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The Life of Mahatma Gandhi - a Chronology (October 2nd, 1869 - January 30th, 1948)

Date Event Description

1869 – Oct. 2nd, 1869 Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi born in Porbandar, Gujarat, India.

1876 – Went to Rajkot to attend Primary School.

1881 – Attended Kathiawar High School.

1883 – Married to Kasturbai.

1887 – Matriculated and joined Samaldas College at Bhavnagar.

1888 – In September sails to England to study Law. Harilal Gandhi, his first son was born.

1891 – Called to Bar in England and after some time returns back to India His mother passed away.

1892 – Practices Law at Rajkot & Bombay .His second son Manilal Gandhi is born.

1893 – In April gets Job offer as Legal Consultant in Natal South Africa and leaves for that place. Experiences racial discrimination in South Africa. Decides to fight Against the racial prejudices prevalent in South Africa.

1894 – Was enrolled as an advocate of Supreme Court of Natal. Founded Natal Indian Congress.

1896 – Returns to India to organize support for Indians in South Africa. Returns to South Africa with wife and children to live there.

1897 – Racial mob attacked and tried to lynch him. Crowds excited by His speeches in India. Writes letters, Petitions and calls upon British Authorities in South Africa to end discriminatory laws and has third son Ramdas Gandhi.

1899 – Forms Indian Ambulance Corps during the Boer War. Awarded war service Medal.

1900 – Fourth son, Devdas Gandhi is born.

1901 – Returns to India, becomes Volunteer of Indian National Congress.

1902 – Practices law and seeks support for South African Indians. Recalled to South Africa to fight against Anti Asiatic legislation of Transvaal.



- 1903** – Enrolled as Attorney of Supreme Court of Transvaal. Founded Transvaal British Indian Association.
- 1904** – Founded and edited “ Indian Opinion”. Organized the Phoenix settlement near Durban.
- 1905** – Opposes Bengal partition.
- 1906** – Announces for Indian Home rule; declares disinterestedness in worldly goods; takes a vow of celibacy. During Zulu rebellion, raises Indian stretcher Corps. In September organized Indian opposition to Transvaal Asiatic Laws; addresses a mass meeting of Indians at Johannesburg and takes an oath of Passive resistance. Reached England with a deputation to present Indian case to Colonial Secretary.
- 1907** – Left England for South Africa. Writes Ethical Religion. Holds protest meetings against the Asiatic Registration Act. Addresses meetings, petitions and leads opposition to registration Act. Gandhi adopts the word Satyagraha against passive resistance.
- 1908** – Sentenced to two months imprisonment for failure to leave Transvaal for not leaving Transvaal within 48 hours. Gandhi agrees to voluntary registration if the Registration Act is Repealed, a compromise with General Smuts. Physically assaulted by those who believe he had betrayed the Cause. Began Passive resistance again on general Smuts repudiation of the Compromise. For not producing the certificate was sentenced to two months Rigorous imprisonment and was later released.
- 1909** – Continues Satyagraha campaign against the Registration Act. Visits England, seeks to influence the British opinion against the Unification of four colonies in South Africa. In November writes Hind Swaraj or Indian Home rule.
- 1910** – Founded the Tolstoy farm.
- 1911** – Fasted in atonement for the moral fall of two inmates of the farm.
- 1913** – Indian marriages in South Africa are invalidated by Supreme Court Judgment, defers plan to move to India. In May Gandhi promises Satyagraha campaign if marriage law is not Repealed. In September campaign starts, led Satyagraha, marching into Transvaal on the Union Govt.'s repudiation of the promise to repeal the Tax Ex-indentured Indians, was arrested. Gandhi's wife too is arrested. Gandhi was released on bail, re-arrested on a fresh charge and Sentenced to 9 months imprisonment. Was released un-conditionally. In Oct. Gandhi leads a March to Transvaal and urges miners to strike.
- 1914** – Suspends Satyagraha campaign following an agreement with Smuts. Sailed to England during outbreak of War, raised Indian Ambulance Corps in London.



1915 – Arrives in Bombay, India. Was awarded Kaiser-i-Hind gold Medal. In May founds Satyagraha Ashram in Ahemdabad.

1915/16 – Toured India and Burma to study problems of indentured labor. Leads Champaran agitation in Bihar, was arrested and then released. Bihar Government appointed him as a member of the committee to Inquire into grievances of the farmers.

1918 – Takes up cause of Textile workers in Ahemdabad, initiates Satyagraha in Bombay Started Kaira Satyagraha to get the suspension of Revenue assessment On failure of crops. Attended Viceroy's Conference in Delhi. Started recruiting campaign at Kaira district.

1919 – Starts All-India Satyagraha movement to secure the withdrawal of Rowlatt Bills. Arrested in Delhi and escorted back to Bombay. Gandhi declares a three day penitential fast because of firing of Troops on the unarmed crowd, who were celebrating the spring festival at Amritsar (Jailwalanabagh) in Punjab. Became editor of Gujarati Monthly "Navjivan", later published in Hindi. In Oct. assumes editorship of Young India. In November presides over All-India Khilafat Conference in Delhi. Advised at Amritsar acceptance of Montford Reforms by Congress.

1920 – Led deputation to the viceroy to prevent the British Govt. from Depriving the Sultan of Turkey, of his suzerainty over the holy places Of Islam. Special Congress Session at Calcutta accepted his Non-cooperation move to secure redress of Punjab and Khilafat Wrongs. Founded Gujrat Vidyapeeth at Ahemdabad. Nagpur conference adopted his goal as attainment of Swaraj by India.

1921 – Launched program of enlisting congress membership, raising of funds and providing twenty lakhs of Charakhs throughout the Country. Led a campaign to boycott foreign cloth. Lighted bon-fire of foreign Cloth in Bombay. Congress invested full executive authority in him.

1922 – Notifies Viceroy for starting Satyagraha in Bardoli, Gujarat. After mob violence at Chauri Chaura fasted for 5 days and Abandoned Satyagraha. Arrested for sedition and sentenced to six years imprisonment.

1924 – In Feb. was released from prison. Resumed Editorship of Young India & Navajivan. In September fasts for 21 days for Hindu-Muslim Unity. Presided over Belgaun Congress.

1925 – Founded All India Spinners Association. Commences to write final version of Autobiography. Seven day fast for failing of Ashram inmate.

1928 – Gandhi moves in favor of Independence if Dominion status is not Granted by the



end 1929.

1929 – *At the insistence of Gandhi Lahore Congress declares for complete Independence.*

1930 – *Gandhi launches civil disobedience movement. In April breaks Salt law, since Congress demands were not granted-March to Dandi. In May Gandhi was arrested and imprisoned without trial Civil disobedience follows throughout India.*

1931 – *Gandhi was unconditionally released. Viceroy of India and Gandhi reach an agreement (Gandhi/Irwin)pact. In Aug. goes to England to attend second Round Table Conference.*

1932 – *In January arrested after his return from England. In September begins fast unto death in jail to secure abolition of separate electorate for Harijans. Breaks fast after demand is met.*

1933 – *In February founded weekly paper Harijan. In May begins 21 day fast for self purification. In July informs Govt. of his intention to start Civil Disobedience movement. Was arrested and imprisoned without trial. In August was released but re-arrested for breaking a restraint order. Goes on fast on being denied facilities to carry on anti-untouchability Propaganda. In November starts Harijan uplift tours.*

1934 – *Announces to get retired from active politics and engaged in developing village industries, Harijan services and education through basic crafts. In October inaugurates All-India Village Industries Association.*

1936 – *Resolved to make Sevagram his headquarters.*

1937 – *Presides over educational conference calling for education through Craft labor.*

1939 – *Commences fast unto death to secure adherence to promises of Govt. Reforms and ended the same on Viceroy's intervention..*

1940 – *Sanctions individual civil disobedience in wartime; suspends Harijan And allied weeklies following official demand for pre-censorship.*

1941 – *Asks to be relieved of leadership in Congress to Congress working Committee.*

1942 – *In May appeals to British Government to quit India. In August arrested in Bombay before day-break to stop him from announcing the Quit-India movement, imprisoned in Aga Khan Palace. Kasturbai makes announcement in place of Gandhi, arrested and taken To prison. Corresponds with Viceroy and Govt. of India on disturbances in India.*

1943 – *Fasts for 21 days.*



1944 – *Kasturbai dies in prison. Gandhi was released unconditionally. Gandhi- Jinnah talks regarding Pakistan in September.*

1945 – *Gandhi argues for freedom for India. Simla conference on Wavell Plan, left Simla before end of conference.*

1946 – *In January tours Southern India arguing against untouchability .In February Harijan and allied papers revived Talks with Lord Wavell; consultations with the British Cabinet mission. In June Congress Working Committee decided to accept Interim Govt. Scheme. In August Gandhi opposes partition of India. In September there were Killings in Calcutta. In October there was Noakhalli massacre. Talks with Jinnah, Nawab of Bhopal and Lord Wavell.*

1947 – *Peace Tour in Noakhali, addressed Asian Relations conference in Delhi. Mountbatten, Viceroy, arrives in Delhi. In April Gandhi and Jinnah issue joint appeal for peace. In May Congress Working Committee accepts partition in principle over Gandhi's opposition In June Indian leaders accept Mountbatten partition plan, Gandhi opposes it. In July Independence of India Bill passed. In August Gandhi hails August 15 as a day for rejoicing for the Independence of India but deplors the division of the Country. Fast to end only if sanity returns to Calcutta.*

1948 – *In January Gandhi begins fast for communal peace in Delhi. Ends fast after communal harmony is assured. Bomb thrown at prayer meeting. Gandhi assassinated on way to evening prayers.*