

#INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECIAL

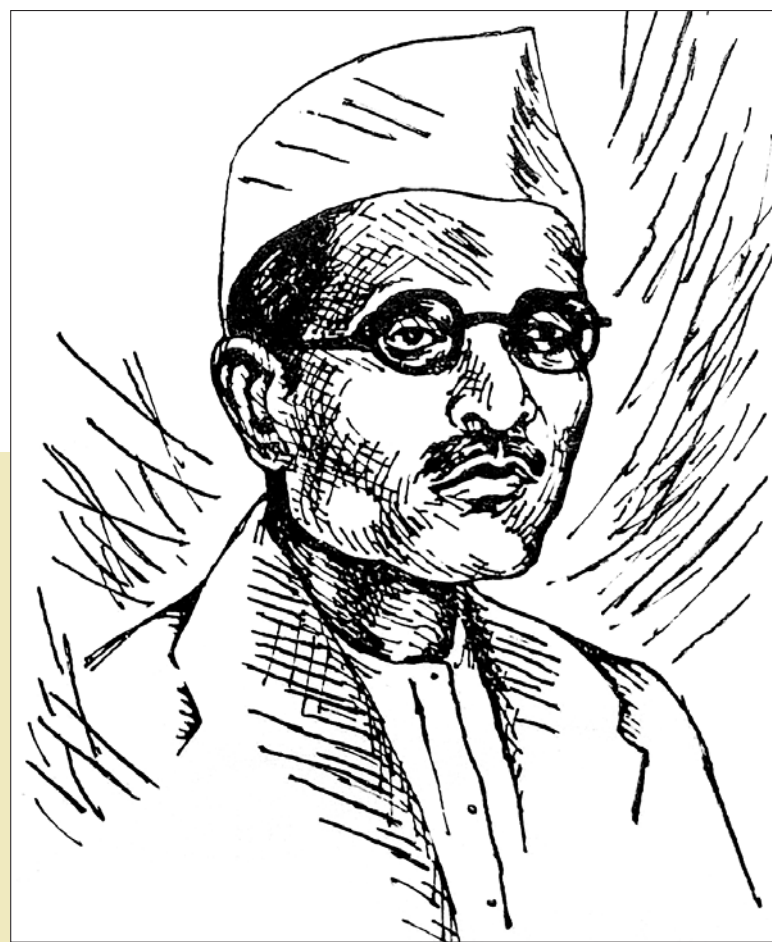
Which Prime Minister has hoisted the National Flag most times?

India's first Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, holds the record of hoisting the tricolour maximum times, while Gulzarilal Nanda and Chandra Shekhar could not get an opportunity to unfurl the national flag at the Red Fort during their tenures as the Prime Minister.



India's biggest national festival, Independence Day, is approaching. From villages to big cities, from the government and non-government organisations to individuals, everyone is plunged into the preparation for the upcoming I-Day celebration, set to be held on August 15. The mood of festivity has started prevailing all around as patriotism and love of the nation is spiralling out through the heart of every citizen in our beloved country.

- Manmohan Singh, the face of the liberalisation of the Indian economy, unfurled the national flag 10 times in a row after coming to power in 2004.
Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) icon, hoisted the tricolour six times during his regime from 1998 to 2004.
Congress leader Rajiv Gandhi hoisted the national flag 3 times at the Red Fort from 1984 to 1989.
Congress leader Narasimha Rao, who is credited for setting the stage for liberal economic policy, also hoisted the national flag 5 times at the Red Fort during his tenure 1991-96.
Lal Bahadur Shastri (1964-66) and Morarji Desai (1977-79) hoisted the national flag two times each.
There have been four Prime Ministers, Chaudhary Charan Singh (1979-80), Vishwanath Pratap Singh (1989-90), H. D. Deve Gowda (1996-97) and Inder Kumar Gujral (1997-98) who unfurled the flag just once throughout their term.
Meanwhile, there have been two Prime Ministers, Gulzarilal Nanda and Chandra Shekhar, who never got the opportunity to hoist the national flag at the Red Fort during their tenure.



Dr. Sudhir Varma, IAS (Retd.), (Former Collector, Jaisalmer)

In November 1930, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru fell ill in Naini jail. To wish him an early recovery at the behest of his father, Pt. Motilal Nehru, prayers, meetings and demonstrations were held all over the country including Jaisalmer.

With the help of Aidan Singh, Purohit and Roonparin Mehta, Gopa, who was in Jaisalmer at that time, issued a pamphlet exhorting the public for action. In retaliation, the Maharawal put them behind bars. A case was lodged against them and they were produced in a court.

In a way, it was the beginning of political activities in the state. The Maharawal also began looking for opportunities to harass Gopa. He had become a headache for his father also, who was an official in the state.

For a few years, there was no activity for freedom. Gopa continued by writing articles in the press from outside during this period. Shiv Shankar Gopa, father of Sagarmal, was running a Sarva Hitkarini Library in Jaisalmer.

In 1932, under Raghunath Singh Mehta, a Maheshwari Yara Mandal was established in Jaisalmer, but was promptly declared as 'illegal' by the Maharawal. This action again led to public unrest. Sagarmal Gopa had written a book called

The Act of 1935 In that year, the Congress party was able to extract a large measure of autonomy from the British India, ending the system of direct diarchy, introduced by the 1919 Reforms. It provided a Federation of India, consisting of both, British India and some or all Princely States. The proposal suggested that the Princely States would continue to be governed by the states themselves.

This was again totally disheartened by the Maharawal. He made efforts to prevent it. He started spreading false rumours against the members and made efforts to prevent marriages in their families and societies. He also sent rough elements to fight with them. He then started threatening them with government action like searching their shops and keeping guards in front of them.

He succeeded to a certain extent. Each was asked to sign an apology letter. However, some of them, even after signing the letter, continued to help Shiv Shankar Gopa. In the meanwhile, two important persons, Jeevan Lal Kothari and Lalchand Joshi left government job. As neither of them had signed the apology letter, false cases were registered against them.

In 1938, Sarang Dar Das, Secretary to Nehru, visited Jaisalmer. He was put up at the residence of Chiranjilal Vyas. He was badly treated by the local officials, especially by Guman Singh

Atrocities By Our Very Own... PART:2

On 3rd April 1946, kerosene was sprinkled on Gopa and he was burnt alive. He was not taken to the hospital even after seven hours. None of his near relations were allowed to meet him. His leg cuffs were not opened. At 11 P. M., his dying declaration was recorded but changed later. On 4th April 1946, Gopa was dead at 10 A. M. It was spread in the town that Gopa had committed suicide. The death of Gopa led to a big law and order situation in the town.

#HISTORY



Hemu Kalani commemorated in 2014.

'Jaisalmer ka Gundaraj' which was banned and Sagarmal was thrown out of Jaisalmer. He went to Nagpur to settle.

Earlier, in 1925, Bhatia collected Rs. 200 to support Ganesha. The Jodhpur Centre was reactivated fully. All the documents about Gopa were put up in public, including his jail diary and were also published.

Quit India Movement Because of the stubborn attitude of the Maharawal, nothing much could be done for the Movement. The Maharawal had, of course, ordered the arrest of important leaders in view of the Movement. It was a time of relief for him.

In 1941, on the death of his father, Sagarmal sought permission of the Resident for Jaisalmer for going to Jaisalmer to meet his mother for mourning his father's death. The permission was given. It was promised that the government would not act against him. But after two days, on 22nd May 1941, while urinating in front of his home, the police arrested him and kept him in prison for one year without any charges.

On 10th June 1942, Gopa was sentenced to six years in jail, where he was badly beaten, especially by the senior-most officer of the kingdom, Guman Singh Bhati. Gopa wrote about this atrocity to Jainarain Vyas and Sheikh Abdullah. A Jaisalmer Seva Sangh was then established in Nagpur, and its members,

At the same time, the tragedy created a new awakening. The Desi Rajya Lok Parishad decided to take up the issue at the national level. The Jodhpur Centre was reactivated fully. All the documents about Gopa were put up in public, including his jail diary and were also published.

Tarachand Jagani, J. V. Pania, Aidan Jhunjhiani, and Tulsidas Sanwal, started holding meetings and sending telegrams to the Maharawal to release Gopa. Meethalal Vyas from Jodhpur was also involved in the campaign.

Nehru's Visit to Jodhpur Nehru visited Jodhpur in December 1945. He was also apprised about the situation of Gopa by Jainarain Vyas. Nehru advised to set up a Praja Mandal in Jaisalmer as soon as possible. A Praja Mandal branch was then set up in Jaisalmer, with the efforts of Mithalal Vyas, Shiv Shankar Gopa, Jeetmal Jagani, Tarachand, Madanlal, Jethmal Vyas, etc. Jethmal was elected as President. Mithalal was made Secretary and Jeetmal Treasurer.

Whatever it was, the event had triggered the fire of nationalism in far off Jaisalmer. Before Gopa's death, on 15th December 1945, Meethalal Vyas had set up a Jaisalmer Praja Mandal in Jodhpur, surprisingly not in Jaisalmer, and the only one outside the Princely state showing the cruel attitude of the Maharawal towards any attempt to raise public voice against him.

The Commission concluded, obviously under pressure of the Maharawal, that it was a suicide and not a murder. There was no answer to the question as from where kerosene and a matchbox found their way into a closely guarded jail.

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The death of Gopa led to a big law and order situation in the town. The funeral procession saw lots of public anger against the Maharawal and Guman Singh. People shouted, "Long Live Amar Shahid Sagarmal Gopa" and denounced the Maharawal and Guman Singh.

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Hemu Kalani Statue in Durg, Chhatisgarh.

Jaisalmer, which demanded, again, a government responsible to the public.

On 26th May 1946, Jainarain Vyas and Akhileshwar Prasad, along with their followers, reached Jaisalmer: took out a procession shouting Pro-Gopa slogans. Thousands of people, including women and children participated in it. They held a public meeting also, which was attended by 4000 people.

The Maharawal had tried earlier, through his messengers, to prevent people from joining the meeting, but had failed. He also invited Vyas to the Palace to explain his views but failed to convince him.

There was a renewed vigour in people and there was a rush to become a member of the Praja Mandal. Another freedom fighter of national importance, who was a morale booster in Jaisalmer, was Heralal Shastri, who had met the Maharawal on the day judicial enquiry began, and had also spoken at the condolence meeting for Gopa. Bhanwarlal Acharya, a resident of Mewar, who presided over the condolence meeting, was asked by Meethalal to stay on in Jaisalmer, as he himself lived in Jodhpur, to help him organize the Mandal there.

Even after independence, the attitude of the Maharawal did not change and in August 1947, the then Prince of Jaisalmer, Giridhar Singh, met the Maharaja of Jodhpur and suggested the merger of Jaisalmer with Pakistan. But this plan was rejected by Sardar Patel. On 2nd October 1947, Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated in the town and people took out a procession which was lathi-charged by the police.

There was an attempt by Kishorilal Purohit to unfurl the national flag on the Pokaran Fort but was not allowed. In the midst of this pro-Rajasthan environment, Jaisalmer ultimately merged with Rajasthan on 30th March 1949.

Concluded. rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

#EXHIBITION

Jaipur's Virasat Se Vikas Verve

Kota Doria saree, with 356 motifs and a Mughal court scene in one part and Pabuji ji Phad in the other, is a star attraction.



Sadhana Garg, Journalist & Social Entrepreneur

It's a fabulous display," said Professor Malashri Lal on her visit to the "Virasat se Vikas" show currently on at Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK). For the uninitiated Raghukul Trust has curated a multi-dimensional arts five day festival for JKK. Timeless Textile Traditions, a display of heritage textiles, loaned by Jaipur's who's who, turns out to be everybody's fav. On display are 250-year-old Jamauar, 150-year old zar-dosi sheriwal of a young adolescent. The embroidery done by a single strand of pure gold thread or 'Sucha Tilla' work, as it is called in Punjab, the state of its origin, is so fine that you begin to wonder whether human fingers are actually capable of such finery.



tion is 'Nahargarh ki Laxmi,' a 250-year old painting on cloth, done by natural paints, derived from real gem stones. It imagines the entire Nahargarh fort and its hills. Bansal, a veteran in miniature painting, and founder of the ICA gallery, one of the oldest in the country, is also the proud owner of Chhckankari white tableware, that looks straight out of Wajid Ali's household. His rich organic malmal and rai bandhej collectibles are not to be seen anymore!

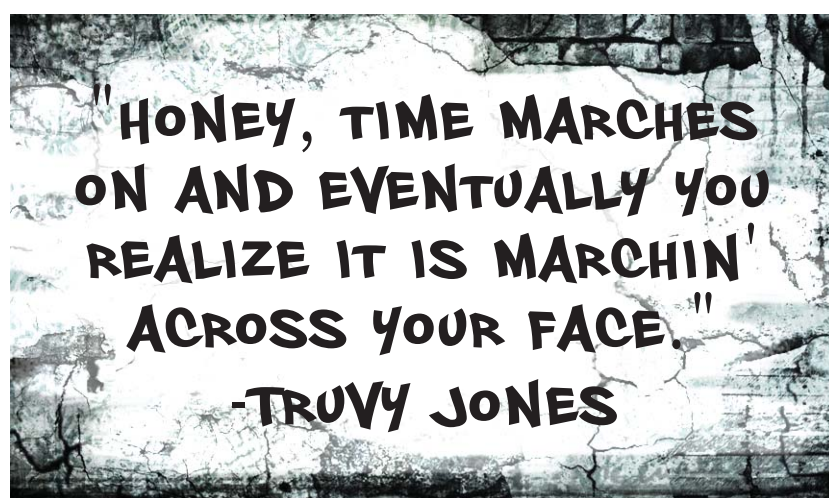
The Kota Doria saree, with 356 motifs and a Mughal court scene in one part and Pabuji ji Phad in the other, is also a star attraction. The Phulkari collection and half the sarees, showcased from different parts of the country, are Rupri Minha's valuable contribution to the show. Any textile show, without the treasure of late Brij Bhushan Basin, an IPS of Gujarat cadre, and a man credited to having founded 'Gujari,' the Gujarat State Handicrafts Corporation, as we know it today, would be incomplete. His collection of domestic embroideries, whether it is the Chamba Rumal or the Rabari tradition, defies description. The Lanka Dahan or Mahishasur Mardini, in Kantha stitch from Bengal, proudly owned by Devika Nagpal, is so lucid and detailed that one mistakes it for a painting.

Raghushree Poddar, Anuja Bajaria, Surbhi Soni, Shilpi Bhargava, Manisha Khandwa, Soumya Pande, Nandita Shekhawat and Nita Shivhare, Bhuvaanesh Kumar are some of the others, who willingly parted with their family heirlooms. The moot question is why would any one willingly risk loaning their family treasures? Curated by yours truly, a simple answer would be they trust and believe that their priceless belongings are in safe hands.

But that would be an oversimplification of a very complex and rare phenomenon! As I see it, the life and soul of a city is in its people. If one is aware, then cities have voices, which one can listen to and a character that one can see. Jaipur, a young city, is peopled by humans, that have nothing small or indifferent about them. World-renowned performing artists have, one after the other, gone on record to say that culturally, its culture, its myth and its magic. Long Live Jaipur's Timeless Traditions!

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS

