

VISUAL REPRESENTATION
of DANDI MARCH

initial storyboarding for a film

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Project 1 : **Internship under Prof. Mazhar Kamran**

May- June 2016

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M.Des 2015-2017

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ABSTRACT

As part of my internship programme, I had the wonderful opportunity to work with Prof. Mazhar Kamran, a well known Cinematographer of India.

I was working on the initial storyboarding for the movie on Dandi March.

First time working for a movie challenged my perspective about films and the work progress. It also strengthened my visualisation capability and overall understanding about framing in movies, the role of Cinematographer or Director or Photography and the perks of storyboarding before making a film.

This report describes the process I went through to do my task, from the script to the final renders (50+ frames) for film on 'recreating Dandi march'

PROLOGUE

The Salt March, which took place from March to April 1930 in India, was an act of civil disobedience led by Mohandas Gandhi to protest British rule in India. During the march, thousands of Indians followed Gandhi from his religious retreat- Sabarmati Ashram near Ahmedabad to the Arabian Sea coast, a distance of some 240 miles (390 km). The march resulted in the arrest of nearly 60,000 people, including Gandhi himself.

A film on recreating the events of Dandi march is proposed and I was given the job to do the initial storyboarding for the same.

A collection of 50+ frames telling the story, each frame represents the key events took place.

The book Shot by Shot by *Steven D. Katz* helped me with a start, gave an understanding on the basics of storyboarding. But, storyboarding for a biopic was a tough task indeed.

I started my work by studying the real life characters, their clothing and postures plus the important locations where the story took place.

The Process

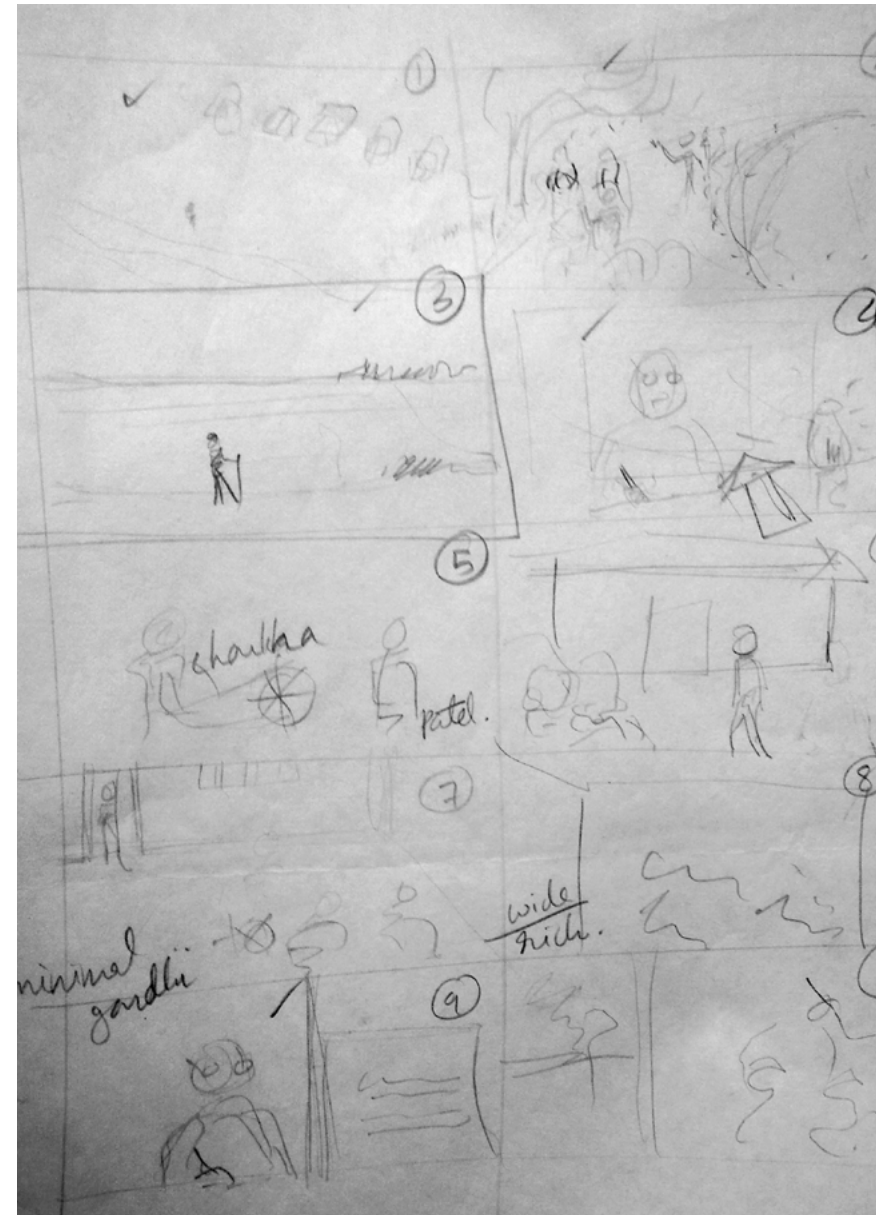
- Study storyboarding:
Shot by shot by *Steven D. Katz*,
a book on visualisation.

- Script

- Charecter study, Location study (1930's)

- Disucussion with Prof. Mazhar Kamran

- 38 scenes, 55+ frames.
Visualise the scenes.
Create a style.



The Script

A first draft of the untitled film was provided to me, It consists of 38 scenes, around 45 minute length.

The story takes place in different locations- in and around Sabarmati Ashram, Bapu's cutia, Anand Bhavan, Congress Bhavan, Clubs in Delhi (served by Indians to british officers), Viceroy's house delhi, Railway station, Narmada river bank, CID office, Kareli, Borsad Taluka, Village near gujeri, Bura village, Umarchi, Delad, Navsari, Dandi and various other places,

In order to proceed with the storyboards, It was required for me to study about the places at that time period (1930's) and also the charecters at that time.

I started collecting referance images of locations and infrastructure during 1930. I framed the locations such a way that the visually appealing and most importantly recognisable faces/parts of the location or building.

(for example, Sabarmati Ashram, Interiors of Anand Bhavan and Viceroy's house in delhi etc.)

The script had limited details since it was the first draft. That gave me more freedom to visualise the events. It was upto me to add the details in the frames- like what kind of clothing or props.

It was a tough job to do but under Mazhar sir's guidance anything was possible for me. I didn't even realise that I completed 55 frames by the end of the month.

Characters

The film focuses on Gandhi -his personality, ideas, thought process, way of life and how he initiated the Dandi march.

The story follows around Gandhi, his followers- showing the spirit of marchers and other people like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Motilal Nehru, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kasturba Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Mirabehn, Jamanlal Bajaj, etc..

The film also has a little drama in it, showing some backstories/ side stories among the marchers, a CID who reports on the march to the officers, volunteers, Reginald, Khadak Bahadur Negi, Abbas Tyabji etc..

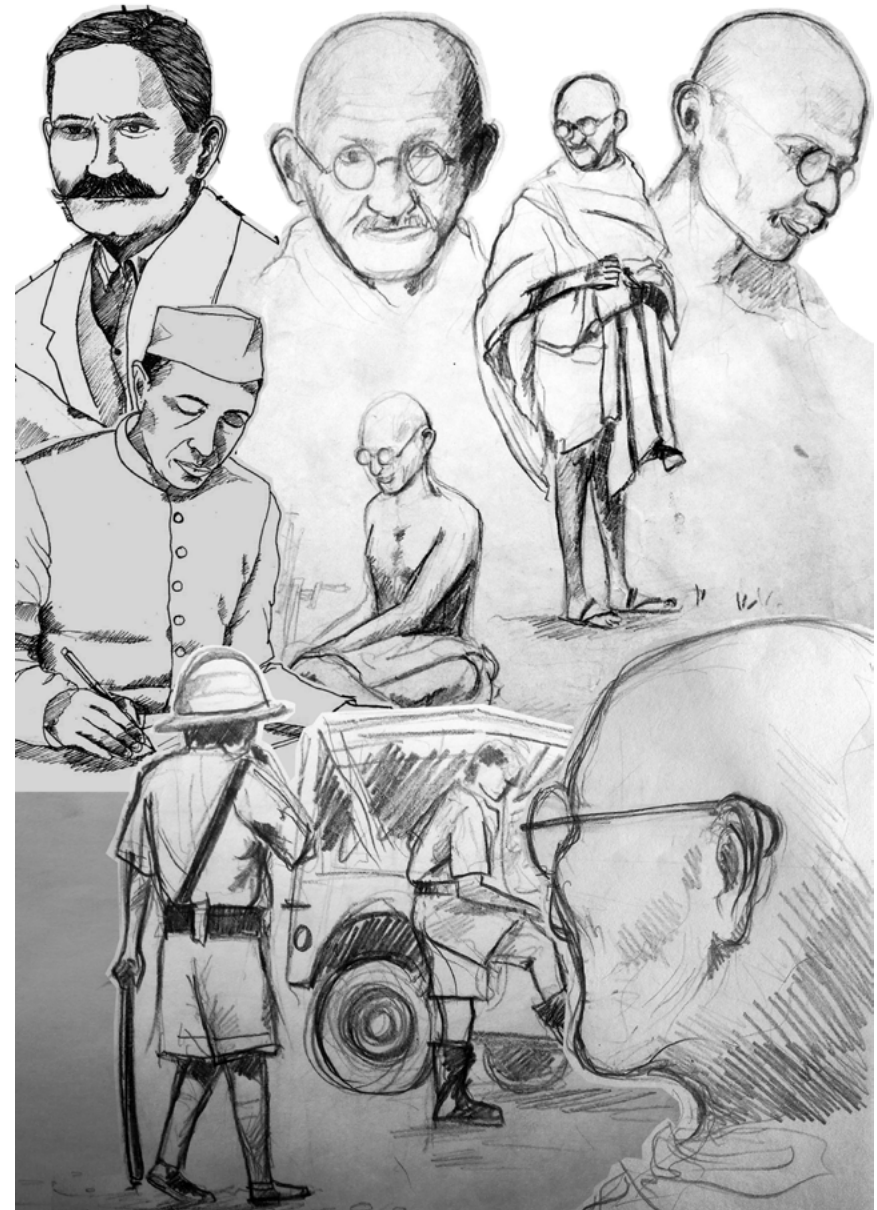
Since it is a biopic and it has all real life characters in it, I had to study the visual appearance and body language (of Gandhi and whomever I could find).

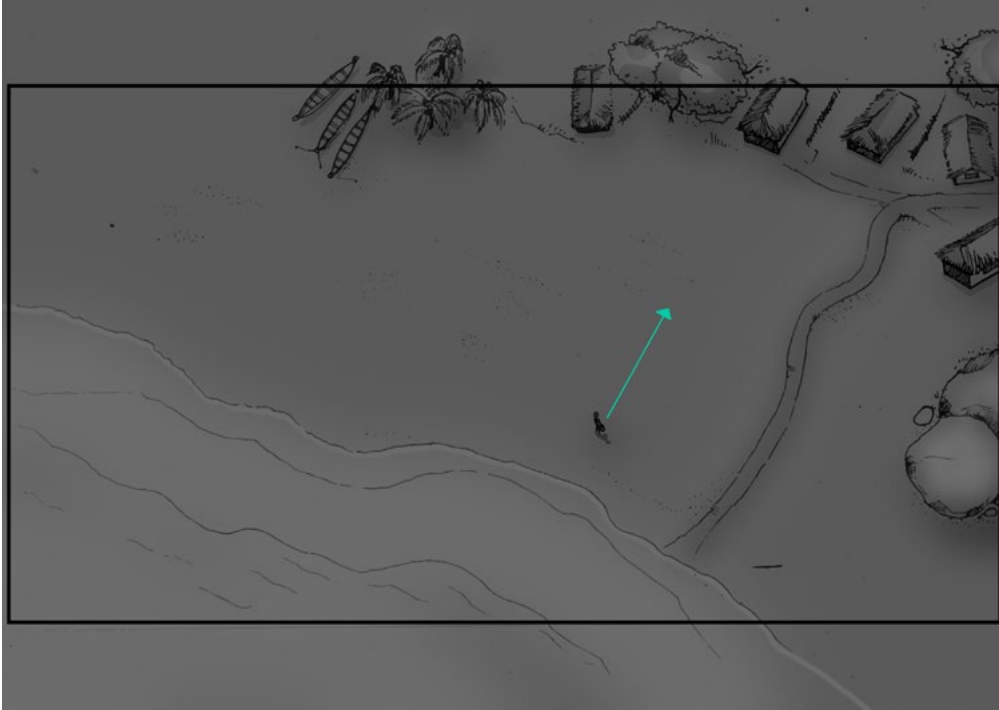
I started with rough sketches of the characters before proceeding with the actual storyboards.

It was more challenging for me to have a consistent face or figure throughout the sketches. But with time, I could draw characters in any angle with the details on face with different expressions.

The Story

- Portraying Gandhi as a person- his activities, thoughts etc. And what lead to Salt march.
- Scepticism
(it begins from the reaction of Motilal Nehru after reading the letter from Gandhi about his decision on dandi march, reaction of british officers in the club)
- Acceptance
- A CID who reports to british office.
- Peak events like Arrest of Patel, Expected arrest of Gandhi during the march, Violent repression at Dandi.
- Spirit of the Marchers and gandhi's guidance, speeches.





1

DANDI - NIGHT SHOT

A person carrying water from the sea and walking towards the house.



2

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

Police stops a person transporting Salt in a bullock cart.

Police men carrying stick and torch.



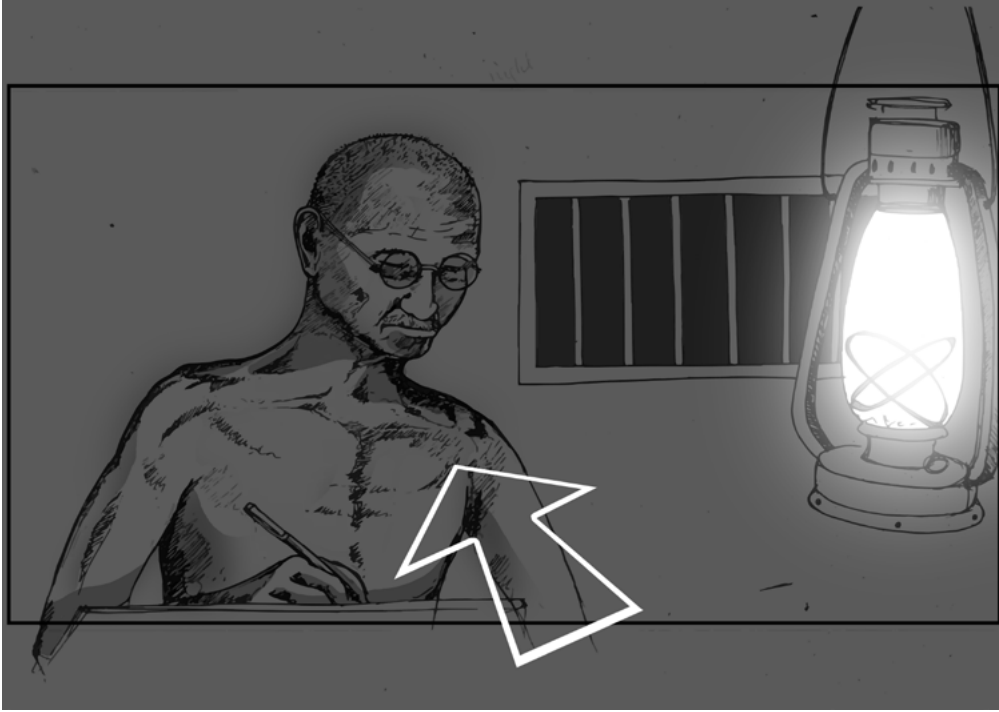
3

Feb 1930
 SABARMATI ASHRAM - DAY
 A lean figure (Gandhi) walking on the shore of the river Sabarmati in a meditative mood. He appears to be deep in thought.



4

SABARMATI ASHRAM - DAY
 A close of the frame 3. To show that Gandhi is in his thoughts. Expression.



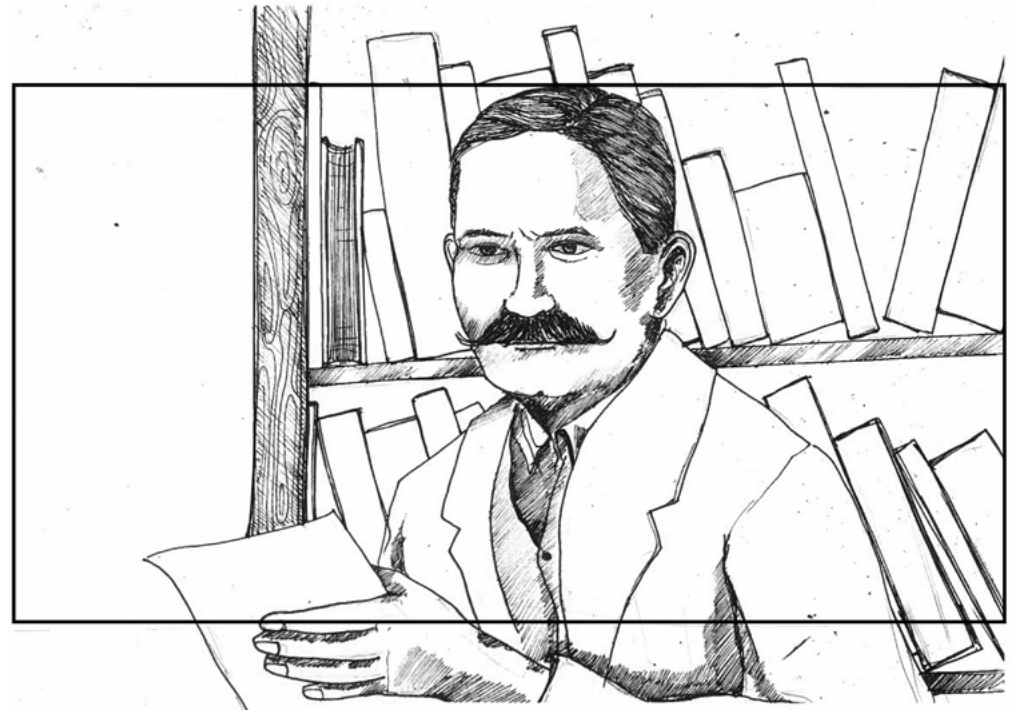
5

BAPU'S KUTIA - NIGHT

Gandhi (V.O)

"Those poor people have only one meal per day and that consists of stale bread and SALT, A HEAVILY TAXED ARTICLE...."

Gandhi starts writing in his dimly lit kutia.

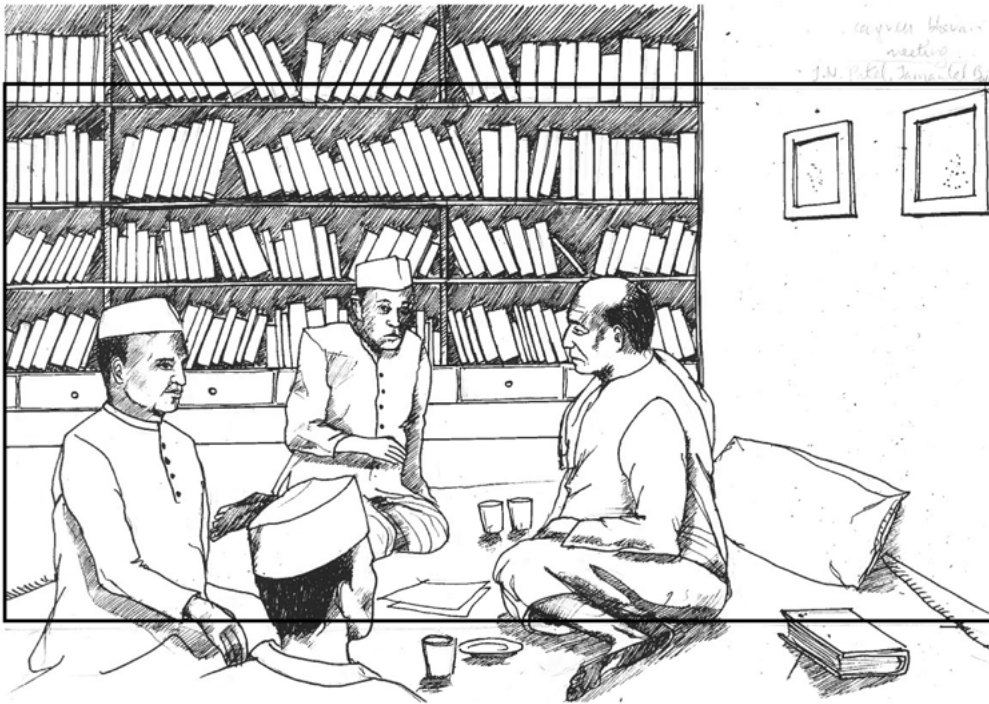


6

ANAND BHAVAN - DAY

Motilal Nehru reads the letter.

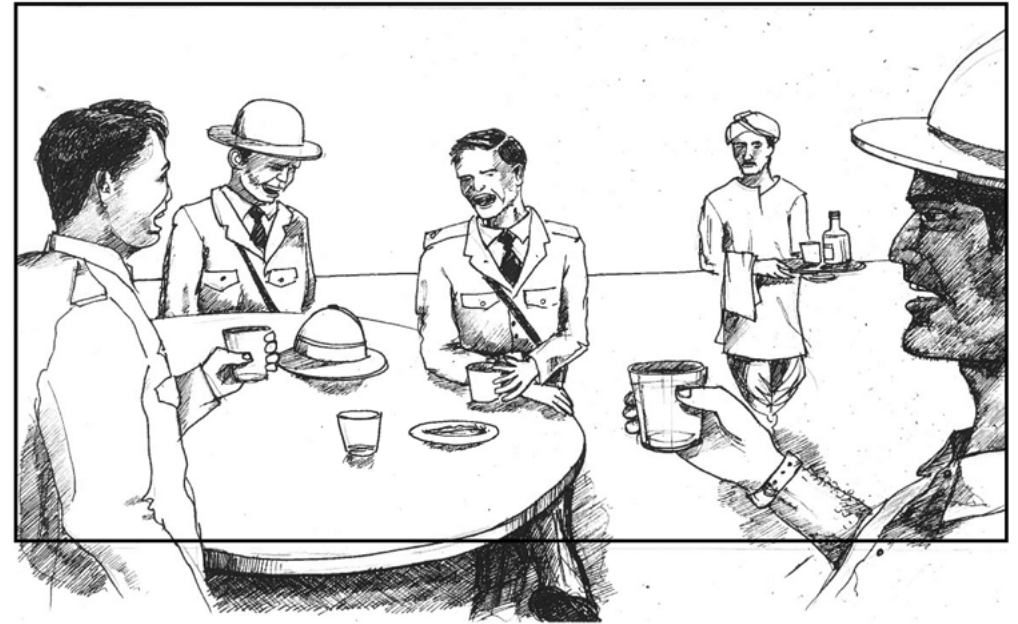
He is not happy with the decision. Someone asks what Bapu has said. Motilal tells that to get POORNA SWARAJ Bapu wants to do padyatra against SALT TAX.



7

CONGRESS BHAVAN - DAY

Young Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Jamanalal Bajaj and others are in huddle discussing Bapu's idea.



8

CLUB IN DELHI - NIGHT

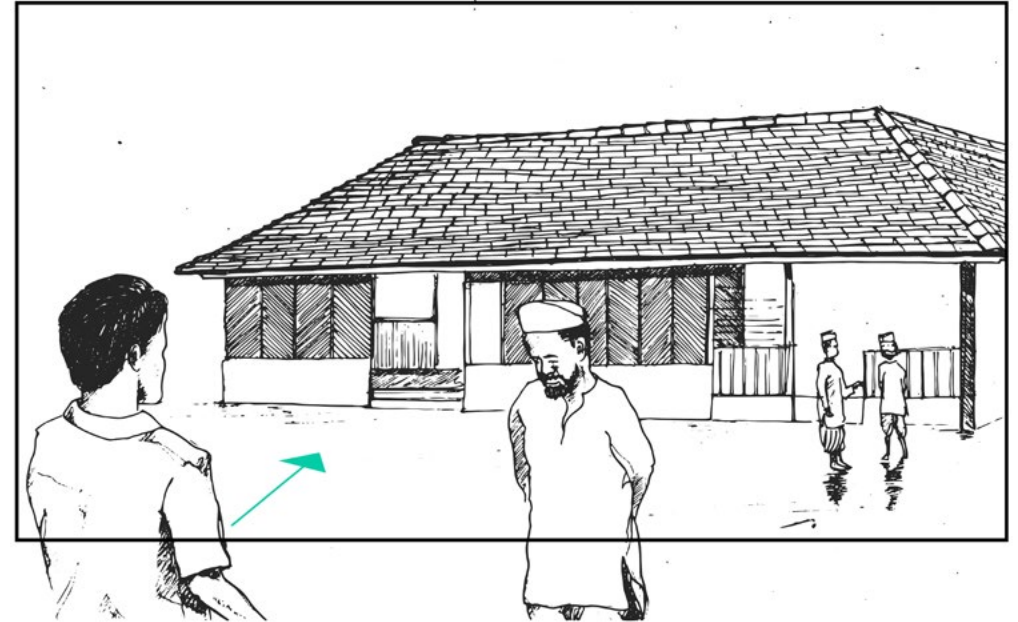
Some senior British Officers drink and chat about Bapu's salt march. They ridicule the idea and laugh about it.



9

2nd March, 1930
SABARMATI ASHRAM - EVENING

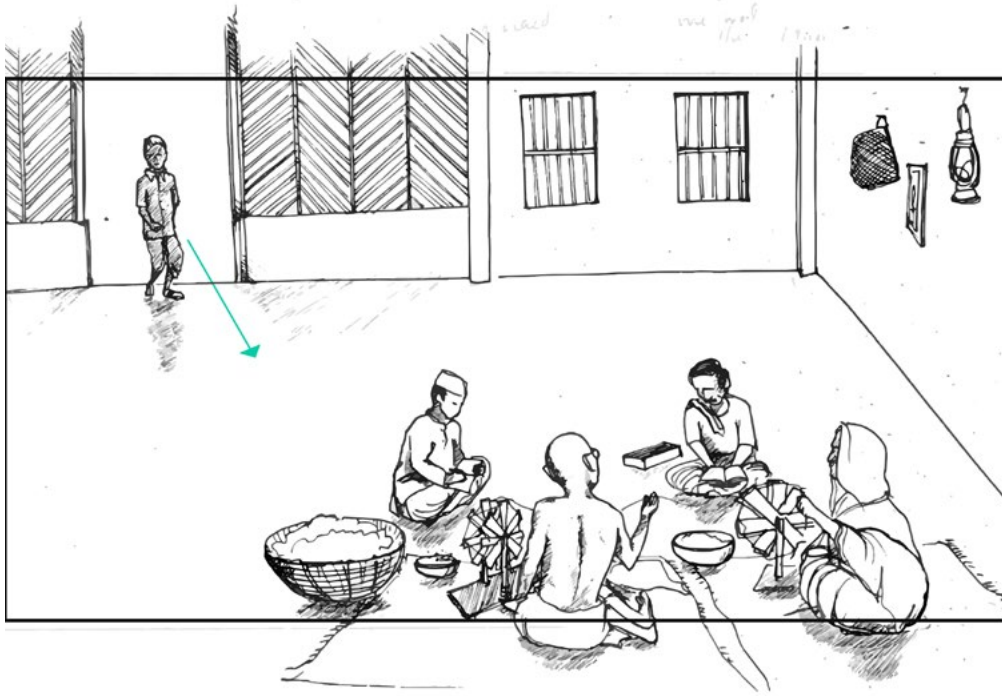
REGINALD REYNOLDS is trying his hand in weaving khadi when an ashramite tells him something.



10

SABARMATI ASHRAM - EVENING

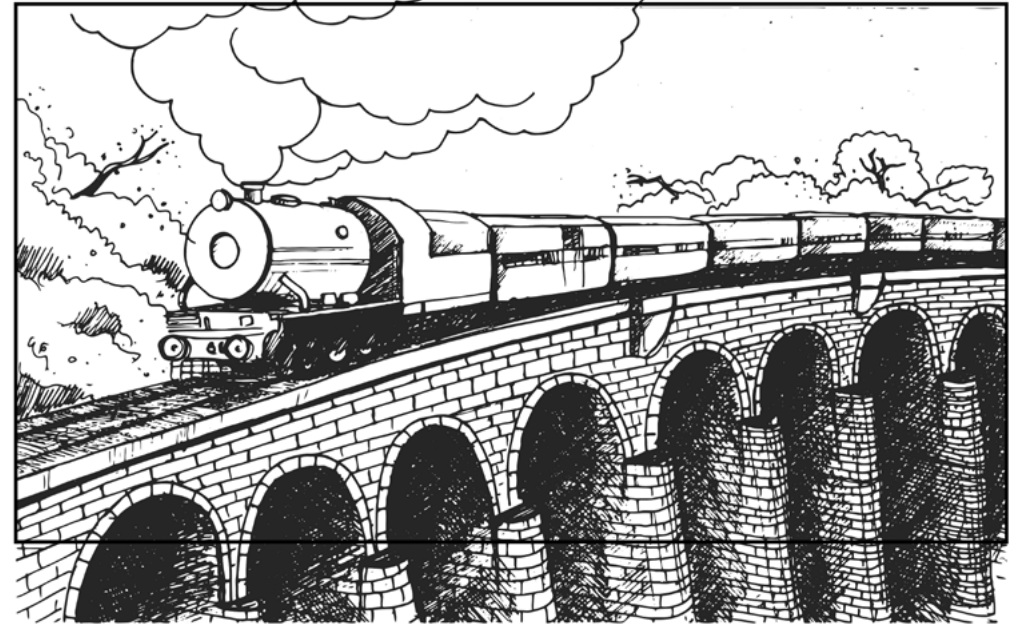
REGINALD REYNOLDS rushes towards Bapu's Kutia



11

BAPU'S KUTIA - MOMENTS LATER

REGINALD comes to see Gandhi. Gandhi is with Miraben



12

TRAIN SHOTS - NIGHT

Reginald travelling in train and there will be a voice over telling the content of the letter he is carrying.



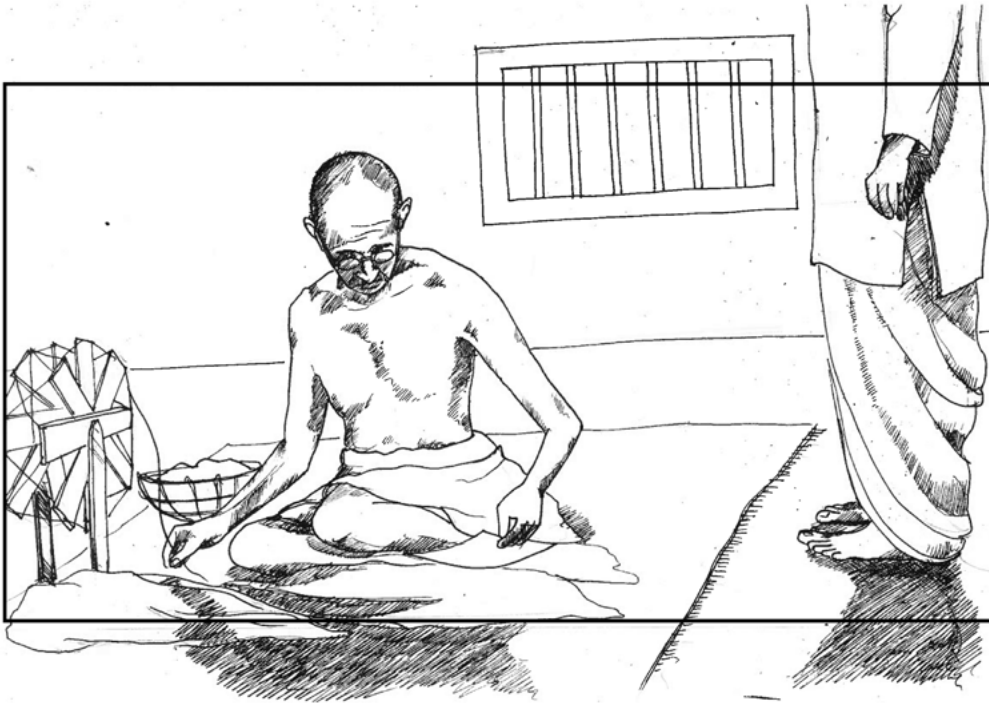
13

VICEROY'S HOUSE, DELHI - EVENING
Reginald is ushered into the Viceroy's chambers.



14

Jawaharlal Nehru writing.



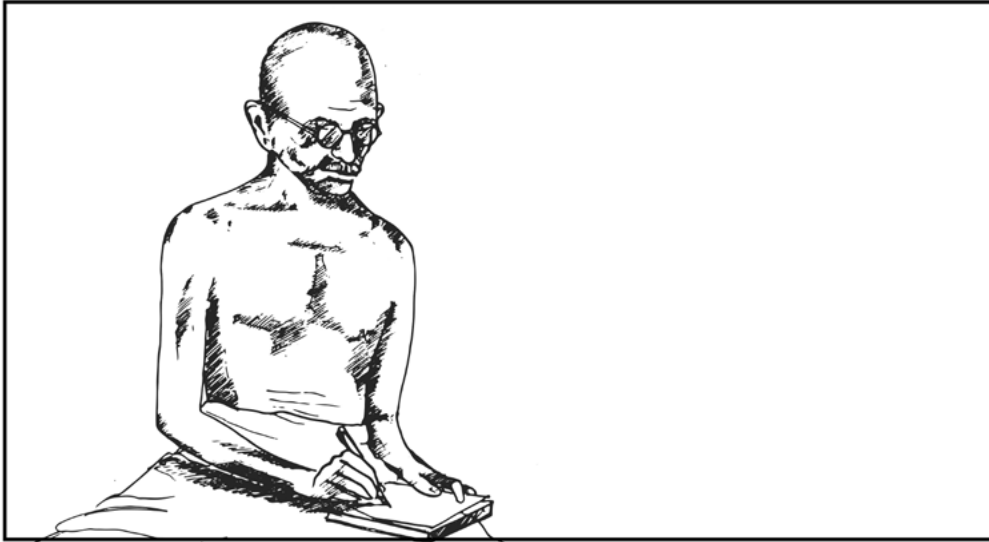
15

SABARMATI ASHRAM - DAY
Gandhi receives a letter from someone.



16

SABARMATI ASHRAM - DAY
Gandhi's expression while reading the letter.
Close up shot. low angle.



17

SABARMATI ASHRAM - DAY

Gandhi writes:

“On bended knees I asked for bread and received stone instead.”

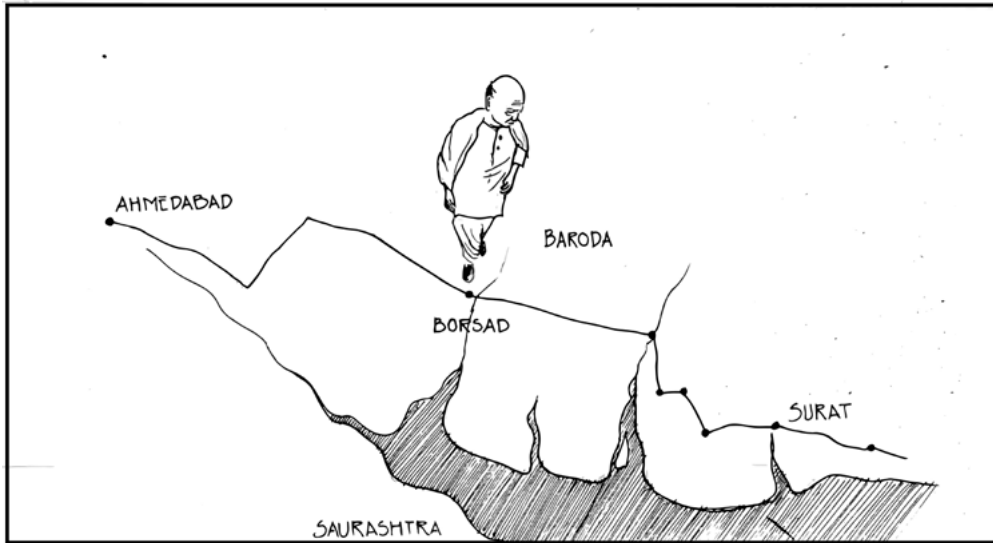


18

SABARMATI ASHRAM - DAY

Patel talking to Gandhi.

Gandhi is spinning the charkha.



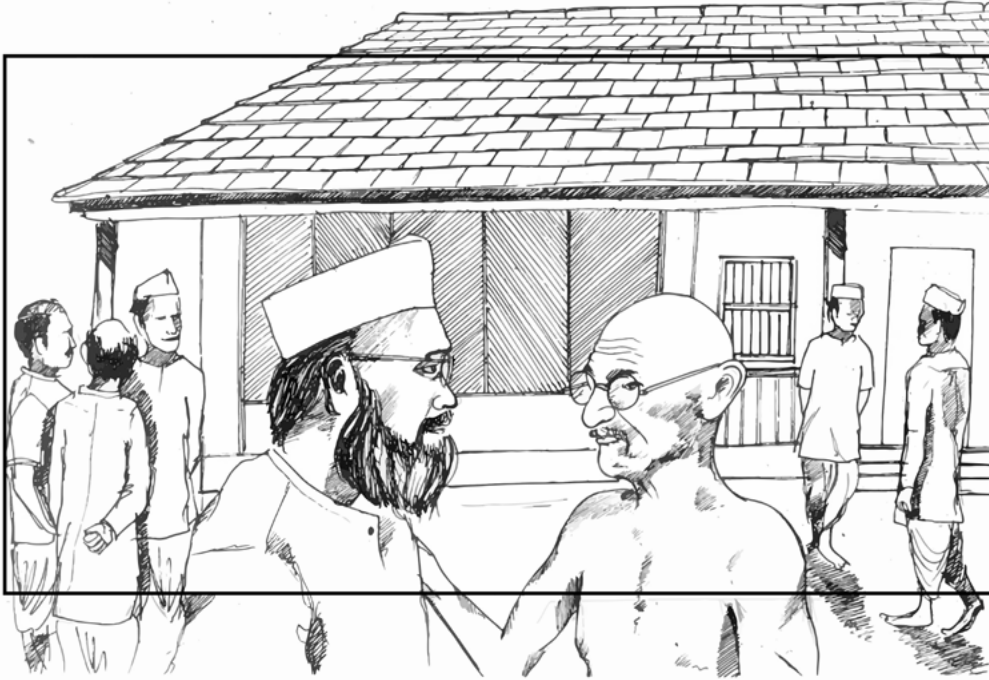
19

Patel travelling at Borsad. Travelling Patel walking and the old map of Gujarat overlayed. showing patel at Borsad.



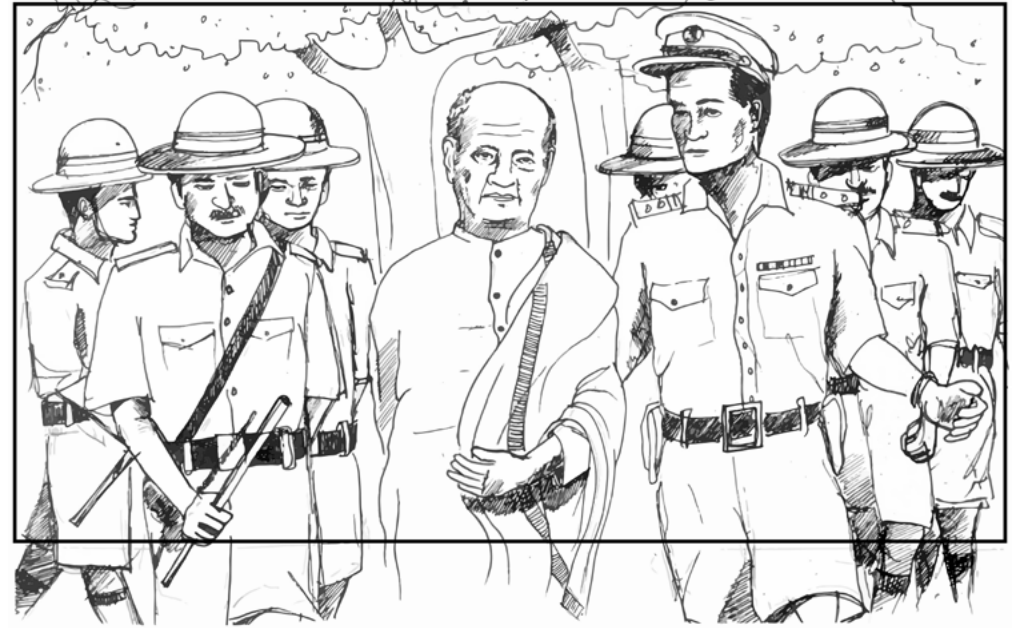
20

VIDYAPEETH - DAY
Kaka Saheb Kaleker making Arun Tukadi and telling about its task.



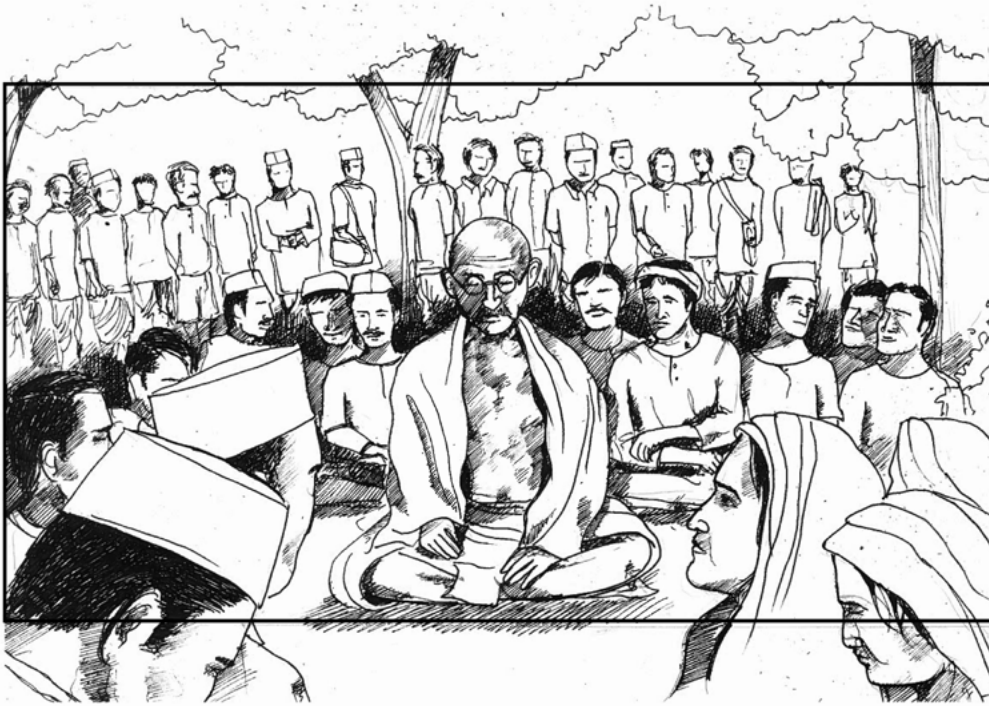
21

SABARMATI ASHRAM - EVENING
76 year old ABBAS TYABJI arrives to bless
Gandhi.



22

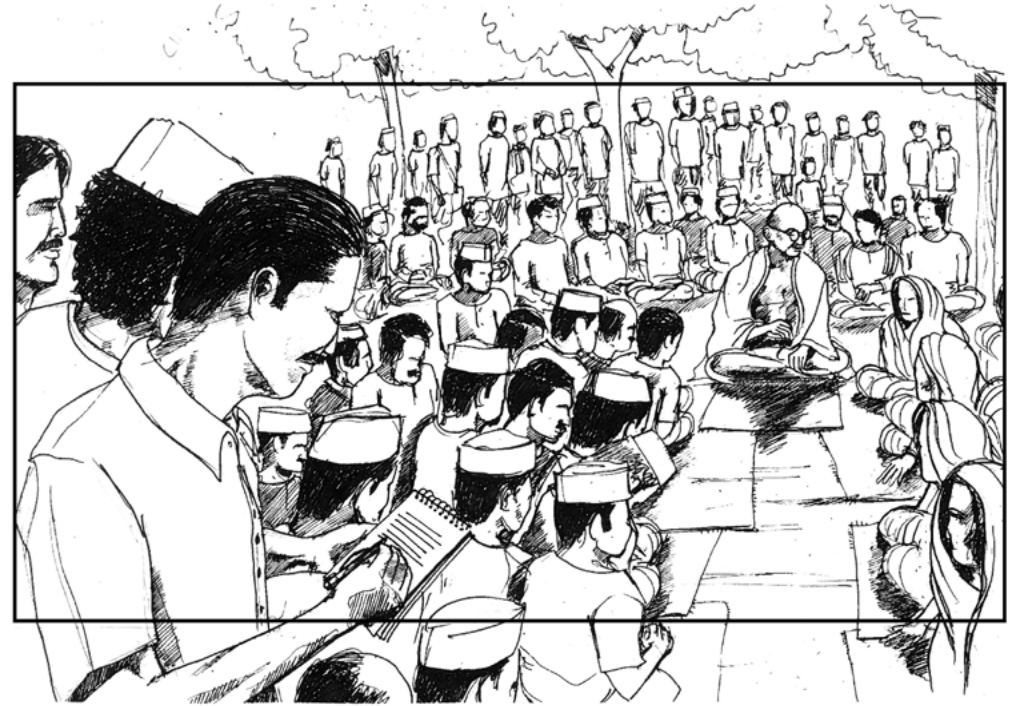
RAS VILLAGE - DAY
Patel is arrested and taken into police custody.



23

SABARMATI ASHRAM - DAY

Bapu addresses the gathering



24

SABARMATI ASHRAM - DAY

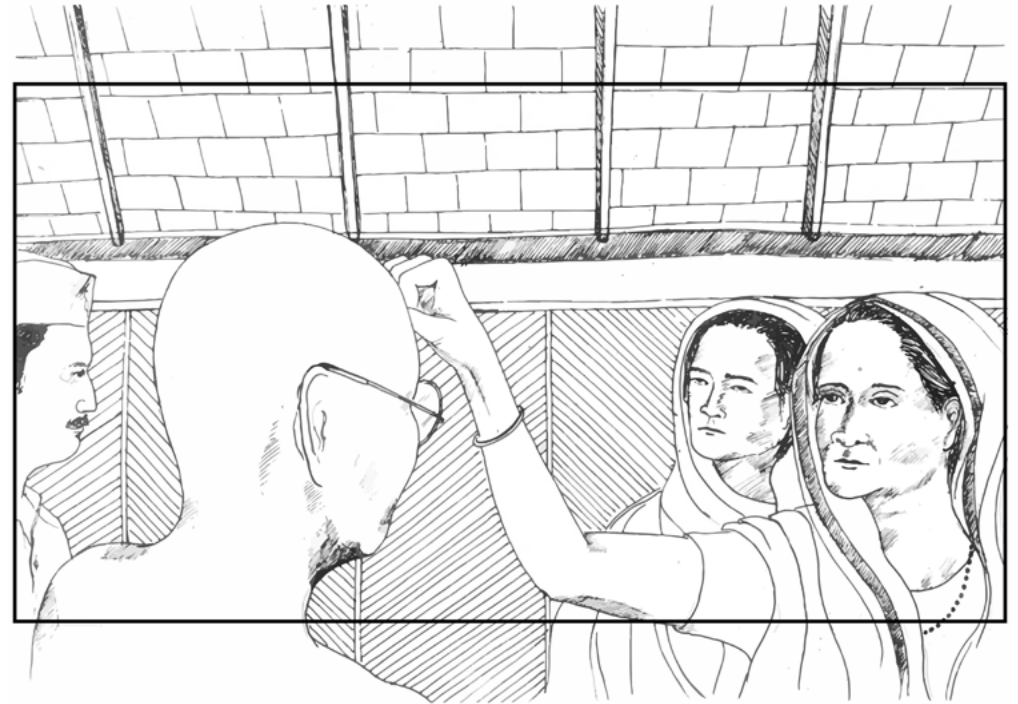
In the crowd, focus on one particular person who is taking notes in a pad, listening to Bapu's speech and observing the people's reaction.



25

CID OFFICE - NIGHT

The same person and as he enters he salutes the British officer and submit his report.

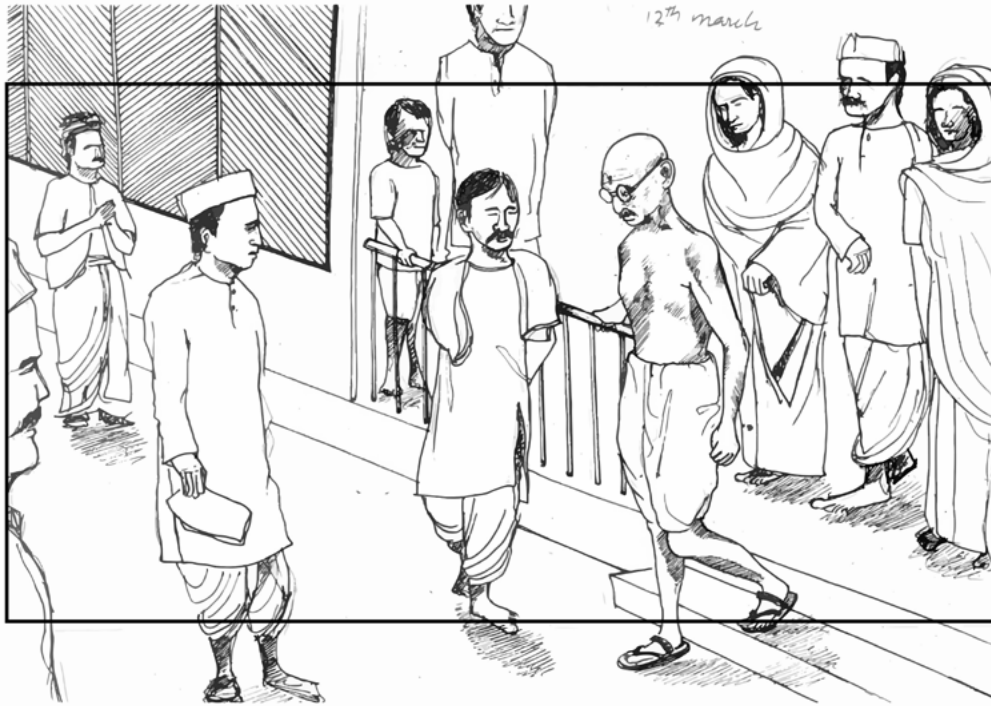


26

12th March, 1930

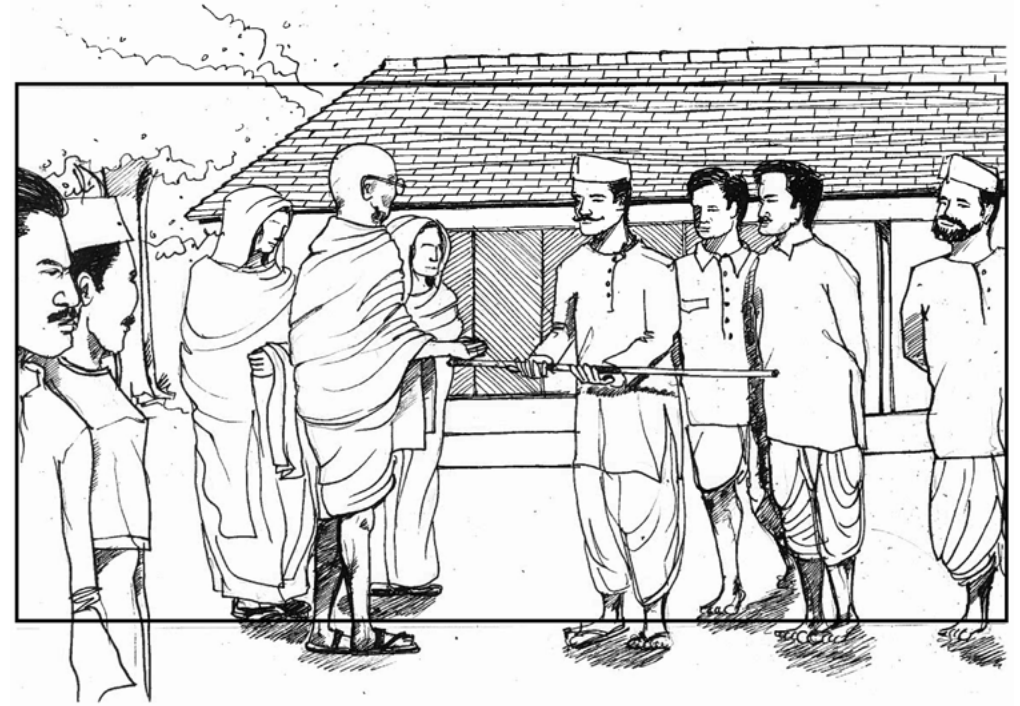
SABARMATI ASHRAM - MORNING

Kasturba puts tilak on Gandhi's forehead.



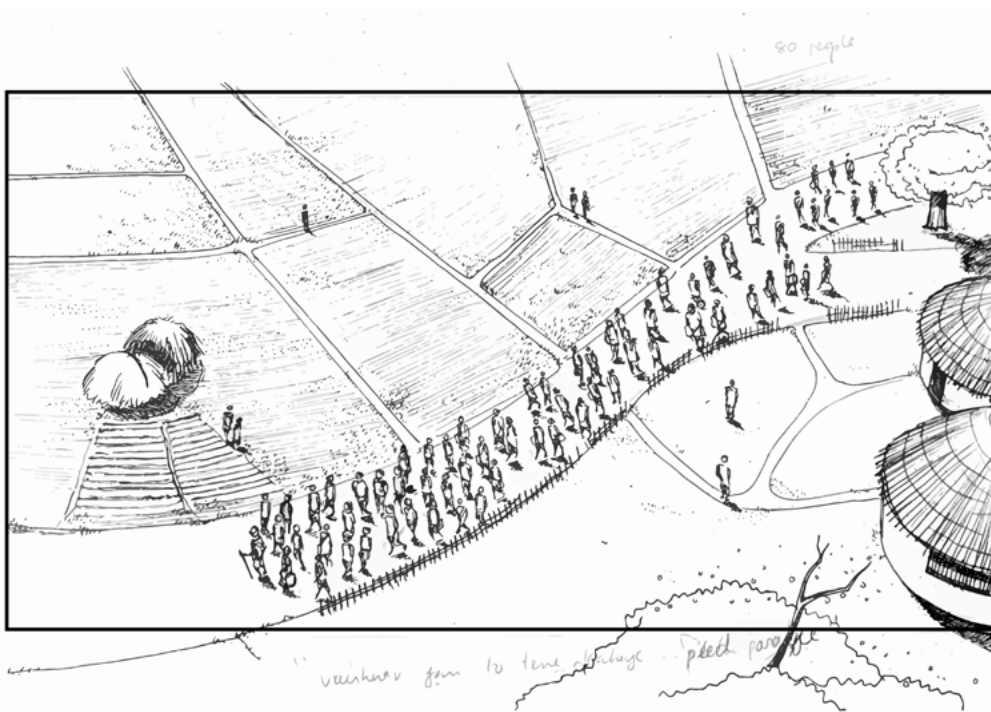
27

12th March, 1930
 SABARMATI ASHRAM - MORNING
 Gandhi stepping out of the ashram.
 People gathered around looking at Gandhi.



28

12th March, 1930
 SABARMATI ASHRAM - MORNING
 Kakasheb Kalekar hands over 54 inch iron tipped
 LATHI to Gandhi.



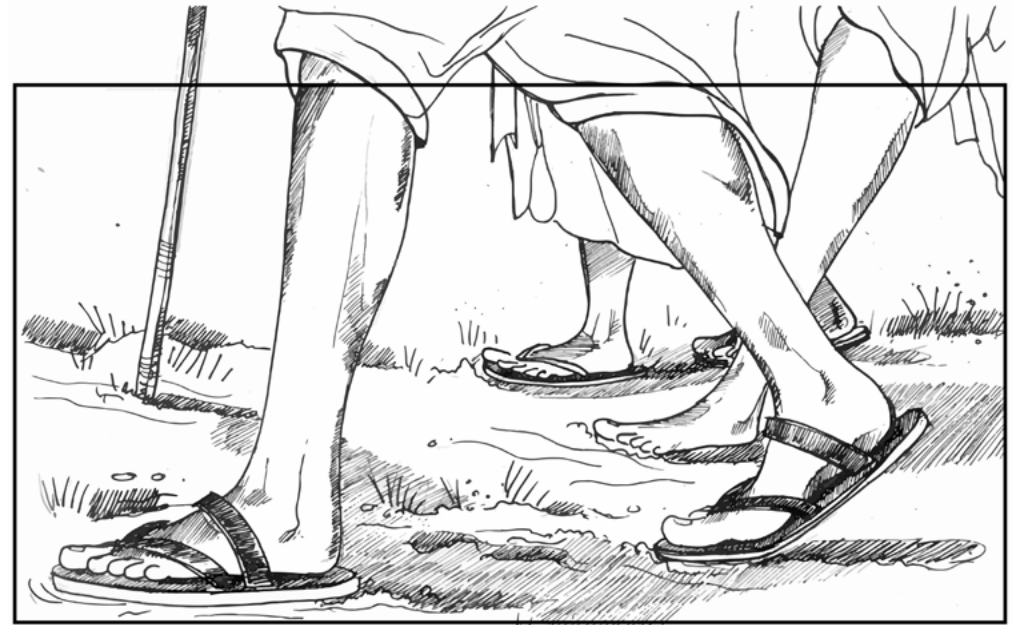
29

VARIOUS PLACES - CONTINUOUS

Gandhi leading the march.

Song plays.

“Vaishnav Jan To, Tene Kahiye Je Peed Paraaye
Jaane Re Par Dukkhe upkaar kare toye. Man ab-
himan na anne re.”



30

VARIOUS PLACES - CONTINUOUS

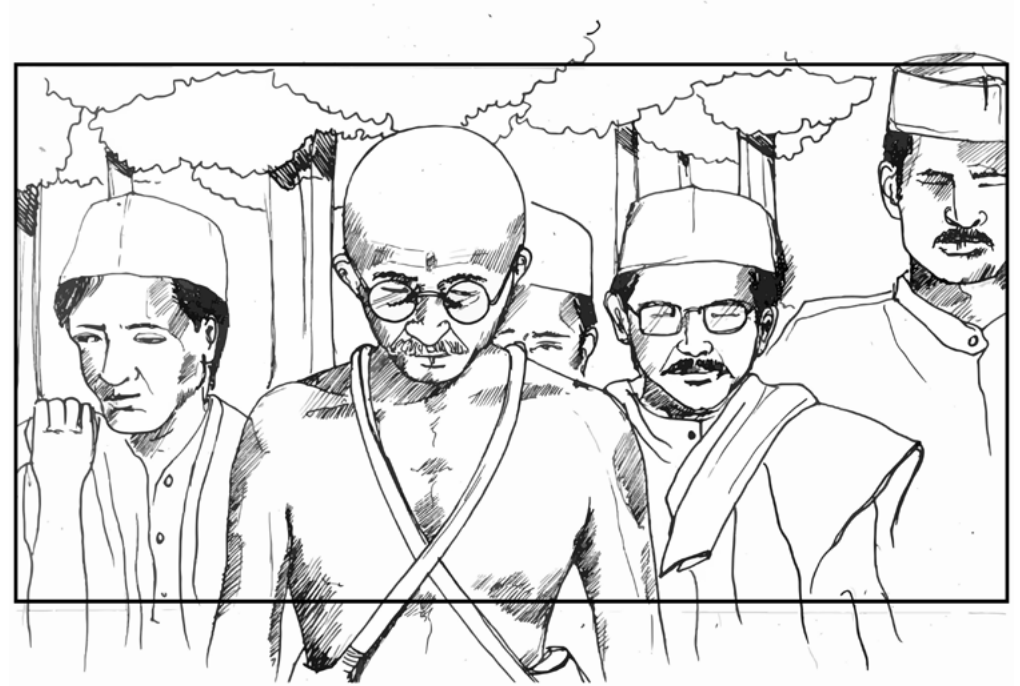
Close up.

Gandhi's foot. Walking in the mud.



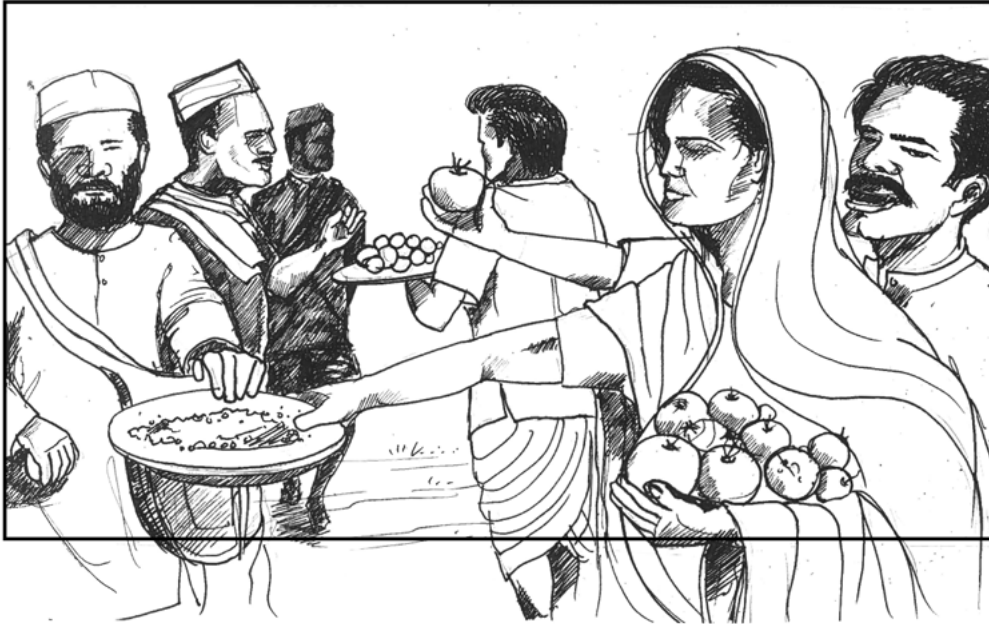
31

VARIOUS PLACES - CONTINUOUS
Gandhi and other marchers.
(referred image)



32

VARIOUS PLACES - CONTINUOUS
Close up.
Gandhi's expression.
Other marchers in the backdrop.



33

VILLAGE - DAY

People welcoming the marchers with food.



34

Gandhi looking at injured/ sick people during the march.



35

UMARCHI - NIGHT

Gandhi is walking towards his resting place and a local organiser shouts and screams at an old man who rushes in front of Gandhi holding PETROMAX on his head, so Gandhi's path can be lighted.



36

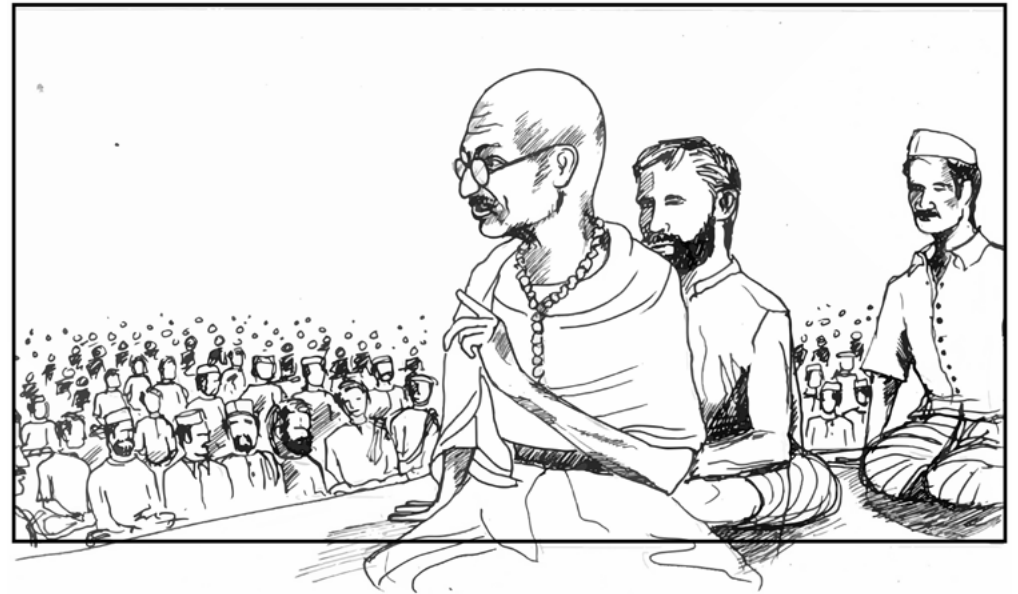
UMARCHI - NIGHT

Gandhi enters the village/ resting place.



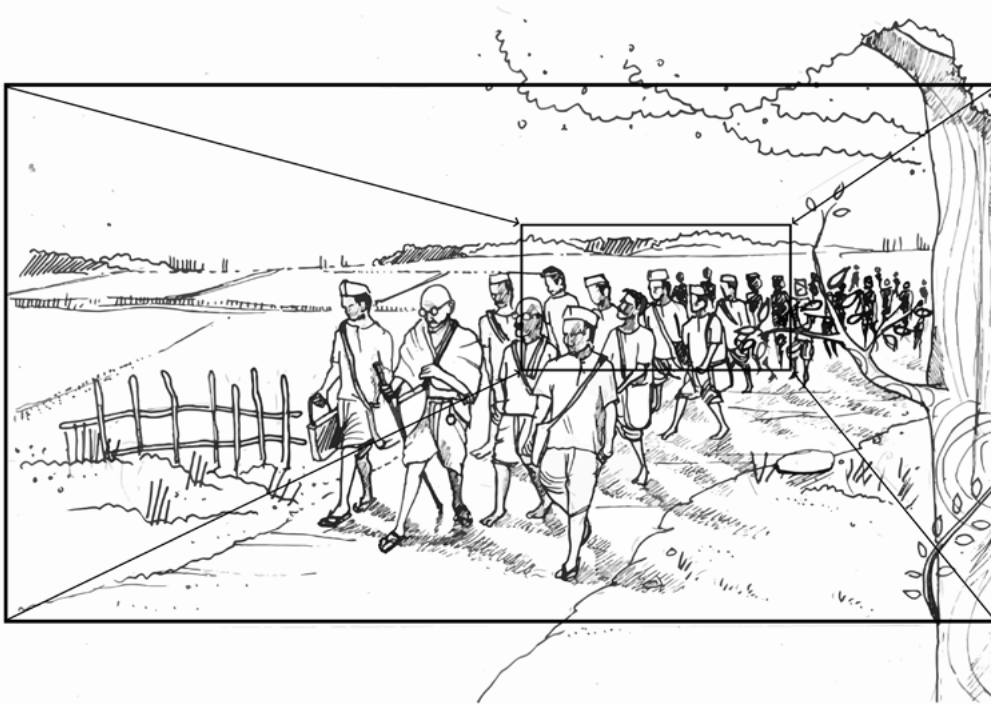
37

The CID takes notes while gandhi talks to the crowd.



38

A close up of gandhi talking to the crowd.



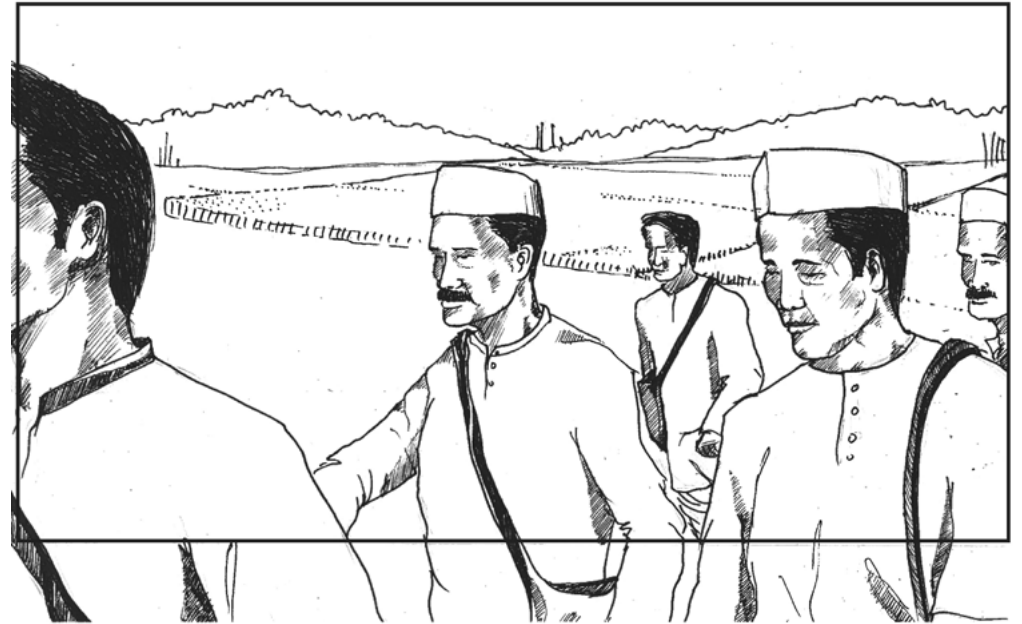
39

MATAR - EVENING

Gandhi and others.

Camera focuses on someone in the middle walking fast to the front.

KHARAG BAHADUR SINGH arrive

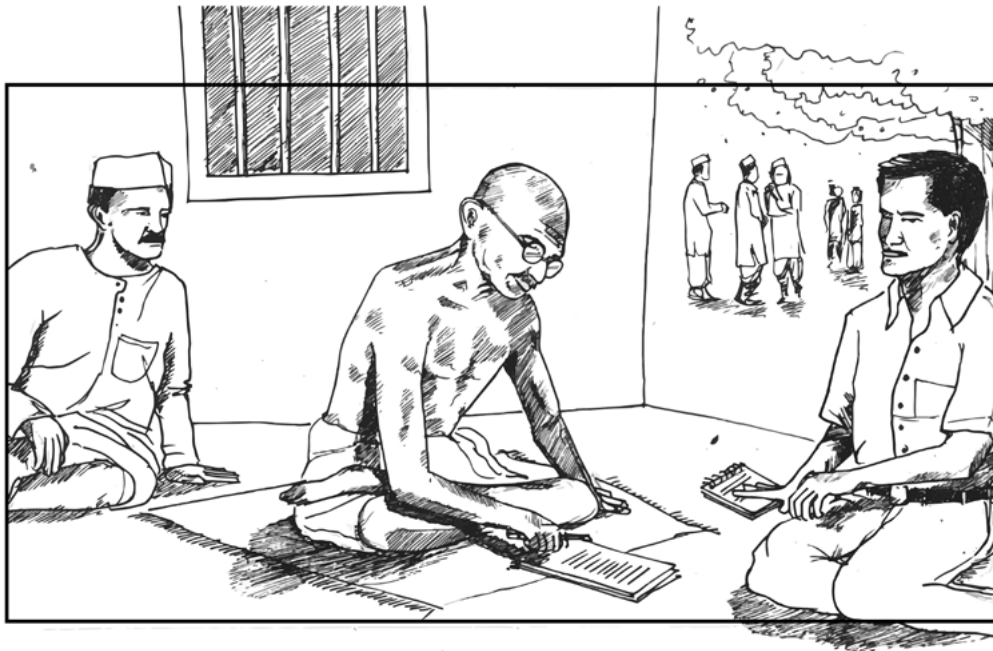


40

MATAR - EVENING

Zoomed in. Close up.

KHARAG BAHADUR SINGH trying to catchup to the front, to meet Gandhi.



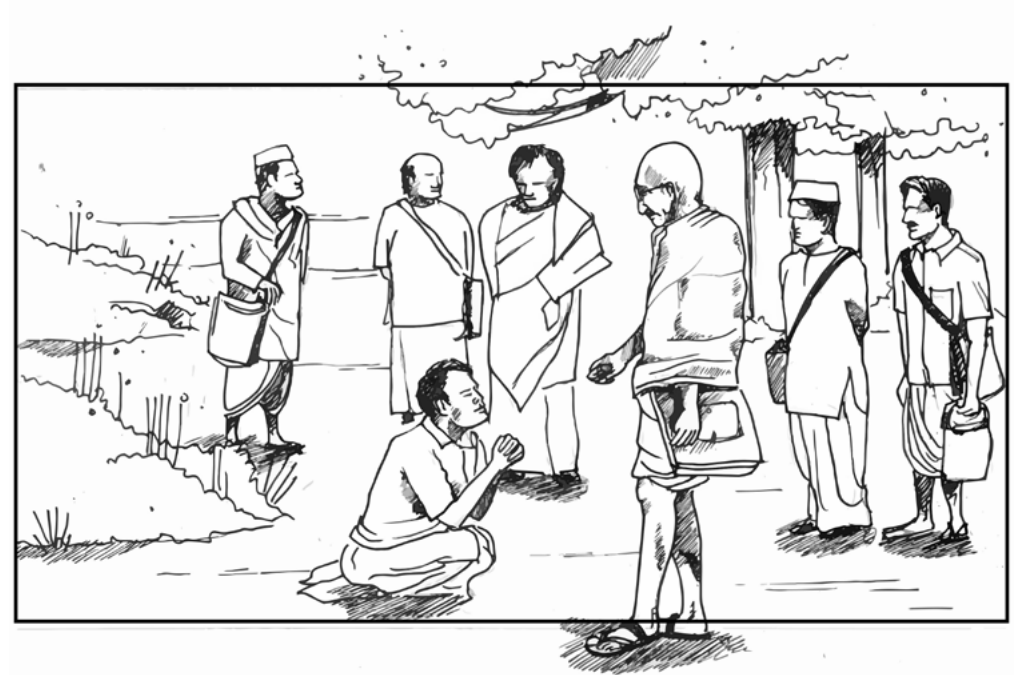
BORSAD

41

BORSAD TALUKA - MORNING

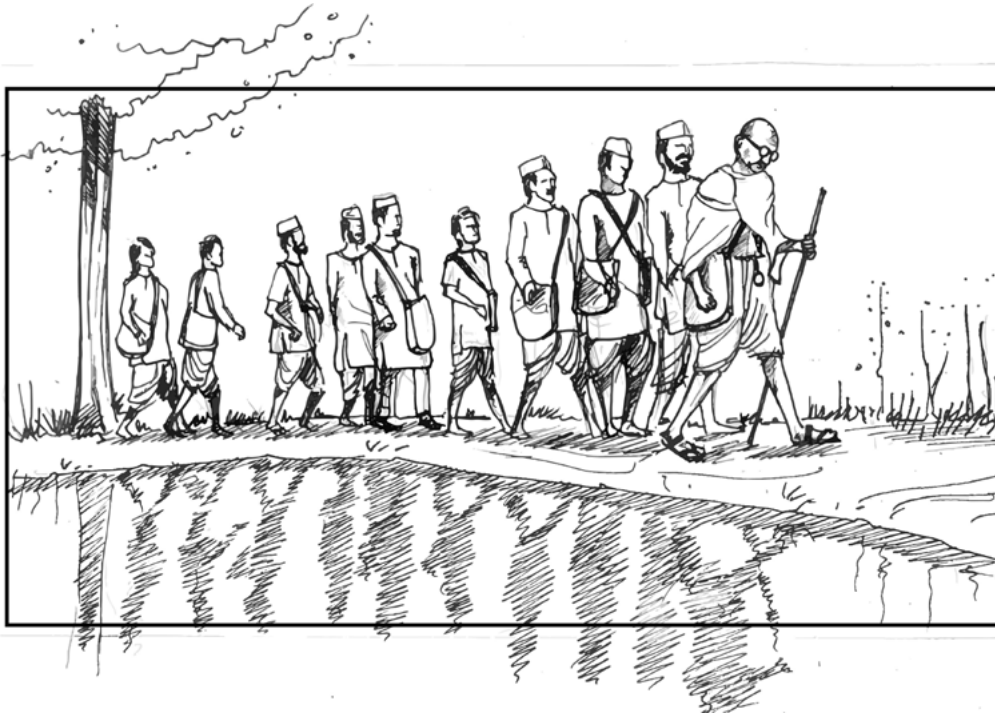
Gandhi is writing letters when Kharag Bahadur comes with a foreign journalist.

He continues writing and asks journalist to start interview.



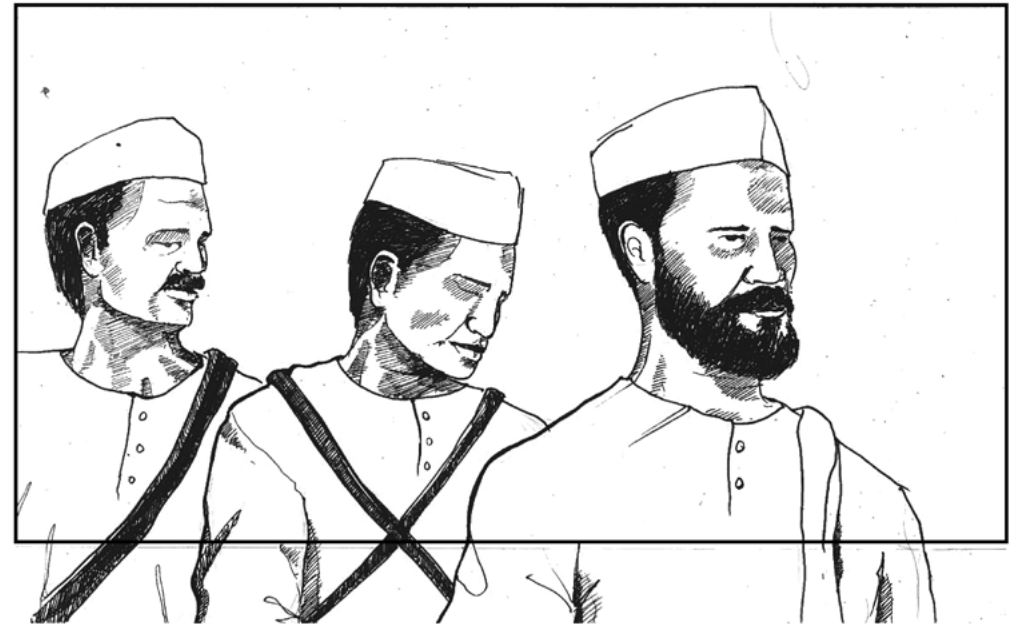
42

A person asking Gandhi for permission to continue marching even though he is injured.



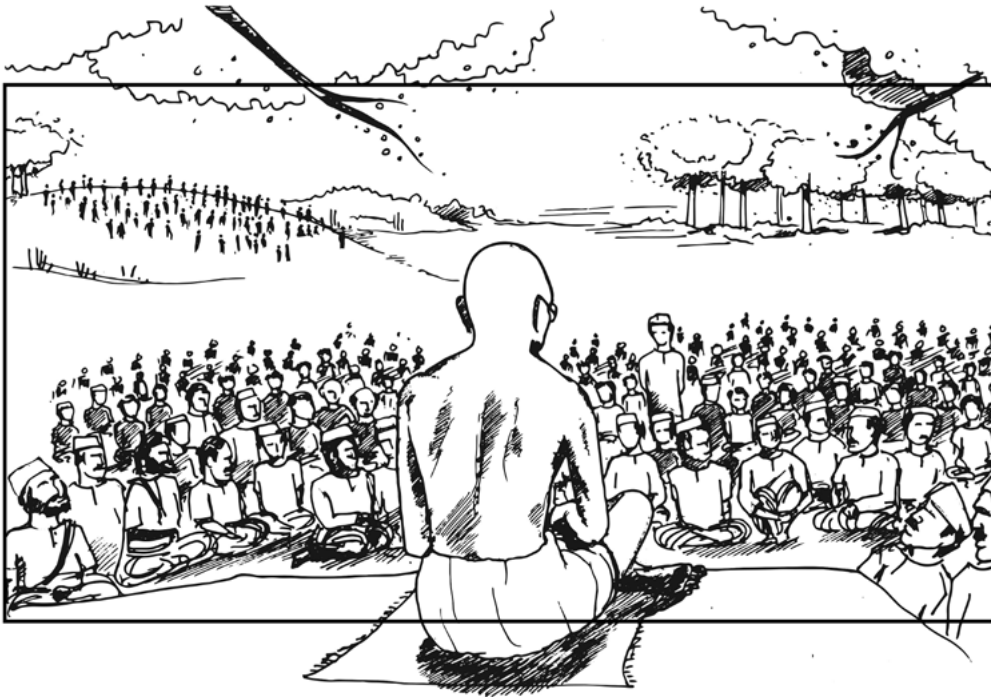
43

EXT. VILLAGE
March scene



44

EXT. VILLAGE
Close up on marchers to show the spirit of them.

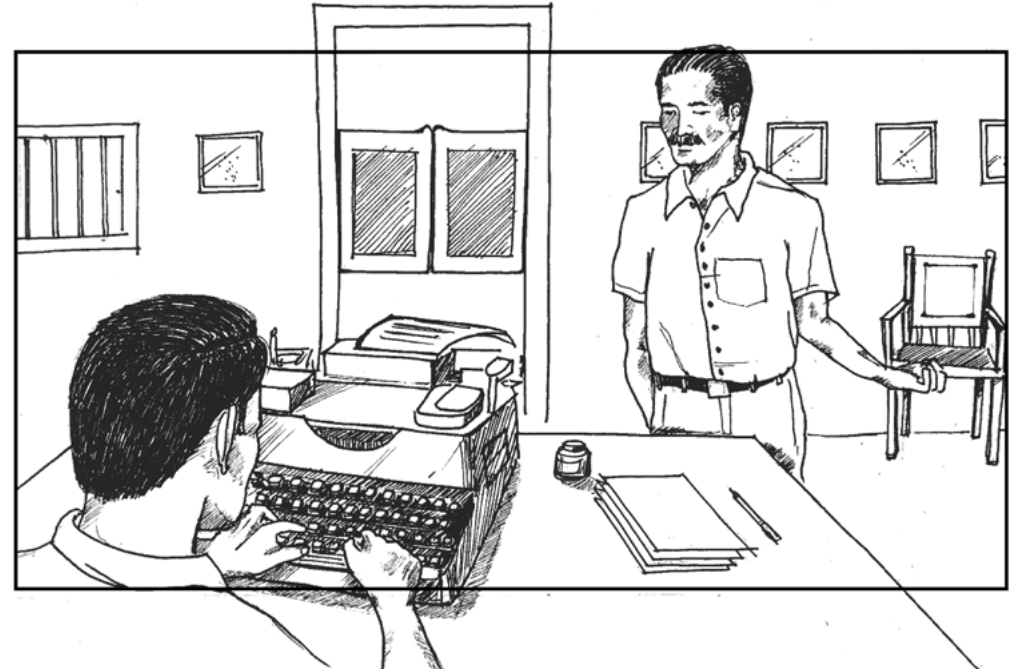


45

21st March 1930

EXT. A VILLAGE NEAR GAJERA - DAY

More than 100 poor people (untouchables) sitting in a huddle on a hillock, a little far away from Gandhi and a crowd of around 500 people.



46

CID OFFICE

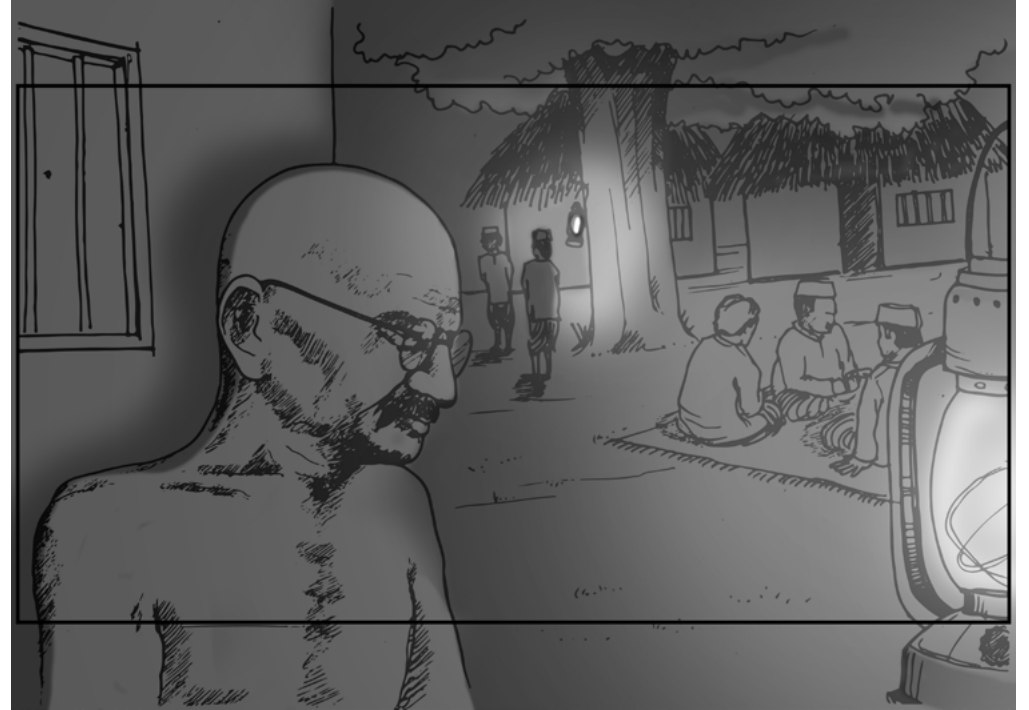
The officer is instructing while a typist is typing that there is a report that even in Surat people are awaiting Gandhi's arrival with lots of enthusiasm.



47

VILLAGE - NIGHT

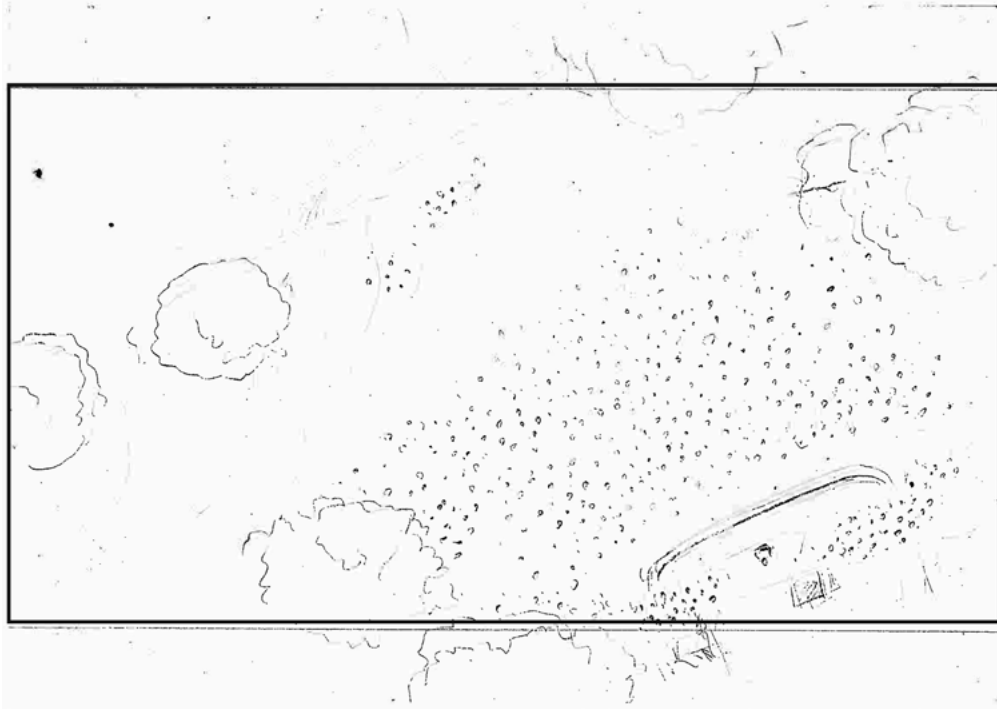
Gandhi talking to people



48

VILLAGE - NIGHT

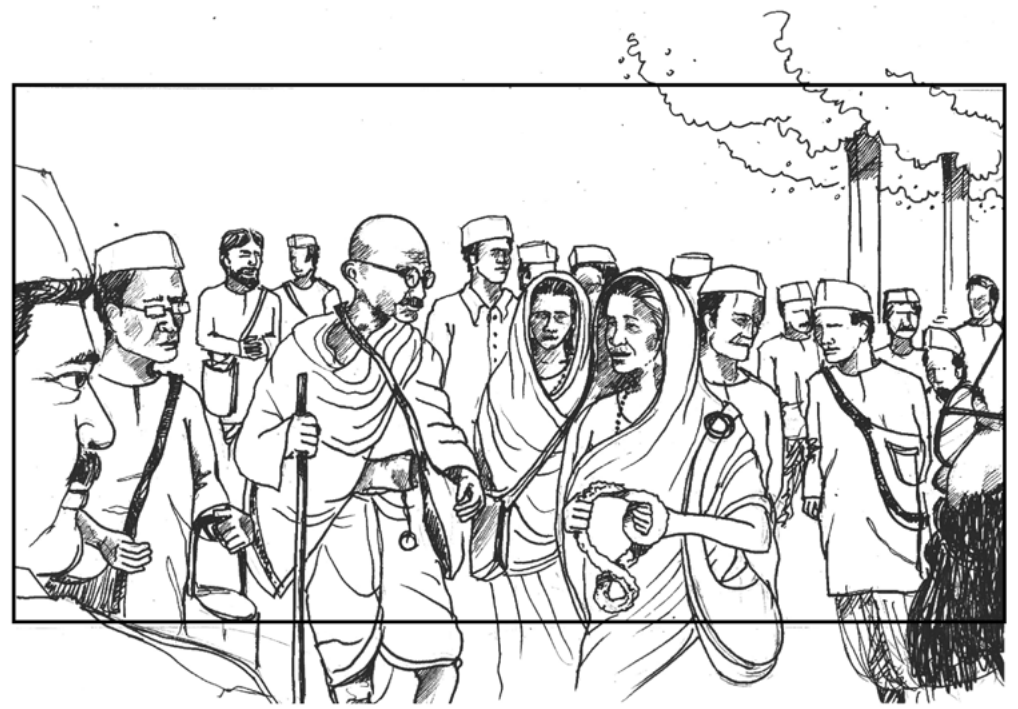
Gandhi in his thoughts, waiting for his expected arrest.



49

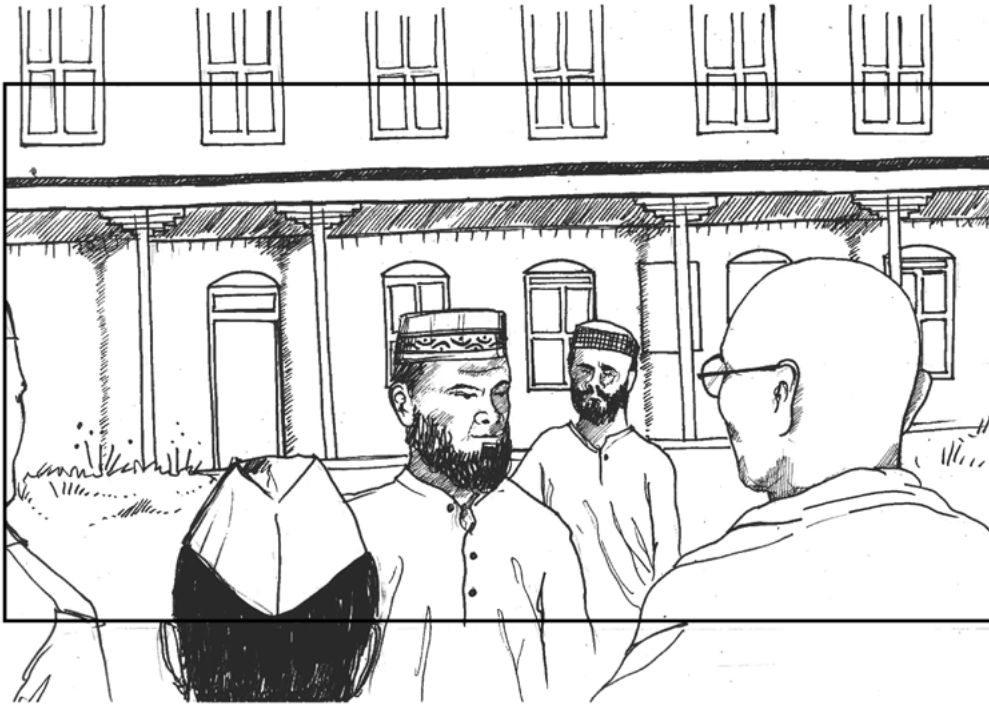
SURAT- DAY

More than 80,000 people gathered to listen to Gandhi.



50

Gandhi and Sarojini Naidu

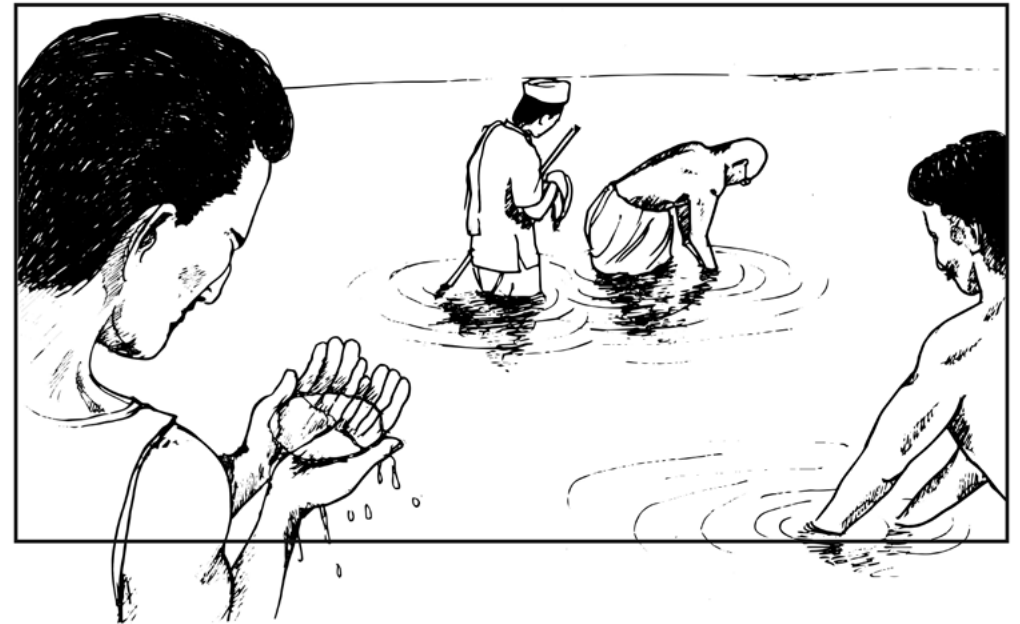


51

SAIFEE VILLA- DAY

SIRAJUDDIN VASI in front of his bungalow
receiving Gandhi.

Sirajuddin wearing Dawoodi bohra dress.



52

EXT. DAANDI - MORNING

Gandhi washing in the sea. Getting ready to pick
the salt.



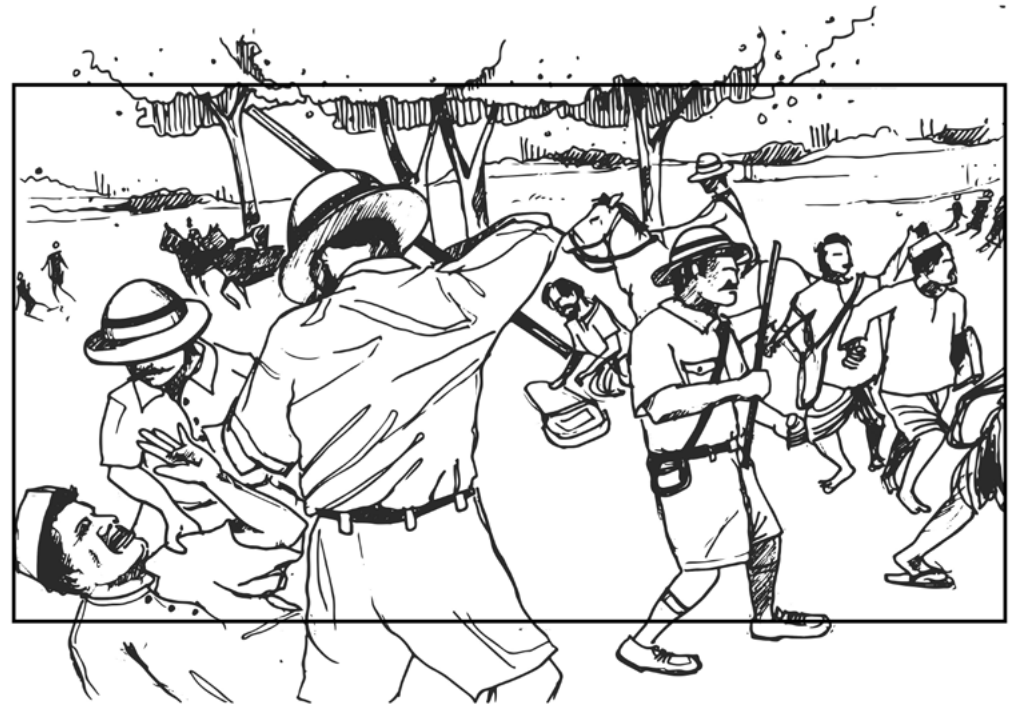
53

EXT. DANDI - MORNING

Gandhi picks up the saline mud in his hands

GANDHI

"With this Salt I am shaking the foundation of the Empire..."



54

DANDI - DAY

The march disperse by police. Violent.

EPILOGUE

This Internship was a great experience for me.
And it was a real pleasure working with Prof.
Mazhar Kamran.

I am extremely happy with the practical
knowledge I gained from him, and the precious
little things you may not find in any book.

For the Internship programme I was looking for
something different and that is exactly what I
got - Something that can help me with my future
projects.

Visualisation is the most important skill for
me and I could polish it during the one month
internship, working on storyboarding for a film.

The practical knowledge and a good experience is
what I have in the end.

By the end of the month I realised..

- Learnt something new- Storyboarding.
Importance of storyboarding for a film,
Got a sense in framing and composing.
- Visualisation exercise.
- Got to know more about films and the
work process.

References

http://www.mkgandhi-sarvodaya.org/gphotgallery/gphoto_main.htm

Gandhi (1982) film, <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0083987/>

<http://www.history.com/topics/salt-march>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt_March

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