

Historical Stories

1. Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
2. **Celebrating Shiv Jayanti in the true sense is to treat Shivaji as an ideal and act accordingly!**
3. Dear friends, we are going to celebrate Shiv Jayanti according to the Bharatiya calendar system. Do you think that celebrating Shivaji Maharaj's birth anniversary is limited to playing devotional songs or arranging competitions of patriotic songs? Shiv Jayanti, in its true sense should be celebrated by resolving to inculcate all the virtues that Chhatrapati Shivaji possessed.
4. Presently it is celebrated as a festival. We must change this situation, as the need of the hour is to lead an ideal life like Shivaji Maharaj.
5. **Compare and contrast our lifestyle with that of Shivaji Maharaj !**
6. Playing games
7. **Playing games that developed warrior attitude :** Shivaji used to play games such as wrestling, daandpatta (the simultaneous use of two different handheld weapons), horse riding and fencing. These games developed virtues like fearlessness, fighting spirit, hatred towards injustice, warrior attitude and leadership in him.
8. Friends, good virtues lay the foundation of our lives. If we play such virtue building games, only then can we develop these virtues.
9. **Virtual games lead towards destruction and hence should be banned :** At present children play virtual games on computers. These games, such as rash driving of cars, killing anyone or one another with guns, etc., initiate destructive and perverse thoughts in their minds.
10. Friends such games weaken and corrupt children's minds. Owing to the virtual nature of these games, children start living in a virtual world and find it difficult to cope up with the real world. They become self-oriented and patriotic thoughts like 'I have to live for this Nation' do not come to their minds. As there is no love for the Nation, how can they protect it? Children, tell me whether we want to become corrupted by playing computer games or prepare ourselves to protect the Nation and religion like the great King Shivaji did by awakening the attitude of a warrior within us? Let us now resolve to put a ban on playing computer games and play real games. This is the right way of celebrating Shiv Jayanti. Will you do it?
11. **Reading and listening to stories**
12. **To imbibe good subconscious impressions :** Shivaji always used to read and listen to stories about ShriRam and ShriKrushna. These true stories are full of devotion, patriotism and abhorrence towards injustice.

They awakened within him loyalty towards the Nation. Thus he was able to restrain the unjust Moghuls.

13. **Imaginary and untrue stories increase perversion :** Today, children read and listen to imaginary and untrue stories like 'Batman', 'Spiderman'. As a result, they live in a virtual world. Qualities like nationalism and patriotism are not generated within them. As a result their minds are weakened.
14. Children tell me whether we would like to become patriotic like Shivaji by understanding true epic stories like 'Ramayana' and 'Mahabharata' or to become weak minded by ready imaginary stories of 'Batman'. Let us assure Shivaji that by following his ideals, we want to create an ideal Nation. For that to happen, from today onward let us pledge to read and listen to true stories.
15. **Offering obeisance to parents**
16. **Avoid arrogance and cultivate humility :** King Shivaji used to bow down in front of his mother and offer obeisance everyday. This developed humility within him. Goddess Saraswati resides where there is humility. As a result, Shivaji mastered many arts.
17. If we wish to become like Shivaji, we have to pay obeisance to our parents daily. Many children now-a-days speak rudely to their mothers. How can such behavior cultivate humility? We must promise Shivaji, 'O great king, forgive us for not remembering your ideals. From today onward, we will offer obeisance to our parents every day and cultivate humility within us.' Friends, will you promise to do this? Behaving in such a manner is truly celebrating Shiv Jayanti.
18. **Following the correct ideal**
19. **To follow ideals of ShriRam and ShriKrushna :** Shivaji idealized Shri Ram and ShriKrushna. Children's minds are moulded according to the ideals they follow. If our ideals are good, then we also become accordingly. So it is extremely important to hold the right ideals.
20. **Incorrect to idealize a movie star :** Presently movie stars like Salman, Shahrukh, Aamir etc. are children's ideals. Friends, a person moulds himself according to his/her ideals. What virtue do these people possess which is beneficial to the Nation and society? Friends, they act deceptively on the screen but in real life they are far from ideal.
21. The person we decide to follow should possess good virtues and should practise what he preaches. Friends, King Shivaji was like this and hence let us choose him as our ideal.
22. **Worship**
23. **Worshiping the family deity :** Worship was the very soul of King Shivaji's life. He used to chant the name of his family deity and pray for the protection of Religion and Nation as Shivaji believed that his kingdom was

his family. Goddess Bhavani had even bestowed him with a sword to help vanquish the Mughals.

24. **Not giving importance to worship :** Today, children do not give any importance to worship/prayer. As a result they do not possess fearlessness, happiness and broad mindedness. They avoid offering evening prayers and chanting. Instead they waste that time in watching cartoons, movies and TV serials.
25. As there is no substitute to worship/prayer, let us resolve to start it from today. King Shivaji would appreciate it and by doing this, we will be offering a perfect tribute to Shivaji.
26. **Resolutions to be made on the occasion of birth anniversary of the great king Shivaji:**
27. A. I will chant the name of my family deity everyday and pray for the betterment of my Nation.
28. B. I will read epic stories from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata everyday.
29. C. I will offer obeisance to my mother daily.
30. D. Idealize king Shivaji.
31. E. I will watch patriotic serials based on great King Shivaji, Queen of Jhansi, etc., and cultivate thoughts like 'The Nation is my family'.
32. F. Present my friends with King Shivaji's biography on their birthday.
33. G. Read Shivaji's childhood stories of valour.
34. H. Learn Karate and club wielding for self-defense.
35. Dear friends, let us do the following and promise King Shivaji that we will prepare ourselves to protect our Nation!
36. A. I will not speak arrogantly with my mother.
37. B. I will not wear western clothes.
38. C. I will not shake hands with anybody, but will offer namastey.
39. D. I will not watch cartoons from today.
40. E. I will not play computer games.
41. Friends, if we try to observe each of the above points in our behaviour, it would be truly celebrating Shiv Jayanti. If we behave accordingly, an Ideal Nation as per Shivaji's expectations can be built.
42. Let us offer our gratitude to God for making us realize our present state and also for suggesting the remedies. 'O Goddess Bhavani, we pray to you to give all of us the strength and intellect so that we can incorporate the above in our behavior!'

2. Lal Bahadur Shastri

Extraordinarily courageous boy Lal Bahadur Shastri who used to cross the river Ganga everyday by swimming, in order to avoid putting any burden of expenses in traveling to school on his poor parents !

'A boy was studying in Harishchandra High School, Kashi. His home-town was 8 miles away from Kashi. He used to walk all the way to [school](#). On the way, he was required to cross the river Ganga. During that period, the boatman had to be paid 2 paise to cross the river by boat . That means, he had to pay one anna (Prevalent currency in those times) for crossing the river both ways, that is, around 2 rupees per month. In those days, an amount of two rupees was quite substantial.

The boy learnt to swim instead of asking money from his parents, thinking that it might cause a burden on them to spend 2 rupees per month for his attending the school. He made it a habit to swim the river to reach the school, no matter what the season, whether summer, monsoon or winter. Once, he entered the water of the river Ganga in the morning of a very cold winter day. When he was in midstream, some people traveling in a boat noticed him swimming and thought that a small boy was drowning. Therefore, they brought the boat near him, caught his hands, and pulled him into the boat. There was no trace of fear or anxiety on that the face of that boy. All the people in the boat were amazed at his extraordinary courage.

People : You would have drowned now. It is not advisable to show such courage.

Boy : Courage is a virtue; one has to be courageous. Challenges in life are inevitable, and in order to face and counter them, having courage is a must. If I do not become courageous from this moment, how will I accomplish difficult tasks in life ?

People : Why did you choose to swim at this hour ? You should have come in the afternoon.

Boy : I have not entered the river to have a swim, but to go to school.

People : Then, you should go by boat.

Boy : Four paise are required to go by boat everyday. I do not wish to cause burden on my poor parents. I want to be self-reliant. I do not wish to cause them any anxiety by increasing their expenses for my sake. It will be hard for them to run the household.

People looked at him with great admiration. Later, the same boy became the Prime Minister of Bharat. That young courageous boy was Lal Bahadur Shastri. Despite being on such a high position, he possessed virtues like truthfulness, purity, honesty, courage, simplicity, [patriotism](#) etc., and he was an embodiment of good conduct. Such outstanding persons leave a long-lasting impression on the minds of common people despite being in power for a short period.'

3. [Lokmanya Tilak – Bharat's Ideal Son](#)

Tilak was a very brilliant student. He was gifted with a very brilliant intellect and sharp memory. He was a Sanskrut scholar. He had studied [Sanskrit](#) from his father. In the ancient times, in order to boost up the language, perhaps, 1 pie (Pie was a coin in olden days. 12 pies = 1 anna and 16 annas = 1 Re. Now we are using the decimal system; that is, 1 Rupee = 100 paise) was given to the one who could recite one shloka in Sanskrut.

Tilak collected 200 pies (a little over 1 Re., a princely sum for a child in those days) like this. Before he started going to school he had memorised many things. His teacher also used to wonder seeing his tremendous memory.

Once, some dictation was given in the class. In that, the word 'Sant' had appeared thrice. Tilak wrote the same word in three different ways, संत, सन्त and सन्ता. The teacher marked the first, that is 'संत' as correct and the other 2 were marked wrong. Seeing this, by citing various examples Tilak explained to the teacher how all the three words were correct because no matter how it was written the meaning would not change. That time the teacher also realised his mistake and accepted Tilak's justification about all the three ways to be appropriate. When Tilak was in the 1st year in college, he made himself physically very strong by doing rigorous exercise and missed his exams also for that. He was a very proficient wrestler and a swimmer too. Since his school days he was fully aware about the country's rule being in the hands of the British and not Bharatiyas. Once he completed his education he tried very effectively to send the British back. Whichever qualities, virtues he had acquired from childhood were useful for him while opposing the British. Due to his healthy physique he could survive the horrifying and politically motivated prison sentences. Despite being in the prison and while suffering all the constraints he wrote the well acclaimed text namely "Geetarahasya".

The attitude to prove his honesty from his school days he could raise a revolution against the British who were unjust to Hindustanis. [Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak](#) came to be recognized as Bharat's ideal son.

Children, from this story we notice his sharp intellect. We also learn here that there should be physical fitness for undertaking any mission. Hence daily [exercise](#) is a must. If we are physically strong then only we can revolt. Presently our country and Dharma are not in ideal condition. Therefore in order to defend ourselves from others we need physical as well as spiritual strength. Hence let us get prepared to defend ourselves with the help of [Namjapa](#) (Chanting Deity's Name), prayers, and gratitude!

4. [Veer Savarkar](#)

Veer Savarkar (Vinayak Damodar Savarkar) was a great orator, prolific writer, historian, poet, philosopher and social worker.

He was a born rebel. He organized a gang of kids – 'Vanarsena' when he was just eleven. During his high school days, Veer Savarkar used to organize [Shivaji](#) Utsav and Ganesh Utsav, started by [Bal Gangadhar Tilak](#) (whom Savarkar considered as his Guru) and used these occasions to put up plays on nationalistic themes.

Savarkar was an extraordinary Hindu scholar. He coined Marathi words for telephone, photography, the parliament, among others.

In Pune, Savarkar founded the 'Abhinav Bharat Society'. He was also involved in the Swadeshi movement and later joined Tilak's Swaraj Party. His instigating patriotic

speeches and activities incensed the British Government. As a result, the British Government withdrew his B.A. degree.

In June 1906, Veer Savarkar left for London to become a Barrister. However, once in London, he united and inflamed the Indian students in England against British rule in Bharat. He founded the 'Free India Society'. The Society celebrated important dates on the Bharatiya (Indian) calendar including [festivals](#), freedom movement landmarks, and was dedicated to furthering discussion about Indian freedom. He believed and advocated the use of arms to free Bharat from the British and created a network of Bharatiyas in England, equipped with weapons.

In 1908, brought out an authentic informative researched work on The Great Indian Revolt of 1857, which the British termed as, 'Sepoy Mutiny of 1857'. The book was named, "The Indian War of Independence, 1857". The British government immediately enforced a ban on the publication in both Britain and India.

As he was the prime inspiration for the Bharatiya students to rise against British rule, the British Government was waiting for some opportunity to arrest him. He was finally arrested in London, on 13 March 1910, on some fabricated offenses. The case against him was to be heard by a court in Bharat. Therefore, he was sent on the board of a steamer named 'Moriya' under police vigilance for hearing of the case against him in the Court in Bharat.

During the journey, the steamer was anchored at Marseilles Port in France. It was the morning of 8th July 1910. Savarkar told the security guards that he wanted to go for morning rites and went to the toilet. He removed his nightgown and hung the same on the glass door to cover himself from the guard of his security men. He jumped up to the porthole. He contracted his body, somehow managed to scramble through the hole and leaped into the unknown sea. The skin of his chest and stomach was peeled off. On realising that Savarkar had escaped, the security men started chasing him. By that time, Savarkar climbed the 9 feet quay and set his foot on the French land thus setting himself free. He ran some distance and handed himself over to the French police; but the British guards who were following him, bribed their French counterparts and brought him back to the steamer.

Savarkar was only 27 years old when this incidence took place.

Although he was arrested again by the British, his spirited and fearless leap into the unknown sea is worthy of praise. This fearless leap into the sea by Veer Savarkar at such a young age inspires patriots even today.

5. [Ramprasad Bismil](#)

The 'Kakori train conspiracy' is a great landmark in the history of the revolutionary movement in Bharat. It was the brave Ramprasad Bismil who planned it and executed it faultlessly along with his fellow [revolutionaries](#).

However, he was arrested by the British in connection with the conspiracy and put in police custody. The arrests had kept the British officers busy throughout the night and they had not slept. They all went away. Even the one constable who was on guard was fast asleep. Only one clerk was in the station busy writing. He was a fellow Bharatiya, who knew Ramprasad Bismil well. If Ramprasad had wished, he could have simply walked out, but that clerk would have got into great trouble. Ramprasad called him and told him that he would walk away if the clerk was prepared to face the consequences. However, he fell at Ramprasad's feet and said that he would be arrested by the British if I did so and that his wife and children would have to starve and die. Ramprasad pitied him.

After a little while, Ramprasad found an excuse to go out. The constable on guard went with him. The other constables said, "Put him in chains"; but the constable declared, "I have faith in him, he will not run away." The place outside the police station was dark and lonely. Ramprasad placed his palms on the compound wall and looked back. The guard was watching a wrestling match and was totally absorbed in it. One leap and Ramprasad could have scaled the wall; but his inner self said, "Would you cheat and send to prison that poor constable who trusted you and gave you so much freedom? Is it right? What will his wife and children think of you?" This thought filled his mind; he drew a long breath, called the guard and returned to the police station.

Ramaprasad Bismil was an exemplary man who lived like a hero and died like a hero. In him were blended those great qualities which Indian culture has regarded as ideal and has held in great respect. Whether it was a clerk or a constable, the man who had trusted him should not be betrayed. This was his principle. Even in prison, the prison guards had great faith in him because of his conduct.

'Even if I have to face death a thousand times for the sake of my Motherland I shall not be sorry. O God, grant me a hundred births in Bharat; but grant me this too, that each time I may give up my life in the service of the Motherland.'

This prayer should echo in each and every soul in free India.

6. Dr. Hedgewar : An extraordinary personality

Dr. Hedgewar, the first chief of the R.S.S. i.e. Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, was ever working in the direction of preparing innumerable persons in order to raise society to prosperity. He had absolutely no vested interest behind this. Basically, there has to be the ego to use words like sacrifice, self-sacrifice, annihilation of selfishness, etc. to describe a person's life; however, Dr. Hedgewar had acquired oneness with the life of Hindu society. It is true that instead of narrating the experience of the life of Doctor, who was outwardly calm but inwardly burning, it is worth understanding and personally experiencing it.

A Sattvik and Pious personality

Dr. Hedgewar was a person with a sattvik (Sattva predominant) personality and had immense faith in God. It is evident from the fact that he always commenced writing a letter or diary by writing 'Shri' or 'ॐ' on top of the page.

Perspective regarding the mission of the Sangh

His strong faith that 'The mission of the Sangh was a Divine mission' was expressed through his speeches and letters. He had a conviction that all of us are puppets in the hands of God and everything that we do is controlled by Him. While saying that 'The mission of the Sangh is Divine', he was also intending that Sangh is fulfilling the mission of God by protecting the righteous and destroying the evil. While saying that 'The mission of the Sangh is Divine', Dr. Hedgewar having realised the intent of the Dasbodh, must be thinking about the meaning of the stanzas from Dasbodh,

'यत् तो देव जाणावा' व 'अचूक यत् तो देवो । चुकणे दैत्य जाणिजे'

Meaning :An apt effort is akin to God and incorrect is like a devil.

Ability to bring together a large number of people

It was his nature to bring people together and he used to achieve it in a very natural and casual manner. There was nothing superficial in his behaviour as is noticed otherwise in worldly affairs. There was nothing materialistic in this friendship with people. It was very extraordinary, casual and attractive. Hindus would never get together unless there is a funeral procession. However, within a period of just 15 years, Dr. Hedgewar established a nationwide organisation comprising thousands of youth for fulfilling the mission of building a Hindu Rashtra. Such was his remarkable personality'

7. Guru Gobind Singh – Founder of the Khalsa sect

The Sikh religion teaches Bhakti (devotion). Love and non-violence are the main principles of Sikhism. Babar imprisoned Gurunanak. However, the first nine Gurus of Sikhs had spread the message of love and devotion to the people. They did not teach people to fight back the Muslim invaders. Guru Teg Bahadur Singh, the 9th Guru of the Sikhs was also killed brutally by the Mughals.

Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th Guru too had to bear the injustice of the Mughal invaders for several years. The Mughals killed his father brutally. Then, Guru Gobind Singh called all the Sikhs together. To begin with, he selected five students who were prepared to sacrifice their life for Dharma (Righteousness). They were called 'Panch pyaare' (The 5 beloved ones). He thus established the Khalsa sect in order to start a Dharma-yudh (Battle for Righteousness). 'Khalsa' means pure. The people of Khalsa sect say the following prayer, "O God, I shall fight only for the right purpose. Make me fearless while going to the battlefield. Develop the confidence in me that I shall be victorious in the battle. Develop in me a liking for your kirtans (devotional discourses) and let me merge with You at the time of death."

Khalsa sect is ‘Nirankari’. Nirankari means the one who believes that God is without any form. It also means ‘humble’. ‘Shri’ means Devi (Goddess) and ‘Bhagwati’ means sword. Their soldiers are called ‘Sant-Sipahi’ (i.e. Saint-soldiers).

8. Rani Durgavati

Rani Durgavati was a Chandel Rajput. She was born at the Kalinjar fort, Banda, Uttar Pradesh. Chandel Rajputs were the builders of the beautiful city of Khajurao, which had 85 magnificent temples, of which 22 still survive.

She inherited the Gond Kingdom after her husband, Dalpat Shah died in 1550 A.D. As Vir Narayan, her son was too young at that time, Durgavati took the reins of the Gond kingdom in her hands.. Baj Bhadur after ascending the throne of Malwa in 1556 A.D., attacked the Gond kingdom but his army was routed. His defeat was so decisive that he never dared attack Rani Durgavati’s kingdom ever again.

Thereafter, in 1564 A.D., the Mughal Emperor, Akbar decided to invade Rani’s kingdom and sent a cavalry of 50,000 with heavy artillery, under the command of Abdul Mazid Khan.

Rani Durgavati organized her defences at a valley near Narrai in Madhya Pradesh. Her forces were flanked by hills on one side and the rivers Narmada and Gaur on the other. When Muslim forces entered from both sides of the valley, Rani’s small army fought with exemplary bravery and pushed back Mughals on both sides. After a fierce battle, Rani’s army emerged victorious.

During night time, her army came out of the valley and camped in the open areas. Rani Durgavati discussed further strategy with her generals and wanted to attack the Mughals in the night. However, her generals dissuaded her against such an action. This delay allowed the Mughals to haul their heavy artillery near the battlefield.

Next morning the battle started again. Rani’s young son, Bir Narayan, pushed back the Mughals thrice, but was injured fighting and was taken away from the battlefield.

However, Rani did not give up. Riding her elephant, Samran, she led the attack; but she was ultimately struck by two arrows and she realized her end was near.

Her generals wanted her to retreat, but she decided against it and instead used her “katar”(dagger) to kill herself and enter Maha Samadhi (the abode of God). Rani Durgavati was an outstanding example of Rajput bravery.

Children, this land of Bharat has given birth to many such brave souls like Rani Durgavati, who were ready to sacrifice everything, even their lives for the Motherland. Let us take inspiration from these great souls and pledge to devote our life for the Motherland.

9. Bappa Rawal & Rana Sang

Mewar is part of Rajasthan, also once called as Rajputana. This is a part of history which took place in Mewar. The famous places like Chittor, Udepur, Haldi Ghat are made immortal by the heroic epics, which occurred there. Lakhs of brave soldiers fought for

hundreds of years to uphold the great tradition of sacrificing their lives for Hindu Dharma. The same tradition was maintained by Shisodiya dynasty in Rajasthan and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Maharashtra. The heroes from the dynasty of Shisodiya always fought with foreign invaders successfully. Let us get acquainted in short with great heroes in this dynasty.

A united Arab army invaded Mewar in the year 735 AD. Bappa Rawal from Shisodiya dynasty had repulsed the attack successfully by fighting fierce war with them. He even chased them to their own territory and frightened them not to make any attempt to invade India again. He also made them his subordinates. The foreign invaders were so scared by this war that, they did not dare to invade India and fight with Rajput kings for next 300 years.

Mogul Emperor Babar was monarch of Delhi. During this period, King Rana Sang of Shisodiya dynasty in Mewar started attempts to over throw the foreign powers in Delhi, by creating his terror in Rajasthan, Punjab and Sindh. When Babar learnt about this, he fought a major war with Rana Sang in 1527 AD and defeated Rana Sang. This resulted in strengthening of Mughal empire in stead of Hindu empire. In spite of this, Babar became scared to fight with Rajputs, and avoided any confrontations with them. Undaunted by this defeat, Rana Sang again started the preparations to fight a war with Babar; but unfortunately he died soon thereafter.

Categories

10. Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi

Rani Lakshmi Bai

Rani Lakshmi Bai was born in the year 1835.

She learned horseback riding, sword fighting, and fencing at a young age. She was married to the Maharaja of Jhansi, Raja Gangadhar Rao.

In 1851, the Rani had a son; he unfortunately died when he was barely four months old. In the year 1853, Gangadhar Rao fell sick and became very weak. So, the couple decided to adopt a child. They named him Damodar Rao.

The British weren't satisfied with the idea that Damodar was the legal heir to the throne. The governor of India said that Jhansi would be broken down since Gangadhar had left no heir to the throne.

Because of that, a war broke out between the citizens of Jhansi and the British. This was the war of first war of independence. Rani was determined and not ready to give up Jhansi. She was a symbol of patriotism and self respect.

On March 1858, the British decided to attack Jhansi. However, Rani did not surrender and continued to valiantly fight against the British. The battle continued for two weeks. During the battle, Rani dressed as a man, had her baby strapped to her back, she held the horse reins in her mouth, and held two swords in her hands.

Unfortunately, due to lack of support from the [Kings](#) of our kingdoms, Rani lost her life during the battle.

Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi was probably the bravest of all the leaders who fought for India's independence against the mighty British. She died in battle as she led the Indian mutiny in 1857, the first armed uprising against British rule. Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi will always be remembered for her unbreakable patriotism and astonishing courage.

11. [**"Punyashlok" Ahilyabai Holkar**](#)

Ahilyabai Holkar

There have been many courageous warriors among the [Marathas](#). Most of us remember the name 'Ahilyabai Holkar'. She is honored as 'Punyashloka' as her social work is still hailed as [ideal](#). Ahilyabai originally hailed from a place called Chondhi in Beed district of Marathwada, Maharashtra but her work was mostly in and around Madhya Pradesh. She was astute in looking after her home and kingdom. Ahilya, the daughter of Mankoji Shinde-Patil was bold from her child. Ahilyabai Holkar had inborn qualities of a monarch.

Once, the Thorle (Elder) Bajirao Peshwa's army was stationed in the town of Chondi. Ahilyabai Holkar , who was a child, went with her mother to a [temple](#) on the banks of the river Sina. She made a Shivalinga while playing with her friends in the sand on the bank of river. Suddenly, a horse from the army got wild and started galloping towards the kids. Ahilya's friends ran away. But Ahilyabai Holkar covered Shivlings with her body in a bid to protect it.

[Bajirao Peshwa](#) soon appeared on the scene and sternly asked Ahilya, "Did you realize that the horse would have trampled you?" Ahilyabai Holkar looked straight into his eyes and boldly stated, "I have created this Shivlinga and my [elders](#) have taught us to lay down our life to protect our creations, and that is exactly what I have done." Bajirao was very pleased to hear this courageous answer from Ahilya. The person accompanying him Malharrao Holkar was so impressed that he decided to bring her home as his daughter-in-law. Ahilyabai Holkar proved that her father-in-law's choice was right and she brought fame to the Holkar family.

12. [**Chandrasekhar Azad**](#)

In 1921, when Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation movement, Chandrasekhar Azad actively participated in revolutionary activities. He received his first punishment at the tender age of 15, when he was caught while indulging in revolutionary activities. He was produced in court before the magistrate. When the magistrate asked him his name, he said "Azad" (meaning, 'free'). The magistrate sentenced him the punishment of fifteen lashes. With each stroke of the whip, the young Chandrasekhar shouted "Bharat Mata ki jai". From then on Chandrashekhar assumed the title of Azad and came to known as Chandrashekhar Azad. After being

released, Chandrashekhar Azad vowed that he would never be caught again by the British police and would die as a free man.

On 27th February 1931, Chandrashekhar Azad met two of his comrades at the Alfred Park in Allahabad. He was betrayed by an informer, who informed the British police about his whereabouts. The police surrounded the park and ordered Chandrashekhar Azad to surrender. However, Chandrashekhar Azad refused to surrender and fought alone valiantly. He killed three policemen, but finding himself surrounded and seeing no route for escape, he shot himself. Thus, he kept his pledge of not being caught alive by the British police.

Chandrashekhar Azad gave up his life for the Nation at a young age of only 25 years. Such was his devotion towards the Nation, that inspite of knowing that there is no route for escape, he refused to surrender and instead, preferred to give up his life. How many of us have the courage to sacrifice our life for the Motherland at such a young age ?

13. Khudiram Bose

Khudiram Bose

My dear children we are living in free Bharat today. We must be grateful to all those patriots who sacrificed their lives for liberating Bharat from the clutches of the British. Let us learn the story of Khudiram Bose, who was the first revolutionary to hurl a bomb on the British.

Khudiram Bose was just 6 years old when he lost his parents. His sister looked after him. He was interested in reading detective books. He did not like the British because they were brutal to Bharatiyas and he wanted to drive them away when he grew up.

Once a grand exhibition was held at Medinipur in Bengal. Through pictures and puppets the British were trying to falsely depict that although they were foreigners, they were doing so much to help the people of Bharat. Lot of people went to see the exhibition. Young Khudiram was distributing handbills having the title 'Sonar Bangla' to the people there. Injustice and tyranny of the British were explained in the handbills and thus people were informed how British were cheating them through the exhibition. Among the visitors there were a few loyal to the King of England. They tried to prevent the distribution of the handbills. They tried to frighten Khudiram Bose, but he ignored them and continued the distribution of the handbills.

Finally, a policeman caught him and pulled the handbills from his hand; but Khudiram jerked the policeman's hand, gave a blow on his nose and said, "Don't you dare touch

me! Let me see how you arrest me without a warrant." Later, a case was filed against Khudiram, but he was set free on the ground of his tender age.

On the night of April 30, 1908 Khudiram Bose and Profulla Chaki approached the European Club with a revolver and a bomb. They wanted to kill Kingsford, the Chief Presidency Magistrate who was known to make brutal and blatant judgements against [freedom fighters](#). When the carriage approached just opposite him Khudiram threw the bomb inside the carriage; but unluckily Kingsford was not in that carriage. Some other people got killed. It was the first bomb hurled at the British by Bharat. Khudiram was arrested on the charges of bomb attack and was sentenced to death on August 11, 1908. He died with the holy book Bhagwad Gita in his hands and the slogan [Vande Matram](#) on his lips.

14. [Shaheed Bhagat Singh](#)

One evening, in a village in Punjab, a boy aged 3 years stepped out for a walk with his father. His father was accompanied by a friend. They were chatting as they walked on and went beyond the village. The elders were walking along the edge of a field. Not hearing the footsteps of the boy, the father stopped and looked back. He saw that the boy was sitting on the ground and seemed to be planting something. The father became curious. He approached the child and asked "What are you doing son?" The boy replied innocently, "Father, I shall plant guns all over the field." His eyes shone with the strong faith that guns would grow in the field. Both the elders were struck with wonder on hearing these words of the little boy.

This little boy was none other than the [great revolutionary](#), Bhagat Singh.

Once, when he was in school, Bhagat Singh asked his classmates, "What do you wish to become when you grow up?" Each boy gave a different answer. One of them said, "I want to become a doctor." Another wished to become a government officer; and some other wished to become a merchant; while another said, "I want to marry". At this, Bhagat Singh remarked, "Is marriage a big achievement ? Anybody can marry. But, I will drive the British out of India." This shows how [patriotism](#) flowed in his veins right since childhood.

This story shows how great our Bharatiya revolutionaries were. In a world where everyone is self-centred and concerned only about their own welfare, Bhagat Singh's only concern right since childhood was to liberate our Motherland from the clutches of slavery.

15. [Maharana Pratap](#)

Rana Pratap was a brave and self-respecting [king](#) from Rajasthan.

The King of Jaipur, Maharaj Mansingh had tied his sister's knot with Akbar to save his state from Akbar. Once, while he was travelling from Rajputana to Delhi, he went to meet Rana Pratap at Kubmhalgad to expose his richness to him. Rana Pratap welcomed him with hospitality, but denied accompanying Mansingh for food. When Mansingh asked him the reason for this, Rana Pratap replied, "I do not accompany Rajputs who have lost their dignity by giving their sisters and daughters to Mughals, just to save their state."

On hearing such aggressive words from Rana Pratap, Mansigh's ego was hurt. He immediately got up and while leaving said, "Pratapsingh, I shall make you very pathetic on the battle field, only then I shall continue calling myself Mansingh."

loyal chetak

Mansingh along with a huge army and Akbar's son Salim went on task of putting an end to Rana Pratap. When Rana Pratap got this news, he attacked and killed many soldiers of Mansingh's army. Mansingh remained behind his army, as he was scared of Rana Pratap's sword. Rana was trying to get out of the encircled army with his sword, but someone from Mansingh's army fired an arrow on Rana Pratap's horse, Chetak. The arrow struck Chetak's leg and badly wounded it. In spite of being wounded so badly, Chetak continued running, carrying his master on his back. While running, they came across a stream. Chetak made an incredible leap over the stream and died on the spot as he ran out of his capacity.

Rana Pratap turned back to check who is following him and found that his own younger brother Shaktisingh who used to work for Akbar was killing 5 soldiers from the Mughal army who had accompanied him. Ranaji got surprised to see this scene. Shaktisingh came to Ranaji after killing the soldiers of the Mughal army. He hugged him and said, "Dada, I do service to the Mughals as I do not possess courage and a strong mind like you, but you are still my ideal. I am worthless, not only in front of you, but also in front of your loyal horse."

Karnal Tond who was writing the history of Mewad, praised Rana Pratap saying, 'Although Akbar tried to defeat Rana Pratap using his strong will, good governance, wealth and power, his attempts were unsuccessful in front of the strong, determined, courageous and bright Rana Pratap.'

Friends, you have now read the story of the brave and self-respecting Rana Pratap. He was so dignified, that he was totally against the idea of compromising with the Mughals, just for the sake of protecting one's state from their might.

You must also have learned from the example of Rana Pratap's loyal horse, Chetak, that if we give love to all living beings, then even animals show their attachment to us. Loyal Chetak sacrificed his own life to save his master's life. Rana Pratap's brother, Shaktisingh too admitted, that he is worthless in front of the obedient Chetak.