



Bhagat Singh's Birth Anniversary

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Why in News?

28th September 2024 marks the **birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh**, a legendary revolutionary whose spirit inspires generations in India. Celebrated as a national hero, he dedicated his life to fighting British colonial rule, leaving a legacy of courage and sacrifice.



Who was Bhagat Singh?

- **Birth:** **Bhagat Singh** was born on 28th September, 1907, in **Banga, Punjab, British India (now in Pakistan)**. He came from a Sikh family actively involved in anti-colonial activities; his father, **Kishan Singh**, and uncle, **Ajit Singh**, were prominent freedom fighters.
- **Early Life:** Witnessed the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** at the age of 12, which instilled a deep sense of patriotism and a vow to fight for India's freedom.
- **Education:** Joined the National College, Lahore, founded by **Lala Lajpat Rai**, which emphasised **Swadeshi Movement** and provided a platform for revolutionary ideas.
- **Revolutionary Organisations:** Bhagat Singh became a member of the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** in 1924, later renaming it the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** in 1928.
 - **Naujawan Bharat Sabha** was founded by **Bhagat Singh in 1926**, aimed at mobilising youth for the freedom struggle.
- **Major Actions:** Involved in the assassination of police officer **J.P. Saunders in 1928 (Lahore Conspiracy Case)** as retaliation for Lala Lajpat Rai's death due to police brutality.
 - Threw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly on 18th April 1929, with B.K. Dutt to protest against repressive British laws.
- **Arrest and Trial:** Arrested in 1929 for the bomb incident and later charged with murder in the **Lahore Conspiracy Case**. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death.

- **Executed on 23rd March 1931**, along with fellow revolutionaries Sukhdev and Rajguru, in Lahore. Bhagat Singh is affectionately known as **Shahid-e-Azam**, the greatest of martyrs.
- **Literary Contributions:** Authored significant works, including *Why I Am an Atheist*, *The Jail Notebook and Other Writings*, and several political manifestos advocating for socialism and revolution.
 - In his early work, *Vishwa Prem (Universal Love)*, Singh proclaimed the importance of equality. He envisioned a world free of hunger and war, where humanity transcends boundaries of race and nationality.
- **Ideologies:** Advocated **Marxist** and socialist ideologies, emphasising rationalism, equality, and justice. Critiqued **organised religion**, viewing them as forms of mental and physical slavery.
- **Legacy:** Celebrated as a national **hero and martyr**; his birth anniversary and the date of his execution are observed annually to honour his contributions to India's freedom struggle.
 - Every year, **23rd March is observed as Martyrs' Day** as a tribute to freedom fighters **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru**.

What is the Relevance of Bhagat Singh's Ideologies in Today's World?

- **Universal Brotherhood:** Singh's idea of *Vishwa Prem* is promoting **global peace, equality, and cooperation** in a time of growing nationalism, racism, and economic disparities.
- **Communal Harmony:** His critique of communalism in his article *Communal Riots and Their Solution* holds relevance in contemporary India, where religious and communal tensions continue to **undermine social cohesion**.
- **Student Involvement in Politics:** Singh's call for students to engage in political discourse, as outlined in his article *Students and Politics*, resonates with current debates about the **role of youth in addressing pressing social and political issues**.
- **Upliftment of Marginalized Communities:** Singh in *The Problem of Untouchability*, article advocated for the empowerment of oppressed groups and dismantling caste hierarchies aligns with ongoing struggles for social justice and equality in India today.
- **Revolutionary Spirit:** Singh's view on revolution, outlined in his article *What is Revolution?*, calls for the continuous **challenging of oppressive systems and reactionary forces**.
 - This idea remains applicable in modern movements for **political reform and social change globally**.