

MODERN HISTORY OF PUNJAB

SOCIO RELIGIOUS REFORM MOVEMENTS IN PUNJAB

JALLIANWALA BHAG MASSACRE, 1919

- In Amritsar Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapaul, who had successfully organized demonstration in furtherance of Hindu Muslim unity, were arrested and taken to Dharamshala.
- Brigadier General Dyer proclaimed a state of emergency and declared all meetings illegal.
- Meanwhile the local Congress had already announced a meeting at Jalllanwala Bagh for Baisakhi fair.
- When Dyer heard the news of meeting, he marched a platoon of infantry to Jallianwala and ordered open firing which killed around 380 people and over 2000 were left injured.
- Martial law was proclaimed in Amritsar and subsequently extended to Lahore, Gujjranwala, Lyallpur and Gujarat.

THE KOMAGATA MARU INCIDENT

- · On 23rd May, 1914, a Japanese passenger ship, the Komagata Maru, dropped achor in the city of Vancouver Canada. Aboard the vessals were 376 Indians. Their leader was Gurdit SIngh, who had prosperous business at Singapore.
- · After traveling through various ports, ship arrived in the Canadian waters, where it was cordoned off and only 22 men who could prove their Canadian Domicile were allowed to land. The rest were told to go back.
- · The 'Shore Committee' of Vancouver Sikhs took the case of incident to court but at last it was sent back into the Pacific.
- · The boat finally arrived at the mouth of River Hoogly and docked at Budge Budge harbour Calcutta.
- · The passengers were ordered to board a train to Punjab. The Sikhs refused to obey and left the ship in a procession, carring Guru Granth Sahib in their

midst.

• The police and a unit of army barred their progress and opened fire, killing 18 men and wounding another 25. Gurdit Singh and 28 of his companions escaped.

Ghadar Movement:

- The people from Punjab mostly small farmers, exsoldiers and artisans started migrating in the early 20th century. They first went to East Asian's countries and then to Canada and United States in first decade of the twentieth century.
- In order to fight the unjust laws of immigration, the Indian immigrants organized themselves and published some pamphlets to create national awakening among fellow Indians.
- In 1912 Hindustani Association of Pacific Coast was formed with **Sohan Singh Bhakna** as its President. The Association started a weekly, Hindustan, in Urdu language. In May 1913, a Ghadar Ashram (also known as Yugantar Ashram) was opened. The Association

formed a Ghadar party with its headquarters at San Francisco and with various branches in US and Canada. The party published a weekly called 'Ghadar' in Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi and in other languages of India, with **Lala Hardyal** as its Chief Editor. The main aim of the party was to wage a war against the British Raj. The British government tried to stop the circulation of the paper, but failed.

- Many Indian Ghadar men entered India and established their headquarters at Amritsar, later shifted to Lahore.
- By the mid of 1915, the Ghadar movement was subdued by the British troops. The Ghadar movement was by far the most serious attempt to subvert British Raj in India.

GURDWARA REFORM MOVEMENT/ AKALI MOVEMENT

For liberation of Sikh shrines from hold of corrupt Mahants.

These corrupt mahants had support of British government.

On 1920- at Akal takh, Amritsar a committee was formed Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) for management of Sikh shrines.

Sunder Singh Majithia was elected president of committee while Harbans Singh was the vice president and Bhai Jodh Singh as secretary

Nankana Sahib Massacre-

peaceful jatha of Akalis including Bhai Lacchnam Singh and Bhai Dalip Singh was attacked by Narain Das the mahant of Nanakana Sahib

Guru ka Bagh morcha-

Sunder Das Udasi objected the Sikhs for cutting of trees to use as firewood in preparation of Langar.

Sikhs started chopping firewood in protest.

they were beaten mercilessly

Jaito Morcha-

For restoration of Maharaja Ripudamab Singh of Nabha to his throne as he was forced to step-down for his minor son by Britishers

SGPC passed a resolution exhorting the Sikhs to observe 9 Sep 1923 as **Nabha Day**

Sikh Gurudwara Act ,1925-

Was passed by legislative assembly

A board named SGPC was created to provide for better administration of certain Sikh Gurudwaras