Mahatma Gandhi’s India
1945-1947

As Seen Through the Lens of the
Bombay Photo Shop
Views through the Camera was a booklet of postcards published by the Bombay Photo Shop of scenes from India during the years 1945-1947. It was during this period that Mahatma Gandhi was succeeding in his peaceful revolution to make India independent of the British Empire. Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu nationalist on January 30, 1948. This card collection represents the final days of British India as it would have looked to Mahatma Gandhi.
A native palm to India that is part of the Arecaceae family. There are over 2,600 species of palm throughout the world.
The Laxminarayan Temple, is a Hindu temple in New Dehli, India that was built in 1939. It is also referred to as the Birla Temple, after the creator Baldeo Das Birla.
Girgaum Chowpatty (commonly referred to as Chaupati), one of the most popular beaches in Mumbai formerly known as Bombay.
The Hogg Market opened on January 1, 1874 and was officially named Sir Stuart Hogg Market in 1903. Now known as the New Market there are 200 stores at the market in New Dehli (formerly known as Calcutta).
Hindu Temple in India
Woman providing a shoe shine on the street (city unknown).
One of the oldest neighborhoods in Calcutta (now New Delhi) and possibly features part of the Kalighat Kali Temple. The temple is dedicated to Kali, the goddess of time, creation, destruction and power.
Coconut production continues to be a large part of India’s economy. As 2009, India was the world’s third largest coconut producer.
Assam is an area of India that borders China and is home to the national park/reserve called Kaziranga National Park. It is unknown if this photograph was taken at the reserve. Elephants continue to be used for work throughout Asia.
Typical street scene, Bombay (Mumbai).
Dakshineswar Kali Temple was built in 1855 by Rani Rashmoni, a 19th century female philanthropist.
Typical street scene in Calcutta (New Dehli.)
Sculpture of unknown Hindu god or goddess. Origin of the sculpture is unknown.
Man using a Chakku, a traditional oil press used for extraction oil from seeds like coconut, sesame, ground nut and Indian Laurel.
Possibly a street vendor on the way to the market
Opened in 1903, the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) is still a functioning hotel and was the first hotel for the Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces [Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) founded by Jamsetji Tata] and it is now part of Tata group, one of India’s largest business conglomerates.
Appears to be a ceremonial conveyance (also known as Ratha) made from wood with wooden wheels. Ratha are used for Rathoutsava (car festival) by Hindu temples in the South of India where deities are driven through the streets accompanied by chants from the spectators.
Street scene in Calcutta (New Dehli) ca 1945.
Appears to be the Royal Opera House of Mumbai (Bombay) ca 1945. It is the only surviving opera house in India.
Ascetic practices and traditions occupy an important place in Hinduism. Much of the Hindu tradition and philosophical doctrines are products of these practices and traditions.
Calcutta has a long-standing tradition of cooking and eating outdoors, which remains to this day.
Known as the BMC Building, it houses the governing body of Mumbai (Bombay).
Spelled “Shyambazar” in current times, this neighborhood is known for its large market called Charles Bazaar.
Depicted here are two cobras and a snake charmer. This practice of hypnotizing a snake with a musical instrument is most common in India.
Named after Lord Sandhurst, the governor of Bombay from 1895 to 1900, this road is home to the Central Line of the Mumbai Suburban Railway.
Example of a hand loom. Weaving on such looms in India originated more than 5000 years ago.
Also known as the “City of Victory,” Fatehpur Sikri was built by the Mughal king Akbar in the late 1560’s.
Currently spelled “Crawford Market” and built in 1869, Crawford Market continues to be Mumbai’s most famous wholesale market. Although there exist other wholesale markets in Mumbai, this one is known for offering the best deals.
West Bengal, situated in East India on the Bay of Bengal, is known for its agriculture production. It has the honor of being the sixth-largest contributor to India’s net domestic product.
Designed by British architect Frederick William Stevens, and completed in 1888, Victoria Terminus provided the British Empire with an extensive transportation connection to India. It is still in use today.
A tributary of the Ganges River, the Hooghly river system provides water to the plain of West Bengal, and is essential for providing water for irrigation and consumption to the area. Like the remainder of the Ganges, the Hooghly River is considered holy to Hindu people.
Rajasthan is famous for its citadels and palaces, but it also contains many temples from different faiths. Depicted here are temples inside a citadel.
This neighborhood is named after the Hindu goddess Kalbadevi. It began as a residential area, but has become a business district in modern times.
The North-West Frontier Province was created in 1901 as a part of British India. Pashtun lands were combined with old Punjab into one province to make up this territory.
Agriculture is the most common industry in Punjab. It is so prevalent and important to the culture of its people that there are 3 annual harvest festivals held in that area.
Maize, or corn, is grown all year in India. It is the third most frequently-grown Indian crop behind wheat and rice.
Shown here, wheat is grown in India during the winter. It is India’s most commonly-grown cash crop.
Lindsay Street is home to “New Market” depicted here. Officially named “Sir Stuart Hogg Market” it was established in 1874 to replace what was once an open air bazaar in Calcutta.
Roadside barbers, one of whom is depicted here, continue to be popular in modern day India. They are commonly known as “Naayis.”
There are nearly 450 mosques in Calcutta. The one depicted is simply called “The Great Mosque” and is located on the Hooghly River.
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Learn More About It!

- Type of 16th Century Sculpture of Bengal: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sculpture_in_South_Asia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sculpture_in_South_Asia)
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- Type of Plant in use for Twenty Centuries: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cjVZE91PWog
- The Picturesque Chariot of Rajputana: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajputana
- An Indian Ascetic: http://www.hinduwebsite.com/hinduism/essays/ascetics.asp
- Municipal building, Fort, Bombay: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Municipal_Corporation_Building, Mumbai
- Shambazar, Calcutta: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shyambazar
- The Deadly Twins: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_charming
- Sandhurst Road, Bombay: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandhurst_Road
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- Crowford Market, Bombay: http://www.mumbai77.com/city/3338/attractions/crawford-market/
- Reflections of Rural Bengal: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bengal
- Going With the Wind on the Hooghly: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hooghly_River
- Temples in a Rajasthan Citadel: http://www.rajasthan directs.com/tourism/temples
- Kalbadevi Road, Bombay: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalbadevi
- Their Simple Habitat at the North-West Frontier of India: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North-West_Frontier_Province_(1901%E2%80%9355
Learn More About It (continued)

• A Process of Husking the Corn in the Punjab: [http://www.agrifarming.in/maize-farming/](http://www.agrifarming.in/maize-farming/)
• A Stack of Harvest: [http://www.agrifarming.in/wheat-farming-information/](http://www.agrifarming.in/wheat-farming-information/)
• The Great Mosque, Calcutta: [https://www.whatsuplife.in/kolkata/blog/list-of-famous-masjid-mosques-in-kolkata/](https://www.whatsuplife.in/kolkata/blog/list-of-famous-masjid-mosques-in-kolkata/)