

BHAGAT SINGH : HISTORY

NEWS: Shaheed Diwas 2025: WhatsApp messages, quotes, significance & more for Martyr's Day

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Bhagat Singh was a revolutionary leader whose ideologies on **equality, education, atheism, and social transformation** continue to influence India's fight for independence and social justice. His critique of **religion, media, and political systems** led to his advocacy for a **socialist revolution** to overthrow oppressive social orders.

Shaheed Diwas and Bhagat Singh's Legacy

Shaheed Diwas (March 23):

- **Observed:** India commemorates **Shaheed Diwas** on **March 23** every year to honor the **sacrifices** of **Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar**, who were hanged by the British on this day in **1931** for their involvement in the killing of **J.P. Saunders**.
- **Context:** The killing was in retaliation for the death of **Lala Lajpat Rai**, who was fatally injured during a peaceful protest against British rule.

Bhagat Singh: A Revolutionary Thinker

- **Ideology:** Bhagat Singh was a **radical thinker** and revolutionary, deeply engaged in anti-imperialism.
- **Language Proficiency:** He was a **polyglot** (able to communicate in **Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, and English**) and also familiar with **Sanskrit**, influenced by his upbringing in the **Arya Samaj**.
- **Literary Interests:** His **jail notebook** reflected the diversity of his thoughts, drawing on works by scholars like **Karl Marx, Thomas Paine, Mark Twain**, and others.

Evolution of Bhagat Singh's Ideals

Early Idealism:

- **Vishwa Prem** (Universal Love) (1924): Bhagat Singh spoke of **equality** and **universal brotherhood** as central themes.
- **Belief in Equality:** He envisioned a future where there would be **no rulers and ruled** based on race or nationality.

Shift in Perspective:

- By **1928**, Bhagat Singh criticized **religious divisions** in India that led to **communal riots**.

- **Communal Riots and Their Solution:** He argued that religion had caused divisions and riots in India, damaging its **clean image**.
- **Media Critique:** He pointed out how media played a role in **provoking tensions**, inciting **communal conflict** by sensationalizing issues.
 - He stated newspapers should **educate** and foster **fraternity**, not promote narrow-mindedness.

Role of Education and Politics

Students and Politics:

- **Advocacy for Student Involvement:** Bhagat Singh believed **students should engage in politics** and **understand the country's conditions**. He criticized the government for suppressing students by forcing them to **sign agreements** not to participate in political activities.
- **Political Education:** He argued that **education should** not just equip students for **clerical jobs** but should encourage them to **think critically** and **question power**.

Untouchability:

- Bhagat Singh **acknowledged the role of untouchables** in India's history and **encouraged their unity** to challenge **social oppression**. He **rejected the Varna system** and emphasized that **occupation should not depend on birth**.

Revolution and Social Transformation

Necessity of Revolution:

- In his 1929 article, **What is Revolution?**, he emphasized that **revolution** is necessary to break free from the **status quo** and fight against **reactionary forces**.
- **Opposition to Lethargy:** Bhagat Singh believed that people had grown **accustomed to oppression** and feared change, which led to societal stagnation.

Anarchism and Ideological Reflections:

- In his 1928 writing, **What is Anarchism?**, he discussed the **role of anarchism** in challenging both **religion** and the **state**, considering both as sources of oppression and mental slavery.
- **Human Freedom:** Bhagat Singh believed that **human beings should live freely**, acquiring knowledge without religious or governmental constraints.

Bhagat Singh's Critique of Religion

Religion and Social Progress:

- As an **atheist**, Bhagat Singh argued that **organized religion** hindered both **freedom struggle** and **social progress**.
- He believed that **religion caused division** in India and could **instigate conflict** between communities.

Faith and Reason:

- In his essay **Why I Am an Atheist**, he discussed the importance of **reason** over **blind faith**, asserting that **critical thinking** was essential for progress.
- **Criticism of Faith:** Bhagat Singh argued that faith without reasoning leads to **reactionary** behavior and limits **human progress**.

Revolution: A Call for Change

Defining Revolution:

- In his **Letter to Young Political Workers**, Bhagat Singh defined **revolution** as the **complete overthrow of the existing social order** and its replacement with a **socialist system**.
- He emphasized that **revolutionaries** must seize **power** and use it to **implement social reconstruction** based on **Marxist** ideals.

The State and Its Machinery:

- He believed the **state machinery** was merely a tool in the hands of the **ruling class** to **safeguard their interests** and maintain control.
- His goal was to **replace the existing state** and establish a system that would serve the interests of the **working class**.

Legacy and Philosophical Contributions

Bhagat Singh's Worldview:

- Bhagat Singh's worldview was shaped by his rejection of **a conscious Supreme Being** and his belief in the **importance of human agency** to shape the world. He promoted a **rational** and **scientific approach** to life and societal progress.

Impact:

- Bhagat Singh's writings, ideologies, and **revolutionary actions** continue to inspire **nationalism** and movements for **social justice** in India.
- His commitment to **equality**, **revolution**, and **education** marked a profound shift in India's fight for independence and social transformation.

Conclusion

- **Bhagat Singh's life and philosophy** remain crucial to understanding India's revolutionary struggle against British rule and the broader fight for **social justice, equality, and revolutionary change**.
- His **critical approach to politics, media, education, and religion** continues to serve as a source of inspiration for those advocating for **progressive transformation** in society.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/new-updates/shaheed-diwas-2025-whatsapp-messages-quotes-significance-more-for-martyrs-day/articleshow/119368007.cms?from=mdr>