



## 100 Years of Chauri Chaura Incident

**For Prelims:** Chauri Chaura incident, Non-Cooperation Movement, Khilafat movement.

**For Mains:** Incidence of Chauri Chaura, its background and its aftermath effects, Indian national movement.

### Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the heroes of freedom struggle on completion of the hundred years of [Chauri Chaura incident](#).

- Chauri Chaura is a town in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- On **4<sup>th</sup> February, 1922**, this town witnessed a violent incident - a large crowd of peasants set fire to a police station that killed 22 policemen. Due to this incident, [Mahatma Gandhi](#) called off the [Non-Cooperation Movement \(1920-22\)](#).

### What is the Background of the Incident?

- On 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1920, Gandhiji had launched the **Non-Cooperation Movement** against the government.
  - It involved using [swadeshi](#) and **boycott of foreign goods**, especially machine made cloth, and legal, educational and administrative institutions, "refusing to assist a ruler who misrules".
- In the winter of 1921-22, **volunteers of the Congress and the Khilafat Movement were organized** into a national volunteer corps.
  - [Khilafat Movement](#) was a **pan-Islamic force** in India that arose in 1919 in an effort to salvage the Ottoman caliph as a symbol of unity among the Muslim community in India during the British raj.
  - The Congress supported the movement and **Mahatma Gandhi sought to conjoin it to the Non-Cooperation Movement**.

### What was the incidence of Chauri Chaura and the Aftermath reactions?

- **Chauri Chaura Incident:**
  - On 4<sup>th</sup> February, volunteers congregated in the town, and after the meeting, proceeded in a procession to the local police station, and to picket the nearby Mundera bazaar.
  - The police **fired into the crowd killing some people and injuring many volunteers**.
  - **In retaliation**, the crowd proceeded to set the police station on fire.
  - Some of the policemen who tried to **escape were caught and battered to death**. A lot of police property, including weapons, was destroyed.
- **Reaction of the British:**
  - The British Raj prosecuted the accused aggressively.
  - A sessions **court quickly sentenced 172 of the 225 accused to death**. However, ultimately, only 19 of those convicted were hanged.

#### ▪ Reaction of Mahatma Gandhi:

- He **condemned the crime of the policemen's killing**. The volunteer groups in nearby villages were disbanded, and a **Chauri Chaura Support Fund** was set up to demonstrate "**genuine sympathy**" and **seek atonement**.
- Gandhi decided to **stop the Non-Cooperation Movement**, which he saw as having been tainted by unforgivable violence.
- He bent the Congress Working Committee to his will, and **on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 1922**, the **satyagraha (movement)** was formally suspended.
  - Gandhi on his part, **justified himself on grounds of his unshakeable faith in non-violence**.

#### ▪ Reaction of Other National Leaders:

- **Jawaharlal Nehru** and other leaders leading the Non-Cooperation movement were shocked that Gandhiji had stopped the struggle when the civil resistance had consolidated their position in the freedom movement.
- Other leaders like **Motilal Nehru and CR Das recorded their dismay** at Gandhi's decision and decided to **establish the Swaraj Party**.

### What did the suspension of the Movement result into?

- The disillusionment resulting from the suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement **nudged many of the younger Indian nationalists towards the conclusion** that India would not be able to throw off colonial rule through non-violence.
- It was from the ranks of these impatient patriots that some of India's most of the revolutionaries came into picture like Jogesh Chatterjee, Ramprasad Bismil, Sachin Sanyal, Ashfaqulla Khan, Jatin Das, **Bhagat Singh**, Bhagwati Charan Vohra, Masterda Surya Sen, and many others.
- Besides, **sudden termination of the Non-Cooperation Movement disillusioned the Khilafat movement leaders** that created a rift between Congress and the muslim leaders.

[Source: PIB](#)

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