



CHAHAL
A C A D E M Y

SUMMARY OF
YOJANA
AUGUST 2024

DAWN OF FREEDOM



Topic 1: The Cellular Jail: Saga of Resistance

1. Introduction: The Harsh Reality of Incarceration

- The revolutionaries imprisoned at the Cellular Jail were treated not as political prisoners, but as “**seditionists**” or “**anarchists**”, subjected to even worse conditions than ordinary criminals.
 - Punishments included **floggings, confinement in small cells for months, bar fetters, standing handcuffs, and a reduced diet**. Some were confined to **small cages**, which were among the most severe forms of punishment.

2. The Cellular Jail: A Distant Fortress

- **Location:** Situated in **Sri Vijaypuram** (formerly known as **Port Blair**), the main city of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, about 1,000 kilometers from the mainland of India.
 - The jail, isolated in the middle of the sea, became a **prime location for incarcerating revolutionary freedom fighters**.
- **Comparison with Other Historical Sites:**
 - Similar facilities during British colonial rule include:
 - ◆ **Robben Island** (South Africa),
 - ◆ **Australian Convict Sites** (Australia),
 - ◆ **Eastern State Penitentiary** (Philadelphia, USA), the latter inspired by the **Panopticon theory**, akin to the design of the Cellular Jail.

Construction of Cellular Jail (1896-1906)

- Built between **1896 and 1906** using **prisoner labor**, the jail had a **Panopticon design** to enable close surveillance.
- **Port Blair**, named after Archibald Blair of the **British East India Company**, was itself a **penal colony** on Great Andaman, established in 1789.

David Barrie: The Cruel Jailer

- **David Barrie**, an Irishman, served as the **Head Overseer and Jailer** from **1905 to 1919**, notorious for unleashing a **reign of terror** on the inmates, particularly the revolutionaries.

- Revolutionaries were given “**Class D**” (**Dangerous**) or “**PI**” (**Permanently Incarcerated**) badges, and the **inadequate food** and **strict rules** forbade prisoners from speaking to one another.
- **V.D. Savarkar** described Barrie as a despot, assisted by warders, tindals, and jamadars, particularly **hardy Pathans**, who humiliated and abused the political prisoners on even minor infractions.

3. The Political Prisoners and Their Struggle

Arrival of Political Prisoners (1909)

- In **1909**, the first batch of political prisoners arrived aboard the vessel ‘**Maharaja**’ from **Calcutta**, comprising revolutionaries convicted in the **Alipore Bomb Case**.
 - On **December 15, 1909**, these prisoners were marched to the Cellular Jail, carrying their bedding and utensils. They were later taken to the courtyard where **David Barrie** delivered a terrifying speech:
 - ◆ *“Do you see me? My name is D. Barrie. I am an obedient servant to the straightforward, but to the crooked, I am four times as crooked. If you disobey me, may God help you, for I certainly will not.”*

The Tasks and Labor for Prisoners

- Prisoners were forced into **grueling tasks**, including:
 - **Extracting oil from coconuts and mustard seeds** using manual techniques,
 - **Husking coconuts**, making ropes from **coconut fibers**, and the most dreaded task: **grinding oil (Kohlu-plying)**.
 - ◆ Prisoners, yoked to the mill handle like bullocks, were forced to produce **30 pounds of coconut oil or 10 pounds of mustard oil** daily. Failure to meet the quota resulted in **beatings and withheld food**.

4. The Resistance Begins: Strikes and Suffering

The First Strike (1911)

- In **1911**, resistance began when **Nand Gopal**, a Punjabi prisoner sentenced for writing seditious articles, staged a **passive protest** against the Kohlu labor.

- His defiance led to a broader strike, with prisoners refusing to work. They faced **solitary confinement** and **punishments**, but remained unyielding.
- Eventually, the authorities relented, allowing prisoners to work outside the jail without having to grind oil, marking the **first victory** of the political prisoners.

Suicides and Mental Breakdown (1912)

- By **1912**, the prison had become a **virtual hell** for the revolutionaries.
 - **Indubhushan Roy**, unable to bear the exhausting labor and humiliation, became the **first political prisoner to commit suicide** on **April 28, 1912**.
 - **Ullaskar Dutta**, a jovial inmate, was subjected to **electric battery shocks** when he slowed down during Kohlu labor. He was often **dragged along the ground**, which led to his **insanity**. Despite this, Ullaskar maintained his resolve:
 - ◆ "Let them do their worst to our bodies; let us, at least, keep our souls free."

The Second General Strike (1912)

- The suicide of Indubhushan and Ullaskar's mental breakdown led to the **second general strike**.
 - The prisoners demanded better **food**, **release from hard labor**, and the freedom to **interact** with each other.
 - The strike ended on **December 6, 1912**, with some concessions granted: prisoners were allowed to **read books**, **discuss** political issues, and **mingle**, though labor duties continued.

5. The Ghadar Movement and the Final Struggles

Ghadarites in Cellular Jail (1915-1917)

- Following the failure of the **Ghadar Movement** in 1915, several conspirators were transported to the Cellular Jail, where they faced **severe punishment** under Barrie's reign.
 - **Master Chattar Singh**, **Amar Singh**, and others were subjected to years of **cape confinement**. **Sohan Singh Bhakna** went on hunger strike, successfully securing Chattar Singh's release.
 - **Ram Rakha Sasoli** was sent to the Andamans in **1917** for life imprisonment. His religious **Janeu (thread)** was removed,

prompting a hunger strike that he maintained until his death.

6. Revenge of Barrie (Post-1915)

- Barrie, angered by the prisoners' defiance, increased his oppression, often inciting warders and petty officers to torment the political prisoners.
 - In a violent incident, **Baba Bhan Singh** was beaten severely and later died from his injuries in the hospital.
- Despite Barrie's cruelty, the revolutionaries maintained a system of **communication via chits** to organize **strikes**. The **third general strike** was launched, during which prisoners endured solitary confinement and severe punishments.

The End of Barrie's Tyranny (Post-1917)

- By **1917**, Barrie had become physically ill, forcing him to leave the Andamans. He boarded a ship, supported by four people, and later died on the mainland.
 - Following Barrie's departure, the prisoners continued their resistance, eventually forcing the **British government** to declare a **general amnesty** for political prisoners in **1920**.
 - The **Cellular Jail** was officially closed, and all remaining political prisoners were repatriated to the Indian mainland by **1921**.

7. Conclusion: A Legacy of Resistance

- The Cellular Jail stands as a symbol of **unparalleled resistance** and **suffering**. Despite the relentless torture, the spirit of the political prisoners never wavered. Their strikes and protests eventually led to a **revolutionary legacy** that contributed to India's **fight for freedom**.

Topic 2: Rani Abbakka: The Unyielding Guardian of Sovereignty and Justice

1. Introduction

- **Rani Abbakka**: A ruler who, despite her humble appearance, commanded immense respect and authority in Tulunadu.

- **Public Works and Welfare:** Engaged in irrigation projects and other public works, Abbakka was known for her equitable governance, deeply caring for her subjects' welfare.
- **Inclusive Governance:** Fostered a governance model that transcended caste and religious distinctions, setting an example for contemporary leaders.
- **Resistance Against the Portuguese:** Abbakka's constant struggle against the Portuguese marked her as a steadfast protector of her principality's sovereignty.

2. Historical Context: Tulunadu and the Portuguese Incursion

- **Tulunadu:** A region in southwestern India, part of northern coastal Kerala.
- **Portuguese Arrival:** The discovery of the sea route to Tulunadu by the Portuguese led to a clash of socio-economic, cultural, and political interests.
- **Dynastic Rule:**
 - **Alupa Dynasty:** Ruled Tulunadu for over a thousand years (2nd century AD - 14th century AD).
 - **Vijayanagar Empire:** After the decline of the Alupa dynasty, the Vijayanagar Empire ruled Tulunadu, with several minor dynasties emerging under its reign.

Portuguese Influence and Ullala's Importance

- **Portuguese Expansion:**
 - Built forts and ports along the coastal belt.
 - Imposed taxes on crops and levied **cartazes** (sailing permits) on ships.
- **Ullala's Strategic Significance:**
 - Ruled by the Chautas, a minor dynasty that followed a matriarchal system.
 - Ullala was a relatively peaceful region until the second decade of the 16th century, when the Portuguese took notice.

3. The Legacy of Abbakka's Dynasty

- **Matriarchal Tradition:** Abbakka came from the Chauta dynasty, which followed a matriarchal system (Aliyakattu).
- **Five Abbakka Queens:** Between the 13th and mid-18th centuries, five queens named Abbakka ruled Ullala.

- The name "Abbakka" could have been a title or a family name.

Abbakka's Resistance Against the Portuguese

- **The Elder Abbakka (mid-16th century):**
 - Fought three significant battles against the Portuguese in 1556, 1558, and 1567.
 - Despite being defeated in the 1567 battle, her gallantry was praised by Portuguese historians like **Francisco D'Souza** and **Couto Diogo**.
 - She forged alliances with the **Zamorin of Calicut** and the **Malabar Kings**, preventing the Portuguese from fully establishing control over Tulunadu.
- **The Younger Abbakka (1594-1640):**
 - Her reign is remembered as a golden era for the coastal belt.
 - She continued the struggle against the Portuguese, seeking to avenge her mother's defeat.
 - **Key Battle of 1617:** Abbakka retaliated when the Portuguese captured one of her ships returning from Mecca. She launched a successful attack on the Mangalore fort using guerrilla warfare tactics.
 - Abbakka's victory was seen as a landmark event, and her reputation spread beyond India.

4. Comparison with European Monarchs

- Historians like **Dr. B.S. Shastri** and **Dr. Suryanath Kamath** have drawn parallels between **Rani Abbakka** and **Queen Elizabeth I of England**, as both rulers defied larger European powers (the Portuguese and the Spanish Armada, respectively).
- In **1618**, Abbakka decisively defeated the Portuguese, much like Elizabeth's triumph over Spain.

5. Family and Personal Life

- **Marriage:**
 - Abbakka married **Veera Narasimha Lakshmappa Bangharasa IV**, the chief of the Bangha Principality.
 - Their relationship later deteriorated due to disagreements over trade policies with the Portuguese, leading to a divorce.

- After leaving her husband's palace, Abbakka returned to Ullala and assumed the throne, as per the matriarchal **Aliyakattu** system.

6. Abbakka's Governance

- **Inclusive Governance:**
 - Abbakka maintained an integrated administration that included people from all religions, reflecting her commitment to justice and inclusivity.
 - She directly involved herself in various sectors, such as **agriculture, trade, and irrigation**, ensuring the welfare of her people.
- **Global Reputation:**
 - **Shah Abbas of Persia** recommended that his emissary, **Pietro**, visit Queen Abbakka, indicating her international recognition as a just and formidable ruler.

7. Later Struggles and Legacy

- **Portuguese Resistance:** Abbakka's resistance to Portuguese domination continued throughout her reign.
- **Challenges from Keladi Nayakas:** She also faced challenges from **Keladi Venkatappa Nayaka**, but remained steadfast in reclaiming her lands and defending her people.
- **Role as a Just Ruler:** Abbakka's leadership was marked by her dual roles as both a ruler and a nurturer of her people, always balancing sovereignty with social justice.

8. Conclusion

- **Legacy:** Both Abbakka queens—mother and daughter—posed a formidable challenge to the Portuguese expansion in coastal India.
- **Unyielding Spirit:** The younger Abbakka's failure to receive support from neighboring rulers or her husband did not deter her. Despite political turmoil, she safeguarded her principality with indomitable spirit and visionary leadership.
- **Historical Significance:** Abbakka's resistance against foreign domination and her dedication to her people establish her as one of India's pivotal historical figures. Her legacy as a female warrior leader places her among India's greatest freedom fighters, deserving recognition and commemoration in the annals of history.

Topic 3: Glorious Guards of Freedom from Gujarat

Gujarat's contribution to India's independence movement is both vast and varied, featuring a tapestry of historical figures whose actions spanned across political, social, and economic spheres. As a crucial coastal state along the western frontier, Gujarat has been a gateway for trade and resistance since the Harappan era, and its heroes—both renowned and lesser-known—played vital roles in the fight for India's freedom.

1. Echoes of Valour: Unsung Heroes of the 1857 Revolt

The Waghers of Okhamandal:

- **Resistance Against British Rule:** The Waghers symbolized fierce opposition to the British during the 1857 Revolt.
- **Challenges to British Ships:** In the early 19th century, the Waghers and other local communities disrupted British shipping and trade routes.
- **Loss and Reclamation of Beyt Dwarka (1816):**
 - In 1816, the East India Company took control of **Beyt Dwarka**.
 - By **March 1858**, under the leadership of **Mulu Manek** and **Jodha Manek**, the Waghers reclaimed the Beyt Dwarka fort.
 - **Jodha Manek** briefly declared himself king of Dwarka until the British recaptured the city in **July 1859**.
- **Persistent Guerilla Warfare:**
 - Despite the recapture, the Waghers continued a guerilla war.
 - **Mulu Manek** was captured in 1859 but escaped in 1862, fighting until his death in 1868.
 - **Jodha Manek** fled to Gir and passed away from illness in 1860. Both remain revered heroes in **Saurashtra**.
- **Other Uprisings:**
 - The revolt spread to **northern, central, and eastern Gujarat**, led by figures such as:
 - ◆ **Garbaddas Mukhi** (Anand)
 - ◆ **Rupa and Keval Nayak** (Panchmahal)
 - ◆ **Soorajmahal** (Lunawada)
 - ◆ **Tillidarkhan** (Panchmahal)

2. Economic Independence: Ranchhodlal Chhotalal

Economic Empowerment as a Form of Resistance:

- The fight for India's independence wasn't only through political or military means; economic self-reliance was a critical aspect of weakening British rule.

Ranchhodlal Chhotalal's Contributions:

- **Early Life:**
 - Began his career as a **clerk** at age **19** with a salary of Rs. 10.
 - Rapidly promoted, becoming **Assistant Superintendent of Pavagarh**, akin to an assistant to the Political Agent.
- **Industrial Pioneer:**
 - In **1859**, Ranchhodlal established the **Ahmedabad Spinning and Weaving Company Ltd.**
 - By **1916**, Ahmedabad became known as the "**Manchester of the East**" with **62 textile mills**.
 - Many mill owners were later instrumental in the independence movement.
- **Civic Contributions:**
 - As **Chairman of the Ahmedabad Municipality**, he revolutionized the city's infrastructure with modern sewage systems and tap water.
 - His efforts earned him international recognition, including an invitation by **Florence Nightingale** to the **International Congress on Hygiene and Demography** in 1891.
- **Political Activism:**
 - Opposed **countervailing duties** on Indian cotton in 1896.
 - Criticized the restrictive rules of the **1884-85 Factory Act**.
 - Served as an active member of the **Indian National Congress (INC)**.

3. Govind Guru: Uniting Tribals Against Oppression

- **Role in Early 20th Century:** Govind Guru mobilized tribal communities in **southern Rajasthan** and **northern Gujarat** against oppressive local rulers and the British administration.

• Mangadh Hill Uprising:

- The **Bhils**, led by Govind Guru, gathered at **Mangadh Hill** to resist British forces.
- British soldiers massacred around **1,500 Bhils**.

• Imprisonment and Legacy:

- Govind Guru was captured and sentenced to death, later commuted to **life imprisonment**.
- He founded **Samp Sabha**, which raised awareness about social evils within tribal communities.

4. Motilal Tejawat: The Maseeha of Bhils

- **Background:** Born in **1886** in Udaipur, Tejawat observed the exploitation of tribals during his spice trading business.
- **Advocate for Bhils:**
 - He became a leader of the **Bhil** community, initiating social reforms and political awareness.
 - Under his leadership, Bhils refused to pay unjust taxes and perform forced labor for local rulers.
 - Inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement**.
- **Legacy:** He is revered as the "Maseeha of Bhils" for his efforts in securing justice for the tribal communities.

5. Jhaverchand Kalidas Meghani: Rashtriya Shayar (National Poet)

- **Contribution to Freedom Struggle:**
 - Called the "Rashtriya Shayar" by **Mahatma Gandhi**, Meghani authored over **100 books**.
 - He edited a **Gujarati newspaper** and participated in **Gandhiji's Civil Disobedience Movement** in Dholera.
- **Poetic Influence:**
 - His poetry collection '**Sindhuado**' celebrated courage and bravery, making him a threat to the British.
 - Arrested for his powerful writing, which included poems like '**Chello Katoro**' during Gandhi's journey to the **2nd Round Table Conference**.

6. Vasant and Rajab: Symbols of Communal Harmony

- **Context:** Amid rising communal tensions in 1946, Gujarat faced divisive British policies.
- **Acts of Bravery:**
 - On **1st July 1946**, during communal riots in Ahmedabad, **Vasant Rao Hegishte** and **Rajab Ali Lakhani**, volunteers with the Seva Dal, intervened to protect lives.
 - They confronted rioters and attempted to shield vulnerable families from harm.
- **Martyrdom:**
 - Both were tragically killed while trying to defend communal harmony, and their sacrifice became a testament to the unity they sought.

7. Hansa Mehta: From Surat to the United Nations

- **Breaking Social Barriers:**
 - Born in **1897** in Surat, Hansa Mehta earned a degree in philosophy, an uncommon feat for women of her time.
 - She was influenced by **Sarojini Naidu** and **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- **Political and Social Contributions:**
 - In **1947**, she was one of two women delegates at the **United Nations Commission on Human Rights**.
 - She advocated for replacing “All men are born free and equal” with “All humans are born free and equal” in the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.
 - As a member of the **Constituent Assembly of India**, she presented the national flag on **15 August 1947** on behalf of Indian women.
- **Champion for Women’s Rights:**
 - Hansa Mehta was a vocal advocate for gender equality and played a crucial role in debates on the **Uniform Civil Code**.

8. Conclusion

Gujarat’s role in the Indian independence movement extended beyond military confrontations. The heroes from this region contributed to the struggle through political rebellion, economic empowerment, tribal unity, social reform, poetry, and the pursuit

of communal harmony. Their sacrifices and achievements continue to inspire and shape India’s collective memory of its freedom struggle.

Topic 4: Jambudweep Proclamation: A Revolutionary Call for Freedom

On **16 June 1801**, the twin cities of **Tiruchirappalli** and **Srirangam** in South India awoke to an audacious challenge to the British colonial rulers. Two handwritten posters, known as the **Jambudweep Proclamation**, were plastered on the walls of **Tiruchirappalli Fort** and the **Vaishnavite Temple of Srirangam**. These posters, written by **Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar**, the de facto ruler of **Sivaganga**, demanded the expulsion of Europeans, especially the **British East India Company**, from the Indian Peninsula, also called **Jambudweep**. This was a watershed moment in the resistance against colonial rule, as it united various communities across caste and religion in a call for independence.

1. Background of the Proclamation

Sivaganga State and Marudhu Brothers:

- **Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar** and his elder brother **Periya Marudhu** were camp followers and trusted aides of **Queen Velu Nachiyar** of Sivaganga, who had been dethroned by the East India Company in **1772**.
- After **eight years of exile**, Queen Nachiyar, aided by **Virupakshi ruler Gopala Naicker** and **Hyder Ali’s son-in-law**, recaptured Sivaganga from the British and resumed her rule.

Power Struggles and Decline of the Arcot Nawab:

- The Arcot Nawab, who had instigated the British invasion of Sivaganga, became a mere pensioner by **1792**, under the East India Company’s dominance.
- By **1795**, the Nawab passed away, after being disgraced by his communications with **Tipu Sultan**, the British nemesis.
- His successor was deported to **Tiruchirappalli**, where he died two months after the proclamation in **1801**, further weakening the region’s native rulers.

2. Content and Impact of the Proclamation

Chinna Marudhu's Call to Unity:

- In the **Jambudweep Proclamation**, Chinna Marudhu addressed all communities—**Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras, and Muslims**—urging them to unite against European rule.
- He invoked the concept of **Jambudweep**, a term deeply rooted in **Hindu and Jain cosmology**, to represent the Indian Peninsula as a single entity.

Historical Context:

- Chinna Marudhu's proclamation was revolutionary as it challenged the East India Company in the same vein as two other major revolutions:
 - The **American Proclamation** against England, made 25 years earlier.
 - The **French Revolution** and the people's revolt against King Louis XVI, 11 years earlier.

Chinna Marudhu's Stand Against All Europeans:

- Unlike other Indian rulers who sought alliances with rival European powers (such as the **French, Portuguese, and Dutch**) to counter the British, Chinna Marudhu viewed all Europeans as a collective evil.
- His decision to avoid aligning with other colonial powers marked him as a visionary leader, ahead of his time in recognizing the broader threat posed by European imperialism.

3. British Reaction and Counter-Proclamations

Madras Governor's Response:

- Four days prior to Chinna Marudhu's proclamation, the **Governor of Madras, Edward Clive** (son of Robert Clive), issued a counter-proclamation offering **Periya Marudhu** a comfortable life in **Madurai** if he abandoned his brother.
- The Marudhu brothers and their patriots rejected these offers, standing firm against the British.

The Kalaiyar Kovil War:

- A war ensued between the forces of Chinna Marudhu and the British East India Company,

supported by the rulers of **Travancore, Pudukottai, and Ettayapuram.**

- The British deployed **Malaysian soldiers**, skilled in jungle warfare, to suppress the rebellion.
- The British general commanding the forces issued another proclamation, threatening Chinna Marudhu's associates and installing **Gauri Vallabha Thevar**, a puppet ruler in Sivaganga.

End of the Rebellion:

- Despite their valiant efforts, the **Marudhu brothers** and their forces were eventually defeated.
- **543 patriots** were hanged at the **Thiruppathur fort**, and **73 others** were deported to **Penang Island in Malaysia**, marking the first instance of Indian political prisoners being exiled abroad.

British Propaganda and Suppression:

- After the victory, Governor Edward Clive issued a final proclamation, boasting of the East India Company's superior military power and urging the local population to submit to British rule.
- The **Marudhu brothers** were captured, tried, and executed for their role in the rebellion.

4. Legacy and Significance

First Indian Proclamation of Independence:

- The **Jambudweep Proclamation** was the first instance in Indian history where a ruler issued a public declaration calling for the ousting of colonial powers. This was reciprocated by three counter-proclamations from the British, highlighting its significance.
- Chinna Marudhu's vision for a united India, free from European domination, foreshadowed the **Sepoy Mutiny of 1857**, which similarly called for independence and started in **Meerut**, near the historical Jambudweep.

Inspiration for Future Movements:

- Though the Jambudweep Proclamation did not succeed in its time, it laid the groundwork for future struggles for independence.
- Chinna Marudhu's understanding of the colonial threat extended beyond British rule

to include all European powers, marking him as a revolutionary thinker in Indian history.

A Vision Ahead of Its Time:

- By invoking **Jambudweep** as the Indian Peninsula and calling for unity among castes and religions, Chinna Marudhu anticipated the pan-Indian nationalism that would only fully emerge in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- His refusal to seek help from other European powers, believing them all to be equally malevolent, was a unique stance during that era.

5. Conclusion

The **Jambudweep Proclamation** by **Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar** was a bold and visionary declaration of Indian resistance against British colonialism. It united diverse communities across southern India under a single banner and laid the intellectual groundwork for later freedom movements. Although Chinna Marudhu's rebellion was ultimately crushed, his ideas endured, inspiring future generations to challenge colonial rule and fight for India's independence. The significance of this proclamation is underscored by the unique fact that it was reciprocated with multiple British counter-proclamations, reflecting its profound impact on the colonial administration.

Topic 5: Untold Stories of the Freedom Struggle from Northeast India

Historians and scholars have often been accused of neglecting the Northeast's contributions to India's freedom struggle. Here are some significant but less well-known figures and events from the region:

1. Gomdhar Konwar: Assam's First Martyr

- **Date:** Early 1828
- **Background:** Member of the Ahom royal clan.
- **Initial Action:** Petitioned the British political agent in Jorhat to be made a tributary king.
- **Resistance:** Encouraged a tax boycott and organized a rebellion against British rule.
- **Capture:** Arrested with accomplices Dhanjoy, Daha Phukan, and Khamti Gohain.

- **Trial:** Tried by a panchayat on 10 December 1828. Initially sentenced to death, later reduced to imprisonment and banishment from Assam for seven years.
- **Death:** Presumed to have died in prison.

2. Moongri Orang aka Malati: First Woman Martyr

- **Date:** March-April 1921
- **Background:** Previously a heavy drinker.
- **Involvement:** Joined the anti-liquor campaign led by Omeo Kumar Das and others.
- **Action:** Advocated for tea plantation workers to quit alcohol.
- **Opposition:** British planters opposed her campaign.
- **Death:** Murdered by unidentified assailants shortly after joining the campaign.

3. Dhekiajuli Massacre: India's Youngest Martyr

- **Date:** 20 September 1942
- **Event:** Several hundred villagers led by Shanti Sena volunteers gathered outside Dhekiajuli police station.
- **Conflict:** Police refused entry and began beating the volunteers. The crowd responded with "Vande Mataram" and stormed the compound.
- **Violence:** Armed policemen opened fire; chaos ensued.
- **Heroism:** Manbar Nath climbed the police station roof to fix the flag, was shot twice, and died.
- **Martyrdom:** 12-year-old Tileswari Barua became the youngest martyr of the national movement, alongside Baji Rout of Odisha.
- **Significance:** One of the most brutal incidents of the Quit India Movement.

4. Bom Singhpo: First Martyr from the Hills of Northeast India

- **Date:** 25 March 1830
- **Background:** Leader of the Singhpo tribe in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Conflict:** Organized an army of 400 men to attack the British station at Rangpur and set fire to the British magazine.

- **Capture:** Apprehended with five accomplices, tried at Rangpur.
- **Sentence:** Found guilty of treason; sentenced to death by hanging.
- **Death:** Died of illness in prison before the execution.

5. Thangal General: Martyrdom at 80

- **Background:** A prominent military leader in Manipur during Maharaja Gambhir Singh's reign (1827-34).
- **Action:** Ordered the execution of five British officers on 24 March 1891 at the behest of Senapati Tikendrajit.
- **Capture:** After Manipur's defeat, captured by the British on 7 May 1891.
- **Execution:** Hanged in full view of thousands of grieving Manipuris.

6. Ka Phan Nonglait: Woman of Courage

- **Background:** Member of the Khasi tribe in Meghalaya.
- **Involvement:** Joined the militia of U Tirot Sing, Syiem of Khandsawphra.
- **Role:** Contributed significantly to the resistance against British forces.
- **Legacy:** Her bravery is celebrated as a folktale among the Khasi people.

7. Ropuiliani: Valiant Woman from Mizoram

- **Date:** Post-Chin-Lushai Expedition of 1889-90
- **Background:** Chief of Denlung village.
- **Resistance:** Opposed British construction of roads and demands for labor. Enraged by the establishment of a British military stockade at her son Lalhuama's village.
- **Arrest:** Arrested and jailed in Lunglei, later deported with her son to Rangmati in Chittagong Hill Tracts.
- **Outcome:** Ropuiliani's clan eventually ceased resistance.

8. The Fall of Khonoma: Nagaland's Resistance

- **Date:** 1832 onwards
- **British Contact:** First direct contact with the Nagas in 1832.

- **Conflict:** Ten British expeditions in the Naga Hills.
- **Resistance:** Khonoma and other villages resisted British authority, leading to several clashes and the burning of the village.
- **Suppression:** By 1880, Nagas were subdued, with heavy penalties imposed on Khonoma warriors.

9. Sachindra Lal Singh: Freedom Fighter from Tripura

- **Date:** Born July 1907
- **Background:** Joined Bhatri Sangha as a student, influenced by Jugantar party.
- **Education:** Attended Victoria College, Comilla (now Bangladesh).
- **Revolutionary Activities:** Member of Surya Sen's team; participated in the Chittagong Armoury Raid on 18 April 1930.
- **Political Involvement:** Joined Congress after imprisonment; played a role in the formation of the Tripura State Congress in 1940.
- **Later Role:** Became the first Chief Minister of Tripura from July 1962 to November 1971.

Topic 7: India's Strategic Engagement in the South China Sea (SCS)

The South China Sea (SCS) is a crucial maritime region, witnessing one of Asia's long-standing geopolitical contentions. India, as a major regional power, has strategically aligned its policies in the SCS with its economic, security, and geopolitical interests while maintaining a cautious approach.

1. The South China Sea (SCS) Overview

- **Location:** Western Pacific Ocean, covering about 800,000 square kilometers.
- **Key Players:** China, Taiwan, Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam.
- **Geopolitical Importance:**
 - Region holds an estimated 3.6 billion barrels of petroleum and 40.3 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.
 - Crucial for global trade, with over \$3 trillion in trade passing through, mainly via the Strait of Malacca.

2. India's Evolving Role in the South China Sea

- **Economic Standing:** India is the 5th largest economy, with a GDP of \$3.9 trillion, strengthening its influence in global and regional geopolitics.
- **India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership:** India's intensified relations with ASEAN nations include the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-25), and future plans for 2026-30, highlighting economic and strategic cooperation.
- **India's Changing Stance:**
 - Initially, India maintained a neutral, non-interference stance in the SCS dispute.
 - Recent shifts show India supporting freedom of navigation and peaceful resolution as per international law due to China's assertive actions.
 - While not directly confronting China, India promotes dialogue, diplomacy, and military agreements with regional allies.

3. India's Strategic Interests in the SCS

- **Economic Importance:**
 - The SCS is a key maritime trade route; the Strait of Malacca connects the Indian Ocean to the SCS and is vital for India's trade with East Asia.
 - Over 80% of India's trade relies on Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs), making the region crucial for India's economic security.
 - India finds trade synergies with Japan, Korea, ASEAN, and China.
- **Strategic Interests:**
 - India's **Act East Policy** focuses on deepening economic and strategic ties with East Asian nations.
 - Strengthened engagement with Vietnam, the Philippines, and Indonesia, all of which have territorial disputes with China in the SCS.
 - These partnerships enhance maritime security, economic cooperation, and counterbalance Chinese dominance in the region.
- **Military and Diplomatic Efforts:**
 - India has signed defense and economic agreements with countries like Vietnam and Indonesia.

- India advocates for a **rules-based order** in the region, emphasizing adherence to international law, particularly the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
- Tensions in the SCS, especially due to China's militarization, pose potential risks to India's security and economic interests.

4. Balancing Act: India's Approach to the SCS Dispute

- **Non-Alignment and Strategic Autonomy:**
 - India's foreign policy emphasizes non-alignment and autonomy, avoiding entanglement in power blocs or alliances.
 - This reflects in India's cautious stance in the SCS, where it upholds international law but avoids direct confrontation with China.
- **Pragmatic Foreign Policy:**
 - India focuses on national interests while leveraging global dynamics to secure strategic advantages.
 - India's strategic partnerships with Vietnam and the Philippines are part of its pragmatic approach to counterbalance China's influence and promote regional stability.
- **Rules-Based International Order:**
 - India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, has reiterated the importance of a **rules-based international order**.
 - Upholding UNCLOS is essential to ensuring stability, security, and freedom of navigation in the SCS.

5. Conclusion

- **Non-Confrontational Stance:** India's presence in the SCS is not aimed at provoking China, but reflects India's commitment to upholding international maritime law.
- **Strategic Initiatives:**
 - India's recent agreements, such as oil and gas exploration deals with Vietnam, and joint maritime activities, underscore its strategic imperative to protect its maritime interests.
 - India's engagement in the region supports a fair, open, and rules-based maritime order, promoting regional security and economic prosperity.

- **Future Outlook:** India's continuous involvement in the SCS will be guided by its principles of inclusivity, peaceful resolution of disputes, and promoting a stable and cooperative Indo-Pacific region.

Topic 8: Contribution of Indian Languages to the Freedom Movement

The role of literature in social and political movements, though often understated, played a pivotal part in the Indian freedom movement. Across languages and regions, literary works in India acted as a powerful tool to inspire nationalistic fervor, unite diverse communities, and resist colonial oppression. The British, unnerved by this widespread literary movement, banned numerous works, but the resilient spirit of Indian writers found new ways to reach the masses through journals, plays, and underground publications.

1. Literature and the Indian Freedom Movement

- **Multifaceted Contributions:** The Indian independence movement was not just political but also cultural, where language and literature played a crucial role. Literature, in various languages, acted as a unifying force, bringing together people from different regions, communities, and kingdoms.
- **Colonial Response:** The British, realizing the impact of these literary works, began banning books, magazines, and journals that carried nationalistic messages, leading to the rise of underground publications and coded language in literature to outsmart the colonial government.

2. Role of Indian Languages in Awakening Nationalism

- **Diverse yet Unified:** Pre-independence India was divided into many kingdoms, with communities holding allegiances to their local identities. However, literature, especially poems, songs, and plays, managed to bridge these divisions and instill a sense of national unity.

• Poems and Songs:

- **Universal Appeal:** Poems and songs, often set to music, reached even the uneducated masses, spreading the message of nationalism and independence faster than any other medium.
- **Local Contributions:** Not only prominent poets but also unknown local writers and ballad singers contributed to the growing nationalistic spirit.

• Medieval Renaissance:

- **Bhakti Literature:** Writers and poets such as the Shiva Charanas, Dasas, Marathi saint-poets, Aazhwars, Sant Kabir, and others led to a social and cultural renaissance that united diverse communities and empowered them to counter various forms of hegemony. This Bhakti literature, with its message of equality and justice, spanned across states and communities, contributing to a larger cultural revolution.

• Modern Contributions:

- During the 19th and 20th centuries, Indian literature continued to serve as a medium of resistance against colonial rule. Prominent literary figures from different languages contributed to the freedom struggle through their writings.

3. Prominent Writers and Their Contributions

- **Marathi:** Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Vishnu Vaman Shirwadkar, and Khandekar.
- **Kannada:** Shivaram Karanth, Kuvempu, Siddavanhalli Krishna Sharma.
- **Telugu:** Gurajada Apparao, Rayaprolu Subbarao, Gurram Joshua, Chilakamarthi Lakshminarasimham.
- **Tamil:** Subramania Bharati, Bharati Dasan, V.O. Chidambaram.
- **Gujarati:** Mahatma Gandhi, Gopabandhu Das, Narhari Dwarkadas Parekh, Govardhan Ram Tripathi.
- **Malayalam:** Vallathol Menon, Vaikom Muhammad Basheer, Sahodaran Ayyappan.
- **Bengali:** Rangalal Bandopadhyay, Madhusudan Dutta, Dinabandhu Mitra, Rabindranath Tagore.
- **Hindi:** Maithili Sharan Gupt, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Munshi Premchand, Jaishankar Prasad.

4. The British Crackdown and Literary Resistance

- **Banning of Literature:** As the British started banning nationalist literature, writers found ways to continue contributing through **journals and magazines** in various languages.
- **Emergence of Underground Literature:** When mainstream publications were censored, underground journals and clandestine literature flourished. Writers used satire and coded language that only locals could understand, bypassing the British censors.

5. Street Plays and Mythology in Nationalism

- **Natya Shastra and Street Plays:** India, with its rich theatrical traditions, saw a resurgence of street plays during the freedom movement. These performances, often staged at street corners, became powerful vehicles for spreading patriotic messages.
- **Mythology as a Tool:** Indian myths and legends were cleverly used to depict British rulers as demonic figures such as Ravana, Kamsa, or Hiranyakashipu, while national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak were portrayed as divine figures standing for righteousness and justice. This narrative tactic inspired the masses and kept the nationalistic spirit alive.

6. Journals and Newspapers as Resistance Tools

- **Gandhi's Influence:** Mahatma Gandhi, apart from his public speeches, inspired millions through his writings in **Navjivan** and **Young India**, which played a pivotal role in the spread of nationalist ideas.
- **International Influence:** The writings of Mahatma Gandhi and Karl Marx are examples of how literature can influence and drive social movements, providing intellectual foundations for mass mobilization.

7. The Cultural Revolution and Social Justice

- **Language and Culture:** The Indian freedom movement's literary contributions were not limited to political resistance but also sparked a cultural revolution. Poems,

stories, plays, and songs in every language helped Indians reconnect with their cultural roots, empowering them to counter colonial hegemony.

- **Social Impact:** This cultural revolution also laid the groundwork for a broader **social justice movement**, empowering marginalized classes and fostering greater equality across Indian society.

8. Conclusion

The literature of India's freedom movement was vibrant, diverse, and powerful. Whether through poems, songs, plays, or underground publications, Indian writers across various languages contributed to the nationalistic fervor. This unprecedented cultural and literary movement inspired millions, united the nation, and played an indispensable role in India's fight for independence. The sheer scale of literary activism during the freedom movement remains unparalleled in the history of the world, as it activated the fundamental human yearning for freedom and justice.

Topic 9 : K. Kelappan: A Dedicated Freedom Fighter and Stalwart Social Reformer

1. Introduction:

Kerala holds a unique place in India's struggle for independence, as it maintained a distinct geographical and political identity from the outset. The fight against British colonialism in Kerala took root in its three regions—Malabar, Cochin (now Kochi), and Travancore—beginning in the late 18th century and continuing into the early 19th century. Key uprisings were led by:

- **Malabar:** Led by Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja.
- **Cochin:** Led by Paliath Achan, the Prime Minister of Cochin State.
- **Travancore:** Led by Veluthampy Dalava, the Prime Minister of Travancore.

Although these uprisings were violently suppressed by the British, the people's desire for emancipation from inequality, social injustice,

and the oppressive caste system continued to grow. By the 20th century, these aspirations converged with the broader Indian independence movement, in which **K. Kelappan** emerged as one of Kerala's most influential leaders.

2. Early Social Context and Mahatma Gandhi's Influence

During this period of upheaval, **Mahatma Gandhi** visited Kerala five times, uniting people from various castes and classes in the fight against colonial rule and caste-based oppression. Gandhi's visits had a transformative effect, helping to bridge the social divide between Travancore, Cochin, and Malabar.

Several prominent leaders from Kerala played key roles in the independence movement, including:

- G.P. Pillai
- Sir C. Sankaran Nair
- G. Ramachandran
- Muhammad Abdurahiman
- K.P. Kesava Menon
- K. Madhavan Nair
- K. Kelappan

Among these, **K. Kelappan**, often referred to as "Kerala Gandhi," was a towering figure not just in the independence struggle but also in the field of social reform.

3. K. Kelappan: The Early Life and Freedom Movement

Koyapalli Kelappan Nair (1889–1971), popularly known as "Kerala Gandhi," was a multifaceted personality—a freedom fighter, social activist, parliamentarian, editor, educationist, and staunch advocate for social equality. His tireless efforts left a lasting impact on Kerala's history and India's larger narrative of independence and social reform.

- **First Kerala Satyagrahi:** K. Kelappan was the first person from Kerala to join Mahatma Gandhi's **Individual Satyagraha movement**.
- **Imprisonment:** Throughout the liberation struggle, including the **Quit India Movement**, Kelappan was imprisoned multiple times for his role in protests and agitations.

4. Fight Against Caste and Untouchability

A significant aspect of K. Kelappan's legacy was his relentless fight against the caste system and untouchability:

- **Name Change for Equality:** Kelappan, along with another Gandhian leader **K. Kumar**, was among the earliest to remove the caste suffix "Nair" from his name, symbolizing his commitment to a casteless society.
- **Empowering Harijans:** Kelappan worked extensively to eliminate untouchability, founding numerous **Harijan hostels** and **schools** throughout Kerala to uplift marginalized communities.

He was also a key figure in two prominent movements:

- **Vaikom Satyagraha:** This movement aimed at challenging the practice of untouchability and advocating for the rights of the lower castes, especially their right to enter temples.
- **Guruvayur Satyagraha (1932):** Kelappan led this struggle to allow temple entry for all Hindus, irrespective of caste.

5. Journalistic Contributions

Kelappan was not only a freedom fighter but also a journalist with a difference. He played a major role in shaping Kerala's media landscape:

- **Mathrubhumi Daily:** Kelappan was one of the founding directors of the **Mathrubhumi Daily**, which was established in 1923 as part of the nationalist movement. He later served as its editor in 1929 and again in 1936.
- **Voice for the Underprivileged:** Through his newspaper, Kelappan amplified the voices of the underprivileged and raised social awareness among the masses.

6. Salt Marches and Other Protests

The impact of **Gandhi's Salt Satyagraha** was deeply felt in Kerala, with **Payyannur in Malabar** being a key site of the protest. When Gandhi launched the Dandi March, Kelappan led similar salt marches in Kerala under the banner of the **Payyannur Salt Satyagraha**, reinforcing the national movement's principles of civil disobedience and nonviolent resistance.

7. Political Career and Sarvodaya Work

Following India's independence, K. Kelappan moved away from active politics, but his dedication to social causes continued:

- **Parliamentarian:** In 1952, Kelappan was elected to the **Ponnani Lok Sabha** constituency as a member of the **Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party**, having left the Congress earlier. However, after serving his term, he distanced himself from electoral politics to focus on social service.
- **Sarvodaya Movement:** Kelappan became a full-time volunteer in the **Sarvodaya movement** initiated by **Acharya Vinoba Bhave**. He was actively involved in the **Bhoodan movement**, which sought the redistribution of land to landless peasants.

8. Founding Major Gandhian Organizations

Kelappan played a leading role in establishing and leading several Gandhian organizations:

- Kerala Sarvodaya Mandal
- Kerala Sarvodaya Sangh
- Harijan Sevak Sangh
- Seva Sadan
- Kerala Gandhi Samarak Nidhi
- Gandhi Peace Foundation, Kozhikode

9. Conclusion : Legacy of Selfless Service

K. Kelappan's life was one of selfless service to the nation. He never sought power or position, instead dedicating himself to the causes of freedom, equality, and social reform. His contributions continue to inspire generations, making him one of the most respected figures in Kerala's history.

Topic 10: Celluloid Patriotism

1. Introduction:

India, known for its rich storytelling traditions, embraced cinema as a modern art form that became immensely popular for entertainment, education, and enlightenment. Indian cinema played a vital role in the freedom struggle, stirring nationalistic emotions and challenging colonial rule.

2. Early Cinema's Role in Nationalism:

- **Dadasaheb Phalke's "Raja Harishchandra" (1913):** The first Indian feature film, symbolizing moral courage and righteousness.
- **Kanjibhai Rathor's "Bhakta Vidur" (1921)** and **H.M. Reddy's "Bhakta Prahlada" (1931):** These films emphasized ethical values and connected deeply with the Indian Nationalist Movement.

3. Cinema and the Freedom Struggle:

- **Actors and Filmmakers:** Many in the film industry actively participated in the Nationalist Movements, particularly during the **Quit India Movement (1942)**, using their influence to support the cause of independence.
- **Composers:** Notable figures like **Pandit Ravi Shankar** and **Salil Chowdhury** infused nationalistic fervor into their compositions, producing melodies that resonated with the Indian freedom movement.

4. Marathi Cinema and Nationalism:

- As the film industry initially thrived in Mumbai, **Marathi cinema** played a key role in promoting nationalistic values.
- Films like **"Sant Tukaram" (1936)** and **"Duniya Na Mane" (1937)** celebrated Maharashtra's cultural heritage while advocating for social justice and independence.
- Historical figures such as **Shivaji Maharaj** and **Rani Laxmibai** were depicted as symbols of resistance, inspiring audiences to join the freedom movement.
- Films like **"Mahatma Phule" (1954)** and **"Ramshastri" (1944)** celebrated local heroes, fostering pride in Maharashtra's traditions amid the national struggle for freedom.

5. Conclusion:

Indian cinema, particularly during its early days, became a powerful tool for fostering patriotism and resistance against British colonial rule. Through stories of courage, historical figures, and music, the film industry inspired millions and reinforced the call for independence.