

75 years ago, on the historic date of 15th August 1947, India became free from British domination. It was the culmination of numerous movements and struggles of many revolutionary freedom fighters that we are celebrating this year -

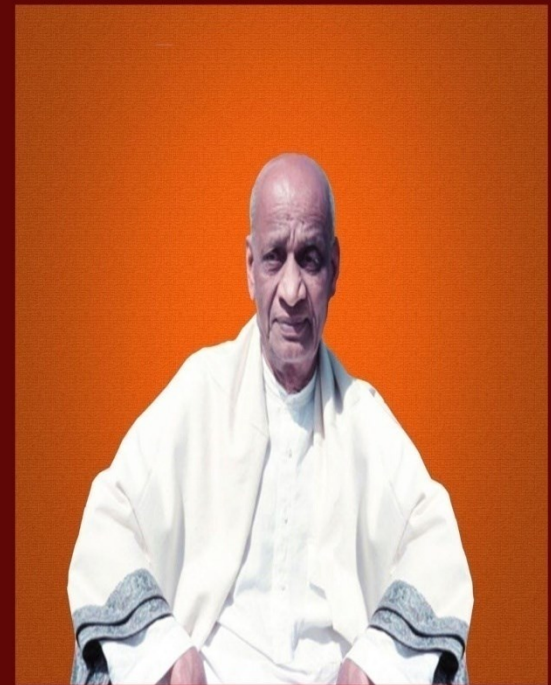
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**MAHAUTSAV – INDIA @75**



# Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

‘The *‘Iron man of India’* -- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel is one of the most vital pathfinder in the Indian history of Independence. Known for his patriotism for the country, Patel’s primary motivation was to expel the British out of the country. He was one of the prominent Indian barristers, politicians and leading figures of the country. As the founding father of the “**Republic of India**” he played a pivotal role in integrating the provinces and making the Nation united. To recognize his monumental contribution and service to the Nation, 31<sup>st</sup> October, birthday of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel is celebrated as the **National Unity Day** .

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# Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

**‘The Architect of Modern India’**-Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was India's first and longest serving Prime Minister also known as a visionary and an influential leader in the Indian independence movement. Pt. Nehru spent years in jail to win freedom. The book **‘The Discovery of India’** was written by him while he was in jail. As a firm believer in Nation building, his first commitment was to make India a self-sufficient economy. Pt. Nehru is popularly known for setting up the strong foundation in industrial powerhouse, military power, space and established network of educational institutions like IITs and IIMs. Being a favorite amongst the children as ‘Chacha Nehru’, his birthday -14<sup>th</sup> November is celebrated as **Children’s Day** in India.

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# Mahatma Gandhi



‘**Father of the Nation**’ - Mahatma Gandhi was a great leader and a social reformer, a role model for the entire nation and abroad. With his supreme sacrifice and noble ideals of Satya (truth) and Ahimsa (nonviolence), Mahatma Gandhi contributed tirelessly and selflessly in India’s struggle for Independence. He touched life of every Indian through his ideal thought of unity and social upliftment, and use of Swadeshi goods. He believed in simple living and high thinking. He was the champion of democracy and highly opposed to dictatorial rule. His birthday on 2<sup>nd</sup> October is celebrated across the entire world as the International Day of Non-violence.



# Subhash Chandra Bose

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, was a great freedom fighter and a patriot. He was a fearless leader who left no stone unturned in his quest to attain freedom, he founded the **Azad Hind Army** or the Indian National Army.

For his revolutionary movements, Bose had been to jail several times. Several Indian residents and Indian prisoners of war participated in his free Indian army to fight against the British rule bravely. Subhash Chandra Bose inspired his soldiers with his great words of “**Give me blood, I will give you freedom**” to liberate motherland from the British rule. Subhas Chandra Bose’s birth anniversary on January 23 is celebrated as **Parakram Diwas** .

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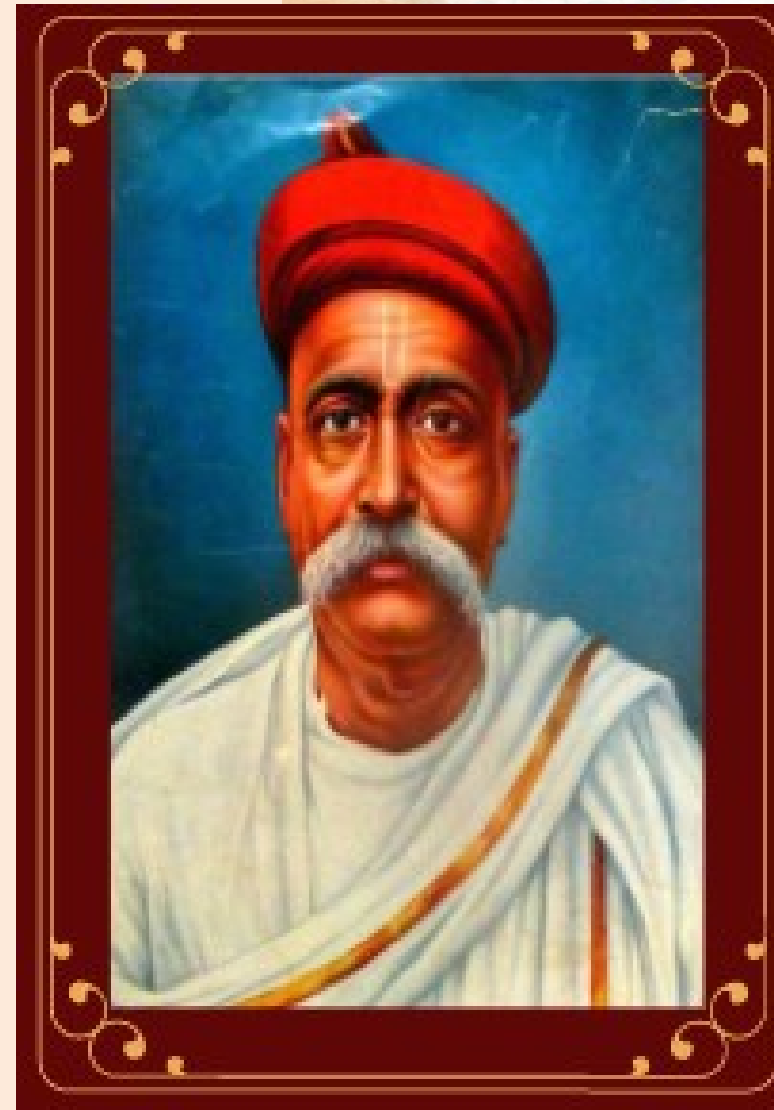
# Shaheed Bhagat Singh

Shaheed Bhagat Singh was one of the most influential revolutionaries of the Indian Independence Movement. He believes that the only way to drive the British out of the country would be through armed rebellion. Jallianwala tragedy in the year 1912 left a very deep scar in his heart, at the age of 12 years. He brought a revolution in the national movement against the British Rule. He was the active supporter of the **Swadeshi Movement**. Bhagat Singh was only 23 years old when he sacrificed himself for the country and it became an inspiration for the youth. His death proved to be a motivation for many Indians to join the struggle of independence.



# Bal Gangadhar Tilak

The father of the Indian revolution'- Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a Nationalist Indian leader and a freedom fighter. Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the first Indian leader to give the slogan, "*Freedom is my birth right and I shall have it*". For his anti-imperialistic activities, he was sent to jail many times. During his imprisonment, he wrote his famous commentary on **Srimadbhagwat Gita- Gita Rahasaya**. Shri Tilak was in fact, a profound scholar of Indian history and culture and also wrote a book on **Vedas Arctic Home** in the Vedas. He vehemently opposed the Partition of Bengal (1905) under the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon. Lifelong, he strived for nationalism. His speeches and writings reflect his profound social and political ideas which are of immense value to mankind.



# Lal Bahadur Shastri

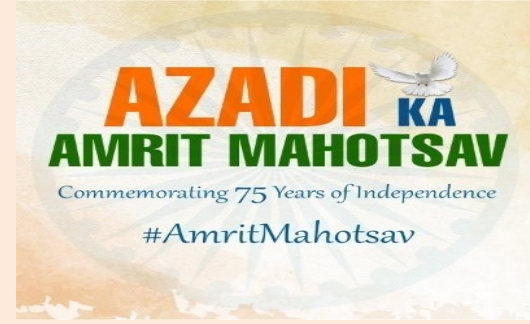
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**Man of Peace-** Lal Bahadur Shastri - A thoughtful leader, a visionary and a freedom fighter. Shastri Ji heralded great reformation in the country through several path breaking initiatives. He was the second Prime Minister of India. He gave a famous slogan “JaiJawan Jai Kisan”. Lal Bahadur Shastri tackled many elementary problems like food shortage, unemployment, and poverty. To overcome the acute food shortage, Shastri ji asked the experts to devise a long-term strategy. This was the beginning of the famous “Green Revolution”. **“Bharat Ratna”** Shastri ji will always be counted as one of the greatest martyrs and leaders of the country.



# Lala Lajpat Rai

**‘Lion of Punjab’** Lala Lajpat Rai, popularly known as “Punjab Kesari”, was an Indian independence activist, author, politician, freedom struggler who played a pivotal role in the Indian Independence movement. Lala Lajpat Rai was the founder of several organizations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He was the driving force behind the establishment of Punjab National Bank. Inspired by Swami Dayanand Saraswati's Hindu reformist movement, he was known for his fiery speeches and inspire people to participate in the freedom movement.

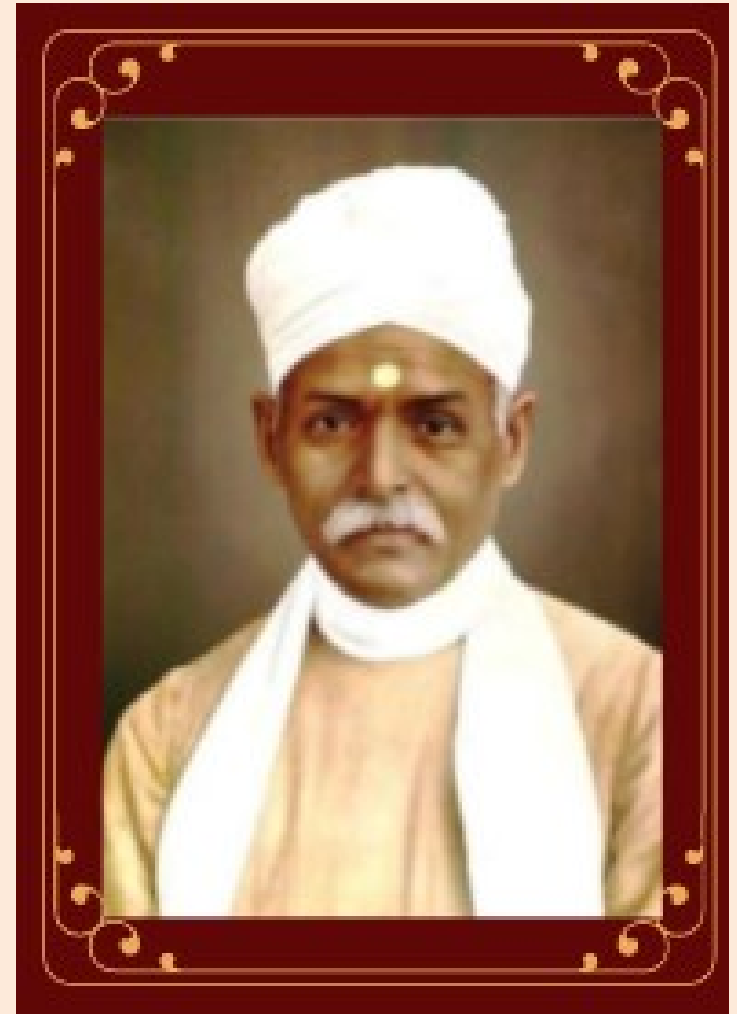


# Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya



Mahamana - Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, was an Indian scholar, educational reformer and politician made an immense contribution to the Indian independence movement. He was the founder of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), He also founded a highly influential, English-newspaper "The Leader".

Pt. Malaviya was given a title 'Mahamana' by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. He was posthumously conferred with **Bharat Ratna**, on December 24, 2014. The slogan "**Satyameva Jayate**" is also a legacy given to the nation by Pandit Malaviya.



# Chandra Shekhar Azad

Chandrashekhar Azad was a great Indian freedom fighter. His fierce patriotism and courage inspired many people to enter freedom struggle. He also led the chief strategist of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA). Chandrashekhar Azad was on the hit list of British Police. British Police badly wanted to capture him dead or alive. British Police captured Shri Azad in severely injured condition. He used his last bullet to kill himself but did not surrender to the British Police. The legacy of Chandra Shekhar Azad will be remembered for his unconditional love and selfless sacrifice for the country.

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