



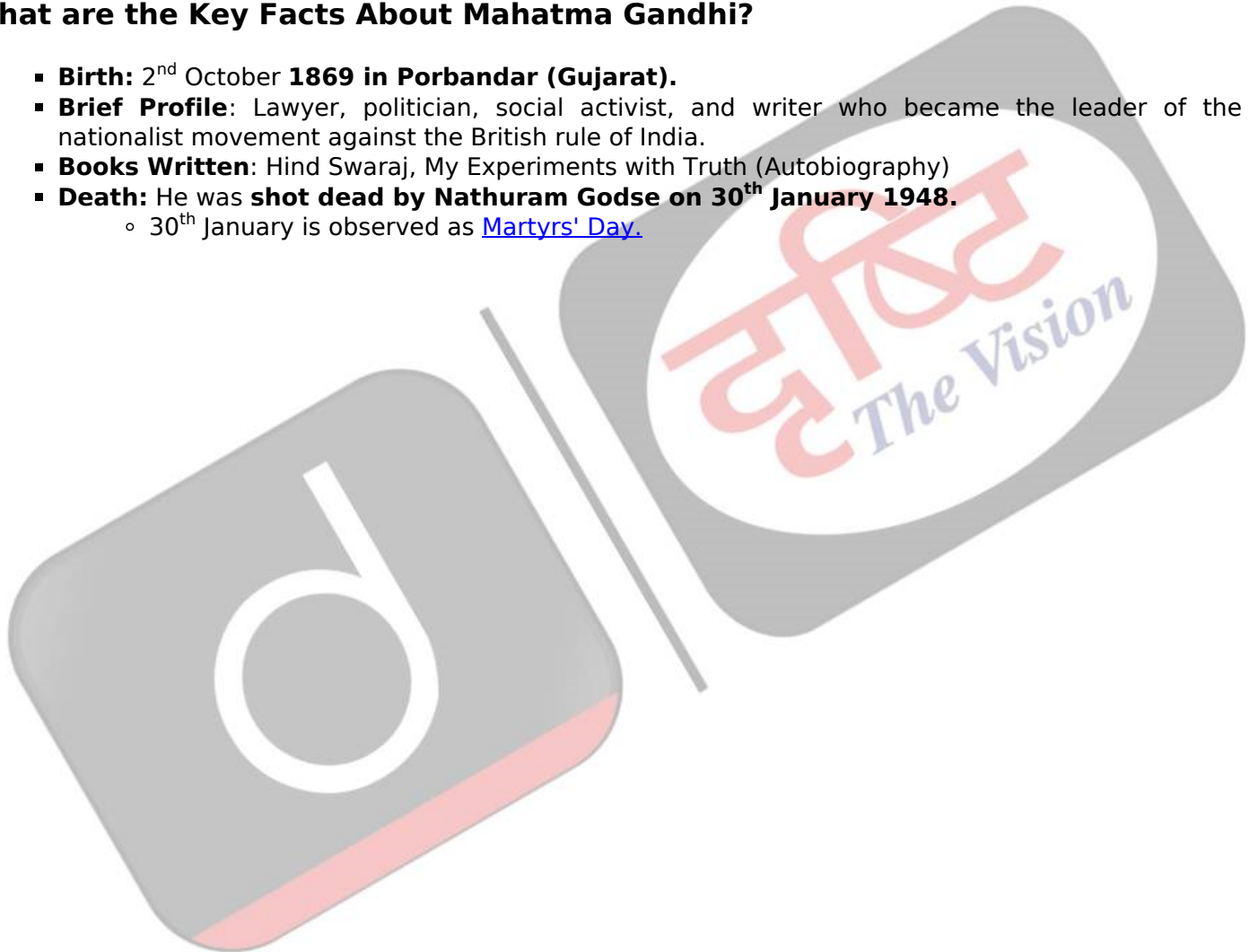
Birth Anniversary of Gandhi Ji and Shastri Ji

2nd October, every year is celebrated as the **birth anniversary** of [Mahatma Gandhi](#) and [Lal Bahadur Shastri](#). Both of these leaders have played a monumental role in shaping our Nation.

What are the Key Facts About Mahatma Gandhi?

- **Birth:** 2nd October **1869 in Porbandar (Gujarat)**.
- **Brief Profile:** Lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer who became the leader of the nationalist movement against the British rule of India.
- **Books Written:** Hind Swaraj, My Experiments with Truth (Autobiography)
- **Death:** He was **shot dead by Nathuram Godse on 30th January 1948**.
 - 30th January is observed as [Martyrs' Day](#).

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Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi



“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.”

Brief Description

Birth: 2nd October 1869, Porbandar (Gujarat).

2nd October is observed as **International Day of Non-Violence**.

Profile: Lawyer, Politician, Social activist, Writer and led Nationalist Movement.

Father of the Nation (first called by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose).

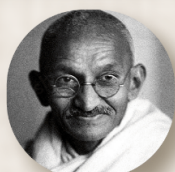
Ideology: Believed in the ideas of non-violence, Truth, Honesty, Care for Mother Nature, Compassion, Welfare of Downtrodden etc.

Political Mentor: Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Death: Shot dead by Nathuram Godse (30th January, 1948).

30th January is observed as **Martyrs' Day**

Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize five times.



Gandhi in South Africa (1893-1915)

Used satyagraha against racist regime (Native Africans and Indians were discriminated).

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year on 9th January, to commemorate his return from South Africa.

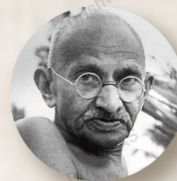
Contribution in India's Freedom Struggle

Small-scale movements like Champaran Satyagraha (1917)—First Civil Disobedience, Ahmedabad Mill Strike (1918)—First Hunger Strike, and Kheda Satyagraha (1918)—First Non-Cooperation.

Nationwide Mass Movements: Against Rowlatt Act (1919), Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22), Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-34), Quit India Movement (1942).

Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931): Between Gandhi and Lord Irwin that marked the end of a period of civil disobedience.

Poona Pact (1932): Between Gandhi and **B.R. Ambedkar**; this abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award).



Books Written

Hind Swaraj, My Experiments with Truth (Autobiography)

Weeklies

Harijan, Navjivan, Young India, Indian Opinion.

Gandhi Peace Prize

is given by India for social, economic, and political transformation through Gandhian methods.

“Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.”

“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

▪ Role in India's Freedom Struggle

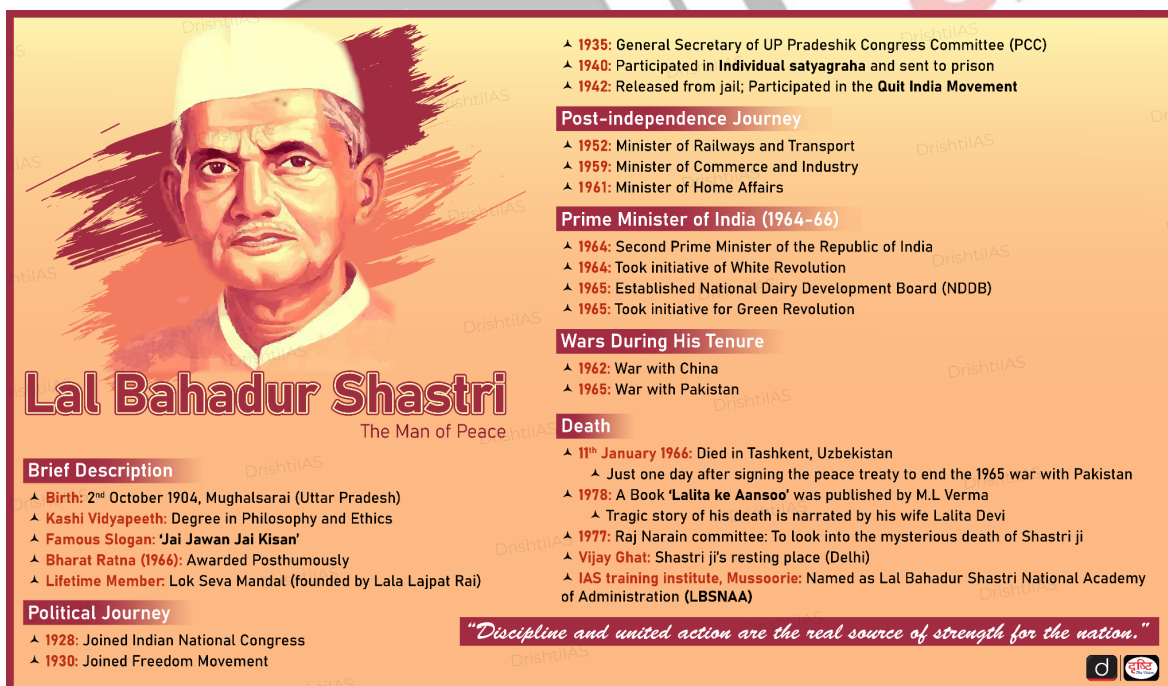
- **Leadership of the Indian National Congress (INC):** Mahatma Gandhi became a prominent leader of the INC in the early 20th century, **advocating for non-violent resistance and mass mobilization** to challenge British rule.
 - The **Belgaum session in 1924** was the only Congress session which was presided over by Gandhi Ji.
- **Non-Cooperation Movement (NCM) (1920-1922):** Gandhi **launched the NCM in**

response to the [Jallianwala Bagh massacre](#) and the repressive [Rowlatt Act](#).

- He **urged Indians to boycott** British institutions, goods, and honours, leading to widespread participation across the country.
- Gandhi Ji was awarded the **Kaiser-i-Hind gold medal in 1915** for his service in the **Boer War** but **returned it in 1920** to protest the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.
- **Salt March (1930):** Gandhi led the **Salt March** to the Gujarati coastal **town of Dandi**, protesting the British salt tax. This marked the beginning of the **Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- **Quit India Movement (QIM) (1942):** Gandhi called for the QIM, demanding an end to British rule in India.
 - His slogan, "**Do or Die**," **inspired millions to participate in protests, strikes, and acts of civil disobedience**, marking a significant escalation in the freedom struggle.
- **Philosophy of Non-Violence:** Throughout his activism, Gandhi emphasized the principles of [Satyagraha \(truth force\)](#) and [Ahimsa \(non-violence\)](#), advocating for peaceful protests and moral integrity.
 - His approach not only influenced the Indian independence movement but also inspired civil rights movements worldwide such as [Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr.](#)
 - 2nd October is also observed as the **International Day of Non-Violence**, established by the [United Nations General Assembly](#) on 15th June 2007.

What are the Key Facts About Lal Bahadur Shastri?

- **Birth:** He was born on **2nd October 1904** in **Mughalsarai**, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Brief Profile:** He was the **second Prime Minister of India**, known for his leadership and his slogan "**Jai Jawan Jai Kisan**," emphasising the importance of both soldiers and farmers in nation-building.
- **Death:** He died on **11th January 1966**, in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**.
 - He was the **first person to be posthumously awarded the [Bharat Ratna \(1966\)](#)**.



Lal Bahadur Shastri
The Man of Peace

Brief Description

- ▲ Birth: 2nd October 1904, Mughalsarai (Uttar Pradesh)
- ▲ **Kashi Vidyapeeth:** Degree in Philosophy and Ethics
- ▲ **Famous Slogan:** 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'
- ▲ **Bharat Ratna (1966):** Awarded Posthumously
- ▲ **Lifetime Member:** Lok Seva Mandal (founded by Lala Lajpat Rai)

Political Journey

- ▲ 1928: Joined Indian National Congress
- ▲ 1930: Joined Freedom Movement

1935: General Secretary of UP Pradeshik Congress Committee (PCC)

1940: Participated in **Individual satyagraha** and sent to prison

1942: Released from jail; Participated in the **Quit India Movement**

Post-independence Journey

- ▲ 1952: Minister of Railways and Transport
- ▲ 1959: Minister of Commerce and Industry
- ▲ 1961: Minister of Home Affairs

Prime Minister of India (1964-66)

- ▲ 1964: Second Prime Minister of the Republic of India
- ▲ 1964: Took initiative of **White Revolution**
- ▲ 1965: Established **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**
- ▲ 1965: Took initiative for **Green Revolution**


Wars During His Tenure

- ▲ 1962: War with China
- ▲ 1965: War with Pakistan

Death

- ▲ **11th January 1966:** Died in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
 - ▲ Just one day after signing the peace treaty to end the 1965 war with Pakistan
- ▲ 1978: A Book '**Lalita ke Ansoo**' was published by M.L. Verma
 - ▲ Tragic story of his death is narrated by his wife Lalita Devi
- ▲ 1977: Raj Narain committee: To look into the mysterious death of Shastri ji
- ▲ **Vijay Ghat:** Shastri ji's resting place (Delhi)
- ▲ **IAS training institute, Mussoorie:** Named as Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (**LBSNAA**)

"Discipline and united action are the real source of strength for the nation."



- **His Role in Nation Building:**
 - **Leadership in the [1965 Indo-Pak War:](#)** Lal Bahadur Shastri **effectively led India during the 1965 war**, boosting national morale.
 - **Green Revolution:** Shastri played a **key role in promoting the [Green Revolution](#)**, which helped **India increase agricultural production** and move towards self-sufficiency in food grains, addressing the nation's food security challenges.

- **National Integration:** worked to foster national unity and integration by promoting harmony among diverse regions, languages, and cultures.
 - While simultaneously encouraging policies of industrialization and self-reliance to strengthen India's economic growth and reduce dependence on foreign imports.
- **Civil Services:** Shastri emphasized the **need for civil servants to maintain high ethical standards, transparency, and dedication**, ensuring that the administration remained free from corruption and was committed to public service.
 - Eg. **He resigned as Rail Minister in 1952**, taking moral responsibility for a rail accident that resulted in casualties.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q. With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements: (2019)

1. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'.
2. In Lord Chelmsford's 'War Conference', Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
3. Consequent upon the breaking of Salt Law by Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Q. Who among the following translated the Autobiography of Madam Curie in Hindi? (2008)

- (a) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (c) Choudhary Charan Singh
- (d) Gobind Vallabh Pant

Ans: (b)