

# Ahmedabad Satyagraha

## [UPSC Notes]

### What is the Ahmedabad Satyagraha?

The Ahmedabad Satyagraha was a power tool of Mahatma Gandhi and is considered to be one of the major independence movements in the history of India. After returning from South Africa, Gandhi led the Ahmedabad Satyagraha, where there was a dispute between workers and mill-owners regarding wages, which was named the Ahmedabad Mill Strike. The hunger strike was a success.

Soon after, within a few days later, there was an issue with paying taxes to the government by farmers where there was less yield due to agriculture failure, which led to another strike called Kheda Satyagraha. Many other leaders, including Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, joined under the guidance of Gandhi, and this was also successful.

### Ahmedabad Mill Strike 1918

For the first time, Mahatma Gandhi led a satyagraha and a hunger strike for an industrial dispute between the owners and the workers of a cotton mill in Ahmedabad.

- To compensate for wartime inflation, workers wanted a 50% raise.
- The employees went on a hunger strike as the mill owners were ready to pay only a 20% increase in wages.
- For help in their struggle for justice, the mill workers went to Anusuya Sarabhai.
- Gandhi resolved the dispute between cotton mill owners and workers in Ahmedabad.

### Features of Ahmedabad Satyagraha

Anusuya Sarabhai, president of the Ahmedabad Mill Owners Association and sister of Ambalal Sarabhai, was approached for help in the fight for justice.

- Anusuya Behn contacted Gandhi to step in and help resolve the dispute between workers and millowners.
- Regardless of the fact that he took the workers' cause, Gandhi was Ambalal's friend.
- Gandhi encouraged employees to strike in order to demand a wage increase of 35%.

- Gandhi asked the workers to remain peaceful while on strike. After failing to reach an agreement with mill owners, he went on his first fast to boost the workers' determination.
- The mill owners gave in and finally agreed to listen to the workers' demands.
- The strike ended at some point. The panel eventually awarded the workers a 35% wage increase.

## Kheda Satyagraha

Kheda Satyagraha was held on 11 March 1918, just 4 days after the Ahmedabad Satyagraha. The Kheda Satyagraha was essentially led by Sardar Patel and Gandhi after the region faced famine, cholera, and plagues which led to destroyed agriculture.

- The Gujarat District of Kheda was on the verge of starvation due to droughts. The harvest was so low that the growers were unable to pay the revenue. But the government insisted that for cultivators, the yield is not that bad and they have to pay the taxes.

Gandhi accepted the Kheda Satyagraha fight just as the mill workers' strike was coming to an end. Many leaders, like Vallabhbai Patel, Shankarlal Banker, Mahadev Desai, and others, under Gandhi's guidance, took an active part in the protest against the government for not paying the taxes.

The protest was peaceful and successful, as the government authorities gave in and agreed to give some concessions to farmers.

## Kheda Satyagraha UPSC

Go through the overview of Kheda Satyagraha for the upcoming IAS exam below.

Kheda Satyagraha	Details
Kheda Satyagraha Date	11 March 1918
Kheda Satyagraha Place	Kheda , Gujarat
Kheda Satyagraha Reason	Despite a devastating crop failure and outbreaks of plague and cholera, the peasant-Patidar hamlet of Kheda was forced to submit to a 23 % tax rise.
Kheda Satyagraha is also known as	First non-cooperation movement led by Mahatma Gandhi

## Timeline of Ahmedabad Satyagraha & Kheda Satyagraha

Listed the Movements initiated and led by Mahatma Gandhi in the Chronological series. It is important to note the Ahmedabad Satyagraha Date and other dates for the upcoming exam.

Movements led by Gandhi	Year
Champaran Satyagraha	1917
Ahmedabad Mill Strike	1918
Kheda Satyagraha	1918
satyagraha against Rowlett act	1919