



### ▶▶ **Moratorium Against the Vietnam War, 1969**

More than 5,00,000 people marched in Washington to protest US involvement in the Vietnam War. It remains the largest political rally in the nation's history. The rallies were part of a string of demonstrations that took place around the world, with groups from San Francisco to Boston and London petitioning for peace. Despite their cries, the war toiled on for six more years, ending with the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975

### ▶▶ **Gandhi's Salt March, 1930**

Under colonial law, Indians were forbidden to extract and sell their own salt and instead were forced to pay the higher price of salt imported from the UK. On March 1930, Mohandas Gandhi, embarked on a 24-day march from Ahmedabad to Dandi and the assembled watched as he and dozens of others dipped into the sea to obtain salt. Known as the Salt Satyagraha, that act sparked years of mass civil disobedience that came to define the Indian Independence struggle



### ◀◀ **March on Washington, 1963**

Martin Luther King Jr's historic *I Have a Dream* speech was delivered at this rally to promote racial equality in the US. More than 2,50,000 demonstrators gathered at the Lincoln Memorial, and pressured President John F Kennedy to draw up the civil rights legislation. The march went down in history as the most convincing event in the movement that led to the successful passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964



### **Million Man March, Washington DC, 1995**

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan called for all able-bodied African-American men to come and address the ills of black communities and urge for unity and revitalisation of African-American communities. The march gathered an estimated 8,50,000 people where they listened to prominent speakers like Rosa Parks, Maya Angelou and Reverend Jesse L Jackson



### ▶▶ **Nuclear Freeze, New York, 1982**

Around a million people gathered in New York City's Central Park, calling for nuclear disarmament and an end to the arms race perpetuated during the Cold War. They demanded the removal of the "nuclear sword of Damocles", that President John F Kennedy two decades earlier had seen poised, "hanging by the slenderest of threads" over the heads of every human being. Dr Randall Forsberg, one of the leading organisers of the rally, received the MacArthur Genius Award for her efforts



# "The Times They Are A-Changin"

Last week, PM Narendra Modi warned that killing people in the name of protecting cows is unacceptable. His comments came after myriad protests against the spate of recent assaults. Most recent in the string of mob lynching was 16-year-old Junaid's murder on board a train on June 22. On June 27, a 100-strong mob attacked a Muslim on the suspicion that he had slaughtered a cow after finding the carcass of a bovine near his home in Jharkhand. The #NotInMyName protests against mob violence were held in multiple cities across the country. Politicians, social workers, activists and artists took to the streets to protest violence against minorities.

*ET Magazine* highlights some of the iconic protests that changed the course of history:

:: **Joysree Baruah**

### **Tahrir Square Protest, Cairo, 2011**

After 30 years as the president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak received his first serious challenge in January 2011, when more than a million protesters, fuelled by political unrest and unemployment, assembled in Tahrir (Liberation) Square. Pro-Mubarak forces attacked them with rocks, tear gas and even a camel cavalry charge. Mubarak finally stepped down on February 11



### ▶▶ **Muharram Protests, Tehran, 1978**

In 1978, people took to Tehran's Shahyad Square to call for the overthrow of Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi and the return of Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini from exile. Somewhere between 6 million and 9 million – or roughly 10% of the entire population – had taken to the streets in the Muharram protests. In a victory for the people, the embattled leader stepped down



### ▶▶ **The Purple Rain Protest, Cape Town, 1989**

When thousands of anti-apartheid activists took to the streets in Cape Town, four days before parliamentary elections, police turned a water cannon with purple dye, in an effort to halt the demonstrations. The plan backfired, when one protester hijacked the nozzle and sprayed the local headquarters of the ruling National Party. The image of protesters standing in front of a purple torrent became a defining symbol of civil disobedience worldwide.

### ▶▶ **The Tiananmen Square Protests, Beijing, 1989**

In what became widely known as the Tiananmen Square Massacre, troops with assault rifles and tanks killed several hundred demonstrators trying to block the military's advance towards Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Set against a backdrop of rapid economic development and social changes in post-Mao China, the protests reflected anxieties about the country's future in the popular consciousness and among the political elite. The students called for democracy, greater accountability, freedom of the press and freedom of speech



### ◀◀ **The Women's March, US, 2017**

The march to protest Donald Trump's inauguration as the president, was one of the largest – and most peaceful – in US history. Around 4 million marchers made their presence known across the nation. Approximately 2,00,000 people gathered in Washington, DC, to stand up for gender equality. The effort extended internationally with marches in 60 countries on every continent, including Antarctica



### ◀◀ **Occupy Wall Street, NYC, 2012**

The protest in Zuccotti Park, in New York City's Wall Street financial district, was against economic inequality worldwide. The issues raised were social and economic inequality, corruption and the perceived undue influence of corporations on government – particularly from the financial services sector. After being forced out of Zuccotti Park, the protesters turned their focus to occupying banks, corporate headquarters, board meetings, foreclosed homes and college and university campuses



### ▶▶ **Self-Immolation of Thich Quang Duc, 1963**

The Vietnamese Buddhist monk's self-immolation on the street in Saigon in 1963 to protest the treatment of Buddhists in South Vietnam created a horrific new genre of political protest which other Vietnamese monks followed suit, as did an American in Washington, DC. More than 100 Tibetans have self-immolated in the last five years in protest against Chinese rule

