

#### STORIES OF THE UNSUNG HEROES OF INDIA'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT



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#### PREFACE

### 'It is the prime responsibility of every citizen to feel that his country is free and to defend its freedom is his duty'.

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

In the twin volumes of the Directory of Martyrs and its several parts, printed by the Indian Council of Historic Research there are thousands of unsung names of those termed as Martyrs in the freedom struggle from 1857 to 1947.

Their passion, determination and sacrifices are recorded in detail. Each had a common vision to see the Tri Colour aloft but they tried to achieve it in their own ways. Many inked their role in blood and in supreme sacrifice. Today as a result of the selfless and patriotic actions of these unsung builders of India, the Nation stands as a giant amongst nations.

India is the world's largest democracy and is ranked as one of the largest economic, military and cultural superpowers of the world. It enjoys the status of one of the leaders amongst nations. The growth of India in the last seven decades in the fields of technology, agriculture, education and other segments that give a nation superpower status are the fruits of the vision and labour of a selfless and countless unnamed freedom fighters. These true builders of India laid the foundation of today's India whose tri colour flies high with respect on a pedestal of achievements making it a symbol of pride and a beacon for the youth.

While compiling this book it was not possible to include all but those chosen to represent the different ideology of the Martyrs.

Over 75 years of an unshackled India has seen progress and growth and recognition by the World. Our leaders stand shoulder to shoulder discussing world problems and their solutions. India stands on its own, truly independent and yet maintains its democracy.

The story of at least some of these Unsung Heroes was to be told and that is the intention of this book. To introduce and create awareness amongst the youth of the Nation and to acquaint them with at least 75 such Builders of India.

Max Cement pays homage and tribute to all Heroes of the Freedom Movement and re pledges its Founders Vision to see a strong and productive North East, so as to strengthen the Nation.

Vinnet Agorned.

Vineet Agarwal Managing Director - Max Cement August 2022



#### INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE

The crimson rays of the dying sun failed to brighten up the 'Indian peasants in uniform'. Indian soldiers of regiments under the British rule were preparing for a secret strike. An ominous cloud of uncertainty cast over the barracks and even the British officers failed to anticipate what would follow. An uprising that would leave a deep impact on India's freedom struggle. Probably the first death nail on what would turn into a coffin much later, as the British would be forced out of India, a colony that refused to bow down to foreign supremacy.

The Revolt of 1857 was brewing secretly as a form of resentment since Governor-General Lord Canning in 1856 declared that Bahadur Shah Zafar would be the last Mughal Emperor and after that India no longer would be ruled by any Emperor. Added to that was East India Company's oppressive tax regime and rigid ways of collecting revenue from poor farmers that led to mass discontent. All hell broke loose when Britishers touched upon religious sentiments of both Hindu and Muslim soldiers by asking them to bite bullets that were thought to be smeared in cow and pig lard. The hatred towards the colonisers peaked and Sepoy Mutiny broke out in 1857.

Mangal Pandey, a sepoy of 34th Bengal Native Infantry played an active role, initiating the mutiny that spread to different parts of India. From Nana Saheb in Kanpur to Kunwar Singh, Zamindar of Bihar, Rani of Jhansi to Maulvi Ahmadullah, many leaders tried to give the mutiny an all-India stage. With their superior artillery and regiments, the British ruthlessly suppressed the revolt and Mangal Pandey was hanged. The Sepoy Mutiny failed, but laid the foundation for several future civil rebellions and tribal uprisings in various parts of India, particularly in Bengal and Bihar that finally snowballed into what we call as the Great Indian Freedom Struggle. Resentment was at every strata, from the ruin of Indian handicraft

industries resulting in artisans turning paupers, to semi feudal lords who lost economically, India never took the colonisers with sweet savoury.

Tribal revolts like the Santhal uprising was massive and proclaimed the complete 'annihilation' of the alien regime. The Munda rebellion of 1899 led by Birsa Munda, the Indigo Revolt of 1859-60, were India's answers to their colonisers. Maybe they are partly localized, but one thing was clear that India would not accept foreign domination for long. The Indigo Revolt involved the intelligentsia of Bengal who supported the rebellious peasants. For the first time use of newspaper campaigns, mass meetings, prepared memoranda and legal battles became part of India's Freedom Struggle. Another major agrarian outbreak occurred in Pune and Ahmednagar districts of Maharashtra in 1875. Mappila outbreak in Malabar and Kuka Revolt of Punjab led by Baba Ram Singh were all examples of a new resistive force emerging in India's Independence Movement, the force of the oppressed peasants.

The continuous yet sporadic rebellions found a common centre stage and a gusto with foundation of Indian National Congress (INC)

in 1885. Under leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose and Sardar Vallabhai Patel, INC played a central role in organising mass movements against the British. The British wanted to break the backbone of the uprisings specially of Bengal Province, the nerve centre of Indian Nationalism in 1900s. Viceroy Curzon announced Partition of Bengal on 19 July 1905, fostering a new kind of divide – the one based on religion. The British policy of 'Divide and Rule' triggered the Swadeshi Movement (1905-1908) where women, students and a large section of urban and rural population got actively involved in politics for the first time to popularize use and consumption of indigenous products and shunning British goods that were making brisk trade in India. It also gave birth to a brand of Militant Nationalists in India, led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lajpat Rai (the well-known trio Lal Bal Pal) and Aurobindo Ghosh. The movement led to a split in Congress with two wings --- Tilak leading the 'Extremists' and Gopal Krishna Gokhale leading the 'Moderates.'

The British government was intelligent enough to take opportunity of this divide. Lord Minto and John Morley began discussions with Moderates and brought in The Indian Councils Act of 1909





increasing the number of elected members from INC in the Imperial Legislative Council and provincial legislative councils. An Indian would also be appointed a member of the Governor-General's Executive Council. However, the British had a different strategy to incite further divide in the nationalist ranks and encourage growth of Muslim communalism.

Meanwhile, Indians living abroad were also trying to oust the colonisers. The Ghadar Movement (1914) was an international political movement, initially led by Bhagwan Singh, a Sikh priest of Hong Kong and later taken up by Yugantar Ashram that became the home and headquarters of political workers. This period saw rise of Home Rule League by Lokmanya Tilak and Annie Besant as well as Ghadar leaders like Barkatullah and Tarak Nath Das who used inflammatory speeches bringing unaffected Indians in North America into the party's fold. As these movements from different strata, different countries and by different means started alienating the British from the very land that they thought they have established as their second home, one man in a simple dhoti and with a dandi in hand rose to give India a mass protest escalation through the simple way of Satyagraha. He was none other than 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi who used a simple tool of resistance to challenge a power that was ruling half of the world by then.

From Champaran movement in Bihar (1917) to Ahmedabad and Kheda Satyagraha in Gujarat (1918) to Rowlatt Satyagraha (1919),

Gandhi successfully motivated the divided protests into one large movement, successfully pushing the demands for farmers, workers, labourers and all the weaker sections of the society. No wonder, Mahatma turned into a messiah for the oppressed people of India.

Rowlatt Act of 1919 led to another event etched in the dark history of British India – the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre where British General Dyer ordered his troops to fire point blank on a peaceful crowd of protesters who had gathered in Amritsar to protest against the arrest of pro-Indian independence leaders Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satya Pal. This event caused many moderate Indians to abandon their loyalty to the British and become nationalists. Even Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore gave up his Knighthood in protest of this massacre. Gandhiji called for the Non-cooperation Movement (1920) that touched upon every lane and by-lane of India, from schools, colleges to even law courts. Indians stopped paying taxes to the British and voluntarily gave up associations with the British Government.

To further broaden the Indian Freedom Struggle, Gandhiji joined hands with the Khilafat Movement (1919-24), a protest campaign launched by Muslims of British India to restore the caliph of the Ottoman Caliphate. The tremendous participation of Muslims in the Non-Cooperation Movement and the maintenance of communal unity was a new high in the Freedom Struggle of India henceforth.

The British regime tried every means to break the Non-Cooperation Movement. On 4 February 1922, at Chauri Chaura in Uttar Pradesh,

the British police opened fire at a large group of people who were participating in the Non-Cooperation movement and in retaliation the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all occupants. Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the movement on the national level due to this incident and this led to a divide in the Freedom Struggle. Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Bose and many others recorded their disagreement on Gandhiji's views. Leaders like Netaji Subhash Bose believed in 'tooth for a tooth, eye for an eye' and said it was the only policy that could drive out the British from India. Bengal and Punjab gave rise to militant nationalism where young freedom fighters targeted British officers and killed them. Khudiram Bose, Bhagat Singh, Benoy, Badal, Dinesh and many such young freedom fighters were either hanged or killed by the British.

Meanwhile, the Indian National Congress boycotted the Simon Commission in 1927, that was appointed to recommend whether India was ready for further constitutional reforms. Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose emerged as the leaders during the Simon Commission boycott movement. They led the slogan of Purna Swaraj or complete independence. On the banks of the river Ravi, at midnight on 31 December 1929, the tricolour flag of Indian independence was hoisted.

To further add steam to the movement and attack British supremacy from all corners, the Lahore Session of the Congress launched Civil Disobedience Movement and Dandi March (1930). Gandhiji along with a band of seventy-eight members of the Sabarmati Ashram started to march from Ahmedabad to the coast at Dandi. There he broke the salt laws by collecting salt from the beach. Even Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan's 'The Khudai Khidmatgars' of Afghanistan played an extremely active role in the Civil Disobedience Movement. It finally dawned upon the British that they might not be able to rule India for long and wished to come to the Round Table Conferences (1930-32) to discuss constitutional reforms in India, including immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted for violence, remission of all fines not yet collected, return of confiscated lands not yet sold to third parties, and lenient treatment for those government employees who had resigned. The Government also conceded the right to make salt for consumption to villages along the coast. They also gave the right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing. In 1934 the inevitable decision to withdraw Civil Disobedience Movement was taken by Gandhiji and the growing demand for constitutional reforms in India led the British Parliament to enact the Government of India Act 1935.

The Act promised some form of representative government. But the INC saw a major rift in the Tripuri Session of 1939. Subhas Bose had been a unanimous choice as the President of the Congress in 1938. In 1939, he decided to stand again. However, with the blessings of Gandhiji, Sardar Patel, Rajendra Prasad, J.B. Kripalani and other leaders ,Pattabhi Sitaramayya was put up as a candidate for the post. Though Bose won, Gandhiji opposed it and Bose decided to part ways with the Congress.





The Individual Satyagraha (1940) was initiated by Gandhiji where individual satyagrahis would trek towards Delhi. The 'Delhi Chalo' movement saw Vinoba Bhave as the first satyagrahi on 17 October 1940 and Jawaharlal Nehru the second. The Cripps Mission in March 1942 by the British government tried to secure full Indian cooperation and support in World War II. The mission was headed by a senior minister Sir Stafford Cripps, traditionally sympathetic to Indian self-rule. However, he was also a member of the coalition War Cabinet led by Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who had always opposed Indian independence.

Yet, Churchill sent Cripps to India to try and forge a compromise with Gandhiji and the Congress and promised India a Dominion Status and a constitution-making body after the War. He proposed that the Constitutional Assembly members would be elected by the provincial assemblies and nominated by the rulers in case of the princely states. Unfortunately, this was also a time when the demand for a separate nation for Muslims – Pakistan – also got momentum. The Pakistan demand was accommodated by the provision that any province which was not prepared to accept the new constitution would have the right to sign a separate agreement with Britain regarding its future status.

Talks broke down and Congress objected to the provision for Dominion Status. They wanted complete independence. After the failure of the Cripps Mission, Mahatma Gandhi decided to launch the Quit India Movement of 1942. In this struggle, the common people of the country demonstrated unparalleled heroism and militancy. However, the repression that they faced was the most brutal that had ever been used against the national movement. Gandhiji proclaimed 'Do or Die' – either free India or die in the attempt.

Underground networks flared up in various parts of the country with prominent members like Achyut Patwardhan, Aruna Asaf Ali, Ram Manohar Lohia, and Sucheta Kripalani. They helped in organizing disruption of communications by blowing up bridges,



cutting telegraph and telephone wires and derailing trains. The Congress Radio run by people like Usha Mehta operated clandestinely from different locations in Bombay, whose broadcast could be heard as far as Madras to boost up the struggle against British.

In February 1943, Gandhiji declared the fast in Aga Khan Palace where he was held in detention, as this was his answer to the Government which had been constantly exhorting him to condemn the violence of the people in Quit India Movement. Gandhiji not only refused to condemn the people's resort to violence but unequivocally held the British Government responsible for it. Finally, the Congress leaders were released to participate in the Simla Conference in June 1945. The Simla Conference was a meeting between the Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell and major political leaders of British India at the Viceregal Lodge in Simla.

The British knew the time had come to end their hundreds of years of rule and flee from the colony that was once their source of wealth and

power. Lord Mountbatten made the Mountbatten Plan in 1947 and called the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League and the Sikh community to the table. This plan was the last plan for independence announced on 3 June 1947 that included the principle of the partition of British India as accepted by the British Government, successor governments to be given dominion status, autonomy and sovereignty to both countries, the successor governments could make their own constitution, the Princely States were given the right to join either Pakistan or India, based on two major factors geographical contiguity and people's wishes.

The Mountbatten plan led to the enactment of the India Independence Act of 1947 passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom that divided British India into two new independent dominions; the Dominion of India (later to become the Republic of India) and the Dominion of Pakistan (later to become the Islamic Republic of Pakistan). This Act received Royal Assent on 18 July 1947. India became independent on August 15th, 1947.









#### THE VALIANT WARRIORS OF THE NORTH EAST

Many books of history of the past have not included the names of many freedom fighters from the North East and these were thus missed in the chapters of the school books. Though living in the remotest of the plains and hills of the North East, scores of patriots and freedom fighters contributed as much as the others in the struggle for a Free India.

The rolling hills of the North East drove the greed of British imperialists, who were out to exploit the huge natural wealth that the region offered. Explored less, this part of India had always been cut off from the rest of the subcontinent due to lack of communication, yet people of the North-East played a vital role in India's freedom struggle. Their courage was exemplary and since 19th century one witnessed many uprisings against the British rule. The otherwise quiet and peace-loving people of North-East resisted the British colonial forces tooth and nail.

This region fell to the British with the annexure of Assam in 1826.

Previously it was under the rulers of Burma, present day Myanmar, who had captured the Ahom kingdom. After almost a decade of Burmese occupation, the British stepped in, though this region for most part of the previous Delhi Sultanate rule was a free land ruled by local rulers and chieftains. Assam faced many incursions, but the warrior tribes of this region never bowed to any external forces and successfully kept them away. When the British tried to occupy this land, quite naturally it did not go down well with the people of Assam. The British authority was challenged by the nobles of the region led by Gomdhar Konwar. But their resistance was suppressed and in 1828 Gomdhar and his associates were imprisoned. One of them Piyoli Phukan was even hanged.

Meanwhile, the tribes of North-East too did not accept the British with open arms. Their free-spirited valour led them openly to declare war against the British. The Khasi tribe of Meghalaya led by U Tirot Sing fought bravely against the British between 1829-1833.

11

Unfortunately, they succumbed to the superior British forces who had better arms and ammunition. Tirot Sing was imprisoned in Dhaka jail but the tribal resistance did not die down. Between 1830-1860, other tribes like Singphos, Khamtis, Nagas, Garos rose to ward off the British from occupying their lands, leading to heavy losses of life and property for the British imperialists.

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As early as 1857, when Sepoy Mutiny broke out in other parts of the country, Assam too felt the heat. Maniram Dewan, the first Indian tea planter, who initially helped the British expand the tea industry in Assam fell out with them. He played a key role in making plans to oust the British from Assam. But these plans were foiled and Maniram along with Piyali Barua were arrested. They were publicly hanged in 1858. Many of their close associates like Bahadur Gaonburah and Farmud Ali were taken into custody and tortured.

The most notable mass uprising from North-East was perhaps the Phulaguri Peasant Uprising in 1861. It started from the Nagaon district of central Assam against the repressive agricultural policies of the British government. This mass movement heralded a new era of peasant protest in the region. Hundreds of peasants, tribal and non-tribal marched in unison to the district headquarters to submit their grievance petition to the Deputy Commissioner. However, the high-handed DC turned them down and refused to even entertain their requests.





The infuriated peasants returned empty handed with no assurance from the British. They started organizing a series of traditional raij mels or people's assemblies to deliberate on the future course of action. On 18 October 1861, when a police party under Assistant Commissioner Lt. Singer arrived at one such assembly and tried to disperse the peasants, they attacked the police with their lathis and killed Lt. Singer. This incident led to direct confrontation between peasants of Assam and the British. They were literally crushed by armed British military who launched the attack the very next day after the incident. Thirty-nine peasants were killed, many were wounded and 41 arrested. Though most of the peasants in Phulaguri Uprising belonged to the Tiwa and Kachari tribes, peasants from the Koch and the Kaibarta (fishermen) community had also joined the movement. The Kaibarta leader, Bahu, was deported to the Andamans.

The Phulaguri Uprising inspired the entire peasant community specially in the districts of Darrang and Kamrup. They too started protesting against the oppressive increase of land revenue and held raij-mels. When the land revenue was raised by almost 80%, violent protests broke out between 1892-94 in various parts of Kamrup and Darrang as well as adjoining districts of Assam. The colonial forces named it as 'Assam Riots' Peasants vented anger against the British government and pledged not to pay the increased land revenue. On 28 January 1894, a troop of armed forces attempted to attach property of the defaulting peasants but the peasants surrounded the police force and compelled them to beat a hasty retreat. A skirmish followed between the armed forces and the stick wielding peasants. 140 peasants died and about 150 sustained injuries and the uprising was brutally suppressed. On 29 March 1894, Rash Behari Ghosh questioned the propriety of the government's new land revenue policy and expressed his resentment at the

repressive policies on the Assamese peasants at the Imperial Legislative Council. With the brutal suppression of the peasants, the violent peasant insurgencies of Assam came to an end. To address the problems of peasants, the elite middle class of Assam now formed an association called Sarbajanik Sabha. They drew petition and memorandum of dissent and instead of getting into direct confrontation with the colonial administration, they voiced their dissent through peaceful means.

Meanwhile, the British started to spread their wings beyond Assam and reached present-day Arunachal Pradesh that was inhabited by tribes like Abors, (now called Adis) and Akas (now called Hrussos). The British tried to suppress these people and grab their lands. The latter fought valiantly but could not match the superior firepower and policies of the British. In early 1891, the British attempt at intervening in the affairs of the Manipur kingdom faced staunch opposition from Prince Tikendrajit Singh and others. This followed the killing of a number of senior British officials. The British resorted to a big military expedition to defeat the Manipuri forces. Tikendrajit and his associate General Thangal were captured and hanged. Taji Mideren of Arunachal was another brave heart, who killed three British officers near the Dikran River in 1905. He brought Mishmi fellow tribals together to resist the expansion of British authority. He was finally captured by the British police at Sadiya in December 1917, was tried and sentenced to death. On the left Bank of Siang River stands the beautiful and serene Komsing village, which rose to prominence when Matmur Jamoh killed the British officer Noel Williamson. Unable to hide any longer in the face of an intense operation called the Abor Expedition of 1911-12, he surrendered, along with some others. However, he died in obscurity and very few records are available of his last days at the Cellular Jail.



Different tribal uprisings kept happening. Like Kuki uprising was led by Chengjapao Kuki, who was Chief of Aisan, the city of Doungel clan. Later, he joined the INA or Indian National Army under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He was one of the Kuki leaders who questioned the British authority during Kuki Uprising. He organised Kuki people who were one of the tribes of Mizoram against colonial and feudal authority of the British under the banner of Indian National Army. Another Mizo leader was Shoorvir Pasaltha Khuangchera who in 1890 died fighting the British when they invaded the Lushai hills of Mizoram.

Meghalaya took an active part in Indian independence and the man who led the uprising against the British from the front was U Kiang Nangbah, a Jaintia freedom fighter. He was hanged by the British publicly at Lawmusiang in Jowai town in West Jaintia Hills district on 30 December 1862.

Like the Indian National Congress, the Assam Association politically tried to pursue constitutional methods for redressing grievances of the native population. However, they failed to take a clear stand during the Partition of Bengal in 1905 that led to series of mass protests across East India, as far as Assam and East Bengal. While Sarbajanik Sabha played some role in articulating the Assamese interest, with the death of Jagannath Barooah, the Sabha gradually closed down. The new middle class political association of moderate views that came into existence around 1903 was the 'Assam Association, which also had many members from the Sarbajanik Sabha. Leading members of the Assam Association included emerging Assamese middle class leaders who came to the forefront were like Manik Chandra Barua, Raja Prabhat Chandra Baruah, Faiznur Ali and Ghanashyam Baruah. The Association successfully fought for Assamese representation in the Legislative Council of the newly formed state of East Bengal and Assam. After the reunion of Bengal in 1911, Assam became a Chief Commissioner's Province with its own Legislative Council. However, with the coming of a new generation of leaders such as Tarun Ram Phookan, Nabin Chandra Bardoloi and Chandranath Sarma, the Association assumed a more articulate role in tune with contemporary national ethos. They gave full support to the Home Rule Movement of 1916 demanding national self-governance. The Association also sent a two-member delegation of Nabin Chandra Bardoloi and Prasanna Kumar Baruah to London to press for giving Assam the status of a Governor's Province as part of the Indian Constitutional Reforms.









The countrywide protest against the repressive Rowlatt Act, Jallianwalla Bagh massacre, Khilafat Movement and finally, Gandhiji's call for Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920 left a huge imprint on the younger generation of the Assam Association leadership. They announced full support to the Non-Cooperation Movement and to be a part of a nationwide protest they disbanded the Assam Association. Instead, they founded the Assam Provincial Congress in 1921. Students of Cotton College, Guwahati, left the college as one and travelled through the rural belts of Assam to spread the message of non-cooperation and tried to rope in all sections of the society.

They even campaigned against social evils like opium use, that was widespread in Assam in those days. Like students, many lawyers also abandoned their practice in support of the movement all over Assam. In 1921, After his visit to Assam for the first time, Gandhi wrote highly about his experience in Assam in Young India. His visit had left a considerable impact on the leaders and locals.

National schools were set up at different parts of Assam. Hartals, boycott of foreign goods, picketing were organised. Leaders like T.R. Phookan, N.C. Bardoloi, Chandranath Sarma and Gopinath Bardoloi led the non-cooperation and the civil disobedience movements in Assam. Hundreds were arrested including Phookan. Respected leaders like Rohini Choudhury, who became a member of the Constituent Assembly and Md. Tayyebulla were handcuffed like common criminals by the British and paraded. Police atrocities on common people in North-East states reached such a level that Gandhi had to send Madan Mohan Malaviya and Rajendra Prasad to Assam in 1922 for a field report which confirmed such atrocities.

In 1926, Indian National Congress held a session in Guwahati under the leadership of Phookan and Bardoloi joined by several leaders and hundreds of volunteers including women. Phookan was elected to the Congress Working Committee between 1926-27. However, due to his differences in opinion on the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930, he resigned as the President of the Assam Congress and the mantle passed on to a younger generation, to Congressmen including Bishnuram Medhi (as President), Gopinath Bardoloi, Siddhinath Sarma, Md. Tayyebulla and Ambikagiri Raichoudhury. Civil Disobedience movement spread like wildfire in every nook and corner of Assam. Around this time, unrest against the British in Nagaland was brewing. The Zeliangrong Nagas fought the British under the leadership of a teenage girl named Gaidinliu. She asked her people not to pay taxes to the British and launched a heroic insurgency against them. However, she was captured in 1932 and was imprisoned for life to be released later in 1946. Many of her associates were executed.

Around 1935, many other freedom fighters gained prominence in Assam like Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed (who later became the President of India), Debeswar Sarma, Siddhinath Sarma, Omeo Kumar Das, Bijoy Chandra Bhagawati, Sir Syed Muhammad Saadulla and others. When Congress declared 'Quit India' movement in 1942, the common people of Assam joined spontaneously. Underground and disruptive

activities accompanied the mass movement. Underground leaders like Jyotiprasad Agarwala played a critical role in guiding the movement. Many demonstrators were arrested and imprisoned. A 16-year-old girl, Kanaklata and Mukunda Kakoti were shot dead while trying to hoist the tricolour flag at a police station. Kushal Konwar was hanged because of his alleged role in derailing a military train. Around 30 freedom fighters were killed and 50 more injured in police firings during the Quit India Movement in Assam. In various places, 'independent states' were also established. Another freedom fighter from Assam's Nagaon District was Bhogeswari Phukanani (1885 –1942) who took a lead role in the Quit India Movement. Phukanani was active in the Berhampur, Babajia and Barpujia areas in the Nagaon district and helped set up offices for the Indian National Congress. In 1930, she took part in a non-violent march as an act of Civil Disobedience against the British. The British police resisted the group and in the ensuing scuffle a British army captain grabbed the national flag. Phukanani struck the captain with the pole of the flag. She was shot by the British immediately and died.

Around mid-1940s, Assam was wrongfully grouped in the Group C category. This meant that it would be merged with East Pakistan after Partition. Gopinath Bardoloi played the role of an indomitable statesman during this hour of crisis and Gandhiji offered moral support to Bardoloi. His untiring efforts with full support from tribal leaders like Rv. Nichols Roy, Rupnath Brahma and others finally saved Assam from getting separated from free India. Bharat Ratna, Bardoloi became the first Chief Minister of the state.

The time to recognize these unsung heroes of the North East region of India has come.



#### **THE UNSUNG HEROES**

#### Na Iran Ne Kiya, Na Shah Russ Ne... Angrez Ko Tabah Kiya Kartoosh Ne

(The English who boast of having vanquished Persia and Russia have been overthrown in Indian by a single cartridge).

The above words were written by the Last Emperor of India, Bahadur Shah Zafar weeks before he was arrested and deported to Burma(Myanmar). The story of the Indian mutiny and its aftermath in wake saw hundreds emerging from the corners of the Raj with a common vision, a shared zeal and commitment and all equally charged to reach One Goal.

The period between 1857 and 1947 is termed as the period of the freedom struggle in India. Not that the emotions for a free country did not exist before that. The thought had been simmering for over a century but it was these ninety years that saw the flash point. In these nine decades India witnessed a host of incidents that fuelled the fire within and galvanised groups in the community to take come together and plan the movement.

From that day in May of 1857 that sparked the Mutiny to the Royal Indian Navy Revolt of 1946, the country saw a dedicated campaign for a free India. Protest against The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, popularly known as the Rowlatt Act, the Champaran Movement, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the coming of the Non-Cooperation Movement In 1920, the declaration of the Purna Swaraj, the Dandi March, the Chauri Chaura incident, the hanging of Bhagat Singh, the Chittagong Armoury raid, the creation of the INA, followed by the Quit India Movement are but major milestones. However, many other landmarks that dotted the history of that almost a century of struggle and gave rise to a national consciousness. This resulted in the birth of the nonviolence movement and also a national revolutionary of the terrorist movement. The times also saw the entry of many English educated Indian middle class in the campaign that were an essential part of the strategy and discussions. The protest of the two years following the WWII was the proverbial last straw on the British back.

The debate rages if the Independence was achieved or fought and won.

On one hand, there were a series of violent campaigns and simultaneously there was the peaceful struggle from those who accepted concept of truth and non-violence. The latter was novel in concept and even in those that adopted the way of violence had deep respect for Gandhi and his unique concept of Freedom without blood. It was quite a paradox with Netaji asking for blood in exchange of freedom and Bapu advocating the path of peace achieve it. Even when Bhagat Singh and his colleagues were executed there were demonstrations against Gandhi but not without respect for him. Alluri Shri Ram Raju who led theraidof looting the Krishna-devi Peta police station shouted the slogans of Gandhiji ki Jai along with other slogans and cared to use the least possible violence. The post raid slogans of the Chittagong established this too; the slogan voiced here was "Gandhi Raj has been established'!

Netaji had announced that Free India would be delivered into the hands of Gandhi. In a message to him, Netaji wrote seeking his blessings out of respect and regard. Anand Gupta, a participant of the Chittagong Uprising writes the words of Gandhi, who visited them in the Alipore Jail: "I differ from you as the south pole differs from the north pole but if I had one dozen dedicated youths like you, I could have changed the history of India long time ago."

The many volumes of the Directory of Martyrs published by The Indian Council of Historical Research has hundreds of names of martyrs who were part of the Freedom Struggle. We have selected 75 such that fit both schools of thought of the campaign and some that contributed by way of their learned thought, strategy and sacrifice.

Post-independence, many were given national status, some given positions in the cabinet of the New India, many opted to retire as soldiers that fadeaway bur never die and there were the countless who will remain unsung. Their deeds of simple, selfless sacrifice are the foundations of the pedestal on which our National Flag flies proudly amongst the leading Nations of the World.

As a silent reminder of the Builders of India.



#### "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it!"

### BAL GANGADHAR TILAK

"Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it!" a motto upheld by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, one of the leading Indian nationalist, teacher and freedom fighter.The British colonial authorities called him 'The Father of Indian unrest,' while he was conferred with the title of 'Lokmanya,' which means 'accepted by the people as their leader.' Mahatma Gandhi called him 'The Maker of Modern India.' Born Keshav Gangadhar Tilak (23 July 1856 – 1 August 1920), he was one of the Lal Bal Pal triumvirate.

Tilak was one of the first and strongest advocates of Swaraj (self-rule) and a strong radical in Indian consciousness. He formed a close alliance with many Indian National Congress leaders including Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai, Aurobindo Ghose, V. O. Chidambaram Pillai and Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

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### MANGAL PANDEY

Mangal Pandey was an Indian soldier who played a key role in the events immediately preceding the outbreak of the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, one of the very first of Indian rebellion against the British rule. He was a sepoy (infantryman) in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry (BNI) regiment of the British East India Company. Mangal Pandey was born in Nagwa, a village of upper Ballia district (now in Uttar Pradesh) to a Brahmin family. He joined the Bengal Army in 1849. Because of his active role in the Mutiny and initiating the fight against the British, he was executed by hanging on 8th April 1857.

In 1984, the Indian government issued a postage stamp to remember him. His life and actions have also been portrayed in several cinematic productions, particularly the famous Bollywood movie Mangal Pandey, where his character was portrayed by Aamir Khan.



#### "Inquilab Zindabad!"

# BHAGAT SINGH

One of the most charismatic revolutionaries, Bhagat Singh (27 September 1907 – 23 March 1931) is a household name in India since ages. After his execution by the British at the age of only 23, he turned a martyr and folk hero of India. Borrowing ideas from Bolshevism, he electrified a growing militancy in India in the 1930s, and prompted urgent introspection within the Indian National Congress' non-violent campaign for India's independence.

In December 1928, Bhagat Singh and an associate, Shivaram Rajguru shot dead a 21-year-old British police officer, John Saunders, in Lahore, mistaking Saunders for a senior police superintendent, James Scott, whom they had intended to assassinate. Scott was responsible for the death of a popular Indian nationalist leader Lala Lajpat Rai, who was injured in a lathi (baton) charge and died two weeks later. His other associate Chandra Shekhar Azad was shot dead and Bhagat Singh was hanged after a mock trial.

## MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA

An educational reformer and politician, Madan Mohan Malaviya (25 December 1861 — 12 November 1946) was an Indian scholar, noted for his role in the Indian Independence Movement. He was four-time president of Indian National Congress and the founder of Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha. He was addressed by the title Pandit and Mahamana. Malaviya strived to promote modern education among Indians and eventually co-founded the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1916, one of the largest residential university in Asia. He was the vice chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University from 1919 to 1938. Malaviya was also one of the founders of the Bharat Scouts and Guides. He started a highly influential English newspaper, The Leader, in 1919, published from Allahabad, and was the Chairman of Hindustan Times from 1924 to 1946. He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian distinction, on 24 December 2014, one day before what would have been his 153rd birthday.



"Satyamev Jayate!"

and they want the same in a second



He developed the Hindu nationalist political ideology of Hindutra

#E \*\*\*

# VINAYAK DAMODAR SAVARKAR

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (28 May 1883 – 26 February 1966), known popularly as Veer Savarkar, was an Indian politician, activist, and writer. He developed the Hindu nationalist political ideology of Hindutva while imprisoned at Ratnagiri in 1922. He was a leading figure in the Hindu Mahasabha. Savarkar began his political activities as a high school student and continued to do so at Fergusson College in Pune. He and his brother founded a secret society called Abhinav Bharat Society. When he went to the United Kingdom for studying Law, he involved himself with organizations such as India House and the Free India Society. He also published books advocating complete Indian independence by revolutionary means. One of the books was The Indian War of Independence about the Indian Rebellion of 1857 that was banned by the British. In 1910, Savarkar was arrested and ordered to be extradited to India for his connections with the revolutionary group India House.

On the voyage back to India, Savarkar staged an attempt to escape and seek asylum in France while the ship was docked in the port of Marseilles. The French port officials however handed him back to the British government in contravention of international law. On return to India, Savarkar was sentenced to two life terms of imprisonment totaling fifty years and was moved to the Cellular Jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In 1948, Savarkar was charged as a co-conspirator in the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi but was acquitted for lack of evidence.

### MATANGINI HAZRA

One of the leading women revolutionaries from Bengal, Matangini Hazra (19 October 1870 – 29 September 1942) was known as a firebrand leader from Midnapore. Affectionately called 'Gandhi Buri,' she was born in Hogla village near Tamluk in 1869 into a poor peasant family. She became actively interested in the Indian independence movement as a Gandhian. In 1930, she took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement and was arrested for breaking the Salt Act. She became an active member of the Indian National Congress and took to spinning her own Khadi. In 1933, she attended the subdivisional Congress conference at Serampore and was injured in the ensuing baton charge by the police.

As part of the Quit India Movement, Hazra led a procession of 6,000 supporters, mostly women volunteers, with the purpose of taking over the Tamluk police station. When the procession reached the outskirts of the town, she was shot, yet she kept on advancing with the tri-colour flag despite her wounds. She was next repeatedly shot, but she kept chanting Vande Mataram till she died. Chanted Vande Mataram' till she died.

NICIPIC

He came to the relief of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi and with her seized the city of Gwalior.

# TATYA TOPE

WAINVERSME

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Tantia Tope or Tatya Tope (February 1814 – 18 April 1859) was a general in the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. Despite lacking formal military training, he was considered as the best and most effective rebel general. Born as Ramachandra Panduranga Yawalkar to a Marathi Brahmin family of Nasik, he took on the title Tope, meaning commanding officer. A personal adherent of Nana Saheb of Bithur, he progressed with the Gwalior contingent after the British reoccupied Kanpur and forced General Windham to retreat from the city. Later, he came to the relief of Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi and with her seized the city of Gwalior.

According to a government letter, Tope was said to be the minister of Baroda. Tope was executed by the British Government at Shivpuri on 18 April 1859.

### HEMU KALANI

Hemu Kalani (23 March 1923 – 21 January 1943) was a revolutionary and leader of Swaraj Sena, a student organisation affiliated to All India Students Federation (AISF). He was one of the youngest revolutionaries to be martyred for the nation's freedom struggle, being executed by the British when he was only 19. Hemu Kalani was born in a Sindhi Jain family residing in Sindh. As a youngster he campaigned with his friends to boycott foreign goods and tried to persuade people to use Swadeshi goods. He was involved in raids and in the burning of vehicles belonging to the Raj. Hemu Kalani joined Mahatma Gandhi's Quit India movement in 1942. Support for the movement in Sindh was such that the British had to send military detachments consisting of European battalions.

Hemu Kalani found out that a train with these troops and their supplies would be passing through his local town on 23 October and decided to derail it by removing the fish plates. They were seen by the British before being able to complete the sabotage. Hemu was caught, imprisoned, and tortured, but he refused to divulge any information. He was then sentenced to death. On the day of his execution, he appeared extremely overjoyed, and walked to the gallows with a copy of the Bhagavad Gita.

NUMBER OF CONTRACTOR

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Walked to the gallows with a copy of The Bhagawad Gita.



"Simon, go back! I declare the blows struck at me today with be the last nails in the coffin of British India!"

ARCHITECTURE OF STREET

# LALA LAJPAT RAI

Popularly known as Punjab Kesari, Lala Lajpat Rai (28 January 1865 — 17 November 1928) was an Indian author, freedom fighter and politician born into an Aggarwal Punjabi Hindu family. He was one of the three members of the Lal Bal Pal triumvirate. He was associated with activities of Punjab National Bank and Lakshmi Insurance Company in their early stages in 1894. In 1914, he quit his law practice to dedicate himself to the Indian independence movement and travelled to Britain, and then to the United States in 1917. In October 1917, he founded the Indian Home Rule League of America in New York. He stayed in the United States from 1917 to 1920. His early freedom struggle was impacted by Arya Samaj and communal representation.

After joining the Indian National Congress and taking part in political agitation in Punjab, Lala Lajpat Rai was deported to Mandalay. He was elected President of the Indian National Congress in the Calcutta Special Session of 1920. While in USA, he toured Sikh communities along the Western Seaboard, visited the Tuskegee University in Alabama, and later met with workers in Philippines. His travelogue, 'The United States of America' details these travels. He founded the Indian Home Rule League in New York City and a monthly journal, the Young India and Hindustan Information Services Association. Rai petitioned the United States House Committee on Foreign Affairs, painting a vivid picture of maladministration by the British Raj in India, the aspirations of Indian public for independence amongst many other points which strongly sought the support of the international community for the attainment of Indian independence. He died a few weeks after sustaining severe injuries during a baton charge by police when he led a peaceful protest march against the all-British Simon Commission.

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# KUNWAR SINGH

Kunwar Singh (13 November 1777 –26 April 1858) also known as Veer Babu Kunwar Singh was a leader during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. He belonged to a family of the Ujjainiya clan of the Parmar Rajputs of Jagdispur of Bihar. He was the chief organiser of the fight against the British in Bihar. He was nearly 80-year-old and in failing health when he was called upon to take up arms. He was assisted by both his brother, Babu Amar Singh and his commander-in-chief, Hare Krishna Singh.

In his last battle, fought on 23 April 1858, near Jagdispur, the troops under the control of the British East India Company were completely routed. Despite being injured, he fought bravely against the British Army and drove them away, brought down the Union Jack from Jagdispur Fort and hoisted his flag. He returned to his palace on 23 April 1858 and soon died on 26 April 1858. Despite being injured, he fought bravely against the British Army and drove them away, brought down the Union Jack from Jagdispur Fort and hoisted his flag.



### Kodi Katha Kumaran

# **TIRUPUR** KUMARAN

Kumaran or Kumarasamy Mudaliyar also known as Tiruppur Kumaran or Kodi Kaatha Kumaran (4 October 1904 – 11 January 1932) was an Indian revolutionary and freedom fighter, born in Chennimalai in Madras Presidency. He founded the Desa Bandhu Youth Association and led protests against the British.

He died from injuries sustained from a police assault on the banks of Noyyal River in Tiruppur during a protest march against the British government on 11 January 1932. At the time of his death, he was holding the flag of the Indian Nationalists, which had been banned by the British giving rise to the epithet 'Kodi Kaatha Kumaran' in Tamil which means 'Kumaran who protected the flag.'

### **KALPANA DUTTA**

(27 July 1913 – 8 February 1995), also Kalpana Joshi, was an Indian independence movement activist and a member of the armed independence movement led by Surya Sen, which carried out the Chittagong armoury raid in 1930. Later she joined the Communist Party of India and married Puran Chand Joshi, then General Secretary of the Communist Party of India in 1943.

The Chittagong armory raid was carried out on 18 April 1930. Kalpana joined the "Indian Republican Army, Chattagram branch," the armed resistance group led by Surya Sen, in May 1931. In September 1931 Surya Sen entrusted her along with Pritilata Waddedar to attack the European Club in Chittagong. A week before the attack, she was arrested while carrying out reconnaissance of the area. She went into hiding after her release on bail. On 16 February 1933 the police encircled their hiding place in Gairala village. During this raid Surya Sen was arrested but Kalpana managed to escape.

Kalpana was finally arrested on 19 May 1933. In the second supplementary trial of the Chittagong armory raid case, Kalpana was sentenced to transportation for life. She was released in 1939.

In September 1931 Surya Sen entrusted her along with Pritilata Waddedar to attack the European Club in Chittagong.



"Liberty!"

# CHITTARANJAN DAS

Chittaranjan Das (5 November 1870 – 16 June 1925) popularly called Deshbandhu was an Indian freedom fighter, political activist and lawyer and founder-leader of the Swaraj Party in Bengal. The Das family were members of the elite Brahmo Samaj and famous as lawyers. While in London, Chittaranjan Das befriended Sri Aurobindo Ghosh, Atul Prasad Sen and Sarojini Naidu and together they promoted Dadabhai Naoroji in the British Parliament. In 1894 in a stunning move, Chittaranjan Das gave up his lucrative Law practice, and plunged headlong into politics during the Noncooperation Movement against the British. He again took the brief and successfully defended Aurobindo Ghosh on charges of involvement in the Alipore Bomb Case in 1909 and saved Aurobindo from execution.

He initiated the ban on British-made clothes, setting an example by burning his own European clothes and wearing Khadi clothes. At one time, his clothes were tailored and washed in Paris and he maintained a permanent laundry in Paris to ship his clothes to Calcutta. He sacrificed all this luxury when he became attached to the Freedom Movement. He brought out a newspaper called 'Forward' and later changed its name to 'Liberty.' When the Calcutta Municipal Corporation was formed, he became its first mayor. He was a believer in non-violence and constitutional methods for the realisation of national independence, and advocated Hindu-Muslim unity, cooperation and communal harmony and championed the cause of national education.

भारत IND

# V CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI

Valliyappan Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai (5 September 1872 - 18 November 1936) was born into the royal family of Tuticorin. He is popularly known by his initials, V.O.C. and is also known as Kappalottiya Tamizhan or 'Tamil Helmsman.' Founder of Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906 to compete against the monopoly of the British India Steam Navigation Company, he launched the first indigenous Indian shipping service between Tuticorin and Colombo, competing against British ships. At one time a member of the Indian National Congress, he was later charged with sedition by the British government and sentenced to life imprisonment, and his barrister license was revoked.

From 1892 Chidambaram Pillai was influenced by Tilak Maharaj and became his disciple. Along with Subramanya Siva and Subramanya Bharathi, he became a prominent spokesperson for the cause in the Madras Presidency. Following the partition of Bengal in 1905, Chidambaram entered politics, joining the Indian National Congress and took a hardliner stance. He also presided at the Salem District Congress session. Chidambaram Pillai established many institutions like Yuvanesh Prachar Sabha, Dharmasanga Nesavu Salai, National Godown, Madras Agro-Industrial Society Ltd. and Desabimana Sangam. By 1908, Chidambaram's political involvement drew the attention of the British. Hearing of his intention to speak at a rally celebrating the release of Bipin Chandra Pal, a British official Winch, invited Chidambaram to meet him in Thirunelveli with his political comrade Subramanya Siva. At the meeting, Winch expressed concern about Chidambaram's activities and asked him to give assurances that he would not participate in any political revolt. Chidambaram refused to accept his conditions, so he and Siva were arrested on 12 March 1908. His Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company was liquidated in 1911, and the ships were auctioned to the competitors. The company's first ship, the SS Gallia, was sold to the British Shipping Company.

Founder of India's first shipping service.

भारत IND



He was jailed in 1942 for his activities during the Quit India Movement.

# SUNDARA SASTRI SATYAMURTI

Sundara Sastri Satyamurti (19 August 1887 – 28 March 1943) was acclaimed for his rhetoric and was one of the leading politicians of the Indian National Congress from the Madras Presidency, alongside S. Srinivasa Iyengar, C. Rajagopalachari and T. Prakasam. Born in 1887 in Thirumayam in the princely state of Pudukkottai, Satyamurti studied at the Maharajah's College, Madras Christian College and the Madras Law College. After practising as a lawyer for some time, Satyamurti entered politics and participated in protests against the Partition of Bengal, Rowlatt Act, Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the Simon Commission. He was jailed in 1942 for his activities during the Quit India Movement. He was later released, but died on 28 March 1943, due to heart failure.

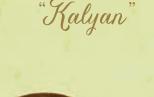
Satyamurti was the President of the provincial wing of the Swaraj Party from 1930 to 1934 and the Tamil Nadu Congress Committee from 1936 to 1939. He was a member of the Imperial Legislative Council from 1934 to 1940 and Mayor of Madras from 1939 to 1943. He was one of the leading lights of the Swarajists who laid the foundation for parliamentary democracy in India, the others being Chittaranjan Das and Motilal Nehru. It was due to Satyamurti's efforts in the legislature that the Congress won the 1937 elections to the Madras Legislative Assembly. He also became the Mayor of Madras in 1939. Like many other prominent Indian patriots, Satyamurti was arrested and incarcerated numerous times by the British. He was tried and deported to Amravathi Jail in Nagpur and endured a spinal cord injury during the journey. He succumbed to his injuries at General Hospital, Madras on 28 March 1943, two years before the end of WWII.

S. SATVAMURT

## HANUMAN PRASAD PODDAR

Hanuman Prasad Poddar (1892–1971) was an Indian independence activist, littérateur, magazine editor and philanthropist. He was also one of the trustee of Gita Press set up by Ghanshyam Jalan and Jay Dayal ji Goeyendka. His work in fostering pride among the people regarding India's glorious history and philosophic tradition earned him praise from Mahatma Gandhi. He was affectionally called 'Bhai Ji' or 'Lovingly Brother.' The Government of India issued a postage stamp in his memory in 1992. Hanuman Prasad Poddar was born in Shillong into a Marwari trading family. While Poddar lived in Kolkata in a community hostel, he came in contact with Bengali revolutionaries. When the police raided the hostel, he and every other young man living there were branded as revolutionaries and jailed for several months.

This term in jail proved to be a turning point in Poddar's life. He developed a very close relationship with Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Madan Mohan Malaviya and others. After being released from jail, he started publishing and editing the monthly magazine 'Kalyaan' to reach the spiritual glory and heroic deeds of heroes of Ramayana and the Mahabharata, to instill a sense of pride among Indians.







#### He was the first General secretary of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee.

HITA

# NABIN CHANDRA BARDOLOI

Nabin Chandra Bardoloi (1875–1936) was an Indian independence movement activist and prominent leader from Assam in the Non-Cooperation movement (1920–1922) of Mahatma Gandhi. The Government of India issued a commemorative postage stamp in his honour during his birth centenary year in 1975.

His daughter Nalini Bala Devi was a noted poet and writer, who also wrote his biography, Smritir Tirtha. He was the first General secretary of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee.

#### **#BUILDERSOFINDIA**

"If My Face Turns Eastward My Motherland Will Be Liberated After Hundred Years From The Foreign yoke."

## U KIANG NANGBAH

U Kiang Nangbah emerged as a freedom fighter for the Jaintias. A peaceful farmer, he was driven to protect his motherland when he saw how the British treated his fellow people, imposed unfair taxation and disrupted their religious traditions.

Nangbah was elected leader of the Jaintia resistance and led attacks on the British. The attacks spread across the Jaintia hills and the British had to call in reinforcements to attempt to subdue the rebellion.In the end, Nangbah was betrayed by one of his team and captured by the British. He was hanged at lawmusiang in Jowai town in West Jaintia Hills district on December 30th 1862.

Standing at the gallows, his last words were said to be: "If My Face Turns Eastward My Motherland Will Be Liberated After Hundred Years From The Foreign yoke." He was proved right with India gaining its independence from Britain 85 years later.

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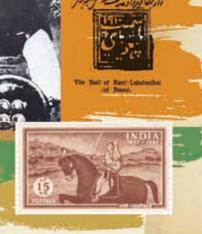
35



"Main Apni Jhansi Nahin Doongi..."

PROF NUMBER OF INDEPENDENCE INT

60



### RANI LAKSHMIBAI

Lakshmibai, the Rani of Jhansi (19 November 1828 — 18 June 1858) was an Indian queen, the Maharani consort of the Maratha princely state of Jhansi from 1843 to 1853 as the wife of Maharaja Gangadhar Rao. She was one of the leading figures of the Indian Rebellion of 1857 and became a symbol of resistance to the British Raj. Her mother died when she was four years old. Her father was the Commander of the war of Kalyanpranth. She was educated at home and was taught to read and write, and was more independent in her childhood than others of her age; her studies included shooting, horsemanship, fencing and mallakhamba with her childhood friends Nana Sahib and Tantia Tope.

Known as Manikarnika, she was married to the Maharaja of Jhansi, Gangadhar Rao Newalkar, in May 1842 and was called Lakshmibai in honour of the Hindu goddess Devi Lakshmi. In September 1851, she gave birth to a boy, later named Damodar Rao, who died four months after birth. The Maharaja adopted a child called Anand Rao, the son of Gangadhar Rao's cousin, who was renamed Damodar Rao, on the day before the Maharaja died. The adoption was in the presence of the British political officer who was given a letter from the Maharaja instructing that the child be treated with respect and that the government of Jhansi should be given to his widow for her lifetime.

After the death of Maharaja, the British East India Company, under Governor-General Lord Dalhousie, applied the Doctrine of Lapse, rejecting Damodar Rao's claim to the throne and annexing the state to its territories. When Rani was informed of this she cried out 'Main apni Jhansi nahi doongi.' On 10 May 1857, the Indian Rebellion started in Meerut. When the British forces finally arrived in Jhansi, they found it well-defended and Hugh Rose, the British commander demanded surrender. But Rani defended Jhansi against British troops and fought on horseback valiantly. She was badly wounded and not wishing the British to capture her body, she told a hermit to burn it after her death.

### NANA SAHEB

Nana Saheb Peshwa II (19 May 1824 – 24 September 1859), born as Dhondu Pant, was an Indian Peshwa of the Maratha empire, aristocrat and fighter, who led the rebellion in Kanpur during the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857. He forced the British garrison in Kanpur to surrender, then murdered the survivors, gaining control. He later disappeared, after his forces were defeated by a British force that recaptured Kanpur. He went to the Nepal Hills in 1859, where he is thought to have died.

Nana Saheb is famous for his resistance and war tactics in the Satichaura Ghat Massacre and Bibighar Massacre. Nana Sahib and his associates, including Tatya Tope and Azimullah Khan, debated about what to do with the captives at Bibighar. Some of Nana Saheb's advisors had already decided to kill the captives at Bibighar, as revenge for the execution of Indians by the advancing British forces. The women of Nana Saheb's household opposed the decision and went on a hunger strike, but their efforts went in vain. Finally, on 15 July, Nana Saheb gave an order to murder the women and children imprisoned at Bibighar. Nana disappeared after the Company's recapture of Kanpur. Famous for his resistance and war tactics in the Satichaura Ghat Massacre and Bibighar Massacre.



Sukhdev was the prime accused in the Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1929.

## SUKHDEV THAPAR

(15 May 1907 – 23 March 1931) was an Indian revolutionary who worked to make India independent from the British Raj along with his best friends and partners Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru. A senior member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, he participated in several actions alongside Singh and Rajguru, and was hanged by the British government on 23 March 1931 at the age of 23. Sukhdev was the prime accused in the Lahore Conspiracy Case of 1929, whose official title was "Crown versus Sukhdev and others. "The first information report (FIR) of the case, filed by Hamilton Harding, Senior Superintendent of police, in the court of R.S. Pandit, the Special Magistrate in April 1929, mentions Sukhdev as accused number 1.

### MADHU LIMAYE

Madhu Limaye (1 May 1922 – 8 January 1995) was an Indian socialist, essayist, activist and follower of Ram Manohar Lohia. He was a fellow-traveller of George Fernandes. He with Raj Narain and Krishan Kant was responsible for the collapse of the Morarji Desai-led Janata government, by insisting that no member of the Janata Party could simultaneously be a member of an alternative social or political organisation. In retirement, through the 1980s, he continued to write; he was especially caustic on Constitutional issues.

Born in Pune, he was educated at the Fergusson College, Pune. He was previously associated with the Indian National Congress and the Congress Socialist Party between 1938-1948. He attended Socialist International's Antwerp conference as a sole delegate of Indian Socialist Movement in 1947. Sentenced to 12 years imprisonment in the Goa Liberation Movement in 1955, he spent over 19 months in Portuguese captivity. An Indian socialist, essayist, activist and follower of Ram Manohar Lohia

1947

HIRE INDIA 200



मधु जिसदी MADHU LIMAYE





## THE TO

40

## NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE

Subhash Chandra Bose (23 January 1897 – 18 August 1945) is one of the greatest heroes of the Indian Freedom struggle who believed in armed revolution and took the help of Nazi Germany and Japan, who were against the British and Allied Forces to attack them from outside India and win back India's freedom. The honorific title 'Netaji' was first applied to Bose in Germany in early 1942 by the Indian soldiers of the Indische Legion and by the German and Indian officials in the Special Bureau for India in Berlin. Subhash Bose was born into wealth and privilege in a large Bengali family of Orissa. The early recipient of an Anglocentric education, he was sent after college to England to take the Indian Civil Service examination and succeeded. Returning to India in 1921, Bose joined the nationalist movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. Bose became Congress President in 1938 but after reelection in 1939, differences arose between him and the Congress leaders, including Gandhi and he left to make his own party Forward Bloc.

In April 1941, Bose arrived in Nazi Germany, where the leadership offered unexpected but equivocal sympathy for India's independence. Netaji formed a 3,000-strong Free India Legion from among Indian POWs. By 1942, the German army was mired in Russia and Bose became keen to move to southeast Asia, where Japan had just won quick victories. Adolf Hitler during his only meeting with Bose in late May 1942 offered to arrange a submarine. With Japanese support, Bose revamped the Indian National Army (INA), which comprised Indian prisoners of war who had been captured by the Japanese in the Battle of Singapore. A Provisional Government of Free India was declared on the Japanese-occupied Andaman and Nicobar Islands and was nominally presided by Bose. But as the Japanese forces lost to Allied forces, Bose chose to escape to Manchuria and his death is still a mystery. Some believe he died in a controversial plane crash.

### MANIRAM DEWAN

Maniram Dutta Baruah, popularly known as Maniram Dewan (17 April 1806 – 26 February 1858), was an Assamese nobleman in British India. He was one of the first Indian to establish tea gardens in Assam. A loyal ally of the British East India Company in his early years, he was hanged by the British for conspiring against them during the 1857 uprising. He was popular among the people of Upper Assam as 'Kalita Raja'. Maniram was born into a family that had migrated from Kannauj to Assam in the early 16th century. His paternal ancestors held high offices in the Ahom court. Early in his career, Maniram became a loyal associate of the British East India Company administration under David Scott and the 22-year-old Maniram was appointed as a tehsildar and a sheristadar of Rangpur.

It was Maniram who informed the British about the Assam tea grown by the Singpho people, which was hitherto unknown to the rest of the world. In 1839, he became the Dewan of the Assam Tea Company at Nazira, but quit his job due to differences of opinion with the company officers. By this time, Maniram had acquired tea cultivation expertise. He established his own Cinnamara tea garden in Jorhat, thus becoming the first Indian Tea Planter to grow tea commercially in Assam. By 1850s, Maniram had become hostile to the British and the British seized all his assets. When the Indian sepoys started an uprising against the British, Maniram saw it as an opportunity to restore the Ahom rule. But he was arrested in Calcutta, detained in Alipur and identified as the kingpin of the plot. He was publicly hanged on 26 February 1858 at the Jorhat Central Jail. He was hanged by the British for conspiring against them during the 1857 uprising.

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#### He killed three British officers near the Dikran river in 1905.

## TAJI MIDEREN

A resident of Elopain village in the Ithun Valley, Lohit District, North-East Frontier Agency (Arunachal Pradesh), Taji Mideren was a farmer and trader. He took part in the activities against British rule and killed three British officers near the Dikran river in 1905. He organized his Mishmi fellow tribals and got them to come together to resist the expansion of British authority. He established a Mishmi Confederacy under Pangon and other Mishmi leaders.

A British expedition was sent to his village in 1913 to arrest him for the murder of the three British officers. The British burnt down the houses in the village but failed to arrest him and others. He was finally captured by the British police at Sadiya in December 1917, and was deported to Tezpur in Assam. There he was tried and sentenced to death. He died on the gallows in the Tezpur Jail on January 29, 1918.

### RANI GAIDINLIU

Gaidinliu (26 January 1915 – 17 February 1993) was a Naga spiritual and political leader who led a revolt against British rule in India. At the age of 13, she joined the Heraka religious movement of her cousin Haipou Jadonang. The movement later turned into a political movement seeking to drive out the British from Manipur and the surrounding Naga areas. Within the Heraka faith, she came to be considered an incarnation of the Goddess Cherachamdinliu. Gaidinliu was arrested in 1932 at the age of 16, and was sentenced to life imprisonment by the British rulers. She openly rebelled against the British rule, exhorting the Zeliangrong people not to pay taxes. She received donations from the local Nagas, many of whom also joined her as volunteers. The British authorities launched a manhunt for her. She evaded arrest by the police, moving across villages of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. She established tribal organization like Kabni Samiti in 1934.

Jawaharlal Nehru met her at Shillong Jail in 1937, and promised to pursue her release. Nehru gave her the title of 'Rani' and she gained local popularity as Rani Gaidinliu. She was released in 1947 after India's independence and continued to work for the upliftment of her people. An advocate of the ancestral Naga religious practices, she staunchly resisted the conversion of Nagas to Christianity. She was honoured as a freedom fighter and was awarded a Padma Bhushan by the Government of India. An advocate of the ancestral Maga religious practices, she staunchly resisted the conversion of Magas to Christianity.





Rn Assamese freedom fighter, who was hanged during the last phase of the Quit India Movement.

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## **KUSHAL** KONWAR

Kushal Konwar was an Assamese freedom fighter, who was hanged during the last phase of the Quit India Movement. Born on 21 March 1905, at Balijan near Sarupathar in Assam, his family descended from the royal family of Ahom kingdom and used the surname "Konwar." On 8 August 1942 the Congress Working Committee in its meeting in Bombay passed the "Quit India" resolution. This resolution demanded complete withdrawal of the British from the India's soil. Mahatma Gandhi gave the call of "do or die" to the people of India.

Some people of Assam also spontaneously joined this historic movement of 1942. Two of the leaders of the Assam Pradesh Congress, Gopinath Bordoloi and Siddhinath Sarma were arrested by the British in Dhubri while others like Bishnuram Medhi, Bimala Prasad Chaliha, Md. Tayebulla, Omeo Kumar Das and Debeswar Sarma were arrested from different parts of Assam and thrown into jails. On 10 October, 1942, hidden in the thick fog of early morning, Indian independence activists removed sleepers from a railway line near Sarupathar in Golaghat district. A military train passing by derailed and over a thousand Allied soldiers were killed. Accusing Kushal Konwar as the chief conspirator in the train sabotage, police arrested him. An ardent follower of Gandhiji and his principle of nonviolence, Kushal was ignorant about the sabotage plan. He was innocent but the police charged him as the mastermind. He was brought from Golaghat and was lodged in the Jorhat jail on 5 November 1942. In the Court of CM Humphrey, Kushal Konwar was declared guilty, though there was not a single proof against him. Kushal was hanged on 15 June 1943.

### PASALTHA KHUANGCHERA

Pasaltha Khuangchera is regarded as one of the earliest "freedom fighters" and the first Mizo to sacrifice his life fighting British imperialism.He was born in 1850 at village Parvatui and later moved to present day Aizwal. Even as a child he displayed great strength and was known for his acts of bravery and honesty.

The resistance against colonialism in Lushai Hills was no less intense than in any other part of India. He valiantly defended the Mizo land against three separate advancing British forces during the Chin-Lushai expedition of 1889-90. He was killed while trying to resist advancing British troops in 1890. Pasaltha Khuangchera is not only known for his bravery but also his strength and righteousness that won over the hearts of his people.

He refused to oblige because he disliked the British supremacy and interference of the white man in their free life. Williamson felt insulted and assaulted Jamoh in the presence of the villagers. Mizoram's first freedom fighter.





# R prominent Assamese poet and politician.

### HEM BARUA

Hem Barua was a prominent Assamese poet and politician. Born on 22 April 1915, at Tezpur, he became a lecturer in Assamese and English at J.B. College, Jorhat, but left it during the Quit India Movement. He was imprisoned in 1943. On his release, he joined the B. Barua College, Guwahati, and later became its principal. Hem Barua was the author of several books. He became the President of the Assam Sahitya Sabha and was regarded as one of the pioneers of modern literary movement in Assam.

Hem Barua left the Congress in 1948 and became a member of the Socialist party. Later he was elected as the National Executive of the Praja Socialist Party. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Guwahati in 1957, 1962 and 1967 and from Mangaldoi in 1967. He was the member of the Lok Sabha till December 1970.

### U TIROT SING SYIEM

Tirot Sing, also known as U Tirot Sing Syiem (1802-1835) was one of the chiefs of the Khasi people in the early 19th century. He drew his lineage from the Syiemlieh clan. He was a constitutional head sharing corporate authority with his Council, general representatives of the leading clans within his territory. Tirot Sing declared war and fought against British for attempts to take control of the Khasi Hills. The British had gained control over the Brahmaputra valley after concluding the Treaty of Yandabo in 1826. David Scott, the agent to the British Governor-General for the Northern Territory, found out that U Tirot Sing was interested in regaining possessions in the Duars, but U Tirot's claims to the Duars was rejected. So he went with a party of armed men in December 1828 to establish his claim. He was confident that the British would support him; instead, he was confronted by a party of sepoys who blocked his passage.

When news came that the British were reinforcing forces in Assam, U Tirot Sing convened a Durbar and passed orders for the British to evacuate Nongkhlaw. The British did not pay any heed and the Khasis attacked the British garrison in Nongkhlaw on 4 April 1829. His men killed two British officers, and thus unleashed the fury of British retaliation. Military operations against U Tirot Sing and other Khasi chiefs started immediately.

In the Anglo-Khasi War, the Khasis lacked firearms and had only swords, shields, bows and arrows. They were untrained in the British type of warfare and soon found that it was impossible to engage in open battle against an enemy who could kill from a distance. Therefore, they resorted to guerrilla activity, which dragged on for about four years. Tirot Sing fought with native weapons such as a sword and shield. He was shot at by the British and had to hide in a cave and tend for his wound. He was eventually captured by the British in January 1833 and deported to Dhaka. Fought guns with a sword and shield.



In 1930, Phukanani took part in a non-violent march as an act of civil disobedience

### BHOGESWARI PHUKANANI

Bhogeswari Phukanani (1885 – 1942) was an Indian independence movement activist who played a part in the Indian independence struggle. Born in Nagaon district of Assam in 1885, she was part of the Quit India Movement. Phukanani was active in the Berhampur, Babajia and Barpujia areas in the Nagaon district and helped set up offices for the Indian National Congress. In 1930, Phukanani took part in a non-violent march as an act of civil disobedience against the British and was arrested.

Phukanani and her comrade Ratnamala were leading a large group of people, carrying the Indian national flag and shouting Vande Mataram. The British police resisted the group and in the ensuing scuffle a British army captain grabbed the national flag from Ratnamala, who fell to the ground. Seeing this as an insult to the Indian national flag, Phukanani struck the captain with the pole of a flag. She was shot by the British and succumbed to the gunshot wound.

### BIR TIKENDRAJIT SINGH

Tikendrajit Singh (29 December 1856 – 13 August 1891)--also known as Koireng, was a prince of Manipur, a protectorate of British Raj. Tikendrajit was the commander of the Manipuri army and engineered a palace revolution that led to the events known as the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891. After Maharaja Chandrakriti's death in 1887, his son Surachandra Singh succeeded him. Several claimants to the throne tried to unsettle the new king. The first three attempts were defeated, but in 1890, following an attack on the palace by Tikendrajit and Kulachandra Singh (two of the king's brothers) Surachandra Singh announced his intention to abdicate and left Manipur for Cachar. Kulachandra Singh, the king's younger brother, rose then to the throne while Tikendrajit Singh, commander of the Manipuri armed forces (Senapati), held the real power behind the scenes. Meanwhile, Surachandra Singh, once safely away from Manipur, appealed to the British for help to recover the throne.

The British decided to recognize Juvraj Kulachandra Singh as Raja, and sent a military expedition to Manipur in order to punish Senapati Tikendrajit Singh as the main person responsible for the dynastic disturbances. Tikendrajit was arrested and he was tried in a special court formed under Lt. Col. John Mitchell. The court found Tikendrajit, Kulachandra and Thangal General guilty and they were sentenced to death. Tikendrajit was publicly hanged. After independence, this ground in Imphal where he was hanged was renamed as Bir Tikendrajit Park. He was the commander of the Manipuri army and engineered a palace revolution that led to the events known as the Anglo-Manipur War of 1891.





An Indian independence activist and AISF leader who was shot dead by the British.

### KANAKLATA BARUA

Kanaklata Barua (22 December 1924 – 20 September 1942), also called Birbala and Shaheed (martyr), was an Indian independence activist and AISF leader who was shot dead by the Indian Imperial Police of the British Raj while leading a procession bearing the National Flag during the Quit India Movement of 1942. Barua was born in the Borangabari village of undivided Darrang district of Assam as the daughter of Krishna Kanta and Karneshwari Barua. Her grandfather Ghana Kanta Barua was a famous hunter in Darrang.

During the Quit India Movement Barua joined the Mrityu Bahini, a death squad comprising groups of youth from the Gohpur sub division of Assam. On 20 September 1942, the Bahini decided she would hoist the national flag at the local police station. A procession of unarmed villagers was led by Barua to do so. The police under Rebati Mahan Som, the officer in-charge of the police station, warned the procession of dire consequences if they proceeded with their plan. Undeterred by the police, the procession continued marching ahead when the police fired upon the procession. Barua was shot and the flag she was carrying with her was taken up by Mukunda Kakoti who too was shot. Both Barua and Kakoti were killed in the police action. Barua was only 17 years of age at the time of her martyrdom.

### MATMUR JAMOH

On the left Bank of Siang River stands the beautiful and serene Komsing village, which rose to prominence when Matmur Jamoh killed British officer Noel Williamson.

However, he died in obscurity and very few records are available of his last days at the Cellular Jail. He was sent there after he surrendered, along with some others a few months later, unable to hide any longer in the face of an intense operation called the Abor Expedition of 1911-12. He died in obscurity and very few records are available of his last days at the Cellular Jail.



He was member of the Indian National Army under Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

### CHENGJAPAO DOUNGEL

Chengjapao Doungel, the unsung Kuki Hero of India was born in 1868 at Aisan village in Sadar Hills, Manipur. As a Chief he ruled with wisdom, generosity and justice.

When the First World War broke out in Europe the then political agent of Assam and Manipur approached the Kuki Chiefs to spare 2000 strong Kuki youths for porters to be sent to France. The Chiefs turned down the proposal and they were warned of dire consequences if they did not pay heed to his order. The influential Kuki Chief vehemently opposed and resisted the recruitment policy of the authorities and defied the order of the government. It was during this critical moment that Pu. Chengjapao Doungel made a clarion call to his fellowmen to fight the British tooth and nail and to drive them out from their areas of domination. With The coming of the British the Kukis were forced to forfeit self-rule and independence which they fiercely guarded.

The British Government saw the rise of Chengjapao Doungel and the revolt of the Kukis as a serious threat to the Eastern part of India and consequently an arrest warrant was issued against him to be captured dead or alive, in order to quell the rebellion. When some of the Kuki Chiefs surrendered, it became more difficult for Chengjapao Doungel to continue the war, so he surrendered to the government for negotiation. Instead of negotiating with him, the government arrested Chengjapao Doungel and sent him to jail along with the other 11 Chiefs.He was incarcerated for four years

. Upon his return from political exile, everything had changed in his Chiefdom, including the names of the district, sub-division and headquarters. Even the attitude of the people changed from its earlier spirit of defiance to that of meek submission and compromise. Chengjapao Doungel's attempt to protect the sovereignty of the Kukis and his war against the colonial rulers took a heavy toll on his health and he died a premature death at an early age of sixty

### DAMODAR HARI CHAPEKAR

The Chapekar Brothers, Damodar Hari Chapekar (25 June 1869 – 18 April 1898), Balkrishna Hari Chapekar (1873 – 12 May 1899, also called Bapurao) and Vasudeo Hari Chapekar (1880 – 8 May 1899), were Indian revolutionaries involved in assassinating W. C. Rand, the British Plague Commissioner of Pune, after the public of Pune got frustrated with the vandalism from the officers and soldiers appointed by him, in late 19th century. Mahadev Vinayak Ranade was also an accomplice in the assassination.

The brothers initially belonged to Chapa, a small hamlet named Chinchwad in the city of Pune, India. When the bubonic plague hit India in 1896-97, the government had set up a Special Plague Committee for managing the pandemic, whose commissioner was Walter Charles Rand, an Indian Civil Services officer. Troops were brought in to deal with the emergency. Despite orders from the government to pay heed to religious sentiments, Rand appointed over 800 officers and soldiers - the measures employed included entry into private houses, stripping and examination of occupants (including women) by British officers in public, evacuation to hospitals and segregation camps and preventing movement from the city. Some of these officers also vandalized properties and religious symbols. These measures were considered oppressive by the populace of Pune and complaints were ignored by Rand. Thus, to put an end to the injustice borne by the people of Pune, the Chapekar brothers shot Rand, and his military escort Lieutenant Ayerst, on 22 June 1897. All three brothers were found guilty and hanged.

Indian revolutionary involved in assassinating W. C. Rand, the British Plague Commissioner of Pune.

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### "Lal Kile se aayi awaaz: Sehgal, Dhillon, Shahnawaz!"



AZAD HIND FOUZ OFFICER

### SHAH NAWAZ KHAN

Khan was born on 24 January 1914 in Matore, a village now in Rawalpindi District of Pakistan. He got his military education at the Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College. He was commissioned into the 14th Punjab Regiment.

Later, he served as an officer in the Indian National Army (INA). He was profoundly influenced by Subhas Chandra Bose's speeches asking POWs to join the Indian National Army and to fight for a free India. Khan led INA into North-Eastern India, seizing Kohima and Imphal which were held briefly by the INA under the authority of the Japanese. In December 1944, after the Indian National Army (INA) surrendered to British forces, officers and soldiers of the INA were arrested. Major General Shah Nawaz Khan was tried in court. After the trial, Khan declared that he would henceforth follow the path of non-violence espoused by Mahatma Gandhi and he joined the Congress party. Having successfully contested the first Lok Sabha in 1952 from Meerut, Khan had an illustrious parliamentary career.

### JANANAYAK DEBESWAR SARMAH

Jananayak Debeswar Sarmah was a front ranking freedom fighter born on 10th Oct 1896 in Jorhat (Assam). He completed his graduation in 1920 and took part in the freedom movement of India. Later, he came in contact with Subhas Chandra Bose and developed a healthy relationship with him. They together established the first Congress Government in Assam in 1939.

Jananayak was the founder of Janambhumi group of Publication which published newspapers viz, Dainik Janambhumi, The Weekly Janambhumi, The English Daily and The Eastern Clarion. He also actively participated in the Non-cooperation Movement and Satyagraha Movement.

Jananayak was keen to help the weaker section of society. He took the lead and established a Blind school, Regional Research Laboratory, Hospital, Engineer College, Science College and started Assam Prakashan Parishad in Jorhat. This great hero of Jorhat passed away on 1st of August 1993. To commemorate this great freedom fighter, India Post department issued a stamp depicting Jananayak Debeswar Sarmah's portrait having the face value INR 2. He established the first Congress Government in Assam in 1939 with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.



An Indian Independence activist and revolutionary and member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.

> 101-2 114 214 1904-1929 JATINGRA NATH DAS

### JATINDRANATH DAS

Born on 27 October 1904, Jatrindranath Das, also known as Jatin Das, was an Indian independence activist and revolutionary and member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. While in Lahore Jail, Das began a hunger strike along with other revolutionary fighters, demanding equality for Indian political prisoners with those from Europe. Das' hunger strike started on 13 July 1929 and lasted 63 days. The jail authority took measures to forcibly feed him.

But Das died on 13 September 1929. Durgawati Devi led the funeral procession, which went from Lahore to Calcutta by train. Thousands of people rushed to the railway stations to pay homage to Das. A two-mile long procession in Calcutta carried the coffin to the cremation ground. It was Subhash Chandra Bose, who received the coffin of Das at Howrah railway station and led the funeral procession to the cremation ground.

### RAM PRASAD BISMIL

Ram Prasad Bismil was born on 11 June 1897 in a Tomar Rajput family, who traced their roots to Barwai in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh. He was an Indian poet, writer and revolutionary who participated in the Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918 and the Kakori Conspiracy of 1925, and fought against British Raj. Bismil was a freedom fighter who played an active role in India's freedom struggle.

Bismil was hanged on 19 December 1927 by the British for his revolutionary activities. As well as being a freedom fighter, he was a patriotic poet and wrote in Hindi and Urdu using the pen names Ram, Agyat and Bismil. But he became popular with the last name Bismil. He was associated with Arya Samaj where he got inspiration from Satyarth Prakash, a book written by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. "Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil me hai, dekhna hai zor kitna baazu-e-qaatil me hai"





"Dushman ki goliyon ka hum samna karenge, azad hee rahein hain, azad hee rahenge..."

### CHANDRASHEKHAR AZAD

Chandrashekhar Azad was born on 23 July 1906 in Bhabhra village as Chandra Shekhar Tiwari, in the princely-state of Alirajpur. His forefathers were from Badarka village of Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh. He was popularly known as Chandra Shekhar Azad, who re-organised the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) under its new name of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). He often used the pseudonym 'Balraj' when signing pamphlets issued as the commander in chief of the HSRA.

After the suspension of the Non-cooperation movement in 1922 by Mahatma Gandhi, Azad became disappointed. He met a young revolutionary, Manmath Nath Gupta, who introduced him to Ram Prasad Bismil who had formed the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), a revolutionary organization. He thus became an active member of the HRA and started to collect funds for HRA. Despite being a member of Congress, Motilal Nehru regularly gave money in support of Azad. On 27 February 1931, the CID head of the police at Allahabad, Sir J. R. H. Nott-Bower was tipped off by someone that Azad was at Alfred Park and was having a talk with his companion Sukhdev Raj. The police arrived at the park and surrounded it from all four sides. Azad hid behind a tree to save himself and began to fire from behind it. The police fired back. After a long shootout, holding true to his pledge to always remain Azad (free) and never be captured alive, he shot himself in the head with his gun's last bullet.

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### ASHFAQUALLAH KHAN

Ashfaquallah Khan (22 October 1900 — 19 December 1927) was an Indian independence activist and co-founder of the Hindustan Republican Association. On 9 August 1925, Khan and other revolutionaries, namely Ram Prasad Bismil, Rajendra Lahiri, Thakur Roshan Singh, Sachindra Bakshi, Chandrashekhar Azad, Keshab Chakravarty, Banwari Lal, Murari Lal Gupta, Mukundi Lal, and Manmathnath Gupta attacked and robbed a government train in Kakori near Lucknow.

A month passed after the train action, and yet none of the train robbers were arrested, even though the British government had spread a large investigative net. On the morning of 26 October 1925, Bismil was caught by the police. Khan was, however, the only one of the group untraced by the police. A friend betrayed him by informing the police about his whereabouts and on the morning of 7 December 1926, Delhi Police came to his house and arrested him. Khan was detained in the Faizabad Jail and a case was filed against him. Khan was sentenced to death by hanging in the Kakori conspiracy case as a capital punishment on 19 December 1927 and he became a martyr. "There is no dream and if there is, there is only one to see my children struggling for the same and for which I am expected to finish!"



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An Indian revolutionary and journalist, he was one of the founding members of Jugantar Bengali weekly.

### BARINDRA KUMAR GHOSH

Barin Ghosh (5 January 1880 – 18 April 1959) was an Indian revolutionary and journalist. He was one of the founding members of Jugantar Bengali weekly, a revolutionary outfit in Bengal. Barindra Ghosh was a younger brother of Sri Aurobindo. Barin came back to Kolkata in 1902 and started organising several revolutionary groups in Bengal with the help of Jatindranath Banerjee. In 1906, he started publishing Jugantar, a Bengali weekly and a revolutionary organization named Jugantar soon followed. Jugantar was formed from the inner circle of Anushilan Samiti and it started preparation for armed militancy activities to oust British from Indian soil.

Barin and Jatindranath Mukherjee alias Bagha Jatin were instrumental in the recruitment of many young revolutionaries from across Bengal. The revolutionaries formed the Maniktala group in Maniktala, Kolkata. It was a secret place where they started manufacturing bombs and collected arms and ammunition.

Following the attempted killing of Kingsford by two revolutionaries Khudiram and Prafulla on 30 April 1908, the police intensified its investigation which led to the arrest of Barin and Aurobindo Ghosh on 2 May 1908, along with many of his comrades. The trial (known as the Alipore Bomb Case) initially sentenced Barin Ghosh and Ullaskar Datta to death. However, the sentence was reduced to life imprisonment, by Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das and Barin was deported to the Cellular Jail in Andaman in 1909 along with other convicts.

### SHYAM NARAYAN SINGH

Shyam Narayan Singh was born in 1901 in Nalanda district. He was a student of Patna college and during his college days he was inspired by the ideology of Chandrasekhar Azad and other revolutionary leaders. Gradually, he realized the importance of electoral politics in gaining Swarajya from the British Government. In 1942, when Mahatma Gandhi gave clarion call asking the Britishers to Quit India, nationalist fervour was running high all across the country. During that time in Patna, Shyam Narayan Singh gave a nationalist speech, past which seven students proceeded to unfurl the Indian National flag at Patna Secretariat. During the ensuing protest, all seven of them died. While Shyam Narayan Singh emerged unscathed from the event, the colonial government issued shoot at sight order and a reward of Rs. 5,000 against him. Later, he was arrested and sent to a jail in Bihar Sharif. He was inspired by the ideology of Chandrasekhar Azad and other revolutionary leaders.

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In the famous Alipore bomb case, Ullaskar was arrested and sentenced to death by hanging in 1909.

### ULLASKAR DATTA

(16 April 1885 – 17 May 1965) was an Indian revolutionary associated with Anushilan Samiti and Jugantar of Bengal and was a close associate of Barindra Nath Ghosh. Ullaskar was a member of the Jugantar party and he became expert in bomb-making. Khudiram Bose used a bomb manufactured by Ullaskar and Hem Chandra Das in an attempt to murder the venerable magistrate, Kingsford. However, police caught many members of the Jugantar group including Ullaskar Datta, Barindra Ghosh and Khudiram. In the famous Alipore bomb case, Ullaskar was arrested on 2 May 1908 and he was sentenced to death by hanging in 1909. Later, on appeal, the verdict was reduced to transportation for life and he was deported to the Cellular Jail in Andaman.

### UDHAM SINGH

Udham Singh was born 'Sher Singh', on 26 December 1899 in the neighbourhood of Pilbad in Sunam in Lahore. He was an Indian revolutionary belonging to Ghadar Party and HSRA, best known for assassinating Michael O'Dwyer, the former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab Province on 13 March 1940. The assassination was done in revenge for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar in 1919, for which O'Dwyer was responsible. Singh was subsequently tried and convicted of murder and hanged in July 1940. While in custody, he used the name Ram Mohammad Singh Azad, which represents the three major religions of India and his anti-colonial sentiment.

Singh is a well-known figure of the Indian independence movement. He is also referred to as Shaheed-i-Azam Sardar Udham Singh (the expression "Shaheed-i-Azam" means "the great martyr"). On 13 March 1940, Michael O'Dwyer was scheduled to speak at a joint meeting of the East India Association and the Central Asian Society at Caxton Hall, London. Singh concealed a revolver inside a book, which had pages cut in the shape of a revolver. This revolver was purchased by him from a soldier in a pub. As the meeting concluded, Singh shot O'Dwyer twice as he moved towards the speaking platform. On 1 April 1940, Singh was formally charged with the murder of Michael O'Dwyer and remanded in custody at Brixton Prison. On 31 July 1940, Singh was hanged at Pentonville Prison by Albert Pierrepoint. His remains are preserved at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. "What great honour could be bestowed on me than death for the sake of my Motherland."





The British undertook a nearly two-year long manhunt for him,



### ALLURI SITARAMA RAJU

Alluri Sitarama Raju (4 July 1897 – 7 May 1924) was an Indian revolutionary who waged an armed campaign against British colonial rule in India. Born in present-day Andhra Pradesh, he became involved in anti-British activities in response to the 1882 Madras Forest Act, which effectively restricted the free movement of Adivasis (tribal communities) in their forest habitats and prevented them from practicing a traditional form of agriculture known as podu. Rising discontent towards the British led to the Rampa Rebellion of 1922, in which he played a major role as a leader. Mustering a force combined of Adivasis, farmers and sympathizers to their cause, he engaged in guerilla campaigns against the British.

In response to these raids, and in order to quench the rebellion, the British undertook a nearly two-year long manhunt for him, resulting in expenditures reaching over ₹40 Lakh rupees then. Eventually, in 1924, he was trapped, captured, tied to a tree and summarily executed by a firing squad. His resting place currently lies in the village of Krishnadevipeta.

### BABA RAGHAV DAS

Baba Raghav Das was born on December 12, 1896, to a rich Pachhapurkar Brahman family in Pune, Maharashtra. In 1921, Mahatma Gandhi visited Gorakhpur where he met Raghav Das. From that point on, Raghav Das joined the Indian Independence Movement and served the oppressed people of India. Gandhi addressed Raghav Das as 'Baba Raghavdas.' Raghavdas was imprisoned many times for his activities, the first being in 1921. His activities in the Independence movement included accompanying Gandhi during the Dandi March (the Salt March). Raghavdas' Ashram in Barah was the epicenter of independence activities including the provision of shelter for many freedom fighters. He was very closely associated with Ram Prasad Bismil and after Ram Prasad's execution, Raghavdas erected a memorial and arranged a public meeting to spread awareness about the independence movement and social reforms. He went to settlements of Dalit people and served the sick while teaching them about cleanliness.

He preferred to serve people directly rather than joining the government. Following the strong urging of some of India's top leaders, he did contest the election of 1948 and won a seat as MLA. When the government imposed a tax on the oil mill crusher Kolhu, Raghavdas opposed the measure, citing Kolhu as a source of employment for poor and oppressed people and in protest resigned from the Legislative Assembly. His activities in the Independence movement included accompanying Gandhi during the Dandi March.





### He opposed anti-people policies of rulers of Jaisalmer and was exiled.



### SAGARMAL GOPA

Sagarmal Gopa (2 November/3 November 1900 -4 April 1946) was a freedom fighter and patriot from Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India. He took active part in the Non-cooperation Movement in 1921. He opposed antipeople policies of rulers of Jaisalmer and was exiled. Even in exile he continued to work for the freedom movement. After his father's death in 1941, on his return to Jaisalmer he was arrested on 25 May 1941 and tortured in prison for years. He was burnt to death in the prison on 4 April 1946. "Gopal Swaroop Pathak commission" was formed to investigate the murder of Sagarmal Gopa, which under the influence of Jawahar Singh, declared this murder as suicide. He wrote 3 books -- Aajadi ke diwane, Jaisalmer ka gundaraj and Raghunath Singh ka mukadma. The Government of India issued a postage stamp in 1986 in honour of Sagarmal Gopa.

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### LALA HAR DAYAL

Lala Har Dayal (1884 - 1939) was an Indian revolutionary and scholar who was dedicated to the removal of British influence in India. In 1913 he formed the Ghadar (Gadar) Party to organize a rebellion against the British government of India. In March 1914 he was arrested by U.S. immigration authorities. Released on bail, he fled to Switzerland and then to Berlin, where he tried to foment an anti-British rising in north-western India.

In his later years Har Dayal decisively rejected his earlier revolutionary viewpoint. He abandoned his Anglophobia, advocated the mixed British and Indian administration of his country and became a firm admirer of Western culture and values. He moved to the United States in the late 1920s and became a professor of Sanskrit at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1913, he formed the Ghadar (Gadar) Party to organize a rebellion against the British government of India.

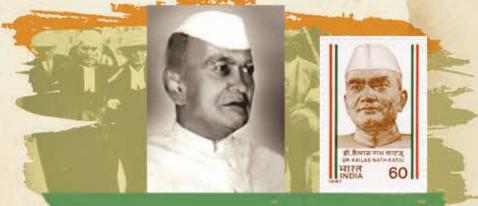
LALA HAR DAYA

60

भारत



He was a prominent politician of India. He was the Governor of Orissa and West Bengal, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, the Union Home Minister and the Union Defence Minister.



### KAILASH NATH KATJU

Kailash Nath Katju (17 June 1887 – 17 February 1968) was a prominent politician of India. He was the Governor of Orissa and West Bengal, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, the Union Home Minister and the Union Defence Minister. He was also one of India's most prominent lawyers. He was part of some of the most notable cases of his times, including the Indian National Army trials. Katju joined the Indian independence movement early and spent several years incarcerated with fellow independence activists for his activities. Katju defended the accused in the Meerut Conspiracy Case in Allahabad High Court in 1933 and later the military officers accused at the Indian National Army trials at the Red Fort in Delhi. On 17 July 1937, he became the Minister of Law and Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of the United Provinces in the Govind Ballabh Pant's cabinet. He was elected to the legislature from the constituency of Allahabad district (Doaba).

Following the independence of India, Katju held many important posts. He was made the Governor of Orissa from 15 August 1947 to 20 June 1948. He became the Governor of West Bengal on 21 June 1948 and was in office till 31 October 1951. In 1951 he was elected to the Lok Sabha from the Mandsaur constituency, joining the cabinet of Jawaharlal Nehru as Law Minister in 1951. In November 1951 he succeeded C. Rajagopalachari as the country's third Home Minister. In 1955 he was made the Defence Minister. He became the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh on 31 January 1957, remaining in office till 11 March 1962. He also held the portfolios for general administration, home, publicity, planning and development, co-ordination and anticorruption.

### ABDUL BARI

Prof. Abdul Bari was born in 1892 at Village Koilwar Dist. Bhojpur Bihar.

He joined the freedom struggle during the days of the "Khilafat Movement". He played an active role to unite the worker sections of Bihar, Bengal and Odisha towards the freedom struggle movement and also played an active role in the non-co-operation movement.

He played an active role in the Quit India Movement in 1942 and the freedom movement along with Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Shri Babu and Anugraha Narain Singh. He became the President of Bihar Pradesh Committee in 1946.

In 1947 communal riots had spread in Patna and as requested by Gandhiji he was travelling to Patna from Jamshedpur where he was shot dead near Patna on the 28 March 1947. Professor Abdul Bari's life is a saga of sacrifice for the freedom of the Motherland. He sought to bring about social reform in Indian society by awakening people through education.





He coined the notable slogan Inquilab Zindabad (translation of "Long live the revolution!") in 1921.



### HASRAT MOHANI

Hasrat Mohani was born in 1875 in a smalltown of Mohan in Uttar Pradesh. His actual Name was Syed Fazl-ul-Hasan. A popular writer of his times. He was recognized as a talented poet. He started writing ghazals when he was only 17 years of age under the pen name 'Hasrat'. He coined the notable slogan Inquilab Zindabad. Attracted to the revolutionary ideas of Aurabindo Ghosh and Bala Gangadhar Tilak, he was opposed slavery in all forms and fought against the British. He joined the Indian National Congress in 1903. This prompted him to write several articles criticizing the British Raj which resulted of him being accused of treason and was sent to jail by the British government in 1909. Unable to pay the fine imposed on him, the police seized the rare books collected by him. He thus spent most of his time in different jails during the National Movement. He later started the first 'Swadeshi Stores' along with his wife to support the cause of the National Movement and played a vital role in the Khilafat Movement. Together with Swami Kumaranand, he is regarded as the first person to demand complete independence for India in 1921 at the Ahmedabad Session of Congress. Influenced by socialist ideology, he quit the Indian National Congress, in 1928. After Independence, his commitment to his Socialist and Secular ideology continued unabated and he was the Member of Parliament several times even after 1947 and served the people in his own way. On 13 May, 1951 Hasrat Mohani breathed his last in Lucknow.

### VEER SURENDRA SAI

Surendra Sai was born in 1809, in a small town Khinda, about 21miles away from Sambalpur. He was a born rebel and an uncompromising enemy of the British Raj from his young age. He suffered imprisonment in Hazaribagh Jail for 17 years in course of his revolutionary career and after his final arrest for another term of 20 years including his detention of 19 years in the remote Asirgarh hill fort till he breathed his last there.

He was not only a great revolutionary throughout his life but also an inspiring leader who espoused the cause of the down trodden tribal people who were being exploited by the higher caste Hindu and who became tools in the hands of the British for the establishment of their political power in Sambalpur. The aim of Surendra Sai was to drive the British out of Sambalpur. The Indian Revolution collapsed by the end of 1858 and law and order was restored by the British throughout India. But Surendra Sai could not be suppressed and he continued his revolution. The military resources of the British were pulled up against him and Generals like Major Forster, Capt. L. Smith and others earned credit in suppressing the rebellion elsewhere in India were brought to Sambalpur to stamp out his revolution. An inspiring leader who espoused the cause of the down-trodden tribal people who were being exploited by the British.

वीर सुरेग्द्र साए VEER SURENDRA EAI

50

भारत



He was one of the founders of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).



# **BAIKUNTHA** SHUKLA

Baikuntha Shukla (15 May 1907 – 14 May 1934) was an Indian nationalist and revolutionary. He was the nephew of Yogendra Shukla, one of the founders of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). He was hanged for murdering Phanindra Nath Ghosh who had become a government approver which led to hanging of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru.

Shukla was born in the village of Jalalpur in Muzaffarpur district of Bengal Presidency (now in Vaishali district of Bihar). He was initiated into the freedom struggle at a young age taking active part in the Salt Satyagraha of 1930. He was associated with revolutionary organisations like the Hindustan Seva Dal and HSRA. Phanindra Nath Ghosh, hitherto a key member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association had treacherously betrayed the cause by turning an approver, giving evidence, which led to the execution of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. Shukla was commissioned to plan the execution of Ghosh as an act of ideological vendetta which he carried out successfully on 9 November 1932. He was arrested and tried for the killing, convicted and hanged in Gaya Central Jail on 14 May 1934. He was only 27 years old.

### JUBBA SAHNI

The name of Jabba Sahni echoes in the annals of the freedom fighters of the country.

Born to a poor family in the village of Meenapur of the Muzaffarpur District of Bihar, Jubba, was filled with the spirit of patriotism and ideas of revolution. However, penury restricted his education and he eventually got employment at the Bikhanpur Sugar Mill. It was at this work place that he was kicked by an English supervisor of the Mill. Unable to bear the insult, Jubba thrashed the Supervisor and a case of beating was instituted against him in the local Thana. By then Jubba had fled and as the Civil Disobedience movement was called, he joined Bangur Sahni, another person with the same ideals.

From 1932 to 1942 he was given the task to exchange letters between the underground freedom fighters and deliver essential goods to them. In 1942 the Quit India Movement was announced and the people of Meenapur in their attempt to respond to the call tried to hoist the TriColour on the Police Station but failed. In retaliation the police force led by Inspector Louis Waller fired at the crowd and his bullet fatally wounded Bangur Sahni. Seeing this Jubba's anger flared and he burnt down the police station and threw the Inspector in the fire killing him.

After this the Union Jack was taken down by the agitators and the tri-colour was hoisted. The police later arrested 56 people in the case but the honourable Jubba surrendered and took all the blame on himself, he was hanged in the Bhalgalpur Central Jail in March 11,1944 at the age of 38.

He was forced by circumstances to work as a labourer in a large agricultural farm where the British kept watch.

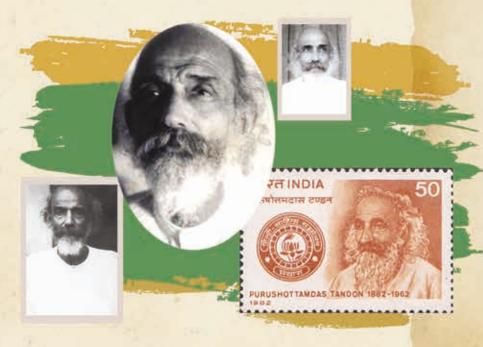
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त्रम्या सहनी

भारत INDIA



He was an enthusiastic campaigner for the use of Hindi as India's national language.



# PURUSHOTTAM DAS TANDON

Purushottam Das Tandon, also known as Rajarshi, (born August 1, 1882, Allahabad, India—died July 1, 1962) was an Indian politician who was a prominent figure in the Indian National Congress in its early years. He was an enthusiastic campaigner for the use of Hindi as India's national language. In 1918 Tandon organized the Allahabad District Peasants' Committee in an attempt to improve the working conditions of farmers. He used his ability to organize kisan sabhas (Hindi: "farmer assemblies") to garner support for the Indian independence movement. A member of the Congress Party from 1899, Tandon represented Allahabad at the 1906 All India Congress Committee session, and in 1921 he gave up his law practice to concentrate on politics. He was arrested for participation in the Noncooperation Movement in 1921 and in the Salt March in 1930.

Tandon's political career involved stints at numerous levels of Indian government. He served as speaker of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly (1937–50) and was a member of the Constituent Assembly that drafted India's constitution. Tandon was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1952 and to the Rajya Sabha in 1956.

#### **#BUILDERSOFINDIA**

## SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

Vallabhbhai Patel, in full Vallabhbhai Jhaverbhai Patel is popularly known as Sardar Patel (October 31, 1875 — December 15, 1950). He was a barrister and statesman, one of the leaders of the Indian National Congress during the struggle for Indian independence. During the first three years of Indian independence after 1947, he served as Deputy Prime Minister, minister of home affairs, minister of information, and minister of states. In the crucial debate over the objectives of the Indian National Congress during 1928-1931, Patel believed (like Gandhi and Motilal Nehru, but unlike Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose) that the goal of the Indian National Congress should be dominion status within the British Commonwealth—not independence.

Patel was the second candidate after Gandhi to the presidency of the 1929 Lahore session of the Indian National Congress. He was the leading candidate for the 1945–46 presidency of the Indian National Congress, but Gandhi once again intervened for the election of Nehru. Nehru, as president of the Congress, was invited by the British viceroy to form an interim government. Thus, in the normal course of events, Patel would have been the first Prime Minister of India. His enduring fame rests on his achievement of the peaceful integration of the princely Indian states into the Indian Union and the political unification of India. "Every citizen of India must remember that he is an Indian and he has every right in this country but with certain duties."









"Never forget the 18th of Rpril,1930, the day of the eastern Rebellion in Chittagong. Write in red letters, in the core of your hearts, the names of the patriots who have sacrificed their lives."



# SURYA SEN

Surya Sen was born on 22 March 1894 at Noapara in Chittagong, present Bangladesh. Popularly known as Master da, he joined the Anushilan Samiti, a revolutionary organisation in Bengal. In 1918, he completed his studies and started working as a maths teacher at Chittagong. He trained and groomed youngsters on weaponry and bomb-making. He hatched a plot to raid and seize arms and ammunition from the government, cut off communication from the rest of India, and to isolate Chittagong. This incident came to be known as the Chittagong Armoury Raid. Sen's associates in the plan were Ganesh Ghosh, Lokenath Bal, Ananta Singh and others. The plan was put into action on 18 April 1930. Sen, along with his associates, raided the police armoury in Chittagong. Another group raided the armoury of the auxiliary forces. The revolutionaries seized arms but failed to locate ammunition. However, they did manage to cut off telephone, telegraph and railway lines. Sen hoisted the Indian flag on the premises of the police armoury, and proclaimed a Provisional Revolutionary Government. After the raid, they fled towards Jalalabad Hills. On 22 April, government forces engaged the revolutionaries in the hills in a gun battle. 12 revolutionaries were killed while the others including Sen escaped. About 80 troops of the government were also killed in the battle. Sen hid in disguise in many places to avoid capture by the British. However, he was betrayed by a man named Netra Sen in whose house he was hiding, and in February 1933, the police arrested him. Netra Sen was later killed by other revolutionaries in revenge for the betrayal. Surya Sen was brutally tortured by the police before being hanged on 12 January 1934. He was 39 years old. The Indian and Bangladeshi governments have released postage stamps in honour of the great martyr.

#### S. D. KITCHLEW

Born on 15 January 1888 to a Kashmiri businessman, Dr S.D. Kitchlew grew up in relative privilege.When the British passed the Rowlatt Act of 1919, Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew became the face of the protests, which saw people across faiths unite against the draconian legislation in Amritsar. Throughout his life, he stood firmly for the principles of freedom, religious unity, non-violence and a united India undivided along communal lines.

A barrister by trade, Dr Kitchlew, alongside fellow freedom fighter Dr Satya Pal, pushed for a hartal/general strike, asking people to suspend businesses and participate in non-violent Satyagraha against their colonial rulers. His appeal for defiance against the Act generated real fervour amongst the people of Punjab. Besides his extensive participation in the freedom struggle, Kitchlew also played an integral role in the Khilafat Movement. A few years after Partition and Independence, he left the Indian National Congress and began developing closer ties with the Communist Party of India. He spent the last years in Delhi establishing closer ties between the Indian government and the USSR. For his efforts, the USSR presented him with the Stalin Peace Prize (subsequently called Lenin Peace Prize) in 1952, while the Government of India included him in the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust as well.

Besides his impressive work in the Indian freedom struggle, for which he spent a cumulative 14 years in prison, he was also an educationist, playing a stellar role in the founding of the Jamia Millia Islamia University. He eventually passed away on 9 October 1963. Following his death, Nehru said, "I have lost a very dear friend who was a brave and steadfast captain in the struggle for India's freedom." Besides his impressive work in the Indian freedom struggle, he was also an educationist, playing a stellar role in the founding of the Jamia Millia Islamia University.





He was the only representative of the then Mysore (Karnataka) state who had participated in the historic Dandi March.

## MAHADEVAPPA MAILAR

Mahadevappa Mailar of Haveri was the only representative of the then Mysore (Karnataka) state who had participated in the historic 'Dandi March' led by Mahatma Gandhi. He achieved martyrdom when the British shot him on April 1, 1943 along with Tirakappa Madivalara and Veerayya Hiremath in Haveri. Mahadevappa was born on June 8, 1911 in Motebennur village in Byadgi taluk in Haveri.

In 2018, he was depicted on a stamp issued by Indian Post, and a Memorial Trust is named in his honor. Mahadevappa participated in Non-cooperation movement call given by Mahatma Gandhi and he was killed by British police while breaking open the treasury where British officers had kept Land Revenue in Hosaritti Village Veerabhadra Swamy Temple by collecting forcefully from farmers.

# BHAI PARMANAND

Parmanand was born into a prominent family of Punjab and was a descendant of famous Sikh martyr, Bhai Mati Das. Following the British announcement of the Partition of Bengal (1905), he demanded that 'the territory beyond Sindh should be united with Afghanistan and North-West Frontier Province into a great Musulman Kingdom.'The Hindus of the region should come away, while at the same time the Musulmans in the rest of the country should go and settle in this territory. This preceded the Muslim League's Pakistan Resolution by over three decades.

Parmanand toured several British colonies in South America before rejoining Hardayal in San Francisco. He was a founder member of the Ghadar Party. In 1930, he was the chair of the Sind Provincial Hindu Conference, where he expressed concern that Muslim creation of Pakistan would divide India. He met Gandhi again in 1933 where he analysed India as being composed of three elements: Hindus, Muslims and the British. Parmanand died on 8 December 1947 of a heart attack. He was a founder member of the Ghadar Party.



He was also known as the Father of Indian Armed Rebellion'.



# VASUDEV BALWANT PHADKE

Vasudev Balwant Phadke (4 November 1845 – 17 February 1883) also known as the 'Father of Indian Armed Rebellion' was an Indian independence activist and revolutionary who sought India's independence from colonial rule. Phadke was moved by the plight of the farming community and believed that Swaraj was the only remedy. With the help of various sub-communities of Hindu society he created a movement against British rule. Phadke co-founded the Poona Native Institution (PNI) which was later renamed as the Maharashtra Education Society (MES). Through the PNI, he went on set up Bhave School in Pune. Today, the MES runs over 77 institutions in various parts of Maharashtra.

In 1875, after the then Gaekwad ruler of Baroda was deposed by the colonial government, Phadke launched protest speeches against the government. Phadke was transported to jail at Aden, but escaped from the prison by taking the door off from its hinges on 13 February 1883. He was soon recaptured and then went on a hunger strike, dying on 17 February 1883.

#### **#BUILDERSOFINDIA**

# KHUDIRAM BOSE

Khudiram Bose was an Indian revolutionary from Bengal Presidency who opposed British rule of India. For his role in the Muzaffarpur Conspiracy Case, along with Prafulla Chaki, he was sentenced to death and subsequently executed, making him one of the youngest martyrs of the Indian Independence Movement.

Khudiram, along with Prafulla Chaki, attempted to assassinate a British judge, Magistrate Douglas Kingsford, by throwing bombs on the carriage they suspected the man was in. Magistrate Kingsford, however, was seated in a different carriage, and the throwing of bombs resulted in the deaths of two British women. Prafulla fatally shot himself before the arrest. Khudiram was arrested and trialed for the murder of the two women, ultimately being sentenced to death. He was one of the first Indian revolutionaries in Bengal to be executed by the British.

At the time of his hanging, Khudiram was 18 years, 8 months, and 11 days, 10 hours old making him one of the second youngest revolutionaries in India.

At the time of his hanging, Khudiram was 18 years, 8 months and 11 days old making him one of the second youngest revolutionaries in India.

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KHUDIRAM BOSE



Rn Indian revolutionary, who is noted for launching an attack on the Secretariat Building - the Writers' Building in the Dalhousie square in Kolkata.

# **BADAL** GUPTA

Badal Gupta was an Indian revolutionary against British rule in India, who is noted for launching an attack on the Secretariat Building - the Writers' Building in the Dalhousie square in Kolkata, along with Benoy Basu and Dinesh Gupta. Bengal Volunteers targeted Lt Col NS Simpson, the Inspector General of Prisons, who was infamous for the oppression of the prisoners in the jails. The revolutionaries decided not only to murder him, but also to strike a terror in the British official circles by launching an attack on the Secretariat Building - the Writers' Building in the Dalhousie square in Kolkata.

### DINESH CHANDRA GUPTA

Dinesh Gupta was born on 6 December 1911 in Josholong in Munshiganj District, now in Bangladesh. While he was studying in Dhaka College, Dinesh joined Bengal Volunteers - a group organised by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1928, at the occasion of Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress. Soon the Bengal Volunteers transformed itself to a more active revolutionary association and planned to assassinate certain Indian Imperial Police officers. For a short while, Dinesh Gupta was in Midnapore training local revolutionaries in the use of firearms. Revolutionaries trained by him were responsible for the assassination of three District Magistrates in succession, Douglas, Burge, and Peddy. Revolutionaries trained by him were responsible for the assassination of three District Magistrates in succession, Douglas, Burge and Peddy.



Launched the attack on Writer's building with his fellow patriots.

# BENOY KRISHNA BASU

Benoy Krishna Basu was born on 11 September 1908, in the village of Rohitbhog now in Bangladesh. He enrolled in the Medical College but under the influence of Hemchandra Ghosh, a revolutionary of Dhaka, Benoy joined the 'Mukti Sangha', a secret society closely connected with the Jugantar Party. In 1928 he formed a local unit in Dhaka and called it the Bengal Volunteers in Dacca . The organisation became active and prepared a plan of "Operation Freedom" against the police repression in Bengal. On 29th August 1930, when Lowman, the Inspector General of Police came to see an ailing officer, he was shot and killed by Benoy who fired at close range.After the shooting he fled to Calcutta. Lowman died instantly and Hodson, the Superintendent of police, was grievously injured. Benoy fled and took shelter in Kolkata.

On 8 December 1930, Benoy along with Dinesh Chandra Gupta and Badal Gupta, dressed in European costume, entered the Writers' Building and shot dead Simpson and in the ensuing gunfight more officers were injured. The police overpowered them but Badal took Potassium cyanide, while Benoy and Dinesh shot themselves with their own revolvers. Benoy was taken to the hospital where he died on 13 December 1930.

#### COLONEL MAHBOOB AHMAD

Colonel Mahboob Ahmad, who declared 'I have only one birth. If I had another thousand births, I would voluntarily submit them all to Subhas Chandra Bose to achieve his aim' played an important role in Indian National Army for the emancipation of the motherland India, was born on 19 March, 1920 in Chouhat in Patna of Bihar state. His mother was Begum Asmath Jahan and his father Khan Bahadur Doctor Vali Ahmad.

Mahboob Ahmad completed his education at Indian Military Academy in Dehradun and joined Indian Army as a captain in 1939. He was sent to Malaya warfare as a British Army officer during Second World War which started in 1939. He was taken as a prisoner of war along with other officers and soldiers when the British Indian Army faced defeat in the hands of Japan at Kota Bharu.

Later in 1941, he joined Indian National Army formed by Captain Mohan Singh. In 1943, when Subhas Chandra Bose came to Rangoon from Germany and took up the reins of Indian National Army, Mahboob was promoted as 'Colonel'. "I have only one birth. If I had another thousand births, I would voluntarily submit them all to Subhas Chandra Bose to achieve his aim."





The wife of Wajid Ali Shah, she had a key role in fighting British oppression.

# BEGUM HAZRAT MAHAL

HITE STATE MARTIN

Begum Hazrat Mahal (1820 – 1879), the wife of Wajid Ali Shah was also known as the Begum of Awadh. After her husband's exile to Calcutta, the Indian Rebellion broke out.

She made her son, Prince Birjis Qadr, the Wali (ruler) of Awadh, with herself as regent during his minority. With the outbreak of the Mutiny, she was a key figure to fight against the British. After years of war, she finally found asylum in Nepal and died there in 1879. Her role in the rebellion is a landmark in the freedom movement.

# **GOMDHAR** KONWAR

Gomdhar was formally enthroned near Jorhat according to Ahom rites, and arms and ammunitions were collected. But before he could make much headway a counter offensive was made by the British led by Lieutenant Rutherford. The rebels lost and Gomdhar fled to the Naga Hills. But, soon he and his associates were arrested by the British. Gomdhar was found guilty of "illegally assuming the Insignia of Royalty" and sentenced to death. This sentence was subsequently commuted to seven years of imprisonment in banishment and was deported to an unknown location to die in ignominy. The Rhom prince who fought the British.



His efforts ensured that Assam remained a part of India during the partition of 1947.





#### रेवरेन्ड जे. जे. एम. निकोल्स रॉय REV. 3. 3. M. NICHOLS ROY

# **JAMES JOY** MOHAN **NICHOLS ROY**

Rev. Nichols Roy influenced Jawaharlal Nehru to create the Khasi Jaintia National Federation State Conference (KJFSC), a regional party in Meghalaya's Khasi-Jaintia hills. which aimed for autonomous government among tribal people throughout northeast India. Nichols Roy's Khasi National Conference communicated with similar organizations such as the Garo National Conference, Mizo Union and Naga National Council. In response, the constitutional plan defined District Councils to look after tribal affairs in the hill districts. His efforts ensured that Assam remained a part of India during the partition of 1947.

# SENGYAJIK JOYA THAOSEN

Born to be a Dimasa warrior on 26th October, 1925 at village Jorai Bathari, Dima Hasao District (Assam), 19 year old Sengyajik raised her voice against British Raj. Thaosen organised Revolutionary Dimasa Army under the leadership of Arjun Langthasa and Jowte Dao Kemprai.Her voice forced the people of Samphardisa, Khepre, Kouldisa, Diyung, Aprudisa, Sabawari etc. to rise against the British. She offered solidarity to Rani Jhansi Regiment of Azad Hind Fauz.

She marched with her militia to Kohima in 1943 to join AZAD HIND FAUZ during World War II.

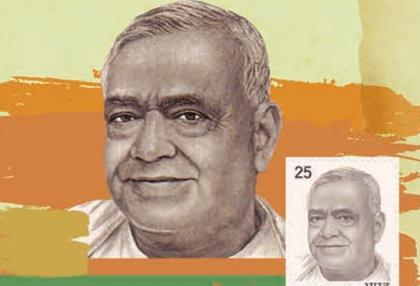
On 7th April 1944 they were attacked by the British force at Khirem-kowai range near Dimapur, Naga Hills. She lost her life on the battlefield.

SENGYAJIK JOYA THAOSEN and her troops were a true patriot of the nation.

9-year old Sengyajik raised her voice against British Raj.



He played an important part in forming the Assam Branch of the Indian National Congress in 1921.



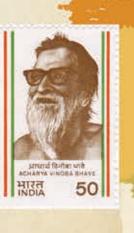
#### TARUN RAM PHOCKUN

# TARUN RAM PHOOKUN

Tarun Ram Phookun was a prominent member of a political organization then named Assam Association till 1920. He played an important part in forming the Assam Branch of the Indian National Congress in 1921. He was elected its first President. When the Non-Cooperation Movement was started, he took a leading part in it and he toured various parts of Assam carrying the message of Mahatma Gandhi. In connection with the Non-Cooperation Movement, he was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment in 1921. He became the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Pandu session of the Indian National Congressin 1926.

# VINOBA BHAVE

Vinayak Narahari also known as Vinoba Bhave (11 September 1895 – 15 November 1982) was an Indian advocate of nonviolence and human rights. Often called Acharya (Sanskrit for teacher), he is best known for the Bhoodan Movement. He is considered a National Teacher of India and the spiritual successor of Mahatma Gandhi. He was an eminent philosopher. The Gita has also been translated into Marathi language by him with the name as Geetai (means Mother Geeta in Marathi).



"Jai Jagat!"

91



In 1855, two Santhal rebel leaders, Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu mobilized about 10,000 Santals and declared a rebellion against British colonists.



# SIDHU KANHU

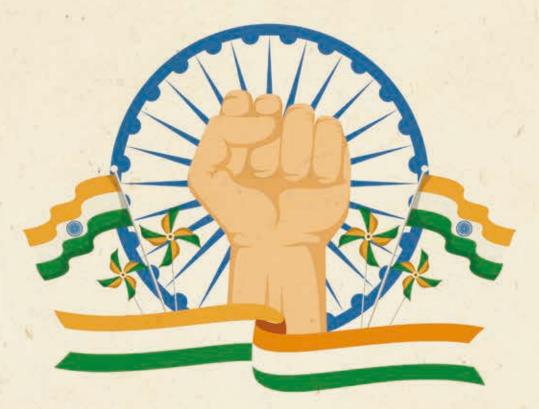
On 30 June, 1855, two Santhal rebel leaders, Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu (related as brother) along with Chand and Bairab, mobilized about 10,000 Santals and declared a rebellion against British colonists. The Santals initially gained some success but soon the British found out a new way to tackle these rebels. Instead, they forced them to come out of the forest. In a conclusive battle which followed, the British, equipped with modern firearms and war elephants, stationed themselves at the foot of the hill. When the battle began, the British officer ordered his troops to fire without loading bullets. The Santhals, who did not suspect this trap set by the British war strategy, charged with full potential. This step proved to be disastrous for them. As soon as they neared the foot of the hill, the British army attacked with full power and this time they were using bullets. Although the revolution was suppressed, it marked a great change in the colonial rule and policy. The day is still celebrated among the Santhal community.

#### **#BUILDERSOFINDIA**

This is an attempt to recall and remember forgotten heroes of our freedom struggle, many of whom might be renowned yet unknown to the new generation. The aim of recreating and bringing forth stories, which lay as faded memories of the past, shall serve as a medium of inspiration and encouragement for the coming generations. This curation is not just about fuelling the spirit of India in any one particular paradigm of growth. It encompasses all spheres of life, most of all by enriching our hearts and souls. The spirit of India is incomplete whilst we take our unsung heroes along this journey of growth and development. Their ethos and principles ought to be recalled and respected.

These 75 heroes may not be all those who were unsung, there may be many more hidden in the pages of history that was never documented or preserved.





"It is the prime responsibility of every citizen to feel that his country is free and to defend its freedom is his duty."

Vallabhbhai Patel

#### **IN RESPECT AND HOMAGE**

In the twin volumes of the Directory of Martyrs and its several parts , printed by the Indian Council of Historic Research there are thousands of unsung names of those termed as Martyrs in the freedom struggle from 1857 to 1947.

Their passion, determination and sacrifices are recorded in detail. Each had a common vision to see the Tri Colour aloft but they tried to achieve it in their own ways. Many inked their role in blood and in supreme sacrifice.

While compiling this book it was not possible to include all but those chosen represent the different ways and methods of the Martyrs.

Over 75 years of an unshackled India has seen progress and growth and recognition by the World. Our leaders stand shoulder to shoulder discussing world problems and their solutions. India stands on its own, truly independent and yet maintains its democracy.

Max Cement pays homage and tribute to all Heroes of the Freedom Movement and re-pledges its Founder's Vision to see a strong and productive North East, so as to strengthen the Nation. "Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; Where knowledge is free; Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls; Where words come out from the depth of truth; Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection; Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit; Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action – Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake..."

> The original Bengali language poem, "Chitto jetha bhayashunyo", was published in 1910 and included in the collection Gitanjali by Rabindranath Tagore.



