

LEADING CHANGE for

175 YEARS

1838-2013

TOI STORY

Swaraj Riot?

The Times carried quite a few headlines for its coverage of Purna Swaraj Day celebrations across India, but the lead headline was "Independence Day" riot, about a Hindu-Muslim conflict in Dacca. The report said: "At 5 o'clock in the afternoon in Narinda, when a procession was passing by the Mosque with shouts of Bangle Mataram several Mahomedans of the locality took exception to the shouting and soon the parties came into conflict"

Panther pass

A panther from Professor Derail's Indian Circus... is evidently wedded to the politics of the Indian National Congress. It cut away from its cage. Being a sensible beast, it went to the local police station and began practising Satya-graha. Every endeavour to induce his devout disciple of Mr Gandhi to come to terms failed... It continued its passive resistance. After a fruitless endeavour to win Swaraj the beast had sense enough to give up its political creed and follow its 'dharma' of entertaining people.

APRIL 7 | 1930

TIME TRAVEL with The Times

THE TIMES OF INDIA, KOLKATA WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 1931

Dyer would've made a fool of himself

The British-owned TOI, quoting from General Dyer's deposition, said he'd made up his mind to order his men to shoot. "He thought it his duty to go on firing until the crowd dispersed. A little firing would've dispersed the crowd but they'd have come back again and he'd have made a fool of himself," the paper said

MASSACRE SPURS SWARAJ CALL

TOI detailed the British response & inquiry into Jallianwala Bagh 'tragedy' and equally closely tracked Gandhi & Nehru's fiery speeches

India must sever the British connection, says Nehru

In 1919, Indians, growing increasingly impatient with British rule, received a series of shocks. The Rowlatt Act did away with legal processes for political offences, the treatment meted out to the Turkish Sultan sparked the Khilafat movement, and the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms were seen as deeply disappointing. But the biggest shock was the shooting down of unarmed protesters at Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh on April 13 on the orders of General Reginald Dyer.

The massacre, in which 379 people, including women and children, were killed, and over 1,000 injured, generated outrage across the nation. TOI, then owned by the British, quoted Winston Churchill saying Dyer's act was wrong because "it was not the British way of doing things." It carried full speeches on the issue in the House of Commons.

For TOI, it wasn't only Jallianwala Bagh. The paper also reported Dyer's other outrageous order, the 'crawling or-

On Dyer justifying the firing, TOI said, "Dyer looked upon the firing as his duty, though a horrible duty"

der" which said every Indian passing through a street in which a British woman, Miss Sherwood, had been attacked, should go on all fours. "This order must have had the immediate result of seriously inconveniencing the residents of houses abutting in the street, and thereby punishing people who were prima facie innocent," TOI said.

The paper reported Dyer's deposition before the inquiry committee set up to probe the massacre. A report on November 30, 1919, said Dyer had told

the panel "the firing was justified." He was quoted extensively on how he'd warned people against holding meetings, how his authority had been defied, and how "he felt his duty was to disperse the crowd by opening fire." More importantly, TOI said, "he looked upon the firing as his duty though a horrible duty."

A few years after the tragedy, in 1928, the paper gave voice to the Indian side, quoting Mahatma Gandhi saying "the massacre is a perpetual reminder to us that it will recur as often as we attempt to lift up our heads and desire no longer to live in bondage."

When General Dyer died in 1927, TOI on Aug 13 carried a picture of his funeral. Two

(Top) At Jallianwala Bagh. (L) British PM David Cameron visited Jallianwala earlier this year (Above) A Congress session attracts overwhelming crowds

JALLIANWALA BAGH DAY. GANDHI'S MESSAGE. PERPETUAL REMINDER OF INDIA'S SLAVERY

The following message was sent by Mr. Gandhi and was read in the meeting by Mr. Yashwantrao Chavan—The nation mourns in Jallianwala Bagh. Let each place on the map remind us of the blood shed there on April 13, 1919.

TOI REPORTS

Divergent political creeds... demonstrating unity of parties condemning the Jallianwala Bagh tragedy erasing the wrong. A message from Gandhi: "The massacre is a perpetual reminder that it'll recur as often as we attempt to lift up our heads and desire no longer to live in bondage!"

APRIL 14 | 1926

INDEPENDENCE DAY CONGRESS PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION

ALLENDALE, President of the Congress Committee, suggested that the Congress should observe Independence Day as a day of mourning for the victims of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. He also suggested that the Congress should demand that the British Government should pay compensation to the families of the victims.

NEHRU'S RESOLUTION

It is the inalienable right of Indians as of any other people to have freedom. If any government deprives the people of this, they have the right to alter it or abolish it. The British government has not on deprived the Indians of their freedom but has based itself on exploitation of the masses and raised India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually. We believe India must sever the British connection and sustain Purna Swaraj. The most effective way of gaining freedom is non-violence. We prepare by withdrawing so far as we can all voluntary association from the British Government and refuse for civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes.

JAN 15 | 1930

Source: Old Newspaper clipping of the Times of India to be used in the classroom to initiate discussion and reactions.

Q. How did the above incident change the course of the Indian National Movement under Gandhi?

Response: Jallianwala Bagh massacre, post Rowlatt Act- changed the course of national history – mass uprising which led to the Non- Cooperation Khilafat Movement under Gandhi.

Q. How does the concept of Gandhian Satyagraha still drive change globally? Do you feel the ripples of Gandhian philosophy have touched many nations and influenced ideologies?

Response: Global impact: Nelson Mandela's role in abolition of Apartheid. This ideology is used for non-violent conflict management in countries like Serbia, Georgia, Egypt and Tunisia.

Q. How do we connect modern-day classroom to newspaper reading and inculcate in the students an idea of nationalism?

Response: Students reflected on 100 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre through various methods like making posters and collecting relevant newspaper articles recently published and reviewed on books and poems. A sample of their contributions is presented below:

