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EDITORIAL

JEWELS OF INDIA IN A DECADE (1861-1870)



India has produced a good number of remarkable personalities having great visionaries who have done extraordinary service to the nation. These people can be categorized as jewels for their commitment, devotion, respective attitude and work. They have played immense role as leading thinkers in the late nineteenth and twentieth

century to shape the present India, fought hard for its freedom from the British rule through their original thinking, ideas, talent and set independent India on the right path and glory. These people are the real role models for the young generation to know about them to have the moral boost for their future line of activities. India is home to a rich history of language, culture and science with 22 official languages which nurtures presently about 1.3 billion people. Today's India is because of the contribution of some of these remarkable and great personalities born in a particular decade (1861-1870) of the nineteenth century from the different regions of British India. Their contributions are praiseworthy in various spheres of life having great significance to modern Indian Society. These persons have played a significant role in our history, culture, literature, freedom struggle, medicine, engineering, science and technology. We are now presenting about some of those great important personalities and their contribution in the context of national /international scenario.

Chunilal Bose (13.03.1861 to 03.08.1930) : Born in Calcutta, studied at the Scottish Church College and then Calcutta Medical College and proved to be an exceptional doctor. He has also written two articles regarding Prevention of Small Pox and Some Observations on



Diabetes in India. Bose also published the booklet *Palli Svastha O Saral Svastha Bidhan* (Village Health and Simple Rules for Health). Bose was not just a chemist, doctor and social reformer but also an author. In 1921 he wrote the biography of Sir Gurudas Banerjee as well as some literary pieces in Bengali. Bose acted as the Chemical Examiner of the Government of Bengal from 1889 to 1920 and his greatest achievement was the passing of the Indian Poison Act that stopped the free sale of toxic substances. Bose for the first time tried to spread awareness about the benefits of hygiene and sanitation in rural Bengal and mentioned about the importance of a balanced diet and daily exercise in the early 20th century. For his contributions in the field of Chemistry, food science and medicine, the British conferred on him the title of Roy Bahadur in 1898. Finally he was appointed the Sheriff of Calcutta, a fitting honour for one who tried hard to make the life of citizens healthier. Dr. Bose was a qualified doctor, excellent medical chemist, forensic scientist and science communicator.



Motilal Nehru (06.05.1861 to 06.02.1931): He was a lawyer by profession, active supporter of the Home Rule Movement in 1916 and started the Journal '**The Independent**' in 1919. Motilal belong to a prosperous Brahmin family of Kashmiri origin and was the father of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. In 1883 Motilal passed the law

examination and started practicing as Lawyer in Kanpur city. Later he moved to Allahabad for betterment of his career. Finally in 1909 he climbed up to his legal career getting approval to appear in the Privy Council of Great Britain for which he had to visit Europe many times. He became the first Chairman of the board of directors of The Leader, a leading daily published from Allahabad. Motilal was elected to the new Central Legislative Assembly of British India in New Delhi and finally became the leader of the opposition. He was one of the Builders of modern India and served as the Congress President twice (1919-20 and 1928-29). He headed the Congress Commission to look after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. He founded the Swarajya Party along with C. R. Das. He was arrested and imprisoned during the visit of Prince Wales. His son Jawaharlal Nehru entered into politics in 1916 making the the most powerful and influential Indian political dynasty. Finally in 1929 Jawaharlal's election as President of the Congress party led Motilal and family friends/ admirers happy to see that son take over from the father. Finally he had the greatest satisfaction to see that his son Jawaharlal and Gandhi was with him during the last stage of his life.



Rabindranath Tagore (07.05.1861 to 07.08.1941) : One of India's greatest sons, internationally acclaimed poet, playwright, song writer, novelist, educator, painter, philosopher and humanist, became the **first Asian to win the Nobel Prize in**

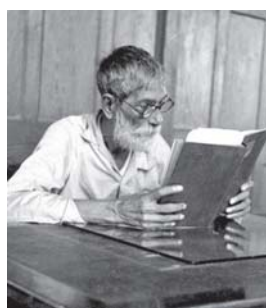
1913 for his book "Gitanjali" (first non-european to receive Nobel in literature). In 1915 Tagore was awarded a 'Knighthood' by the British Crown which he renounced after the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in 1919. He is the only poet to have composed the national anthems of two countries: "Amar Sonar Bangla" for Bangladesh and "Jana Gana Mana" for India. As an educationist, he emphasized the notion of complete and holistic education and finally established the Visva-Bharati in Santiniketan in 1921 as an Institution where *"the illusion of geographical barriers disappear from at least one place of India"*. He is the *cultural icon* and his writings particularly poetry and songs are the emblem of Bengali culture. For the first time he reshaped Bengali literature and music (Rabindra sangeet) and also Indian art with modernism during the second half of the nineteenth century flowing into the twentieth century.

Kadambini Ganguly (18.07.1861- 03.10.1923): The first Indian woman to receive her degree as a Medical doctor in 1886 and the first female graduate of the British



Empire and South Asian female physician trained in western medicine. First studied in Calcutta Medical College. She was also one of the earliest working women in British India. Kadambini was one of the first two graduates from Bethune College in 1883 along with Chandramukhi Basu, in the entire British Raj. 1886 marked

her record as one the first Indian women physician eligible to practice western medicine. After receiving GBMC (Graduate of Bengal Medical College) degree, She left for the United Kingdom in 1892 to get more experience in medical field and received various certificates from Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin. After returning to India, she worked for a short period in Lady Dufferin Hospital and started her private practice later. Kadambini organized the Women's Conference in Calcutta for solidarity and served as its president in 1908. As a champion of women's education and rights, Kadambini Ganguly may have long gone, but she will never be forgotten!



Profulla Chandra Ray (02.08.1861 to 16.06.1944) : A Bengali academician, A celebrated chemist and an Entrepreneur, Concerned with all spheres of human interest, Founder of Indian School of Modern Chemistry, Pioneer of Chemical Industries in India,

Founder of Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, India's first pharmaceutical company, Founder President of Indian Science News Association, Author of A History of Hindu Chemistry from the Earliest Times to the Sixteenth Century. A great teacher, A true humanist, The rationalist thinker, A world-famous scientist, A successful man of action, An ardent lover of his motherland, A remarkable entrepreneur, As a Professor - a source of inspiration for the new generation. Devoted his spare time in research in Ayurveda and published "The History of Hindu Chemistry" in two volumes. Finally, synthesized chemically the compound Mercurous Nitrite. He was single-handedly responsible for setting up the first Indian pharmaceutical institution "The Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works Ltd." in 1901. He became the President of the Indian Science Congress in 1920. He was the recipient of Faraday Gold Medal of the University of Edinburgh (1887), Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE, 1912), Knight Bachelor (1919)

and Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Chemical Society, Foundation Fellow of the National Institute of Sciences of India (1935) and Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (1943). He has been honoured with Honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Calcutta (1908), Honorary D.Sc. degree from Durham University (1912), D.Sc. degree from Banaras Hindu University (1920), D.Sc. degree from the University of Dhaka (1920) and D.Sc. degree from the University of Allahabad (1937), Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) placed Chemical Landmark Plaque in the University of Calcutta in 2011, the first to be situated outside Europe.



M. Visvesvaraya (15.09.1860/61 to 14.04.1962): Mokshagundam Srinivasa Shastry Visvesvaraya was basically an Indian Civil Engineer, scholar, statesman and the 19th Diwan of Mysore during 1912 to 1919. He was the first engineer who invented ‘automatic doors that close the water overflows’ and ‘block irrigation system’ which are still used. He patented the floodgates in 1903. India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania celebrated every year the 15th September as Engineer’s day to commemorate his birthday. His idea was that India became developed through the industries and India should try to be at par with industrialized nations. He served as the Chief Engineer in the cities of Mysore and Hyderabad respectively. The Govt. of India awarded him the **highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 1955** for his significant contributions in the field of Engineering. He was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (CIE) in 1911 and also knighted as a Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire (KCIE) in 1915 by King George V for his contributions to the public good. He has been honoured with several honorary degrees including D.Sc., L.L.D., D.Litt. from eight universities in India. He also became the President of the Indian Science Congress session in 1923.



Madan Mohan Malaviya (25.12.1861 to 12.11.1946): An Indian scholar, educational reformer, lawyer by profession, served the provincial and central legislature for many terms. He was the person to built a memorial at the Jallianwala Bagh site and founded the Nationalist party in 1926. He also served the Indian National Congress

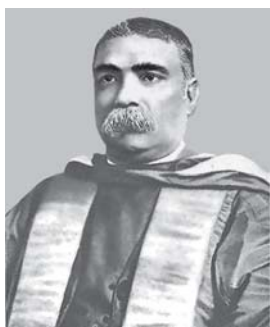
as its President for four times playing the most significant role in the Indian Independence movement. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya founded the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Mahasabha in 1914 in Amritsar having its headquarters in Haridwar. He also founded the Banaras Hindu University or Kashi Hindu Vishavidyalaya in 1916 along with Annie Besant and Sunder Lal which became known as Capital of Knowledge in India and the world. BHU was the largest residential university in Asia and one of India’s Institutes of National importance. Malaviya is recognized as an outstanding and noble son of India. He also worked as the 3rd Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (1919-1938). Malaviya having law degree from Allahabad University in 1891 started practicing at the Allahabad High Court from 1893 and earned name and fame as one of the most brilliant lawyers of the Allahabad High Court. The slogan “*Satyameva Jayate*” (*Truth alone triumphs*) is also a legacy of Malaviya. He worked as the Editor of Hindustan, Abyudaya and the Indian Union. He established the most influential English newspaper “The Leader” in India in 1909 in Allahabad. He was a member of the Imperial Legislative Council from 1912 to 1919 and continued until 1926 being the member of the Central Legislative Assembly. He played an important role in the Non-cooperation movement. He was also arrested on 25th April in 1932 along with other congress volunteers in Delhi during the Civil Disobedience Movement. Finally, the Govt. of India honored Madan Mohan Malaviya with *Bharat Ratna, the India’s highest civilian honour* on 24th December 2014.



Swami Vivekananda (12.01.1863 to 04.07.1902): He is credited with bringing the glory of the Hindu philosophy to the global platform, being the greatest spiritual leader of India contributing to the idea of nationalism and a chief disciple of the 19th century Indian mystic Ramakrishna. Born as Narendra Nath Datta in Calcutta

into an aristocratic Bengali Kayastha family, was an Indian Hindu monk, philosopher and author. He is famous for his speech in Chicago, USA starting with the words “Sisters and brothers of America” on 11th September 1893 where he introduced Hinduism to the Western world. Vivekananda inspired the youth to be brave and fearless and ready to take challenges. His birthday 12th January is being celebrated as “International Youth Day”. The problems like poverty, education, agriculture and women empowerment was in the era of Swami Vivekananda which are still persisting. He founded the Ramkrishna Math and

the Ramkrishna Mission. Vivekananda is also known as India's spiritual ambassador and pleaded eloquently for better understanding between India and the New World to create a healthy synthesis of East and West, of religion and science. Vivekananda is also regarded as the patriot saint of modern India and an inspirer of her dormant national consciousness.



Asutosh Mookerjee (29.06.1864 to 25.05.1924) : A man of great integrity, high self-respect, courage and towering administrative ability, became the first student achieving a dual degree (M.Sc. in Mathematics and M.Sc. in Physics) from the University of Calcutta. He was a prolific Bengali educator, jurist,

barrister and mathematician. He was the second Indian Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta for four consecutive two-year terms (1906-14) and a fifth two year term (1921-23) Asutosh Mukherjee, the then Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta found a galaxy of Indian scientists who showed their talents and made immense contributions towards the development of a global profile of Indian science. The nation is always grateful to Asutosh for initiating modern science education in India. *Rabindranath had a very good bonding with Asutosh regarding the academic development of our country.* He had a wide and diverse interest in science. The development of post-graduate teaching and research in science and technology at the University of Calcutta opened a door for the Indians to learn science. The Indian research institutes like Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science in Calcutta (in 1876), Tata Institute (1908) now known as Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore and the Bose Institute (1917) in Calcutta are landmarks in science development but none can reach that level before independence as compared to the developments initiated by Asutosh at the University of Calcutta. He played a key role to induct C.V. Raman, P.C. Ray and S. Radhakrishnan at the University of Calcutta. He has been honoured by the Companion of the Order of the Star of India (CSI) in June 1909 and knighted in December 1911. He founded Calcutta Mathematical Society in 1908 and served as the President of the society from 1908 to 1923, He was also the President of the inaugural session of the Indian Science Congress in Calcutta in 1914. He also completed his Bachelor of Law degree in 1888 and received an L.L.D. in 1897 and became the Tagore Professor of Law of the University of Calcutta. Finally he was appointed as Puisne judge of the High Court and

subsequently elevated as acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. Asutosh was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (FRAS, 1885), Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE, 1886), Physical Society of London (FPSL, 1887), Edinburgh Mathematical Society (FEMS, 1888) and also American Mathematical Society (FAMS, 1890).



Lala Lajpat Rai (28.01.1865 to 17.11.1928): Indian writer and politician, activist playing an important role in the Indian Independence movement. His ideologies and contribution help India to become independent country. He studied Law at the Govt. College, Lahore and started practicing law as a

member of the Bar council of Hissar. In 1892 he moved to Lahore High Court to practice and simultaneously practiced journalism. Lalaji's slogans are like this: "Defeat and failure are sometimes necessary steps of Victory" and "A person should be courageous and honest in worshipping the truth, without being concerned about receiving worldly benefits". He was popularly known as Punjab Kesari and one of the three members of the *Lal Bal Pal triumvirate* (Lala Lajpat Rai of Punjab, Bal Gangadhar Tilak of Maharashtra and Bipin Chandra Pal of Bengal) changed the political discourse of the Indian independence movement. He is the founder Editor of Arya Gazette and contributed a lot in Hindi, Punjabi, English and Urdu newspapers and magazines including The Tribune. He has also published a number of books and biographies.



Anandi Gopal Joshi (31.03.1865 to 26.02.1887): India's first female doctor having a degree in western medicine at the age of 21 from Women's Medical College at Pennsylvania, USA in 1886. She was born in Kalyan, Maharashtra but had education specially English and Sanskrit

learning from Calcutta and Serampore. Her education was fully supported by her husband Gopalrao Joshi, a progressive man. She emphasized the need for women doctors in India because only Hindu women can be better physicians to Hindu Women for the greater height. Finally she graduated with an MD in Obstetrics and her dissertation was "*Obstetrics among the Aryan Hindoos*" where she mixed up Western medicine and Indian Ayurveda. Queen Victoria congratulated her in a message

for completion of medical degree. She returned to India in 1886 and joined the princely state of Kolhapur as Doctor-in-Charge of the women's ward at the Albert Edward Hospital. Due to her ill health she died in early 1887 and she could not practice medicine. Her death was mourned immensely by the entire nation.



Gopal Krishna Gokhale (09.05.1866 to 19.02.1915):

Renowned social reformer and liberal political leader during the Indian Independence Movement against the British Empire in India, is known as "*The Political Guru of Gandhi*" as he was the one who guided Mahatma Gandhi to travel around India in order to fight

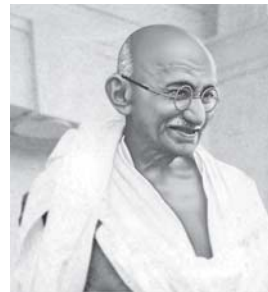
against the British. Gokhale played a pivotal role in bringing Gandhi back to British India from South Africa. He also guided Gandhi personally to tackle and solve the problems of India. He is also called the "*Diamond of India*" by his political opponent Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Gokhale is the pioneer in founding a Sectarian organization to work for relief of the underprivileged of India and also founded Deccan Sabha in 1896. Gokhale was a member of the Bombay Legislative Council for a period from 1899 to 1902 followed by the Imperial Legislative Council from 1902 to 1915. Gokhale played a key role advocating the expansion of legislative councils at both the centres and provinces. He became Congress President at its Banaras Session in 1905 and categorically mentioned that the minds of the people have been familiarised with the idea of a united India and a national public opinion has been created and the dignity of a consciousness of national existence to be spread over the whole land. Gokhale presented a bill in the Legislative Council to make a stronger fight against the Government. The main objective of the bill was to make primary education free and compulsory in a phased manner. Gandhi wrote a book in Gujrati dedicated to the leader titled "*Dharmatma Gokhale*".



Kasturba Gandhi (11.04.1869 to 22.02.1944) :

Indian political activist and involved actively with his husband and son in the Indian independence movement during the British India period in 1904 in South Africa. Popularly known as '*Ba*' or *Mother* because she served as mother of the ashrams in India

and the wife of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and a freedom fighter. She took active role protesting the ill-treatment of Indian immigrants in South Africa in 1913 for which she was arrested. She encouraged women to teach the uneducated women how to read and write and led other women to participate in prayer. Kasturba and Mohandas left South Africa in July 1914 and returned to India. She was always supported Gandhi in all his political programmes and was the first woman to be imprisoned by the British in Tranavaal. She was a leader in the struggle for civil rights and taught women hygiene, health, discipline, reading and writing. She also participated in *Satyagraha* (Non-violent resistance) movement in Gujrat in 1922. Kasturba visited Santiniketan in 1940 to meet Poet Rabindranath Tagore along with her husband Mahatma Gandhi. She was also arrested and jailed on numerous occasions and finally during the Quit India Movement in 1942, imprisoned in Agha Khan Palace in Pune and died two years later on 22nd February 1944 aged 74.



Mahatma Gandhi (02.10.1869 to 30.01.1948):

He is known as the *Father of the Nation*, Civil Rights Activist in South Africa, Satyagraha Movement and Quit India Movement. Gandhi was born from the western flank of India, Gujarat called the *Mahatma* (great soul) by

Tagore although they admired and revered each other but also differed each other greatly in ideology sharing a deep mutual respect and admiration. Gandhi was a product of the adverse and oppressing circumstances around him, basically an Indian lawyer who led his country to freedom from British colonial rule in 1947. He met Tagore after more than half their lives were over and when *each one of them was an acknowledged icon celebrated not only in India but also in the global arena*. It was a period during which India found its identity and its downtrodden multitude was aroused from a stupor of centuries into the dawn of freedom. Gandhi is an undisputed architect of this awakening. Gandhi proposed his scheme of Basic Education in a well formulated approach to education in 1937 in his newspaper "Harijan". Gandhi is most famous for his philosophy of nonviolence that has inspired civil rights leaders around the world. Gandhiji's birthday of 2nd October is commemorated as a national holiday in India and it is also the International Day of Nonviolence. He believed in peace. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was the first person to call Mahatma Gandhi as the "*Father of the Nation*". Later, the Parliament of Independent India officially recognized Gandhi as the Father of the Nation.

Albert Einstein called Gandhi “*a role model for the generations to come*” and “*I believe that Gandhi’s views were the most enlightened of all the political men in our time*”. Rabindranath Tagore said “*Mahatma Gandhi came and stood at the door of India’s destitute millionswho else has so unreservedly accepted the vast masses of the Indian people as his flesh and blood Truth awakened Truth*”. Five important lessons to learn from Gandhi are Non-violence; Truth and Honesty; Forgiveness; Perseverance; and Mindfulness. Gandhi said “*Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever*”.



Chittaranjan Das (05.11.1870 to 16.06.1925): By profession a lawyer, freedom fighter, politician, author and poet, defended Aurobindo in the Alipur Bomb Conspiracy case in 1909. He served as a member of the Congress Enquiry Committee to look into

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. He acted as Leader in Non-Cooperation Movement of 1919-1922 and founded the All India Swaraj Party in 1923 with veteran leader Motilal Nehru to express uncompromising position.. By election he became the first Mayor of the Calcutta Corporation in 1924. His nickname was Deshbandhu (Friend of the Nation). Chittaranjan brought out a newspaper “Forward” and later changed name to “Liberty” as part of his support for

various anti-British movements in India. He was closely associated with a number of literary societies. His writings proved him a distinguished poet, his writings include Malancha (poems) in 1895, Mala in 1904, Antaryami in 1915, Kishore-Kishoree and Sagar-Sangit in 1913 (The Songs of the Sea). Finally he started a monthly journal named “Narayana” where many eminent writers like Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Bipin Chandra Pal and Hariprasad Shastri of that period contributed their writings. His name is abbreviated as **C.R. Das**.

Here we have analysed in brief about the life and activities of a few of the greatest Indian jewels of all time. These remarkable people changed the world through their talents and innovative ideas. They have made significant contribution to the betterment of human kind during the British India period to have the identity of our own nation. Their lives are role models for all persons who aspire to make a mark in the national/international context and may achieve excellence in their own field of specialization. Besides, it is also very pertinent to mention that these jewels should be remembered and focused in a befitting way following the ethos and culture of India in the context of its progressive development for the present society. Now we are paying our respectful homage and tribute to these celebrated Indian personalities who brought name and fame to India showing the proper and the most significant pathway to proceed in right directions. □

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