



आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

UNSUNG HEROES

CELEBRATING THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF INDIA



Message from the desk of Dr. Vivek G Mendonsa

My wife, Dr. Suhani V Mendonsa, and I, as youngsters have had the privilege of visiting Mani Bhavan several times and meeting Smt. Ushaben Mehta, Our Mahatma Gandhi's personal secretary among other personages.

At the ripe age of 20, I spoke in front of a gathering of 200 + people on the Life and Contribution of Mr. Jamnalal Bajaj in 1990 at the Gandhi Exhibition, which was the brainchild of my mentor Smt. Smita Shah. Present as Chief Guest at the event was noted Industrialist Mr. Shekar Bajaj, the grandson of Noted and Distinguished Financier of the Freedom movement Jamnalal Bajaj. He was super thrilled to see his grandfather being honoured.

Since then, I have always had a very special respect for illustrious leaders of the past who have played a crucial role in getting our country freed from the British.

Undoubtedly Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Mangal Pandey, Rani Lakshmibai, and many more are among the famous freedom fighters and have got the spotlight but there are some unsung heroes who played a crucial role in India's freedom movement.

While the country celebrates Azaadi ka Maha Utsav, let's take a look at others whose names despite being worthy of all the glory that there is, remain anonymous to the masses today. Let's honour them too.

Dr. Vivek G Mendonsa

Group Director,
Marketing at LYNX-Lawrence & Mayo
Business Leader, Mentor, Advisor to
Entrepreneurs, Motivational
Speaker, Philanthropist.





Matangini Hazra

Hazra was part of the Quit India Movement and Non-Cooperation Movement. During one procession, she continued to advance with the Indian flag even after being shot thrice. She kept shouting Vande Mataram.

Begum Hazrat Mahal

She was a vital part of the 1857 Indian Rebellion. After her husband was exiled, she took charge of Awadh and even seized control of Lucknow during the rebellion. Later, Begum Hazrat had to retreat to Nepal, where she died.



Senapati Bapat

As leader of the Mulshi Satyagraha, he got the title of Senapati. He got the honour of hoisting the Indian flag in Pune for the first time after independence. He had been jailed for public speaking as well as for vandalism, after which he turned himself in because as a satyagrahi, he was not supposed to follow the path of violence.





Aruna Asaf Ali

Few have heard of her, but when she was 33 years old, she gained some prominence as she hoisted the Indian National Congress flag during the Quit India Movement at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay, 1942.

Bhikaji Cama

Although there are numerous roads and buildings named after her around the country, only few know who she was and what she did. Not only was she a part of the Indian Independence Movement, she was also a figure for gender equality. She donated most of her personal effects to an orphanage for girls. She also unfurled the Indian flag at the International Socialist Conference at Stuttgart in Germany, 1907.



Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay

Kamaladevi was the first woman to run for a legislative seat in India and interestingly, she was also the first Indian woman to be arrested by the British regime. She played a very vital role as a social reformer and brought back handicrafts, theatres and handlooms to help in uplifting the socio-economic standard of the Indian women.



Tara Rani Srivastava



Along with her husband, she led a procession in front of the Siwan Police Station. Though he was shot, she bandaged his wounds and kept going forward. By the time she returned, he had died. However, her will to go on was stronger still and she continued to fight holding the flag high.

Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi

Also known as Kulpati, Munshi was mighty active during India's freedom movement, especially the Quit India Movement. He was the founder of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. The number of times he was arrested by the British regime showed his dedication and passion for an independent India.



Tirupur Kumaran

Kumaran was the founder of the Desa Bandhu Youth Association. He was killed during a protest march against the colonial government on 11th January, 1932, for holding a flag of Indian nationalists that was banned by the British. Though he succumbed to injuries, he was found dead holding the flag.

Lakshmi Sahgal



She 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.

Durgabai Deshmukh

Durgabai led numerous Satyagraha movements and was a member of the Constituent Assembly of India and the Planning Commission of India. She played a prominent role in Indian freedom movement. At the Khadi exhibition in 1923, she was in charge of ensuring that all visitors had proper tickets before entering. She even forbade Pandit Nehru from entering until the organizers gave him a ticket and she let him pass.



Ke Mammen



There is very little known about Ke Mammen, apart from the fact that he was a young freedom fighter back in the day, a pacifist and a Gandhian. He celebrated his 94th birthday in 2014 despite being under treatment for 6 months. A show of true grit and courage.

Sucheta Kriplani

She was the first woman to become the Chief Minister of an Indian state (UP) and was also the founder of the All India Mahilla Congress in 1940. She was a Gandhian and worked with him during the partition riots as well as the independence movement. On 15th August, 1947, she sang Vande Mataram in the Constituent Assembly.



Parbati Giri

Parbati Giri was only 16 but actively in the forefront of all freedom activities, especially the Quit India Movement. She was also imprisoned for 2 years for taking part in such activities. Giri served the public socially post independence and was also known as the Mother Teresa of Western Orissa.



N.G. Ranga

He was a prominent figure of the Indian Peasant Movement.

Ranga was a Gandhian and led the riot agitation in 1933. The brave heart is considered the champion of peasant rights.

Tirot Sing

Tirot Sing also known as U Tirot Sing, he was the chief of the Khasi people. He was a hero among his tribe as he died fighting the British during their attempt to take over the Khasi Hills.



Khudiram Bose

He was one of the youngest revolutionaries in the Indian Independence movement.

He was 18 years, 8 months and 8 days old when he was hanged.





Dadabhai Naoroji

Dadabhai Naoroji, (4 September 1825 – 30 June 1917) also known as the “Grand Old Man of India” and “Unofficial Ambassador of India”, was an Indian political leader, merchant, scholar and writer who was a Liberal Party Member of Parliament in the United Kingdom House of Commons between 1892 and 1895

and the second MP of Asian descent to be a British MP. Naoroji is renowned for his work in the Indian National Congress, of which he was one of the founding members and thrice president - 1886, 1893, and 1906.

Apart from this, Naoroji’s contribution included the launch of the London Indian Society in 1865 to Indian political, social and literary subjects. In 1861 Naoroji founded The Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe alongside Muncherjee Hormusji Cama. In 1867 he also helped to establish the East India Association, one of the predecessor organisations of the Indian National Congress.

In 1874, he became Prime Minister of Baroda and was a member of the Legislative Council of Bombay (1885–88). He was also a member of the Indian National Association founded by Sir Surendranath Banerjea from Calcutta a few years before the founding of the Indian National Congress in Bombay. The two groups later merged into the INC.

Naoroji published Poverty and un-British Rule in India in 1901 which brought attention to his theory of the Indian “wealth drain” into Britain. He was also a member of the Second International along with Kautsky and Plekhanov.

In 2014, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg inaugurated the Dadabhai Naoroji Awards for services to UK-India relations. India Post depicted Naoroji on stamps in 1963, 1997 and 2017.



K.T. Paul

The All India Conference of Indian Christians (AICIC) is an ecumenical organisation founded in 1914 to represent the interests of Christians in India.

It was founded to advocate for the moral, economic, and intellectual development of the Indian Christian community.

The All India Conference of Indian Christians held its first meeting on 28 December 1914 and was led by Raja Sir Harnam Singh of Kapurthala, who was the president of the National Missionary Society (NMS); the first AICIC General Secretary was B.L. Rallia Ram of Lahore.

Its creation united local and regional Indian Christian Associations, which existed in Bombay, Madras, Hyderabad, Punjab, United Provinces, Bengal and Burma, under one umbrella organisation.

At the time of the Indian independence movement, the organisation allied itself with the Indian National Congress and the resolutions passed by All India Conference of Indian Christians advocated communal harmony, while also pressing for the rights of Christians in both colonial India and independent India.

The India Conference of Indian Christians advocated for self-rule in a united and independent country, opposing the partition of India.

During the era of the British Raj in India, the AICIC served as the mouthpiece for members of the Indian Christian community, conducting membership drives to boost its base, which included Protestant and Catholic Christians.

As such, the presidents of the AICIC represented the Christians of undivided India at the Round Table Conferences.

Check out this link for more information

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_India_Conference_of_Indian_Christians

Honoring our beloved Freedom Fighters



SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE



MAHATMA GANDHI



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU



SARDAR PATEL



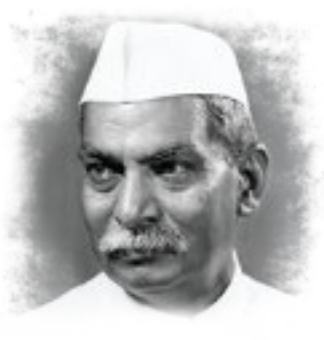
LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI JI



BHAGAT SINGH



GOPAL KRISNA GOKHALE



DR RAJENDRA PRASAD



CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD



BAL GANGADHAR TILAK



RANI LAKSHMIBA



LALA LAJPAT RAI

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

जय हिन्द

VGM
DR. VIVEK G MENDONSA

VivekMendonsa.com