

# Newsletter

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**Nehru  
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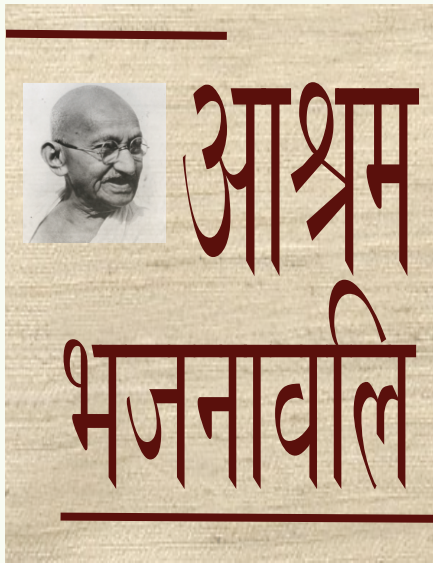


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## Events At a Glance...



To commemorate Gandhi Jayanti, bhajans of various saints which formed part of the morning and evening prayers at Gandhiji's ashrams will be performed by Shri Uday Mazumdar and his group.

**3rd October 2017, 6.30 pm-8.30 pm**  
**Hall of Culture**  
**Discovery of India Building**

## SABARMATI ASHRAM: 100 YEARS

On his return from South Africa in early 1915 Gandhiji had to decide where he should settle down. Many places like Haridwar, Calcutta and Rajkot were suggested but he chose Ahmedabad for setting up an Ashram. Shri Jivanlal Desai, a barrister in Ahmedabad, offered his house called Kocharab bungalow, situated on the Paldi Road to Gandhiji and he founded the Satyagraha Ashram there on May 25, 1915. To begin with, there were in all about twenty five men and women in the Ashram who lived like a family having a common kitchen. Within a couple of months, an untouchable family of three was admitted to the Ashram with the consent of the inmates. It created a situation of social and financial crisis for the Ashram and Gandhiji started toying with the idea of moving to a locality of untouchables and doing, if necessary, manual labour to survive. An anonymous donation, however, saved the situation.

The Satyagraha Ashram had hardly completed two years when plague broke out in the village of Kocharab where the Ashram was situated. There was evident danger to the safety of the inmates of the Ashram. Whereas within

the Ashram premises, perfect hygiene and cleanliness was maintained, it was not possible to have the same in Kocharab village. It, therefore, became necessary to shift the Ashram to a safe place.

Shri Punjabhai Hirachand, a friend of Gandhiji, volunteered to find a suitable site for the Ashram. The site selected was an area of about thirty six acres and was on the banks of Sabarmati River and in close proximity to the Sabarmati central prison on one side and a cremation ground on the other. It was also the place where, according to legend, there used to be the Ashram of Rishi Dadhichi who had given up his body so that Indra, the king of Devas, could make an irresistible weapon (thunderbolt) with his bones to destroy the Asuras. Gandhiji liked the place even though it was all jungle and within a week the site was purchased. Gandhiji said, "This is the right place for our activities to carry on the search for truth and develop fearlessness, for on one side are the iron bolts of the foreigners, and on the other the thunderbolts of Mother Nature."

The Ashram shifted to the new site in 1917 and started functioning under canvas tents. A tin shed was erected to serve as the kitchen. In two years,

contd. on page 2

the Ashram's population had grown to over forty comprising of men, women and children. It also came to be known as Sabarmati Ashram. Gandhiji made strict rules for those living in the Ashram which were:

1. Speak the truth and follow the right path.
2. Take the vow of celibacy.
3. Control the palate and eat what is necessary for sustaining the body. No liquor, meat or tobacco was allowed.
4. Vow of non-stealing which meant that it would be theft if we use articles which we do not really need.
5. Take the vow of non-possession.
6. The concept of Swadeshi must be practised in every department of life.
7. Caste system not to be practised.
8. Respect all religions.



Kocharab bungalow of Jivanlal Desai, 1915

The birth of khadi as a symbol of India's freedom struggle took place at Sabarmati Ashram. One of the objects of the Ashram was that all inmates should wear hand-woven cloth made from Indian yarn. The question was how to make the hand-spun yarn. The spinning wheel was not available nor was there any person who could teach spinning. Gangaben Majumdar, whom Gandhiji met at the Broach Educational Conference and expressed the difficulty that the Ashram was facing, solved the problem. She found the spinning wheel for Gandhiji in Vijapur in Baroda State. Thus, the spinning wheel came to the Ashram and the production of khadi began. From then onwards Gandhiji wore only hand woven dhoti made of hand-spun yarn.



Bapu's room in the ashram

Khadi became the ultimate definition of Swadeshi.

It was from Sabarmati Ashram that Gandhiji began on 12th March, 1930 his 385 km long "Historic March" to Dandi along with 78 volunteers to break the salt law. Before leaving, Gandhiji had declared not to return to the Ashram till the freedom was

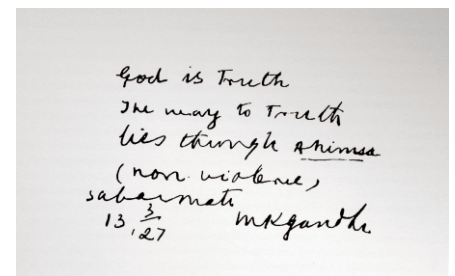
won. Unfortunately by the time India became free the Ashram was not there. The government wanted to punish those who had participated in the salt Satyagraha and started confiscating their properties. Gandhiji asked the government to take over his Ashram too but the offer was refused. At that, the inmates of the Ashram decided to leave it and started on foot towards a village in Kaira district. They were arrested. Thereupon Gandhiji disbanded the Ashram in 1933 and moved to Wardha. Local citizens decided to preserve it.



Sabarmati Ashram today

The Ashram today has a museum, called the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, designed by Charles Correa, the famous architect. The Sangrahalaya was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 10 May, 1963.

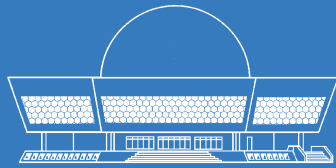
Some of the priceless items on display here are the charkha used by Gandhiji to spin yarn for making khadi and the writing table he used for writing letters.



#### What Nehru said...

For thousands of years, this country has made us what we are today. We love this country of ours. We believe that this country has a message not only for us but also for the world. It seems to me that thousands of years of our history is today watching what we are doing and what we are going to do. Our strength and our greatness are on trial. We have to prove that we have courage and that we love this country and that we are prepared to do everything to preserve its honour...

October 26, 1962



NEHRU PLANETARIUM

## SKY SHOW : 'Biography of the Universe'

### Timings

12 noon (Hindi) 1:30 pm (Marathi)  
3:00 pm (English) 4:30 pm (Hindi)

(MONDAY CLOSED)

### An Open Public Lecture by Dr. Konstantinos Kolokythas

Dr. Konstantinos Kolokythas, Post-Doctoral fellow at The Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune delivered an open public lecture on "A historical journey in ancient Greek astronomy and philosophy", on Friday, 8th September 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sky Theatre of Nehru Planetarium, Nehru Centre, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400018. Here are a few excerpts from his lecture.

Dr. Kolokythas said that throughout history, the fascinating view of the night sky for all civilizations across the corners of the world has been intriguing as well as mysterious to them. In ancient times, the enigma behind the celestial phenomena observed, was not explained rationally but was rather related to mysticism and divine power. The very beginning of astronomy, attributed to Babylonian and Egyptian astronomers/astrologers (~1500 BC), emerged mainly for religious and agricultural purposes to track time and circles via calendars, whereas the place where astronomy flourished and was developed as a science was ancient Greece. Greek astronomy had the uniqueness compared to other civilizations that, from the very beginning was pursued using critical thinking and scientific method. Ancient Greek and Hellenistic astronomers are considered therefore to be the precursors of what is now called 'modern science', with their contribution being thought by historians as of significant importance in the evolution of astronomy.

Ancient Greeks, although not being the first astronomers, were the first to devise a physical model of the Universe, refining astronomy from being an observational science with an element of prediction, into a proper theoretical science. The first indications of astronomical knowledge in ancient Greece are found in the Homeric poems and the works of Hesiod (8th century BC), with references to the Pleiades, Orion, the morning star etc. However, the basis of astronomy as science was set by the Ionian philosophical about a century later (7th century BC).

From Thales to Hipparchus and from Aristarchus to Eratosthenes, the ideas of all philosophers in exploring nature revolved around one thing: their desire in understanding the heavens. Their ideas, astronomical theories and speculations about the cosmos although not always correct, were essential in the cumulative process of scientific evolution. In modern astronomy the same logical steps are followed in order to derive what is incomprehensible to us to date, via the use of the Ionian philosophical way of thinking.

In India, which also has a long history of astronomical sciences, the Aryans, that were originally pastoral people, produced a set of Brahmanic literature, called the Vedas. There were four Vedas with the first one (Samhita, 1500-1000 BC) showing already certain calendrical knowledge, that was connected with the annual monsoon, closely related to the local climate in India. Afterwards, when the society in India started becoming essentially agricultural (1000 - 500 BC) with several kinds of pulses and rice being mentioned in the later Vedic literature, a more accurate and regular calendar was developed as symbolised in Vedic rituals.

He ended his talk stating that Greek astronomy was introduced into India with the Yavajataka (nativity according to the Greeks ~270 CE, Sphudjdhvaja) marking the beginning of mathematical astronomy in India, which was further developed by Aryabhata with the Aryabhatiya (499 CE) and the Pancha-Siddhantika of Varahamihira (~575 CE) that gives the most information on Greek mathematical astronomy. Therefore, cultural interactions, promoting the exchange of ideas have always been important in shaping the knowledge of the 'mysteries' of the cosmos.



## Dr H. N. Sethna Memorial Lecture

On September 2nd, 2017, the Seventh Dr. H. N. Sethna Memorial Lecture was delivered by Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar, Secretary, Department of Space, Chairman, Space Commission and Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on "Observing from Space".

Prof S. M. Chitre gave his opening remarks and introduce Shri Kumar before the lecture. In his opening remarks Prof. Chitre said that initially the speakers of the Memorial Lectures were directly connected with Atomic Energy Commission. Last year eminent astrophysicist Professor J V Narlikar delivered the lecture and this year we have Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar.



Shri A. S. Kiran Kumar

Shri Kiran Kumar began his talk with giving historical perspective of astronomical developments in India and elsewhere in the world. He also talked about observational challenges faced by the astronomers using ground based observatories with atmospheric conditions being the most important one. He also added that this challenge can be met by going outside the atmosphere of the earth.

He also told the audience that facilities exist in India to study the entire band of electromagnetic spectrum and gave a brief introduction to all the major astronomical installations, from Ooty Radio telescope to Chandra Himalayan Observatory in Ladakh.



He talked about various space programmes undertaken by ISRO and gave details of India's first venture into interplanetary space, the Mars Orbiter Mission to explore and observe Mars' surface features, morphology, mineralogy and the Martian atmosphere. He talked about the demanding challenges of interplanetary missions and told the audience that such missions require autonomy at the spacecraft end to handle contingencies. Then, in just about a couple of minutes he enthralled the audience with a narrative of the last few minutes when the satellite entered the orbit of Mars.

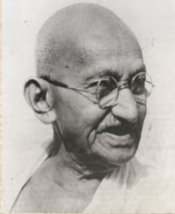
Talking about the successful launch performance of ASTROSAT, India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory, launched on a PSLV-XL on 28th September 2015 he said that after about two years the observatory is performing well.

Shri Kumar summarized the various future missions including the Aditya mission to observe the sun and Lunar rover. He showed the picture of artificial lunar terrain built by ISRO to test the rover.

The lecture was well attended by students and space enthusiasts.



# Cultural Wing



## आश्रम भजनावलि

To commemorate Gandhi Jayanti, bhajans of various saints which formed part of the morning and evening prayers at Gandhiji's ashrams will be performed by Shri Uday Mazumdar and his group.

Ashram Bhajanavali is a collection of devotional bhajans which were in various languages and taken from various sources, some of them obscure, but all fairly popular in Hindu religious tradition.

Gandhiji rendered these into English for Mira Behn's benefit, in the first place, during his imprisonment in Yeravada Central prison.

**3rd October 2017, 6.30 - 8.30 pm**  
**Hall of Culture**  
**Discovery of India Building**

*Entry: Free to all on first-come, first-served basis.*

Review:

## Nehru Centre's 21<sup>st</sup> THEATRE FESTIVAL 2017

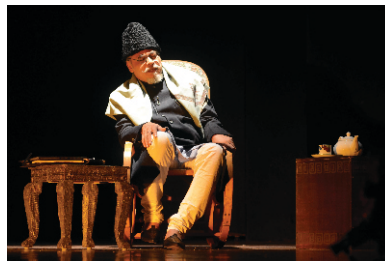
Nehru Centre presented 7 out of 8 plays in different languages in its 21st Edition of Theatre Festival - 2017 held from 13th to 20th September 2017 at the Nehru Centre Auditorium. Due to unavoidable circumstances the last play "Ek Aur Dronacharya" by IPTA was not staged. Below are the glimpses from the Festival.



A scene from the play 'Samaj Swasthya'



A scene from the play 'Paramvir Chakra'



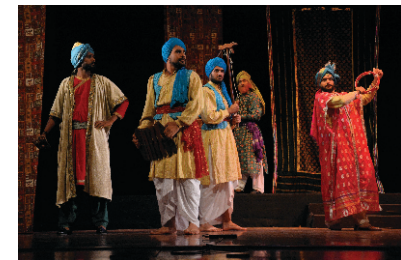
A scene from the play 'Maulana'



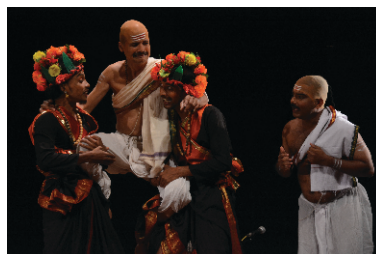
A scene from the play 'Behram Ni Sasoo'



A scene from the play 'Karl Marx in Kalbadevi'



A scene from the play 'Dulla Bhatti'



A scene from the play 'Vedharan'

The festival was well attended by the theatre enthusiasts, theatre students of Mumbai University, dignitaries and artistes from the theatre fraternity. The festival was well appreciated and was a huge success.

## Programmes for October 2017

**MADHAVI ZAMINDAR**



Painting by Madhavi Zamindar

**Madhavi** has completed Diploma in Textile Designing from Delhi. She is a farmer, spent 20 years with nature and observed nature blooming despite all adversity. That's the inspiration behind her acrylic paintings. She has exhibited her works in India and abroad. She lives and works in Indore.

**Tuesday 3rd October to  
Monday 9th October 2017  
( AC Gallery )**

**BHARAT PATEL**

**Bharat** received Diploma in Painting from Navsari, Gujarat with distinction. He has had many shows and won awards. His landscapes are in water colours.

**Tuesday 3rd October to  
Monday 9th October 2017  
( Circular Gallery )**

**SHASHIKANT PATADE**

**Shashikant** completed G.D.A and Art Masters from Mumbai. He has



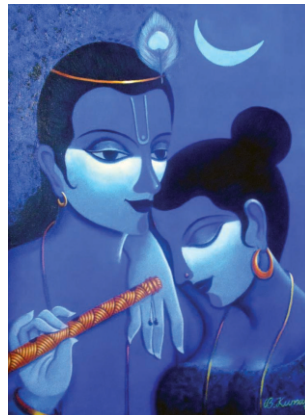
Painting by Shashikant Patade

been exhibiting his landscapes of Konkan and Mumbai in acrylic on canvas. He has had over 25 shows in India and won many awards.

**Tuesday 10th October to  
Monday 16th October 2017  
( AC Gallery )**

**D. M. KANKANAWADI .  
K. A. BADIGER .  
MAHALING HOSAKOTI .  
CHANDRAKANT LOHAR .  
L. S. KALI**

**Kankanawadi** has secured A.M., G.D.A. and M.F.A, in Painting from Karnataka. His paintings are compositions in acrylic on canvas and won awards.



Painting by K. A. Badiger

**Badiger** also obtained A.M., G.D.A. and M.F.A. from Karnataka. His paintings on Krishna is in acrylic on canvas. He has exhibited in Karnataka and won several awards.

**Mahaling** graduated from Government Fine Art College,

Dharwad. He has had many shows in India. He has attended man camps and won several awards.



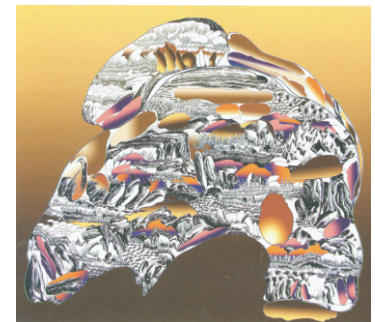
Painting by Mahaling Hosakoti

**Chandrakan** secured A.M., G.D.A. and M.F.A. in Painting from Karnataka. His paintings are figurative in acrylic on canvas.

**L. S. Kali** received D.M.C., A.M. and M.F.A. from Sankeshwar. His landscapes on rural life are in acrylic on canvas. He has won many awards.

**Tuesday 10th October to  
Monday 16th October 2017  
( Circular Gallery )**

**JAYANTILAL PARDESHI**



Painting by Jayantilal Pardeshi

**Jayantilal** completed Diploma in Applied Art, Baroda. He has had solo and group shows. His paintings are in acrylic and pen & ink.

**Tuesday 17th October to  
Monday 23rd October 2017  
( AC Gallery )**



## 'KHULA AASMAN'

Presented by India Art Foundation



Painting by one of the participant

This exhibition is a platform for children and young adults to showcase their creations, cartoons, sketches, paintings, collages and photographs. The artworks of medal winners will be on view in this show.

**Tuesday 17th October to  
Monday 23rd October 2017  
( Circular Gallery )**

**RAMESH BHOSALE .  
SHUBHADA BHOSALE .  
B. R. BODADE .  
SUSHILA BODADE**



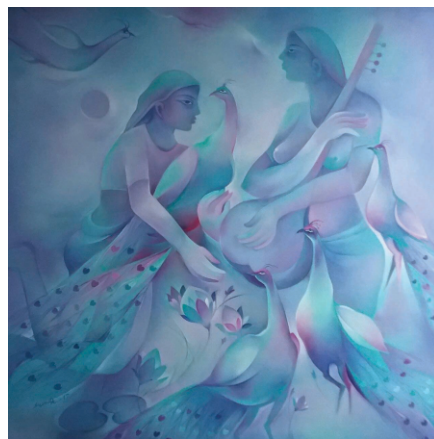
Painting by Ramesh Bhosale

**Ramesh** obtained G.D.A. and A.T.D. in Painting from Pune. He is a faculty member of Abhinav Kala

Mahavidyalaya, Pune. His paintings are forms of Gods in acrylic on canvas. He has had his many shows in India.

**Shubhada** received G.D.A., A.M. and A.T.D. from Pune. She has won awards and exhibited her works in India. Her paintings are on the subjects concerning rural women of India in oil on canvas.

**B. R. Bodade** hails from Madhya Pradesh. He has had innumerable shows in India and won many awards. His paintings are forms of collage in bright colours in oil on canvas. He has won many awards.



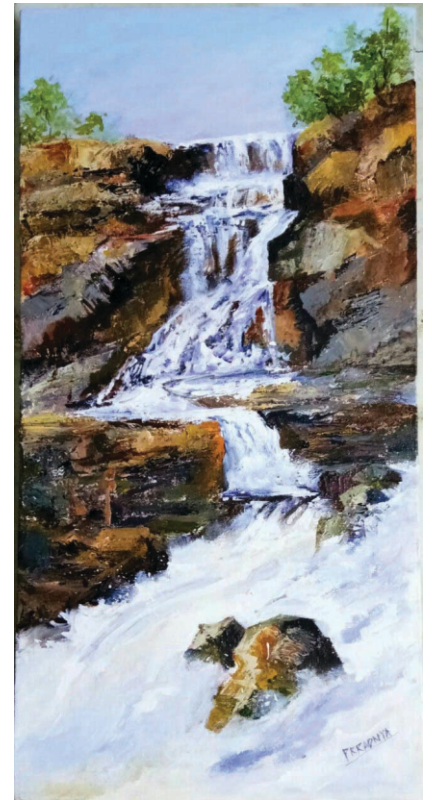
Painting by Sushila Bodade

**Sushila** also belongs to Madhya Pradesh. She has many solo and group shows to her credit. She has won many awards. Her paintings are compositions of ladies in warm colours.

**Tuesday 24th October to  
Monday 30th October 2017  
( AC Gallery )**

**PRADNYA RAJE .  
NILAKSHI KULKARNI .  
SHRUTI KALE .  
PREETI WALVE .  
SIDDHARTH RAJE**

**Pradnya** received Diploma in Interior Designing from L. S. Raheja School of Art, Mumbai. Her figurative paintings are in acrylic and landscapes in water colours.



Painting by Pradnya Rajee

**Nilakshi** is a self-taught artist. Her beautiful landscapes are in water colours.



Painting by Nilakshi Kulkarni

**Shruti** has completed Commerce and Fashion Designing Course. She will exhibit her water colour landscapes in this show. She has won many awards.

**Preeti** secured Bachelor of Architecture from Mumbai. She will display water colour landscapes and still life.

**Siddharth** is studying in the school of Mumbai. His paintings are on birds in colour pencils and water colours.

**Tuesday 24th October to  
Monday 30th October 2017  
( Circular Gallery )**



## NEHRU CENTRE PUBLICATIONS

MUMBAI PAST &amp; PRESENT \* WITNESS TO HISTORY

\* REMEMBERING EINSTEIN \*

INDIAN ASTRONOMY A Source Book

EXPLORING THE UNIVERSE: The Planetarium Way

SCIENCE IN INDIA: PAST &amp; PRESENT

DISCOVERY OF INDIA Abridged and illustrated

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CHALLENGES TO DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

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7. ART HERITAGE OF MAHARASHTRA

8. HAREN DAS / 9. PROF. P. A. DHOND

10. COLLECTOR'S PRIDE / 11. K. B. KULKARNI

12. VINAYAK S. MASOJI

13. SAMAKALEEN (Contemporary Five Artists)

VINAYAKRAO WAGH \* RAJARAM PANVALKAR

KRISHNAJI KETKAR \* DATTAJIRAO DALVI

\* GOVIND MALADKAR

14. NAGESH B. SABANAVAR

15. NARAYAN L. SONAVADEKAR

16. "GURU-SHISHYA"

BABA GAJBAR &amp; GANPATRAO WADANGEKAR

17. D. G. KULKARNI (DIZI)

18. MILLENNIUM SHOW

(A Century of Art from Maharashtra)

19. BALAJI TALIM &amp; HARISH TALIM

20. S. L. HALDANKAR &amp; G. S. HALDANKAR

21. VINAYAKRAO P. KARMARKAR

22. GOPALRAO DEUSKAR

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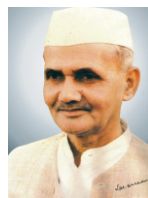
Available at:

Discovery of India Exposition, Ground Floor,  
NEHRU CENTRE, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018.*New Arrivals: Books on Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru*

Sr. No.	Title	Author/s
1	Gandhi: An illustrated biography	Pramod Kapoor
2	Gandhi on personal leadership	Anand Kumaraswamy
3	Mahatma Gandhi: His life and ideas	Charles F Andrews
4	Gandhi: A spiritual biography	Arvind Sharma
5	Gandhi in Bombay: Towards Swaraj	Usha Thakkar & Sandhya Mehta
6	Lal Bahadur Shastri: an era of transition in Indian foreign policy	Shri Ram Sharma
7	Lal Bahadur Shastri and Parliament	C. K. Jain
8	Days with Lal Bahadur Shastri: Glimpses from the last seven years	Rajeshwar Prasad
9	Homage to Shastri	Kanwarlal
10	Lal Bahadur Shastri	D. R. Mankekar



**Mahatma Gandhi:** Mahatma Gandhi or Bapu as he was fondly called was the greatest leader of Indian nationalism in British-ruled India. Employing non-violent civil disobedience, Gandhi led India to independence and inspired movements for non-violence, civil rights and freedom across the world.



**Lal Bahadur Shastri:** Lal Bahadur Shastri was the second Prime Minister of India and a significant figure in the Indian independence movement. His slogan of "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" became very popular and is remembered even today.

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