



THE UNSUNG HEROES OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Countless heroes were born in different periods in every part of India, who contributed immensely in nation building. The nation is celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence to commemorate the 75 years of the country's independence and also to celebrate the glorious history, culture and achievements of its people. It is also a virtuous occasion to remember the sacrifices of all those people who do not even find mention in history books. The Amrit Mahotsav of Independence seeks to unite the people and infuse a new energy and awareness among the countrymen.



For centuries, India has struggled for the motherland, culture and freedom. The pain of servitude and the longing for freedom led several heroes to rise against colonialism. In the midst of victories and defeats, the freedom fighters did not let the flame of freedom die down. With the main aim of complete independence of India, Ghadar Party was formed in 1913. It was also known as the Hindi Association of the Pacific Coast as it was founded by the expatriate Indians from Canada and the USA. Sardar Sohan Singh Bhakna, who was inspired by Lala Hardayal, was the founder president of the Ghadar Party. It gave many great revolutionaries to India, who played an important role in securing freedom from the British. With the spirit of the 'Nation First - Always First', the stories of several historic figures that remain our inspiration even today feature in the series of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. At the same time, the country is also moving ahead on the journey of progress and is writing a new history by following the path shown by all those luminaries.



The youth of the country have decided to bring out the stories of those freedom fighters whose paeans remained unsung in the last 75 years.

I request everyone and also those involved in the education sphere to inspire the youth too. I firmly believe that the people who are working to write history in the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence are also going to create history.



- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Bipin Chandra Pal turned to revolution to awaken the spirit of patriotism



Born: 7th November 1858

Died: 20th May 1932

BIPIN CHANDRA PAL DID A LOT OF WORK FOR SWADESHI, POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND EDUCATION. HE ALSO BROUGHT OUT SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS DURING HIS LIFETIME.

One of the Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirates who played a major role in shaping the Indian freedom movement, Bipin Chandra Pal was a nationalist leader as well as a teacher, journalist, writer and an accomplished orator. He is also considered the father of revolutionary ideas in India. Born on 7th November 1858 in Poil village of Sylhet district of present-day Bangladesh, Bipin Chandra Pal was a revolutionary and courageous person from childhood. It is believed that he became very close to Keshav Chandra and Shivnath Shastri when he was associated with the Brahmo Samaj. Bipin Chandra joined the Congress in 1886. When the British partitioned Bengal in 1905, a revolutionary group led by Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal was formed, which strongly opposed this partition. A large number of people joined this movement. The group espoused revolutionary methods like boycotting British goods and shops, burning western clothes, and advocating

strikes and lockouts of British factories. During these movements, Bipin Chandra came in contact with many eminent and well-known Bengali leaders who preached an extremist form of nationalism and who believed in carrying out revolutionary activities in India. They were strongly opposed to peaceful protests like the non-cooperation movement. He espoused the cause for indigenous goods and boycott of foreign goods. This is the reason that he did a lot of work for Swadeshi, poverty alleviation and education. When the British arrested Bal Gangadhar Tilak in 1907, Bipin Chandra Pal went to England and joined India House there. He also brought out several newspapers, the most prominent being Paridarsak (Bengali weekly, 1886), New India (English weekly, 1902) and Vande Mataram (Bengali daily, 1906). He also started a magazine called Swaraj. Bipin Chandra died on 20th May 1932. The Central Government is trying relentlessly to follow his ideas of Swadeshi, poverty alleviation and education.



Vasudev Balwant Phadke: Who made the life difficult for the British

Born: 4th November 1845, Died: 17th February 1883



Not many may have heard of Vasudev Balwant Phadke, but he was a revolutionary who played a key role in the freedom struggle of the country. Distraught to see the pathetic condition of the farmers during the British rule, he was of the firm opinion that 'Swaraj' (self-rule) was the only panacea for all the ills. Born on November 4, 1845 in Shirdhon village of Raigad district of Maharashtra, Phadke is believed to be the first revolutionary warrior of India to organize an armed rebellion against the British government after the failure of the First War of Independence of 1857. He was a very brave and courageous person from childhood and loved to roam in the forests. After completing his education, he moved to Bombay (now Mumbai) and got a job in the Military Accounts Department of Pune. But all along, he remained in constant touch with the freedom fighters. It is believed that nationalist Mahadev Govind Ranade had a great influence on him. When he was working in the Military Accounts Department, Phadke got information about his mother's illness but the British officials did not grant him leave. He went to his village without leave. By the time he reached, his mother had passed away. This incident had a deep effect on him and he turned against the British. He organized the tribal army and declared a rebellion against the British in 1879. The same year he was arrested and sent to Cellular Jail in Andaman. On February 17, 1883, this brave son of the country breathed his last.

THE BRITISH HAD ANNOUNCED A REWARD OF 50,000 RUPEES TO CAPTURE PHADKE

Ranjit Singh established a powerful Sikh empire

Born: 13th November 1780, Died: 27th June 1839



Sher-e-Punjab or the Lion of Punjab, Ranjit Singh is one such great figure in Indian history who not only kept Punjab united as a strong province, but he also did not allow the British to come close to his empire. Ranjit Singh was born on November 13, 1780 in Gujranwala which is now in Pakistan. Upon his birth, his parents named him Buddh Singh. But when he was barely 10 years old, he fought his first major battle along with his father.

THE CREDIT FOR THE NEW LOOK GOLDEN TEMPLE GOES TO RANJIT SINGH

After the victory, his father renamed him Ranjit. He survived smallpox in infancy but lost sight in his left eye. On losing one eye, he used to say, 'God has given me one eye, therefore, I see Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, rich and poor equally.' When Ranjit Singh was 12 years old, his father passed away. He then inherited his father's Sukerchakia Misl estates and was raised by his mother Raj Kaur. By the age of 20, Ranjit Singh had established the Punjab Empire. On 12th April 1801, Ranjit Singh became the Maharaja of Punjab. He fought many battles and also captured parts of East Punjab and established a strong and powerful Sikh Empire. At the same time, he converted the Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar to the Golden Temple by covering it with gold. He used to say this to his courtiers, 'I am a farmer and a soldier, I do not need any pretense. It is my sword that creates the difference in me that I need.'

Kunwar Singh: Who led the revolution even at the age of 80

Born: 13th November 1777, Died: 26th April 1858

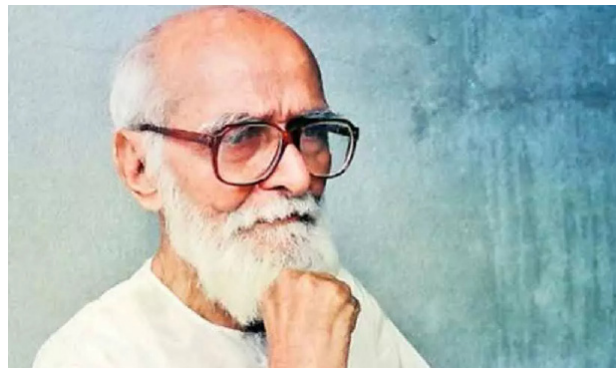


One of the great warriors, Babu Veer Kunwar Singh's name is etched in the annals of history for taking on the British forces during India's First War of Independence (1857) even at the age of 80. Known for his fierce opposition to injustice and love for freedom, Babu Kunwar Singh was a skilled warrior who not only showed indomitable courage against British rule but also worked religiously for the unity and integrity of the country. Born on 13th November 1777 in Jagdispur village of Bhojpur district of Bihar, Kunwar Singh took over the responsibility of his princely state after the death of his father. As a child, he was more interested in horse riding, fencing and wrestling. He was also skilled in the art of warfare and had mastery in guerilla warfare. It is believed that in the jungles of Jagdispur lived a saint named 'Basuriya Baba' from whom Kunwar Singh had learned the lessons of patriotism and independence. This is the reason why Kunwar Singh travelled to many places like Banaras, Mathura, Kanpur and Lucknow to chart out a strategy of rebellion against the British. The stories of his bravery have become the folklore of Bihar. In one such incident, a bullet hit one of his hands. It is said that he cut off that hand and threw it into the Ganges. Kunwar Singh was not only a great warrior but he was also involved in many social works during his lifetime. This great hero of the revolt of 1857 died on April 26, 1858.

KUNWAR SINGH WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN SEVERAL SOCIAL WORKS DURING HIS LIFETIME

Kaloji Narayana Rao: Who revolutionized India with his poems

Born: 9th September 1914, Died: 13th November 2002



Kaloji Narayana Rao was a freedom fighter, poet and a social activist who is also known as 'Kaloji' or 'Kalna'. Kaloji Narayana Rao is also known as 'Praja Kavi' (poet of the people). Born on 9th September 1914 in Rattihalli village in Karnataka, Rao not only led the mass movement against the Nizam but also actively participated in the Indian freedom struggle. He was also a great inspiration for the youth who joined the freedom struggle. Throughout his life, he struggled for the oppressed and marginalized sections of society. His

RAO WAS ASSOCIATED WITH MANY PUBLIC RIGHTS MOVEMENTS DURING HIS LIFETIME.

commitment towards society is reflected in all his works. He was associated with several movements on public rights and socio-economic issues in the Telangana region. He was also a member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council for two years. He also served as a member of Andhra Saraswati Parishad, Andhra Pradesh Literacy Academies and was President of the Telangana Writers' Association. He was also associated with Arya Samaj. He also translated Urdu poems of eminent poet Khalil Gibran and for this he was awarded the best translation award by the state government. Rao was also awarded an honorary doctorate by Kakatiya University. In 1992, the Government of India honored him with the Padma Vibhushan. Rao died on 13th November 2002. ■