

**Introduction:**

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar. Gandhi traveled to South Africa in 1893 as a barrister to defend a case. Gandhi returned from South Africa in January 1915. Gopal Krishna Gokhale - Mahatma Gandhi's political mentor. Peasant movement in Bardoli - 1928

1. Khilafat Movement-1920
2. Peasant movement in Bardoli - 1928
3. The Purna Swaraj Resolution was adopted at the Congress meeting held in Lahore on 26 January 1930.
4. Civil disobedience movement began - March-April 1930
5. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed in March 1931
6. The Second Round Table Conference was held in London-D 1930
7. Government of India Act-1935
8. Regional government formed by Congress in some provinces - 1937
9. World War II begins - September 1939
10. Congress Provincial Governments Resigned - 1939
11. The Quit India Movement began - August 1942
12. India gained independence - 15 August 1947

**1. Mahatma Gandhi through contemporary eyes**

In 1905, Bengal, the largest province in British India and comprising parts of Bihar and Orissa, was divided by Viceroy Curzon. The people of India were outraged. Both moderates and radicals together suppressed British action. This led to the birth of the Swadeshi movement, which boycotted British institutions and goods.

An important development took place in 1906 with the formation of the All-India Muslim League in Dhaka. The founding members of the League were Muslim landlords and Nawabs. He supported the partition of Bengal and demanded special elections for the Muslims.

However, in 1916 the Congress and the Muslim League decided to work together for a representative government in the country.

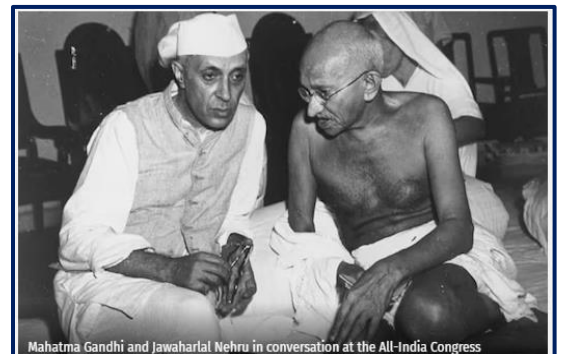
Collective nationalism began to develop after 1919. Farmers, tribals, students and women took part in the struggle against British rule.

Mahatma Gandhi rose to become a mass leader. He first traveled all over the country to understand the people, their needs and the whole situation. Later, he led local movements in Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad, in which he achieved immense success.

In 1919, Gandhi launched the Satyagraha movement against the Rowlatt Act passed by the British. The law blocked fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and strengthened police powers.

In April 1919, there were several demonstrations and strikes in the country against this law. The government used strike action to suppress them. The atrocities at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar on Baisakhi day were part of this repression.

In the 1920s the British made another mistake known as the Khilafat Movement. The British imposed a strict treaty on the famous Turkish sultan known as the Caliph. This angered the Muslims and the beginning of the Caliphate movement led by Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali. Want to start a complete non-cooperation movement. Gandhiji defended his call and urged the



Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru in conversation at the All-India Congress



Congress to campaign against the Jallianwala massacre and demand self-government.

During the years 1921-22, the Non-Assistance Movement gained momentum with widespread support. However, it was abruptly canceled by Mahatma Gandhi in February 1922 when a group of peasants set fire to a police station in Chauri Chaura. Twenty-two policemen were killed that day. It hurt Mahatma Gandhi, who never thought that people would turn violent. He always wanted to repel the British by violent means.

The Congress has now decided to fight for Poorna Swaraj (complete independence led by Jawaharlal Nehru).

Attempts are now being made in that direction. In 1930, Gandhiji started the Dandi March against the Salt Act. He received immense support from the people.

The joint struggles of the Indian people came to fruition when the Government of India Act of 1935 enacted regional autonomy and the government declared elections to the regional legislatures in 1937.

In September 1939, World War II began. Congress leaders were ready to support the British war effort. But in return they wanted independence after the war. The British refused to accept the demand.

The new phase of the movement, popularly known as the Quit India Movement, began in August 1942 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. As a result, prominent leaders were imprisoned at once. But the movement expanded.

In the midst of these events the Muslim League began to demand independent states for Muslims in the north-western and eastern parts of the country. Mahatma Gandhi was not in favor of that.

The League began to think that Muslims were a minority and that they would have a second role in any democratic system. The League was further angered by the League's refusal to form a joint Congress-League government in the United Provinces in 1937.

In 1945, the British started negotiations between the Congress, the League and themselves for Indian independence. Negotiations then failed as the League wanted Pakistan.

In March 1946, the British Cabinet sent a three-member mission to Delhi to investigate the League's demand for Pakistan and to suggest an appropriate political framework for an independent India.

The mission suggested that India should be united and settle as a loose confederation with some autonomy for the Muslim majority areas. Neither Congress nor the League agreed to this. Now the partition of India is inevitable.

Eventually Pakistan came into existence. Partition violence has shaken both the newly independent states of India and Pakistan. It obscured the joy of independence.



#### DO YOU KNOW?

**Moderate:** A person who opposes over-action.

**Repeal:** To repeal the law.

**Radical:** A person who welcomes new ideas or thoughts.

**Revolutionary violence:** The use of violence to bring about radical change in society.

**Council:** An association of persons appointed or elected with administrative advisory or representative functions.

## 2. Beginning of the Gandhian era:

In the history of nationalism, sometimes an individual is identified by his contribution, which is related to nation building. Mahatma Gandhi is considered the father of the Indian nation.

Gandhi returned to India in January 1915 after leading a successful struggle against British discrimination and oppression in South Africa. Gandhi first started a satyagraha (non-violent protest) in South Africa and promoted harmony between different religious sects.





When Gandhi returned to India, he realized that India had become more politically active. The Congress expanded its reach to major towns and cities and the Swadeshi movement attracted broad national movements in the middle class.

Gandhiji first appeared in public in India in 1916 during the inauguration of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Gandhiji in his speech accused the Indian elites of not caring about the poorer sections of our society.

"There can be no spirit of self-government if the result of their labor from the farmers is almost completely deducted or another is allowed," Gandhi said.

On one level Gandhi's speech conveys the fact that Indian nationalism is largely a distinctive phenomenon consisting of lawyers, doctors and landlords. But he wanted the Indian national movement to represent the entire Indian people.



### 3. Gandhi as People's Leader:

Gandhiji represented the freedom struggle and the national movement as representatives of the people. The movement extended from the aristocracy to the peasantry and the working class and involved every section of society. People started worshiping Gandhiji by calling him 'Mahatma'. People admired Gandhiji for living like him, for dressing like him, for speaking his language, for standing by him, for recognizing him with sympathy.

Gandhiji used to go among the people in the common dhoti or kurta. He spent part of his day working on the spinning wheel and encouraged other nationalists to do the same. Spinning helped to break with the traditional caste system and to differentiate between mental and physical labor.



Gandhi appealed to the peasants as protectors of repressive taxes, to protect the peasants from the authorities and to restore dignity and autonomy to their lives. Gandhi's monastic lifestyle and love for handicrafts, and profound sympathy for the poor and peasants won over his followers across caste, creed and creed.

Established a series of public zones to promote the branch of nationalism in the monarchical states. Gandhi insisted that the mother tongue be used in communication, as regional congress committees relied on the language field. Many industrialists, industrialists and businessmen started supporting the Congress and Mahatma Gandhi.

Mahatma Gandhi was released from prison in 1924 and has now chosen to focus on promoting home-made khadi and eradicating untouchability. He believed that India should be liberated from evils like untouchability, child marriages, mutual true tolerance and create religious harmony.

He stressed the need for Indians to be self-sufficient in the financial sector, so they promoted khadi and were against mill-made garments.



### 4. Background of National Movements in India:

In 1917 Gandhiji successfully led the Champaran movement. Through this movement they wanted to protect the farmers and give them the freedom to cultivate the crops of their choice. In 1918, he led a strike in Ahmedabad demanding better working conditions for textile mill workers and a reduction in taxes in Kheda, another peasant movement in the state. During World War I (1914-18), the British government instituted censorship. Detention is allowed without press and trial. These policies were continued as recommended by the Rowlatt Committee. Therefore, in response to Gandhi, Rowlatt called for a nationwide campaign against the law and observed a bandh.



Protests intensified in Punjab, with Gandhi detained on his way to Punjab and several other local Congress leaders arrested. In April 1919, repression turned violent when British Brigadier Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on a peaceful rally at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. More than 400 people were killed in the incident. It has shaken the country and there is growing anger and resentment among Indians.

It was the Rowlatt Satyagraha that made Gandhi a true national leader. Encouraged by its success, Gandhi called for a non-cooperation campaign against British rule. The Indians demanded the cessation of all voluntary relations with the British Government. Gandhiji believed that the British would leave the country within a year if the denial of aid was effectively handled.



## 5. Khilafat and the Non-Cooperation Movement:

He joined hands with the Khilafat movement to further strengthen the movement and unity among fellow Indians. The Khilafat movement was led by Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali and demanded the restoration of the Khilafat honor.

According to Gandhi, a mixture of denial of aid and the Khilafat movement could bring about the end of colonial rule by the two major religious groups, namely Hindus and Muslims.

Students refused to attend schools and colleges, lawyers went to court, the working class went on strike, tribals in Andhra Pradesh violated forest laws and farmers in Awadh stopped paying taxes.

Louis Fischer, author of the American biography of Mahatma Gandhi, wrote, "Non-cooperation has become the name of an era in India and Gandhi's life. It was negative enough to be peaceful, but positive enough to be effective. It's training for self-governance." The British government was shaken by this movement.

In February 1922, Gandhi withdrew from the Non-Assistance Movement due to an unfortunate incident in which police stations were set on fire at Chauri Chaura, in which several constables were burned.

During the Non-Assistance Movement, thousands of Indians were arrested and Gandhi was arrested in March 1922 and sentenced to six years in prison for treason.



### DO YOU KNOW?

<b>Knighthood:</b>	The honor bestowed by the British Crown on exceptional personal practice or religious public service.
<b>Picketing:</b>	An individual or group of people trying to prevent others from entering a building or shop.
<b>Mahant:</b>	Religious activist of Sikh gurdwaras.
<b>Illegal eviction:</b>	Forcible and illegal eviction of tenants from the land they rent.
<b>RSS:</b>	This is Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

## 6. Salt Satyagraha:

In 1928, there was a movement against the Simon Commission in which Lala Lajpat Rai was mercilessly baton-charged and later died. In 1928 another famous Bordeaux satyagraha took place. Thus, by 1928, political activism began to develop in India.





The Congress convened in Lahore in 1929 and Nehru was elected President. The slogan of the meeting was "Poorna Swaraj" and Republic Day was celebrated on January 26, 1930.

## 7. Dandi (salt) March:

Celebrating Republic Day, Gandhi announced his pilgrimage plan to violate the Salt Act. The law was not to the liking of the Indians as it gave the state a monopoly on the manufacture and sale of salt.

On March 12, 1930, Gandhiji set sail from the Ashram towards the sea. They went ashore and made salt and turned themselves into criminals in the eyes of the law. During this time many parallel salt trips were made to other parts of the country.

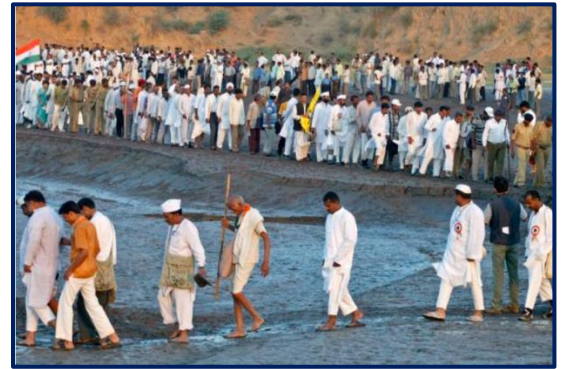
The movement was also supported by farmers, the working class, factory workers, lawyers and Indian officials in the British government.

Quit his job. Lawyers boycotted the courts, farmers stopped paying taxes and tribals violated forest laws. There were strikes in factories or mills.

The government responded by detaining protesters or satyagrahis. 60,000 Indians were arrested and various high-ranking leaders of the Congress, including Gandhiji, were arrested.

An American magazine 'Time' initially suspected Gandhi's strength and wrote that the Salt March was not a success. However, he later wrote that the march had "caused great concern" to the British rulers.

These rulers now began to regard Gandhi as a 'saint' and a 'politician' who used Christianity as a weapon.



### DO YOU KNOW?

<b>Purna Swaraj:</b>	Complete freedom.
<b>Provincial Autonomy:</b>	The ability of provinces to make relatively independent decisions while staying within a federation.
<b>General Constituency:</b>	Electoral districts with no reservation for any religion or other community.
<b>Refugee:</b>	A person who has to leave his country or home for political or social reasons.

## 8. Significance of the Dandi March:

The salt march is important for at least three reasons: It brought Mahatma Gandhi and India to the world. This is the first national movement in which women's participation is truly remarkable. Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay, a socialist leader, persuaded Gandhi not to restrict the movement to men. Several women, including Kamala Devi, were arrested for violating the salt and alcohol law.

Third and most importantly, the movement had to realize that British rule was not permanent and that they needed to give some power to the Indians. Gandhi was released from prison in January 1931 and later several meetings were held between Gandhi and Irwin, which ended in the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. By this agreement the civil disobedience movement would be stopped, political prisoners would be released and salt producers could make salt near the coast. The agreement was criticized by radical nationalists for failing to achieve Gandhi's commitment to political independence for Indians.



In late 1931, Gandhi went to the Second Round Table Conference as a Congress delegate and said that his party would represent the whole of India, but his claim was opposed by the Muslim League, the States and the BR. Therefore, this meeting was left unfinished. Gandhiji returned to India in despair and resumed the civil disobedience movement. In 1935, the Government of

India Act came into force and it promised some share in the representative government. Two years later, elections were held and a Congress government was formed in 11 of the 8 provinces. However, in 1939, after the end of the war, the Congress government resigned after the British refused to cooperate with India in return for independence.

In 1940 and 1941, the Congress organized individual satyagrahas to put pressure on the government. In 1940 the Muslim League passed a resolution calling for autonomy for the Muslim majority areas of the subcontinent. Now, the whole struggle has become complicated and has become a three- way struggle between the British, the Congress and the Muslim League. In 1942, Prime Minister Winston Churchill sent a mission to India under Stafford Cripps to reach an agreement with the Congress and Gandhi. However, negotiations failed when Congress offered to help the British protect India from Axis powers. The Viceroy then had to appoint an Indian to his executive board as a member of the Defense.

## 9. Quit India Movement:

After the failure of the Cripps Mission, Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement from Bombay in August 1948. Immediately, Gandhiji and other senior leaders were arrested, but the youths resorted to strikes and vandalism across the country. The Quit India movement was a mass movement that brought millions of ordinary people and youth into its guts and left their colleges and went to jail. While the Congress leaders were in jail, Jinnah and other Muslim League leaders worked patiently to expand their presence in Punjab and Sindh. Gandhi was released from prison in June 1944 and later held several meetings with Jinnah to resolve the dispute.



In 1945, the Labor government came to power in England and was committed to giving India independence. In India, Lord Wavell held meetings with the Congress and the League. In the 1946 elections, despite the Congress winning the General category, polarity appeared to be in full swing when Muslims were allocated reserved seats. The Muslim League won these seats with an overwhelming majority. In 1946, the Cabinet mission came, but it failed to persuade the Congress and the Muslim League on a federal system that would unite India and give the provinces some autonomy.

After the talks failed, Jinnah called for a day of direct action to stress Pakistan's demand. The riots broke out in Calcutta on August 16, 1946, then spread to other parts of Bengal, then to Bihar, the United Provinces and Punjab. Both sides suffered casualties in the riots.

In February 1947, Lord Mountbatten Wavell was appointed Viceroy. He called for a final round of talks and when the talks were incomplete, he declared that India was liberated and divided. Finally, on August 15, 1947, power was transferred to India.



## 10. The last heroic days of Mahatma Gandhi:

Gandhiji celebrated Independence Day with a 24-hour fast. With the partition of the country, the freedom struggle came to an end and Hindus and Muslims were looking for each other's lives.

During the months of September and October, Gandhi visited hospitals and refugee camps to comfort the people. He appealed to Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims to forget the past and extend a hand of friendship, cooperation and peace.

In support of Gandhiji and Nehru, the Congress passed a resolution on the rights of minorities. He said the party had never accepted partition but had resorted to forced partition.

The Congress has stated that India will be a democratic secular country





and that every citizen will be equal. Congress sought to assure minorities in India that their rights in India would be protected. On January 26, 1948, Gandhiji said, "Previously, Independence Day was celebrated today. Now independence has come, but it has created a serious illusion." He believed the worst was over. Although India is divided geographically and politically, he sincerely hopes that we will always be friends and brothers, to help and respect each other and to be one with the outside world. Gandhiji was shot dead by Hindu extremist Nathuram Godse. Nathuram Godse, a Hindu extremist, was the editor of a newspaper that described Gandhi as a man who deceived Muslims.

Gandhi's death caused extraordinary grief, tributes were paid in the political spectrum of India, and international dignitaries such as George Orwell and Einstein compared his death to that of Abraham Lincoln.

#### DO YOU KNOW?

**1905:** Partition of Bengal takes place

**1915:** Mahatma Gandhi arrives in India from South Africa.

**1919:** Roullette Satyagraha begins. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place.

**1920:** Non-cooperation movement begins.

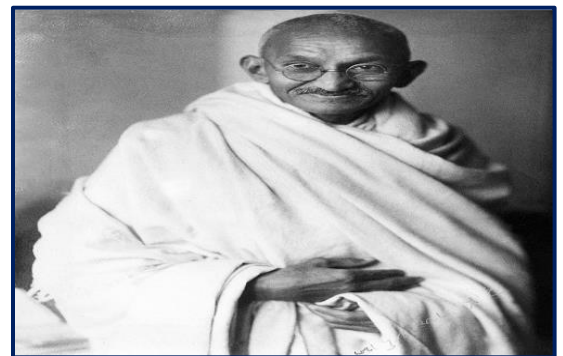
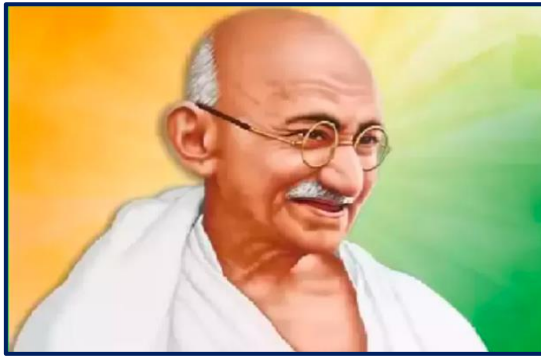
**1922:** Gandhi withdraws from the Non-Assistance Movement.

### 11. Know about Mahatma Gandhi:

There are various sources that can reconstruct the history of the national movement and Gandhi's political life.

The writings and speeches of Mahatma Gandhi and his contemporaries are important sources for learning about events. Despite the difference,

speeches are intended for the public, while private letters are intended to express feelings and thoughts that are not openly expressed.



Most letters written to individuals are personal but they are also to the public. The language of the letter was designed with the understanding that it would be published, so it often prevented people from expressing their opinions freely.

Biographies tell us past history, but we must be careful when reading and interpreting it. They are based on the author's memory.

Government records and government letters are also important sources for learning history. However, these are mostly biased so it also needs to be understood carefully as it has its limitations.

Newspapers in English and other local languages

These languages tracked the Gandhian movement, the national movement and the independence movement and the sentiments of Indians about Gandhiji. Newspapers should not be viewed as partisan because they are published by people with their own political views and opinions.

#### Activity

- Q1. Write a difference between the idea of Socialism and Capitalism?
- Q2. Make a short note on the concept of bipolarity?
- Q3. See the political world map and find out the western alliance countries?

## Questions For Practice

1. Dandy March brought forward by \_\_\_\_\_?  
 (a) Non-cooperation movement  
 (b) Civil disobedience movement  
 (c) Quit India Movement  
 (d) Roulette Satyagraha
2. Congress Ministries resigned in \_\_\_\_\_?  
 (a) October 1937  
 (b) September 1938  
 (c) September 1940  
 (d) October 1939
3. When did Mahatma Gandhi make his major public appearance?  
 (a) 1915                      (b) 1916  
 (c) 1917                      (d) 1918
4. Established a series of 'Prajā Mandal's' to promote the nationalist class?  
 (a) Middle class  
 (b) Monarchy  
 (c) Business Association  
 (d) All of the above
5. In which year was the first-round table meeting held?  
 (a) 1928                      (b) 1929  
 (c) 1930                      (d) 1931
6. Which of the following was the first mass movement against the British in India?  
 (a) Quit India Movement  
 (b) Khilafat movement  
 (c) Civil disobedience movement  
 (d) Indigenous movement
7. Indicate which of the following options is incorrect?  
 (a) The Muslim League demanded Pakistan in 1946.  
 (b) Gandhiji launched the Quit India Mission in 1942.  
 (c) The Cripps mission failed to achieve its goal.  
 (d) The Cabinet Mission came to India in 1946.
8. Regarding the Indian independence struggle, consider the following statements:  
 Which of the following statements is incorrect?
- (a) Due to the Chauri-Chaura incident, Gandhiji withdrew from the Non-Assistance Movement.
- (b) Gandhiji made his first public speech at BHU.
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi was arrested in 1921 AD.
- (d) Nehru was the Congress president in the Lahore session.
9. Consider the following events:  
 1. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre  
 2. Withdrawal of the Non-Assistance Movement  
 3. The beginning of the Khilafat movement  
 4. Swaraj Party formed  
**In their proper chronology:**  
 (a) 1, 2, 3, 4                      (b) 1, 3, 4, 2  
 (c) 1, 3, 2, 4                      (d) 3, 2, 4, 1
10. Which of the following statement (s) regarding Mahatma Gandhi is correct?  
 (i) He participated in the second-round table meeting.  
 (ii) He opposed the demand for special voters for the lower castes.  
 (iii) He returned to India two decades later in 1917.  
 (iv) He accepted Lala Lajpat Rai as his political mentor.  
**Choose the right option.**  
 (a) ii only                      (b) ii and iv  
 (c) iii and iv                      (d) i and ii
11. Where was the Gandhi Satyagraha first used?  
 (a) India                      (b) South Africa  
 (c) South America                      (d) England
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Congress is a moderate leader?  
 (a) Lala Lajpat Rai  
 (b) Bipin Chandra Paul  
 (c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak  
 (d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
13. Gandhiji withdrew the non-cooperation movement in \_\_\_\_\_?  
 (a) January 1921  
 (b) February 1922  
 (c) February 1921  
 (d) January 1922
14. The Kisan Satyagraha in Bardoli was organized on \_\_\_\_\_?  
 (a) 1928                      (b) 1929  
 (c) 1930                      (d) 1931
15. \_\_\_\_\_ was the Congress president during the Lahore session?  
 (a) Mahatma Gandhi  
 (b) Jawaharlal Nehru  
 (c) Sardar Patel  
 (d) Subhash Chandra Bose
16. Dandy march comes forward \_\_\_\_\_?  
 (a) Non-cooperation movement  
 (b) Civil disobedience movement  
 (c) Quit India Movement  
 (d) Roulette Satyagraha
17. Congress Ministries resigned in \_\_\_\_\_?  
 (a) October 1937  
 (b) September 1938  
 (c) September 1940  
 (d) October 1939
18. Consider the following events:  
 1. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre  
 2. Khilafat movement  
 3. Formation of Swaraj Party  
 4. The arrival of the Simon Commission  
 The exact chronology of these events is:  
 (a) 1, 2, 3, 4                      (b) 4, 3, 2, 1  
 (c) 2, 3, 4, 1                      (d) 3, 4, 2, 1
19. Indicate which of the following options is incorrect:  
 (a) The Muslim League demanded Pakistan in 1946.  
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20. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian independence struggle:  
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 (b) Gandhiji made his first public speech at BHU.



- (c) Mahatma Gandhi was arrested in 1921 AD.  
(d) Nehru was the Congress president in the Lahore session.
- 21.** Who led the Khilafat movement in India?  
(a) Muhammad Ali and Shaukat Ali  
(b) Muhammad Ali Jinnah and Shamsuddin Hussain  
(c) Maulana Azad  
(d) Qutbuddin Ahmad and Maulana Azad
- 22.** Who called for the 'Direct Action Day' strike?  
(a) Mahatma Gandhi  
(b) Muhammad Ali Jinnah  
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru  
(d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- 23.** In which year did Mahatma Gandhi call for the Quit India Movement?  
(a) 1930 (b) 1936  
(c) 1942 (d) 1945
- 24.** In which year did the Muslim League pass a resolution for a separate country, Pakistan?  
(a) 1940 (b) 1942  
(c) 1944 (d) 1945
- 25.** Where did Gandhi first use Satyagraha?  
(a) India (b) South Africa  
(c) South America (d) England
- 26.** Moderate leader of the Congress?  
(a) Lala Lajpat Rai  
(b) Bipin Chandra Paul  
(c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak  
(d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- 27.** Where is the Gandhi Ashram?  
(a) Dandy (b) Champaran  
(c) Kheda (d) Sabarmati
- 28.** Gandhiji withdrew the non-cooperation movement in \_\_\_\_?  
(a) January 1921  
(b) February 1922  
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- 29.** Kisan Satyagraha organized in Bardoli?  
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## Solutions

- |        |        |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 5. (c) | 9. (c)  | 13. (b) | 17. (d) | 21. (a) | 25. (b) | 29. (a) | 33. (b) | 37. (d) |
| 2. (d) | 6. (d) | 10. (d) | 14. (a) | 18. (a) | 22. (b) | 26. (d) | 30. (b) | 34. (a) | 38. (b) |
| 3. (b) | 7. (a) | 11. (b) | 15. (b) | 19. (a) | 23. (c) | 27. (d) | 31. (c) | 35. (d) | 39. (a) |
| 4. (b) | 8. (d) | 12. (d) | 16. (b) | 20. (c) | 24. (a) | 28. (b) | 32. (a) | 36. (b) | 40. (b) |

