

# Civil Disobedience Movement

These notes are your ultimate revision weapon to revise Civil Disobedience Movement history. We've distilled years of previous exam questions (PYQs) into one powerful, concise resource. Everything you need to know, nothing you don't.

- **PYQs, Decoded:** All key concepts from past exams, organized and simplified.
- **Revise in Record Time:** Short, precise, and designed for last-minute review.
- **Focus on What Matters:** Master high-probability topics and boost your confidence.

## The Civil Disobedience Movement & The Dandi March

### 1. Authorization and Leadership



- The Indian National Congress authorized the launch of the movement at its **Lahore Session in 1929**.
- The Congress Working Committee met in **February 1930 at Sabarmati Ashram** and chose **Mahatma Gandhi** to lead the movement.
- It was launched to protest the British salt tax and laws and marked the **official beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement**.

### 2. The Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha)

- **Purpose:** To **break the Salt Law** (violate the government's salt monopoly) as a central act of civil disobedience. It was a symbolic challenge to British authority, not specifically to make salt free for the poor.
- **Start Date:** **March 12, 1930**
- **Route:**
  - **Starting Point:** Sabarmati Ashram

- **End Point:** The coastal village of **Dandi** in Gujarat
- **Duration & Distance:** Lasted **24 days** and covered **241 miles** (approx. 390 kilometers).
- **Climax:** On **April 6, 1930**, Mahatma Gandhi broke the salt law by boiling seawater to make salt at Dandi.
- **Nature:** An altogether **pedestrian march** (on foot).
- **Initial Participants:** Began with approximately **78-80 volunteers**.
- **Foreign Journalist:** American journalist **Webb Miller** stayed with Gandhi at Sabarmati Ashram during the march.

### 3. Participation and Spread

- The province with the **highest number of participants was Gujarat**.
- Participants came from all over India, including Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, and Bengal.
- **Women's participation** is considered to have been the **maximum** compared to other movements.
  - **Prominent women participants:** Sarojini Naidu, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and Kamla Devi Chattopadhyay.
- The movement quickly spread across India with similar protests:
  - **Vedaranyam March:** The second major salt march, led by **C. Rajagopalachari** on the **Tanjore coast (Tamil Nadu)** in **April 1930**. The route was from Trichinopoly (Tiruchirappalli) to Vedaranyam.
  - **Bhagalpur Satyagraha:** Led by **Mahadev Lal Sarraf**.
  - **Begusarai:** Agitation against the **Chaukidari Tax**.
  - **Manipur:** The **Jiatrang Movement**, led by the Naga tribal woman **Gaidinliu**.
  - **Bihar:** Women freedom fighters included **Prabhavati Devi** (from Patna), Rajvanshi Devi, Suniti Devi, and Radhika Devi.

### 4. Key Events and Leadership Post-Dandi

- **Dharsana Raid:** After Gandhi's arrest, Congress volunteers raided the Dharsana Saltworks.
  - **Sarojini Naidu** led the attack on the Dharsana Saltworks.

- The events were reported by American journalist **Webb Miller**.
- **Leadership Succession:**
  - **Abbas Taiyabji** took over leadership after Gandhi's arrest.
  - Sarojini Naidu led the Dharsana raid after Taiyabji's arrest.

## 5. The Khudai Khidmatgars (Red Shirts)

- **Founder & Leader: Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan** in the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP).
- **Also Known As:** 'Red Shirts' or 'Lal Kurti'.
- **Objectives:**
  - Promote Pathan regional nationalist unity.
  - Struggle against colonialism (to throw out the British).
  - Work for the improvement of low-wage workers.
- **Role:** Muslims of the NWFP actively participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement under this banner.
- **Publication:** Abdul Gaffar Khan started the periodical '**Dash Roja**'.

## 6. The Peshawar Incident (1930)

- **Event:** Soldiers of the **Garhwal Regiment** refused to fire on unarmed demonstrators in Peshawar.
- **Leader:** This act of defiance was led by **Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali**.
- **Context:** The protest was heavily influenced by the activities of the **Khudai Khidmatgar (Red Shirts)**.

## 7. Aftermath and Arrests

- **Gandhi's Arrest:** Arrested on **May 5, 1930** (during the Dharsana raid events) and sent to **Yerawada Jail**.
- **Other Arrests:** Many prominent leaders were arrested for violating the salt law, including **Madan Mohan Malviya, Devdas Gandhi, K.M. Munsi, B.G. Kher, and C. Rajagopalachari**.
- **Acharya Vinoba Bhave**, a close associate of Gandhi, was arrested for the first time in **1930** for participating.

- After the movement's failure, Gandhi focused on **constructive programs** and the welfare of **Harijans**.

## 8. Significance and Impact

- The immediate goal was the **repeal of the salt laws** and the **curtailment of the government's power**.
- It heavily **impacted the poor**.
- **Subhash Chandra Bose** compared its significance to **Napoleon's march from Elba to Paris**.

## 9. Chronological Context

- **Simon Commission Arrives:** February 3, 1928 (Before)
- **Dandi March:** March 12 - April 6, 1930
- **Gandhi-Irwin Pact:** March 5, 1931 (After)
- **Quit India Movement:** August 9, 1942 (Much Later)

## 10. Key Personalities Summary



Personality	Role
Mahatma Gandhi	Launched the movement; led the Dandi March; arrested May 1930.
Sarojini Naidu	Prominent participant; led the raid on the Dharsana Saltworks.
C. Rajagopalachari	Led the Vedaranyam Salt March in Tamil Nadu.
Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan	Founded the Khudai Khidmatgars (Red Shirts) in the NWFP.
Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali	Led the Garhwal Regiment's refusal to fire in Peshawar.
Abbas Taiyabji	Took over leadership of the Salt Satyagraha after Gandhi's arrest.
Webb Miller	American journalist who reported on the march and

	Dharsana raid.
Gaidinliu	Naga tribal woman who led the Jiatrang Movement in Manipur.
Mahadev Lal Sarraf	Led the Salt Satyagraha in Bhagalpur.
Acharya Vinoba Bhave	Gandhi associate, first arrested in 1930 for participation.
Prabhavati Devi	Woman freedom fighter from Patna, Bihar.

### **Know More About Civil Disobedience Movement:**

- [Civil Disobedience Movement -Old Year Questions and Answers](#)
- [Civil Disobedience Movement One Liner Questions & Answers](#)

