Non-cooperation Movement was one of the major steps taken by the masses under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi in the Indian Independence struggle. But the movement had to be called off due to an unfortunate event at Chauri Chaura in Uttar Pradesh, which triggered the Nationalism spirit of the masses.

What triggered the event?

On February 4, 1922 protestors started protesting against the liquor shops at a local market at Chauri Chaura in terms of boycotting British goods. When the protestors marched towards the main police chowki, the policemen in charge tried to halt the protest. As the crowd was out of control, the policemen opened fired which killed some protestors. This enraged the protestors further who circled the police chowki and set it ablaze. Twenty-two policemen were burnt alive including the sub inspector.

What were the circumstances that led to the event?

During 1920-21, a nationwide revolt termed as Non-cooperation Movement was launched. It protested the authoritarian laws like the Rowlatt Act of 1919. Rowlatt Act restricted the freedom of self-government for Indians in their own nation. The Movement was based on the terms of Civil disobedience and Satyagraha and was to be directed in peaceful manner.

What were the immediate consequences of the event?

Mahatma Gandhi condemned this horrifying event and called off the Non-Cooperation Movement. Feeling guilty of leading the movement, he went on a five-day fast. This also affected the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Congress leaders had to give up any immediate action of resistance against the British. The British government was furious after the incident and charged the protestors with severe trial in the court of Law.

Though the incident was unfortunate and regrettable in the National Freedom Struggle, many historians brushed it off as a minor episode of violence. The incident not only failed to serve any political implications against British, but also maligned the pages of the glorious war of Indian Independence.