

# KAKORI RAIL CONSPIRACY: HISTORY

## UP CM, Deputy CM pay tributes to revolutionaries on Kakori Train Action's 100th anniversary

The Kakori Rail Conspiracy (1925) was a landmark revolutionary act by the Hindustan Republican Association, where revolutionaries looted a train carrying British government treasury near Kakori to fund the freedom struggle. Though brutally suppressed, it inspired future revolutionary movements, with leaders like Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, and Chandrashekhar Azad becoming iconic figures of India's independence.

## Kakori Rail Conspiracy (Kakori Train Action), 1925

The Kakori Rail Conspiracy (also called Kakori Train Robbery) was a landmark revolutionary action during India's freedom struggle. Executed on August 9, 1925, by members of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).

### Objective

1. To challenge the exploitative British colonial system.
2. To seize government funds (public treasury carried in trains).
3. To fund revolutionary activities for armed struggle against British rule.
4. This event symbolized the transition from moderate protests to radical revolutionary action.

### The Event (August 9, 1925)

1. Location: Near Kakori railway station, Uttar Pradesh.
2. Train Targeted: Saharanpur–Lucknow passenger train.

### Action

1. Ten revolutionaries stopped the train at Bajnagar (near Kakori).
2. Seized government treasury bags from the train's guard cabin.
3. Looted ₹4,679, one aana, and six pai (a substantial amount in 1925).

Incident: A passenger named Ahmad Ali died accidentally when a firearm discharged—this was unintentional, but gave the British grounds to add murder charges.

## Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)

Founded in October 1924. Sachindra Nath Sanyal, Ram Prasad Bismil, and other revolutionaries. The aim was to Establish an independent republic of India through organized armed revolution (not petitions or negotiations).

### Philosophy

1. Strongly opposed both British imperialism and exploitative systems.
2. Advocated for direct action to inspire Indian masses.

### Main Participants

1. Ram Prasad Bismil – Chief planner, ideological leader, key in execution.
2. Ashfaqulla Khan – Escaped after the action but later betrayed and captured.
3. Chandrashekhar Azad – Escaped, continued underground revolutionary activities until his death in 1931.
4. Rajendra Lahiri – Actively involved; later executed.
5. Roshan Singh – Arrested, executed.
6. Sachindra Nath Bakshi – Prominent revolutionary participant.
7. Keshab Chakravarty – Actively assisted in the train robbery.

8. Manmathnath Gupta – Youngest participant (only 16 years old).
9. Murari Sharma, Mukundi Lal, Banwari Lal – Assisted in organizing and execution.

### Legal Proceedings

1. Trial Venue: Special Sessions Court under Justice Archibald Hamilton.
2. Charges: Conspiracy, robbery, and accidental murder.

### Convictions

19 individuals were convicted. Trial became a political spectacle, aimed to set an example by harshly punishing revolutionaries.

### Indian Legal Representation

#### Defence Lawyers

1. Govind Ballabh Pant – Later became CM of Uttar Pradesh.
2. Chandra Bhanu Gupta – Also became CM of Uttar Pradesh.

#### Prosecution

Led by Jagat Narain Mulla, prominent lawyer and political figure. Assisted by Anand Narain Mulla (his son).

### Outcome & Sentences

#### 1. Death Sentences (December 1927)

1. Ram Prasad Bismil
2. Ashfaqulla Khan
3. Rajendra Lahiri
4. Roshan Singh

#### 2. Life Imprisonment / Deportation

Several revolutionaries sentenced to rigorous imprisonment. Many deported to Cellular Jail, Port Blair (Kala Pani). Chandrashekhar Azad, avoided arrest, remained underground until 1931 encounter at Alfred Park, Allahabad, chose to shoot himself rather than be captured alive by British police.

### Historical Significance

**1. Symbol of Defiance**, Kakori was not merely a robbery but a political statement against colonial economic exploitation.

**2. National Impact**, Gave a psychological boost to the freedom struggle. Inspired a generation of youth to join armed resistance.

**3. British Response**, Harsh punishment was meant to deter revolutionary movements, but instead fueled anger and nationalism.

**4. Legacy**, Kakori martyrs became enduring icons of sacrifice and bravery in India's struggle for freedom.

### Centenary Tribute (2025)

#### On August 9, 2025 (100th anniversary)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid tributes to the revolutionaries. The Government of Uttar Pradesh officially renamed "Kakori Kand" to "Kakori Train Action" to emphasize its positive revolutionary nature rather than the colonial label of "crime (Kand)".

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