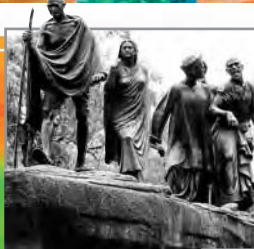


TODAY'S
EDITION

► THE STORY OF
INDIA-AH: Landmark
events that marked the
Independence struggle
PAGE 2



► Slogans and artists
that shaped India.
PLUS: Artists tell us
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PASSAGE TO INDIA:
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STUDENT EDITION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021



CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

"When you find smaller stories, you find an emotional connect. The discovery has to go beyond just a political event. In textbook history, the focus is always on the big political picture rather than the small individual stories. And that can get youngsters to tune out. The story of individual heroes, what they went through and felt makes history personal. Thanks to a look at history through provincial lens, new and fresher stories are being discovered."

— AKILA RAMAN OF STORYTRAILS

Where Gandhi adopted his iconic attire

PLACE: MADURAI, TAMIL NADU
TIMELINE: 1921

We all know that Gandhi chose this attire to make a statement about economic conditions in India. But do you know when he adopted this attire? It was on a visit to Madurai in 1921. He was shocked by the poverty he saw on the streets. Many people were so poor that they only had a length of cloth around their waists. The next morning (September 21), he emerged from his room in on Masi Street, clad in a short dhoti, sandals, and a shawl – the last outfit he would ever wear. The house still stands and is a Khadi store with a stone tablet marking this historic moment.

RANI GAIDINLIU: The fearless Naga warrior

PLACE: MANIPUR
TIMELINE: 1915

A Naga spiritual and political leader, who fearlessly fought against the British colonisers for the rights of her people, Gaidinliu was born on 26 January, 1915, in Manipur. Hailing from the Rongmei Naga tribe, at age 13, she joined



Shillong Jail in 1937, and promised to pursue her release. He gave her the title of "Rani". She was released in 1947.

THILLAIYADI VALLIAMMAI: The young South African nationalist

PLACE: JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
TIMELINE: 1898-1914

Born to a young immigrant couple, Valliammai lent her support to the Gandhian movement in South Africa. She was arrested with her mother and sentenced to three months with hard

labour. Gandhi wrote about this young freedom fighter in "Satyagraha in South Africa". Upon meeting her, he asked what if being part of the revolution results in her death, she replied: "I do not mind it. Who would not love to die for one's motherland?" She died within a few days of meeting Gandhi. She was 16.



POTTI SREERAMULU: The great Andhra leader

PLACE: ANDHRA PRADESH; TIMELINE: 1901-1952

Sreeramulu is revered as Amarajevi ("Immortal Being") in the Andhra region for his self-sacrifice for the Andhra cause. He became famous for undertaking a hunger strike for 56 days in support of having a separate state for Andhra Pradesh; he died in the process. Potti Sreeramulu was a devout Gandhi follower. He spent his life working for the Dalit community and other humanitarian work. Gandhi said, "If only I have 11 more followers like Sreeramulu I will win freedom from British rule in a year."



LEST WE FORGET

Peer Ali Khan
FEARLESS PATRIOT WHO CHOSE MARTYRDOM
Born in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh, he ran away from home at the age of 7. He later opened a bookshop in Patna, which became the meeting point for freedom fighters. He was an integral part of the rebellion of 1857 and was hanged on July 7.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay
FREEDOM FIGHTER, ACTOR, SOCIAL ACTIVIST
Born on April 3, 1903, Kamaladevi was the driving force behind the renaissance of Indian handicraft, handloom, and theatre. She also fought for the upliftment of the socio-economic standard of Indian women by pioneering the co-operative movement.

Matangini Hazra
THE WOMAN WHO WENT TO JAIL MANY TIMES

She was affectionately known as Gandhi buri. During Quit India Movement, when local Congress workers planned to besiege various government offices in Midnapore district, she moved forward holding the tricolour high. Despite being riddled by bullets she moved on, chanting Vande Mataram.

Tara Rani Srivastava
A RELENTLESS FIGHTER

Born in Bihar, Tara Rani was married to Phulendu Babu who was a freedom fighter too. During Quit India, Phulendu was shot while trying to unfurl the Indian flag on the roof of Siwan police station, but that didn't stop Tara Rani from continuing to march.

SOURCES: StoryTrails (an organisation that presents stories of India through award-winning walking and audio tours, videos, podcasts and workshops), The Times of India, wikipedia.com, news reports

PICS: TOI ARCHIVES; NEHRU & GANDHI PICS BY S SHIV KUMAR FROM DAVP EXHIBITION 'FREEDOM STRUGGLE & RESURGENT INDIA'

VELU NACHIAR: Brains behind India's first human bomb

PLACE: SIVAGANGA, TAMIL NADU
TIMELINE: 1772

King Muthu Vaduganatha Peria Odaya Thevar was married to Velu Nachiar – our heroine. He died in conflict in 1772 against his neighbour, Nawab of Arcot – supported by the British. The brave Velu

raised a battalion of women commanded by the fiercely loyal Kuyili. She convinced Haider Ali to send 5,000 men to help get back Sivaganga. In the battle, upon finding the ammunition depot, she introduced her first human bomb – Kuyili, who doused herself with inflammable oil, walked into the arsenal and lit herself. Velu won Sivaganga and ruled for ten years. StoryTrails

RANI ABBAKKA: India's First Woman Naval Hero

PLACE: ULLAL, KARNATAKA; TIMELINE: 1525-1570S

The Portuguese controlled all Indian Ocean trade in the 16th Century with their superior ships and cannons. Many of the coastal Indian kingdoms fought them fiercely over many generations, including the small kingdom of Ullal, in Karnataka, which was ruled by a series of women rulers. Rani Abbakka, who ruled Ullal at the beginning of the 17th century, continued defying the Portuguese and trading directly with the Middle East. When the Portuguese captured a rich ship of hers returning from Mecca she planned a secret attack. On a dark night in 1618, her fishermen soldiers, the Mogaveeras and the Moplahs, got into boats, sneaked in amongst the Portuguese ships, and used thousands of agni vaans (fire arrows) and coconut torches to set the ships on fire. The Portuguese navy had to retreat with heavy losses. This was akin to the defeat of the Spanish Armada by the British just two decades ago. In 2012, the Indian coast guard named a patrol vessel Rani Abbakka after her.

By Archana Garodia Gupta, author of "The Women Who Ruled India", and co-author of "The History of India for Children" with Shruti Garodia

BENJAMIN HORNIMAN: All for freedom of press

PLACE: MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA
TIMELINE: 1919

Benjamin Horniman was the British editor of a newspaper called "The Bombay Chronicle" – a paper started by Sir Pherozeshah Mehta. In 1919, after the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the British clamped down on the press. Horniman defied the censorship. He smuggled a first-hand report out of Punjab and published it. They deported Horniman to England. And there too he broke the same stories. All this forced the British to confront many of the harsher truths of colonial rule. In 1926, he returned to India to continue his work. StoryTrails



"It's important for the younger generation to learn about Jallianwala Bagh and to bring many hidden and uncomfortable truths to light. Silences besiege the history of the tragedy... Many facts have been suppressed in mainstream history writing."

— NONICA DATTA, HISTORIAN AND PROFESSOR IN JNU, EXPLAINS HER FATHER VN DATTA'S PIONEERING WORK ON THE MASSACRE, REPUBLISHED RECENTLY (SOURCE: TNN)

VEER SAVARKAR: First to call for freedom

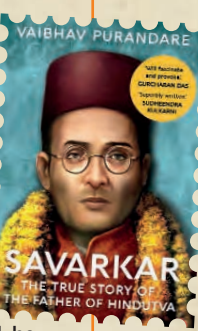
PLACE: LONDON, PORT BLAIR
TIMELINE: 1883-1966

At least 20 years before Indian National Congress passed a resolution for complete Swaraj in 1929, a fiery revolutionary and patriot, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, known as "Veer" Savarkar, called for total freedom.

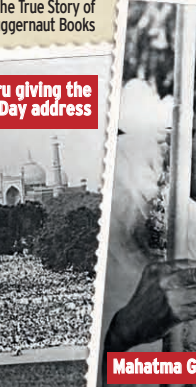
where he led a group of young and patriotic Indians who pushed the demand for India's freedom. His activities in the UK alarmed the British authorities so much that they packed him off to Port Blair prison. Later, he was kept in 'internment' for 13 years. Thus, in all, he spent 27 years in confinement for the sake of freedom.

Savarkar spent five years in London,

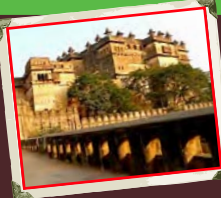
Jawaharlal Nehru giving the First Independence Day address



By Vaibhav Purandare, author, Savarkar: The True Story of The Father of Hindutva, Juggermoot Books



JHANSI FORT, JHANSI: The fort was one of the main centres of the Sepoy Mutiny in 1857. Spread across 15 acres, the fort of Jhansi is an architectural marvel



AGA KHAN PALACE, PUNE: Built in 1892, many prominent freedom fighters were placed under arrest here, including Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba Gandhi



CELEBRATING FREEDOM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 2021



The story of INDIA-AH



1914-1947

Dawn of movements, dusk of the British Empire

NON-COOPERATION MOVEMENT

The Non-Cooperation movement (1920-22), one of the first mass movements launched by Gandhiji, sought swaraj or self-government. It led Indians to boycott all institutions of the Raj – from colleges to courts, giving up their titles and refusing to pay taxes. Though it didn't meet all its objectives, it made Indians realise what a modern political movement looked like.



THE DANDI MARCH

Considered as a masterstroke by the Mahatma, the historic march from Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat to Dandi, a coastal village in the state, on March 12, 1930, to protest the unreasonably steep tax levied on salt by the British, transformed into a mass movement. It also made mass resistance against the colonial rule a permanent affair

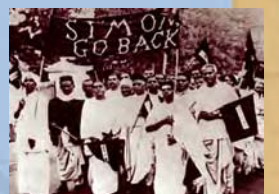
AZAD HIND FAUJ'S ENTRY

While Gandhiji was busy negotiating with the British Raj for an independent India, another freedom fighter Subhas Chandra Bose took the fight to the British militarily. The Azad Hind Fauj formed in 1942, made the British realise that complete independence could no longer be delayed or denied to people of India.



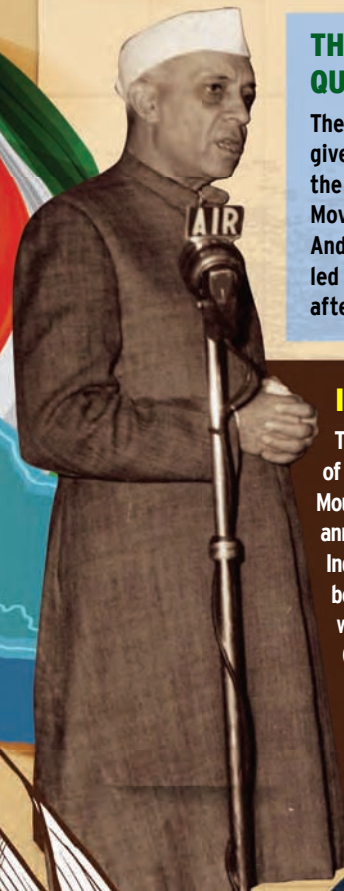
THE TURNING POINT: QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

The clarion call 'Do or Die' given by the Mahatma during the launch of the Quit India Movement or Bharat Chodo Andolan changed the course of history for India. It led the British Raj to agree to give independence after the end of the World War II in 1945.



INDIA'S TRYST WITH DESTINY

The end of World War II sounded the bugle of the decline of the British Empire. On June 3, 1947, Viscount Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last British Governor-General of India, announced the Partition of the British Indian Empire into India and Pakistan. At midnight, on August 15, 1947, India became an independent nation. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of the country. On the midnight of August 14, 1947, Nehru addressed the Constituent Assembly, delivering his famous 'Tryst with Destiny' speech.



It was in August 15, 1947 that India awoke to "life and freedom". But the road to Freedom was not an easy one – it was a path full of sacrifices, tenacity, gumption, guts and finally, glory. We present a bite-sized version of our story



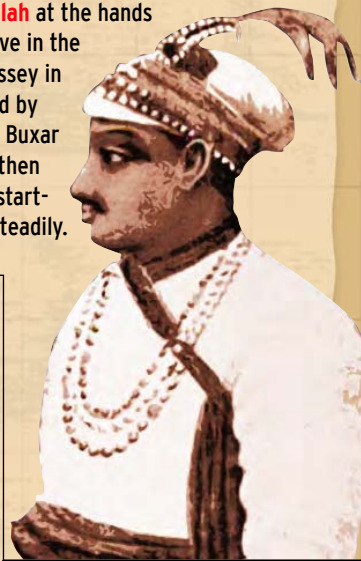
1599-1856

When traders became rulers

The British East India company, which was formed in 1599 under a charter granted by Queen Elizabeth in 1600, came to India as traders in spices, a very important commodity in Europe back then, as it was used to preserve meat. However, a decision by Mughal emperor Jahangir changed the fortunes of the company as well as India. In 1613, emperor Jahangir granted a farman to Captain William Hawkins, permitting the English to establish a factory at Surat. In 1615, Thomas Roe, the Ambassador to James I, got an imperial farman from Jahangir to trade and establish factories all across the Mughal empire.

Battles that won them power

The first biggest strike from the British on India was the defeat of the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-daulah at the hands of Robert Clive in the Battle of Plassey in 1757, followed by the Battle of Buxar in 1764. And then their power started growing steadily.



From a trading company to a ruling company

The British government had no controlling authority over the company and they shared no direct link. But the East India company had ulterior motives when they realised that India was a big collection of provincial kingdoms. In order to amass all the resources, the company meddled in the internal affairs of the kingdoms and gained power gradually.

1885-1914

Birth of people's movement



Formation of Indian National Congress(INC)

The INC was the first national movement of a political kind in India, with the initial aim of getting more Indians involved in the governance of the country. Formed in 1885, the Indian National Congress dominated the Indian movement for independence from the colonial rule.

The rise of nationalism

The colonial policies of the British Raj gave rise to the birth and growth of nationalism in the 1900s. People realised that colonial rule was the major cause of the country's economic backwardness. Interestingly, the British rule actually helped the growth of national sentiment among the Indians. The introduction of a uniform and modern system of government by the British throughout the country, coupled with the spread of modern western education and thought changed the outlook of the people and promoted a nationalist sentiment among them, cutting across sex, caste, creed, religion, etc.



1857: The first Independence movement

1857-1884

The Mutiny of 1857, which began with a revolt of the military soldiers at Meerut, soon posed a grave challenge to the colonial rule. Even though the British rule succeeded in crushing it within a year, it became a popular revolt that drew the Indian rulers, the masses and the militia to participate enthusiastically, and came to be regarded as the 1st War of Indian Independence.



Crown takes over

The failure of the 1857 rebellion also saw the end of the East India Company's rule in India. On November 1, 1858, under Queen Victoria's Proclamation, it was declared that India would be governed by and in the name of the British Monarch through a Secretary of State.

ARRIVAL OF THE MAHATMA

Often referred to as the 'half-naked fakir' by Winston Churchill, the PM of Britain during the colonial regime, Gandhiji changed the course of India's freedom movement on his arrival from South Africa in 1915. Born as Mohan Das Karamchand Gandhi, he led the struggle for freedom through Satyagraha and non-violent ways after joining the INC in 1921. A frail man with a will of iron, the Mahatma, as he came to be known by his followers, provided a blueprint for the movements, leading to the Independence of the country.



CELEBRATING FREEDOM

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CELLULAR JAIL, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS: Also known as 'Kala Pani', the British used the jail to exile political prisoners at this colonial prison



BIRLA HOUSE: Birla House is a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. It is the location where Gandhi spent the last 144 days of his life and was assassinated on January 30, 1948

03

CLICK HERE: PAGE 3 AND 4

CATCH PHRASES!

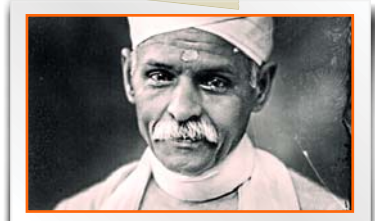
Pre-Independence slogans and its relevance in India today



Slogans raised by leaders during the freedom movement set the mood of the nation's revolution for its independence. They epitomised the struggle and hopes of millions of Indians. Author and former ad guru ANUJA CHAUHAN revisits these powerful slogans and explains their history and relevance in a contemporary India

SATYAMEV JAYATE (Truth alone triumphs)

HISTORY: Inscribed at the base of India's national emblem, this phrase is a mantra from the ancient Indian scripture, 'Mundaka Upanishad', which was popularised by freedom fighter Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya during India's freedom movement.



THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH GOES ON:

At this point of time when we are stuck between the confusing and contradicting layers of real and fake news, to know the truth is far from easy. We are also living in times of extreme polarisation of political views and ideologies where there are different versions of the same story – so difficult to know the truth from the lies. So, the pursuit of truth becomes more important than ever NOW. People rallying for RTI (Right to Information) Act is also the modern interpretation of Satyamev Jayate – truth shall prevail.

Freedom activist and the founder of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) – Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya – used the slogan 'Satyamev Jayate' for the first time during his presidential address at the Indian National Congress convention in 1918

QUIT INDIA

HISTORY: This slogan is widely associated with Mahatma Gandhi (what he started was the Quit India Movement from August 8, 1942, in Bombay (then), but the term 'Quit India' was actually coined by a lesser-known hero of India's freedom struggle – Yusuf Meherally. He had published a booklet titled 'Quit India' (sold in weeks) and got over a thousand 'Quit India' badges to give life to the slogan that Gandhi also started using and popularised.

'YOUNGSTERS, DON'T QUIT INDIA':

Quit India was a powerful slogan and the jingle of an epic movement meant to drive the British away from our soil. It was a crucial movement that eventually paved the way for an independent India. Ironically, now, many



young people going abroad for higher studies are 'quitting' India by settling there – It's almost like a movement of sorts! I will say to the young, acquire knowledge and know-how from international universities and organisations if you want to, but do come back to India. Don't Quit India! India needs you – your hopes, ambition, skills.

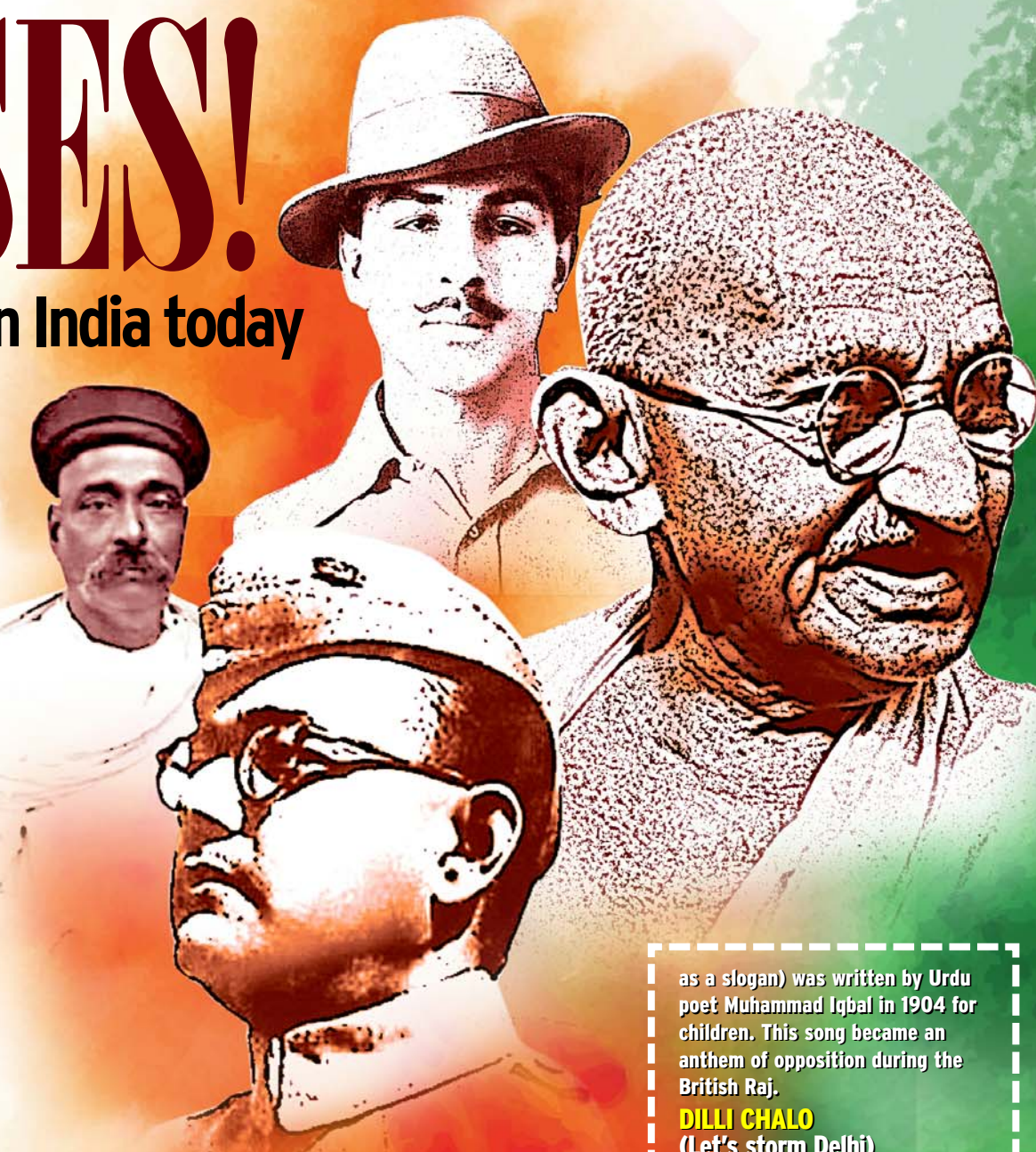
The term 'Quit India' was coined by a lesser-known hero of India's freedom struggle – Yusuf Meherally

LIKE SWARAJ, KHADI IS OUR BIRTH-RIGHT



HISTORY: Mahatma Gandhi's call to use khadi became a movement for the indigenous swadeshi (Indian) industry that spun yards of khadi. The father of the nation at his charkha remains the image synonymous with Gandhi and the freedom movement. Khadi isn't just a fabric – it was the symbol of Indian Independence movement and continues to be one of the symbols of the idea of India.

KEEPING KHADI RELEVANT: In post Independent India, khadi became stylish and a fashion designer's dream fabric. The journey of khadi, becoming a symbol of India's national fashion heritage, is also the story of India's growth – of its fashion, style and cultural aspirations. Even now, khadi remains our birthright – it is a fabric we must include in our wardrobe to keep it relevant and to salute the spirit of India.



OTHER ICONIC SLOGANS OF THE ERA

INQILAB ZINDABAD

(Long live the revolution)

Coined by Urdu poet and freedom fighter Maulana Hasrat Mohani, this timeless slogan was popularised by one of the most influential revolutionaries of Indian freedom struggle – Bhagat Singh. He used 'Inqilab Zindabad' as a war cry against the oppression of the British and motivated the youth to join the Independence movement.

SAARE JAHAN SE ACHHA HINDUSTAN HAMARA
(India is the best nation)

The soul-stirring song (also acts



'Saare Jahan Se Achha' was published by Muhammad Iqbal in the weekly journal 'Ittehad' on August 16, 1904

as a slogan) was written by Urdu poet Muhammad Iqbal in 1904 for children. This song became an anthem of opposition during the British Raj.

DILLI CHALO
(Let's storm Delhi)

Freedom fighter of Bengal – Subhas Chandra Bose – had given the slogan 'Dilli Chalo' while marching to the capital with his Indian National Army (INA) to free India from the shackles of Britishers. In recent times, this expression has been revisited by various political leaders and activists under different interpretations to fight for their rights.

VANDE MATARAM
(Mother, I bow to thee)

The poem by journalist and activist Bankim Chandra Chatterjee personified India as mother during the freedom struggle. It was later translated as a song by Rabindranath Tagore and the first paragraph has been adopted as the national song of India.

OUR INDIA, OUR THOUGHTS

THE ART & CULTURE FRATERNITY ON THEIR IDEA OF INDIA AND FREEDOM...

JAYA JAITLEY, founder, Dastakari Haat Samiti

When I think of India and its glorious history, what always comes to mind is the image of a craftsperson engaging in creating his/her work with deep concentration and meditation. It signifies our creative people and our precious living traditions. We must celebrate and preserve them.



SHOBHA DEEPAK SINGH, director & vice chairperson, Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra

In my childhood days at Modern School, Delhi, we were given round plates with Ashoka Chakra on it. It was my most memorable possession.



MANJARI CHATURVEDI, Sufi kathak danseuse

The image of the Indian flag at Lal Qila, that's my India – a composite image of different cultures, where secularism is a lived reality. Once I had performed Sufi kathak at the Red Fort with the same ramparts as the backdrop and it was memorable.



GEETA CHANDRAN, renowned classical dancer

To me the saree best represents the idea of India, linking human endeavour from the village to the globe, from crop to creativity, from thread to cloth, integral to festivals and rituals.



RAJA RADHA REDDY AND KAUSHALYA REDDY, exponents of Kuchipudi dance

The song, 'Vande Mataram', filmed on Geeta Bali and Pradeep Kumar, comes to mind when you say freedom.



MUSICIANS AND FILMMAKERS REVEAL THEIR DEFINING INDEPENDENCE MOMENT

AMJAD ALI KHAN, music maestro, sarod player

1947 – there are so many defining moments. I was very young back then but the stories I heard have remained with me. I never really understood the importance of being 'free' but Ustad Bismillah Khan's performance at the Red Fort on the eve of August 15, 1947, struck a chord.



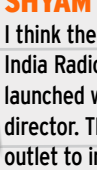
RAKEYSH OMPRAKASH MEHRA, filmmaker

The stories of how we 'fought' for freedom are my favourite stories. And for me, iconic singer-actor KL Saigal is the poster boy of India's Independence.



SHYAM BENEGAL, filmmaker

I think the year was 1952 when All India Radio's Vadya Vrinda platform launched with Ravi Shankar as its first director. The channel started to give an outlet to instrumentalists and provide them with some income. That truly defined the spirit of 'free' India for me.



SHANKAR MAHADEVAN, singer, composer

What signifies Indian Independence for me is V Shantaram's film 'Matwala Shair Ramjoshi'.



ASHWINI IYER, filmmaker

I have heard about life immediately post Independence and how it was not a bed of roses. The 1947 film of social significance, Kishore Sahu's 'Sindoor' redefined India's Independence for me.



VIKRANT MASSEY, actor

What signifies Independence to me is the coming of age of Bollywood; the emergence of



OTT and other pay per view channels. That we have evolved so much and made a mark for ourselves on the world stage!

10 artistes of yore who shaped popular culture and arts

Artistes contributed to the freedom struggle by creating awareness about democracy and Swaraj (Independence) in their movies, songs, plays. They left a legacy that will inspire generations



DHUNDIRAJ GOVIND PHALKE or Dadasaheb Phalke made India's first film 'Raja Harishchandra' in 1913 and in doing so laid the foundation of the Indian film industry.

PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR, the patriarch of the Kapoor family, set out to be a lawyer but became a successful actor of the pre-Independence era.



SOHRAB MODI – actor, director, producer, made films like 'Sikander' 'Pukar', etc. His films were made during the peak of India's freedom movement.

DEVIKA RANI, known as the first lady of Indian cinema, was the first Indian woman to get into film production – it was unheard of then.



DURGA KHOTE, was known for her patriotic dialogues in the movies of 1930s and 1940s. In 1937, Khote produced and directed a film called 'Saathi', the first woman to do so.

ASHOK KUMAR, known as 'Dadamuni', started his long innings as actor in pre-Independence India and is a part of Indian cinematic history.



RABINDRANATH TAGORE, the poet and Nobel laureate was also a musician with 2,230 compositions; his Rabindrasangeet is unique due to its cultural diversity.

MS SUBBULAKSHMI, the titan of Carnatic music, was the first musician to win Bharat Ratna and the first Indian to receive Ramon Magsaysay award.



KADRI GOPALNATH – a Padma Bhushan winning saxophone player and a pioneer of Carnatic music on the instrument, is a legend of the pre-Independence era.

HOMI WADIA, master of the stunt film genre, portrayed women as brave and independent in his films. He is famous for his film – 'Hunterwali'.



JALLIANWALA BAGH, AMRITSAR:

The massacre at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919 angered the Indian population and led to the Non Cooperation movement of 1920-22

**THE GATEWAY OF INDIA, MUMBAI:**

Called a symbol of "conquest and colonisation" commemorating the British legacy, this is where their troops left India in 1948

**CELEBRATING FREEDOM**

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A SYMBOLIC Passage To India

In every symbol associated with the Independence struggle, there is a deep-rooted story with many layers and sub-plots. **Times NIE** takes you on a journey from pre-Independence days and decodes events, objects and places that will remain etched in history for its significance that finally led to freedom

VANDE MATARAM FLAG/ CALCUTTA FLAG

The flag was used in 1905, after Bengal was partitioned by Lord Curzon, and continued until 1911. The Swadeshi movement was chiefly organised by the trio, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai. The flag designed by Sachindra Prasad Bose during the course of this movement, sought to unite people from different religions, castes, etc.

THE AZAD HIND FLAG

The Azad Hind or 'Free India' movement originated outside of India in the 1940s. Its architect was Subhas Chandra Bose. He sought to ally with the Axis powers of WW II and free India with the use of arms. It was used by Azad Hind Fauj.

**CHARKHA**

To Gandhiji, the charkha embodied swadeshi, self sufficiency and even inter-dependency. Soon, the charkha was used across the country as a symbol of the National Movement. The charkha was used in flags too. This includes the Gandhi Flag, which was released at the Indian National Congress meet of 1921.

THREE MONKEYS

One of the possessions that Mahatma held dearly was the statue of Three Wise Monkeys, which had its origin in the writings of Confucius, Taoism, and Shintoism. In Shintoism, the three monkeys are Mizaru who sees no evil; Kikazaru who hears no evil and Iwazaru who speaks no evil. It was a symbol of ignoring the harsh and oppressive rule of the British.

**B R AMBEDKAR'S 1940 WING CHAIR**

At the Ambedkar Museum in Pune, you cannot miss the chair used by B R Ambedkar in 1940s. A wing chair with exposed wooden legs and cushioned arms, it was specially made for him, due to his illness. Ambedkar sat on the same chair when he handed over the Constitution to the then President Dr Rajendra Prasad.

**INDEPENDENCE CUP**

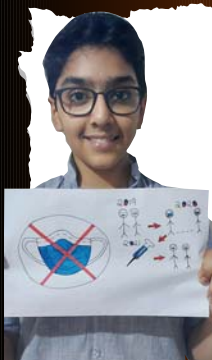
The Independence Cup, a horse race championship, had kicked off soon after Independence on August 16, 1947. It was the first race organised in independent India by the Royal Western India Turf Club, Pune. Even today, the Independence Cup is held on August 15.

LOUDSPEAKER

A democratic nation cannot gag its masses - be it at public places or internet forums. The digital world has given equal rights to all to express their opinion. So why state interference? Moreover, free speech was one of the major tools with which we attained freedom. PRANAV DESHPANDE, class XII, Thakur Vidya Mandir, Mumbai

**MASKS OFF**

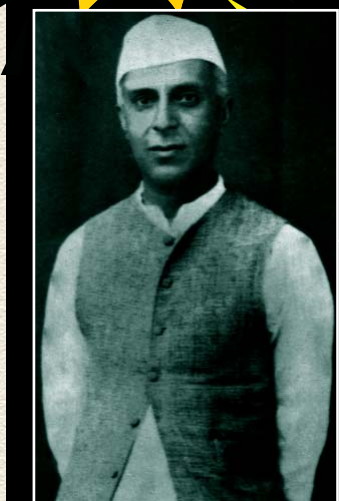
After nearly two years of being cooped up at home and not being able to step out without covering face or being able to shake hands, hug and meet friends, what could be a better symbol of freedom than to 'live normal' and 'breathe normally sans masks'. A UMESH, class X, GTVAM, Chennai

**STYLE STATEMENT OF COURAGE AND CHARACTER****GANDHI CAP**

In 1919, when Gandhi visited Nawab of Rampur, Sayyid Hamid Ali Khan Bahadur, he was told to don a cap as a norm for guests. He wasn't carrying one and then, Abadi Begum, mother of Md Ali and Shaikat Ali, who led the Khilafat movement, made him the famous 'Gandhi cap', say historians.

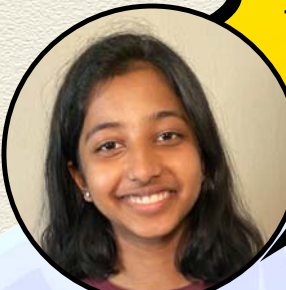
NEHRU JACKET

Designed in India, back in the 1940s, anyone who wore the jacket was viewed as one of a high social stature. Also known as 'Bandh Gale ka Coat', post Independence, the Nehru jacket became requisite attire in every Indian man's wardrobe.

**CLENCHED FIST**

The raised fist or the clenched fist is a gesture used as a symbol of resistance and unity. It gives people the hope that 'we shall overcome'. This symbol evoked strong emotions during the powerful BLM (Black Lives Matter) rallies held recently. The gesture itself shows the readiness of a person to fight for a cause and has a deep impact.

TRISHA BOORUGU, class XI, DPS Nacharam, Hyderabad;
THERESE SAJI, class IX, Global Public School, Ekm

**SYMBOL OF FREEDOM FOR ME...****DIVERGING ROADS**

It shows that we are born with choices. Freedom to choose your own path is crucial as each path comes with its set of consequences and responsibilities. The 'roads' represent our free will and our role in life of being an 'informed traveller'. RAKSHIT DUBEY, class X, Zebar School for Children, Ahmedabad

**TAMING OUR MIND**

If three wise monkeys denotes virtuous actions in life, there should be a fourth one today, which says 'bura mat socho'. Open acceptance of psychological problems and getting treatment without a chagrin is 'true freedom'. SHREYA RAVI, class XI, BASE PU, Bengaluru

**RAINBOW HEART**

For years, society has drawn rigid gender lines. Freedom to step out of the closet or move past all gender expressions is still a taboo. Hence, the rainbow representing hope and pride for gender fluidity, wherein a person is free to refer oneself as any gender openly is the free India I envision. TANVI, class X, St Joseph's School, Chandigarh

**VACCINE**

After suffering two years of virtual school, a vaccine for kids that can fight Covid19 is a symbol of hope. It will give us the freedom to go back to regular school, meet friends and resume our outdoor activities. J ABHIJITH NARAYANA, class X, SB0A Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore

**ROOM TO GROW**

Freedom from academic pressure, deadlines and expectations is something that I'd vote for. Children need room to grow and it is their right to have the freedom and space to grow naturally in the direction they are inclined towards. Extra pressure only stunts the potential of a child. INAYA GALA, class VIII, Springdales, Pusa Road, New Delhi

