

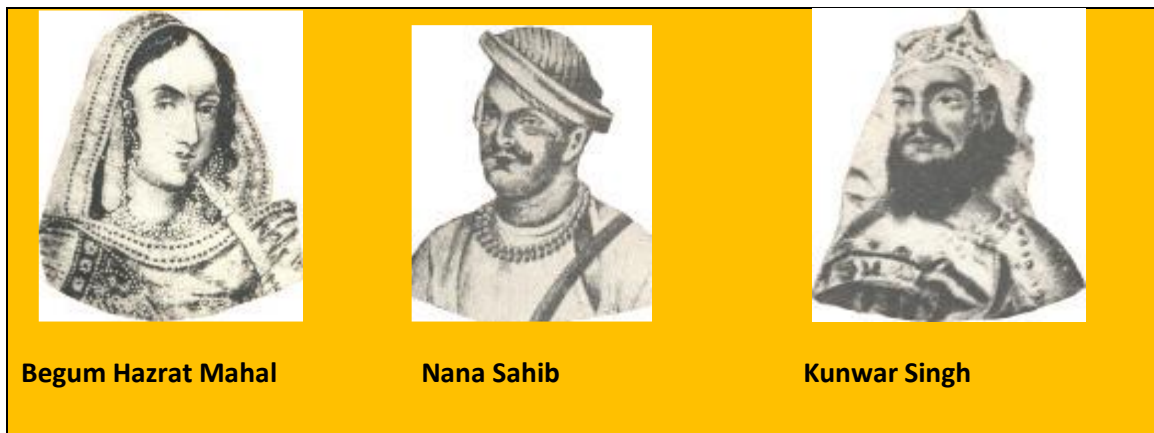
AREA OF META DATA	CONTENT
THEME	REBELLION AFTER 1857
SUBJECT	History
LINKAGE OF THEME WITH CHAPTERS(NAME)	When People Rebel 1857 and After
CLASS/LEVEL	Class VIII
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be informed of various protests/revolts that took place after 1857 • To appreciate the struggle and contribution of individuals /groups/communities who fought against the struggle.
DESCRIPTION	<p>The Great Uprising of 1857 united people belonging to different sections of society for a common cause. It began as a revolt of the sepoys of the Company's army but eventually secured the participation of the masses. Dispossessed rulers of Indian states, the nobles and the zamindars who had been deprived of their lands, the Indian soldiers of Britain's army in India, and the vast masses of peasants, artisans and others who had been ruined by British economic policies fought against the British. Though the rebels fought back heroically but could not hold out for long as they could not evolve a unified command. By the middle of 1858, most of the major centres of revolt had been recaptured by the British troops. Even after the Great Uprising of 1857 had been crushed, popular discontent against British rule manifested itself in armed revolts by peasants, tribal people, certain religious sects and, in some cases, sections of old ruling families throughout the remaining years of the 19th century. There were also other individuals who led localised revolts such as Vasudeo Balwant Phadke in Maharashtra, Bir Tikendrajit in Manipur and Birsa Munda in Chhotanagpur.</p>

KEY WORDS	Great Uprising of 1857 , <i>Kuka</i> movement , indigo revolt, Guru Ram Singh , Ramoshi, Vasudeo Balwant Phadk, Bir Tikendrajit, Birsa Munda, Anglo-Manipur War .
CONTENT DEVELOPER	Mily Roy Anand
SUBJECT COORDINATOR	Mily Roy Anand
CIET COORDINATOR	Indu Kumar

THE GREAT UPRISING OF 1857

One of the greatest and the most widespread armed uprising which shook the foundations of British rule in India was The Great Uprising of 1857. The dispossessed rulers of Indian states, the nobles and the zamindars who had been deprived of their lands, the Indian soldiers of Britain's army in India, and the vast masses of peasants, artisans and others who had been ruined by British economic policies were united by the common aim of overthrowing British rule.

SOME PROMINENT LEADERS OF THE UPRISING



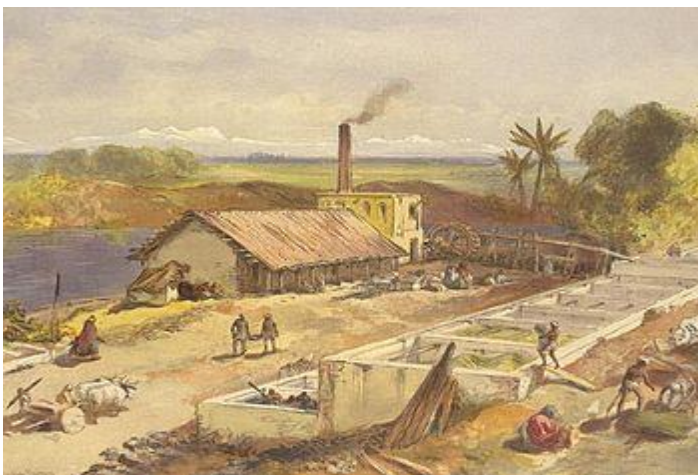
The major centres of the revolt, besides Delhi, were Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Bundelkhand and Arrah while local revolts took place in many other parts of the country. The rebels fought back heroically but could not hold out for long as they could not evolve a unified command. By the middle of 1858,

most of the major centres of revolt had been recaptured by the British troops.

ARMED RESISTANCE AFTER 1858

Even after the great uprising of 1857 had been crushed, popular discontent against British rule manifested itself in armed revolts by peasants, tribal people, certain religious sects and, in some cases, sections of old ruling families throughout the remaining years of the 19th century. These were the indigo revolts in lower Bengal (1859-62) and north Bihar (1866-68), peasant uprisings in Pabna and Bogra in Bengal (1872- 76), Maharashtra (1871-75, 1878-79) and Rampa in Andhra (1879-80), the Anti-British resistance of the Pathans in north-west India, the Wahabi movement and the *Namdhari* or the *Kuka* movement led by Guru Ram Singh.

INDIGO REVOLT IN BENGAL



Indigo Dye Factory in Bengal



Indigo Dye

Peasants in Bengal were forced to grow Indigo under terms which were least profitable to them. The indigo peasants were totally unprotected from the brutal indigo planters from whom they had to take loans at a very high interest . These conditions sparked widespread protest among indigo farmers. The revolt spread to Nadia , Pabna, Murshidabad, Birbhum, Khulna, Narail, etc and engulfed almost the whole of Bengal. Some popular leaders of the revolt were the Biswas brothers of Nadia, Kader Molla of Pabna, and Rafiqe Mondal of Malda . The revolt was ruthlessly suppressed by the British.

KUKA MOVEMENT



Guru Ram Singh



Gurcharan Ram Singh who was sent to secure Russian help

The Kuka movement was led by Guru Ram Singh, a prominent leader amongst the masses. His call for non-cooperation with the British was immensely popular in Punjab. Ram Singh was strongly opposed to the British rule and he started an intense non-cooperation movement against them. Led by him, the people boycotted English education, mill made cloths and other imported goods. Gradually the movement picked up momentum but the British took several measures to suppress the movement. Many Kuka freedom fighters were killed. And Ram Singh was deported to Rangoon. He was later sent to Andaman for life imprisonment.



Tied to the cannon-muzzles, many Kuka rebels were blown up.

OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO LED LOCALISED REVOLTS

Other individuals who led localised revolts were Vasudeo Balwant Phadke in Maharashtra, Tikendrajit in Manipur and Birsa Mundan in Chhotanagpur. Almost all these revolts were spontaneous and localized. By the middle of 1858, most of the major centres of revolt such as Kanpur, Lucknow, Bareilly, Jhansi and Gwalior had been recaptured by the British troops

BIR TIKENDRAJIT

CIET : [HYPERLINK](#) the Information provided in box A below



Bir Tikendrajit



Bir Tikendrajit Park, Manipur

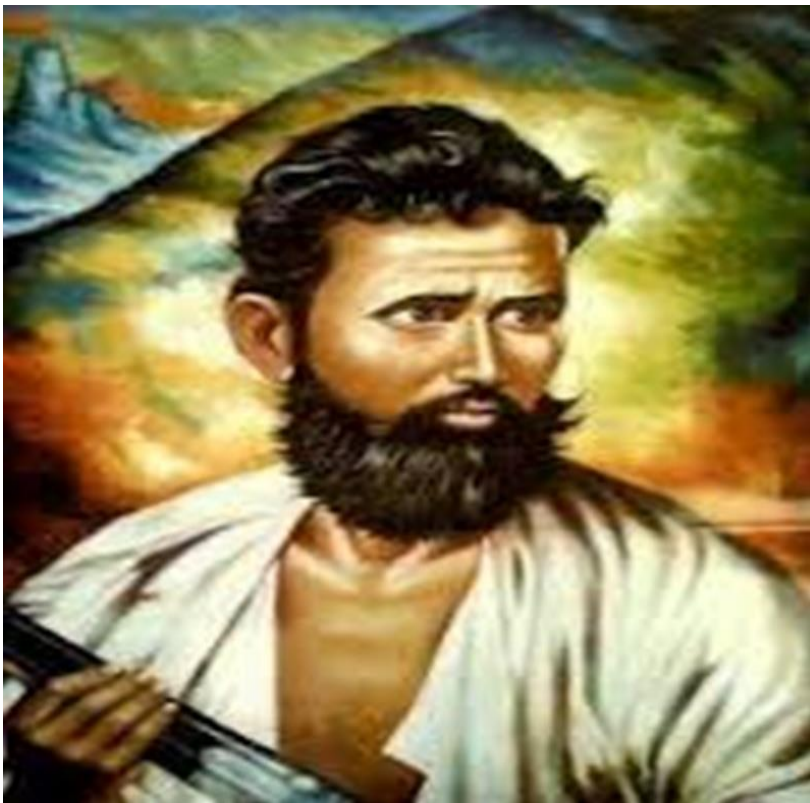
HYPERLINK A

Tikendrajit Singh was a great patriot who laid down his life protecting Manipur from British domination. He was the son of Maharaja Chandrakriti Singh and Chongtham Chanu Kouseswari and was fondly called Koireng, After the death of his father, the eldest son of the royal family Surchandra Singh ascended the throne of Manipur and Tikendrajit became 'Senapati', the general of Manipur army. But soon tension began to prevail as the royal family split up into two factions; one led by Tikendrajit himself and the other by Pakasana who is believed to have been favoured by Surchandra Singh. In 1890 Tikendrajit with support of two other princes soon engineered a palace revolt in 1890 in which the monarch fled from the palace and took refuge with the British. Tikendrajit was also aware of British policy towards local rulers in their quest to expand their empire. He wanted the sovereignty of Manipur at all costs.

These circumstances led to the Anglo-Manipur War in 1891 when the British attacked Manipur and the Manipuri army was led by Tikendrajit himself. The British won the war and took possession of the Kangla Palace. Later, Churachand Singh, a minor was made to occupy the throne as Manipur turned into a princely state, while Tikendrajit along with some others were sent to trial and found guilty. On August 13, 1891, Tikendrajit and Thangal General were hanged before the general public at Polo Ground in Imphal. This place was later named as Bir Tikendrajit Park and to remember his heroic deeds, Manipur celebrates the day as Patriot's Day.

VASUDEV BALWANT PHADKE

CIET : HYPERLINK the Information provided in box B below



Vasudev Balwant Phadke



Vasudev Balwant Phadke bust in Mumbai



Stamp issued in honour of Phadke In 1984

HYPERLINK B

Vasudev Balwant Phadke is one of the many unknown revolutionaries who dreamt of a free India and is popularly known as the father of the Indian Armed Rebellion. He was born in 1845 in Shirton in Raigad district in Maharashtra state. Some of the people who deeply influenced him were Krantikari Lahuji Vaastad Salve, a prominent social figure taught him the importance of involving people from the backward communities into the freedom movement, while the speeches of Govind Ranade lay emphasis on unjust policies of the British. They made him realize the importance of freedom. These developments had a deep impact on Phadke who wanted to alienate the sufferings of the people by fighting against the British.

Realizing the importance of education Phadke was also one of the founding members of the Poona Native Institution that later came to be known as the Maharashtra Education Society. he established the Bhave School in Pune .

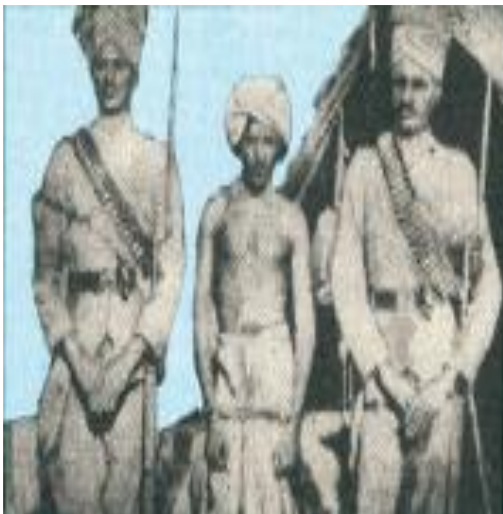
In 1875, Phadke launched protest speeches against the British government. His inspiring speeches at Pune brought people out in large numbers, but it did not have the desired effect as he could not mobilise the people to rise in rebellion. He realized the need of a well-structured revolutionary organization to carry out his activities. Meanwhile Maharashtra was struck by the great famine of 1876-77. It led to widespread devastation coupled with apathy of the British administration. He blamed the suffering of people on flawed British policies

and resolved to fight against the existing British government.

Unable to acquire support from the educated classes, he gathered people from backward communities for an armed revolt against the British. He organized a group of people belonging to the Ramoshi community and later people from the Kolis, Bhils and Dhangars were also included. Daulatrav Naik the leader of *Ramoshi*, was the main supporter of Phadke. Since they did not have enough funds to build an army, they decided to loot government treasuries. The first raid was conducted in village Dhamari in Shirur taluka in Pune where Phadke took the money which was collected as income tax from Indians by British. They also raided other places and managed to collect around 1.5 lakh rupees. But Phadke's plans to organize several attacks against the British met with very limited success. The British launched a manhunt for Phadke and offered a bounty for his capture. Finally he was captured in 1879 and taken to Pune for trial. He was given a life sentence and transported to jail at Aden where went on hunger strike in the jail and on 17th February 1883 he died in the jail.

BIRSA MUNDA

**CIET : HYPERLINK the Information provided in
box C below**



1

1. Birsa Bhagwan after his capture.



2

2. Birsa Munda statue in Bokaro Steel City, Jharkhand

HRPERLINK C

The story of Birsa Munda or Birsa Bhagwan as he is popularly known by his followers, is a story of struggle for emancipation of his fellow tribesmen from unjust colonial policies and prolonged oppression of the British. Born in the year 1875, his short life span of 25 years was one of dedication and self-determination in spearheading the tribal movement in the tribal belt of modern-day Bihar and Jharkhand in the late 19th century. Before the arrival of the British in India, the forest was the lifeline of the tribal people.

But the arrival of the British changed everything. Armed with forest laws and land laws, the British alienated the tribals from their own land. Under the forest laws, the British extended their control over all forests and declared that forests were state property. The tribals were thus forbidden from practicing *jhum* cultivation and were forced to look for other sources of livelihood. They introduced moneylenders, landlords, traders and who exploited the tribal community. They were referred to as dikus or outsiders. The Mundas fought against this exploitation continuously and it was to this on-going struggle that Birsa Munda gave a new turn and a new meaning.

Birsa talked about a golden age, a *satyug*, an age of truth in which, like in the past, the tribal people would live a good life, construct embankments, tap natural springs, plant trees and orchards and practice cultivation to earn their living. He talked of an age in which the tribals would not kill one another and would live an honest life. This vision was appealed to the tribal people as all the vices and outside forces that Birsa talked about were indeed thought of by everyone as the root causes of their misery and suffering. The British saw him as a potential threat to their political ambitions. They arrested him in 1895 and sent him to prison for two years. When he was released in 1897 he continued his mission of gathering support for his movement. Birsa died in 1900 and the movement gradually faded out.

ACTIVITY 1

CIET : The CORRECT ANSWER IS HIGHLIGHTED IN GREEN

Fill in the blanks.

1. visualized a *satyug*.
(Guru Ram Singh/ **Birsa Munda**/ Tikanderajit Singh)
2. Peasants in Bengal were forced by the British to grow
.....
(**Indigo**/ Cotton/Rice)
3. was not a major centre of the Uprising
of 1857.
(Delhi / **Manipur**/Kanpur)
- 4.....led a palace revolt in Manipur in 1890.
(Chandrakriti Singh/ Surchandra Singh/ **Tikanderajit Singh**)
5.organised the Ramoshis for an armed
revolt against the British.
(**Vasudev Balwant Phadke**/Birsa Munda/ Lahuji Vaastad
Salve)

ACTIVITY 2

Drag the statements provided below and place it in the appropriate
coloumn.

CIET DRAG AND DROP



Unable to acquire support from the educated classes, he gathered people from backward communities.

He was hanged before the general public in Imphal.

He laid down his life protecting Manipur from British domination.

He launched protest speeches against the British government.

Correct Answer



Unable to acquire support from the educated classes, he gathered people from backward communities.

He launched protest speeches against the British government.



He was hanged before the general public in Imphal.

He laid down his life protecting Manipur from British domination.

References

Atlas of Freedom Struggle, NCERT, New Delhi

Satyanarayan Mohapatra, Birsa Munda - The Great Hero of the Tribals Orissa Review * August – 2004, <http://www.orissa.gov.in/e-magazine/Orissareview/aug2004/englishPdf/Pages14-15.pdf>

Vasudev Balwant Phadke, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/printrelease.aspx?relid=148384>

URL

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/vasudev-balwant-phadke.jpg>

http://media.indiatimes.in/media/content/2015/Mar/vasudevbalventh_1427194230.jpg

http://tourismmanipur.nic.in/images/east/images/shaheed-minar_01.jpg

<http://manipur.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/saheedminar.gif>

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/1/18/Indigo_plant_extract_sample.jpg/140px-Indigo_plant_extract_sample.jpg

<http://philamirror.info/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/vasudev-balvant-phadke-stamp1.jpg>