

**MODULE -4 INDIAN NATIONAL
MOVEMENT-GANDHIAN ERA
TOPIC- JALLIANWALLA BAGH**



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- Amritsar tragedy popularly known as Jallianwalla Bagh Massacare
- Most heart-touching incident in Indian national movt
- Agitations against Rowlatt Act gradually attained strength
- Gandhiji urged the people to promise not to follow the act & called for a nation wide protest against it
- It was the people of Punjab who supported him most in this



- Strikes, hartals & mass rallies took place in Punjab
- National leaders Dr.Satyapal & Dr.Saifuddin Kitchlew addressed the mass agitations
- April 1919- Gandhiji embarked from Bombay to address a mass rally in Punjab
- But before he reached Punjab he was arrested & sent back to Bombay
- Satyapal & Kitchlew were arrested on April 10th
- Miles Irwing- Deputy Commissioner in Punjab exiled them from district



- British army opened fire against the people who marched to Irwings residence demanding the liberation of those people who were arrested
- Many were killed- many injured
- Agitated masses let loose agitation all over Amritsar
- They set fire to British banks & killed British officials
- It was at this time that one of the most heinous acts in history took place



- April 1919- General Dyer took charge of administration of Amritsar & instituted military rule there
- Prohibited all meetings & demonstrations as per section 144
- the govt had not taken any steps to inform peoples of this prohibition
- Unaware of these developments, a mass meeting of more than 20000people was called up in protest against the arrest of the Punjab national leaders- Satyapal & Kitchlu on 13th April 1919



- Jallianwalla Bagh – an open ground surrounded on 3 sides by buildings, with just one passageway
- While the protest meeting was in progress- the military commander of Amritsar Gen.Dyer came with his troops & closed the passageway & opened fire at the unarmed masses of people
- Military fired until their bullets got exhausted
- According to official reports- 379 people were killed & about 1500 injured



- But unofficial sources say that more people were killed
- After mass massacre- military rule in Punjab was made stricter
- Savage measures were unleashed against the people
- Governor of Punjab- Michael O' Dyer – strongly justified the massacre at Amritsar
- In recognition of his service, Dyer was even presented with a bag of money by the British Parliament members



- It is believed that the Jallianwallah Bagh massacre was the result of a conspiracy that took place in Lahore Govt House under the instruction of Dyer
- this homicide which took place under the consent of the Indian govt had as its motive, to spread fear among people
- Jallianwallah Bagh massacre had far reaching consequences
- People came to understand the brutality behind the so called British culture



- Indian national Congress- condemned the Punjab massacre
- Congress opined that a high level inquiry should be done about this barbarian & brutal incident
- Mass anger reverberated throughout India
- Sir. Rabindranath Tagore gave up his 'Sir' title as a mark of protest
- Sir Sankaran Nair resigned his membership in the Viceroy's Executive Council



- The govt appointed the Hunter Committee to conduct inquiry into the Punjab tragedy
- Report by this committee only served to whitewash the deeds of the British officials
- Massacare heated up the independence struggle
- Thousands of people who had stayed away from the national movt jumped to the arena of the struggle
- Congress which had sunk I despondency received a new breath of life



- Amritsar tragedy was a main reason to start the non-Cooperation movt
- Played a big role in bringing India closer to freedom
- Gandhiji- “Plassey laid the foundation of British Empire. Amritsar has weakened it”