

## Questions on the Biography of

### Mahatma Gandhi

<b>Period</b>	: 2 <sup>nd</sup> oct 1869 – 30 <sup>th</sup> jan 1948
<b>Place of birth</b>	: Porbandar, Kathiawar Agency, British Indian Empire His birthday commemorated as Gandhi Jayanthi – India Intl. day of non violence- World
<b>Death</b>	: assassination (30 th jan –martyr’s day in India)
<b>Resting place</b>	: Raj Ghat, Delhi
<b>Education</b>	: law (barrister)
<b>Parents</b>	: Karamchand Gandhi, Putlibai Gandhi
<b>Spouse</b>	: kasturba Gandhi
<b>Epitaphs</b>	: Heyram
<b>His message to the world</b>	: My Life is My Message
<b>Philosophy</b>	: satyagraha, ahimsa, Non- Violence, and Pacifism
<b>Autobiography</b>	: My experiments with truth.
<b>His books</b>	: Satya graha in South Africa, Hind Swaraj, or Indian Home Rule

#### Nick names:

- Bapu
- Father of the nation
- Mahatma – given by Tagore

#### His role in freedom movement :

- In 1921- assuming leadership of INC.
- In 1930-he led dandi march
- In 1942- he demanded the british to quit india
- He participated in second round table congress
- He also a Civil activist in south Africa(1893-1914)

#### His favourite books:

- Plato’s- apology
- William salter- Ethical religion
- Henry David Thoreau- On the duty of civil Disobedience
- Leo Tolstoy’s – The Kingdom of God is Within You
- John Ruskin’s- Unto this Last.

#### He influenced many leaders:

Some of them

- Martin Luther King
- Nelson Mandela
- Abdul Gaffar khan
- Aung san suu kyι
- Barrack obama

### Jawaharlal Nehru

First prime minister of India

<b>Period</b>	: 14 Nov- 1889 – 27 May 1964
<b>Place of birth</b>	: Allahabad, British India
<b>Parents</b>	: Motilal Nehru, Swaruprani Thussu
<b>Elder sister</b>	: Vijaya lakshmi -1 <sup>st</sup> female president of the UN general assembly.

#### His role in freedom movement and free india:

- Leader of Indian independence movement under the tutelage of Gandhi.
- He is considered to be the architect of the Modern Indian nation Making it as a Sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic.
- When he took office as PM, delivered his inaugural address titled “ A Tryst With Destiny”
- He drew up the 1<sup>st</sup> five year plan
- During his period, AIIMS,IIT,IIM,NIT were established.
- In 1955- awarded Bharat Ratna

#### He influenced by:

- Bernard Shaw, Bertrand Russell, J.M. Keynes and many..

#### His books:

- Discovery of India,
- Glimpses of world history

#### His autobiography:

- Towards Freedom

### Subash Chandra Bose

**Period** : 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 1897-18 Aug 1945(Taiwan)

**Place** : Cuttack, Orissa, Bengal Presidency

**Parents** : Janakinath bose, Prabhavathi Devi

**Spouse** : Emilie Schenkl

#### Role in INM:

- He was selected in ICS Examination but he did not want to work under british. He resigned and returned to India.
- His mentor- Chitranjan Das [newspaper Forward – founded by Chitranjan das]
- He elected as – president of all India youth congress
- Secretary of Bengal State congress
- In 1927 – became general secretary of congress party
- Bose founded the newspaper “Swaraj”
- He organized “Forward Bloc”
- Bose addressed Gandhi as the father of the nation and asked for his blessings and good wishes for the war he was fighting in Azad hind radio, Singapore

#### His famous quote :

- “ Give me blood and I will give you freedom”
- “Dilli chalo”
- “Jaihind”- “glory to India”
- “Ittefaq”
- “Etemad”

- “Qurbani”
- INA- “Inquilab Zindabad”- coined by Maulana Hasrat Mohani .

## Helen Adams Keller

**Period** : 27 jun 1880 – 1 jun 1968  
**Place** : west Tuscumbia, Alabama, USA  
**Parents** : Arthur H Keller, Kate Adams  
**Profession** : American author, political activist, and lecturer  
**Education** : first blind deaf person to earn a bachelor of arts degree  
**Her teacher** : Anne Sullivan  
**Her autobiography** : the story of my life (at age of 22) translated into 50 languages  
My religion(1927) and reissued in the title of light in my  
darkness(1994)

**Books** : wrote 12 published books and several articles

- Frost king(at the age of 11)
- A series of essays on socialism(1913)
- The world I live in 1908(with help of Sullivan and her husband John Macy)

### About:

- Helen was born with ability to see and hear. At 19 months old contracted an illness which left her both blind and deaf.
- Her birthday commemorated as Helen Keller day in the US state of Pennsylvania.
- Anne Sullivan arrived at Keller’s house in March 1887 at the age of 21.
- She immediately began to communicate with her by spelling words in her hand, beginning with d o l l for doll.
- She learned to hear people’s speech by reading their lips with her hand.
- She became proficient at using braille.
- Keller travelled to 40 some odd countries with Sullivan.
- She died in 1968 at the age of 87

### Award:

- Presidential Medal of Freedom by president Lyndon B. Jhonson

## Kalpana Chawla

**Period** : 1<sup>st</sup> july 1961 – 1<sup>st</sup> feb 2003  
**Place** : Karnal, Punjab, india (now in Haryana)  
**Alma matter** :  
Punjab engineering college  
University of texas at Arlington(1984)  
University of Colorado at boulder(1988)

**Mission** : STS- 87, STS -107  
**Parents** : Banarsi dass chawla  
**Spouse** : Jean Pierre Harrison  
**About:**

- her father refused her to fly but then she got valuable advice from her brother that she remembered all through her life : Everyone fights through their own battles.
- Don Wilson her thesis guide recalls her as a quiet and shy girl who was intimidated by her surroundings
- In 1988, she started working at NASA ames research centre
- In 1993, she joined overset methods Inc., Los Altos, California, as Vice President and Research Scientist.
- In December 1994, she was selected by NASA out of 2962 applicants as an astronaut candidate in the 15th group of astronauts
- In 1996, her dream became true. She started off on her path to the 'Milky Way'. She was assigned as mission specialist on STS-87 Columbia, for a 16-day mission between November 19 to December 5, 1997, as part of a six astronaut crew
- She became the first Indian or Indian-American to fly in the US space shuttle.
- Following her first space flight, in 1997, Chawla said, "The Ganges valley looked majestic, mind-boggling". "Africa looked like a desert and the Nile a vein in it".
- She had clocked 6.5 million miles , 252 orbits around the earth and logged over 376 hours.
- She yearned for a second chance. The chance came in 2000, when she was assigned to the crew of STS-107 scheduled for launch in 2003. Once again she had succeeded
- The 16-day flight which began on January 16th 2003 was a dedicated science and research mission. The crew successfully conducted 80 experiments.
- On February 1st 2003, a breezy blue day over Florida, during entry, the space shuttle exploded into a ball of fire, sixteen minutes prior to scheduled landing
- her message to Indian children was, "..... the journey matters as much as the goal. Listen to the sounds of nature.....Take good care of our fragile planet."

## Salim Moizuddin Abdul Ali

**Period** : 12<sup>th</sup> nov 1896 – 27<sup>th</sup> july 1987

**Profession** : Indian ornithologist and Naturalist

**Nick name** : Birdman of India

**Books** : The Book of Indian Birds

**Awards and honours** :

- 1<sup>st</sup> non – British citizen to receive the Gold Medal of the British Ornithologist's Union in 1967.
- J. Paul Getty Wild life conservation prize in 1967

### Awards by Indian government

- Padma bhushan (1958)
- Padma vibhushan(1976)
- He was also nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1985
- Salim Ali centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) was established at Coimbatore in 1987

**About:**

- His early interest was in books on hunting in India and he became interested in sports shooting.
- He was a drop out from St. Xavier's college, Mumbai.
- He went to Burma to look after the family's wolfram mining. The forest surrounding the mine provided an opportunity for salim to hone his naturalist skills.
- On his return to India he studied about birds at various places and collected many species of birds.
- He was among the first Indians to conduct systematic bird surveys across India and wrote several bird books that popularized ornithology in India.
- He became a key figure behind the **Bombay Natural History Society** after 1947
- He used his personal influence to garner government support for the organization, create the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary (**Keoladeo National Park**)
- He prevent the destruction of what is now the **Silent Valley National Park**.
- Along with Sidney Dillion Ripley he wrote the landmark ten volume Handbook of the birds of India and Pakistan.

### Rani of Jhansi:

<b>Born</b>	: Manikarnika Tambe, 19 November 1828 at Benaras
<b>Place of Birth</b>	: Varanasi, India
<b>Nationality</b>	: Indian
<b>Father</b>	: Moropant Tambe
<b>Mother</b>	: Bhagirathi Sapre
<b>Died</b>	: 18 June 1858 (aged 29), Kotah ki Serai, near Gwalior, India
<b>Spouse Name</b>	: Jhansi Naresh Maharaj Gangadhar Rao Newalkar
<b>Children</b>	: She gave birth to a boy, who died when four months old.
<b>Education</b>	: She was educated at home and was more independent in her childhood than others of her age; her studies included shooting, horsemanship, and fencing.

#### About:

- Her parents named her markanika after the river Ganga
- Gangadhar rao wanted to marry her because of her charm and wit.
- She was given a new name Lakshmi bai
- Gangadhar rao adopted a son (Damodar Rao) because of his son died after three months.
- The british wanted to annex Jhansi using doctrine of lapse. Lakshmi bai against it.
- In 1857, the mutiny broke out. She joined with the rebellion. She prepared her army with 15000 men and women.
- She had set up two new factories for rifles and swords.
- She fought against the general sir Hugh Rose.
- She sat on her horse, holding reins between her teeth and a sword in both hands.
- Finally she was hit by a shot from an unknown soldier and died.

### Nelson Mandela

<b>Period</b>	: 18 <sup>th</sup> july 1918 – 5 <sup>th</sup> dec 2013
<b>Place of Birth</b>	: Qunu near Umtata

**Nationality** : south African

**Profession** :

- South African anti apartheid revolutionary and politician
- President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999.
- [First black South African to hold the office and first elected in a fully representative, multiracial election]
- Secretary general of the non aligned movement from 1998 -1999

**Nick names:**

- Under his Xhosa Clan name of “madiba”
- Father of the nation

**About:**

- When his father died, Mandela and was groomed for becoming chief of his local tribe. However Mandela would never be able to make this commitment.
- Much to the disappointment of his family, Mandela became involved in politics, and along with his good friend and comrade Oliver Tambo was expelled from Fort Hare university for organising a student strike. However Mandela was able to finish his degree and qualified as a Lawyer.
- He was repeatedly arrested for seditious activities sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the government and sentenced to life imprisonment.
- He served 27 years in prison, first on robben island, and later in pollsmoor prison and victor verster prison.
- An international campaign lobbied for his release, which was granted in 1990. becoming ANC president published his autobiography
- His negotiation with president F W De Klerk to abolish apartheid and establish multi racial elections in 1994 in which he led the ANC to Victory.
- As the president he established a new constitution and initiated the truth and reconciliation commission to investigate past human rights abuse, while introducing policies to encourage land reform, combat poverty and expand health care services.
- He declined to run for a second term, and was succeeded by his deputy Thabo Mbeki.
- He focused on charitable works in combating poverty and HIV aids through the nelson Mandela foundation.
- Internationally, he acted as a mediator between Libya and UK in the Pan Am Flight 103 bombing trial, and oversaw military intervention in Lesotho.

**Awards:**

- He received over 250 awards
- Nobel prize for peace(1993)
- The US presidential medal of freedom
- The soviet order of Lenin

## **Abraham Lincoln**

**Period** : 12<sup>th</sup> feb 1809 – 15 apr 1865

**Place of birth** : sinking spring farm, US

**Cause of death** : Assasination

**Political party** : Whig(1834-1854)  
Republican(1854-1864)

**Profession** : Lawyer, Politician

**Nationality** : American

**About:**

- 16<sup>th</sup> president of USA (march 1861 until his assassination in april 1865)
- He was self educated and become a country lawyer, a whig party leader, Illinois State legislator during the 1830s, and a one term member of the united states house of representatives during the 1840s.
- Lincoln served as a captain in the Illinois militia during the Black Hawk War
- In 1846 he elected to the US house of representatives, where he served one two year term.
- On nov 6, 1860 he was elected the 16<sup>th</sup> president of the US.
- On January 1,1863 he issued the emancipation proclamation that declared forever free the slaves within the confederacy. He wanted to preserve the unity of the country at any cost. Finally civil war broke out.
- He fought the war bravely and declared “ a nation cannot exist half free and half slave”. He won the war.
- He was elected for a second term. On april 14, 1865, he was assassinated at Ford’s Theater in Washington by John Wilkes booth, an actor.