

# IIT Bombay researchers to bring Dandi march to life in stone

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*The monument of salt satyagraha in Gujarat to have lifesize sculptures of 80 marchers*

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**T**WO post-graduate students and a professor from IIT Bombay's Industrial Design Centre (IDC), along with an organisation, Design and People, spent over two years researching on the participants of the historic Dandi March led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1930.

The sculptures of 80 marchers will be an integral part of the "National Dandi Salt Satyagraha Monument" in

Dandi, Gujarat, and will be made based on details collected by researchers. IIT Bombay inaugurated a workshop on the project Thursday on its Powai campus.

While 40 sculptors from across the world will prepare the lifesize sculptures, renowned Dombivli-based sculptor Sadashiv Sathe has started work on the main statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Sathe is famous for the first statue of Mahatma Gandhi, installed opposite Delhi's Town Hall.

The artistes and researchers



Models of Mahatma Gandhi statue and 80 participants of 1930's Dandi march (inset), displayed in Mumbai

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travelled, even to Nepal, to collect details. They studied old videos and pictures to ascertain how they looked and what they wore during the march. They met families of the 80 to collect details.

"Our team researched for over two years, tracking down families of all the 80 marchers and studied pictures published in old newspapers to get a detailed information about them for the project," said Kirti Trivedi, IDC professor and principal investigator.

Trivedi, the project con-

vener, is son of Kashinath Trivedi, a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi. "During the research, we faced a few technical hurdles. In many cases, we found only old-age pictures of marchers, who were in their teens when they took part in the march. In few cases, we could not find any picture, except their names. Their sculptures, however, are necessarily supposed to look like the real person, but we have tried to visualise how they would have looked in their youth by looking at their pictures taken

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in old age. In cases where we have not found any picture, we will make their features based on the region they hailed from," said Kirti Trivedi.

IIT Bombay said small models of marchers have been made based on details collected by researchers.

They will be scaled up to lifesize structures. The main memorial will have two stainless steel arms, 70 metre tall, with a salt crystal at the top.

The arms will be lit by solar panels and the pathway will depict the Dandi March route through 24 spaces with visuals, representing the 24 halt points during the journey. While Industrial Design Centre is looking at design and project implementation, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) will oversee the construction.

The memorial is likely to be ready for inauguration by April 5, 2015.

"You will be presenting Mahatma Gandhi to the world through this memorial. And so it should be a reflection of his thoughts and philosophy," said Justice C S Dharmadhikari, chairman of the Institute for Gandhian Studies, Wardha, inaugurating the workshop.

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