

Lecture-32



Rise and Role of Revolutionaries

REVIVAL OF REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISM

- After the First World War, the British government, released some of the revolutionaries to create a more harmonious atmosphere.
- On the plea of Gandhiji, C.R. Das and other leaders, most of the revolutionary nationalists either joined the Indian national movement or suspended their own activities.
- The non-cooperation movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi was suddenly suspended following the mob violence at Chauri chaura in U.P.
- Many young people began to question the very basic strategy of the national leadership & its emphasis on non-violence and began to look for alternatives. Some of them were convinced with the idea that violent methods alone would free India.
- Gradually two separate groups of revolutionary nationalism developed one in Punjab, U.P., and Bihar and the other in Bengal.

Hindustan Socialist Republican Association

- Hindustan Socialist Republican Association before 1928 was known as the Hindustan Republican Association.
- Bhagat Singh, Yogendra Shukla and Chandrasekar Azad were the key functionaries of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.
- The group is also considered one of the first socialist organizations in India.
- HSRA was rejuvenated by the ideologies of the Bolsheviks involvement in the Russian Revolution of 1917.
- Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was first launched during a meeting in Bholachang village, Brahamabaria subdivision of East Bengal. Freedom fighters like Pratul Ganguly, Narendra Mohan Sen and Sachindra Nath Sanyal were present at the meeting.
- The association was formed as an outgrowth of the Anushilan Samiti.
- The name Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was implicative after a similar revolutionary body in Ireland.
- Hindustan Socialist Republican Association was always in the forefront of revolutionary movements in the northern parts of India.

- The association consisted of younger generations of U.P, Bihar, Punjab, Bengal and Maharashtra.
- The group possessed ideals, which were directly opposite to Mahatma Gandhi's Congress.

The Kakori Conspiracy Case

- The revolutionaries under Ramprasad Bismil, Jogesh Chatterji, and Sachindranath Sanyal met in Kanpur in October 1924 and founded the Hindustan Republic Association.
- Its aim was to overthrow the British rule from India. For all these activities, money was required.
- To achieve this objective the Hindustan Revolutionary Army stopped the down train at Kakori, a village in Lucknow district on 9th August 1925 and looted the railway cash.
- The government arrested large number of young men and tried them in the Kakori conspiracy case.
- The chief leaders of the robbery, Ashfaqulla Khan, Ram Prasad Bismil, Roshanlal were sentenced to death.
- HSRA in non-violent protest advancement against the Simon Commission at Lahore decided to support Lala Lajpat Rai.
- But in the protest procession, the police plunged into a mass lathi charge and the wounds imposed on Lalaji proved life-threatening to him.
- To avenge the death of Lajpat Rai; Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Chander Shekhar Azad, and Jai Gopal were given the charge to assassinate J.A. Scott, who had ordered the unlawful lathi-charge but unfortunately a British official J. P. Saunders, got killed in confusion.
- The association adjudicated to burst a blank bomb in the Central Assembly in Delhi, in order to express opposition against the tyrannical legislation and arouse public opinion.
- The ideology behind the bombing was 'to make the deaf government hear the voices of its oppressed people'.
- Bhagat Singh also believed that 'the only way to successfully convey his message to the public of India was to propaganda from Court.
- On April 8th 1929 a bomb was detonated near the empty treasure benches, followed by another bomb explosion in the Central Assembly.
- Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt carried out the bombing and got arrested.

- After the Assembly Bomb Case trial on 23rd March 1931 Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged.
- Baikuntha Shukla was also hanged for murdering Phanindrananth Ghosh who had become a government approver which later on led to the hanging of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru.
- Another key revolutionary of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Chandrasekar Azad was killed on 27th February 1931 in a gunfight with the police.

Trial and execution of Bhagat Singh

- Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt were tried in the Assembly Bomb Case.
- While in Delhi jail, Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar demanded that they be treated not as criminals, but as political prisoners.
- Jatindranath Das, who went on fast on similar grounds, died on 13th of September 1930, on the sixty-fourth day of the fast in the Lahore prison.
- The trial and subsequent execution of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru on 23rd March 1931 became a political issue.
- A resolution was passed by the Karachi session of the congress in 1931 commending their brave contribution to the freedom struggle of India.

Surya Sen

- In the later part of 1920's, the most active & famous of the Bengal revolutionary groups was the Chittagong Group led by Surya Sen.
- He had actively participated in the non-cooperation movement and had become a teacher in a national school in Chittagong.
- A group led by Surya Sen captured the government armory on 18th April 1930, and for a while took control over Chittagong and proclaimed a provisional revolutionary government. However, it was not possible for this small group of revolutionaries to put up resistance against the army.
- They escaped to the Chittagong hills and continued to wage guerilla warfare for another three years.

LIMITATIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY NATIONALISTS

- They were not successful in politically activating the masses.
- Their contact with masses was lacking.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION:

1. Name the philosopher who believed that freedom is the keynote of spiritual life?

- a) Gopalakrishna Gokhale
- b) Nehru
- c) Ambedkar
- d) Vivekananda

2. Who is the chief exponent of Two nation theory

- a) Vivekananda
- b) Gokhale
- c) Gandhiji
- d) Mohammed Ali Jinnah

3. The doctrine of Hindutva was expounded by

- a) V.D.Savarkar
- b) Tilak
- c) Gandhiji
- d) Nehru

4. The theory of 'Cultural Nationalism' was expounded by

- a) Gokhale
- b) Vivekananda
- c) Savarkar
- d) Nehru

5. V.D Savarkar was born in

- a) 1885
- b) 1883
- c) 1888
- d) 1870