

Indigo



Louis Fischer

I. ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Louis Fischer:

1. Born on 29th February 1896.
2. Died on 15th January 1970.
3. Was an American journalist.
4. 'Indigo' is an excerpt from his book 'The Life of Mahatma Gandhi'.

II. WORD MEANINGS

1. Delegates - Representatives (प्रतिनिधियों)
2. Peasant - small farmer (किसान)
3. Emaciated - thin (दुर्बल)
4. Resolute - determined (दृढ़)
5. Committed - dedicated (प्रतिबद्ध).
6. Boarded - ascend (चढ़ना)
7. Pestered - harass (कष्ट देना)
8. Extraordinary-remarkable(असाधारण)
9. Harbour - entertain (विचार करना)
10. Advent - arrival (आगमन)
11. Conveyance - vehicle, carriage (वाहन)
12. Arable - land suitable for farming (कृषि योग्य)
13. Tenants - occupants paying rent in cash or kind (किरायेदारों)
14. Estate - property (जायदाद)
15. Contract-agreement (अनुबंध)

16. Indigo - plant that produces a blue colour (नील)
17. Synthetic- artificial (कृत्रिम)
18. Compensation - payments (मुआवजा)
19. Irrksome - irritating (कष्टप्रद)
20. Thugs - cheats (ठग)
21. Illiterate - uneducated (अनपढ़)
22. Multitude - a large number of people (भीड़)
23. Superintendent - supervisor (प्रबंधक)
24. Complied - obeyed (अनुपालन)
25. Wired - Telegraphed (तार देना)
26. Authorities-officials (प्राधिकारी)
27. Demonstrations-protest (प्रदर्शनों)
28. Liberation-release (मुक्ति)
29. Self Reliance-self support (आत्मनिर्भरता)
30. Postpone -delay (स्थगित करना)
31. Humanitarian-Concerned with human welfare (मानवीय)
32. Magistrate -civil officer who administers law (मजिस्ट्रेट)
33. Pronounce-declare or announce (निर्णय सुनाना)
34. Recess - leisure, vacation (अवकाश)
35. Reconvened - to start again after a small break (फिर इकट्ठा हुआ)

36. Vehemently-in an intense manner (आवेगपूर्ण)
37. Consultations-discussion (विचार-विमर्श)
38. Lieutenant -Governor
39. Province- region, territory (भूमिखंड)
40. Civil Disobedience -passive resistance, satyagraha (सविनयअवज्ञा)
41. Grievances- complaints (शिकायत)
42. Pacifist- Peace maker (शांतिवादी)
43. Abstractions- something which exists only as an idea (कपोल-कल्पना)
44. Entreaty - humble request(विनती)
45. Extorted -obtain by force (जबरन वसूली)
46. Adamant- firm (अटल)
47. Intertwined- knitted (गुंथा)
48. Alleviate -reduce (कम करना)

III. SOME IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Gandhi's ashram in Sevagram -

The ashram had been set up under the direction of Gandhi in the village Shegaon in 1936, which has later been named as "Sevagram Ashram" (Service village). In "Indigo", the writer Louis Fischer tells us he first visited Gandhi in 1942 at his ashram in Sevagram, in central India where Gandhi narrated him about how did he

decided to urge the departure of the British in 1917.

2. December 1916, Annual convention of the Indian National Congress -

The Lucknow Session of Indian National Congress was presided over by Ambica Charan Mazumdar. It was the 31st session of the INC which was held in Lucknow. There were 2,301 delegates and many visitors. During the proceedings, Rajkumar Shukla came up to Gandhi and requested him to come to his district, Champaran.

3. Lucknow - Lucknow is the capital and the largest city of Uttar Pradesh. The 31st annual session of the Indian National Congress was held here where Gandhi first met Rajkumar Shukla.

4. Champaran- Champaran is a historical and cultural part of ancient Mithila region of Bihar in India. It is situated in the foothills of the towering Himalayas, near the kingdom of Nepal.

5. Indigo - Indigo is a plant which produces blue dye. It was commercially grown from 1747 to 1800 and was second only to rice in export value. Indigo was the fifth most valuable commodity exported by Britain's mainland colonies and was England's primary source of blue dye in the late-colonial era.

6. Sharecroppers - Sharecroppers were people who would farm a portion of land that belonged to a landowner. In "Indigo", under an ancient arrangement, the Champaran peasants were

sharecroppers. Rajkumar Shukla was one of them.

7. Cawnpore - Cawnpore, also known as Kanpur is a city in Uttar Pradesh, an Indian state.

8. Haunches - The hip, buttock, and upper thigh in humans and certain other animals.

9. Telegram - A telegram is a written message transmitted by using an electric device. The message was carried along wires, and the text written or printed and delivered by hand or teleprinter. Telegrams were very widely used in British India, because private telephones were not usual. This Telegram service which remained in India for 163 years is no longer in use. It was last used on July 14, 2013.

10. Tagore's Shantiniketan school- Shantiniketan is a neighbourhood in Bolpur town established by Maharshi Devendranth Tagore in 1863 and later expanded by his son Rabindranath Tagore as a formal institution. It is now known as Visva-Bharati University. On December 22, 1901, Rabindranath Tagore established an experimental school at Santiniketan with five students (including his eldest son) and an equal number of teachers. He originally named it Brahmacharya Ashram, in the tradition of ancient forest hermitages called tapoban.

11. Synthetic indigo - Synthetic indigo comes in a fine powder that is about 95% indigo tin pigment. In "Indigo" we learn that Under an ancient arrangement,

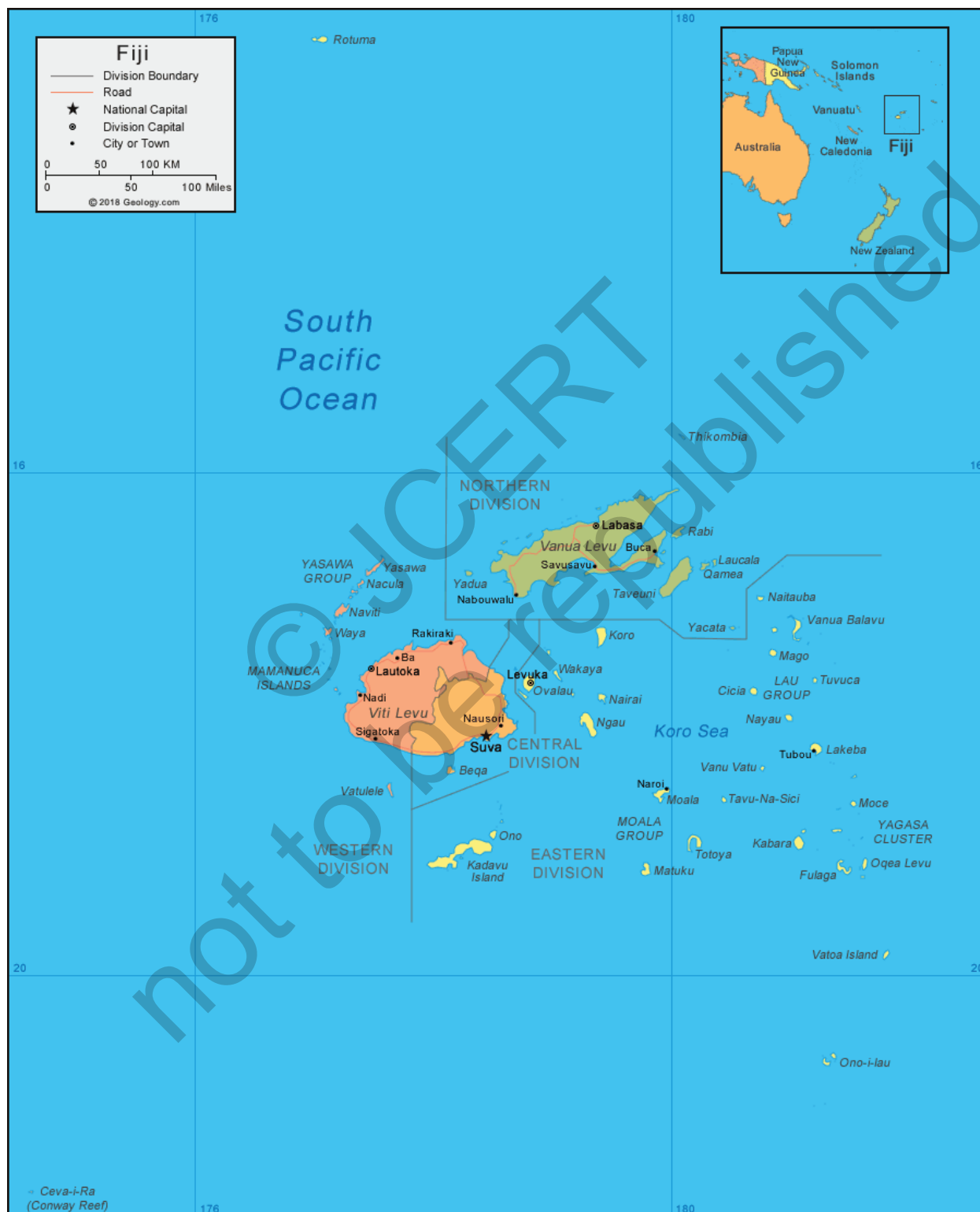
the Champaran peasants had become sharecroppers. Most of the arable land in the Champaran district was divided into large estates owned by Englishmen and worked by Indian tenants. The chief commercial crop was indigo. The landlords compelled all tenants to plant three twentieth or 15 percent of their holdings with indigo and surrender the entire indigo harvest as rent. This was done by long-term contract. Suddenly the landlords learned that Germany had developed synthetic indigo. They, thereupon, obtained agreements from the sharecroppers to pay them compensation for being released from the 15 percent arrangement. The sharecropping arrangement was irksome to the peasants, and many signed willingly. Those who resisted, engaged lawyers; the landlords hired thugs. Meanwhile, the information about synthetic indigo reached the illiterate peasants who had signed, and they wanted their money back. In this situation Rajkumar Shukla met Gandhi to help him and other poor peasants.

12. Mahatma- Mahatma is a sanskrit word which means great soul. The Father of Nation, M.K. Gandhi is also known as Mahatma and the title was given to him by Rabindra Nath Tagore.

13. Civil disobedience- Civil Disobedience Movement is one of Mahatma Gandhi's most major movements throughout India's war for independence. It's also known as the Salt Satyagraha, and it began as a protest against the British government's salt tariff in India.

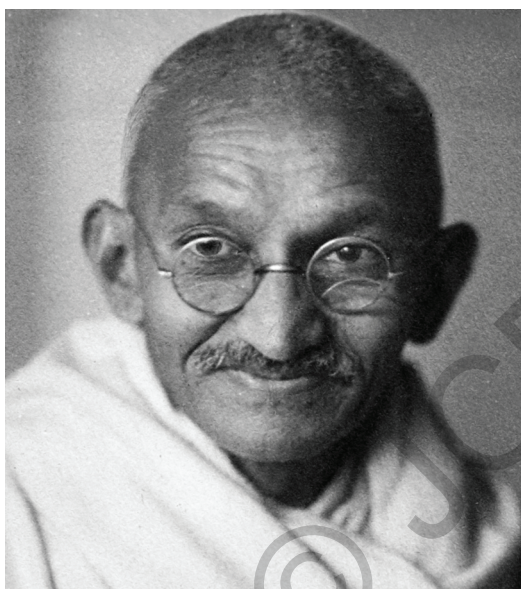
14. Fiji Islands- Located in the heart of the South Pacific, Fiji is blessed with 333 tropical islands. It is actually an island nation in Melanesia and an

archipelago in the Southern Pacific Ocean, as a part of the continent of Oceania. It is geographically positioned both in the Southern and Eastern hemispheres of the Earth.



IV. CHARACTERS

1. Mahatma Gandhi - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is one of the most celebrated national leaders of our country. In “Indigo” we learn about how the Champaran Peasant Movement turned him to Mahatma Gandhi Ji. His satyagraha for the peasants to restore justice explicitly showed his negotiation and argumentative skills.

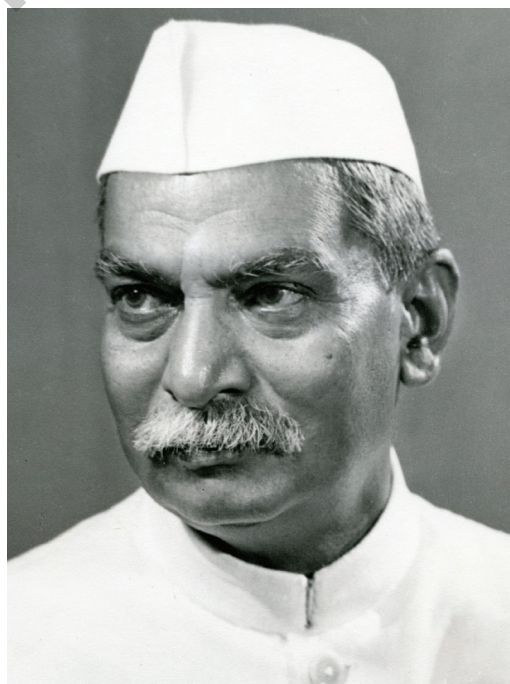


This also showed that he was a prominent leader who influenced and transformed people that steered him to lead Satyagraha as a nationwide movement against the British. Gandhi Ji also set up schools and vocational training centres in Champaran to educate and train the Champaran people to make them knowledgeable. This evidently shows that he was a visionary leader.

2. Rajkumar Shukla - Rajkumar Shukla was an illiterate poor sharecropper of Champaran, Bihar. During the thirty first session of the Congress in Lucknow

in 1916 Shukla met Mahatma Gandhi as a representative of farmers from Champaran who requested Gandhiji to visit his district to see for himself the miseries of Indigo sharecroppers there. Though, it took a long time for Shukla to take Gandhi to his district Champaran but he didn't aback without taking Gandhiji to his district. He visited with Gandhiji every village to village in his Indigo movement and made it successful. Rajkumar Shukla was a loyal and heartily honest man who raised his voice against the landlord system. He wanted to let Indigo sharecropping end forever and farmers could cultivate their crops by their choice.

3. Rajendra Prasad - Rajendra Prasad was an Indian politician, lawyer, Indian independence activist, journalist & scholar who served as the first president of Republic of India from 1950 to 1962.



In “Indigo” Gandhiji came to the city of Patna in Bihar with Rajkumar Shukla, an indigo sharecropper from Champaran. There Shukla led him to the house of a lawyer named Rajendra Prasad who was out of town, but the servants knew Shukla as a poor yeoman who pestered their master to help the indigo sharecroppers. So they let him stay on the grounds with his companion, Gandhi, whom they took to be another peasant.

4. The servants- The servants in Rajendra Prasad’s house did not know the actual identity of Gandhiji. But they knew Shukla as a poor yeoman who pestered their master to help the indigo sharecroppers. So they let him stay on the grounds with his companion, Gandhi, whom they took to be another peasant. But Gandhi was not permitted to draw water from the well lest some drops from his bucket pollute the entire source; how did they know that he was not an untouchable?

5. Professor J.B. Kripalani- Acharya J.B. Kripalani was an accomplished politician and socialist, who contributed much, both before and after Indian independence. An ardent follower of Gandhi, he was an exponent of the Gandhian philosophy and ideology. In “Indigo”, after visiting Rajendra Prasad’s house in Patna, Gandhi sent a telegram to Professor J.B. Kripalani, of the Arts College in Muzaffarpur, whom he had seen at Tagore’s Shantiniketan school.

6. Professor Malkani- Mahatma

Gandhi stayed in Muzaffarpur for two days in the home of Professor Malkani, a teacher in a government school. According to Gandhi, it was an extraordinary thing in those days for a government professor to harbour a man like him because in smaller localities, the Indians were afraid to show sympathy for advocates of home-rule.

7. Sharecroppers from Champaran- Sharecroppers from Champaran began arriving on foot and by conveyance to see their champion, Mahatma Gandhi as the news of Gandhi’s advent and of the nature of his mission spread quickly through Muzaffarpur and to Champaran.

8. The landlords- The landlords in Champaran compelled all tenants to plant three twentieth or 15 percent of their holdings with indigo and surrender the entire indigo harvest as rent. This was done by long-term contract. Suddenly, the landlords learned that Germany had developed synthetic indigo. They, thereupon, obtained agreements from the sharecroppers to pay them compensation for being released from the 15 percent arrangement. Thus the British landlords were exploiting the poor peasants in Champaran and also other parts of the country.

9. The secretary of the British landlord’s association- Gandhi went to the secretary of the British landlord’s association for some information regarding the affairs in Champaran but the secretary told him that they could

give no information to him as he was an outsider.

10. The peasant who had been maltreated in a nearby village-

In Motihari Gandhiji learned that a peasant had been maltreated in a nearby village. Gandhi decided to go and see; the next morning he started out on the back of an elephant. He had not proceeded far when the police superintendent's messenger overtook him and ordered him to return to town.

11. The police superintendent's messenger-

When Gandhi was proceeding to the house of a peasant who had been maltreated by British landlords in Motihari on the back of an elephant, the police superintendent's messenger overtook him and ordered him to return to town in his carriage. Gandhi complied. The messenger drove Gandhi home where he served him with an official notice to quit Champaran immediately. Gandhi signed a receipt for the notice and wrote on it that he would disobey the order. In consequence, Gandhi received a summon to appear in court the next day.

12. The magistrate and the Judge-

When Gandhi was presented in the court, the town of Motihari became black with peasants. They did not know Gandhi's record in South Africa. They had merely heard that a Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse

made the officials powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors. Gandhi protested against the delay. He read a statement pleading guilty. So, the **magistrate** announced that he would pronounce sentence after a two-hour recess and asked Gandhi to furnish bail for those 120 minutes. Gandhi again refused. Finally **the judge** released him without bail.

13. Rajendra Prasad, Brij Kishor Babu, Maulana Mazharul Huq and several other prominent lawyers-

They arrived from Bihar to give their assistance in Gandhi's effort to bring justice to the Champaran sharecroppers.

14. Sir Edward Gait - He was the Lieutenant-Governor of the province when Gandhiji came to Champaran to help the poor sharecroppers. In June, Gandhi was summoned to him. Before he went he met the leading associates and again laid detailed plans for civil disobedience if he should not return. Gandhi had four protracted interviews with the Lieutenant Governor who, as a result, appointed an official commission of inquiry into the indigo sharecroppers' situation. The commission consisted of landlords, government officials, and Gandhi as the sole representative of the peasants.

15. Reverend J. Z. Hodge- He was a British missionary in Champaran who observed the entire episode at close

range. He quoted, "Thinking probably that he would not give way, the representative of the planters offered to refund to the extent of 25 per cent, and to his amazement Mr. Gandhi took him at his word, thus breaking the deadlock."

16. The Volunteers- Mahadev Desai and Narhari Parikh, two young men who had just joined Gandhi as disciples, and their wives, volunteered for the work. Several more came from Bombay, Poona and other distant parts of the land. Devadas, Gandhi's youngest son, arrived from the ashram and so did Mrs. Gandhi. Primary schools were opened in six villages. Kasturbai taught the ashram rules on personal cleanliness and community sanitation. Gandhi also got a doctor to volunteer his services for six months.

17. Charles Freer Andrews- He was an English pacifist who became a devoted follower of Gandhi. Before going on a tour to Fiji islands he came to bid Gandhi farewell. Gandhi's lawyer friends wanted him to stay and help them. Gandhi strongly opposed it because if they got an Englishman on their side it would show the weakness of their heart. They must rely on themselves to win the battle.

V. SUMMARY OF THE TEXT

1. Champaran peasants were forced to produce Indigo by an old settlement
2. Synthetic indigo produced, Sharecroppers were asked for money to be freed

3. Sharecroppers learned about synthetic indigo, demanded money back

4. Rajkumar Shukla met Gandhi to bring justice

5. Gandhi came to Champaran

6. Started his investigations

7. Gandhi was ordered to return and quit Champaran.

8. Gandhi in court, demonstration of the sharecroppers

9. Landlords agreed to return 25% money

10. Civil Disobedience triumphed

11. Gandhi became Mahatma, the saviour

12. Reforms in Champaran

13. Many volunteers came

14. Education, cleanliness

15. Mr Andrews volunteered help

16. Gandhi denied help from an Englishman

17. Self awareness

18. Self Reliance

SUMMARY IN ENGLISH

In "Indigo" we learn about how the Champaran Peasant Movement turned Mohandas Karamdas Gandhi to Mahatma Gandhi Ji. His satyagraha for the peasants to restore justice

explicitly showed his negotiation and argumentative skills. This also showed that he was a prominent leader who influenced and transformed people that steered him to lead Satyagraha as a nationwide movement against the British. Gandhi Ji also set up schools and vocational training centres in Champaran to educate and train the Champaran people to make them knowledgeable. This evidently shows that he was a visionary leader.

In the beginning of the story we see Rajkumar Shukla, poor sharecropper from Champaran wishing to meet Gandhiji. He was illiterate but resolute. So he followed Gandhi to Lucknow, Cawnpore, Ahmedabad, Calcutta until Gandhiji agreed to come with him to Champaran to see the plight of the Indigo sharecroppers personally. Then they visited Patna, Muzaffarpur & then Champaran. In Patna the servants at Rajendra Prasad's residence thought Gandhiji to be untouchable because of his simple living style and wearing. The servants did not know the actual identity of Gandhiji. But they knew Shukla as a poor yeoman who pestered their master to help the indigo sharecroppers. So they let him stay on the grounds with his companion, Gandhi, whom they took to be another peasant. But Gandhi was not permitted to draw water from the well lest some drops from his bucket pollute the entire source; how did they know that he was not an untouchable?

Gandhi decided to go to Muzaffarpur first to get detailed information about

Champaran share-croppers. He sent a telegram to J B Kriplani & stayed in Prof Malkani's house who was a government teacher. According to Gandhi, it was an extraordinary thing in those days for a government professor to harbour a man like him because in smaller localities, the Indians were afraid to show sympathy for advocates of home-rule.

The news of Gandhi's arrival spread and sharecroppers gathered in large numbers to meet their champion. Gandhiji chided the Muzaffarpur lawyers for taking high fees. Champaran district was divided into estates owned by English people, Indians were only tenant farmers. Landlords compelled the 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 learned of it and freed the Indian farmers from the 15% arrangement but asked them to pay compensation. Many signed, some resisted and engaged lawyers. In response the landlords also hired thugs.

At this point Gandhiji reached Champaran and 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 and went to Motihari, the capital of Champaran where a large body of people greeted him. There Gandhiji continued his investigations. Once he

went to visit a maltreated villager and stopped by the police superintendent but disobeyed the order. As a result he was summoned to court.

When Gandhi was presented before the court, Motihari became black with the peasants' spontaneous demonstrations. As a result Gandhiji was released without bail and thus the Civil Disobedience triumphed. Gandhiji agreed to a 25% refund by the landowners which actually symbolized the surrender of their prestige. Then Gandhiji worked hard towards social economic reforms, elevated the poor yeomans' distress assisted by his wife, Mahadev Desai, Narhari Parikh. At last Gandhiji taught a lesson of self-reliance by not seeking help from an Englishman Mr. Andrews.

पाठ का सारांश

“इंडिगो” में हमलोग देखते हैं कि कैसे चंपारण किसान आंदोलन ने मोहनदास करमदास गांधी को महात्मा गांधी जी बना दिया।

कहानी की शुरुआत में हम देखते हैं कि चंपारण के गरीब बटाईदार राजकुमार शुक्ला गांधी जी से मिलना चाहते हैं। वह अनपढ़ लेकिन दृढ़ थे। इसलिए उन्होंने गांधीजी को लखनऊ, कानपुर, अहमदाबाद, कलकत्ता तक अनुसरण किया। वह गांधी जी का साथ तब तक नहीं छोड़ा जब तक गांधीजी व्यक्तिगत रूप से इंडिगो बटाईदारों की दुर्दशा को देखने के लिए उनके साथ चंपारण आने के लिए सहमत नहीं हुए। फिर उन्होंने

पटना, मुजफ्फरपुर और फिर चंपारण का दौरा किया। पटना में राजेंद्र प्रसाद के आवास पर नौकरों ने गांधीजी को उनकी सादा जीवन शैली और पहनावे के कारण अछूत माना। नौकरों को गांधीजी की वास्तविक पहचान नहीं पता था। लेकिन वे शुक्ला को एक गरीब किसान के रूप में जानते थे, जिन्होंने नील की बटाईदारों की मदद करने के लिए उनके मालिक को तंग किया था। इसलिए उन्होंने उसे अपने साथी गांधी के साथ जमीन पर बैठने दिया। गांधी जी को वे एक और किसान मान लिए थे। गांधी को कुएं से पानी खींचने की अनुमति इसलिए नहीं दिया गया ताकि ऐसा न हो कि उनकी बाल्टी से कुछ बूंदें पूरे स्रोत को दूषित कर दें।

गांधी ने चंपारण बटाईदार के बारे में विस्तृत जानकारी प्राप्त करने के लिए पहले मुजफ्फरपुर जाने का फैसला किया। उन्होंने जे बी कृपलानी को एक तार भेजा और प्रोफेसर मलकानी के घर में रहे, जो एक सरकारी शिक्षक थे। गांधी के अनुसार, उन दिनों एक सरकारी प्रोफेसर के लिए उनके जैसे व्यक्ति को शरण देना एक असाधारण बात थी, क्योंकि छोटे इलाकों में होम-रूल के पैरोकारों के प्रति सहानुभूति दिखाने के लिए भारतीय डरते थे।

गांधी के आगमन की खबर फैल गई और बटाईदार बड़ी संख्या में अपने चैंपियन से मिलने के लिए एकत्र हुए। गांधीजी ने मुजफ्फरपुर के वकीलों को ऊंची फीस लेने के लिए फटकार लगाई। चंपारण जिला अंग्रेजों के स्वामित्व वाली सम्पदाओं में विभाजित

था, भारतीय केवल काश्तकार किसान थे। जमींदारों ने काश्तकारों को अपनी जमीन का 15% नील लगाने और अपनी पूरी फसल को किराए के रूप में सौंपने के लिए मजबूर करते थे। इस बीच जर्मनी ने कृत्रिम नील विकसित कर लिया था। ब्रिटिश जमींदारों ने इसके बारे में जाना और भारतीय किसानों को 15% व्यवस्था से मुक्त कर दिया लेकिन उन्हें मुआवजा देने के लिए कहा। कई ने हस्ताक्षर किए, कुछ ने विरोध किया और वकीलों को लगाया।

इस बिंदु पर गांधीजी चंपारण पहुंचे और तथ्य जानने के लिए ब्रिटिश जमींदार संघ के सचिव से मिलने गए, लेकिन उन्होंने कुछ बताने से इनकार कर दिया क्योंकि वह एक बाहरी व्यक्ति थे। गांधीजी ब्रिटिश आधिकारिक आयुक्त के पास गए जिन्होंने उन्हें त्रिहुत छोड़ने के लिए कहा। गांधीजी ने अवज्ञा की और चंपारण की राजधानी मोतिहारी गए जहां लोगों के एक बड़े समूह ने उनका अभिवादन किया। वहां गांधीजी ने अपनी जांच जारी रखी। एक बार वह एक जमींदार के अत्याचार से पीड़ित एक ग्रामीण से मिलने गया और पुलिस अधीक्षक ने उसे रोक दिया, लेकिन वह आदेश की अवहेलना की। परिणामस्वरूप उसे अदालत में बुलाया गया।

जब गांधी को अदालत में पेश किया गया, तो मोतिहारी किसानों के स्वतःस्फूर्त प्रदर्शनों से काले हो गया। परिणामस्वरूप गांधीजी को बिना जमानत के रिहा कर दिया गया और इस तरह सविनय अवज्ञा की जीत हुई।

गांधीजी जमींदारों द्वारा 25% पैसे वापसी के लिए सहमत हुए जो वास्तव में उनकी प्रतिष्ठा के आत्मसमर्पण का प्रतीक था। इसके बाद गांधीजी ने सामाजिक आर्थिक सुधारों की दिशा में कड़ी मेहनत की; उनकी पत्नी, महादेव देसाई, नरहरि पारिख की सहायता से गरीब लोगों के संकट को कम किया गया। अंत में गांधीजी ने एक अंग्रेज मिस्टर एंड्रयूज से मदद न मांगकर आत्मनिर्भरता का पाठ पढ़ाया।

VI.OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Who is the author of Indigo?

- A. Mark Twain
- B. Leo Tolstoy
- C. Louis Fischer
- D. Charles Dickens

Answer-C

2. Indigo is an excerpt from which book of the author?

- A. Men and Politics
- B. The Life of Mahatma Gandhi
- C. Life of Lenin
- D. None

Answer-B

3. GandhiJI fought in Champaran-

- A. To secure justice for the oppressed

- B. To get popularity
- C. To show power
- D. To boast of his intelligence

Answer-A

4. Why was Motihari black with the peasants?
- A. Because of people's rights
 - B. Because of the oppression of the British
 - C. Because their champion was in trouble
 - D. None

Answer-C

5. What was Gandhi's demand from the British landlords?
- A. 75% refund as repayment
 - B. 18% refund as repayment
 - C. 5% refund as repayment
 - D. 50% refund as repayment

Answer-D

6. How did Gandhi help the peasants of Champaran?
- A. By hiring lawyers for them
 - B. By fighting and securing justice for them
 - C. Both a and B
 - D. None of the above

Answer-B

7. Where was the annual congress party session held?
- A. In Lucknow
 - B. In Kolkata
 - C. In Ranchi
 - D. In Delhi

Answer-A

8. Why did Mr. Shukla meet Gandhiji?
- A. to seek his guidance for his own upliftment
 - B. to get ideas to be famous
 - C. to learn the art of speaking
 - D. to seek his help for the poor sharecroppers

Answer-D

9. Where was Champaran?
- A. In Lucknow
 - B. In Delhi
 - C. In Uttar Pradesh
 - D. A district of Bihar in British India

Answer-D

10. What did the peasants pay the British landlords?
- A. 10% of landholding and 15% of harvest

- B. 20% of landholding and 15% of harvest
- C. 10% of landholding and 25% of harvest
- D. 15% of landholding and entire Indigo harvest

Answer-D

11. How did Kasturba help Gandhiji?

- A. By speaking to the people
- B. By walking with him
- C. By moving here and there
- D. By teaching Ashram rules and cleanliness

Answer-D

12. What was the condition of the peasants in Champaran?

- A. Very happy
- B. Independent
- C. Very rich
- D. Terror stricken and oppressed

Answer-D

VII. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Who was Rajkumar Shukla? Why did he decide to meet Gandhi?

Answer- Rajkumar Shukla was a poor peasant from Champaran, a district in Bihar of British India. He

came to meet Gandhiji to tell him about the oppression faced by the sharecroppers in Champaran. The forced sharecropping was the reason why he came to ask for help from Gandhiji. He wanted him to help them to solve the problem faced by them.

2. Describe the incident in Rajendra Prasad's house.

Answer- The servants in Rajendra Prasad's house did not know the actual identity of Gandhiji. But they knew Shukla as a poor yeoman who pestered their master to help the indigo sharecroppers. So they let him stay on the grounds with his companion, Gandhi, whom they took to be another peasant. But Gandhi was not permitted to draw water from the well lest some drops from his bucket pollute the entire source; how did they know that he was not an untouchable?

3. Comment on the role of Professor Malkani in Indigo.

Answer- Mahatma Gandhi stayed in Muzaffarpur for two days in the home of Professor Malkani, a teacher in a government school. According to Gandhi, it was an extraordinary thing in those days for a government professor to harbour a man like him because in smaller localities, the Indians were afraid to show sympathy for advocates of home-rule.

4. How was Gandhi able to influence lawyers? Give instances.

Answer- Gandhi asked the lawyers

about their course of action if he was sentenced to jail. They answered that they would return back. He then asked them about the plight of the peasants. This made them realize their duty towards the social issue and they decided to go to jail with Gandhi.

5. What was the attitude of the average Indian in smaller localities towards advocates of 'home rule'?

Answer- The average Indians in smaller localities did not support the advocates of Home Rule as they feared going against the British government. For Gandhi, it was surprising that Professor Malkani allowed him to stay at his home even though he was a government teacher.

6. Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 per cent refund to the farmers?

Answer- For Gandhi the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been forced to return part of the money, and with it, part of their prestige too. So, he agreed to a 25 per cent refund to the farmers.

7. How did the episode change the plight of the peasants?

Answer- The peasants were saved from spending time and money on court cases. After some years the British planters gave up control of their estates, which were reverted to the peasants. Thus, Indigo sharecropping disappeared.

8. How do we know that ordinary people too contributed to the freedom movement?

Answer- In the chapter 'Indigo' Louis Fischer writes of how a small farmer Rajkumar Shukla from a small district, Champaran, helps to bring about a very prominent change. Likewise, many other peasants from the villages fought courageously and contributed in their own way to the movement. Their cumulative effort eventually resulted in their winning the battle of Champaran and to finally free themselves of the sharecropping arrangement.

9. How did Gandhi begin his mission in Champaran ? How far did his efforts prove successful ?

Answer:- Gandhi began his mission by trying to get the facts. First, he visited the secretary of the British landlord's association. He told Gandhi that they could give no information to an outsider. Then Gandhi called on the British official commissioner of the Tirhut Division. The commissioner tried to bully Gandhi and advised him to leave Tirhut.

VIII. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. How did Rajkumar Shukla persuade Gandhi to visit Champaran?

Answer- Rajkumar shukla was an illiterate poor sharecropper of Champaran, Bihar. During the thirty first session of the Congress in Lucknow in 1916, Shukla met Mahatma Gandhi

as a representative of farmers from Champaran who requested Gandhiji to visit his district to see for himself the miseries of indigo sharecroppers there.

Gandhi told him about his appointments in Cawnpore and other parts of India. But Shukla accompanied Gandhi everywhere. After weeks of remaining at Gandhiji's side, he begged Gandhi to fix a date. Gandhi was impressed by his determination. So, he gave details of his Calcutta meeting. Months passed. When Gandhi went to Calcutta, he found the peasant sitting on his haunches at the appointed spot. He waited there till Gandhi was free. Then both boarded a train to Bihar. Thus, Shukla's persuasion engaged Gandhi in the welfare of the sharecroppers.

2. Why do you think Gandhi considered the Champaran episode to be a turning point of his life?

Answer- Champaran provided a great challenge and turned out to be a turning point in Gandhi's life. The arable land in Champaran belonged

to the English landlords. They forced the sharecroppers to plant indigo on 15% of their holdings which they had to surrender as rent. When the British landlords came to know about the synthetic indigo developed by the Germans they forced the sharecroppers to pay them compensation for being released from the 15% arrangement. So, Gandhi took up the cause of the poor peasants.

He thought against the injustice of the cruel landlords. It was a typical Gandhi movement. Its success paved the way for further non-violent mass movement and Satyagraha. The success of Champaran also marked the victory of civil Disobedience in modern India.

Again, the English landlords were forced to surrender a part of the money and with it their prestige. As a result, the Indian peasants saw that they had rights and people to fight for their rights. This movement was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. Gandhi himself accepts this episode to be a turning point in his life.