

Bhagat Singh's Ideas in Modern India

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Abstract – Every freedom fighter who had given his life for country deserve our regard and esteem but Bhagat Singh's martyrdom has a special significance. He led the revolutionaries not only to fight against British Imperialism but also for the establishment of a socialist republic in India. In his personal life Bhagat Singh was noticed for his lovable nature and also had the spirit of self-sacrifice in abundance. Bhagat Singh participated in national freedom movement and joined Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). As a member of HSRA, he contributed his effort in various revolutionary as well as people awareness activities. He avenged Lala Lajpat Rai's death by killing Saunders, threw bomb in Central Legislative Assembly and gained much public sympathy after he joined Jatin Das in a hunger strike for better prison conditions. The British government became terrified by knowing the fact that people were rapidly attached with revolutionaries. However, Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) could not succeeded in achieving its ultimate goal of independence of the country and establishment of socialist state but still it spread awareness of injustice of British in the people and compelled the British Government to make political concerns for fear of anarchy and armed struggle.

Keywords - Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), GDP, Bhagat Singh, Indian History

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Bhagat Singh is indeed a unique personality of Indian history his life is what legends are made of. Here I want to discuss with you not about Bhagat Singh the freedom fighter rather about Bhagat Singh the intellectual and most importantly the relevance of Bhagat Singh and his ideas in modern Times.

Although termed as a terrorist by the British Empire, Bhagat Singh rightly wanted to be called a revolutionary and a soldier in the war against imperialism. He believed that this retaliation against oppression could not be termed as anarchy. His ideas reflect his deep understanding, of the Indian Milieu and his thought provoking writings make him a class apart from his contemporaries. Though he died at the young age of 24 years he had a clear vision of an India which was not only politically free, but also free from poverty and social injustices. Today, what he represented and the People he died for. For this we have his writing available in plenty to help reconstruct who he was.

His ideas are relevant because today when our 70 % of population lives below the poverty line the Ambani Adani's have total wealth amount, to the GDP of the top 3 richest states and while India has the top exporter of grains, over 900 deaths happens every day because of mal nutrition. What would really help to change this situation are his pol. Ides about socialist revolution and communism.

Bhagat Singh had a great faith in secularism. He strongly advocated that there should be a clear

separation between state politics and religion. He considered communalisms as big as an enemy as colonialism. He was against the idea that youths belonging to religious or communal organizations should be allowed to enter political organizations. He supported Hindu-Muslim unity and tried to defy all the communal forces. His fight Against communalism can be understood from his criticism of Lala Lajpat Rai. Bhagat Singh had a great respect for Lala Lajpat Rai and took his killing as a challenge. But when Lala Lajpat Rai turned to communal politics, Bhagat Singh did not spare him also. As Lala Lajpat Rai was a senior leader Bhagat Singh did not use Harsh words against him publically but he came up with pamphlets as a way to criticise his communal politics. Bhagat Singh wanted to free people from the bondage of religion and superstition. He became an atheist, abandoning all his religious philosophies. While in jail he wrote an article, 'Why I am an Atheist'. He criticised religious beliefs and urged people to question each and every aspect of religion. He also said that any man who stands for progress has to criticize, disbelieve and challenge every item of the old faith. Today we see that religion and communal forces are becoming part of our state politics. Indian Society faces communal disharmony frequent collision of faiths and ideas. In such circumstances, we should learn from the ideas of Bhagat Singh.

Bhagat Singh showed a very mature understanding of Indian politics, and his ideas are relevant even today. He told his comrades that communalism was

as great an enemy of the Indian masses as colonialism. Two of the six rules of 'Naujawan Bharat Sabha' of which he was the founding general secretary, were to 'to have nothing to do with communal bodies' and 'create the spirit of general tolerance among the public, considering religion as a matter of personal belief of man. 'if Bhagat Singh is seen as a pure nationalist fighting for the freedom of a country from foreign rule, his ideas may not be relevant anymore, because today we are a politically independent nation governed by democratic principles. But it is important to know that the idea of India as a nation with its current boundry, states, political setup, government, and constitution is more of a reality in retrospect.

Bhagat Singh was a member of the revolutionary Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. In order to propagate its agenda and to wage war they needed money and arms. For this purpose, they conducted the famous Kakori Robbery. In the early stage of his movements, he was involved in individual heroic actions rather than mass movement. When Lala Lajpat Rai was killed in the lathi charge while protesting against Simon Commission, Bhagat Singh took it as a challenge to take the revenge. He killed saunders, the British police officer involved in the lathi charge. He came up with a very distinctive idea to propagate the agenda of his socialist revolutionary group. Bhagat Singh and B.K Dutt threw a bomb at the Central Legislative Assembly. The purpose was not to kill anyone as the bomb was relatively harmless. The leaflet which was thrown into the assembly hall proclaimed-*'to make the deaf hear'*. The idea was to get arrested and use the trial court as a platform to spread their revolutionary ideas among people. They had a fearless and defiant attitude in court with voicing slogans like 'Inqilab Zindabad', 'Mera Rang De Basanti Chola' etc. This brave attitude of these leaders won the heart of Indian masses. While in Jail they undertook prolonged hunger strike as a protest against the horrible condition in Jail and their treatment as convicted criminals rather than political prisoners.

A majority of present day youth in India lack this quality of critical and independent thinking. We see distorted ideologies imposed on our youth's by opportunist leaders based on some old age faith. It is good to see that a vast majority of Indian Youths celebrate Bhagat Singh as their role model but at the same time it is also said to see that they selectively adopt the qualities of this legend. It is completely not their fault. It is the post-independence political organizations of our country which had started appropriating political organization of our country which had started appropriating the freedom fighters and using them for their personal profit.

A majority of present day youth in India to for their personal profit but Bhagat Singh was not in favor of violence activity for the youth. His message to youth

showed that he was not in favor of violence activities for youth. He said

"Today we cannot ask the youth to take the pistols and bombs. Today, students are contracted with a far more important assignment. In the coming Lahore session the Congress is to give call for a fierce fight for the independence of the Country. The Youth will have to bear a great burden in these difficult times in the history of the nation. The youth will have to spread the revolutionary message to the corner of the Country. They have to awaken crores of Slum dwellers of the industrial area and villagers living in worn out cottages so that we will be independent and the exploitation of man by man will become an impossibility"

On youth which is constantly misled and confused and being intentionally down by the Pol. Parties spirituals groups the NGO sector which in their foolishness sources on reforming the system rather than replacing it the mainstream media who make them idolize and washing stars for a selling their movies is a stark contrast to the youth that Bhagat Singh stood for.

Bhagat Singh's ideas and sacrifice have the strength to bring hope in the lives of millions of struggling masses. Let us salute to this towering icon of our freedom movement for his indomitable spirit. Like Che Guevara, Bhagat Singh will always remain a hope for all those who believe in secular socialist values and reject the caste based hierarchical system. His legacy continue to inspire all of us who are still waiting for a modern India, an India with modern ideas and not what the crony corporate would make us believe. Yes, an India where 2% of the rogues are not smiling and shining at the cost of crying 98% oppressed who have lost their houses, forest, water, and land and whose tears do not reach the India shining media. Therefore, Bhagat Singh and his ideas have become more relevant today for the youths to stand up and challenge an entire system, which has become corrupted, dysfunctional and captive to parochial religious thugs

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