



Rishihood University Foundation Program

Understanding India

Foundation Team



Today's Vocab

- ❖ ***Desideratum***- is something you desire or want.
- ❖ ***Anomalous***- deviating from the general or common order or type.
- ❖ ***Encomium***- a formal expression of praise
- ❖ ***Frenzy***- state of violent mental agitation
- ❖ ***Gaffe***- A socially awkward act



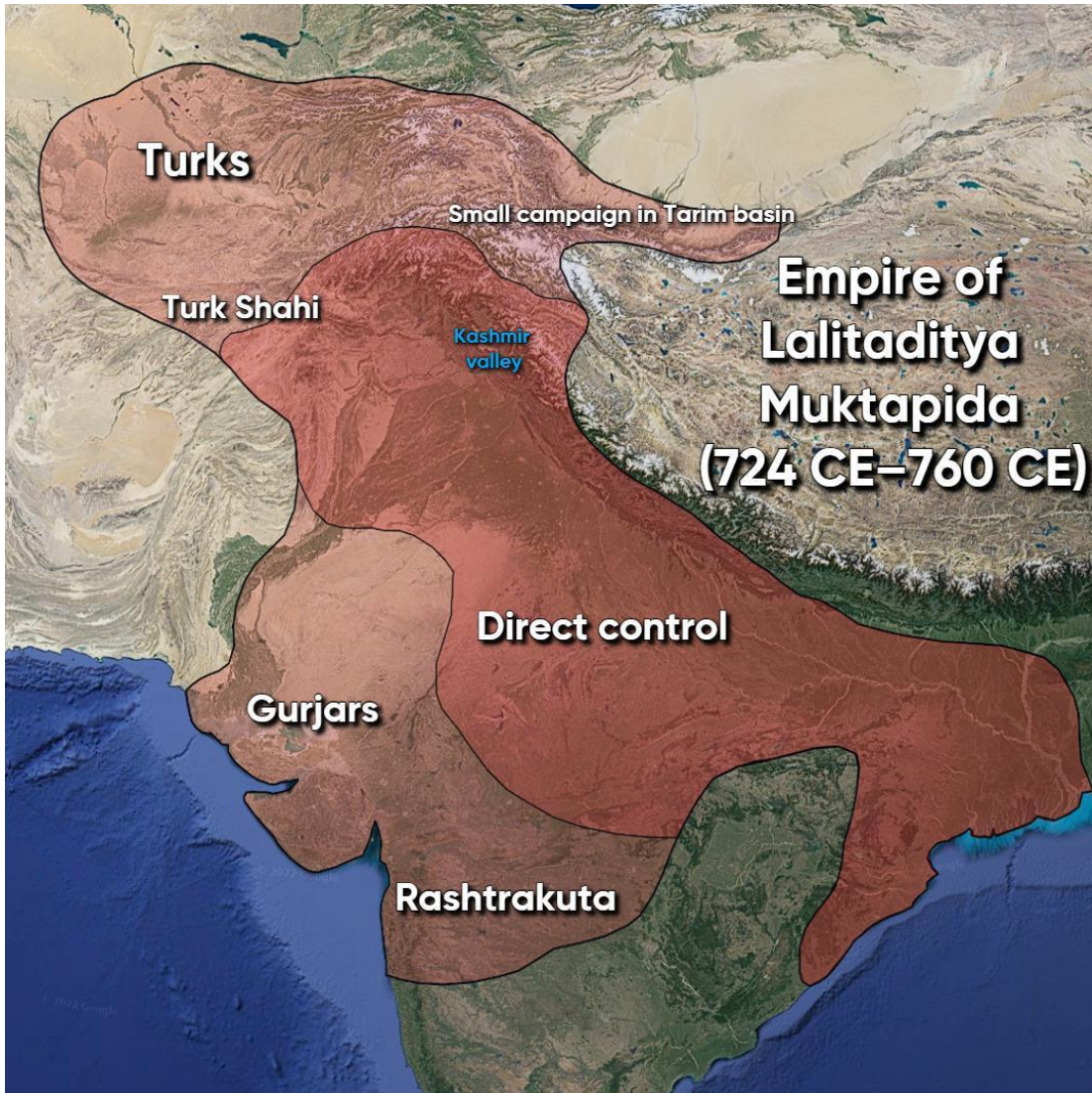
Recap

Unsung Warriors of Bharat



The central thought of learning about unsung heroes is to recognize and honor the contributions of individuals whose bravery, resilience, and sacrifices often go unacknowledged in mainstream narratives. By studying their lives, we gain valuable insights into the complexities of history, inspire future generations to stand up for justice, and foster a deeper appreciation for the diverse experiences that shape our cultural identity and societal values. Remembering these heroes enriches our understanding of collective struggles and empowers us to actively participate in contemporary social movements.

Lalitaditya Muktapida: The Emperor of Kashmir



- Lalitaditya Muktapida was an **8th-century ruler** from the **Karkota dynasty** of Kashmir.
- He reigned from **724 to 760 CE** and expanded his empire extensively across northern India and Central Asia.
- Lalitaditya is renowned for his **military campaigns**, which included victories over the **Turks, Tibetans and gangetic rulers**.
- He made significant **cultural and architectural contributions**, most notably constructing the **Martand Sun Temple**.
- His reign is often regarded as a golden age for Kashmir due to his promotion of arts, culture, and learning.

Lalitaditya Muktapida Conquest and Diplomatic Relations



- Lalitaditya maintained diplomatic relations with powerful neighboring empires, including China and the Abbasid Caliphate.
- He fostered peaceful relations with foreign powers, ensuring the stability of his empire's borders.
- His diplomacy helped secure trade routes along the Silk Road, boosting the economy of Kashmir.
- Lalitaditya's foreign relations extended towards Central Asia, facilitating cultural exchange and economic prosperity.
- By maintaining alliances, he strengthened Kashmir's influence beyond India and into international regions.
- His strategic diplomacy ensured long-term security and facilitated trade, making Kashmir a significant hub in Asian trade networks.

An Architectural marvel of Kashmir: Martand Sun Temple



- Martand Sun Temple is the most famous architectural achievement of Lalitaditya, dedicated to Sun.
- Built in classic Kashmiri architectural style, the temple blends elements of Gandhara, Gupta, and Greco-Roman influences.
- Located in Anantnag district of Kashmir, the temple stands as a symbol of Lalitaditya's architectural vision and religious devotion.
- Though now in ruins, the Martand Sun Temple remains an architectural marvel, showcasing detailed stone carvings and monumental design.
- These ruins highlight Kashmir's flourishing culture under Lalitaditya, making the region an important center of art, religion, and architecture during his reign.

Discussion



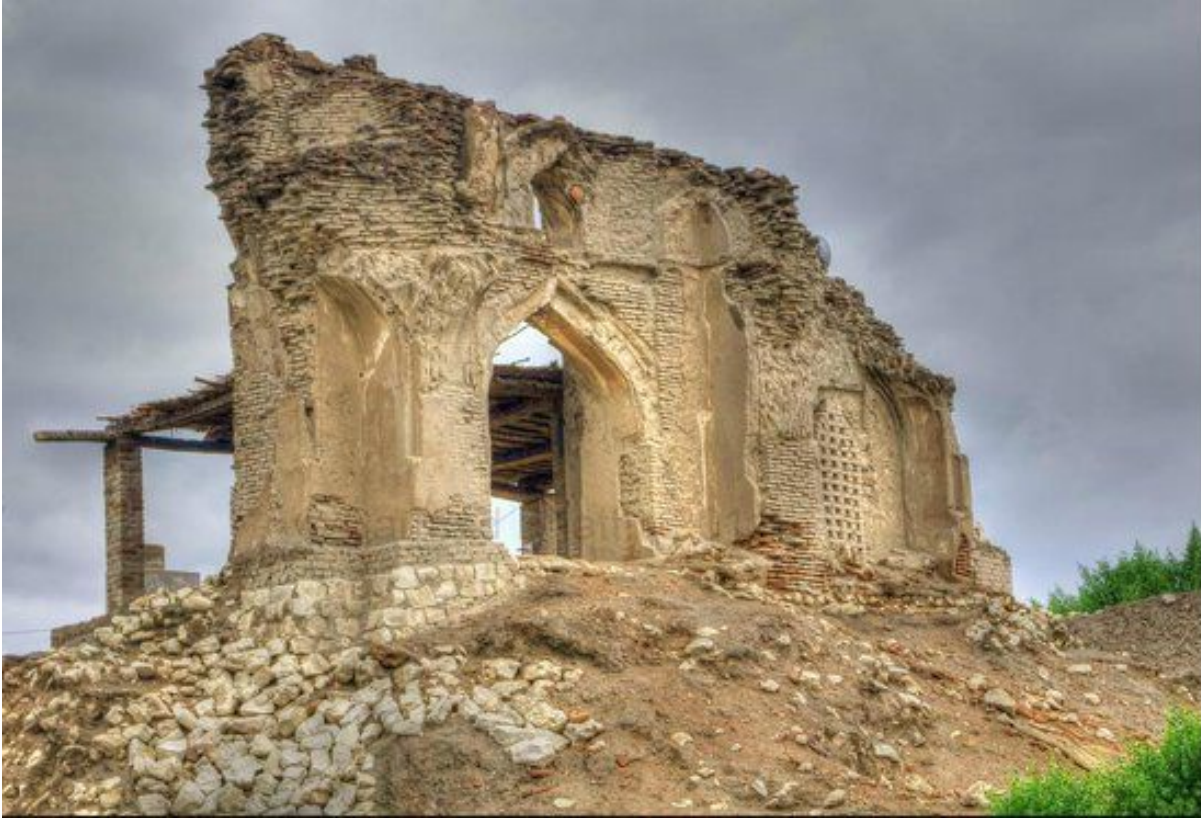
Is it important for Kashmir to stay connected to India for cultural and historical reasons? Why or why not?

The Forgotten King Of Sindh: Raja Dahir



- Raja Dahir ruled Sindh (present-day Pakistan) during the 8th century CE.
- He is noted for his resistance against the Arab invasion led by Muhammad bin Qasim in 711 CE.
- Dahir's reign marked the end of the Sindh Hindu dynasty, which had maintained a thriving culture and trade in the region.
- His kingdom was strategically important, located along key trade routes.

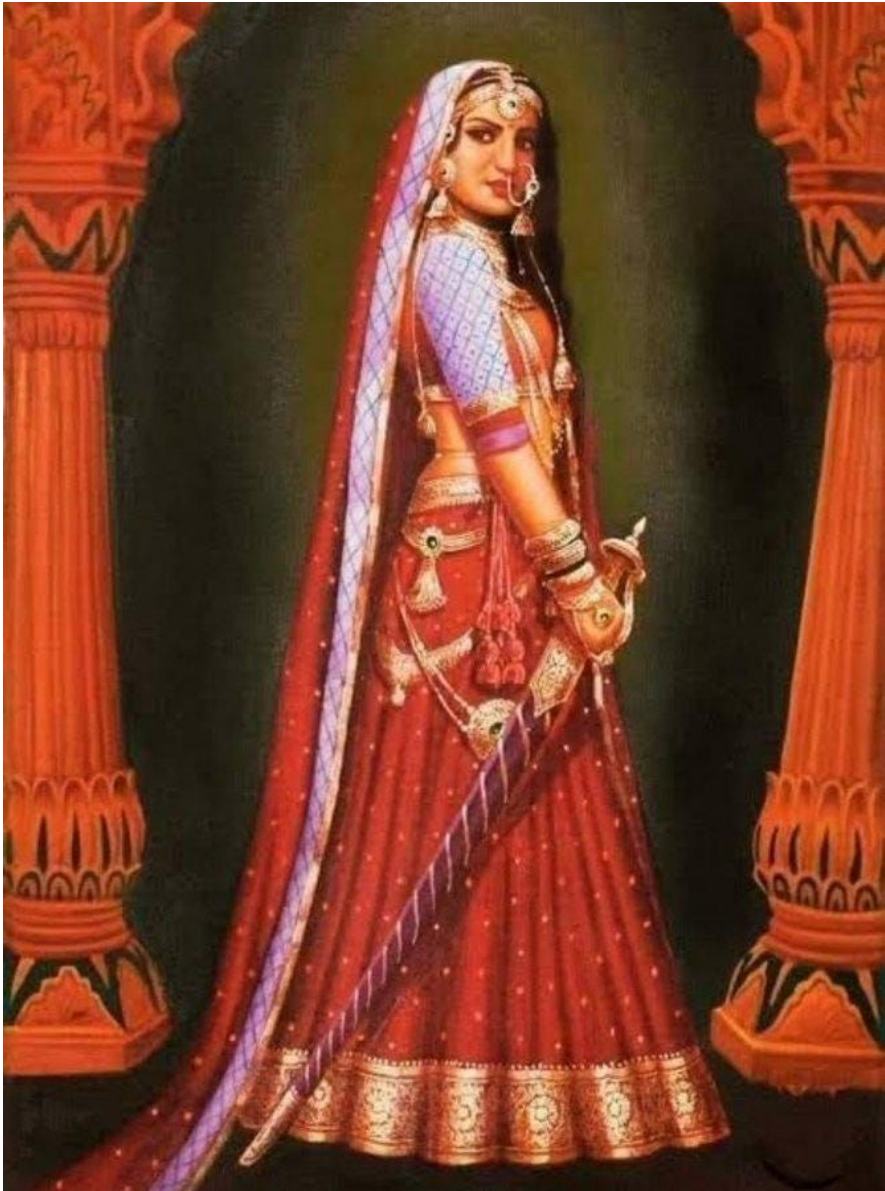
The Conflict between Raja Dahir and Muhammad bin Qasim



In 711 CE, Muhammad bin Qasim, sent by the Umayyad Caliphate, invaded Sindh following the mistreatment of Hindu pilgrims by pirates, prompting Raja Dahir to fortify key cities like Debal and Aror. The conflict began with the Arab forces' successful assault on Debal, where Dahir's contingent was overwhelmed, leading to a rapid advance of the Arabs into Sindh.

Battle of Aror: The most significant confrontation occurred at the Battle of Aror, where Raja Dahir and his forces attempted to halt Muhammad bin Qasim's advance. Despite fierce resistance, the battle was characterized by tactical maneuvers that favored the well-coordinated Arab army. Dahir's forces, although courageous, faced challenges in strategy and weaponry, leading to their defeat.

Naiki Devi: The Queen who defeated Mohd. Ghor



1. Naiki Devi was a 12th-century Rajput queen of Gujarat, known for her bravery and leadership in defending her kingdom.
2. She was the daughter of Kadamaba King, Paramardia and was married of to Raja Ajaypal of Gujarat (Chalukyas of Gujarat).
3. Naiki Devi is most famous for leading her forces in the Battle of Kasahrada (1178 CE), where she defeated the invading army of Muhammad of Ghor.

Battle of Kasahrada



This battle is considered a remarkable moment in history where a queen successfully defended her kingdom against a formidable invader.

1. The battle occurred in 1178 CE when Muhammad of Ghor, the Ghurid ruler, invaded Gujarat with the intent of expanding his empire into northern India.
2. Naiki Devi's Leadership: After the death of her husband, Naiki Devi took command of Gujarat's forces, defending the kingdom alongside her young son, Mularaja II. She chose the hilly terrain of Kasahrada near Mount Abu for the battle, giving her forces an advantage.
3. Victory Over Muhammad of Ghor: Despite being outnumbered, Naiki Devi's strategy and her army's use of local geography helped inflict a significant defeat on Muhammad of Ghor. His forces were forced to retreat, marking a major setback for the Ghurids in India.



Discussion

- why it is important to remember these unsung heroes and their contributions.??
- What lessons can be drawn from the lives of unsung heroes that are relevant to today's challenges and social movements?

Key Takeaways of this session



1. **Lessons for Today:** The lives of unsung heroes offer valuable lessons in courage, community resilience, and the importance of long-term commitment to social change. These lessons can guide individuals and groups in navigating today's challenges and fostering positive societal transformations.
2. **Empowerment through Awareness:** Sharing the stories of unsung heroes empowers marginalized voices and encourages a sense of community. Education and storytelling play crucial roles in mobilizing support for social movements, reinforcing the idea that collective action can lead to meaningful change.

Suggested Readings:



1. Sampath, V. (2022). *Bravehearts of Bharat: Vignettes from Indian History*. Penguin Random House India Private Limited.



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RECAP

Today's Vocab



- ❖ ***Panache***-distinctive and showy elegance
- ❖ ***Avaricious***- excessively greedy
- ❖ ***Jubilant***- full of high-spirited delight because of triumph or success
- ❖ ***Staunch***- firm and dependable especially in loyalty
- ❖ ***Vehement***- marked by extreme intensity of emotions or convictions



Lachit Borphukan: The Hero of Assam



- Born in the 17th century, Lachit was the son of Momai Tamuli Borbarua, a high-ranking Ahom official. **Trained in both military and administrative disciplines, he quickly rose through the ranks of the Ahom army.**
- **Victory in the Battle of Saraighat (1671):** Lachit led the Ahom army to a decisive victory against the Mughals, halting their attempt to annex Assam. His strategic brilliance in naval warfare and guerrilla tactics outmaneuvered the larger Mughal forces.
- **Lachit's leadership ensured the survival and independence of the Ahom kingdom, keeping Assam free from Mughal rule during a time of rapid Mughal expansion in India.**
- His famous declaration, "My uncle is not greater than my country," demonstrated his dedication to duty over personal ties. This unwavering patriotism continues to inspire Indians, especially in Assam,

Raja Chhatrasal of Bundelkhand



- Raja Chhatrasal established an independent kingdom in Bundelkhand after revolting against Mughal authority. Starting with a small army, he gathered regional support and expanded his territory, freeing large parts of Bundelkhand from Mughal control by the early 18th century.
- Chhatrasal won several battles against the Mughal especially those under the rule of Emperor Aurangzeb. His guerrilla warfare tactics, combined with his deep knowledge of the terrain, allowed him to outsmart larger Mughal forces.
- In 1728, when he faced a major Mughal invasion led by Muhammad Khan Bangash, Raja Chhatrasal sought the assistance of Peshwa Baji Rao I. Together, they defeated the Mughal forces, which cemented his position as an independent ruler.

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur



Establishment of Sikh Sovereignty (1709)

- Baba Banda Singh Bahadur led a successful rebellion against the oppressive Mughal rule, establishing the first Sikh rule in Punjab. He captured major territories and set up his capital at Lohgarh, where he effectively governed the region. His victory marked the beginning of Sikh political authority.

Conquest of Sirhind (1710)

- One of his most notable military victories was the Battle of Chappar Chiri (1710), where his forces defeated the Mughal governor Wazir Khan. Wazir Khan was responsible for the execution of Guru Gobind Singh's younger sons, Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh. This victory not only avenged the martyrdom but also dealt a significant blow to Mughal power in Punjab.



Rani Chennaamma



- **Rani Chennaamma was born in 1778** into a noble family in the Kittur region. She married Raja Mallasarja of Kittur and became the queen of the princely state. After her husband's death, she took over the reins of the kingdom and became the ruler of Kittur in 1816.
- The **British East India Company sought to annex Kittur after the death of her husband**, citing the lack of a direct heir. Rani Chennaamma adopted a son, Shivalingappa, to secure her claim to the throne. When the British refused to recognize her adopted son's claim and attempted to impose direct rule over Kittur, Rani Chennaamma decided to resist.

The Battle of Kittur:

- In **1824, she led her forces against the British, marking one of the early revolts against colonial rule in India.** The battle was fierce, with Rani Chennaamma personally taking part in the fighting. Her army initially achieved significant success, capturing British officials and leading to a series of skirmishes.
- Despite her valiant efforts, the British eventually overwhelmed her forces. Rani Chennaamma was captured, and Kittur was annexed by the British.
- She was imprisoned and later exiled to Karnataka, where she continued to inspire resistance against colonial rule until her death in 1829.

Class Discussion



- **Who are the Unsung Heroes? What are the qualities? Do all of these heroes possess similar qualities??**
- **Why do some heroes get a lot of attention while others are overlooked?**
- **Can you think of someone in your life who is an unsung hero? What do they do that makes them heroic?**

Activity



Hero Letter Writing

- **Objective: Reflect on the impact of unsung heroes.**
- Instructions:
 - Students to write a letter to their chosen unsung hero, expressing admiration and what they've learned from their story.
 - They can also write letters to local unsung heroes in their community, thanking them for their contributions.



Key Takeaways of this session

- **Understanding History:** learning about unsung warriors provides a more comprehensive view of history, highlighting the diverse contributions of individuals often overlooked in mainstream narratives.
- **Inspiration and Role Models:** The stories of these warriors serve as powerful sources of inspiration, demonstrating qualities such as courage, resilience, and determination that can motivate us in our own lives.
- **Valuing Contribution Over Fame:** Many individuals make significant impacts without achieving fame. Recognizing these contributions helps us appreciate the efforts of all people working toward positive change.
- **Empathy and Respect:** Exploring the lives of unsung warriors fosters empathy and respect for diverse cultures and experiences, promoting a more inclusive understanding of society.



Suggested Readings

- <https://amritmahotsav.nic.in/unsung-heroes.htm>
- Sampath, V. (2022b). *Bravehearts of Bharat: Vignettes from Indian History*.

Penguin Random House India Private Limited.