

Mahatma Gandhi – Father of the Nation

Mahatma Gandhi was one of the most influential leaders of the Indian freedom struggle. Born in 1869, he developed the philosophy of non-violence and truth, known as Ahimsa and Satyagraha. These principles became the foundation of India's struggle against British rule. Gandhi believed that freedom could be achieved through moral strength rather than violence. His ideas inspired millions of Indians to participate in peaceful protests and civil disobedience movements.

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Gandhi first applied Satyagraha in South Africa while fighting against racial discrimination. After returning to India, he led major movements such as the Non-Cooperation Movement, the Salt

March, and the Quit India Movement. These movements mobilized people from all sections of society including farmers, workers, and students. Gandhi's leadership transformed the freedom struggle into a mass movement.

The Salt March of 1930 was one of the most significant events led by Gandhi. By marching from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, he protested against the British salt tax. This simple act of defiance gained international attention and weakened British authority. The movement demonstrated the power of non-violent resistance.

Gandhi emphasized self-reliance through the promotion of Khadi and village industries. He believed economic independence was essential for political freedom. His vision of India was based on equality, communal harmony, and simple living. Even after independence, his principles continue to guide social and political movements.

