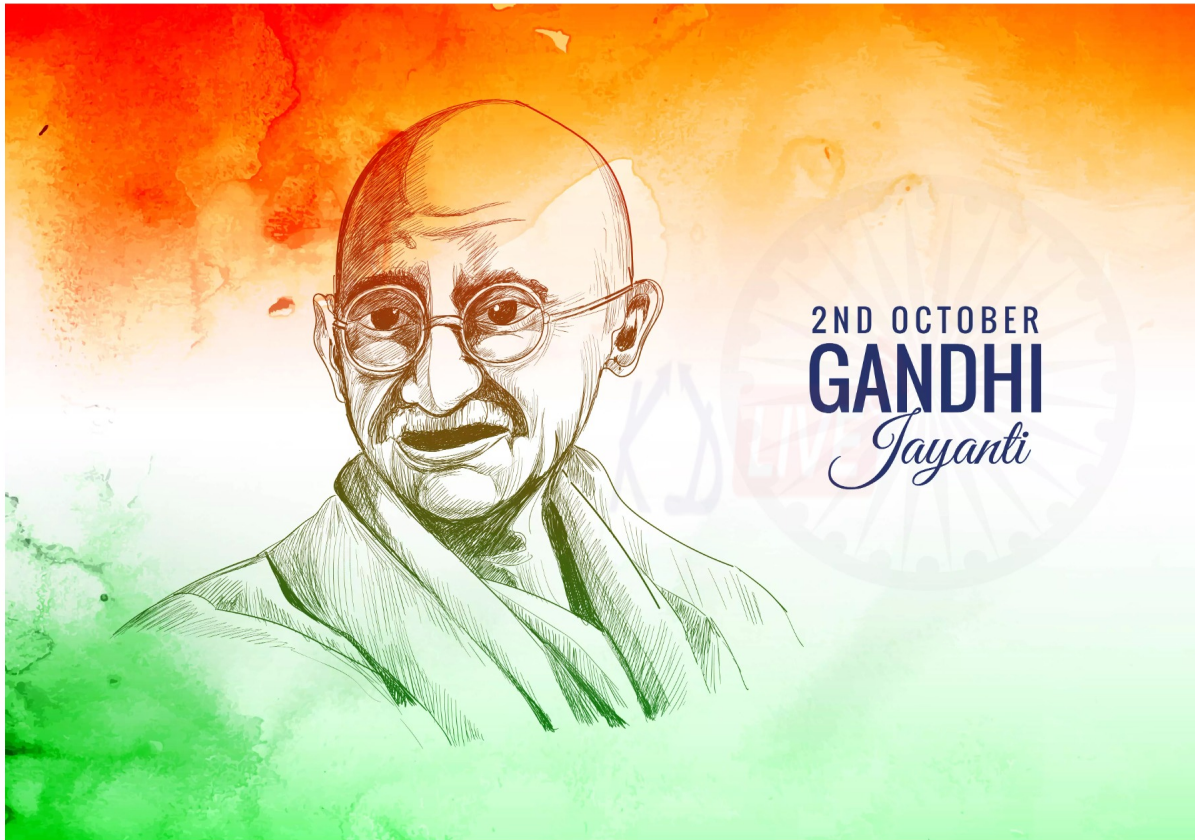


Gandhi Jayanti - International Day of Non Violence

Mahatma Gandhi, whose birth name was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, stands as a transformative figure not only in India's history but in the course of world events. Born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, a coastal town in present-day Gujarat, India, he went on to shape a movement that championed civil rights and freedom through non-violence and civil disobedience.



[Source: FreePik]

His most notable movements include -

- **Salt March (Dandi March):** In 1930, in protest against the British salt tax, Gandhi led thousands on a 240-mile march to the Arabian Sea to produce their salt, breaking the British laws.
- **Quit India Movement:** In 1942, Gandhi called for the immediate British withdrawal from India.

Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948, but his teachings continue to inspire movements for civil rights and freedom worldwide.

Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations: More Than Just a Day Off



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Mahatma Gandhi, often revered as the 'Father of the Nation' in India, played a pivotal role in the country's quest for independence. His birth anniversary, Gandhi Jayanti, celebrated on 2nd of October is not just another public holiday in the Indian calendar; it holds profound significance, encompassing various activities that resonate with his teachings and principles.

Deep Dive into Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations -





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- **Prayer Meetings and Devotional Songs:** Across India, and notably at Raj Ghat in New Delhi (Gandhi's memorial), there are large gatherings where people come together for prayer meetings. The air fills with the tunes of Gandhi's favorite devotional songs, like "Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram" and "Vaishnav Jan To."
- **Cultural Programs and Events:** Schools, colleges, and cultural institutions host skits, dance performances, and elocution competitions, emphasizing Gandhi's principles of non-violence, peace, and harmony. Documentaries and films based on his life and teachings, like the Oscar-winning movie "Gandhi," are screened in various communities and educational institutions.
- **Community Service and Outreach Programs:** Keeping in line with Gandhi's principles of serving the community, many NGOs and social groups organize cleanliness drives, blood donation camps, and community meals (known as langars).
- **Awareness Marches and Peace Rallies:** Processions and rallies promoting peace, unity, and non-violence are common sights on this day. Participants often don white clothes, symbolic of peace and purity.
- **Artistic Tributes:** Exhibitions featuring art inspired by Gandhi, his life events, and his teachings are showcased across cities. Many artists depict significant moments from his life, such as the Dandi March, through their art pieces.
- **Literary and Academic Engagements:** Bookstores and libraries often hold special displays of books on or by Mahatma Gandhi. There are also public readings, discussions, and seminars on his writings and ideologies.
- **A Day of Reflection:** More than anything, Gandhi Jayanti is a day for self-reflection. It's a day to ponder upon the individual changes one can bring about, drawing inspiration from Gandhi's famous quote, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

So, while the hustle and bustle of daily life often mean that public holidays are eagerly anticipated for the break they offer, Gandhi Jayanti serves as a heartfelt reminder of the values of one of the most influential figures in Indian history. It's more than just a day off; it's a day to celebrate peace, unity, and the indomitable human spirit.

Why Should Gandhi Jayanti Matter to You?

Gandhi Jayanti - International Day of Non Violence



[Source: FreePik]

In today's fast-paced world, one might wonder about the relevance of Gandhi Jayanti, a day dedicated to a leader from the early 20th century. But Mahatma Gandhi's teachings are timeless and universal. His commitment to peace, non-violence, and dialogue offers a blueprint in our often volatile world. His resilience against the colossal British Empire embodies human tenacity and hope. Gandhi also championed equal rights, not just against colonial rule but against societal prejudices within India. As discussions about sustainability dominate today, his philosophy of simple living feels strikingly relevant. Leaders worldwide, from Martin Luther King Jr. to Nelson Mandela, drew inspiration from him, testifying to his global impact.

Furthermore, Gandhi's practices of introspection and self-reflection are valuable in our age of mental health awareness. And his emphasis on grassroots movements gives hope to many who strive for change from the ground up. In essence, Gandhi Jayanti isn't merely a day of remembrance; it's a beacon of universal values that continue to inspire and resonate globally.

Mahatma Gandhi's Principles and Philosophy



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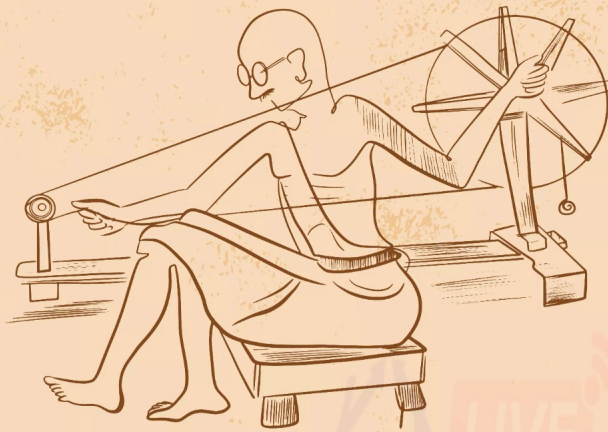


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Gandhi Jayanti - International Day of Non Violence

- **Ahimsa (Non-violence):** At the core of Gandhi's philosophy was the principle of 'Ahimsa,' which means non-violence. Gandhi believed that non-violence was the most powerful weapon for the oppressed. It was not just a principle of non-harm but also a positive state of love and compassion towards all living beings.
- **Satyagraha (Truth Force):** Derived from the Sanskrit words for truth (Satya) and force (Aagraha), Satyagraha meant the force or power generated by adherence to truth. For Gandhi, it was a method of non-violent resistance against injustice, where the seeker would bear suffering rather than retaliate.
- **Sarvodaya (Welfare of All):** Gandhi envisioned a society where the welfare of all its members, including the most vulnerable, was prioritized. He opposed any system that was exploitative and believed in the upliftment of every individual.
- **Swaraj (Self-rule):** While Swaraj commonly referred to India's quest for independence from British rule, Gandhi's definition was broader. He believed in individual self-rule, where a person governs themselves in accordance with their conscience and ethics.
- **Simplicity and Self-reliance:** Gandhi lived a life of simplicity, advocating for minimalism and self-reliance. He believed that one should consume only what they genuinely need, reflected in his simple attire and diet. The spinning wheel (charkha) became a symbol of self-reliance and independence from British goods.
- **Interfaith Harmony:** Gandhi believed in the unity and mutual respect of all religions. He often read from various religious texts and emphasized that different religions are different paths to the same truth.
- **Trusteeship:** Gandhi proposed the idea of wealth holders as trustees, where they hold their wealth on behalf of society and the poor. In this sense, they have a duty to use it in a way that benefits everyone, especially those less privileged.
- **Decentralization of Power:** Gandhi believed in a decentralized form of governance and economy, where villages were self-sufficient units. He felt that centralization led to imbalances of power and exploitation.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Though the term 'environmentalism' was not prevalent in his time, Gandhi's principles of non-violence and harmony extended to nature. He believed in living in sync with nature, taking only what is necessary.
- **Empowerment of Women:** Gandhi recognized the essential role of women in society and the freedom struggle. He believed that women should be given equal rights and opportunities as men, emphasizing their strength, purity, and dedication.

How is Gandhi Jayanti Celebrated Globally?

Gandhi Jayanti - International Day of Non Violence



[Source: FreePik]



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- **Documentary Screenings and Book Readings:** Libraries, universities, and cultural centers across the world often host special events on this day, including the screening of documentaries on Gandhi's life and readings from his writings.
- **Workshops and Seminars:** Academic institutions around the globe hold workshops and seminars delving into the philosophy and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. These events often examine the relevance of his ideas in contemporary times, discussing topics like peaceful protests, civil rights, and global peace.
- **Art Exhibitions and Cultural Performances:** Several countries, with significant Indian diaspora or those influenced by Gandhi's principles, host art exhibitions showcasing works inspired by his life and philosophy. Cultural performances, including plays and dance performances, also take center stage, narrating significant episodes from his life.

Gandhi Jayanti, while rooted deeply in India's national consciousness, has evolved into a global day of reflection, reverence, and action. The birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi transcends national borders, resonating with his universal principles of non-violence, peace, and social justice. This day serves as a reminder that in the beliefs of one man can lie the shared aspirations of many. To read more such informative blogs, visit our blog [KD Live](#).