

GIST OF THE LESSON

- Raj Kumar Shukla- A poor sharecropper from Champaran wishing to meet Gandhiji.
- Raj Kumar Shukla- an illiterate but resolute hence followed Gandhiji to Lucknow, Cawnpore, Ahmadabad, Calcutta, Patna, Muzzafarpur & then Champaran.
- Servants at Rajendra Prasad's residence thought Gandhiji to be an untouchable.
- Gandhiji considered as an untouchable because of simple living style and wearing (clothes), due to the company of Raj Kumar Shukla.
- Decided to go to Muzzafarpur first to get detailed information about Champaran sharecropper.
- Sent telegram to J B Kriplani & stayed in Prof Malkani home- a government servant.
- Indians afraid to show sympathy to the supporters of home rule.
- The news of Gandhiji's arrival spread- sharecroppers gathered in large number to meet their champion.
- Gandhiji chided the Muzzafarpur lawyer for taking high fee.
- Champaran district was divided into estate owned by English people, Indians only tenant farmers.
- Landlords compelled tenants to plant 15% of their land with indigo and surrender their entire harvest as rent.
- In the meantime Germany had developed synthetic indigo –British landlords freed the Indian farmers from the 15% arrangement but asked them to pay compensation.
- Many signed, some resisted engaged lawyers, landlords hired thugs.
- Gandhiji reached Champaran- visited the secretary of the British landlord association to get the facts but denied as he was an outsider.
- Gandhiji went to the British Official Commissioner who asked him to leave Trihut, Gandhiji disobeyed, went to Motihari the capital of Champaran where a vast multitude greeted him, continued his investigations.
- Visited maltreated villagers, stopped by the police superintendent but disobeyed the order.
- Motihari black with peasants' spontaneous demonstrations, Gandhiji released without bail Civil Disobedience triumphed.
- Gandhiji agreed to 25% refund by the landowners, it symbolized the surrender of the prestige.
- Gandhiji worked hard towards social economic reforms, elevated their distress aided by his wife, Mahadev Desai, Narhari Parikh.
- Gandhiji taught a lesson of self reliance by not seeking help of an English man Mr. Andrews.

THEME:

The leadership shown by Mahatma Gandhi to secure justice for oppressed people through convincing argumentation and negotiation. The lesson deals with an account of an unequal battle between the oppressed and the oppressors.

Patience, perseverance and determination can help one overcome all odds and adversities. While managing crises one should focus on a solution rather than a problem. One should learn to be self-reliant instead of looking for shoulders to lean upon. It also conveys the message that it is important to teach people to be courageous and to be able to fight their own battles; independently and fearlessly rather than just lending support to them in critical situation.

SUB-THEME:

Contributions made by anonymous Indians to the freedom movement.