

# PATRIOTS WHO LAID FOUNDATION OF FREEDOM WITH THEIR SACRIFICE AND PENANCE

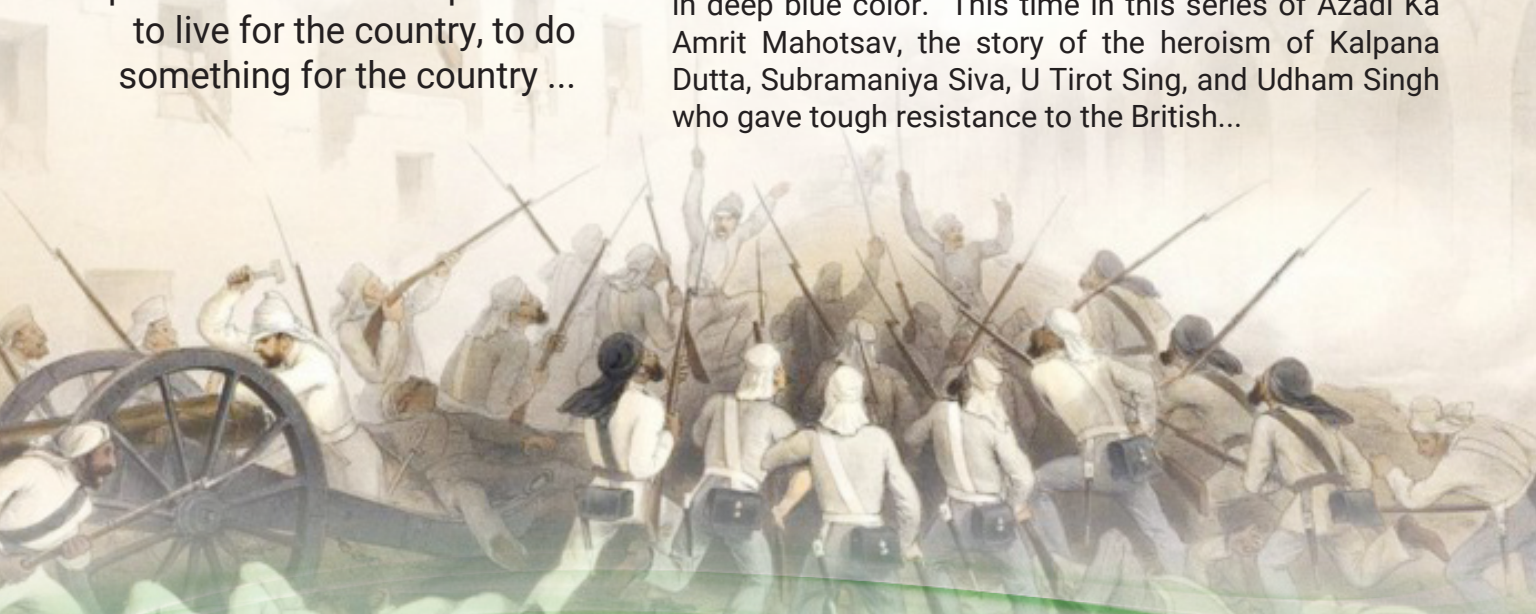
In India's quest for freedom, many heroic warriors, kings, and maharajas fought for the glory of the country. Every region, every class, and every society participated with equal zeal and enthusiasm.

Many of them even made supreme sacrifices for the defense of the country. They led the campaign against the British for years and gained independence for the country. Many of these freedom fighters continued to work for the nation after the independence.

For them the mantra of Janani Janmabhumi, Swargadapi Gariyasi was paramount which inspires us to live for the country, to do something for the country ...

The period of Amrit Kaal encompasses the journey from Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to the centenary year of India's independence. It is the period of Sankalp Siddhi which demonstrate the strong expression of the spirit of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas'. Calling the period from Amrit Mahotsav to the centenary year of India's independence as Amrit Kaal and Sankalp Siddhi Kaal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proved that he only aims for the greatness of India by creating a progressive and developed nation in a period of 25 years. It is a matter of pride for the country that the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav has become a mass movement involving the enthusiastic participation of every section of society. Several events are being celebrated as part of the Amrit Mahotsav festival. During this period of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a momentous occasion to commemorate the adoption of the national flag is coming on July 22.

It was on this day that Constituent Assembly adopted the tricolor as the national flag of the country. The tricolor was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 22 July 1947 as the National Flag of Independent India. On 15 August 1947, it became the official flag of India. Indian flag - tricolor i.e. saffron, white and green; with Ashoka Chakra, which is a wheel with 24 spindles; in the middle in deep blue color. This time in this series of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the story of the heroism of Kalpana Dutta, Subramaniya Siva, U Tirot Sing, and Udham Singh who gave tough resistance to the British...



# KALPANA DUTTA: A REVOLUTIONARY WOMAN IN THE GUISE OF A BOY WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE BRITISH

**Born: July 27, 1913, Died: February 8, 1995**

The contribution of Kalpana Dutta, who fought side by side with the revolutionaries of Bengal to liberate the country from the British, can never be forgotten. She used to supply ammunition to the revolutionaries in disguise. She was also trained to use guns and knew how to make cartridges. Not only that, she used to go from one place to another in the guise of a boy to meet revolutionaries. Kalpana Dutta was born on 27 July 1913 in the village of Sreepur in Chittagong, East Bengal (now Bangladesh).

She was fond of listening to adventurous stories since childhood. While studying in high school, she had read many biographies and stories of revolutionaries. These stories had a tremendous effect on her psyche. While studying in college in Kolkata, Kalpana met revolutionary women like Bina Das and Pritilata Waddedar. Meanwhile, she also met Surya Sen, popularly known as 'Master Da', and she joined his organization, the Indian Republican Army. In this way, she became part of the campaign against the British. Her party led by Surya Sen looted the Chittagong Armory in 1930 after which Kalpana Dutta also came to the notice of the British. Under these circumstances, she has to give up her studies but she remained in touch with Surya Sen. Meanwhile, on 19 September 1931, Surya Sen, along with Pritilata Waddedar, assigned her the task of attacking a European club in Chittagong. Kalpana Dutta was captured by the British while monitoring the area before the attack. However, she was released on bail after the charges were not proved.

After this, she went underground for two years together with Surya Sen and continued her



## **WAS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT IN THE CHITTAGONG ARMORY ROBBERY CASE.**

movement. On 16 February 1933, the police raided a place where she was hiding with Surya Sen. Surya Sen was caught in this raid but it is said that Kalpana managed to escape from there by firing on the British. Following this, the police pursued Kalpana Dutta and she was finally arrested on 19 May 1933. The trial of the Chittagong Armory robbery case was resumed once again. Meanwhile, Surya Sen was sentenced to death and Kalpana Dutta was sentenced to life imprisonment. However, after the efforts of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, Kalpana Dutta was released from jail in 1939. After her release from prison, she completed her studies and graduated from Calcutta University in 1940. In 1979, she was given the title of Veer Mahila. She wrote her autobiography in Bengali, translated into English as "Chittagong Armory Raiders: Reminiscence". Kalpana Dutt, who fought the British with fearlessness and courage, passed away on February 8, 1995.

## UDHAM SINGH AVENGED JALLIANWALLA BAGH MASSACRE AFTER 20 YEARS IN LONDON

**Born: 26 December 1899, Died: 31 July 1940**

Shaheed Udham Singh was a fearless son of the Maa Bharati who avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by killing Michael O'Dwyer whom he blamed for the killing of unarmed Indians. Born on December 26, 1899, in the Sangrur district of Punjab, Udham Singh's original name was 'Sher Singh'. It is said that in the year 1933, he gave his name as 'Udham Singh' to make a passport. Growing up in the early decades of the 20th century, he was deeply influenced by political events in Punjab such as the Komagata Maru incident of 1914 and the activities of the Ghadar Party. Udham Singh was 20 years old when the Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place.

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre became a turning point in his life and he resolved to avenge it. This brutal massacre filled Udham Singh's mind with anger against the British government and he left his studies in the middle and joined the freedom struggle. Udham Singh made it his life's mission to teach a lesson to General Dyer and Punjab Governor Michael O'Dwyer. When General Dyer died of brain hemorrhage in July 1927, Michael O'Dwyer became his target. Meanwhile, Udham Singh, impressed by Bhagat Singh's activities, joined the Ghadar Party in 1924. At the same time, for the next few years, he traveled abroad and continued to organize Indian revolutionaries abroad to overthrow colonial rule. Meanwhile, Udham Singh continued to plan the



assassination of Michael O'Dwyer. Udham Singh stayed in London for 6 years to kill him. Twenty years after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Udham Singh fulfilled his promise by shooting Michael O'Dwyer at a meeting in London on March 14, 1940. Udham Singh had hidden a revolver in a book that he used to shoot him. After shooting Dwyer, Udham Singh did not try to flee and was arrested. Dwyer's assassination shocked the British authorities. It is said that when he was sentenced to death during the trial, he closed his fist in the air and started shouting slogans of Inquilab-Zindabad. Shortly afterward, he was taken to Pentonville Prison in north London, where he was hanged on 31 July 1940. Remembering him on July 31, 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "The courage of Shaheed Udham Singh is in the memory of every Indian. I salute this heroic son of Mother India on his martyrdom day."

## SUBRAMANIYA SIVA WAS THE FIRST PERSON FROM MADRAS TO GO TO JAIL FOR INDEPENDENCE

**Born: October 4, 1884, Died: July 23, 1925**

**S**ubramaniya Siva, one of the greatest nationalists of the Tilak era, was the first person from Madras to be imprisoned for treason during the British Raj. Born on October 4, 1884, in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, Subramaniya Siva led the movement against the British in South India. He had even quit his government job to fight for India's independence. Subramaniya Siva, also known as Subramanya Shivam, was an excellent orator. Subramaniya Siva, a contemporary of VO Chidambaram and

Subramania Bharati, was greatly influenced by the doctrine of Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

To further fuel the cause of his movement he founded the Dharma Paripalana Samaj. At the same time, he inspired many youths to participate in the freedom movement. The British were troubled by the activism of Subramaniya Siva. The British finally arrested him in 1908 and sentenced him to 6 years in prison. In prison he was treated harshly and inhumanely but remained steadfast. Subramaniya Siva was not one of those to be pushed to the wall

# THE WARRIOR WHO SHOOK THE MIGHTY BRITISH WITH SWORD AND BOW-ARROWS

**Born: 1802, Died: 17 July 1835**

The Indian freedom struggle gave birth to many warriors who dedicated their lives to liberating India from British rule. One such warrior was Raja U Tirot Sing of the Khasi tribe of the western Khasi Hills of Meghalaya who fought with the British for 10 years. Even before India's first freedom struggle, Tirot Sing had led a rebellion against the British rulers at a very young age. He was the forerunner of India's freedom struggle. Tirot Sing's sacrifice for the nation inspired a whole generation of freedom fighters not only in Meghalaya and the Northeast but across the country.

British wanted to build a road to Assam via Meghalaya to connect Dhaka with the plains. Tirot Sing did not want this plan of the British officer David Scott to succeed. The confrontation between the two sides escalated and Tirot Sing's army attacked the British on 2 April 1829. In the battle against the British, Tirot Sing displayed exemplary bravery and excellent fighting skills. In the Anglo-Khasi War (1829-33), Tirot Sing and his loyal followers used guerrilla tactics to escape the colonial forces. In this battle, U Tirot Sing had opposed the British modern weapons with traditional weapons.

In fact, they had only traditional war weapons like arrows, spears, swords, etc. which were not effective



against the British gun and war strategy. Despite this, the fighters of the Khasi community under the leadership of Tirot Sing took the British head-on. In the absence of modern weapons, Tirot Sing's army was eventually defeated and he was arrested. He was imprisoned in Dhaka Jail and died in the same jail on July 17, 1835. It is said that the British had killed Tirot Sing by giving him poison. Tirot Sing, who kept the flame of the freedom struggle alive, also worked tirelessly for the unification of the North East. The Khasi tribe and the people of Meghalaya still remember the sacrifice of their famous revolutionary Tirot Sing with gratitude and great pride. A public holiday is observed on his death anniversary every year in Meghalaya.

even in jail. He continued his freedom struggle from jail through the monthly magazine Gyanbhanu. Unfortunately, Subramaniya Siva contracted leprosy in jail due to which he had to reduce his travels and speeches after his release. However, because of his patriotism, people continued to be attracted to him, and because of his speeches, he was imprisoned many more times. Not only that, but Siva also gave his support to the labor movements in the then Calcutta, Madras, Tuticorin, and Tirunelveli.

Subramaniya Siva was also an eminent writer, and he is known for his books including Ramanuja Vijayam and Madhva Vijayam. He spent his last

few years in Pappalapatti, where he, along with his friends, helped Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das lay the foundation stone of a temple for Bharat Mata. But unfortunately, he could not give much time to this noble cause. He died on 23 July 1925 due to increasing leprosy and weakness. On August 1, 2021, a new library building was announced in honor of freedom fighter Subramaniya Siva at the memorial complex built ten years ago at Pappalapatti in the Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu. Also realizing his dream last year, a bronze statue of Bharat Mata about one meter high was also unveiled in the same complex. ■