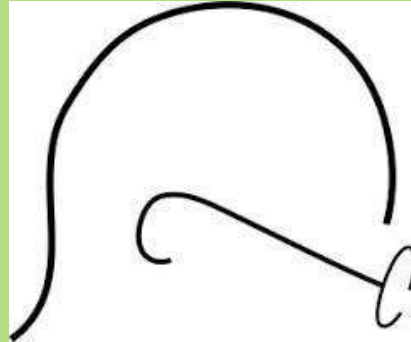


CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA: AN HISTORICAL RETROSPECT

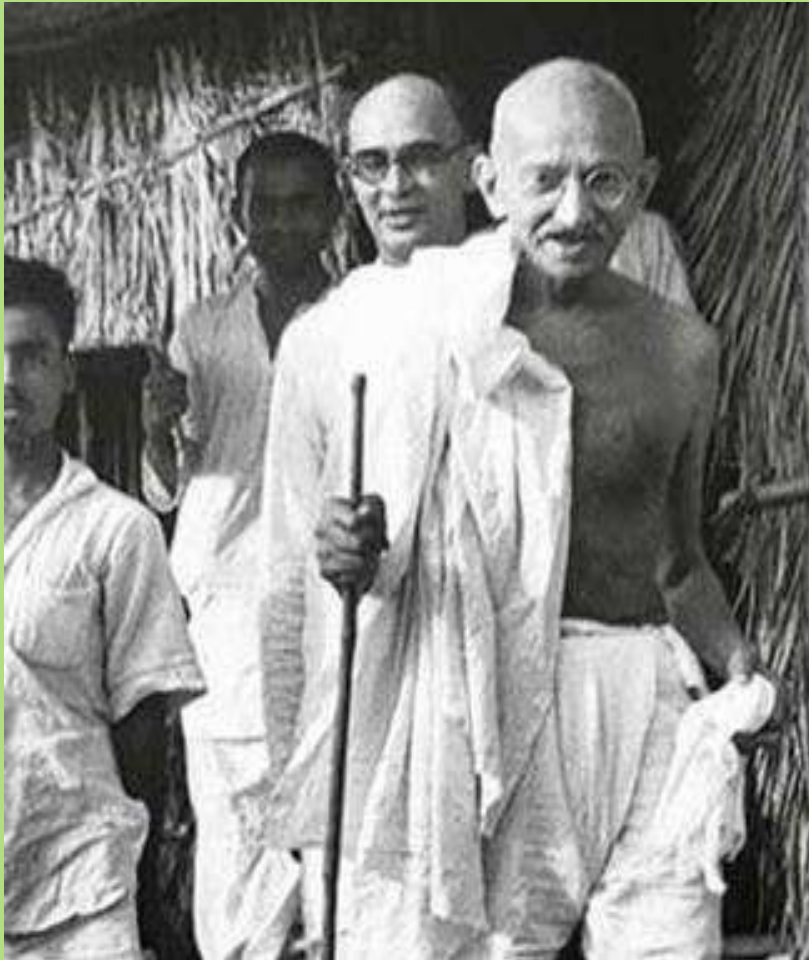


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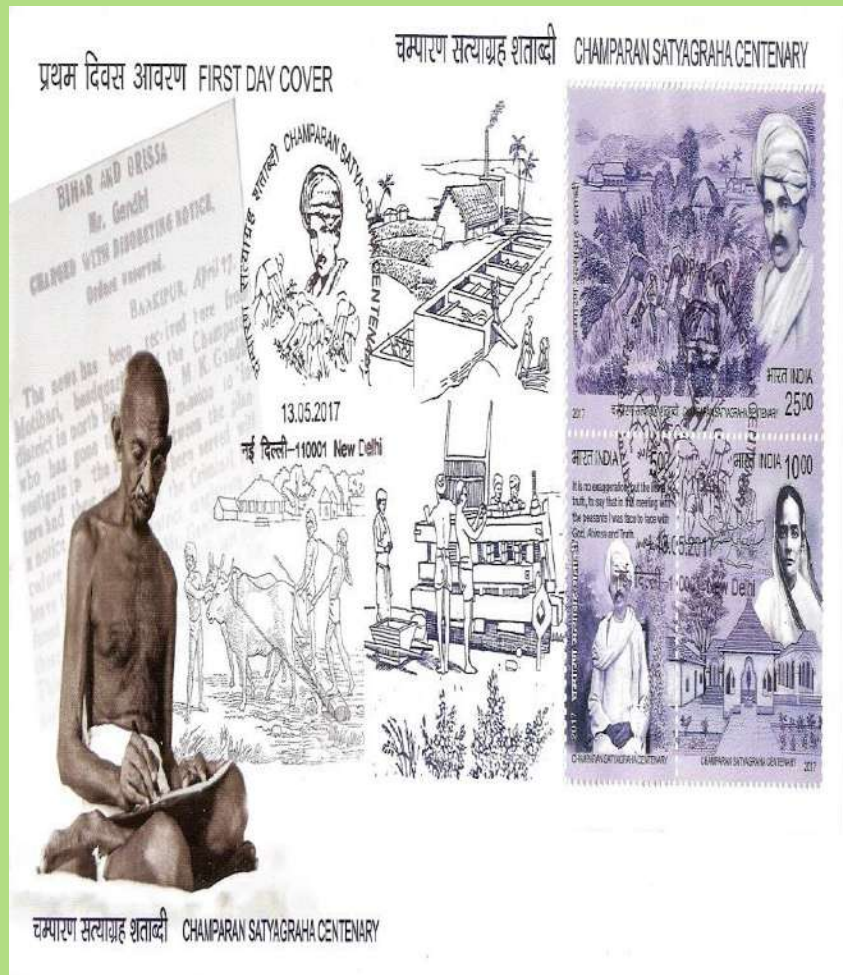
Topic- Gandhi's Satyagraha Experiment in India

Satyagraha Experiment in Champaran



The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 marks Mahatma Gandhi's first successful application of his method of 'Satyagraha' in India

Centenary Celebration of Champaran Satyagraha



On April 10, 2017 the Govt. Of India has started year-long celebrations to mark the Centenary of Mahatma Gandhi's Champaran satyagraha .

Important Sources and Historical Literature

- B. B. Mishra (Ed.) – *Select Documents on Mahatma Gandhi's Movement in Champaran 1917-18'*
- Rajendra Prasad – *Satyagraha in Champaran*
- D. G. Tendulkar – *Gandhi in Champaran*
- Judith Brown – *Gandhi's Rise to Power: Indian Politics 1915-1922*
- Jacques Pouchepadass - *Champaran and Gandhi: Planters, Peasants and Indian Politics*

Champaran in early twentieth Century

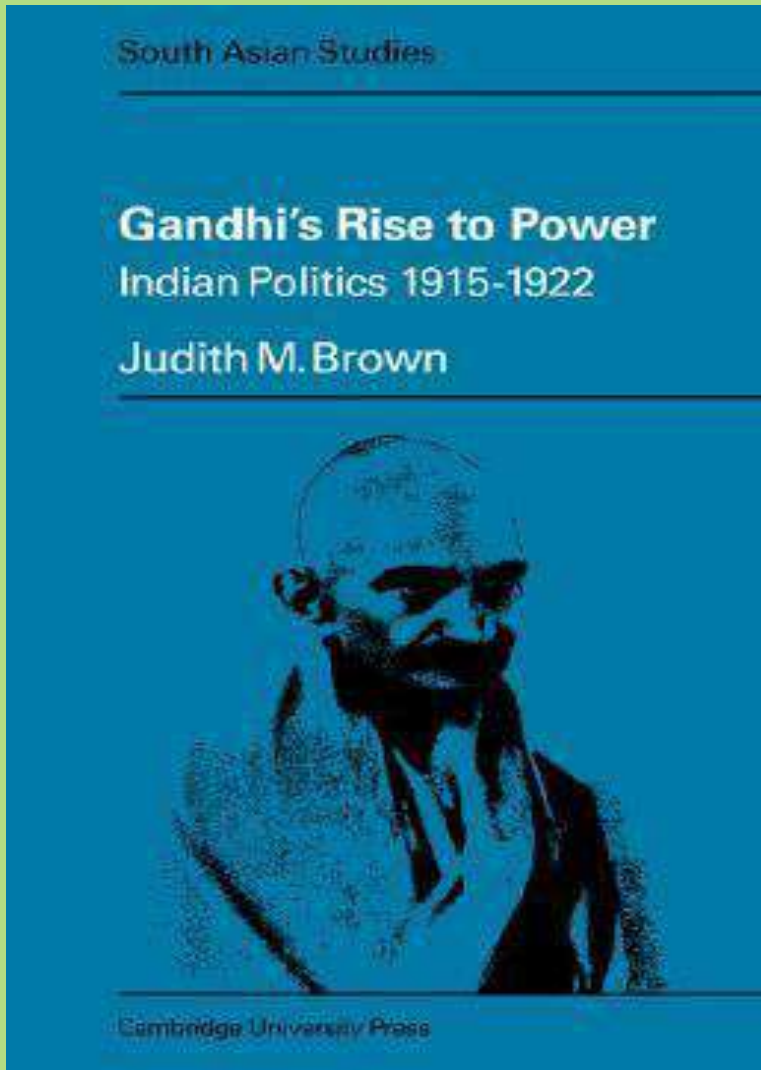
- The district of Champaran covers 3,531 square miles in north west Bihar and it had nearly two million inhabitants. Ninety Percent of the people directly dependent on Agriculture and only two percent lived in Motihari and Bettiah, the district's two towns.



Motihari Jn. in its Original When Mahatma Gandhi Came Champaran in 1917

Judith Brown

In Brown's analysis, the Satyagraha enabled Gandhi to recruit 'subcontractors' - the western educated and vernacular elite of 'backward' areas and small towns in Indian political life.



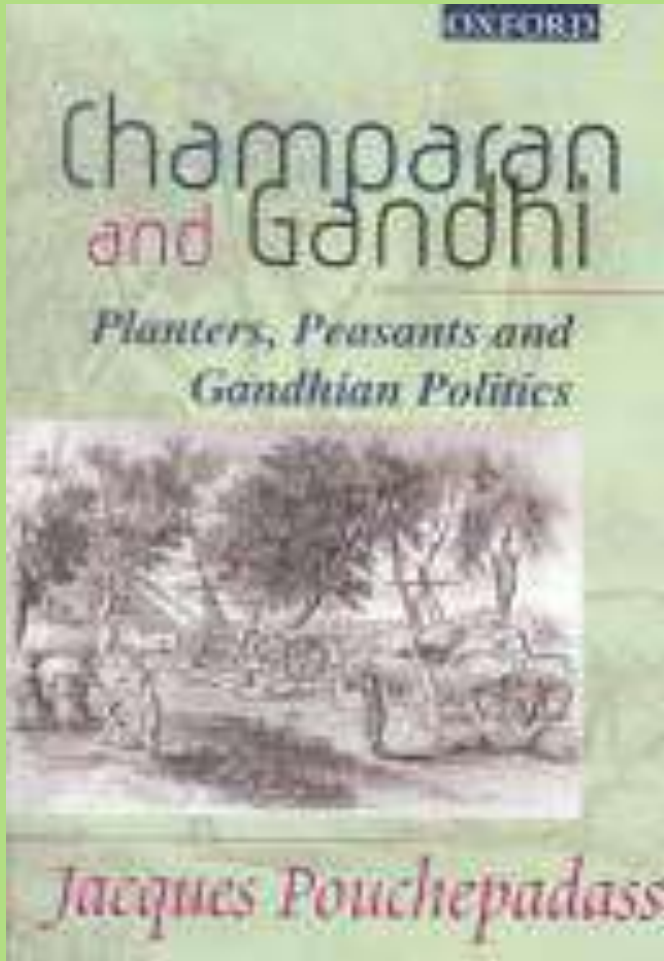
Gandhi Associates in Champaran



Rajendra Prasad, J.B. Kripalani and Anugraha Narayan Sinha – people who played vital roles in Peasant mobilization in Champaran.

[Sitting from Left] Rajendra Prasad, Anugraha Narayan Sinha.

Jacques Pochepadass



The region had a long tradition of anti-planter discontent and agitation. Gandhi's participation was a result of the invitation given to him by Rajkumar Shukla, a peasant leader who had travelled to the Lucknow Congress (1916) to pursue Gandhi.

Role of 'Middle' Peasants

- People who played significant role in Champaran's Peasant Mobilization were not Gandhian converts, but rich and middle ranking peasants (Rajkumar Shukla, Khendar Prasad Rai, sant Raut, Lomraj Singh, etc.), as well as local mahajans and traders who resented planter competition.

Gandhi as Mass Leader

Gandhi's influence was evident in the crowds of peasants showed up wherever he happened to be present. More than eight thousand peasants came to lay their grievances before him or his assistants in two months.



Gandhi as Mahatma

Peasant's faith in the almightiness of Gandhi was also glaringly apparent in Champaran. Gandhi was like a saviour, a liberator or incarnation of 'Ramachandra' who will save the peasants from the oppression of 'Rakshasas' (demons) Nilkars.

