

**AXIA IAS ACADEMY**  
**An Institute for Civil Services**

**Essential Points on Civil Disobedience Movement**

**Introduction to the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM)**

- **Launch Date:** 12th March 1930 with the Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha).
  - **Significance:** Marked a shift from non-cooperation to active mass resistance against British laws.
  - **Key Tactic:** Non-violent refusal to obey unjust laws, including the Salt Law, land revenue, and foreign goods tax.
  - **Leader:** Mahatma Gandhi, with widespread support from Congress and other nationalists.
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**Key Events and Developments**

**1. The Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha)**

- **Started:** 12 March 1930, from Sabarmati Ashram (Ahmedabad) to Dandi (Gujarat).
- **Distance Covered:** 385 km in 24 days.
- **Participation:** Thousands joined Gandhi on the way.
- **Breaking of Salt Law:** 6 April 1930—Gandhi made salt from seawater at Dandi, symbolizing defiance.
- **Impact:** Inspired similar salt-making protests across the country.

**2. Spread of the Movement**

- Mass participation in different regions:
- Bengal: Led by Satish Chandra Dasgupta.
- Bombay: Led by K.F. Nariman.
- Tamil Nadu: C. Rajagopalachari led a Trichinopoly to Vedaranniyam salt march.
- Malabar: K. Kelappan led protests.

- Orissa: Led by Gopabandhu Chaudhary.
- Bihar: Led by Acharya Kripalani, Ram Briksha Benipuri, Prof. Abdul Bari.

### **3. Government Repression**

- British Reaction: Mass arrests, beatings, and violent suppression.
- Arrests: Over 60,000 people jailed, including Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, and many leaders.
- Dharasana Salt Raid (May 1930): Led by Sarojini Naidu and Abbas Tyabji, met with brutal police violence (recorded by American journalist Webb Miller).

### **4. Civil Disobedience Beyond Salt**

- Boycotts: British goods, liquor, and foreign cloth.
- Tax Resistance: Non-payment of land revenue and village police tax (Chowkidari tax).
- Peasant Protests: Tribal forest satyagraha in Central Provinces, Maharashtra, Karnataka.
- Revolutionary Activities: Surya Sen's Chittagong Armoury Raid (1930).
- North-West Frontier Province: Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan's Khudai Khidmatgars (Red Shirts).

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### **Why Salt?**

- Symbol of British Exploitation: 1882 Salt Act gave British a monopoly on salt production and taxation.
- Daily Necessity: Affected rich and poor alike.
- Easily Defiable Law: Could be broken non-violently, making mass participation possible.

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### **The Gandhi-Irwin Pact (Delhi Pact) – March 1931**

#### **Background**

- Gandhi's 11-Point Demands (Jan 1930): Called for abolition of Salt Tax, reduction in land revenue, and release of political prisoners.
- Viceroy Irwin's Response: Ignored demands; led to the Salt March.

## Terms of the Pact

### ✓ **Government Concessions:**

1. Withdrawal of repressive laws and ordinances.
2. Release of political prisoners (except those accused of violence).
3. Right to peaceful picketing of foreign goods and liquor shops.
4. Restoration of confiscated properties of Satyagrahis.
5. Leniency for resigned government employees.

### ✓ **Congress Concessions:**

1. Suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement.
2. Participation in the Second Round Table Conference (1931).

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### **Outcomes of the Civil Disobedience Movement**

1. **Mass Mobilization:** Involved peasants, women, tribals, and workers in unprecedented numbers.
2. **Strengthened Congress:** Established Congress as a national movement, not just an elite struggle.
3. **British Repression and Concessions:** Though the movement was suppressed, British were forced to negotiate with Gandhi.
4. **Set the Stage for Future Struggles:** Inspired Quit India Movement (1942).

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### **MCQ Based on the Gandhi-Irwin Pact (2020 CSE Question)**

Q. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact included which of the following?

1. Invitation to Congress to participate in the Round Table Conference.
2. Withdrawal of Ordinances promulgated in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement.
3. Acceptance of Gandhiji's suggestion for an enquiry into police excesses.
4. Release of only those prisoners who were not charged with violence.

**Answer: (b) 1, 2, and 4 only (Statement 3 is incorrect).**

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- **Dandi March was the symbolic start of the Civil Disobedience Movement.**

- **It quickly spread nationwide, incorporating tax resistance, boycotts, and mass protests.**

- **The British repressed it violently but ultimately had to negotiate.**

- **Gandhi-Irwin Pact led to temporary suspension but paved the way for further nationalist movements.**