

FREEDOM STRUGGLE TIMELINE (1857–1947)

★★ MASTER TIMELINE ★★

YEAR	EVENT	KEY FACT / SIGNIFICANCE
1857	 Revolt of 1857	Began 10 May at Meerut; Mangal Pandey's revolt at Barrackpore (Mar) was the spark. Ended Mughal rule symbolically — Bahadur Shah II exiled to Rangoon.
1858	 Government of India Act 1858	Crown replaced East India Company rule; Queen's Proclamation issued.
1885	 Indian National Congress founded	Bombay; founder A.O. Hume; 1st session president W.C. Bonnerjee.
1905	 Partition of Bengal	Ordered by Viceroy Curzon on religious lines; annulled in 1911.
1906	 All India Muslim League founded	Formed at Dacca.
1907	 Surat Split	INC split into Moderates and Extremists.
1909	 Morley-Minto Reforms	Indian Councils Act 1909; introduced separate electorates.
1916	 Lucknow Pact	Congress-League unity; also year of Home Rule Movement (Tilak & Besant).
1917	 Champaran Satyagraha	Gandhi's first mass movement on Indian soil (indigo farmers, Bihar).
1919	 Rowlatt Act & Jallianwala Bagh	13 April, Amritsar massacre under Gen. Dyer; same year as Government of India Act 1919 (Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms).
1920–22	 Non-Cooperation Movement	Launched post-Khilafat; withdrawn after Chauri Chaura incident (Feb 1922).

MASTER TIMELINE (1928-1947)

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YEAR	EVENT	KEY FACT / SIGNIFICANCE
1928	 Simon Commission	All-British panel triggered “Simon Go Back” protests; Lala Lajpat Rai fatally injured.
1929	 Purna Swaraj Resolution	Passed at Lahore session; 26 Jan 1930 observed as Independence Day until 1947.
1930	 Dandi March / Civil Disobedience	12 Mar–6 Apr, 240-mile salt march breaking the salt law.
1930–32	 Round Table Conferences	Three conferences in London; Gandhi attended only the 2nd (1931), post Gandhi-Irwin Pact.
1935	 Government of India Act 1935	Introduced provincial autonomy; structural basis for the future Constitution.
1939	 Congress ministries resign	Protest against India being dragged into WWII without consultation.
1940	 Lahore Resolution	Muslim League’s formal demand for a separate nation.
1942	 Quit India Movement	Launched 8 August (“Do or Die” call); preceded by rejection of the Cripps Mission (Mar 1942).
1943–45	 Indian National Army (INA)	Led by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as Azad Hind Fauj; Red Fort Trials held in 1945.
1946	 Cabinet Mission Plan & Direct Action Day	Interim Government formed; Direct Action Day on 16 August.
1947	 Mountbatten Plan & Independence	Plan announced 3 June; Indian Independence Act passed 18 July; India independent on 15 August (with Partition).



★ KEY LEGISLATIONS AT A GLANCE ★

ACT / PACT	YEAR	CORE PROVISION
 Government of India Act	1858	Ended Company rule; India governed directly by the British Crown.
 Indian Councils Act	1909	Morley-Minto Reforms; introduced separate electorates for Muslims.
 Government of India Act	1919	Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms; introduced dyarchy in provinces.
 Government of India Act	1935	Provincial autonomy, federal structure — blueprint for the Constitution.
 Indian Independence Act	1947	Passed 18 July 1947; created two dominions, India and Pakistan, from 15 August.

QUICK REVISION



First INC session (1885, Bombay): 72 delegates attended; presided by **W.C. Bonnerjee**.



Gandhi's three India-based movements before 1920: **Champaran (1917)**, **Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)**, **Kheda Satyagraha (1918)**.



Jallianwala Bagh (13 Apr 1919) fell on Baisakhi day; **Udham Singh** later avenged it in **London (1940)**.



Simon Commission (1928) had zero Indian members — the core trigger for nationwide protest.



26 January was “Independence Day” from **1930–47**; it was repurposed for Republic Day only in **1950**.



Cripps Mission (Mar 1942) offer was rejected by Gandhi, who called it “a **post-dated cheque**.”



INA had four major brigades named after Gandhi, Nehru, Azad and Subhas; it also raised the all-women combat unit the **Rani of Jhansi Regiment**, led by Capt. Lakshmi Sahgal.



Indian Independence Act 1947 received royal assent on **18 July** — just **28 days** before transfer of power.