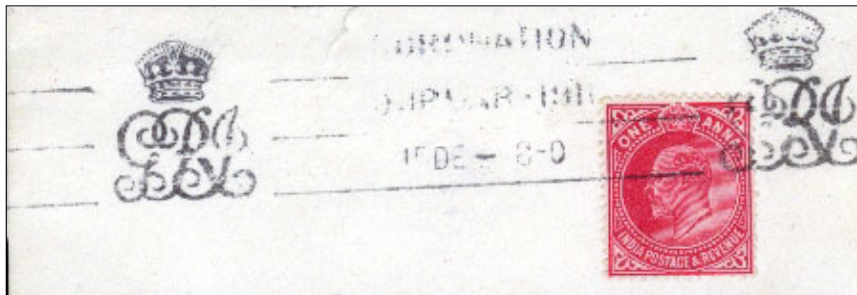


## Boycott of KGV Coronation in Durban (1911)

Due to the unresponsiveness of the British Government to the calls of its Indian citizens in South Africa for justice, Gandhi urged the boycott of the coronation celebrations in Durban. At the same time, he affirmed his loyalty to the Crown.



India (1911): "Queen Empress Camp PO" and "King Emperor Camp PO" cancels from the coronation celebrations in Calcutta.



India (1911): Uncommon Coronation Durbar Rolling cancel on piece, with 1anna Edward VII stamp. Used 15 December 1911.



Little cover mailed to Ireland with 1 anna postage and the "GRI" Coronation Durbar 1911 cancel.



India (1911): Very early usage of a "Coronation Durbar" CDS.

India (1911): Durbar cancels from Calcutta and Delhi are common, ones from Madras are not. Note rolling cancel from Chelsea England.





The Harijan Movement- Fighting Untouchability (1916)

Immediately upon returning to India, Gandhi initiated dialog on the Hindu caste system. He particularly spoke out against the “untouchability” practice.

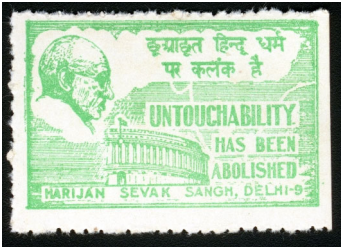
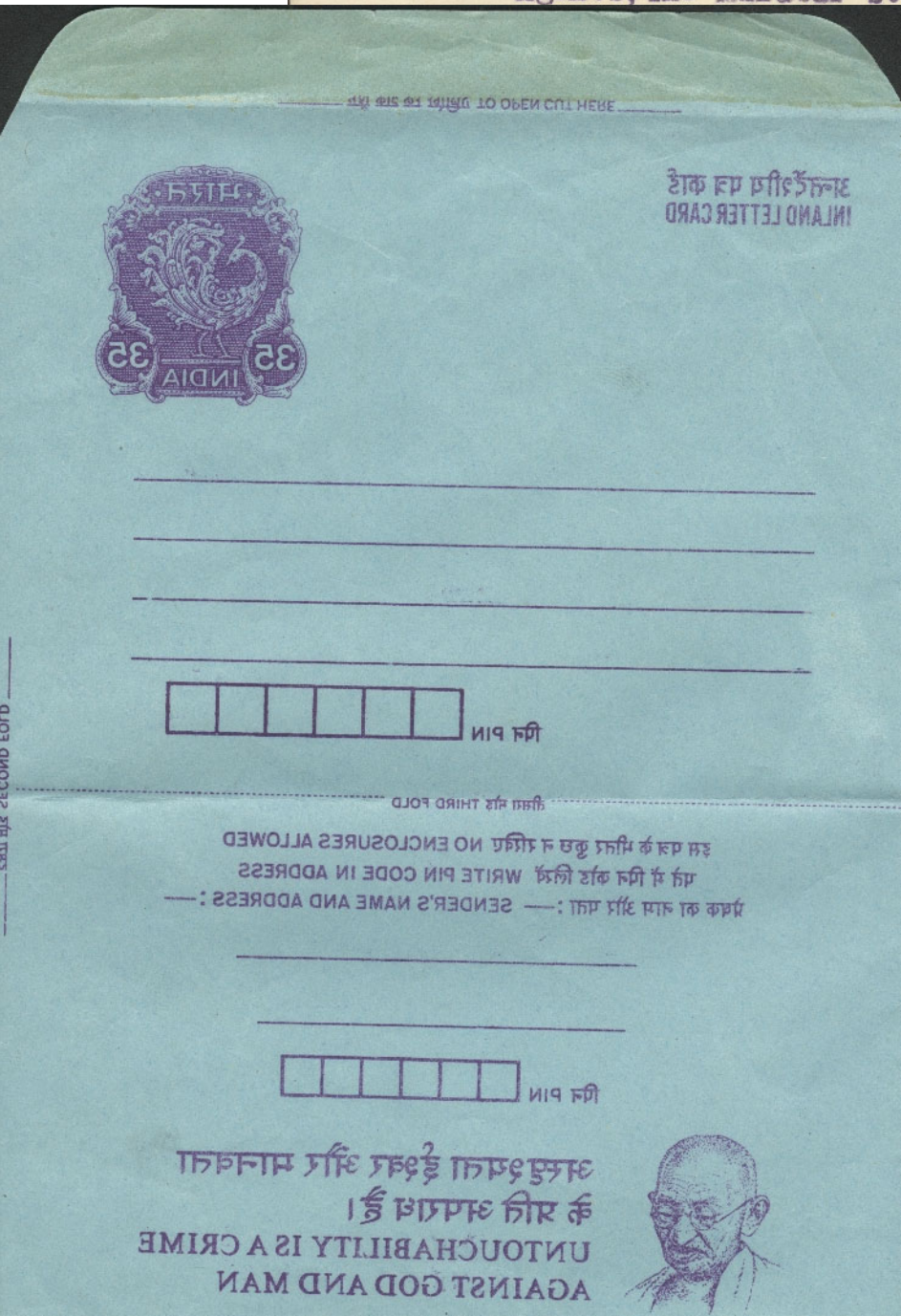
A crowning achievement in this area came in the 1937, when Gandhi convinced the Royal family in Travancore to open the doors of its main Temples to untouchables after centuries of locking them out.



Capt, J . S . G o n s a l v e s  
C/o, Messrs, Vallabhdas Kanji .  
Agents, The Malabar Steamship Co, Ltd.

Alleppey.  
re - State )

Travancore (1931): Princely state’s stamps shownign the Padmanabha Temple and sacred chariots, which were off-limits to untouchables until the “Temple Entry Bill” was signed.



India (1940s): Slogan in this label claims prematurely that “Untouchability has been abolished”, with a portrait of Gandhi in the foreground and the Parliament Building in the background.

India (1984): Slogans like this, quoting Gandhi on several social issues, are common in Indian stationery, except when printed on the gum side in reverse.



## Fighting for Peasants' Rights (1915-1918)

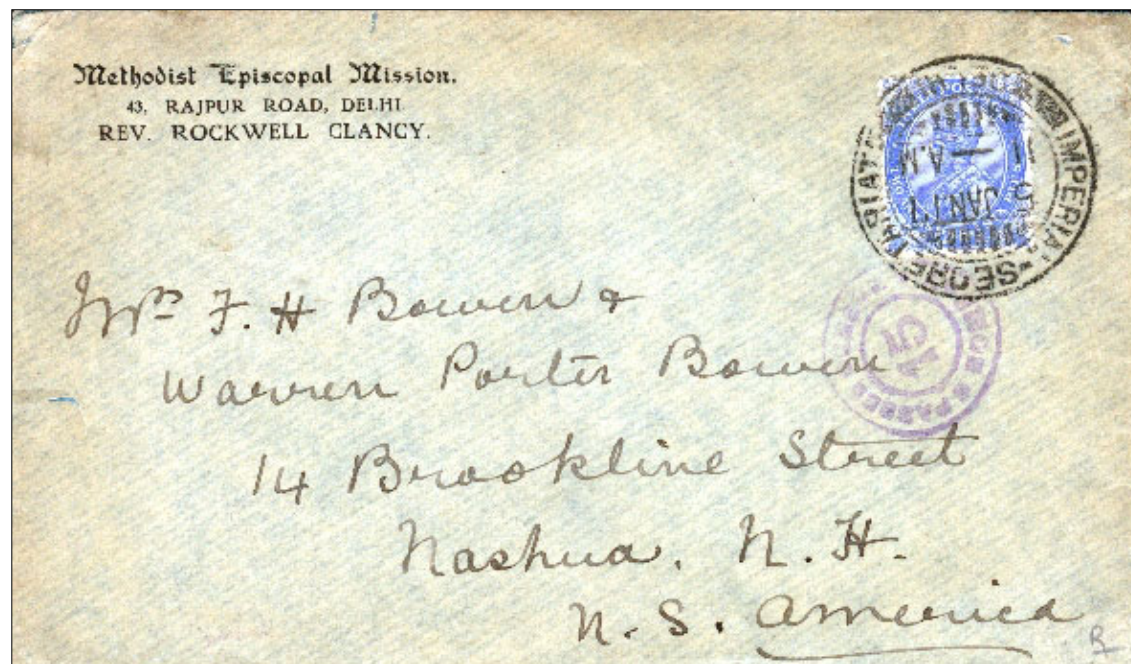
Gandhi, encouraged by the success in Champaran [where he successfully defended Indigo farmers against ruthless English landlords], organized peasants in Gujarat [western India] against regressive land taxes imposed by the Bombay Provincial government. This was later called the “Kheda Satyagraha”.



Gambia (1998) and Sierra Leone (1998): Gandhi, as he was in 1915-16, after his return to India from South Africa, is pictured in the three stamps above. This was when he began organizing a successful protest against the persecution of Indigo farmers in the Himalayan foothills.

India (1998): Gandhi shown in stamp that features the theme of peasants' rights.

The effort by Gandhi in Champaran paid off dramatically. Despite objections from the English landlords in Bihar, the Imperial secretariat in Delhi issued regulations that reversed several despicable practices in 1917.



India (1917): Cover with rare Imperial Secretariat Cancel mailed from Delhi to USA. Note WWI censor marking.



# Boycott of Prince of Wales Royal Visit (1921-22)

On July 10<sup>th</sup> 1921, Gandhi had suggested that while he would “extend the heartiest welcome to His Royal Highness if he came without official patronage”, a boycott directed at “the insolent bureaucracy and dishonest ministers of His Majesty” was in order.

The Prince of Wales visited the Indian subcontinent from November 1921 to March 1922. The special cancellation with the Royal Insignia of the Prince of Wales was used for mail sent by the Royal entourage along the route shown below.



India (1922): Royal Visit Special Cancellation. The last day of the official visit was March 17<sup>th</sup> 1922 in Karachi. Shown above is the cancellation on the entire set of British India stamps in circulation at that time—up to a value of 1 Rupee. The paper used to mount the stamps bears Royal Insignia as a watermark.



6f. Architect of Civil Disobedience: Boycott of Prince of Wales' Royal Visit [1921-1922]

Anticipating mass protests in the British Presidencies in answer to Gandhi's calls for boycott, most public events and celebrations were restricted to Indian Princely States loyal to the British Crown.

India (1922): Prince of Wales Camp P.O.  
Late use of 1899 Officials (w/o "Gwalior"  
OVPT) for the 9p rate from Gwalior to  
Bombay. Gwalior was one of the princely  
states where the Royal party spent 4 days  
[8-11 February].



Jawaharlal Nehru and his father were arrested in Allahabad a few days before the Prince arrived. This was memorable- Nehru's first of many imprisonments by the British government.

India (1922): Prince of Wales Camp  
P.O. Block of 1905 ¼a surcharges  
from Allahabad (Dec 12<sup>th</sup>).

Congress volunteers in Bengal were declared illegal just before the Prince arrived. Christmas day in Calcutta, busy Capital of British India, was eerie and silent- with all businesses essentially closed.

India (1922): Prince of Wales Camp  
P.O. Block of 1899 ¼a surcharges  
from Calcutta (Dec 24<sup>th</sup>).





6f. Architect of Civil Disobedience: Boycott of Prince of Wales' Royal Visit [1921-1922]

Coinciding with the Royal Visit to Delhi, Gandhi had abruptly calling off the boycott, as a result of a riot in a small town (*Chauri Chauria*) that led to policemen being killed by an angry mob. Gandhi perceived the violent turn of the boycott as his greatest setback to civil disobedience.

India (1922): Mail from Delhi to Malwan (near the Portuguese enclave of Goa) and redirected to Ratnagiri (delivery backstamps on back).

With Gandhi fasting for calm, the nationwide movement came to a grinding halt, despite strong objections from prominent Congress leaders. The Royal party traveled through the Punjab.



India (1922): Mailed from the Princely state of Patiala to Bombay (Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>) at the postcard rate. Note delivery markings on the same side—preserves picture on the other side.

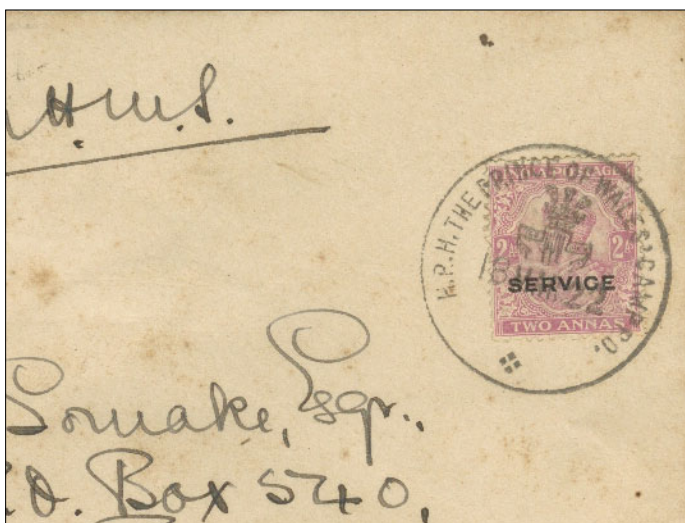
The Royal visit ended in Karachi, with the Prince leaving on the evening of March 17<sup>th</sup> 1922.

It was a learning experience for Gandhi, who later wrote that the scale of this boycott was much larger than in South Africa and that he should have moved slower



The Bombay riots were just the first of several instances when Gandhi's hopes for a "civil" unrest during the Royal visit were dashed by mob violence. Riots in Madras followed and *Chauri Chauria* put an end to mass protests in the Punjab, as they travelled through Rawalpindi.

India (1922): Although used in Rawalpindi, this cover was franked with a 1903 Patiala 2a "Service".



India (1922): Prince of Wales Camp P.O. This cover is unusual on two counts:

- ❖ Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> was the day AFTER the official end of the Royal Visit.
- ❖ Unlike all other Camp PO cancels, this has a different design at the bottom of the CDS (diamond dots— not solid bar).



## The Simon Commission Boycott (1928)

Section 84-A of the Government of India Act of 1919, laid down that a Commission be appointed at the expiration of ten years after its passage. The all-white Commission was constituted under the chairmanship of Sir John Allsebrook Simon under a Royal warrant on November 26, 1927 and sent to India to study and recommend prospects for its political future. Gandhi and all of Congress called for its boycott, which began in Bombay.



Original artist's watercolor essay of Scottish local, depicting Simon Commission protests in Bombay.

Lala Lajpat Rai from Punjab, a journalist who edited *Young India* before Gandhi took over the magazine, was a prominent leader of the INC who led the protests. In what was apparently political blunder, Rai was severely beaten by the police during the protests and ultimately succumbed to his injuries a few months later.



India (1965): Lala Lajpat Rai.



# Dandi March Against Salt Tax (1930)



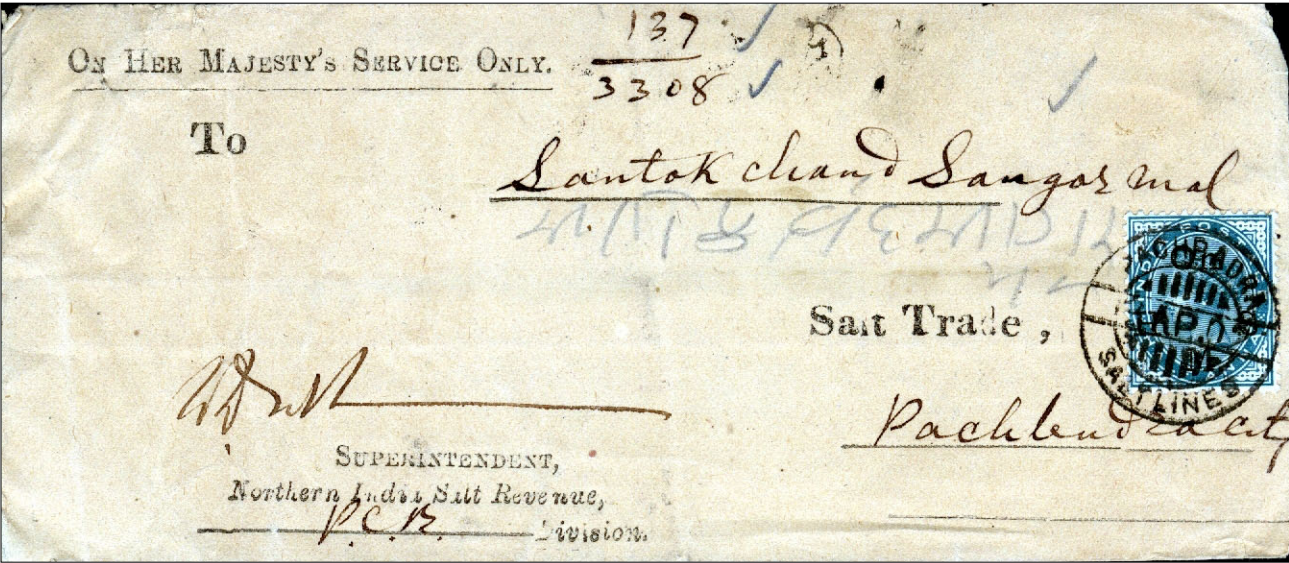
India (1969): Gandhi Marching to Dandi.

March 12, 1930. Sixty-one year old Gandhi, along with 78 other residents of the *Sabarmati* Ashram, started the historic march to the sea to make salt, in defiance of the existing Salt Laws of the British Government. The destination was a seaside fishing village *Dandi* and the event turned out to be one of the most significant in the annals of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

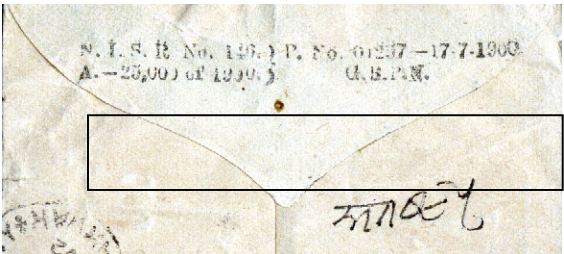


Ghana (1998): Gandhi and his supporters on their march to Dandi.

Salt Tax in British India. Enacted following the Salt Commission of 1836, salt tax had grown to represent over 95 percent of the price of salt by 1930! Salt and land taxes [imposing disproportionate burden on the poor peasants] added up to over a fifth of the overall Indian tax burden. In 1905, people in India were taxed twice as heavily as those in England and three times as those in Scotland.



Salt Tax Demand Notice. Mailed in 1902 to a salt trader in the desert region in NW India. Unusual in that these were often mailed “unpaid” with 1 anna postage due to secure delivery [not ½ anna On HMS, as shown here]. Note the printing on the flap shown below– 25,000 such notices printed in 1900 just by the NISR region!



It was Gandhi’s genius that he made enormous political capital out of an issue that was not very uncommon in history. Ancient Romans used salt from Palestine as soldiers’ compensation [hence the word “salary”]. Successive Chinese dynasties controlled vast regions with imperial salt taxes and inequities in salt tax [Gabelle] played a critical role in the French Revolution.



# Dandi March Route Cancels

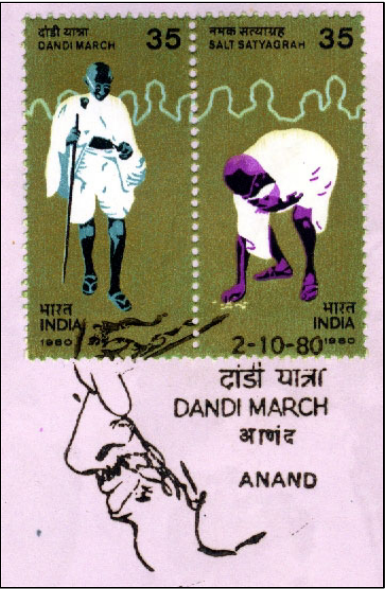
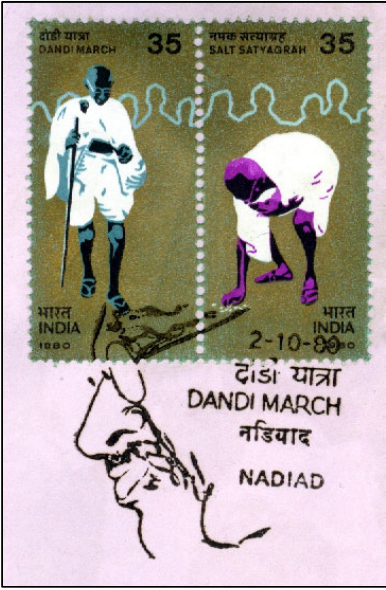
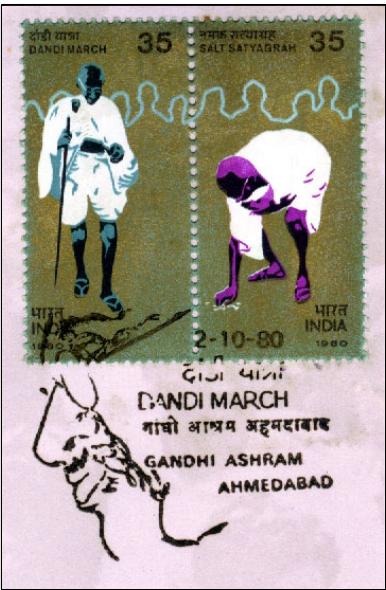
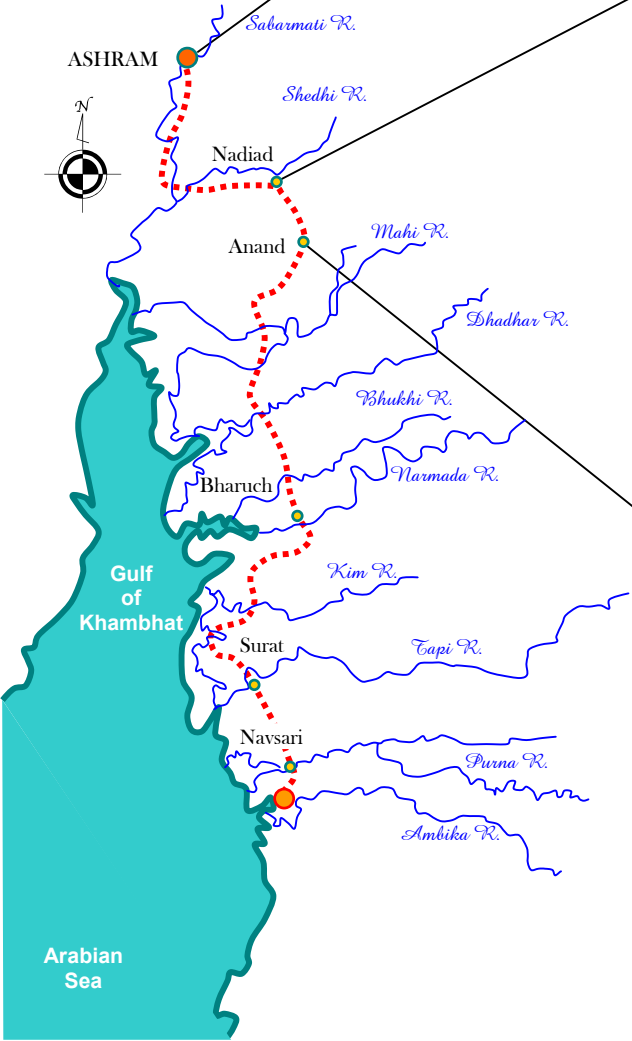
The 241 mile long trek from *Ahmedabad* to *Dandi* took 25 days. Gandhi's main purpose of the effort was to rally ordinary Indians against unjust laws and taxes imposed by the British government. To this end, he addressed huge crowds in every town, which limited the marchers to less than 10 miles a day.

Shown here are first day cancellations from the seven major towns along the route. The se-tenant issue commemorated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic civil disobedience event.

March 12<sup>th</sup> 1930, Ahmedabad. Marchers depart *Sabarmati Ashram* at 6:30 AM.

March 15<sup>th</sup>, Nadiad. Gandhi addresses *Satyagrahis* [civil disobedience volunteers] on moral strategy.

March 17<sup>th</sup>, Anand. Gandhi appealed to the public for non-violence if arrested.





# ...Dandi March Route Cancels

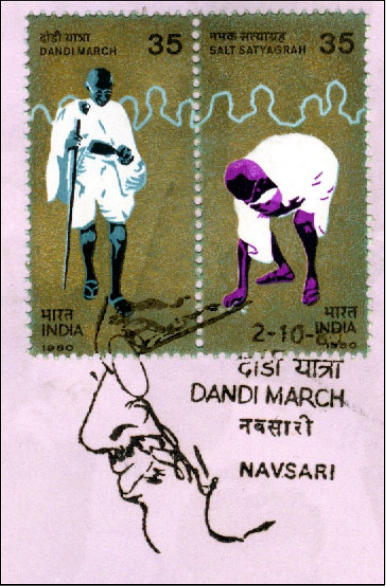
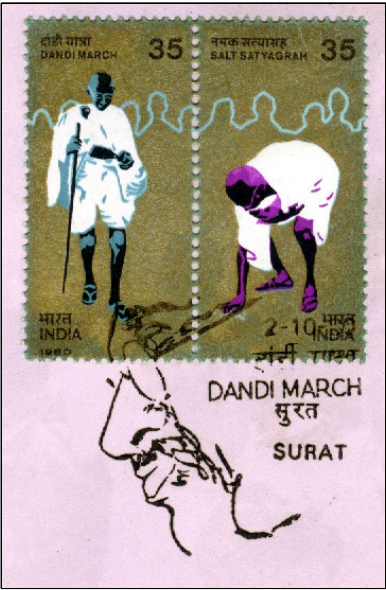
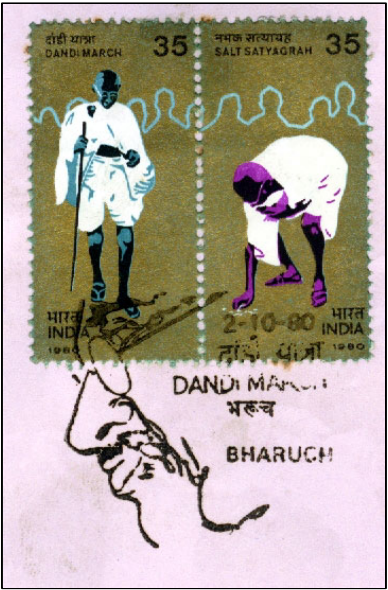
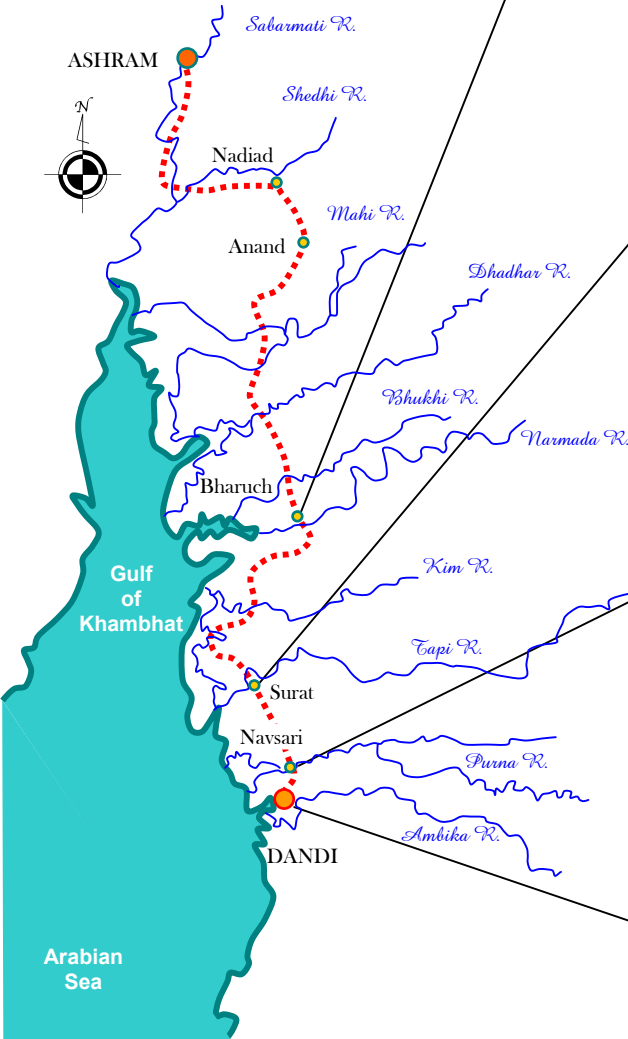
The “Salt Satyagraha”, as it was called, captured the imagination of millions of poor Indians and galvanized sympathizers around the world!

March 26<sup>th</sup> 1930, Bharuch. Gandhi addressed public on Hindu Muslim Unity.

April 1<sup>st</sup>, Surat. Gandhi spoke to volunteers and public.

April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Navsari. Gandhi emphasized the need for greater self-purification among volunteers and pilgrims of the March.

April 5<sup>th</sup>, Dandi. After reaching the sea shore, Gandhi issued a statement to the Associated Press, sent a Message to America and advised the public not to eat salt supplied by the government.





6h. Architect of Civil Disobedience Dandi March Against Salt Tax [1930]

On the salt march with Gandhi was Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, then the most prominent woman in the Indian Nationalist Movement. Succeeding Gandhi as President of the Indian National Congress, she set the stage for acceptability of women in Indian Politics.



Ghana (1998): Gandhi shown marching with Mrs. Naidu to Dandi.



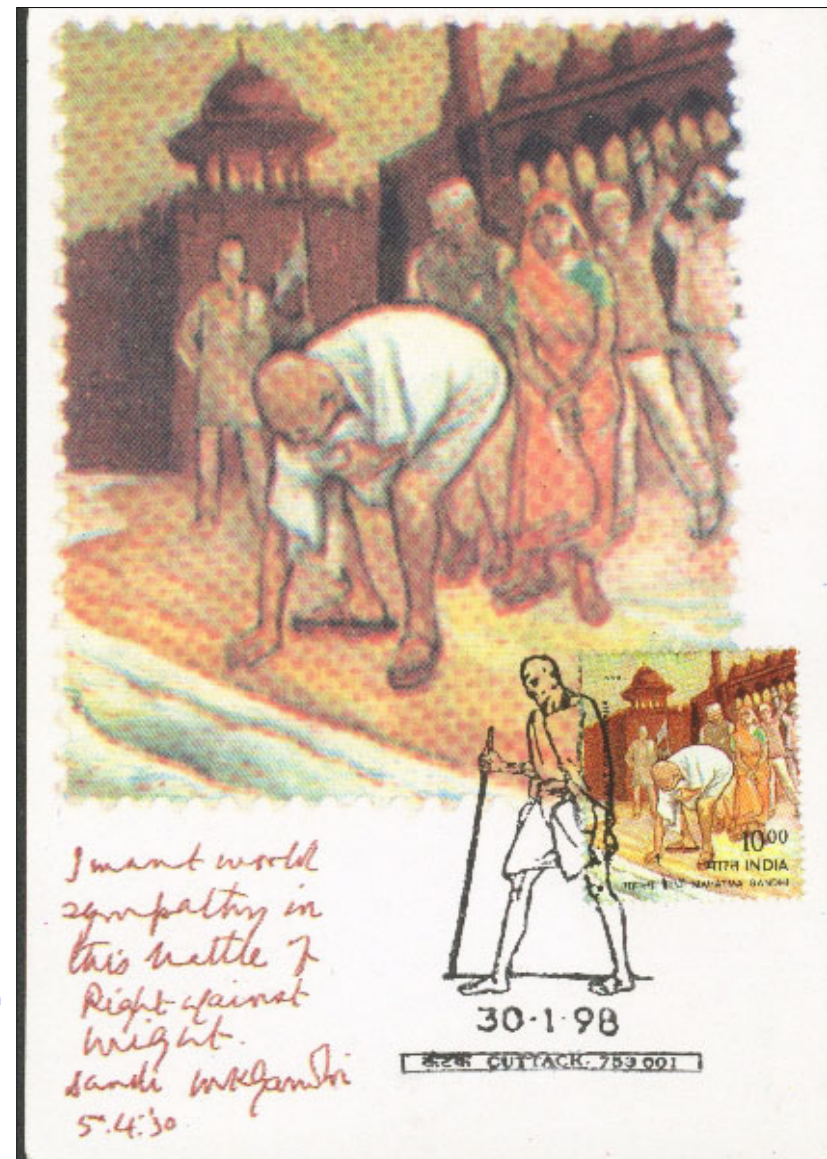
St. Vincent (1999): Stamp showing Mrs. Naidu marching with Gandhi. Registered airmail to the USA: EC90c postage + EC\$2.25 [additional postage in the back].

April 6, 1930. The day began with early morning prayers and a ritual bath in the sea by Gandhi and his followers. This was followed by Gandhi picking a lump of salt from a prepared bed by the sea. This image of Gandhi, captured in many of the stamps, is as symbolic as the tossing of tea overboard in the Boston Tea Party.



Ghana (1998): Gandhi picking salt from the sea at Dandi.

India (1998): Maximum card showing the April 5<sup>th</sup> press release (see Title Page), stamp showing Gandhi picking salt and first day cancel showing him on the march to Dandi.





# Fighting Separate Electorates and Provinces (1932-42)

As an extension of the divide-and-rule policy, the British government proposed to create ethnically divided provinces within India. This ‘separate but equal’ policy was vehemently opposed by Gandhi.

Gandhi and Congress negotiated on details of British plans with several leaders in New Delhi and the provinces. One of the leaders Congress negotiated with in 1937 was the Governor of the newly formed Punjab Province.



India (1937): Very early use of the “Punjab Governor’s Camp PO” CDS, during the period of bitter negotiations with Gandhi and the Indian National Congress.



One of the other leaders Gandhi negotiated with in 1937 was the Governor of the United Provinces, Sir William Hailey. Gandhi met with him in Nainital, location of the Governor’s camp in the Himalayan foothills.

India (1937): An error led to brief usage of “U.P. Govt. Camp”, instead of “U.P. Governor’s Camp” on the CDS. Mailed to London from Nainital during the period mentioned above.

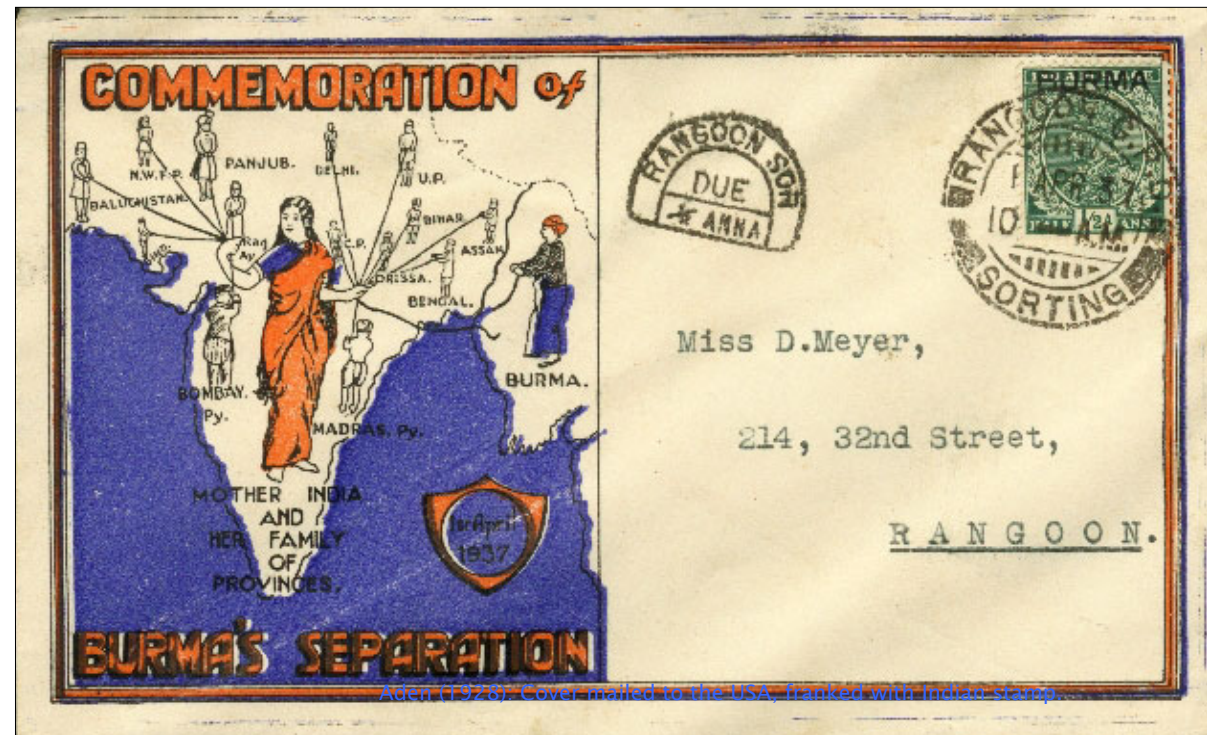


6i. Architect of Civil Disobedience: Fighting Separate Electorates and Provinces [1932-1942]

Also proposed was a system of separating some of the outlying provinces that had very little in common with India. Gandhi or the Indian National Congress did not oppose this measure vigorously. Aden and Burma were part of the Indian administration for several decades. This included the civil services and the post office, which used Indian stamps without any overprints.

Burma and Aden were officially separated from Indian administration on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1937.

Burma (1937):  
Commemorative  
FDCs of the new  
“BURMA” stamps  
with interesting  
cachets  
representing the  
separation with  
dramatic artistic  
license!



Aden (1936): Cover mailed to the USA, franked with Indian stamps.



Aden (1936): Indian Post Office mail to England from the Arabian Peninsula, in the final months before administrative separation.



6i. Architect of Civil Disobedience: Fighting Separate Electorates and Provinces [1932-1942]

Along with this political change that Gandhi did not oppose, ended a significant era in Indian philatelic history. Indian stamps were used without overprints in southeast Asia, the Persian Gulf and east Africa since the 1860s.



India Used Abroad: Stamps from Victorian British India used in the Persian Gulf (Bushire in Iran, Basrah in Iraq), Zanzibar in East Africa and Strait Settlements in Southeast Asia.

Bushire, Iran (1907): Uncommon local use of stamp from Edwardian India.



Kabul, Afghanistan (1924): Mixed franking with local Afghan stamp and British Indian stamps for transit to Europe.



## Quit India Movement (1942-1947)

With no relief in sight on legislation regarding home rule, Congress embarked on the “Quit India Movement” in 1942.



India (1967): FDC commemorating the silver jubilee of the Quit India movement. The statue shows in as famous in India as the one depicting the erection of the American flag at *Iwo Jima* is in the US.



India (1992): 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Quit India Movement. Stamps depicting Gandhi's writing during the Quit India movement, which roughly translates: “achieve it or die in the process of trying”. Simplified to “Do or Die”!

One individual who made a last ditch effort to negotiate away a major boycott by Congress was Sir Stafford Cripps. As a member of Churchill's war cabinet, he visited India to make Congress an offer that was summarily rejected. He did not have any room to negotiate and was said to have his “arms and legs tied” by Prime Minister Churchill, who did not want full independence for India in any form.

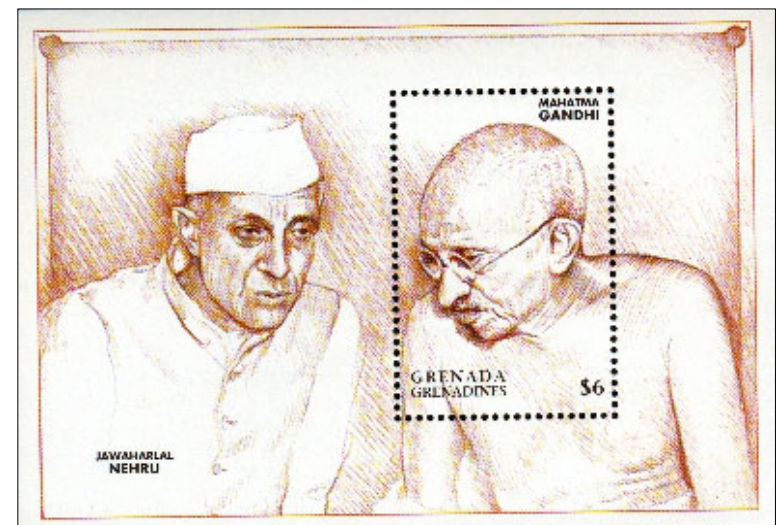


Scottish Local (1979): Progressive color proofs showing Gandhi and Cripps, with no annotation to that effect.

The All India Congress Committee passed the “Quit India resolution” in August 1942. A full draft titled “My Appeal to the British”, written by Gandhi, was forwarded in advance by Nehru for publication in America and dissemination to the West.



India (1983) and Grenada (1998): Gandhi and Nehru stamps based on photograph taken at the meeting where the Quit India resolution was declared.





## Boycott of WWII Victory Celebrations (1945)

The only Indian Nationalists to celebrate victory in WWII with the British were Jinnah and the Muslim League, who broke ranks with Gandhi to support the British War effort.

Barely six weeks after the end of WWII, the process was underway for commemorative Victory philatelically.

Unlike most British colonies that issued the omnibus design, the "Victory" stamps printed in India had their own unique design.



India (1945): [Essays submitted for approval, signed by the Head Engraver and Officiating Master of the India Security Press.](#)

Includes both the unadopted (top) and adopted (left) designs.

Unique at this stage of the design process, based on records available to the King George VI Philatelic Society.