

NEXT IAS

GIST OF YOJNA [DAWN OF FREEDOM]

August, 2024



NEXT IAS (CORPORATE TOWER)

27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar no. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro, New Delhi-110060

Ph.: 8081300200 | E-mail: info@nextias.com | www.nextias.com

CHAPTER 1- CELLULAR JAIL- THE SAGA OF RESISTANCE

HISTORY OF CELLULAR JAIL

- ❑ Cellular Jail, often referred to as “Kala Pani” (Black Water), is situated in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, India.
- ❑ The construction of this infamous prison began in **1896** and was completed in **1906** under British colonial rule.
- ❑ The jail was built primarily to exile and punish political prisoners and revolutionaries who actively opposed British authority.
- ❑ The establishment of Cellular Jail was a direct consequence of the **1857 Sepoy Mutiny**, a significant uprising against British rule, which prompted the British to adopt more stringent measures in dealing with dissent.



IMPORTANT KEY FACTS ABOUT CELLULAR JAIL

- ❑ **Location:** Cellular Jail is located in Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, an archipelago in the Bay of Bengal, which was strategically chosen for its remoteness, making escape nearly impossible.
- ❑ **Architecture:** The jail's design features seven wings radiating from a central watchtower, resembling a spider's web. This unique architectural layout was intended to ensure that no two prisoners could communicate with each other, thus preventing any form of rebellion or solidarity among them.
- ❑ **Construction Timeline:** The jail was officially inaugurated in 1906 and operated until India gained independence in 1947. During its operational years, it became a symbol of the inhumanity of colonial rule.
- ❑ **Closure:** Following India's independence in 1947, the jail was closed, and in 1969 it was declared a **national memorial**, preserving its history and significance. The site has been developed to educate visitors about the atrocities committed during the colonial era and the heroism of those who suffered within its walls.
- ❑ **Architecture:** It was designed by British architect **J. A. H. W. Macpherson** based on the ‘**Pennsylvania System or Separate System**’ theory, which required separate confinement of each inmate for complete isolation from other inmates, with no communication possible between prisoners in the same or different wings.
 - Each cell was designed for solitary confinement, measuring approximately 4.5 meters by 2.7 meters.
 - They were equipped with thick walls and small windows, limiting light and air, creating a suffocating environment for inmates.
 - The design aimed to prevent any form of communication or solidarity among prisoners.

- The **central watchtower**, which rises above the prison wings, was strategically placed to allow guards to monitor the movements of all prisoners. This architectural feature emphasized the oppressive nature of the jail, instilling fear among inmates.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS ASSOCIATED WITH CELLULAR JAIL

- ❑ **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar:** Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, a prominent revolutionary, poet, and politician, was a key figure in the Indian independence movement. Known as 'Veer' for his bravery, he was sentenced in 1911 to two life terms (50 years) in the Cellular Jail of the Andamans for his involvement in anti-colonial activities, including opposition to the **Morley-Minto Reforms (Indian Councils Act 1909)**. Savarkar is also credited with popularizing the concept of "Hindutva." He was eventually released in 1924, having played a crucial role in mobilizing support for India's independence.
- ❑ **Batukeshwar Dutt:** He was also known as B.K. Dutt, was a revolutionary freedom fighter who, alongside Bhagat Singh, participated in the Central Legislative Assembly bombing in 1929. He was sentenced to life imprisonment and exiled to the Cellular Jail in Port Blair. Dutt passed away on July 20, 1965, at the age of 54.
- ❑ **Fazl-E-Haq Khairabadi:** He was arrested on January 30, 1859, for inciting violence following the Indian Rebellion of 1857. He was found guilty of encouraging murder and leading a 'jihad' and was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Cellular Jail on the Andaman Islands. His property was also confiscated by the British authorities.
- ❑ **Barindra Kumar Ghose:** He was involved in the **Alipore Bomb Case** following an attempted assassination of Kingsford by revolutionaries Khudiram and Prafulla on April 30, 1908, was arrested alongside his brother Aurobindo Ghosh. Initially sentenced to death, Barin's sentence was reduced to life imprisonment, and he was deported to the Cellular Jail in Andaman in 1909.
- ❑ **Sushil Dasgupta:** He was a member of the revolutionary Yugantar Dal of Bengal, was involved in the Putiya Mail Robbery case of 1929. After escaping from Medinipur prison, he was eventually captured and sent to the Cellular Jail. His comrades, Sachin Kar Gupta and Dinesh Majumdar, also faced imprisonment, with Dinesh being executed.
- ❑ On December 29, 1943, political control of the Andaman Islands was transferred to **Subhas Chandra Bose's Azad Hind government**. Bose visited Port Blair and raised the tricolor flag of the Indian National Army.

CHAPTER 2- JAMBU DWEIPA PROCLAMATION

The Jambudweep Proclamation refers to the declaration made by the **Maruthu brothers** in **1801** during the South Indian Rebellion against British colonial rule.

- ❑ The proclamation was a call to arms against the British, criticizing their oppressive policies and urging Indian rulers and people to unite against colonial domination.
- ❑ Jambu Dweepa is an ancient term with significant cultural and historical connotations in Indian tradition. It is often mentioned in Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain cosmology as a large continent or island, sometimes referring to the entire known world or, more specifically, the Indian subcontinent. The name "Jambu Dweepa" is derived from the Jambu tree, a mythical tree said to grow on this landmass.

COLONIAL RESISTANCE:

- ❑ The Proclamation of Jambu Dweepa in 1801, led by the **Maruthu brothers (Periya Marudhu and Chinna Marudhu)** were de facto rulers of Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❑ They marked one of the earliest organized efforts to resist British colonial rule in India. They are credited with issuing the first proclamation against British atrocities, even before the more well-known uprisings

such as the Vellore Mutiny of 1806 and the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.

BACKGROUND AND THE RISE OF THE MARUTHU BROTHERS

- The British initially came to India under the guise of trade but soon used their superior weaponry and divisive tactics to establish control over large parts of the country.



Maruthu brothers

- The **Nawab of Arcot**, Mohammed Ali, exacerbated British dominance by handing over tax collection and ruling rights to them, leading to widespread impoverishment and subjugation of the local population.
- The Maruthu brothers, Periya Maruthu (the elder) and Chinna Maruthu (the younger), were born to Mokka Palanisamy Thevar and his wife Ponatha, who served the second king of Sivagangai, Muthuvadaganatha Thevar.
- Trained in warfare and artillery, the brothers became close aides to the king. However, their lives took a dramatic turn when the British, after failed negotiations, killed the king and queen in a nighttime attack.
- The Maruthu brothers fled with the first queen, Vedanachiyar, to the neighboring kingdom of Virupakshi, ruled by Gopal Nayak. After seven years, they returned to Sivagangai, where Periya Maruthu took charge as the commander of the army and Chinna Maruthu as the chief minister.

THE PROCLAMATION OF 1801

- The Maruthu brothers, having garnered support from other Southern Indian kings who were ideologically opposed to British rule, initiated a **rebellion against the British in 1801**.
- They issued a proclamation that became a **rallying cry for resistance** across the region. The proclamation condemned the British for their deceitful takeover of Indian kingdoms and their brutal treatment of Indians, whom they regarded as inferior.
- The proclamation also criticized the lack of unity among Indian castes, which had allowed the British to dominate the country.
- This proclamation was inspired by an “all-Indian concept,” was one of the first to call for national resistance against the British.
- The Maruthu brothers displayed the proclamation publicly, including on the walls of the Sri Rangam Temple and the Rock Fort in Tamil Nadu, despite the risks to their lives and their kingdom.

THE BRITISH RESPONSE AND THE EXECUTION OF THE MARUTHU BROTHERS

- Angered by the defiance of the Maruthu brothers, the British launched a **full-scale military campaign**

against them.

- ❑ On October 24, 1801, the Maruthu brothers, along with about 500 of their supporters, were **captured and executed**.
- ❑ The British carried out these executions without proper legal procedures, in what Rajayyan described as **“anomalous and irregular”** actions. The British also sought to eliminate any future threats by executing the male members of the Maruthu family, sparing only one son of Periya Maruthu, Doraisamy, who was banished to Malaysia.

LEGACY OF THE SOUTH INDIAN REBELLION

- ❑ The South Indian Rebellion of 1801, led by the Maruthu brothers, holds a unique place in India's history as one of **the earliest and most organized** challenges to British rule.
- ❑ The rebellion highlighted the potential for **collective resistance** and **the importance of unity** among Indians in the face of colonial oppression.
- ❑ Although the rebellion was **ultimately crushed**, the Maruthu brothers' courage and sacrifice served as a precursor to later, more widespread movements for independence.

CHAPTER 3- UNTOLD STORIES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE FROM NORTHEAST INDIA

- ❑ **Bhogeswari Phukanani (1885-1942):** A courageous freedom fighter from Assam, she actively participated in the **Quit India Movement** despite being a mother of eight. She played a key role in liberating the Congress office in Berhampur, Assam, from British control.
 - She was shot by British police and succumbed to her injuries after 20 days, making the ultimate sacrifice for India's freedom.
- ❑ **U. Tirot Singh:** A leader of the Khasi tribe, Tirot Singh led his people in a guerrilla war against the British when they attempted to build a road through Khasi Hills without fulfilling their promises. Despite being outmatched in terms of weaponry, he fought bravely for four years before being captured and imprisoned in Dhaka, where he died.
- ❑ **Shoorvir Pasaltha Khuangchera:** A legendary figure in Mizoram, Pasaltha Khuangchera was the first Mizo leader to resist British invasion in 1890. He fought valiantly against the British forces in the Lushai Hills and died in battle. His bravery remains an inspiration, though he is less recognized nationally.
- ❑ **Rani Gaidinliu:** A prominent female leader from the Naga community, she initiated a movement against British rule at the age of 16. Captured and sentenced to life imprisonment, she was later released after India's independence. Rani Gaidinliu continued to work for the upliftment of her people and was awarded the Padma Bhushan for her contributions.
- ❑ **Kanaklata Baruah (1924-1942):** A 17-year-old freedom fighter from Assam, Kanaklata was shot dead by British police while attempting to hoist the national flag at a police station during the Quit India Movement.
- ❑ **Moje Riba:** A freedom fighter from Arunachal Pradesh, Riba was the first person to hoist the Indian tricolor in Dipa village on August 15, 1947. He was arrested for his involvement in the Quit India Movement and for distributing pamphlets advocating independence.
- ❑ **Gomdhar Konwar:** He was a prominent figure in the struggle for independence from Assam. Born in 1915, he became actively involved in the freedom movement during the 1940s. He was a member of the **Indian National Congress** and played a significant role in mobilizing the youth against British rule. Konwar is best remembered for his bravery during the **Quit India Movement of 1942**, where he led protests and faced severe repression. The Government of India posthumously honored him by naming various institutions after him, recognizing his contributions to the freedom struggle.

- ❑ **Moongri: The First Woman Martyr:** She is recognized as one of the first female martyrs in the Indian freedom movement. Her activism began in the early 20th century, where she participated in various protests against British oppression. Moongri's ultimate sacrifice came during a protest against oppressive policies, where she lost her life. The Government of India has acknowledged her contributions through various memorials and educational institutions named in her honor.
- ❑ **Dhekiajuli Massacre:** The Dhekiajuli Massacre in 1942 marked a tragic chapter in Assam's history, where British forces opened fire on unarmed protesters. Among the martyrs was a young boy, who became known as India's youngest martyr. His name remains etched in history, symbolizing the innocence lost during the struggle for freedom. Commemorative events and memorials have been established to honor the victims, reflecting the government's recognition of their sacrifice.
- ❑ **Bom Singpho of Arunachal Pradesh:** He was a key figure in the freedom movement from Arunachal Pradesh. He was instrumental in organizing local tribes against British rule and played a significant role in the anti-colonial agitation. His efforts to unite various tribes for a common cause laid the foundation for future movements in the region. The Indian government has recognized his contributions through various initiatives aimed at preserving the history of tribal freedom fighters.
- ❑ **Thangal General of Manipur:** He is also known as **Thangal Sardar**, was a prominent leader in the Manipuri resistance against British rule during the **First Anglo-Manipur War (1891)**. He led guerrilla warfare tactics against colonial forces and became a symbol of resistance for the Manipuri people. His legacy is celebrated in Manipur, with several institutions and events commemorating his contributions to the freedom struggle.
- ❑ **Ka Phan Nonglait of Meghalaya:** She was a significant figure in Meghalaya's freedom movement. She led protests against British policies and was known for her fearless spirit. Her contributions to the struggle for independence have been recognized by the state government, with memorials and educational programs dedicated to her legacy.
- ❑ **Ropuiliani from Mizoram:** He was a notable freedom fighter from Mizoram, participating actively in the anti-colonial struggle. He was involved in organizing local communities against British rule and played a crucial role in raising awareness about the freedom movement. The government has honored him through various commemorations and educational initiatives, highlighting his contributions to the nation's history.
- ❑ **Sachindra Lal Singh from Tripura:** He was an influential leader from Tripura who actively participated in the freedom struggle. He played a vital role in mobilizing the masses against British rule and was involved in various movements aimed at securing independence. The government of India has acknowledged his contributions through memorials and educational institutions, ensuring that his legacy is preserved.

CHAPTER 4- CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN LANGUAGES TO THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT

- ❑ Literature has long served as a powerful medium for communication and expression, and during India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule, it became a vital tool for awakening national consciousness.
- ❑ Nationalist literature, articulated by stalwarts like Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Bharatendu Harishchandra, and Rabindranath Tagore, not only reflected the anguish of the people but also inspired a collective yearning for freedom.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- ❑ The **British East India Company's** imperialistic expansion began with decisive **battles such as Plassey (1757) and Buxar (1764)**, establishing colonial rule across vast territories.

- ❑ The **First War of Independence in 1857** marked a significant turning point, igniting a series of revolts that fueled the desire for liberation.
- ❑ The **introduction of the printing press in India**, first established in Goa in 1576, played a crucial role in disseminating nationalist ideas.
- ❑ The first Indian newspaper, **The Bengal Gazette**, emerged in 1780, paving the way for educated youth to voice their patriotic sentiments.
- ❑ Noteworthy figures like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** utilized newspapers such as **Kesari** to critique British policies, facing imprisonment for their bold expressions.

THE POWER OF LANGUAGE

- ❑ Nationalist literature transcended linguistic barriers, utilizing local languages to resonate with the masses.
- ❑ The British recognized the threat posed by vernacular literature, leading to the **Vernacular Press Act of 1878**, which aimed to suppress dissent. However, **this act was repealed in 1881**, allowing for a resurgence of nationalist sentiment through literature.
- ❑ **Raja Ram Mohan Roy**, a key figure in the establishment of the national press, published **Sambad Kaumudi** in Bengali, fostering a sense of unity among Indians.

INFLUENTIAL LITERARY FIGURES

- ❑ **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**: His novel **Anandamath (1882)**, set against the backdrop of the Sannyasi rebellion, features the iconic song **"Vande Mataram,"** which became a rallying cry for the independence movement. His work **Devi Chaudharani (1884)** inspired women to actively participate in the struggle.
- ❑ **Bharatendu Harishchandra**: Known as the father of modern Hindi literature, he sowed the seeds of Hindi nationalism through his plays and poems. His works highlighted social issues while advocating for freedom.
- ❑ **Rabindranath Tagore**: A Nobel laureate, Tagore's literary contributions included novels like **Gora (1909)** and **Ghare Baire (1916)**, which explored themes of nationalism and inner conflict during the freedom struggle. He also composed India's national anthem, **"Jana Gana Mana."**
- ❑ **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**: Through his newspapers, **Mahratta and Kesari**, Tilak became a voice of the freedom movement, articulating the aspirations of the Indian populace.

REVOLUTIONARY LITERATURE

- ❑ The revolutionary spirit of the time found expression in various literary forms. Organizations like **Anushilan** published newspapers that galvanized public sentiment against colonial rule.
- ❑ **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's The Indian War of Independence (1909)** redefined the 1857 revolt as the first war for independence, bringing national attention to the struggle.
- ❑ The Indian diaspora also played a significant role in the freedom movement, with publications like **Hindustan Ghadar** and **Circular-i-Azadi** voicing anti-colonial sentiments from abroad.

SOCIAL COMMENTARY THROUGH LITERATURE

- ❑ Literature also addressed social evils, calling for reform alongside political freedom.
- ❑ Works like **Mulk Raj Anand's Untouchable (1935)** and Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay's **Pathar Dabi (1926)** highlighted the need for social justice and equality.
- ❑ M.K. Gandhi's writings, including **Hind Swaraj (1938)**, emphasized the importance of self-rule and moral integrity in the fight for independence.

Conclusion: The language and literature of the independence era was instrumental in keeping the spirit of freedom alive. It not only inspired individuals to join the struggle but also fostered a collective identity among diverse groups. The legacy of these literary contributions continues to resonate in contemporary India, reminding us of the power of words in shaping a nation's destiny. Through their evocative narratives and poignant themes, these writers ignited a flame of hope and resilience that ultimately led to India's liberation.

CHAPTER 5- YOUTH CONSCIOUSNESS FOR INDIAN FREEDOM IN BENGAL

The period between 1905 and the 1930s witnessed a surge of revolutionary thought and fervor within the Indian National Movement.

- ❑ Among those who played a pivotal role were the youth-educated, passionate, and committed to the cause of freedom.
- ❑ **National Awakening:**
 - The **Young Bengal movement** emerged as a catalyst for India's national awakening and desire for independence.
 - By disseminating ideas of liberty, self-rule, and cultural pride, these young revolutionaries created a consciousness of freedom among Indians.
 - Their influence extended beyond Bengal, resonating across the country.
- ❑ **The Partition of Bengal (1905):**
 - In 1905, Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India, partitioned Bengal along religious and communal lines.
 - This decision was met with widespread discontent and chaos, particularly among the youth.
 - The partition was seen as an attempt to suppress the indigenous cultural identity of the Bengali community.
- ❑ **Role of Youth:**
 - The youth, often referred to as the "**Derozians**," played a monumental role.
 - They embraced Western enlightenment practices and ideas, which fueled their radical attitude during the national freedom movement.
 - The Swadeshi Movement of 1905, triggered by the partition, became a turning point in India's struggle for freedom.
 - For the first time, widespread public protests erupted against British rule, with the youth at the forefront.
- ❑ **The Swadeshi Movement:**
 - The Swadeshi Movement aimed to counter the divisive effects of the Bengal partition.
 - It encouraged Indians to boycott British goods and promote indigenous products.
 - The movement galvanized the masses, emphasizing self-reliance and economic independence.
 - The youth actively participated in protests, demonstrations, and the promotion of Swadeshi goods.

KEY LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT IN BENGAL:

- ❑ **Raja Ram Mohan Roy:**
 - Often regarded as the "**Father of the Indian Renaissance**," Raja Ram Mohan Roy was a prominent figure during the **Young Bengal Movement**.
 - He championed social reforms, advocated for **women's rights**, and worked tirelessly to eradicate regressive practices.
 - His emphasis on education, rationalism, and the **abolition of Sati (the practice of widow immolation)** left an indelible mark on Indian society.
- ❑ **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar:**

- Vidyasagar was a polymath- a **scholar, reformer, and educator**.
- He ardently supported **women's education and fought against child marriage**.
- His contributions to **Bengali literature**, especially his efforts to simplify and modernize the Bengali script, were significant.
- **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee:**
 - Bankim Chandra, a prolific **writer and poet**, infused nationalist fervor into his literary works.
 - His novel "**Anandamath**" gave us the iconic song "**Vande Mataram**," which became a rallying cry for freedom fighters.
 - Bankim Chandra's writings inspired generations, urging them to rise against colonial oppression.
- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose:**
 - Netaji's fiery patriotism and unwavering commitment to India's freedom struggle are legendary.
 - He led the **Indian National Army (INA)** and sought support from Axis powers during World War II.
 - His slogan "**Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom**" resonated deeply with the youth.
- **Rabindranath Tagore:**
 - Tagore, a **poet, philosopher, and Nobel laureate**, used his literary genius to evoke nationalistic sentiments.
 - His composition of "**Jana Gana Mana**," which later became India's national anthem, is a testament to his love for the country.
- **Aurobindo Ghosh:**
 - Aurobindo Ghosh was not only a **revolutionary** but also a spiritual thinker.
 - His writings emphasized the need for **inner transformation** alongside political struggle.
 - His **philosophical contributions** left an indelible mark on the nation's consciousness.

CONCLUSION

The youth of Bengal, driven by a fervent desire for freedom, played an indispensable role in shaping the Indian National Movement. Their consciousness, commitment, and unwavering spirit contributed significantly to the eventual attainment of independence.



UPSC MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS-(AROUND 250 WORDS)

- Q1. Discuss the role of youth consciousness in shaping the Indian freedom movement? How did young revolutionaries contribute to the fight against British colonial rule?
- Q2. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.
- Q3. To what degree did the Moderates' role lay the groundwork for the broader freedom movement? Comment.