the vigorous environmental movement for promotion of renewable energy and small-scale irrigation systems.

The philosophy of non-violence or Ahimsa has become synonymous with Gandhiji. His practice of Ahimsa was an extension of respect for other religions and a sense of fraternity. Gandhiji vehemently opposed injustice and authoritarian rule, but without any resort to arms or violent actions. His peaceful and non-violent opposition to the arbitrary use of state power is the primary manifestation of the Gandhian legacy even today.

Gandhiji always believed that no religion had a monopoly on the truth. Along with the secular ideal, he actively encouraged friendships and mingling across religions.

Gandhiji's method of Satyagraha stands out as an unique and universally recognized form of peaceful agitation to achieve genuine demands.

Gandhiji played an instrumental role in the upliftment of women across the country. The most notable one is SEWA, the Self Employed Women's Association in Ahmedabad which is responsible for organising a million plus women in producer cooperatives, providing them with child and maternal healthcare and a cooperative bank to encourage economic self-reliance.

The Constitution of India clearly lays down the democratic principles that have to be abided by all; from free and fair elections, linguistic diversity, separation of state and religion to a more inclusive step - affirmative action for underprivileged classes of society. A lot of these achievements owe their credit to Gandhiji's visionary approach while framing the Constitution.

Through his leadership in the Civil Disobedience Movement, Gandhiji played a crucial role in the unification of the country, awakening of the masses and the common man.

Mahatma Gandhi's role and contribution to India's Freedom Movement was extraordinary and exemplary.

As Albert Einstein once said about Mahatma Gandhi that:
"Generations to come will scarce believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth."

Gandhiji will certainly remain immortal for all generations.

Jai Hind