

THE UNSUNG HEROES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE

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A Compilation of Papers of Two Days National Seminar

Organised by

Dev Samaj College of Education for Women, Ferozepur

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ABOUT THE BOOK

On August 15, 2022, India will complete 75 years of independence from the British Empire. The Government of India is celebrating this Diamond Jubilee occasion of Independence as “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” which was started on 12 March 2021 remembering Gandhi’s Dandi March. This festival will be celebrated for 75 weeks from one year before and one year after the completion of 75 years of independence. The basic purpose of celebrating the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence is that we all the countrymen, realizing the importance of freedom, should remember the life values of the freedom fighters. Get inspiration and build an India full of enthusiasm and enthusiasm which will always be progressive. Hundreds of programs are being organized every day across the country under this campaign. We are publishing a book including the articles/papers presented by the participants at ICSSR Sponsored Two Days National Seminar on the theme “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav: The Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle” in which diverse thoughts of enlightened thinkers compiled will definitely be successful in awakening the Indian public.

Struggles in Indian Freedom Movements

*Dr. Rajwinder Kaur**

ABSTRACT

India has been unified under many empires in its history like the Mauryan Empire and Mughal empire. A sense of oneness has been there for ages – even though most of the centralized administration in India didn't last long. With the end of Mughal rule, India broke into hundreds of princely states. The British – which were instrumental in the fall of the Mughal Empire – held control over the princely states and created the British Indian Empire. However, most Indians were extremely dissatisfied with the exploitative foreign rule. The educated Indians realized that the British always gave priority to their colonial interests and treated India only as a market.

HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA: THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM Birth of the Congress

The credit for the birth of the Indian National Congress is generally given to A.O. Hume, a retired British civil servant who inaugurated it. However there is general consensus on the view that the Congress was a natural and inevitable consequence of various political, economic and social forces. Mr. Hume collected widespread evidence of the imminence of a “terrible revolution”

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by the halfstarved and desperate population; so he set about to find ways and means to direct the popular impulse into an innocuous channel. The British Government, which initially patronized this organization, later discovered that it outgrew its plans and promptly withdrew support. After a while, the Congress came to be called the ‘factory of sedition’ and Lord Duff rein termed it as a body representing “microscopic minority” of India’s population.

In Bengal which was at the vanguard of progress at this time, there were various political organizations that preceded the Congress. In 1843 was founded the British Indian Society, which was founded in 1843 later merged into the British Indian Association. This body had such stalwarts as Rajendralal Mitra, Ramgopal Ghosh, Peary Chand Mitter and Harish Chandra Mukherjee. In Bombay there was the Bombay Association with Jaggannath Sankerset, Dadabhai Naoroji, V.N, Mandlik among others.

The British government came down heavily on these demonstrations and protests. In 1907, leaders Lala Lajpat Rai and Sardar Ajit Singh were deported from the Punjab. In 1908, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was arrested and sentenced to six years imprisonment. Aurobindo Ghose was arrested, prosecuted and when acquitted, escaped to Pondicherry (then a French colony) to escape the clutches of the British. In later years he founded the Aurobindo Ashram - a centre for the evolution of another kind of life which would in the end is moved by a higher spiritual consciousness and embodies a greater life of the spirit.

Home Rule Movement

When Great Britain was involved in World War I, India’s national movement though assumed new dimensions. One of them was the Home Rule Movement. On April 28, 1916, the Home Rule League was set up with its headquarters at Pune. Tilak went on a whirlwind tour of the country, appealing to everybody to unite under the banner of Home Rule League. Annie Besant, an Irish lady, who was a member of the Theosophical Society of India, played a key role in this movement. Annie Besant

Debut of Gandhi Mohandas

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, was a barrister who came back to India from South Africa at the age of 49. While in South Africa, he had already built a tremendous reputation for himself as a political leader. Almost immediately after arriving in Bombay, he was offered to lead the national movement. Gandhi opted to travel and know the country thoroughly first and to familiarize himself with the masses.

Rowlatt Act

Meanwhile in 1917-18, came the Rowlatt Act, proposed by Justice Rowlatt which, among other things gave the courts the right to try political cases without a jury while provincial governments, apart from the centre, had the power of internment without trial. Gandhi vehemently opposed the Rowlatt Act saying that since it raised issues of trust and self-respect, and hence should be met by a moral response.

Jallianwallah Bagh Tragedy

This gruesome incident added fuel to the fire of nationalist movement. On April 12, 1919, General Michael O Dwyer, who had taken over the command of the troops in Punjab, the day before, prohibited all public meetings or gatherings. Unfortunately a large number of men women and children had assembled at Jallianwala Bagh, a public garden in Amritsar (which was hemmed in by buildings on all sides and had only a narrow passage way for both entry and exit), on the occasion of Baisakhi (new year celebrations held on 13th April every year) and also to show their resentment against the government policies. Enraged, General Dwyer fired 1600 rounds of ammunition on the crowds, resulting in a stampede and a bloody massacre of thousands of men women and children. The brutality of the Jallianwallah Bagh tragedy shocked the country. It deeply moved the national leaders who now keenly began to search for newer, more effective ways to express their anguish and displeasure against the government. To show his solidarity with the Indian masses, Tagore rejected the knighthood, earlier conferred upon him by the British government. Rabindranath Tagore Udham Singh.

Khilafat Movement

The Khilafat (opposition) Movement was launched in September 1919 as a communal movement to protect the Turkish Khalifa and save his empire from dismemberment by Great Britain and other European powers. The Ali brothers, Muhammad Ali, Shaukat Ali, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, and Dr M A Ansari, among others, initiated the Movement. Khilafat conferences were organized in several cities in northern India. Subsequently, the Ali Brothers produced the Khilafat manifesto. The Central Khilafat Committee started a fund to help the nationalist movement in Turkey and to organise the Khilafat Movement at home. Abul Kalam Azad Non Co-operation Movement

Non Co-Operation Movement

In 1920, under the leadership of Gandhi, the Indian National Congress launched his first innovative protest, the Non Cooperation Movement. It involved surrender of all titles, honorary offices and nominated posts in local bodies. People stopped attending government functions and darbars (royal court functions and ceremonies). Parents were requested to withdraw their children from all kinds of government-run educational institutions. British courts and the army were boycotted. Indians were to stand for elections to any government body or legislature. Ahimsa or non-violence was to be strictly observed. The Non Cooperation Movement came to an abrupt end, with the Chauri-Chaura incident which took place in Gorakhpur (UP) in 1922.

Kakori Robbery

In August 1925 a band of young revolutionaries in UP looted official a large amount of cash (which belonged to the government treasury) from a Kakori-bound train on the Saharanpur Lucknow railway section. The Government arrested a large number of young men and tried them in the robbery case. Ashfaqulla Khan, Ram Prasad Bismil, Roshan Singh and Rajendra Lahiri were hanged; four others were sentenced to a life term in the penal colony on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Chandra Shekhar Azad remained a fugitive but was ultimately shot down in a park at Allahabad.

Civil Disobedience Movement

Civil Disobedience Movement Launched in 1930 under Gandhi's leadership, it proved to be one of the most important phases of India's freedom struggle. The Simon Commission, constituted in November 1927, by the British Government to prepare and finalize a constitution for India, and consisting of members of the British Parliament only, was boycotted by all sections of the Indian social and political platforms as an 'All-White Commission'. The opposition to the Simon Commission across the country was wide-spread. Massive demonstrations were held in Calcutta on 19 February 1928, the day of Simon's arrival in the city. On 30th October 1928 when the Simon Commission was expected to arrive in Lahore, it was greeted by a sea of black flags and slogans of "Simon, go back". The Calcutta Session of the Congress in December 1928 gave an ultimatum to the British Government, that if dominion status was not granted by December 1929, a countrywide Civil Disobedience Movement would be launched. In mid-1929, the British Government, that India would be given dominion status within the British Empire very soon..

Dandi March

Gandhi, who was called upon to lead the movement, decided to do so in a totally nonviolent manner. The violation of the Salt Law was his first step. His famous march from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to Dandi (a tiny place on the sea coast of Gujarat in March-April 1930, led to a popular, countrywide movement against the Salt Law. It soon turned into a popular movement. Realizing the popularity as well as the intensity of the movement, the government decided to crush it. The Congress Committee was banned. Both Jawaharlal Nehru and Gandhi were imprisoned.

The Final Phase

Bhagat Singh, a young marxist from Punjab, vowed to avenge Lala Lajpat Rai's death. With the help of Chandrashekhar Azad, Rajguru and Sukhdev, plotted to kill Scott a police officer who had brutally beaten up Lalaji. However instead of Scott, they killed a junior officer

named Mr. Sanders, thereby incurring the wrath of the administration. The British, under the Defence of India Act, empowered the police to arrest people and stop processions on the flimsiest pretext. To protest against this decision, Bhagat Singh and an accomplice, Batukeshwar Dutt threw handbombs, and threw a hand grenade during an ongoing session in Delhi's Central Assembly, on 8 April 1929. They Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev cheerfully courted arrest after shouting slogans of "Inquilab Zindabad!" (Long Live, Revolution!). Bhagat Singh was found guilty, and was hanged on 23 March 1931.

Indian Independence Movement and Partition of India

Gandhi opposed partition of the Indian subcontinent along religious lines. The Indian National Congress and Gandhi called for the British to Quit India. However, the Muslim League demanded "Divide and Quit India". Gandhi suggested an agreement which required the Congress and the Muslim League to co-operate and attain independence under a provisional government, thereafter, the question of partition could be resolved by a plebiscite in the districts with a Muslim majority. Jinnah rejected Gandhi's proposal and called for Direct Action Day, on 16 August 1946, to press Muslims to publicly gather in cities and support his proposal for partition of Indian subcontinent into a Muslim state and non-Muslim state. The Direct Action Day triggered a mass murder of Calcutta Hindus and the torching of their property, and holidaying police were missing to contain or stop the conflict. The British government did not order its army to move in to contain the violence. The violence on Direct Action Day led to retaliatory violence against Muslims across India. Thousands of Hindus and Muslims were murdered, and tens of thousands were injured in the cycle of violence in the days that followed. Gandhi visited the most riot-prone areas to appeal a stop to the massacres.

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2

Role of Women in Indian Freedom Movement

*Ms. Arshdeep Kaur**

ABSTRACT

Women played a significant role in the Freedom struggle of India. Besides Indian women, European women also entered the Indian political scene and started several organizations and volunteered their services. The Indian freedom movement was a revolutionary movement in the initial stage. There were twin agitations, namely Swadesi and boycott of British goods. The weapon of the boycott was turned not against individual but British goods. The revolutionary ideas touched the people and they raised their hands against the Government. They did not tolerate the suppression of the movement. The Individual Human Satyagraha was held in the first eight districts of Madras province in a very active manner. After that, it lasted for twelve districts. The Quit India Movement was attended not only by the Congress movement but also by the general public in India. Indian women actively participated in the revolution and movement for social change during the national struggle for independence.

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INTRODUCTION

In the pre-independence period, the status of women within the country was in a deprived state. The major cause of this was, there was a prevalence of male dominance. The major responsibilities of the women were dedicated towards the implementation of household responsibilities and they were not allowed to participate in the implementation of other tasks and activities, no where they allowed to express their ideas and viewpoints. During this period, number of systems, were put into operation, which imposed unfavorable effects upon women. These include child marriages, restraints were imposed upon widow remarriage, female foeticide, female infanticide, purdah system, sati and polygamy. During the period of the East India Company, many social reformers such as Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Ishwar Chander Vidya Sagar and Jyotiba Phule had undergone numerous challenges that were associated with bringing about changes in the status of women within the Indian society. During this period there were many ladies, who mastered the art of martial arts. Rani Laxmi Bhai fought for the Independence of the country. Women participation in India's freedom struggle began as early 1817 when Bhima Bai Holkar fought against Britishers. Madam Bhikaji Cama, the first Indian women socialist who fought for her motherland's freedom after the 1857 uprising. There is no doubt that women participation in Indian anti-imperialist struggle in large number.

MILESTONES IN INDIA'S FREEDOM STRUGGLE

1. The first war of Independence (1857-58)
2. Partition of Bengal, Swadeshi Movement (1905)
3. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919)
4. Non-cooperation movement (1920)
5. Poorna Swaraj declaration by the congress; Meerut conspiracy case (1929)
6. Civil disobedience: The Dandi March (1930)
7. The Quit India Movement (1942)

WOMEN LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT

There is no doubt that women participated in the Indian anti-imperialist struggle in large numbers. If we were to recall the names of women leaders in our national movement, we will find that the list is a very long one. Starting with Sarojini Naidu, Rani Laxmi Bai, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay and Mridula Sarabhai at the national level, we may go on to provincial level leaders like Annie Mascarene and A.V. Kuttimaluamma in Kerala, Durgabai Deshmukh in Madras Presidency, Rameshwari Nehru and Bi Amman in U.P., Satyawati Devi and Subhadra Joshi in Delhi, Hansa Mehta and Usha Mehta in Bombay and several others. In fact, such is the nature of our nationalist movement that it is very difficult to distinguish between regional level and all-India level leaders. Many women began at the local level and went on to become players in the nationalist centre stage. Besides all these Indian women, there were also Irish women like Annie Besant and Margaret Cousins, who brought their own knowledge of the Irish experience of British exploitation to bear on India.

Women freedom fighter of India: It is very difficult task to list out all women freedom fighters and equally difficult to segregate a few amongst them.

- Sarojini Naidu: She emerged as prominent Nationalist around 1917. She was second women to became the president of INC in 1925. She joined the national movement during the protest against the partition of Bengal in 1905. During Salt satyagraha, she was one of the women protesters at the Dharsana salt work. She played a leading role during Civil disobedience and was jailed. In 1942, she was arrested during “Quit India movement”. She travelled across India and delivered lecture on women’s empowerment and nationalist. She was also closely associated with the formation of women’s India Association and accompanied the women’s voting rights delegation to London.
- Rani Laxmi Bai: Indian history has not yet witnessed a women warrior as brave and powerful as Rani Laxmi Bai. She is a

glorious example of patriotism and national pride. She is an inspiration and an admiration for a lot of people. Her name is thus written in golden letters in the history of India.

- Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay: In 1930's she participated in Salt Satyagraha. She promoted handicrafts, handlooms and theatre. The Government of India conferred on her the Padma Bhushan in 1955 and Padma Vibhushan in 1987.
- Annie Basant: She became the first president of Indian National Congress in 1917. Her associate Margaret Cousins drafted the Indian women's voting rights bill and launched the "Women's Indian Association".
- Vijayalakshmi Pandit: Mrs. Pandit was jailed for her nationalistic activities thrice in 1932, 1940 and 1942. During the Salt Satyagraha she led processions and picketed the liquor and foreign cloth selling shops along with her sister and her baby daughters. She has fought many battles and broken many barriers for the women in India.
- Durgabai Deshmukh: She was imprisoned for three years for participating in the Salt Satyagraha. During this Satyagraha when leaders like Rajaji and T. Prakasam in south were busy in organising other facts of the movement, it was Durgabai who led a group of salt law breakers to Marina Beach at Madras. She was instrumental in initiating 'Andhra Mahila Sabha' and 'Hindi Balika Patasala' at a very young age.
- Mridula Sarabai: During Partition she fought at great personal risk to save girls abducted by mobs and to prevent refugees, both Hindu and Muslim from being hurt or killed. In 1934 she was elected to the All Indian Congress Committee as a delegate from Gujarat.
- Basanti Das: She was an Indian Independence activist during the British rule in India. She took an active part in various political and social movements. She herself took active part in freedom activities and was arrested during non-cooperation movement. She received Padma Vibhushan in 1973.

- Sucheta Kriplani: In 1932, she entered public life as a social worker and in 1939 entered politics and joined the Indian National Congress. In 1940, she offered individual satyagraha at Faizabad and was imprisoned for two years. During the Quit India Movement, she went underground and rendered remarkable service of secretly organizing anti-British resistance.
- Kamla Das Gupta: She has been a brilliant luminary among the Indian women freedom fighters. She belongs to the militant section and was an active member of the 'Jugantar Party'. In 1942, she was arrested in connection with the Quit-India movement and lodged in the Presidency jail.
- Dr. S. Muthulakshmi Reddy: She was the first Indian woman who for her merit and services in the field of social service and medicine was nominated to the Madras Legislative Assembly in 1926. As a protest against torturing women and use of repressive measures against female agitators during Salt Satyagraha and Noncooperation Movement, she resigned her offices and jumped into the freedom struggle.
- Margaret Cousins: An Irish woman crusader, after fighting for the voting right for women in Ireland, arrived in India along with her husband and advocate the same causes for Indian women. She joined hand with Annie Besant and Sarojini Naidu and helped in the founding of many women association to bring about an awakening among them.
- Raj kumari Amrit Kaur: She belong to the ruling house of Kapurthala. She was inspired by Gandhi and joined Congress during the Salt Satyagraha. She was arrested in Bombay for violating the Salt law, when she went to the North west frontier province to advocate the causes of freedom struggle, she was arrested and convicted on a charge of sedition. She was the President of All India Women conference for seven years.
- Matangini Hazra: The Gandhi Burhi (Gandhian old women) of West Bengal is that freedom fighter and martyr who shall be remembered for her heroic act. She joined the freedom movement

in 1932. During Salt Satyagraha, she was jailed. In 1933, she successfully led a black flag demonstration where governor of Bengal was addressing police cordoned gathering. This time she was arrested and sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment.

- **Indira Gandhi:** A most remarkable women in modern India. She became the member of Indian National Congress in 1938. Her public activity entered a new phase with India Independence in 1947. She took over the responsibility of running the Prime minister's house. She worked tirelessly for the social and economic advancement of the minorities. She had a vision of a modern self-reliant and dynamic economy. She fought boldly and vigorously against communalism, revivalism and religious fundamentalism of all types. She became the indomitable symbol of India self-confidence.

MOBILIZATION OF WOMEN IN GANDHIAN PHASE

Gandhi was undoubtedly the most authentic and celebrated representative of wisdom and culture of India in our times. His countrymen address him with respect as the mahatma. He was a social reformer, an economist, a political philosopher and a seeker of truth. He made the Indian National Congress a people's congress and the national movement a mass movement. He made people fearless and bold and taught them the non-violent method for fighting against injustice. The role of Mahatma Gandhi in Indian freedom struggle is considered the most significant as he single-handedly spearheaded the movement for Indian independence. The peaceful and non-violent techniques of Gandhi formed the basis of freedom struggle against Britishers. The Indian independence movement came to a head between the years 1918 and 1922. A series of non-violence campaign of civil disobedience movement were launched by the INC under the leadership of Gandhi. The main focus was to weaken the British government through non-cooperation. Gandhi says that full freedom of India is not possible unless our daughters stand side by side with the sons in the battle for freedom and this requires them to realize their own power.

WOMEN UNDER GANDHIAN LEADERSHIP

Gandhi had empowered and inspired women by waging a battle against cast, discrimination, child marriages and encouraging women education. They motivate the women to participate in huge numbers. Non-cooperation movement witness unprecedented women activism, especially of the educate and middle classes. Amrit Kaur, Aruna Asaf, Sarla Devi and Muthul Laxmi Reddy emerged as prominent leader. During the civil disobedient movement Sarojini Naidu inspired by Gandhian ideals led a peaceful protest at Dharsana Salt works against the Salt law, taxes even after the arrest of Gandhi. She fought for voting right and was elected as first Indian women president of Indian National Congress. In Quit India movement the underground activism led by Usha Mehta, Aruna Asaf Ali was crucial in sustaining the movement. Mostly women participate in political scenario in 1920. During this period large number of women came forward. Thus, by breaking the barriers of socio-economic oppression Indian women have come together to realize the potential of collective action and laid the seats for women empowerment in Independent India.

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The Unsung Heroes of Indian Struggle

*Mr. Ajaydeep**

ABSTRACT

Unsung means, the ones who are not praised and who are not appreciated for their contributions. Many freedom fighters have struggled to free India, like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, etc. Still, we have somehow forgotten the other freedom fighters who had struggled for India and are known as Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggles like Matangini Hazra, Khudiram Bose, Birsa Munda, Kamala Das, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Khudiram Bose, etc.

INTRODUCTION

Every person in India is familiar with the country's independence movement. India has had several rulers, the most recent of whom were the British, who ruled for a long time. India was colonised by the British for a long period of time, and the freedom fighters had to dream of removing the British from the country and living a free life. The Indians were subjected to several limitations and lacked personal liberty. A lot of freedom fighters struggled to remove the Sati Pratha from society. They fought for the widows' rights and

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started the girl's education system. So, in order to assist people in leading peaceful lives, India's freedom fighters joined hands and pledged to save the Indian people. Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Rani Laxmi Bai, and other well-known independence warriors led the charge to liberate India from the British Raj. Apart from these independence warriors, there were others whose sole motivation was to liberate India from British control. However, for a variety of reasons, we are unfamiliar with their faces. They have given up their life and their happiness in the hopes of a brighter tomorrow. Birsa Munda, Kamala Das, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, Khudiram Bose, and others are among the faces. Their contributions must be valued in the same manner that we value the contributions of well-known freedom fighters. With these popular faces, we have somehow forgotten the faces of those who have contributed to the freedom struggle. Now it is time to pay tribute to these faces.

MATANGINI HAZRA



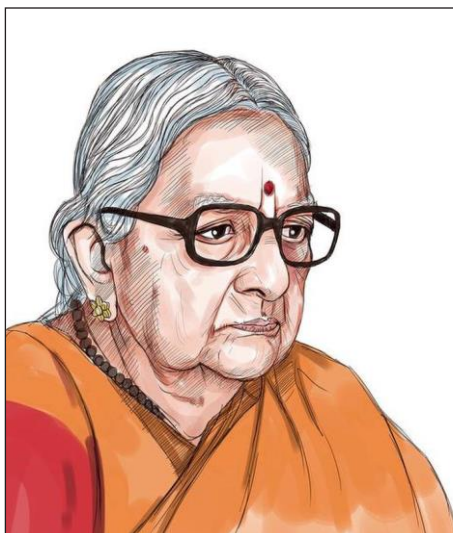
During the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 when yatras were taken out in different parts of the country, Tamluk in Midnapore of Bengal province also witnessed a yatra against the British regime. When a 60-year-old woman living alone in a hut by the roadside saw the yatra passing by, she instinctively

◆ became part of it. It took her on a new journey that changed her life forever. Responding to the call of Mahatma Gandhi, she later started participating in every satyagraha. She broke the salt law and was jailed for six months. By the time she came out of jail, she had become such a spirited freedom fighter that people of the area began to address her as *Budhi Gandhi* (elderly Gandhi). That was Matangini Hazra. Before going to jail, she did not know much about the freedom movement but she was aware of the atrocities that the British had committed in India. In fact, her family had also subjected her to a lot of hardships in her young days. At a very young age, her poverty-stricken parents married her off to a 60-year-old. She was only 18 when her husband passed away. When her step-children subsequently threw her out of the house, she started living in a hut outside her village and worked at people's homes to make a living. But everything changed. From 1930 to 1942, Matangini ignited the flames of revolution in the area. Her frequent satyagraha and dharna gave the British officers a really tough time. In 1942, at the age of 72, Matangini took charge of the Quit India Movement in Tamluk. It was decided to hoist the Tricolour at all government offices and police stations in Midnapore to announce the end of the British Raj in India.

On September 29, 1942, a big procession comprising about 6,000 people, mostly women, headed towards the Tamluk police station. The police warned them and forced many people to make a hasty retreat. But Matangini was made of sterner stuff. Singing *Vande Mataram* and holding the Tricolour, she came out of the crowd to declare courageously that she would hoist the Tricolour. When she remained firm on her resolve and began to move ahead despite repeated warnings from British officials, the police fired a bullet at her right hand. The injured Matangini immediately took the Tricolor in her left hand and kept moving ahead without fear. When the second bullet hit her left hand, she held the Tricolor with both hands and marched on. Even though she was bleeding profusely, she kept on moving forward, but the third bullet hit her forehead. Matangini fell down but she did not let the Tricolor

slip out of her hand. She held it tight on the chest, shouting Vande Mataram for the last time, and became an immortal name in the history of freedom struggle.

KAMALADEVI CHATTOPADHYAY



Born on April 3, 1903, she was a social reformer and freedom fighter. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was best known for being the driving force behind the renaissance of Indian handicraft, handloom, and theatre. She also fought for the upliftment of the socio-economic standard of Indian women by pioneering the co-operative movement. However, her contribution during the freedom struggle is not to be missed.

Married at 20, she was in London when she heard of Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement in 1923. She promptly returned to India, to join the Seva Dal, a Gandhian organisation set up to promote social uplifting.

In 1926, she met Margaret E. Cousins, the founder of All India Women's Conference (AIWC), and was inspired to run for the Madras Provincial Legislative Assembly. She was also the first Indian woman to be arrested, when she entered the Bombay

Stock Exchange to sell packets of salt. She spent close to a year in prison.

KHUDIRAM BOSE



Bose's tale of valour is one that simultaneously invokes pride as well as pity for perhaps the same reason. He was 18 years old, when he was sentenced to death for his role in the country's freedom struggle. In 1908, Bose was appointed to kill Muzaffarpur district magistrate Kingsford, the Chief Magistrate of Calcutta Presidency. Kingsford had become unpopular for passing harsh and cruel sentences on young political activists. He was also notorious for inflicting corporal punishment on them. Thus, when he was transferred to Muzaffarpur, Bose was sent to there to kill him. On April 20, 1908, Bose threw a bomb at a carriage, believed to be carrying Kingsford, outside the European club. But the carriage was occupied by the wife and daughter of barrister Pringle Kennedy, a leading pleader at the Muzaffarpur Bar. An extra police force was deployed to find the perpetrator. Bose, in the meantime, had walked 25 miles and reached Vaini railway station. He was arrested by two officers there and hanged to death on August 11, 1908.

TIROT SING



Tirot Sing | Also known as U Tirot Sing Syiem, was one of the chiefs of the Khasi people in the early 19th century. He was a constitutional head sharing corporate authority with his Council, general representatives of the leading clans within his territory. Tirot Sing declared war and fought against British for attempts to take over control of the Khasi Hills.

LAKSHMI SAHGAL



Lakshmi Sahgal referred as ‘Captain Lakshmi’, she was an officer of the Indian National Army and the Minister of Women’s Affairs in the Azad Hind government. Sehgal also served time

as a prisoner in Burma during the Second World War. She heard Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was recruiting women soldiers, so she enlisted herself with a mandate to set up a women's regiment, to be called the Rani of Jhansi regiment, where she was appointed as a Captain,

KANAKLATA BARUA



Kanaklata Barua | Also known as Birbala and Shaheed, was an Indian Independence activist and AISF leader. Barua was shot dead by the British while leading a procession bearing the National Flag during the Quit India Movement of 1942. She was only 17 years of age at the time of her martyrdom.

CONCLUSION

Unsung Heroes is an attempt to recall and remember forgotten heroes of our freedom struggle, many of whom might be renowned yet unknown to the new generation. The aim of recreating and bringing forth stories, which lay as faded memories of the past, shall serve as a medium of inspiration and encouragement for the coming generations. India 2.0 is not just about fuelling the spirit of India in any one particular paradigm of growth. It encompasses all spheres of life, most of all by enriching our hearts and souls. The spirit of India is incomplete whilst we take our unsung heroes along this journey of growth and development. Their ethos and principles ought to be recalled and respected.

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Struggles in Indian Freedom Movements

*Ms. Sunaina**

ABSTRACT

The Indian independence movement was a series of historic events with the ultimate aim of ending British rule in India. It lasted from 1857 to 1947. The first nationalistic revolutionary movement for Indian independence emerged from Bengal. It later took root in the newly formed Indian National Congress with prominent moderate leaders seeking the right to appear for Indian Civil Service examinations in British India, as well as more economic rights for natives. The first half of the 20th century saw a more radical approach towards self-rule by the Lal Bal Pal triumvirate, Aurobindo Ghosh and V. O. Chidambaram Pillai. The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 gave impetus to the nationalist feelings of Indians. The Home Rule League by Lokmanya Tilak and Annie Besant were formed during First World War. At the same time, a revolutionary movement gained popularity – The Ghadar Movement. The Ghadar Movement was an international political movement founded by expatriate Indians to overthrow British rule in India. The idea of an independence movement in India was accepted by the Congress Working Committee at its Wardha meeting on July 14, 1942. Gandhi

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began this movement in August 1942 in an effort to compel the British to leave India. This campaign, known as the “Bharat Chhodo Andolan,” compelled the British colonial authorities to consider leaving India. After so many movements, Finally India and Pakistan became independent on August 15th, 1947. India continues to celebrate August 15th as her Independence Day, while Pakistan chose to celebrate August 14th as her Independence Day as per their cabinet decisions.

INTRODUCTION

The Indian independence movement was a series of historic events with the ultimate aim of ending British rule in India. It lasted from 1857 to 1947.

The first nationalistic revolutionary movement for Indian independence emerged from Bengal. It later took root in the newly formed Indian National Congress with prominent moderate leaders seeking the right to appear for Indian Civil Service examinations in British India, as well as more economic rights for natives. The first half of the 20th century saw a more radical approach towards self-rule by the Lal Bal Pal triumvirate, Aurobindo Ghosh and V. O. Chidambaram Pillai.

The final stages of the independence struggle from the 1920s were characterized by Congress’ adoption of Mahatma Gandhi’s policy of non-violence and civil disobedience. Intellectuals such as Rabindranath Tagore, Subramania Bharati, and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay spread patriotic awareness. Female leaders like Sarojini Naidu, Pritilata Waddedar, and Kasturba Gandhi promoted the emancipation of Indian women and their participation in the freedom struggle.

India remained a Crown Dominion until 26 January 1950, when the Constitution of India established the Republic of India. Pakistan remained a dominion until 1956 when it adopted its first constitution. In 1971, East Pakistan declared its own independence as Bangladesh

REBELLION OF 1857

The Indian rebellion of 1857 was a large rebellion in the northern and central India against the East India Company. It was suppressed and the British government took control of the company. The conditions of service in the company's army and cantonments increasingly came into conflict with the religious beliefs and prejudices of the sepoys. The predominance of members from the upper castes in the army, perceived loss of caste due to overseas travel, and rumours of secret designs of the government to convert them to Christianity led to growing discontent. The sepoys were also disillusioned by their low salaries and the racial discrimination practised by British officers in matters of promotion and privileges.

The indifference of the British towards native Indian rulers and the annexation of Oudh furthered dissent. The Marquess of Dalhousie's policy of annexation, the doctrine of lapse and the projected removal of the Mughals from their ancestral palace at Red Fort also led to popular anger.

The final spark was provided by the rumoured use of tallow (from cows) and lard (pig fat) in the newly introduced Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle cartridges. Soldiers had to bite the cartridges with their teeth before loading them into their rifles, ingesting the fat. This was sacrimonious to both Hindus and Muslims.

On 10 May 1857, the sepoys at Meerut broke rank and turned on their commanding officers, killing some of them. They reached Delhi on 11 May, set the company's toll house on fire, and marched into the Red Fort, where they asked the Mughal emperor, Bahadur Shah II, to become their leader and reclaim his throne. The emperor eventually agreed and was proclaimed Shehenshah-e-Hindustan by the rebels. The rebels also murdered much of the European, Eurasian, and Christian population of the city.

Revolts broke out in other parts of Oudh and the North-Western Provinces as well, where civil rebellion followed the mutinies, leading to popular uprisings. The British were initially caught off-guard and were thus slow to react, but eventually responded with force. The lack of effective organisation among the rebels, coupled

with the military superiority of the British, brought a rapid end to the rebellion.

The Indian Rebellion of 1857 was a turning point. While affirming the military and political power of the British, it led to a significant change in how India was to be controlled by them. Under the Government of India Act 1858, the East India Company's territory was transferred to the British government. At the apex of the new system was a Cabinet minister, the Secretary of State for India, who was to be formally advised by a statutory council; the Governor-General of India (Viceroy) was made responsible to him, while he in turn was responsible to the government.

In a royal proclamation made to the people of India, Queen Victoria promised equal opportunity of public service under British law, and also pledged to respect the rights of native princes. The British stopped the policy of seizing land from the princes, decreed religious tolerance and began to admit Indians into the civil service. However, they also increased the number of British soldiers in relation to native Indian ones, and allowed only British soldiers to handle artillery. Bahadur Shah was exiled to Rangoon where he died in 1862.

In 1876 the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli proclaimed Queen Victoria the Empress of India. The British Liberals objected as the title was foreign to British traditions.

RISE OF ORGANISED MOVEMENTS

The decades following the Rebellion were a period of growing political awareness, the manifestation of Indian public opinion and the emergence of Indian leadership at both national and provincial levels. Dadabhai Naoroji formed the East India Association in 1867 and Surendranath Banerjee founded the Indian National Association in 1876. Inspired by a suggestion made by A.O. Hume, a retired Scottish civil servant, seventy-two Indian delegates met in Bombay in 1885 and founded the Indian National Congress. They were mostly members of the upwardly mobile and successful western-educated provincial elites, engaged in professions such as law,

teaching and journalism. At its inception, Congress had no well-defined ideology and commanded few of the resources essential to a political organization. Instead, it functioned more as a debating society that met annually to express its loyalty to the British and passed numerous resolutions on less controversial issues such as civil rights or opportunities in government (especially in the civil service).

Religious groups played a role in reforming Indian society. These were of several religions from Hindu groups such as the Arya Samaj, the Brahmo Samaj, to other religions. The work of men like Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna, Sri Aurobindo, V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, Subramanya Bharathy, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Rabindranath Tagore and Dadabhai Naoroji, as well as women such as the Scots-Irish Sister Nivedita, spread the passion for rejuvenation and freedom. The rediscovery of India's indigenous history by several European and Indian scholars also fed into the rise of nationalism among Indians.

The triumvirate also is known as Lal Bal Pal (Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai), along with V. O. Chidambaram Pillai, Sri Aurobindo, Surendranath Banerjee, and Rabindranath Tagore were some of the prominent leaders of movements in the early 20th century. The Swadeshi movement was the most successful. The name of Lokmanya began spreading around and people started following him in all parts of the country.

The Indian textile industry also played an important role in the freedom struggle of India. The merchandise of the textile industry pioneered the Industrial Revolution in India and soon England was producing cotton cloth in such great quantities that the domestic market was saturated, and the products had to be sold in foreign markets.

On the other hand, India was rich in cotton production and was in a position to supply British mills with the raw material they required. This was the time when India was under British rule and the East India Company had already established its roots in India. Raw materials were exported to England at very low rates while cotton cloth of refined quality was imported to India and sold at very high prices. This was draining India's economy, causing the

textile industry of India to suffer greatly. This led to great resentment among cotton cultivators and traders.

After Lord Curzon announced the partition of Bengal in 1905, there was massive opposition from the people of Bengal. Initially, the partition plan was opposed through press campaign. The total follower of such techniques led to the boycott of British goods and the people of India pledged to use only swadeshi or Indian goods and to wear only Indian cloth. Imported garments were viewed with hate. At many places, public burnings of foreign cloth were organized. Shops selling foreign cloths were closed. The cotton textile industry is rightly described as the Swadeshi industry. The period witnessed the growth of swadeshi textile mills. Swadeshi factories came into existence everywhere.

MINTO-MORLEY CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS (1909)

The Government of India which was headed by Lord Minto as Viceroy and John Morley as the Secretary of State offered fresh reforms in the Legislative Councils. They began discussions with Moderates within Indian National Congress regarding this. However, when the decision was taken, not just Moderates but the country as a whole were disappointed.

The real purpose of the Morley-Minto Reforms was to divide the nationalist ranks and encourage the growth of Muslim communalism. For the latter, they introduced the system of separate electorates under which Muslims could only vote for Muslim candidates in constituencies specially reserved for them.

THE GHADAR MOVEMENT (1914)

The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 gave impetus to the nationalist feelings of Indians. The Home Rule League by Lokmanya Tilak and Annie Besant were formed during First World War.

At the same time, a revolutionary movement gained popularity – The Ghadar Movement. (Note: The word Ghadar means ‘revolt’). The Ghadar Movement was an international political movement founded by expatriate Indians to overthrow British rule in India.

◆ The early membership was composed mostly of Punjabi Indians who lived and worked on the West Coast of the United States and Canada. The movement later spread to India and Indian diasporic communities around the world. The main leader initially was Bhagwan Singh, a Sikh priest who had worked in Hong Kong and the Malay States.

The Ghadar militants toured extensively, visiting mills and farms where most of the Punjabi immigrant labour worked. The Yugantar Ashram became the home and headquarters and refuge of these political workers.

KOMAGATAMARU INCIDENT

- The Komagata Maru incident involved the Japanese steamship Komagata Maru, on which a group of people from British India attempted to immigrate to Canada in April 1914. Most of the ship passengers were denied entry and forced to return to Calcutta (present-day Kolkata). There, the Indian Imperial Police attempted to arrest the group leaders. A riot ensued, and they were fired upon by the police, resulting in the deaths of 22 people.
- British Government passed orders that no passenger be allowed to disembark anywhere on the way — not even at the places from where they had joined the ship — but only at Calcutta.
- It triggered off a wave of resentment and anger among the Indian community and became the occasion for anti-British mobilization.
- A number of Ghadar leaders, like Barkatullah and Tarak Nath Das, used the inflammatory passions surrounding the Komagata Maru incident as a rallying point and successfully brought many disaffected Indians in North America into the party's fold.

HOME RULE MOVEMENT – 1916-18

- Home Rule Movement served as the country's response to the First World War and a powerful means to express opposition to British rule.

- Home Rule Movement was started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak at Belgaum in April 1916 and later by Annie Besant in Madras in September 1916.
- This movement resulted in the 1917 Montague Declaration, which said that there would be a greater representation of Indians in the administration, fostering the growth of institutions for self-governance and finally bringing about responsible governments in India.

CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAH – 1917

- Champaran Movement was Mahatma Gandhi's first act of civil disobedience during the struggle for independence, which took place in the Bihar region of Champaran in 1917.
- Gandhi was persuaded by an indigo farmer, Rajkumar Shukla, to visit Champaran to look into the plight of the farmers, who were subjected to oppressive regulations and high taxes. Under the tinkathia system, they were compelled to grow indigo by the British colonists.
- Gandhi organised three protests in Champaran, Ahmedabad and Kheda during the years 1917 and 1918, before beginning the Rowlatt Satyagraha.
- Although the Champaran Satyagraha was the first to be organised, the term 'Satyagraha' was first used during the anti-Rowlatt Act protest, which means, a non-violent method of protest.

ROWLATT SATYAGRAHA- 1919

- The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, passed by the British Indian government, was more often known as the Rowlatt Act.
- The Act granted the government the authority to imprison anyone accused of engaging in terror activities for up to two years without a trial. The freedom of the press was likewise severely restricted by the Rowlatt Act.

- Mahatma Gandhi began a non-violent Satyagraha on April 6, 1919, to protest against the British government's unfair Rowlatt Act, which was called the Rowlatt Satyagraha.
- A nationwide hartal was declared and people were asked to hold meetings against the repressive act and refrain from going to work.
- While the hartal was successful in Delhi, violence was witnessed in Punjab and a few other places. Therefore, Gandhi suspended the hartal in the wake of the violence.
- The infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which took place in Amritsar on 13th April 1919, was also the result of the protest against the Rowlatt Act. This incident was a great reason for Indians to struggle for India's independence even harder.

KHILAFAT AND NON- COOPERATION MOVEMENT – 1920

- Khilafat Movement: The Indian Muslims were not happy with the way the British dethroned the Caliph in Turkey. So, in 1919, various protests were held against the Britishers. The Muslim League and Congress came together during this time. Both of these parties worked together to organise numerous political protests. The movement was initially introduced on August 31, 1920, when the Khilafat Committee began a campaign of non-cooperation.
- The Indian National Congress (INC), led by Mahatma Gandhi, began the Non-Cooperation Movement on September 5, 1920. The Non-Cooperation Movement is one of the key movements in India's independence struggle. It was initiated by Gandhi in support of the Khilafat Movement.
- The aim was to boycott major social programmes, events, offices and schools to resonate with India's struggle for independence. In his declaration Gandhi, wanted people to adopt Swadeshi principles and work for the eradication of untouchability from society.

- However, following the Chauri Chaura incident in February 1922, where during a fight between the police and protesters a violent crowd set fire to a police station, killing 22 policemen, Gandhiji decided to put an end to the movement.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT – 1930

- Mahatma Gandhi led a non-violent Civil Disobedience Movement in colonial India known as the Salt March, also known as the Salt Satyagraha, the Dandi March, and the Dandi Satyagraha.
- By 1930, the Congress Party had announced that the only goal of the liberation movement should be Poorna Swarajya or total independence. The 26 January 1930 was declared Poorna Swarajya Day.
- The movement began in 1930 after Indians became angered when the British imposed a tax on the sale and collection of salt, and Gandhiji chose to break the salt tax in defiance of the government.
- On March 12, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi led a large group of people from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, a seaside town in Gujarat, where they produced salt from seawater in violation of the law.
- More than 60,000 individuals were detained as the movement swept across the nation, including Mahatma Gandhi.

INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHA – 1940

- The leaders of the Indian National Congress (INC) were unhappy with the British government for dragging India into the Second World War in 1939, without the Indian people's consent.
- Indian backing for the war was highly desired by the British government and as a result, the Viceroy Linlithgow offered a series of recommendations known as the “August offer.”
- After the Indian nationalists demanded an interim government in India in lieu of support in World War II, Indians' freedom

to frame their own constitution was acknowledged for the first time in the August Offer, 1940.

- However, the August Offer said after the war, a representative Indian body would be established to draft India's Constitution, and it would be given dominion status.
- The INC rejected this offer at its meeting at Wardha in August 1940 and demanded complete freedom from the colonial rule. The Individual Satyagraha was then started by Mahatma Gandhi to uphold the right to free expression.
- Brahma Datt, Vinoba Bhave and Jawaharlal Nehru were the first three satyagrahis. The satyagrahis also started a march towards Delhi, which was called the 'Delhi Chalo Movement'.
- Although the movement failed to pick up steam and was aborted in December 1940, it put the Britishers under immense pressure.

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT – 1942

- The INC called for a widespread civil disobedience movement when the Cripps Mission, which arrived in India in March 1942, was unable to promise any type of constitutional remedy for India's issues.
- The idea of an independence movement in India was accepted by the Congress Working Committee at its Wardha meeting on July 14, 1942.
- Despite heavy-handed suppression by the government, the people were unfazed and continued their struggle.
- The movement placed the demand for complete independence at the top agenda of the freedom movement.

SIMLA CONFERENCE (1945) AND THE WAVELL PLAN

The Simla Conference of 1945 was a meeting between the Viceroy of India (Lord Wavell) and the major political leaders of British India at the Viceregal Lodge in Simla.

Wavell proposed a separate representation of Muslims within a united India. Talks, however, stalled on the issue of the selection of Muslim representatives. The All-India Muslim League claimed to be the sole representative of Indian Muslims. The Indian National Congress opposed this claim as the Congress had more Muslims in its support than the Muslim League.

On 14 June 1945 Lord Wavell announced a plan for a new Executive Council in which all members except the Viceroy and the Commander in Chief would be Indians. This executive council was to be a temporary measure until a new permanent constitution could be agreed upon and come into force.

RIN MUTINY (1946)

The Royal Indian Navy (RIN) revolt started in February 1946 at Mumbai when the naval ratings on HMIS Talwar protested against the poor quality of food and racial discrimination by British officers.

Karachi was a major centre, second only to Bombay. India was seen to be on the brink of a revolution. The mutiny witnessed the demoralization of British officials and the changing loyalties of Indian officials.

The Indian National Congress and the Muslim League condemned the mutiny, while the Communist Party of India was the only party that supported the rebellion. The mutiny was suppressed by British troops and Royal Navy warships.

The revolt was called off following a meeting between the President of the Naval Central Strike Committee (NCSC), M. S. Khan, and Sardar Vallabhai Patel who had been sent to Bombay to settle the crisis.

MOUNTBATTEN PLAN (1947)

The legislature representatives of the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, and the Sikh community came to an agreement with Lord Mountbatten on what has come to be known as the 3 June Plan or Mountbatten Plan. This plan was the last plan for independence. The Mountbatten plan led to the enactment of the India Independence Act of 1947.

INDIA INDEPENDENCE ACT (1947)

The Indian Independence Act of 1947 passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom divided British India into two new independent dominions; the Dominion of India (later to become the Republic of India) and the Dominion of Pakistan (later to become the Islamic Republic of Pakistan). This Act received Royal Assent on 18 July 1947.

India and Pakistan became independent on August 15th, 1947. India continues to celebrate August 15th as her Independence day, while Pakistan chose to celebrate August 14th as her Independence day as per their cabinet decisions.

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5

Key Events in the Freedom Struggle Leading to India's Independence

*Ms. Rajni**

ABSTRACT

The final stages of the independence struggle from the 1920s were characterized by Congress' adoption of Mahatma Gandhi's policy of non-violence and civil disobedience. Intellectuals such as Rabindranath Tagore, Subramania Bharati, and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay spread patriotic awareness. Female leaders like Sarojini Naidu, Pritilata Waddedar, and Kasturba Gandhi promoted the emancipation of Indian women and their participation in the freedom struggle

The Indian independence movement was a series of historic events with the ultimate aim of ending British rule in India. It lasted from 1857 to 1947. The first nationalistic revolutionary movement for Indian independence emerged from Bengal. It later took root in the newly formed Indian National Congress with prominent moderate leaders seeking the right to appear for Indian Civil Service examinations in British India, as well as more economic rights for natives. The first half of the 20th century saw a more radical approach towards self-rule by the Lal Bal Pal triumvirate, Aurobindo Ghosh and V. O. Chidambaram Pillai. The final stages of the independence

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struggle from the 1920s were characterized by Congress' adoption of Mahatma Gandhi's policy of non-violence and civil disobedience. Intellectuals such as Rabindranath Tagore, Subramania Bharati, and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay spread patriotic awareness. Female leaders like Sarojini Naidu, Pritilata Waddadar, and Kasturba Gandhi promoted the emancipation of Indian women and their participation in the freedom struggle. Few leaders followed a more violent approach. This became especially popular after the Rowlatt Act, which permitted indefinite detention. The Act sparked protests across India, especially in the Punjab province, where they were violently suppressed in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

KEY EVENTS IN THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Revolt of 1857

India's First War of Independence, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny, was the first time Indians united against the British Raj. This rebellion led to the dissolution of the East India Company's rule in India and shifted the powers of the Company to the British Crown, in 1858 Establishing the Indian National Congress in 1885

In 1885, the Indian National Congress was established. It became the leading party alongside the Muslim League and led the nation in the Freedom Struggle.

1915: Return of Mahatma Gandhi to India

In 1915, the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa. Lucknow Pact of 1916

The Lucknow pact was an agreement between Congress and the Muslim League. Muhammed Ali Jinnah had a strong role to play. As a member of both, the League and the Congress, he made both the parties agree that they would put more pressure on the British so that they adopt a more liberal approach to letting Indians run their country.

1917: THE CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA

In 1917, Gandhi led an uprising of the farmers of Champaran, who were being forced to grow Indigo and were not even being compensated enough for it. Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

In 1919, the British government had released an order banning public gatherings to punish civilians for their ‘disobedience’. However, unaware of this order, thousands of Indians gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar on April 13, to celebrate the festival of Baisakhi. Brigadier-General Dyer called in troops and ordered them to open fire for 10 mins at the mass gathering. The troops had also blocked the main entrance so no one could flee. Many jumped in wells to save themselves. As per the official records of the British, 350 people died in the massacre, but Congress claims the number was as high as 1,000 people. Non-Cooperation Movement

In 1920, Mahatma Gandhi took charge of Congress and started the Non-Cooperation Movement. The movement was non-violent and saw people not buying British goods, supporting local artisans and handicrafts, and picketing alcohol shops. He went around the counter explain the tenets of the movement to the masses. The movement came to an end in 1922, when a protest at Chauri Chaura police station turned violent.

RETURN OF SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE TO INDIA

In 1921, Subhash Chandra Bose quit his high-paying ICS job in England to join India’s struggle for Independence. Shortly after his return, he joined the Congress. He started a newspaper titled ‘Swaraj’. He was sent to prison in 1925 and was released in 1927. Upon his release, he was made the President of the All India Youth Congress and the Secretary of the Bengal State Congress.

In 1930, he became the Mayor of Calcutta. Purna Swaraj on January 26, 1930

On January 26, 1930, the Indian National Congress declared the independence of India which the British did not recognise.

THE DANDI MARCH OF 1930

In an act of civil disobedience, Gandhiji took a crowd from the Sabarmati Asharam to Dandi beach, in a non-violent manner,

to protest against the repressive salt tax imposed by the British government.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT OF 1935

The Government of India Act and the creation of a new constitution laid the foundations for the events that would follow in the next decade and thereafter.

CREATION OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

An important development in the struggle for freedom during the Second World War was the formation and activities of the Azad Hind Fauj, also known as the Indian National Army, or INA. The Indian National Army was formed from among the Indian prisoners of war with the aim of liberating India from British rule. In 1943, Subhash Chandra Bose visited Japan, where he rebuilt the INA. He shaped it to be an effective instrument for the freedom of India. The INA had close to 45,000 soldiers. In October 1943, Bose formed a provisional government that had been recognized by the Axis Powers during the Second World War Quit India Movement of 1942

The All-India Congress Committee started this movement in their Bombay session on August 8, 1942. There was only one mission - to end British Rule in India. In addition, Gandhiji made a call to Do or Die in his Quit India speech that he delivered in Bombay.

ROYAL NAVY STRIKE OF 1946

On February 18, 1946, 1,100 Indian sailors of the HMIS Talwar, and the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Signal School in Bombay declared a hunger strike against the conditions of Indians in the Navy. The next day, somewhere between 10,000-20,000 soldiers joined the strike. While the initial demands were for better food and working conditions, the strike soon turned into a wider demand for independence from the British. The protesting sailors also demanded the release of all political prisoners including those from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army.

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Role of Unsung Women in Indian Freedom Struggle

Ms. Neha Sharma and Dr. Sukhraj Kaur***

ABSTRACT

The tale of Indian struggle for freedom is a feisty one that we have heard many times. The freedom movement is synonymous with the freedom fighters that were revolutionary in their approaches towards independence. We all know how Rani Laxmi Bai, Kasturba Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Annie Besant, Lakhshmi Seghal and many more paved the way of independence. But there are many unsung women heroes that we need to know about. Let us dig into past to have a look at the unsung leaders and lesser known freedom fighters.

Keywords: Independence, Freedom Struggle, Unsung Heroes, Unsung Women Heroes,

INTRODUCTION

The history of Indian freedom struggle would be incomplete without mentioning the contribution of unsung women heroes. The sacrifice made by the women of India will occupy the foremost place. The history of freedom struggle is replete with the sage of Sacrifice,

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selfness, bravery of women. Many of us don't know that there were hundreds of women who fought side by side with their male counterparts. They fought with true spirit and undiminished courage. The Indian women broke away from various restrictions and got out of their traditional home oriented role and responsibilities. So, the participation of women in the freedom struggle and national awakening is simply incredible and praise worthy.

As India celebrating this year AZADI KA AMROT MAHOTSAV commemorating the 75th year of Independence, the history of the Indian freedom struggle would be incomplete without mentioning the contribution of many unsung women freedom fighters of India. A lot of colleagues' women raise their voice against the British rule. Many women took to the streets led processions and held lectures and demonstrations. During this period there were many ladies who mastered the art of martial arts. The sacrifices made by the women of India have occupied the foremost place. The entire history of the freedom movement is replete with the tale of bravery, sacrifice and political sagacity of hundreds and thousands of women in our country.

Union Minister of State for Culture Smt. Minakshi Lekhi released a Pictorial Book of Indian Women Unsung Heroes of Freedom Struggle. In this book Minakshi Lekhi said that the book celebrates the lives of some of the women who led the charge and lit the flame of protest and rebellion throughout the country. It contains the stories of queens who battled colonial powers in the struggle against imperial rules and women who dedicated and even laid down their lives for the cause of the motherland. She further added that if we go through the glorious past of Indian History we find that Indian culture was the one which celebrated women and there was no place for gender discrimination. This is amply evident from the fact those women had the courage and physical strength to fight like soldiers in the battle field. Narrating the tales of valour of some of the unsung women heroes included in the book, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi said that women were equally vocal in expressing dissent against imperial powers. For e.g. Rani Abbakka repulsed

the Portuguese attacks for several decades however, history has hardly been written with this prospective and now as part of Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav as it the prime minister vision, the sacrifices of these unsung women heroes will be brought to light.

REASON FOR UNSUNG WOMEN HEROES GOING UNNOTICED

Narratives about individuals have largely glorified the Indian freedom movement and the historiography is inundated with the life and times of personality as representative of large nationalistic aspirants. This approach undermines the aspiration and struggles of dispersed masses who were, equally contributing to the common cause of gaining Independence but with different ideas of aspiration that the one that endorsed the homogenous idea of Independence that was constructed.

During the 1970s the subaltern School of history, in the Indian context came into existence. They have a time to rewrite the history of freedom struggle through the lens of a marginalized and tried to bring out the smaller stories, and regional struggles to mainstream narratives.

There are so many reasons for women heroes going unnoticed. As there are many Epic that describe various psychological and moral accepts of people residing in the resource epics like: Ramayana, Mahabharata have portrayed woman as a submissive and dominated by patriarchy. These myths play an unimportant role in particular life in general and Society life in particular.

At this is junction, the suppression and rebellion of women acquired a huge debate for centuries together. The patriarchal nature of male dominated society occupied a prominent place in most of the myths written in the name of Vedas Upanishads and Puran.

Also the other reason is that some particular faces highlighted more as compare to other who are not well known by the society. The unsung women participated in the fight for freedom with their full potential, but lack of opportunity they do not get chance to come forward and their contribution cannot be overlooked. These are ordinary women, with no formal education or very little schooling, hailing from poverty, stricken, conservation, homes, who get involved in the struggle.

These are an unsung woman named : Rani Abbakka, Velu Nachiyar, Matangini Hazra, Gulab Kaur , Chakali Irama, Padmaja Naidu, Bishni Devi, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, Durgawati Devi, Sucheta Cherman, Aruna Asaf Ali, Durgabai Deshmuk, Rani Gaidinu, Usha Mehta, Parbati Giri, Tarkeshwari Sinha, Tuleshwari etc contributed in the freedom struggle at that time which we celebrate every day.

SOME UNKNOWN WOMEN HEROES OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE

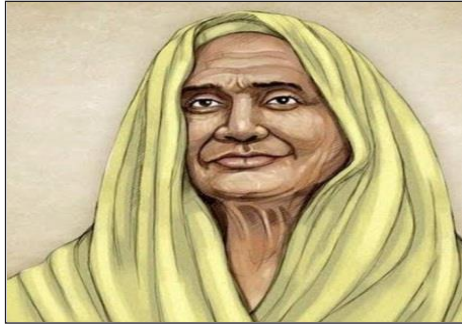


Rani Abbakka Chowta was the first Tuluvi queen of Ulla who fought the Portuguese in the latter half of the 16th century she belonged to the Chowta dynasty who ruled over parts of coastal Karnataka India. She was also one of the earliest Indians to fight colonialism and is sometimes regarded as the first woman freedom fighter of India. She was also known as inversely popular queen.



Rani Velu Nachiyar [3 Jan 1730 – 25 Dec 1796] was a queen of Sivaganga Estate from 1780 – 1790. She was the first Indian

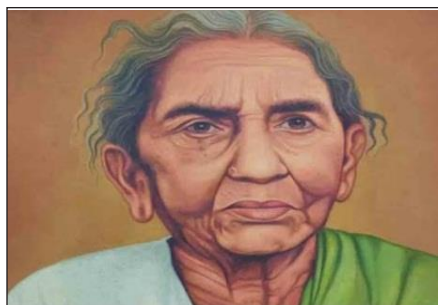
queen to wage war with the East India Company in India. She is known by Tamil as Veeramangai with the support of Haider Ali Army, Federal Lords, and Dalit commanders. She fought the East India Company.



Matangini Hazara [19 Oct 1870 – 29 Sept 1942] was an Indian revolutionary who participated in the Indian independence movement until she was shot dead by the British Indian police in front of the Tamluk affectionately known as Gandhi buri, Bengali for old Gandhi



Gulab Kaur was an Indian freedom fighters she was born around 1890 and died in 1941 posing a journalist with the press pass in her hand, she distribute arms to Gadar party members are also encouraged to others to join the Gadar Party by distributing Independence literature and delivering inspiring speeches to Indian passengers of ship.



Chakali Iilama better known as Chakali Ramma was an Indian Revolutionary leader during the Telangana Rebellion. Her act of Defence against Zaminadar, Rama Chandra Reddy known as a Vishnoor Deshmuk to cultivate her land became an inspiration for many during the rebellion against the feudal lords of Telangana region.



Padmaja Naidu was an Indian freedom fighter and politician who was the fourth governor of West Bengal from 3rd November 1956 - 21 June 1967. She was daughter of Sarojini Naidu. At the age of 21, she co-founded the Indian National Congress in the Nizam ruled princely state of Hyderabad. She was jailed for taking part in the Quit India Movement in 1942.



Bishni Devi Shah was born on 12 October 1902 at Bageshwar in present-day Uttarakhand. She is said to be the first women freedom fighter from Uttarakhand jailed during the freedom struggle. By the age of 13, she was married and tragically widowed by 16. She devoted her life to the freedom struggle and other social causes. She spent a lot of her time at the Nanda Devi Temple in Almora where she was actively participated in meeting related to the freedom movement.



Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was an Indian poet. One of her most popular poem is the Jhansi Ki Rani. She was the first woman satyagrahi to contest arrest in Nagpur and was jailed twice for her involvement in protest against the British rule in 1923 and 1942. She was a member of the Legislative Assembly of the state. She died in 1948 in the car accident.



Sucheta Kriplani was an Indian fighter and politician she was India's first female chief Minister serving as Head of the Uttar Pradesh Government from 1963 to 1967. She was the one of the

few women who is elected as the first constituent assembly of India. She also became a part of the Subcommittee that laid down the character of the Constitution of the India.



Tileswari Barua September 20 is observed in the district of Assam as martyrs days, as it is the same day in which Tileswari Barua, who was shot at the age of 12 by the British, during Quit India Movement, when she and some freedom fighters tried to unfurl the Tricolour atop a police station.



Rani Gaidinliu born in 1915 in present day Manipur, Rani Gaidinliu was Naga spiritual and political leader who fought the British. She joined the Heraka religious movement which later became a movement to drive out the British. She rebelled against the empire, and refused to pay taxes, asking people to do the same. The British launched a manhunt, but she evaded arrest, moving from village to village.



Tarkeshwari Sinha was an Indian politician and Independence activities from Bihar. Among the first female politician of the country she took active role in the Quit India Movement at the age of 26. She was elected to the first Lok Sabha from Patna East constituency in 1952.



Durgabhai Deshmukh, lady Deshmukh was an Indian freedom fighter, lawyer, social worker and politician. She was a member of the constituent assembly of India and of the Planning Commission of India. Public activities for women's emancipation, she founded the Andhra Mahila Sabha in 1937.



Aruna Asaf Ali was an Indian educator, political activist and publisher. An active participant in the Indian Independence movement, she is widely remembered for hosting the National flag at the Growalia tank Maidan, Bombay during the Quit India Movement in 1942.



Usha Mehta was a Gandhian and freedom fighter of India. She is also remembered for organising the Congress radio, also called the secret Congress radio and underground radio station which function for a few months during the Quit India Movement 1942 in 1998. The Government of India conferred on her Padam Vibushan the second highest civilian award of republic of India.



Parbati Giri daughter of Dhananjay Giri nicknamed The Mother Teresa of Western Odisha, was an prominent female freedom fighter from Odisha, India. The women freedom fighters of Odisha played a significant role in the Indian freedom struggle. Due to her anti British government activities she was imprisoned for two years. Parbati Giri was just 16 when she was in the forefront of agitation following Mahatma Gandhi's Quit India call. She continued to serve

the nation socially after independence. She opened an orphanage at Paikmal village and devoted rest of her life for the Welfare of orphans. She was the real life legend.



Durgavati Devi (7 October 1907 – 15 October 1999), popularly known as Durga Bhabhi, was an Indian revolutionary and freedom fighter. She was one of the few women revolutionaries who actively participated in armed revolution against the ruling British Raj. She is best known for having accompanied Bhagat Singh on the train journey in which he made his escape in disguise after the killing of John P. Saunders. Since she was the wife of another Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) member Bhagwati Charan Vohra, other members of HSRA referred to her as Bhabhi (elder brother's wife) and became popular as "Durga Bhabhi" in Indian revolutionary circles.



Rani Chennamma the queen of Kittur was one of the first rulers to organize an armed uprising against British rule in the modern day state of Karnataka. Kittur was a princely state after the death of her little son in 1824. She retaliated against the attempt to take

control of her domain Raja Mallasarja. Her spouse has passed away in 1816. She is regarded as one of the few leader of the day who comprehended the British government colonial plans. In her initial uprising, Rani Chennamma over through the British, but the East India company second attack resulted in her capture and imprisonment.



Suniti Choudhury was an Indian nationalist who along with Shanti Ghose assassinated British district magistrate. When she was 16 years old and is known for her participation in an armed revolutionary struggle. She is often dubbed as the youngest female revolutionary of the Indian freedom struggle under the guise of presenting a petition to organize a swimming competition among their classmates Choudhury and Shanti Ghose both sixteen at the time enter the office of Charles Geoffrey of Bucklant Stevens a British district magistrate of Comilla on December 14, 1931. While a Steven was looking at the petition Ghose and Choudhury took out automatic pistol from under their shawls and shot and killed him. She will recognize as one of our country notable women freedom fighters.



West Bengal born Bina Das was an Indian nationalist and revolutionary. She was born to parents who were active in the Brahmo Smaaj and the battle for freedom and who worked as social workers and educators. Das belonged to the Chhatri Sangha a semi revolutionary group of women's organizations in Kolkata. She made an attempt to kill Bengal Governor Stanley Jackson on February 6, 1932 in the university of Kolkata convocation hall. Kmla Das Gupta another freedom fighter provided the revolver. She attempted to shoot five times but unsuccessful and she was given a nine year prison term. After her early release in 1939 Das joined he congress party in 1942. She participated in the Quit India movement and was prisoned again from 1942 to 1945. She will certainly be remembered as one of the notable women freedom fighter in our country.



Pritilata Waddedar was born on May 5, 1911 in Chittagong (Modern day Bangladesh) was one of the first women to take arms and engage in revolutionary activities. She joined Deepali Sang revolutionary organization that provided women with combat training when she was young. She was eager to join Surya San Indian revolutionary army but she was met with opposition because it was dominated by men. But along with Kalpana Dutt she underwent rigorous training to become a member of this group after the Chittagong armory raid in which most of the IRA leader were apprehended Pritilata who was only 21 year old at the time was given command of a group of 7 to 10 young men who let siege to the pahartali European club. This

club was primarily targeted because of its racial and discriminatory practices it has sign that said, dogs and Indians are not allowed. One the night of 23 September, 1932 dressed like a man she boldly led the attack in the ensuing fierce gun battle she got shot in the leg which prevented her from escaping instead of surrounding she chose the swallow a pill of cyanide and thus become a martyr.



Onake Obavva: Obavva was not a princess but the wife of a guard at Chitradurga fort. Down in Southern India Haider Ali, sultan and de facto ruler of kingdom of Mysore, was trying to conquer chitradurga but found no success even after numerous attempts. One day, the sultan's notice a woman trying to enter the fort through a hole. Seeing this, order his men to use the same way enter and conquer the fort obavva noticed the activity and since her husband was away from lunch, she decided to take matters into her own hands. She guarded the crevice, making sure that no one enters the fort. But the end of it all, obavva had killed almost hundred men.



◆ **Belawadi Mallamma** the first woman to form women's army Belawasi Mallamma was born to Sode king. Madhulinga Nayaka and was the wife of prince Isaprabhu. During a war between her kingdom and the Maratha Empire, her husband was killed. Mallamma picked up the sword fought with her army to save her kingdom. She was however, captured. Later, chatrapati shivaji releases her after seeing her bravery.

CONCLUSION

History is the native of what happened but it is not fixed it continuously evolves many times we do not realize how a leader impacts the masses or how the masses inspired their journeys. These unsung women heroes from the past are like chairs that have not been given enough attention. We are a country of diversity but that should not be seen as synonymous with the difference. Our history is not just a picture show casting time that has passed. It is a living entity that is still evolving and spreading spiritual oneness. Acknowledging the unsung women heroes will result in an informed and inspired new generation which we go a long way in helping them to appreciate the contribution made by them towards freedom struggle in a better way.

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Struggles in Indian Freedom Movements

*Geeta Khullar**

ABSTRACT

Freedom is earned and cannot be expected to be achieved without making efforts for it. This world can be a gruesome environment of inequalities between people. Many will think they are superior and consider others to be inferior. They may either wish to subjugate others or eliminate them completely. But the desire to rise up and protest is a natural thing to do. There are some individuals who can't resist the idea of inequality and injustice. They can take on the challenge and defeat the odds. These are known as freedom fighters. India's freedom movement wouldn't have succeeded if our brave freedom fighters had not fought against the Britishers. The Indian freedom struggle was one of the greatest liberation movements against colonialism and imperialism. The battle keeps on being an effective and strong source of inspiration for countries that reject to accept foreign dominance and exploitation; for countries that estimate liberty, equality, freedom, dignity and democracy. The Indian freedom struggle provides novel and ideal models of patriotism and nationalism which may be adopted and pursued in order to eradicate and devastate the undemocratic foundations of colonialism, neocolonialism, feudalism, radicalism and different forms of hidden oppression and abuse. It is broadly accepted that

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Gandhi played a major, vital and crucial role in keeping the Indian national movement first and foremost non-violent. He passionately and enthusiastically adopted and applied his theory and strategy of non-violence to make India independent from the British servitude.

Keywords: Indian freedom Movement

INTRODUCTION

The Indian national movement was undoubtedly one of the biggest mass movements modern Society has ever seen, It was a movement which galvanized millions of People of all classes and ideologies into political action and brought to its knees a mighty colonial empire. Consequently, along with the British, French, Russian, China, Cuban and Vietnam revolutions, it is of great relevance to those wishing to alter the existing political and social structure. Various aspects of the Indian national movement, especially Gandhian political strategy, are particularly relevant to these movements in societies that broadly function within the confines of the rule of law, and are characterized by a democratic and basically civil libertarian polity. But it is also relevant to other societies. We know for a fact that even Lech Walesa consciously tried to incorporate elements of Gandhian strategy in the Solidarity Movement in Poland. The Indian national movement, in fact, provides the only actual historical example of a semi-democratic or democratic type of political structure being successfully replaced or transformed. It is the only movement where the broadly Gramscian theoretical perspective of position was successfully practiced a war in a single historical moment of revolution, but through prolonged popular struggle on a moral, political and ideological level; where reserves of counter hegemony were built up over the years through progressive stages; where the phases of struggle alternated with 'passive' phases. The Indian national movement is also an example of how the constitutional space offered by the existing structure could be used without getting co-opted by it. It

did not completely reject this space; as such rejection in democratic societies entails heavy costs in terms of hegemonic influence and often leads to isolation 2 | India's Struggle for Independence but entered it and used it effectively in combination with non constitutional struggle to overthrow the existing structure. The Indian national movement is perhaps one of the best examples of the creation of an extremely wide movement with a common aim in which diverse political and ideological currents could exist and work and simultaneously continue to contend for overall ideological political hegemony over it. While intense debate on all basic Issues was allowed, the diversity and tension did not weaken the cohesion and striking power of the movement; on the contrary, this diversity and atmosphere of freedom and debate became a major source of its strength.

INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLES

1. Revolt of 1857:

- Also called India's first war of independence, it began at Meerut on May 10, 1857, and slowly spread across Delhi, Agra, Kanpur and Lucknow.
- It was the first significant uprising against the East India Company. Although the Revolt was unsuccessful, it had a significant impact on the masses and inspired India's entire Independence Movement.
- It was the revolt of 1857 which gave a clear message to the British Crown that the East India Company had failed to exercise control over the country, demonstrating its incapacity.
- The British East India Company's control came to an end with this fight for independence.

2. Swadeshi Movement – 1905-1911:

- The Swadeshi Movement was a consequence of Lord Curzon's announcement for the partition of Bengal in 1905, on the grounds that the population of Bengal as a whole would be difficult to govern over.

- However, the British declared the division of Bengal into two provinces with the intention of undermining nationalist unity.
- The “Boycott” resolution was adopted at a conference held at the Calcutta Town Hall on August 7, 1905, thus establishing the Swadeshi movement and bringing its previously fragmented leadership under one leadership.
- The goal of the Swadeshi movement was to encourage the usage of local goods and services while denouncing their British counterparts. This raised India’s economic standing and demonstrated to the British that Indians could live independently.
- The Swadeshi Movement was a turning point in Indian history because it demonstrated the nation’s unity and helped people see that they could defeat the British if they united.

3. Ghadhar Movement- 1914-1917:

- The Ghadar Movement was a significant turning point in India’s quest for independence. Early in the 20th century, a number of stringent immigration laws based on racial discrimination were put in place to reduce the number of Indian immigrants coming to Canada in search of employment.
- **Komagata Maru Incident:** A ship from Canada by the name of Komagatamaru that was carrying immigrants from India was sent back. Several of the ship’s passengers were killed or detained in a clash with the British police as it headed back to India. The Komagata Maru episode attracted worldwide attention and condemnation for the violation of human rights and racism. The episode further inspired the Ghadar party to engage in its struggle against colonial rule, and therefore it indirectly gave a fillip to the Indian struggle for freedom.
- After the brutal British repression, the Ghadar Movement started to wane. 1917 saw the Ghadar Party split into a Communist and a Socialist faction following the end of World War I.

- The Ghadar movement might be characterised as a story of extraordinary bravery, labour and toil that affected every Indian living in foreign countries.
- The powerful speeches by its leaders did shape the expatriate opinion against the misrule of the British in India.
- It truly qualifies as a major struggle which aroused the people to fight for freedom and sowed seeds for any other future course of action.

4. Home Rule Movement – 1916-18:

- Home Rule Movement served as the country's response to the First World War and a powerful means to express opposition to British rule.
- Home Rule Movement was started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak at Belgaum in April 1916 and later by Annie Besant in Madras in September 1916.
- This movement was targeted at achieving self-rule, without the interference of the British Government.
- Movement sought to demonstrate the strength of India and its people by raising political awareness and assembling a bigger political representation for the nation in opposition to British Rule.
- This movement resulted in the **1917 Montague Declaration**, which said that there would be a greater representation of Indians in the administration, fostering the growth of institutions for self-governance and finally bringing about responsible governments in India.

5. Champaran Satyagrah – 1917:

- Champaran Movement was Mahatma Gandhi's first act of civil disobedience during the struggle for independence, which took place in the Bihar region of Champaran in 1917.
- Gandhi was persuaded by an indigo farmer, Rajkumar Shukla, to visit Champaran to look into the plight of the farmers, who were subjected to oppressive regulations and high taxes. Under

the **tinkathia system**, they were compelled to grow indigo by the British colonists.

- Gandhi gathered support from the local farmers and masses to organise nonviolent protests against planters and landlords, and as a result, the government decided to do away with the oppressive tinkathia system. Additionally, the peasants were compensated with a part of the money taken from them.
- Although the Champaran Satyagraha was the first to be organised, the term ‘Satyagraha’ was first used during the anti-Rowlatt Act protest, which means, a non-violent method of protest.

6. Rowlatt Satyagraha- 1919

- The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, passed by the British Indian government, was more often known as the Rowlatt Act.
- The Act granted the government the authority to imprison anyone accused of engaging in terror activities for up to two years without a trial. The freedom of the press was likewise severely restricted by the Rowlatt Act.
- Mahatma Gandhi began a non-violent Satyagraha on April 6, 1919, to protest against the British government’s unfair Rowlatt Act, which was called the Rowlatt Satyagraha.
- A nationwide strike was declared and people were asked to hold meetings against the repressive act and refrain from going to work.
- The infamous Jallianwala Bagh massacre, which took place in Amritsar on 13th April 1919, was also the result of the protest against the Rowlatt Act. This incident was a great reason for Indians to struggle for India’s independence even harder.

7. Khilafat and Non- Cooperation Movement – 1920

- **Khilafat Movement:** The Indian Muslims were not happy with the way the British dethroned the Caliph in Turkey. So, in 1919, various protests were held against the Britishers. The Muslim League and Congress came together during this time. Both of

these parties worked together to organise numerous political protests. The movement was initially introduced on August 31, 1920, when the Khilafat Committee began a campaign of non-cooperation.

- The Indian National Congress (INC), led by Mahatma Gandhi, began the **Non-Cooperation Movement** on September 5, 1920. The Non-Cooperation Movement is one of the key movements in India's independence struggle. It was initiated by Gandhi in support of the Khilafat Movement.
- The aim was to boycott major social programmes, events, offices and schools to resonate with India's struggle for independence. In his declaration Gandhi, wanted people to adopt Swadeshi principles and work for the eradication of untouchability from society.
- The Indian National Congress called for self-government or Swarajya and only non-violent methods were asked to be used while protesting

8. Chauri Chaura incident (1922)

- On 4 February 1922, at Chauri Chaura (a place in modern Uttar Pradesh), the British police opened fire at a large group of people who were participating in the Non-cooperation movement.
- In retaliation, the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants. The incident led to the death of three civilians and 22 policemen.
- Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the non-cooperation movement on the national level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of the Chauri Chaura incident.
- In spite of Gandhi's decision, 19 arrested demonstrators were sentenced to death and 14 to imprisonment for life by the British colonial authorities.
- Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Bose, and many others recorded their disagreement on Gandhiji's views.

9. The boycott of Simon Commission (1927)

- On 8 November 1927, an all-white, Simon Commission was appointed to recommend whether India was ready for further constitutional reforms.
- Indian National Congress boycott Simon Commission because no Indian was present in the commission. There were protests in many places.
- In Lahore, Lala Lajpat Rai, the hero of the extremist days and the most revered leader of Punjab was hit. He succumbed to the injuries in November 1928.
- Bhagat Singh and his comrades sought to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. They killed the white police official, Saunders, in December 1928.
- Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose emerged as the leaders during the Simon Commission boycott movement.

10. Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931) and the Round Table Conferences (1930-32)

- British convened a series of “Round Table Conferences” in London to discuss constitutional reforms in India.
- The first meeting was held in November 1930. However, without the pre-eminent political leader in India, it was an exercise in futility.
- Gandhi was released from jail in January 1931. In the following month, he had several long meetings with the Viceroy. These culminated in what was called the “Gandhi-Irwin Pact”.
- The terms of the agreement included the immediate release of all political prisoners not convicted for violence, the remission of all fines not yet collected, the return of confiscated lands not yet sold to third parties, and lenient treatment for those government employees who had resigned. The Government also conceded the right to make salt for consumption to villages along the coast. They also gave the right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing.

- The Congress demand for a public inquiry into police excesses was not accepted, but Gandhiji's insistent request for an inquiry was recorded in the agreement.
- Congress, on its part, agreed to discontinue the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM).
- A second Round Table Conference was held in London in the latter part of 1931. Here, Gandhiji represented the Congress. Gandhi opposed the demand for separate electorates for "lower castes". For him, separate electorates to the "Untouchables" will ensure their bondage in perpetuity. He thought this would prevent their integration into mainstream society and permanently segregate them from other caste Hindus.
- But Ambedkar was in favour of separate electorates for depressed classes. He believed it is the only path for a community so handicapped to succeed in the struggle for life against the organised tyranny of higher castes.
- During the second Round Table Conference in London, Winston Churchill, leader of the right-wing, strongly objected to the British Government negotiating on terms of equality with the 'seditious fakir'. He demanded a strong government in India.
- The discussions with Gandhi failed as the British Government refused to concede the basic Indian demand for freedom. Gandhiji resumed Civil Disobedience after reaching back
- The government launched its strike against the national movement by arresting Gandhi. British government promulgated ordinances that gave the authorities unlimited power – the 'Civil Martial Law.' Civil liberties no longer existed and the authorities could seize people and property at will.
- In 1934 the inevitable decision to withdraw Civil Disobedience Movement was taken by Gandhi.
- However, many political activists were not in favour of stopping the movement. They included Jawaharlal Nehru who was critical of Gandhiji's decisions with the timing of the withdrawal of CDM.

- The support that the movement had garnered from the poor and the illiterate, both in the town and in the country, was remarkable indeed.
- Nevertheless, the participation of Muslims in the Civil Disobedience Movement was certainly nowhere near that of the Non-cooperation movement 1920-22.
- For Indian women, the movement was the most liberating experience to date and can truly be said to have marked their entry into the public space

11. Civil Disobedience Movement – 1930

- Mahatma Gandhi led a non-violent Civil Disobedience Movement in colonial India known as the Salt March, also known as the Salt Satyagraha, the Dandi March, and the Dandi Satyagraha.
- By 1930, the Congress Party had announced that the only goal of the liberation movement should be Poorna Swarajya or total independence. The 26 January 1930 was declared Poorna Swarajya Day.
- The movement began in 1930 after Indians became angered when the British imposed a tax on the sale and collection of salt, and Gandhiji chose to break the salt tax in defiance of the government.
- On March 12, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi led a large group of people from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, a seaside town in Gujarat, where they produced salt from seawater in violation of the law.
- More than 60,000 individuals were detained as the movement swept across the nation, including Mahatma Gandhi.
- When Gandhiji was finally allowed to leave prison in 1931, he met with Lord Irwin, who was keen to put a stop to the civil disobedience movement and the media attention it had garnered.
- The Gandhi-Irwin Pact stipulated that the civil disobedience campaign would be put an end to in exchange for allowing Indians to produce salt for household use. Lord Irwin also consented to the Indians' detention being lifted. Gandhiji participated in the London Second Round Table Conference as a "equal."

12. Individual Satyagraha – 1940

- The leaders of the Indian National Congress (INC) were unhappy with the British government for dragging India into the Second World War in 1939, without the Indian people's consent.
- Indian backing for the war was highly desired by the British government and as a result, the Viceroy Linlithgow offered a series of recommendations known as the "August offer."
- However, the August Offer said after the war, a representative Indian body would be established to draft India's Constitution, and it would be given dominion status.
- The INC rejected this offer at its meeting at Wardha in August 1940 and demanded complete freedom from the colonial rule. The **Individual Satyagraha** was then started by Mahatma Gandhi to uphold the right to free expression.
- Brahma Datt, Vinoba Bhave and Jawaharlal Nehru were the first three satyagrahis. The satyagrahis also started a march towards Delhi, which was called the '**Delhi Chalo Movement**'.
- Although the movement failed to pick up steam and was aborted in December 1940, it put the Britishers under immense pressure.

13. Quit India Movement – 1942

- The INC called for a widespread civil disobedience movement when the Cripps Mission, which arrived in India in March 1942, was unable to promise any type of constitutional remedy for India's issues.
- The idea of an independence movement in India was accepted by the Congress Working Committee at its Wardha meeting on July 14, 1942.
- Gandhi began this movement in August 1942 in an effort to compel the British to leave India. This campaign, known as the "Bharat Chhodo Andolan," compelled the British colonial authorities to consider leaving India.
- The movement placed the demand for complete independence at the top agenda of the freedom movement.

CONCLUSION

The Indian Freedom Struggle was one of the biggest democratic movements against colonialism and imperialism. The Indian Freedom Battle gives the best images of nationalism and patriotism which might be received and sought after keeping in mind the end goal to find the undemocratic establishments of imperialism. It is generally acknowledged that Gandhi was the spine of the non-violent struggle for freedom of India.

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Keymilestones During Freedom Struggle

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ABSTRACT

The Indian national movement for freedom was undoubtedly one of the biggest mass movements modern societies. The movement involved many political and social organizations and armed and unarmed struggle.

Keywords: Struggle, Revolt, Partition, Freedom

INTRODUCTION

India has had a rich and varied history, one that isn't devoid of any struggles. For 200 years, India struggled to free itself from the shackles of the British Raj, making the fight to freedom a long-drawn one. While every day was a struggle for the Indians fighting for their freedom, some key events rattled the British monarchy, enough for India to awaken to its freedom on August 15, 1947.

REVOLT OF 1857

The Indian Rebellion of 1857 was a major uprising in India in 1857–58 against the rule of the British East India Company, which functioned as a sovereign power on behalf of the British Crown. The rebellion began on 10 May 1857 in the form of a mutiny of sepoys of the Company's army in the garrison town of Meerut, 40

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mi (64 km) northeast of Delhi. It then erupted into other mutinies and civilian rebellions chiefly in the upper Gangetic plain and central India, though incidents of revolt also occurred farther north and east. The rebellion posed a considerable threat to British power in that region, and was contained only with the rebels' defeat in Gwalior on 20 June 1858. On 1 November 1858, the British granted amnesty to all rebels not involved in murder, though they did not declare the hostilities to have formally ended until 8 July 1859. Its name is contested, and it is variously described as the Sepoy Mutiny, the Indian Mutiny, the Great Rebellion, the Revolt of 1857, the Indian Insurrection, and the First War of Independence.

ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS 1885

The Indian National Congress was established when 72 delegates from all over the country met at Bombay in 1885. Prominent delegates included Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendranath Banerjee, Badruddin Tyabji, Pherozeshah Mehta, W. C. Bonnerjee, S. Ramaswami Mudaliar, S. Subramania Iyer, and Romesh Chunder Dutt. The Englishman Allan Octavian Hume, a former British civil servant, was one of the founding members of the Indian National Congress. It became the leading party alongside the Muslim League and led the nation in the Freedom Struggle.

RETURN OF MAHATMA GANDHI TO INDIA 1915

A hero's welcome awaited Gandhi when he landed on January 9, 1915, at the Apollo Bunder in Bombay. Three days later he was honored by the people of Bombay at a magnificent reception in the palatial house of a Bombay magnate Jehangir Petit. The Government of India joined with the people of India in showering honours on Gandhi. He received a "Kaiser-I-Hind" gold medal in the King's birthday honours list of 1915. His association with Gokhale was guarantee enough of his being a safe politician. Of course, he had led an extra-constitutional movement in South Africa, defied laws and filled gaols, but the cause for which he had fought appeared as much humanitarian as political, dear to all Indian as

and all Englishmen whose sense of humanity had not been blunted by racial arrogance or political expediency. Lord Hardinge's open support of the Satyagraha movement had in any case removed the stigma of rebellion from South Africa's Indian movement. Gandhi was in no hurry to plunge into politics. His political mentor on the Indian scene was Gokhale. One of the first things Gokhale did was to extract a promise from Gandhi that he would not express himself upon public questions for a year, which was to be a "year of probation". Gokhale was very keen that Gandhi should join the Servants of India Society in Poona. Gandhi was only too willing to fall in with the wishes of Gokhale, but several members of the Society feared that there was too great a gap between the ideals and methods of the Society and those of Gandhi. While the question of his admission as a 'Servant of India' was being debated, Gandhi visited his home towns of Porbandar and Rajkot and went on to Shanti Niketan in West Bengal, the cosmopolitan University of the Poet Rabindranath Tagore.

LUCKNOW PACT OF 1916

The Lucknow pact was an agreement between Congress and the Muslim League. Muhammed Ali Jinnah had a strong role to play. As a member of both, the League and the Congress, he made both the parties agree that they would put more pressure on the British so that they adopt a more liberal approach to letting Indians run their country.

1917 THE CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA

In 1917, Gandhi led an uprising of the farmers of Champaran, who were being forced to grow Indigo and were not even being compensated enough for it.

JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

In 1919, the British government had released an order banning public gatherings to punish civilians for their 'disobedience'. However, unaware of this order, thousands of Indians gathered

at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, on April 13, to celebrate the festival of Baisakhi. Brigadier-General Dyer called in troops and ordered them to open fire for 10 mins at the mass gathering. The troops had also blocked the main entrance so no one could flee. Many jumped in wells to save themselves. As per the official records of the British, 350 people died in the massacre, but Congress claims the number was as high as 1,000 people.

NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT

In 1920, Mahatma Gandhi took charge of Congress and started the Non-cooperation Movement. The movement was non-violent and saw people not buying British goods, supporting local artisans and handicrafts, and picketing alcohol shops. He went around the country explaining the tenets of the movement to the masses. The movement came to an end in 1922, when a protest at Chauri Chaura police station turned violent.

RETURN OF SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE TO INDIA

In 1921, Subhash Chandra Bose quit his high-paying ICS job in England to join India's struggle for Independence.

Shortly after his return, he joined the Congress. He started a newspaper titled 'Swaraj'. He was sent to prison in 1925 and was released in 1927. Upon his release, he was made the President of the All India Youth Congress and the Secretary of the Bengal State Congress. In 1930, he became the Mayor of Calcutta.

THE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT 1942

The Quit India Movement is also known as August Kranti or August Movement. On 8 August 1942, the Bharat Chhodo Andolan or Quit India movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi and gave a call 'do or die'. In April 1942, the Cripps mission failed. Within less than four months, the third great mass struggle of the Indian people for freedom started. This struggle is known as the Quit India movement. On 8 August, 1942 at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by

Mahatma Gandhi during World War II passed a resolution of the Quit India Movement.

ROYAL NAVY STRIKE OF 1946

On February 18, 1946, 1,100 Indian sailors of the HMIS Talwar, and the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Signal School in Bombay declared a hunger strike against the conditions of Indians in the Navy. The next day, somewhere between 10,000-20,000 soldiers joined the strike.

While the initial demands were for better food and working conditions, the strike soon turned into a wider demand for independence from the British. The protesting sailors also demanded the release of all political prisoners including those from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army.

PARTITION

The long campaign for Indian independence, which had begun with the Indian Mutiny (1857-59), grew in intensity following the Second World War (1939-45). Indians increasingly expected self-government to be granted in return for their wartime contribution. But with this came serious inter-communal violence between Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims. The recently elected government in Britain was determined to grant independence and hoped to leave behind some form of united India. But, despite repeated talks, the mainly Hindu Indian National Congress and the Muslim League could not agree on the shape of the new state. Eventually, the British concluded that partition was the only answer. On 2 June 1947, the last Viceroy of India, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, announced that Britain had accepted that the country should be divided into a mainly Hindu India and a mainly Muslim Pakistan, encompassing the geographically separate territories of West Pakistan (now Pakistan) and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). The 'Princely States of India', not directly ruled by the British, were given a choice of which country to join. Those states whose princes failed to join either country or chose a country at odds with their majority religion, such as Kashmir and Hyderabad, became the focus of bitter dispute.

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9

Stories of Unsung Heroes of India Freedom Movement

*Ms. Tamanna**

ABSTRACT

The Independence movement of India is known to each and every individual. Many rulers have ruled India, and the last was the British, who ruled the country for a long time. The Indians had to live with a lot of restrictions and had no freedom of their own. So, to help people live a peaceful life, freedom fighters of India joined hands together and promised to save the people of India. Some popular freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Rani Laxmi Bai, etc. took the lead to free India from the British Raj. Other than these freedom fighters, several other people had come forward to free India from British rule. But these faces are not well known to us because of various reasons. Some of the faces are Aruna Asaf Ali, Matangini Hazra, U Tirot Singh etc. They have sacrificed their lives and their happiness for a better tomorrow. The way we appreciate the contributions of the well-known freedom fighters, the contributions of the unsung freedom fighters must also be appreciated and regarded.

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INTRODUCTION

In today's fast-moving world and tough competitive day-to-day life, the youth hardly find time for remembrance of our rich heritage and past. This becomes most crucial whilst the nation celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (commemoration of 75 years of Indian Independence). The fight against colonial rule in India constitutes a unique narrative, one which is not marred by violence. Rather a narrative that is full of variegated stories of valor, bravery, Satyagraha, dedication, and sacrifice across the length and breadth of the subcontinent. These stories compose the rich Indian cultural heritage and traditions. Thus, the unsung heroes need not necessarily define the lesser-known freedom fighters. They may, at times, be the leaders whose ideals delineate the Indian value system. The Section on Unsung Heroes is an attempt to recall and remember forgotten heroes of our freedom struggle, many of whom might be renowned yet unknown to the new generation. The aim of recreating and bringing forth stories, which lay as faded memories of the past, shall serve as a medium of inspiration and encouragement for the coming generations. It encompasses all spheres of life, most of all by enriching our hearts and souls. The spirit of India is incomplete whilst we take our unsung heroes along this journey of growth and development. Their ethos and principles ought to be recalled and respected.

In this article, I have tried to bring some of their names along with their works to the limelight. The nation will never forget the sacrifices made by these leaders to earn our freedom.

1. Pingali Venkayya Pingali

Venkayya ji was born in a Telugu Brahmin family on 2 August, 1876 in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. He completed his early studies in Madras and later on went to London to pursue graduation from Cambridge University. He met Mahatma Gandhi ji at the age of nineteen years during the Anglo Boer war, where he served as a soldier in the British Army in South Africa. After returning to India from Africa, he worked as a lecturer at Andhra National College, which was located at Machilipatnam.

He published a book in 1916, which consists of thirty different designs of the Indian flag. After he met Gandhiji at Vijayawada, he showed his flag booklet to him. Gandhiji got pleased and impressed by his works and also realized the need of national flag. Finally, Gandhiji asked him to design a fresh flag at the National Congress meeting held in 1921. Initially, Venkayya ji came up with saffron and green colours only which represented the Hindu-Muslim Community of our country, which later got evolved by Gandhiji with the addition of white colour to represent other religious communities of our country and the spinning wheel at the centre on the suggestions of Lala Hans Raj Sondhi, which indicates that independent Indians could spin their own cloths from local fibers. Finally, the flag got adopted by The Indian National Congress in the year 1931. He died due to poverty in the year 1963.

2. Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Gopal Krishna Gokhale ji was an Indian social reformer, educator, politician and president of the Indian National Congress, who was born on 9 May 1866 in a Chitapavan Brahmin family in Ratnagiri district of Bombay Presidency. He received his early education at Rajaram High School in Kolhapur and afterwards moved to Bombay for higher education. He completed his graduation from Elphinstone College in Bombay. His mentor was Mahadev Govind Ranade. He was associated with the moderate group of Indian National Congress and became the president of Indian National Congress in 1905 in Banaras session. He established the servants of India Society in 1905 for the expansion of Indian education and was also associated with the Sarvajanik Sabha journal started by Govind Ranade. Despite the ideological difference between “Moderates and Extremists” in 1907, he intensely campaigned for the release of Lala Lajpat Rai ji, who was imprisoned by the British government at Myanmar during that time. He was one of the wisest Moderate leaders of the Indian National Congress. He propagated the idea of Self-rule in India and became the voice of Indians, who wanted

freedom from British rule. He founded the Ranade Institute of Economics in 1908 and also started English weekly newspaper, The Hitavada (The People's Paper). He advocated free and compulsory primary education and asked for the creation of equal opportunities to fight against untouchability. He is best remembered for his extensive work in colonial legislatures. At the imperial legislature, he played a key role in framing the Morley Minto reforms of 1909 and advocated for the expansion of legislative councils at both the centre and the province. Gandhiji regarded him as his political guru and also wrote a book in Gujarati, which was dedicated to him titled as "Dharmatma Gokhale". Gopal Krishna Gokhale ji died on 19 February, 1915. He did immense service to the cause of India and will always be remembered for his works.

3. Aruna Asaf Ali

Aruna Asaf Ali ji was born on 16 July, 1909 in Kalka (Haryana) in a Hindu Bengali family. She got her early education in Lahore, Nainital and Kolkata. She got married to Asaf Ali in the year 1928. She is known by the name of 'Grand Old Lady of Indian Independence'. She addressed her first public meeting during the salt Satyagraha in 1930, after which she got jailed for one year. She got released from jail due to Gandhi-Irwin pact in 1931 after a strong protest led by Mahatma Gandhi ji and other women freedom fighters. After release, she became the active member of the underground movement and was again arrested for the individual Satyagraha in 1941. The Quit India Movement was passed by the Indian National Congress on 8 August, 1942 at the Bombay session and in the response of this movement, many big leaders including Gandhiji, Nehruji along with other party workers got jailed. Aruna ji led the remaining party workers and hoisted the flag of Indian Independence at the Gowalia Tank Maiden in Bombay, which marked the beginning of The Quit India Movement. After that, the police fired the public but Aruna ji stood there on the ground without any fear of death. As the news of flag hoisting spread like a fire, hartals

and protest started across the city like a volcanic eruption. Aruna ji's name and slogan were on everyone's lips and due to her unsurmountable courage, Britishers posted a reward of Five Thousand Rupees for her capture but she successfully eluded the police officials. During her hiding time, she used underground radio, pamphlets and magazines to continue the freedom struggle. She fell ill and surrendered herself on the advice on Gandhiji on 26 January 1946, but by that time the warrants against her were cancelled. Aruna Asaf Ali ji was a member of the Congress Socialist Party at the time of Indian Independence.

4. Lala Lajpat Rai

Lala Lajpat Rai ji was born on January 28, 1865 in Punjab. He was one of the chief leaders of the Indian Independence Movement and described as the pillar of nationalism in India. He was one of the architects of the Swadeshi Movement (now turned into Make-In-India) along with Mahatma Gandhiji, Aurobindo Ghoshji, Bal Gangadhar Tilakji, Bipin Chandra Palji and many others. He participated actively in the non-cooperation movement against British rule, which was started mainly to oppose the Rowlatt Act. He was called the "Lion of Punjab" and was also a great orator and patriot. He was socialist and strongly opposed to the capitalist and economic exploitation. He wanted farmers and labourers to progress. His name is associated with the sacrifice he made for our country. He organized several meetings with his supporters and also established an orphanage. He was a great social reformer and a strong supporter of the mission of Arya Samaj.

5. Matangini Hazra

Matangini Hazra ji was born in a poor peasant family on 19 October, 1870 in a small village in Hogla, Tamluk in the district of Midnapore in West Bengal. She was an Indian revolutionary, who participated in the Indian independent movement. She was a part of Quit India Movement and Non-Cooperation Movement

too. She was known as Gandhi Buri. When she became a widow at the age of 18, she returned to live with her father but later moved to a cabin near her husband's former home. On 26 January, 1932, generally known as Independence Day during the struggle for freedom, a procession was organized in her village by her in which mainly men participated. In 1933, Sir John Anderson, the governor of Bengal, went to Tamluk to speak in front of a well-filtered meeting, but despite security, Matangini ji managed to organize a demonstration with the black flag in front of the platform. She was sentenced to six months of rigorous prison, which is not a small burden for a woman of her age. This earned her the nickname "Gandhi Buri" in Midnapore. During one procession, she was shot by the British police in front of the Tamluk police station on 29 September, 1942. Even after being shot thrice, she continued marching despite of her wound with the Indian flag. She kept shouting "Vande Mataram". In 1977, the first statue of a woman, which was put up in Kolkata in independent India was of Matangini Hazra's. A statue now stands at the spot, where she was killed in Tamluk. Hazra road in Kolkata is also named after her name. Matangini Hazra ji will always be remembered for her contribution and bravery.

6. Bhikaji Cama

Bhikaji Cama ji was born on 24 September 1861 in Mumbai to a wealthy Parsi Family. She received her early education from Mumbai and learned many languages during her childhood. She got married to Rustomji Cama in the year 1885. When the plague broke out in 1896, there was no vaccine prepared for it at that point of time. After knowing these all parameters also, Madam Cama sacrificed all her luxury life and devoted herself in the service of suffered people wearing a white apron. She took care of all patients selflessly like a nurse and a mother. After some time, she also got infected by the plague. Due to her poor health, she went to London for treatment, where she started working for Indian National Congress along with Dadabhai Naoroji and expanded her network. She also met other

nationalists in London like Vir Savarkar ji, Lala Har Dayal ji, Shyamji Krishna Verma and S.S Ranaji. She along with other revolutionaries started giving fiery speeches at Hyde Park and also used to make strategies to overthrow the Britishers from India at The India House, which was the centre for the Indian revolutionaries staying in foreign land. Every day, she used to write in Indian Sociologist. When Lala Lajpat Rai ji got arrested during the Golden Jubilee of India's first war of Independence, madam Cama appealed to follow non-cooperation movement by writing in The Indian Sociologist and when Veer Savarkar ji's book "First War of Indian Independence" got banned by the English authorities, it was Madam Cama who somehow smuggled it to India and also translated the book in French language. The book was considered as "Geeta" by the Indian revolutionaries.

7. U Tirot Singh

U Tirot Singh ji was a Khasi chief and the king of Nongkhlaw, a region in the Khasi Hills of Meghalaya. In the year 1826, the British gained control over the Brahmaputra Valley due to treaty of Yandabu. To join Brahmaputra and Surma (partly in Assam and Bangladesh) valley, the Britishers wanted to construct a road through the Khasi Hills. They requested Tirot Singh ji and got permission for the construction. They promised him that after construction, he would be given control of the duars of the Assam and would be allowed to conduct free trade in the region. The Raja of Ranee Balaram Singh conflicted the Tirot Singh ji's possession of Duars and declared them for himself as the construction of road started. The Britishers also blocked his entry to the region and did not kept their words. The Britishers were bringing more armies from the region of Guwahati and Sylhet. Due to their misconduct, Tirot Singh ji asked them to leave the Nongkhlaw region but they did not pay much attention to him. Khasi forces under Tirot Singh attacked the British units on 4 April 1829 and many officers of Britishers were killed. The Britishers sent many troops with artillery to

the Khasi Hills to control the situation. The Khasi army was equipped with swords, shields, bows and arrows, which were not matching with the firearms of Britishers due to which many Khasi warriors got killed. The Guerrilla warfare between the Khasi army and Britishers carried on for four years. Finally due to bullet injury, Tirot Singh ji hid in a cave where he got betrayed and finally captured by the British in January 1833. The British imprisoned him at the Dhaka jail, where he finally died on 17 July, 1835. Meghalaya government declared 17 July as Tirot Singh Day in honour of the brave freedom fighter and also started awards in his name for Arts and Literature.

8. Tirupur Kumaran

Tirupur Kumaran ji was born on 4th October, 1904 in a middle class family at Chennimalai in Tamil Nadu. His family was into Handloom weaving work. Due to poor financial condition of his family, he had to drop out from his school in Class Fifth. He got married only at an early age of Nineteen years and also worked as an assistant in the spinning mill. Later, he got very much inspired by Mahatma Gandhi ji's independence movement, which was gaining momentum at a rapid pace all across the country. His family members got concerned due to his continuous participation in the freedom struggle movements and they even requested his co-workers over there to prevent him to participate in such movements. Kumaran ji paid no attention to their concerns and finally founded "Desa Bandhu Youth Association", which consists of members belonging to Tamil Nadu and other surrounding areas, who were having great zeal to fight for India's freedom. Together, they conducted many anti-British marches all across Tamil Nadu. As Kumaran ji became an inspiration for other youths, who were joining the freedom struggle campaign, he was called by the name Tirupur Kumaran. He followed steps as told by Gandhi ji's for conducting India's freedom movement. In the year 1932, when British government had imprisoned Gandhi ji for leading a campaign in Bombay, protests started all over the country with

riots at peak. On 11 January 1932, a patriotic march started at Tirupur, which was led by Thiyagi P S Sundaram ji to support campaign led by Gandhi ji and also to show their opposition towards British government. The protestors in the march were carrying national flag, which was banned by British government at that time. In the same march, Tirupur Kumaran ji was also one of the protestors holding the flag. The British cops started lathi charges and continued thrashing all the protestors. Kumaran ji got severe injuries due to which he died holding the Indian flag. He is also called as “Kodi Kaththa Kumaran” after this incident. In order to honor Tirupur Kumaran ji, the state of Tamil Nadu every year conducts various functions and programmes with the name of Tirupur Kumaran. The Tirupur Kumaran Memorial was also erected in Kumaran Salai opposite to the Tirupur Railway Station and stamps were also issued in the year 2004 in Chennimalai. The name of Sampath Nagar main road in Erode city got changed to Thiyagi Kumaran road in the year 2021 by the chief minister of Tamil Nadu. These brave Indian freedom fighters fought for our motherland and many among them sacrificed their lives for the freedom of our country. These were those unsung heroes of our freedom struggle, whose name got forgotten with time. They sacrificed their blood and soul for the independence of our country. Let us remember all of these freedom fighters of India and be proud of them.

CONCLUSION

India's independence is all about a lot of sacrifices and struggles. The Independence movement of India would not have been possible without the contribution of the great freedom fighters. Some of the freedom fighters are Rani Laxmi Bai, Subhash Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, etc. Other than these freedom fighters, there are a lot of other fighters who have sacrificed their lives for the country's independence.

There were also some unsung heroes of freedom struggle, who made big sacrifices for the freedom of our country. Their

♦ unsurmountable courage, selfless service and love for our nation can never be forgotten.

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Struggles in Indian Freedom Movements

*Arshjot Kaur**

ABSTRACT

Indian nationalism began to take shape in the late nineteenth century. The rebellion of 1857 marked the conscious beginning of the fight for independence from the British empire's colonial oppression. The 1857 uprising went by many names, including the Sepoy Mutiny and India's First War of Independence. Although the revolt of 1857 started as a mutiny, soon it spread all over the country to overthrow the foreign domination. The revolt of 1857 was not successful but it sparked the fire for independence, which ultimately resulted in a series of Indian national movements with the ultimate goal of bringing an end to the British rule in India. This article gives a detail of the major Indian Freedom Movements post-1857, that contributed to achieving Independence on 1947. The list of Indian freedom struggles will be available for candidates to download in PDF format for the convenience of use during the preparation.

Keywords: *Indian freedom movement.*

INTRODUCTION

The Indian freedom Struggle began the moment Britishers entered India. The only difference was the opponents changed

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with time. The idea to achieve freedom came from the unity over nationality in the country. Many leaders worked hard for India to achieve it but it was not easy. It started with the introduction of Western Education in the Country.

Indian Freedom Struggle Indian nationalism began to take shape in the late nineteenth century. The rebellion of 1857 marked the conscious beginning of the fight for independence from the British empire's colonial oppression. The 1857 uprising went by many names, including the Sepoy Mutiny and India's First War of Independence.

MAJOR INDIAN FREEDOM MOVEMENTS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE ON 1947



Figure: Map of Indian Struggle for Independence

REVOLT OF 1857

- Also called India's first war of independence, it began at Meerut on May 10, 1857, and slowly spread across Delhi, Agra, Kanpur and Lucknow.
- It was the first significant uprising against the East India Company. Although the Revolt was unsuccessful, it had a significant impact on the masses and inspired India's entire Independence Movement.
- It was the revolt of 1857 which gave a clear message to the British Crown that the East India Company had failed to exercise control over the country, demonstrating its incapacity.
- The British East India Company's control came to an end with this fight for independence.
- After the British Crown seized control of India from the East India Company in 1858, it became a British colony in law. Following this, India was directly governed by the British government through governors general.

SWADESHI MOVEMENT – 1905-1911

- The Swadeshi Movement was a consequence of Lord Curzon's announcement for the partition of Bengal in 1905, on the grounds that the population of Bengal as a whole would be difficult to govern over.
- However, the British declared the division of Bengal into two provinces with the intention of undermining nationalist unity.
- The "Boycott" resolution was adopted at a conference held at the Calcutta Town Hall on August 7, 1905, thus establishing the Swadeshi movement and bringing its previously fragmented leadership under one leadership.
- The goal of the Swadeshi movement was to encourage the usage of local goods and services while denouncing their British counterparts. This raised India's economic standing and demonstrated to the British that Indians could live independently.

- When British products were openly torched, this movement became violent. The British started detaining the agitators to address this issue, and ultimately Bengal was partitioned.
- The Swadeshi Movement was a turning point in Indian history because it demonstrated the nation's unity and helped people see that they could defeat the British if they united.

List of Major Indian Freedom Movements [1857 to 1947]	
Year	Indian Freedom Struggles
1857	Revolt of 1857: Sepoy Mutiny began in Meerut, spread to Delhi, Agra, Kanpur and Lucknow
1905-1911	Swadeshi movement: Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon
1914-1917	Gadar Movement: Komagata Maru incident
1916-1918	Home Rule Movement: launched by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant
1917	Champaran Satyagraha: First non-violent protest in India by Mahatma Gandhi
1919	Rowlatt Satyagrah
1920	Khilafat and Non-cooperation Movement: First Mass Movement led by Gandhi
1930	Civil Disobedience Movement: launched to break the Salt law
1940	Individual Satyagraha: Launched against the August Offer, 1940.
1942	Quit India Movement: Gandhi launched his third major movement against British rule.

GHADHAR MOVEMENT- 1914-1917

- The Ghadar Movement was a significant turning point in India's quest for independence. Early in the 20th century, a number of stringent immigration laws based on racial discrimination were put in place to reduce the number of Indian immigrants coming to Canada in search of employment.
- **Komagata Maru Incident:** A ship from Canada by the name of Komagatamaru that was carrying immigrants from India was sent back. Several of the ship's passengers were killed or

detained in a clash with the British police as it headed back to India. The Komagata Maru episode attracted worldwide attention and condemnation for the violation of human rights and racism. The episode further inspired the Ghadar party to engage in its struggle against colonial rule, and therefore it indirectly gave a fillip to the Indian struggle for freedom.

- After the brutal British repression, the Ghadar Movement started to wane. 1917 saw the Ghadar Party split into a Communist and a Socialist faction following the end of World War I.
- The Ghadar movement might be characterised as a story of extraordinary bravery, labour and toil that affected every Indian living in foreign countries.
- The powerful speeches by its leaders did shape the expatriate opinion against the misrule of the British in India.
- It truly qualifies as a major struggle which aroused the people to fight for freedom and sowed seeds for any other future course of action.

HOME RULE MOVEMENT – 1916-18

- Home Rule Movement served as the country's response to the First World War and a powerful means to express opposition to British rule.
- Home Rule Movement was started by Bal Gangadhar Tilak at Belgaum in April 1916 and later by Annie Besant in Madras in September 1916.
- This movement was targeted at achieving self-rule, without the interference of the British Government.
- Movement sought to demonstrate the strength of India and its people by raising political awareness and assembling a bigger political representation for the nation in opposition to British Rule.
- This movement resulted in the **1917 Montague Declaration**, which said that there would be a greater representation of Indians in the administration, fostering the growth of institutions

for self-governance and finally bringing about responsible governments in India.

CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAH – 1917

- Champaran Movement was Mahatma Gandhi's first act of civil disobedience during the struggle for independence, which took place in the Bihar region of Champaran in 1917.
- Gandhi was persuaded by an indigo farmer, Rajkumar Shukla, to visit Champaran to look into the plight of the farmers, who were subjected to oppressive regulations and high taxes. Under the **tinkathia system**, they were compelled to grow indigo by the British colonists.
- Gandhi gathered support from the local farmers and masses to organise nonviolent protests against planters and landlords, and as a result, the government decided to do away with the oppressive tinkathia system. Additionally, the peasants were compensated with a part of the money taken from them.
- Gandhi organised three protests in Champaran, Ahmedabad and Kheda during the years 1917 and 1918, before beginning the Rowlatt Satyagraha.
- Although the Champaran Satyagraha was the first to be organised, the term 'Satyagraha' was first used during the anti-Rowlatt Act protest, which means, a non-violent method of protest.
- Civil Disobedience Movement – 1930
- Mahatma Gandhi led a non-violent Civil Disobedience Movement in colonial India known as the Salt March, also known as the Salt Satyagraha, the Dandi March, and the Dandi Satyagraha.
- By 1930, the Congress Party had announced that the only goal of the liberation movement should be Poorna Swarajya or total independence. The 26 January 1930 was declared Poorna Swarajya Day.

- The movement began in 1930 after Indians became angered when the British imposed a tax on the sale and collection of salt, and Gandhiji chose to break the salt tax in defiance of the government.
- On March 12, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi led a large group of people from Sabarmati Ashram to Dandi, a seaside town in Gujarat, where they produced salt from seawater in violation of the law.
- More than 60,000 individuals were detained as the movement swept across the nation, including Mahatma Gandhi.
- When Gandhiji was finally allowed to leave prison in 1931, he met with Lord Irwin, who was keen to put a stop to the civil disobedience movement and the media attention it had garnered.
- The Gandhi-Irwin Pact stipulated that the civil disobedience campaign would be put an end to in exchange for allowing Indians to produce salt for household use. Lord Irwin also consented to the Indians' detention being lifted. Gandhiji participated in the London Second Round Table Conference as a "equal."

INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHA – 1940

- The leaders of the Indian National Congress (INC) were unhappy with the British government for dragging India into the Second World War in 1939, without the Indian people's consent.
- Indian backing for the war was highly desired by the British government and as a result, the Viceroy Linlithgow offered a series of recommendations known as the "August offer."
- After the Indian nationalists demanded an interim government in India in lieu of support in World War II, Indians' freedom to frame their own constitution was acknowledged for the first time in the August Offer, 1940.
- However, the August Offer said after the war, a representative Indian body would be established to draft India's Constitution, and it would be given dominion status.

- The INC rejected this offer at its meeting at Wardha in August 1940 and demanded complete freedom from the colonial rule. The Individual Satyagraha was then started by Mahatma Gandhi to uphold the right to free expression.
- Brahma Datt, Vinoba Bhave and Jawaharlal Nehru were the first three satyagrahis. The satyagrahis also started a march towards Delhi, which was called the ‘Delhi Chalo Movement’.

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT – 1942

- The INC called for a widespread civil disobedience movement when the Cripps Mission, which arrived in India in March 1942, was unable to promise any type of constitutional remedy for India’s issues.
- The idea of an independence movement in India was accepted by the Congress Working Committee at its Wardha meeting on July 14, 1942.
- Gandhi began this movement in August 1942 in an effort to compel the British to leave India. This campaign, known as the “Bharat Chhodo Andolan,” compelled the British colonial authorities to consider leaving India.
- The outcome of the movement was that Congress was declared an unlawful association and its offices all over the country were raided. The leaders were arrested and there rose a chaotic moment with this incident.
- Despite heavy-handed suppression by the government, the people were unfazed and continued their struggle.
- The movement placed the demand for complete independence at the top agenda of the freedom movement.

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Forgotten Heroes; Stories of Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters

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ABSTRACT

The Section on Unsung Heroes is an attempt to recall and remember forgotten heroes of our freedom struggle, many of whom might be renowned yet unknown to the new generation. The aim of recreating and bringing forth stories, which lay as faded memories of the past, shall serve as a medium of inspiration and encouragement for the coming generations. India 2.0 is not just about fuelling the spirit of India in any one particular paradigm of growth. It encompasses all spheres of life, most of all by enriching our hearts and souls. The spirit of India is incomplete whilst we take our unsung heroes along this journey of growth and development. Their ethos and principles ought to be recalled and respected. This paper highted the role and contribution of Aruna Asif Ali, Laxmi Sehgal, Kundi Ram Bose, Singhara Singh, Agilandam Ammal, Prem Singh Negi and Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya in India's Freedom Struggle

Keywords: Unsung Heroes, Freedom fighters

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INTRODUCTION

India's independence is all about a lot of sacrifices and struggles. The Independence movement of India would not have been possible without the contribution of the great freedom fighters. Some of the freedom fighters are Rani Laxmi Bai, Subhash Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, etc. Other than these freedom fighters, there are a lot of other fighters who have sacrificed their lives for the country's independence. India's independence struggle was a historic movement to bring a beautiful future to this wonderfully diverse and rich continent. India was under the British Raj for a very long period, and the Indians had no freedom of their own. The freedom fighters of our country decided to take a step ahead and move on with a struggling life and get done with the British Raj. Many freedom fighters came in and joined hands together to fight against injustice and free the country with pride. Some fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Bhagat Singh, etc., are the popularly known faces of the free India movement. Still, other heroes have sacrificed them today for a beautiful tomorrow along with these faces. Following are some of

heroes who contributed in some way or the other, these people have made enormous contributions toward the country's freedom.

Aruna Asaf Ali: Aruna Asaf Ali was a freedom fighter who rose to prominence during the Quit India Movement. She is known as the 'Grand Old Lady of Indian Independence' for her role in the freedom struggle. Aruna Asaf Ali on 16 July 1909, in Kalka Punjab (now a part of the Haryana state). Her parents were Upendranath Ganguly and Ambalika Devi. Ambalika Devi was the daughter Trailokyanath Sanyal

was a prominent leader of the Brahmo Samaj. Aruna completed her education at the All Saints College in Nanital. She would meet her future husband, Asaf Ali while working as a teacher at the Gokhale Memorial School in Calcutta. Asaf Ali himself was a member of



the Indian National Congress (Founded on December 28, 1885). Despite familial opposition, they both got married and she would become an active participant during the independence struggle.

Aruna Asaf Ali took part in many non-violent agitations during the Salt Satyagraha. For this, she was promptly arrested by the colonial authorities. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact was made in 1931 which promised the release of all those arrested during the Salt Satyagraha, but Aruna Asaf Ali was not among them. Only a strong protest by other women freedom fighters and Mahatma Gandhi helped in securing her release. Upon release, she was not politically active but at the end of 1942, she became an active member of the underground movement.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

The Quit India resolution was passed by the Indian National Congress on August 8, 1942. In response, the colonial government arrested major leaders of the movement in order to pre-emptively collapse the movement. Despite major leaders and many workers of the party being in jail, Aruna Asaf Ali led the remainder of the party and unfurled the Congress flag at Gowalia Tank Maidan, marking the beginning of the Quit India Movement.

Laxmi Sehgal: Lakshmi Sahgal was an officer of the Indian Army and was also referred to as Captain Lakshmi. Lakshmi was a World War II veteran and spent time as a prisoner in Burma. When she heard that Bose was recruiting women soldiers as well, she gave her name. She was ordered to form a female regiment called Rani of Jhansi Regiment, where she got the rank of Captain. The march to Burma began in December 1944 and, by March 1945, the decision to retreat was taken by the INA leadership, just before the entry of their armies into Imphal. Captain Lakshmi was arrested by the British army in May 1945. She remained under house arrest in the jungles of Burma until



March 1946, when she was sent to India – at a time when the INA trials in Delhi were intensifying the popular hatred of colonial rule.

Captain Lakshmi had the quality of awakening a sense of joy and possibility in all who met her. She always positioned herself firmly on the side of the poor and unempowered. Freedom fighter, dedicated medical practitioner, and an outstanding leader of the women's movement in India, Captain Lakshmi leaves the country and its people a fine and enduring legacy.

Kundi Ram Bose: Khudiram Bose was a brave freedom fighter who fought for the independence of our country and laid down his life for it. On his death anniversary, people have been paying tributes to him and remembering his fearless spirit.



He was from a small village called Mohobani which was located in West Bengal's Medinipur (then Midnapore) district. Bose was born on December 3, 1889.

Growing up, he faced several hardships. Growing up, he faced several hardships. He lost his mother at the tender age of 6, and his father just a year later. After which, Bose came in contact with revolutionaries like Barindra Kumar Ghosh of Calcutta. He then became a volunteer in the freedom struggle when he was just 15. Just around then, the Britishers caught him distributing pamphlets with anti-British propaganda. After which, he involved himself even further by planting bombs near police stations in order to target officials.

The revolutionary had a fearless spirit and is known for the attempt to assassinate the district magistrate of Muzaffarpur, Douglas Kingsford. At the age of 18, Bose, and his friend Prafulla Chaki devised a plan to assassinate the judge. They threw a bomb at a carriage which they suspected was carrying him, however, they erroneously killed two women instead. The district magistrate escaped.

The Britishers set out to nab Bose and Chaki after the attempt. However, Chaki shot himself before they could get to him. Khudiram Bose, was caught and put to trial. He was then hanged, at the young age of 18, for the attempt of assassination.

◆ **Singhara Singh:** Singhara Singh was transported from United Province and settled in Phoenix Bay in the capital Port Blair. He was a Driver by profession in the Department of Civil Supplies. Japanese occupied the Andaman Islands in March 1942 during the Second World War, and after a few months, Singhara Singh along with other residents joined the Indian Independence League of Andaman branch in April 1942. He actively took part in all the activities of the Indian Independence League (IIL) mainly in villages. He encouraged and motivated the villagers to come and take part in the functions of the League. He played an active role in the expansion of the League involving a large number of people from villages.

The Japanese forces looking into his activities arrested and incarcerated him in the Cellular Jail. He was forced to confess that he was a British spy working for the British but he strongly denied all charges. He was mercilessly and continuously tortured in jail.

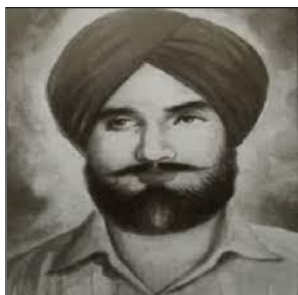
Meanwhile, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose visited the Andaman Islands on 29 December 1943. Netaji hoisted the Indian flag on 30 December 1943 for the first time at Gymkhana Ground at Port Blair. Netaji visited the wings of the Cellular Jail but he was not shown the Wing No 6 of the jail, in which Singhara Singh and other IIL members, large in number, were incarcerated in bad condition. Thus, Netaji was not made aware of their presence in the jail during his visit. On 31 December 1943 Netaji visited Browning Club which was the Headquarters of the Indian Independence League, but he was not given any chance to freely interact with the League members. At this time nobody in the League got any opportunity to inform Netaji about what was being happened there in the jail with the IIL members and other residents of the city. After his departure on 31 December, the members of the Indian Independence League were targeted by the Japanese.

The methods of torture being received by the members of the Indian Independence League and INA appeared to be more brutal and it was so much unbearable that Singhara Singh took his last breath inside the jail walls on 25 January 1944. His body was cremated by the Japanese forces.

Agilandam Ammal: She was born in 1899 in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. She was the wife of A. Vaidyanatha Iyer, a Congress leader, and freedom fighter. She followed the path of her husband in the freedom movement. She participated in the Satyagraha movements held in 1932 and 1933. She was imprisoned for two months for her national movement activities. Later, in 1941, she took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement and was arrested. She was imprisoned for three months in Vellore and Madurai prisons under rigorous punishment.



Prem Singh Negi: Prem Singh Negi was a leading freedom fighter of non-violent Satyagraha and he was one of the first few people who were selected by Gandhiji for individual Satyagraha in Kumaon. He was born in 1897. His father's name was Charan Singh Negi. He lived with his family at Talla Kosya Betalghat in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. He was selected by Gandhiji for non-violent Satyagraha in 1941 at the age of 44. Whose information he had given to A.D.M. through a letter dated 3rd April, 1941. On April 12, 1941, at around 1 a.m., a non-violent satyagraha was carried out by raising slogans against the British in the Devi temple near Mallisetti. He was arrested while doing Satyagraha. After which a case was registered against him on April 14, 1941, and while deciding the case on April 17, 1941, he was punished and fined Rs.20 till the court rose.



Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya: Kamaladevi was born on April 3, 1903 in Mangalore in a musical family. She was very much interested in art because of her family background. After the death



of her father, she moved to her uncle's home in Madras where she had an opportunity to meet great leaders like Srinivasa Sastri, Annie Besant, Ramabai, Gopalakrishna Gokhale, Govind Ranade etc.

These meetings widened her political views. At the age of 14, Kamaladevi got married. But within 2 years of marriage, her husband passed away. Deciding that life would not end after her husband's death, she joined Queen Mary's College in Madras where she met Sarojini Naidu's brother Harindranath Chattopadhyaya. Both of them enjoyed theatre which inspired them to tie the knot. In those days, widow remarriage was considered a big sin. Her marriage with Harindranath was a social revolution. Later, due to differences of opinion, they both parted. She was the first woman to get a divorce through the Indian Court system. In 1927, she joined the Congress party. Within a year, she became a member of the General Committee. She took part in Salt Satyagraha with Mahatma Gandhi. She gave training to women volunteers under the scheme 'Seva base'. The British were irritated with her activities and banned 'Seva base'. She was arrested and served in jail for years. After partition, she helped in the making of Faridabad city for the 50,000 artists who migrated from Pakistan. She established the Sangeetha Nataka Academy, Bharathanatya Sangam and Indian Arts and Crafts Foundation. She was the first woman to contest for the legislature of Madras Presidency. She passed away on October 29, 1988.

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Role of Women in the Indian Freedom Struggle Movement

Dr. Neetu Ohri and Dr. Parminder Kaur***

ABSTRACT

The history of the Indian Freedom Struggle would be incomplete without mentioning the contributions of women. The sacrifice made by the women of India will occupy the foremost place. They fought with true spirit and undaunted courage and faced various tortures, exploitations and hardships to earn us freedom. When most of the men freedom fighters were in prison the women came forward and took charge of the struggle. The list of great women whose names have gone down in history for their dedication and undying devotion to the service of India is a long one. This article throws light on the contribution of women in Indian freedom.

INTRODUCTION

Woman's participation in India's freedom struggle began as early as in 1817. Bhima Bai Holkar fought bravely against the British colonel Malcolm and defeated him in guerilla warfare. Many women including Rani Channama of Kittur, Rani Begam Hazrat Mahal of Avadh fought against British East India company in the 19th century; 30 years before the "First War of Independence 1857."

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◆ The role played by women in the War of Independence (the Great Revolt) of 1857 was creditable and invited the admiration even leaders of the Revolt. Rani of Ramgarh, Rani Jindan Kaur, Rani Tace Bai, Baiza Bai, Chauhan Rani, Tapasvini Maharani daringly led their troops into the battlefield.

Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi whose heroism and superb leadership laid an outstanding example of real patriotism. Indian women who joined the national movement belonged to educated and liberal families, as well as those from rural areas and from all walks of life, all castes, religions and communities.

Sarojini Naidu, Kasturba Gandhi, Vijayalakmi Pundit and Annie Bezzant in the 20th century are the names that are remembered even today for their singular contribution both in the battlefield and in the political field.

Let us elucidate the role of Indian women who participated in the freedom struggle against British East India Company and British Empire and made great and rich contributions in various ways.

THE FIRST WAR OF INDEPENDENCE (1857-58)

The First War of Independence (1857-58) It was the first general agitation against the rule of the British East India Company. The Doctrine of Lapse, issue of cartridges greased with cow and pig fat to Indian soldiers at Meerut 'triggered the fire'. Further, the introduction of British system of education and a number of social reforms had infuriated a very wide section of the Indian people, soon became a widespread agitation and posed a grave challenge to the British rule.

As a result of this agitation the East India Company was brought under the direct rule of the British Crown. Even though the British succeeded in crushing it within a year, it was certainly a popular revolt in which the Indian rulers, the masses and the militia participated so enthusiastically that it came to be regarded as the First War of Indian Independence. Rani Lakshmi Bai was the great heroine of the First war of India Freedom. She showed the embodiment of patriotism, self-respect and heroism. She was the queen of a small state, but the empress of a limitless empire of glory.

JALIANWALABAGH MASSACRE (1919)

General Dyer's Jalianwala Bagh massacre followed the strike wave, when an unarmed crowd of 10,000 Baisakhi celebrators was mercilessly attacked with over 1600 rounds of ammunition. Yet, Gandhi continued to advocate cooperation with the British in December 1919, even as the resistance of ordinary Indians continued. The first six months of 1920 saw an even greater level of mass resistance, with no less than 200 strikes taking place involving 1.5 million workers. It was in response to this rising mass revolutionary tide that the leadership of the Congress was forced to confront its conservatism and give a somewhat more militant face to its program. The "non-violent non-cooperation" movement was thus launched under the stewardship of leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Lajpat Rai and Motilal Nehru.

NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT LAUNCHED (1920)

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi returned to India from South Africa in 1915 and took up the demand for self-rule and non-cooperation movement. Sarla Devi, Muthulaxmi Reddy, Susheela Nair, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Sucheta Kripalani and Aruna Asaf Ali are some the women who participated in the non-violent movement. Kasturba Gandhi, the wife of Mahatma Gandhi, and the women of the Nehru family, Kamla Nehru, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit and Swarup Rani, also participated in the National Movement. Lado Rani Zutshi and her daughters Manmohini, Shyama and Janak led the movement in Lahore.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE THE DANDI SALT MARCH (1930)

Gandhiji inaugurated the Civil Disobedience Movement by conducting the historic Dandi Salt March, where he broke the Salt Laws imposed by the British Government. Followed by an entourage of seventy nine ashram inmates, Gandhi embarked on his march from his Sabarmati Ashram on a 200 mile trek to the remote village Dandi that is located on the shores of the Arabian Sea. On 6th April 1930, Gandhi with the accompaniment of seventy nine satyagrahis, violated

the Salt Law by picking up a fistful of salt lying on the sea shore. The Civil Disobedience Movement was an important milestone in the history of Indian Independence. The aim of this movement was a complete disobedience of the orders of the British Government. During this movement it was decided that India would celebrate 26th January as Independence Day all over the country. On 26th January 1930, meetings were held all over the country and the Congress tri-colour flag was hoisted. The British Government tried to repress the movement and resorted to brutal firing, killing hundreds of people. Thousands were arrested along with Gandhiji and Jawaharlal Nehru. But the movement spread to all the four corners of the country.

THE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT (1942)

In August 1942, the Quit India movement was launched. “I want freedom immediately, this very night before dawn if it can be had. We shall free India or die in the attempt, we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery”, declared the Mahatma, as the British resorted to brutal repression against non-violent satyagrahis. The Quit India resolution, taken against British, directly addressed women “as disciplined soldiers of Indian freedom”, required to sustain the flame of war.

Usha Mehta, a committed patriot set up a radio transmitter, called The “Voice of Freedom” to disseminate the “mantra” of freedom-war. News of protest and arrests, deeds of young nationalists, and Gandhi’s famous “Do or Die” message for the Quit India movement were circulated amongst the masses. Usha Mehta and her brother persisted with their task of broadcasting until their arrest.

These acts proved that the British could maintain the empire only at enormous cost due to wide spread agitation.

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Women Freedom Fighters – Contribution and Legacy to Indian Freedom Movement

*Dr. Mandeep Kaur**

INTRODUCTION

“The full freedom of India will be an impossible unless your daughters stand side by side with the sons in the battle for freedom and such an association on absolutely equal terms on the part of India’s millions of daughters is not possible, unless they have a definite consciousness of their own power.”

-Mahatama Gandhi

On the way towards Indian freedom, not only men but women also played a significant role. A number of women play a very significant role to subdue the British rule in India. Indian women fought very bravely and fearlessly without caring the family and social restrictions. These female freedom fighters broke stereotypes and come to the front to fight for our freedom. They play a very prominent role in the first war for Independence (1857-58), Non-cooperation movement launched (1920), Civil Disobedience the Dandi March (1930), the Quit India Movement (1942) and other activities for the freedom of the country. They faced many exploitations, pains and hardships to bring freedom for India. Without female freedom fighters achieving Independence of India would remain a dream. But the contribution of them in the

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struggle for freedom has been lost in time cycle. We are celebrating 75th azadi ka amrit mahotsav that is incomplete without remembering the women freedom fighters. In this paper we are trying to show the legacy of women in the history of freedom movement of India.

KELADI CHENNAMMA

Chennamma was an Indian revolutionary, freedom fighter and Rani of the Kittur, a former princely state in Karnataka. She led an armed force against the British East India Company in 1824 in defiance of the doctrine of lapse is an attempt to maintain Indian control over the region, but was defeated in the third war and died imprisoned. Rani Chennamma was born on 23 October 1778, in Kakati, a small village in the present Belagavi District of Karnataka. She married Raja Mallasarja of the Desai family at the age of 15. Chennamma's husband died in 1824, leaving her with a son and a state full of volatility. This was followed by her son's death in 1824. Rani Chennamma was left with the state of Kittur and an uphill task to save it from the British. Following the death of her husband and son, Rani Chennamma adopted Shivalingappa in the year 1824 and made him the heir to the throne. This irked the East India Company, who ordered Shivalingappa's expulsion, on the pretext of the Doctrine of Lapse. Rani Chennamma sent a letter to Mount Stuart Elphinstone, Lieutenant-Governor of the Bombay Presidency pleading her cause, but the request was turned down, and war broke out. In the first round of war, during October 1824, British forces lost heavily and St John Thackeray, collector and political agent, was killed in the war. Amateur Balappa, a lieutenant of Chennamma, was mainly responsible for his killing and losses to British forces. Two British officers, Sir Walter Elliot and Mr. Stevenson were also taken as hostages. Rani Chennamma released them with an understanding with Chaplin that the war would be terminated but Chaplin continued the war with more forces. During the second assault, Sub collector of Solapur, Mr. Munro, nephew of Thomas Munro was killed. Rani Chennamma fought fiercely with the aid of her lieutenant, Sangolli Rayanna, but was ultimately

captured and imprisoned at Bailhongal Fort, where she died on 2 February 1829 (Bhat, 1998).

BEGUM HAZRAT MAHAL

Begam Hazrat Mahal was a girl from middle family, born at Faziabad. She performed a mut'ah marriage with Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. On 4 February, 1856 Awadh was annexed by the British East India Company. Wajid Ali Shah was removed from his post. He was arrested and sent to jail in Calcutta. But Begam Hazrat Mahal remained in Lucknow with her son Birjis Qadir. They motivated the Hindus and Muslims to join their army and fight against British India Company. She fought with bravery against the company in Lucknow. Many women joined her in this war. They fought against the company in men's dress. Unfortunately her rule could not stay longer. She left Lucknow in 20th March, 1858. She reached Brailly with Mummu Khan. Here she again fought with company with the help of revolutionaries. But they lost although she had the support of legendary revolutionaries and heavy military power. Rebellion of 1857 had lost its impact now. Begam Hazrat Mahal left for Nepal with Nana Sahib, Mummu Kahn and Ferozeshah. She wrote letters through Nawab Birjis Qadir to Nepal Rana Jung Bahadur to help them. But he refused to help them. But later on he provided asylum only to Begum Hazrat Mahal. After the escape of Begum, the British declared that the rebels and their leaders must submit themselves for working against the British government. The British government will spare those people who did not do the murder of British officials. The British government also offered her scholarship and considerations as a member of royal house. But she refused to surrender. She asked the people not have faith in the promises of British government. Now British government refused to give any type of help to Begum and ordered that if she comes to India she would be under the surveillance of district magistrate. Now Begum could not come to India. She bought a house in Kathmandu and lived there a very simple life. She died in 1879. On 10th May, 1984, the Government of India issued a stamp to commemorate Begum Hazrat Mahal.

MOOLMATI

Moolmati was very committed lady towards the Indian freedom movement. She was the mother of famous freedom fighter Ram Prasad Bismil. Bismil was the founder of Hindustan Republican Association in 1924. Moolmati always stand by her son in the struggle of freedom. In 1927, British government arrested Bismil. He was sentenced to death in relation to Manipuri Conspiracy case of 1918 and the Kakori Conspiracy of 1925. There is no much information about Moolmati. But one incidence which is found in the history of Indian freedom movement exhibits her love for country and strong and barely feeling for freedom. Moolmati went to meet her son in jail. Bismil broke down to see her mother, but Moolmati bravely stand firm and told Bismil that she was proud of having a son like him. At this Bismil said that he has no fear of death. He has tears in his eyes because he is thinking that he would never get a mother like her again. Moolmati did not stop there. She addressed so many public gatherings after her elder son's demise. In one address she offered her younger son to serve in freedom movement. This shows her absolute love for freedom of country.

BHIKAJI CAMA

Bhikaji Cama, known as Madame Cama was the first to unfurl Indian flag in abroad, Stuttgart, Germany on 22nd August, 1907. After that she was called the Mother of Indian Revolution. Bhikaji was born on 24 September, 1861 to Sorabji Framji Patel and his wife Jaijibai Sorabai Patel into an affluent Parsi family and married Rustomji Cama in 1885. Her husband was a pro- British lawyer. Bhikaji Cama was a passionate nationalist. Due to ideological differences she faced so many problems and conflicts with her husband and relatives. She remained busy in social work. She was caught plague in 1896 in Bombay. She went Europe for recovery in 1902. Here she did not sit idle. She continued to fight for the freedom of the country. She met many nationalists like Dadabhai Naoroji, Lala Har Dayal and Shyamji Krishnavarma. She made aware the people through public meetings. Then she went to Paris. In 1909, the

British government started cracking down the Indian revolutionaries after the assassination of William Hutt Curzon Wylie. The British requested the French to deport her but they refused. Here she wrote revolutionary literature and co-founded Paris Indian Society with Munchers Shah Burjorji Godrej and S.R. Rana. She made aware the people about the effects of natural disasters in India and demanded autonomy from Britain. Situation became critical when French and Britain became allies in the First World War. France restricted the activities of Indian freedom fighters. Bhikaji Cama was arrested and sent to Southern France in 1915. Due to her ill health she was allowed to return to her residence at Bordeaux provided she reported on a weekly basis to the local police station. She returned India in 1935. She died on 13 August, 1936.

MATA VIDHAVATI JI

Mata Vidhavati was the goddess of immense courage. She was the mother of Shaheed Bhagat Singh. She saw a lot in her long life journey. One of her brother in law Sardar Ajit Singh went abroad, the other brother in law Sardar Swarn Singh was martyred due to unbearable sufferings of jail. Her husband Sardar Kishan Singh was surrounded by jail and courts through his life. When the second phase of life came, one of her son went to the gallows, the other two sons remained locked in jails. Her husband got paralyzed. She suffered a lot, even those who went to jail must not have suffered as much physical and mental suffering as Mata Vidhavati ji suffered in her life. She belonged to simple middle family. She was married to Sardar Kishan Singh in 1898. She came to her in laws house in 1900. All the members of the family were busy in activities related to the freedom of the country. One day before the birth of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Sardar Kishan Singh, Sardar Ajit Singh and Sardar Swarn Singh were all in the different jails. It was a matter of coincidence that all were released on the same day Bhagat Singh was born. When Ghadar Party's movement failed, the British government came in retaliation. Vidhavati was sent from Lahore to her maternal home and Kishan Singh went to

his village Banga. But this meant that without earning an end of employment. After two years Kishan Singh started life insurance work in Lahore. He called Vidyavati back there and left their three children Jagat Singh, Bhagat Singh and Amar Kaur with their grandparents in Banga. Kulbir Singh was born here after coming to Lahore. In 1927 Bhagat Singh was arrested in the bomb case. The trial of the central assembly bomb case was going on against Bhagat Singh and BK Dutt. Bhagat Singh was sentenced to death and BK Dutt was given life imprisonment. In a meeting a few days before hanging, Bhagat Singh said, Bebeji, don't come on the day of hanging. When he was being hanged on March 23, 1931, her heart broke into pieces as soon as she heard it. Bhagat Singh's last words were echoing again and again in her ears. Bebeji don't cry, if you kept on crying, people will say that Bhagat Singh's mother is crying. After that she faced a severe economic crisis. Her two sons went to jail. Her husband went to bed crippled by paralysis. After 1947, Kulbir Singh and Kartar Singh returned from jail. Sardar Ajit Singh left forever after meeting for a movement. In 1951, Sardar Kishan Singh left this world. Her sons bought land outside Punjab. Vidyavati was now left alone at home. In 1963, statues of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were installed in Khatkarkalan. On September 9, 1963 Dutt reached Khatkarkalan from Patna. Mother was waiting for Dutt at the door since morning. Seeing it Dutt's eyes became moist. Dutt bowed down and touched the feet of the mother and the mother kissed son's forehead again and again and said, Dutt I see Bhagat Singh in your face. After one year of this meeting Dutt fell on the bed. He left the world on July 20, 1965. As per the last wish of Dutt, his body was taken to the banks of the Sutluj River in Ferozepur for cremation where his companions Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were cremated. Vidyavati accompanied his body from Delhi to Ferozepur. Before setting fire to the pyre, he looked at Dutt's face and said, 'All four of you have gathered here, now invite me too.' And on June 1, 1975 Mata Vidyavati also joined her martyred son Bhagat Singh and his three companions, and her body was cremated at this place.

KAMALADEVI CHATTOPADHYA

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya born in 1903 into a Saraswat Brahmin family. Her maternal uncle was a well known social reformer. She met luminaries like Annie Besant and Gopal krishan Gokhale there. Her interactions with them seeded political consciousness in her. She went to London to pursue a diploma course. Here she came to know about Non-cooperation movement. She promptly returned to India. She joined Seva Dal and got the prominent post in the Dal. She founded All India Women's Conference. She competed for a seat in the Madras Legislative Assembly, becoming the first woman in India to run for political office. She did many works for Indian Women. She made them aware about their rights and the freedom movement. She went against Mahatma Gandhi when he had opposed the inclusion of women in Salt Satyagraha Movement in 1930. She actively participated in this movement and sell freedom salt packets. She entered Bombay Stock Exchange to sell salt packets. She refused to join various government posts offered by British Government. She died in 1988.

DURGA BHABHI

During British rule, people were afraid to even raise their heads in front of the British. Although some freedom fighters were fighting a war against them to get freedom for India, one of them was Durga Bhabhi who is also known as the Iron Lady of India. Even the British used to fear Durga Bhabhi. She was so passionate about the freedom of the country that she went to Lahore alone to help Bhagat Singh. Hardly anyone knows that the pistol with which Chander Shekhar Azad shot himself was given to him by Durga Bhabhi. Durga Bhabhi's real name was Durgavati Devi, born on 7 October, 1907 in Shahzadpur village of Uttar Pardesh. She was one of the few women revolutionaries who actively participated in the armed revolution against the ruling British Raj. Durga Devi not only knew how to make spears, shields, sabers, pistol but also bombs. She is known to have accompanied Bhagat Singh to the Train Yatra in which she participated in disguise after the assassination of

Saunder. Durga Devi was married at the age of 11 to Bhagwati Charan Vohra. Durga Devi came to fore when the sabha decided to celebrate the 11th anniversary of the martyrdom of Kartar Singh Sarabha on 16 November, 1926 in Lahore. Devi played a key role in helping Bhagat Singh and Shivram Rajguru to escape after the assassination of Saunder. Bhagat Singh had to leave Lahore but there were police guards everywhere. Durga Bhabhi became Bhagat Singh's wife and helped him to get out of Lahore. Under the trial, Bhagat Singh and his companions had to pay a fine of 3000 rupees, for which she sold her jewelry. As a revenge for their hanging, Durga decided to kill Lord Hailey (ex-Governor of Punjab), who was also a staunch enemy of the revolutionaries. Although the Governor escaped, his aides were injured. She was arrested and awarded imprisonment for three years. She was always ahead to help the revolutionaries. She led the last rites of Jatinder Nath Das who was martyred in a 63-day prison hunger strike. After Indian independence Durga Devi started living quietly in Ghaziabad in oblivion and as a common citizen. Later she opened a school for poor children in Lucknow. Durgavati Devi died on 15 October, 1999 at the age of 92.

KALPANA DATTA

Kalpana Datta (later Kalpana Joshi) was born at Sripur, a village in the Chittagong District in the Bengal Province of British India on 27 July 1913. After passing her matriculation examination in 1929 from Chittagong, she went to Calcutta and joined the Bethune College for graduation in Science. Soon, she joined the Chhatri Sangha (Women Students Association), a semi revolutionary organisation in which Bina Das and Pritilata Waddedar were also active member's. The Chittagong armoury raid was carried out on 18 April 1930. Kalpana joined the "Indian Republican Army, Chattagram branch", the armed resistance group led by Surya Sen in May 1931. In September, 1931 Surya Sen entrusted her along with Pritilata Waddedar to attack the European Club in Chittagong. But a week before the attack, she was arrested while carrying out reconnaissance of the area. She went underground after her release

on bail. On 17 February 1933 the police encircled their hiding place in Gairila village, and that raid Surya Sen was arrested but Kalpana was able to escape from there. She was finally arrested on 19 May 1933. In the second supplementary trial of the Chittagong armoury raid case, Kalpana was sentenced to transportation for life. She was released in 1939. Kalpana Datta graduated from the Calcutta University in 1940 and joined the Communist Party of India. She served as a relief worker during the 1943 Bengal famine and during the Partition of Bengal. In 1946, she contested in the elections for the Bengal Legislative Assembly as a Communist Party of India candidate from Chittagong but could not win. Later, she joined the Indian Statistical Institute where she worked until her retirement. She died in Calcutta on 8 February 1995 (Jain, 2003).

USHA MEHTA

Usha Mehta was a freedom fighter known for her role in setting up the underground Congress Radio. Congress radio played a crucial role in coordinating the various protests when the senior leaders were arrested by the British colonial authorities. Usha Mehta was born in Saras Village in Gujarat on 25 March 1920. When she was about 5 years old, she visited Mahatma Gandhi's ashram at Ahmedabad. Barely at 8 years, she became an active member of the Indian freedom struggle with one of her first protest being against the Simon Commission in 1928. Usha's father served as a judge under the British authorities. Therefore, her participation was limited to a certain extent but this hurdle was overcome when he retired in 1930. She became even more actively involved when her family shifted to Bombay in 1932 by distributing clandestine bulletins, publications and carrying messages to jailed leaders. In 1939 she graduated from Wilson College in Bombay but her study in law came to an end when she joined the Quit India Movement in 1942. It was also around this time when she became a proponent of the Gandhian philosophy, adapting a Spartan lifestyle and forsaking all luxuries. This would help her on the path to come. The Quit India movement was announced by the Indian National Congress

and slated to commence on 9 August 1942. The British authorities preemptively arrested all the leaders including Mahatma Gandhi in order to derail the movement, but junior leaders went ahead with the event, hoisting the national flag at Gowalia Tank ground and thus starting the Quit India movement. On 14 August 1942, Usha and her close associates began the underground Congress Radio, a clandestine radio station that went on air on 27 August. The radio broadcasts recorded messages from Gandhi and other prominent leaders of the freedom movement. The messages were played across India by the Congress Radio. The British tried to clamp down on the Congress Radio but its location was changed daily to avoid detection. But they were eventually found on 12 November 1942, and all its organisers including Usha were arrested.

She was held in solitary confinement and offered incentives to betray the movement but it was of little use. During her trial, she chose to remain silent and did not answer any questions put forward by the prosecution even to the ones that would have saved her. She was sentenced to four years imprisonment at Yervada Jail in Pune. She was released in 1946. She was conferred the Padma Vibhushan in 1998, the second-highest civilian award of India. In August 2000, she took part in the celebrations that marked the anniversary of the Quit India Movement in August, despite suffering from ill-health. It did weaken and exhaust her to a great extent. She passed away on 11 August 2000, aged 80.

MATANGINI HAZARA

Matangini Hazara was an Indian revolutionary who participated in the Indian independence movement until she was shot dead by the British Indian police in front of the Tamluk Police Station on 29 September 1942. In 1905, she became actively interested in the Indian independence movement as a Gandhian. A notable feature of the freedom struggle in Midnapore was the participation of women. In 1932, she took part in the Non-Cooperation Movement and was arrested for breaking the Salt Act. She was promptly released but protested for the abolition of the tax. Arrested again, she was

incarcerated for six months at Baharampur. After being released, she became an active member of the Indian National Congress and took to spinning her own Khadi. In 1933, she also attended the sub divisional Congress conference at Serampore and was injured in the ensuing baton charge by the police.

CONCLUSION

In spite of above pride women of India, Parvati devi, Ganga Ben, Amrit Kaur, Swarup Rani, Kamla Nehru, Suniti Devi, Uda Devi, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Maharani Jind Kaur, Rani Tulsipur, Harnam Kaur, Hukam Kaur, Kusum Ben, Rani Avanti Bai, Basanti Devi, Aruna Asaf Ali, Jalkari Bai, Bina Das etc. played a very significant role in the Indian freedom movement. There were also many nameless women who have in their own way contributed to the movement. They silently wiped a tear in pride when the men of their family sacrificed their lives. There is no end of list of women who took hard decisions, with stood their family and took to streets, tolerated the hardships of prison and fight to get position in legislature for Indian freedom movement. Women as a wife, daughter and mother, leader, supporter, messenger played a very significant role in the Indian Freedom movement. As we are celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, we should salute these brave daughters of mother India.

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India's Struggle for Independence

*Dr. Gagandeep Kaur**

India has been unified under many empires in its history like the Mauryan Empire and Mughal Empire. A sense of oneness has been there for ages – even though most of the centralized administration in India didn't last long. With the end of Mughal rule, India broke into hundreds of princely states. The British which was instrumental in the fall of the Mughal Empire – held control over the princely states and created the British Indian Empire.

FOUNDATION OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (INC) IN 1885

Indian National Congress (also known as Congress Party) founded in 1885 was the most prominent one. Later, under the leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawarhal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the Congress party played a central role in organizing the mass movements against the British.

PARTITION OF BENGAL (1905)

The decision to partition Bengal into two was in the air from December 1903. Congress party – from 1903 to mid-1905 tried moderate techniques of petitions, memoranda, speeches, public meetings and press campaigns. The objective was to turn to public opinion in India and England against the partition. However, Viceroy Curzon 1905 formally announced the British Government's decision for the partition

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of Bengal on 19 July 1905. The partition took effect on 16 October 1905. This resulted in a lot of discontentment among the Indians. Many considered this as a policy of 'Divide and Rule' by the British.

THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT (1905-1908)

The movement popularised the use and consumption of indigenous products. Indians started ditching British goods for Indian products. Women, students, and a large section of the urban and rural population of Bengal and other parts of India became actively involved in politics for the first time with Swadeshi Movement. The message of Swadeshi and the boycott of foreign goods soon spread to the rest of the country. Original research that was praised the world over. The Swadeshi period also saw the creative use of traditional popular festivals and melas as a means of reaching out to the masses. The Ganapati and Shivaji festivals, popularized by Tilak, became a medium for Swadeshi propaganda not only in Western India but also in Bengal. The main drawback of the Swadeshi Movement was that it was not able to garner the support of the mass. The British use of communalism to turn the Muslims against the Swadeshi Movement was to a large extent responsible for this.

THE SPLIT IN THE CONGRESS (1907)

The Indian National Congress split in December 1907. By 1907, the Moderate nationalists had exhausted their historical role. They failed to meet the demands of the new stage of the national movement, even failed to attract the younger generation. Almost at the same time, revolutionary terrorism made its appearance in Bengal.

MINTO-MORLEY CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS (1909)

The Government of India which was headed by Lord Minto as Viceroy and John Morley as the Secretary of State offered fresh reforms in the Legislative Councils. They began discussions with Moderates within Indian National Congress regarding this. However, when the decision was taken, not just Moderates but the country as a whole were disappointed. The real purpose of the

Morley-Minto Reforms was to divide the nationalist ranks and encourage the growth of Muslim communalism. For the latter, they introduced the system of separate electorates under which Muslims could only vote for Muslim candidates in constituencies specially reserved for them.

THE GHADAR MOVEMENT (1914)

The Ghadar Movement was an international political movement founded by expatriate Indians to overthrow British rule in India. The main leader initially was Bhagwan Singh, a Sikh priest who had worked in Hong Kong and the Malay States. The Ghadar militants toured extensively, visiting mills and farms where most of the Punjabi immigrant labour worked. The Yugantar Ashram became the home and headquarters and refuge of these political workers. The movement failed to generate an effective and sustained leadership that was capable of integrating the various aspects of the movement. Har Dayal's ideas did not form a structured vision but remained a shifting amalgam of various theories that attracted him from time to time.

THE HOME RULE MOVEMENT (1916-1918)

The Home Rule Movement under the leadership of Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak was an important political movement that set the stage for India's struggle for independence. Tilak promoted the Home Rule campaign which linked the question of Swaraj with the demand for the formation of linguistic states and education in the vernacular medium. The main achievement of the Home Rule Movement was that it created a generation of ardent nationalists who formed the backbone of the national movement. In the later years, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian freedom struggle entered its truly mass phase.

CHAMPARAN MOVEMENT IN BIHAR (1917)

Champaran issue had actually begun in the early 19th century when European planters made agreements with Indian farmers that

forced them to cultivate indigo on 3/20th of their holdings (known as the Tinkathia system).

KHEDA SATYAGRAHA IN GUJARAT (1918)

The Kheda district of Gujarat was on the verge of famine owing to the failure of the crops. The yield had been so low that the cultivators were unable to pay the revenue. But the government insisted that the cultivators should pay the tax. The peasants of Kheda, already deprived because of plague, high prices and drought, were showing signs of weakness when Gandhiji came to know that the Government had issued secret instructions directing that revenue should be recovered only from those peasants who could pay. The Kheda Satyagraha marked the beginning of an awakening among the peasants of Gujarat, the beginning of their true political education. In addition, it gave the educated public workers the chance to establish contact with the actual life of the peasants.

ROWLATT SATYAGRAHA (1919)

During the First World War of 1914-18, the British had instituted censorship of the press and permitted detention without trial. The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919, popularly known as the Rowlatt Act, was passed by the Imperial Legislative Council in Delhi on 18 March 1919, indefinitely extending the emergency measures of preventive indefinite detention, incarceration without trial and judicial review enacted in the Defence of India Act 1915 during the First World War.

JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE (1919)

A large peaceful crowd had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab to protest against the arrest of pro-Indian independence leaders Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satya Pal. In response to the public gathering, the British Brigadier-General R. E. H. Dyer surrounded the Bagh with his soldiers. General Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on the nationalist meeting killing hundreds.

The brutality at Jallianwala Bagh stunned the entire nation. This event caused many moderate Indians to abandon their previous loyalty to the British and become nationalists distrustful of British rule.

NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT (1920)

Gandhiji called for a campaign of “non-cooperation” with British rule. Indians who wished colonialism to end were asked to stop attending schools, colleges, and law courts. They were asked to not pay taxes. In sum, they were asked to adhere to a “renunciation of all voluntary association with the British Government”. Gandhiji said that if non-cooperation was effectively carried out India would win swaraj within a year.

KHILAFAT MOVEMENT (1919-24)

The Khilafat movement was a political protest campaign launched by Muslims of British India to restore the caliph of the Ottoman Caliphate, who was considered the leader of the Muslims. The movement collapsed by late 1922 when Turkey gained a more favourable diplomatic position and moved towards Nationalism. By 1924, Turkey abolished the role of the caliph.

CHAURI CHAURA INCIDENT (1922)

On 4 February 1922, at Chauri Chaura (a place in modern Uttar Pradesh), the British police opened fire at a large group of people who were participating in the Non-cooperation movement. In retaliation, the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants. The incident led to the death of three civilians and 22 policemen.

BARDOLI SATYAGRAHA IN GUJARAT (1928)

In January 1926, the officer charged with the duty of reassessment of the land revenue demand of the taluq had recommended a 30% increase over the existing assessment. In July 1927, the Government reduced the enhancement to 21.97 per cent. But the concessions were too meager and came too late to satisfy anybody. The government

ignored Vallabhai's request which resulted in the start of Bardoli Satyagraha. The no-tax movement was launched in Bardoli taluq of Surat district in Gujarat in 1928.

THE BOYCOTT OF SIMON COMMISSION (1927)

On 8 November 1927, an all-white, Simon Commission was appointed to recommend whether India was ready for further constitutional reforms. Indian National Congress boycott Simon Commission because no Indian was present in the commission. There were protests in many places. Bhagat Singh and his comrades sought to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. They killed the white police official, Saunders, in December 1928. Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose emerged as the leaders during the Simon Commission boycott movement.

NEHRU REPORT (1928) AND THE ATTEMPT TO DRAFT THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

British policy, until almost the end of the Raj, was that the timing and nature of Indian constitutional development were to be decided exclusively by the British Parliament, but it was assumed that Indians would be consulted as appropriate. In December 1927, at its Madras session, the Indian National Congress took two major decisions in response to the setting up the Simon Commission: first, it decided to not cooperate with the Commission; second, it set up an All Parties Conference to draft a Constitution for India.

PURNA SWARAJ OR COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE CAMPAIGN (1929)

In Lahore session 1929, Jawaharlal Nehru was made the President of INC. He declared 'Purna Swaraj' or Complete Independence as the only honourable goal Indians could strive for. On the banks of the river Ravi, at midnight on 31 December 1929, the tricolour flag of Indian independence was hosted. The first task that the Congress set itself in the new year was that of organizing all over the country

was public meetings at which the Independence Pledge would be read out and collectively affirmed on 26 January.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT AND DANDI MARCH (1930)

The Lahore Session of Congress (1929) authorized the Working Committee to launch a programme of civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes. Gandhi's ultimatum to Lord Irwin, stating the minimum demands in the form of 11 points, had been ignored, and there was now only one way out: civil disobedience. Gandhi selected salt as his main tool of disobedience. On 6 April 1930, by picking up a handful of salt, Gandhi inaugurated the Civil Disobedience Movement – a movement that was to remain unsurpassed in the history of the Indian national movement for the country-wide mass participation it unleashed.

GANDHI-IRWIN PACT (1931) AND THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCES (1930-32)

British convened a series of "Round Table Conferences" in London to discuss constitutional reforms in India. The first meeting was held in November 1930. However, without the pre-eminent political leader in India, it was an exercise in futility. Gandhi was released from jail in January 1931. In the following month, he had several long meetings with the Viceroy. These culminated in what was called the "Gandhi-Irwin Pact". A second Round Table Conference was held in London in the latter part of 1931. Here, Gandhiji represented the Congress. Gandhi opposed the demand for separate electorates for "lower castes". For him, separate electorates to the "Untouchables" will ensure their bondage in perpetuity. He thought this would prevent their integration into mainstream society and permanently segregate them from other caste Hindus. During the second Round Table Conference in London, Winston Churchill, leader of the right-wing, strongly objected to the British Government negotiating on terms of equality with the 'seditious fakir'. He demanded a strong government in India. The government launched its strike against the national movement by arresting Gandhi. British government promulgated ordinances that gave the authorities

◆ unlimited power – the ‘Civil Martial Law.’ Civil liberties no longer existed and the authorities could seize people and property at will. For Indian women, the movement was the most liberating experience to date and can truly be said to have marked their entry into the public space.

THE COMMUNAL AWARD (1932)

It was part of Britisher's policy of ‘Divide and Rule. The award granted separate electorates in British India for the Forward Caste, Lower Caste, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans and Untouchables (Dalits) etc. The Congress Party was unhappy at the extension of communal representation but became particularly outraged at the British offer of separate-electorate seats for “depressed classes”.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT (1935)

The growing demand for constitutional reforms in India led the British Parliament to enact the Government of India Act 1935. The Act promised some form of representative government. The Act provided the establishment of an All-India Federation based on the union of British Indian provinces and the Princely States. Defence and foreign affairs would remain outside the control of the federal legislature, while the Viceroy would retain special control over other subjects. The Act of 1935 was condemned and was unanimously rejected by Congress. The Congress demanded the convening of a Constituent Assembly elected on the basis of adult franchise to frame a constitution for an independent India.

RESIGNATION OF CONGRESS MINISTRIES (1939)

Congress won the elections to the provincial assemblies held in February 1937. Its election manifesto reaffirmed its total rejection of the 1935 Act. One of the first acts of the Congress

Government was to release thousands of political prisoners and to cancel deportation orders on political workers. However, Congress could not attempt a complete overhaul of the agrarian structure by completely eliminating the Zamindari system.

CRISIS AT TRIPURI (1939)

Subhas Bose had been a unanimous choice as the President of the Congress in 1938. In 1939, he decided to stand again — this time as the spokesperson of militant politics and radical groups. However, with the blessings of Gandhiji, Sardar Patel, Rajendra Prasad, J.B. Kripalani other leaders put up Pattabhi Sitaramayya as a candidate for the post.

INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHA (1940)

Gandhiji decided to initiate a limited satyagraha on an individual basis by a few selected individuals in every locality. The demand of a satyagrahi was for the freedom of speech to preach against participation in the War. Vinoba Bhave was to be the first satyagrahi on 17 October 1940 and Jawaharlal Nehru the second. Individual Satyagraha served a dual purpose — (1) it gave expression to the Indian people's strong political feeling, (2) it gave the British Government another opportunity to peacefully accept the Indian demands.

CRIPPS MISSION (1942)

The Cripps Mission was a failed attempt in late March 1942 by the British government to secure full Indian cooperation and support for their efforts in World War II. The mission was headed by a senior minister Sir Stafford Cripps, traditionally sympathetic to Indian self-rule. The Declaration promised India Dominion Status and a constitution-making body after the War. He proposed that the Constitutional Assembly members would be elected by the provincial assemblies and nominated by the rulers in the case of the princely states.

QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT (1942)

The Quit India Movement was launched at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British rule in India. In this struggle, the common people of the country demonstrated unparalleled heroism and militancy. However, the repression that they faced was the most brutal that had ever been used

against the national movement. A significant feature of the Quit India Movement was the emergence of what came to be known as parallel governments in some parts of the country. Satara (Maharashtra) emerged as the base of the longest-lasting and effective parallel government. A significant feature of peasant activity was its total concentration on attacking symbols of British authority and a total lack of any incidents of anti-zamindar violence.

SIMLA CONFERENCE (1945) AND THE WAVELL PLAN

The Simla Conference of 1945 was a meeting between the Viceroy of India (Lord Wavell) and the major political leaders of British India at the Viceregal Lodge in Simla. Wavell proposed a separate representation of Muslims within a united India. Talks, however, stalled on the issue of the selection of Muslim representatives. The All-India Muslim League claimed to be the sole representative of Indian Muslims. The Indian National Congress opposed this claim as the Congress had more Muslims in its support than the Muslim League. This scuttled the conference, and perhaps the last viable opportunity for a united, independent India.

RIN MUTINY (1946)

The Royal Indian Navy (RIN) revolt started in February 1946 at Mumbai when the naval ratings on HMIS Talwar protested against the poor quality of food and racial discrimination by British officers. The Indian National Congress and the Muslim League condemned the mutiny, while the Communist Party of India was the only party that supported the rebellion. The revolt was called off following a meeting between the President of the Naval Central Strike Committee (NCSC), M. S. Khan, and Sardar Vallabhai Patel who had been sent to Bombay to settle the crisis.

MOUNTBATTEN PLAN (1947)

The legislature representatives of the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, and the Sikh community came to an agreement with Lord Mountbatten on what has come to be known as the 3

June Plan or Mountbatten Plan. This plan was the last plan for independence. The plan announced by the Viceroy Mountbatten on 3 June 1947 included these principles:

1. The principle of the partition of British India was accepted by the British Government.
2. Successor governments would be given dominion status.
3. Autonomy and sovereignty to both countries.
4. The successor governments could make their own constitution
5. The Princely States were given the right to join either Pakistan or India, based on two major factors: Geographical contiguity and the people's wishes. The Mountbatten plan led to the enactment of the India Independence Act of 1947.

INDIA INDEPENDENCE ACT (1947)

The Indian Independence Act 1947 passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom divided British India into two new independent dominions; the Dominion of India (later to become the Republic of India) and the Dominion of Pakistan (later to become the Islamic Republic of Pakistan). This Act received Royal Assent on 18 July 1947. India and Pakistan became independent on August 15th, 1947. India continues to celebrate August 15th as her Independence day, while Pakistan chose to celebrate August 14th as her Independence day as per their cabinet decisions.

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Women Freedom Fighters of India

Dr. Navjot Sandhu and Dr. Gagandeep Kaur***

Women in India have always been inspiring, whether it is now or during the times of the Indian freedom struggle. Women have always been a source of power and an ideal of courage for society. There were several prominent faces in the Indian Freedom Struggle, and the role of women brought a significant change.

RANI LAKSHMI BAI

Rani Lakshmi bai was also known as Jhansi ki Rani. She was one of the greatest and first women to fight for the freedom of India. She single-handedly fought with the British army without any fear in her eyes. At a young age, she was married to Raja Gangadhar Rao, who was the king of Jhansi. They both adopted a son, but after the tragic demise of Gangadhar Rao, the British government didn't allow her to make her son the king of Jhansi as he was an adopted child. Along with the consequences, the British took over Jhansi under its control. Rani Lakshmi bai did not accept this kind of rule against her and her son. She took the armies and revolted against the British government. She fought against all odds and during her last time, she tied her son around her chest and fought against the Britishers. The Britishers tried their best but couldn't catch Jhansi ki, Rani, at the end. When she got no way further, she set herself on fire and took her own life.

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The fire of courage and bravery was enough to make her name into golden history.

SAROJINI NAIDU

She is known as the Nightingale of India. She was one of the most impactful and prominent women freedom fighters who fought against the British government. She was an independent poet and activist. She played a very significant role in the Civil disobedience movement and the Quit India movement, for which she was even jailed. She traveled to several cities and delivered lectures about women's empowerment, social welfare, and the importance of freedom. Sarojini Naidu was the first woman to become the governor of an Indian state and the second woman to become the president of the Indian National Congress. Though she died due to a heart attack in 1949, her contribution to the freedom struggle of India will always be remembered.

BEGUM HAZRAT MAHAL

She was one of the most iconic women freedom fighters in India and was also known as a counterpart of Jhansi Ki Rani Lakshmi Bai. In 1857, when the revolt started, she was one of the first freedom fighters who persuaded the rural people to fight and raise their voices against British rule. She announced her son as the king of Oudh and took over the control of Lucknow. This was not an easy war, the British government took over the control of Lucknow from the king and she was forced to retreat to Nepal.

KITTUR RANI CHENNAMMA

She was a prominent figure in the Independence of India but we hardly know her name. She was among the few and earliest Indian rulers who fought against the British government for the freedom of India. She has to take responsibility for her Kingdom after the death of her son and husband. She fought against the British and tried to save her kingdom. She led an army and fought courageously on the battlefield. Unfortunately, Kittur Rani Chennamma died on

the battlefield. The light of her courage is still known in the country and she is remembered as the bravest woman in Karnataka.

ARUNA ASAF ALI

She played a major role in the Salt Satyagraha. She was even jailed due to her participation in the Salt Satyagraha against the British government. When she was released from jail, she led the Quit India Movement, this shows how fearless the women were during the freedom struggle of India. She also fought for the rights of political prisoners in Tihar jail. For this, she launched a hunger strike which led to improvisation in the conditions of the prisoners. She was a courageous woman, and she broke all the stereotypes. She married a Muslim man, even though she was a Brahmo. Her family was against her decision but she knew what was right for her and what was right to set an example for society.

SAVITRIBAI PHULE

She was the first female teacher in India and was the founder of the first Indian girl's school. Her wise words "If you educate a boy, you educate an individual but if you educate a girl, you educate the whole family." These few words sum up what ideology she followed. She was supported by her husband Jyotirao Phule, throughout her journey. They both fought against all the stereotypes and made people aware of women's empowerment in society. She was determined to educate the girls of society and throughout the world, she is known for her courageous literary works. Today, all the credit goes to Savitribai Phule for starting this notion and letting a girl know her true powers with the help of education.

USHA MEHTA

She was one of the youngest participants of the freedom struggle in the Indian freedom movement. Gandhi had a great impact on Usha, she was five when she met Gandhi. She was only eight-year when she participated in the 'Simon go back' protest. Her father was a judge working under the British government, he tried

to persuade her against Gandhi but she knew her father was a mere employee of the British government and was scared of her getting hurt in this freedom struggle, but she decided to fight courageously against the British government. She wanted to be part of the freedom struggle not in a significant way but wanted to contribute as much as she can. She dedicated herself completely to the freedom struggle after quitting her studies. She was even jailed for running the radio channels which were against the British government.

BHIKAJI CAMA

She was one of the leading freedom fighters in the Indian freedom movement. She was also known as Madam Cama. She has sown the seeds of women's equality and women empowerment in the minds of Indian citizens during the freedom struggle. She was one of the pioneers in setting up the history of the Indian Freedom Struggle. She belonged to a Parsi family, her father, Sorabji Framji Patel was a member of the Parsi community. She also helped many orphan girls to lead a prosperous life. She also played a significant role in national movements.

LAKSHMI SAHGAL

She was influenced and inspired by Subhas Chandra Bose. She was an Eminent figure in the freedom struggle. She believed Subhas Chandra Bose as her role model and went on to become an active member of the Indian National Army. She was a courageous young girl whose only ambition was Freedom of India. She created a women's division and named it Rani of the Jhansi Regiment. She participated in all most all movements against the British government. She fought against all odds and became history.

KASTURBA GANDHI

An untouched name in the history of the Indian freedom struggle. We all know she's the wife of the father of the nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. We all know about the contribution of Gandhi to the independence of India but not much about Kasturba Gandhi.

◆ She played a very significant role as a leading women's freedom fighter. She was also a political activist and raised her voice for civil rights. Like her husband, she worked closely with all the freedom fighters and worked equally. She became an active member of the Phoenix settlement, Durban, during the visit of Gandhi to South Africa where she accompanied him.

Women freedom fighters of India deserve special acclaim while moving through the history of Indian freedom struggle. In their way, they have faced various tortures, exploitations, etc. They sacrificed their lives for the nation. In all aspects, they rightly deserve a standing ovation and are true inspiration for all of us. These women's freedom fighters were brave and intelligent.

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