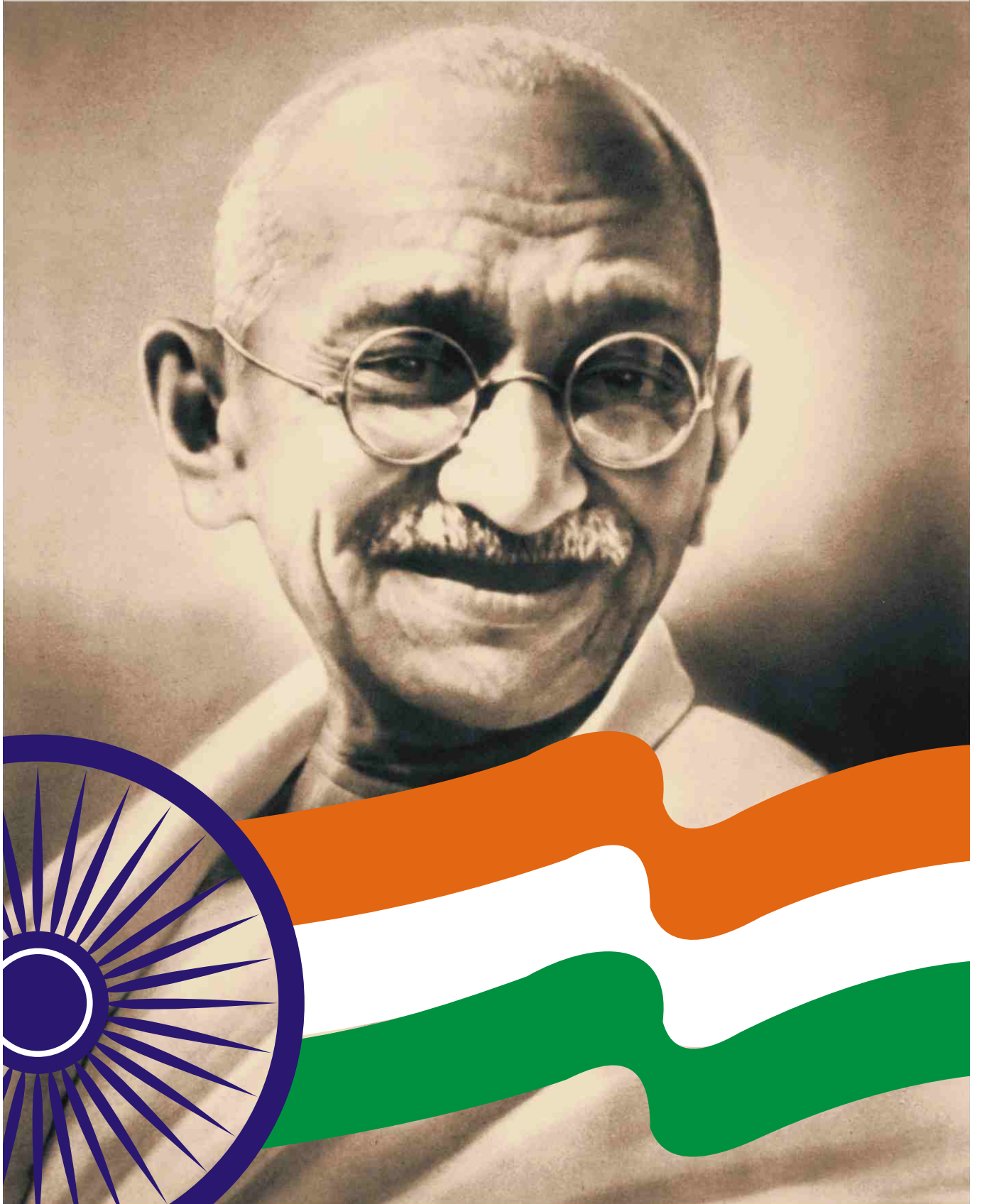


**LARGER** THAN **LIFE**  
A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS

*Mahatma Gandhi*  
1869 - 1948



## INTRODUCTION

**Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi** was a major political and spiritual leader of India and the Indian independence movement. In India, he is recognized as **the 'Father of the Nation'**. **October 2nd, his birthday, is commemorated each year as 'Gandhi Jayanti', a national holiday.**

**He was the pioneer of Satyagraha - the resistance of tyranny through mass civil disobedience, firmly founded upon ahimsa - which led India to independence and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world.** On 15 June 2007, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution declaring **October 2** to be the **'International Day of Non-Violence'**.

## BIRTH AND EARLY YEARS

**Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi** was born into a Hindu family in Porbandar, on October 2nd in 1869. He was the son of Karamchand Gandhi, the Diwan of Porbandar, and Putlibai. He learned from an early age the tenets of non-injury to living beings, vegetarianism, fasting for self-purification, and mutual tolerance between members of various creeds and sects. **On May 1883, at the age of 13, he was married to Kasturba Makhanji.**

## MILOESTONES

**1888-1893:** In 1888, Gandhiji was trained as a lawyer in London and returned to India. In 1893, he received an offer from Dada Abdulla & Co. to proceed to South Africa on their behalf to instruct their counsel in a lawsuit.

**1896-1904:** It was in South Africa that Gandhiji's transformation from Mohandas to Mahatma started evolving. He landed at Durban and soon he realized the oppressive atmosphere of racial snobbishness against Indians. During a train journey a **white passenger who boarded the train objected to the presence of a 'coloured' man in the compartment and Gandhiji was ordered by a railway official to shift to a third class. When he refused to do so, a constable pushed him out and his luggage was taken away by the railway authorities. He decided to fight for the rights of Indians.** During his stay in South Africa, his life underwent a change and he developed most of his political ideas.

**1906-1914:** In the course of his struggle in South Africa, he **developed the concepts of Ahimsa and Satyagraha.** Gandhiji's struggle bore fruit and in 1914 in an agreement

between Gandhiji and South African Government, the main Indian demands were conceded.

**1915:** He returned to India in 1915 and settled down on the bank of the river Sabarmati, on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, where **he founded an ashram called 'Satyagraha Ashram.'**

**1917-1920:** His **first satyagraha in India was in Champaran**, a small town in Bihar, full of indigo plantations. The poor farmers of that district were exploited by British. His work for the farmers forced the British government to accept his demands for improving their condition. **The success of his first experiment in satyagraha in India greatly enhanced Gandhiji's reputation as a national leader. In 1920, he became leader of the Congress Party.**

**1921-1922:** In 1921, he gave the **call for Non-cooperation movement against the policies of British rule.** This movement severely jolted the British government.

**1925:** His **autobiography 'My Experiments with Truth' was published.**

**1930:** On March 12, 1930 he **started the historic Dandi March to break the law, which had deprived the poor man of his right to make his own salt.** This movement galvanized the whole nation and came to be **known as 'Civil Disobedience Movement'.**

**1942-1944:** He gave the **call for 'Quit India Movement.'** While he was in jail his wife **Kasturba passed away. In view of his deteriorating health he was released from the jail in May 1944.**

**1947:** **British-run India was divided into Pakistan and India. Both states got Independence on 14th and 15th August respectively.**

## DEATH

After Independence, he worked ceaselessly to promote unity between Hindus and Muslims. This angered some Hindu fundamentalists and on January 30, 1948 **Gandhiji was shot dead by one such fundamentalist Nathu Ram Godse while he was going for his evening prayers in New Delhi. The last words on the lips of Gandhiji were "Hey Ram".**

## *Quotes By Mahatma Gandhi*

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*“A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history.”*



*“An eye for eye only ends up making the whole world blind.”*



*“Nobody can hurt me without my permission.”*



*“A man is but the product of his thoughts: What he thinks, he becomes.”*