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# History

**IMPORTANT  
PERSONALITIES  
IN FREEDOM  
MOVEMENT**



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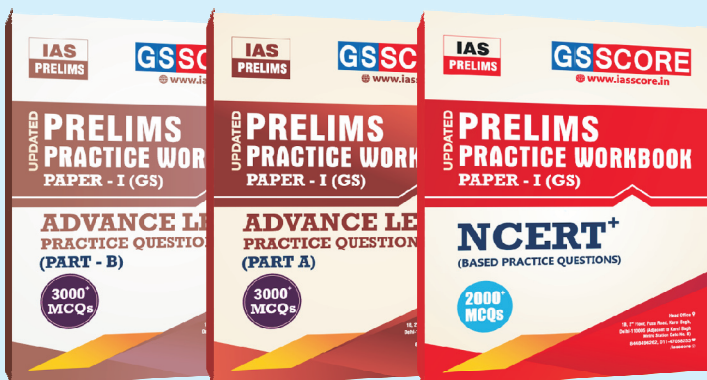
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# IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES IN FREEDOM MOVEMENT

## 1. Raja Rammohan Roy

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy is considered as the pioneer of modern Indian Renaissance for the remarkable reforms he brought in the 18th and 19th century India.
- He founded the Atmiya Sabha and in 1828, it reformed in Brahmo Sabha. This was later transformed in the Brahmo Samaj, uniting the Bhramos in Calcutta, a group of people, who had no faith in idol-worship and were against the caste restrictions.
- Bengal Sati Regulation or Regulation XVII, A. D. 1829 of the Bengal Code was passed during Lord Bentinck governorship in Bengal Province.
- The title 'Raja' was bestowed upon him by the Mughal emperor Akbar II, in 1831.
- Publications: Tuhfat-ul-Muwahhidinor A Gift to Monotheists (1905), Vedanta (1815), Ishopanishad (1816), Kathopanishad (1817), Moonduk Upanishad (1819), The Precepts of Jesus - Guide to Peace and Happiness (1820), Sambad Kaumudi - a Bengali newspaper (1821), Mirat-ul-Akbar - Persian journal (1822), Gaudiya Vyakaran (1826), Brahmapasona (1828), Brahmasangeet (1829) and The Universal Religion (1829).

## 2. Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay

- He was probably the first systematic expounder in India of the idea of nationalism. His unique contribution lay in conceptualising nationalism in indigenous terms.
- Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, one of the first graduates of the Calcutta University set up by the British.
- His novel Anushilan-Tattva inspired Pramathanath Mitra to start Anushilan Samiti.
- Work: His famous novels include Kapalkundala (1866), Mrinalini (1869), Vishbriksha (1873), Chandrasekhar (1877), Rajani (1877), Rajsimha (1881), and Devi Chaudhurani (1884). Bankim Chandra Chatterjee most famous novel was Anand Math (1882). Anand Math contained the song "Bande Mataram", which was later adopted as National Song.

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## 3. Pandita Ramabai

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- Pandita Ramabai (1858-1922) was one of the greatest women of modern India.
- Ramabai, an outspoken champion of women's rights and social reform, earned the unique distinction of being the sole woman representative in the male-dominated world of - gender reforms.
- She impressed the religious elite of the city with her mastery over Sanskrit language and texts and received the title of 'Pandita' (Scholar) and 'Saraswati' (Goddess of Learning).
- She set up the Arya Mahila Samaj in 1882 in Poona to mobilise women.
- She brought out a book in Marathi, Stree Dharma Niti [Morals for Women] with the objective of counselling the helpless and ignorant women.
- The British government presented her with the Kaiser-i-Hind medal in 1919.

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## 4. E. V. RAMASWAMY NAICKER

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- E.V. Ramaswamy Naicker, popularly known as Periyar (Great Sage).
- He castigated Hinduism as an opiate by which the Brahmins had dulled and subdued the masses.
- Naicker was active in the Congress-led Freedom Struggle for sometime. He participated in the non-cooperation movement, offered satyagraha and defended khadi.
- Naicker's growing dissatisfaction with Gandhi and the Congress, which he began to express from 1925 onwards in the journal Kudi Arasu, led him and his followers to found the Self Respect Association in 1926.
- In 1925, he organised the "Self Respect Movement", designed as Dravidian Uplift.
- He was a radical social reformer. His determined campaign against Hindu orthodoxy accompanied by rationalism and social reform, transformed the social landscape of Tamil Nadu.
- In 1938, Naicker was elected President of the Justice Party. The Party resolved that Tamilnadu should be made a separate state, loyal to the British Raj and "directly under the Secretary of State for India."
- In 1939, Naicker organised the "Dravida Nadu Conference" for the advocacy of a separate and independent Dravidasthan.
- In 1944, the justice Party was reorganised as Dravida Kazhagam(DK).
- Publications: "Kudi Arasu" (1925), "Revolt" in 1928, "Family Planning" (1930), 'Puratchi' (Revolution) (1933), Tamil weekly 'Pagutharivu' (Rationalism) in 1934, 'Ponmozhigal' (Golden sayings) (1950).

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## 5. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

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- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, proved to be the best defender of human rights.
- He pleaded for such social reforms as widow remarriage, education to all, and help to the needy and deserving.
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar worked for the cause of women by promoting the education of girls. He also supported widow remarriage.

- Due to his constant opposition Lord Dalhousie personally finalised the bill and the Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act, 1856 was passed.
- He rejected the line of the Bhakti movement espoused by one of his contemporaries, Ram Krishna Paramhans.
- He is considered the "Father of Bengali prose".
- Publications: Betaal Panchabinsati (1847); Jeebancharit (1850); Bodhadoy (1851); BornoPorichoy (1854); Sitar Bonobash (1860).
- He was associated with prestigious journalistic publications like 'Tattwabodhini Patrika', 'Somprakash', 'Sarbashubhankari Patrika' and 'Hindu Patriot'.

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## 6. Balshastri Jambhekar

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- Jambhekar was the pioneer of the intellectual movement in Maharashtra. He laid its foundations through his numerous writings, in the early 1830s.
- A Marathi-English fortnightly Darpan was published in 1832 from Maharashtra by Bal Shastri Jambhekar. The objective of the newspaper was to inform people about the happening on social, political and cultural areas and suggesting ways for the progress of the society.
- After eight years, the weekly was named United Service Gazette Journal. It ceased publication two years after the death of Jambhekar in 1846.
- In 1840, Jambhekar started publishing the first Marathi monthly, Digdarshan, and edited it for five years.
- Jambhekar, considered the Father of Marathi Journalism,<sup>1</sup> trained many journalists who went on to scale great heights in the field in Marathi.
- Bal Shastri Jambhekar after successfully publishing Mumbai Darpan encouraged his friend Vittal Kunte alias Bhau Mahajan to publish a weekly in Marathi called Prabhakar in 1841

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## 7. Jyotiba or Jyotirao Phule

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- Jyotirao Govindrao Phule worked for the oppressed castes in Maharashtra by organising the Sathyashodhak Samaj.
- In 1848 Phule began his work as a social reformer interested in education of low caste boys and girls.
- He opened two more schools for girls in 1851. He was honoured by the Board of Education for the work he did for girls' education in 1852. Phule established a school for untouchables and a night school in 1852.
- He organised Satya Shodhak Samaj in 1873 to organise the lower castes against the Hindu social order based on varna and caste system.
- One of his colleagues started the first newspaper of the Movement, Din Bandhu, in 1877.
- The government appointed him a member of the Poona Municipality in 1876.
- Title of 'Mahatma' was conferred on him by the people in Bombay in 1888.
- Writings and Publication: Brahmanache Kasab(1869), Gulamgiri (1873), Sarvajanic Satyadharma Pustak (A book of True Religion For All) published in 1891.

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## 8. Acharya Vinoba Bhave

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- One of India's best-known social reformers and a widely venerated disciple of Mohandas K. (Mahatma) Gandhi.
- Founder of the Bhoodan Yajna ("Land-Gift Movement").
- Took part in programs of non-cooperation and especially the call for use of Swadeshi goods instead of foreign imports.
- In 1940, he was chosen as the first Individual Satyagrahi (an Individual standing up for Truth instead of a collective action) against British Raj by Gandhi in India.
- He was given the honorific title acharya ("teacher").
- He adopted the term Sarvodaya from Gandhi which simply means "Progress for All".
- The Sarvodaya movement under him implemented various programs during the 1950s, the chief among which is the Bhoodan (Land Gift) Movement in Pochampalli village of Telangana.
- In 1923, he brought out 'Maharashtra Dharma', a monthly in Marathi, which had his essays on the Upanishads.
- Established the Brahma Vidya Mandir in 1959, a small community for women, aiming at self-sufficiency on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings.
- Work: Swarajya Sastra, Geeta Pravachane, Teesri Shakti or The Third Power etc.

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## 9. Sir Syed Ahmed Khan

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- He emerged on the Indian scene as one of the great reformers, educationist and moderniser within the Muslim community.
- Syed Ahmed Khan started the Aligarh Movement and wanted to remove the bitter enmity between Muklms and the British Government.
- He also wanted a proper interpretation of Islam and modern education to Muslims. He prepared Muslims to meet the challenge before them and strove for Hindu-Muslim unity.
- Sir Syed devoted his entire life to bring about reconciliation between the British and the Muslims.
- He founded the Scientific Society in 1863 at Ghazipur, in Uttar Pradesh. The basic objective was to translate scientific literature, into Urdu.
- He founded Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental (MAO) College in 1875/ 1877. It was proposed that here, while modern education would be imparted to the Muslims, they would also have some training in the preservation of their cultural heritage.
- On the contrary he maintained that Hindu Muslim communities would have distinct political options separate from each other. This was the driving force which made him argue that the Indian National Congress was not in the best interest of the community of Muslims.
- Publications and writings: He produced an important work Asar-us Sanadeed, a monumental work on the monuments of Delhi. His writing also includes Tmikh-i-Sarkashiye Bijnor, with a narrative of the developments as regards the Revolt. However more important was his Asbab-i-Baghawat-i- Hind published in 1858. The Loyal Mohammedans of India in 1860. In 1866, Sir Syed started a journal on behalf of the Society called the Indian Institute Gazette. A magazine called Tahzib-ul Akhlaq was published in 1888 and 1889.



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## 10. Tilak

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- He is also known as 'Father of Indian Unrest.'
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak, commonly known as Lokamanya Tilak was a leader of the Indian independence movement and belonged to the extremist faction.
- Tilak joined the Congress in 1890. He was opposed to moderate ways and views and had a more radical and aggressive stance against British rule.
- He was one of the first advocates of Swaraj or self-rule. He gave the slogan, "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it."
- Along with Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai, he was called the 'Lal-Bal-Pal' trio of extremist leaders.
- With Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, he started the New English School at Pune in 1876 and started their career as school teachers.
- He published two papers – Kesari in Marathi and Mahratta in English.
- In 1885 they set up the Deccan Education Society in order to start a college which was later named after the then Governor of Bombay as the Ferguson College.
- He was one of the founders of the All India Home Rule League, along with Annie Besant and G S Khaparde.
- He used the Ganesh Chaturthi and Shiv Jayanti (birth anniversary of Shivaji) festivals to create unity and a national spirit among the people.
- Tilak started the Swadeshi movement in India and to promote it, Tilak with Jamshedji Tata established Bombay Swadeshi Stores.
- He spent 6 years in Mandalay prison from 1908 to 1914 for writing articles defending Prafulla Chaki and Khudiram Bose.
- Literary Work: "Orion : Studies in the Antiquity of Ved", "The Arctic Home of Veds" , "Giro-Rohasya". In 1881 he started two weeklies, 'Maratha' in English and 'Kesari' in Marathi.

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## 11. Lala Lajpat Rai

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- Popularly known as 'Punjab Kesari' or the 'Lion of Punjab', Lala Lajpat Rai was an outstanding leader, statesman, historian and educationist, distinguished editor, ardent social and religious reformer and powerful orator.
- He was instrumental in laying the foundation of the traditions of the constructive criticism of Government policies.
- Along with Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal, Lala Lajpat Rai formed the trinity of militant leaders.
- He was an active campaigner for Swadeshi and preached the message of self-reliance in India and abroad.
- He started the Servants of the People Society which did commendable work in diverse fields.
- He was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1920.
- Later, he was associated with the Swaraj Party.

- Lala Lajpat Rai died a martyr while leading a demonstration against the Simon Commission in Lahore.
- The superintendent of police, James A. Scott, ordered the police to lathi (baton) charge the protesters and personally assaulted Rai.
- Publications: The Story of My Deportation (1908), Arya Samaj (1915), The United States of America: A Hindu's impressions (1916), Young India (1916), England's Debt to India: India (1917).

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## 12. Bhagat Singh

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- Bhagat Singh represents the character of Indian Revolutionaries in the third decade of 20th century.
- His rejection of Gandhian philosophy of non-violence, his antipathy towards the reformist attitude of the Congress, his belief in Marxian Communism, his atheism, his belief in terrorism as a mode to uphold the dignity of a suppressed and humiliated people, his claim of revolution as a Birth right, were all ideas typical of the Indian youth in the twenties and the thirties.
- Initially, he supported Mahatma Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- However, when Gandhi withdrew the movement in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident, Bhagat Singh turned to revolutionary nationalism.
- He was particularly affected by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre (1919) and the violence against unarmed Akali protestors at Nankana Sahib (1921).
- In 1926, he founded the Naujawan Bharat Sabha. This organisation aimed to encourage revolution against British rule by rallying the peasants and workers.
- In 1928, he established the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) along with Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad and others.
- On 8th April 1929, Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt threw a bomb in the Central Assembly at Delhi, from the Visitors' Gallery.
- Bhagat Singh was arrested and charged in the Saunders murder case, along with Rajguru, Sukhdev and others. This trial commenced in July 1929.
- The trio was ordered to be hanged on 24 March 1931 but the sentence was carried out a day earlier at the Lahore Jail. After the hanging, their mortal remains were cremated in secret.
- 23rd March is observed as 'Martyrs' Day' or 'Shaheed Diwas' or 'Sarvodaya Day' in honour of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.
- Publications: Why I Am An Atheist: An Autobiographical Discourse, The Jail Notebook And Other Writings, Ideas of a Nation

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## 13. Ashfaqulla Khan

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- Ashfaqulla Khan (1900 – 1927) was a freedom fighter in the Indian independence movement. He was born in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- After the Chauri Chaura incident in 1922, Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the call for this movement.
- In the mid-1920s, Khan and Bismil went on to found the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA), with the aim of winning freedom for the country through an armed revolution.

- The immediate object of the revolutionary party in the domain of politics was to establish a federal Republic of the United State of India by an organized and armed revolution.
- In August 1925, an armed robbery took place on board the Kakori Express, going from Shahjahanpur to Lucknow, whose objective was to fund the activities of HSRA.
- The trial for robbery ended in April 1927, with Bismil, Khan, Rajendra Lahiri and Roshan Singh sentenced to death, and the others being given life sentences.
- He was put to death by hanging on 19 December 1927 at Faizabad jail.

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## 14. Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan

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- Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was born a Pashtoon in 1890 in the Northwest border city of Utmanzai, located in today's Pakistan.
- He was also known as Bacha Khan. For his adherence to pacifism and close association with Mahatma Gandhi, he earned the nickname "Frontier Gandhi",
- A new centre of Civil Disobedience emerged in the shape of the North West Frontier Province, where Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and his followers - the Khudai Khidmatgars commonly known as the "Red Shirts" (Surkh Posh), - began non-violent civil disobedience.
- Some one hundred thousand Muslims joined his "Khudai Khidmatgar" or "Servers of Allah" movement.
- On June 21, 1947, in Bannu, a loya jirga (grand assembly in the Pashtun language) was held consisting of Bacha Khan, the Khudai Khidmatgars, members of the Provincial Assembly.
- In this jirga, the Bannu Resolution was declared where it was stated that the Pashtun People be given a choice having an independent state of Psthunistan composing all Pashtun territories of British India.
- The British refused to even consider this request as it would seriously jeopardise the portion plan if areas were conceded based on ethnicity
- Bacha Khan formed Pakistan's first national opposition party on 8 May 1948 – The Pakistan Azad Party. The opposition would be constructive in nature and non-communal in its ideology.
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Gandhi is known by different names, such as Mahatma (a great soul), Bapuji (endearment for father in Gujarati) and Father of the Nation.
- Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa on 9th January 1915 which is marked as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD).
- In 1916, he organized the first satyagapha at Chmaparan, then Kheda satyagraha (1917) and Ahemdabad satyagraha in 1918.
- He launched Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22) and withdrew it after the Chauri-Chaura incident.
- He started the Salt March on 12 Mar 1930 and the Civil Disobedience Movement on 6 Apr 1930 by breaking the salt law.
- The Poona Pact was signed between Gandhi and Ambedkar in 1932. Gandhi launched the Quit India Movement in 1942.
- The International Day of Non-Violence is marked on 2 October, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The General Assembly, in a resolution adopted on 5 June 2007, established the commemoration, the International Day as an occasion to disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness.

- The theme of International Day of Peace, 2021 is “Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world”.
- He ran four publications — Indian Opinion, Young India, Navajivan, and Harijan; and wrote books Hind Swaraj, My Experiments with Truth (Autobiography).

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## 15. Jawaharlal Nehru

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- Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was born in Allahabad on November 14, 1889.
- In 1912, he attended the Bankipore Congress as a delegate, and became Secretary of the Home Rule League, Allahabad in 1919.
- He organised the first Kisan March in Pratapgarh District of Uttar Pradesh in 1920. He was twice imprisoned in connection with the Non-Cooperation Movement of 1920-22.
- Pt. Nehru became the General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee in September 1923.
- On August 29, 1928 he attended the All-Party Congress and was one of the signatories to the Nehru Report on Indian Constitutional Reform, named after his father Shri Motilal Nehru.
- The same year, he also founded the ‘Independence for India League’, which advocated complete severance of the British connection with India, and became its General Secretary.
- In 1929, Pt. Nehru was elected President of the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress, where complete independence for the country was adopted as the goal.
- He was imprisoned several times during 1930-35 in connection with the Salt Satyagraha and other movements launched by the Congress.
- He completed his ‘Autobiography’ in Almora Jail on February 14, 1935.
- On August 7, 1942 Pt. Nehru moved the historic ‘Quit India’ resolution at the A.I.C.C. session in Bombay.
- On August 8, 1942 he was arrested along with other leaders and taken to Ahmednagar Fort. This was his longest and also his last detention.
- He was elected President of the Congress for the fourth time on July 6, 1946 and again for three more terms from 1951 to 1954.

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## 16. Subhash Chandra Bose

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- Subhas Chandra Bose, affectionately called as Netaji, was one of the most prominent leaders of Indian freedom struggle.
- He founded Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj) to overthrow British Empire from India and came to acquire legendary status among Indian masses.
- In 1919 to compete for Indian Civil Services, in England he appeared for the Indian Civil Service competitive examination in 1920, and came out fourth in order of merit. However, Subhas Chandra Bose was deeply disturbed by the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre, and left his Civil Services apprenticeship midway to return to India in 1921.
- On Gandhiji’s instructions, he started working under Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, whom he later acknowledged his political guru.

- In 1928 the Motilal Nehru Committee appointed by the Congress declared in favour of Domination Status, but Subhas Chandra Bose along with Jawaharlal Nehru opposed it, and both asserted that they would be satisfied with nothing short of complete independence for India.
- Subhas also announced the formation of the Independence League.
- Subhas Chandra Bose was jailed during Civil Disobedience movement in 1930. He was released in 1931 after Gandhi-Irwin pact was signed.
- He protested against the Gandhi-Irwin pact and opposed the suspension of Civil Disobedience movement specially when Bhagat Singh and his associates were hanged.
- He was elected President of the Haripura Congress Session in 1938.
- Subhas Chandra Bose was re-elected in 1939, defeating Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya who had been backed by Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress Working Committee.
- In January 1941, Subhas Chandra Bose disappeared from his home in Calcutta and reached Germany via Afghanistan.
- In January 1942, he began his regular broadcasts from Radio Berlin, which aroused tremendous enthusiasm in India. In July 1943, he arrived in Singapore from Germany.
- Subhas Chandra Bose was reportedly killed in an air crash over Taipeh, Taiwan (Formosa) on August 18, 1945.

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## 17. B. R Ambedkar

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- Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, a fighter in the cause of Annihilation of Caste, was born in a low-caste Mahar family on 14th April, 1891.
- His life was one of struggles, as his radical proposals to deal with the Caste System met with overt hostility from the Upper Castes.
- He contemplated the idea of reservations for Dalits and other religious outcasts.
- In 1932, the Poona Pact was signed between Dr. Ambedkar and Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, representative of the Hindu Brahmins relinquishing reservation of seats for the untouchable classes in the Provisional legislatures, within the general electorate. These classes were later designated as Scheduled Classes and Scheduled Tribes.
- In 1936, Ambedkar founded the Independent Labor Party. In the 1937 elections to the Central Legislative Assembly, his party won 15 seats.
- After his return from Sri Lanka he decided to convert to Buddhism.
- He was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honor, in 1990.
- Publications: Essays on Untouchables and Untouchability, The Annihilation of Caste, Waiting for a Visa, launched a newspaper called "Mooknayaka" (leader of the silent) in 1920, "The Buddha and His Dhamma", "The Buddha or Karl Marx".

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## 18. Sarojini Naidu

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- Sarojini Naidu was born in Hyderabad on 13 February, 1879.
- She became a part of the Indian nationalist movement and became a follower of Mahatma Gandhi and his idea of swaraj.

- She was arrested, along with other Congress leaders including Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Madan Mohan Malaviya for participating in 1930 Salt March.
- Sarojini was one of the major figures to have led the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Quit India Movement.
- She faced repeated arrestings by the British authorities during the time and even spent over 21 months (1year 9months) in jail.
- She was appointed the President of the Indian National Congress in 1925 and later became the Governor of the United Provinces in 1947, becoming the first woman to hold the office of Governor in the Dominion of India.
- Writings: Her work as a poet earned her the sobriquet 'the Nightingale of India', or 'Bharat Kokila' by Mahatma Gandhi because of color, imagery and lyrical quality of her poetry. Published in 1912, 'In the Bazaars of Hyderabad' remains one of her most popular poems.

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## 19. Bipin Chandra Pal

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- Bipin Chandra Pal also known as the 'Father of Revolutionary Thoughts in India' was born in Poil, a village in Habiganj District, present-day Bangladesh.
- Pal was also inspired by the ideas of Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Aurobindo Ghosh.
- In 1898, he went to England to study comparative theology. He returned to India in one year and plunged into the freedom struggle.
- He started popularising the idea of 'swaraj' to Indians.
- He joined the Congress Party in 1886. He also participated in the Swadeshi movement and the non-cooperation movement. He agitated against the partition of Bengal of 1905.
- Writings: Some of the books he authored are 'Indian Nationalism', 'Swaraj and the Present Situation', 'Nationality and Empire', 'The Basis of Social Reform', 'The New Spirit and Studies in Hinduism', and 'The Soul of India'. He edited the journals 'The Democrat' and 'The Independent'. He also started many newspapers and magazines such as 'Paridarsak', 'Bande Mataram', 'New India' and 'Swaraj'.

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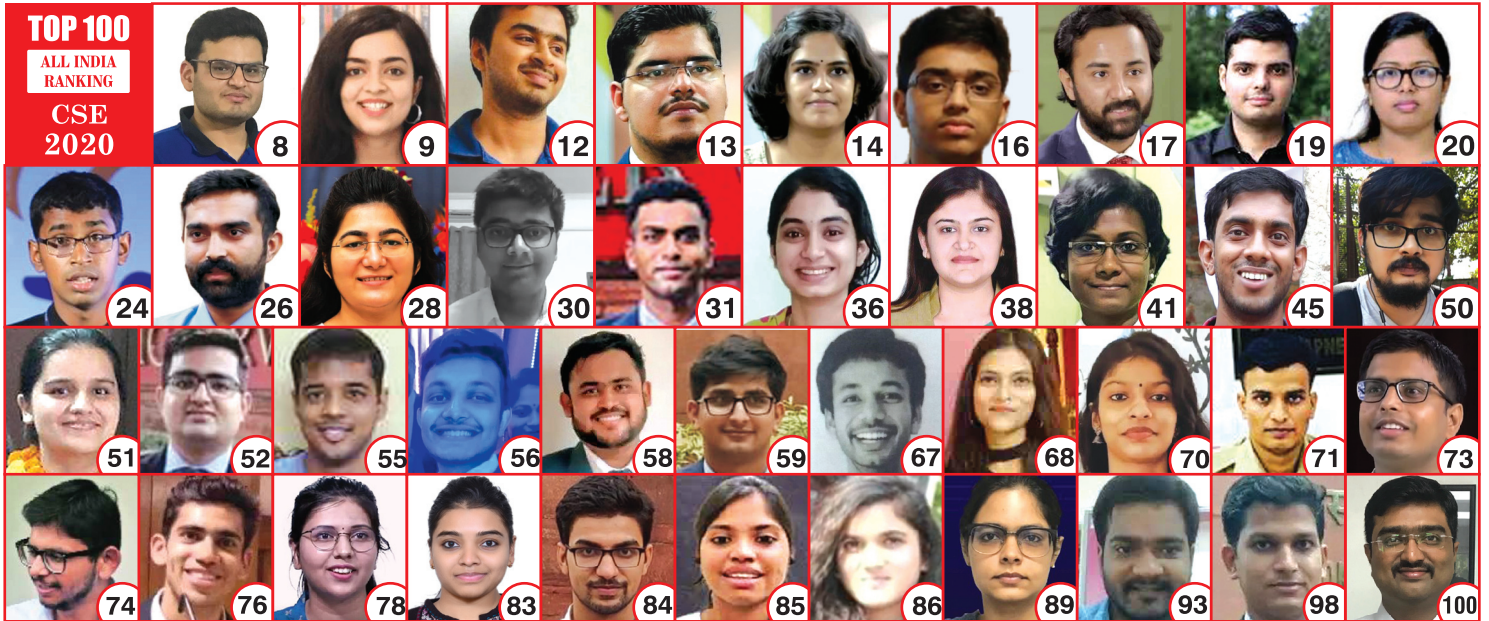
## 20.C. Rajagopalachari

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- Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, popularly known as Rajaji, was born on December 10th in 1878.
- He studied law from the Presidency College in Madras (now Chennai), and began practice in Salem in the year 1900.
- In 1916, he formed the Tamil Scientific Terms Society, an organisation that translated scientific terms of chemistry, physics, mathematics, astronomy and biology into simple Tamil words.
- He became the chairperson of the municipality of Salem in 1917 and served there for two years.
- In 1955, he was honoured with India's highest civilian award Bharat Ratna.
- He joined the Indian National Congress and acted as a legal advisor.
- He defended Indian Independence activist, P. Varadarajulu Naidu against charges of sedition in 1917.
- He was elected as the first premier of the Madras Presidency in 1937.

- In 1939, Rajagopalachari took a step to abolish untouchability and caste prejudice and issued the Madras Temple Entry Authorisation and Indemnity Act.
- After the Madras Temple Entry Authorisation Dalits were allowed to enter inside temples.
- At the time of Partition, he was appointed as the Governor of West Bengal.
- In 1947, during the absence of Lord Mountbatten, the last British viceroy and independent India's first Governor General, Rajagopalachari was temporarily chosen to hold the office. Therefore he was the last governor general of India.
- He was also involved in the Vaikom Satyagraha movement against untouchability.
- During the Quit India Movement, Rajagopalachari opposed Gandhi.

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