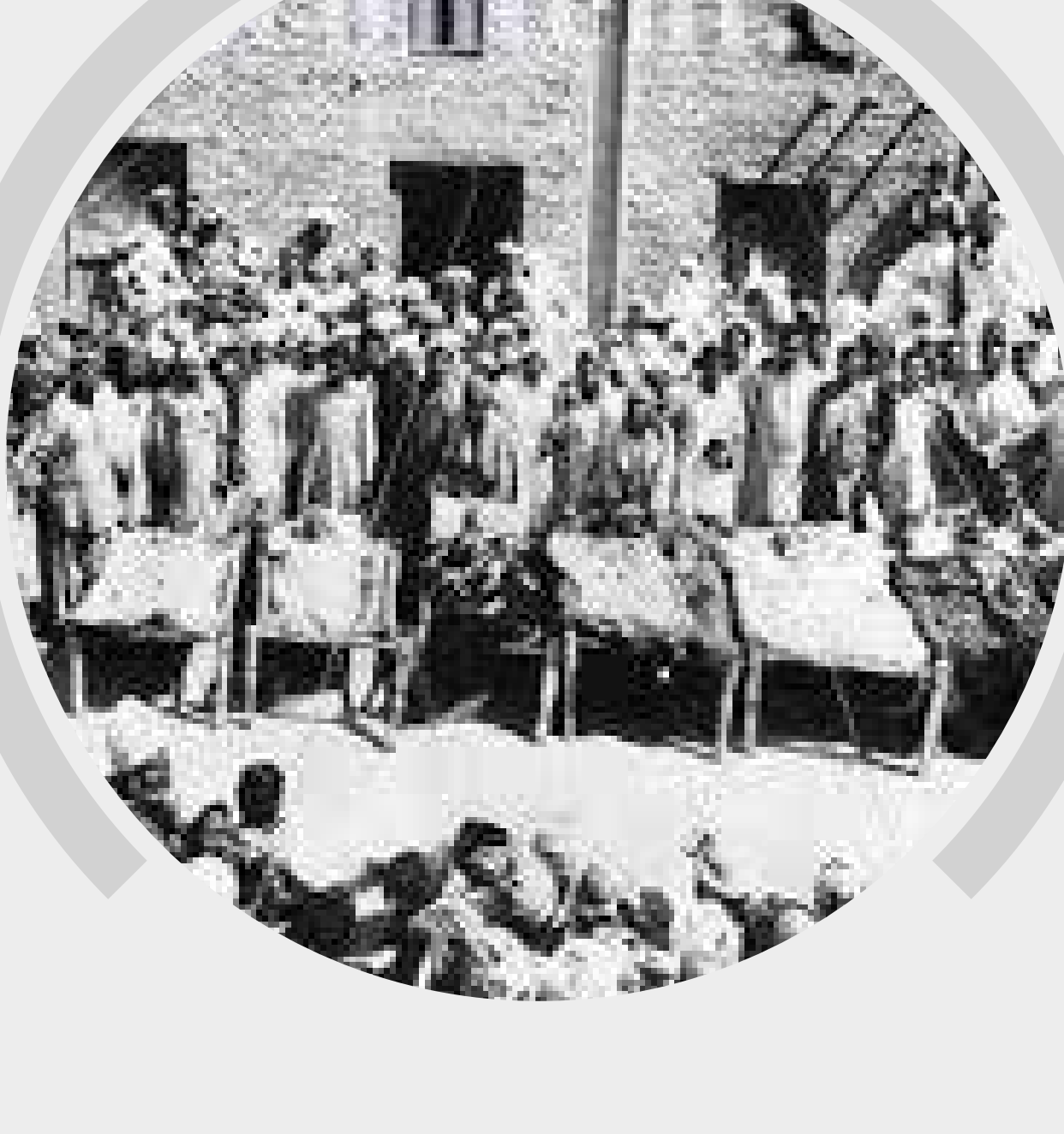


Qissa Khwani Bazaar massacre



Why in News?

2020 marks 90 years for Qissa Khwani Bazaar massacre

What is Qissa Khwani bazaar

It was the site of a massacre done by British soldiers against non-violent protesters of the Khudai Khidmatgar movement on April 23, 1930.

Who were the Khudai Khidmatgars?

- ✓ The Khudai Khidmatgar was a non-violent movement against British occupation of the Indian subcontinent led by Abdul Ghaffar Khan, a Pashtun freedom fighter, in the North-West Frontier Province.
- ✓ Over time, the movement acquired a more political colour, leading to the British taking notice of its growing prominence in the region.
- ✓ Following the arrest of Khan and other leaders in 1929, the movement formally joined the Indian National Congress after they failed to receive support from the All-India Muslim League.
- ✓ Members of the Khudai Khidmatgar were organised and the men stood out because of the bright red shirts they wore as uniforms, while the women wore black garments.

Reasons for Qissa Khwani Bazaar massacre

- ✓ Abdul Ghaffar Khan and other leaders of the Khudai Khidmatgar were arrested on April 23, 1930 by British police after he gave a speech at a gathering in the town of Utmanzai in the North-West Frontier Province.
- ✓ Protests spilled into the Qissa Khwani Bazaar in Peshawar on the day of Khan's arrest.
- ✓ British soldiers entered the market area to disperse crowds that had refused to leave and the British army vehicles drove into the crowds, killing several protesters and bystanders.