

Maharani Lakshmi Bai

Essay No. 01

Maharani Lakshmi Bai was an ideal woman. She is a source of inspiration to India can never forget her name. she was the leader of first independence battle of India.

She was born at Bitur on June 15, 1834. She was named Manu Bai. In her childhood she learnt the use of weapons. She had warlike qualities. She was a clever horse rider and clever archer.

She was married to Raja Ganga Dhar Rao of Jhansi. After marriage she was named Rani Lakshmi Bai. She would not enjoy the pleasures of married life. she became widow after two years of her marriage.

She had no issue. She wished to adopt a son. Lord Dalhausi the Governor General of India, did not allow her to do so. He wanted to make Jhansi a part of British India. Lakshmi Bai stood against him. She opposed foreign rule. She refused to obey the orders of Governor- General. She adopted a son and declared herself independent. Nana Sahib, Tantia Tope and Kanwar Singh were waiting for a chance. They joined hands with Rani.

Naya Khan demanded seven lakhs of rupees from the Rani. She sold her ornaments to dispose him off. This traitor joined the British. He again attacked Jhansi. The Rani rose against Naya Khan and the British. She filled the heart of her soldiers with the spirit of heroism. She fought bravely and defeated her enemy.

Jhansi was again invaded in 1857. Large armies arrived from England. Rani was asked to surrender, but she did not. The result was that the city was destroyed and captured by the British. But Rani still firm. At the news of Tanita Tope's death she said, "so long as there is a drop of blood in my veins and a sword in my hand, no foreigner dare to spoil the sacred land of Jhansi. "Soon after this Lakshmi Bai and Nana Sahib captured Gwalior. But one of her chiefs Dinkar Rao proved traitor. So, they had to leave Gwalior.

Now the Rani began to organize a new army. But she had not the time enough to do so. Col. Smith attacked her with large army. She fought bravely and heroically. She got a very bad wound. So long as she lived, she kept the flag of independence flying.

The Indians lost the First War of Independence. But Rani of Jhansi sowed the seeds of Independence and heroism. India will never forget her name. she is

immortal. She was praised by an English General, Hugh Rose. He said that Laxmi Bai Maharani was the leader and general of the rebel armies. She was a very great woman who sacrificed her whole life for the service of her country, India. Her brave deeds have been written in letters of gold in Indian history. Many books, poems and novels are full of her heroic deeds. There was no other heroine like her in India History.

Essay No. 2

Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi

Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi is known as a great patriot and one of the most important freedom fighters during the First war of the independence which is sometimes simply called "Mutiny" or the "Great Uprising". Though she fought primarily for her own kingdom, the fact is that she refused to bow her head before the mighty, cruel and crafty British empire.

She was born on 13th November, 1835, Her father's name was Morapant and her mother's name was Bhagirathi.

In her childhood, Lakshmi Bai was called Many. As a child she grew up in the company of Nana Sahib who was the son of the Peshwa Bajirao and who too, like her, later became renowned for his bravery and his refusal to bow before cruelty and high handedness. It was in the company of Nana that Many got the training to become a brave and skilled soldier.

It was at an early age that she was married to Gangadhar Rai who was then the ruler of Jhansi.

As Gangadhar became seriously ill, the couple adopted a son Damodar as they had no son of their own.

Soon, Gangadhar died. After his death, Lord Dalhousie, the then Governor General who was following the Doctrine of Lapse, refused to accept Damodar as heir to Gangadhar's throne.

Lakshmi Bai was however too brave a woman to be cajoled or brow beaten. She collected weapons and ammunition, and when the British invaded the fort of Jhansi, they were surprised to find the brave daughter of India, with sword in her hand, answer forcefully the cruel strokes of a mighty enemy.

Lakshmi Bai was certainly no match for the British power. After losing Jhansi, she fought from the fort of Gwalior. Certainly, she could not overpower

the British forces. But she fought till her last breath and laid down her life for the sake of freedom.

Essay No. 03

Rani Laxmi Bai

India: Heroine of the First War of Independence

Birth: 1834 Death: 1858

No, other woman warrior in the history of India has made such a powerful impact on the mind of the Indian people as the Rani of Jhansi, Laxmi Bai. Her heroic battle against the British have become the subjects of many folk songs and ballads all over the country. Her indomitable spirit as a fighter for the independence of her country was appreciated even by her enemies. Rani Laxmi Bai died fighting bravely for the sake of her country. The Rani of Jhansi became the most popular leader of the First War of Independence (1857).

Laxmi Bai was born on 16th November 1834, in Varanasi (U.P.). Her childhood name was Manikamika or Manu. After the death of her mother she came to Bithur with her father. In Bithur, she learnt horse-riding and martial art. When she was eight, she was married to Raja Gangadhar Rao of Jhansi and so Laxmi Bai was called the 'Rani of Jhansi'. In 1851, she gave birth to a son but by 1853, both her son and husband had died. The Rani Jhansi adopted a son but under the 'policy of lapse', the British Government did not recognize the adopted son and annexed Jhansi in 1853. On 4th June 1857, the Sepoy regiment stationed at Jhansi rebelled. The British control broke down in Jhansi also, and the British representative himself asked the people to obey the Rani.

The British forces under the leadership of Sir Hugh Rose besieged Jhansi. The Rani continued to command her forces from inside the fort but ultimately, she was forced to leave Jhansi. She then managed to reach Kalpi where she joined her forces with that of the Nawab of Banda, Tatia Tope, but the British forces pursued her at Kalpi also and inflicted defeat on Kalpi. The Rani now captured Gwalior from Scindhia. But now luck turned against her. The Rani was surrounded from all sides, and so, she now tried to organise a retreat and while doing so was fatally wounded on 18th June 1885 and breathed her last on the battlefield.