



When we imagine the period of servitude when millions of people waited for the dawn of independence for centuries, the realization grows as to how historic the occasion of 75 years of freedom is and how glorious it is. The festival also has a tradition of eternal India, shadow of the freedom struggle, and the privileged progress of independent India.

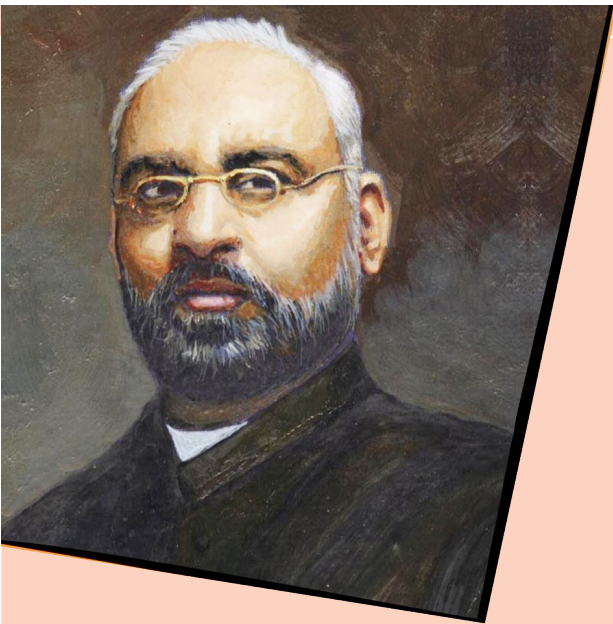
**-Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

# TORCHBEARERS OF INDIA'S REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT



There are many such incidents in India's freedom struggle, which provide us with inspiration and energy. The Amrit Mahotsav throws light upon such important events along with highlighting India's cultural diversity commitment and cultural richness...

Lord Krishna has said in Shri Bhagvad Gita - "समदुःखसुखम्, धीरम्, सः, अमृतत्वाय, कल्पते" (Samduhkhsukham, dheeram, sah, amrtatvaay, kalpate). Meaning- those who remain steady even in happiness and distress become eligible for liberation and attain immortality. This is our inspiration of getting the nectar of India's bright future from Amrit Mahotsav. There are inspirations and messages from different battles and events in the freedom struggle which India can imbibe and move forward. The freedom struggle of 1857, the return of Mahatma Gandhi from abroad, reminding the nation of the power of Satyagraha, the call for complete independence by Lokmanya Tilak, the Azad Hind Fauj's Delhi March under the leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the slogan of 'Dilli Chalo' which India cannot forget even today.



## **SHYAMJI KRISHNA VARMA- THE REVOLUTIONARY WHO FOUGHT TILL HIS LAST BREATH**

**S**hyamji Krishna Varma was born on October 4, 1857, in Mandvi town of Kutch district in Gujarat, and grew up listening to the tales of the revolt of 1857. He started taking part in the revolutionary activities since the age of 20 years. He went to Oxford University for further studies and there, while searching for an accommodation, he faced a lot of discrimination. Angered by this, he bought a house in London, converted it into a boarding house for Indian students and named it 'India House'. Later, this same India House became a hub for revolutionary activities in England. It is said that eminent personalities like Gandhi, Lenin, Lala Lajpat Rai, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Savarkar and Madan Lal Dhingra visited this house. Varma was deeply inspired by Lokmanya Tilak and Dayanand Saraswati. He devoted not only his entire life for India's freedom struggle but also inspired many other such nationalists. It is believed that Savarkar turned a revolutionary after taking inspiration from Varma. Madan Lal Dhingra was his student. He inspired many Indians living in India and abroad to take part in the freedom struggle. Shyamji Krishna Varma, the brave son of this land, struggled for freedom under the nose of the British till the last breath of his life. He died on March 31, 1930, in Geneva.



## **RANI GAIDINLIU- 'DAUGHTER OF THE HILLS' WHO MADE LIFE TOUGH FOR BRITISH**

**R**ani Gaidinliu had joined the freedom struggle at the age of 13 years and got associated with the 'Heraka Movement'. Heraka was a socio-religious movement, which later turned into a political movement seeking to drive out the British from Manipur and the surrounding Naga areas. In 1931, Gaidinliu took up the mantle of the movement and inspired her people to rebel against the British. She linked movement to India's freedom struggle spread the messages and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi among the people in north eastern part of the country. The Britishers tried to crush the movement by setting fire to a number of villages. But all this could not dampen the spirits of the revolutionaries. While carrying out attacks on the British, Gaidinliu decided to build a fortress where 4000 of her followers could stay. While the fortress was under construction, Britishers launched a surprise attack on the village on April 17, 1932. Gaidinliu was arrested, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. The issue of her release from prison was discussed in British House of Commons. She was released from prison after 14 years in 1947, when India got Independence. ■