

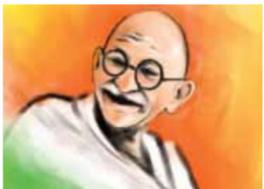
INSIDE



India this week, P2



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AMITE poll

Do you think Vande Bharat Express from Delhi to Katra will boost tourism in the state of J&K?

a) Yes b) No c) Can't say
 To vote, log on to
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POLL RESULT
 for GT Edition September 30, 2019

Do you think the reduction in corporate tax will help boost India's economy?



Results as on October 12, 2019

Coming Next

Meet the new YP teams

Experiments with truth

The Ever-Changing Gandhi In The Ever-Changing World

Loveena Garg, GT Network

October 2 might have just passed by, but not without serving us the realisations that Mahatma Gandhi is the father every nation needs. Our understanding and appreciation of Gandhi has evolved with time. Well, Gandhi himself was no stranger to evolution. He was the man who looked around, learnt from what he saw, experimented, adapted and consecutively evolved. But isn't that what life is about – learning and evolving? We bring you some experiments of the man with a charkha and the subsequential life it resulted in for all of us to emulate.

Experimenting with religion

Everyone knows that Gandhi was a devout follower of Hinduism but that wasn't always the case. As a child, he did not even believe in the idea of God, let alone follow a particular religion. Although he did recite *Rama Raksha* as part of his daily routine, it was more due to habit than faith. It was only when Gandhi started reading Ramayana to his sick father that he developed an interest in the religious text. Later, in his second year of training as a barrister in England, Gandhi read *Gita* as suggested by two of his friends. The teachings of this book left a deep impression on the mind of the young man. And so, began his affiliation with Hinduism.

At a time when communal lynchings are taking over and are on the rise, we all can take a cue from Gandhi. We all have our certain prejudices- some we are born with and some we acquire from our immediate environment. But a little openness is all we need, and prejudices will melt quickly even before you can say ice.

Experimenting with food

Gandhiji's entire life revolved around people, many of whose diets he supervised in an extended experiment on eating. Belonging to a devout Hindu household, he was expected to follow vegetarianism his whole life. He slipped only once in his life when one of his best friends convinced him to eat meat. The superior physique of British due to a different food palette was also used as a point of persuasion. What stopped him was only his guilt of lying to his parents, but he was still not convinced of the advantages of a vegan diet. However, when he stumbled across 'Plea for vegetarianism' by Henry Salt and several other books on the subject, he started practicing vegetarianism whole heartedly. That in no way meant that he was against non-vegetarians or thought them to be infe-

rior. For him, food was about fulfilling a need and not desire.

At a time, when people refuse to accept food because it is being delivered by a man of another religion, Gandhi teaches us that food like everything else in life is constantly changing. If only we change with this change.

Experimenting with clothes

Whenever the name of Mahatma Gandhi is taken, a man clad in a simple dhoti and shawl comes to our minds. However, this attire was not always Gandhi's choice of dressing. Once, Gandhi even tried his hand at becoming the perfect English gentleman and donned a chimney-pot hat, an evening suit and a double watch chain of gold to fit into the high society of London. But after his return to India, Gandhi went back to wearing a dhoti, tur-

ban and cloak all made of Khadi, in order to garner support against foreign goods. This alteration stuck till the time he realised the importance of adorning the clothes of a common man to win his trust. That is when he chose a khadi dhoti and shawl as his final attire till death, to show his stand against the British rule.

At a time, when the choice of a woman's clothes are seen as a parameter of her character, Gandhi teaches us that clothes do not define who you are. That clothes will change, but a strong character won't.

Experimenting with British rule

When we talk about the British rule, Mahatma Gandhi's fight against them is impossible to ignore. Therefore, it is quite surprising that Gandhi supported the British during the Great War. Back then, he still believed in the benefits of their rule and thought that the mistreatment of Indians was more due to individuals than a whole system. He supposed that helping the British in their hour of need would in turn win their help for the Indians after the war. It was only after Britain's mandatory military drafts for Indians, demanding compulsory participation of Indians in military, that he launched a new Satyagraha in protest and waged a war against them.

At a time, when our country is on war footing, the strategies cannot be what they were before. If we changed from 'no nuclear first' to 'might use nuke', it is for a reason. The reason being changing to meet the needs of a changing world. Gandhi understood this a long time ago.

The only thing that is constant in life is change. And for those of you who do not want to be sheer constants, Gandhi has taught aplenty. Learn, change, adapt and evolve – that is the only way to go.



Smartha Guha Thakurta

The call of the moment

Bridging The Gap Between Industry Requirements And Academia

Nikita Mutreja
 Sem VII, ASET, AUUP

Transforming the security landscape, Smartha Guha Thakurta, director sales at India and SAARC, Color Tokens, is a pro at creating value and eliminating customer's challenges. With more than 18 years of experience in the IT industry and a track record that demonstrates creativity, Thakurta talks of bridging the gap between industry requirements and academia. GT reporters had a conversation with him during his visit to Amity University, Noida for Confluence 2019. An excerpt:

Educating to develop

Getting right exposure at the right time is very important for holistic development. The kind of external interaction that students do is vital. It might be the



Smartha Guha Thakurta shares his views with Nikita, GT reporter

Pic: Kunal Kashyap, Sem III, ASET, AUUP

things that they look at, the kind of mentors they get in the organisation, the kind of industry amalgamation that takes place and the kind of cultural events they attend. All these combined together will make a personality.

Educating with a focus

In the present day scenario, we don't need to just educate. We need to prepare children for their future careers. Tailor made curriculum is a step in this direction. Since it is a new idea, it would be absorbed by the system slowly and gradually. In my opinion, the child of the millennial will be able to make his/her decision pretty early as to what he/she wants to become. The number of choices

private universities like Amity are providing are immense and when they will be starting their graduation they will have a core sub system which will give them the basic track from where they can decide their path ahead.

Educating the heart

Rural India is the heart of the country. And for the country to develop, education must reach its heart. This can be achieved in two ways. The first option is teaching students through virtual means, following a 24*7 approach. All a student needs to do is to log in at his hour of convenience, and a professor or a robot would be available to teach him. The second could be through personalisation.

With a suitable approach for the rural community, and an education that is job specific, we can reach out to the heart of the country.

Educating to bridge the gap

This is the era of startups. They are popping faster, and our curriculum needs to adopt to the pace to ensure that it is more relevant for people. So, from that perspective, the most important requirement for the curriculum is to be updated on the lenses of the latest trends. We must educate the students and ensure that they have the agility to move from one career path to another. To bridge that gap, the industry is also opening doors to college graduates. There is an immense collaboration between the colleges and the companies where the industry is gaining and so is the academia.

Message for Amitians

Amity is a great institution that has managed to strike a balance between modernity and tradition, a feat that is quite difficult to achieve in the present day scenario. It has opened the doors to so many avenues for its students, again something that cannot be seen in many institutes. So, make the most of this beautiful world called Amity that you are a part of. 🇮🇳