



CELLULAR JAIL, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS: Also known as 'Kala Pani', the British used the jail to exile political prisoners at this colonial prison



BIRLA HOUSE: Birla House is a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. It is the location where Gandhi spent the last 144 days of his life and was assassinated on January 30, 1948

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CATCH PHRASES!

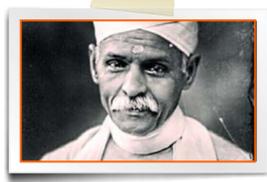
Pre-Independence slogans and its relevance in India today



Slogans raised by leaders during the freedom movement set the mood of the nation's revolution for its independence. They epitomised the struggle and hopes of millions of Indians. Author and former ad guru ANUJA CHAUHAN revisits these powerful slogans and explains their history and relevance in a contemporary India

SATYAMEV JAYATE (Truth alone triumphs)

HISTORY: Inscribed at the base of India's national emblem, this phrase is a mantra from the ancient Indian scripture, 'Mundaka Upanishad', which was popularised by freedom fighter Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya during India's freedom movement.



THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH GOES ON: At this point of time when we are stuck between the confusing and contradicting layers of real and fake news, to know the truth is far from easy. We are also living in times of extreme polarisation of political views and ideologies where there are different versions of the same story - so difficult to know the truth from the lies. So, the pursuit of truth becomes more important than ever NOW. People rallying for RTI (Right to Information) Act is also the modern interpretation of Satyamev Jayate - truth shall prevail.

Freedom activist and the founder of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) - Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya - used the slogan 'Satyamev Jayate' for the first time during his presidential address at the Indian National Congress convention in 1918

QUIT INDIA

HISTORY: This slogan is widely associated with Mahatma Gandhi (what he started was the Quit India Movement from August 8, 1942, in Bombay (then), but the term 'Quit India' was actually coined by a lesser-known hero of India's freedom struggle - Yusuf Meherally. He had published a booklet titled 'Quit India' (sold in weeks) and got over a thousand 'Quit India' badges to give life to the slogan that Gandhi also started using and popularised.

'YOUNGSTERS, DON'T QUIT INDIA': Quit India was a powerful slogan and the jingle of an epic movement meant to drive the British away from our soil. It was a crucial movement that eventually paved the way for an independent India. Ironically, now, many



young people going abroad for higher studies are 'quitting' India by settling there - it's almost like a movement of sorts! I will say to the young, acquire knowledge and know-how from international universities and organisations if you want to, but do come back to India. Don't Quit India! India needs you - your hopes, ambition, skills.

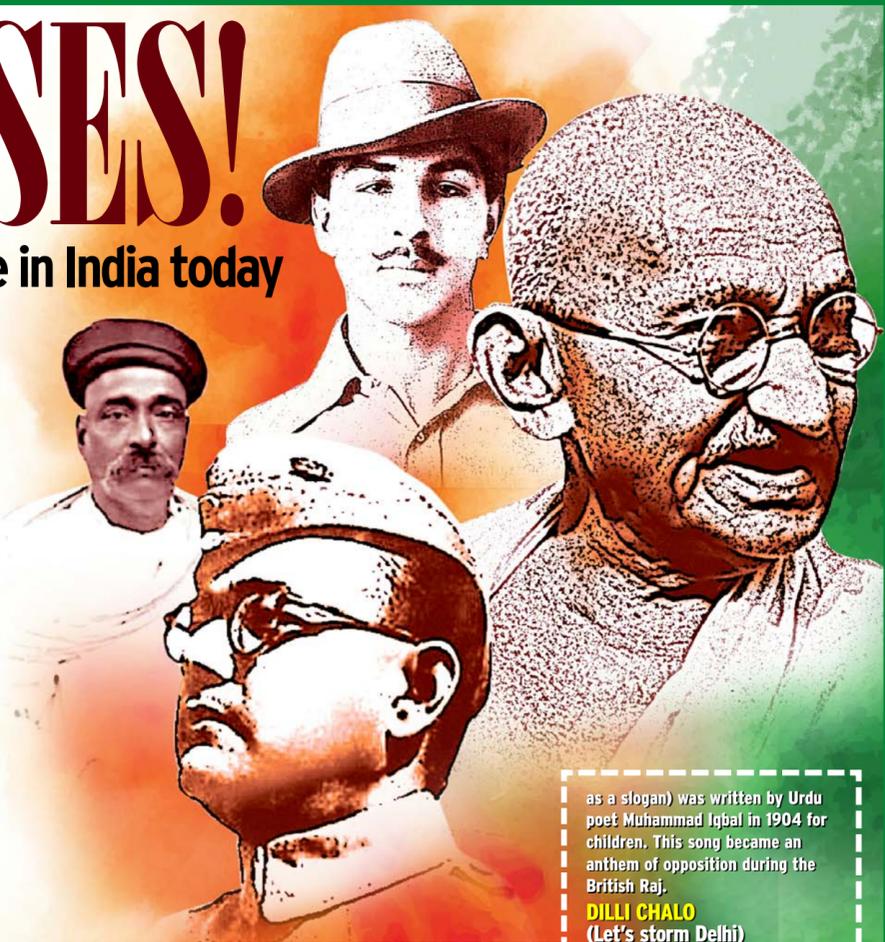
The term 'Quit India' was coined by a lesser-known hero of India's freedom struggle - Yusuf Meherally

LIKE SWARAJ, KHADI IS OUR BIRTH-RIGHT



HISTORY: Mahatma Gandhi's call to use khadi became a movement for the indigenous swadeshi (Indian) industry that spun yards of khadi. The father of the nation at his charkha remains the image synonymous with Gandhi and the freedom movement. Khadi isn't just a fabric - it was the symbol of Indian Independence movement and continues to be one of the symbols of the idea of India.

KEEPING KHADI RELEVANT: In post Independent India, khadi became stylish and a fashion designer's dream fabric. The journey of khadi, becoming a symbol of India's national fashion heritage, is also the story of India's growth - of its fashion, style and cultural aspirations. Even now, khadi remains our birthright - it is a fabric we must include in our wardrobe to keep it relevant and to salute the spirit of India.



OTHER ICONIC SLOGANS OF THE ERA

INQILAB ZINDABAD (Long live the revolution)

Coined by Urdu poet and freedom fighter Maulana Hasrat Mohanib, this timeless slogan was popularised by one of the most influential revolutionaries of Indian freedom struggle - Bhagat Singh. He used 'Inqilab Zindabad' as a war cry against the oppression of the British and motivated the youth to join the Independence movement.

SAARE JAHAN SE ACHHA HINDUSTAN HAMARA (India is the best nation)
The soul-stirring song (also acts



'Saare Jahan Se Achha' was published by Muhammad Iqbal in the weekly journal 'Ittehad' on August 16, 1904

as a slogan) was written by Urdu poet Muhammad Iqbal in 1904 for children. This song became an anthem of opposition during the British Raj.

DILLI CHALO (Let's storm Delhi)

Freedom fighter of Bengal - Subhas Chandra Bose - had given the slogan 'Dilli Chalo' while marching to the capital with his Indian National Army (INA) to free India from the shackles of Britishers. In recent times, this expression has been revisited by various political leaders and activists under different interpretations to fight for their rights.

VANDE MATARAM (Mother, I bow to thee)

The poem by journalist and activist Bankim Chandra Chatterjee personified India as mother during the freedom struggle. It was later translated as a song by Rabindranath Tagore and the first paragraph has been adopted as the national song of India.

OUR INDIA, OUR THOUGHTS

THE ART & CULTURE FRATERNITY ON THEIR IDEA OF INDIA AND FREEDOM...

JAYA JAITLEY, founder, Dastakari Haat Samiti
When I think of India and its glorious history, what always comes to mind is the image of a craftsperson engaging in creating his/her work with deep concentration and meditation. It signifies our creative people and our precious living traditions. We must celebrate and preserve them.



SHOBHA DEEPAK SINGH, director & vice chairperson, Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra
In my childhood days at Modern School, Delhi, we were given round plates with Ashoka Chakra on it. It was my most memorable possession.

MANJARI CHATURVEDI, Sufi kathak danseuse
The image of the Indian flag at Lal Qila, that's my India - a composite image of different cultures, where secularism is a lived reality. Once I had performed Sufi kathak at the Red Fort with the same ramparts as the backdrop and it was memorable.

GEETA CHANDRAN, renowned classical dancer
To me the saree best represents the idea of India, linking human endeavour from the village to the globe, from crop to creativity, from thread to cloth, integral to festivals and rituals.

RAJA RADHA REDDY AND KAUSHALYA REDDY, exponents of Kuchipudi dance
The song, 'Vande Mataram', filmed on Geeta Bali and Pradeep Kumar, comes to mind when you say freedom.

MUSICIANS AND FILMMAKERS REVEAL THEIR DEFINING INDEPENDENCE MOMENT

AMJAD ALI KHAN, music maestro, sarod player
1947 - there are so many defining moments. I was very young back then but the stories I heard have remained with me. I never really understood the importance of being 'free' but Ustad Bismillah Khan's performance at the Red Fort on the eve of August 15, 1947, struck a chord.



RAKEYSH OMPRAKASH MEHRA, filmmaker
The stories of how we 'fought' for freedom are my favourite stories. And for me, iconic singer-actor KL Saigal is the poster boy of India's Independence.

SHYAM BENEGAL, filmmaker
I think the year was 1952 when All India Radio's Vadya Vrinda platform launched with Ravi Shankar as its first director. The channel started to give an outlet to instrumentalists and provide them with some income. That truly defined the spirit of 'free' India for me.

VIKRANT MASSEY, actor
What signifies Independence to me is the coming of age of Bollywood; the emergence of

SHANKAR MAHADEVAN, singer, composer
What signifies Indian Independence for me is V Shantaram's film 'Matwala Shair Ramjoshi'.

ASHWINI IYER, filmmaker
I have heard about life immediately post Independence and how it was not a bed of roses. The 1947 film of social significance, Kishore Sahu's 'Sindoor' redefined India's Independence for me.

OTT and other pay per view channels. That we have evolved so much and made a mark for ourselves on the world stage!

10 artistes of yore who shaped popular culture and arts

Artistes contributed to the freedom struggle by creating awareness about democracy and Swaraj (Independence) in their movies, songs, plays. They left a legacy that will inspire generations

DHUNDIRAJ GOVIND PHALKE or Dadasaheb Phalke made India's first film 'Raja Harishchandra' in 1913 and in doing so laid the foundation of the Indian film industry.

PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR, the patriarch of the Kapoor family, set out to be a lawyer but became a successful actor of the pre-Independence era.

SOHRAB MODI - actor, director, producer, made films like 'Sikander', 'Pukar', etc. His films were made during the peak of India's freedom movement.

DEVIKA RANI, known as the first lady of Indian cinema, was the first Indian woman to get into film production - it was unheard of then.

DURGA KHOTE, was known for her patriotic dialogues in the movies of 1930s and 1940s. In 1937, Khote produced and directed a film called 'Saathi', the first woman to do so.

ASHOK KUMAR, known as 'Dadamuni', started his long innings as actor in pre-Independence India and is a part of Indian cinematic history.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE, the poet and Nobel laureate was also a musician with 2,230 compositions; his Rabindrasangeet is unique due to its cultural diversity.

MS SUBBULAKSHMI, the titan of Carnatic music, was the first musician to win Bharat Ratna and the first Indian to receive Ramon Magsaysay award.

KADRI GOPALNATH - a Padma Bhushan winning saxophone player and a pioneer of Carnatic music on the instrument, is a legend of the pre-Independence era.

HOMI WADIA, master of the stunt film genre, portrayed women as brave and independent in his films. He is famous for his film - 'Hunterwali'.

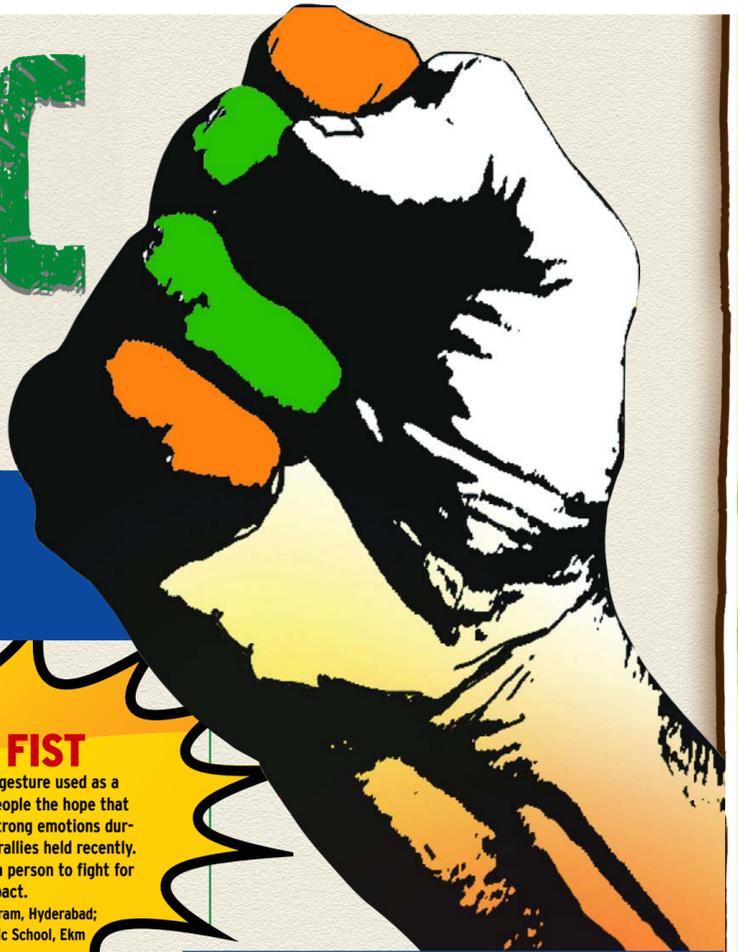
JALLIANWALA BAGH, AMRITSAR:
The massacre at Jallianwala Bagh on April 13, 1919 angered the Indian population and led to the Non Cooperation movement of 1920-22



THE GATEWAY OF INDIA, MUMBAI:
Called a symbol of "conquest and colonisation" commemorating the British legacy, this is where their troops left India in 1948



A SYMBOLIC Passage To India



In every symbol associated with the Independence struggle, there is a deep-rooted story with many layers and sub-plots. **Times NIE** takes you on a journey from pre-Independence days and decodes events, objects and places that will remain etched in history for its significance that finally led to freedom

VANDE MATARAM FLAG/ CALCUTTA FLAG



The flag was used in 1905, after Bengal was partitioned by Lord Curzon, and continued until 1911. The Swadeshi movement was chiefly organised by the trio, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai. The flag designed by Sachindra Prasad Bose during the course of this movement, sought to unite people from different religions, castes, etc.

THE AZAD HIND FLAG

The Azad Hind or 'Free India' movement originated outside of India in the 1940s. Its architect was Subhas Chandra Bose. He sought to ally with the Axis powers of WW II and free India with the use of arms. It was used by Azad Hind Fauj.



CHARKHA



To Gandhiji, the charkha embodied swadeshi, self-sufficiency and even inter-dependency. Soon, the charkha was used across the country as a symbol of the National Movement. The charkha was used in flags too. This includes the Gandhi Flag, which was released at the Indian National Congress meet of 1921.

THREE MONKEYS

One of the possessions that Mahatma held dearly was the statue of Three Wise Monkeys, which had its origin in the writings of Confucius, Taoism, and Shintoism. In Shintoism, the three monkeys are Mizaru who sees no evil; Kikazaru who hears no evil and Iwazaru who speaks no evil. It was a symbol of ignoring the harsh and oppressive rule of the British.



B R AMBEDKAR'S 1940 WING CHAIR

At the Ambedkar Museum in Pune, you cannot miss the chair used by B R Ambedkar in 1940s. A wing chair with exposed wooden legs and cushioned arms, it was specially made for him, due to his illness. Ambedkar sat on the same chair when he handed over the Constitution to the then President Dr Rajendra Prasad.



INDEPENDENCE CUP

The Independence Cup, a horse race championship, had kicked off soon after Independence on August 16, 1947. It was the first race organised in independent India by the Royal Western India Turf Club, Pune. Even today, the Independence Cup is held on August 15.



SALT

Salt, or to be more precise, its production, was a powerful symbol used by Indians against unjust British taxation. It was most notably used in the 1930 Civil Disobedience Movement, which began with the Dandi March. The Dandi March saw Gandhi marching from Sabarmati to Dandi on foot, where he broke the law by making his own salt. What was the oppressive Salt Tax? The India Salt Act of 1882 gave the government monopoly over the collection and manufacture of salt.

WAGAH

A nondescript, tiny village pitchforked into history in 1947 when the Radcliffe Line divided the subcontinent into India and Pakistan. A cluster of a few huts, Wagah once linked the erstwhile twin cities, Amritsar and Lahore, and was a resting place for visitors. After Partition, with a one-room makeshift border post, it became a metaphor of Indo-Pak relations.

SYMBOL OF FREEDOM FOR ME...



DIVERGING ROADS

It shows that we are born with choices. Freedom to choose your own path is crucial as each path comes with its set of consequences and responsibilities. The 'roads' represent our free will and our role in life of being an 'informed traveller'.

RAKSHIT DUBEY, class X, Zebar School for Children, Ahmedabad

TAMING OUR MIND

If three wise monkeys denotes virtuous actions in life, there should be a fourth one today, which says 'bura mat socho'. Open acceptance of psychological problems and getting treatment without a chagrin is 'true freedom'.

SHREYA RAVI, class XI, BASE PU, Bengaluru



RAINBOW HEART

For years, society has drawn rigid gender lines. Freedom to step out of the closet or move past all gender expressions is still a taboo. Hence, the rainbow representing hope and pride for gender fluidity, wherein a person is free to refer oneself as any gender openly is the free India I envision.

TANVI, class X, St Joseph's School, Chandigarh



VACCINE

After suffering two years of virtual school, a vaccine for kids that can fight Covid19 is a symbol of hope. It will give us the freedom to go back to regular school, meet friends and resume our outdoor activities.

J ABHIJITH NARAYANA, class X, SBOA Hr. Sec. School, Coimbatore



ROOM TO GROW

Freedom from academic pressure, deadlines and expectations is something that I'd vote for. Children need room to grow and it is their right to have the freedom and space to grow naturally in the direction they are inclined towards. Extra pressure only stunts the potential of a child.

INAYA GALA, class VIII, Springdales, Pusa Road, New Delhi



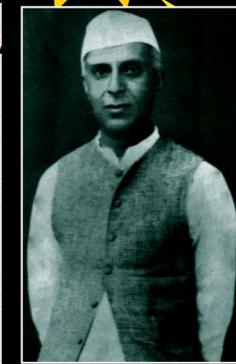
STYLE STATEMENT OF COURAGE AND CHARACTER

GANDHI CAP

In 1919, when Gandhi visited Nawab of Rampur, Sayyid Hamid Ali Khan Bahadur, he was told to don a cap as a norm for guests. He wasn't carrying one and then, Abadi Begum, mother of Md Ali and Shaikat Ali, who led the Khilafat movement, made him the famous 'Gandhi cap', say historians.

NEHRU JACKET

Designed in India, back in the 1940s, anyone who wore the jacket was viewed as one of a high social stature. Also known as 'Bandh Gale ka Coat', post Independence, the Nehru jacket became requisite attire in every Indian man's wardrobe.



LOUDSPEAKER

A democratic nation cannot gag its masses - be it at public places or internet forums. The digital world has given equal rights to all to express their opinion. So why state interference? Moreover, free speech was one of the major tools with which we attained freedom.

PRANAV DESHPANDE, class XII, Thakur Vidya Mandir, Mumbai



MASKS OFF

After nearly two years of being cooped up at home and not being able to step out without covering face or being able to shake hands, hug and meet friends, what could be a better symbol of freedom than to 'live normal' and 'breathe normally sans masks'.

A UMESH, class X, GTVAM, Chennai

