

GANDHIAN MOVEMENT

Important IAS Exam Topics by Shashank Sajwan

- Gandhi ji was an **integral part of the Indian National Movement from 1917**. His first opposition came against the British Rule in South Africa.
- In **1909**, Mahatma Gandhi mentioned in **his book 'Hind Swaraj'** that British rule was established in India with the cooperation of the Indian public and has survived this long for a similar reason.
- Gandhi ji gave the fight for independence a direction and brought the whole country together.
- **Key principles of the Gandhian Movement:**
 - Satyagraha: "truth force" or "soul force."
 - Ahimsa: refraining from causing harm to any living being.
 - Swaraj: self-rule or self-governance.
 - Sarvodaya: the welfare of all.
 - Satya: truthfulness.
 - Trusteeship: managing resources in a way that benefits all people.
- **Principles of Satyagraha:**
 - Identify Truth (Relative Truth or Absolute Truth)
 - Fight using Non-Violence
 - Insist on Truth
 - Change the mind and heart of opponents through self--suffering.
 - Make God a witness of your deeds
 - Be Fearless
- **All movements of Mahatma Gandhi:**
 - **Champaran Satyagraha (1917)**
 - Kheda Satyagraha (1918)
 - Ahmedabad Mill Satyagraha (1918)
 - Khilafat Movement (1919)
 - **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920)**
 - Dandi March (1930)
 - **Civil-Disobedience Movement (1930)**
 - Gandhi Irwin Pact (1931)
 - **Quit India Movement (1942)**

MOVEMENTS

- **CHAMPARAN MOVEMENT (1917)**
 - The **Britishers established an exploitative system.**
 - Farmers had to pay heavy taxes.

- Farmers were forced to grow indigo under the tinkathia system.
 - **Gandhi ji began a non-violent resistance against the landlords and the planters.**
 - The government agreed to abolish the tinkathia system.
 - The peasants were provided with compensation.
 - The locals gave him the title of Bapu and Mahatma.
- **KHEDA SATYAGRAHA (1918)**
 - Gujarat droughts resulted in multiple failed crops.
 - Mohan Lal Pandey led a no-tax campaign in 1917. **Demanded the remission of the taxes paid by the poor farmers.**
 - The Kheda Satyagraha was joined by great leaders like Indulal Yagnik and Vallabhbhai Patel.
 - Britishers fulfilled their demands and gave concessions to the farmers.
- **AHMEDABAD MILL STRIKE (1918)**
 - Both the workers and employers were Indians.
 - Workers demanded plague bonus to be continued.
 - **Tribunal awarded 35% bonus after successful hunger strike.**
- **KHILAFAT MOVEMENT (1919-1925)**
 - **Events in 1919: Rowlatt act, Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, GOI Act**
 - Satyagraha movements were limited to big cities and towns.
 - Gandhi ji realised the need for a more broad-based movement. Hindus and Muslims get united on a common platform. The Khilafat issue allowed him to do it.
 - Treaty of Sèvres on the Ottoman emperor (after WW1), who was the Islamic world's spiritual head, the Khalifa.
 - Khilafat Committee was formed by Mohammad Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali joined hands to create political unity among Muslims to protect the Khalifa.
- **NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT (1920)**
 - **Aimed to boycott British goods, institutions, and law courts (swadeshi).**
 - Influenced the masses to relinquish their titles and asked them to resign from government offices.
 - Primary demand was self-government or Swarajya.
 - **Called off the movement because of the Chauri Chaura incident.**
- **DANDI MARCH (1930)**
 - Salt Satyagraha, a campaign **against the British salt tax.**
 - Commenced Civil Disobedience.

- 24-day march to the Arabian Sea.
 - **Symbolically made salt by evaporating seawater**, defying the British monopoly on salt production.
- **CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE (1930)**
 - Active, professed refusal of a citizen to obey certain laws, demands, orders or commands of a government.
 - **Simon Commission, is recognised as a catalyst for the civil disobedience movement.**
 - The British Government followed a policy of repression to suppress the movement.
 - **Almost all leading Congress leaders were put behind bars, resulting in sudden retreat.** Gandhi ji initiated a talk with Irwin on 14 February 1931, which culminated in the Delhi Pact of 5 March 1931. The pact is popularly called Gandhi-Irwin pact.
 - **QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT (1942)**
 - **'Quit India Resolution' provisions** of the movement:
 - **an immediate end to British rule**
 - declaration of a free India that can defend itself against imperialism and fascism
 - **the formation of an interim government in the event of British withdrawal**
 - the initiation of a civil disobedience movement.
 - The movement was suppressed by the British, but it marked a turning point in India's struggle for independence.

CONCLUSION

The Gandhian Movement **played a crucial role in India's struggle for independence** and inspired many other anti-colonial movements across the world. **Gandhi's principles of non-violence and civil disobedience continue to influence** social and political movements worldwide.