



FREEDOM FIGHTERS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR EVERYTHING FOR THE NATION

It is our responsibility to infuse the spirit of patriotism in the young generation of the country and make the children, adolescents, and youth abreast with our customs and rites.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has carried forward this responsibility through Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It is one of the most ambitious schemes of the government which will continue till August 15, 2023. On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav let's take resolve to work with determination to make our country prosperous and strong....

The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a proud movement for every citizen of the country. In 75 years of independence, our country has not only deepened the roots of democracy but has excelled in every development parameter. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resolved to celebrate the Amrit Mahotsav in a grand way and has called for celebrating the 25-year period up to the centenary of independence as Amrit Kaal. The next 25 years are a period of steadfast resolve which will guide our way to rapid development. The historic date of 22 August is also coinciding with this edition of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. On this day Mahatma Gandhi made a clarion call for Swadeshi by burning foreign clothes in 1921 to protest against the British. In this series of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, read the stories of freedom fighters Madam Bhikaiji Cama, Sundara Sastri Satyamurti, K Kelappan, and Jhaverchand Kalidas Meghani, who left an indelible mark on India's freedom struggle...

BHIKAIJI CAMA: SHE UNFURLED THE INDIAN FLAG FOR THE FIRST TIME ON FOREIGN SOIL



BORN: 24 SEPTEMBER 1861.

DIED: 13 AUGUST 1936

WHEN CAMA SAW THE BRITISH FLAG AT SOCIALIST CONGRESS THEN SHE REMOVED IT TO HOIST INDIA'S NEW FLAG. THIS DAY WAS AUGUST 22

Four decades before India's independence, in the year 1907, the Indian flag was hoisted on foreign soil for the first time by a woman. She was none other than Madam Bhikaiji Rustam Cama who had hoisted the flag at International Socialist Congress, Stuttgart, Germany. It was one of the many unofficial flags created during the freedom struggle, different from today's flag of India.

Popularly known as Madam Cama, Bhikaiji was born on 24 September 1861 in a Parsi family in Mumbai. She played a pivotal role in saving lives during the famine in Mumbai Presidency in 1896 and the plague that followed afterward. She also got infected with the plague. She went to London for treatment, where she met nationalists Shyamji Krishna Varma and Dadabhai Naoroji during her stay.

She was deeply influenced by them and started participating in the Indian independence struggle. She helped in establishing the Indian Home Rule Society in London in 1905. Later, she moved to Paris and helped establish the Paris Indian Society. Joining hands with the Indian diaspora fighting for independence during her stay abroad, she wrote and distributed literature for the freedom movement. Madam Cama, who played an active role in India's independence participated in the Second Socialist Congress held in Stuttgart, Germany. In this conference on 22 August 1907, she not only raised the questions of human rights and equality but also appealed for India's independence from British rule. When Cama saw the British flag there, she removed it and hoisted the new Indian flag in the assembly, which she called the flag of Indian independence. Later this flag was brought to India and kept in the Maratha and Kesari Library in Pune. The current flag, a symbol of Indian self-respect, was built on the basis of the flag designed by Madam Cama. On 26 January 1962, the Department of Posts and Telegraph issued a postage stamp in her honor. Madam Cama's life is an example of perseverance, commitment, and patriotism. Inaugurating the Jal Bhushan Bhawan and the Revolutionaries' Gallery at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembered the contributions of Madam Bhikaiji Cama and said, "Madam Bhikhaji Cama had sacrificed her affluent life and lit the flame of freedom. The source of inspiration for our present-day tricolor was the flag designed by freedom fighters like Madam Cama and Shyamji Krishna Varma. Irrespective of the social, familial, and ideological roles, irrespective of the location of the movement in the country or abroad, the goal was one - complete independence for India. At the age of 74, Madam Cama breathed her last on 13 August 1936 at the Parsi General Hospital.

SUNDARA SASTRI SATYAMURTI : A FREEDOM FIGHTER AND SOCIAL REFORMER



BORN: 19 AUGUST 1887,

DEATH: 28 MARCH 1943

HE VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED THE PARTITION OF BENGAL, THE ROWLATT ACT, THE JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE, AND THE SIMON COMMISSION.

India's famous revolutionary leader S Satyamurti played an active role in Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movement. He was also a great orator, educationist and connoisseur of art. He made a significant contribution to the field of education and social welfare. A lawyer by profession, Sundara Sastri Satyamurti was influenced by the national movement at a very young age. The desire to liberate the country inspired him to take the path of revolution. He was a resident of Thirumayam in the present-day state of Pudukkottai in Tamil Nadu. He was born on 19 August 1887. He fought tooth and nail against the British empire. He vehemently opposed the partition of Bengal, the Rowlatt Act, the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and the Simon Commission. He also played a key role in Vaikom Satyagraha, Salt Satyagraha, and Guruvayur Temple Movement. He also participated in the Swadeshi movement. In 1919, Congress elected him as its representative to oppose the Rowlatt Act and the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms in Britain. In 1930 he was arrested for trying to unfurl the tricolor on a temple in Madras. Satyamurthy played an important role in the victory of the Congress in the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1937. When he became the mayor of Madras in 1939, the city was facing a water crisis. As a mayor, he thought of getting a reservoir constructed to overcome the problem of water. Visionary politician Satyamurthy got the reservoir built at Poondi, about 50 km west of the city, to augment the water supply.

Even in present times, this reservoir acts as an important water source for Chennai city. He was arrested and tortured by the British after the Quit India Movement started in 1942. He was tried and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment and sent to Amaravati Jail. He died on 28 March 1943 at the General Hospital in Madras. Satyamurti is also considered the mentor of another freedom fighter K Kamaraj who later became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. He was also proficient in folk art. He was particularly well versed in Carnatic folk art. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Academy of Music in Madras. He was a mass leader who always worked for the interest of the common people.



K KELAPPAN: FREEDOM FIGHTER POPULAR AS THE KERALA GANDHI

BORN: 24 AUGUST 1889, DIED: 07 OCTOBER 1971

One of the prominent reformist leader and freedom fighter of Kerala, K Kelappan, left an indelible mark. Born on 24 August 1889 in a small village in Calicut, Kelappan not only fought against British imperialism but also undertook a campaign for social reforms. Renowned freedom fighter, social reformer, educationist, and journalist K Kelappan is well known as the Gandhi of Kerala because of his demeanor and non-confrontational approach. He popularised the Gandhian ideals in

Kerala. After he took the decision to become a part of the non-cooperation movement led by Mahatma Gandhi there was no looking back in his pursuit of freedom for the nation.

Kelappan led the Payyanur and Calicut Salt Satyagrahas and was elected as the first Satyagrahi of Kerala in the Individual Satyagraha movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi. In 1932, the Vaikom Satyagraha and the Guruvayur Satyagraha brought Kelappan to the fore in the freedom struggle. In

JHAVERCHAND KALIDAS MEGHANI: MAHATMA GANDHI CALLED HIM 'RASHTRIYA SHAYAR'



BORN: 28 AUGUST 1896,

DEATH: 9 MARCH 1947

IN 1930, MEGHANI RELEASED A COLLECTION OF 15 PATRIOTIC SONGS IN WHICH HE PRAISED SALT AND DHOLERA SATYAGRAHA

Born in the town of Chotila, Jhaverchand Kalidas Meghani called himself 'Pahad Nu Balak'. He was an eminent litterateur who was called 'Rashtriya Shayar' by Mahatma Gandhi. He was born on 28 August 1896 in Chotila town of Saurashtra. From a young age, he showed a keen interest in literature. He completed a degree in both Sanskrit and English literature. The famous folk poet Jhaverchand used to sing Gujarati folk songs to make people aware of the suppression of the British Raj.

At the same time, he was also working to conserve the folklore traditions of the country. In 1930, Meghani released a collection of 15 patriotic songs in which he praised Salt and Dholera Satyagraha. The British government banned the book and confiscated all its copies. But because of the revolutionary spirit of the people, his voice could not be suppressed and copies of the book were distributed secretly. The British sent a summon to him to appear in the special court on 28 April 1930 by making false allegations against him. After this, he was sent to Sabarmati Jail for two years of imprisonment. But he was released within a year after the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. On the eve of leaving for England for the Second Round Table Conference, Mahatma Gandhi felt that the British were unwilling to accede to his demand for complete independence. In response, Meghani wrote a poem called 'Chello Katoro' which meant the last cup of poison. Reading this, Mahatma Gandhi immediately said, "Meghani seems to have entered my soul and completely controlled my mind through this poem." That's when he gave Meghani the title of 'Rashtriya Shayar'.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel also praised him and said "Meghani's voice was full of courage." One of his famous songs 'Mor bani thangat kare'... i.e. my mind dances like a peacock, was used in the 2013 Hindi film 'Goliyon Ki Rasleela, Ramleela'. Meghani has also authored more than 100 books. His first book was published under the title 'Kurbani Ni Kathao' which was a translation of Rabindranath Tagore's 'Katha O Kahini'. This book was first published in 1922. He was also the editor of the 'Phulchhab' newspaper of the Janmabhoomi group, which is being published from Rajkot to date. Revolutionary poet Jhaverchand Meghani continued to participate in the freedom struggle but he was also troubled by the growing communal disharmony in the country. Perhaps due to this grief, he suffered a heart attack, and on 9 March 1947, he left for the heavenly abode. On 14 September 1999, the Department of Posts issued a stamp in his honor.

1942, he was imprisoned for participating in the Quit India Movement. Apart from his role in the freedom struggle of India, he also made efforts for the upliftment of the downtrodden sections of society. He worked hard to eradicate untouchability and worked for the upliftment of Harijans. He also established several Harijan hostels and schools in Kerala. He was at the forefront of the Swadeshi movement and worked tirelessly to develop Khadi and Village Industries. Apart from his selfless commitment to India's independence, one of the major achievements of K Kelappan is the Guruvayur plebiscite. The plebiscite opened the doors of many private temples owned by upper caste and upper caste groups to the public at large, irrespective of their caste or class.

As a founding member and president of the Nair

Service Society, Kelappan's reformist outlook is praised in present times also. After independence, he played a major role in the formation of the state of Kerala by unifying the three princely states of Malayalam-speaking people. He was elected to the Parliament in 1952. At the end of his tenure, he left active politics and became a Sarvodaya activist. He became actively involved in the Bhoodan movement in Kerala. He was also the president of almost all Gandhian organizations in Kerala. He is remembered as a selfless man who never sought power or position, and upheld Gandhiji's ideals, and lived the life of a 'Sewak'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi remembered Kelappan who is affectionately called 'Kerala Gandhi' at the inauguration of the centenary year celebrations of Mathrubhumi newspaper. K Kelappan died on 07 October 1971. ■