

Kranti Gatha, Gallery of Revolutionaries

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In news– Recently the Prime Minister of India has inaugurated 'Kranti Gatha', a newly created Gallery of Indian Revolutionaries inside the underground British – era bunker at Raj Bhavan Mumbai. He also inaugurated the newly reconstructed 'Jal Bhushan', the residence and office of the Governor of Maharashtra.

About 'Kranti Gatha'

- It has been **created in the bunker that was discovered below Raj Bhavan in 2016** by the then Governor of Maharashtra N Vidyasagar Rao.
- It is a **tribute to the known and unknown revolutionaries of the Indian freedom movement.**
- It has been created under the guidance of historian and writer Dr Vikram Sampath with assistance from the South Central Zonal Cultural Centre, Nagpur.
- It is being dedicated in the year when India is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- It also commemorates many revolutionaries from Maharashtra from the First War of Independence in 1857 to the Naval uprising in Mumbai in 1946.
- In this Vasudev Balwant Phadke, Chafekar brothers, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Veer Savarkar, Babarao Savarkar, Krantiguru Lahuji Salve, Anant Laxman Kanhere, Rajguru, Madam Bhikaji Cama feature prominently.
- **The story of the armed struggle against British rule from Maharashtra – then part of the Bombay State – is shown here through sculptures, rare photographs and murals.**
- The **first armed revolutionary organization 'Abhinav Bharat'** and the **Prati Sarkar self-rule** movement of Satara-Sangli region of 1940s also figure in the

Gallery.

- It also includes useful pictorial information about many tribal revolutionaries drawn by school children.
- A scene of the **coronation of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** has also been created in this hall.

Built before the First World War, the bunker was used by the British to store arms and ammunition. The **bunker has 13 rooms** of various sizes and the **different cells in it were known as 'Shell Store', 'Gun Shell'**, Cartridge Store, Shell Lift, Central Artillery Room, Workshop etc. The bunker was found to have a proper drainage system as well as clean air and natural light. A virtual reality museum was inaugurated in this bunker by President Ramnath Kovind on 18 August 2019. However, many rooms in the 13-room bunker were empty.

About Jal Bhushan-

- 'Jal Bhushan' has a history of at least 200 years.
- **Mountstuart Elphinstone**, the Governor of Mumbai, built a small bungalow called 'Pretty Cottage' on Malabar Hill between 1820 and 1825 and the structure 'Jalbhushan' stands on this place.
- Since the relocation of the Government House at Malabar Hill in 1885, **it has housed the residence of the British Governor of the erstwhile Bombay State, the Governor of Bombay** after independence and the Governor of Maharashtra after the formation of the State in 1960.
- It was decided to construct a new building at this place as the old structure was found unsafe for dwelling.
- The new 'Jalbhushan' architecture preserves the salient heritage features of the old architecture.