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Que: What is Civil Disobedience Movement? What is the significance of Civil Disobedience Movement in the independence of India? [250W].

Ans: Civil Disobedience, also called passive resistance, is the professed refusal of a citizen to obey certain laws, demands, orders or commands of a government.

The idea of Civil Disobedience was given by Henry David Thoreau in his essay Civil Disobedience, and later adopted by Gandhiji in his doctrine of Satyagraha.

* CAUSES OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT:-

1. Formation of the Simon Commission
2. Demand for Dominion Status
3. Protests against the arrest of social revolutionaries

In India, Civil Disobedience began with Dandi March from Sabarmati to Dandi. On 6th April 1930 Gandhiji picked up a handful of salt and broke salt law.

With Gandhi's symbolic breaking of salt law at Dandi, defiance of salt laws started all over the country.

Dharasana Satyagraha was one of the protest against the British salt tax in colonial India.

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Apart from defiance of salt laws, the other forms of non-violent protests included:

1. In north west frontier provinces the leader of C.D.M was Khan Abdul Gaffar whose party of Khuddai Khidmatgar (Red shirts) helped in the movement.
2. In Bihar, anti-chowkidara tax campaign was initiated where villages refused to pay protection money to the local guards.
3. In Kerala, it was lead by K. Kelappan launched the Vaikom Satyagraha.

Nearly 90,000 people belonging to all social groups spread over the whole of India participated whole heartedly in this movement.

* SIGNIFANCE OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF INDIA:

↳ Thousands of people in different parts of the country broke the salt law, manufactured salt. Breaking of salt law began as it was need of common man and 8 to 10% British revenue share.

↳ As this movement spread, foreign clothes were boycotted & liquor shops were picketed.

- ↳ People were asked to disobey upto an extent to break the colonial laws.
- ↳ Peasants refused to pay revenue and Chaukidari taxes.
- ↳ In different places in India different laws were broken. Ex: Revenue laws, Forest laws, Cunningham circulars.

CONCLUSION

The Civil Disobedience Movement, the second nationalist mass struggle in the history of Indian nationalism. It proved political awakening among the Indian people. Even the peasants were drawn into the nationalist struggle to a greater extent.