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# Prime Minister remembers Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary

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**Why is in news?** Prime Minister remembers Shaheed Bhagat Singh on his birth anniversary

Bhagat Singh was born on **September 27, 1907** in Lyallpur, Western Punjab (now in Pakistan).

He was a **revolutionary hero** of the Indian independence movement.

Initially, he **supported Mahatma Gandhi** and the Non-Cooperation Movement.

However, when Gandhi withdrew the movement **in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident**, Bhagat Singh turned to revolutionary nationalism.

He attended Dayanand Anglo Vedic High School, which was operated by Arya Samaj.

He quit education at the age of thirteen and got admitted to the National College in Lahore, where he studied European revolutionary movements.

He worked as a writer and editor in Amritsar for Punjabi- and Urdu-language newspapers espousing Marxist theories.

The **Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919** had a tremendous impact on Bhagat Singh who was just 12-years-old, he took the sand soaked with blood of the Indians killed at the garden and kept it with him to remind him of the ruthlessness of the British government.

## Nationalist activities:

He is credited with **popularizing the catchphrase "Inquilab zindabad"** ("Long live the revolution").

In **1924** in Kanpur, he became a member of the **Hindustan Republican Association**, started by **Sachindranath Sanyal** a year earlier.

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**.

**Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** was founded in **1928** by Chandrashekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh and others.

Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev also organized the **Lahore Students Union** for open, legal work among the students.

In **1928**, **Bhagat Singh and Rajguru shot dead** a British police officer, **John Saunders**, in Lahore, mistaking Saunders, for the British senior police superintendent, James Scott. They held Scott **responsible for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai** in a lathi charge of Simon Commission.

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On 8 April, **1929**, **Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt** threw bombs at the **Central Legislative Assembly** at Delhi 'to make the deaf hear'.

In the **Lahore conspiracy case**, Bhagat Singh along with, Rajguru and Sukhdev were sentenced to death. Bhagat Singh was in one-year imprisonment. He was in the **Lahore jail** when he was **hanged in March 1931**.

Widespread coverage in Indian-owned newspapers about his courage and spirit—turned him into a household name in India and after his execution into a martyr of Indian Freedom Struggle.

### **Philosophy:**

He was an avid reader of the **teachings of Mikhail Bakunin** and also read **Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky**.

In his last testament, "To Young Political Workers", he declares his ideal as the "**Social reconstruction on new**, i.e., Marxist, basis.

Singh regarded **Kartar Singh Sarabha**, the founding-member of the Ghadar Party as his hero.

**Books:** Why I am an Atheist, Letter to my father, Jail Notebook

**23rd March** is observed as '**Martyrs' Day**' or '**Shaheed Diwas**' or '**Sarvodaya Day**' in honour of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.