

15. Revolutionary Activity During the 1920's

Reasons:

1. The sudden withdrawal of the Non-cooperation movement made many nationalists to question the strategy of nationalists and their emphasis on Non-violence.
2. New communist groups with their emphasis on Marxism, socialism and proletariat.
3. Inspired by the Russian Revolution (1917) and the success of the young soviet state.
4. Influence by the extolling articles on self-sacrifice of revolutionaries, such as **Atmashakti, Sarathi and Bijoli**.

Revolutionary Activity in Provinces		
Province/ Area of operation	Name of the association / groupings/ Events	Important Facts
Punjab- united provinces- Bihar	Hindustan Republic Association (Later renamed as Hindustan socialist Republic Association)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ HRA was founded in October 1924 in Kanpur. ✓ RamprasadBismil, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee and sachinsanyal were the founders. ✓ To organise armed rebellion to overthrow colonial government and establish federal republic of united states of India.
Kakori, Lucknow. 1925	Kakori robbery incident HRA involved in it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The members of HRA looted the official railway cash at Kakori. ✓ Bismil, Ashafaquallah, Roshansingh and RajendraLahiri were hanged in the case.
Feroz shah kotla	Regrouping of HRA into HSRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Under the leadership of Chandra sekhar Azad. ✓ The participants include Bhagatsingh, Sukhdev, BhagwatiCharnvohra, Bejoy Kumar Sinha etc., ✓ It decided to work under a collective leadership and adopted socialism as its official goal.
Lahore, December 1928	Saunders Murder, by HSRA revolutionaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Saunders, police official responsible for the lathi charge in Lahore and for death of LalaLajpatrai during anti- simon commission protest. ✓ Bhagatsingh, Azad and Raj guru shot dead Saunders.
Delhi, 8th April 1929	Bomb in the central legislative assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To protest against the passage of the Public safety Bill and Trade disputes bill which are restrictive on civil liberties. ✓ The bombs had been deliberately made harmless and were aimed at making the 'deaf hear'. ✓ The objective was to get arrested and to use the trial court as a forum for propaganda of their ideology.
Chittagon, Bengal (April,	Chittagong Armoury raid by Indian Republican Army-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Led by suryasen. ✓ The plan was to occupy two main armouries in Chittagong to

1930)	Chittagong branch	seize and supply arms to revolutionaries. ✓ The raid was successful and sen hoisted the national flag and proclaimed provisional revolutionary government. ✓ But later, they got arrested.
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HSRA (Hindustan socialist republican association):

It was founded in 1924 in Kanpur by Ram prasad bismil, Jogesh Chandra chatterjee, Sachin sanyal to overthrow bristish government and establish Federal republic of United states of India on the lines of UAF.

▪ **More on some of the Revolutionary Leaders:**

1. Bhagat Singh

- He was born in 1907 in Punjab.
- His father and uncles were members of the Ghadar Party.
- Singh became disillusioned with Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence after he called off the non-co-operation movement.
- He founded the Indian socialist youth organisation Naujawan Bharat Sabha in March 1926. He also joined the Hindustan Republican Association, which had prominent leaders, such as Chandrashekhar Azad, Ram Prasad Bismil and ShahidAshfaqallah Khan

Ideology of Bhagat Singh

• **The Vision of a Classless Society**

“The struggle in India would continue so long as a handful of exploiters go on exploiting the labour of the common people for their own ends. It matters little whether these exploiters are purely British capitalists, or British and Indians in alliance, or even purely Indian”

• **Against caste and class discrimination, A Plural and Inclusive India**

In 1928, he wrote, “Our country is in a really bad shape; here the strangest questions are asked but the foremost among them concerns the untouchables... For instance, would contact with an untouchable mean defilement of an upper caste? Would the Gods in the temples not get angry by the entry of untouchables there? Would the drinking water of a well not get polluted if untouchables drew their water from the same well? That these questions are being asked in the twentieth

century, is a matter which makes us hang our heads in shame.”

• **Need of Critical and Independent Thinking**

In his article ‘Why I am an Atheist’ he criticised religious beliefs and urged people to question each aspect of religion. He also said that any man who stands for progress has to criticise, disbelieve and challenge every item of the old faith.

• **The Concept of Universal Brotherhood**

Bhagat Singh imagined a world where “all of us being one and none is the other. It will really be a comforting time when the world will have no strangers.”

Saunder’s murder case (Lahore conspiracy case):

- In 1928, the British government set up the Simon Commission to report on the political situation in India. Some Indian political parties boycotted the Commission because there were no Indians in its membership, and there were protests across the country.
- When the Commission visited Lahore. LajpatRai led a march in protest against it. Police attempts to disperse the large crowd resulted in violence. The superintendent of police, James A. Scott, ordered the police to lathi charge (use batons against) the protesters and personally assaulted Rai, who was injured.
- Singh conspired with revolutionaries like ShivaramRajguru, SukhdevThapar, and Chandrashekhar Azad to kill Scott. However, in a case of mistaken identity, the plotters shot John P. Saunders, an Assistant Superintendent of Police.
- He along with other managed to escape police initially.
- However, after being arrested for exploding bomb in central legislative assembly. He was tried for the murder of Saunders.
- Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were sentenced to death in the Lahore conspiracy case and ordered to be hanged on 24 March 1931.

Assembly case:

- Bhagat Singh exploded a bomb inside the Central Legislative Assembly in 1929.
- The nominal intention was to protest against the Public Safety Bill, and the Trade Dispute Act but the actual intention was for the perpetrators to allow themselves to be arrested so that they could use court appearances as a stage to publicise their cause
- On 8 April 1929, Singh, accompanied by BatukeshwarDutt, threw two bombs into the Assembly chamber from its public gallery while it was in session

2. Chandrashekar Azad:

- He was an Indian revolutionary who reorganised the Hindustan Republican Association under its new name of Hindustan Socialist Republican Army (HSRA)
- After suspension of the non-cooperation movement in 1922 by Gandhi, Azad became more aggressive.
- He was involved in the Kakori Train Robbery of 1925, in the attempt to blow up the Viceroy of India's train in 1926, and at last the shooting of J. P. Saunders at Lahore in 1928 to avenge the killing of LalaLajpatRai
- Azad died at Alfred Park in Allahabad. Holding true to his pledge to never be captured alive, he shot himself dead with his last bullet.
- BhagwatiCharan Vohra wrote the book **Philosophy of bomb on his instance.**

3. Surya Sen:

- He was an Indian revolutionary who was influential in the Indian independence movement against British rule in India and is noted for leading the 1930 Chittagong armoury raid in Chittagong in British India
- Sen led a group of revolutionaries on 18 April 1930 to raid the armoury of police and auxiliary forces from the Chittagong armoury.
- They hoisted the Indian National Flag on the premises of the armoury, and then escaped.
- **Pritilata Waddedar** joined a revolutionary group headed by Surya Sen. She led a team of fifteen revolutionaries in 1932 attack on the

Pahartali European Club. To avoid arrest, Pritilata consumed cyanide and died.

- **Kalpana Datta** was a member of the armed independence movement led by Surya Sen, which carried out the Chittagong armoury raid in 1930.
 - **Santighosh and Sunitichanderi** school girls of comilla, who shot dead district magistrate.
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