

Gandhi's Salt March

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Gandhi's Salt March: 95 Years of an Iconic Protest

Context

- **March 12, 2024**, marked **95 years** since **Mahatma Gandhi's Salt March (Dandi March)** against British rule.
- Began on **March 12, 1930**, from **Sabarmati Ashram (Ahmedabad, Gujarat)** and ended on **April 6, 1930**, at **Dandi**.
- Covered **240 miles (385 km)** with **78 followers**.
- **Broke the Salt Law**, launching the **Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-34)**.

Background: Why Salt?

- **British Salt Act of 1882** gave the **British a monopoly** over salt production and sale.
- Indians were **banned from making salt**, despite its availability.
- Gandhi chose salt as a **symbol of British oppression** to unite people.

Key Events

- **April 6, 1930** - Gandhi **produced salt at Dandi**, defying British law.
- **British declared the Indian National Congress illegal**.
- **Gandhi planned to raid the Dharasana Salt Works** but was **arrested and jailed**.
- **Abbas Tyabji** and later **Sarojini Naidu** led protests, facing **police violence**.

Spread of the Movement

- **Bengal** - **Satish Chandra Dasgupta** led a march to **Mahisbathan**.
- **Bombay** - **K.F. Nariman** led protests at **Haji Ali Point**.
- **Tamil Nadu** - **C. Rajagopalachari** led a march to **Vedaranyam**.
- **Malabar, Orissa, and Bihar** - Led by **Kelappan, Gopabandhu Chaudhary, and Acharya Kripalani**.

Other Forms of Resistance

- **Boycott of British goods** (cloth, liquor).

- **Non-payment of taxes** (Anti-Chowkidari Tax Movement).
 - **Tribal revolts** in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Central Provinces.
 - **Surya Sen's armed revolt in Chittagong** against British rule.
 - **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's Khudai Khidmatgars (Red Shirts)** led non-violent protests in NWFP.
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Significance

- **Global attention** from leaders like **Albert Einstein, Webb Miller**.
- **Weakened British rule**, proved **Satyagraha's power**.
- **Inspired future civil rights movements**, including **Martin Luther King Jr.'s fight against racial segregation**.
- Remains a **symbol of non-violent resistance** in India's independence struggle.



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