



Famous Personalities of the Freedom Movement

Dadabhai Naoroji

- He was the first Indian to be elected to the House of Commons (lower house of British Parliament).
- He was the first Indian to demand *swaraj* (home rule). He was known as the 'Grand Old Man of India'.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- He founded (1914) and served as president of the Indian home rule league.
- He gave the slogan 'Swarajya is my birthright and I shall have it!' He was known as 'Lokmanya Tilak'.

Lala Lajpat Rai

- He launched the Swadeshi Movement.
- He was known as 'Punjab Kesari' and 'Lion of Punjab'.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale

- He founded the Servants of India Society. Gandhiji considered him his political guru.

Bhagat Singh

- He was known as 'Shaheed Bhagat Singh', 'Prince of Martyrs' and 'Shahid-e-azam'. He gave the slogan 'Inquilab Zindabad'.
- On April 8, 1929, is accompanied by Batukeshwar Dutt, threw bomb into the central assembly chamber.

- Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were hanged on 23 March 1931.

Rani Lakshmi Bai

- Her childhood name was Manikarnika and nicknamed was Manu.
- Rani Lakshmi Bai, the Rani of Jhansi was the queen of the Maratha-ruled princely state of Jhansi, situated in the Northern part of India.
- Rani Lakshmi Bai was one of the leading warriors of the India's first struggle for independence.
- On the unfortunate day of 17 June, 1858, this great warrior martyred her life for India's freedom.

Mangal Pandey

- He was a sepoy (sipahi) in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry (BNI) regiment of the British East India Company.
- He is an Indian soldier, whose attack on British officers on March 29, 1857 was the first major incident of what came to be known as the Indian or Sepoy, Mutiny.
- A commemorative postage stamp with his image on it was issued by the Indian Government in 1984.
- He was hanged on 8 April, 1857.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

- He followed the practice of ahimsa (non-violence) to get his demands met.
- He was the leading figure responsible for India's independence. He also fought against social evils in society like untouchability.
- Slogans given by him include 'Quit India', 'Do or die', 'Hate sin, not the sinner' and 'Truth and non-violence are my God'.
- He was known as 'Bapu', 'Mahatma' 'Gandhiji' and 'Father of the Nation'.

Subhas Chandra Bose

- He started the Indian National Army (INA) to fight for independence from the British. He was known as 'Netaji'.
- Slogans given by him include 'Dilli Chalo', 'Jai Hind' and 'Give me blood and I shall give you freedom'.

Jawahar Lal Nehru

- He was the first Prime Minister of independent India. He was known as 'Chacha Nehru'.
- Slogans given by him include 'Aaram haram hai', 'Purna Sawarajya' and 'Who lives if India dies'.

Bhimrao Ambedkar

- He is popularly known as baba saheb. He was independent India's first law minister.
- He is known as the father of Indian Constitution.

Sarojini Naidu

- She was the first woman to participate in India's freedom struggle.
- She was known as the 'Nightingale of India'.

Annie Besant

- She started the Home Rule Movement in India.
- She also founded the Theosophical Society in India with its headquarters at Adyar (Madras).

Raja Ram Mohan Roy

- He was the founder of the Brahma samaj.
- He abolished the practice of sati.
- He was known as the father of Indian renaissance.

Dayananda Saraswati

- He encouraged female education.
- He condemned customs which were degrading the value of women. He founded the Arya Samaj.

Madan Mohan Malaviya

He founded the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) at Varanasi. He was known as 'Mahamana'.

Rabindranath Tagore

- He was a Bengali poet. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for his poem *Gitanjali*.
- He composed the National Anthem of India.
- He founded his school at Shantiniketan near Bolpur, West Bengal in 1901. He was known as 'Gurudev'.

Syed Ahmed Khan

- He established the MAO (Mohammadan Anglo Oriental College) College which later on became the Aligarh Muslim University.
- He opposed ignorance, superstitions and evil customs prevalent in Indian Muslim society.



Practice Exercise

1. The first Indian to be elected to the house of commons was
(a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(b) Lala Lajpat Rai
(c) Mk Gandhi
(d) Dadabhai Naoroji
2. Dadabhai Naoroji was known as of India.
(a) Grand old man
(b) Bapu
(c) Chacha
(d) Lokmanya Tilak
3. Gopal Krishna Gokhale founded the society
(a) Servants of Indian Society
(b) Lokhitawadi
(c) Theosophical
(d) Arya Samaj

