

PM pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi who marched to Dandi

By IAS Toppers | 2022-03-15 17:45:00



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The Prime Minister has paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and all the eminent persons who marched to Dandi to protest injustice and protect India's self-esteem.



[Ref-India Today]

Dandi March (March 12-April 6, 1930)

Background

- The **1882 Salt Act** gave the British a monopoly in the **manufacture and sale of salt**.
 - Though salt was freely available on the coasts of India, **Indians were forced to buy it from the colonizers**.
- To carry forward the mandate given by the **Lahore Congress**, Gandhi presented **eleven demands to the government**.
 - **Abolish salt tax and the government's salt monopoly** is one of the demands that was presented by Gandhi.
- He gave an ultimatum of January 31, 1930, to **accept or reject these demands**.
- **With no positive response** forthcoming from the government on these demands, the **Congress Working Committee invested Gandhi** with full powers to launch the **Civil Disobedience Movement at a time and place of his choice**.
- By February-end, Gandhi had decided to make **salt the central formula for the movement**.

Key Events

- Gandhi, along with 78 members of Sabarmati Ashram, was to march **from his headquarters in Ahmedabad through the villages of Gujarat for 240 miles**.
- The historic march, marking the launch of the Civil Disobedience Movement, **began on March 12**, and Gandhi **broke the salt law** by picking up a **lump of salt at Dandi on April 6**.
- The violation of the law was seen as a **symbol of the Indian people's resolve** not to live under

British-made laws and therefore under British rule.

- **Gandhi openly asked** the people to **make salt from seawater in their homes and violate the salt law**.
- As Gandhi broke the salt laws in Dandi, **similar acts of civil disobedience** took place in other **parts of India**.
- **Nehru's arrest** in April 1930 for defiance of the salt law evoked huge **demonstrations in Madras, Calcutta, and Karachi**.
- **Gandhi's arrest** was followed by massive protests in **Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, and Sholapur**.
- Salt satyagraha soon grew into mass satyagraha.
- **The illegal manufacture and sale of salt** were accompanied by the **boycott of foreign cloth and liquor**.
- **Forest laws** were flouted in **Maharashtra, Karnataka, and the Central Provinces**.
- **Peasants in Gujarat and Bengal** refused to **pay land and chowkidari taxes**.

Impacts

- **Imports of foreign cloth and other items fell**.
- The government suffered a **loss of income from liquor, excise, and land revenue**.
- **Elections** to Legislative Assembly were largely **boycotted**.