

# Contributions of Unsung Heroes from North-East India to India's Independence Movement

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## **Introduction:**

The Independence movement of India is a defining moment in India's history. It is a succession of historic events and immolations by many freedom fighters. The contribution of the Northeast to the Indian independence movement is gradually getting universal recognition. Many freedom fighters were born in this region and laid down their lives for their motherland. Kushal Konwar, Kanaklata Boruah, Pushpalata Das, Maniram Dewan, Rani Gaidinliu, and Pa Togan Nengminja are some prominent freedom fighters. Some others played an important role in India's independent movement whose names remain unknown. The submitted study explores some unknown heroes from the Northeast region whose contributions are away from the spotlight.

## **Objective:**

This research article deals with the unknown heroes from the Northeast of India's independence movement. The study aims to analyze the role played by freedom fighters toward the country's independence. The main aims are to accentuate some unknown fighters from various parts of the Northeast of India and their sacrifices which have not been written in the everyday textbook and even today's kids don't know about them.

## **Methodology:**

This research article is based on an analytical method. This analysis mainly concentrates on some unknown heroes who sacrificed a lot in the country's independence movement. In writing this article, data has been gathered from various secondary sources such as books, journals, articles, the internet, etc.

## Results and Discussion:

There is no doubt that every masses of Assam and some parts of the Northeast know about the contributions of *Kanaklata Boruah*, *Bhugeswari Phukanani*, *Chandraprabha Saikia*, *Bir Tikendrajit Singh*, *Rani Gaindinliu*, *U Tirot Singh* and many more. They have brought the limelight. But there are some other fighters whose contributions remain unknown to the masses today. Here are some unknown fighters from Northeast India.

- *Sonaram Chutia*: Sonaram Chutia has played an active role in Quit India Movement (QIM). He was arrested by the British and sent to Jorhat Central Jail for participating in QIM in 1942. During the time of his imprisonment, he met some prominent fighters such as *Debeswar Sarma*, *Gopinath Bordoloi*, *Pitambar Dev Goswami*, etc. He had been imprisoned for 2 years and 18 days. After his release in 1944, he was again placed under 6 months of house arrest. In 1972, the Union government and in 1973, the Assam government commemorated him for his sacrifices.
- *Bholanath Baruah*: Baruah is also a fighter from Panigaon, Lakhimpur, Assam. Leading the co-freedom fighter and volunteers of Lakhimpur, he took part in Quit India Movement. As a prominent freedom fighter, Baruah was praised by the President of India in 2014.
- *Chakradhar Bhuyan*: Bhuyan is another fighter from Assam. By following Mahatma Gandhiji's path, he joined in Quit India Movement in 1942. He was given the responsibility of a spy to collect the confidential information of the British at the time of the independence movement.
- *Kiang Nangbah ( U Kiang Nangbah )*: He was also a fighter from Meghalaya who fought against the British during the revolt of 1857. The British hanged him publicly at Lawmusiang in Galway town in the West Jayantia Hills district on 30th December 1862. The Government of India issued a postage stamp to commemorate him in 2001.
- *Taji Mideren*: Taji was from the elopian village in the Northeast region of India. He established a Mishmi Leadership to resist the unholy expansion of the British authority. He was captured by the British in 1917 and after that drove out to Tezpur in Assam where he was hanged.

- *Shoorvir Pasaltha*: Pasaltha was the first Mizo freedom fighter who sacrificed his life while resisting the unholy expansion of British authority during the invasion of the Lushai Hills in 1890.
- *Matmor Jamoh*: Jamoh was from Arunachal Pradesh and was a revolutionary leader who did not like British supremacy. So he gathered young Adi warriors of his state to resist the British expedition. But he and his Adi warriors were killed by so many British officials.
- *Paona Brajabashi*: Paona was a soldier of the Kangleipak Kingdom ( Kingdom of Manipur ) under Maharaja Kulachandra. Engaged in a bloody clash with the British, Paona fought until the last man by some accounts.
- *Sonaram R Sangma*: Sangma was from Meghalaya and was the first Garo Political leader. He fought against the British government and demanded the greater Garo land. He constructed a road from Tura to Rongrengiri and this road was known by the people of that locality as Sonaram Sorok or Sonaram Path.

Apart from those fighters, there are some others also. They are such as *Kerketuwa Chutia, Khargeswar Hazarika, Haladhar Bhuyan, Tirot Singh, Haipou Jadonang, and many more*. They also took part in India's independence movement. Some of them got imprisoned for their participation in this struggle movement. They contributed a lot to their motherland.

#### Conclusion:

In this light of the above discussion, it can be concluded that people from the Northeast region came together to fight for India. But they are away from the limelight. There are many such warriors but unfortunately, the Northeast is viewed from the prism of the other. Their history was infrequently a significant section of Indian history. So it's time to commemorate those unacknowledged heroes whose contributions are unforgettable.

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