

Gandhi Irwin Pact

Before the 2nd Round Table Conference in London on March 5, 1931, Mahatma Gandhi & Lord Irwin formed a political pact known as the Gandhi Irwin Pact. Earlier, Irwin had announced another Round Table Conference to consider a future constitution and an ambiguous offer of "dominion status" for India in an undefined future in October 1929. From September to December 1931, London served as the location for the 2nd Round Table Conference. The Civil Disobedience Campaign in India came to an end as a result of the Gandhi Irwin Pact. Eight meetings between Gandhi and Lord Irwin took up 24 hours. Gandhi was moved by Irwin's earnestness, but the parameters of the Gandhi Irwin Pact were lower than what Gandhi had set as the bar for a truce.

When was Gandhi Irwin Pact Signed?

The Gandhi Irwin Pact was signed in London on March 5, 1931. Lord Irwin intended to put an end to the civil disobedience movement in India in order to reclaim control of the country, so he agreed to meet with Gandhi Ji at the second round table conference. Gandhi was freed from Yerevan Jail on January 26, 1931, to talk with Irwin. In total, Gandhi & Lord Irwin met eight times in twenty-four hours. Gandhi wasn't convinced by Irwin's sincerity. When Gandhi met with the Viceroy, he presented six demands, which were agreed upon but never executed.

Significance of Gandhi Irwin Pact

The Gandhi Irwin Pact is significant in history because it helped the Indian National Congress become known as a party with the support of millions of Indians. Additionally, it prepared the path for the Government of India Act 1935, which broadened the diarchy system in India and allowed Indians to serve in both houses of the legislature as representatives. The elected Indian legislators were then given government control following the provincial elections in 1937. The Gandhi Irwin Pact was a political pact formed on March 5, 1931, between Mahatma Gandhi & Lord Irwin, India's viceroy at the time.

Background of Gandhi Irwin Pact

As the Salt Satyagraha campaign gained prominence, Lord Irwin quickly considered firing Mahatma Gandhi. One reason for this is that the movement acquired popularity not just in India but also in other countries. As a result, the world saw the negative side of the British and started to understand the Indians. There were a number of factors that led to the Gandhi Irwin Pact being signed.

- In 1931, London was supposed to host the Second Round Table.
- The Salt Satyagraha in 1930 catapulted Gandhi & India to the notice of the global community. British rule in India was criticized for its discriminatory treatment of Indians.
- Along with thousands of Indians, Gandhi and several other leaders were imprisoned.
- Lord Irwin wished for the problem to be resolved.
- Thus, in January 1931, Gandhi was allowed to leave prison.
- Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the former president of the Congress, gave Mahatma Gandhi permission to communicate with Lord Irwin.

- Gandhi consequently met Irwin and had talks with him. The two were finally speaking as "equals" for the first time.

Objectives of Gandhi Irwin Pact

Due to the salt satyagraha, the world saw the negative aspects of the British and started to understand the Indians. Lord Irwin was upset and wished to put a stop to these movements. The failure of the first round table conference, however, allowed Lord Irwin to add INC as the representative. The Gandhi Irwin Pact was then signed with the following objectives when he freed Gandhi and called him for factual meetings.

- The Round Table Conference was agreed to by the Indian National Congress (INC).
- The civil disobedience campaign would be stopped by the INC.
- Dismissal of any laws restricting Congress's activities.
- Withdrawal of all cases, with the exception of those involving violent offences.
- Release of people detained for participating in the civil disobedience campaign.
- Dissolution of the salt tax.

Agreements made in Gandhi Irwin Pact

In 1930, as part of the civil disobedience campaign, Mahatma Gandhi presented the British government with a list of 11 requests and gave it until midnight to reject or accept them. This led to the formation of the Gandhi Irwin Pact in 1931. Additionally, the Salt march conducted in India also garnered worldwide attention.

Indians under British authority were subjected to unfair treatment, which drew criticism. Gandhiji was jailed along with numerous other campaigners. Viceroy Lord Irwin requested a round table discussion in order to put a stop to the problem.

The Congressmen were released from jail in January 1931. Gandhi was allowed to speak with the viceroy by then-Congress President Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Gandhi Irwin Pact was an agreement reached between the two after extensive negotiations on the subject. The following demands were made and accepted in the Gandhi Irwin Pact:

- All ordinances are agreed to be withdrawn by the government.
- It decided to free all political prisoners in order to spare those who were involved in violence.
- It decided to allow nonviolent protesting outside liquor stores and international clothing stores.
- It agreed to lift the restriction on the INC.
- It consented to return the Satyagrahis' seized property.
- Through the Gandhi Irwin Pact, it was consented to let residents living close to seacoasts to collect salt.
- It consented to forgo fines that had not yet been paid.
- It consented to the compassionate treatment of all government employees who had quit their jobs during the civil disobedience action.

Demand Not Agreed in Gandhi Irwin Pact:

- A public investigation into police violence committed during the movement's suppression.
- Giving Bhagat Singh & his associates' life sentences instead of the death penalty.