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SUBJECT - HISTORY
PROJECT FILE

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SATYAGRAHA

MOVEMENT

It is a movement of agitation based on truth and non-violence. The word satyagraha is the compound of two words satya means truth and agraha means holding fast. It means holding the truth. Satyagraha literally means an appeal for truth.

Gandhiji used this method of non-violence struggle against the colonialist powers and termed it as satyagraha. Satyagraha aimed at appealing to the heart of the oppressor and making him realize his mistake by way of peaceful method. Gandhiji believed that if one is truthful and honest to ~~oneself~~ oneself and is fighting injustice, then use of force is not necessary. There is no place for indiscipline in Satyagraha.

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF SATYAGRAHA MOVEMENT

The ~~three~~ places where Mahatma Gandhi organised Satyagraha Movement are as follows:-

(1) Champan in Bihar

At Champan in Bihar, Mahatma Gandhi inspired the peasants against the oppressive system in year 1916.

(2) Kheda district in Gujarat

Gandhiji organised the satyagraha support for peasants in Kheda district from Gujarat in year 1917.

(3) Ahmedabad in Gujarat

The Satyagraha Movement was also organised in Ahmedabad against the cotton mill workers in year 1918.

CAUSES FOR THE SATYAGRAHA MOVEMENT

By 1930, the Congress Party had declared that Poorna Swarajya or complete independence was to be the sole aim of the freedom struggle.

It started observing 26 January as Poorna Swarajya Day and it was decided that civil disobedience was to be the means employed to achieve it.

Mahatma Gandhi was asked to plan and organise the first such act. Gandhiji chose to break the salt tax in defiance of the government.

Gandhiji also hoped to unite Hindus and Muslims as the cause was common to both groups.

The salt tax accounted for 8.2%.

of the British Raj revenue from tax and Gandhiji knew that the government could not ignore this.

COURSE OF THE SATYAGRAHA MOVEMENT

- (1) Gandhiji informed Lord Irwin of his plan on 2nd March 1930.
- (2) He would lead a group of people from his Ashram at Sabarmati on 12th March 1930 and walk through the villages of Gujarat.
- (3) On reaching the coastal village of Dandi, he would make salt from seawater thereby breaking the salt act. Gandhiji started the march as planned with 80 of his followers. They were given strict instructions not to resort to any kind of violence.
- (4) Thousands of people thronged the path from Sabarmati Ashram to Ahmedabad to witness the historic event.

- (5) At the end of every day, Gandhiji would address thousands of people and attack the government in his speeches.
- (6) On the morning of 6th April 1930, Gandhiji broke the salt law by making salt. Thousands of people followed suit.

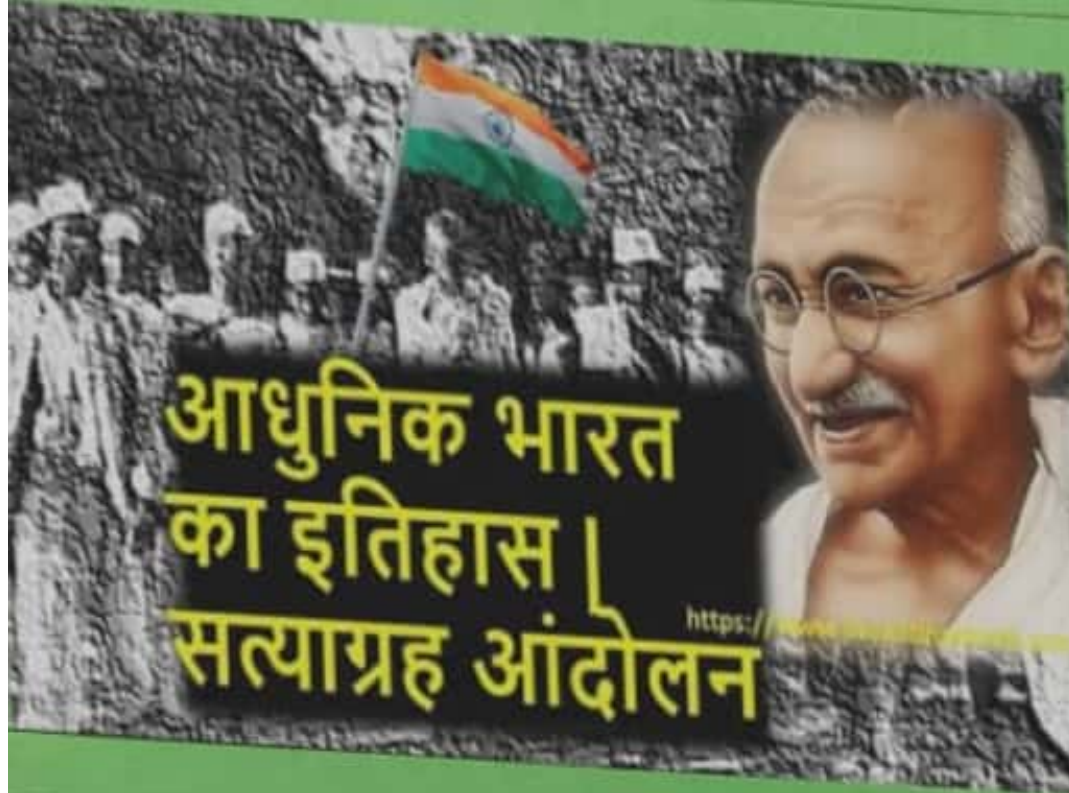
EFFECTS OF SATYAGRAHA MOVEMENT

- (1) Around 60,000 people including Gandhiji himself were arrested by the government.
- (2) There was widespread civil disobedience carried on by the people. Apart from the salt tax, other unpopular tax laws were being defied like the forest laws, land tax etc.
- (3) The Congress Party was declared illegal. But this did not deter the satyagrahis who continued movement.

- (4) There were some incidents of violence in Calcutta and Karachi but Gandhiji did not call off the movement unlike the previous time with the non-cooperation movement.
- (5) Foreign clothes were boycotted. Liquor shops were picketed. There were strikes all over.
- (6) As per the Gandhi - Irwin Pact, the civil disobedience movement would be ended and Indians, in return, would be allowed to make salt for domestic use. Lord Irwin also agreed to release the arrested Indians. Gandhiji attended the Second Round Table Conference in London as an 'equal'.

DRAWBACKS OF SATYAGRAHA MOVEMENT

- (1) The movement did not procure any major concessions from the government.







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