



MIRAJ AND QUIET INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

India gets freedom on 15th Aug 1947. Lots of Indians sacrificed their lives for the freedom of country. The movement was getting strengthened at different places which included Miraj a one's much talked of city in history. Though it was being ruled by Sansthanik, the youth from Miraj had strong passion to put an end to the British rule. Contribution of freedom frghers in Miraj city to Indian Freedom Movement is very significant. Gopalkrishna Pandurang Patankar The first freedom fighter of Miraj city. Vasudev Gogate was very famous because he attacted on Hotson at pune on 22nd July 1931. Not only India but England also was shocked by the courage shown by Gogate. Balkrishna (Tatya) Shikhare also leder of freedom movement. His house in Miraj was a center of the movement. He had the ability to bring people together. He had the courage to work hard make sacrifices for the country. He took initiative in organizing morning rallies with the songs, 'Charkha Chala Chala ke Swarajya Lenge', 'Nahi Rakhani, Nahi Rakhani Jalim Sarkar Nahi Rakhani'. Chintaman Govind Petkar, Maruti Ganesh Bhosale, Narendra Mallappa Majatee, Shamrao Jirgale, Bhupal Katte, J.D. (Painter) Patil, D.M. Bhat, Dattatray Chandekar, Nana Mashale and Bala Wani those were worked very grateful in freedom movement.

INTRODUCTION:

India gets freedom on 15th Aug 1947. Lots of Indians sacrificed their lives for the freedom of country. Many of them suffered terribly due to the intolerable torture. Number of them had suffered from T.B., Asthama, Blood pressure like incurable diseases due to multi-tuitions in prison. Many of them lost their

hands, feet. But they endured all these pains to the only aim of freedom for the country. In 1857 there was the first revolt against British which failed unfortunately but the fire of self-respect and pride was not be extinguished. The youth especially from Maharashtra formed secret organizations of revolutionaries were formed in Nasik and Pune in Maharashtra. The movement was getting strengthened at different places which included Miraj a one's much talked of city in history. Though it was being ruled by Sansthanik, the youth from Miraj had strong passion to put an end to the British rule.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the contribution of freedom fighters in Miraj city to Indian Freedom Movement.
2. To enrich the local history of Miraj City.
3. To secure a place for the work of the local freedom fighters in the national history and to attempt to give justice to their work.

METHODOLOGY:

I use historical research method. I collect the original documents, correspondence of freedom fighters, photographs. I study the primary and secondary books related to my research work. I also use interview method because there are yet some living freedom fighters and their close relatives. I prepared a questionnaire and collect information from them.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF MIRAJ CITY:

1) Gopalkrishna Pandurang Patankar (The first freedom fighter of Miraj):

In the first decade of 20th century, the 1st freedom fighter of Miraj Gopal Pandurang Patankar established the communication with Abhinav Bharat Sanghatna and brought the your of the area together. He was also a member of Indian revolutionary party. He was engaged in collecting and distributing to the young people arms and ammunitions, pistol. He was also busy in preparing hand bombs. He got some of the young people from Miraj got connected with the

organization known as Abhinav Bharat Sanghatna. Baba Lele, Tulpule, Khadilkar, Desai and some others were wounded while making a bomb in Ugar. In 1906 Gopalrao Patankar made them members of Abhinav Bharat. He played major role in preparing bomb in Kolhaur and furnishing the Satara of Prince of Wales. He was caught in Jacson murder case in Nashik sentenced to 10 years vigorous imprisonment and put in Yerawada jail. While undergoing the punishment, he died of Pneumonia on 11th Oct 1918 in jail. Gopal Krishna Patankar was the 1st freedom fighter of Miraj whose sacrifice of life inspired many young people to put an end to the British rule.¹

2) Chintaman Govind Petkar:

Chintaman Govind Petkar was the 2nd Freedom fighter of Miraj. He after completing his matriculation from Miraj highschool went to Pune. He was greatly influenced by the freedom movement. He became a member of Abhinav Bharat. He was arrested by the police in his attempt of looting the government arms in Pune. He was sentenced to imprisonment. After getting release from the jail, he died of plague in pune in 1908. His sacrifice continued inspiring his followers to fight against the British through freedom movement.²

3) Maruti Ganesh Bhosale:

A secret organization was formed in Miraj under the leadership of Tatyasaheb Kurlekar. 150-200 youths from Miraj, Sangli, Bhilawadi, Digraj, Ganeshwadi, were the members of the organization. They conducted secret meetings of the organization, and the information of preparing bomb was brought from Miraj to Pune. It was decided that, Ramacharya Ballacharya residing near Jumma Maszid should carry out the test of bomb blast and accordingly there was the first bomb blast in the home of Vaidya. Maruti Ganesh Bhosale a member of Varkari Seat played a major role in the activity. First bomb was prepared in Pandharpur in 1908. He caused the bomb blast in British Government office and challenged the British rule. But the police trapped him and he was given punishment.

4) Narendra Mallappa Majatee:

N. M. Majatee born in Miraj in 1923, Completed his education upto 7th std. from Miraj high school. He participated in the freedom movement. The impact of Quit India Movement of 1942 was noticed in Miraj. Miraj was an important center of political movement in south Maharashtra. Number of activists became underground. They published bulletins, looted post offices, burnt grampanchayat offices, took out marches, grabbed arms and looted treasures. Narendra Majati played a very important role to provide cooperation and patronage to all these underground workers. While shifting the explosives from his house to keep that safe from the police, he got both his hands burnt and was cut off from elbow.

5) Vasudev Balwant Gogate :

Vasudev Gogate born on 11th Aug 1912, completed his primary education from Miraj high school. The seeds of revolution and service to the nation were sown in his mind during his school days. He was an all-rounder player of Miraj Ambabai Talim. He was short tempered. In 1930, there was marshal law declared in Solapur and Mallappa Dhanshetti, Kurban Husen, Sarada were hanged to death. The incident had infuriated the people. British officers had attacked the common people with bullets.

Gogate decided to avenge the atrocity took place in solapur and killed the Governor of Bombay province Ernest Hotson. He procured pistols from Hyderabad Sansthan. That time he was a student of Ferguson College, pune and Governor Hotson was supposed to pay visit to Wadia library of Ferguson College on 22nd July 1931. For Gogate, it was a golden opportunity. He sat prepared in the library waiting for Hotson. When Hotson arrived in the library, Gogate shot at him. But Governor's bodyguard attacked on Gogate's hand with a sword and arrested him. The Governor survived. The bullet hit the diary in his pocket and as he was wearing bullet proof jacket, he was not hurt at all. But a case was filed against Gogate and he was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment. Not only India but England also was shocked by the courage shown by Gogate.

After his imprisonment, he was released and he got succeeded in the examination of law. Later he became a well Known lawyer.³

6) Balkrishna (Tatya) Shikhare:

Shikhare born on 23rd July 1890. After education Savarkar had created the network of revolutionaries throughout Maharashtra. Shikhare was a part of that network. At the age of 18 made a bomb in Miraj in 1908. He organized a movement for 'Swadeshi' in Miraj in which number of young people participated. Awareness was created amongst the people through boycott on foreign goods and acceptance of Swadeshi. He played an important role in the movement of Praja Parishad and a movement resisting the hike in land taxation. He encouraged people to fight against injustice. He violated the law and organized a speech of Divekar. As a result Miraj Darbar filed a case against him and his house was confiscated. On 5th July 1930 he was fined with Rs. 2000 and if fine was not paid, 20days imprisonment. Later on his entry in Miraj Sansthan restricted. He delivered lectures in favour of Swadeshi during Ganesh Festival. But the officers of the sansthan tried to create obstacles his way through some agents. However Tatya continued delivering lectures. His house in Miraj was a center of the movement. The activity of spinning was going on in his house. Activists from Kolhapur sansthan took refuge in his house. He ran Lokmanya Swadeshi Bhandar. He had the ability to bring people together. He had the courage to work hard make sacrifices for the country. He took initiative in organizing morning rallies with the songs, '*Charkha Chala Chala ke Swarajya Lenge*', '*Nahi Rakhani, Nahi Rakhani Jalim Sarkar Nahi Rakhani*'. He was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment for his individual satyagrah at Karad in 1941. In 1942, Quit India movement, he was put in miraj prison where he observed fast for 15 days. Then he was in Yerawada jail upto 1945. From 1952 to 1959, he participated in Vinoba's Bhudan Yatra Movement. He founded Gandhi Sevak Samaj in Mumbai in 1964. He worked for the slum area in Mumbai for 8 years and died at the age of 87 on 29th May 1977. ⁴

7) Shamrao Jirgale:

Shamrao Jirgale born at Miraj in 1917, He completed his matriculation from Miraj High school. He was sentenced to detention for 3 months for his participation in March and public meetings in 1942 movement. After undergoing the punishment, he became active in the destructive activities against the British by remaining underground. He carried out the loot of government treasury. During IInd world war, Japan conquered Brahmadesh and the king and his officials from Brahmadesh was provided refuge and kept in the Shalini palace in Kolhapur. They were provided financial assistance by the British. On 1st April 1943 afternoon, an officer named Naidu was carrying the bag of money containing Rs.65000 for the King of Brahmadesh. Jirgale and his followers decided to grab the amount. Jirgale, Dr. Kulkarni, Lalji Upadhye and others attacked Naidu and snatched the bag carrying money. When the police came to know about the incident, they started the chase. While running away, Jirgale and Kulkarni got stuck in the mud. While washing their clothes in Panchganga River, they were arrested by the police and a case was filed against them. After an imprisonment of 9 months, Jirgale was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of 5 years with a fine of Rs.500. After his release from jail, he participated in Gramodyog and Praja Parishad movement of Miraj Sansthan.⁵

8) Bhupal Katte:

Bhupal Katte born in Miraj in 1914. He made a very significant contribution through freedom movement. In 1942, Quit India Movement, remaining underground he carried out destructive activities against the British. He was sentenced 7 months detention. He worked for providing arms for revolutionaries in Miraj. The weapons were available in the open market in Goa. Therefore under his guidance, Vasantdada Patil, P.B.Patil, Baba Gurav and some others from Kundal went to Goa. Bhupal Katte appeared like European so nobody doubted about him and he brought safely purchased arms from Goa to Kolhapur. But he was arrested in 1943 and released from jail in 1943. However, he continued providing arms to revolutionaries.

9) J.D. (Painter) Patil:

J. D. Patil born in Miraj on 1st May 1913. He played a vital role in freedom movement in Sangli district. He participated in the movement when he was very young. He took part in arranging morning rallies and conducting public meeting at Malgaon, Bhoose, Erandoli and Kalambi. He attracted the attention of the young generation through his effective speeches in public meetings. He conducted meetings to create awareness amongst people in Once he was supposed to conduct a meeting in Kavathepiran, so a tir-colour as hoisted on the grampanchayat office. When the government officers reached there to remove the flag, Penter Patil approached officer with thousands of revolutionaries. Huge gathering of the people frightened the official. Somebody removed the hat from his head and compelled him to put on Gandhi topi and salute Tricolour. The incident infuriated the British Government and tried to arrest Penter Patil. Government issued arrest warrant against underground Penter Patil and declared him absconding. The British started torturing his family and arrested his elder brother and put him in Yerawada jail. However, Penter Patil continued struggling in the freedom movement. When he went to Mumbai and he came in contact with Sane Guruji, N.G.Gore, Shirubhau Limaye. The police raided the place where Penter Patil and others total 23 revolutionaries were arrested. Patil was put in Mumbai, Pune and Satara jail. He was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for participating in civil disobedience movement. Even after his release, he continued working in the freedom movement.⁶

10) D.M.Bhat:

Damodhar Moreshwar Alias Damu Anna Master, who had full faith in the Gandhian leaders, came from Nashik to Miraj in 1905. He completed his education from Miraj highschool, Miraj. He was studying matriculation when the Wangbang movement started in 1907. Because of his participation in the movement, he was rusticated from the school. He went underground, however completed his matriculation. He participated in non-cooperation movement and resigned from job to serve the country. He convinced people to wear khadi and

importance of physical exercise. He celebrated 'Shivjayanti' for the 1st time in Miraj in 1924. He was a member of Congress. When there was a discard between Hindu Sabha and Congress, he left Congress. He raised a fund of Rs. 2 lac from Maharashtra for his party. He participated in Mulashi, Nagpur, Bhagalpur, Bhavnagar and Pune, Sonya Maruti Satyagrah. He also participated in Goa Satyagrah. He is known as an ideal person for his sacrifice.⁷

11) Dattatray Shridhar Alias Nana Chandekar:

Freedom movement was in its tide. The masses were being supported by the powerful leadership. On one hand the movement was being carried forward in a democratic way through non-cooperation, civil disobedience and Quit India movement. On the other hand, under Netaji's leadership revolutionary thought, 'You give me blood and I will give freedom' had immensely influenced the youth. Bose attracted the young blood from the country. Nana Chandekar born at Malkapur in Kolhapur district on 12th Oct 1911. He participated in the movement. He spent most of his life in Miraj. When he met Bose in Ahemadabad, he was advised to join and accordingly he joined Azad Hind Sena prior to that he completed a course in welding and ground engineering from Pune. He left to take part in Singapur war 26th Jan. 1942. But Japan conquered Singapur and Nana Chandekar became a war prisoner of Japan. He was amongst the faithful selected body guards of Netaji. Netaji, to test his loyalty, asked for two toothes to which he responded immediately and gave it. He was made a war prisoner once again and sent to jail in Rangoon. After release, he worked in the department of public health and served the country.⁸

12) Nana Mashale and Bala Wani:

The young people from Miraj not only arranged Marches, movements, public meetings, boycotts, but also participated in dacoits. A group of 30 – 50 people shook the British rule through decoities. The group was led by Nana Mashale, a young Shepherd. He was also a well known wrestler. He himself alongwith Bala Wani Alias Patil participated in the activities like dacoits after 1909. They forcibly entered the shops and burnt the foreign clothes and other goods. They also fined the shop keeper for selling the foreign goods. They also delivered

lecture on Swadeshi. The villages would approach them for justice in criminal and civil matters. Due to number of complaints against him police started searching Nana Mashale. He was trapped by police because while running away he got up stuck in the mud and was sentenced to 25 years rigorous imprisonment. He spend 25 years in the Yerawada jail in from 1909 to 1936. He was a source of inspiration to the next generation in the freedom movement.

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