



Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO IGNITED SOCIAL CHANGES

The Indian freedom fighters dreamt of a nation that was free of vices for which they not only fought imperialism but also brought many reforms to improve the lives of the people. These freedom fighters worked on many social issues- environment, education, and upliftment of tribes at a time when no one even thought about these issues. This thinking remains the basic mantra of the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the last 7 years. As the nation celebrates 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate 75 years of independence it becomes equally important to bring to the fore the achievements of these freedom fighters who are also the beacons of social reforms. Also, connecting the youth with our heritage and culture is an essential aspect of the Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi so that country moves forward with the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'...



THE LIFE OF MAHAMANA MADAN MOHAN MALVIYA WAS DEDICATED TO PATRIOTISM AND SOCIAL SERVICE

Born: 25 December 1861, Died: 12 November 1946

Mahamana Madan Mohan Malviya traveled from Peshawar to Kanyakumari to collect funds to fulfill the dream of Banaras Hindu University (BHU). For this work, he had collected donations from place to place and he had raised more than one crore. In one of the incidents, he also went to Hyderabad to collect donations where Nizam insulted him by flinging one of his shoes at him. But Malviya pocketing the insult took the shoe and put it up for auction. When the Nizam came to know

about this, he was ashamed and he sent off Malviya with a handsome donation. Mahamana, who always inspire the countrymen with his wisdom and ideals dedicated his life in the service of Maa Bharati and played an important role in the freedom movement along with making invaluable contributions in the field of education.

Mahamana, who founded the BHU in 1916, worked for the promotion of Sanskrit culture and proliferation of Hindi education in the country at a time when at the peak of British rule it was declining. BHU which is a center of educational excellence is just one example of his astute thinking but before it also he had many accomplishments. He worked extensively for the promotion of education and the spread of Hindi. During British rule, English and Persian languages dominated. Under this backdrop, he took up the cause of Hindi. He was a Journalist, social reformer, lawyer, and a strong advocate of the mother tongue who dedicated his life to the Maa Bharati. He was a fearless person from his early childhood. Due to these qualities, he was given the title of Mahamana. Born on 25 December 1861 in Allahabad, Madan Mohan Malaviya is the only person in India who is fondly called Mahamana. Malviya wanted to become a Kathavachak like his father since childhood and he used to read Shrimad Bhagwat. His work of raising national consciousness and social upliftment won many hearts.

Madan Mohan Malaviya actively participated in the Indian freedom struggle and was arrested by the British Government in the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930 for violating Section 144. Not only this, but he was also the President of Congress four times in 1909, 1918, 1930, 1932. He dedicated his life to journalism, advocacy, social reform, and the promotion of the mother tongue. He had a keen interest in the Hindi language and journalism because of which Malviya started 'Abhyudaya,' a Hindi weekly in 1907. He founded the English newspaper 'The Leader' in 1909 which was published from Allahabad. He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna on 24 December 2014 by the Central Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE AND WAS ARRESTED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT OF 1930 FOR VIOLATING SECTION 144.

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KM MUNSHI WAS A FIERCE FREEDOM FIGHTER AND ENVIRONMENTALIST



Born: 30 December 1887, Died: 8 February 1971

It was the month of July in the year 1950 when the then Union Agriculture and Food Minister Kanhaiyalal Maniklal Munshi started celebrating Van Mahotsav across the country. It was on his initiative that the then President and Prime Minister planted saplings. Not only this, the Governors and Chief Ministers of the states had also given a message to the public to protect the environment by planting saplings. Since then governments across the states in the country have been celebrating Van Mahotsav in the first week of July. Conserving Forest and the environment is very important realizing its importance, the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is constantly striving to fulfill the dream of Munshi on environmental protection.

Kanhaiyalal Munshi, popularly known as KM Munshi, was born on December 30, 1887, in Bharuch, Gujarat, and was educated by a luminary like Aurobindo Ghosh. An accomplished politician, educationist, lawyer, and author K M Munshi worked shoulder to shoulder with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in the Bardoli Satyagraha. KM Munshi also had a great contribution in the making of the constitution. Along with Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, he drafted the principle of 'equal protection to every person' in the drafting committee of the constitution. He played a remarkable role in getting Hindi and Devanagari recognized as the official language of the Indian Union. He also founded the Indian Institute of Agriculture and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Anand along with Sardar Patel. His achievements as a famous litterateur of Gujarati, English, and Hindi are remarkable. Due to his skill, he was appointed as the representative of the Government of India in Hyderabad to deal with the issue of its merger with the Indian republic. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel praised his efforts after the merger of Hyderabad. He also had differences with the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru on the issue of restoration of the Somnath temple. He later resigned from the Congress Party and joined the Swatantra Party. However, after some time he joined the Bharatiya Jana Sangh.



PANDIT RAM PRASAD BISMIL WENT TO THE GALLOWS FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE COUNTRY



Born: 11 June 1897, Martyr's Day: 19 December 1927

On December 19, 1927, when the British were taking some youths for execution they were humming patriotic songs like 'Sarfarooshi Ki Tamanna ab Hamara Dil Mein hai' and 'Mera rang de Bansi Chola'. Among these youths, there was a 30-year-old youth whose name was Pt. Ram Prasad Bismil. Born on June 11, 1897, in Shahjahanpur, Pt. Ram Prasad Bismil was one of the most notable Indian revolutionaries in the struggle against British colonialism. Bismil started participating in the freedom movement at the age of just 11.

He is best recognized as a freedom fighter who opposed the British colonial forces till his last breath. He formed the Hindustan Republican Association with revolutionary leaders like Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad. He believed that freedom could not be achieved with non-violence. From the age of 19, he started writing fervent patriotic poems in Urdu and Hindi under the name of Bismil. He participated in the Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918 and the Kakori Conspiracy of 1925 and eluded the police. Eventually, he was arrested and tried under the Kakori Conspiracy Case. This legal process lasted for 18 months. After the trial Ram Prasad 'Bismil', Ashfaq Ullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, and Roshan Singh were sentenced to death and other revolutionaries were given life imprisonment. He was only 30 years old when he was martyred in Gorakhpur prison on December 19, 1927.

Bismil extensively worked for Hindu-Muslim unity. He was cremated on the banks of river Rapti and later the name of the place was changed to 'Rajghat'. Recently the Ministry of Culture organized a special function in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh to mark the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Ram Prasad Bismil as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.



FOUGHT FOR THE RIGHTS OF POOR THAKUR PYARELAL SINGH

Born: 21 December 1891,

Died: 20 October 1954

- Thakur Pyarelal Singh not only served the poor but also struggled throughout his life for their rights.
- Thakur Pyarelal Singh is known as the pioneer of the cooperative movement in Chhattisgarh. He was associated with the freedom movement since his student life.
- He raised his voice against tyranny and injustice and provided direction to public discontent to vent their anger. He organized the mill workers in Rajnandgaon and provided them with efficient leadership.
- He is also well known for organizing the students' movements in Chhattisgarh. He also undertook many public awareness programs.

THE INITIATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE UNDER AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

- To celebrate the ancient heritage and culture of Kashi, a three-day program 'Kashi Utsav' was organized in Varanasi from 16 to 18 November. The event focused on historical poets and writers like Goswami Tulsidas, Sant Kabir, Sant Ravidas, Bhartendu Harishchandra, Munshi Premchand, and Jaishankar Prasad.
- Union Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated a week-long exhibition at Lalit Kala Akademi on 18 November 2021.
- Culture Ministry organized the final match of the MP Cup Polo Championship- Sir Pratap Singh Cup 2021
- The Ministry of Culture has launched the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav mobile app to provide all information related to the celebrations of the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- The Ministry of Culture will organize an all-India dance competition 'Vande Bharatam-Nritya Utsav'. The objective of this competition is to select the dancers who will perform during the cultural program in the 2022 Republic Day Parade.

The Ministry of Culture is organizing competitions from the Tehsil level to the National level for Patriotic songwriting, Rangoli making, and Lullaby writing across the country. Detailed guidelines for participation are available on the website of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' at amritmahotsav.nic.in.

U KIANG NANGBAH LED THE REBELLION AGAINST THE BRITISH FOR THE MOTHERLAND

Born: Not Known, Death: 30 December 1862

U Kiang Nangbah was one such Khasi freedom fighter from Meghalaya who blew the trumpet of rebellion against the British. In the middle of the 19th century, the British East India Company took over the Jaintia Kingdom with the aim of expanding the province of Assam. When various warriors of the Jaintia tribes saw this injustice, they strongly opposed this encroachment by the British government. Nangbah led a rebellion against the British in 1860 when they started oppressing the people in the West Jaintia Hills. They felt that the British were imposing unfair taxes and disrupting their religious traditions. In such a situation, people were inspired to defend the motherland and rallied behind the leadership of



U Kiang Nangbah to start an armed rebellion against the British army.

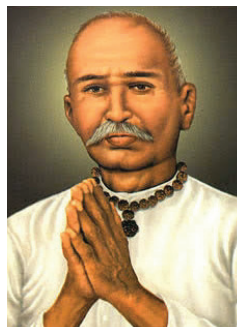
To counter the British, he formed his own organization and prepared people to fight with the British soldiers. The people of Nangbah's organization were adept at carrying out guerrilla attacks, due to which the British government had to call in additional forces to suppress the rebellion in this area. The activism of the members of Nangbah's organization created mounting troubles for the British empire after which they desperately chased Nangbah to arrest him. He was finally arrested by the British in December 1862 after an informer from Nangbah's group alerted the British about his whereabouts. After his arrest, the British publicly hanged Nangbah on 30 December to quell the rebellion.

GOVIND GURU STARTED THE MOVEMENT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COUNTRY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF BHILS

Born: Not Known, Death: 30 October 1931

Govind Guru, started the 'Bhagat Movement' for the empowerment of Bhils in the second half of the 19th century. Coming from the Banjara community, Govind Guru was born in Vedsa village near Dungarpur, Rajasthan, and as part of his movement in the 1890s, he asked the Bhils to adopt vegetarianism. Inspired by the Guru, the Bhils opposed the oppressive policies of the British and stood up against the forced labor by the princely states of Banswara, Santrampur, Dungarpur, and Kushalgarh. Considering the fire-god as a symbol in the movement, the followers used to stand in front of the pyre to worship.

In 1903, Guru called on the Bhils from Mangarh Tekri after which they put their 33 demands to the British. These demands were related to addressing the issues of bonded labor, heavy taxes, and persecution of the Guru's followers. When the British refused to accept this



demand, the Bhils under the leadership of Govind Guru started a struggle and they captured Mangarh hill. In such a situation, under a conspiracy, the British offered to pay a quarter of rupees for annual plowing, but the Bhils rejected this offer.

Angered by this, the British set out to crush this movement. The British asked the Bhils to pull out of Mangarh by 15 November 1913 but they refused. The Bhils had converted Mangarh Hill into a fort, where they had stored swords and other weapons. In such a situation, the British attacked Mangarh Hill on 17 November 1913. More than 1,000 tribals are believed to have been killed in the attack and Govind Guru was taken into custody. He was tried for the rebellion and sent to life imprisonment as a punishment.

Due to his popularity and good behavior, he was released from Hyderabad jail in 1919. However, he was banned from going where his supporters were residing. In such a situation, he settled in Kamboi near Limbdi in Gujarat and died in 1931. ■