

## Role of Forest Satyagraha in Indian Independence (1930)



### History

**KEYWORDS :** Forest Satyagraha, civil disobedience, war council, Dandi March.

**Punam Uddhav  
Janbandhu**

History Department, Model College, Gadchiroli.

### ABSTRACT

*Struggle for independence to India was contributed by many regional movements at different times and the collective strength of various agitations lead to the consolidation of voice against the tyrant British Rule. To name a few amongst them were 'Dandi March' and 'Forest Satyagraha'. common peasants of vidarbha dependent mainly of forest produce, minor Forest lays and calables. A sudden Change in British Policy of leaving tax on these forest produce hampered the prospects of the common people to a great extent. To protest against the tyranny of the empire. Concept of Forest satyagraha was launched by loknayak Bapuji Ane, which was supported by the Berar provincial congress war council.*

*The Forest Satyagraha was started on 10th July 1930 at Pusad. The movement was given momentum by many new groups at different places, like Talegaon Reaction to these activities from British was stern and assersive still people continue to join the Satyagraha.*

### Introduction:

Dandi March started on 12<sup>th</sup> march 1930 from 'Sabarmati Ashram'. Mahatma Gandhi lead the march alongwith 78 satyagrahis, on the 6<sup>th</sup> April Gandhiji picked up a handful of salt, violation of the salt law and the civil disobedience movement started countrywide. Dahianda in Akola district marked the beginning of Satyagraha in vidarbha Provocation to the 'British Rule' in the form of many small agitations at places like pusad and Talegaon combined the local plaucity of forest produce.

### Forest Satyagraha of Pusad :

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, Yeotmal district association resolved to start agitation under leadership of Bapuji Ane<sup>1</sup> Which was agreed by the Berar provincial war council. A meeting was organized at Akola on June 19<sup>th</sup> 1930 where, it was resolved to start Forest Satyagraha from gahuli, in Yaotmal district on July 10<sup>th</sup> 1930. Large number of meeting held in pusad and appeal for help in his campaign against the forest law. On the morning of 10<sup>th</sup> July 1930 Bapuji Ane and Satyagrahis started marching towards forest and started cutting the grass at 9.30 am, with the Slogans like "Jungle Ka Kanoon Tod Diya."

Bapuji Ane and other Satyagrahis were arrested by the empire under section 379 I.P.C. and given 6 months imprisonment for the theft charge.<sup>2</sup> Dr. Munge Continued to lead the Satyagraha after the arrest of Bapuji Ane, and got arrested on 12<sup>th</sup> July. Forest Satyagraha at Pusad was lead by Shankarrao Sarnaik. Many Prominent names like Brijlal Biyani, P.B. Gole, Shiwajirao Patwardhan and Dr. Suman Contributed to the agitation and got arrested.<sup>3</sup>

### Role of Sivajirao Patwardhan :

On the 12<sup>th</sup> July 1930 Dr. Soman And Dr. Patwardhan were arrested at Amravati under section 108 C.P.C., and sent to Amravati kotwali Police station. A crowd of several thousand gathered in front of Police station to demand the release to counter the protest of the people, D.S.P. Nelson ordered the soldiers of horse battalion to march and many got injure during the action. People started pelling stone to the police. D.S.P. Nelson ordered shooting. Shivajirao Patwardhan took change of the situation by forcing. D.S.P. Nelson to stop the orders of shooting and asked the protesters to so back.<sup>4</sup>

### Jungle satyagraha of Talegaon :

The C.P. Marathi war council has decided to start forest Satya-

graha at Talegaon in the Wardha district on the Nagpur – Amravati road. A camp was organized on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1930 at Talegaon, where krushanrao Bhosale hoisted flag<sup>5</sup> to mark the beginning of Satyagraha. The wide spread of the movement was cause of worry and to check the momentum the arrests of Punamchand Ranka, President of C.P. Marathi war council, Nilkantharao Deshmukh secretary, S.T. Dhamadhikari and Dr. N. B. Khare member were made arrested under section 109 C.P.C. on 21 July.<sup>6</sup> To protest against these arrest 'the Band/hartal' was marked at Nagpur Rambhau Ruikar lead the gathering at chitnis Park Nagpur.

Governor of central province and Berar Sir Montagu Butler, expressed his fear at spreading movement which attracting women, children and villagers at the end of July 1930, during the governors meet at Shimala. He reported that the situation was out of hand in Nagpur and Jabbalpur.<sup>7</sup> He suggested a stern action against the protesters.

Batch of volunteers lead by Ganpatrao Tikekar who president of war council (in the place of punamchand Ranka) Started for talegaon on 24 the July 1930. Volunteers from Nagpur, Bhandara, Wardha and Chanda participated in the march. The march was shown green signal at chitins park, and reach Talegaon on 31<sup>st</sup> July via Kondhali, karanja and Arvi.

Forest Satyagraha started on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1930 at 7.00 am. Ganpatrao Tikekar hoisted the Flag at 6.00 am. Police tried to stop the Satyagrahas but Could not do So. The protesets declared the delibedated disobedience of the British rule.<sup>8</sup>

Leaders of the Satyagraha Ganpatrao Tikekar, Tulsiram lodi, Abdul Rafik, Laxman Narayane got arrested under provision 26, for six months imprisonment. The arrest triggered wide spread of the movement. Chhaganlal Bharuka lead the movement after the arrest of leader.

### Conclusion:

Forest Satyagraha in Vidarbha has prominent place in freedom struggle. Bapuji Ane initiated the concept of Forest Satyagraha. Mahatma Gandhi lead Dandi March while Bapuji Ane lead forest Satyagraha in Vidarbha. The people of Vidarbha won a great moral victory in the forest satyagraha.

### REFERENCE

- 1) Hardas Vina : Bapuji Ane ani Tyancha Kal, lokhayak Ane | centenary committee wani 1982 Page-264 | 2) Ibid : Page 269 | 3) Mishra Dwarkaprasad : Madhya prant me swadheenta Andolan, | Directorater of culture M.P. Govt. 2002 | Page- 404 | 4) Dr. Kolatkar, S.G. : Adhunik Vidarbha-cha Itihas, Mangesh | Prakashan Nagpur 2003, Page - 134 | 5) Dr. Bais V.G. : Wardha Jilyatil Swatantra Andolnacha Itihas, | Mangesh Prakashan Nagpur, 2005 Page- 68 | 6) Chaudhari K.K. : Source Material for freedom movement | (Civil Disobeliace) 1990 Vol XI Page- 995 | 7) Ibid : Page 874 | 8) Misha Dwarkaprasad : Page 405 |