



# Udham Singh

## Why in News

Amid criticism of the renovated [Jallianwala Bagh](#) memorial, some people raise questions over the statue of **Shaheed Udham Singh** installed at the Bagh.



“  
What Great Honour  
Could Be Bestowed on Me  
Than Death for the  
Sake of My Motherland.  
”

**UDHAM SINGH**

26 December 1899-31 July 1940

## Key Points

### ▪ About:

- Born in Sunam in Punjab's Sangrur district in 1899, also referred to as **Shaheed-i-Azam Sardar Udham Singh** which means '**Great Martyr**'.
- He is regarded as one of the foremost revolutionaries of the [Indian Freedom Struggle](#).
- Following the **Jallianwala Massacre** on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1919, he got profoundly **involved in revolutionary activities** and politics. He was deeply influenced by [Bhagat Singh](#).
- He joined the **Ghadar Party** in 1924 to organise overseas Indians with the purpose of overthrowing colonial rule.
- In 1927, while returning to India with associates and weapons to carry out revolutionary activities, he was arrested for illegal possession of firearms and sentenced to five years in prison.
- On **13<sup>th</sup> March, 1940, Singh shot Michael O'Dwyer** instead of **General Dyer** at a meeting of the East India Association and the Royal Central Asian Society at Caxton Hill.
  - General Dyer, who ordered open firing on people protesting against the [Rowlatt Act](#).
- He was **sentenced to death and was hanged on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 1940** at Pentonville Prison in London.

### ▪ Ghadar Party:

- It was an **Indian revolutionary organisation**, with the aim to **liberate India from British rule**.

- **'Ghadar'** - also written as 'Ghadr' in English - is an **Urdu word for rebellion**.
- 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.
  - Motive was to wage **a nationwide armed struggle against British colonialism** in 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.
  - The party is **known for setting the foundation for future Indian revolutionary movements** and served as a stepping stone for independence.
- **Most members** of the Ghadar party came from the **peasantry** who first began **migrating from Punjab to cities in Asia** like Hong Kong, Manila and Singapore at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Later, with the rise in the lumber industry in Canada and the US, many moved to North America, where they thrived - but also became victims of institutionalised racism.
- The Ghadar movement **'inspired to transpose egalitarian values (Egalitarianism) of American culture in the social framework of colonial India'**.
  - **Egalitarianism** is a doctrine based on the notion of equality, namely, that all people are equal and deserve equal treatment in all things.

**Source: IE**

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