

A Calendar of main events in the life of Gandhi

- 1869 Born in Porbandar (Western India) on October 2.
- 1882 Married to Kasturbai at the age of thirteen.
- 1888 Goes to England to study law.
- 1891 Returns to India, (aged 21) qualified as a barrister.
- 1893 Goes to work in South Africa and experiences racial prejudice at Maritzburg. Organises Indians in Pretoria to resist racial discrimination.
- 1894 Invited to stay in Natal to fight anti-Indian legislation. Organises opposition and becomes known as protector of the poor Indian labourers.
- 1896 Returns to India to fetch his family. Makes speeches about South Africa problem. Is attacked by white mob on his return to South Africa. Continues the fight for the rights of Indians for the next three years, but also establishes himself as a successful lawyer.
- 1900 Organises ambulance relief work on behalf of the British in their fight against the Boers (1899–1902).
- 1901 Returns to India and sets up law practice in Bombay. Makes contact with Indian political leaders.

- 1902 Called back to South Africa and resumes fight against repression.
- 1904 Sets up Phoenix Farm, his first experiment in community living.
- 1906 Organises resistance to the Registration Act and teaches non-violent resistance. The struggle continues over the next few years.
- 1911 Establishes Tolstoi Farm as a refuge for his *satyagrahis* (non-violent resistance fighters).
- 1912 Gokhale, a leading Indian politician, visits South Africa. Smuts promises to repeal the Registration Act (but does not).
- 1913 Cape Colony Supreme Court declares non-Christian marriages illegal. Gandhi, helped by Indian women, organises resistance. World opinion obliges South Africa to negotiate rights for Indian community.
- 1914 Gandhi visits England at outbreak of First World War (1914–1918), in which India helps Britain with money and troops.
- 1915 Returns to India (at the age of forty-five) and tours the country to get to know India's problems. Sets up the Sabarmati ashram near Ahmedabad.
- 1917 Intervenes in dispute between peasants and landlords in Bihar and in dispute between workers and millowners in Ahmedabad. First political fast and the beginning of *satyagraha* in India.
- 1918 Organises peasant resistance to the British government in Kheda.
- 1919 Rowlatt Act restricts Indian civil liberties. Gandhi organises all India one day peaceful strike. Jallianwalla massacre in Amritsar.
- 1920 Gandhi initiates non co-operation campaign.

- 1921 Tours India to explain non co-operation programme.
- 1922 Policemen murdered at Chauri Chaura. Gandhi arrested for sedition and, at the 'Great Trial' in Ahmedabad, sentenced to six years in prison.
- 1924 Released from gaol. Fast on behalf of Hindu-Muslim unity.
- 1924 Gandhi 'retires' from politics and, for three years, devotes himself to campaign of social improvement in the rural areas.
- 1928 British parliamentary commission visits India to review constitutional position. Boycotted by Congress politicians, who demand dominion status within twelve months.
- 1929 Congress passes resolution in favour of independence.
- 1930 Gandhi calls on Indians to break the Salt Law and leads Salt March to Dandi. Mass arrests in India. Gandhi sent back to prison.
- 1931 Gandhi (aged 62) goes to London to attend Round Table Conference. Great success with British public.
- 1932 Returns to India to find renewal of British repression. Sent back to prison. 'Epic Fast' against separate electorate for Untouchables.
- 1933 Released from prison. Tours India to speak on behalf of the Untouchables.
- 1934 Resigns from Congress. Settles at Segaon (later Sevagram) near Nagpur in Central India, from where he continues programme of social reform.
- 1939 Outbreak of Second World War (1939–1945). Viceroy announces that India is also at war.
- 1940 Indian political leaders wage civil disobedience campaign against loss of civil liberties.
- 1942 Failure of Cripps mission to discuss post-war status for India. Congress passes 'Quit India' resolution. Outbreak of violence after arrest of Gandhi and other leading politicians.
- 1943 Gandhi fasts for 21 days against accusation of responsibility for violence.
- 1944 Death of Kasturbai. Gandhi (now aged 74) released from prison.
- 1945 Labour government in Britain announces that India will be given independence.
- 1946 Parliamentary mission sent to India to work out new constitution. Muslim leader, Jinnah, demands separate state for Muslims. 'Direct Action' day followed by riots and killings in Bengal and Bihar. Gandhi walks through Bengal and Bihar to try to restore peace.
- 1947 India becomes independent on August 15.
- 1948 Gandhi undertakes final fast to win safety for Muslims in India. Assassinated on January 30 while going to attend a prayer meeting in the gardens of Birla House.