

IMPAR

Indian Muslims for Progress and Reforms

Forgotten Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle



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Introduction

Ever since India got independence on August 15, 1947, scores of names are being celebrated both at the country and state level for the significant contributions they rendered to India's Freedom Struggle. Meanwhile, countless personalities are there who have been forgotten or ignored - either by the general masses or by the government - despite sacrificing their life on the way to India's Freedom Struggle. Scores of Muslims have made significant contributions from every corner of the country.

Henceforth, in order to memorize and cherish the significant contributions made by our elders to achieve India's Independence, IMPAR hereby presents those great names who fought for India's Freedom Struggle in their life. From July 2021, IMPAR has successfully created awareness among fellow Indians about the Freedom Fighters who lost everything in their lives for their love and dedication to the motherland, and subsequently compelling Britishers to leave India.

ABBAS ALI (1920-2014)

Place of Birth: Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh

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Abbas Ali



Abbas Ali was born on 3 January 1920 at Khurja, Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh into a Muslim Rajput family. He was an Indian freedom fighter and politician who served as a captain in Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian National Army popularly known as Azad Hind Fauj. Later, he became a member of the Socialist movement in 1948.

He was influenced by Bhagat Singh's revolutionary beliefs from an early age, and as a high school student in Khurja, he joined Naujawan Bharat Sabha, an organisation formed by Bhagat Singh and his companions. While pursuing his studies at Aligarh Muslim University, he became a member of the All India Students Federation. When Subhash Chandra Bose called for a revolt in 1945, Ali joined the Indian National Army, but he was eventually captured, court-martialled, and condemned to death. When India gained independence in 1947, he was released from prison by the Indian government before the death penalty was meted out.

Under the influence of socialist party leaders like Ram Manohar Lohia, Abbas Ali entered politics. He was appointed as State General Secretary of the Sanyukt Socialist Party in 1966. He also wrote an autobiography, "Na Ragoon Kisi ka Dastanigar-Mera Safarnama" which was published on 3 January 2009.

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SURAYYA TYABJI (1919-1978)

Place of Birth: Hyderabad, Hyderabad State, British India (now Hyderabad, Telangana).

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MS. SURAYYA TYABJI



Ms. Surayya Tyabji was born and brought up in Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh, now Capital of Telangana) in 1919. She gained the reputation of an artist known for her unconventional and progressive outlook towards life and society.

Surayya Tyabji was credited for her inspirational work on the final design of our National Flag. Apart from the contribution of Pingali Venkayya in designing a part of the Indian National Flag, Surayya Tyabji was the woman who replaced the Spinning Wheel (Charkha) with the Ashoka Chakra. When her newly designed National Flag was presented to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the tricolor flew for the very first time and was unanimously accepted on 22nd July.

The valuable contribution of Surayya Tyabji has gone unnoticed for a long time. She rendered exemplary service in the composition of the tricolor that symbolizes sacrifice, purity, and growth. IMPAR pays its rich tribute to Ms. Surayya Tyabji for her valuable services and contributions.

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MUNSHI SYED MOHAMMED MASTAN BAIG (1913-1999)

Place of Birth: Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

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MUNSHI SYED MOHAMMED MASTAN BAIG

Munshi Syed Mohammed Mastan Baig was born on 1st July 1913 in Sangadigunta in Guntur city of Andhra Pradesh. He was an Indian Independence activist who worked for the liberation of India from British Rule. As a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, he proudly proclaimed that "The word of Gandhi is a golden word to me", and thus followed his path throughout his life. He graduated from the University of Madras in Urdu. In 1942, he was appointed as an Urdu teacher at a High school in Tenali, Andhra Pradesh. He engaged in the Indian National Movement quite actively together with his career.

He actively participated in the Civil Disobedience Movement and was also at the forefront in Quit India Movement. He participated in secret political training camps conducted by the famous revolutionary Annapragada Kameshwara Rao. This led to his being in police custody for 21 days. In police detention, he was physically and mentally tortured. For his activities, Police were after him and He went underground. From June 1942 until December 1943, the police couldn't catch him but later he was arrested.

Munshi Syed strongly opposed the partition theory, and when the day of partition approached it became a hard challenge for him to see the division of India into two countries.

Munshi Syed breathed his last on 29 September 1999 in Tenali.



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ABID HASAN SAFRANI (1911-1984)

Place of Birth: Hyderabad, Hyderabad State, British India (now Hyderabad, Telangana)

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Abid Hasan Safrani



Abid Hasan Safrani was born on 11 June 1911 in Hyderabad. He was an officer of the Indian National Army. Hasan was also a scholar and a poet in Persian and Urdu languages. His Hindi-Urdu translation of Jana Gana Mana became Subh Sukh Chain, the anthem of the Provisional Government of Free India.

He dropped out of college to join the Civil Disobedience Movement and ended up in the Sabarmati Ashram in 1931, where he stayed for a short time. Later, he believed that India's liberation could only be achieved through armed struggle. As a result, he allied with revolutionaries. He took part in the attempt to destroy the refineries in the Nasik Jail as a member of the revolutionary group. He was sentenced to one year in prison for his actions. However, according to the 'Gandhi-Irwin Pact,' he was released before his sentence was completed. For over a decade, he was involved in the activities of the Indian National Congress.

Abid Hassan later went to Germany to train as an engineer. While he was a student there, he met Subhas Chandra Bose and later served as Bose's personal secretary and interpreter while Bose was in Germany. Hasan rose to be a Major in the Azad Hind Fauj. It was also during this phase that he adopted "Safrani", after the holy Hindu colour of saffron, to his name as a mark of communal harmony. Abid also coined and popularized the slogan "Jai Hind" which inspired the nation, and he also gave Subhash Chandra Bose the title 'Netaji'. Subsequently, Subhash Chandra Bose was recognized as "Netaji" throughout the country.

After partition, Hasan joined the Indian Foreign Service. During his long diplomatic career, Hasan served as Indian Ambassador to several countries, including Egypt and Denmark. After retiring in 1969, he returned to Hyderabad and departed this world in 1984.

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VAKKOM MAJEED (1909-2000)

Place of Birth: Travancore, Kerala

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Vakkom Majeed



Vakkom Majeed was born on 20 December 1909 into a prominent and influential Muslim family in Vakkom, Kerala. He was an Indian Freedom fighter, politician, social reformer, and a former member of the Travancore-cochin State Assembly.

Vakkom Majeed was involved in politics while still in school. He was a founding member of the Indian National Congress in Travancore and was in the vanguard of the Indian National Movement's leadership when it first started in Kerala. He was one of the few Travancore-based Congress leaders to join the Quit India campaign in 1942, and he was imprisoned as a result. When the concept of an "independent Travancore" was revived subsequently, Vakkom Majeed opposed the idea of this movement. He was imprisoned a second time, this time for a longer period. He was also an outspoken critic of the Two-Nation Theory.

He was significantly affected by his uncle Vakkom Moulavi's works as a young man, and got heavily involved in the social reform movement. Majeed was regarded as one of India's greatest nationalists of the twentieth century.

Vakkom Majeed remained a remarkable politician in Kerala's socio-political arena throughout the twentieth century. He belonged to a political and social movement that was essentially value-based, secular, and humanistic. He fought for a casteless society while upholding the ideals of liberalism and modernism in Islam. He also urged for the reintroduction of Ijtihad-freedom of thought in Islamic traditions. On 10 July 2000 Vakkom Majeed died of a fatal heart attack and was buried beside his ancestors in Vakkom's East Jamaat Masjid.

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VAIKOM MOHAMMAD BASHEER (1908-1994)

Place of Birth: North Travancore, Kerala

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Vaikom Mohammad Basheer



Vaikom Mohammad Basheer was born on 21 January 1908 in Thalayola-parambu village, North Travancore district. He was an Indian independence fighter, humanist, and Malayalam literature writer who was recognised for his distinctive, down-to-earth writing style, which earned him fame. To liberate India from the British tyranny, he utilised his literary talents as a weapon.

After finishing his basic schooling, he enrolled in an English medium school in Vaikom, where he first saw Mahatma Gandhi in 1924. Inspired, he joined the Swadeshi Movement and started wearing Khadi. He decided to join the fight for Indian independence and dropped out of school in the fifth class to do so. Basheer was recognised for his secular outlook and his respect for all religions. He moved to Malabar area to participate in the Salt Satyagraha in 1930 because there was no strong independence movement in Kochi, which was a princely state. But before they could take part in the satyagraha, his party was detained. Basheer was sentenced to three months jail and was imprisoned at Kannur. Stories of heroism by revolutionaries such as Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, who were killed while he was in prison, inspired him. Following the Gandhi-Irwin agreement, he was released in March 1931, along with 600 other prisoners. Once released, he established an anti-British organisation and published Ujjivanam, a revolutionary newspaper, prompting the British government to ban the publication and issue an arrest warrant in 1931. Then, Basheer went underground to avoid arrest. In 1937, he resurfaced and increased his efforts. In 1941, the British government declared him as a "dangerous person" and imprisoned him. He spent three months as an under trial prisoner. During this time, he wrote his first book about the police and public affairs, including his experiences in jail. He continued to write ever since, producing many novels, short stories, and other works. With his intriguing writing style, he was able to win the hearts of the readers. During his imprisonment, he authored the majority of his works.

In 1982, the Indian government honoured him with the title of 'Padma Shri,' honouring his literary achievements and contributions to Indian independence. On 5 July 1994, Vaikom Mohammad Basheer died in Beypore.

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BIBI AMTUS SALAM (1907-1985)

Place of Birth: Patiala, Punjab

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Bibi Amtus Salam







Bibi Amtus Salam was born in 1907 in Patiala, Punjab. She was a social worker who actively worked for overcoming communal violence as well as the rehabilitation of refugees who came to India. Salam was a staunch supporter of Hindu-Muslim harmony and dedicated her life to attaining it.

Amatus Salam, along with her brother, took part in the Khadi Movement and attended meetings of the Indian National Movement. She was drawn to Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Violence Theory. She was also imprisoned alongside other women during the Indian National Movement in 1932, despite her sickness. After being released from jail she took the position of Gandhi's Personal Assistant. When riots erupted across India in 1947, Gandhi travelled to Bengal to try to calm the situation. Amtus Salam accompanied him on the journey and fasted for 21 days with him in Noakhali to bring peace to the region. Gandhi Ji later gave her the responsibility to restore communal peace there.

As a young Muslim lady, Amtus chose to remain in India even though her brothers and most of her extended family had moved to Pakistan. To promote national integration and communal tolerance, she created the Urdu magazine 'Hindustan.'

Bibi Amatus Salam, who devoted her entire life adhering to Gandhi's teachings, died on October 29, 1985.

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BEGUM ANIS KIDWAI (1906-1982)

Place of Birth: Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh

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Begum Anis Kidwai



Begum Anis Kidwai was born in 1906 in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh. Her father Mr Wilayet Ali Kidwai was a freedom fighter who fought for India's Independence. In October 1947, her husband Mr Shafi Ahmad Kidwai was brutally assassinated in Dehradun during the communal frenzy that erupted during the post-partition era. She dealt with this gruesome tragedy with her exemplary strength and patience and started helping the refugees who took shelter in the refugee camps of Purana Qila and Humayun's Tomb of Delhi.

She played a pivotal role in the government of India project of "recovery of abducted girls", as the governments in both India and Pakistan believed that women who had been abducted during partition had to be brought back to their homes. She served as Member of Parliament for two terms 1956-68, and supported the punishment of women molestation bill 1958.

She gained proficiency in Persian, Urdu, and English language because of the congenital intelligence she inherited. Later, she significantly contributed to the field of literature and received an award from the Urdu Academy of Uttar Pradesh for her memoir Azadi Ki Chhaon Mein. Her literary contributions were recognized and she was awarded the Sahitya Kala Parishad for her book Ab Jinke Dekhne Ko based on her contacts with those involved in the nationalist movement.

Begum Anis Kidwai passed away in 1982, her achievements in the fields of politics, literature mark her out as a truly remarkable personality. IMPAR sincerely remembers Begum Anis Kidwai for her exemplary services rendered to India.

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ABDUL QAYYUM ANSARI (1905-1973)

Place of Birth: Dehri-on-Sone, Bihar

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Abdul Qayyum Ansari



Abdul Qayyum Ansari was born on 1 July 1905 in Bihar. He was a Freedom Fighter whose commitment to national unity, secularism, and communal peace was well-known. He was also an accomplished journalist, poet, and writer. In the pre-independence days, he was the editor of the Urdu weekly "Al-Islah," which means Reform, and the Urdu monthly "Musawat," which means Equality. He also served as a cabinet minister in the interim administration.

Mr. Ansari continued his education at Aligarh Muslim University, Calcutta University, and Allahabad University; however, his studies were interrupted from time to time due to his active participation in the Indian independence struggle. He got involved in India's liberation struggle at a young age, and as a result, he left his hometown's government-run school. In answer to the Indian National Congress's appeal, he founded a national school for children who had boycotted government schools. He was arrested and imprisoned for this while he was only 16 years old.

As a youth leader, he worked closely with the Indian National Congress and even participated in the students' revolt against the Simon Commission during its visit to Calcutta in 1928. He was also a participant of the Khilafat and Non-Cooperation movements. He was a fierce critic of the Muslim League's intention to create a separate Muslim nation from India. He founded the Momin Movement in response to the Muslim League's call for a separate Muslim nation. He campaigned under this banner for the social, political, and economic liberation and upliftment of India's backward Momin community. He also fought to improve the lives of artisan and weaver communities, as well as the country's handloom sector. Throughout his life, Abdul Qayyum Ansari served as President of the All India Momin Conference.

Abdul Qayyum Ansari while examining the damage caused by the Dehri-Arrah canal collapse in Bihar and organising help for the displaced villagers, died on 18 January 1973, in Amiawar, Bihar. Although, India Post issued a postage stamp in his honour on 1 July 2005, he remains a forgotten name for most of the people.

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YUSUF MEHER ALI (1903-1950)

Place of Birth: Mumbai, Maharashtra

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Yusuf Meher Ali



Yusuf Meher Ali was born on 23 September 1903 in Bombay into a well-to-do business family. He was a socialist leader, activist, and an Indian freedom fighter. He was also elected as Mayor of Bombay in 1942.

At a young age, Meher Ali was intrigued by the growing nationalist movements around him. He was deeply affected by the problems of the working class, having observed his family's upper-class biases and pro-British inclinations. He soon became a staunch supporter of the Freedom cause. After earning a bachelor's degree in History and Economics, he studied law at the Government Law College. Meanwhile, he had founded the Bombay Youth League and organised a protest against the Simon Commission with other young men who had dressed as coolies to gain entrance to the Bombay port, where they greeted members of the commission with black flags and the slogan "Simon Go Back", which spread like wildfire later on. The British, fearful of his growing popularity and revolutionary beliefs, banned him from practising law.

While the INC's top leaders faced imprisonment, Meher Ali kept the struggle going till he was arrested in 1930 and sentenced to four months in prison. In 1932, he was arrested again for conspiracy and sentenced to two years in the Nasik jail. He joined the Congress Socialist Party with other leaders after his release in 1934. The organisation aimed to break down communal barriers and promote economic empowerment. Yusuf Meher Ali is also believed to have coined the term "Quit India" and was part of the Quit India Movement along with Mahatma Gandhi. Meher Ali compiled a booklet called Quit India and over a thousand "Quit India" badges were produced for distribution during the nationwide campaign.

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SYED MOHAMMAD SHARFUDDIN QUADRI (1901-2015)

Place of Birth: Nawada, Bihar

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SYED MOHAMMAD SHARFUDDIN QUADRI

(25 December 1901-30 December 2015)



Syed Mohammad Sharfuddin Quadri was born on 25 December 1901 in the Nawada district of Bihar. When he was in his mid-thirties, his family moved to Calcutta (now Kolkata), where he got actively involved in the Indian Freedom Struggle and was imprisoned for participating in the Salt March in 1930, along with Gandhi Ji.

He was the founder of a medical magazine, Hikmat-e-Bangala, and is the founder member of Calcutta Unani Medical College and Hospital. In recognition of his significant contributions to Indian Medicine, he was honoured with the third-highest civilian honour of Padma Bhushan by the Government of India in 2007.

He is listed among those visionaries who opposed the Two-nation theory that advocated for the division of colonial India. He died on 30 December 2015, in Kolkata, West Bengal. IMPAR pays its profound tributes to Syed Mohammad Sharfuddin Quadri for his valuable contribution to India's Freedom Struggle and to Unani medicine as well.



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MAGFOOR AHMAD AIAZI (1900-1966)

Place of Birth: Muzaffarpur, Bihar

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Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi




Maghfoor Ahmad Ajazi was born on 3rd March 1900 in village Dihuli, of District Muzaffarpur, in Bihar. He was a Freedom fighter and a Nationalist leader who was at the forefront of India's War for Independence. Ajazi was also a Urdu poet and a writer, and was also known as Baba-e-Urdu in Bihar.

In 1921, to join the non-cooperation movement and to be in the footsteps of Gandhiji, he left B.N college where he used to study. He then actively participated in all the movements of Freedom, such as Swadeshi Movement, Salt Satyagraha, opposition to the Simon Commission, etc.. He used to mobilise masses against Britishers by organising volunteers and collecting funds for the Freedom struggle through the 'Muthia' drive. 'Muthia' meant to take out a fist of grain before preparing every meal to fund the Freedom struggle. He joined the Khilafat Movement and represented Central Khilafat Committee at the All-Parties Conferences and All Muslim Parties Conferences on Nehru Report. Under the direction of Mohammad Ali Jauhar, he took charge of Khilafat Committee in Calcutta. There he was arrested in a protest march led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and was released at a place far from Calcutta.

Ajazi strongly opposed the Two-nation theory and on the contrary, in 1940 he founded the All India Jamhur Muslim League and served as its first general secretary. Ajazi had to face the wrath of workers of the Muslim league for opposing the division of India and was then tagged as anti-Muslim. This selfless patriot and political activist from Bihar died on 26 September 1966.



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ASHFAQULLA KHAN (1900-1927)

Place of Birth: Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh

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ASHFAQULLA KHAN



Ashfaqulla Khan was born on 22 October 1900, in a wealthy landlord family in Shahjahanpur district of the United Provinces (present-day Uttar Pradesh). He was a revolutionary intellectual and an idealistic young man who sacrificed his life for the country.

In 1920, Mahatma Gandhi had launched his Non-Cooperation Movement against the British rule in India but withdrew the agitation due to the Chauri Chaura incident in 1922. At that point, Ashfaqulla Khan and many other young people were disheartened and decided to form an organization with like-minded freedom fighters which resulted in the formation of Hindustan Republican Association in 1924. The objective of this association was to organize armed revolutions to achieve an independent India. In order to buy arms and ammunition to activate their freedom movement, the revolutionaries of the Hindustan Republican Association met on 8 August 1925 in Shahjahanpur where deliberation of looting the government treasury box in a train was put forward. On 9 August 1925, Khan along with other members tried to loot the train carrying British government money travelling from Shahjahanpur to Lucknow. Several revolutionaries boarded the train at Hardoi and when it halted at Kakori they barged into the guard's cabin to pull off the treasury box, but in the skirmish, they accidentally shot an innocent passenger and thereby had to abandon their heist and run away.

Ashfaqulla Khan remained untraceable for a long time, but was eventually betrayed by a friend who notified the police about his whereabouts. Khan was caught on the morning of 17 July 1926 and was detained in the Faizabad jail. His brother Riasat Ullah Khan was his legal counsel but the case for the Kakori dacoity was concluded by awarding death sentence to the revolutionary and he was hanged on December 19, 1927, along with Bismil and Roshan Singh (all in different prisons), for their role in the Kakori train robbery.

This courageous man who was also a poet deserves to be remembered as a revolutionary intellectual who also tried to give shape to the larger revolutionary movement of Independence.



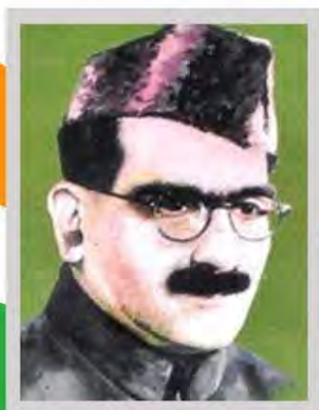
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MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN (1898-1945)

Place of Birth: Cochin, Kerala

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Muhammad Abdur Rahman



Muhammad Abdur Rahman was born in 1898 in the Kingdom of Cochin, India, at Azhikode, Kodungallur, Thrissur District. He was a Kerala-based Indian freedom fighter, Muslim leader, scholar, and politician. In 1939, he was elected president of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee, Malabar.

He had his education in Vaniyambadi and Calicut. He went to college in Madras and Aligarh but dropped out of Aligarh University to join the Malabar Non-Cooperation Movement and Khilafat Movement. Following the Moplah Riots of 1921, Rahman attempted to restore calm in riot-affected regions but was arrested and convicted for two years in prison by British authorities in October 1921. He was lathi-charged and sentenced to nine months of severe imprisonment at the Kannur Central Jail for his role in the Salt Satyagraha movement of 1930.

Mohammed Abdur Rahman Sahib was the editor and publisher of the Malayalam newspaper Al-Ameen, published from Calicut in 1924. The objective of the paper was to boost the independence cause and promote nationalism among Malabar's Muslims. Conservatives in the society opposed his progressive ideas and conspired with colonial officials to prevent them from being published. The British authorities eventually shut down the publication in 1939.

In 1939, he was elected President of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee as well as a member of the All India Congress Committee. Rahman was also a leader of Nationalist Muslims in Kerala and therefore was a staunch opponent of the All-India Muslim League's Two-Nation Theory. His final days were devoted to organising gatherings and raising awareness among Muslims about India's partition. Following the outbreak of World War II, he was imprisoned again by the British Raj from 1940 until 1945. He later returned to Calicut after being released from the prison and started active participation in Congress activities. After addressing at a public gathering in Kodyathur, he died of a major heart attack and died on 23 November 1945.

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RAFI AHMED KIDWAI (1894-1954)

Place of Birth: Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh

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Rafi Ahmed Kidwai



Rafi Ahmed Kidwai was born on 18 February 1894 in the village of Masauli in Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh. He was a politician, an Indian independence activist and a socialist, sometimes described as an Islamic socialist.

Kidwai's political career began in 1920, after he became an enthusiastic supporter of the Khilafat Movement and the Non-Cooperation Movement, for which he was even imprisoned. After being freed from prison in 1922, he came to Allahabad and worked as Motilal Nehru's private secretary. Kidwai was elected to the British India Central Legislative Assembly from 1926 to 1929, as a Chief Whip of the Congress Legislative Assembly. Kidwai resigned from the Central Legislative Assembly in January 1940 in reaction to the Congress Working Committee's Poorna Swaraj resolution and joined the Civil Disobedience Movement.

When the Congress administration was established in the United Provinces, the Government of India Act 1935 appointed him a minister-in-charge of managing the revenues and jail portfolios in Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's cabinet. UP became the first province to abolish the zamindari system under his leadership. In April 1946, he became the Home Minister of UP. Kidwai became India's first minister for communication in Jawahar Lal Nehru's government after independence. He was one of two Muslims in Nehru's central cabinet, along with Abul Kalam Azad.

Kidwai is said to have distributed his wealth before dying while leaving only a decaying house in his home village behind. He died in debt on 24 October 1954 in Delhi, after having an asthma attack while delivering a speech. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai's efforts to bring about numerous reforms and to fight for social justice with the greatest conviction should not be forgotten.

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ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (1890-1980)

Place of Birth: Hailakandi, Assam

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Abdul Matlib Mazumdar

Abdul Matlib Mazumdar was born on 1 June 1890 in a Bengali Muslim family in southern Assam. He was a political leader and freedom fighter, well versed in Religion and Philosophy. He did his Master of Arts in English Literature from Dhaka University in 1921 and B.L. from Calcutta in 1924. He started legal practice at Hailakandi Bar in 1925. He later became an M.L.A and Cabinet Minister of Assam in 1946, while India was still under the British rule. He rose to prominence as one of the most vocal Muslim opponents for the demand of a separate Muslim nation, particularly in the country's east.

As a student in Dhaka, Mazumdar was at the forefront of the Khilafat Movement. He met prominent Indian leaders during this time and became a strong supporter of Gandhi's ideology. In 1925, he joined the Indian National Congress. He was the first President of the Hailakandi Congress Committee, which he created in 1937. In 1939, Mazumdar was elected as the first Chairman of Hailakandi township, and in 1945, he was elected as the first Indian Chairman of the Hailakandi Local Board, a position that had always been held by European tea planters.

In the 1937 elections, the Muslim League demonstrated its power in Muslim-dominated areas of India. He successfully organised the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind movement in Assam to fight the Muslim League's gaining popularity. This Jamiat was an ally of Congress with a large following among nationalist Muslims. He seized the Muslim majority Hailakandi seat from the Muslim League in the crucial 1946 General Elections on the eve of India's Independence. That victory effectively ended the Muslim League's hopes and ambitions to include southern Assam in Pakistan.

Mazumdar travelled throughout Assam's Surma valley (now partly in Bangladesh) at the time of partition, organising and addressing gatherings and teaching the public about the outcome of partition based on religion. Mazumdar opened the Assam Nationalist Muslim's Convention at Silchar on 20 February 1947. After that, on 8 June 1947, another major conference was held in Silchar. Both meetings that gathered a large number of Muslims were successful. He was also one of the few people who helped to keep Assam's Barak Valley region united with India. His participation was significant since it indicated that Muslim leaders in Assam were also resistant to partition, and in Muslim-majority seats such as Hailakandi Muslim League faced defeat.

Mazumdar, who died in 1980, worked silently throughout his life, therefore his work and participation during India's partition on religious lines, particularly in eastern India, is relatively less publicised and forgotten.



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Dr SYED MAHMUD (1889-1971)

Place of Birth: Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Dr Syed Mahmud



Dr Syed Mahmud was born in 1889, in the village Syedpur Bhitari of Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh. During the Indian Independence Movement, he was an Indian politician and a senior leader in the Indian National Congress.

He received his education at Aligarh Muslim University and became active in student political activities at the university. He attended the 1905 session of the Indian National Congress. After being dismissed from Aligarh for his political activities, Mahmud went to England to study law at Cambridge University, then went on to Lincoln's Inn to become a barrister. He received his PhD from Germany and returned to India, where he began his legal career in Patna in 1913.

Syed Mahmud was a young Muslim leader who played a significant role in creating the Lucknow pact between Congress and Muslim League in 1916. Throughout his career, he emphasised communal harmony. He also took part in the Indian Home Rule Movement in 1916, as well as the Non-Cooperation Movement and the Khilafat Movement, under Mahatma Gandhi's influence. In 1922, he was imprisoned and in 1923, he was elected Deputy General Secretary of the All-India Congress Committee along with Jawaharlal Nehru which resulted in close friendship between the two leaders. In 1929, with M.A. Ansari, he formed the 'Muslim Nationalist Party' within the Congress, and became the General Secretary of the Congress, a position he held until 1936. He was imprisoned at Allahabad's Naini Jail in 1930, for his role in the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Mahmud was a member of the Congress Working Committee that advocated the Quit India movement in 1942, demanding an end to British rule immediately. Mahmud along with other senior leaders of the Quit India movement were imprisoned at Ahmednagar Fort, in August 1942. Over time, Mahmud's support for Indian nationalists grew stronger. He became one of the secular Muslim leaders who opposed the Muslim League's demand for a separate Muslim state. He worked with other Indian leaders to prevent communal violence in Bihar and other parts of India. Dr Syed Mahmud breathed his last in 1971



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ASAF ALI (1888-1953)

Place of Birth: Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Asaf Ali



Asaf Ali was born on 11 May 1888. He was a well-known lawyer and activist who fought legal battles for many Indians who were imprisoned during the independence movement. Bhagat Singh happened to be one of them.

Asaf Ali studied at Delhi's St. Stephen's College. He was later invited to Bar from Lincoln's Inn in England. He got strongly involved in the Nationalist cause after returning to India. Ali was elected to the Central Legislative Assembly in 1935 as a member of the Muslim Nationalist Party. He then came into prominence as a Congress member and was appointed as deputy leader.

After the All-India Congress Committee endorsed the 'Quit India' resolution in August 1942, Asaf Ali was sentenced to his last of multiple periods of jail during the liberation fight. Along with Jawaharlal Nehru and other members of the Congress Working Committee, he was incarcerated at the Ahmednagar Fort jail. Post-1946, he was in charge of Railways and Transport in the Interim Government of India led by Jawaharlal Nehru. Asaf Ali was the country's first ambassador to the United States. From February 1947 until mid-April 1947, he served as Governor of Odisha for two years and afterwards as Indian Ambassador to Switzerland.

While acting as India's Ambassador to Switzerland, Ali died in office on 2 April 1953, in Bern. Even though India Post issued a stamp in his honour in 1989, he is largely forgotten.



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ABDUL MAJEED KHWAJA (1885-1962)

Place of Birth: Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Abdul Majeed Khwaja



Abdul Majeed Khwaja was born in 1885 in Aligarh. He was an Indian lawyer, educator, social reformer, and freedom fighter. He also co-founded Jamia Millia Islamia in 1920. In 1916, he wrote a book called "The Early Life of the First Student of the M.A.O. College," which was published by the Allahabad Law Journal Press.

To elucidate his initial life, Abdul Majeed was first tutored at home by reputable private teachers who taught him the Quran, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, and social etiquettes, among other things. He later attended Govt. M.A.O. College in Lahore for higher education. Khwaja Muhammad Yusuf, his father, wanted to ensure that his son received the best contemporary Western education, therefore he was sent to Cambridge University in England in 1906 to continue his studies. After returning from England in 1910, he started his legal practice in Aligarh. In 1919, at Mahatma Gandhi's request, he gave up his profession, joined the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Khilafat movement, and served six months in prison.

As a liberal Muslim, he was a devout follower of Mahatma Gandhi's ethical approach to nonviolent resistance. He was a vocal opponent of India's 1947 partition and dedicated his whole life in promoting Hindu-Muslim harmony. During the demand for the establishment of Pakistan based on the two-nation theory, Abdul Majeed Khwaja had a difficult time. Despite suffering a heart attack in 1942, he returned to politics and spent the rest of his life working to keep India together. Abdul Majeed Khwaja was chosen president of the All India Muslim Majlis, which he co-founded with a few close friends to coordinate operations based on the Two-Nation Theory. He encouraged Muslims to embrace India's unity. Despite the fact that his attempts to maintain India united were unsuccessful, he continued to work with other pioneers to protect the country's fabric.

He also made a great contribution to the education of Indian Muslims in the modern era. Khwaja was appointed Chancellor of the Jamia Millia Islamia in 1936, at the request of Zakir Hussain, and he served in that position until his death on 2 December 1962.

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AMJADI BEGUM (1885-1947)

Place of Birth: Rampur, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Amjadi Begum



Amjadi Begum was born in 1885, in a religious family of Rampur. In 1902, 17-year-old Amjadi Begum got married to the great Freedom fighter, Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, who also happened to be her cousin. After marriage, she was in the seam of political life alongside her husband and her mother-in-law, Bi Amma.

During the periods when her husband spent many years in prison, she not only cared for her family but also travelled all over the country with her mother-in-law, carrying on the mission of Freedom passionately, and also for the restoration of the Khilafat movement. Amjadi Begum was addressed as 'A Brave Women' by Mahatma Gandhi for her vigour and courage in struggling for the cause of Freedom.

Amjadi Begum, accompanied her husband at all his political conferences, addressing women to encourage them to take part in the freedom movement. In 1921 she attended the session of All Indian National Congress Working Committee in Ahmadabad as a UP representative. Amjadi Begum accompanied her husband at the first Round Table Conference in London, while he was sick. She later attended his funeral prayers in London and travelled to Jerusalem, to bury him at Al Aqsa.

She continued to work for the cause of Freedom even after her Husband's death and spent the rest of her life alone in a small house in Delhi's Karol Bagh where she died on 28 March 1947, only a few months before the country was liberated from the British rule.

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Dr MUKHTAR AHMAD ANSARI (1880-1936)

Place of Birth: Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

DR MUKHTAR AHMAD ANSARI



MUKHTAR AHMED ANSARI

Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari was born on 25 December 1880 in Yousuf Pura, Ghazipur District of Uttar Pradesh. He graduated in medicine from the Nizam College in 1900, and then in 1908, he went to England to pursue his master's degree in Surgery and returned to India in 1910.

In his timeline of history, he got involved in the Indian Independence Movement during his stay in England. While moving back to Delhi, he joined both the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League. He also played a crucial role in the negotiation of the 1916 Lucknow Pact, and served as the Muslim League's president from 1918 to 1920. He had also opposed the Rowlatt Bill, and participated in Home Rule and Non-Cooperation movements. He was one of the founders of the Jamia Millia Islamia University and remained its chancellor from 1928 to 1936.

Being in proximity with Mahatma Gandhi, he was invited to be the President of the Indian National Congress in 1927. His Delhi house 'Darus-Salam' was a meeting point for leading Congressmen. For many years, he was General Secretary of Congress and remained a member of the Congress Working Committee throughout life. Besides, he was an upright supporter of the Khilafat Movement and strongly facilitated Hindu-Muslim unity.

Dr Ansari was a committed Nationalist and played an important role both in seeking independence and acting as a symbol of Hindu-Muslim Unity. He died due to a heart attack on 10 May 1936 while travelling from Mussoorie to Delhi on a train.



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HUSSAIN AHMAD MADANI (1879-1957)

Place of Birth: Unnao, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Hussain Ahmad Madani



Hussain Ahmad Madani was born on 6 October 1879 in Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh. He was an Indian Islamic scholar, Freedom Fighter and served as the principal of Darul Uloom Deoband. He was among the first recipients of the civilian honour of Padma Bhushan in 1954.

Hussain Madani was an active participant of Reshmi Rumi Tehreek. After his teacher, Mehmud Hassan, was sentenced by the British to jail for 3 years on the Island of Malta for his role in the Silk Letter Conspiracy, Madani volunteered to escort him so that he could watch after him, though he had not been convicted for the conspiracy himself. After his release, he returned to India and became actively involved in India's freedom struggle.

He wielded enormous power over a segment of the Muslim population, particularly in Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He was an outspoken opponent of the two-nation doctrine, and as a result, many Muslims from the Eastern U.P. Bihar and other states refused to relocate to Pakistan in 1947.

Maulana Madani was a crucial figure in establishing the Congress-Khilafat pact in the 1920s, and through a series of lectures and booklets in the 1920s and 1930s, Madani created the foundation for the Indian Ulama's partnership with the Indian National Congress. Maulana Madani was a founding member of Jamia Millia Islamia and served as the President of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind until his death on 5 December 1957.



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HASRAT MOHANI (1875-1951)

Place of Birth: Unnao, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

HASRAT MOHANI



Syed Fazl-ul-Hasan was born on 14 October 1875, in a small village named Mohan in Unnao district of current Uttar Pradesh. He was an Indian activist, Freedom Fighter and a well-known poet of the Urdu language known by his pen name Hasrat Mohani.

He is believed to have coined the immortal slogan Inquilab Zindabad (Long live the revolution) in 1921, which was later popularized by Bhagat Singh and his comrades. Hasrat Mohani was the first person to demand 'Complete Independence' or 'Purna Swaraj' or 'Azadi-e-Kaamil' for India at the session of the Indian National Congress held at Ahmedabad in 1921. Mohani who was a member of the Indian National Congress for many years had also joined the All-India Muslim League but staunchly opposed the 'Two Nation Theory' of Mohammed Ali Jinnah. The declaration of the Partition Plan on 3 June 1947, spurred his resignation from the All India Muslim League and he decided to remain in India. He was a strong advocate of Hindu-Muslim unity and was also known as the 'Maulana who loved Krishna' and wrote poems praising Krishna.

He later became a member of the Constituent Assembly of India which drafted the Indian Constitution led by Dr Ambedkar. Mohani has also contributed to other aspects of drafting the manuscripts relating to issues like federalism, the Preamble, religious reservations, and Zamindari abolition.

Hasrat Mohani participated in the struggle for Indian Independence and was also imprisoned for endorsing anti-British ideas, especially for publishing an article against British policies in Egypt, in his magazine 'Urdu-e-Mualla'. To support the Civil Disobedience Movement of the early twenties he also is believed to have started a Swadeshi Store in Aligarh.

Maulana who selflessly worked for the cause of Freedom, died on 13th May 1951, in Lucknow is yet another most marginalised name in the list of heroes of the Indian Freedom struggle and is visibly absent from popular Indian history.



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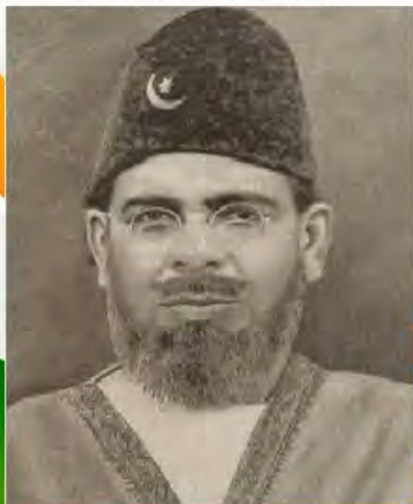
MAULANA SHAUKAT ALI (1873-1938)

Place of Birth: Rampur, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

MAULANA SHAUKAT ALI

(March 10, 1873-Nov 26, 1938)



Maulana Shaukat Ali a pioneering freedom fighter, was born on 10 March 1873, in erstwhile Rampur state, now a district of Uttar Pradesh. He proactively participated in the Khilafat Movement along with his younger brother Mohammad Ali Jauhar. He was committed to the cause of the Freedom Movement and served in the provincial civil service of the United Provinces of Oudh and Agra for 17 years till 1913.

Shaukat Ali actively assisted his younger brother in publishing the Urdu weekly "Hamdard" and the English weekly "Comrade". Both journals played a significant role in moulding the political strategy of Muslims in India. In 1919 he was elected as the President of the Khilafat Committee, while still in detention for publishing seditious content, as claimed by the British, and for organizing protests that were . He was later re-arrested and imprisoned from 1921 to 1923 for supporting Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress during the Non-Cooperation Movement.

He was later released from Rajkot Jail in 1923. Upon his release, he was elected as Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Central Khilafat Committee. He attended the All-Parties Conference in Delhi in 1929, and the First and Second Round Table Conferences. He helped in organizing the World Muslim Conference held in Jerusalem in 1932.

In 1936, he became a member of the All-India Muslim League Council and the Muslim League Parliamentary Board. From 1934 to 1938 he was a member of the Legislative Assembly.

He died on November 26, 1938, in Karol Bagh, and was buried in the vicinity of the Jama Masjid, Delhi.

The name of Shaukat Ali will always be preserved in the record of the Independence Movement.



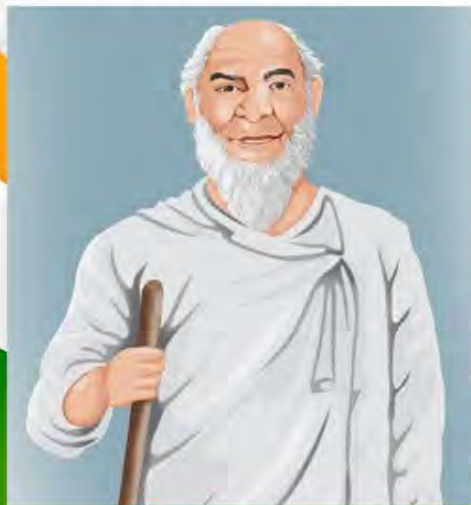
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BATAKH MIYAN ANSARI (1869-1957)

Place of Birth: Champaran, Bihar

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

BATAKH MIYAN ANSARI



Batakh Miyan Ansari was a cook by profession who played a unique role in keeping alive the freedom movement launched by Gandhiji. He was employed in the service of an indigo plant at Motihari in Bihar.

Sometime in 1917, Erwin, the British manager of the plant, invited Gandhiji for dinner. The future President of India, Rajendra Prasad, was also among the invitees. Erwin persuaded and prevailed upon Batakh Miyan to add poison in the milk that Gandhiji regularly consumed. But then Batakh Miyan disclosed the plot to Rajendra Prasad, and a great tragedy was averted by the loyalty displayed by him. But he had to face the consequences as the British gov. imprisoned and tortured him, confiscated his house, and other properties. Ultimately he was made to leave his village.

Much later in 1950, when Dr. Rajendra Prasad had become the first President, he was on a visit to Champaran district. There he noticed Batakh Miyan in the crowd that had gathered there to welcome him. On the spot, Rajendra Prasad related the entire episode to the assembled crowd. At that time, the President had announced the grant of 50 acres of land to Batakh Miyan. It's been 71 years since then; Batakh Miyan is no more, but his grandchildren are expectedly waiting for the implementation of the order of the first president of India.

IMPAR remembers Batakh Miyan Ansari and pays rich tributes to the crucial role played by him in safeguarding the life of the most important man of the country's freedom struggle.



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MAULANA MAZHARUL HAQUE (1866-1930)

Place of Birth: Patna, Bihar

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Maulana Mazharul Haque



Maulana Mazharul Haque was born on 22 December 1866 in Brahmpur, Patna, Bihar. He was an educationist, a lawyer, activist and a Freedom Fighter of the Indian National Movement. He received his early education at Patna College and then at Canning College, Lucknow, before moving to England to study law in 1888. There, he met Mahatma Gandhi and formed a lifelong friendship with him.





His residence, "Ashiyana," was a centre for Freedom Fighters in the 18th century, and it was visited by numerous nationalists, including Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Mahatma Gandhi. He returned to India as a barrister in 1891 and joined the Judiciary. He began working as a lawyer in 1896.

In 1906, he moved from Chhapra to Patna and was chosen Vice-President of the Bihar Congress Committee the same year. Between 1910 - 1911 he was elected a member of the Imperial Legislative Council of India (British Parliament). In 1911, a third "Bihar State Conference" was held under the chairmanship of Maulana. At this conference, the demand for a separate Bihar state was raised.

In 1916, he was a key figure in the National Congress and Muslim League. He Joined the Home Rule Movement started by Mrs. Annie Besant in 1916. In 1917, he took part in the Champaran Satyagraha and was sentenced to three months in prison.

In 1919, he was an active member of the Khilafat Movement, and in 1920, he joined Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement. In 1921, Gandhiji was so impressed that he founded "Sadaqat Ashram" in Patna, which meant "abode of truth." Maulana started a monthly magazine called "Motherland" from the same Ashram. He was a staunch supporter of Hindu-Muslim harmony.

In the year 1926, he announced his retirement from active politics. Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Azad, and Nehru, nevertheless, never abandoned him. However, he was unable to see an independent India and passed away on 2 January 1930.

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MAHMUD HASAN DEOBANDI (1851-1920)

Place of Birth: Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Mahmud Hasan Deobandi



Mahmud Hasan Deobandi was born in 1851, in the town of Bareilly. He was a prominent Sunni Muslim Scholar who actively worked against British Rule in India. He completed his studies from Darul Uloom Deoband and became the principal of Darul Uloom later in 1890.

He began the Silk Letter Movement (Reshmi-e-Rumal Tehreek), in which the strategies, information related to arms and ammunition, plans to recruit volunteers and training were exchanged between Mahmud Hasan and other Deobandi leaders written on the pieces of silken clothes with the motive of toppling and smothering the British Rule with silken fabric. A large number of like-minded young activists joined this full-fledged armed resistance and it gained momentum with international support as well. This movement, which perhaps remains forgotten and buried in the heaps of prejudice was very secular in nature, despite being led by an Ulema and lasted for approximately seven long years. Mahmud Hassan was later on arrested in Hejaz, West of Saudi Arabia in December 1916 and was imprisoned in Malta for 3 years and 4 months after the plot in the form of letters was intercepted by the Britishers. He was released in the first half of 1920.

Mahmud Hassan Deobandi became an icon of the Independence Movement and was given the title of "Shaykh-al-Hind" by the Central Khilafat Committee upon his arrival in India in June 1920. In order to support and participate in the Freedom struggle with Mahatma Gandhi he issued a Fatwa, thereby making it obligatory for all Indian Muslims to participate in the struggle.

He has also presided over the foundation ceremony of Jamia Millia Islamia in Aligarh and laid the foundation stone of this university on 29 October 1920. One month later he breathed his last on 30 November 1920 and was buried in Mazar-e-Qasmi in Deoband.



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ABADI BANO BEGUM (1850-1924)

Place of Birth: Rampur, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

ABADI BANO BEGUM

1850-1924



Abadi Bano Begum also known as Bi Amma, born in 1850 in Uttar Pradesh, was one of the most significant voices of the freedom struggle. Abadi Bano Begum proactively participated in politics and was a crucial part of the National Freedom Struggles like Khilafat Movement. She vigorously campaigned for communal harmony by promoting Hindu-Muslim unity which she believed was imperative to attain freedom.

In 1917, during the sessions of the All India Muslim League, Mahatma Gandhi encouraged her to deliver a speech, wherein, she delivered the most touching and powerful speech which left a lasting impression on the Muslims of British India. Moreover, she was the first woman to address a political rally wearing a burqa thereby, shredding down the stereotypes associated with a traditional Muslim woman.

She also played a pivotal role in the Swadeshi Movement by collecting funds and organizing meetings to refraining the women from using the British goods and persuading them of using the swadeshi products. Bi Amma was active in the Freedom Movement and fundraising for the Khilafat Movement till her last breath i.e. on 13 November 1924. Unfortunately, she continues to remain unsung and forgotten for her significant contribution rendered to the Indian freedom struggle.

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AZIZAN BAI (1832-1879)

Place of Birth: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

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AZIZAN BAI



Azizan was born in 1832 in Lucknow. Her mother, a courtesan, died when Azizan was very young. After her mother's demise, she was raised in the house of another courtesan at Satarangi Mahal in Lucknow. She later moved to Kanpur and lived in Lurkee Mahil in Umrao Begum's house.

The city of Kanpur was a theatre of conflict with both Tatya Tope and Nana Saheb rallying forces against the Britishers. Azizan Bai played both an active and passive role in preparing for the First War of Independence by collecting and supplying arms and ammunition to the soldiers and spying to gather sensitive information from Britishers and passing it along to mutineers; her house was also used by sepoys for secret meetings.

Being a strategist and a warrior she knew how to use arms and taught it to other women. She used to dress in male apparel, and rode on horses on the battlefield, armed with pistols. She also had formed a group of women who encouraged men and took care of the wounded.

Azizan who is considered to be one of the key conspirators of the revolt was caught by the Britishers and taken into custody by General Havelock who intimidated her to confess her crimes on the condition that she will be forgiven for her role in the revolt and other audacious acts. However, she declined the offer and preferred martyrdom over disloyalty for her country. This Act of denial displayed her selflessness, honour, and bravery.

Azizan Bai managed to fight against the Britishers for the sake of freedom- inspired by Nana Sahib but is yet another name lost in the labyrinth of history.



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SYED ALLAUDDIN HYDER (1824-1889)

Place of Birth: Hyderabad, Telangana

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Syed Allauddin Hyder

Syed Allauddin Hyder, widely known as Maulvi Allauddin, was an Indian preacher and Imam who served at the Makkah Masjid in Hyderabad. He is most known for spearheading an attack against the British Residency in the princely state of Hyderabad.

On 2 July 1857, forces of the ruler of Hyderabad, Nizam, arrested many soldiers for waging a war against the British. The people of Hyderabad rallied in favour of the soldiers and demanded for their release immediately. Maulvi Allauddin addressed the people after Friday prayers on 17 July 1857, urging them to support the sepoys. People began marching towards the English Residency in Hyderabad. Soon after Salar Jang, the Prime Minister of Nizam, intervened and attempted to persuade them not to attack the Presidency, but no one paid heed. Allauddin attacked the Residency with about 500 Rohillas, where news of the raid had already spread. The Residency's gates were locked, and European soldiers headed by Major Briggs, Captain Holmes, and Captain Scott took up positions to defend the Residency against any Indian attack. To fire on the Indians, number of cannon guns were installed. The English soldiers opened fire on Allauddin and his men as soon as they arrived at the Presidency. Allauddin sought a temporary refuge in a building belonging to Jai Gopal Das.

Several Indians died as a result of the attack on the Residency. The Nizam Government, influenced by the English, passed laws confiscating Maulvi Allauddin's property and ordering the demolition of Jai Gopal Das's house, as well as ordering Maulvi's arrest, while he managed to hide for nearly a year and a half in the house of Peer Mohammad of Mangalpalli. His location was finally discovered after an epidemic disease spread in the region. Following this, the Nizam's troops under the colonial forces quickly captured Allauddin and Peer Mohammad in 1859. Following a judicial hearing, Allauddin was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Andaman Islands on 28 June 1859. He was convicted for disseminating anti-British messages from Mecca Masjid and leading an attack.

The Maulvi made repeated requests to be released on basis of poor health and good conduct, but these were rejected. He died in the year 1889.



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PEER ALI KHAN (1812-1857)

Place of Birth: Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Peer Ali Khan



Peer Ali Khan was born in 1812, Muhammadpur, Azamgarh district, Uttar Pradesh. He was an Indian revolutionary and rebel who was determined to fight for the Independence of India.

Khan, by profession, was a bookbinder and operated to secretly disseminate important information in the form of leaflets, pamphlets to the Freedom Fighters and also used to conduct regular campaigns against the British administration. He was later caught for the act and given capital punishment along with his other followers. On 4th July 1857, Peer Ali Khan was hanged publicly by William Taylor, the then commissioner of Patna thereby sacrificing his life for the Freedom struggle of India.



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ALLAMA FAZL-E-HAQ KHAIRABADI (1797-1861)

Place of Birth: Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh

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Allama Fazl-e-Haq Khairabadi



Allama Fazl-e-Haq Khairabadi was born on 7 April 1797, in Khairabad, Sitapur. He was a Freedom fighter, theologian, philosopher, and a poet. In 1857, he fought against the British occupation and issued the first Indian fatwa (religious verdict) in support of the battle against colonial rule.

Allama Fazl-e-Haq met with Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar numerous times as the Indians began their opposition to the British occupation. This continued until May 1857. Tensions surged across the country immediately after Allama delivered a speech in front of the Ulemas on fighting the Britishers and issued a Fatwa. This prompted the British company to send a 90,000-strong force around Delhi to protect its interests. When the Indian Rebellion of 1857 was overpowered, he was arrested. British courts in its verdict regarded him as a threat to the British presence in India, and so he was evicted from the Indian main soil and exiled to Kalapani, a cellular jail on Andaman Island, for life. His property was confiscated by the judicial commissioner of Awadh court.

Meanwhile, Allama produced a series of eyewitness reports in the form of verses in Arabic, as well as the first book called *Alsoorat-ul-Hindia* on the critical study of the 1857 battle and events. He remained imprisoned at Kalapani-cellular prison until he died in 1861.

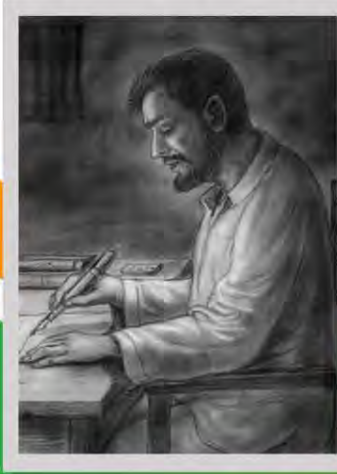
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MOULVI MOHAMMAD BAQIR (1780-1857)

Place of Birth: Delhi

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Moulvi Mohammad Baqir



Moulvi Mohammad Baqir born in 1780 in Delhi was an activist and a Freedom Fighter who decided to pick up the pen as the sword to fight for the liberation of India.

After finishing his education and serving in different jobs, he entered the field of journalism in 1836 when the Government allowed the publication of newspapers. In January 1837 Maulvi Muhammad Baqir launched the Urdu weekly "Delhi Akhbar" which was later named after the Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah as "Akhbar-al-Zafar" on 12 July 1857. The newspaper endured for about 21 years. This newspaper acted as the torchbearer of the national Independence Movement, political awakening and uniting the masses, especially Hindu-Muslims against British rule. The Publication posed a great threat to the foreign rule, and they arrested him on 14th September 1857. He was tied to a canon and publicly eliminated without any trial on 16 September 1857 by Major William S.R. Hudson. Thus, Moulvi Mohammad Baqir became the first journalist martyr who sacrificed his life for the Freedom of the nation.



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FAREED MIRZA (Birth: 1918)

Place of Birth: Hyderabad, Telangana

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

FAREED MIRZA

Fareed Mirza was born on 7 July 1918 in Hyderabad. He gave much value to the concepts of liberty and independence. Following his graduation from Osmania University, he joined the Nizam State as an officer. Fareed Mirza was a long-time supporter of the Indian National Movement, and in 1947, when India gained independence, he backed the demand for the Nizam State to be merged into the Indian Union. On 14 July 1948 he resigned from service to join the campaign for the incorporation of Hyderabad state into the Indian Union. He urged Muslims in the Nizam State to speak against the persecution of those who favoured the merger and had a nationalist viewpoint.

Fareed Mirza drafted a statement with the assistance of his friend Baqar Ali Mirza, and it received widespread backing from notable Muslims in Hyderabad. On 13 August 1948, Fareed Mirza had this declaration published in local Urdu newspapers with the heading 'An Open Letter to the VII-Nizam from Seven Prominent Muslims. This comment caused a commotion in the Nizam state, as well as resentment among its authorities. Fareed Mirza was instructed by the Nizam Government to withdraw his remarks immediately. But Mirza and his companions were adamant in their opposition. Mirza became a member of the Rehabilitation Committee, which was established for the benefit of those who had incurred losses as a result of the so-called "Police Action" in Hyderabad. On August 1, 1949, he began work as a deputy collector of Hyderabad but resigned in 1961.



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HAJRA BEEBI ISMAIL

Place of Birth: Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

Died: 1994

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Hajara Beebi Ismail



Hajara Beebi Ismail was born in Tenali of Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh. She was the wife of Mohammed Ismail Saheb, a Freedom Fighter. Hajara Beebi and her husband were strongly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi, and they committed themselves to the Khadi Movement. Her husband, Mohammed Ismail, founded the first Khaddar Store in Guntur, earning him the title of "Khaddar Ismail."

Tenali was the headquarters for the Muslim League in Andhra Pradesh, where it was highly active at the time. Since Hajara and her husband supported Gandhi, they encountered strong resistance from the Muslim League. Despite her husband's numerous imprisonment for his involvement in the national movement, Hajara Beebi managed to hold her courage. They had to endure a boycott as they were opposing to Muslim communalists. Mohammed Ismail died in 1948 due to his deteriorating health and frequent imprisonments.

Following her husband's death, the government offered her land under the category of freedom fighters. However, she respectfully declined to accept the land, stating that she did not want her patriotism to be measured in assets. She also donated her family's land to the 'Kavuru Vinayashram' to fulfill her husband's commitment. Hajara Beebi Ismail, like her husband, was a committed Khadi activist and wore Khadi till she died on 16 June 1994 in Tenali.

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COLONEL NIZAMUDDIN SHAIK Birth: 1900/06

Place of Birth: Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

Colonel Nizamuddin Shaik

Colonel Nizamuddin Shaik was born in Dhakwa village, Azamgarh district, Uttar Pradesh, in the year 1900/1906. He lived in Bruma till 1950, then returned to India in 1969 to resume regular life in his hometown of Dhakwa.

He confessed his involvement with the Indian National Army in 2001 and asked the government to recognise him as a freedom warrior. Twelve years after his appeal, the Indian government reacted positively. In 2013, Azamghar district magistrate Sri Pragjal Yadav recognised him as a Freedom Fighter at a grand government felicitation function in Dhakwa and stated that all necessary amenities will be given to Nizamuddin following proper procedures. Colonel Nizamuddin received an honorary degree from Poorvanchal University Vice Chancellor Sunder Lal during the event.

His participation in the Indian National Army was only discovered after this episode.

After the event, it was revealed that Nizamuddin had joined the Indian National Army in 1926, when Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose reconstituted INA and issued the "Chalo Delhi" call. After observing his commitment and competence, Netaji recruited him first as his driver, then as his bodyguard and then as his personal assistant. Nizamuddin followed Netaji to Singapore when the Indian National Army (INA) retreated following Japan's defeat in World War II on 16 August 1945. Colonel Shaik Nizamuddin believed that if Netaji had been alive, India would not have been divided.

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TURREBAZ KHAN

Place of Birth: Hyderabad, Telangana

Died: 1857

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Turrebaz Khan



Turrebaz Khan was born in the present-day Hyderabad district of Begum Bazar. Despite the opposition of the reigning Nizam, he was a Freedom Fighter who revolted against the British. He was a heroic figure in Deccan history and is regarded as 'Sher-i-Hyderabad'.

People in Hyderabad were enraged when news of the revolt in Oudh and other parts of the country reached from the north. The ruling elite, like that of most other princely states, were pro-British. Turrebaz Khan, on the other hand, was an exception. He was the mastermind of an attack on the British residence in Hyderabad, which is now residence to the Koti Women's College. The operation was intended to rescue the rebel Indian troops who had been imprisoned by the British on allegations of treason without a proper trial. Turrebaz Khan and other rebels encircled the Residency, destroying the walls and breaking in. A full-fledged scuffle broke. Turrebaz Khan, however, got hurt but managed to flee. During the first battle of independence in 1857, this brave act and great sacrifice of other troops generated a commotion throughout the region.

The British later identified him and imprisoned him, but even incarceration couldn't hold him back from his fight. He escaped after a year. For his arrest, a reward of Rs 5,000 was offered. He was caught in the jungle of Toopran, near Hyderabad. Qurban Ali Baig, the talukdar at the time, was the one who caught him. Turrebaz Khan was captured, shot, and then hung in the heart of the city to send a strong message to the rebels and put an end to the uprising.

In Hyderabad lore, the descriptive term "Turram Khan." Is used to address someone as a hero, and that is inspired by Turrebaz Khan's name. There is also a memorial, and a road has been named after him. However, despite his valour, his name does not appear in textbooks, and he remains on the list of forgotten heroes.

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NAWAB ABDUL REHMAN KHAN YUSUFZAI

Place of Birth: Jhajjar, Haryana

Died: 1857

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Nawab Abdul Rehman Khan Yusufzai

Nawab Abdul Rehman Khan Yusufzai, a Jhajjar native is regarded as one of India's first Freedom Fighters who took part in India's initial War of Independence against the British.

Following the East India Company's conquest in 1803, Jhajjar was given to Nawab Nijabat Khan, grandfather of Nawab Abdul Rehman Khan, who won control of Jhajjar in 1845.

In 1857 there lived a tribe of Yousufzai Pathan in Jhajjar, headed by Shaheed Choudhary Akbar Ali Khan. To oppose the British who were wresting the administration over Jhajjar, Nawab Abdul Rehman sought the help of Choudhary Akbar Ali Khan In the war of 1857.

Soon after Nawab Abdul Rahman was assassinated in front of the Red Fort in Delhi for his role in the 1857 rebellion. His property was seized by the British, and his body was thrown into an anonymous pit.



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FAKIR MAJNU SHAH BURHAN

Place of Birth: Uttar Pradesh

Died: 1788

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Fakir Majnu Shah Burhan

Fakir Majnu Shah Burhan was a Sufi saint from what is now the state of Uttar Pradesh. He took part in the Fakir-Sannyasi Rebellion, which, according to some scholars, was the earliest war for India's independence. He fought alongside his spiritual team in many battles against the British East India Company's dominance in Bengal.

Majnu gathered a large number of Muslim saints and Hindu Sannyasis on a common platform to fight against the Colonial Government at the Battle of Buxar in 1764, but the British East India Company won decisively. Later, the Treaty of Allahabad, signed in 1765, brought an end to the war.

On 25 February 1771, he had his second encounter with the British East India Company troops led by Lieutenant Feltham at Dinajpur, and while unsuccessful he retreated to the Dargah in Mahasthangarh in Bogra district. Majnu Shah and his faqirs reappeared in the Rajshahi area in the winter of 1773, joining forces with a group of Sannyasis. They fought four companies of sepoys from the British East India Company army on December 23, 1773. They were once again defeated by the colonial army.

In another battle against the East India Company troops under Lieutenant Brenan in the Kaleshwar district in 1786, Majnu Shah while attacking lost many of his supporters, and some of his wounded supporters were transported to Mewat. Majnu Shah was defeated and wounded in a fight on December 8, 1786. He is said to have died on 26 January 1788, at Dargah of Shah Madar in Kanpur district. Although being unsuccessful in defeating the Colonial Regime, his consistent attempts and fights for freedom should not be overlooked and forgotten.



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ABDUL HASEEB YUSUF MARFANI MEMON

Place of Birth: Saurashtra, Gujarat

A Series on Our Unsung Heroes

ABDUL HASEEB YUSUF MARFANI MEMON

Abdul Haseeb Yusuf Marfani Memon also known as "The Noble Servant of India" was a Muslim businessman from the Dhoraji town of Saurashtra Gujarat. After the formation of Azad Hind Fauj in 1944 he was appointed chairman of the supply board of the council of the Indian Liberation Army. Marfani was the first person who contributed financially to Azad Hind Bank when Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose founded INA in Rangoon (now Myanmar). Whereas, he donated almost his entire treasure of one crore Indian National Rupees (a grand amount in those days) to the Indian National Army.

While Marfani's gesture has also been recorded in various history books, it is said that he donated cash worth of crore and jewelry of his wife. After he emptied a plate full of jewelry and placed cash before Netaji, the leader praised the gesture saying: 'Brothers! I am very happy today that people have started realizing their duties, people are ready to sacrifice everything. What Haseeb Sheth has done is commendable and those who emulate him in serving the homeland are really praiseworthy.'

Being the first donor of Azad Hind Bank, Marfani was also the first recipient of Sevak-e-Hind Medal by none other than Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The Memon family is now settled in Myanmar, among which Marfani's grandson Yacoob Haseeb was felicitated in New Delhi by the government of India for their incredible ancestral work devoted to the Indian Freedom Struggle, which also marks that the fundamental service of Marfani is something not to be forgotten and abated from the history of the Independence Movement with time.



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Endnote

The purpose of assembling these forty personalities was not only to refresh their contributions, but to serve as inspiration for the present and future generations. We hope that with your valuable support this small compilation will remain in the annals of history in some form.