

# HORIZON

**STRIVE TO BE LIMITLESS**

**AUGUST EDITION**

**UNSUNG HEROES OF  
INDIA'S FREEDOM  
STRUGGLE**

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# Editor's message

As we step into the vibrant month of August, we find ourselves once again reflecting on the remarkable journey of our nation towards freedom. August holds a special place in our hearts as it marks the anniversary of India's hard-won independence. It is a time to honor and remember the sacrifices made by countless brave souls who dedicated their lives to the cause of our liberation.

In this special edition of our magazine, we delve deep into the lives and legacies of India's illustrious freedom fighters. Our pages are adorned with stories of courage, sacrifice, and unwavering resolve—stories that transcend time and continue to inspire generations. From the fervent revolutions led by charismatic leaders to the quiet, persistent efforts of unsung heroes, this edition is a tribute to all who contributed to our nation's struggle for freedom. Our feature articles also shine a light on lesser-known but equally heroic figures who played pivotal roles in our freedom movement.

As you read through these compelling accounts, we hope you feel a renewed sense of pride and gratitude for the sacrifices made by these extraordinary individuals. Their stories are a testament to the resilience and indomitable spirit of the Indian people, reminding us of the values we hold dear and the freedom we cherish.

We invite you to join us in commemorating this significant month by reflecting on our shared history and honoring the legacy of our freedom fighters. May their courage continue to inspire us as we strive to build a future worthy of their sacrifices.

Thank you for your continued support and readership.

Siddhi Shastri



# India's Journey to Independence: A Struggle for Freedom

India's independence is one of the most profound events in modern history, signifying the end of nearly two centuries of British colonial rule and the birth of a sovereign nation. The road to independence was a long and arduous journey, marked by a complex interplay of political, social, and economic factors, as well as the relentless efforts of countless individuals who dedicated their lives to the cause of freedom.

## The Early Colonial Period

British colonialism in India began with the establishment of the British East India Company, which initially arrived as a trading entity in the early 17th century. Over time, the Company transformed into a powerful political force, using military might and strategic alliances to expand its control over vast territories. The Battle of Plassey in 1757 was a turning point, marking the beginning of British political dominance in India. By 1858, following the suppression of the Revolt of 1857, the British Crown assumed direct control, marking the start of the British Raj.

The British implemented policies that prioritized the extraction of wealth from India, severely disrupting traditional industries and economies. The destruction of India's textile industry, once one of the most advanced in the world, is a stark example. British policies forced Indian weavers out of business by flooding the market with cheap, machine-made textiles from England. This led to widespread unemployment and poverty, particularly in Bengal, which was a major center for textile production.

Agriculture, the backbone of the Indian economy, also suffered under British rule. The introduction of cash crops like indigo and cotton, cultivated for export, disrupted food production and led to recurrent famines. The most devastating of these was the Bengal Famine of 1943, which resulted in the deaths of an estimated 3 million people. This tragic event highlighted the apathy of the British administration towards the welfare of the Indian population and fueled anti-colonial sentiment.

## The Rise of Indian Nationalism

The late 19th and early 20th centuries saw the rise of Indian nationalism, as educated Indians began to question British authority and demand greater rights and autonomy. The formation of the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885 was a significant milestone in this regard. Initially, the INC was dominated by moderate leaders like Dadabhai Naoroji, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, and Surendranath Banerjee, who advocated for constitutional reforms and sought to work within the British framework to achieve their goals.



However, the British government's reluctance to grant meaningful concessions led to growing frustration among Indians. The partition of Bengal in 1905, carried out by Lord Curzon, was seen as an attempt to divide and rule by creating religious divisions between Hindus and Muslims. This move sparked widespread protests and led to the Swadeshi Movement, which advocated for the boycott of British goods and the promotion of Indian-made products. The Swadeshi Movement marked the beginning of mass participation in the independence struggle and laid the groundwork for future movements.

## Gandhi and Movements

The arrival of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi from South Africa in 1915 marked a turning point in the Indian independence movement. Gandhi, who would later be known as the "Mahatma," introduced the principles of Satyagraha (truth and non-violence) and civil disobedience as tools for mass mobilization. His leadership transformed the struggle for independence from an elite-driven political movement to a mass-based campaign that involved millions of Indians from all walks of life.

The Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-1922) was Gandhi's first major nationwide campaign, urging Indians to boycott British goods, institutions, and honors. Although the movement was suspended after the Chauri Chaura incident, where a violent clash resulted in the deaths of police officers, it marked the beginning of widespread popular participation in the freedom struggle. This was followed by the Civil Disobedience Movement (1930-1934), during which Gandhi famously led the Salt March, challenging the British monopoly on salt production.

The Quit India Movement, launched in 1942, was perhaps the most intense phase of the struggle. Gandhi's call for the British to "Quit India" was met with a brutal crackdown by the colonial authorities, leading to mass arrests and widespread violence. Despite the repression, the movement demonstrated the unyielding resolve of the Indian people to achieve independence.

## The Path to Independence and Partition

World War II significantly weakened Britain's economic and military position, making it increasingly difficult to maintain its empire. The Indian leadership, particularly the INC under Jawaharlal Nehru, used this opportunity to press for immediate independence. Simultaneously, the demand for a separate Muslim state, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the All India Muslim League, gained momentum, leading to escalating tensions between Hindus and Muslims.

By 1946, the situation had reached a critical point, with widespread communal riots breaking out across the country. The British government, led by Prime Minister Clement Attlee, recognized that maintaining control over India was no longer feasible. Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last Viceroy of India, was tasked with overseeing the transfer of power. Despite efforts to find a unified solution, the mounting violence and the intractable demand for a separate Muslim state led to the decision to partition India.

# Independence and Its Aftermath

On August 15, 1947, India officially gained independence, marking the end of British colonial rule. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, addressed the nation with his iconic "Tryst with Destiny" speech, declaring that India was now free to shape its own destiny. However, the joy of independence was overshadowed by the horrors of partition. The newly formed governments of India and Pakistan struggled to deal with the massive humanitarian crisis, as refugees flooded across the borders and communal violence continued to rage.

In the years following independence, India embarked on a path of nation-building, adopting a democratic constitution in 1950 that enshrined the principles of justice, equality, and secularism. The challenges of poverty, illiteracy, and economic underdevelopment were immense, but India made significant strides in building institutions, promoting industrialization, and achieving self-sufficiency in food production.

## The Global Impact of India's Independence

India's independence had a profound impact not only on the subcontinent but also on the world stage. It marked the beginning of the end of European colonialism in Asia and Africa, inspiring decolonization movements across the globe. Leaders like Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana and Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya drew inspiration from India's struggle, as they led their own countries to independence.

India also became a leading voice in the Non-Aligned Movement, which sought to maintain independence from both the Western and Eastern blocs during the Cold War. Nehru's policy of non-alignment emphasized peaceful coexistence, anti-colonialism, and support for the newly independent nations of the world.

India's journey to independence was marked by sacrifice, struggle, and a relentless quest for justice. It was a movement that brought together people from all walks of life, united in their desire for freedom from colonial oppression. The legacy of India's independence continues to shape the nation's identity and its role on the global stage. While the partition remains a painful chapter in India's history, the spirit of resilience and the commitment to democratic ideals have helped India emerge as a vibrant and diverse democracy, playing a crucial role in the global community.

# Evolution of India's National Flag

The evolution of India's national flag is a profound journey that mirrors the country's path to independence and reflects its rich cultural heritage, diversity, and struggle for self-determination. Each iteration of the flag carries with it the hopes, aspirations, and sacrifices of those who fought for freedom, culminating in the tricolor that flies proudly today.

## The Early Beginnings (1906)

The story of the Indian flag begins in 1906, a time when the idea of independence was gaining momentum but was still in its nascent stages. The first unofficial flag, known as the Calcutta Flag, was hoisted on August 7, 1906, in Calcutta (now Kolkata). This flag was a bold statement against British rule, featuring three horizontal stripes of green, yellow, and red. The green stripe bore eight white lotuses, representing the eight provinces of British India, while the yellow stripe displayed the words "Vande Mataram" in Devanagari script, echoing the patriotic fervor of the times. The red stripe, with a crescent and sun, symbolized the unity of the Hindu and Muslim communities. Though it was an unofficial flag, it marked the beginning of a visual identity for India's burgeoning nationalist movement.

## The Influence of Indian Revolutionaries (1907)

In 1907, Indian revolutionaries in exile continued to push the boundaries of what the flag could represent. Bhikaiji Cama, a prominent freedom fighter, unfurled what is often referred to as the Berlin Committee Flag or the Bhikaiji Cama Flag at an international socialist conference in Stuttgart, Germany. It was quite similar to the Calcutta Flag but with some modifications:

- The color scheme remained the same, with green, yellow, and red stripes.
- The eight lotuses were replaced by seven stars arranged in the shape of the Saptarishi constellation (the Great Bear), representing the ancient Indian wisdom.
- The words "Vande Mataram" were retained.
- The sun and crescent moon were also present, symbolizing the Hindu and Muslim communities.

This flag is significant as it was one of the first flags to represent India on the international stage, highlighting the struggle for freedom

## The Home Rule Movement Flag (1917)

As the freedom movement gained momentum, the flag continued to evolve. The Home Rule Movement, led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant in 1917, introduced a new flag that symbolized India's push for self-governance within the British Empire.



This flag, with its five red and four green horizontal stripes, bore the Union Jack in the top left corner, reflecting the movement's constitutional approach. Alongside the Union Jack were a white crescent and star, further emphasizing the communal harmony that was central to the movement. This flag marked a shift in the nationalist strategy, focusing on achieving dominion status similar to other British colonies.

## The Swaraj Flag (1921)

The design of the Indian flag took a significant turn in 1921 when Mahatma Gandhi proposed a new version during the Indian National Congress session in Bezwada (now Vijayawada). The flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya. It was a powerful symbol of self-reliance and unity, featuring three horizontal stripes—red, white, and green—with a spinning wheel (charkha) at its center. The red represented the Hindu community, the green the Muslim community, and the white the other communities of India, all bound together by the common goal of independence. The charkha, symbolizing the Swadeshi movement and self-sufficiency, quickly became an emblem of the freedom struggle.

## The Final Design Before Independence (1931)

By 1931, the need for a national flag that could represent all Indians was clear. The Indian National Congress adopted a new flag, which would serve as the precursor to the current national flag. This design featured three horizontal stripes—saffron at the top, white in the middle, and green at the bottom—with the charkha in the center. The saffron represented courage and sacrifice, the white stood for peace and truth, and the green symbolized faith and chivalry. This flag was a significant step towards the final design, moving away from religious symbolism to more universal values, and it was widely recognized as the official flag of the freedom movement.

## The Birth of the National Flag (1947)

As India approached independence, the Constituent Assembly sought a flag that would unify the nation and embody its values. On July 22, 1947, just weeks before India gained independence, the assembly adopted the final version of the national flag. The design retained the saffron, white, and green stripes, but the charkha was replaced with the Ashoka Chakra, a navy blue wheel with 24 spokes, symbolizing the eternal wheel of law and righteousness. The Ashoka Chakra, derived from the Lion Capital of Ashoka, represented motion, progress, and the rule of law. This final design was a powerful symbol of India's new identity as a sovereign, democratic republic.

The evolution of the Indian flag is a testament to the country's long and arduous journey to independence. Each version of the flag reflected the changing aspirations of the Indian people, from the early days of the nationalist movement to the final push for freedom. Today, the tricolor stands as a symbol of India's unity in diversity, its commitment to democracy, and its enduring values of courage, peace, and progress. The Indian flag is not just a piece of fabric; it is the embodiment of the hopes, dreams, and sacrifices of millions of Indians who fought for the nation's freedom.





# ICONS OF THE STRUGGLE

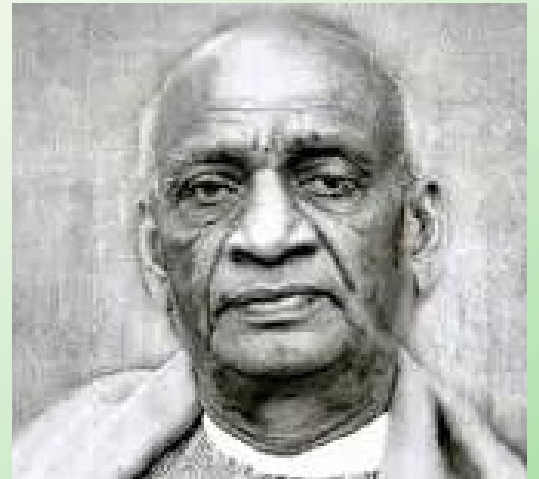


## Madan Lal Dhingra

Madan Lal Dhingra, born on 17 February 1883 in a wealthy family in Amritsar, went to London in 1906 for engineering studies. Influenced by Veer Savarkar, Dhingra realized the need for action in India's liberation. On 1 July 1909, he shot and killed British officer Curzon Wylie at a National Indian Association meeting. Disowned by his father, Dhingra made no attempt to escape and requested a death sentence. He was hanged on 17 August 1909, exemplifying his unwavering spirit of sacrifice.

## Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, born in 1875 in Gujarat, was a key leader in India's freedom struggle and the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India. Known as the "Iron Man of India," he played a vital role in unifying over 560 princely states into the Indian Union. His leadership in the Bardoli Satyagraha earned him the title "Sardar." Patel's efforts were foundational in creating a stable and unified India. He passed away in 1950.



## Aurobindo Ghosh

Aurobindo Ghosh, born on 15 August 1872 in Kolkata, was an Indian nationalist, poet, philosopher, and yogi. Active in the freedom movement until 1910, he later became a spiritual reformer. Through journals like Jugantar and Bande Mataram, he criticized British rule and promoted Swaraj. Aurobindo was arrested in 1908 for the Alipore Bomb Conspiracy but was acquitted in 1909. He emphasized spiritual nationalism, complete independence, and India's role in global affairs. His notable works include \*The Life Divine\* and \*Savitri\*. He passed away on 5 December 1950.



## Pritilata Waddedar

A revolutionary nationalist, Waddedar was a member of the Indian Republican Army and took part in the Chittagong Armoury Raid led by Surya Sen. She died in a confrontation with British forces, becoming one of the prominent female martyrs of the Indian independence movement.

These figures made significant contributions to India's struggle for freedom and played diverse roles in shaping the country's history.



## Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Often called the "Father of the Bengal Renaissance," Roy was a social reformer who fought against the practice of Sati and worked towards the upliftment of women and education. His efforts in reforming Indian society laid the groundwork for the modern Indian renaissance.



## Mahatma Phule

Jyotirao Phule was a social reformer who challenged the caste system and worked for the upliftment of the lower castes. He founded the Satyashodhak Samaj to promote social equality and fought against the discrimination faced by women and marginalized communities.



## Captain Laxmi Sehgal

Captain Laxmi Sehgal was a fierce freedom fighter and leader in the Indian National Army (INA) under Subhas Chandra Bose. Born in 1914, she was a doctor who left her practice to join the fight for India's independence. She led the Rani of Jhansi Regiment, an all-women unit, showing incredible bravery. After independence, she continued to serve the country through her medical work and activism. She passed away in 2012, but her legacy as a dedicated patriot lives on.





## Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

Subhash Chandra Bose, born in 1897 in Odisha, was a dynamic leader who advocated armed struggle for India's independence. Disillusioned with the Indian National Congress, he formed the Indian National Army (INA) to fight the British during World War II. His slogan, "Give me blood, and I will give you freedom," inspired many to join the cause. Although his alliance with Axis powers is debated, his commitment to India's independence is unquestionable. Bose's mysterious disappearance in 1945 remains a topic of intrigue.

## Lala Lajpat Rai

Lala Lajpat Rai, born in 1865 in Punjab, was a prominent leader in India's independence movement and a key figure in the Indian National Congress. Known as the "Lion of Punjab," he strongly supported the Swadeshi movement and played a crucial role in protesting the Simon Commission in 1928, during which he was fatally injured by police. Rai's death sparked widespread outrage and intensified the freedom struggle. He was also a prolific writer and social reformer, greatly contributing to Indian nationalism.



## Mangal Pandey

Mangal Pandey, born on 19 July 1827 in Nagwa, Uttar Pradesh, is remembered as one of India's first freedom fighters. He played a pivotal role in the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, which marked the beginning of India's struggle against British rule. In 1849, he joined the East India Company but later rebelled due to the use of greased cartridges made from pigs and cows, which offended both Hindus and Muslims. His mutiny reflected widespread discontent among Indian soldiers and fueled the revolt of 1857.

## Rash Behari Bose

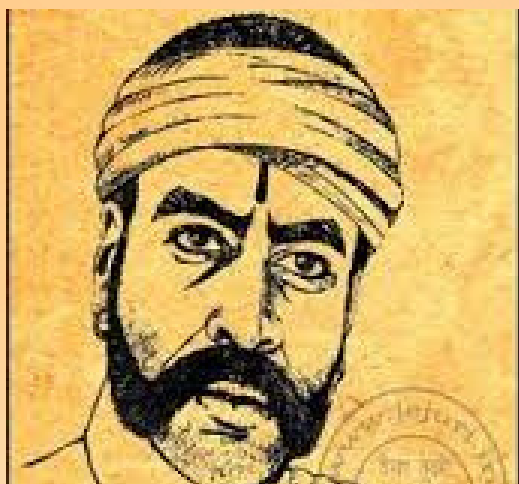
Rash Behari Bose, born in 1886 in West Bengal, was a key revolutionary in India's freedom struggle. Known for his organizational skills, he evaded British authorities and fled to Japan in 1915. There, he founded the Indian Independence League and organized the Indian National Army, later led by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Bose passed away on January 21, 1945, and was honored by the Japanese government.





## Hari Makaji Naik

Hari Makaji Naik, a Koli freedom fighter from Maharashtra, led the Ramoshis of Satara in a series of attacks against British rule. In 1879, his group repeatedly raided British offices across Pune, Satara, and Solapur, engaging in direct combat with British forces. Captured in Solapur in March 1879, Hari Makaji was sentenced to death and hanged in Jejuri, marking his place as a symbol of resistance against colonial rule.



## Rani Lakshmibai

Rani Lakshmibai, born in 1828 in Varanasi, was the Queen of Jhansi and a key leader in the 1857 Indian Rebellion against British rule. Renowned for her bravery, she refused to surrender her kingdom under the Doctrine of Lapse and led her troops in battle, dressed as a man. Her heroic death in 1858 made her a legendary figure in Indian history, symbolizing resistance and courage. Rani Lakshmibai remains one of India's greatest heroines, inspiring generations in the fight for freedom.



## Rani Avantibai

Rani Avantibai, entrusted with organizing a major conference led by Gond Raja Shankar Shah, sent glass bangles with letters to neighboring rulers, challenging them to either defend the motherland or accept the symbol of inaction. Her call to arms inspired many to unite against the British. In 1857, she led an army of 4,000, initially defeating British forces near Mandla. However, after a fierce resistance and facing imminent defeat, she sacrificed her life on March 20, 1858, at Sukhi-Talaiya, securing her legacy as a martyr in India's struggle for freedom.



## Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, born in 1883 in Maharashtra, was a revolutionary leader and writer pivotal in the Indian independence movement. He founded the Abhinav Bharat Society and advocated armed resistance against British rule, leading to his imprisonment in the Cellular Jail. Savarkar is also known for promoting Hindutva, a philosophy of Hindu cultural nationalism. Despite his controversial views, his contributions to the freedom struggle are significant. He passed away in 1966.





## Aruna Asaf Ali

Aruna Asaf Ali, born in 1909 in Punjab, was a notable freedom fighter, educator, and publisher. She is renowned for hoisting the Indian National Congress flag during the Quit India Movement in 1942, a pivotal act in India's struggle for independence. Despite arrest and going underground, she remained active in the movement. After independence, she became a respected leader, advocating for civil liberties and women's rights. Aruna was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1997 and passed away in 1996.

## Tilka Majhi

Tilka Majhi was a tribal leader and a key figure in India's early resistance against British colonial rule. He belonged to the Santhal tribe. He led the Santhal rebellion against the British in the late 18th century, long before the more well-known uprisings. He organized his people to fight against the exploitation and injustices they faced under British rule. In 1784, he attacked and injured Augustus Cleveland, a British official, during one of these revolts. Though eventually captured and executed by the British in 1785.



## Tatya Tope

The First War of Independence (1857-58) was a major uprising against British rule, triggered by issues like the Doctrine of Lapse and animal fat-greased cartridges. This revolt led to the British Crown taking direct control over India. Among the key figures, Tatya Tope, born in 1814, emerged as a major leader. After supporting Nana Saheb, he led revolutionary forces and launched a successful guerrilla campaign. Captured due to betrayal, Tope was executed on April 18, 1859, for his relentless fight for India's freedom.



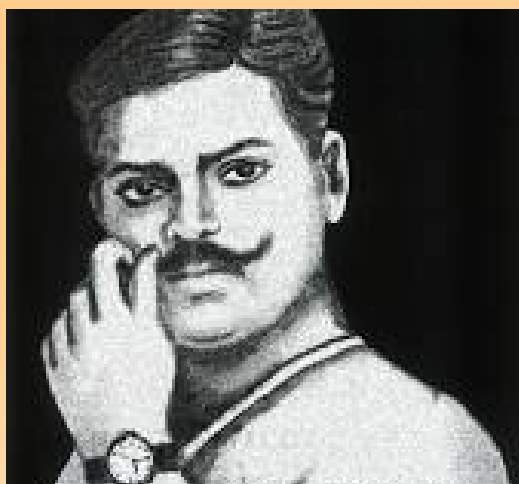
## Birsa Munda

Birsa Munda, born in 1875 in Jharkhand, was a prominent Adivasi freedom fighter and tribal leader. He led the Munda Rebellion against British rule and exploitation in the Chotanagpur region, striving to protect tribal rights and land. His leadership galvanized the tribal community, making him a symbol of indigenous resistance. Birsa died in British custody in 1900 at the age of 25, but his legacy endures, inspiring tribal movements in India.



## Chandrashekhar Azad

Chandrashekhar Azad, born in 1906 in Madhya Pradesh, was a key revolutionary leader in the Indian independence movement. He joined the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA), which he later rebranded as the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). Azad was involved in notable activities like the Kakori Conspiracy and the assassination of British police officer J.P. Saunders. Committed to never being captured alive, he died in a gunfight with the British police on February 27, 1931.



## Dr. Rajendra Prasad

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, born in 1884 in Bihar, was a leading figure in the Indian independence movement and the first President of India. A close associate of Mahatma Gandhi, he participated in key campaigns like the Non-Cooperation Movement and Salt Satyagraha. As a key member of the Indian National Congress, he played a crucial role in drafting the Indian Constitution. Prasad served as President from 1950 to 1962, guiding the republic through its formative years. He passed away on February 28, 1963.



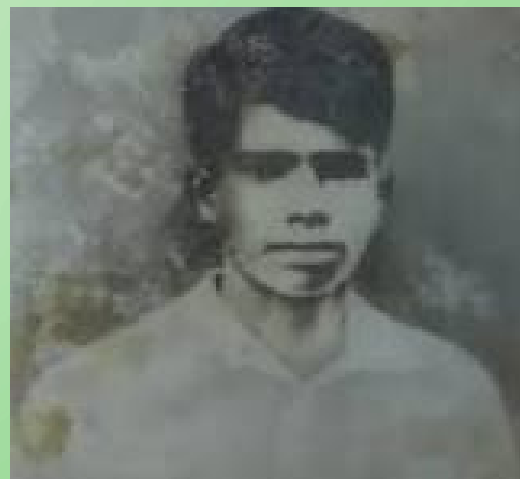
## Narayan Dabhade

Narayan Dabhade (1925-1942) was a young freedom fighter who became a martyr in the Quit India Movement. At just 17, he was killed by British forces on August 9, 1942, at Congress Bhavan in Pune. His sacrifice marked him as the first martyr of the movement. Despite his significant contribution, his story remained relatively unknown until recent efforts highlighted his role in India's independence struggle.



## Amarendralal Nandy

Amarendralal Nandy was a key member of the Indian Republican Army led by Surya Sen during the Chattagram Uprising. Little is known about his early life. On April 18, 1930, he participated in an attack on the European Club, but the plan failed as the club was closed early. Four days later, amid severe fatigue and hunger on the Jalalabad hills, Nandy and his comrades faced heavy enemy fire. He went underground but was later discovered and killed by the police.





## Bhagat Singh

Bhagat Singh, born in 1907 in Punjab, was a leading revolutionary in the Indian independence movement. A member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), he was involved in key activities like the Lahore Conspiracy Case and the assassination of British police officer J.P. Saunders. Known for his fearless nature and his call for youth to fight for freedom, Bhagat Singh was martyred by hanging on March 23, 1931. His legacy as a symbol of resistance continues to inspire generations.

## Sukhdev

Sukhdev Thapar, born in 1907 in Punjab, was a key revolutionary in the Indian independence movement. A close associate of Bhagat Singh, he was a member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) and took part in the Lahore Conspiracy Case and the assassination of J.P. Saunders. Sukhdev's unwavering commitment to independence led to his being sentenced to death alongside Bhagat Singh and Rajguru. He was hanged on March 23, 1931, and is remembered as a symbol of youthful rebellion against colonial rule.



## Rajguru

Shivaram Rajguru, born in 1908 in Maharashtra, was a notable revolutionary in the Indian independence movement. Alongside Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev Thapar, he was involved in the assassination of British police officer J.P. Saunders to avenge Lala Lajpat Rai's death. A member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), Rajguru was deeply committed to India's freedom. He was hanged on March 23, 1931, with his comrades, and his martyrdom is celebrated as a significant sacrifice for the nation.



## Batukeshwar Dutt

Batukeshwar Dutt, born in 1910 in Bengal, was a revolutionary freedom fighter known for his role in the Indian independence movement. On April 8, 1929, he, alongside Bhagat Singh, threw bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi to protest repressive laws, aiming to make "the deaf hear." Both were arrested, and Dutt was sentenced to life imprisonment, enduring harsh conditions in various jails. Despite his suffering, Dutt remained dedicated to India's independence. He passed away on July 20, 1965.





## Bina Das

Bina Das was one of the most fearless revolutionaries of the time. She dedicated her life to the cause of the liberty of the nation. She inspired many young women in Bengal to come forward. For her selfless contribution, she was awarded the Padma Shri in 1960. She passed away on 26 December 1986.



## Bahadur Shah Zafar

Bahadur Shah Zafar II, born in 1775 in Delhi, was the last Mughal emperor and a symbolic figure in the 1857 Indian Rebellion against British rule. Although a poet and nominal ruler, he was chosen as the figurehead of the revolt. After the rebellion failed, Zafar was captured, tried, and exiled to Rangoon (now Yangon) in Burma. He died in exile on November 7, 1862. Zafar's legacy as a reluctant leader of the first major challenge to British rule in India remains significant.



## Charu Chandra Bose

Charu Chandra Bose was an Indian revolutionary and member of the Anushilan Samiti, active in Bengal's freedom struggle against British rule. He was dedicated to the cause of independence, participating in armed resistance against the British. His efforts, though not widely known, contributed to India's fight for freedom.



## Chittaranjan Das

Chittaranjan Das, born in 1870 in Kolkata, was a prominent lawyer, politician, and nationalist leader. Known as "Deshbandhu" (Friend of the Nation), he was a key figure in the Non-Cooperation Movement and advocated for Swaraj through peaceful means. Das founded the Swaraj Party in 1923 to press for legislative reforms within the British colonial government and mentored leaders like Subhash Chandra Bose. His contributions to the freedom struggle and efforts to promote communal harmony are remembered with respect.



## Kanaklata Barua

Kanaklata Barua, born in 1924 in Assam, was a teenage freedom fighter who became a martyr during the Quit India Movement. At 17, she led unarmed villagers to hoist the Indian flag at a police station in Gohpur, Assam. Despite warnings from the British police, Barua persisted and was shot dead while attempting to raise the flag. Her sacrifice at such a young age symbolizes youthful courage and determination in India's struggle for independence.

## Balwant Singh

Krantikari Balwant Singh was an Indian freedom fighter and member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). He participated in the Kakori Train Robbery of 1925, aiming to fund revolutionary activities against British rule. His efforts are remembered as a key part of India's struggle for independence.



## Ganesh Damodar Savarkar

Known as Babarao in Maharashtra, GD Savarkar was a key figure in the Indian freedom struggle. He co-founded Abhinav Bharat in 1904 with his brother Vinayak Damodar 'Veer' Savarkar. Renowned for his revolutionary ideas, political insight, and dedication to freeing India from colonial rule, Babarao was born in Bhagur, Maharashtra. After losing his parents, he prioritized his siblings' upbringing over his own education.



## Rani Abbakka

Rani Abbakka Chowta, queen of Ullal in 16th-century Karnataka, is celebrated for her fierce resistance against Portuguese colonial forces. She waged several battles to defend her kingdom, using guerrilla warfare tactics to overcome the superior weaponry of the Portuguese. Rani Abbakka's courage and successful resistance made her a symbol of bravery in South Indian history. Her legacy is honored as a defender of her people and sovereignty.





## Surya Sen

Surya Sen, also known as Masterda, was a revolutionary leader born on March 22, 1894, in Chittagong (now Bangladesh). He led the Chittagong Armoury Raid on April 18, 1930, aiming to capture British arms and challenge colonial rule. Although the raid was suppressed, Sen's leadership and dedication to independence inspired many. Captured by the British in 1933, he was tortured and hanged on January 12, 1934. His bravery is a significant part of India's revolutionary history.

## Dr. Annie Besant

Dr. Annie Besant, born on October 1, 1847, in London, was a British socialist and theosophist who became a key figure in the Indian independence movement after moving to India in 1893. She was a prominent leader in the Indian National Congress and founded the Home Rule League in 1916 to advocate for self-governance. Besant played a crucial role in popularizing Swaraj and mentoring future leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru. Her advocacy for independence, education, and social reforms left a lasting impact. She passed away on September 20, 1933.



## Khudiram Bose

Khudiram Bose, born on December 3, 1889, in Bengal, was one of the youngest revolutionaries in the Indian independence movement. Joining the Anushilan Samiti at a young age, he participated in anti-British activities. In 1908, he and Prafulla Chaki attempted to assassinate British magistrate Kingsford by bombing his carriage. The attempt failed, leading to Bose's arrest and death sentence. He was executed on August 11, 1908, at the age of 18, becoming a martyr for India's freedom struggle.



## Rani Velu Nachiyar

Rani Velu Nachiyar, born on January 3, 1730, in Tamil Nadu, was the queen of Sivaganga and an early fighter against British colonial rule. After her husband was killed by the British, she waged war to reclaim her kingdom. Forming an alliance with Hyder Ali, she resisted the British and is noted for using a human bomb to destroy a British ammunition depot. Rani Velu Nachiyar regained her kingdom and ruled until her death on December 25, 1796.





## Veer Budhu Bhagat

Veer Budhu Bhagat was a tribal leader from Jharkhand who led a revolt against British rule in the early 19th century. He organized the Oraon tribe to fight against British exploitation and unjust taxes. Despite being killed in battle, his courage remains celebrated among tribal communities.

## Bhikaiji Rustom Cama

Bhikaiji Rustom Cama, born on September 24, 1861, in Mumbai, was a key figure in the Indian independence movement and an early advocate for women's rights. She is renowned for unfurling the first version of the Indian national flag at an international socialist conference in Stuttgart in 1907. Cama was deeply involved in revolutionary activities and worked to gain international support for India's freedom struggle. Her dedication and pioneering role in women's activism are widely recognized. She passed away on August 13, 1936.



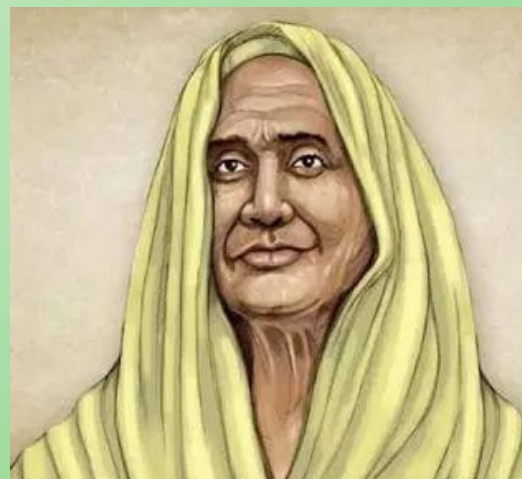
## Genda Lal Dixit

Born on November 30, 1888, in Baha, Agra, Genda Lal Dixit was a teacher at DAV School in Auraiya. He became a notable revolutionary during the Mainpuri conspiracy of 1919, escaping arrest and forming close ties with leaders like Ram Prasad Bismil and Chandrashekhar Azad. Despite police efforts and trials under the Agra Arms Act, Dixit led the Matrivedi (Gopaniya Sangh) in various districts. His actions, despite setbacks, greatly contributed to fostering Indian nationalism.



## Matangini Hazra

Matangini Hazra, born on October 19, 1870, in Bengal, was a Gandhian freedom fighter renowned for her role in the Quit India Movement. At 72, she led a protest to a government building in Tamluk in 1942. Despite being shot by police, Hazra continued to hold the Indian flag high until her death. Her bravery and martyrdom made her a national heroine, earning her the affectionate title "Gandhi Buri" (Old Lady Gandhi). Her legacy remains a powerful symbol of dedication to India's independence.



## Kartar Singh Sarabha

Kartar Singh Sarabha, a key figure in the Ghadar Movement, was born into a wealthy family and deeply influenced by injustices he witnessed while studying in the U.S. He joined the Ghadar Party to spread revolutionary ideas and incite revolt among Indian soldiers. Arrested for his activities, he was hanged at 19. Sarabha's legacy inspired future freedom fighters, including Bhagat Singh, who regarded him as a role model.

## Deboprasad Gupta

Deboprasad Gupta was an Indian revolutionary and freedom fighter known for his involvement in the struggle against British colonial rule. A member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), he actively participated in revolutionary activities aimed at securing India's independence. Gupta's dedication to the cause was marked by his commitment to armed resistance and efforts to challenge British authority.



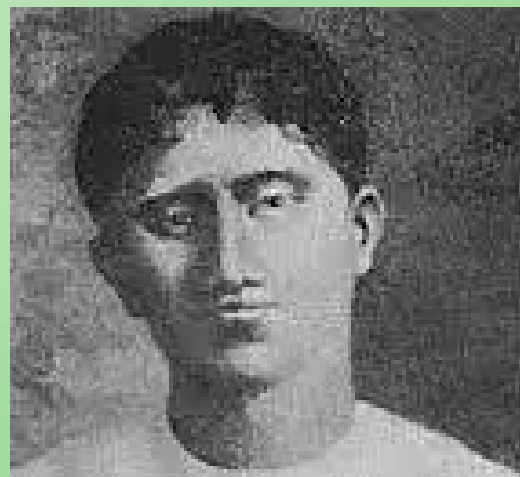
## Lala Hardayal

Born on October 14, 1884, Lala Hardayal was a brilliant student influenced by Arya Samaj and revolutionary leaders like Mazzini and Karl Marx. After graduating in Sanskrit from St. Stephen's and earning Oxford scholarships, he explored anarchist ideas in 1907, advocating for the abolition of government. Rejecting the ICS and returning to India in 1908, he faced censorship but continued his activism. A key figure in the Ghadar Party, Hardayal's efforts and writings influenced the Indian Independence Movement, including the diaspora.



## Gopinath Saha

Born on December 16, 1905, in Baranagar, Bengal, Gopinath Saha was influenced by the Civil Disobedience Movement and anarchist ideas. Educated at Serampore High School and Hooghly Vidya Mandir, he followed revolutionaries like Ganesh Ghosh. In 1922, he joined the 'Revolt Group.' On January 12, 1924, he attempted to assassinate colonial officer Charles Tegart but accidentally killed Ernest Day. Captured, he was sentenced to death. His final words, "I wish each drop of my blood would further the revolution in Bengal," inspire many.





## Bhagoji Naik

Bhagoji Naik, from Nandurshingote village, led a significant rebellion against the British in 1855. After refusing a loyalty bond, he organized 50 Bhil warriors and fought fiercely, notably killing police superintendent J. W. Hendry. His actions inspired further uprisings, including a looting of Trimbakeshwar's treasure. Despite major victories, Bhagoji and his troops faced heavy losses. By 1859, British forces, led by Major Fraksacher, cornered Bhagoji, leading to his death and the slaughter of his family.



## Ram Prasad Bismil

Ram Prasad Bismil, disillusioned with moderate Congress methods, founded the revolutionary Matrivedi and later the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) in 1920. He led the Kakori train robbery in 1925 to fund their cause. His writings, including patriotic poems, inspired many in the freedom movement. Bismil advocated for Hindu-Muslim unity, symbolized by his friendship with Ashfaqullah Khan. Captured after Kakori, he was hanged on December 19, 1927, and cremated at Raj Ghat.



## Bhai Parmanand

Bhai Parmanand, born on November 4, 1876, in Punjab, was a prominent Arya missionary and freedom fighter. A founder of the Ghadar Party and leader of the Hindu Mahasabha, he influenced the Arya Samaj movement in South Africa and the Caribbean. Returning to India, he faced arrest for revolutionary activities and was sentenced to life imprisonment, later released in 1920. He became Chancellor of National College, Lahore, and was elected president of Hindu Mahasabha in 1933. He passed away on December 8, 1947.



## Vishnu Ganesh Pingle

Vishnu Ganesh Pingle (1888–1915) was a key figure in the Ghadr Party, inspired by the Swadeshi movement and a Japanese handloom. After studying engineering in the USA, he became active in the Ghadr Party, returning to India in 1914 to help organize a rebellion. He coordinated with leaders like Rash Behari Bose and Kartar Singh Sarabha, propagating the revolt in Punjab. Betrayed and arrested in 1915, Pingle was tried and hanged on November 16, 1915, alongside Sarabha, as part of the Lahore Conspiracy Case.





## Dhan Singh Gurjar

Dhan Singh Gurjar, a key figure in the 1857 uprising, was the Kotwal (chief police officer) of Meerut. He played a crucial role in the rebellion by orchestrating the release of Indian soldiers arrested for defying British orders. His actions helped spark a widespread uprising, with Meerut becoming a major center of resistance. Despite his bravery, Gurjar was captured and executed by the British, becoming a martyr whose sacrifices paved the way for future resistance against colonial rule.

## Anant Laxman Kanhere

Anant Laxman Kanhere (1892-1910) was a key figure in the Indian revolutionary struggle based in Nashik. At the age of 17, he assassinated the British Collector, Jackson, on December 21, 1909, an act that marked a significant event in the Maharashtra revolutionary movement. Kanhere was arrested, tried in Bombay, and executed by hanging in Thane Prison on April 19, 1910, at the age of 18. His sacrifice remains a notable part of India's fight for independence.



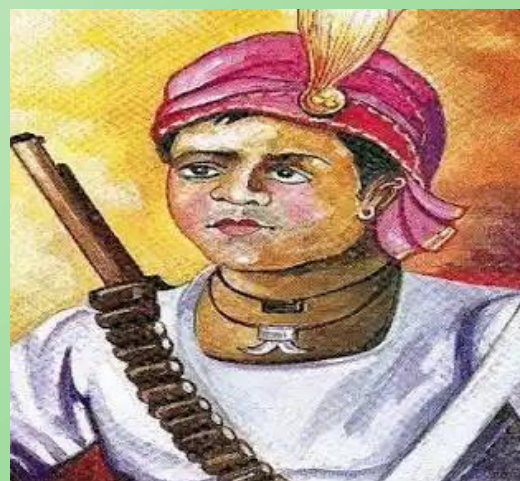
## Babu Genu

Babu Genu (1908-1930) was a notable Indian rebel in the independence movement. On December 12, 1930, during a protest in Mumbai, he was among demonstrators opposing the transport of imported fabric by George Frazier, a Manchester-based dealer. Despite police protection for the truck, Genu bravely stood in front of it, chanting praises for Mahatma Gandhi. His act of defiance symbolized the fervent resistance against British rule.



## Babu Shedmake

Babu Shedmake (1833-1858) was a Gond chieftain and a key figure in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. Leading the uprising in Chanda district, he fought against the British for seven months. Born into a Gond zamindar family, he was ultimately captured and executed for his resistance. Known as "Veer Babu Shedmake," his bravery is celebrated annually in the Gondwana region, where he is honored as a symbol of defiance against colonial rule.



## Baiza Bai



Baiza Bai was a formidable warrior and the wife of Gwalior ruler Daulat Rao Scindia. Trained in swordsmanship and known for her riding skills, she fought alongside her husband at the Battle of Assaye against Arthur Wellesley, the future Duke of Wellington. An advocate for Peshwa Bajirao II, she pushed her husband to support the Peshwa against the Pindaris. Baiza Bai even temporarily separated from Daulat Rao for yielding to British demands, demonstrating her strong stance against colonial pressures.

## The Chapekar brothers

The Chapekar brothers—Damodar, Balakrishna, and Vasudev—were involved in the assassination of W. C. Rand, the British plague commissioner in Pune. Rand, who led harsh measures against the residents during a plague outbreak, including intrusive inspections and forced evacuations, was deeply resented by the local population. On June 22, 1897, the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria's coronation, the brothers shot Rand and his escort, Lt. Ayerst. The Chapekar brothers were later captured, tried, and hanged in 1899 for their actions.

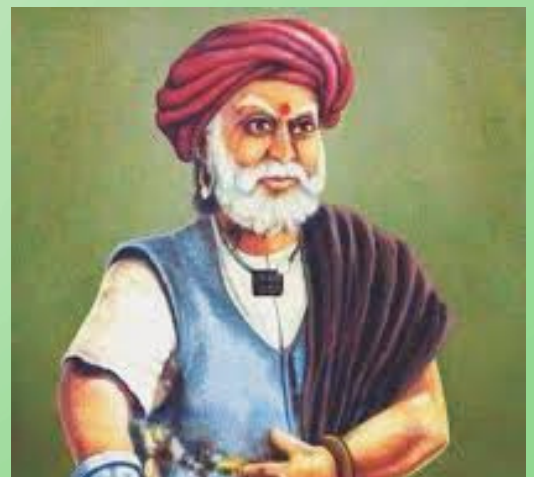


## Krishnaji Gopal Karve

Krishnaji Gopal Karve (1887–1910) was a member of the Abhinav Bharat Society in Nashik. Alongside Anant Laxman Kanhere, he was involved in the assassination of Nashik Collector Arthur Jackson on December 21, 1909. Karve was sentenced to death by the Bombay High Court and executed by hanging on April 19, 1910, in Thane Jail.

## Lahuji Vastaad

Lahuji Vastaad (1794–1881), also known as Lahuji Raghoba Salve, was a Dalit activist and wrestling teacher. Renowned for his skills, he ran a gymnasium in Pune where he trained prominent individuals in martial arts. He advocated for Indian independence and the upliftment of untouchables, aligning with Jyotirao Phule's Satyashodhak Samaj to support the education and liberation of oppressed classes.





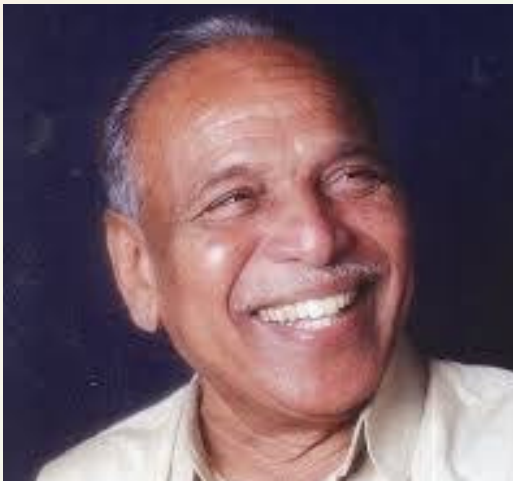


## Madhavrao Bagal

Madhavrao Bagal (1895–1986) was a key political figure in India's independence movement, known for advocating the merger of Kolhapur State with the Union of India. Disillusioned with pro-British tactics by some leaders, he joined the Indian National Congress in the 1930s. Bagal worked closely with Mahatma Gandhi, Vallabhbhai Patel, and Jawaharlal Nehru from 1940 to 1947, and was imprisoned with fellow activists including Ratnappa Kumbhar and Dinakar Desai.

## Madhav Shrihari Aney

Madhav Shrihari Aney (1880–1968), or Loknayak Bapuji Aney, was an influential educationist, poet, and politician. A co-founder of the Congress Nationalist Party, he was a key disciple of Lokmanya Tilak and supported Mahatma Gandhi. Aney opposed the Khilafat Movement's impact on national interests and was known for his rational advice, which Gandhi often sought. He also mediated conflicts between figures like Subhash Chandra Bose and Jatindra Mohan Sengupta.

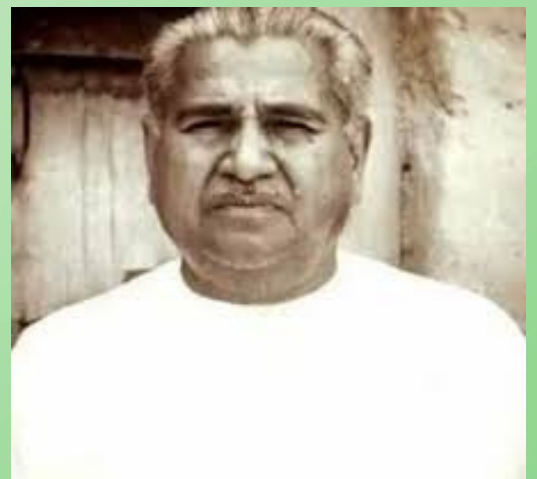


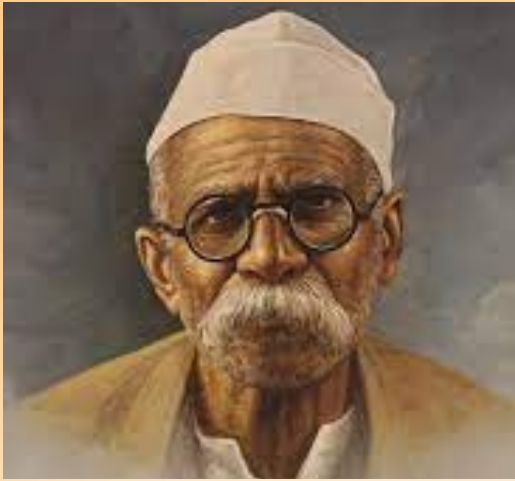
## Nagnath Naikwadi

Nagnath Naikwadi (1922-2012), also known as Krantiveer Nagnath Anna, was a notable independence activist and social worker. In the early 1940s, he engaged in armed struggle against British colonial rule, including a treasury raid in Dhule and support for the Nizam of Hyderabad's insurrection. Captured after being shot, he escaped from Satara jail with fellow activists and evaded a bounty on his head by staying underground for four years.

## Nana Patil

Nana Patil, also known as Krantisinh, was a key Indian independence activist and founding member of the Hindustan Republican Association. Between 1929 and 1932, the organization went underground. Patil was imprisoned multiple times from 1932 to 1942 for his anti-British activities. From August 1943 to May 1946, he led the 'Satara Parallel Government' in Maharashtra, an armed branch of the Quit India movement. He later joined the Communist Party.



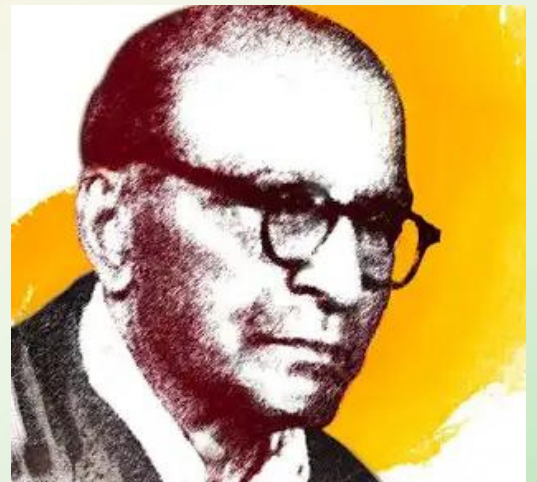


## Pandurang Mahadev Bapat

Pandurang Mahadev Bapat (1880–1967) was a notable freedom fighter known as 'Senapati' for his role in the Mulshi Satyagraha of 1921. While in Britain, he focused on bomb-making techniques and associated with the Savarkar brothers. Following the Alipore bombing in 1908, he shifted from seeking to overthrow the British government to educating the public about India's plight. On August 15, 1947, Bapat had the honor of raising the Indian national flag in Poona for the first time on Independence Day.

## Pandurang Sadashiv Khankhoje

Pandurang Sadashiv Khankhoje (1884–1967) was a key Indian revolutionary and one of the founding members of the Ghadar Party. He began his nationalist activities in 1908 by co-founding the Indian Independence League in Portland, Oregon, with Pandit Kanshi Ram. Khankhoje also helped establish the Pacific Coast Hindustan Association and was a significant figure in the Ghadar Party, contributing to its early efforts against British rule.

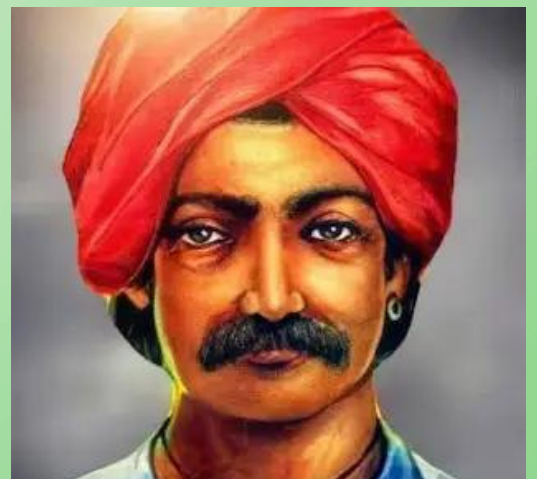


## Prabhakar Kunte

Prabhakar Kunte (1922-2012) was a prominent trade union leader and Indian National Congress member. He joined the Quit India campaign in 1942 and was imprisoned by the British. He later served on the Bombay Municipal Corporation and was actively involved in the Samyukta Maharashtra agitation (1955-1960) and the liberation of Goa (1961).

## Raghoji Bhangre

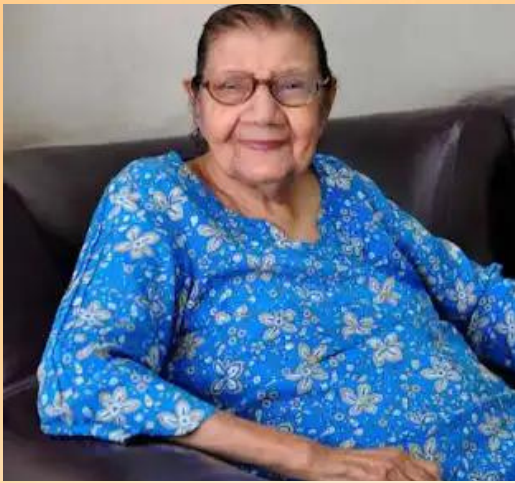
Raghoji Bhangre (1805-1848) was an Indian revolutionary who questioned and defied British authority in Maharashtra. He was the son of Ramji Rao Bhangre, a Koli who resisted British control and was eventually hanged at Cellular Jail. In 1844, he ambushed and killed a British officer and ten constables.





## Rama Khandwala

Rama Khandwala (born 1926) is India's oldest tour guide and the last surviving member of Subhas Chandra Bose's Rani Jhansi Regiment during the country's independence struggle. The Films Division produced a documentary on Rama Khandwala in 2019.



## Capt. Rambhau Lad

Capt. Rambhau Lad (1926-) led the Toofan Sena, the military wing of the Prati Sarkar in Satara, under Krantsinh Nana Patil. The Prati Sarkar acted as a parallel administration, managing food distribution, market structures, and a judicial system in villages. The Toofan Sena conducted bold attacks on British armories, trains, treasuries, and post offices.



## Shirishkumar Mehta

Shirishkumar Mehta (1926-1942) was a young Indian freedom fighter martyred at 15 during the Quit India movement. Leading a protest in Nandurbar, he carried the Indian flag with the motto 'Vande Mataram'. When the police's lathi charge failed to disperse the crowd, they opened fire, killing Shirishkumar on the spot.



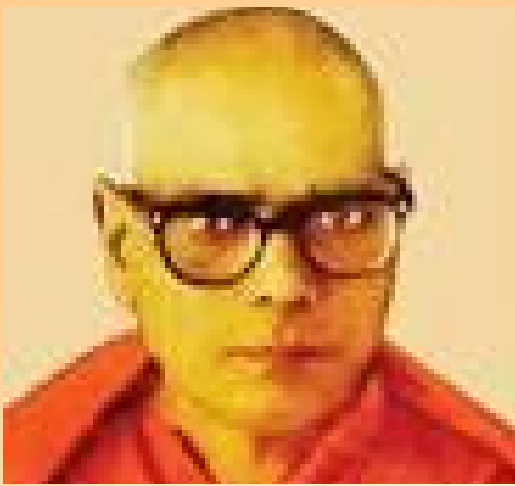
## Shivram Bhiku Murkar

Shivram Bhiku Murkar was born at Dabhol village, Taluka Dapoli, District Ratnagiri. He actively participated in the freedom struggle, the details of which are lost in time. Because he worked in fisheries and had to deal with ports every day, he got secret messages via the sea route and relayed them to his revolutionary colleagues, even those underground. The British arrested him in Mumbai in 1930. He was arrested because he assisted in sheltering the revolutionaries. He was sentenced to about two to three years in prison.



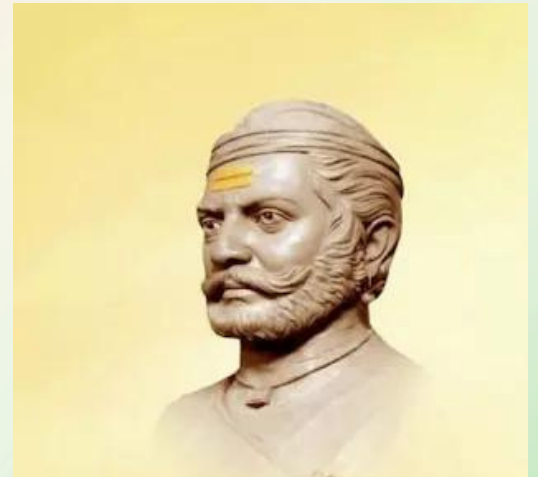
## Swami Ramanand Tirtha

Swami Ramanand Tirtha (1903–1972) was an Indian freedom fighter, scholar, and social activist who led the Hyderabad liberation campaign under the rule of Osman Ali Khan, the final Nizam of Hyderabad State. Swami Ramanand Tirtha was the main leader of the Hyderabad State Congress. Prior to Sanyasa, his family name was Vyenkatesh Bhagvanrao Khedgikar. Nanded's state university is named after him.



## Umaji Naik

Umaji Naik (1791–1832) was an early Indian rebel from Pune who resisted British rule from 1826 to 1832. After the fall of the Maratha Empire, he led a small force against the East India Company, rallying resistance against British authority. Betrayed by Nana Raghu Chavan, Umaji was captured, tried, and executed on February 3, 1834.



## Vasudev Balwant Phadke

Vasudev Balwant Phadke (1845–1883) was a revolutionary who led the Ramoshi people's group in the fight against British rule. With support from local communities, he orchestrated armed struggles and raided wealthy British targets to fund his movement. Phadke famously seized Pune briefly and later escaped from imprisonment in Aden, only to be recaptured. He died on February 17, 1883, after a hunger strike.



## Vishnu Ganesh Pingle

Vishnu Ganesh Pingle (1888–1915) was an Indian revolutionary and Ghadar Party member. He, along with Kartar Singh Sarabha and others, was tried in the Lahore Conspiracy trial under the Defence of India Act 1915 for their involvement in the February conspiracy. Pingle was executed by hanging at Lahore Central Jail on November 16, 1915.





## Rani Channamma

Rani Channamma, the Queen of Kittur in Karnataka, led a rebellion against the British East India Company in 1824. She resisted British attempts to annex her kingdom, and despite her efforts, she was eventually captured and imprisoned, where she died. Her resistance is celebrated as a significant part of early Indian anti-colonial struggle.



## Uda Devi

Uda Devi was a courageous leader of the 1857 Rebellion in the Awadh region. She is known for her role in leading a band of rebel soldiers against British forces. Uda Devi fought fiercely and died in battle, becoming a symbol of female resistance against colonial rule.



## Satyendranath Tagore

A key figure in the intellectual and cultural awakening of India, Tagore was an influential social reformer and the brother of Rabindranath Tagore. He was involved in the social reform movement and worked towards improving the education and social conditions in India.



## Bhima Bai Holkar

Bhima Bai Holkar was a prominent queen and warrior from the Holkar dynasty in the Maratha Empire. Born in the early 19th century, she was the wife of Malhar Rao Holkar II and played a significant role in the administration and defense of the Holkar state. After her husband's death in 1833, Bhima Bai effectively managed the state affairs and led military campaigns to protect and expand her territory.







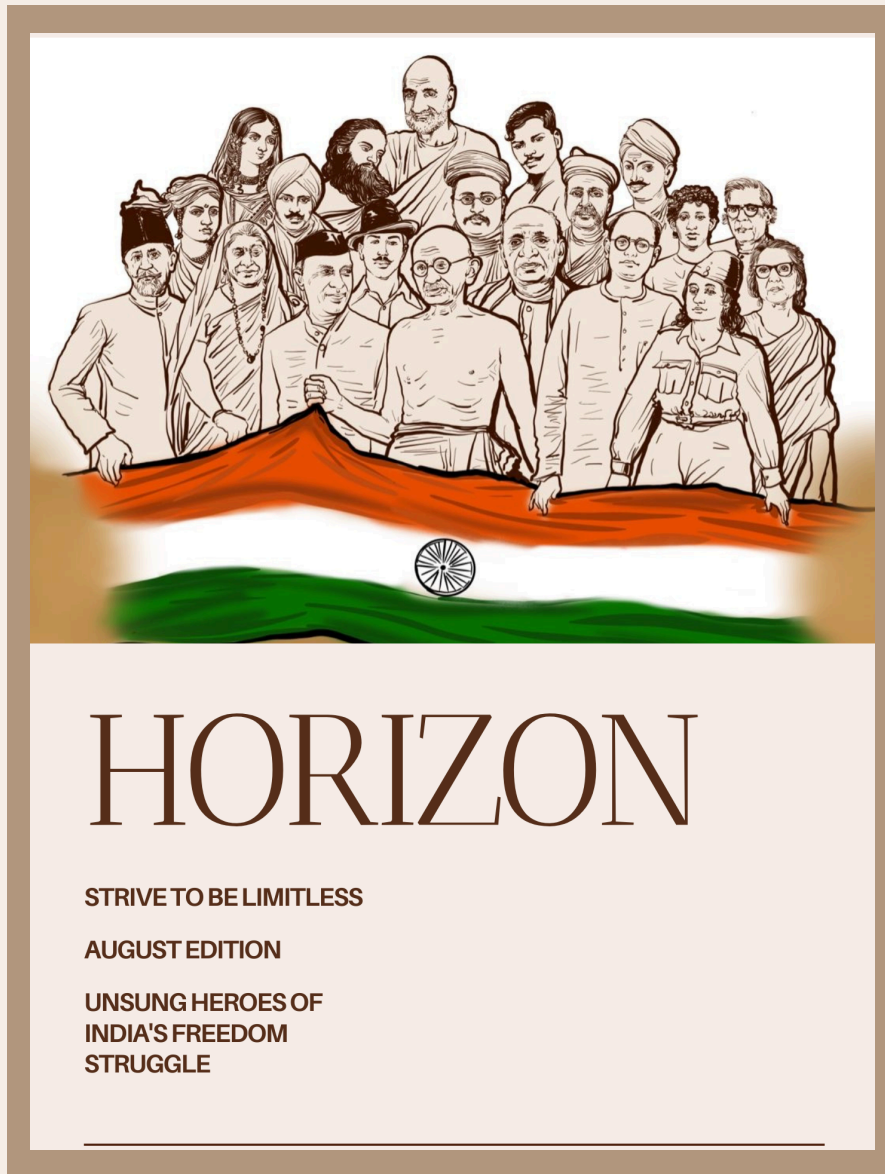


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