

The history of popular slogans raised during Indian independence movement

August 12, 2022

In news- On August 15, 2022, India will be celebrating its 75th Independence Day, it is important to remember popular slogans of the Indian independence movement.

Details of popular slogans-

Be it 'Jai Hind!' or 'Vande Mataram!', most of the popular patriotic slogans raised today are likely to have their origins in the movement for Indian independence. Following are some of the popular slogans used during India's Independence:

Jai Hind' by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose-

- It was **popularised by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as a salutation for soldiers of his Indian National Army (INA)**, which fought alongside Netaji's ally Japan in the Second World War. But according to some accounts, Netaji did not actually coin the slogan.
- In his 2014 book, 'Lengendotes of Hyderabad', former civil servant Narendra Luther said the **term was coined by Zain-ul Abideen Hasan, the son of a collector from Hyderabad**, who had gone to Germany to study. There, he met Bose and eventually left his studies to join the INA.
- **Khan was tasked by Bose to look for a military greeting or salutation for the INA's soldiers**, a slogan which was not caste or community-specific, given the all-India basis of the INA.
- He overheard two Rajput soldiers greet each other with the slogan 'Jai Ramji ki'. That led to the idea of 'Jai Hindustan ki' in his mind and it was then shortened to

'Jai Hind', with the term meaning 'Long live India' or a call to lead a fight for India.

'Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe aazadi doonga' by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose-

- **As per the book 'Subhas Chandra Bose: The Nationalist and the Commander – What Netaji Did, What Netaji Said' edited by Vanitha Ramchandani, the slogan had origins in a speech Netaji made in Myanmar, then called Burma, on July 4, 1944.**
- Netaji said this slogan (Give me blood and I promise you freedom) to encourage Indians to utilise the opportunity provided by the Second World War.

'Vande Mataram' by Bankim Chandra Chatterji-

- **The term refers to a sense of respect expressed to the motherland.**
- In 1870, Bengali novelist Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay wrote a song which would go on to assume a national stature, but would also be seen as communally divisive by some.
- **Written in Bengali, the song titled 'Vande Mataram' would not be introduced into the public sphere until the publishing of the novel Anandamath in 1882, of which the song is a part.**
- **The novel Anandmath, set in the early 1770s against the backdrop of the Fakir-Sannyasi Rebellion against the British in Bengal, came at a time of the Bengal agrarian crisis when the region was hit by three famines one after another.**
- After British rule ended, the song was in contention for being the national anthem, but was criticised by some and ended up **becoming the national song instead.**

'Inquilab Zindabad' by Maulana Hasrat Mohani-

- 'Inquilab Zindabad' (Long live the revolution) **was first**

used by Maulana Hasrat Mohani in 1921.

- Mohani (1875-1951) was born in a town called Mohan in the Unnao district of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Hasrat was his pen name (takhallus) as a revolutionary Urdu poet**, which also became his identity as a political leader.
- Hasrat Mohani was a labour leader, scholar, poet and also **one of the founders of the Communist Party of India in 1925.**
- **Along with Swami Kumaranand – also involved in the Indian Communist movement – Mohani first raised the demand for complete independence or ‘Poorna Swaraj’**, at the Ahmedabad session of the Congress in 1921.
- **He was later elected a member of the Constituent Assembly** and was also **a member of the drafting committee** of the Constitution along with Dr B R Ambedkar.
- His stress on Inquilab was inspired by his urge to fight against social and economic inequality, along with colonialism.
- **Before Mohani coined this slogan, the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia made the idea of revolution symbolic of the struggle** for oppressed nationalities globally.
- It was from the **mid-1920s that this slogan became a war cry of Bhagat Singh and his Naujawan Bharat Sabha**, as well as his Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).
- This **slogan got major traction when he and B K Dutt dropped bombs in the Assembly on April 8, 1929**, and shouted it.

‘Sarfarooshi ki Tamanna’ by Bismil Azimabadi-

- “Sarfarooshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil men hai, dekhna hai zor kitna bazu-e-qatil men hai” (Our hearts are now longing to die for a good cause, that we shall see what strength the arms of killers possess).

- These **are the first two lines of a poem written by Bismil Azimabadi**, a freedom fighter and poet from Bihar, after the Jallianwalah Bagh Massacre of 1921 in Amritsar, Punjab.
- The **lines were popularised by Ram Prasad Bismil**, another revolutionary.
- They **convey a deep longing to take on an enemy, a spirit seen in the way Bismil**, an Urdu poet and revolutionary, was part of major events that raised the spirits of fellow freedom fighters at the time.
- **He was a part of the Kakori train robbery, a successful and ambitious operation** in which a train filled with British goods and money was robbed for Indian fighters to purchase arms.

'Do or Die' by Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi-

- In 1942, with the Second World War commencing and the failure of **Stafford Cripps Missions – which only promised India a 'dominion status'** where it would still have to bear allegiance to the King of England – it was realised that the movement for freedom needed to be intensified.
- On August 8, 1942, the All-India Congress Committee met in Gowalia Tank Maidan (August Kranti Maidan) in Bombay.
- Gandhi addressed thousands after the meeting to spell out the way forward.
- He then told the people what they must do: **"Here is a mantra, a short one, that I give you. Imprint it on your hearts, so that in every breath you give expression to it. The mantra is: 'Do or Die'. We shall either free India or die trying;** we shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery."
- Later, in Bihar and UP, a full-fledged rebellion began, with slogans of 'Thana jalao', 'Station phoonk do' that demanded burning of police stations and train stations,

and 'Angrez bhaag gaya hai' (the Englishman has ran away).

'Quit India' by Yusuf Meherally-

- While Gandhi gave the clarion call of 'Quit India', the **slogan was coined by Yusuf Meherally, a socialist and trade unionist** who also served as Mayor of Mumbai.
- A few years ago, in **1928, Meherally had also coined the slogan "Simon Go Back"** to protest the Simon Commission.
- **According to Saad Ali, who was a part of the Quit India movement, Meherally was a Congress Socialist Party member who was actively involved in anti-government protests.**