

# MAHATMA GANDHI CALLED HIM THE 'NATIONAL POET'



**(BORN: 03 AUGUST 1886, DEATH: 12 DECEMBER 1964)**

Maithili Sharan Gupt ... the glittering star, is a revered figure in Hindi literature. His writing inspired the citizens to fight for freedom. Mahatma Gandhi honoured him with the title of national poet. A Tribute to great poet Maithili Sharan Gupt on his 136th birth anniversary

**C**hirgaon town of Jhansi district is no less than a pilgrimage place for crores of Hindi lovers today where Maithili Sharan Gupt was born who inspired the freedom movement with his dynamic writing. National poet Maithili Sharan Gupt was born here on 3 August 1886. He was the third child of Seth Ramcharan Kanakne and Kaushalya Bai. His father was a devotee of Rama and a lover of poetry. Maithili Sharan Gupt's studies remained incomplete due to more focus on sports in school. In such a situation, instead of school, he got the knowledge of Hindi, Sanskrit, English, and Bengali language through a private teacher at home. He had once said, "Why would I study. I am not born to read. People will read me." These things he said in childhood became true in the latter part of his life.

## THE JOURNEY FROM 'RASIKENDRA' TO MAITHILI SHARAN GUPT

It is about those days when Braj Bhasha

dominated literature, especially poetry. At that time, Pandit Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi, the leader of Khari Boli, was running a movement across the country regarding the Hindi language. Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi used to work in Jhansi Railway and from there he also used to take responsibility for editing Saraswati Patrika published by Nagripracharani Sabha. Saraswati used to be published from Allahabad (now Prayagraj), then it was an honor for any writer to get his literary work published in Saraswati. One day Maithili Sharan Gupt courageously went to meet Mahavir Prasad ji, where an interesting dialogue took place between the two. Gupt Ji said - My name is Maithili Sharan Gupt, I write poetry and I want you to publish my poems in Saraswati. On this Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi said - Many people want their writings to be published in Saraswati but not everyone gets a chance and then you write in Braj Bhasha. We print articles only in Khari Boli. On this Maithili Sharan said - If

I get assurance of publishing, I will write poetry in Khari language, I will send my compositions in the name of Rasikendra. He received the answer - If it is worthy of being published, then it will definitely be published. He was also told that the poem should be sent in his real name instead of any pen name. On being asked by Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi, for the first time, Maithili Sharan Gupt wrote a poem in Khari Boli titled Hemant, which Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi published in Saraswati after some modifications. After the publication of Hemant, his literary work was published in Saraswati regularly. Soon he became popular as Dadda because of his devoted service to the cause of Hindi.

### DADDA'S DEVOTED SERVICE TO THE HINDI LANGUAGE

Between 1905 and 1925, the poems of Maithili Sharan Gupt continued to be published in Saraswati. From his first poem, Hemant to Jayadratha, Bharat Bharati, and Saket, all the works were published in Saraswati before being published in the form of a book. About his attachment to Mahavir Prasad and Saraswati Patrika, Gupt wrote in the foreword to Saket - How did Tulsidas also do Manas-Naad? If he does not get Mahavir's prasad. Although all the compositions of Maithili Sharan Gupt are timeless, the poem Rang Mein Bhang, which came in 1910, is full of energy and enthusiasm. In 1921, Mahavir Prasad Dwivedi resigned from the editor post while Maithili Sharan Gupt started writing openly against the British empire.

### Hearing the name of today's Chittor, some magic sparkles in mind.

Jayadratha-Vadh came after Rang Mein Bhang. He expressed his anguish about the partition of Bengal in 1905 through Jayadratha-Vadh.

**First of all, say 'Jai Janki Jeevan' everywhere. Then let the teachings of the modesty of the ancestors flow in waves. Grief, sorrow, whenever it comes, bear it all patiently. Why will there not be success? Be firm on the path of duty.**

**Losing the right and quietly accepting it is a great misdeed. Punishing your brother for the misdeed is also Dharma**

Maithili Sharan Gupt was at the peak of popularity after Jayadratha-Vadh, but in 1914, Bharat Bharati secured him a place among the top poets of the country. The popularity of Bharat Bharti was such that all the copies were sold instantly and within 2 months the second edition

had to be published. Bharat Bharati was sung in national movements, educational institutions, and morning prayers. Even illiterate people from villages had memorized it after hearing it. After Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement, when the Jhanda Satyagraha took place in Nagpur, all the Satyagrahis would perform Satyagraha in the procession singing Bharat Bharati songs. The British government banned Bharat Bharati and confiscated all copies. Bharat Bharati is still a historical document of cultural renaissance in the literary world.

मानस भवन में आर्यजन जिसकी उतारें आरतीं। भगवान्! भारतवर्ष में गुंजे हमारी भारती।।

हो भद्रभावोद्भाविनी वह भारती हे भवगते। सीतापते! सीतापते!! गीतामते! गीतामते!!

In 1914, Shakuntala and two years later, a collection of poems named Kisan was published. The depiction of the plight of Indian farmers has been realistically portrayed in it. In 1933 he wrote legendary and historical poetry collections like Dwapar and Siddharaj.

So far, he had written about 10 thousand lines of stories, novels, poems, essays, autobiographical excerpts, and epics. In the meantime, he completed 50 years. Literature lovers across the country celebrated the 50th birthday of Maithili Sharan Gupt with pomp and grandeur from Banaras to Chirgaon. On this occasion, the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi honored Maithili Sharan Gupt with the title of National Poet. Since then Maithili Sharan Gupt has been recognized as a national poet. He was given the most recognized Hindi award for Saket by Hindi Sahitya Sammelan in 1937. In 1954 he was given Padma Bhushan. Speaking about the opportunities available during the Corona period, during his speech in the Rajya Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, referring to Maithili Sharan Gupt said - "When I am discussing opportunities, then I want to recite the poem of Maithili Sharan Gupt. Gupt Ji had said- Opportunity stands for you, yet you are silent. Your field of action is big, moment by moment it is priceless, oh India, wake up, open your eyes. This is written by Maithili Sharan Gupt. But I was wondering in this period, if he had to write at the beginning of the 21st century, what would he have written - I imagine that he would write - the opportunity stands for you, you are full of confidence. Break every obstacle, every restriction, Oh India, run on the path of self-reliance. ■