



THEIR WRITINGS

IGNITED THE REVOLUTION

Swarajya needs an editor. Salary: two dry rotis, a glass of cold water, and 10 years in jail for each editorial. An advertisement published in 1884 is most likely the only advertisement in the world that mentions a salary of ten years in jail. This advertisement demonstrates how difficult journalism was in India during the time of slavery. During the same time period, the first Hindi language newspaper, "Udant Martand," was published in India on May 30, 1826. The freedom struggle against the British was waged in a variety of ways, with people rising to prominence by breaking down barriers of region, class, and caste group. In this fight, journalists, along with dignitaries and enlightened members of society, created an environment in which the entire country stood united against the British government's exploitation and injustice. With their writings, these journalists not only raised awareness of the evils but also inspired people to fight for freedom from British slavery.

Noted poetess Mahadevi Varma once said, "History is written by the blisters on the feet of journalists." These words by Mahadevi Varma shed light on the role of journalists in India's freedom struggle. The goal of these journalists was to awaken the masses and inspire them to participate in social reform and a national movement. Bringing out the newspaper was a very brave act at the time because if the British found the things published in it to be bad, the journalists faced the harshest punishment. In the freedom movement, newspapers were regarded as a powerful medium and a weapon of war. Newspapers and magazines established throughout India have a proud tradition of uniting the country's people against colonial rule.

It is also said that "one should not draw the arrows or

draw the sword. When the cannon is ready, pull out the newspaper." This line describes the strength of a newspaper. Many such people served the country through journalism during the Indian freedom struggle. Almost every major figure during the liberation struggle was involved in some way with writing. In today's world, the scope of journalism in India has expanded dramatically, as has its responsibility. This is why Prime Minister Narendra Modi frequently emphasises the upliftment of the nation through journalism, and he claims that journalism can only be meaningful if it is positive. In this issue, read the stories of Makhn Lal Chaturvedi, Azimullah Khan, Barindra Ghosh, and Raja Rammohan Roy, who worked to give a new direction to social reform and the freedom movement through journalism.

RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY Launched the First Press Freedom Movement



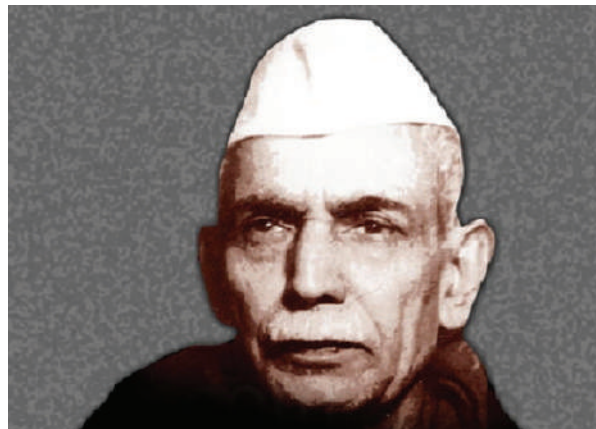
Raja Rammohan Roy, who gave a new direction to India's freedom movement through his journalism, is regarded as the father of modern India's Renaissance, having sacrificed his life for the sake of the nation. Raja Rammohan Roy, who was born on May 22, 1772, in Radhanagar, Bengal in an orthodox Brahmin family, is widely regarded as the father of independent journalism. He published a newspaper in three languages: English, Bengali, and Urdu. Not only that, but through writing and other activities, he actively supported and fought for a free press in India. The printing press was invented in 1778, and when Raja Rammohan Roy entered the field of journalism, the British government controlled the Indian newspapers. In such a situation, he launched the first movement for freedom of the press. When Lord Hastings relaxed press censorship in 1819, Ram Mohan Roy published three journals: the Brahmanical magazine (1821), the Bengali weekly-Samvad Kaumudi (1821), and the Persian weekly-Mirat-ul-Akbar (1821). The forerunner of the Indian Renaissance, he not only founded the Brahma Samaj but also gave the freedom and social reform movements a new direction through journalism. While his movements gave shine to journalism, his journalism also played a role in steering the movements in the right directions. Raja Rammohun Roy edited and published several level papers during his lifetime. Bangdoot was a one-of-a-kind publication in which the Bangla, Hindi, and Persian languages were used simultaneously. His belligerent and strong personality can be gauged by the fact that in 1821, an Indian named Pratap Narayan Das was sentenced to death by a British judge for whipping. Rai published an article condemning the vandalism. His efforts resulted in a strong foundation for Indian journalism, as well as new dimensions for Indian journalism. Raja Rammohun Roy was one of the few people of his generation who recognised the significance of the modern era. He understood that the ideal of human civilization did not exist in isolation from freedom, but rather in tandem with it.

AZIMULLAH KHAN Published 'Payam- E-Azadi' To Rouse Revolution



A British officer once asked Najeeb Mistry, Azimullah's father, to clean the horse stables. On his refusal, the officer threw Najeeb from the roof and then hit him with a brick from above. As a result, Najeeb died after lying in bed for six months. As a result, Azimullah Khan lost his father when he was a child. This incident had a profound effect on his mind. Azimullah Khan's role in the Revolt of 1857 was not only military and political; he was also an important thinker in that rebellion. He was a great revolutionary and strategist who led the first Indian freedom struggle from Kanpur in 1857. When Azimullah, the first advisor

to Kanpur's ruler, Nana Saheb Peshwa, and later the Prime Minister, travelled to Europe, he returned with a printing press. He published a newspaper called "Payam-e-Azadi" from this printing press, which he used to spread revolution and rebellion. Azimullah is said to have devised the strategy for the 1857 revolt through the publication "Payam-e-Azadi." This newspaper was published in Hindi, Urdu, and Marathi. "Hum Hain Iske Malik, Hindustan Hamara, Pak Watan Hai Koum Ka, Jannat Se Bhi Pyara," one of his songs written in the same newspaper, later became the flag song of the 1857 rebels. This song captures the revolutionary ideals and goals of 1857 perfectly. Nationalism was implicit in this song, which emphasised the people's side in the 1857 war. This campaign song of the revolutionary soldiers of 1857 is said to be the crown jewel of the national anthem. Its straightforward, simple, clean, and packed with massive power. Not only is there praise for the country in this, but there is also a call and challenge for freedom. It would not be an exaggeration to call Azimullah Khan the first nationalist of modern India after hearing this song.



Makhanlal Chaturvedi was a rare warrior journalist and literary figure who actively participated in the freedom struggle and went to jail for the sake of the country. Apart from being a true well-wisher and a guide for the youth, his love and dedication to the nation were incredible. He influenced the entire era with his pen and speech before the country's independence, and he continued to inspire them for nation-building after independence. Makhanlal Chaturvedi was born on April 4, 1889, in Bawai village in Madhya Pradesh's Hoshangabad district. When Makhanlal Chaturvedi began his journalism career, the entire country was in the grip of a national anti-British movement. There

“The 75th anniversary of independence is a festival of participation and feelings for 130 crore people. Amrit Mahotsav is an event to save Sanatan Bharat's pride, to draw inspiration from the sacrifices of the country's martyrs, and to renew their resolve to build modern India of their dreams.”

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

MAKHANLAL CHATURVEDI: A WARRIOR DEDICATED TO JOURNALISM

was talk of nationalism and social reform at the time, and feelings of expelling the British from the country were strong. In 1913, Kaluram Gangrande of Khandwa launched the monthly magazine Prabha, whose editing was entrusted to Makhanlal. In 1913, he resigned from his teaching position to devote himself entirely to journalism, literature, and the national movement. Makhanlal Chaturvedi began contributing to the freedom movement by publishing a high-quality literary journal called Prabha. Prabha quickly rose to prominence in the Hindu literary world, thanks to the compositions that shook and awakened the people. Makhanlal Chaturvedi joined Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi when he began editing the weekly Pratap from Kanpur. Makhanlal was the first person arrested in Mahakaushal during Mahatma Gandhi's non-cooperation movement of 1920. On July 17, 1920, the editing of 'Karmaveer' began under his leadership, boldly opening the raw log of the princely states. The articles in this magazine were published without reservation. In such a situation, some kings withdrew their support for the publication. The magazine bravely endured all odds while

maintaining its identity. Apart from independence, the ideas published in Karmaveer on many controversial issues and topics such as non-cooperation, democracy, Khilafat, Rowlatt Act, Panchayati Raj, indigenous state, Hindu Muslim discrimination policy, revolutionary movement, and hot and soft parties enraged the entire country. Makhanlal Chaturvedi actively participated in the non-cooperation movement through Karmaveer, and as a result, he became a grit in the eyes of British rule. When he was arrested, Mahatma Gandhi and Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi both wrote harsh editorials in Young India and Pratap, as well as newspapers across the country, condemning his arrest. Makhanlal's value-based journalism standards, which he established through 'Karmaveer,' are a priceless legacy of Indian journalism. Throughout his journalism career, Makhanlal Chaturvedi worked tirelessly to raise awareness in the country through Prabha, Pratap, and Karmaveer. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has frequently remembered the country's famous poet Makhanlal Chaturvedi by reciting his poetry during many of his programmes.

GAURI SHANKAR RAI: LENT SUPPORT TO THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE VIA JOURNALISM

Gauri Shankar Rai published the first Odia magazine, Utkal Deepika, in 1866 to expose the British during a time of severe famine and to educate the youth of Odisha. It is estimated that more than one million people died as a result of the famine in various parts of Odisha at the time. People believed that if we were free, we would not have to face such famine. In such a situation, the fight for freedom intensified. During the famine, Gauri Shankar Rai and Babu Bichitrananda Das began publishing Utkal Deepika Patrika in Oriya. People became more aware as a result of this, and they began to understand the true cause of the famine. This magazine was founded on 13 July 1838 in Cuttack and was first published in Odia on 4 August 1866 under the leadership of Gauri Shankar Rai, which is why Odia Journalism Day is celebrated on this date. To reinforce the air of freedom at a time when Odisha was facing numerous challenges, this magazine began publishing articles about famine and poverty in the state. Gauri

Shankar Rai fought against the British in the interest of Indians through this nationalism-based magazine. He used to write stuff in the magazine that was critical of the British and put the people's demands in front of them. Simultaneously, he used to publish in the magazine his suggestions for preventing natural disasters such as floods. Shashi Bhushan Rath, influenced by him, later started publishing a daily Odia magazine from Berhampur in 1913 and started publishing a magazine named Gopabandhu Das Satyabati to promote it in Odia literature. He established the Cuttack Printing Company in Cuttack for the publication of this magazine. While the British were printing Bibles from door to door, he was publishing the Mahabharata, Ramayana, and other ancient religious texts in Odia in his printing company. Gauri Shankar Rai, who was affiliated with the Brahmo Samaj, was also instrumental in promoting music and drama in the state, as well as significantly contributing to the cultural upliftment of society. ■