

CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAH



Why in News?

An exhibition titled **"SWACHHAGRAHA" BAPU KO KARYANJALI, EK ABHIYAN, EK PRADARSHANI** was held in Delhi to mark the **100 years** of historic **Satyagraha in Champaran**.

About the Exhibition

April 10th, 2018 marks **100 years** of the Champaran Satyagraha and was celebrated through the **"Satyagraha se Swachhagraha"** campaign, which is aimed at achieving **Freedom From Uncleanliness**.

Mahatma Gandhi launched the Champaran Satyagraha on **10th April, 1917**, to give the country **freedom from foreign rule**.

The Exhibition

Is a tribute to Gandhiji for his **FIRST experiment** of Satyagraha at Champaran in India.

Is to link the principles of **Satyagraha** with **Swachhagraha**.

Is an attempt to sensitize future generations to contribute in **Swachh Bharat Mission** for a **Clean India**.

About the Champaran Satyagrah (1917)

The Champaran Satyagrah was

A **Historic Mass Movement** of **20th century** led by Mahatma Gandhi.

The **First Satyagraha** and the **First Non-Violence** action initiated by Gandhiji in India.



The **First Civil Disobedience** of unjust order in India.

Towards end of **19th century**, **German synthetic dye** forced indigo out of market.

Planters left with no option but to release peasants, tried to turn situation to their advantage, **demanding enhancement** in rent and other **illegal dues** for releasing peasants.

Gandhiji was invited by **Rajkumar Shukla** to look into the problems of the indigo planters of Champaran in **Bihar**.

The Europeans forced peasants to grow indigo instead of food crops on **3/20** of their land under the **Tinkathia System**.

The Peasants were left helpless as

The peasants were forced to sell the produce at prices fixed by the **Europeans** that was too less.

The price was calculated on the basis of **cultivated area** rather than the produced crop.

The peasants were not allowed to shift to other crops unless they pay **illegal dues**.

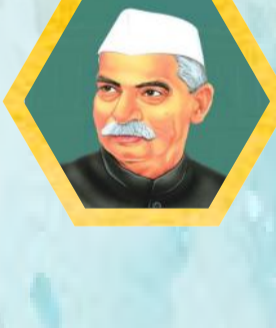
The peasants were being **charged exorbitant compensation** if they asked relieving from the contracts.

Other Activists of The Champaran Satyagrah (1917)

Rajendra Prasad

Mahadeo Desai

J.B. Kriplani



Mazhar-ul-Haq

Narhari Parekh

Gandhiji reached Champaran to probe into the matter, the **Authorities Ordered** him to leave the place at once.

The Government not used to treat Gandhiji as a **rebel**, **relented** and set up a commission to look into the issue and **nominated** Gandhiji as a member.

Planters agreed to **refund** only **25%** of **money** illegally extracted

Besides it, Gandhiji also delved with other local issues of that area. E.g. Women issues and **Social problems** like scavenging, illiteracy, **health** etc.

Outcome of Champaran Satyagrah

Gandhiji **refused** to leave, it was the first instance of **civil disobedience** in India, all leaders until now protested but obeyed orders.

Gandhiji convinced the **commission** that

- The **Tinkathia** should be done away with.
- The peasants should be compensated for the **illegal enhancement** of dues.

Why not full refund? - Gandhiji said even this refund has done enough damage to **planters'** prestige and position - within a decade planters left

Gains From Champaran Satyagrah

This civil disobedience of an unjust order became a **Novel Method** at that time.

Gandhiji became one of the **frontrunner** of **Indian National Movement**.

This incident heralded the advent of **Gandhian Era**

Gandhiji won the first battle of the people the efficacy of **Satyagrah**.

Gandhiji won the first battle of **Civil Disobedience** in India.

Conclusion

"Satyagraha" has been re-interpreted as **"Swachhagraha"**. In the words of Prime Minister "working for cleanliness will be the real **Karyanjali to Babu**".

