

Tamil Catholic Association USA

Issue #16, August 9, 2009

Ghandi *On Freedom*

- Freedom of the individual is at the root of all progress.
- The attainment of freedom, whether for a man, a nation or the world, must be in exact proportion to the attainment of nonviolence by each.
- Freedom is like birth. Till we are fully free, we are slaves.
- True nonviolence should mean a complete freedom from ill-will and anger and hate and an overflowing love for all.
- Complete independence does not mean arrogant isolation or a superior disdain for all help.
- Any action that is dictated by fear or by coercion of any kind ceases to be moral.

Role of Mahatma Ghandi in Freedom Struggle

One of the greatest men in the history of India is unarguably Mahatma Gandhi. The way he gave shape and character to India's freedom struggle is worthy of a standing ovation. He sacrificed his own life for the sake of his country. The respect that he earned for himself despite leading a simple lifestyle is much appreciable. Mahatma Gandhi played a pivotal role in the freedom struggle of India. His non violent ways and peaceful methods were the foundation for gaining independence from the British.

Mahatma Gandhi was born Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi on 2nd October in Porbandar located in Gujarat. He went off to South Africa after marriage and worked as barrister there for twenty years. In South Africa, he had his first brush with apartheid. Once while he was traveling in a train, he was thrown out of the first class compartment despite having a ticket. This made him swear that he would do his best to erase apartheid from the face of his world. He went back to India only to find that his own country was being ruled by the British and his fellow citizens were being treated harshly by the British.

Like other great men in history, Gandhi took his time to grow and develop his techniques to ensure that his actions made an impact. His faith in different religions was commendable. He listened to the teachings of Christianity with the same belief and faith he read the Hindu scriptures with. He was brutally honest and truthful and this helped him throughout his life. Gandhi conducted some major movements and freedom struggles like Non Co-operation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, and Quit India Movement. After the Quit India Movement the freedom struggle got even more intense and passionate. Entire India was united together in the movement for freedom. Everyone contributed what they could in the freedom struggle. The cry of Purna Swaraj or complete independence was raised. After much sacrifices and efforts, India gained its independence on the 15th August, 1947.

*Francis Xavier
President, TCA USA*

TCA PICNIC



Read about this event on the next page



India's Independence

One of the most important days for each Indian citizen is 15th August. What is special about this day? It was on this date that India was declared a free and independent nation in 1947.

The Indian independence movement was a diffusion of nationwide campaigns against British rule over India. There were innumerable freedom fighters - males, females; youth, middle age, senior citizens. They all worked and walked their way to freeing India from the British domination. No matter how much violence the British soldiers inflicted on the Indian warriors, they relentlessly marched towards freeing their beloved motherland non-violently. They bore the brunt of whips and long tenures in jail. Finally, the British sovereign was left with no choice but to declare India a free nation.

And, as the clock struck 12 am, and a new day began – 15th August 1947 – India stepped into her independent status. This celebration was preceded by a speech made by the first Prime Minister of free India – Jawaharlal Nehru. Below is a famous extract from his speech titled 'Tryst with Destiny'...

At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance... We end today a period of ill fortune, and India discovers herself again.

Sibyl Medabalimi

TCA Picnic

Our 3rd annual TCA picnic & fund raising event was held on July 26th at Colonial Park, Somerset, NJ. The logistics committee arranged for picnic flyers, invitations and welcome team for this event. The welcome committee comprised of youth club members to greet and collect the registration fees from the participants. Our food committee coordinated with the Executive and picnic committee members for variety of barbeque chicken, vegetables, corn & variety rice. Our TCA chefs grilled a fantastic meal for the crowd. The games committee arranged variety of games targeting all the age groups including old parents of our

members and provided a great opportunity for the members to interact and strengthen our relationship. All participants enjoyed the games. The accounting team collected \$300/- after all the expenses. This money will be distributed to the Smile Train Charity organization by the TCA youth club. Kids and all the participants had a memorable event this year with great food, games & weather. Thanks very much to all the volunteers from various committees for helping us to make this a memorable event. Hats off to the Picnic planning team!

Thomas Amutharasu
Picnic Coordinator

Update on Tamil Mandram

The Tamil class for TCA member children commenced on Apr 12th Easter Sunday 2009. The classes were separated into three groups based on age. The teachers inaugurated the class in the Tamil tradition of lighting the kuthu vizhaku.

The first class was a grand success as students actively participated/interacted in the classes.

Since then, teachers have been communicating by sending home works via emails to the students/parents. The second class is

scheduled for August 9th at 2 PM. Parents are urged to bring their children on time for the classes and also to encourage their children to do the homework promptly. If you would like to enroll your kids to the classes, email tamilcatholicsusa@yahoo.com with the subject of "TCA Tamil Classes" (In the message, please mention Kids name and age).

Or call John Lawrence Jesurajan at 862 432 3324 or Doss Britto at 732 438 1777.

Sudoku Puzzle

3					5
	5			2	
6					1
1					3
	3			5	
5					2

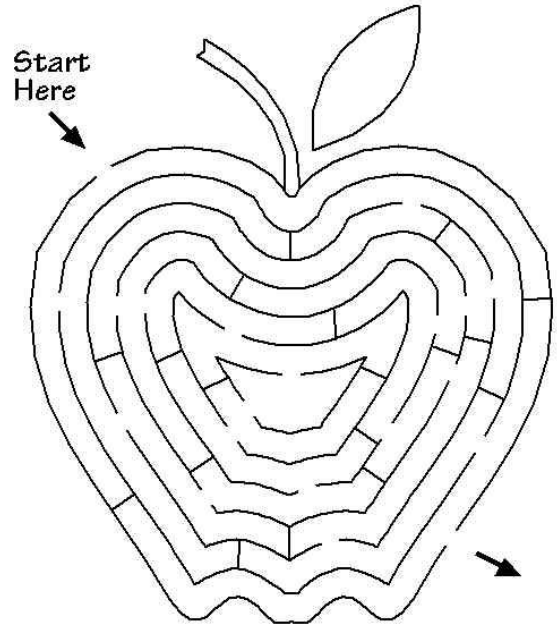
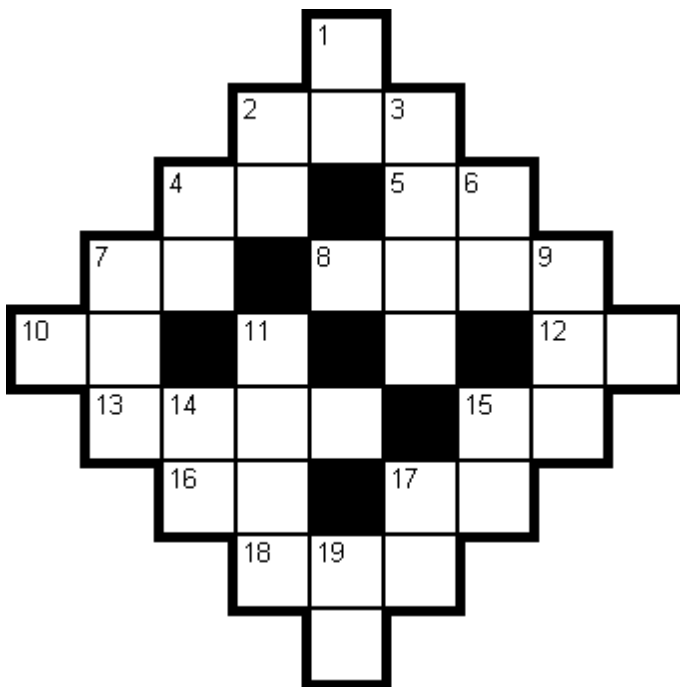


Figure It

Look at the clues below and fill all the numbers you can into the grid. Then start again and use your answers to help solve the other clues.



Down

1. Four times eight
2. 12 across minus 16 across
3. 1640 doubled
4. 6 down minus 5 across
6. Nine times nine
7. Five times 121
9. Half of 1450
11. 716 doubled
14. A third of sixty-three
15. Number of hours in two days
17. Half of 164
19. 100 divided by five

Across

2. 7 down minus 482
4. Number of weeks in a year
5. Number of days in four weeks
7. Seven times nine
8. 8617 re-arranged
10. 15 down plus forty-two
12. Quarter of 100
13. Half of 10486
15. Half of 10 across
16. Quarter of 4 across
17. Four times twenty-two
18. $82+62+78$

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Jawaharlal Nehru
Aug. 15, 1947 - May 27, 1964



Gulzari Lal Nanda
May 27, 1964 - June 9, 1964
(Interim)
January 11 - 24, 1966(Interim)



Lal Bahadur Shastri
June 9, 1964 - January 11, 1966



Indira Gandhi
Jan. 24, 1966 to March 24, 1977
Jan. 14, 1980 to Oct. 31, 1984



Morarji Desai
March 24, 1977 to July 28, 1979



Charan Singh
July 28, 1979 - Jan. 14, 1980



Rajiv Gandhi
Oct. 31, 1984 to Dec. 1, 1989



V. P. Singh
Dec. 2, 1989 - Nov. 10, 1990



Chandra Shekhar
Nov. 10, 1990 - June 21, 1991



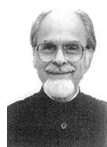
P. V. Narasimha Rao
June 21, 1991 to May 10, 1996



Atal Bihari Vajpayee
May 16 to June 1, 1996



H. D. Deve Gowda
June 1, 1996 to April 21, 1997



I. K. Gujral
April 21, 1997 - Nov. 28, 1997.



Atal Bihari Vajpayee
March 19, 1998 - May 22, 2004



Dr. Manmohan Singh
May 22, 2004 - till date