



## Today in History

*December 9, 1946*

▲ **Sonia Gandhi, president of the Indian National Congress and widow of India's assassinated former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, was born in Italy**

**1905:** The separation of church and state in France established secularism but guaranteed freedom of worship

**1979:** The WHO certified that smallpox had been eradicated after a worldwide vaccination campaign

**2008:** Astronomers described a giant black hole at the centre of our galaxy, 27,000 light years from Earth

**2020:** Italian football hero Paolo Rossi, whose hat-trick helped win the 1982 World Cup, died aged 64