

# Partition of India – 75 years ago

Independence from British colonial rule in 1947 split the subcontinent into the separate nations of India and Pakistan, but led to unprecedented carnage on both sides of the hastily created border



■ **1858:** India comes under direct rule of British crown following failed rebellion of 1857

■ **1885: Indian National Congress** founded – forum for emerging nationalist feeling

■ **1906: All India Muslim League** founded to defend Muslim political interests

■ **1920:** Nationalist figurehead **Mahatma Gandhi** launches civil disobedience campaign against British rule

■ **1930:** Poet **Allama Iqbal** advocates establishment of separate Muslim state

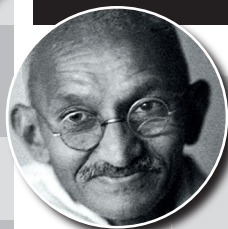
■ **1930s:** Mistrust increases between Muslim League and Congress

■ **1933:** Cambridge student **Rahmatullah Chowdhry** coins name “Pakistan” – Urdu for “Land of the Pure”

■ **1940:** Muslim League leader **Mohammed Ali Jinnah** calls for separate Muslim state

■ **1946, Jul:** Cabinet Mission Plan – British proposal for Hindus and Muslims to work together within united India – collapses

■ **Aug:** Bloodiest Hindu-Muslim violence in nearly 100 years kills 5,000 people in Calcutta, convincing Britain that partition is inevitable



**Gandhi:**  
*Opposed partition*

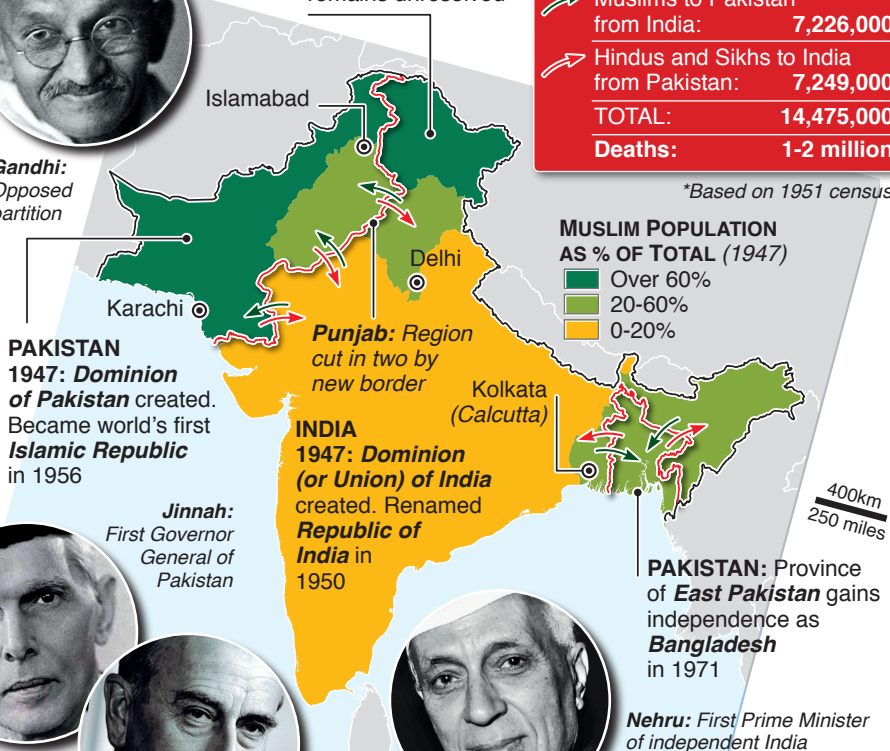


**Jinnah:**  
*First Governor General of Pakistan*



■ **1947, Jun:** Partition plan of British viceroy **Lord Mountbatten** accepted by Jinnah and Congress leader **Jawaharlal Nehru**

**Kashmir:** Status remains unresolved



## POPULATION EXCHANGE\*

Muslims to Pakistan from India:	7,226,000
Hindus and Sikhs to India from Pakistan:	7,249,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>14,475,000</b>
<b>Deaths:</b>	<b>1-2 million</b>

\*Based on 1951 census

■ **Aug 14-15:** Separate states born – secular but Hindu-dominated India and Muslim-majority Pakistan

