TIMELINE OF INDIAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

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1857: **First War of Independence**: Establishment of the Indian Independence Movement of 1857 which would last until the eventual Indian independence in 1947. This conflict would be known as the First War of Indian Independence and lasted from May 10, 1957, with the Indian Mutiny to the final battle at Gwalior on June 20, 1858. The Indian Mutiny, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny, ignited the first spark of the revolution. It began in Meerut and later spread to Delhi, Agra, Kanpur, and Lucknow. After the outbreak of the mutiny in Meerut, the rebels quickly reached Delhi, where Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal Emperor remained at helm from 1837 to 1857 was declared the Emperor of Hindustan. After the war of independence of 1857, he was exiled to Rangoon in 1858 where he died in 1862.

*Lakshmi Bai*, rani of Jhansi and a leader of the Indian Mutiny. Shortly after the beginning of the mutiny in 1857, Lakshmi Bai joins the uprising against the British; she rapidly organized her troops and assumed charge of the rebels in the Bundelkhand region. Under Gen. Hugh Rose, the East India Company’s forces had begun their counteroffensive in Bundelkhand by January 1858.

1858: Following the end of the Indian rebellion in 1858, the Dutch East Indian Company was disbanded and Queen Victoria of Britain decided to strengthen British rule over India by proclaiming that India would be governed under the name of the British Monarch. India, under the British General Governor, or Viceroy, would have all their internal affairs, policies, and government under the British with the Viceroy speaking for Queen Victoria who claimed the new title of Empress of India.

1885: In response to the rise of British power over India, an Indian mass movement, organized by Indian reformists, was created and was known as the Indian National Movement. This would lead to the formation of the Indian National Congress under these reformists. The founders would hold the first session of the Indian National Congress at Bombay on 28th December attended by 72 delegates. These founders included Allan Octavian Hume, Badruddin Tyabji, W. C. Bonnerjee, Surendranath Banerjea, Pherozeshah Mehta, Manomohan and Lalmohan Ghose, all of whom had been educated in London. They would also work to publish an Indian magazine called *India*. 
1905: **Partition of Bengal** announced by Lord Curzon which led to a massive upsurge among the people, and a call for *swadeshi* goods, leading to a boycott of British manufactured goods. Lord Randolph Churchill becomes Secretary of State for India.


1907: Congress split at Surat session into two part -Moderates and Extremists. Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Sigh deported to Mandalay following riots in the canal colony of Punjab.

1908: Khudiram Bose was executed. Tilak sentenced to six years imprisonment on charges of sedition.

1909: Morley-Minto Reforms or the Indian Council Act 1909 announced.

1911: Bengal Partition annulled, announcement that the capital of India to shift from Calcutta to Delhi.

1912: Bomb thrown on Lord Hardinge in Chandini Chowk, Delhi by Rashbehari Bose and Sachindra Sanyal.

1913: **Ghadar party** formed at San Francisco to organise a rebellion in India to overthrow the British rule.

**Silk Letter Movement (Reshmi Rumal Thereek)** Originally, the Reshmi Rumal Tehreek refers to a movement organised by the Deobandi leaders between 1913 to 1920, aimed at freeing India from the British Rule by allying with Ottoman Turkey, Imperial Germany, and Afghanistan. The plot was uncovered by Punjab CID with the capture of letters from Ubaidullah Sindhi, one of the Deobandi leaders then in Afghanistan, to Mahmud al Hasan another leaders then in persia. The letters were written in silk cloth, hence the name.

1914: Britain drags India into World War I. Sixty thousand Indians lose their lives in the First World War.

1915: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi returns to India from South Africa; he sets up ashram in Ahmedabad the same year,

1916: **Home Rule League** is founded by Bal Gangadhar Tilak in April.

1916: **Home Rule League** is founded by Annie Besant in September.
1917 Champaran Satyagraha of 1917: It was the first satyagraha inspired by Mahatma Gandhi. The farmers in the Champaran district of Bihar were being forced to grow indigo. Besides, they were barely paid anything for their produce. This led to a farmer’s uprising.

Montague, the secretary of State for India, declares that the goal of the British government in India is the introduction of responsible government.

1918 First all-India Depressed Class conference was held.

Rowlatt (sedition) committee submitted its reports.

1919 Rowlatt Bill introduced on February 16, 1919. Britain seeks to introduce the Rowlatt Act, imposing severe curbs on civil rights. Indians protest

M. K Gandhi started campaign against Rowlatt bill and set up Satyagraha Sabha 24th February AD 1919 at Bombay. During this agitation, M.K Gandhi given famous quote “It is my firm belief that we shall obtain salvation only through suffering and not by reforms dropping on us from the English they use brute, we soul force”.

On April 13, General Reginald Dyer and a police force fired into a peaceful protest against the British Indian Government and killed 400 hundreds of unarmed men, women, and children. This would be known as the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

Montague Chelmsford Reform or the Government of India Act, 1919 announced.

Khilafat Movement, led by Ali Brothers and others

Gandhiji formed Sabarmati Ashram at Ahmedabad.

Foundation of Banaras Hindu University by by Madan Mohan Malaviya

1920 In September of 1920, Mohandas Gandhi started the Non-Cooperation Movement. The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched in response to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and lead to the withdrawal of national cooperation and support for the British government and authorities. The movement was able to gain support from the Indian masses of millions. The movement lasted for 2 years from 1920 to 1922. It embodied the idea of ‘non-violence’ or “Ahimsa”. Where protestors refused to buy British goods and adopted local goods. Indeed, it was the most significant phase of the Indian Independence Movement

Establishment of Aligarh Muslim University

First meeting of All Indian Trade Union Congress (AITUC) held at Bombay presided over by Lala Lajpat Rai.

1921 Permanent Advisory Council of Princes inaugurated

Council of State and Legislative Assembly inaugurated

The Prince of Wales, later King Edward VIII, arrives in India. Upon his arrival in Bombay there is widespread agitation. He was greeted with empty streets

Congress leader and famous poet Maulana Hasrat Mohani was the first to demand complete independence (Poorna Swaraj) from the British in 1921 from an All-India Congress Forum in Nagpur He coined the slogan Inquilab Zindabad
1922  On Feb 5 Chauri Chauri incident took place in Gorakhpur when a large group of protesters, participating in the Non-cooperation movement, clashed with police, who opened fire. and killed several demonstrators and a police station was set on fire by the protesters, resulting in the deaths of at least 22 policemen. Chauri Chauri incident led to the suspension of the Non-cooperation movement.

Vishwa Bharati University started by Rabindranath Tagore.

1923  Swarajist party founded by Motilal Nehru and others.

1924: Moplah riots between Hindus and Muslims.

T K Madhavan met Mahatma Gandhi at Tirunelveli, to discuss on Vaikom Satyagraha, a struggle against untouchability in Hindu society of Kerala

1925  Death of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das

Kakori Conspiracy Case by revolutionaries

1927: The British government appointed Simon Commission to recommend political reforms in India. The Simon Commission did not have any Indian members which led to both the Congress and Muslim League to protest and boycott the Commission when it visited India 1927. The Non-Cooperation Movement was not only successful in gaining support, but also put a brake on political activities.

1928  Nehru Report for a new constitution of India.

Murder of Lala Lajpat Rai

1929  On December 1929, Gandhi led a mass civil disobedience movement which was to cause total national disobedience towards the orders of the British rule. To suppress their movement, the British government resulted in violence and killed thousands of Indian civilians. The movement would be suppressed and three members of the Indian National Congress would be arrested and later hanged.

All Parties Muslim Conference formulates the “fourteen points” under the leadership of Jinnah.

Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt drop bomb in the central legislative Assembly to protest against the Public Safety Bill.

Jatin Das dies in Jail after 64 days of fast.

Lord Irwin’s announcement that the goal of British policy in India was the grant of domination status.

Purna Swaraj or Declaration of the Independence of India was promulgated by the Indian National Congress on 19 December 1929 in Lahore Session under Jawaharlal Nehru

The flag of India was hoisted by Jawaharlal Nehru on 31 December 1929 on the banks of Ravi River, in Lahore,

The flag of India was hoisted publicly across India by Congress volunteers, nationalists and the public.
**1930** The Dandi March of 1930: It is the most iconic act of non-violent civil disobedience. Gandhiji, along with a huge crowd walked from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi beach as a means of non-violent protest against the repressive salt tax imposed by the British government.

The Congress asked the people of India to observe 26th of January as Independence Day

Working committee of INC meets at Sabarmati and passed the Civil Disobediences Movement with his epic Dandi march.

The Congress boycotted the First Round Table Conference in London to consider the report of Simon Commission for the future constitutional set-up in India.

**1931** Second Round Table conference begins Gandhi Ji arrives in London to attend it. Led to the Gandhi-Irwin pact that ends the civil disobedience movement and grants some political rights to Indians.

Bhagat Singh, Sukh Dev and Raj Guru executed (in Lahore Case).

**1932** British Prime Minister Ramsay Mac Donald announced the Communal Awards giving separate electorate to Harijans. Gandhi’s went on fast unto death

Gandhi Ji concluded the Poona Pact with Dr B R Ambedkar that does away with separate electorates for 'Untouchables,' but reserves some electoral seats for them

Third Round table Conference begins at London.

**1935** Government of India Act, passed by the British, gives Indian political rights at the provincial level.

**1937** Provincial Elections held in India under the Act of 1935. Most provinces elect Congress, some elect Muslim League

The Indian National Congress forms ministers in seven provinces.

**1938** Haripuran session of the Indian National Congress. Subhash Chandra Bose elected the congress president.

**1939** Outbreak of World War II. Viceroy unilaterally declared India's participation in the war

Tripuri session of Indian National Congress.

Subhas Chandra Bose resigns the presidency of the Indian National Congress.

Congress ministries in the provinces resign against the war policy of the British Government.

Muslim League observes the resignation of the congress ministries as Deliverance day and form a coalition Government with Hindu Mahasabha

**1940** Lahore session of the Muslim league passes the Pakistan Resolution.
Viceroy Linlithgow announces the August offer promising the expansion of the Executive Council of the Viceroy of India to include more Indians, the establishment of an advisory war council, giving full weight to minority opinion, and the recognition of Indians' right to frame their own constitution.

Congress launches Individual Satyagraha movement.

1941 Subhas Chandra Bose escapes from India to Germany.

1942: In March British War Cabinet announces the Sir Stafford Cripps Mission to negotiate India's political status after the war

In May Gandhi Ji meets Cripps, but call his proposals a 'post-dated cheque.' Congress rejects the proposals.

Indian leader, Mohandas Gandhi is arrested in Bombay by British forces.

Newly married couple Indira Gandhi and Feroze Gandhi arrested for their participation in Quit India movement.

'Hurricane and flooding in Bombay: 40,000 dead.

Indian National Army an armed force established by Neta Ji and other Indian nationalists (Mohan Singh) in Southeast Asia during World War II. The Indian National Army worked with the Japanese to fight against colonialism.

1942 Quit India Movement Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee got resolution calling for complete independence from the British on 8th August 1942, during World War II. The mission was as clear as water – an end to the British Rule of India which led to the start of a historical civil disobedience movement across India. Congress leadership arrested; Gandhi jailed at the Aga Khan Palace in Poona.

Revolts break out across India as people defy the British and call for independence. Six hundred demonstrators lose their lives in clashes with the police.

In addition, Gandhi ji made a call to Do or Die in his Quit India speech delivered at Bombay.

1943 Subhas Chandra Bose takes charge of the Indian National Army, begins March to India, which is stopped outside Imphal

proclaims formation of the ‘Provisional Government of free India’ at Singapore.

Karachi session of the Muslim League adopts the slogan of ‘Divide and Quit’.

The Japanese attack the Port of Kolkata.

Kushal Konwar, Indian National Congress President of Golaghat, First martyr of Quit India Movement.

1944 Wavell calls Simla conferences in a bid to form the executive Council of Indian political leaders
1945: World War II ends and the Labour Party, which is sympathetic to India's call for independence, forms the government.

1946 Royal Air Force Mutiny of 1946 of British and Indian air force units. British Prime Minister Attlee announces the Cabinet Mission
Wavell invites Nehru to form an interim government.
Nehru elected leader of the Congress Party.
Constituent Assembly for India meets for the first time.
Gandhi-Jinnah talks break down; communal riots break out.

1947 Indian Independence Act of 1947: The Indian Independence League extended to people living outside India. It sought their approval of revoking the British colonial rule over India. The league was located in various parts of Southeast Asia.

The Indian Independence Act was an act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The act partitioned British India into two new independent dominions of India and Pakistan. In June The British, Congress and Muslim League agree to Partition and Independence

Lord Mountbatten, last British viceroy and governor general of India is sworn in. Mountbatten Plan for partition of India was announced

Indian Independence Bill introduced in the House of Commons and passed by the British parliament on July 18, India came into existence on August 15th and Pakistan on 14th August in the year 1947.

War breaks out between India and Pakistan Administered Kashmir
Junagadh joins the Dominion of India
Air India goes international.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru becomes the first Prime Minister of India and unfurls the Indian tricolour on the ramparts of the Red Fort, symbolically marking the end of British colonial rule.

Communal riots claim hundreds of thousands life in the Partition riots
British Prime Minister Attlee declares that the British government would leave India by June 1948

The timeline of Indian history from 1857 to 1947 traces the continuous and rigorous efforts our freedom fighters took to free the nation. And so, with it, 200 long years of slavery, oppression, and colonization came to an end!