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CURRENT AFFAIRS

**INDIAN CULTURE AND
HISTORICAL EVENTS**

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1. Udham Singh

Why in News?

Political activist Udham Singh's name came up during a parliamentary debate recently.

About Udham Singh

- Born in Punjab's Sangrur district in 1899, Udham Singh was a political activist who was associated with the Ghadar Party.
- After 21 years in London, Singh assassinated Sir Michael O'Dwyer, the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab who endorsed Colonel Reginald Dyer's action during the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919.
- He referred to himself as Mohamed Singh Azad, to symbolise Hindu-Sikh-Muslim unity in the fight for India's freedom.
- In 2018, his statue was installed at Jallianwala Bagh during Baisakhi.
- Both Gandhi and Nehru criticised Udham Singh's actions, they feared it may have far-reaching repercussions on the political future of India.

About Ghadar Party

- Ghadar Party was an Indian revolutionary organisation, with the aim to liberate India from British rule.
- The party was formed in the United States in 1913, by migrant Indians, mostly Punjabis. However, the party also included Indians from all parts of India.
- The party was established as the *Hindi Association of Pacific Coast* under the leadership of **Lala Har Dayal** with **Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna** as its president.
- However, it became popularly known as the **Ghadar Party** after it launched its journal Ghadar in November, 1913, from its headquarters the **Yugantar Ashram** in San Francisco.
- The party took its name Ghadar to consciously identify itself with the first war of Independence in 1857, which the British termed the "Gadar"(revolt).
- **The Ghadar Movement** was a secular democratic movement whose tradition was later upheld by **Bhagat Singh** with further addition of the socialist ideology.
- The party is known for setting the foundation for future Indian revolutionary movements and served as a stepping stone for independence.



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