



THE ARCHITECTS OF MODERN INDIA

The heroes of our freedom struggle dreamt of a free India where there is all-around and inclusive development. They envisaged for a homogeneous development across the country where no class or person is left behind. Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is one such festival that is aimed at remembering and honoring our freedom fighters. At the same time, we are moving ahead in the direction of a prosperous India and giving it further impetus to fulfill the dream of our freedom fighters.....

The Amrit Mahotsav of Independence gains special significance as it guides our path in shaping our dreams and secure values to build a new India. The 75th year of the country's independence signifies the beginning of the Amrit Kaal period which will take us to the hundred years of independence. The goal of AmritKaal is to build an India where there is every modern world-class infrastructure. It foresees to turn our ambitions into reality by providing affordable healthcare, housing, clean water, and energy besides improving agricultural productivity

and removing hurdles of the food processing industry. It further envisions a country where the welfare of soldiers and farmers is pivotal to our aspirations. During the freedom struggle, our forefathers had dreamed of the same. A lot of efforts have been made in the last seven years to achieve their unfulfilled dreams. As a result of astute policies now the farmers are becoming self-reliant while our soldiers guarding the frontiers are filled with high morale. In our Amrit Mahotsav section we once again further explore the lives of our inspiring freedom fighters...

LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN PRE AND POST-INDEPENDENT INDIA



Born: October 2, 1904
Death: January 11, 1966

Only four days had passed since the end of the Indo-Pak war. While addressing thousands of people at Ramlila Maidan in Delhi, Shastri said- "Sadar Ayub had said that he would reach Delhi walking. He is such a big man, I thought why should he be given the trouble of walking till Delhi instead we will meet him in Lahore."

Lal Bahadur Shastri was the true son of Maa Bharati who, despite becoming the second Prime Minister of the country remained simple and humble with a human-centric approach. Not only this, he served the nation with the dignity and impeccable integrity of a statesman without compromising on high moral values. An important aspect of Lal Bahadur Shastri's personality was his remarkable ability to communicate efficiently and effectively. His art of communication and ability to understand the point of view of the other person played a significant role in his success. He was always ready to give maximum consideration to the feelings of the other person. Not only this, Shastri ji had made a call for Green Revolution and White Revolution in the country in which he played a key role. As a result of which country was able to ensure food security and the production of milk in India increased tremendously.

He was born on October 2, 1904, in Mughalsarai, Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. His father Munshi Sharda Prasad Srivastava was a school teacher. His father died when Lal Bahadur Shastri was only one and a half years old. Lal Bahadur Shastri was only sixteen years old when Mahatma Gandhi called for joining the non-cooperation movement. He decided to give up his studies on the call of Mahatma Gandhi. In 1930, Mahatma Gandhi traveled to Dandi to break the salt law. This symbolic message brought a kind of revolution to the whole country. Lal Bahadur Shastri joined the freedom movement with a lot of vigor. He led several campaigns aimed at overthrowing British rule and spent a total of seven years in prison. He emerged as a mature leader while participating in the freedom struggle. He was highly respected among farmers, laborers and soldiers.

This incidence is from the Indo-Pak war of 1965. At that time America threatened India to stop the supply of wheat if India did not announce a ceasefire. At that time India was not self-sufficient in the production of wheat. Eventually, Lal Bahadur Shastri appealed to the countrymen to skip one meal a week. He himself followed it before making an appeal. The Indian masses followed on the appeal of its popular leader to forego one time meal. Shastri Ji, who always advocated for the welfare of farmers, soldiers, laborers, and villages raised the slogan 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan' which highlights the toil and hard work of our jawans and farmers. Later, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee added 'Jai Vigyan' to this slogan. On January 3, 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi further expanded its appeal adding 'Jai Anusandhan' to it. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembers Lal Bahadur Shastri as a humble and determined man who was the epitome of simplicity and lived for the welfare of the nation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "We are very grateful to him because of everything he has done for the country."

VEER CHANDRA SINGH GARHWALI REFUSED TO OPEN FIRE ON UNARMED PATHANS IN PESHAWAR



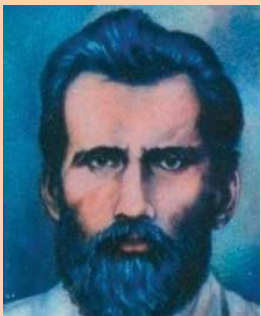
Born: December 25, 1891,
Death: October 1, 1979

The great hero of the Peshawar revolt, Garhwali showed great patriotism by ordering not to shoot at unarmed people and this incident proved to be a milestone in the Indian freedom struggle.

Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali is remembered in Indian history as a hero who refused to open fire on unarmed Pathans in Peshawar fighting for the freedom of the country. On April 23, 1930 Pathans under the leadership of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan took out a procession and organized a meeting in the Peshawar city (which is now in Pakistan) to protest against foreign clothes and goods. The British government wanted to crush this movement. For this, the British deployed battalions of the Garhwal Regiment, which was being led by Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali. The British government, stunned by the procession and enthusiasm of the agitating Pathans, ordered the Garhwal regiment to fire to teach a lesson to the agitators. However, Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali refused to do so saying that we do not fire at unarmed people. The Mahanayak of Peshawar revolt, Garhwali displayed great patriotism by ordering not to shoot at unarmed soldiers. This incident proved to be a milestone for the Indian freedom struggle, which laid a revolutionary foundation for the future. Knowing fully well that rebelling against the British meant severe punishment, which could include a death sentence but he stuck to his decision. After this incident, he became popular as the 'hero of the Peshawar revolt' all over the country. After the Peshawar Revolution, he gained popularity as the leading freedom fighter of the nation. It is believed that Mahatma Gandhi honored him by giving him the name 'Garhwali'. However, after this incident, he was dismissed from the army and given the death penalty. Later his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment and he was subsequently released from prison on December 26, 1941. He participated in the Quit India Movement in 1942 and again went to jail. He made a significant contribution to the freedom movement of the country and became an inspiration for many people in the freedom struggle. Even after independence, he continued to strive and work continuously for nation-building. In 1994, the Government of India issued a postage stamp in his honor.

UTKALMANI GOPABANDHU DAS WAS A 'DARIDRA SAKHA' WHO ALWAYS HELPED THE POOR

Born: October 9, 1877 | **Died:** June 17, 1928



A social worker, freedom fighter, journalist, and litterateur, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das's priority was to help the poor during times of floods and storms. He was an eminent social worker from Orissa who is also known as 'Utkal Mani'. His heart was always devoted to the service of the poor so much that he could not give proper attention to his family. It is said that even when his own son died, he was busy feeding the poor families of the flood victims. The people of Orissa know him as 'Daridra Sakha' i.e. 'Friend of the poor', and he is still remembered as 'The Merciful Rebel'. Whenever there is a discussion on nationalism

ANNIE BESANT WAS A BRITISH WOMAN WHO SUPPORTED THE INDIAN FREEDOM MOVEMENT



Born: October 1, 1847,
Died: September 20, 1933

In 1913 Annie Besant started active participation in Indian politics and joined the Indian National Congress. She became the President of the Congress in 1917 after which she started demanding India's independence.

Annie Besant, who considered India as her homeland, was a British social reformer, a campaigner for women's rights, and a strong advocate of India's nationalism and freedom. She was of Irish origin married to an Englishman and adopted India as her second home. She was born on October 1, 1847, in London. When Annie Besant was five years old, her father passed away. The motto of her life was karma. It was the influence of Annie Besant's personality that many social workers of India got the inspiration to serve the country.

Annie Besant began taking active participation in Indian politics from 1913 and joined the Indian National Congress. She also became the President of Congress in 1917 and vociferously continued to make a cause for India's independence. She worked tirelessly for the upliftment and education of women. She started Central Hindu College which became one of the first colleges of Banaras Hindu University. Annie Besant was awarded the 'Doctor of Letters' degree for her outstanding contribution in the field of promoting education in India. Today, the central government is constantly striving for the upliftment and education of women by following the path shown by luminaries like Annie Besant.

Home rule refers to a situation in which the government of a country is carried on by the permanent citizens of that country. This movement ended the desolation that was growing during the national movement in India and worked to connect the masses with the freedom movement. She founded the weekly newspaper 'Commonville' in 1914 and bought 'Madras Standard' and named it 'New India'. She was very open-minded who openly raised her voice against every form of evil and constantly tried to remove the social evils spread in India like the child marriage and caste system and advocated for widow re-marriage, etc. Annie Besant was the president of the Theosophical Society for life. She died at the age of 86. As per her wish, she was cremated at Ganga Ghat in Banaras and her ashes were immersed in the Ganges.

and freedom struggle in the state of Orissa, people take the name of Gopabandhu Das with great respect. He was the harbinger of national consciousness in Odisha. He always took an active part in the Indian freedom struggle and due to this, he had to go to jail many times. He was filled with a sense of patriotism from his childhood days. He was an ardent advocate of the promotion of education for every Indian. With this purpose, he founded a high school in 1909 where teaching was done on the lines of Santiniketan in an open environment. His poems were very heart-rendering which awakened the people to fight for the country during the freedom struggle. Gopabandhu Das brought out a newspaper called 'Samaj' in 1919. He was a man who was the epitome of simplicity and only took rice and pulses in meals. Referring to this incident, former President of India Pranab Mukherjee once said that when Gandhiji saw him during his visit to Orissa in 1921, he asked him whether such inadequate food would not affect him badly. The Gopabandhu replied that he was only interested in getting Swaraj. While praising Gopabandhu in his article 'My Orissa Tour' Gandhi ji wrote that if he could collect 100 Gopabandhus in India, he would be able to free India. ■

Gopabandhu Das started a weekly newspaper called 'Samaj' in 1919 which became a daily newspaper in 1930. Utkal Mani Gopabandhu Das was a man who was the epitome of simplicity.