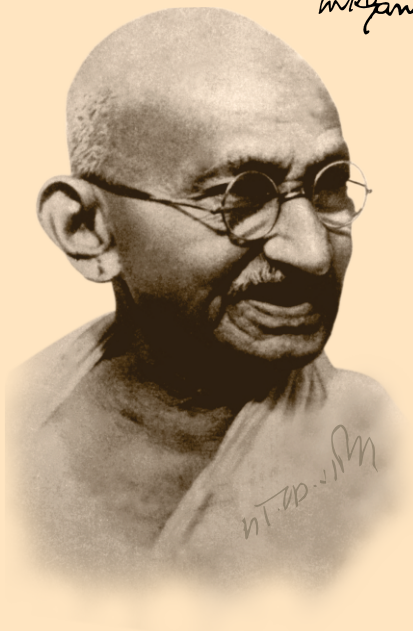




My life is my Message.

mt Gandhi



Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti,
New Delhi

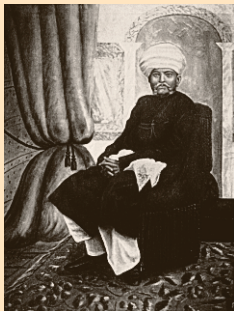




CHRONOLOGY

- 1869:** Born at Porbandar, Kathiawad, son of Karamchand and Putlibai Gandhi.
- 1883:** Married to Kasturbai.
- 1887:** Matriculation examination at Ahmedabad and entered Samaldas College, Bhavnagar, Kathiawad, but found studies difficult and remained only for one term.
- 1891:** Sailed from Bombay for England to study Law.
- 1891:** Returned to India after being called to bar.
- 1893:** Sailed for South Africa to become lawyer for an Indian firm.
- 1893:** Found himself subjected to all kinds of colour discrimination.
- 1904:** Organised Phoenix Settlement near Durban, after reading Ruskin's *Unto This Last*.
- 1907:** Organised Satyagraha against compulsory registration of Asians ("*The Black Act*").
- 1908:** Stood trial for instigating Satyagraha and was sentenced to two months' imprisonment in Johannesburg jail (his first imprisonment).
- 1909:** Returned to South Africa, writing 'Hind Swaraj' en route.
- 1910:** Established 'Tolstoy Farm' near Johannesburg.
- 1914:** Sailed for India.
- 1915:** Secured removal of custom's harassment of passengers at Viramgam.
- 1915:** Established Satyagraha Ashram at Kochrab.
- 1917:** Led successful Satyagraha campaign for rights of peasants on Indigo plantations in Champaran.
- 1918:** Led strike of mill workers at Ahmedabad. Mill owner agreed to arbitration after his three-day fast (his first fast in India).
- 1918:** Led Satyagraha campaign for peasants in Kheda.
- 1919:** Organised nation-wide hartal - suspension of activity for a day - against Rowlatt Bills.
- 1921:** Gave up wearing shirt and cap and resolved to wear only a loin-cloth in devotion to homespun cotton and simplicity.
- 1927:** No-tax Satyagraha campaign launched at Bardoli, led by Sardar Patel.
- 1929:** Congress session at Lahore declared 'Complete Independence' and a boycott of the legislature and fixed January 26 as National Independence Day. Third all-India Satyagraha campaign began.
- 1930:** Set out from Sabarmati with 79 volunteers on historic Salt March, 200 miles to sea at Dandi.
- 1930:** Broke Salt Law by picking up a lump of salt at seashore as whole world watched.
- 1931:** Gandhi-Irwin (Viceroy) Pact signed, which ended Civil Disobedience.
- 1931:** Sailed from Bombay for the second Round Table Conference.
- 1932:** Concluded "epic fast" after British accepted "Yervada Pact".
- 1936:** Set up Sevagram Ashram
- 1937:** Visited Travancore for removal of untouchability.
- 1942:** Congress passed "Quit India" resolution - the final nation-wide Satyagraha campaign with Gandhi as leader.
- 1942:** Arrested with other Congress leaders and Kasturba and imprisoned in Aga Khan Palace near Poona.
- 1942:** Mahadev Desai, his secretary and intimate friend, died in Agha Khan Palace.
- 1944:** Kasturba died in detention at Aga Khan Palace at the age of seventy-four.
- 1946:** Began four-month tour of 49 villages in East Bengal to quell communal rioting over Muslim representation in provisional government.
- 1947:** Began tour of Bihar to lessen Hindu-Muslim tensions.
- 1947:** Fasted and prayed to combat riots in Calcutta, as India was partitioned and granted independence thereafter.
- 1947:** Visited Delhi and environs to stop rioting and visited camps of refugees (Hindus and Sikhs from the Punjab).
- 1948:** Assassinated in 78th year in Birla House by Nathuram Vinayak Godse.





Karamchand Uttamchand Gandhi -
Gandhiji's Father



Putlibai - Gandhiji's Mother

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 at Porbandar, Gujarat. Mohandas was the youngest of the three sons of Putlibai and Karamchand Gandhi. His mother's pious nature and father's incorruptibility left indelible imprint on young Mohandas's mind. Another powerful influence on Gandhi's early life was seeing King Harishchandra in the play, suffer for, but finally triumph in his adherence to Truth. The boy Gandhi aspired to do no less. His nurse Rambha implanted belief in the saving power of *Ramanama* in young Mohandas's mind.



'Kirti Mandir - the house at Porbandar

Young Mohandas Karamchand
Gandhi at the age of 7



Primary School, Rajkot





Mohandas and a friend



Mohandas with his brother



Raliatbehn (Gandhiji's Sister)



Young Kasturbai

ADOLESCENT MOHANDAS

At school, first the primary at Porbandar and later, the Albert High School at Rajkot, Mohandas showed no particular brilliance, played no games and avoided company. He read little beyond his text books, but respected his teacher, though, even at his bidding, he would not copy from his neighbour's answers.

Marriage with Kasturba, at the age of thirteen, was almost play. Gandhi began his married life as a jealous and possessive husband; he wanted to make his illiterate wife an ideal one.



Karamchand's House, Rajkot

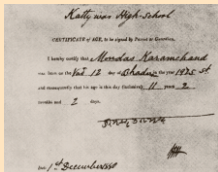


Dr. Dorabji Edulji Gimi, Principal

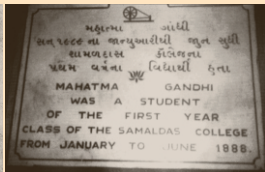


Alfred High School, Rajkot

The other person he was much attached to, was his eldest brother, Lakshmidas. When their father was no more, it was Lakshmidas who helped to educate him and send him to England for pursuing legal studies.



Gandhiji's certification of age signed by his father



Plaque at Samaldas college



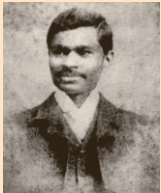


IN LONDON

On the advice of the friend and adviser of the Gandhi family Mavji Dave, his brother Lakshmidas agreed to send the young Mohan to England, to qualify as a Barrister At Law. Putlibai let Gandhi go abroad only after he vowed to lead a chaste and simple life. For a while Gandhi was tempted to ape English dress and manners. But soon he returned to simplicity. A vegetarian by tradition, he soon became one by conviction, joining and working actively for the London Vegetarian Society. While in London he established close friendship with Tryambakrai Mazumdar, a lawyer from Junagadh and Dr. Pranjivan Mehta, a fellow Kathaiwari. This friendship later proved a blessing for him.



Family friend Mavji Dave



Dr. Pranjivan Mehta

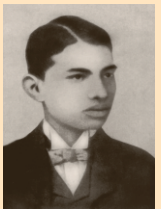


Mohandas with members of the Vegetarian Society in England



Tryambakrai Mazumdar

" I passed my examinations, was called to the Bar on the 10th of June 1891, and enrolled in the High Court on the 11th. On the 12th I sailed for home. But notwithstanding my study... I did not feel myself qualified to practice law"



As a student in London



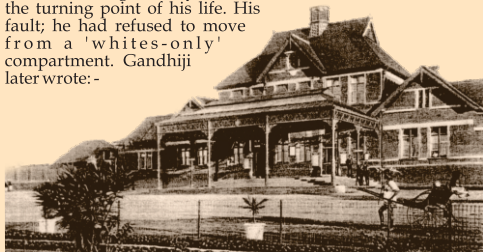


BIRTH OF SATYAGRAHA

When Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi left for Durban, South Africa at the invitation of an old family acquaintance from Rajkot, Dada Abdullah Sheth, his "mission was simply to win a lawsuit, earn some money, start a career. But the South Africa to which he arrived in May 1893 was a sharply divided society, by colour, religion, and profession. Englishmen called all Indians 'coolies' or 'samis'.

The early unfortunate incidents involving himself vividly revealed to the sensitive mind of young Gandhi the abjectness and degradation of the Asian people in South Africa.

In his Autobiography, Gandhiji has mentioned the incident that took place in South Africa during a train journey when he was humiliated, assaulted and forced out of the train compartment on the winter night of 7th June 1893 at Pitermaritzburg Railway Station – as the turning point of his life. His fault; he had refused to move from a 'whites-only' compartment. Gandhiji later wrote: -



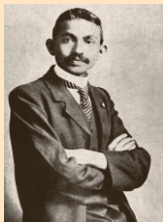
"I was afraid for my very life. I entered the dark waiting-room. There was a white man in the room. I was afraid of him. What was my duty? I asked myself. Should I go back to India, or should I go forward with God as my helper, and face, whatever was in store for me? I decided to stay and suffer. My active non-violence began from that date". A Satyagrahi was born on that cold night.





SATYAGRAHI GANDHI

Mahatma Gandhi's work and experience in South Africa can be regarded as the preparation for the role he was destined to play in history. He experienced a deep spiritual awakening in him as he faced racial discrimination. It brought about a phenomenal change in his perception of human relationship. It was in South Africa that he developed the most potent weapon in his armory, the weapon of Satyagraha, which inspired millions of oppressed people across the world to fight for human equality. In fact South Africa was the nursery of his experiments in truth and non-violence.



Barrister Gandhi (1906)



Ms. Schlesin and Kallenbach
with Lawyer Gandhi (1913)



Gandhiji in Transvaal Jail (1908)



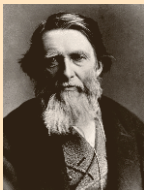


SOUTH AFRICA- THE CONFLUENCE OF VARIOUS STREAM OF THOUGHTS

In 1904, Gandhi launched a markedly different venture a few miles north of Durban. During a train journey, he read John Ruskin's critique of industrialism, *Unto This Last*. Ruskin's essay, which extolled the virtues of the simple farm life, cohered perfectly with his own thinking. Within two months he founded the Phoenix Settlement. It became the site for a whole series of experiments involving alternative diets, fasting, natural cures and therapies (ranging from mud-packs and massages to sunbaths) and traditional handicrafts. The inhabitants included Indians and sympathetic European vegetarians, with Gandhi acting as patriarch. At Phoenix, he also edited and printed *Indian Opinion*, the first of many newspapers and journals he established to help consolidate the Indian community. The communal settlement was the first of many experiments fuelled by his growing sense of religious dedication to certain ideals.

In 1910 Gandhi had founded a new settlement, Tolstoy Farm. Dr Hermann Kallenbach, a German-Jewish architect, had provided Gandhi with 1,100 acres of land outside Johannesburg. The farm acted as a refuge for the families of satyagrahis and was the site of further experiments in diet, education, communalism and austere living. Tolstoy Farm reflected ideas about freedom and social reconstruction that Gandhi first outlined in *Hind Swaraj* or *Indian Home Rule*, a pamphlet in which he decisively rejected Western civilization as a model for India.

SARVODAYA'S INSPIRATION



John Ruskin (1819-1900)
Unto this last (Author)

I stand by what is implied in the phrase, 'Unto this last'. That book marked the turning point in my life. We must do even unto this last as we would have the world do by us. All must have equal opportunity. Given the opportunity every human being has the same possibility for spiritual growth. - M.K. GANDHI





AND THEN GANDHI CAME....

And then Gandhi came. He was like a powerful current of fresh air that made us stretch ourselves and take deep breaths; like a beam of light that pierced the darkness and removed the scales from our eyes; like a whirlwind that upset many things, but most of all working of people's minds. He did not descend from the top; he seemed to emerge from the millions of India, speaking their language, and incessantly drawing attention to them and their appalling condition. Get off the backs of these peasants and workers, he told us, all you who-live by their exploitation; get rid of the system that produces this poverty and misery...



Gandhiji and Kasturba on their return to India, 1915

So, suddenly, as it were, that black pall of fear was lifted from the people's shoulders, not wholly of course, but to an amazing degree...

There was that psychological reaction also, a feeling of shame at our long submission to an alien rule that had degraded and humiliated us, and a desire to submit no longer whatever the consequences might be...

Jawaharlal Nehru





PUBLIC RECEPTION

The man who, in South Africa, had striven valiantly, through Satyagraha, for his people's honour and human dignity, received a hero's welcome everywhere in India. He travelled widely, North and South, mostly by Third Class on the Railways.



Being taken in procession by the citizens of Ahmedabad, 1916



At Shantiniketan with the poet Rabindranath Tagore

On his return in 1915, Gandhi was eager to establish a centre of community living where he could settle with the group of relatives and co-workers from South Africa who had followed him to India. After receiving invitation to setup his Ashram in various parts of the country, he eventually decided on Kochrab. An outbreak of plague in that same year eventually forced them to abandon Kochrab and move to a site about seven kilometers away on the banks of the Sabarmati river.



First ashram Kochrab,
Ahmedabad, 1915



Sabarmati Ashram, 1915



APPLICATION OF SATYAGRAHA IN INDIA

If in South Africa it was the Railway Ticket Collector who paved the way for the birth of a Satyagrahi, in India it was a poor peasant from Champaran, Rajkumar Shukla, who provided him a platform to test the power of Satyagraha on the Indian soil.

On April 18, 1917, Gandhiji launched the first Satyagraha in India in Champaran, Bihar on behalf of the peasants and in 1918 he took up the cause of the textile mill workers of Ahmedabad where for the first time he used 'fast' as a moral force to rouse the conscience of the mill owners. This was followed by *Kheda Satyagraha* on behalf of the peasants.



Satyagrahi in India



Atrocities on Indigo Planters



THE BEGINNING OF THE GANDHI ERA IN INDIAN POLITICS

India was passing through a period of extreme repression. "Rowlatt Act, Marshal Law in the Punjab and a national humiliation culminating in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre were its outward manifestations.

In 1921, Gandhiji launched the Non-Cooperation Movement with the twin objective of redressal of the Punjab and khilfat wrongs and the establishment of Swaraj through Swadeshi, Charkha and Khadi, Hindu-Muslim unity, removal of untouchability and the emancipation of women. He regarded these programmes as the pillars of Swaraj. Gandhiji gave a nationwide call for the boycott of foreign goods, English courts and educational institutions, which were patronized by the middle class, who were the backbone of British imperialism in India.

People's violence in Chauri-Chaura in February 1922 cast a dark shadow all over India. Gandhiji suspended the mass-movement and was arrested on March 10, 1922.

He was sentenced to 6 years' rigorous imprisonment for spreading disaffection against the government. On his release on February 5, 1924, Gandhiji was pained to find the Hindus and Muslims drifting apart. Hindu-Muslim unity means Swaraj. Hence from September 18, 1924 he went on a 21 day fast for self purification. The same year at the Belgam Convention he was elected president of the Indian National Congress for the year 1925. Throughout the year 1925 Gandhiji extensively travelled through the length and breadth of India. The year 1926 was declared as the "year of political silence" by Gandhiji.



MASSACRE OF JALLIANWALA BAGH

PUBLIC MEETING AND BONFIRE OF FOREIGN CLOTHES

Will take place at the Madras and Ephraim Mills
Opp. Hyderabad Road Station

On SUNDAY the 9th Inst. at 6-30 P.M.

When the Resolution of the Karachi Khilafat Conference and
other Congressing. All Brothers and others will be present.

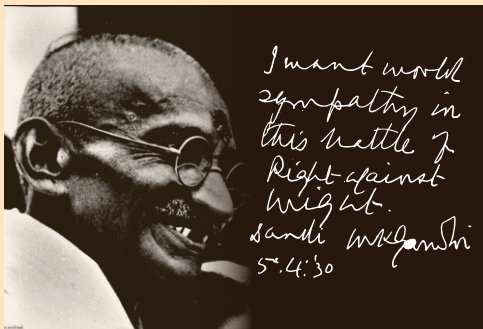
All are Honoured to stand in Swadeshi Clothes of Khadi. Those who
have not yet given away their Foreign Clothes are requested to send them
to their respective Ward Congress Committees for inclusion in the
GREAT BONFIRE.





THE EPIC MARCH AND THE SALT SATYAGRAHA

Gandhiji resumed the leadership of the national movement, after a brief retirement from active politics, with the adoption of the pledge of 'poorna swaraj' on January 26, 1930, and the announcement of the Civil Disobedience movement by breaking the Salt Act. The whole nation marched with the Mahatma as he set out on March 12, 1930 from the Sabarmati Ashram to reach the sea-shore of Dandi to challenge the Salt Act on April 6, 1930. Gandhiji was arrested along with thousands of his followers.



*I want world
sympathy in
this battle of
Right against
Wrong.
Sardar MK Gandhi
5.4.30*



The historic Dandi March, 1930



Gandhi with Sarojini Naidu, April 5, 1930



Picking up a lump of natural salt
on the Dandi beach, April 6, 1930





2nd ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

British Government announced a Round Table Conference in London to deliberate upon the constitutional problems concerning India's future status. Gandhiji boycotted the First Round Table but joined in the second. But as anticipated "returned empty handed", while in London he met amongst others, the renowned philosopher and author Romain Rolland. On his return, he once again resumed the Civil Disobedience Movement. He was arrested and sent to the Yervada jail in Pune.



With Ba, Pt. Malviya & Sarojini Naidu,
Victoria Docks, 1931



With Romain Rolland, Switzerland



Visit to a Lancashire Cotton Mill



Although hardest hit by his boycott of foreign cloth, women workers revelled in Gandhiji's company and showed great sympathy when told of the desperate plight of workers in India.



At the Second Round Table Conference,
London, 1931



With Boys Scouts, Italy (1931)





CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMME: ITS MEANING AND PLACE

Through the "Constructive Programme" he set an agenda for a revolution in India and subsequently for the entire mankind. Through this programme he presented a fairly comprehensive vision of the kind of society he had in his mind. It was the blue-print for inner change in the individual, which would subsequently bring about social change.

Through the 'Constructive Programme' Gandhiji was preparing the masses for the post independence India.

The Constructive Programme may otherwise and more fittingly be called construction of "poorna swaraj" or complete independence by truthful and non-violent means. Believe me that Swaraj will be delayed in proportion to our failure and half-heartedness in carrying out the different items of the Constructive Programme. It is impossible to attain Swaraj non-violently unless there is self-purification. This requires faith in the following items:

- Communal unity
- Removal of untouchability
- Prohibition
- Khadi
- Other village industries
- Village sanitation
- Basic education
- Adult education
- Emancipation of women
- Education in health & hygiene
- Provincial languages
- National languages
- Economic equality
- Peasants
- Labour
- Tribals
- Leprosy patients
- Students.





DO OR DIE

In 1942 Gandhiji urged the British to 'Quit India'. At the historic "Quit India" AICC Session in Bombay on August 8, 1942, Gandhiji asked the country to be ready to "Do or Die". Government unleashed repression, arrested Gandhiji and other leaders at dawn, whisked them away to an unknown destination at Aga Khan Palace, Pune.



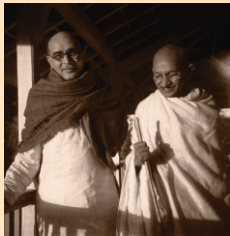
First individual Satyagrahi- Vinoba Bhave (R)



Gandhiji was soon joined by his wife Kasturba and secretary, Mahadev Desai. During this internment Gandhiji suffered irreparable loss-first his long time associate Mahadev Desai passed away on August 15, 1942 and then his life companion Kasturba departed from this world on February 22, 1944.



Women joined the ranks during the Quit India Movement



With Mahadev Desai (L)



Mortal remains of Kasturba Gandhi

The two who did not return.





PARTITION OF THE SUBCONTINENT AND THE BIRTH OF INDEPENDENT INDIA

On his release on May 5, 1944, Gandhiji found his lifelong dream of 'communal unity lying in shambles and India sitting on the edge of a volcano'. In the midst of tortuous negotiations between the British Congress and the Muslim league which culminated in freedom for India on August 15, 1947, but also brought in its wake events that led to tragic partition and sporadic and localized communal riots.

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Declare India As Independent Nation

Congress Call To Britain

C. Debates Working Resolution

FORTIFICATION ON NEW REICH BORDER



SOVIET PROPOSALS TO LITHUANIA

Repatriation Of Germans From Baltic And Balkan Countries

FINLAND NOT TO BREAK 10-15 FROM OSLO POWERS PACT

IT IS EMPHASIS... (text continues)

SOVIET RAW MATERIALS TO GERMANY

THE BRITISH... (text continues)

SOVIET ASSURANCE TO BULGARIA

FINNISH ENVOY TO MOSCOW



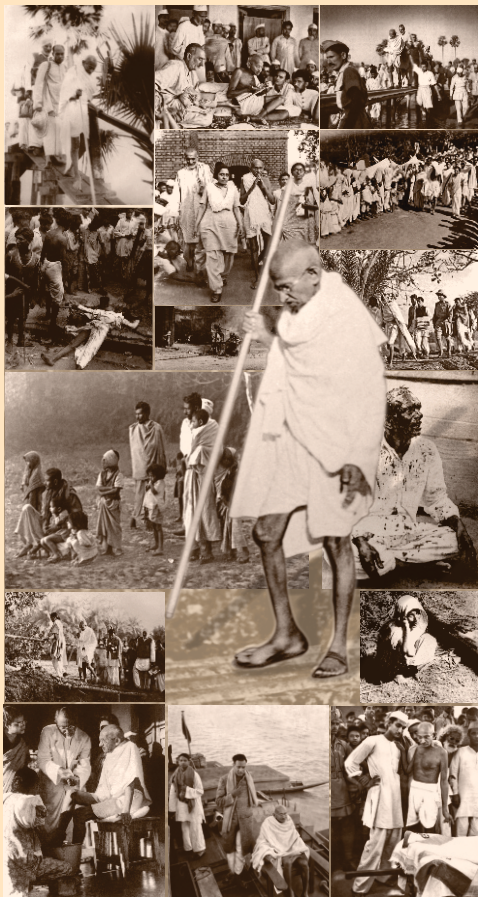
"It was a rare event in the history of nations: the birth of twins – India and Pakistan. It was a birth accompanied by strife and suffering, the bloodiest and the most traumatic parting ever recorded. 10 million refugees and nearly a million butchered in a blink of history's eye."





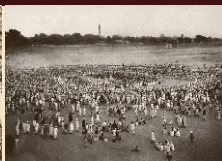
MESSENGER OF PEACE

"I want to wipe the tear from every eye."





MARTYRDOM





Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's Address to the Nation

January 30, 1948

"Friends and Comrades, the light has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere, I do not know what to tell you and how to say it. Our beloved leader, Bapu as we called him, the Father of the Nation, is no more. Perhaps I am wrong to say that. Nevertheless, we will not see him again as we have seen him for these many years. We will not run to him for advice and seek solace from him, and that is a terrible blow, not to me only but to millions and millions in this country. And it is a little difficult to soften the blow by any other advice that I or anyone else can give you.

The light has gone out, I said, and yet was wrong. For the light that has shone in this country was no ordinary light. The light that has illumined this country for these many years, will illumine this country for many more years, and a thousand years later, that light will still be seen in this country and the world will see it and it will give solace to innumerable hearts. For that light represented something more than the immediate present; it represented the living, the eternal truths, reminding us of the right path, drawing us from error, taking this ancient country to freedom...

"The greatest prayer that we can offer is to take a pledge to dedicate ourselves to the truth and to the cause for which this great countryman of ours lived and for which he had died...."



Jawaharlal Nehru addresses the Nation from the Birla House (now Gandhi Smriti)





GANDHIJI'S TALISMAN

I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test.

Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to Swaraj for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?

Then you will find your doubts and your self melting away”.

M.K. Gandhi



"INDIA OF MY DREAMS"

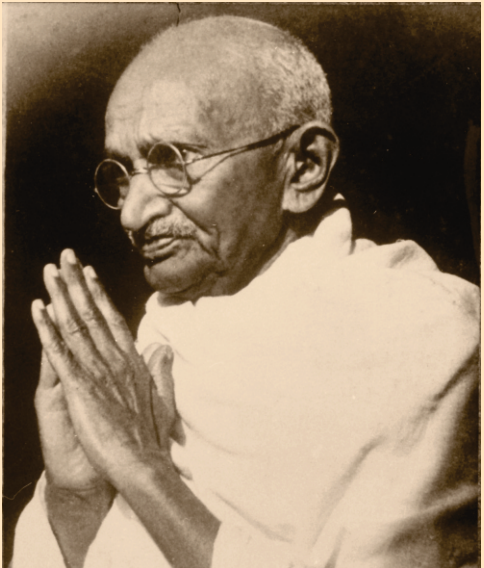
I SHALL STRIVE FOR A CONSTITUTION WHICH WILL RELEASE INDIA FROM ALL AND PATRONAGE AND GIVE HER, IF NEED BE, THE RIGHT TO SIN. I SHALL WORK FOR AN INDIA IN WHICH THE POOREST SHALL FEEL THAT IT IS THEIR COUNTRY IN WHOSE MAKING THEY HAVE AN EFFECTIVE VOICE; AN INDIA IN WHICH THERE SHALL BE NO HIGH CLASS AND LOW CLASS OF PEOPLE; AN INDIA IN WHICH ALL COMMUNITIES SHALL LIVE IN PERFECT HARMONY. THERE CAN BE NO ROOM IN SUCH AN INDIA FOR THE CURSE OF UNTOUCHABILITY OR THE CURSE OF THE INTOXICATING DRINKS AND DRUGS. WOMEN WILL ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS AS MEN. SINCE WE SHALL BE AT PEACE WITH ALL THE REST OF THE WORLD, NEITHER EXPLOITING FOR BEING NOR BEING EXPLOITED, WE SHOULD HAVE THE SMALLEST ARMY IMAGINABLE. ALL INTERESTS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE INTERESTS OF THE DUMB MILLIONS WILL BE SCRUPULOUSLY RESPECTED, WHETHER FOREIGN OR INDIGENOUS. PERSONALLY, I HATE DISTINCTION BETWEEN FOREIGN AND INDIGENOUS. THIS IS THE INDIA OF MY DREAMS. I SHALL BE SATISFIED WITH NOTHING LESS.

M.K. Gandhi





GANDHI'S MESSAGE TO MANKIND



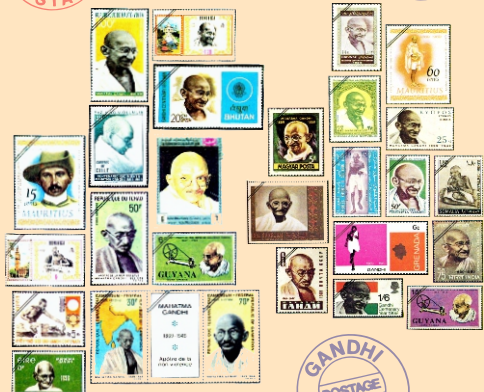
"I have not the slightest doubt that but for the pair - Truth and Non-violence -mankind will be doomed. It does not frighten me at all that the world seems to be going in the opposite direction. For the matter of that, when the moth approaches its doom, it whirls round faster and faster till it is burnt up. It is possible that India will not be able to escape this moth-like circling. It is my duty to try, till my last breath, to save India, and through it the world, from such a fate.

M.K. Gandhi



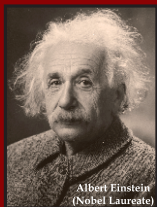


THE WORLD REMEMBERS M. K. GANDHI





"Generations to come, it may well be, will scarce believe that such a man as this one, ever in flesh and blood walked upon this Earth."



"A man of wisdom and humility, armed with resolve and inflexible insistency, who has devoted all his strength to the uplifting of his people and the betterment of their lot; a man who has confronted the brutality of Europe with the dignity of the simple human being and thus at all times risen superior."

A. Einstein





GANDHI SMRITI AND DARSHAN SAMITI An Introduction



Gandhi Smriti, erstwhile Birla House, where Mahatma Gandhi spent last 144 days of his life and fell victim to assassins bullets on January 30, 1948 treasures the memories of various historical events of the pre-independent India. A Martyr's Column stands at the spot where the Father of the Nation was assassinated, commemorating the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi as the embodiment of all the sufferings and sacrifices that characterized the long struggle for India's freedom. On display in the museum are photographs, sculptures, paintings, frescoes, inscriptions on rocks and relics pertaining to the years Mahatma Gandhi spent here etc. The meagre personal effects of Gandhiji too are carefully preserved in the room he lived in, in the corner of the palatial building.

Sprawling Gandhi Darshan came in to existence in 1969 to mark the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi and later in 1984 it was merged with Gandhi Smriti. Besides housing one of the largest exhibition on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi in the world, it functions as an 'Interpretation Centre' where the eternal message of Gandhiji is implemented through various programmes.

