

Teja Singh Sutantar

April 13, 2023

In news— Punjab Chief Minister has recently unveiled a statue of freedom fighter Teja Singh Sutantar at his native village to mark his 50th death anniversary.

A brief note on him-

- Teja Singh Sutantar, also Swatantar, was a **national revolutionary of India who fought for the independence of India** from the British Empire and for the liberation of Punjab peasantry from the clutches of feudal lords.
- He was a **member of the 5th Lok Sabha** from Sangrur constituency as a CPI candidate.
- He also was Member of Punjab Legislative Assembly from 1937 to 1945 and member of Punjab Legislative Council from 1964 to 1969.
- He became **actively involved in the revolutionary activities during the 1920s** when the **Ghadar Party** was preparing for the second attempt for the overthrow of British government.
- **Sutantar was sent to Turkey in 1924 where he joined the Turkish military academy to attain military knowledge.**
- In and out of prison several times, Sutantar **was among the top national Communist leaders jailed by the British administration in the Deoli Detention Centre** in the early-1940's.
- Sutantar was a **popular Communist leader in the Kirti Kisan Party and later Central Committee** member and General Secretary of the Lal Communist Party Hind Union.
- **The party published a magazine, Lal Jhanda, from 1948-1952 under the editorship of Teja Singh Sutantar, managed by Gandharv Sen.**
- Sutantar was among the tallest leaders in undivided Punjab and, post-Partition, on the Indian side who led

the struggles of the peasantry, along with the likes of Bhagat Singh Bilga and Baba Bujha Singh.

- **In 1952 Lal Communist Party Hind Union merged into Communist Party of India. He become the president of All India Kisan Sabha from 1968 to 1973.**
- **He died on 12 April 1973.**

The Ghadar Party—

- **The Ghadar Party** was formed in was **formed on 15 July 1913** in the United States **under the leadership of Lala Har Dayal**, Sant Baba Wasakha Singh Dadehar, Baba Jawala Singh, Santokh Singh and Sohan Singh Bhakna as its president.
- The movement originated with an organization of immigrants in California called the Hindustani Workers of the Pacific Coast.
- The goal of the movement was to assist in overthrowing British colonial rule in India.
- Shortly after the outbreak of World War I, many of the Ghadriles returned to India and for several months during 1915 carried on terrorist activities in central Punjab.
- After the war, the party in America split into Communist and anti-Communist factions. The party was dissolved in 1948, after India had achieved independence.

Kirti Kisan Party-

- The **Workers and Peasants Party (WPP) (also known as the Kirti Kisan Party)** was a political party in India, which **worked inside the Indian National Congress in 1925–1929.**
- The party **was founded in Bengal on 1 November 1925, as the Labour Swaraj Party of the Indian National Congress.**
- The **founding leaders of the party were** Kazi Nazrul Islam, Hemanta Kumar Sarkar, Qutubuddin Ahmad and Shamsuddin Hussain.

- It became an important front **organisation for the Communist Party of India** and an influential force in the Bombay labour movement.
- The party was able to muster some success in making alliances with other left elements inside the Congress Party, amongst them Jawaharlal Nehru.
- However, as the Communist International entered its 'Third Period' phase, the communists deserted the WPP project.
- The WPP was wound up, as its leadership was arrested by the British authorities in March 1929.