

INTACH



JALANDHAR
CHAPTER

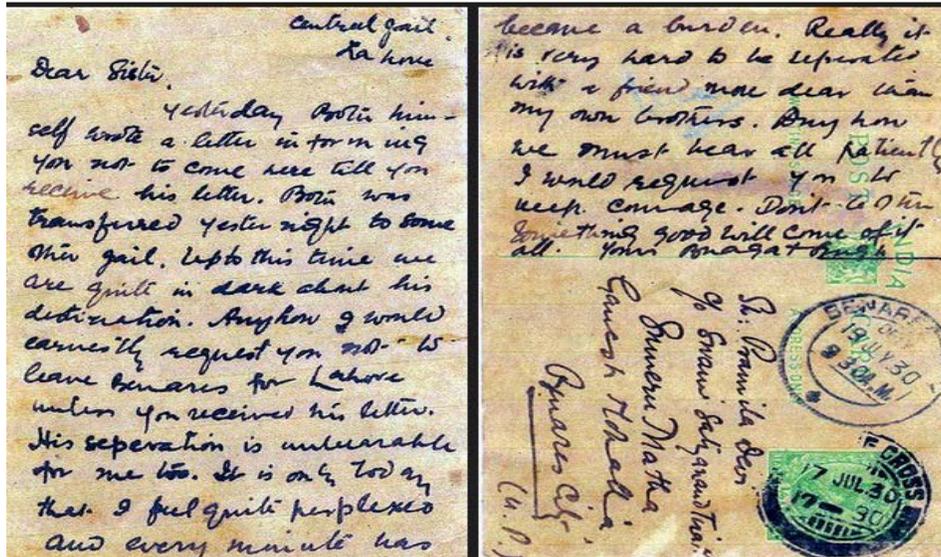
Q1 2019
Volume 1 Issue 1

Quarterly newsletter of INTACH, Jalandhar Chapter

Shaheed Bhagat Singh

Bhagat Singh (September/October 1907 – 23 March 1931) was an Indian socialist revolutionary considered to be one of the most influential revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement. .

Bhagat Singh's Letter to His Sister



Jalandhar : Historical Overview

As seen From Encyclopedia of Hinduism-- Maj Gen Balwinder Singh , VSM (Retd) , life member INTACH and member of Governing council of India

A town in Punjab with an ancient history. This ancient city of Punjab was called pitr-tirtha by Saivas and Lalita-pitha by Vaisnavas in olden times. Jalandhar is considered as the holy seat of Yogi Jalandharnatha and of Goddess visvamukhi. Jalandhar has a diverse past. While it has been a meeting ground of Saurapatas, Soma Siddhantins, Smartas, Bairagis, Udasis, Buddhists, Jainas and Saktatantrika-s, it was once the stronghold of King Jalandhar (son of the ocean), whose name is mystically associated with the birth of the city.

Historians believe that Susarman Candra, a tribal chieftain who supported the kauravas in the Mahabharata War, founded a kingdom which came to be known as trigarta, or a land of three rivers, lying in the region between Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. During the reign of Kaniska(78-101 C.E.), a council of Buddhist scholars is said to have met at this place

Jalandhar was sacked by Mahmud, Sultan of Ghazni (1008 C.E.) , but it acquired great importance during the Mughal period, when it virtually became the capital of the northern portion of Jalandhar Doab which then extended to the neighboring Multan. During this time, Muslims and Hindus established twelve basti-s and twelve kota-s, respectively, for residential

purpose, some of which exist to this day. Jalandhar also became known for its twelve gates, which pointed the way to residential areas.

Jalandhar was annexed to the British Dominion by Lord Harding (1844-48 C.E.) and made the seat of divisional headquarters on March 1, 1846.

During the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, some native regiments stationed in Jalandhar Cantonment, formed by the British in 1846 after the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-46C.E.), revolted and killed some officers. When the freedom struggle gained momentum, the people of the area actively participated in different movements and morcha-s (confrontations) launched by Arya Samaj, Babar akali-s, the Kirti Kisan Party, and the Indian National Congress.

THE NATURE FIX

*Dr. Navneet Bhullar, Social Activist and Life member
INTACH*



Our “natural” heritage is crying to be salvaged.

My dad has not seen an eagle or vulture in Punjab in years.

Paddy planting in Punjab for years has been implicated in depleting ground water

Forest cover in Punjab is under 4% now, among the lowest among Indian states. Drive from Jalandhar to Ludhiana – counting trees in the hour or so long stretch may be a useful exercise to wake those of us still slumbering.

A man in our neighborhood was liberally washing his car with a pipe one morning. I have been stopping people from doing so for a couple of years now, handing them a printed pamphlet on my morning walk. The pamphlet says Save Water Save life with steps to save household water.

The local house water inspectors do not have challaan books and request INTACH to get them

printed. They only inspect homes to curb water wastage from April 1 to June 30 anyway. I do what I can the part of the year I spend in my neighbourhood.

As part of work in our disability NGO, I was in a village last week with community health workers. Intellectually disabled children are home confined in the village, their families, mainly mothers, suffering along with them emotionally and physically, with no awareness or guidance, while there is a resource room three km away. The hired special educator under the government’s SarabShikshaAbhyaan scheme comes there once a month.

I invite the reader to ruminate. Do you sense a common thread in this sorry scenario?

I lament the loss of critical thinking – and that is the crux of my reflections to follow.

I now quote an article from “The Economist”, May 2016: “Why India has a water crisis”

China, with a larger population, uses 28% less freshwater than India.

Using subsidised electricity, farmers pump groundwater at will, drawing up more annually than China and America combined. A recent European Commission report counted more than 20m boreholes in India, up from tens of thousands in the 1960s. The water table is falling on average by 0.3 meters and by as much as 4 meters in some places.

Water-starved regions often cultivate water-hungry crops like paddy, cotton and sugarcane.”

The concept of the greater good is near extinct in today's India, and the few who talk about it are told off, the very few who try to work for the greater good are eulogized as if it were a higher elevated or super-natural state beyond every man's ability.

Today Punjab grows pathetically under this erosion of the thought process.

The elite seem content buying iPhones for each family member and flaunting their cars and clothes. Philanthropy is nearly non-existent in this land of the Gurus – daswandh being engrained in Sikh families a couple of hundred years ago.

Community service, if any, is more exhibitionism than substance. Colleges ostensibly, with NSS programs and affiliations, do not answer phone calls when volunteers are needed.

At an environment awareness event we held with an NGO a couple of years ago, the principal of a local college introduced me as a foreign doctor, and the NGO as US based. It was obvious that those were the chief merits he perceived in us- the US label.

One's status rises several notches if one is foreign returned or based, with people scrambling to shift abroad. Rich or poor, they all seem to have a foot in the door. They are escaping. I invite Punjabis to go abroad and educate themselves with civilization- the West's civilized behavior such as caring for the less fortunate and fighting for saving nature, which

nearly every non resident Indian will agree with, then return and plant the seeds here.

I lament the loss of Punjab and indeed India's "being" heritage to the current "having" mode of existence that is pervasive and self-destructive. To that end, we must first restore the inner life, the importance of "being" rather than "having": the ability to examine and question, and find the treasure from within. Here I am paraphrasing Avijit Pathak, a sociologist from JNU, whose words resonated so deeply when I just read them that I had to include them in this article.

Cultivating an inner consciousness to become aware of our higher selves- the "being mode" is what we need to revive ourselves for the greater good.

The "being" mode has to start with restoring quality education - restore reading as a habit, restore the liberal arts for all (encourage and publicly reward groups who are doing that if there are any), restore some forest cover, take kids out to nature often and watch nature elevating humans towards a more creative wholesome being. There have been valid scientific studies that "just viewing nature employs the mind without fatigue and yet exercises it, tranquilises it yet enlivens it, and thus, through the influence of the mind over the body, gives the effect of refreshing rest and reinvigoration to the whole system."

We may thus see the restoration of compassion and humanity so essential to any people's true progress.

This way we could drive youth towards the sewa and humanitarian principles the Sikh gurus preached and exemplified, to the “soul force” Gandhi spoke about.

Bhagat Singh wrote in his diaries about maintaining clarity of thought, conviction and courage amidst the worst form of psychic turmoil.

Here I am equating the pressure of “having”, of blind consumerism with the psychic turmoil Bhagat Singh speaks of, hesitantly risking diminishing the ordeals the martyr and his young colleagues experienced.

In the year 2003, the Supreme Court of India directed that Environmental Education(EE) should be taught as a compulsory subject at all levels of education. In spite of this order, environmental education as part of formal education is still in its infancy. We need teachers, who would integrate EE into the formal curricula, are properly trained and motivated. They should teach EE on a multi-disciplinary basis rather than as a separate subject with greater emphasis on practical experience related to the environment rather than classroom learning

How about this chart in all classrooms: “Water abuse is self-inflicted human rights abuse. Let’s all become activists. “. And then let the kids teach their parents by example.

All is not yet lost. Indians are brilliant thinkers. It may have to be a revolution. Count me in. Nature has made me more creative than I ever was.

In conclusion, I posit that Punjab and indeed India’s “natural” heritage is a rich inner life : after all India is the birthplace of the world’s three (of six) major religions . We have lost our spiritual heritage, our inner lives to blind consumerism, eroding our thinking process, our mindfulness and indeed our humanity.

We can begin to recover ourselves if we start restoring nature, spend time in it, and let consciousness blossom.

ACTIVITIES

**INTACH LAUNCHES “MY WATER HERITAGE”
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

We all are facing with a major problem for the coming generations on the availability of safe drinking water which is going to be most critical in the years to come. Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage which a premier organization to save our tangible and intangible heritage has launched an awareness programme across the country through young children. All India My Water Heritage Competition was organized wherein students



from 6 to 9th class participated. Dhoaba region conducted this competition at KV1 Jalandhar

Cantt on 29 Nov wherein 300 students participated from 35 schools.

The response from the children was worth seeing which shows their concern about the depleting water table in the region. The participation was overwhelming.

Maj Gen Balwinder Singh who is INTACH convener and Member of Governing Council of India emphasized to the children to become ambassador for this awareness programme for their schools and areas where they live. We all have to put in our bit to save these important assets .



Local administration need to launch aggressive campaign for our farmers and rural areas to conserve and do not waste the water. All Village ponds to be cleaned and incoming water to be treated so that they serve as a recharging facility and not as a waterborne diseases pond for the village. INTACH can provide all assistance and free consultancy for ensuring the inlet of village pond water is treated and cleaned..

Maj Gen Manjit Singh spoke about conserving water. Children very enthusiastically participated.

LPU LISTING WORKSHOP.



INTACH team from Delhi carried out three days workshop for architect students from LPU as LPU has been given the task to carry out listing of the jalandhar region. LPU is also a institutional member of INTACH

Our Technical Coordinator, Varun Kumar has done his B.Tech & M.Tech in computer science and also holds certification in CEH (Certified Ethical Hacking).He volunteered to provide complete technical assistance to INTACH Jalandhar Chapter and selflessly contribute. He runs his own startup **Webdox InfoTech & Computer Institute (<http://webdox.in>)**.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

VARUN KUMAR

**INTACH Jalandhar
Executive Committee :**

Maj Gen Balwinder Singh (Convener)

Mr Ajit Pal Singh, (Co- Convener)

Varun Kumar (Technical Coordinator)

