

Please let me know who follows Gandhi?

It is Gandhi jayanti on 2nd October. Thousands of programs are organized on this day, throughout the country. He is praised everywhere. It has become an administrative festival. His name is mostly taken by our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, these days. Modi says that he wants to create a people's movement for development just like Gandhi created it for independence. Even for cleaning campaigns, he is taking Gandhi's name again and again. Very few actually want to know what exactly Gandhi wanted to happen.

Though, almost everyone in the country knows Gandhi's name. He is accepted as the father of the nation. The more we read the ideology of Gandhi, the more we realize that no one today bothers to follow him. Although, Congress represents Gandhi as its own brand, and RSS is known as the killers of Gandhi, but, it is an open secret that what is done by both these parties in order to follow Gandhi.

Congress fought the very first general election in India, even after Gandhi's disagreement and came to majority in 6 states. Gandhi wanted achieve Swaraj and he defined Swaraj as governance of general public in India. If elections are fought by sacrificing truth and non-violence, then such democracy is not welcome. Congress did not accepted Gandhi's proposal, and Gandhi prohibited everyone at Gandhi Sewa Sangh from going to assemblies. This expectation of Gandhi was not successful. He compared such state assemblies with liquor shops and termed them as serious greed. Instead, he appealed everyone to work on charkha to bring Swaraj. He was quite sure that the greed of entering such state assemblies would ultimately be the reason behind Congress's fall. He wrote to Koda Venkataiyya, a freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh, that congressmen tend to live western life style. Entering Assembly has become a business and members tend to make money. Gandhi already understood congress's power gluttony way back in 1937 and said that people who have inspired all the world have been out of such assemblies as these places are meant to do dirty politics and not people's service. Gandhi wanted the government to ban liquor and other toxic elements within three years of coming to power, as this was the prime agenda of Congress Party, but the government, made by the same Congress

party, failed to do so. Even today, liquor sell is not banned; rather it is going up in all states. Gandhi also suggested that the loss to exchequer due to liquor ban could be compensated by a cut in army expenses.

About peasants, Gandhi said that diseases borne from acute poverty and loans never let a farmer live a happy life. Superstitions and illiteracy dominates them further. Gandhi was of the opinion that if God gives us food, then He uses farmers as the medium. Gandhi prepared a concept of farmers based economy and self reliant gram sabha.

About education, he advocated for a system which would inculcate self reliance among people. He criticized the present model of education for making the country slave, instead of making it independent. He also asked for a tax system like Britain, where people, who rich a particular income level, are taxed heavily. He supported labor based new education. When ministers replied that people are not willing to have such new education, Gandhi said that those ministers should resign who are not capable of convincing people for their good.

About language, Gandhi said that he would never leave his mother tongue and stick to it like a child sticks to its mother. He said that only mother tongue can provide us life saving milk. He clarified that he loves English too, but cannot let it occupy the place which is actually meant for mother tongue. He asked to introduce English in Universities, and not in schools. He was ready to give English a second position, as it became a language of the world, but also said that the British have created an empire which is far more dangerous culturally than politically.

Gandhi heavily criticized the use of police and army by the congress government after independence. He termed it as failure of Congress and demanded resignation of the government. He reminded that the basic idea of freedom movement was non-violence, but Congress left that basic idea. If the ministers are not able to control over riots without the use of force, then congress should remove words like truth and non-violence from its constitution. He told that until

people get the right to decide among themselves, riots will not stop. He wrote an article on 4th August 1946, "Pahle Kudo" (Jump First), and took the example of Shri Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, who sacrificed his life while controlling an agitating mob while riot. He also met Morarji Bhai, the then home minister of Mumbai, and asked not to use force to curb riot and Shri Vidyarthi's way.

Today, all parties, governments, and leaders are ruling over the country with the help of the police. Almost 80000 innocent people have died in police firings, after independence. Now, leaders like Dr Lohia, Abdul Gaffar Khan are nowhere seen, who used to go to the public for preventing riots. Instead, present leaders do not hesitate instigate riots for vested interests.

Gandhi has also spoken a lot about jails. He often said the inmates should be regarded as crippled, instead of terming them criminals, as crime is also a product of our social system. He appealed to behave with criminals like patients, and jail should be regarded as hospitals. It should be converted into weaving or handloom centers and the jail officials should work like teachers or trainers of the inmates. In independent India, jails have now become a place of association for criminals. Gandhi was a staunch supporter of Khadi. He advocated to make weaving and handlooms compulsory in schools. Ministers too should wear cloth prepared themselves. Gandhi was so sad for not remembering Charkha on 15th August. He said that, though, Congress don not have much interest in Khadi, but it could be a way for villages to become self reliant. He would not have any problem if all the textile mills stop functioning, but if khadi suffered any loss, he would have been so sad. Today, Khadi Gramodyog is almost defunct. Successive governments have killed the concept of Khadi.

Gandhi said that India lives in 7 lakh villages, not in some cities. He said that ministers feel that their responsibility is fulfilled by serving villages, but they forget that India is a country of villages, and establishing justice between villages and cities is the real problem at present. Gandhi asked ministers to apply simplicity, instead of following British or civil servants, since they come as conquerors or officials. He gave the examples of Maharana Pratap, Abu Bakar,

Shivaji, Umar who, instead of enjoying their wealth, kept on working for the country and lived a tough and simple life. Gandhi also questioned the salaries of ministers and asked why a minister gets Rs 500 per month, if a teacher receives only Rs 15 a month. He said that ministers should look like servants, and not masters of the society. He also appealed to make justice cheaper and less time taking, so that people could get justice in time.

Gandhi gave an all time talisman to the leaders of the country that whenever they are confused with something, they should try to realize the impact of their proposed plan upon the poorest and the weakest they have come across. If they feel that the impact would be good, then they should continue otherwise they should abandon their plan. He said that all confusions vanish if we think in this way.

Gandhi termed the Constitution as an authority letter. He said that constitution should be made in such a way that it can eliminate the feeling of dependence and slavery from mankind. He further said that India should be developed in such a way that even the poorest of poor finds a place of respect in it and one enjoys a share in nation building. He wanted to create an India where truthfulness, non-violence, brotherhood are practiced everywhere, and alcohol, toxic elements, untouchability etc will have no place at all. We should neither exploit anybody nor be exploited by anyone. He clarified that he do not discriminate among fellow countrymen and the foreigners and would like to avoid any clash of interest among countrymen and the foreigners. He wished to have a small army for the country. He said that it would be the country of my dreams. Are we willing to create an India of Bapu's dreams?

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