

General English Part C – Biographies

II. BIOGRAPHIES

Mahatma Gandhi – Jawaharlal Nehru – Subash Chandra Bose – Helen Koller – Kalpana Chawla – Dr. Salim Ali – Rani of Jhansi – Nelson Mandela – Abraham Lincoln.

Mahatma Gandhi (1869 – 1948)

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (2 October 1869 – 30 January 1948), popularly known as **Mahatma Gandhi or Bapu** (Father of Nation), he was the pre-eminent leader of Indian nationalism in British-ruled India. Employing non-violent civil disobedience. Gandhi led India to independence and inspired movements of non-violence, civil right and freedom across the world.

He is known in India as the **Father of the Nation**; his birthday, 2 October, is celebrated as **Gandhi Jayanti**, a national holiday, and world-wide as the International Day of Non-Violence. World-wide Gandhi's philosophy was not theoretical but of pragmatism. Asked to give a message to the people, he responded. "My life is my message".

Civil rights movement in South Africa (1893 – 1914)

Gandhi was 24 when he arrived in South Africa to work as a legal representative for the Muslim Indian Traders based in the city of Pretoria. He spent 21 years in South Africa, where he developed his political views, ethics and political leadership skills. In South Africa, Gandhi faced the discrimination directed at all coloured people. He was thrown off a train at Pietermaritzburg after refusing to move from the first-class, though he had a first-class ticket.

Struggle for Indian Independence (1915 – 47)

In 1915, Gandhi returned to India permanently. He attained an international reputation as a leading Indian nationalist, theorist and organizer. He joined the Indian National Congress and was introduced to Indian issues, politics and the Indian people primarily by Gopal Krishna Gokhale. Gokhale was a key leader of the Congress Party best known for his restraint and moderation, and his insistence on working inside the system. Gandhi took Gokhale's liberal approach based on British Whiggish traditions and transformed it to make it look wholly Indian.

Champaran and Kheda

Gandhi's first major achievements came in 1918 with the Champaran and Kheda agitations of Bihar and Gujarat. The Champaran agitation pitted the local peasantry against their largely British landlords who were backed by the local administration. The peasantry was forced to grow Indigo, a cash crop whose demand had been declining over two decades, and were forced to sell their crops to the planters at a fixed price.

In 1918, Kheda was hit by floods and famine and the peasantry was demanding relief from taxes. Gandhi moved his headquarters to Nadiad, organizing scores of supporters and fresh volunteers from the region, the most notable being Vallabhai Patel. Using non-cooperation as a technique, Gandhi initiated a signature campaign where peasants pledged non-payment of revenue even under the threat of confiscation of land.

Khilafat movement

In 1919 Gandhi, with his weak position in Congress decided to broaden his base by increasing his appeal to Muslims. The opportunity came from the Khilafat movement, a worldwide protest by Muslims against the collapsing status of the Caliph, the leader of their religion. The Ottoman Empire had lost the World War and was dismembered, as Muslims feared for the safety of the holy places and the prestige of their religion. Although Gandhi did not originate the All-India Muslim Conference, which directed the movement in India, he soon became its most prominent spokesman and attracted a strong base of Muslim support with local chapters in all Muslim centers in India.

His success made him India's first national leader with a multicultural base and facilitated his rise to power within Congress, which had previously been unable to reach many Muslims. In 1920 Gandhi became a major leader in Congress. Gandhi always fought against "communalism", which pitted Muslims against Hindus in politics, but he could not reverse the rapid growth of communalism after 1922.

Salt Satyagraha (Salt March)

Gandhi stayed out of active politics and, as such, the limelight for most of the 1920s. He focused instead on resolving the wedge between the Swaraj Party and the Indian National Congress, and expanding initiatives against untouchability, alcoholism, ignorance and poverty. He returned to the fore in 1928. In the preceding year, the British government had appointed a new constitutional reform commission under Sir John Simon, which did not include any Indian as its member. The result was a boycott of the commission by Indian political parties.

Gandhi pushed through a resolution at the Calcutta Congress in December 1928 calling on the British government to grant India dominion status or face a new campaign of non-cooperation with complete independence for the country as its goal. Gandhi then launched a new Satyagraha against the tax on salt in March 1930. This was highlighted by the famous Salt March to Dandi

Quit India Movement

Quit India became the most forceful movement in the history of the struggle, with mass arrests and violence on an unprecedented scale.

In 1942, although still committed in his efforts to "**launch a non-violent movement**", Gandhi clarified that the movement would not be stopped by individual acts of violence, saying that the "**ordered anarchy**" of "**the present system of administration**" was "**worse than real anarchy**". He called on all Congressmen and Indians to maintain discipline via ahimsa, and Karo y amaro ("Do or die") in the cause of ultimate freedom.

Nonviolence

Gandhi explains his philosophy and way of life in his autobiography "**The Story of My Experiments with Truth**".

Literary works

Gandhi was a prolific writer. One of Gandhi's earliest publications, Hind Swaraj, published in Gujarati in 1909, is recognized as the intellectual blueprint of India's freedom movement.

He edited several newspapers including Harijan in Gujarati, in Hindi and in the English language; **Indian Opinion** while in South Africa and, **Young India**, in English and **Navajivan**, a Gujarati monthly, on his return to India. Later, **Navajivan** was also published in Hindi. In addition, he wrote letters almost every day to individuals and newspapers.

Gandhi also wrote several books including his autobiography, “**The Story of My Experiments with Truth**”.

His other autobiographies included: **Satyagraha in South Africa** about his struggle there, **Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule**, a political pamphlet, and a paraphrase in Gujarati of John Ruskin’s “**Unto This Last**”. Rabindranath Tagore is said to have accorded the title “**Mahatma**” to Gandhi.

World Farm Animals’ Day

Gandhi’s birthday is chosen as a commemoration for the billions of non-human animals that are slaughtered by the human farming industry each year. The practice started in 1983.

Assassination

On 30 January 1948, just after five months of country’s Independence, the Mahatma was on his way to his usual prayer meeting in the Birla Mandir in the capital city. His smiling face revealed only a divine serenity. Suddenly a middle-aged man named Nathuram Godse entered his path and directly facing him fired three shots point-blank at the 79 year old disarmed leader. The Mahatma’s life extinguished in minutes, the dying man feebly uttering, “Oh, Ram” (Oh, God!).

The nation and the world were shocked. India’s life came to a standstill for the next 24 hours. More than a million grieving men, women and children gathered for the funeral function. Dignitaries from all over the world came in haste to pay the last homage to a saintly person. With tears in his eyes, Jawaharlal Nehru declared: “The light has gone out of our lives”.

It is nearly six decades that Gandhiji departed from us, but Gandhism is still very much alive and kicking in the national psyche of India.

Current impact within India

Gandhi’s birthday, 2 October, is a national holiday in India, Gandhi’s date of death, 30 January, is commemorated as a Martyrs’ Day in India.

There are two temples in India dedicated to Gandhi. One is located at Sambalpur in Orissa and the other at Nidaghatta village near Kadur in Chikmagalur district of Karnataka. The Gandhi Memorial in Kanyakumari resembles central Indian Hindu temples and the Tamukkam or Summer Palace in Madurai now houses the Mahatma Gandhi Museum.

Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 – 1964)

Born in a wealthy, aristocratic Kashmiri Brahmin family as the only son of Pandit Motilal Nehru, a flourishing law practitioner in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP), Jawaharlal received the best of education first in India and later in England where he attended at Harrow and Trinity Colleges, Cambridge. Later still, he qualified as a barrister at the Inner Temple. After completing his higher studies Jawaharlal returned to India in 1912. Being a highly cultivated and sensitive individual, he was more interested in public affairs rather than in practicing law, specially so since his father was already deeply involved in Congress politics. In 1916, at the age of 27, he was married to Kamala, daughter of Jawahar Kaul, another distinguished Kashmiri Brahmin descendant. After marriage, the couple went to Europe for their honeymoon. Soon a daughter was born to them, Indira Priyadarshini, who was to become India’s third Prime Minister in 1967. Nehru’s family life was short-lived. As her husband plunged into politics and was jailed by the British in 1921, Kamala also started participating in public life.

Constant travel and rigorous schedule made her ill and she had to spend several months in Switzerland for treatment. She returned to India in 1928, and again engaged herself in public life, often with her husband. When her health deteriorated, she had to go to Switzerland once again. But this time the journey was fatal. She succumbed to her illness on 28 February 1936, when Nehru was only 47 and Indira just 19. Nehru did not marry again. His life was totally dedicated to the National cause and to bring up his only daughter.

Nehru's political initiation took place at his father's home 'Anandbhavan' itself. Many senior politicians visited Anandbhavan to hold discussions with Motilal Nehru. The young Jawaharlal got acquainted with many of them. He also came to have glimpses into the prevailing political situation. Later, he became more active in UP politics. The defining moment of Nehru's political career came soon when he met Gandhiji in 1919. Gandhiji had already become a prominent leader of the nationalist movement. They got attracted to each other instantly. The occasion also was right. In Amritsar, Punjab, the British troops had opened fire on an unarmed crowd on 13, April 1919 killing and wounding thousands of men and women. The whole nation was shocked. Innumerable protest meetings were held all over the country. Jawaharlal was among the leaders who organized protests. In the 1920 session of the Indian National Congress, Gandhiji put forward the idea of non-cooperation. Though there were differences of opinion on this novel political weapon, Nehru staunchly backed the idea. After coming into close contact with Gandhiji there was no respite for Nehru. In 1927, there were widespread demonstrations and strikes against the Simon Commission sent to India by the British Government to study constitutional reforms in the country. Jawaharlal who led the protests in Allahabad was beaten by the police. The opposition to the Simon Commission was not only in respect of its terms of reference but also to the fact that the Commission had no Indian as a member. Nehru was asked to prepare an alternative 'constitution' for India. This is the famous Nehru Report which was passed by the 1928 session of the Congress. In 1929 Nehru himself was elected as the President of the Congress at the Lahore session. It was a rare honour for the young leader, for the previous session in 1928 was presided over by his father Motilal Nehru. It was also in this session that the Congress declared that complete independence was its avowed goal. Then came the famous 'Salt Satyagraha' whereby Gandhiji exhorted people to extract salt from sea water violating British ban on it. Nehru was arrested along with so many others for participating in the salt agitation. It was a series of agitations and jail terms that followed. The grand finale was the Quit India Movement when Gandhiji asked Britain to leave India and let the Indians take over the country's governance. Again, all the leaders including Nehru was arrested and jailed. Altogether Jawaharlal had to spend a period of more than a decade and a half in British Indian jails on various occasions.

But such harsh measures could not silence the man. Instead it brought to light another brilliant quality of the multifaceted personality – the writer in Nehru. He wrote some of the most historically reliable and literature-wise brilliant books during his prison days. 'Discovery of India', 'Glimpses of World History', 'Letters to His Daughter', 'An Autobiography', etc. are some of them. They are considered literary masterpieces in English language, and are in good demand even now.

By the end of the Second World War, Britain had recognized the need for setting the questions of India's demand for independence. The Labour Government that came to power after the war sent in 1946 a Cabinet Mission under Sir Stafford Cripps to negotiate with Indian leaders on issues connected with the transfer of power. They spent weeks in India talking with political leaders of various shades. Nehru played a prominent role in these discussions as he had been once again elected President of the Congress Party. The talks were practically inconclusive as the two main political parties, the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League, could not agree to any formula put forward. Finally, as a prelude to transfer of power Britain set up an interim Indian Government under the premiership of Jawaharlal Nehru. Though the Muslim League did not join at the beginning, they joined the Cabinet at a later stage, effectively making it a coalition ministry. The relationship of the two parties had been very complex and often antagonistic.

British Government was partly responsible for their mutual hatred and suspicion. In their anxiety to prolong their rule in India, they had tacitly encouraged communal division between Hindus and Muslims, the dominant segments of India's population. As the political agitations for independence intensified and on the British departure became imminent, the meeting grounds between the divided political foes became unbridgeable. British solution was division of the country into India and Pakistan, a State to be newly carved out in the Indian subcontinent. Like his mentor, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru was also dead opposed to the idea of country's partition. But the brief experience in the interim Cabinet with Muslim League during 1946 – 1947 convinced him that the partition could not be there were bickerings almost daily on the decision-making process and on the allotments of funds to various administrative and developmental activities. To overcome this running agony and to make the administration a creative smooth affair, partition of the country was agreed upon. India became free on 15, August 1947 after Pakistan was granted freedom a day earlier. Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of free India when the clock struck the midnight hour that day. He was 58.

As the Prime Minister of free India, Nehru's task was stupendous. There was the immediate problem of communal mayhem and whole-scale slaughter following mass migration between the two countries. More vital was the agenda for long term development of the country. Congress Party had laid down broad outlines of national priorities. But it had to be drafted into policies and put into implementation. It was the towering personality of Jawaharlal Nehru that saved the situation. Mahatma Gandhi had already proclaimed him to be his political heir, and Nehru had a clear vision about the future of the country. He was an idealist, but not a prisoner of ideologies. He was a top class intellectual, but he always respected the opinion of others so that decisions of national importance were made after due consultations.

Nehru envisaged a planned development for the country. With this in view, he formed the Planning Commission which was entrusted with the preparation of the First Five Year Plan. Though the first plan was a modest one, as the years passed the plans grew in size and ambition. One can say with certainty that whatever growth and development India attained during the fifties and sixties had their origin in Nehru's ideas on planned progress. Nehruvian developmental vision guided this vast country in its tryst with destiny.

Probably, Nehru's more basic contribution was in the field of social and political developments. India inherited a diversified and layered society and polity. Tendencies for internal feud and dissensions were aplenty.

Nehru's inclusive vision and policy of accommodation held this immense country together and helped it to evolve into a vibrant secular democracy.

He remained accessible to every one irrespective of religion, caste, region, language or other differences.

Nehru's achievement on the international arena was no less great. The post-war world was divided into a pro-socialist bloc of countries under the USSR and a pro-capitalist bloc under the USA. In this divided world Nehru took an independent stand. Dubbed as non-alignment, the policy attracted many newly emergent, independent countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. A third bloc of nations soon got organized under the banner of Non-Alignment. Nehru was regarded a leader of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM) along with President Nasser of Egypt, President Sukarno of Indonesia and President Tito of Yugoslavia. Peaceful coexistence was the pillar of his foreign policy. Non-alignment policy helped India and other third world countries to exert an influence out of proportion to their military or economic strength.

At the domestic front, Jawaharlal showed great insight on developmental priorities. He knew that heavy industries like steel, cement, ship building, locomotives, fertilizer, machine tools, etc. were the

backbones for any meaningful industrialization. If heavy industries were not founded on strong basis, other industries would not follow.

A similar principle was followed in the case of development of science and technology. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was started as a nodal agency for promoting institutional level research efforts in various fields. As a result, some of the world class research laboratories grew up in the country. Steps were taken to establish atomic research centres and space research centres.

University Grants Commission founded for rapid expansion of higher education facilities in the country. Nehru paid equal attention to the flowering of human talents in social sciences, arts and literature. Various national level councils such as Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR), Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), etc. were set up to encourage pursuits of quality studies in social sciences. Various academies such as Kendra Sahitya Academy, Lalith Kala Academy, National Book Trust, Children's Book Trust, etc. also owe their existence to Nehru's deep concern for the cultural, artistic and intellectual development of the people of this vast country.

Jawaharlal travelled widely both within the country and outside. In India there would be hardly a town or village where he had not visited at least once. Also, he carried India's message across the world by visiting almost all important countries. In USA and the USSR, India's leader was given reception that stunned even the host countries. For example, it was reported by him was comparable only to that received by General Mac Arthur, the 5-starred homecoming hero of the Pacific War.

Nehru was a man of the masses. He was in his elements when he moved with them or addressed them. He drew inspiration, even ideas from the lives of ordinary, faceless common people.

For him they represented real India. A fairly long period of 16 years as head of the Government of a vast country with nearly one-sixth of world's population should have been exhaustive and tiring for any leader. Yet, Nehru remained a relentless fighter for peace and development. However, in the summer of 1964 while he was on a hectic tour of the Himalayan districts, Jawaharlal fell ill. He was in the hospital for less than two weeks. Aged 75, he breathed his last peacefully on 27 May 1964 and bade good bye to his beloved people. As a token of affection to the departed leader, the ashes of his mortal body were apportioned and taken to various rivers and seacoasts across the country for immersion. Even in death, the titanic leader wanted to remain united with his country and its people. A simple mausoleum on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi was erected to preserve part of his mortal remains. It is aptly named 'Shantivan', the abode of peace or rather 'peaceful woods'.

Jawaharlal Nehru will be remembered by posterity as one of the greatest statesmen that India has produced. His place in history is assured as the supreme architect of modern India.

Subhash Chandra Bose (1897 – 1945)

Subash Chandra Bose was born on 23rd January 1897 in Cuttack, a part of Bengal Presidency to Janakinath Bose an advocate and Prabhavati Devi. He was admitted in a big European School and at the age of twelve, he was shifted to another school. Beni Madhav Das was his headmaster, kindled the spirit of pratriosim in him. He started to respect wearing India. Clothing. He also started helping the poor and needy. Bose looked upon his teachers. Beni Madhav Das as his Guru. When a village was hit by small pox, he led a group of volunteers and personally looked after the sick.

When he was 15, he came under deep and strong influence of an outstanding spiritual leader, Swami Vivekananda and deeply impressed with his teachings. He also started practicing yoga to discipline himself. He understood the saying "Work is Worship".

He was deeply upset by the rude behavior of one of the British teachers, Professor Oaten with Indian student. They were called stupid natives and barbarians or primitive people. The professor thought true civilization had been brought in only by the British. Nethaji protested against this view.

More than a thousand students joined him to ask for better treatment from their British teachers. After three days. Professor Oaten finally apologized to the boys.

Later, as Head of the Department of Public Instruction in Bengal, Professor Oaten also appreciated Nethaji for his exemplary performance in the University Military Training Crops. This was the forerunner of our NCC training today.

Nethaji also organized a 'Nursing Brotherhood', to serve the poor and the sick who did not have a any access to medical care.

On landing at Bombay, he called on Mahatma Gandhi and expressed his desire to work for the freedom of India. It became clear to Mahatma Gandhi that Nethaji had questions about his principle of 'Non-Violence', Meanwhile with his brilliant academic achievements and background Boss became the principal of the National College, Calcutta. He made khadi, or homespun cloth, the official dress of the Corporation. He also encouraged the production and sale of other goods made in India.

Nethaji was arrested and sent to a prison in Rangoon, Burma. The conditions at the jail were horrible. There was no shelter from the sun or the rain. Nethaji was also upset that he had not even been given a chance to explain his point of view. A huge number of people protested his imprisonment. He was released. Nethaji felt that only an armed struggle would liberate India.

Subash is called 'Neta' or leader because he was a true and passionate leader of the Indian struggle for freedom. The Indian Government awarded 'Bharath Ratna' to him posthumously. Nethaji formed the Indian National Army (INA) in 1941 in Singapore with the help of the Indian prisoners who were released by the Japanese. Nethaji told them, 'Every dawn is preceded by a thick darkness. The dawn is therefore close at hand. So cheer up! Hold the Indian flag aloft on! On 21st October 1943 the Azad Hind Governments was set up on foreign soil. It was here that Nethaji coined the rousing words of salutation to our motherland – "Jai Hind".

Helen Keller (1880 – 1968)

Helen Keller lost her ability to see or hear when she fell seriously ill at the age of one and a half years. Helen's parents realized that she needed a person to teach her to communicate with others. They took her to Alexander Graham Bell, who suggested them to approach the Perkins School. Perkins School was established 200 years ago to serve the differently abled people. Helen Keller's parents wrote to Perkins School, and they sent their star student, Anne Sullivan to help Hellen Keller.

Anne Sullivan was 21 years old, and she found a way to teach Helen, the words and their meanings by writing them on her palm. Helen slowly started learning words. Helen was a quick learner. So she was able to learn many words in a day. Helen's teacher wanted her to explore the world around her. Helen loved the smell and touch of flowers. Helen quickly learned three languages, to play chess and to ride a horse.

Helen, then graduated with Distinction from Radcliffe College, where she wrote her first book "The Story of My Life" that has been translated into 50 languages.

Helen Keller wanted to make the world a better place for differently abled children. She was concerned with the rights and needs of the unemployed and the poor. She gave many lectures and also acted in a film.

With such legendary achievements, Helen passed away at the age of 87. Though she is no more with us today, her life inspires and guides us towards the journey of love for differently abled people and children.

Kalpana Chawla (1962 – 2003)

Kalpana Chawla (March 17, 1962 – February 1, 2003) was born in Karnal, India. She was the first Indian American astronaut and first Indian woman in space. She first flew on Space Shuttle Columbia in 1997 as a mission specialist and primary robotic arm operator. In 2003, Chawla was one of seven crew members killed in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster.

Education

Chawla completed her earlier schooling at Tagore Baal Niketan School, Karnal.

NASA career

Chawla joined the NASA Astronaut Corps in March 1995 and was selected for her first flight in 1996. She spoke the following words while traveling in the weightlessness of space, “You are just your intelligence”. She had travelled 10.67 million km, as many as 252 times around the Earth.

Her first space mission began on November 19, 1997 as part of the six-astronaut crew that flew the Space Shuttle Columbia flight STS-87. Chawla was the first Indian-born woman and the second Indian person to fly in space, following cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma who flew in 1984 in a spacecraft.

Death

Chawla died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster which occurred on February 1, 2003, when the Space Shuttle disintegrated over Texas during re-entry into the Earth’s atmosphere, with the loss of all seven crew members, shortly before it was scheduled to conclude its 28th mission, STS-107.

Awards

Posthumously awarded:

- Congressional Space Medal of Honor
- NASA Space Flight Medal
- NASA Distinguished Service Medal

Memorials

On 18 November 2012, in Karnal city, Haryana, India, Chawla’s birthplace and first home town, the foundation stone of the Kalpana Chawla Government Medical College was laid by the Haryana Government in her memory.

The Kalpana Chawla ISU Scholarship fund was founded by alumni of the International Space University (ISU) in 2010 to support Indian student participation in international space education programs.

The Kalpana Chawla Memorial Scholarship program was instituted by the Indian Students Association (ISA) at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in 2005 for meritorious graduate students.

The Kalpana Chawla Outstanding Recent Alumni Award at the University of Colorado, given since 1983, was renamed for Kalpana Chawla. Asteroid 51826 Kalpana Chawla, one of seven named after the Columbia’s crew.

On February 5, 2003, India's Prime Minister announced that the meteorological series of satellites, METSAT, was to be renamed as "KALPANA". The first satellite of the series, "METSAT-1", launched by India on September 12, 2002, will be now known as "KALPANA-1". "KALPANA-2" was expected to be launched by 2007.

The Kalpana Chawla Award was instituted by the government of Karnataka in 2004 for young women scientists.

The girl's hostel at Punjab Engineering College is named after Chawla. In addition, an award of INR twenty-five thousand, a medal, and a certificate is instituted for the best student in the Aeronautical Engineering department. NASA has dedicated a supercomputer to Chawla.

The Government of Haryana established the Kalpana Chawla Planetarium in Jyotisar, Kurukshetra. The Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, named the Kalpana Chawla Space Technology Cell in her honor.

Dr. Salim Ali (1896 – 1987)

Salim Moizuddin Abdul Ali (November 12, 1896 – July 27, 1987) was an Indian ornithologist and naturalist. Known as the "birdman of India", Salim Ali was among the first Indians to conduct systematic bird surveys across India and his bird books helped develop ornithology.

He became the key figure behind the Bombay Natural History Society after 1947 and used his personal influence to garner government support for the organization, create the Bharatpur bird sanctuary (Keoladeo National Park) and prevent the destruction of what is now the Silent Valley National Park. He was awarded India's second highest civilian honour, the Padma Vibhushan in 1976.

Early life

Salim Ali was born into a Sulaimani Bohra Muslim family of Bombay, the ninth and youngest child. His father Moizuddin died when he was one year old and his mother Zeenat-un-nissa died when he was three. The children were brought up by his maternal uncle, Amiruddin Tyabji, and childless aunt, Hamida Begum, in a middle-class household in Khetwadi, Mumbai.

Another uncle was Abbas Tyabji, well known Indian freedom fighter. Salim was introduced to the serious study of birds by W. S. Millard, secretary of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), who identified an unusually coloured sparrow that young Salim had shot for sport with his toy airgun. Millard identified it as a Yellow-throated Sparrow, and showed Salim around the Society's collection of stuffed birds. Millard lent Salim a few books including Eha's Common birds of Bombay, encouraged Salim to make a collection of birds and offered to train him in skinning and preservation.

Millard also introduced young Salim to (later Sir) Norman Boyd Kinnear, the first paid curator at the BNHS, who later provided help from the British Museum. In his autobiography, *The Fall of a Sparrow* Ali notes the Yellow-throated Sparrow event as the turning point of his life that led him into ornithology, an unusual career choice, especially for an Indian in those days. His early interest was in books on hunting in India and he became interested in sport-shooting, encouraged by the hunting interests of his foster-father Amiruddin. Shooting contests were often held in the neighbourhood in which he grew and among his playmates was Iskandar Mirza, a distant cousin who was a particularly good marksman and who went on in later life to become the first President of Pakistan.

Burma and Germany

Salim Ali's early education was at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. Following a difficult first year in college, he dropped out and went to Tavoy, Burma (Tenasserim) to look after the family's Wolfram (Tungsten) mining (tungsten was used in armour plating and was valuable during the war) and timber interests there. The forests surrounding this area provided an opportunity for Ali to hone his naturalist (and hunting) skills. He also made acquaintance with J C Hopwood and Berthold Ribbentrop who were with the Forest Service in Burma.

Other contributions

Dr. Ali had considerable influence in conservation related issues in post-independence India especially through Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. Indira Gandhi was herself a keen birdwatcher, influenced by Ali's bird books (a copy of the Book of Indian Birds was gifted to her in 1942 by her father Nehru who was in Dehra Dun jail while she herself was imprisoned in Naini Jail and by the Gandhian birdwatcher Horace Alexander.

Ali influenced the designation of the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary and in decisions that saved the Silent Valley National Park. One of Ali's later interventions at Bharatpur involved the exclusion of cattle and graziers from the sanctuary and this was to prove costly and resulted in ecological changes that led to a decline in the numbers of many species of waterbirds.

Dr. Ali was a frequent visitor to The Doon School where he was an engaging and persuasive advocate of ornithology to successive generations of pupils. As a consequence, he was considered to be part of the Dosco fraternity and became one of the very few people to be made an honorary member of The Doon School Old Boys Society.

Personal views

Salim Ali held many views that were contrary to the mainstream ideas of his time. A question that he was asked frequently was about the collection of bird specimens particularly in later life when he became known for his conservation related activism.

Although once a fan of shikar (hunting) literature, Ali held strong views on hunting but upheld the collection of bird specimens for scientific study. He held the view that the practice of wildlife conservation needed to be practical and not grounded in philosophies like ahimsa. He suggested that this fundamental religious sentiment had hindered the growth of bird study in India.

In the early 1960s the national bird of India was under consideration and Salim Ali was intent that it should be the endangered Great Indian Bustard, however this proposal was overruled in favour of the Indian Peafowl.

Honours and memorials

He received several honorary doctorates and numerous awards. The earliest was the "Joy Gobinda Law Gold Medal" in 1953, awarded by the Asiatic Society of Bengal and was based on an appraisal of his work by Sunder Lal Hora (and in 1970 received the Sunder Lal Hora memorial Medal of the Indian National Science Academy). He received honorary doctorates from the Aligarh Muslim University (1958), Delhi University (1973) and Andhra University (1978).

In 1967 he became the first non-British citizen to receive the Gold Medal of the British Ornithologists Union. In the same year, he received the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize consisting of a sum of \$ 100,000, which he used to form the corpus of the Salim Ali Nature Conservation Fund. In 1969 he received the John C. Phillips memorial medal of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural

Resources. The USSR Academy of Medical Sciences gave him the Pavlovsky Centenary Memorial Medal in 1973 and in the same year he was made Commander of the Netherlands Order of the Golden Ark by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. The Indian government decorated him with a Padma Bhushan in 1958 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1976. He was also nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 1985.

Dr. Salim Ali died in 1987, at the age of 91 after a prolonged battle with prostate cancer in Mumbai. In 1990, the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON) was established at Coimbatore by the Government of India. Pondicherry University established the Salim Ali School of Ecology and Environmental Sciences. The government of Goa set up the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary and the Thattakad bird sanctuary near Vembanad in Kerala also goes by his name. the location of the BNHS in Bombay was renamed to “Dr Salim Ali Chowk”. In 1972, Kitti Thonglongya discovered a misidentified specimen in the collection of the BNHS and described a new species that he called *Latidens Salimalii*, considered one of the world’s rarest bats, and the only species in the genus *Latidens*. The subspecies of the Rock Bush Quail (*Perdica argoondah salimalii*) and the eastern population of Finn’s Weaver (*Ploceus megarhynchus salimalii*) were named after him by Whistler and Abdulali respectively. A subspecies of the Black-rumped Flameback Woodpecker (*Dinopium benghalense tehminae*) was named after his wife, Tehmina, by Whistler and Kinnear.

The International Jury for the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize of the World Wildlife Fund has selected for 1975.

Writings

Salim Ali wrote numerous journal articles, chiefly in the Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society. He also wrote a number of popular and academic books, many of which remain in print. Ali credited Tehmina, who had studied in England, for helping improve his English prose. Some of his literary pieces were used in a collection of English writing. A popular article that he wrote in 1930 Stopping by the woods on a Sunday morning was reprinted in The Indian Express on his birthday in 1984. His most popular work was The Book of Indian Birds, written in the style of Whistler’s Popular Handbook of Birds, first published in 1941 and subsequently translated into several languages with numerous editions. The first ten editions sold more than forty-six thousand copies.

The first edition was reviewed by Ernst Mayr in 1943, who commended it while noting that the illustrations were not to the standard of American bird-books. His magnum opus was however the 10 volume Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan written with Dillon Ripley and often referred to as “the handbook”. This work started in 1964 and ended in 1974 with a second edition completed after his death by others, notably J S Serrao of the BNHS. Bruce Beehler, Michel Deshayes and Pamela Rasmussen. A single volume “compact edition” of the “Handbook” was also produced and a supplementary illustrative work. A Pictorial Guide to the Birds of India by Dillon Ripley was published in 1983. The plates from this work were incorporated in the second edition of the “Handbook”.

He also produced a number of regional field guides, including “The Birds of Kerala” (the first edition in 1953 was titled “The Birds of Travancore and Cochin”), “The Birds of Sikkim”, “The Birds of Kutch” (later “The Birds of Gujarat”), “Indian Hill Birds” and the “Birds of the Eastern Himalayas”. Several low-cost books were produced by the National Book Trust including “Common Birds” (1967) written with his niece Laeeq Futehally which was reprinted in several editions with translations into Hindi and other languages. In 1985 he wrote his autobiography, The Fall of a Sparrow. Ali also wrote about his own vision for the Bombay Natural History Society, noting the importance of conservation related activities.

In the 1986 issue of the Journal of the BNHS he noted the role that it had played, the changing interests from hunting to conservation captured in 64 volumes that were preserved in microfiche copies, and the zenith that it had reached under the exceptional editorship of S H Prater.

A two-volume compilation of his shorter letters and writings was published in 2007, edited by Tara Gandhi, one of his last students.

Rani of Jhansi (1828 – 1858)

Lakshmibai, the Rani of Jhansi pronunciation (19 November 1828 – 18 June 1858) was the queen of the Maratha-ruled princely state of Jhansi, situated in the north-central part of India. She was one of the leading figures of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and for Indian nationalists a symbol of resistance to the rule of the British East India Company in the subcontinent.

Manikarnika was married to the Maharaja of Jhansi, Raja Gangadhar Rao, in 1842, and was afterwards called Lakshmibai (or Laxmibai). She gave birth to a boy named Damodar Rao in 1851, but when he was four months old he died. The Raja adopted a child called Anand Rao, the son of Gangadhar Rao's cousin, who was renamed Damodar Rao, on the day before he died. The adoption was in the presence of the British political officer who was given a letter from the raja requesting that the child should be treated with kindness and that the government of Jhansi should be given to his widow for her lifetime. After the death of the raja in November 1853 because Damodar Rao was adopted, the British East India Company, under Governor-General Lord Dalhousie, applied the Doctrine of Lapse, rejecting Damodar Rao's claim to the throne and annexing the state to its territories. In March 1854, Lakshmibai was given a pension of Rs. 60,000 and ordered to leave the palace and the fort.

The Rani Mahal, the palace of Rani Lakshmibai, has now been converted into a museum. It houses a collection of archaeological remains of the period between 9th and 12th centuries AD.

Indian Rebellion of 1857 – 58

On 10 May 1857 the Indian Rebellion started in Meerut; when news of this reached Jhansi the Rani asked the British political officer, Captain Alexander Skene, for permission to raise a body of armed men for her own protection and Skene agreed to this. The city was relatively calm in the midst of unrest in the region but the Rani conducted a Haldi Kumkum ceremony with pomp in front of all the women of Jhansi to provide assurance to her subjects, [when?] and to convince them that the British were cowards and not to be afraid of them.

Till this point, Lakshmibai was reluctant to rebel against the British. In June 1857 a few men of the 12th Bengal Native Infantry seized the fort containing the treasure and magazine, and massacred the European officers of the garrison along with their wives and children. Her involvement in this massacre is still a subject of debate.

August 1857 – June 1858

From August 1857 to January 1858 Jhansi under the Rani's rule was at peace. The British had announced that troops would be sent there to maintain control but the fact that none arrived strengthened the position of a party of her advisers who wanted independence from British rule. When the British forces finally arrived in March they found it well defended and the fort had heavy guns which could fire over the town and nearby countryside.

Sir Hugh Rose, commanding the British forces, demanded the surrender of the city; if this was refused it would be destroyed. After due deliberation the Rani issued a proclamation: “We fight for independence. In the words of Lord Krishna, we will if we are victorious, enjoy the fruits of victory, if defeated and killed on the field of battle, we shall surely earn eternal glory and salvation”. She defended Jhansi against British troops when Sir Hugh Rose besieged Jhansi on 23 March 1858.

The bombardment began on 24 March but was met by heavy return fire and the damaged defences were repaired. The defenders sent appeals for help to Tatya Tope; an army of more than 20,000, headed by Tatya Tope, was sent to relieve Jhansi but they failed to do so when they fought the British on 31 March. During the battle with Tatya Tope’s forces part of the British forces continued the siege and by 2 April it was decided to launch an assault by a breach in the walls. Four columns assaulted the defences at different points and those attempting to scale the walls came under heavy fire. Two other columns had already entered the city and were approaching the palace together. Determined resistance was encountered in every street and in every room of the palace. Street fighting continued into the following day and no quarter was given, even to women and children. “No maudlin clemency was to mark the fall of the city” wrote Thomas Lowe. The Rani withdrew from the palace to the fort and after taking counsel decided that since resistance in the city was useless she must leave and join either Tatya Tope or Rao Sahib (Nana Sahib’s nephew).

The place from where Rani Lakshmibai jumped on her horse, Badal. According to tradition with Damodar Rao on her back she jumped on her horse Badal from the fort; they survived but the horse died. The Rani escaped in the night with her son, surrounded by guards.

After her death a few local people cremated her body. The British captured the city of Gwalior after three days. In the British report of this battle, Hugh Rose commented that Rani Lakshmibai is “personable, clever and beautiful” and she is “the most dangerous of all Indian leaders”.

Rose reported that she had been buried “with great ceremony under a tamarind tree under the Rock of Gwalior, where I saw her bones and ashes”. Her tomb is in the Phool Bagh area of Gwalior.

Twenty years after her death Colonel Malleson wrote in the History of the Indian Mutiny; vol. 3; London, 1878 Whatever her faults in British eyes may have been, her countrymen will ever remember that she was driven by ill-treatment into rebellion, and that she lived and died for her country.

Cultural depictions and memorials

Equestrian statues of Lakshmibai are seen in many places of India, which show her and her son tied to her back. Laxmibai National University of Physical Education in Gwalior and Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College in Jhansi are named after her.

The Rani Jhansi Marine National Park is located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal. A women’s unit of the Indian National Army was named the Rani of Jhansi Regiment.

Patriotic songs have been written about the Rani; one of them includes these lines (translated): “How valiantly like a man fought she, /The Rani of Jhansi/ On every parapet a gun she set /Raining fire of hell,/ How well like a man fought the Rani of Jhansi/ How valiantly and well!”

In 1957 two postage stamps were issued to commemorate the centenary of the rebellion: the 15 n. p. stamp portrayed the Rani on horse. The most famous composition of Subhadra Kumari Chauhan is the Hindi poem Jhansi ki Rani, an emotionally charged description of the life of Rani Lakshmi Bai.

Nelson Mandela (1918 – 2013)

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela born 18 July 1918 is a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary and politician who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the first black South African to hold the office, and the first elected in a fully representative, multiracial election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid through tackling institutionalized racism, poverty and inequality, and fostering racial reconciliation. Politically an African nationalist and democratic socialist, he served as the President of the African National Congress (ANC) from 1991 to 1997. Internationally, Mandela was the Secretary General of the Non-Aligned Movement from 1998 to 1999.

A Xhosa born to the Thembu royal family, Mandela attended Fort Hare University and the University of Witwatersrand, where he studied law. Living in Johannesburg, he became involved in anti-colonial politics, joining the ANC and becoming a founding member of its Youth League.

In 1962 he was arrested, convicted of sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the government, and sentenced to life imprisonment in the Rivonia Trial. Mandela served 27 years in prison,

Becoming ANC President, Mandela published his autobiography and led negotiations with President F. W. de Klerk to abolish apartheid and establish multi-racial elections in 1994, in which he led the ANC to victory. He was elected President and formed a Government of National Unity. As President, he established a new constitution and initiated the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate past human rights abuses, while introducing policies to encourage land reform, combat poverty and expand healthcare services.

Controversial for much of his life, right-wing critics denounced Mandela as a terrorist and communist sympathizer. He has nevertheless received international acclaim for his anti-colonial and anti-apartheid stance, having received over 250 awards, including the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize, the US Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Soviet Order of Lenin. He is held in deep respect within South Africa, and has been described as “the father of the nation”. He is often referred to by his Xhosa clan name of Madiba.

By the late 1960s, Mandela’s fame had been eclipsed by Steve Biko and the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM).

He was awarded an honorary doctorate in Lesotho, the Nehru Prize for International Understanding in India in 1970, and the Freedom of the City of Glasgow, Scotland in 1980. In March 1980 the slogan “Free Mandela!” was developed by journalist Percy Qoboza, sparking an international campaign that led the UN Security Council to call for his release. Presidency of South Africa: 1994 – 1999.

South Africa’s first black President, Mandela became head of a Government of National Unity dominated by the ANC – which alone had no experience of governance – but containing representatives from the National Party and Inkatha. In keeping with earlier agreements, de Klerk became first Deputy President, while Thabo Mbeki was selected as second.

In December 1994, Mandela’s autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom, was finally published. Across the world, Mandela came to be seen as “a moral authority” with a great “concern for truth”. Considered friendly and welcoming, Mandela exhibited a “relaxed charm” when talking to others, including his opponents. Although often befriending millionaires and dignitaries, he enjoyed talking with their staff when at official functions. In later life, he was known for looking for the best in everyone, even defending political opponents to his allies, though some thought him too trusting of others. He was renowned for his stubbornness and loyalty, and exhibited a “hot temper” which could flare up in anger in certain situations, also being “moody and dejected” away from the public eye. He also had a mischievous sense of humour.

Within South Africa, Mandela is widely considered to be “the father of the nation”, and “the founding father of democracy”, being seen as “the national liberator, the saviour, its Washington and Lincoln rolled into one”. In 2004, Johannesburg granted Mandela the freedom of the city, with Sandton Square being renamed Nelson Mandela Square, after a Mandela statue was installed there. In 2008, another Mandela statue was installed at Groot Drakenstein Correctional Centre, formerly Victor Verster Prison, near Cape Town, standing on the spot where Mandela was released from the prison.

He has also received international acclaim. In 1993, he received the joint Nobel Peace Prize with de Klerk. In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed Mandela’s birthday, 18 July, as “Mandela Day”, marking his contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle. It called on individuals to donate 67 minutes to doing something for others, commemorating the 67 years that Mandela had been a part of the movement.

Awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Order of Canada, he was the first living person to be made an honorary Canadian citizen. The last recipient of the Soviet Union’s Lenin Peace Prize from the Soviet Union in 1990 he received the Bharat Ratna Award from the government of India, and in 1992 received Pakistan’s Nishan-e-Pakistan. In 1992 he was awarded the Atatürk Peace Award by Turkey. He refused the award, citing human rights violations committed by Turkey at the time, but later accepted the award in 1999. Elizabeth II awarded him the Bailiff Grand Cross of the Order of St. John and the Order of Merit.

Abraham Lincoln (1809 – 1865)

He is one of the greatest men America had ever produced. Lincoln’s mission to free the black slaves and his subsequent death, provoked his nation’s conscience into action.

The subject of numerous myths, Lincoln is still one of America’s lasting legend and greatest statesmen. More than his successes, his failures are still taught to children and admired; and more than his achievements, his character is still remembered and praised. Such was the greatness of this man.

Lincoln’s parents, Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln, were farmers of little means who frequently changed residences to be close to new developing towns, mostly in deep west.

Lincoln was born on 12 February 1809, near Hodgenville, Kentucky, and by the time he was eight the family moved to Indiana. The following year his mother died. In 1819 his father married Sarah Bush Johnston, kindly widow, who soon gained the boy’s affection.

The family’s isolated home offered no entertainment nor it had any comforts. Young Lincoln had to work himself hard to keep boredom away. He would log trees for hours together with undiminished strength and vigour.

In his spare time he would read aloud whatever books he could find to the trees and bushes or walk to the neighbouring inn where people gathered to hear his stories. He was an enchanting narrator and good conversationalist. He often walked a round trip of thirty or forty miles to hear a famous speaker like Breckenridge. He came home from these scenes so stirred, so determined to be a speaker that he gathered other farmers about him in the fields and mounting a stump, he made speeches and told them stories.

Many landlords grew angry, calling him ‘awfully lazy’, that his jokes and speeches were ruining their workers.

Lincoln grew up a tall, gangling youth, and was a prizefighter in the collage fairs. In 1831, after moving with his family to Macon County, Illinois, he settled in New Salem, where he worked in a railway

company and also in a shop. As the shop's manager, he was honest in his dealings and it annoyed some of the customers who decided to teach him a lesson.

When Lincoln came to know of it, he was prepared. As the group vowing vengeance entered the store, Lincoln rose to his full height, pulled the group's leader by his collar, shook him violently and sent him crushing down on the floor. The group vanished as quickly as it had come.

He gained the respect of his fellow townspeople, and was elected captain of his company in the war against Red Indians. Returning from the war, he began an unsuccessful venture in shop-keeping that ended when his partner died.

In 1832 he unsuccessfully contested in the state elections, and later took up the postmaster's job but had to supplement his income with other jobs. In 1834, he won the elections to the state legislature and at the same time he began to study law and got admitted to the bar.

As a lawyer, Lincoln was very shy at first. His manner, his attitude, his dark, yellow face wrinkled and dry, his oddity of pose, his diffident movements-everything seemed to be against him, but only for a short time.

He became a successful lawyer, often taking the side of poor customers who had no money. Once when he saved a poor man from a possible death sentence and reunited him with his wife, who was crying in joy, he told the distraught man, "This is my reward. What else more can one want?"

In 1842 Lincoln married Mary Todd, the daughter of a prominent banker, and had four children, only one of whom reached adulthood. He was later elected to the US Congress and after the end of his term, retired to his profession. For a while politics was out of his thoughts when, in 1854, there was a debate about introducing slavery in two states.

Stephen Douglas, an articulate orator and a well-respected judge, was arguing for the continuation of slavery. Lincoln opposed Douglas, and the crowds came to hear the two speak. While Douglas spoke about the constitutional provisions, law, rights at every debating venue; Lincoln appealed to the people's finer sentiments, of liberty and dignity.

But Douglas had many supporters. In one of his concluding speeches, Lincoln studently stopped and stood silent for a moment, looking around at the people. Folding his hands in submission, he said, "The great issue will live and breathe and burn when the poor, feeble, stammering tongues of Judge Douglas and myself are silent in the grave".

Though Lincoln lost to Douglas, who later became a senator, his speeches were widely appreciated and recognized. A few years later, on 4 March 1861, Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office as the President of the United States.

By this time the southern slave owning states had broken away from rest of the union, which were opposed to slavery, and formed a confederation of its own. A great civil war ensued. Despite the war, on 1 January 1863, Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation for the blacks and freed them from slavery. The unionists suffered many defeats until the confederate forces were finally defeated in 1865.

Lincoln was determined to safeguard the interests of the freed slaves and he amended the US Constitution after he was reelected to the US presidency. At his second inauguration, Lincoln, attributing the war to the evil consequences of slavery, summed up his attitude in the famous phrase "With malice toward none, with charity for all". A few weeks later, he publicly announced his support for voting rights for black.

This was too much for racists like John Wilkes Booth, who shot Lincoln at a theatre in Washington, D. C. on 14 April 1865. Abraham Lincoln died the next day. Lincoln was a great orator. His famous addresses at Gettysburg and at the Second Inaugural are still remembered as the finest specimen of the English language.

OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Who said this magical slogan – ‘Jaihind’?

- A) Nethaji
- B) Bagath Singh
- C) Lincon
- D) Socrates

Answer : A) Nethaji

2. Who kindled the spirit of Patriotism in Subash Chandra Bose?

- A) Lincon
- B) Gandhiji
- C) Bagath Singh
- D) Benimathav das

Answer : D) Benimathav das

3. During college days Subash decided to protest the rude behaviour of one of British professors

- A) Thomas
- B) Oten
- C) Rusion
- D) Glitson

Answer : B) Oten

4. ‘Profound’ means.

- A) Deep and strong
- B) Weak
- C) Spoken
- D) Awakened

Answer : A) Deep and strong

5. Who made khadi (or) home spun cloth, the official dress of the corporation?

- A) Gandhiji

- B) Kabar Khan
- C) Nethaji
- D) Bagath Singh

Answer : C) Nethaji

6. 'Posthumously' Means.

- A) Before Death
- B) During Life
- C) After Death
- D) During ill

Answer : C) After Death

7. In which year Rani Lakshmibai Joined in the 'Sepoy Mutiny' against British Government?

- A) 1858
- B) 1859
- C) 1857
- D) 1856

Answer : C) 1857

8. Jhansi Rani's Parents Morpant Tambe and Bagiranthi bai named Rani as.

- A) Manikarnika
- B) Sindhu
- C) Narmatha
- D) Ganga

Answer : A) Manikarnika

9. Which name was the title given to maratha ruler?

- A) Marathian
- B) Bharathan
- C) Peshwa
- D) Baji

Answer : C) Peshwa

10. Jhansi Rani's husband name is.

- A) Babu Rao

- B) Baji Rao
- C) Tantia Tope
- D) Gangadar Rao

Answer : D) Gangadar Rao

11. Jhansi was called as.

- A) Sweet bee
- B) Chhabli
- C) Busy bee
- D) Active bee

Answer : B) Chhabli

12. British people's clever way of acquiring new territories for their empire was called.

- A) The doctrine of British
- B) The doctrine of Pragaspathi
- C) The doctrine of lapse
- D) The doctrine of Jansi

Answer : A) The doctrine of British

13. Jhansi attacked British in Merrut. That was the beginning.

- A) Sathagrah
- B) Sepoy mutiny
- C) Sepoy struggle
- D) Sepoy Group

Answer : B) Sepoy mutiny

14. In what age Jhansi was hit by a shot from an unknown soldier in katah ki sarai near Gwallor?

- A) 21
- B) 22
- C) 23
- D) 24

Answer : C) 23

15. To whom the job was given to attack Jhansi?

- A) General Lord Gunning

- B) General Lord Wellesch
- C) General Lord Mount Batten
- D) General Lord Huge Rose

Answer : D) General Lord Huge Rose

16. Who was the Laskhmibai's Childhood friend, who had arrived with Peshwa Nana Sahib's army to help?

- A) Babuji
- B) Babu Rao
- C) Tantia Tope
- D) Ganga Tope

Answer : C) Tantia Tope

17. Who is the 'Bird Man' of India?

- A) Dr. Abdul Kalam
- B) Dr. Salim Ali
- C) R. K. Narayanan
- D) Thakazhi Sivasankaran Pillai

Answer : B) Dr. Salim Ali

18. Dr. Salim Ali, is one of the world's most famous

- A) Dramatists
- B) Artist
- C) Ornithologist
- D) Cardiologist

Answer : C) Ornithologist

19. Mahatma Gandhi was born on

- A) 2 October 1869
- B) 2 September 1869
- C) 2 October 1859
- D) 2 October 1849

Answer : A) 2 October 1869

20. Who is known as the Father of the Nation

- A) Subash Chandra Bose
- B) Gopala Krishna Gokhale
- C) Nehru
- D) Mahatma Gandhi

Answer : D) Mahatma Gandhi

21. Every year 2nd day of October is celebrated as

- A) Republic Day
- B) Independence Day
- C) Teacher's Day
- D) Gandhi Jayanthi

Answer : D) Gandhi Jayanthi

22. Gandhiji practiced law at

- A) South Africa
- B) U. S. A
- C) Russia
- D) India

Answer : A) South Africa

23. The Political guru of Gandhiji was

- A) Gopala Krishna Gokhale
- B) Nethaji
- C) Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- D) Karam Chand Gandhi

Answer : A) Gopala Krishna Gokhale

24. Champara and Kheda Satyagraha held in the year

- A) 1919
- B) 1918
- C) 1920
- D) 1928

Answer : B) 1918

25. Salt Satyagraha otherwise called

- A) Dandi March
- B) Gandhi Irwin Pact
- C) Non-Cooperation movement
- D) Khilafat movement

Answer : A) Dandi March

26. Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed in

- A) March 1932
- B) March 1942
- C) March 1921
- D) March 1931

Answer : D) March 1931

27. Gandhiji participated in which round table conference.

- A) First
- B) Second
- C) Third
- D) None of these

Answer : B) Second

28. Gandhiji's autobiography _____.

- A) The story my experiments with truth
- B) Hind swaraj
- C) Young India
- D) Navajivan

Answer : A) The story my experiments with truth

29. Who gave the title "Mahatma" to Gandhiji

- A) Vallabai Patel
- B) Motilal Nehru
- C) C. Rajagopalachari
- D) Rabindranath Tagore

Answer : D) Rabindranath Tagore

30. The two Temples in India dedicated to Gandhi are situated in

- A) Orissa and Karnataka
- B) Andhra and Maharashtra
- C) Kerala and West Bengal
- D) None of these

Answer : A) Orissa and Karnataka

31. Nehru was born on

- A) 14th November, 1889
- B) 14th October, 1888
- C) 14th November, 1888
- D) 14th November, 1887

Answer : A) 14th November, 1889

32. Who was the first Prime Minister of India?

- A) Rajagopalachari
- B) Vallabhai Patel
- C) Motilal Nehru
- D) Jawaharlal Nehru

Answer : D) Jawaharlal Nehru

33. Nehru was sent to Trinity college of _____ of university for higher studies

- A) Alagappa
- B) Annamalai
- C) Cambridge
- D) Madras (Chennai)

Answer : C) Cambridge

34. Nehru studied law and qualified as a barrister in

- A) England
- B) Paris
- C) Europe
- D) Japan

Answer : A) England

35. Nehru met M. K. Gandhi at the Congress session in

- A) Punjab
- B) Jai Nagar
- C) Lucknow
- D) Allahabad

Answer : C) Lucknow

36. “Glimpses of World History” the famous book was written by

- A) Motilal Nehru
- B) Jawaharlal Nehru
- C) Indira Priyadharshini
- D) Annie Besant

Answer : B) Jawaharlal Nehru

37. Non-Alignment movement was started by

- A) Gandhiji
- B) Indira Gandhi
- C) Garibaldi
- D) Jawaharlal Nehru

Answer : D) Jawaharlal Nehru

38. Nehru was sentenced to imprisonment for taking part in

- A) Non-Co-operation Movement
- B) Quit India Movement
- C) Revolutionary Movement
- D) Sathyagraha

Answer : A) Non-Co-operation Movement

39. “Panchashila” was founded by

- A) Motilal Nehru
- B) Jawaharlal Nehru
- C) Garibaldi
- D) C. R. Das

Answer : B) Jawaharlal Nehru

40. Nehru was inspired by the life of _____.

- A) G. K. Gokhale
- B) Dr. Annie Besant
- C) C. R. Das
- D) Garibaldi

Answer : D) Garibaldi

41. Kalpana Chawla was a well known

- A) Astrologer
- B) Astronaut
- C) Teacher
- D) Doctor

Answer : B) Astronaut

42. After Rakesh Sharma who was the second Indian person of fly in space

- A) Sunita Williams
- B) Edmund Hillary
- C) Kalpana Chawla
- D) Neil Armstrong

Answer : C) Kalpana Chawla

43. Kalpana Chawla's first space mission began on

- A) November 19, 1997
- B) November 19, 1987
- C) November 19, 1998
- D) November 19, 1997

Answer : A) November 19, 1997

44. Kalpana Chawla died in the year

- A) February 1, 2013
- B) January 1, 2013
- C) February 1, 2004
- D) February 1, 2005

Answer : A) February 1, 2013

45. Kalpana Chawla's home town belongs to which Indian State?

- A) Punjab
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Haryana
- D) Delhi

Answer : C) Haryana

46. In February 5, 2003 India's Prime Minister renamed which one of the meteorological satellite as "KALPANA"

- A) METSAT
- B) EDUSAT
- C) EDUSAT – I
- D) None of these

Answer : A) METSAT

47. Kalpana Chawla's Planetarium situated in

- A) Jyotisar, Kurukshetra
- B) Madurai, Tamil Nadu
- C) Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
- D) Kochi, Kerala

Answer : A) Jyotisar, Kurukshetra

48. Who is also known as 'Nethaji'?

- A) Gandhiji
- B) Patel
- C) Subash Chandra Bose
- D) Vivekananda

Answer : C) Subash Chandra Bose

49. Who organized the Indian National Army (INA)?

- A) Beni Madhav Das
- B) Nethaji
- C) Clement Attlee
- D) Nehru

Answer : B) Nethaji

50. Subash Chandra Bose was born on 23 January 1897 in ____.

- A) Britain
- B) Calcutta
- C) Cuttack
- D) Moscow

Answer : C) Cuttack

51. At the Presidency college, S. C. Bose was ____ by the behaviour of one of his professors.

- A) Admired
- B) Enjoyed
- C) Appreciated
- D) Deeply upset

Answer : D) Deeply upset

52. The forerunner of our NCC training today was

- A) Nethaji
- B) Gandhiji
- C) Patel
- D) Karikalan

Answer : A) Nethaji

53. Nursing Brotherhood was organized by

- A) Motilal Nehru
- B) Jawaharlal Nehru
- C) Nethaji
- D) Gandhiji

Answer : C) Nethaji

54. Nethaji was strongly influenced by _____'s techings.

- A) Mahatma Gandhiji
- B) Vivekananda
- C) Lal Bhagadur Sastri
- D) Professor

Answer : B) Vivekananda

55. With brilliant academic achievements and background Bose became the _____ of the National College, Calcutta.

- A) Header
- B) Best Student
- C) Teacher
- D) Principal

Answer : D) Principal

56. In Calutta Nethaji made _____, the official dress of the _____.

- A) Khadi – Corporation
- B) Silk – Parliament
- C) Nylon – Lok Sabha
- D) Wool – University

Answer : A) Khadi – Corporation

57. The Indian Government awarded _____ to Nethaji for his true Patriotism.

- A) “Bharat Ratna”
- B) “Padma Bhushan”
- C) “Param Veer”
- D) “Karma Veerar”

Answer : A) “Bharat Ratna”

58. Nethaji understood the saying “Work is _____.

- A) Joyfull
- B) Playfull
- C) Worship
- D) Meaningfull

Answer : C) Worship

59. Nethaji practiced _____ to disciplined himself.

- A) Dansing
- B) Reading
- C) Singing
- D) Yoga

Answer : D) Yoga

60. Who was the first (black) South African President?

- A) Nelson Mandela
- B) Bill Clinton
- C) Vladimir Putin
- D) Thabo Mbeki

Answer : A) Nelson Mandela

61. How many years did Nelson Mandela served in prison?

- A) 7 years
- B) 27 years
- C) 17 years
- D) 26 years

Answer : B) 27 years

62. During which period did Nelson Mandela serve as the President of South Africa?

- A) 1993 – 1999
- B) 1994 – 1999
- C) 1992 – 1999
- D) 1995 – 1999

Answer : B) 1994 – 1999

63. Nelson Mandela's Autobiography is

- A) Long Walk to Freedom
- B) My Experiment with Truth
- C) Satya Sodhana
- D) None

Answer : A) Long Walk to Freedom

64. Who is known as the “Father of the Nation” of South Africa?

- A) Thabo Mbeki
- B) Makgatho Mandela
- C) Nelson Mandela
- D) Maki Mandela

Answer : C) Nelson Mandela

65. United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 18th July of every year as

- A) U. N. Day
- B) Mandela Day
- C) Tobacco Day
- D) World Farmer's Day

Answer : B) Mandela Day

66. In which year Mandela received the 'Bharat Ratna' Award from the Government of India?

- A) 1991
- B) 1980
- C) 1992
- D) 1990

Answer : C) 1992

67. Who was the founding father of "Democracy" in South Africa

- A) Nelson Mandela
- B) Rahmat Ali
- C) Thabo Mbeiki
- D) Bill Clinton

Answer : A) Nelson Mandela

68. In which year did Mandela serve as the secretary General of the Non-Aligned movement

- A) From 1998 – 1999
- B) From 1998 – 2000
- C) From 1997 – 1998
- D) From 1996 – 1997

Answer : A) From 1998 – 1999

69. In which year Nelson Mandela got the Nobel Peace Prize?

- A) 1983
- B) 1992
- C) 1994
- D) 1993

Answer : C) 1994

70. Who was the 16th President of United States?

- A) Abraham Lincoln
- B) Roosevelt
- C) John F. Kennedy
- D) Barack Obama

Answer : A) Abraham Lincoln

71. Which political party did Abraham Lincoln belong to

- A) National Front Union
- B) Conservative
- C) Republican party
- D) None

Answer : C) Republican party

72. Abraham Lincoln was born on

- A) February 13, 1809
- B) January 12, 1809
- C) February 12, 1809
- D) February 15, 1809

Answer : C) February 12, 1809

73. Lincoln was

- A) assassinated
- B) murdered
- C) killed by an accident
- D) natural death

Answer : A) assassinated

74. In which year Lincoln was elected as the 16th President of the United States

- A) November 6, 1860
- B) November 6, 1890
- C) November 6, 1859
- D) November 6, 1861

Answer : A) November 6, 1860

75. Abraham Lincoln suspended

- A) Writ of Madumus
- B) Writ of Habeys Copus
- C) Writ of Quo-warranto
- D) None

Answer : B) Writ of Habeys Copus

76. Who succeeded in keeping the U. S. A united

- A) Abraham Lincoln
- B) George Washington
- C) John F. Kennedy
- D) Roosevelt

Answer : A) Abraham Lincoln

77. 'Of the people, by the people, for the people' so said by

- A) Bill Clinton
- B) John F. Kennedy
- C) Abraham Lincoln
- D) Roosevelt

Answer : C) Abraham Lincoln

78. Which President of the U. S. A brought an end to human slavery?

- A) Bill Clinton
- B) Roosevelt
- C) George Bush
- D) Abraham Lincoln

Answer : D) Abraham Lincoln

79. Rani Lakshmi Bai ruled the princely state of

- A) Jhansi
- B) Aurangabad
- C) Guargon
- D) Bhopal

Answer : A) Jhansi

80. Rani Lakshmi Bai participated in which free-dom struggle

- A) Jalianwalla bagh Massacre
- B) Rebellion of 1857
- C) Black hole tragedy
- D) Vellore sepoy mutiny

Answer : B) Rebellion of 1857

81. The childhood name of Rani Lakshmi Bai was

- A) Manikarnika
- B) Valliammai
- C) Vasundra
- D) Putli Bai

Answer : A) Manikarnika

82. From Which horse Rani Lakshmi Bai fell down

- A) Badal
- B) Sarangi
- C) Kalyani
- D) Pavan

Answer : A) Badal

83. Who said that Rani Lakshmi Bai is “Personable clever and beautiful” and “the most dangerous of all Indian leaders”.

- A) Tanya Tope
- B) Maharaja Scindia
- C) Huge Rose
- D) Lord Dalhousie

Answer : C) Huge Rose

84. Rani Lakshmi Bai’s tomb is situated in

- A) Gwalior
- B) Aurangabad
- C) Vellore

D) Ahmedabad

Answer : A) Gwalior

85. Lakshmi Bai National University of Physical Education is located in

A) Meerut

B) Faridabad

C) Rajkot

D) Gwalior

Answer : D) Gwalior

86. The Rani Jhansi Marine National park is located in

A) Madurai (Tamilnadu)

B) Dispur (Assam)

C) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

D) Aurangabad (Maharashtra)

Answer : C) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

87. A women's unit of the Indian National Army was named as

A) Rani of Jhansi Regiment

B) Kamala Nehru Regiment

C) Putlibai's Regiment

D) None of these

Answer : A) Rani of Jhansi Regiment

88. Salim Ali was an

A) Musician

B) Politician

C) Ornithologist and Naturalist

D) Actor

Answer : C) Ornithologist and Naturalist

89. Who among them known as the "Birdman of India"

A) Salim Ali

B) Syed Ali

C) Amiruddin Tyaji

D) W. S. Millard

Answer : A) Salim Ali

90. Salim Ali was an awardee of

A) Padma Sri

B) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna

C) Padma Vibushan

D) Bharat Ratna

Answer : C) Padma Vibushan

91. Salim Ali's Uncle (Abbas Tyabji) was a well known Indian

A) Freedom Fighter

B) Actor

C) Musician

D) Writer

Answer : A) Freedom Fighter

92. Dr. Salim Ali was born on

A) Nov 12, 1896

B) Nov 13, 1896

C) Nov 12, 1886

D) Nov 13, 1886

Answer : A) Nov 12, 1896

93. Salim Ali received the Padma Vibushan Award in the year

A) 1986

B) 1985

C) 1976

D) 1977

Answer : C) 1976

94. Who was the first non-British citizen to receive the Gold medal from British Ornithologists Union

A) Salim Ali

B) Fakruddin Ali

C) Dr. Ambedkar

D) Nehru

Answer : A) Salim Ali

95. Dr. Salim Ali Centre for ornithology and Natural History is situated in

A) Coimbatore

B) Madurai

C) Meerut

D) Bhopal

Answer : A) Coimbatore

96. The Book of Indian Birds was written by

A) Bharathi

B) Salim Ali

C) Gandhiji

D) Nehru

Answer : B) Salim Ali

97. The “Fall of Sparrow” was an autobiography of

A) Salim Ali

B) John Henry Dick

C) Dillon

D) Whistler

Answer : A) Salim Ali

98. Abraham Lincoln was first elected to the Illinois – legislature in

A) 1834

B) 1846

C) 1861

D) 1863

Answer : A) 1834

99. On 2nd April 1865 the civil war came to an end bringing the victory to the President

A) George Washington

B) Emerson

C) Abraham Lincoln

D) Kennedy

Answer : C) Abraham Lincoln

100. Abraham Lincoln worked hard for the unity of

A) Northern States

B) Southern States

C) Northern & Southern States

D) None of these

Answer : C) Northern & Southern States