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YOJANA MAGAZINE ANALYSIS

(August 2024)

(Part 2/3)

TOPICS TO BE COVERED

PART 1/3

- CELLULAR JAIL- THE SAGA OF RESISTANCE
- JAMBUDWEEP PROCLAMATION

PART 2/3

- UNTOLD STORIES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE FROM NORTHEAST INDIA
- CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN LANGUAGES TO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

PART 3/3

- YOUTH CONSCIOUSNESS FOR INDIA FREEDOM IN BENGAL

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UNTOLD STORIES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE FROM NORTHEAST INDIA

Due to geographical isolation and limited colonial intervention in Northeast India, people's participation was very limited, however it was noticeable that the people of Northeast India fought against the British colonial power with the intention of achieving independence and protecting local cultural interests.

SOME IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES

1. Bhogeswari Phukanani (1885-1942)

- **Background:** A courageous freedom fighter from Assam, **Phukanani was actively involved in the Quit India Movement despite her responsibilities as a mother of eight children.**
- **Key Contributions:** She played a significant role in liberating the **Congress office in Berhampur, Assam, from British control.**
- **Sacrifice:** Phukanani was shot by the British police and died 20 days later, **demonstrating immense bravery and commitment to India's freedom.**

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2. U. Tirot Singh (1802-1835)

- **Leadership:** A leader of the Khasi tribe, Tirot Singh **resisted British expansion into the Khasi Hills**. His resistance was triggered by the British attempt to build a road through the region without fulfilling their promises.
- **Guerrilla Warfare:** Despite being young, **Tirot Singh led a guerrilla war against the British for four years**.
- **Death:** He was eventually captured and imprisoned in Dhaka, where he died, leaving behind a legacy of resistance.

3. Shoorvir Pasaltha Khuangchera (1850-1890)

- **Historical Role:** A legendary figure in Mizoram, **Pasaltha Khuangchera was the first Mizo leader to resist British invasion**.
- **Rebellion:** He fought valiantly against British forces in the **Lushai Hills in 1890 and died in battle**. Despite his significant contributions, his legacy is less recognized nationally.

4. Rani Gaidinliu (1915-1993)

- **Early Activism:** At the age of 16, **Rani Gaidinliu initiated a movement against British rule in the Naga Hills**.

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- **Imprisonment and Release:** Captured and sentenced to life imprisonment, she was released after India's independence.
- **Post-Independence Work:** She continued working for the upliftment of her community and was awarded the **Padma Bhushan for her contributions.**

5. Kanaklata Baruah (1924-1942)

- **Youth and Bravery:** At just 17, **Baruah was involved in the Quit India Movement.** She was shot dead by British police **while attempting to hoist the national flag at a police station in Assam.**
- **Legacy:** Her sacrifice is commemorated as an emblem of youthful courage in the struggle for independence.

6. Moje Riba

- **Freedom Fighter:** A prominent figure from Arunachal Pradesh, **Riba was the first person to hoist the Indian tricolor in Dipa village on August 15, 1947.**
- **Arrest and Advocacy:** He was arrested for his involvement in the **Quit India Movement** and for distributing pro-independence pamphlets.

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7. Gomdhar Konwar (1915-1942)

- **Activism:** A key figure in Assam's independence struggle, Konwar was actively involved in the freedom movement during the 1940s.
- **Role in Quit India Movement:** He mobilized youth against British rule and faced severe repression. His bravery during the **Quit India Movement is remembered with various institutions named in his honor.**

8. Moongri (Early 20th Century)

- **Martyrdom:** Moongri is recognized as one of the **first female martyrs in the Indian freedom movement.** She actively participated in protests against British oppression and **lost her life during one such protest.**
- **Recognition:** The Government of India has **honored her contributions through memorials and educational institutions named after her.**

9. Dhekiajuli Massacre (1942)

- **Incident:** The Dhekiajuli Massacre involved British forces opening fire on **unarmed protesters in Assam. Among the victims was a young boy, who became known as India's youngest martyr.**

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- **Commemoration:** Memorials and commemorative events have been established to honor the victims and reflect on their sacrifice.

10. Bom Singpho

- **Role:** A key figure in Arunachal Pradesh, Singpho organized local tribes against British rule and played a significant role in **anti-colonial agitation**.
- **Legacy:** His efforts to unite various tribes laid the groundwork for future movements. His contributions are preserved through government initiatives and historical records.

11. Thangal General (Thangal Sardar)

- **Resistance Leader:** A prominent leader in Manipur during the **First Anglo-Manipur War (1891)**, Thangal General led **guerrilla warfare against British forces**.
- **Legacy:** He is celebrated in Manipur for his leadership and resistance, with several institutions and events commemorating his contributions.

12. Ka Phan Nonglait

- **Activism:** An important figure in **Meghalaya's freedom movement**, she led protests against British policies and was known for her fearless spirit.
- **Recognition:** Her contributions have been recognized by the state government with **memorials and educational programs dedicated to her legacy**.

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13. Ropuiliani

- **Freedom Fighter:** From Mizoram, Ropuiliani was actively involved in the **anti-colonial struggle, organizing local communities against British rule.**
- **Honors:** The government has honored his contributions through various **commemorations and educational initiatives.**

14. Sachindra Lal Singh

- **Role:** An influential leader from Tripura, **Singh was active in mobilizing the masses against British rule.**
- **Legacy:** His contributions to the freedom struggle have been acknowledged through **memorials and educational institutions.**

CONCLUSION

The untold stories of freedom fighters from Northeast India showcase the **region's significant but often overlooked contribution to India's freedom struggle.** From the courageous actions of Bhogeswari Phukanani and Kanaklata Barua to the strategic resistance of U. Tirot Singh and Thangal General, these individuals and their sacrifices played an important role in challenging British colonial rule. **Their legacy continues to inspire and remind us of the diverse and rich history of India's freedom struggle.**

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CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN LANGUAGES TO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

The Indian freedom struggle was a multifaceted movement, driven not only by political and social leaders but also by the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of the country.

Indian languages played a crucial role in mobilizing people, spreading nationalist ideas, and promoting a sense of unity among the diverse population. This chapter explores how various Indian languages contributed to the freedom movement, highlighting their role in literature, journalism, and oratory.

HISTORICAL ASPECT

- **British Colonial Expansion:** The British East India Company established its dominance through key battles such as Plassey (1757) and Buxar (1764), leading to the expansion of colonial rule across India.
- **The First War of Independence:** The uprising of 1857 was a pivotal event that ignited widespread resistance and fueled the desire for liberation from British rule.

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- **Role of the Printing Press:** The introduction of the printing press in Goa in 1576 significantly contributed to the spread of nationalist ideas. The first Indian newspaper, *The Bengal Gazette* (1780), enabled educated Indians to voice their patriotic sentiments.
- **Emergence of Nationalist Newspapers:** Figures like Bal Gangadhar Tilak used newspapers such as *Kesari* to critique British policies, often facing imprisonment for their outspoken views.

THE POWER OF LANGUAGE

- **Vernacular Literature:** Nationalist literature utilized local languages to reach and resonate with the masses. The British recognized the threat posed by such literature, leading to the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 aimed at suppressing dissent. The act was repealed in 1881, leading to a resurgence of nationalist sentiment through literature.
- **Raja Ram Mohan Roy:** A prominent figure in the national press movement, Roy published *Sambad Kaumudi* in Bengali, which played a role in promoting unity among Indians.

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INFLUENTIAL LITERARY FIGURES

- **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay:** His novel *Anandamath* (1882) is renowned for the song “Vande Mataram,” which became a slogan for the independence movement. His work *Devi Chaudharani* (1884) inspired women to participate actively in the struggle for freedom.
- **Bharatendu Harishchandra:** Regarded as the father of modern Hindi literature, Harishchandra's plays and poems laid the foundation for Hindi nationalism. His works highlighted social issues and advocated for freedom.
- **Rabindranath Tagore:** A Nobel laureate, Tagore's literary contributions include novels like *Gora* (1909) and *Ghare Baire* (1916), which explored themes of nationalism and inner conflict. He also composed India's national anthem, “Jana Gana Mana.”
- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak:** Through his newspapers, *Mahratta* and *Kesari*, Tilak became a significant voice of the freedom movement, articulating the aspirations of the Indian populace.

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REVOLUTIONARY LITERATURE

- **Anushilan Samiti:** This organization published newspapers that galvanized public sentiment against colonial rule, reflecting the revolutionary spirit of the time.
- **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar:** His work *The Indian War of Independence (1909)* redefined the 1857 revolt as the first war for independence, bringing national attention to the struggle.
- **Indian Diaspora Contributions:** Publications such as *Hindustan Ghadar* and *Circular-i-Azadi* played a significant role in expressing anti-colonial sentiments from abroad.

SOCIAL COMMENTARY THROUGH LITERATURE

- **Addressing Social Evils:** Literature of the period also tackled social issues alongside political freedom. Works like Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable (1935)* and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's *Pathar Dabi (1926)* highlighted the need for social justice and equality.

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- **M.K. Gandhi's Writings: Gandhi's *Hind Swaraj* (1938) emphasized the importance of self-rule and moral integrity in the fight for independence, advocating for both political and social reform.**

CONCLUSION

The contribution of Indian languages and literature to the freedom struggle was enormous and multifaceted. Literary figures not only inspired people to join the struggle but also promoted a collective national identity. The writings of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Bhartendu Harishchandra, Rabindranath Tagore and others played a vital role in shaping public sentiment and unifying diverse groups against colonial rule. The legacy of these literary contributions continues to resonate in contemporary India, reminding us of the enduring power of words in shaping the destiny of a nation. Their work lit a flame of hope and resilience that ultimately contributed to India's liberation.

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