

YOJANA SUMMARY

DAWN OF FREEDOM

AUGUST 2024

CELLULAR JAIL- THE SAGA OF RESISTANCE

- The Cellular Jail, located in Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, served as an isolated prison for revolutionary freedom fighters during British rule.
- As per the proposal submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention's Tentative Lists in April 2014, it is compared to other British-era facilities like Robben Island (South Africa) and Australian Convict Sites.
- The architecture of Eastern State Penitentiary is based on the principles of separate system and also influenced by panopticon theory, similar to the planning of Cellular Jail.
- The Cellular Jail prison complex was constructed between 1896 and 1906 in Port Blair by deploying prisoners as labourers.
- Port Blair, named after Archibald Blair of the British East India Company, was itself a penal colony on Great Andaman, established in 1789.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar

He was associated with the nationalistic activities of India House in London, along with Madame Bhikaji Cama, Shyamaji Krishna Varma and Madan Lal Dhingra.

Timeline

1909: The First Batch of Political Prisoners Arrive

- The vessel Maharaja transported the first batch of political prisoners, including seven revolutionaries from the Alipore Bomb case, from Calcutta to the Andamans, arriving at the Cellular Jail on December 15, 1909.
- These prisoners, labeled as "seditionists" or "anarchists," were treated worse than ordinary criminals, with inadequate food and severe restrictions on communication.
- Their labor included arduous tasks like extracting oil from coconuts and mustard seeds, husking coconuts, and making ropes.
- The most grueling work was oil-grinding (kohlu-plying), where prisoners, instead of bullocks, were yoked to mills and forced to produce 30 pounds of coconut oil or 10 pounds of mustard oil daily.

1911: Beginning of the Resistance and the First Strike in Cellular Jail

- **Punjabi prisoner Nand Gopal**, sentenced to ten years for writing "seditious" articles, sparked resistance in the Cellular Jail by refusing to work on the oil mill, declaring himself a human, not a bullock.
- In response, he was chained, and a general order mandated all prisoners to work on the mill for three days.
- This provoked a strike among the prisoners, who refused to comply. Despite rigorous punishment, the prisoners stood firm, leading the authorities to concede.
- They were allowed to work outside the jail, marking the first major victory for the political prisoners in their struggle for rights.

1912: Virtual Hell, a Suicide and Another Inmate Loses Sanity

- The Cellular Jail was a place of extreme suffering for political prisoners, who endured exhausting labor, insults, and humiliation.
- Unable to bear the conditions, Indubhusan Roy became the first political prisoner to commit suicide on April 28, 1912, by hanging himself with a makeshift rope.
- Another prisoner, **Ullaskar Dutta**, who was initially jovial, succumbed to the relentless torture and lost his sanity.

- **1912: The second General Strike**

- The suicide of Indubhusan Roy and the insanity of Ullaskar Dutta triggered a second general strike in the Cellular Jail, where political prisoners demanded better food, release from hard labor, and the freedom to interact with each other.
- Despite their refusal to honor Jailer Barrie, and Nani Gopal's 72-day hunger strike, the strike ended on December 6, 1912, with some concessions granted, including access to books and permission to gather for discussions, though their duties continued.
- In October 1913, Sir Reginald Craddock visited, but the authorities ignored the prisoners' grievances, leading to another strike in March 1914. Despite severe punishments, the strike persisted, and in April 1914, the Government of India decided to transfer all term convicts, except Pulin Behari Das, to Indian jails.

- **1915-1917: Brutal Jailer Barrie Gets it Back**

- After the failure of the Ghadr movement in 1915, many conspirators were sent to the Cellular Jail in the Andamans.
- These prisoners, including Chattar Singh, Amar Singh, Jawala Singh, and Lal Singh, endured severe hardships, such as hard labor and confinement in small cages.
- Sohan Singh Bhakna went on a hunger strike to secure Chattar Singh's release from such confinement.
- Ram Rakha Sasoli, another prisoner, died during a hunger strike protesting the removal of his religious thread.
- Parmanand Jhansi's refusal to work in the oil mill and his resistance to the jail authorities' cruelty led to widespread unrest among the political prisoners, sparking a general strike.
- Despite being dispersed across the jail's seven blocks, prisoners communicated using small chits of paper passed by ordinary prisoners.
- The strike, marked by non-cooperation, eventually wore down the jail authorities, who, facing government inquiries and a loss of respect, conceded to assign lighter work to the political prisoners and consider their other demands. The strike was then called off.

- **Post-1917: End of a Despot**

- To prevent further trouble with political prisoners, the authorities assigned them light work, left the oil mills idle, and allowed them to read, meet, and talk freely.
- Eventually, in response to widespread public demand, ongoing agitation, or political strategy, the British government declared a general amnesty for political prisoners in the Andamans in 1920.
- **The Cellular Jail was closed, and by 1921,** all remaining political prisoners were returned to the mainland.

RANI ABBAKKA: THE UNYIELDING GUARDIAN OF SOVEREIGNTY AND JUSTICE

- The arrival of European powers in the late 15th century disrupted the political, economic, and cultural fabric of India, particularly in the coastal region of Tulu Nadu, Karnataka.
- The Portuguese, who discovered a sea route to this region, began building forts and ports, imposing taxes, and levying sailing permits, leading to socio-political conflicts.
- Tulu Nadu, originally ruled by the Alupa dynasty and later by the Vijayanagara Empire, became a battleground with the rise of minor dynasties and frequent wars.
- The **Chautas**, who ruled Ullala and Puttige, were one of these dynasties, following a matriarchal system.

- From the 13th to the mid-18th century, five Abbakka queens ruled Ullala, with two key figures emerging in the mid-16th to early 17th centuries.
- The **elder Abbakka**, who ruled from 1554 to 1588, fiercely resisted Portuguese dominance, fighting significant battles but ultimately being defeated. However, her bravery was praised by contemporary Portuguese writers.
- The **younger Abbakka**, who ruled from 1594 to 1640, continued her mother's struggle against the Portuguese, marking a golden era in Ullala's history.
- She formed alliances with the Zamorin of Calicut and Malabar kings, attacked Portuguese holdings, and successfully resisted their influence.
- Despite facing challenges, including lack of support from neighboring rulers and her husband, she remained committed to protecting her principality and her people's interests.
- Historians compare **Abbakka to Queen Elizabeth I of England**, noting her defiance against powerful foreign adversaries.
- **Italian traveller Pietro Della Valle** documented Abbakka's just and inclusive rule, highlighting her global reputation as a formidable leader.
- Both Abbakka queens played crucial roles in resisting Portuguese expansion in the coastal belt of Karnataka.

GLORIOUS GUARDS OF FREEDOM FROM GUJARAT: A TALE OFTEN UNTOLD

Echoes of Valour: Gujarat's Unsung Heroes of the 1857 Revolt

- In the early 19th century, Dwarka, a bustling port and pilgrimage site, saw local resistance against British ships, particularly by the Waghers.
- The East India Company took control of Beyt Dwarka in 1816. During the 1857 rebellion, Wagher leaders Mulu Manek and Jodha Manek led an uprising, reclaiming Beyt Dwarka by March 1858.
- Jodha Manek briefly declared himself king of Dwarka until the British recaptured the city in July 1859.
- Mulu Manek was captured but escaped in 1862, continuing to fight until his death in 1868, while Jodha Manek fled to Gir and died of illness in 1860. Both are honored as heroes in Saurashtra.

The Story of Economic Independence: Ranchhodlal Chhotalal

- India's wealth attracted the East India Company, which initially traded Indian goods globally but later turned India into a raw material supplier during England's Industrial Revolution, leading to the decline of traditional crafts and rural economies.
- Ranchhodlal, at age 27, made early efforts to establish a mill in Ahmedabad, founding the Ahmedabad Spinning and Weaving Company Ltd. in 1859.
- His efforts helped the city's textile industry flourish, earning Ahmedabad the nickname "Manchester of the East," with 62 mills by 1916.
 - Many mill owners later contributed to India's independence movement.
- Ranchhodlal also had a significant impact on civic life in Ahmedabad, serving as a municipality member and chairperson. He introduced revolutionary sewage systems and tap water, improving the city's hygiene and gaining international recognition.
- In 1891, Florence Nightingale invited him to London for the International Congress on Hygiene and Demography.

Govind Guru

He founded 'Samp Sabha' & spread awareness against evils and orthodox traditions of tribal society.

Jhaverchand Kalidas Meghani

He was often referred to as 'Rashtriya Shayar', or Poet of the People, by Mahatma Gandhi and has authored over 100 books.

- Ranchhodlal also opposed countervailing duties on Indian cotton, restrictive factory laws, and was active in the Indian National Congress, advocating for girls' education and poverty alleviation.

Two Massacres and Two Leaders: The Untold story of Mangadh and Dradhvav

- Govind Guru and Motilal Tejawat were key leaders in the struggle for tribal rights in southern Rajasthan and northern Gujarat.
- **Govind Guru:** On November 17, 1913, he led the Bhils in a rebellion against British oppression on Mangadh Hills. The British forces killed around 1500 tribals in the confrontation. Guru was captured, initially sentenced to death, but later his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.
- **Motilal Tejawat:** Born in Udaipur in 1886, he advocated for the rights of tribals after witnessing their exploitation. Influenced by Gandhi's non-cooperation movement, he led the Bhils in resisting unjust taxes and forced labor. On March 7, 1922, his followers faced a massacre by the Mewar Bhil Corps, resulting in the deaths of 1200-1500 tribals.
 - Tejawat's activism paused briefly after this tragedy but resumed until India's independence. He is honored as the 'Maseeha of Bhils' among the Bhils.

A Man Who could Read the Pulse of People: Jhaverchand Meghani

- Jhaverchand Meghani, a renowned poet honored as 'Rashtriya Shayar' (National Poet) by Mahatma Gandhi, was known for his literary and patriotic contributions.
- Coming from a family of traders, Meghani excelled in capturing folk tales and was a young editor of a Gujarati newspaper.
- He actively supported Gandhiji's Civil Disobedience Movement, particularly in Dholera. His poetry collection 'Sindhuado' highlighted themes of bravery.
- Meghani's poem 'Chello Katoro' (Last Sip of Poison), written during Gandhi's journey to the Second Round Table Conference in London, profoundly resonated with Gandhi, who acknowledged its deep insight into his thoughts, as noted by Gandhi's aide, Mahadev Desai.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

He will always be remembered for his invaluable contribution in the national Integration.

Hansa Jivraj Mehta

She valiantly fought against the British by participating in the Non-Cooperation and Swadeshi movements; was arrested in 1932.

Vasant and Rajab: The Story of Communal Harmony in Times of Hatred

- On July 1, 1946, during a Rathyatra in Ahmedabad, riots broke out, causing chaos in the city.
- Two young Seva Dal volunteers, Vasant Rao Hegishte and Rajab Ali Lakhani, intervened to protect lives and pleaded with rioters to stop.
- Tragically, they were murdered by the mob, sacrificing their lives for communal harmony and peace. Their sacrifice is still commemorated in Ahmedabad as a symbol of courage and unity.

A Legacy of Courage: Hansa Mehta's Journey from Surat to the UN

- Hansa Mehta, born in 1897 in Surat, was a pioneering figure in advocating for women's rights and human rights.
- Defying societal norms, she earned a degree in philosophy and was influenced by Sarojini Naidu during her time in England.
- She joined the freedom movement in response to Mahatma Gandhi's call in 1930.
- At the 1947 UN Commission on Human Rights Conference, Mehta, one of only two women delegates, successfully argued for gender-neutral language in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- As a member of the Constituent Assembly of India, she played a significant role in presenting the National Flag on August 15, 1947, and championed debates on issues like the Uniform Civil Code and gender equality, leaving a lasting legacy in human rights and women's empowerment.

JAMBUDWEEP PROCLAMATION

- On June 16, 1801, Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar, the de facto ruler of Sivaganga, issued a bold handwritten proclamation in Tiruchirappalli and Srirangam, challenging the British East India Company to leave India or face consequences.
- This proclamation was a significant historical event, marking the first time an Indian ruler issued such a declaration, which was met with counter-proclamations from the British.
 - A proclamation is one that is made by a ruler at a critical time. The ruler conveys to his subjects the need for war and the benefits of being successful. In Indian history, never before has a proclamation been made by a ruler.
 - In world history, only on two occasions have proclamations been made.
 - One was a proclamation by the American states against their motherland, i.e., England, 25 years before the Jambudweep Proclamation.
 - Another proclamation was made by the French people against their ruler Louis XVI, 11 years before Chinna Marudhu Pandian's declaration.
- Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar, along with his brother Periya Marudhu Pandiyar, had been loyal to Queen Velu Nachiyar of Sivaganga, who was restored to power with their help after being deposed by the British. Following her death, the Marudhu brothers continued to support her successor.
- The British East India Company, having gained power over the Arcot Nawab through treaties, eventually displaced the Nawab and asserted control.
- Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar's proclamation was a call to unite against the British, invoking a wide-ranging rebellion across India, from Pune to Nanguneri.
- Despite his efforts, the rebellion was crushed, leading to the hanging of 543 patriots and the deportation of 73 individuals to Penang Island, **marking the first political deportations from India**.
- Notably, Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar refused to seek assistance from other European powers, demonstrating a strong sense of national unity.
- His proclamation and the subsequent war against the British prefigured later anti-colonial movements, including the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

Significance

- For the first time, in Indian warfare, Malaysian soldiers who were skilled in jungle warfare were used against Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar.
- Never before in Indian history has an Indian ruler issued a proclamation and been reciprocated by three counter-proclamations by the East India Company.
- Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar's war against the British involved the voluntary participation of ryots, commoners, village heads, amaldars and rulers of small principalities.
- The war was conducted under the single command of Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar. People from Pune to Nanguneri in the southernmost tip of India, covering around 1400 km, participated in the 1801 war.
- In the 18th century, India was not known as a single nation. At that time, India consisted of Burma, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and parts of Afghanistan.

- Chinna Marudhu Pandiyar, in his proclamation made a clarion call to all persons living in Jambudweep (Indian peninsula).

UNTOLD STORIES OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE FROM NORTHEAST INDIA

Gomdhar Konwar: Assam's First Martyr

- Two years after the British annexed Assam, **Gomdhar Konwar**, a royal Ahom clan member, led the first resistance against British rule.
- In October 1828, he urged people to stop paying taxes to the British. By November, he was declared king at Bassa near Jorhat, and his armed forces marched toward Rangpur, the British headquarters in upper Assam.
- Gomdhar was eventually captured and sent to Rangpur Jail in Bengal (now in Bangladesh), where he presumably died, making him the first martyr in Assam's anti-colonial struggle.

Moongri: First Woman Martyr

- Moongri Orang, also known as Malati, was the first woman to lose her life in the Indian freedom movement.
- Once associated with a British tea planter in Sonitpur, Assam, she was a heavy drinker but was inspired by an anti-liquor campaign led by Omeo Kumar Das in March-April 1921.
- After quitting drinking, she actively encouraged tea plantation workers to do the same.
- Her involvement in the freedom movement, particularly helping Congress volunteers enter tea estates, angered British planters.
- She was murdered by unidentified assailants shortly after joining the campaign.

Dhekiajuli Massacre: India's Youngest Martyr

- On September 20, 1942, hundreds of people led by Shanti Sena volunteers and Mrityu Bahini members—Manbar Nath, Golok Chandra Neog, and Chandrakanta Nath—gathered outside **Dhekiajuli police station** during the Quit India Movement.
- Despite armed police opening fire, the Mrityu Bahini members managed to raise the national flag atop the police station, with Manbar Nath being fatally shot in the process.
- Golok Chandra Neog's mother, Kumoli Neog, sacrificed herself to protect her son from a bullet.
- Over the next two days, at least 13 people were killed, and 12-year-old Tileswari Barua became the youngest martyr. The Dhekiajuli incident is remembered for the extreme brutality of colonial forces.

Bom Singpho of Arunachal Pradesh: The First Martyr from the Hills of NER

- During the British operation to expel the Burmese beyond the Patkai mountains in eastern Arunachal Pradesh, they entered the territories of the Khamti and Singpho people.
- The retreating Burmese had taken thousands of Assamese captives. By May 1826, 16 Singpho Chiefs were forced to accept British supremacy and agree to assist against future Burmese incursions, with most Khamti chiefs soon following suit.
- In 1828, after the British occupied Assam, **Bom Singpho**, a prominent Singpho chief, participated in a second Assamese attempt, led by Peoli Phukan and Jiuram Duliya Barua, to oust the British.
- Six leaders of the attack, including Bom Singpho, were captured, tried for treason, and sentenced to death.
- However, Bom Singpho and three others had their sentences commuted to 14 years of banishment and were sent to Dhaka Jail for rigorous imprisonment.

Thangal General of Manipur: Martyrdom at 80

- Thangal General, a revered figure in Manipur, rose to prominence during Maharaja Gambhir Singh's reign (1827-1834) and became a powerful member of Maharaja Chandrakirti Singh's durbar.

- After Chandrakirti Singh's death in 1886, Thangal General fell out of favor with the new king, Surchandra, but grew close to Prince Tikendrajit.
- He played a key role in the 1890 palace revolt and supported Tikendrajit during the British mission to arrest him.
- Thangal General is believed to have ordered the execution of five British officers on March 24, 1891, under Tikendrajit's command.
- After the British defeated Manipur, he was captured and hanged on August 13, 1891, alongside Tikendrajit, at around 80 years of age.

Ka Phan Nonglait of Meghalaya: A Woman of Courage

- Before British rule, the present state of Meghalaya was divided into three socio-political regions belonging to the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo communities.
- During the colonial and post-Independence eras, Meghalaya was part of Assam as two districts.
- In the **matrilineal Khasi society**, women played active roles in resisting British rule, Ka Phan Nonglait, a brave woman from the Khasi community, is particularly remembered for her courage.
- In April 1833, during a British operation moving from Mairang to Nongkhlaw, Ka Phan Nonglait lured a detachment of British troops near a waterfall by offering them a local brew.
- Once the soldiers were drunk, she secretly removed their weapons and hid them in a rockhole. She then signaled U Tirot Singh's men, who ambushed the disarmed soldiers, killing them and seizing their weapons.

Ropuiliani: A Valiant Woman from Mizoram

- The Mizo Hills, known then as the Lushai Hills, were surrounded by British territories by the mid-19th century.
- Despite British supremacy established after the Chin-Lushai Expedition of 1889-1890, many local chiefs, including courageous women like Ropuiliani, continued to resist British rule.
- Ropuiliani, who became the Chief of Denlung Village in 1889, fiercely opposed British efforts to construct roads, demanded tributary labor, and set up a military stockade in her son's village.
- After two of her men killed a British agent in 1892, the British launched an expedition, arresting Ropuiliani and her son Lalthuama on August 9, 1893.
- Imprisoned in Lunglei and later deported to Rangamati and Chittagong, Ropuiliani died in Chittagong Jail on January 3, 1895, remaining unyielding in her defiance against the British until her death.

Nagaland: The Fall of Khonoma

- Before British rule, the various communities of present-day Nagaland, comprising 17 major tribes, lived in their respective territories, governed by systems ranging from democracy to clan chiefs.
- The British first encountered the Nagas in 1832, and in February 1851, the Nagas faced a **devastating battle at Kekrima**, where over 100 Nagas lost their lives.
- Following this, the British conducted ten expeditions in the Naga Hills. On February 21, 1851, Governor General Lord Dalhousie adopted a policy of non-interference in the Naga Hills and restricted Naga access to Assam markets.
- In 1877, after an Angami raid on a village in North Cachar, the British launched another expedition.
- Khonoma, a village unwilling to surrender, resisted British authority. On October 13, 1879, the British political officer, G H Damant, was killed in Khonoma, leading to an aggressive response from the British.
- Under Brigadier General JL Nation, the British attacked and burned Khonoma on November 22, 1879, forcing its people to flee.

- By January 1880, the British, determined to crush the Naga resistance, compelled the Khonoma warriors to surrender without further bloodshed.

Sachindra Lal Singh: Freedom Fighter from Tripura

- Although the people of Tripura did not directly participate in the Indian freedom movement, local organizations inspired by Bengal's freedom struggle spread nationalist ideas.
- **Sachindra Lal Singh** was a notable figure in Tripura's anti-colonial movement. He was involved with the Bhatri Sangha in Agartala and was influenced by the Indian freedom movement during his time at Victoria College, Comilla.
- Sachindra Lal Singh joined Surya Sen's revolutionary group and participated in the Chittagong Armoury raid on April 18, 1930.
- After his arrest, he was imprisoned in Comilla Jail, Hijli detention camp, and later interned in Paba village.
- Upon release, he joined the Congress and played a role in the Tripura State Congress and the Tripura Rajya Gana Parishad, which were part of broader movements for political reform in princely states.
- Singh also supported the Reang uprising (1939-42) against British rule among Tripura's tribal communities. He spent about 14 years in prison during the colonial era.
- After independence, he became the first Chief Minister of Tripura, serving from July 1963 to November 1971.

K KELAPPAN: A DEDICATED FREEDOM FIGHTER AND A STALWART SOCIAL REFORMER

- In Kerala, uprisings against British rule occurred in Malabar, Cochin (now Kochi), and Travancore during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
 - *Kerala Varma Pazhassi Raja* led the revolt in Malabar, Paliath Achan in Cochin, and Veluthampy Dalava in Travancore. All these revolts were violently suppressed by the British.
- With the formation of the Indian National Congress in 1885, Kerala's involvement in the national movement grew.
- *G P Pillai*, editor of the '**Madras Standard**,' was a key figure in the civil rights movement in Travancore.
- The Kerala independence movement was driven by a desire to combat inequality, social injustice, and the oppressive caste system.
- Mahatma Gandhi's five visits to Kerala significantly impacted society, uniting people across Travancore, Kochi, and Malabar, breaking down caste barriers.
- From these movements, prominent leaders emerged, such as GP Pillai, who became the first Malayalee national leader and Secretary of the AICC in 1894, and C Sankaran Nair, who presided over the Amaravathi Congress session in 1897.

K Kelappan: The Kerala Gandhi

- K Kelappan (1889-1971), known as 'Kerala Gandhi,' was a key freedom fighter and Gandhian social activist.
- He was a staunch advocate for social reform, equality, and the removal of caste-based distinctions.
- As the first Kerala Satyagrahi to join Gandhi's individual Satyagraha movement, he played a significant role in the Indian liberation struggle, including the Quit India Movement.
- Kelappan was instrumental in founding and leading the Nair Sabha (later Nair Service Society, NSS) in 1914 and worked alongside Mannath Padmanabhan.
- He was among the first in Kerala to drop the caste suffix from his name and dedicated himself to eradicating untouchability and empowering Harijans by establishing hostels and schools.

- He was a prominent leader in the Swadeshi Movement, promoting Khadi and village industries, and founded several educational institutions.
- Kelappan led the Vaikom Satyagraha and the Guruvayur Satyagraha in 1932 to challenge untouchability and fight for temple entry for all Hindus.
- In the media, he was a founding director and editor of Mathrubhumi Daily, established in 1923, and also worked as an editor for Samadarshi in the 1950s.

Salt Marches in Kerala

- In Malabar, Payyannur was the central location for the Satyagraha movement, led by K Kelappan, also known as Kerala Gandhi.
- In response to Gandhi's Dandi March, the Provincial Congress Committee (PCC) organized Salt Marches and camps in Malabar.
- On April 6, 1930, the day Gandhi violated the salt laws, was marked as a national day in Kerala.
- Under Kelappan's leadership, on April 21, 1930, 32 volunteers from Kozhikode marched to Payyannur and broke the salt law on the beach.
- Kelappan was arrested, and the camp was raided, prompting repressive government measures. The movement concluded with the Gandhi-Irwin Pact on March 4, 1931.

The First Satyagrahi

- Kelappan was chosen as the first Satyagrahi from Kerala to participate in the individual Satyagraha movement (which meant holding to the truth) launched by Mahatma Gandhi.
- The British Colonial government had committed India to the Second World War without the consent of the Indian people.
- To oppose this decision by the foreign government, the Indian National Congress decided to launch individual satyagrahas.

Hero of Vaikom and Guruvayoor Satyagrahas

- K Kelappan was a pivotal leader in the Vaikom Satyagraha (1925) and the Guruvayoor Satyagraha (1932), both aimed at securing temple entry rights for untouchables.
 - These movements were among the first major efforts in India to challenge untouchability and demand access to temples for all Hindus.
- In Vaikom, Gandhiji's visit in March 1925 led to discussions and negotiations that eventually resulted in the opening of temple approach roads to all Hindus by 1928.
- The Guruvayoor Satyagraha gained momentum when Gandhiji announced a "fast unto death" on September 13, 1932, to protest the separate electorate for scheduled castes.
- Seizing the moment, Kelappan began his own hunger strike on September 18, 1932, in front of the Guruvayur temple.
- His 12-day fast succeeded in opening the Sri Guruvayur shrine to devotees of all castes.

In the Quit India Movement

- During the Quit India Movement, K Kelappan was arrested on August 9, 1942, and remained in jail until June 28, 1945.
- After India's independence, he was instrumental in the formation of a unified Malayalam-speaking state.
- In the 1950s, he actively participated in the Mayyazhi (Mahe) freedom struggle against the French, which led to Mahe's liberation and merger with the Indian Union on July 16, 1954.
- Additionally, he was involved in the Bhoodan Movement led by Acharya Vinoba Bhave in Kerala.

GANDHIAN INFLUENCE ON FREEDOM STRUGGLE IN TELUGU REGION

- When Gandhiji was ejected from a whites-only carriage at Pietermaritzburg station on June 7, 1893, it marked a turning point, leading him to become a prominent leader.
- He founded the Natal Indian Congress on August 22, 1894, and experimented with 'Satyagraha' in South Africa.
- The Bombay-Madras railway line (1871) and the Calcutta-Madras line (1899) facilitated the spread of nationalist ideas by leaders like Tilak, Gokhale, Sri Aurobindo, and Bipin Chandra Pal.
- The Nizam of Deccan ceded parts of Andhra Pradesh to the British, creating distinct cultural regions in British Andhra and Telangana.
- In 1902, *Koda Venkatappayya* launched 'Krishna Patrika,' and Kasinathuni Nageswara Rao started 'Andhra Patrika' in 1908.
- Andhra Jatiya Kalasala (National College) was founded in 1910. Gandhiji returned to India in January 1915 and visited the Telugu region multiple times, beginning with his influence marked by the 1920 Telugu translation of his book 'Hind Swaraj.'
- In 1921, Gandhiji inaugurated the Pinakini Ashram in Nellore, the **second Gandhian ashram** in India.
- **Pingali Venkayya**, working on a national flag design, consulted Gandhiji, who later recorded his observations in 'Young India' on April 13, 1921.

Chirala-Perala Movement

- Duggirala Gopala Krishnaiah, who earned a postgraduate degree in Economics from the University of Edinburgh, played a key role in organizing the 1921 Indian National Congress session in Bezawada with his well-organized 'Ramadandu.'
- The Madras presidency government planned to merge the villages of Chirala and Perala in Guntur district into a municipality, increasing tax revenue from Rs 4,000 to Rs 40,000 annually.
- With Gandhiji's advice, Gopala Krishnaiah urged Chirala residents to relocate to a new settlement, 'Ramnagar,' and 13,582 out of 15,326 residents complied on April 25, 1921.
- He established an assembly and a court of arbitration there. However, the movement ended in February 1922 with Gopala Krishnaiah's arrest and imprisonment, leading to great despair.

Pullari Satyagraha of Palnadu

- During the 1920-21 famine, the British imposed the 'Pullari' tax on farmers for using forest produce and grazing cattle.
- This led to frequent clashes between peasants and the police as officials confiscated the farmers' cattle.
- In response to Gandhiji's call for the non-cooperation movement, **Kanneganti Hanumanthu organized the Pullari Satyagraha**, leading the people of Palnadu in a social boycott of revenue and forest officials.
- In July 1921, a significant hartal was led by *Duggirala Gopala Krishnaiah* after the district collector sentenced Unnava Lakshminarayana and Vedantham Lakshminarasimhachar to one year in prison.
- Hanumanthu was ultimately betrayed by a village Karanam (revenue official), and the police besieged his village and shot him.

Pedanandipadu No-Tax Movement

- In response to the Indian National Congress's 1921 session in Ahmedabad, the Andhra Congress Committee initiated a no-tax movement in 18 villages of Pedanandipadu in Guntur district.
- After the Chauri Chaura incident, Mahatma Gandhi halted the national non-cooperation movement on 12 February 1922 but later established the Gautami Satyagraha Ashram near Rajahmundry in 1925 to train satyagrahis.

- This ashram later focused on women's upliftment after Kasturba Gandhi's death in 1944.

Other Important Figures

- Dr. **Bhogaraju Pattabhi Seetharamayya** documented the history of the Congress from 1885 to 1935.
- In 1938, the Nizam of Telangana banned Gandhiji's visits and several publications.
- **Potti Sreeramulu's** 58-day Gandhian Satyagraha in 1952 led to his death and the eventual reorganization of states on linguistic lines, forming Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu on 1 November 1956.

CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN LANGUAGES TO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

- The Indian Independence Movement was deeply intertwined with cultural expressions, including language, literature, poems, songs, and plays, which played a crucial role in uniting the diverse communities of India.
- Despite India's division into various kingdoms and communities, literature, particularly poetry and songs, helped ignite nationalistic fervour among the masses.
- The British, surprised by the cultural depth of India, tried to suppress this by banning books, journals, and magazines with nationalistic content.
- However, writers used satire, twilight language, and underground publications to continue their work.
- Street plays became a powerful medium, using mythology to portray British rulers as villains while casting Indian leaders as heroic figures.
- As cinema grew in popularity, these narratives transitioned to the visual medium, further spreading patriotic messages.
- Mahatma Gandhi's writings in Navjivan and Young India also significantly influenced public discourse and inspired youth.
- Overall, these cultural expressions not only fueled the independence movement but also led to a social revolution that enhanced social justice across classes.

Baba Kanshi Ram

He preached the message of Mahatma Gandhi to the Nation and composed songs and poems in 'Pahari' language to inspire youth to join the freedom struggle

Subramania Bharati

Popularly known as ***Mahakavi Bharathiyar***, his fiery songs kindled patriotism during the Indian Independence movement.

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay

Known as the Emperor of Literature, he penned down India's national song, Vande Mataram. His writings still reverberate in the hearts of every Indian.

INDIA'S COMMITMENT TOWARDS TB-MUKT BHARAT

India carries one of the largest global burden of the disease. The central and state governments are committed to eradicating it by 2025, five years ahead of the global target under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030. TB is part of SDG Target 3.3.

Global Burden of TB

- Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (M.tb), with about one-fourth of the global population infected.
- Last year, TB was the second leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, following COVID-19.
- The disease is heavily influenced by factors like undernutrition, diabetes, HIV, alcohol use disorders, and smoking.

- India has the highest share of global TB cases at 27%, followed by Indonesia (10%), China (7.1%), the Philippines (7%), Pakistan (5.7%), Nigeria (4.5%), Bangladesh (3.6%), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3%).

WHO Commends India's Strides

- The WHO has praised India for its significant progress in reducing tuberculosis (TB) incidence by 16% and TB-related mortality by 18% from 2015 to 2022.
- India's intensified case detection efforts resulted in over 24.22 lakh TB cases being notified in 2022, surpassing pre-COVID levels.
- The WHO report highlights that India's decline in TB incidence is nearly twice the global rate.
- Additionally, WHO revised India's TB mortality rates downward from 4.94 lakhs in 2021 to 3.31 lakhs in 2022.

Key Initiatives to Make India TB-Mukt

- PM Modi announced in 2018 that India will drive out TB from the country by 2025, five years ahead of the global target.
- With the goal of achieving SDGs related to TB by 2025, the govt is implementing the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) with the following objectives:
 - Early diagnosis of TB patients, prompt treatment with quality-assured drugs and treatment regimens;
 - Engaging with the patients seeking care in the private sector;
 - Prevention strategies include contact tracing in high-risk/vulnerable populations;
 - Airborne infection control;
 - Multi-sectoral response for addressing social determinants.
- **Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan**
 - The *Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan*, launched in September 2022, aims to meet the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of TB elimination by 2025.
 - This initiative has mobilized people from diverse backgrounds into a "Jan Andolan" (people's movement) and leveraged Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities to accelerate progress.
 - A key feature is the ***Ni-kshay Mitras program***, where volunteers support TB patients in their recovery, aiming to reduce stigma and provide vocational support.
 - By April 2024, over 1.55 lakh Ni-kshay Mitras have registered, with over 8.66 lakh of the 13.45 lakh TB patients consenting to receive community support.
- **Active Case Finding Campaign**
 - As part of the WHO's 'End TB Strategy,' systematic screening of high-risk populations is recommended to boost TB case detection and ensure timely treatment.
 - In response, India launched a national community-based active case finding campaign under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
 - This program conducts proactive house-to-house searches for TB cases among vulnerable populations.
 - Since its inception, this initiative has led to the diagnosis of nearly 3 lakh additional TB cases.
- **TB Screenings during Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**
 - The Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra, launched in November 2023, included health camps nationwide.
 - During these camps, over 38 million individuals were screened for TB, resulting in more than 1 million referrals for TB testing.
 - Additionally, over 100,000 individuals at the village level expressed interest in becoming Ni-kshay Mitras, supporting TB patients in their recovery journey.

- **TB Mukht Panchayat Abhiyan**

- The TB Mukht Panchayats initiative aims to empower Panchayats to address tuberculosis issues, fostering healthy competition and recognizing their contributions.
- This effort has secured over 5 million TB preventive treatment courses and motivated villagers to undergo TB screening at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs.

- **A Marked Jump Witnessed in Private Sector Notification**

- Through focused interventions such as the Patient Provider Support Agency (PPSA), mandatory TB case notification, and collaborations with professional bodies, private sector TB case notifications have increased more than eightfold over the past nine years.

- **Increase in TB Treatment Success Rate**

- Over the last nine years, despite one-third of notifications coming from the private sector, the programme was able to sustain a treatment success rate of above 80%.

- **Introduction of Newer Anti-TB Drugs has Made a Significant Impact**

- Shorter, safer oral Bedaquiline-containing DR- TB regimens have been rolled out across all states and UTs.
- These drugs are given to multi-drug-resistant TB patients with or without resistance to fluoroquinolones as a part of shorter oral MDR/ RR (multidrug-resistant/(rifampicin-resistant) - TB regimen or longer oral M (multidrug-resistant)/XDR (Extensively drug-resistant)-TB regimen as per the indication.

- **Nutritional Support through Nikshay Poshan Yojana**

- According to the 2017 WHO report, people with active TB who suffer from undernutrition face a two- to four-fold increase in mortality and a five-fold risk of drug-induced hepatotoxicity.
- In response to this correlation, the Indian government introduced the **Nikshay Poshan Yojana (NPY)** in April 2018, providing a direct benefit transfer of Rs. 500 per month to support the nutrition of TB patients throughout their treatment.

- **Infrastructure Scale-Up**

- Diagnostic infrastructure has played a vital role in active TB case detection. The number of drug-resistant TB treatment centres has increased from 127 in 2014 to 792 in 2022.

High Level Focus during G20 India Presidency

- Under the G20 India Presidency in 2023, the Union Health Ministry actively addressed global health concerns, focusing on the "One Health" approach and Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) during the Health Working Groups and the Ministerial meeting in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in November 2023.
- These efforts strongly supported both India's and the global fight against TB.

Conclusion

- It is encouraging to note that with continuous efforts of the governments, support agencies and the communities, the number of missing TB cases in India has reduced from 1 million in 2015 to 0.26 million in 2023.
- India's efforts are important, as the PM mentioned, this is a "new model for the global war on TB".

INDIA'S STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA

- As of April 2024, India is the fifth largest economy in the world, with a GDP of \$3.9 trillion (nominal),
 - It is right behind the economies of developed nations like the US, Germany, and Japan.

- India has been intensifying its Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), with both sides working to implement the **ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025)** and develop a new plan for 2026-2030.

India as a Preferred Strategic Partner

- India is often regarded as a preferred strategic partner compared to other accomplished counterparts in the region, such as China.
- This preference is highlighted even more in the South China Sea (SCS) dispute.
- Up until recently, India had maintained a cautious and balanced approach in line with its non-interference ideals.
- However, due to China's aggressive pursuits in the SCS disputes, India has shifted from its previously neutral stance to one that expresses support for and alignment with the freedom of navigation and peaceful resolution of disputes as per international law.

India's Strategic Interests in the SCS

- The SCS holds significant strategic importance for India due to its economic, security, and geopolitical interests.
- Economically, the SCS is a vital maritime trade route. For India, the **Malacca Strait**, which connects the Indian Ocean to the SCS, is particularly crucial as it is a major artery for Indian trade with East Asia.
- Ensuring the freedom of navigation and overflight in the SCS is thus essential for India's economic prosperity and energy security.
- **India's Act East Policy**, aimed at enhancing economic and strategic ties with East Asian countries, further underscores the strategic importance of the SCS.
- India's deepening defence and economic ties with these countries pave the way for further enhancing India's strategic presence in the region.

Balancing Act: India's Approach to the South China Sea Dispute

- India's Ministry of External Affairs emphasizes non-alignment and strategic autonomy in its foreign policy, aiming to remain independent and flexible without joining power blocs.
- In the South China Sea (SCS) disputes, India maintains a cautious stance, upholding international law while avoiding direct confrontation with China.
- Simultaneously, India pursues a pragmatic approach by strengthening strategic partnerships with regional countries like Vietnam and the Philippines to counterbalance China's influence.
- India also advocates for a rules-based international order, supporting the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to ensure stability and security in the SCS region.

Conclusion

- India's strategic interest in the South China Sea (SCS) is driven by economic, security, and geopolitical factors.
- The region's importance as a major maritime trade route and India's growing economic ties with ASEAN and East Asia highlight its strategic significance.
- Through its Act East Policy, India aims to enhance economic integration and security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.
- While India seeks to avoid confrontation with China, its presence in the SCS reflects a commitment to upholding international maritime law and freedom of navigation.
- Recent agreements, such as the oil and gas exploration deal with Vietnam, emphasize India's dedication to securing maritime interests and supporting a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

- India's future engagement will focus on inclusivity, peaceful dispute resolution, and promoting regional security and economic prosperity.

UNION BUDGET 2024-25 AT A GLANCE

- The budget for "Viksit Bharat" focuses on nine key priorities to create opportunities in employment, skilling, and support for MSMEs and the middle class.
- These priorities include enhancing productivity in agriculture, inclusive human resource development, and strengthening infrastructure and innovation. Key initiatives include:
 - Employment and Skilling:** New schemes offer wage support for new workers, job creation in manufacturing, and employer support.
 - Infrastructure:** Over 11 lakh crore rupees allocated for capital expenditure, with additional funds for women and girls.
 - Mudra Loans:** Increased to 20 lakh rupees for successful borrowers.
 - E-Commerce and Internships:** An export hub in PPP mode and internships for one crore youth in top companies.
 - Housing:** Rental dormitory-type accommodations and PM Awas Yojana 2.0 for one crore families.
 - Critical Minerals and Transit Development:** Mission for mineral production and development plans for large cities.
 - Roads and Economic Security:** Fourth phase of Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana and NPS (Vatsalya) for minors.
 - Customs Duties and Taxes:** Reduced duties on gold, silver, and platinum; increased capital gains exemption; and angel tax abolition.
 - Personal Income Tax:** Increased standard deduction and revised tax slab rates under the New Tax Regime.
 - These measures aim to boost economic growth, support vulnerable groups, and simplify tax processes.

Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice

- Rs 3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls
- More than 100 branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the North Eastern Region
- Completion of Polavaram Irrigation Project to ensure food security of the nation
- Funds to be provided for essential infrastructure development In Kopparthy node on Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor & Orvakal node on Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor

Budget Priorities - Path of strong development and all-round prosperity

- Productivity and resilience in Agriculture
- Manufacturing & Services
- Infrastructure
- Employment & Skilling
- Urban Development
- Innovation, Research & Development
- Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
- Energy Security

- Next Generation Reforms

Next-Gen Reforms

- Technology to speed up digitalization of economy
- Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 to improve Ease of Doing Business
- States to be incentivized to implement Business Reforms Action Plans and digitalization
- Sectoral databases for improving data governance and management
- Committee to review New Pension Scheme to evolve solution which addresses relevant issues while maintaining fiscal prudence