

Background of Salt Tax

The British government in India controlled the salt industry. They passed laws that stopped Indians from making their own salt. Everyone was forced to buy salt from the British, and it was sold at a high tax. Since salt is a daily need for cooking and health, this tax hurt poor people the most. Gandhi saw this law as a symbol of unfair British rule and decided to challenge it.

2. Why Gandhi Chose Salt

Gandhi chose salt because it was used by both rich and poor people. Unlike other issues, everyone needed salt, so it was easy to unite people around this cause. Gandhi wanted a protest that was simple and powerful, one that every Indian could understand. By choosing salt, he connected the freedom movement with ordinary people's lives.

3. The Beginning of the March

On 12 March 1930, Gandhi started the Salt March from Sabarmati Ashram with 78 of his followers. Their goal was to reach the village of Dandi in Gujarat. The march covered 240 miles and lasted 24 days. As Gandhi walked through villages, thousands of people joined him. What began with a small group soon became a mass movement, with people showing support everywhere.

4. Journey to Dandi

The march was not just a walk but a way to inspire people. Gandhi spoke in villages about freedom and justice. People saw his peaceful method and got motivated to join. By the time he reached Dandi, the march had become a national event, with crowds cheering and walking with him. The journey showed the power of unity and nonviolence.

5. Breaking the Salt Law

On 6 April 1930, Gandhi reached the beach at Dandi. In front of thousands of people, he picked up a handful of natural salt from the seashore. This was against British law, but it was done peacefully. This act was symbolic but very powerful. Soon after, people across India began making their own salt, openly breaking the unjust law and standing against British rule.

6. Impact of the Salt March

The Salt March sparked a wave of civil disobedience all across India. People boycotted British goods, protested peacefully, and refused to obey unfair laws. Many leaders and ordinary people were arrested, but this only strengthened the movement. The world media reported the Salt March, and Gandhi became internationally famous as a leader of peace and justice. The march united Indians and became a turning point in the freedom struggle.