

STORIES

Unsung Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle

Kartar Singh Sarabha

The Boy who went to the Gallows Laughing

Place: Ludhiana, Punjab

Kartar Singh Sarabha was born in Punjab in 1896. He was very smart and stubborn since childhood. But the deepest thing in his heart was love for the country. When he was just 15 years old, the spark of freedom had already ignited in his heart.

At the age of 18, he went to America for studies. There he saw that many Indian immigrants were also trying to liberate their country. It was here that he joined the **Ghadar Party**. This party was preparing to bring revolution in India while staying on foreign soil.



Kartar Singh fearlessly started working against British rule. He secretly prepared people for freedom, wrote patriotic articles and poems and secretly printed pamphlets.

In 1914, he returned to India and started planning the rebellion. But soon the British got the news. Kartar Singh was arrested. When he was asked to apologize in court for working against the British, he thundered – "**Why should I apologize? You all should apologize for making us slaves. Freeing our country is not a crime. If I had 100 lives, I would sacrifice them all for the country!**"

He was hanged at the age of just 19. Kartar Singh sacrificed his life at a very young age. He could not see India becoming independent, but his sacrifice did not go in vain. His martyrdom inspired thousands of youth to follow the path of freedom – one of them was none other than **Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh**, who considered him as his inspiration.

Lesson: Kartar Singh's story teaches us that age never matters - what matters is intention, courage and love for our country. We all owe this freedom to those youth who sacrificed themselves for the country. They sacrificed their lives **for our freedom.**

STORIES

Unsung Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle

The Story of Veerbala Kanaklata

Place: Barangbari, Assam

Many years ago, in a small village in Assam, a brave girl was born – her name was Kanaklata Barua. At just 17, her heart brimmed with love for her country and unshakable courage.

When Kanaklata was very young, her mother passed away, and a few years later, her father too. Orphaned, she was lovingly raised by her grandmother. She did well in studies and helped with household chores, yet one thought kept returning – ***“Why is my country not free?”***



In 1942, when Gandhiji launched the Quit India Movement, the entire nation stirred. In Assam, it was decided to hoist the tricolour at British police stations.

Kanaklata resolved – ***“I will not stay at home. I must fight for freedom.”***

Early one morning, she set out on foot with her companions to hoist the flag at Gohpur police station, 80 miles away. The tricolour was in their hands, the cry of ***“Do or die!”*** on their lips.

As they reached the station, policemen shouted – ***“One more step and we shoot!”*** But Kanaklata stood firm. Like a lioness she said – ***“We are souls; the body is mortal. The guilty fear – we fight for what is right.”*** She stepped forward... a bullet struck her chest. Then, another! And yet, another!

As she fell, the tricolour did not. Seeing this, a young Mukund ran to seize it; he too was shot and martyred. Still, their friends pressed on – and finally, the flag was raised!

Lesson: Kanaklata never saw the dawn of freedom, but her sacrifice lit the flame in thousands of young hearts. Our liberty is the gift of such heroes – who embraced death for the nation. Girls like Kanaklata prove that patriotism knows no age, only passion.

STORIES

Unsung Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle

Shirish Kumar Mehta

The fearless boy who sacrificed his life for the Tricolor

Place: Nandurbar, Maharashtra

This is the story of a teenager, only 15 years old, whose heart blazed with a volcano of courage and patriotism. His name was Shirish Kumar.

The year was 1942. The Quit India Movement had swept across the nation. Everywhere, people were pulling down the Union Jack from British offices, police stations and government buildings,

replacing it with the Tricolour. In Nandurbar, Maharashtra, a large procession of children and youth was taken out – **led by the 15-year old Shirish Kumar.**



As the procession reached the British office, police blocked their way. They warned – ***"Step back, or we will shoot!"*** But Shirish stood firm. He shouted – ***"We don't care. We are here for the freedom of our beloved country!"*** and marched ahead, chest held high, flag held tight.

A shot rang out... Shirish Kumar fell on the spot – yet the tricolour never left his grasp. At just 15, he did what even the bravest could only dream of. The whole region shook with his sacrifice. People lifted him on their shoulders, shouting – ***"Long live Shirish Kumar!"***

In his memory, the Child Martyr Shirish Kumar Memorial stands in Nandurbar.

Lesson: Shirish Kumar's story proves that patriotism demands courage, not age. When one fearlessly stands for what is right, they create history. The freedom we cherish today is the gift of such young martyrs. The tricolour they guarded with their lives must always be honoured.

STORIES

Unsung Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle

The Story of Narayan Dabhade

Place: Pune, Maharashtra

Have you ever wondered — what would happen if you shouted slogans against the British while walking to school?

Today we can speak freely — but in 1942, even raising a single slogan could mean jail... or death! And in those days, there was a college student — Narayan Dabhade. Not a big leader, not a minister — just an Indian youth with patriotism flowing through his veins.



This is the story of the Quit India Movement, when Gandhiji told the people — ***“Enough is enough! The British must quit India!”***

That day, it felt as if lightning had swept across the country. Old men, young people, even small schoolchildren poured into the streets. Narayan Dabhade was one such brave student — studying at Garware College in Pune. But that day, he closed his books. On his shoulder was not a schoolbag, but courage. And he set out into the streets, shouting, ***“British, Quit India!”***

The lanes of Tilak Road echoed with their voices. He and his companions marched fearlessly. Then the British blocked their way. ***“Move aside!”*** they ordered. But Narayan Dabhade did not step back. He said — ***“We are demanding our country's freedom — and it is our right!”***

And then... bang! A bullet was fired! Straight into Narayan's chest. He staggered... but before falling, he shouted once more — ***“Bharat Mata ki Jai!”***

Only 19 years old — yet with a courage that left even the British stunned.

Lesson: Courage does not depend on age. One who stands firmly for what is right becomes immortal, even in death. And the freedom that today feels so easy — was earned through such sacrifices.

STORIES

Unsung Heroes of India's Freedom Struggle

Bhagat Singh Jhuggian

Place: Hoshiarpur, Punjab

This is another deeply inspiring story of Bhagat Singh Jhuggian, who, at a very young age, amazed the British with his remarkable courage and patriotism. Born in Punjab's Hoshiarpur district, he was in the fourth grade, yet in spirit and bravery he was no less than a great warrior.



Once, during a school assembly, a British officer ordered him to shout, “**Long live British rule.**” Only eleven years old, Bhagat Singh Jhuggian loudly declared before the whole gathering — “**Down with British rule, long live Hindustan!**”

The officer beat him on the spot and ensured that no school in the region would admit him.

But Bhagat Singh did not give up. He became a **secret messenger and press operator** in the freedom struggle. On dark nights, he would carry heavy parts of a machine called ‘**Udara Press**’ in sacks to hidden revolutionary bases, returning days later with supplies of fertilizer, grain, and rations — his courage even made the police fear him!

He not only contributed to the freedom movement but also worked for farmers and workers after independence. In 1945, he founded the **Azadi Committee** to spread awareness about peace, patriotism, and cooperation. The British took strict action against him, yet he neither feared nor retreated.

Lesson: Age never matters; with passion and courage, even a child can achieve great deeds. True freedom is not only rebellion, but also service, unity, and love for the nation. Such people are the true soldiers of independence. Their names may be little known, but in inspiring others, they are the greatest.