

Title: Regarding tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Shrimati Indira Gandhi on being universally acknowledged as giants of the millennium.

14.06 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at six minutes past

Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

MR. SPEAKER: Honorable Members, as the world contemplates the great figures of this millennium, which are passing into history, two outstanding personalities have been universally acknowledged as the giants of this millennium. It is a matter of great pride for our country that both these world-figures are Indian.

Mahatma Gandhi - the father of the nation - was a man, the like of whom adorn this earth once in centuries. He was an apostle of peace who is widely acknowledged as one of the architects of the 20th Century. His teachings of peace and non-violence serve us as beacons to this day. It is heartening to note that Mahatma Gandhi has been chosen by the Asiaweek magazine as the Asian of the Century. It is a great honour for the country.

In a BBC news online world poll, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, who adorned this House for many years as Leader of the House and as Prime Minister, has been voted as 'the greatest woman of the millennium' ahead of other great historical figures. This is a rare achievement and is an honour for our country.

I would like to record the tribute of this House to the memory of these two great leaders of India.

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