

# Role of the Indian Tribal Heroes in the Freedom Struggle of India



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## Abstract

The heroes know no geographical, social and cultural limits. They are born universally in all the societies. The only difference is that some of the heroes win popularity among a large geographical area with millions of people covering it, while some others succeed in governing only a handful of people living in a very limited geographical area. The freedom of India is the result of sacrifice of millions and billions of the people from all over India. It is limited neither to the urban leaders nor to the educated. The heroes and heroines of the freedom struggle of India belong to different societies, states, castes, religions, creeds and cultures. The only thing that matters about them is that they governed by the spirit of nationalism, joined each other while conducting operations separately at their own places with an unanimous aim to make India free from the clutches of the British rule which had deprived the Indians of their rights and which had thrown India into the fire of poverty, slavery, and penury.

The primitive society known for its own peculiar socio-cultural and political features, gave several heroes and heroines. Of course, because of being less known and unpopular, they could not be the history of the nation, but the sacrifice for the freedom of India will remain incomplete if the tribal great personalities are ignored. The official updates of most of them are not available, still for the researchers it is not impossible to guess and estimate their role and contribution to the freedom of India which allows every individual of the nation to enjoy freedom in various fields.

Based on the use of the secondary data collected from the various accessible sources, the paper is a theoretical qualitative research designed to focus the role of the tribal heroes and heroines of the nation. An attempt has been made to explore the tribal heroes in the pre-independent India so as to make the world familiar with the multi-faceted potential and the spirit of nationalism in the members of the primitive Indian society.

**Keywords:** Primitive World, Tribal People, Peculiar Culture, Inaccessible To Modernity, Main Stream of Development, Tribal Heroes, Disfigured Faces.

## Introduction

The Indian primitive society known for a distinct and peculiar culture, unaccessibility, hard work under hard conditions of living, wilderness and isolation, disfigured faces of its members, detachment from the main stream of development has always been full of curiosity to the scientists who have long been engaged in studying it for the sake of its linkage to the main stream of the world.

Though with a tremendous change in cultural modes, it has much common with the other societies prevailing in the world and country. The freedom of India is said to be the outcome of the popular Indian leaders, but very few of the people know that many tribal heroes and heroines in the different states of India contributed to the freedom of India from the British rule. The history of the Freedom struggle of India and the practical freedom of India from the British cannot be complete until the contribution of the tribal heroes of India is traced out and known to the people of India at large.

Though the tribal heroes still remain unknown and unpopular, their contribution in organizing the tribal people of the nation for an effective participation in the freedom struggle cannot be ignored. They could not be history of the nation because of being different from the masses, but they will find room in the heart of mother India for ever as at the root of the Indian freedom there lies their sacrifice.

**Shrinkhla Ek Shodhparak Vaicharik Patrika**

Rajasthan has its own tribal world covering a vaste geographical area inhabited by the tribes, such as, Bhils, Garasia, Saharia, Meena and many others. The southern districts of Udaipur, Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh, Rajsamand and Sirohi have a tribal population which is over 70% of the total population. This area which is rich in forests, forest wealth, mines, minerals and stone quarries, fertile lands and rivers, with a high average rainfall which sets it apart from the rest of arid Rajasthan, used to be one of the most lush and wealthy areas of Rajasthan. Fifty years of

'independence' and 'freedom' have left it naked and deforested, covered with the open sores of indiscriminate mining. All its forest and mineral wealth have been drained to enrich the non-tribal populations. The tribals, through a process of 'internal colonisation', have been marginalised over the years and have yet to understand how centrally-made rules, regulations and laws in faraway Delhi and Jaipur have deprived them of all their natural resources and wealth.

**State wise Scheduled Tribe Population: 2011 (TOTAL)  
Total Tribal Population in India-104,281,034**

Sl.	State	Tribes	Total Tribal Population (2011)
1	Jammu & Kashmir	Bakarwal, Balti, Beda, Gaddi, Garra, Mon, Purigpa, Sippi. Jharkhand: Birhors, Bhumij, Gonds, Kharia, Mundas, Santhals, Savar. Karnataka: Adiyani, Barda, Gond, Bhil, Iruliga, Koraga, Patelia, Yerava. Kerala: Adiyani, Arandan, Eravallan, Kurumbas, Malai arayan, Moplahs, Uralis.	1,493,299
2	Himachal Pradesh	Bhot, Bodh, Gaddi, Gujjar, Jad, Lamba,, Khampa, Kanaura, Kinnara, Lahaula, Pangwala, Swangla, Beta, Beda, Domba, Gara, Zoba.	392,126
3	Punjab	-	Nil
4	Chandigarh	-	Nil
5	Uttarakhand	Jaunsari, Tharu, Raji, Buksa and Bhotiyas.	291,903
6	Haryana	-	Nil
7	NCT of Delhi	-	Nil
8	Rajasthan	Bhagalia, Bhil Gametia, Bhil Garasia, Bhil Kataria, Bhil Mama, Bhil Meena, Bhilalala, Damor, Dhanka, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvil Bhil, Vasava	9,238,534
9	Uttar Pradesh	Agariya (in the district of Sonbhadra), Baiga (in the district of Sonbhadra), Bhotia, Bhuiya, Bhuinya (in the district of Sonbhadra), Buksa, Chero (in the districts of Sonbhadra and Varanasi)	1,134,273
10	Bihar	Asur, Baiga, Banjara, Bathudi, Bedia, Bhumij, Binjhia., Birhor.	1,336,573
11	Sikkim	Lepcha, Bhutia, Limbu (Subba), Tamang,	206,360
12	Arunachal Pradesh	Abor, Aka, Apatani, Dafla, Galong, Khampati, Khowa, Mishmi, Monpa, Momba, Naga, Sherdukpen, Singpho.	951,821
13	Nagaland	Chakhesang, Kabui, Shepomei or Shepoumai (Mao-Poumai), Zeliangrong	1,710,973
14	Manipur	Aimol, Anal, Angami, Chiru, Chothe, Gangte, Hmar, Kabui, Kacha Naga, Koirao, Koirang, Kom, Lamkang, Mao, Maram, Maring, Mizo, Lushei, Monsang, Moyon, Paite, Purum, Ralte, Sema, Simte, Sahlte (Sukte), Tangkhul, Thadou, Vaiphei, Zou, Kharam, Tarao, Poumai Naga, and Kuki.	902,740
15	Mizoram	Boro or Bodo, Chakma, Dimasa, Kachari, Garo, Hajong, Hmar, Khasi, Jaintia, Synteng, Pnar, War, Bhoi, Lyngngam, Kuki, Biate, Biete, Changsan, Chongloi, Doungel, Gamalhou, Gangte, Guite, Hanneng.	1,036,115
16	Tripura	Riang, Jamatia, Chakma, Halam, Mag, Munda, Kuki, Garoo	1,166,813
17	Meghalaya	Chakma, Dimasa, Kachari, Garo, Hajong, Hmar, Khasi, Any Kuki Tribe, Lakher, Man, Mizo, Mikir, Naga, Pawi, Boro Kacharis, Koch, Raba, Rava	2,555,861
18	Assam	Boro or Bodo, Chakma, Dimasa, Kachari, Garo, Hajong, Pnar, Bhoi, War, Hmar, Khasi, Jaintia, Synteng, Haupt, Guite, Lyngngam, Kuki, Biate, Biete, Changsan, Chongloi, Doungel, Gamalhou, Gangte, Hanneng, Haokip, Haolai, Hengna, Hrangkhwal, Rangkhoh, Jongbe, Khawchung, Khawathlang, Khothalong, Khelma, Kholhou.	3,884,371
19	West Bengal	Santal, Oraon, Munda, Bhumij	5,296,953
20	Jharkhand	Munda, Santhal, Oraon, Kharia, <b>Gond</b> , Kol, Kanwar, Savar.	8,645,042
21	Odisha	Bagata, Baiga, Banjara, Banjari, Bathudi, Bhattada, Dhotada, Bhuiya Bhuyan, Bhumia.	9,590,756
22	Chhattisgarh	Gonds, Abhuj Maria, Bison Horn Maria, Muria, Halbaa, Dhurva	7,822,902
23	Madhya Pradesh	Gond, Bhil, Baiga, Sahariya, Abujhmar, Baharia, Korcu	15,316,784

**Shrinkhla Ek Shodhparak Vaicharik Patrika**

24	Gujarat	Bhil, Bhil Garasia, Tadvi, Pawra, Dhodi Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Dungri Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia, Bhilala, Vasava, Vasave, Chaudhri, Dhanka, Tetaria, Valvi Dhodia,	8,917,174
25	Daman & Diu	Dubla, Dhodia, Varli, Naikda & Siddi	15,363
26	D & N Haveli	Dhodia, Kokna, Varli, Koli, Kathodi, Naika and Dubla	178,564
27	Maharashtra	Andh, Baiga, Barda, Bavacha, Bamcha, Bhania, Bharia Bhumia, Bhuinhar Bhumia, Pando, Dungri Bhattra, Bhil, Bhil Garasia, Garasia, Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia, Bhilala Pawara, Vasava, Vasave, Bhunjia, Binjhar, Birhul Birhor, Chodhara, Dhanka, Tadvi, Tetaria Valvi, Dhanwar, Dhodia, Dubla, Talavia, Halpati, Gamit, Gamta, Gavit, Mavchi, Padvi, Gond people Gond Rajgond, Arakh, Arrak, Agaria, Asur, Badi Maria, Bada Maria, Bahtola, Bhimma, Bhutta, Koilbhuta, Koilabhuti, Bhar, Bisonborn Maria, Chota Maria, Dandami Maria, Dhuru, Dhuruwa, Dhoba, Dhulia, Dorla, Gaiki, Gatta, Gatti, Gaita, Gond Gowari, Hill maria, Kandra, Kalanga, Khatola, koitar, koya, Khirwar, Khirwara, Kucha, Maria, Kuchaki Maria, Madia, Maria Mana, Mannewar, Moghya, Mogia, Monghya, Mudia, Muria, Nagarchi, Naikpod, Nagrchi, Ojha, Raj, Sonjhari Jhareka, Thatia, Thota, Wade Maria, Vade Maria, Halba, Halbi, Kamar, Kathodi, Katkari, Dhor Kathodi, Dhor Kathkari Son Kathodi, Son Katkari, Kawar, Kanwar, Kaur, Cherwa, Rathia, Tanwar, Chattri, Khairwar, Kharia, Kokna, Kokni, Kukna, Kol, Kolam, Mannervarlu, Koli Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha, Kolkha, Koli Mahadev, Dongar Koli, Koli Malhar, Kondh, Khond, Kandh, Korku, Bopchi, Mouasi, Nihal, Nahul, Bondhi, Bondeya, Koya, Bhine Koya, Rajkoya, Nagesia, Nagasia, Naikda, Nayak, Cholivala Nayak, Kapadia Nayak, Mota Nayak, Nana Nayak, Oraon, Dhangad, Pardhan, Pathari, Saroti, Pardhi, Advichincher, Phans Pardhi, Phanse Pardhi, Langoli Pardhi, Bahelia, Bahellia, Chita Pardhi, Shikari, Takankar, Takia, Parja, Patelia, Pomla, Rathwa, Sawar, Sawar, Thoti, Vitolia, Kotwalia, Barodia	10,510,213
28	Andhra Pradesh	Gond, Koya, Khond Savara, Chenchu, Lambada, Yerukula and Yanadi	5,918,073
29	Karnataka	Adiyan, Barda, Bavacha, Bamcha, Bhil, Bhil Garasia, Dungri Dholi Bhil, Dungri Bhil, Garasia, Mewasi Bhil, Rawal Bhil, Tadvi Bhil, Bhagalia, Bhilala, Pawra, Vasava, Vasave, Chenchu, Chenchwar, Chodhara, Dubla, Talavia, Halpati, Gamit, Gamta, Gavit, Mavchi, Padvi, Valvi, Gond, Naikpod, Rajgond, Gowdal, Hakkipikki, Hasalaru, Irular, Iruliga, Jenu Kuruba, Kadu Kurua, Kammara,, Kanivan, Kanyan, Dhor Kathodi, Dhor Katkari, Son Kathodi, Son Katkari, Kattunayakan, Kokna, Kokni, Kukna, Koli Dhor, Tokre Koli, Kolcha, Kolgha, Konda Kapus, Koraga, Kota, Koya, Bhine Koya, Rajkova, Kudiya, Melakudi, Kuruba, Kurumanas, Kumbara, Maha Malasar, Malaikudi, Malasar, Malayekandi, Maleru, Maratha, Marathi, Meda, Naikda, Nayak, Cholivala Nayak, Kapadia Nayak, Mota Nayak, Nana Nayak, Naika, Nayaka, Beda, Bedar & Valmiki, Palliyar, Paniyan, Pardhi, Advichincher, Phanse Pardhi, Petelia, Rathawa, Sholaga, Siddi, Soligar, Toda, Varli, Vitolia, Kotwalia, Barodia, Yerava, Rajasthan Dhor Samaaj	4,248,987
30	Goa	Dhodia (Halpati), Dubla (Talavia), Naikda (Nayaka), Siddi, Varli, Kunbi, Gawda, Velip.	149,275
31	Lakshadweep	Aminidivi, Koya, Malmi, Melacheri	61,120
32	Kerala	Adiyan, Adiyars, Adigals, Aranadan, Cholanakaikan, Eravallan, Hill Pulaya, Irular, Kadar, Kanikkar	484,839
33	Tamil Nadu	Adiyan, Aranadan, Eravallan, Irular, Kadar, Kammara, Kanikaran, Kanikkar, Kaniyan, Kanyan.	794,697
34	Puducherry	-	Nil
35	A & N Islands	Negrito, Mongoloid, Shompen and Nicobarese	28,530

**Source- Tut2Learn & Shodhganga****State-Wise Chronicles of the Indian Tribes And Tribal Heroes**

Below is given a chronological record of tribal revolts in India before the independence from the British rule in the year 1947. The list covers those

tribal uprisings that occurred during the period of British rule in India.

1. 1774-79: Halba rebellion in Dongar (By Halba tribes in Bastar Chhattisgarh) against British armies and the Marathas.

2. 1778: revolt of the Pahariya Sardars of Chota Nagpur against the British Government.
3. 1784-1785: Uprising of the Koli Mahadev tribes in Maharashtra.
4. 1789: revolt of the Tamar of Chota Nagpur against British.
5. 1794-1795: the Tamars revolted again.
6. 1798: The revolt of the tribals against the sale of Panchet estate.
7. 1812 Kurichya Rebellion organised by the tribal people Kurichyas against the Wayanad invasion of British in 1812.
8. 1850 The Khond tribe revolted in Orissa under leadership of chief Bisoi.
9. 1855 The 'Great Rebellion' by the Santal community against the British in Eastern India led by Sido and Kanho, claiming to have supernatural powers.
10. 1857-1858 The Bhil revolted against under the leadership of Bhagoji Naik and Kajar Singh.
11. 1860 The Lushai tribal people raided the then British Tripura and killed 186 British subjects.
12. 1860-1862 The Synteng tribal Jaintia Hills in North-East India.
13. 1861 The Juang tribal community revolted in Orissa.
14. 1862 The Koya tribal community revolted in Andhra against tribal landlords called 'Muttader' in tribal dialect.
15. 1869-1870 The Santal people revolted at Dhanbad in Eastern India against a local monarch. The British mediated to settle dispute.
16. 1879 The Naga tribal people revolted in North-Eastern India.
17. 1880 The Koya revolted again at Malkangiri in Orissa under leadership of Tammandora.
18. 1883 The Sentinelese tribal people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean attacked the British.
19. 1889 The mass agitation by the Munda against the British in Eastern India.
20. 1891 The tribals of North-East India revolted against the British under leadership of Tikendraji Singh.
21. 1892 The Lushei people revolted against the British repeatedly.
22. 1895 The famous revolt by the Munda tribal community under leadership of Birsa Munda.
23. 1911 The uprising of the tribal people of Bastar.
24. 1913-1914 Tana Bhagat movement in Bihar
25. 1913 samp sabha by guru govind & 1507 bhil people against British at mangadh hill
26. 1917-1919 Kuki Uprising in Manipur against British colonialism under the leadership of their chieftains called haosa
27. 1920-1921 Tana Bhagat movement happened again.
28. 1922 The Koya tribal community revolted at Rampa against the British under leadership of Alluri Sitarama Raju
29. 1932 The Nagas revolted under leadership of 14-year old Rani Guidallo in North-Eastern India.
30. 1941 The Gond and the Kolam revolted in collaboration against British Government in the Adilabad district of the state of Telangana.
31. 1942 Tribal revolt under leadership of Lakshmana Naik at Koraput in Orissa.
32. 1942-1945 The tribes of Andaman and Nicobar islands revolted against occupation of their islands by Japanese troops during world war.
33. The bedi pratha of the people of Rajasthan was removed by Shri Karunashankar Prahaladji Raval. He made bombs against the Britishers and feared none, he was a great freedom fighter

**Famous Indian Tribal Leaders****Tilka Manjhi**

Baba Tilka Manjhi (or Jabra paharia) was the first Adivasi leader who took up arms against the British in the 1784, around 100 years before Mangal Pandey. He organized the Adivasis to form an armed group to fight against the resource grabbing and exploitation of British.

**Govind Guru**

Govind Guru, a very popular name for the members of the Bhil tribe in Rajasthan, played a dominant role in organizing the members of the tribe dwelling in Rajasthan and the neighbouring states. He worked for the socio-cultural and economic upliftment of the tribe. Being exiled, after his release from the jail, he spent the rest of his life in Gujarat. The Government of Rajasthan has honoured him by naming many schools and colleges and other public offices after his name.

**Kali Bai**

Kali Bai was a Bhil teen aged girl residing in Rastapal village of the present day Dungarpur village in the 1940s. Her sense of patriotism and leadership was seen on several occasions, but especially at the point of time when on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1947 when the state police went to the Rastapal village to close the school and Nanabhai died as a result of severe beating of the police, and when the school teacher Sengabhai Bhil was dragged on the road tied to a truck, being a student she ran towards the truck with a sickle to cut the ropes and free Sengabhai from this torture. The police were incensed at this, and as Kali Bai bent down to tend to Sengabhai, they shot her in the back. She fell down unconscious and later died in the hospital in Dungarpur.

**Jatara Tana Bhagat**

Veer Jatara Tana Bhagat was the hero of the tribal community called Tana Bhagats in Indian state of Jharkhand. Tana Bhagats are related to the historical Tana Bhagat Movement (1914). Tana Bhagats were formed by Oaron saints Jatra Bhagat and Turia Bhagat. The Tana Bhagats opposed the taxes imposed on them by the British and they staged a Satyagraha (civil disobedience movement) even before Gandhi's Satyagraha movement. They opposed the zamindars, the banias (moneylenders), the missionaries, the Muslims and the British state. Tana Bhagats are followers of Mahatma Gandhi, and believe in Ahimsa (Non-violence).

**Matangini Hazra**

Hazra was part of the Quit India Movement and Non-Cooperation Movement. During one

procession, she continued to advance with the Indian flag even after being shot thrice. She kept shouting "Vande Mataram".

#### **Birsa Munda**

Birsa Munda (1875–1900) was a tribal leader and a folk hero, belonging to the Munda tribe who was behind the Millenarian movement that rose in the tribal belt of modern day Bihar, and Jharkhand during the British Raj, in the late 19th century making him an important figure in the history of the Indian independence movement. He died in the jail at the young age of 25, but he had some remarkable achievements in his short time. The most notable one being heading the Millenarian movement that inspired the tribal belt of modern day Bihar and Jharkhand to go against the British Raj in the late 19th century. Owing to his heroism and god-like qualities, now he is worshipped as a god, and called 'Bhagwan Birsa Munda'.

#### **Rani Gaidinliu**

She was a Naga spiritual and political leader who led a revolt against the British rule in India and was also staunchly against the conversion of Naga religious practitioners to Christianity. At the age of 13, she joined the Heraka religious movement which later turned into a political movement that tried to drive the British away from Manipur and nearby Naga regions. She was 16 at the time of her arrest, and was put into life imprisonment by the British. She was released in 1947 after which she continued to work for the community.

#### **Trilot Singh**

Tilot Singh, one of the chiefs of Khasi people in early 18<sup>th</sup> century, fought against the British attempts to take over the control of the Khasi Hills. He passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 1835 fighting the British.

#### **Tantya Bhil**

Tantya Bhil (d.1890) was a great tribal hero who was active in British India between 1878 and 1889. He is described very negatively in period British accounts, but is recognized by Indians as a heroic figure due to what he did for the people of his tribe and for the nation.

#### **Veer Narayan Singh**

Veer Narayan Singh (1795–1857) was a landlord from Sonakhan, Chhattisgarh. He spearheaded the 1857 war Indian independence in Chhattisgarh.

#### **Alluri Sitarama Raju**

He was the leader of Rampa Rebellion of 1922-24, during which a band of tribal leaders and other sympathizers fought against the British Rule. He was referred to as 'Manyam Veerudu by the local people in Andhra Pradesh. He took up the cause of the tribal people in the Agency areas, who were being harassed by the British officials under the Forest Act.

#### **Pingali Venkayya**

He was a devout follower of Mahatma Gandhi and was also known as Diamond Venkayya for his knowledge on diamond mining. His major contribution to the movement was the design of the national flag of India, which was first modified and adopted as the flag of Indian National Congress and later modified again to be the national flag of India.

#### **Surendra Sai**

He protected the Western Orissa from the British rule. He led the tribal people in Sambalpur against the British. Because of his swordship, he was affectionately called Bira by the local people.

All the above stated tribal can never be forgotten for the sacrifice they made in various fields for the sake of the Indian freedom.

#### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To review the history of the freedom struggle movement of India
2. To be familiar with the scenario of the freedom struggle movement in the various states of India
3. To have an idea about the impact of the freedom struggle movement on the tribal people
4. To have an insight into the spirit of nationalism in the tribal people
5. To trace out the state-wise tribal heroes and heroines who played dominant role in the freedom struggle movement and the freedom of India
6. To systematize the tribal movements that favoured the freedom of India
7. To explore the names of the tribal heroes whose sacrifice has been forgotten, and who could not become history despite their sacrifice
8. To familiarize the people with the names of the forgotten freedom fighters, and especially the tribal freedom fighters

#### **Review of Literature**

M. Mishra (2012) in 'Health status and diseases in tribal dominated villages of central india' suggests that there is need to ensure proper and fruitful functioning of all the preventive measures initiated at the community level, such as supply of safe and sufficient drinking water, proper functioning of scheme like Public Distribution System (PDS), Immunization programme. However, functioning of all these ongoing initiatives can only be ensured provided beneficiaries at large are made aware about these schemes on constant basis. And for awareness generation, besides PHC and CHC initiatives, services of other institutions such as primary schools, gram panchayats, self help groups, NGOs etc. may be taken. It is true that over the time tribal's dependence on traditional healing methods has deteriorated and it is further likely to deteriorate but on this basis alone its contribution in the past cannot be undermined. There is a need to activate and strengthen PHC and CHC. Such institutions exists at their door step.

Ram Babu & Dr. AN Panda( 2016) in the study 'Socio-Economic status of the Baiga tribe of Chhattisgarh in India' observe that the Indian Constitution assigns special status to the Scheduled Tribes (STs). Traditionally referred to as advises, van basis, tribes, or tribals, STs constitute about 8% of the Indian population. There are 573 Scheduled Tribes living in different parts of the country, which are different from the mainstream people of the State where they live. Baiga tribe is a primitive tribe found in central provinces of the country such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand. In Baiga community, the family is small,

but the kinship structures are quite strong. They follow strict marriage rules, such as incest is a taboo, no marriage with outsiders is permitted, and monogamy is the general rule. The Baiga have expertise in medicine and the priests have their special importance.

The Times of India (December 4, 2017) under the heading 'A Museum to Commemorate Sacrifice of Tribal Martyrs' reports Govind Guru's contribution to the Indian freedom as follows-

From October 1913 Govind Guru asked his followers to gather at Mangarh Hill from where they would conduct their operations. The British asked them to vacate Mangarh Hill by November 15, but they refused. On November 17 the Tribals were gathering for a meeting when the British forces opened fires from cannons and guns on the crowd. Though there are no official estimates, the locals believe more than 1500 people were killed. Govind Guru was captured and exiled from the area. He was imprisoned in Hyderabad jail. He was released in 1919 on grounds of good behavior. But as he was exiled from his homeland, he settled in Limdi in Gujarat where he passed away in 1931.

Divya A (June 15, 2018) under the title 'Six museums on tribal freedom fighters to be set up' reporting the Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram's special favour for the Indian tribal leaders, writes that The minister added that 10 per cent of India's population is tribal and they need to be given adequate representation at the national level. The Centre will set up six museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters in Gujarat, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala with an estimated cost of Rs 250 crore. The biggest among these six museums in the first phase are the ones coming up in Gujarat's Garudeshwar, at a cost of Rs 102 crore, and the one dedicated to Birsa Munda in Ranchi, at Rs 37 crore. Besides, the Raipur museum (at Rs 26 crore) will showcase the movement led by Veer Narayan Singh; the Lambasingini museum (Rs 35 crore) in Andhra Pradesh will commemorate Alluri Sita Rama Raju; the museum in Chhindwara (Rs 39 crore) is dedicated to various tribal leaders from Madhya Pradesh; while the one in Kozhikode (Rs 16 crore) will pay tribute to tribal freedom fighters under the leadership of Thalakkal Chandu.

#### **Hypothesis**

1. The freedom of India is the result of the sacrifice of all the Indians at large
2. History of India highlights only the popular personalities and ignores those about whom there is no official updates
3. The primitive society is an integral part of the Indian society
4. There are several tribes in the country that are waiting to join the mainstream
5. The heroes are not limited to any community
6. The tribal world gave several male and female heroes
7. The name and contribution of the tribal heroes is not known to most of the people
8. It is essential to make the world familiar with their name and contribution

9. The tribal heroes belonging to several tribes of India played role in bringing freedom to India
10. Without the sacrifice of the tribal heroes, the freedom of India would never have been possible.

#### **Methodology**

The steps followed by the author to prepare the research paper include- setting the specific objectives of the study, study of the selected related literature, tracing out the names of the various tribal heroes and tribes, focusing the various contributions of the tribes of India, associating the tribal contribution to the freedom of India, classifying the secondary data accordingly so as to arrive at some fruitful conclusion. The only form of data used in the study is secondary which the author mainly collected from articles and internet sites. At the same time, he also applied his own perceptions, observations and knowledge of history and tribes.

#### **Findings**

1. The Halba tribe helped India free from the British in Bastar Chhattisgarh
2. Koli Mahadev tribe contributed to the freedom of India in Maharashtra.
3. The Kurichya Rebellion organised by the tribal people protected India from the Wayanad invasion of the British.
4. Bisoj, the member of the Khond tribe proved himself to be a tribal hero and freedom fighter in Orissa
5. Sido Kanho, the member of the Santal tribe proved his potential by making the Great Rebellion against the British
6. Bhagoji Naik and Kajar Singh, the leaders in the Bhil Tribe paved the path of freedom of India through their revolts against the British
7. In Tripura, the members of the Lushai tribe killed 186 British subjects leading India to its freedom
8. In North-East India, the Synteng tribe showed nationalism during the Freedom struggle movement
9. The contribution of the Juang tribe in Orissa, and the Koya tribal community to the freedom of India is noteworthy
10. The Naga tribal people revolted in North-Eastern India.
11. Tammandora in the Koya tribe led the people in Orissa
12. The Sentinelese tribal people of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Indian Ocean attacked the British.
13. Through the mass agitation, the Munda tribe in Eastern India prepared the ground for the Indian freedom
14. Tikendraji Singh in North East turned out to be a tribal hero
15. The contribution of the Lushei tribe is noteworthy as well
16. Birsa Munda worked for the organization of the Munda tribe
17. Tana Bhagat through his heroic qualities and sense of nationalism won the favour of his people in Bihar

18. Guru Govind organized the Bhils living in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh at Mangarh hill. He worked for their social and cultural upliftment, paving a path for the freedom of India
19. The Haosa chieftains organized the members of the Kuki tribe in Manipur, and prepared them for any sacrifice for the freedom of India
20. Alluri Sitarama Raju came to be known as the hero of the Koya tribal community
21. Rani Gaidallo in North-Eastern India became popular as a leader among the Nagas in North Eastern India
22. The Gond and the Kolam revolted in collaboration against British Government in the Adilabad district of the state of Telangana.
23. Lakshmana Naik proved himself to be a leader of his tribe at Koraput in Orissa
24. The Indian tribal heroes should be given ample room in the curriculum at the school level nationwide so as to make the students familiar with the deeds and achievements of the various tribal heroes
25. The biographies of the tribal heroes like Govind Guru and Kali Bai should be essentially taught to the students at the primary and upper primary level all over India so that the children can learn that the leaders are born in all the societies and that the tribal world which is unapproachable to most of the people produced several heroes who are immortal in the heart of mother India.
26. Bhagoji Naik and Kajar Singh Naik in Satpuda and Satmala hills; Bhima Naik and Tanya Bhil in Nishad Malwa region; Veer Narya revolutionary in Chidned Jungle; Shankar Shah and Prabhunath Shah in Jabalpur district; Umaji Naik in Maharashtra; Veer Narayan Singh in Chhattisgarh; Veer 3 Kiyang Naangwa in Meghalaya; Chakra Vishoi in Odisha; Alluri Sitaram Raju, Veer Kumra Cheemu in Andhra Pradesh; etc. supported the members of their respective tribes to lead fearless lives while working in the hard conditions
27. Jatara Tana Bhagat in Oranva tribe; Siddho Guryu in Santhal Tribe; Neelambar-Peetambar in Palayu Bhogata tribe; Tilka Manjhi in Santhal

tribe; Veer Shambhudhan Phunglosa in Naga tribe in Assam; Rani Ma Gaidinleu in Rangmepi tribe in Manipur etc. are some of the immortal tribal heroes to the various tribal communities in India

#### **Conclusion**

India with several known and unknown tribes inhabiting it with their own cultural traits, can never forget the contribution of the various tribes and the heroes belonging to them. If from time to time there had not been the tribal revolts against the British, the British might not have felt the unity and power of India, and India might not have been free from the British. Indeed, the freedom of India is the result of the collective efforts through agitations, raids and revolts made by both the urban and the rural, the modern and the primitive, the literate and the illiterate, the male and the female citizens of India. Behind the ultimate freedom which India officially got on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1947, there is an inexplicable role and contribution of the tribal people as well. It is essential to bring forth all the tribal heroes and heroines so that the people can be familiar with their contribution to the freedom of India.

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