

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mahatma Gandhi's 143rd Palindrome Birthday is Special

I wanted to alert your **India-West** readers to that fact that Mahatma Gandhi's 143 birthday is a Palindrome special.

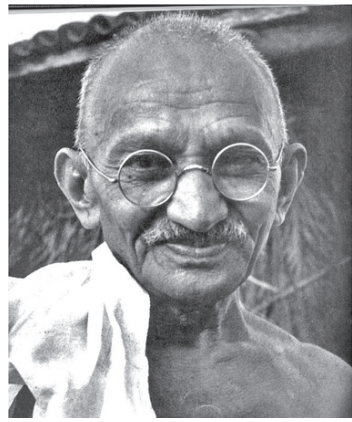
The "Father of India," Mahatma Gandhi, was born on Oct. 2, 1869 and Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2012 marks his 143rd birthday. Gandhi's 143rd birthday possesses special numerical properties. Why? I will explain.

First, using the day-month-year date format, the full date of Oct. 2, 2012 expressed as 2-10-2012, or simply 2102012 is a palindrome day. This is a unique coincidence because after this year, Gandhi's next such palindrome birthday will occur 1000 years later, on 2103012 (Oct. 2, 3012).

Next, a fascinating numerical connection exists between Gandhi's new age, 143, and his palindrome birthday 2102012. Here is how. First, 484 equals 143 plus its reverse 341. Second, split 143 as 1 and 43 and add 1 and subtract 43 from 143 resulting in 101, another palindrome number.

Interestingly enough, if numbers are assigned to the letters in the English alphabet as A = 1, B = 2, etc., the numbers assigned to the letters of "Gandhi" add up to 43. In addition, the sum of the numbers assigned to the letters of "Satyagraha" (insistence on truth, nonviolent resistance coined and developed by Gandhi) yields 101. So, the numbers 484, 1, 43 and 101 are all derived from 143 using elementary arithmetic. Now, go ahead and multiply these four numbers and see what comes out: $484 \times 1 \times 43 \times 101 = 2102012!$ Isn't this amazing, like magic? Wait, there is more.

If 143 is split as 14 and 3, $14 + 3 = 2 + 3 + 5 + 7$, that is, the sum of the first four prime numbers. In turns out the product of these first four primes results in 210 (representing Oct. 2), four times the sum of the cubes of the same four primes yields 2012 (this year), and guess what, 210 and



2012 put side-by-side constitute Gandhi's 143rd palindrome birthday 2102012! Wow!

Lastly, if 143 is split as 14 and 3, the difference of the squares of these two numbers results in 187. On the other hand, if 143 is split as 1 and 43, 43 times the sum of 1 and 43 yields 1892. Go ahead and multiply 1892 with the difference of 1892 and reverse of 187, what comes out? — 2102012! Unbelievable! (Note that 1892 minus 781 equals 1111, a palindrome number. In addition, interestingly enough, half of sum of 210 and 2012 also equals 1111.)

Happy 143rd palindrome birthday, Mahatma Gandhi, and let peace live with you forever!

P.S. As an aside, note that the numbers assigned to the letters of "Mahatma Gandhi" add up to 100.

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'Little India' In Artesia

The following is a letter I have written to the mayor and councilmen of the city of Artesia, Calif., regarding the name of "Little India" in Artesia. I hope your **India-West** readers will agree with me. Following is the letter:

"To the mayor and all the councilmen:

"You know the history of Pioneer Blvd., its development and its growth; and the transformation of

city of Artesia. Until then, no one really knew Pioneer Blvd. and the rental values were only about 30 to 40 cents per square feet.

"Today the same place commands a rent of \$3.00 to \$4.00 per sq. ft., that's mainly due to the entrepreneurship of the Indian merchants. These merchants have given everything and brought glory to Artesia.

"Today, Artesia and these merchants need help. The businesses are folding. Once completely full and always in demand, the Pioneer Blvd. strip has about 25% vacancy. "The visitors' flow has been cut into half. Indian businesses are going to other cities like Diamond Bar and Chino Hills, Riverside and Tustin. If nothing is done to promote Pioneer Blvd., very soon, the vacancy will jump from 25% to 45%, and that would mean the death of this beautiful once-upon-a-time flourishing business zone.

"To bring more visitors, to promote business, to bring life back onto Pioneer Blvd., to bring more revenue to the city, to help the neighborhood from turning into a ghetto, the best and the quickest way would be to name it preferably 'Little India' and putting up signs showing it or as 'India Shopping Center' or any name mutually agreed which can increase business.

"By simply naming it 'Little India' it's not going to hurt anyone. On the contrary, it will only improve the health of the businesses, and fuel in the growth of Artesia's economy, just like it did to Little Tokyo, Little Saigon, China Town, etc. By merely installing the Little India sign, it is sure to jump the business growth by 200 to 300% and that will be good for all the neighborhoods including Cerritos.

"Three of the five council members of Artesia are in favor of such signage. In the interest of the community at large, the businesses, city of Artesia and Cerritos, and all the neighborhoods, I sincerely urge you, if you could take personal interest in this matter and convene a meeting under

your able leadership to make this happen and SAVE Artesia and Cerritos with the 'Little India' sign. This is the urgent need of the hour, because it is a crisis situation in Artesia, right now.]

"Thank you and looking forward to your personal and prompt assistance."

Ramesh Mahajan
Little India Chamber of
Commerce
Artesia, Calif.

Gandhi: An Apostle Of Peace, Nonviolence

Mahatma Gandhi, the great spiritual social and political leader of India, is considered the most revered figure of the 20th century. He still is and will remain so because of his message of peace, love and the universal relevance of the principle of nonviolence. Recognizing his immense contribution to freedom struggles across the world, human rights and novel method of mass mobilization (satyagraha) to fight oppression, the United Nations General Assembly on June 15, 2007 designated Oct. 2nd, Gandhi's birthday, as International Day of Nonviolence which is now observed by 193 member nations.

Gandhi, who led India to achieve its independence through non-violent means from British rule in 1947 influenced and inspired many leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela, Dalai Lama, Cesar E. Chavez, Lech Walesa, Aung San Su Kyi and others who carried their struggles based on the philosophy of nonviolence. His moral and novel methods brought down colonialism, imperialism and dictatorships and strengthened the roots of popular sovereignty of civil, political and economic rights. He is regarded as the father of the human rights movement of the 20th century and the patron saint of peace and environmental justice oriented struggles of the modern era. The original phase of Arab Spring and the Occupy movement in USA got

inspiration from Gandhi and used nonviolent tactics in their overall approach.

Though born in India on Oct. 2, 1869 and known as the father of the Indian nation, Gandhi really belongs to the whole humanity because of the universality of his message and teachings which have special significance and relevance in today's troubled world mired in religious hatred, political division, racial prejudice and human exploitation. Dr. King spoke of Gandhi: "Gandhi was inevitable. If humanity is to progress, Gandhi is inescapable. He lived, thought and acted, inspired by the vision of humanity evolving toward a world of peace and harmony. We may ignore him at our own risk."

Though Gandhi's birthday has now become an international observance, as **India-West** readers already know, Fresno State has been commemorating his birthday since 1990 with a powerful message of "Stop the Hate, Stop the Violence, Build a Culture of Peace." In his Proclamation, Dr. John D. Welty, president of California State University, Fresno, declared that our campus community will join the world community to honor Mahatma Gandhi on his 143rd birthday on Oct. 2 and through the campus celebration which starts Oct. 6 in the Peace Garden. In the City of Fresno's Proclamation, Mayor Ashley Swearingin and the City Council of Fresno have declared Mahatma Gandhi's birthday as "Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Day" in the City of Fresno. The celebration at Fresno State includes Dwarko Sundarani, a noted Gandhian speaker from Bihar, India, a garlanding and flower ceremony, musical tribute, cultural dances, guided meditation and a pledge against hate. Many community and civic leaders have been invited. Admission is free.

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