



NIT Andhra Pradesh

Induction Programme for first year

B.Tech students(2021-2022 Academic year)



Commemorating unsung National Heroes on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



Mr.Kartar Singh Sarabha(24 May, 1896 - 16 November, 1915)



- Kartar Singh Sarabha was born on 24 May 1896 in Sarabha village, Ludhiana district, Punjab. He was schooled in Ludhiana and did his final year of schooling in Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, Odisha. He sailed to America in 1912 for higher studies, at the age of 15.
- Sarabha had reached America on the 1st of January, 1912 and attained political consciousness within a period of five or six months.
- He began his involvement in the Ghadar Party in San Francisco. He was only of 17 years when he joined the Ghadar Party. After the founding of the Ghadar Party on the 21st of April, 1913, and especially after the publication of 'Ghadar' on the 1st of November, 1913, every moment of his life, every drop of his blood was dedicated to the service to his nation.
- In a very short period of time, he became one of the leading members of the party and initiated his fight for an independent India. In fact, he was inspired by Sohan Singh Bhakna, who was the founder of Ghadar Party as well.



- Kartar Singh was made in charge of bringing out the Punjabi language edition of Gadar, the party mouthpiece. Other than Punjabi, Gadar was published in Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati and Pushto and went to Indians all over the world.
- In November 1915 at Lahore, he was executed for his role in the movement when he was 19 years old.
- Professor Chaman Lal writes: “In a life of 19 years, and a political life of only 4 years, Kartar Singh Sarabha set such a glowing example of the struggle for India’s independence, as is very rare to obtain.
- Kartar Singh met Bose in Benaras and informed him of the arrival of as many as 20,000 more Gadarites and plans of the revolution.

- Kartar Singh Sarabha had a serious association with Nalanda Club of Indian students. This club at Berkeley played an important role in arousing his patriotism and inspired him to join the Indian freedom movement.
- Unfortunately, the British got wind of the plans of revolutionaries and they launched a massive operation to apprehend the rebels. Several Gadarites were arrested at the Ports itself.
- This did not stop Kartar Singh from planning ahead and he went about preparing the base for the revolution in Punjab.
- He focussed on mobilising Indian soldiers in the British Army to join the movement, especially cantonments of Meerut, Agra, Benares, Allahabad, Ambala, Lahore and Rawalpindi and simultaneously set up a small scale arms manufacturing unit in Ludhiana.

- The Lahore conspiracy cases in 1915-1916 actually highlighted his role very strongly. He was sentenced for capital punishment on 13 th Sep 1915.
- In fact, the legendary Sardar Bhagat Singh was also reportedly inspired by him.
- Sarabha's supreme sacrifice did not go unnoticed. Bhagat Singh idolised him and carried his photo around in his pocket at all times.
- The date for revolt was set at February 21, 1915, along with senior leaders, including Bose and plan was made to attack cantonments of Mian Mir and Ferozpur while Ambala was prepared for a mutiny. Here too, a traitor let them in a day before the mutiny and several revolutionaries were arrested. Kartar Singh however managed to evade the British.

- Refusing to give up, he made a last-ditch, desperate attempt on March 2, 1915, to rouse the Indian soldiers of the 22 Cavalry at Chak No. 5 in Sargodha and incite the soldiers to mutiny. This time, Rissaldar Ganda Singh of the 22 Cavalry got him arrested.
- He was sent to trial with the other Gadarites at Lahore in what came to be called the Lahore Conspiracy case.
- The judgment was pronounced in September 1915. Due to large public outcry, of the 27, the sentence of 17 of the Gadarites was changed from death to imprisonment and deportation for life in the Andaman Cellular jail, at the last minute following the intervention of Lord Hardinge, the Governor General of India.
- He soon became the symbol of martyrdom and many were influenced from his bravery and sacrifice. A Punjabi novelist Nanak Singh wrote a novel titled *“Ikk Miyan Do Talwaran”* based on his life. India will always cherish the memory of its hero, Kartar Singh Sarabha.



References

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