

MCQ Question · mcqquestion.com

Kartar Singh Sarabha: The Boy Bhagat Singh Idolised

Free · Share

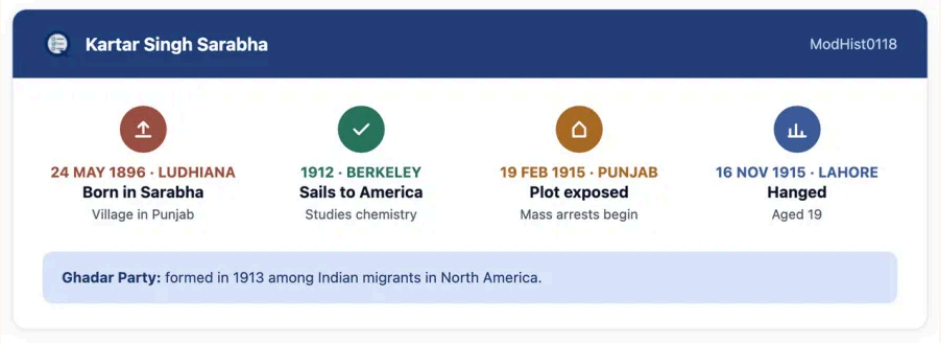
Kartar Singh Sarabha: The Boy Bhagat Singh Idolised

Kartar Singh Sarabha was a student in California at 16. He was hanged in Lahore at 19.

Bhagat Singh later saw him as a hero. This lesson covers his life, the Ghadar Party, the failed 1915 mutiny plan and the exam traps.



Kartar Singh Sarabha. Punjab State Archives, public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



Four dates in Sarabha's short life.

> **Born.** 24 May 1896, at Sarabha village, Ludhiana district, Punjab.
> **1912.** Sails to San Francisco and joins the University of California, Berkeley.
> **1913.** The Ghadar Party is formed among Indian migrants.
> **19 February 1915.** Mass arrests begin, before the planned mutiny.
> **Trial.** The First Lahore Conspiracy Case.
> **Hanged.** 16 November 1915, at Lahore Central Jail, aged 19.

Ghadar: an Urdu word for "revolt". It was the name of the party's newspaper.

Mutiny: a revolt by soldiers against their own officers.

Conspiracy case: a trial of people accused of plotting against the government.

1 Who was Kartar Singh Sarabha?

He was a Punjabi boy who went abroad to study and came back to fight.

- He was born on **24 May 1896** in Sarabha village, Ludhiana district, Punjab.
- In **1912**, at age 16, he sailed for San Francisco.

- He enrolled at the **University of California, Berkeley**.
- He went there to study chemistry.
- Many Indian migrants in North America faced racial bias and low pay.
- That anger pushed many of them toward the cause of Indian freedom.
- His whole public life ran barely three years, from 1912 to 1915.
- He was hanged at 19.

> **Quick check 1.** Kartar Singh Sarabha studied chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

2 What was the Ghadar Party?

It was a revolutionary party formed by Indians living abroad.

- The **Ghadar Party** was formed in **1913** among Indian migrants in North America.
- The group first used the name Hindustan Association of the Pacific Coast.
- Sohan Singh Bhakna was its first president.
- Lala Har Dayal was a key organiser and its general secretary.
- It started at Astoria, Oregon. Its headquarters were in San Francisco.
- The San Francisco office was called Yugantar Ashram.
- Its weekly newspaper, *Ghadar*, began in November 1913.
- The paper first came out in Urdu. Other languages followed, including Punjabi.
- The movement took its name from the paper.
- Sarabha was in charge of the **Punjabi edition** of *Ghadar*.

- In 1914 the *Komagata Maru* incident in Canada fuelled anger among Indians abroad.
- For the party's president, see Sohan Singh Bhakna.

3 What was the 1915 plan?

The plan was to use the First World War to start an army revolt.

- Britain was at war from August 1914. Its army was stretched thin.
- Ghadar members saw this as a chance and called members home.
- In late 1914 Sarabha returned to Punjab with many of them.
- They planned a pan-Indian army mutiny for **21 February 1915**.
- Sarabha went into army cantonments in Punjab. He tried to win Indian soldiers over.
- Rash Behari Bose came to Punjab to help lead the plan.
- Vishnu Ganesh Pingle was another key plotter. He was also hanged later.

- A police informer named Kirpal Singh exposed the plot.
- Mass arrests began on **19 February 1915**, two days before the date.
- The uprising never began.
- Rash Behari Bose escaped to Japan soon after.
- The government used wartime powers under the Defence of India Act, 1915 against the plotters.
- For the wider setting, see India's Role in the First World War.

4 How did the trial end?

The government tried the Ghadar members in Lahore.

- The case is called the **First Lahore Conspiracy Case**.
- The trial began in April 1915. The verdict came in September 1915.
- About **291** people were tried across the main and later proceedings.
- Sarabha was convicted and sentenced to death.
- He was hanged at Lahore Central Jail on **16 November 1915**.
- Six others were hanged with him, so seven men died that day.
- His life shows how a short career can still inspire a later generation.
- Sohan Singh Bhakna was not executed. He got life imprisonment instead.
- Bhagat Singh is said to have carried Sarabha's photograph as his own inspiration.
- For Bhagat Singh's story, see Bhagat Singh: Martyr of the Revolutionary Current.

5 What are the exam traps?

Exams swap place names and dates.

- Sarabha studied at Berkeley. The Ghadar Party's headquarters were in San Francisco.
- Do not swap the two. Exams use them as wrong options.
- The plan was for 21 February 1915. Arrests began on 19 February.
- Sarabha was hanged on 16 November 1915, not in February.
- CDS I 2022 asked where the Ghadar Party's headquarters were. The answer was San Francisco.
- CDS II 2025 asked three Ghadar facts together. All three were correct.
- Do not say Sarabha founded the Ghadar Party. Sohan Singh Bhakna was its first president.
- Do not mix him up with Vikram Sarabhai, the space scientist. The names look close but belong to different people.
- Do not say the mutiny took place. The plot was exposed before it began.
- Remember who edited what. Sarabha handled the Punjabi edition of the newspaper.

> **Quick check 2.** The Ghadar mutiny plan was exposed after the planned date of 21 February 1915. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Remember: Born 1896. Berkeley, 1912. Ghadar Party, 1913. Mutiny planned for 21 February 1915. Arrests from 19 February. Hanged 16 November 1915, aged 19.

Think it through: Why did the Ghadar leaders pick February 1915 for their plan?

The First World War had begun. Britain’s army was stretched across the world. The leaders thought soldiers in India might revolt at that moment.

Quick check 3. Sarabha was tried in the First Lahore Conspiracy Case and hanged in November 1915. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Practice MCQs

1. Kartar Singh Sarabha sailed for the United States in 1912, at age 16, to study at which institution?

A. Stanford University

B. Columbia University

C. University of Chicago

D. University of California, Berkeley

See answer ↓

2. Within the Ghadar Party, formed in 1913, what role did Sarabha take on?

A. Head of the party's Canadian recruitment wing

B. Chief financial officer for the party's American chapter

C. In-charge of the Punjabi edition of the party's newspaper, 'Ghadar'

D. Lead negotiator with the British consulate

See answer ↓

3. Sarabha returned to Punjab in late 1914 to help organise a planned mutiny. What stopped the uprising before it could happen?

A. A police informer exposed the plot, leading to mass arrests

B. World War I ended before the planned date

C. Sarabha personally called off the plan

D. The British Army pre-emptively disbanded the targeted regiments

See answer ↓

4. Kartar Singh Sarabha was convicted and executed following which trial?

A. The Kakori Conspiracy Case

B. The Meerut Conspiracy Case

C. The Alipore Bomb Case

D. The First Lahore Conspiracy Case

See answer ↓

5. Which later revolutionary leader is known to have carried a photograph of Kartar Singh Sarabha as a personal inspiration?

A. Chandrashekhar Azad

B. Bhagat Singh

C. Ram Prasad Bismil

D. Subhas Chandra Bose

See answer ↓

6. Sarabha's planned pan-Indian Army mutiny was exposed by a police informer. On what date did mass arrests begin, just before the uprising could happen?

A. 19 February 1915

B. 13 September 1915

C. 21 February 1915

D. 16 November 1915

See answer ↓

7. Sohan Singh Bhakna became the founding president of the Ghadar Party in 1913. Where was the party founded?

A. Astoria, Oregon

B. San Francisco, California

C. Vancouver, Canada

D. Seattle, Washington

See answer ↓

8. The 1914 Kamagata Maru incident, which significantly galvanised the Ghadar movement's revolutionary sentiment, involved a ship carrying Indian passengers that was denied entry into which country?

A. The United States

B. Canada

C. Australia

D. Britain

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **D.** He enrolled at UC Berkeley to study chemistry, before becoming deeply involved with the Ghadar Party. ↑ Q1
2. **C.** Sarabha led the Punjabi edition of the Ghadar newspaper, the party's main organ among Indian immigrants. ↑ Q2
3. **A.** A police informer exposed the plot, and mass arrests began on 19 February 1915, before the planned mutiny could occur. ↑ Q3
4. **D.** He was tried and executed following the First Lahore Conspiracy Case, alongside six other revolutionaries, on 16 November 1915. ↑ Q4
5. **B.** Bhagat Singh always carried a photograph of Sarabha, discovered on him at his own arrest years later. ↑ Q5
6. **A.** A police informer exposed the plot, and mass arrests began on 19 February 1915, just two days before the planned 21 February uprising. ↑ Q6
7. **A.** The Ghadar Party formed among Indian immigrants at Astoria, Oregon, with Bhakna as its first president. ↑ Q7
8. **B.** The Kamagata Maru, carrying several hundred Indian (mostly Sikh) passengers, was refused entry into Canada under discriminatory immigration restrictions and forced to return to India, where a violent confrontation with colonial police at Budge Budge near Calcutta resulted in numerous deaths among the returning passengers. The incident became a powerful symbol of the racial discrimination Indian immigrants faced within the British Empire, significantly fuelling the Ghadar Party's revolutionary resolve and contributing directly to its subsequent attempt at organising an armed uprising in Punjab during the First World War. The episode remains a significant, if often under-recognised, chapter in the history of both Indian nationalist resistance and the broader history of racial immigration policy within the British Commonwealth. ↑ Q8

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** ↑ 1
2. **False.** ↑ 2
3. **True.** ↑ 3

Curated by Arsalan Zuberi · mcqquestion.com



Scan to read online

https://mcqquestion.com/articles/modhist0118-kartar-singh-sarabha/