

100 years of Chauri Chaura incident

February 5, 2022

In news- Year 2022 marks the completion of 100 years of the Chauri Chaura incident.

About Chauri Chaura incident-

- On 2 February 1922, volunteers participating in the Non-cooperation Movement led by a retired Army soldier named Bhagwan Ahir, protested against high food prices and liquor sale in the marketplace.
- The demonstrators were beaten back by the local police and several of the leaders were arrested and put in the lock-up at the Chauri Chaura police station.
- In response to this, a protest against the police was called on 4 February, to be held at the local marketplace.
- On **4 February, 1922**, approximately 2,000 to 2,500 protesters assembled and began marching towards the market at Chauri Chaura.
- They had gathered to picket a liquor shop in the marketplace. Their leader was arrested, beaten and put in jail.
- Part of the crowd gathered in front of the local police station shouting slogans demanding the release of their leader.
- **In an attempt to frighten and disperse the crowd, the police fired warning shots into the air.** This only agitated the crowd who began to throw stones at the police.
- With the situation getting out of control, **the Indian sub-inspector in charge ordered the police to open fire on the advancing crowd, killing three and wounding several others.**

- In the ensuing chaos, the heavily outnumbered police fell back to the shelter of the police chowki while the angry mob advanced.
- Infuriated by the gunfire into their ranks, **the crowd set the chowki ablaze, killing all of the Indian policemen and chaprassis (official messengers) trapped inside,** resulting in deaths of three civilians and 23 policemen.
- The incident dealt a **blow to the nonviolent noncooperation movement led by Mahatma Gandhi,** who denounced the violence in Chauri Chaura and **called off a campaign of civil disobedience that he had been about to launch in Bardoli, Gujarat state.**
- Suspension of the campaign angered Jawaharlal Nehru, Motilal Nehru and CR Das.