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LONGEST VIRTUAL EXHIBITION ON ASHFAQULLA KHAN  
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## INDIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER - ASHFAQULLAH KHAN

Ashfaqulla Khan (22 October 1900 – 19 December 1927) was a Socialist revolutionary in the Indian freedom struggle who was part of the band of patriots who took part in 1925's Kakori Train Robbery. The Kakori train robbery took place near Kakori near Lucknow on 9 August 1925. The robbery was organised by the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA). The robbery was conceived by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan who belonged to the HRA.







## EARLY LIFE - ASHFAQULLAH KHAN

Khan was born in Shahjahanpur, India to Shafiqullah Khan and Mazharunissa. He was born in a Muslim Pathan family of Khyber tribe. He was the youngest among his six siblings.

In 1920, Mahatma Gandhi launched his Non-cooperation movement against the British rule in India. But after the Chauri Chaura incident in 1922, Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the call for this movement.

At that point, many young people including Khan felt depressed. That is when Khan decided to form an organization with like-minded freedom fighters which resulted in the formation of Hindustan Republican Association in 1924. This association's purpose was to organize armed revolutions to achieve a free India.





## KAKROLI CONSPIRACY

*Kakori Conspiracy is also known as Kakori Kand, Kakori Conspiracy Case or The Kakori Train Robbery. It was an armed robbery which took place on August 9, 1925, on a train in central Uttar Pradesh. The robbery occurred at the town of Kakori, about 16 km from Lucknow which was where the train was headed.*

*On August 9, 1925, Ram Prasad Bismil along with companions Ashfaqulla Khan and others executed the plan of looting the train at Kakori near Lucknow. After the revolutionaries stopped the 8-Down Saharanpur Lucknow passenger train at Kakori, Ashfaqullah Khan, Sachindra Bakshi, Rajendra Lahiri and Ram Prasad Bismil subdued the guard and looted cash meant for the treasury. Within a month of the attack, the angered colonial authorities arrested more than a dozen HRA members.*





# KAKORI CONSPIRACY (TRAIN ROBBERY) OBJECTIVES

The raiders in Kakori Conspiracy were known to be members of the newly formed Hindustan Republican Association, a revolutionary organization, later renamed as Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), whose mission was to liberate India from British colonial rule through a revolution which included armed rebellion.

The objectives of the Kakori Kand/Conspiracy were to:

- Gain funds for the HRA by taking money from the British Administration through force.
- Create a positive image of the HRA among Indians by attacking a high-profile British government target with minimum collateral damage.





# KAKORI TRAIN ROBBERY: THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

The robbery was planned by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan. It was executed by Bismil, Khan, Chandrashekhar Azad, Rajendra Lahiri, Shachindra Bakshi, Keshab Chakravarty, Murari Lal Khanna(Gupta), Banwari Lal, Mukundi Lal Gupta and Manmathnath Gupta. The target was the guard cabin, carrying money collected from various railway stations to be deposited in Lucknow. Though no passengers were targeted by the revolutionaries, one passenger named Ahmed Ali was killed in the crossfire between the guards and revolutionaries. This made it a manslaughter case.

- 8 August 1925: Decision to rob the government treasury to buy arms is taken at an HRA meeting.
- 9 August 1925: Revolutionaries stop the Number 8 Down train near Kakori from Saharanpur to Lucknow and loot Rs. 8000 from the guard cabin.





# KAKORI TRAIN ROBBERY: THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- British Administration launches a manhunt to arrest the revolutionaries.
- 26 Sept 1925: Ram Prasad Bismil is arrested by the colonial authorities.
- Kakori trial proceeds in the sessions court of A.Hamilton on 21 May 1926.
- Mid-1926: Ashfaqulla Khan and Shachindra Bakshi are arrested after the conclusion of the trial.

After the incident, the revolutionaries fled to Lucknow. According to official records, 40 people were arrested during the trial. Chandrashekhhar Azad who could not be captured reorganized the HRA and ran the organization till 1931. He shot himself after being grievously injured and down to his last bullet at Chandrashekhhar Azad Park (then known as Alfred Park) in a shootout with the police on 27 February 1931.





# BACKGROUND OF THE KAKORI CONSPIRACY CASE

- The train was traveling from Shahjahanpur to Lucknow. It was looted by revolutionary freedom fighters when the train was nearing the town of Kakori in present-day Uttar Pradesh.
- The plan was hatched by Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan. It was executed by Bismil, Khan, Chandrashekhar Azad, Rajendra Lahiri, Sachindra Bakshi, Keshab Chakravarty and a few others.
- One of the revolutionaries halted the train by pulling its chain and then they carried out the looting.
- They were able to get around Rs.8000 from the government money bags. Not a single Indian passenger was robbed.
- Unfortunately, a passenger was killed in an accidental firing. This made it a murder case.





# BACKGROUND OF THE KAKORI CONSPIRACY CASE

- These young revolutionaries, who were HRA members, wanted money to fund their militant activities against the British government. They needed the cash to acquire weapons to carry forward their armed struggle.
- After the incident, the revolutionaries fled to Lucknow. The government started an intense search for them.
- In total, about 40 people were arrested including Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan.
- Chandrashekhar Azad who could not be captured later shot himself during a shootout with the police in 1931.
- The final verdict of the case was pronounced in July 1927.
- Around 15 people were let off by the court for lack of evidence.
- Ram Prasad Bismil, Rajendra Lahiri, Ashfaqullah Khan and Thakur Roshan Singh were awarded death sentences.





# BACKGROUND OF THE KAKORI CONSPIRACY CASE

- Sachindra Bakshi and Shachindra Nath Sanyal were deported to the cellular jail in Port Blair.
- Others were given imprisonment of varying lengths.
- After the final judgement, the revolutionaries, who were sent to different jails, undertook hunger strikes protesting against the jail conditions and also demanding political prisoner -status for them.
- Despite strong protest in India against the death sentences, the government was unwilling to reconsider. The four death sentences were carried out.
- The Kakori case is an important event in the Indian independence movement. The sacrifice and courage of the young leaders inspire people even today.





## LAST DAYS OF ASHFAQULLAH KHAN

Ashfaqulla Khan who was the member of Hindustan Republican Association was born on 22nd October 1900 in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur District. He was the youngest child of Shafiqur Rahman and Mazharunissa.

In 1922, when Mahatma Gandhi launched Non-Cooperation Movement, he decided to become a freedom fighter. During the movement, he met Ram Prasad Bismil and they became good friends.

After the withdrawal of Non-Cooperation Movement due to Chauri Chaura incident, many youths of India including Ashfaqulla were depressed. He decided to join extremists for the freedom of India.

Later, he was declared terrorist by British Government for his involvement in Kakori Train Robbery. This conspiracy also exhibited in Bollywood film 'Rang De Basanti'.

On 19th December 1927, Ashfaqulla Khan along with Ram Prasad Bismil, Rajendra Lahiri and Roshan Singh was hanged till death.





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