



## Bhagat Singh's Birth Anniversary

**For Prelims:** Bhagat Singh, Hindustan Republican Association, Naujawan Bharat Sabha.

**For Mains:** Contribution of Freedom Fighters in Indian National Movement.

### Why in News?

Recently, Prime Minister **paid tribute to India's charismatic revolutionary [Bhagat Singh](#) on his birth anniversary**, and **announced that the Chandigarh airport will be renamed after Bhagat Singh** as a tribute to the great freedom fighter.

### Who was Bhagat Singh?

- **Early Life:** //



- Born as Bhaganwala on the **26<sup>th</sup> September 1907**, Bhagat Singh grew up in a petty-bourgeois family of Sandhu Jats settled in the Jullundur Doab district of Punjab.
  - He belonged to a **generation that was to intervene between two decisive phases** of the Indian national movement - the phase of the '**[Extremism](#) of Lal-Bal-Pal** and the **[Gandhian phase of nonviolent mass action](#)**.
- **Role in Freedom Struggle:**
  - In 1923, Bhagat Singh **joined the National College, Lahore** which was founded and managed by **Lala Lajpat Rai and Bhai Parmanand**.

- The **College was set up as an alternative to the institutions** run by the Government, bringing to the field of education the idea of Swadeshi.
  - In 1924 in Kanpur, he became a member of the **Hindustan Republican Association**, started by **Sachindranath Sanyal** a year earlier. The main organiser of the Association was **Chandra Shekhar Azad** and **Bhagat Singh** became very close to him.
    - It was as a **member of the HRA that Bhagat Singh began to take seriously the Philosophy** of the Bomb.
      - **Revolutionary Bhagwati Charan Vohra** wrote the famous article Philosophy of the Bomb. Including the philosophy of the bomb, he authored three important political documents; the other two were the **Manifesto of Naujawan Sabha** and **the Manifesto of HSRA**.
      - **Armed revolution** was understood to be the only weapon with which to fight British imperialism.
  - In 1925, **Bhagat Singh returned to Lahore** and within the next year he and his colleagues started a militant youth organisation called the **Naujawan Bharat Sabha**.
  - In April 1926, **Bhagat Singh established contact with Sohan Singh Josh** and through him the '**Workers and Peasants Party**' which brought out the monthly magazine **Kirti in Punjabi**.
    - For the next year **Bhagat Singh worked with Josh** and joined the editorial board of Kirti.
  - In 1927, **he was first arrested on charges of association with the Kakori Case**, accused for an article written under the pseudonym Vidrohi (Rebel).
  - In 1928, Bhagat Singh **changed the name of the Hindustan Republican Association to the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)**.
    - In 1930, when Azad was shot, the HSRA collapsed.
    - **Naujawan Bharat Sabha replaced HSRA in Punjab**.
  - To take **revenge for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai**, Bhagat Singh and his associates plotted the assassination of James A. Scott, the Superintendent of Police. However, the revolutionaries **mistakenly killed J.P. Saunders**. The incident is famously known as **Lahore Conspiracy case (1929)**.
    - In 1928, Lala Lajpat Rai had led a procession to protest against the arrival of the Simon Commission. The police resorted to a brutal lathi charge, in which Lala Lajpat Rai was severely injured and later succumbed to his injuries.
  - Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt **threw a bomb** on 8<sup>th</sup> April, 1929 in the **Central Legislative Assembly**, in protest against the passing of two repressive bills, the Public Safety Bill and the Trade Dispute Bill.
    - The aim, as their leaflet explained, was not to kill but to make the deaf hear, and to remind the foreign government of its callous exploitation.
    - Both Bhagat Singh and B.K. Dutt surrendered thereafter and faced trial so they could further promote their cause. They were awarded life imprisonment for this incident.
  - However, Bhagat Singh was **re-arrested for the murder of J.P. Saunders** and bomb manufacturing in the Lahore Conspiracy case. He was found guilty in this case and was hanged on **23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1931** in Lahore along with Sukhdev and Rajguru.
  - Every year, **23<sup>rd</sup> March is observed as Martyrs' Day** as a tribute to freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru.
- **Publications:**
- Why I Am an Atheist: An Autobiographical Discourse
  - The Jail Notebook and Other Writings.

**Source: HT**