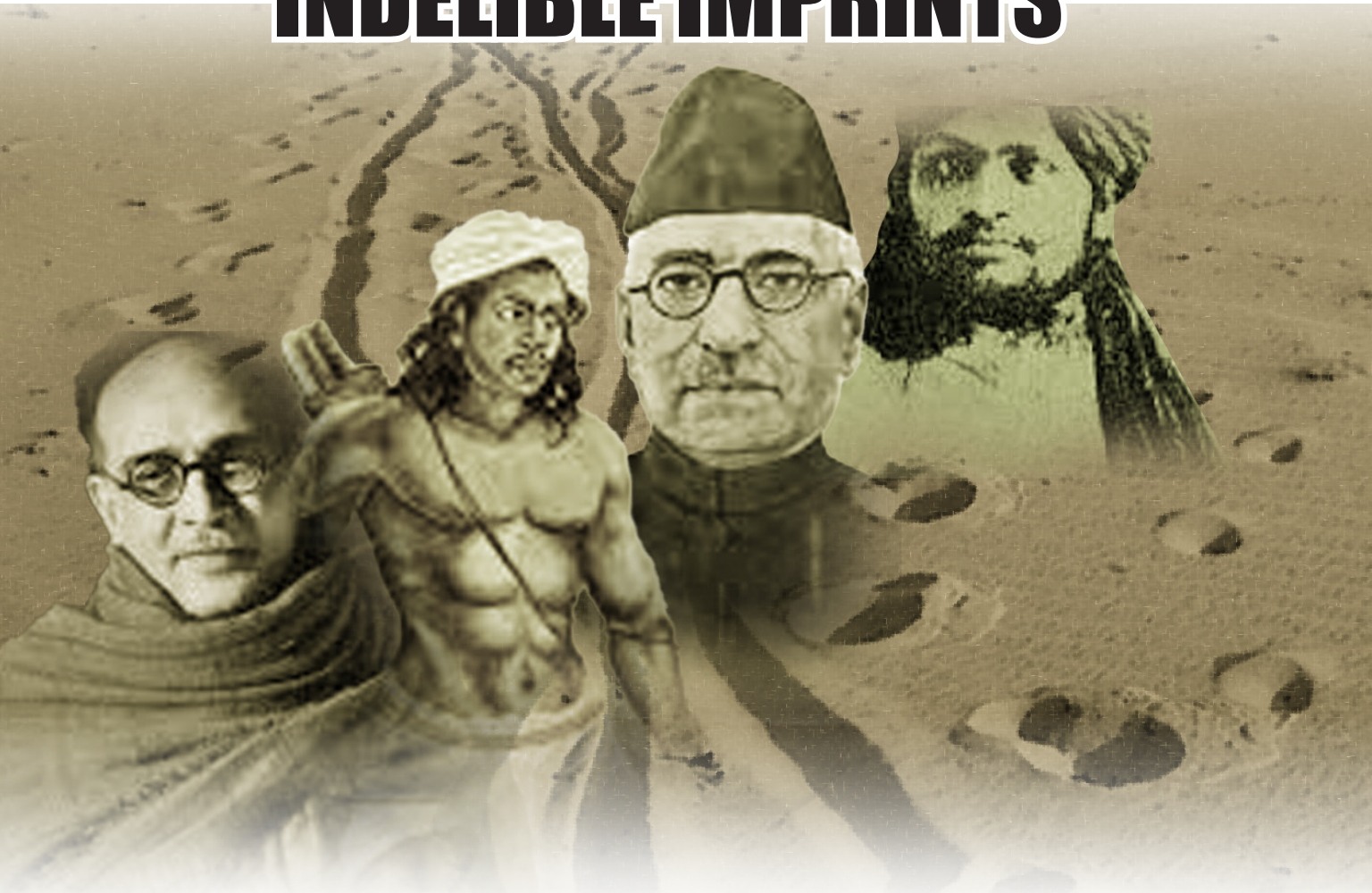


THE EXEMPLARY ROLE MODELS HEROES WHO LEFT INDELIBLE IMPRINTS



India's freedom struggle is one of the greatest struggles of the modern world. People from every section and community participated in this struggle and contributed in their own way. It is the result of their struggles that India could become independent on 15 August 1947. On the occasion of India's entry into the 75th year of independence, the country is celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence. Today, the nation is remembering the martyrs who took part in the freedom struggle to free the country from the bondage of slavery. In this episode of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, we are sketching the life and works of Mahadev Bhai Desai, Tilka Manjhi, Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, and Vishnu Damodar Chitale. They not only fought the British but also left behind an idea, a legacy that is still cherished and emulated by the countrymen.

MAHADEV BHAI DESAI PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE AS A CONFIDANT OF MAHATMA GANDHI

BORN: January 1, 1892: DIED -August 15, 1942

Mahadev Bhai Desai was the personal secretary of Mahatma Gandhi. There was a difference of about 24 years in age between them. Despite the age difference, the relationship between the two was very smooth and sweet. This is the reason why people call Mahadev Desai the shadow of Mahatma Gandhi. Not only this, some consider him to be Gandhi's right hand who took care of all his needs. He is believed to have been Mahatma Gandhi's typist, translator, counsellor, courier, interpreter, troubleshooter, and much more. He was even a cook and Gandhi especially admired the khichdi prepared by him. It was because of his affection for Desai that Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba considered him as their son. Mahatma Gandhi, in his very first meeting with Desai in 1917, recognized the hidden qualities in him and urged him to work with him. Their association continued till 15 August 1942, till Desai's last breath.

Mahatma Gandhi gave the slogan 'Do or Die' in



AFTER COMPLETING HIS GRADUATION, HE STUDIED LAW AND ALSO JOINED THE PROFESSION OF ADVOCACY.

his historic speech in Mumbai on August 8, 1942. The next morning, the British arrested Mahatma Gandhi, Mahadev Desai, and others and locked them in the Aga Khan Palace in Pune. Mahadev Desai died of a heart attack on August 15 in this jail.

Gandhi aptly quoted that Mahadev in his life span of fifty years had done the work of one hundred years. According to the wishes of Mahatma Gandhi, his tomb was built in the palace of Aga Khan. When Kasturba Gandhi died after a year, her samadhi was also built near Mahadev Desai's samadhi. Born on January 1, 1892, in a village in Surat, Mahadev Desai translated Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography 'My Experiments with Truth' into English. He kept on writing a diary for a long time and this diary gives a detailed account of Mahatma Gandhi's lifestyle, his activities, etc. This diary is still an important document to understand the character, thoughts, and philosophy of Gandhi.

TILKA MANJHI: HIS FRENZY FOR FREEDOM SHOOK THE BRITISH RULE

Born: 11 February 1750, Martyr's Day: 13 January 1785

The year 1784 is considered the first armed rebellion against the British. On January 13, 1784, a young man shot and fatally wounded Augustus Cleveland, an East India Company administrator, with his poisoned arrow. The young man was Tilka Manjhi, who was fighting the Britishers at a time when there was no talk of any rebellion against them. After this incident, the British surrounded the Tilapore forest from which he operated but he and



ACTUALLY 'TILKA' IN THE PAHARIYA LANGUAGE MEANS ANGRY AND RED-EYED PERSON.

his men held them at bay for several weeks. When he was finally caught in, he was tied to the tail of a horse and dragged to the Collector's residence at Bhagalpur, Bihar, India. There, his lacerated body was hung from a Banyan tree on 13 January 1785.

Later the freedom fighters followed Tilka Manjhi and sang the songs 'Hansi, Hansi, Chad Go Phansi'. Tilka Manjhi was a brave soldier of the Paharia community. Born on 11 February 1750 in a Santhal family in Tilakpur village of Sultanganj in Bhagalpur, Bihar, the real name of Tilka Manjhi is said to be Jabra Paharia. The story of his getting the name Tilka is no less interesting.

Tilka Manjhi, who took a front against the British for about 13 years from 1771 to 1784, also fought the local moneylenders and feudatories. Tilka Manjhi also led the famous Santhal rebellion by the Santhals. Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University in Bhagalpur is named after him. The famous Bengali writer Mahasweta Devi has composed a novel 'Shalgirar Dake' in Bengali on the life and rebellion of Tilka Manjhi, which has been published in Hindi as 'Shalgirah ki Pukar Par'. The importance of tribal freedom fighters involved in the Indian freedom struggle is known from the fact that to pay tribute to them, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has started Tribal Pride Day on 15 November.

DR. SAIFUDDIN KITCHLEW : THE FREEDOM FIGHTER AND HERO OF JALLIANWALA BAGH

Born: 15 January 1888, Died: 9 October 1963

Who would not have heard the name of Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar? This is the same place where hundreds of people were gunned down on the orders of British officer General Dyer. The attack is believed to have killed 1,000 people and injured many more. The crowd that had gathered at Jallianwala Bagh that day was not for anyone but other issues but to protest the arrest of popular leader Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew by the British.

When the British government passed the Rowlatt Act in 1919, Dr. Kitchlew, a lawyer by profession and a supporter of Hindu-Muslim unity, raised a strong voice against this Act. Actually, through this law, the government could arrest any person without a warrant. There was a protest against this law across the country. To protest it, Kitchlew urged the people to take part in the strike and non-violent satyagraha against the British government. It was because of Kitchlew's appeal that about 30,000 people attended his public meeting on 30 March 1919, where he delivered a powerful speech. After this, Dr. Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal led an anti-government procession in Amritsar on 9 April 1919. Following this, both these leaders were arrested and placed under house arrest in Dharamsala. Born on January 15, 1888, in Amritsar, Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew graduated from Cambridge University and obtained a Ph.D. from German University. Kitchlew took an active part in the Indian freedom struggle and participated in the non-cooperation movement led by Mahatma Gandhi. Besides, he also played an important role in the Khilafat movement. He was one of the founders of Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi. He also played a guiding role behind the Naujawan Bharat Sabha, founded by Bhagat Singh. Post-Independence, he continued working for the restoration of peace and redefining Soviet-India relations. He became the first Indian to be awarded the Lenin Peace Prize in 1952.



DR SAIFUDDIN KITCHLEW, A FRONTLINE FREEDOM FIGHTER, AN ADVOCATE OF HINDU-MUSLIM UNITY IS REMEMBERED AS THE FACE OF THE PROTESTS AGAINST THE ROWLATT ACT THAT THE BRITISH PASSED IN 1919

FREEDOM FIGHTER VISHNU DAMODAR CHITALE : PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN NATION BUILDING

Born : January 4, 1906 Died - 1961

A man of firm commitment and intent since childhood, Vishnu Damodar Chitale is also known as Bhai Chitale . He was born on January 4, 1906, in Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Despite being a famous communist, he was a nationalist who actively participated in the Indian freedom struggle.

Along with the freedom struggle, he continued to work for the benefit of farmers and laborers and also participated in the Salt Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi.

Chitale was such a fearless person that despite being influenced by Marxist literature and being a member of the Communist Party, he never blindly followed the policy of the party. When he saw the policy of the Communist Party

as contrary to the national interests of India, he openly opposed it.

It is said that when the Communists opposed the Quit India Movement of 1942, Bhai Chitale supported it. Due to this, his party had shown him the door, but he was again taken back in the party in 1951. At the time of China's invasion of India, ideologically he again had differences with the communists and supported India's side. Not only this, along with participating in the freedom struggle of India, he was also active in the Goa Liberation Movement. At that time, he had reached the border of Goa with 1000 people, ignoring the bullets of the Portuguese. ■



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AJADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV: Echoes across the country

- Rajiv Chandrashekhar, Minister of State for Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Electronics & Information Technology, launched the week long program 'Azadi Ka Digital Festival' on 29 November 2021. Each day was dedicated to a goal of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi felicitated Anant Gopal Khasbardar during the Digital Festival of Independence for Swachh Bharat logo on December 4, 2021. She lauded Yasin Haroon Sudesara for '100 Crore Vaccination Logo', Prashant Mishra for 'Lokpal', Sai Ram Gaur Ediji for 'Bamboo Mission Logo' and Rana Bhowmik for 'Digital India' logo.
- MyGov 'Saathis' (colleagues) who have actively contributed to MyGov during the COVID-19 pandemic were also felicitated by Minister of State for Culture Meenakshi Lekhi.
- The Government of India organized Mahaparinirvana Divas on 6th December, 2021 as part of the major celebrations of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- As part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' - to celebrate 75 years of Independence, REC Limited, a Public Infrastructure Finance Company under the Ministry of Power, organised 'Electricity Utsav' in Sonapur village and adjoining villages in Kamrup district of Assam.
- BRO Motorcycle Campaign India@75 is celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence by traveling to all four corners of India, spreading the message of National Integration, Nation Building and Road Safety Awareness.
- As part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the tribal communities of Andaman and Nicobar Islands celebrated the glorious history of tribal people, culture and achievements with great enthusiasm during the prestigious week of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- 86 tribal entrepreneurs from southern states were honored in the week function of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the Amrit Mahotsav of Azadi.
- Under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the Center sensitized women about nutrition and fortified rice in Varanasi.
- As a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Panchayati Raj in collaboration with Ministry of Tribal Affairs and National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj organized a one day National Conference at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.