



As I know Mahatma Gandhi

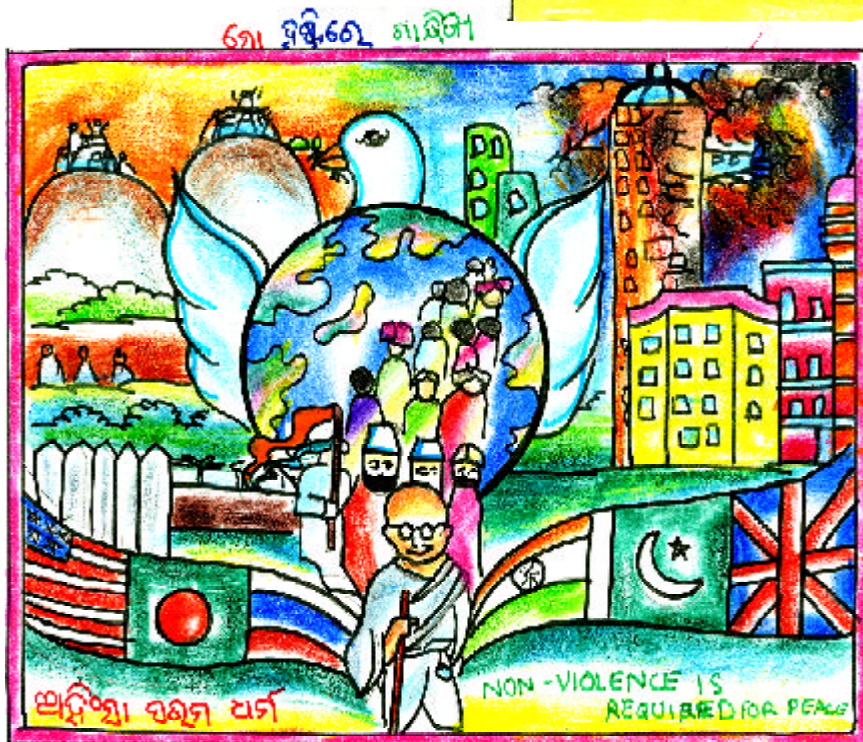
Komal Pati

‘Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi’ popularly known as ‘Mahatma Gandhi’ was born on 2nd October 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat. His father was advisor of the local king of Rajkot where he did his schooling. His father died before he could finish his studies. He at the age of thirteen married Kasturba. Later in 1888 he sailed to England and decided to pursue the Degree in Law and left his son and wife in India. It was in South Africa where he first coined the word Satyagraha when he was the head of Indian community in South Africa. Gandhiji returned to India in early 1915 and never left the country but only for a short trip in 1931 he went to England. Gandhiji didn’t know India so well, on the advice of his political teacher Gokhale he explored India. After the disturbance in ‘Panjab’ i.e. the Jallianawalla Bagh massacre he wrote a letter to the head of Punjab community and entered the freedom struggle. On March 12, 1930 he and some of his followers set up a march to Dandi. They reached there in April and Gandhiji picked up a lump of natural salt showing a hundreds and thousands of more people to break the British law of monopoly on production and sale of salt. Gandhiji over the next few years struggled for the Hindu-Muslim relationship in India. The British created misunderstanding between these two communities and this led to violence and bloodshed. He took up fasts whenever there was a Hindu-Muslim riot. Gandhiji always followed the path of truth and non-violence which helped him to make India free from British rule. During all these rallies, assemblage and fasts he was many times imprisoned and hundreds of people who were his followers were also imprisoned. When Gandhiji and Kasturba came to live in a palace of Pune after a few months Kasturba died. This was a great blow to Gandhiji and he was shocked. He always believed not to speak bad, not to talk bad and not to hear bad. These three things were shown by three monkeys which he kept at the entrance of Sabarmati Ashram so that whoever comes inside will see the statues first. He always did his own work by himself. He even spun the thread by a Charkha and wore the dress made out of it which he advised all to do. He took a rally and spread the words that not to use the foreign goods and foreign clothes. Many British properties were set on fire by thousands of his followers. He soon made the last call for Independence of India and said everyone to sacrifice their lives, if necessary for the freedom struggle. He coined the phrase ‘Do or Die’ for the people and also said the British to leave India as quickly as possible. When the time of Independence came on 15th August 1947 he was nowhere to be seen in the Capital but Nehru and the others who were present saluted him as the architect of Independent India and the father of our nation – The last few months of his life was spent in Delhi. On 30th January 1948 at 10 minutes past 5 o’clock he went to the garden where the prayers were to be held. This was the place where Nathuram Godse assassinated him. This was a terrible thunderstorm for the whole country and all the political leaders.

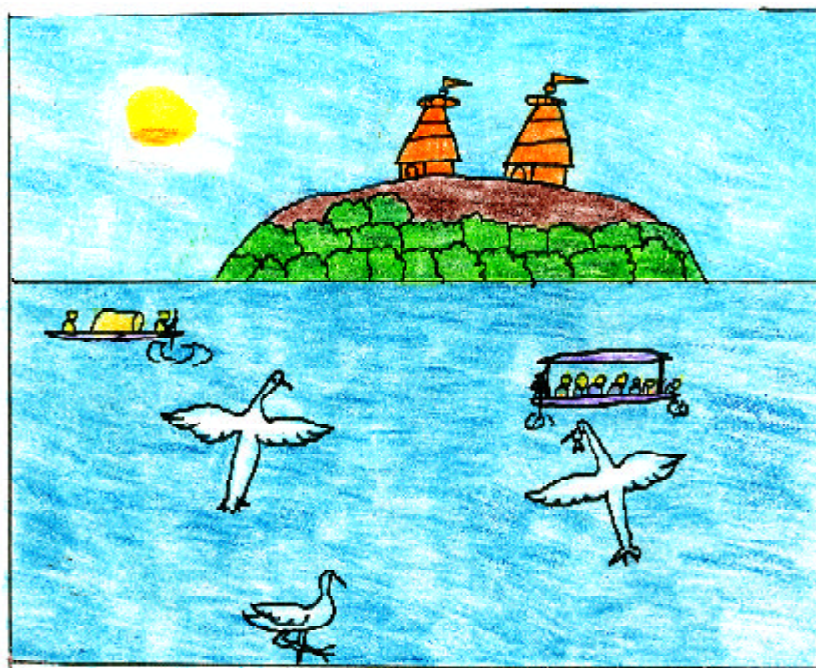
Komal Pati, Class - VI, D.A.V. Public School, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar
1st position in Jr. Group Essay Competition.



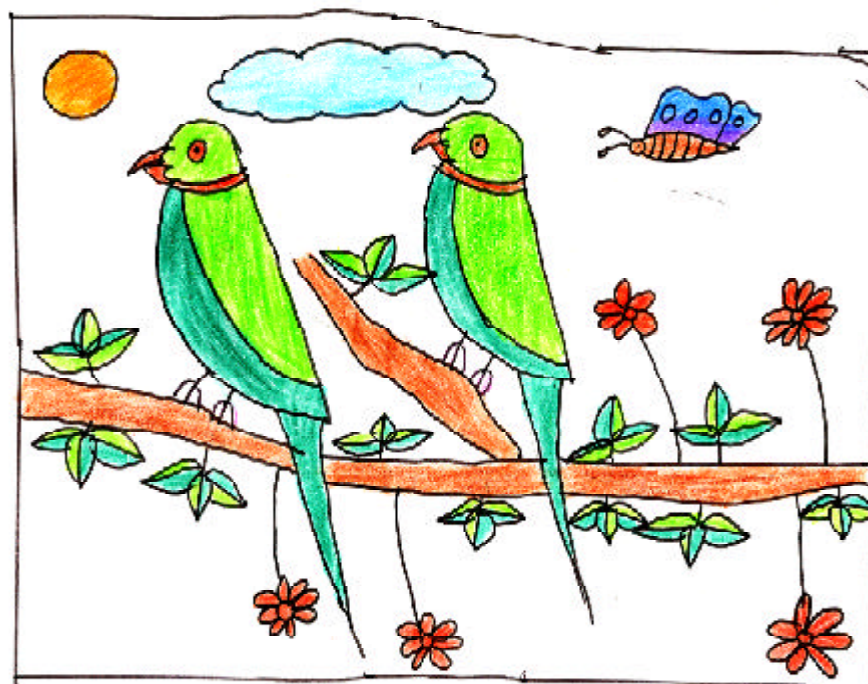
Adrija Bhuyan, Std. III, 'A',
St. Joseph's Girls' High
School stood 1st in the
drawing competition in
junior group.



Jyotishman
Mohanty, Std. IV,
D.A.V. Public
School, Unit-VIII,
Bhubaneswar stood
1st in drawing
competition in
junior group.



Sarthak Sarangi, Class-I, B.J.E.M. School - I, Bhubaneswar stood 1st in drawing competition in sub-junior group.



Muskan Pani, Class-I, 'A', St. Xavier's High School, Khandagiri, Bhubaneswar stood 1st in drawing competition in sub-junior group.