

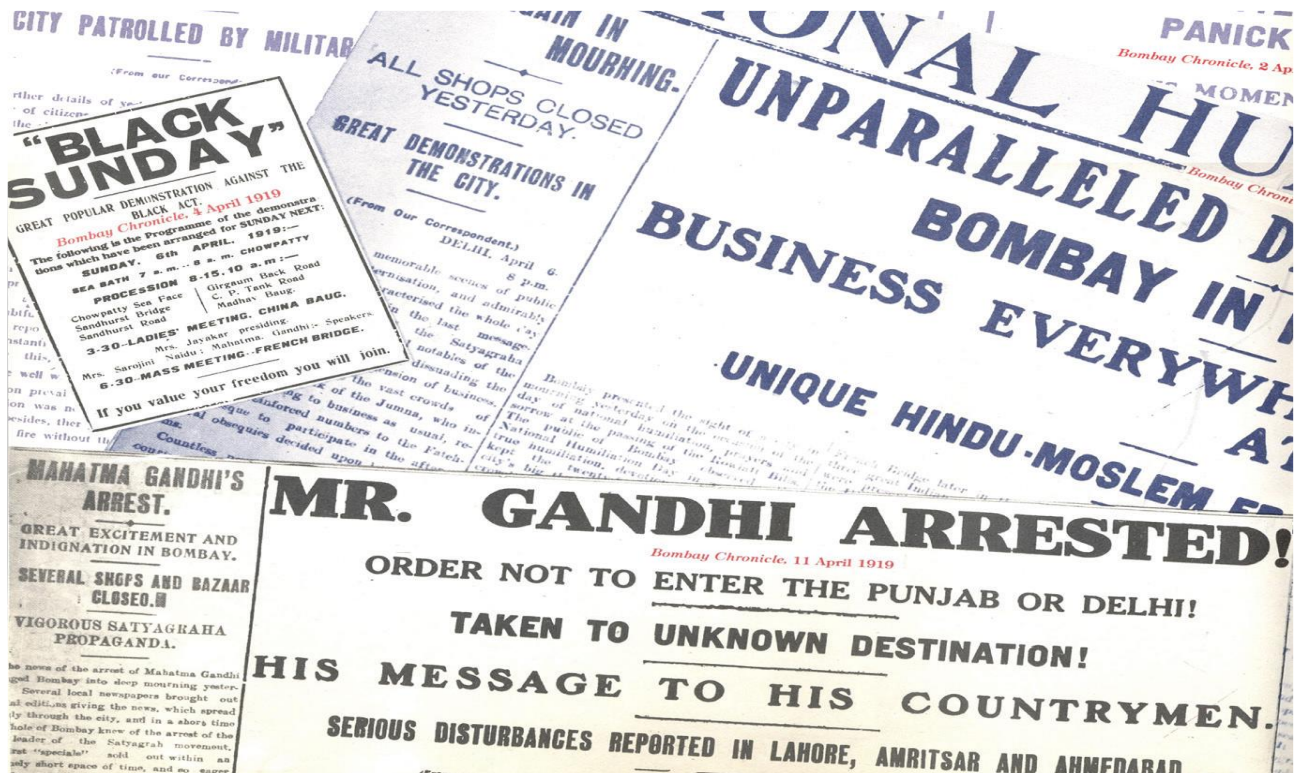
E-Content Resources in History (Secondary stage)

Resource 1

S. N.	AREA OF MATA DATA	TO BE FILLED BY CONTENT GENERATOR(S)
1	Topic	The Rowlatt Satyagraha
2	Subject	History
3	Topic connected which area of subject?	Nationalism in India
4	Class/ Level	X
5	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To help students understand how Rowlatt Act came into effect and its various provisions• To understand how protest against the Rowlatt Act took the shape of Satyagraha Movement and turned into an all-India agitation.
6	Summary	The Rowlatt Act was passed in 1919. This act effectively authorized the government to imprison any person without a trial, and gave the imperial authorities power to deal with all revolutionary activities. The Act annoyed many Indian leaders and the public, which caused the government to implement repressive measures. In the Punjab the protest movement was very strong where on April 13 people from neighbouring villages gathered for Baisakhi Day celebrations in Amritsar, which led to the infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919.
7	Key Words	Justice Sydney Rowlatt, Mahatma Gandhi, Amritsar, Rowlatt Satyagraha, Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Saifuddin Kitchlew, Satya Pal, General Dyer, Rabindranath Tagore, Jallianwala Bagh, Knighthood
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The Rowlatt Satyagraha

During World War I, series of laws were imposed by the British-Indian Government to maintain public order. The government insisted on continuing it adding further repressive measures much later after the War. Soon, recommendations of Justice Sydney Rowlatt were drafted into laws in 1919, known as the Rowlatt Act.



By this Act the government could imprison anyone without a trial in any court of law. Following country-wide protests in 1919, Gandhiji launched a satyagraha against this draconian law. The Rowlatt Satyagraha soon turned out



Sir Michael O'Dwyer

to be the first all-India struggle. Its impact was severely felt in Punjab, where Michael O' Dwyer, the Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, issued a proclamation banning all public meetings.

The news of Gandhiji's arrest along with two local leaders, Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal Dang incited public fury. Defying law people assembled at a local park in Amritsar, called the Jallianwala Bagh, on 13th April 1919, the day of baisakhi unaware of the ban order. Suddenly Brigadier General Dyer appeared there with troops and with no warning, ordered rampant firing at the peaceful and defenceless crowd. The fusillade continued till Dyer's ammunition ran out. About a thousand people are estimated to have been killed.



Saifuddin Kitchlew



Satya Pal

The massacre was followed up with still harsher measures like imposition of curfew, public flogging and crawling on the streets, finally leading to imposition of martial law across Punjab. The tragic incident infuriated the Indian leadership so much that in protest Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood.



The walled compound in which General Dyer opened fire on a gathering of people



General Dyer



Rabindranath Tagore

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/39/Rabindranath_Tagore_1905-1906_Sukumar_Ray.jpg