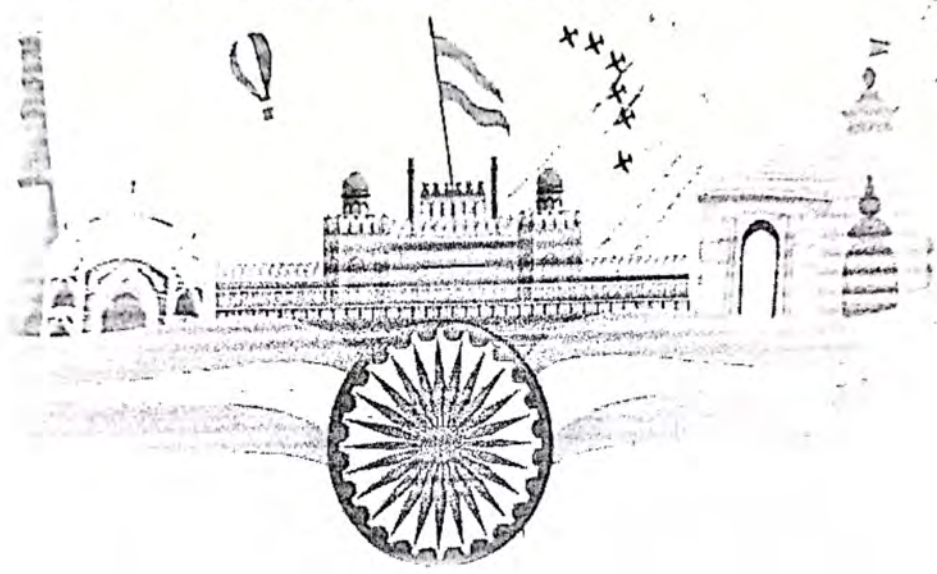


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# INDEX

Sr. No.	Title of the Paper	Name of Author	Page No.
भाग १			
01.	VARIOUS LAWS OF THE PRE - INDEPENDENCE PERIOD	Adv. Rajlaxmi Mandar Sardesai	02
02.	पूर्व विद्रोहातील जंगल सत्याग्रह	प्रा. डॉ. प्रदीप शा. ढोले	06
03.	स्वातंत्र्यपूर्व कालखंडातील भारताची सामाजिक स्थिती	प्रा. पालवे रामनाथ सुर्यभान	11
04.	'स्वातंत्र्यपूर्व कालखंडातील विविध कायदे'	प्रा. जाधव व्ही. के.	15
05.	मराठेकालीन प्रशासकीय घटक कसबा	प्रा. राजगुरू गीतम धनाजी	22
06.	मराठा साम्राज्या अंतर्गत विठोजीराजे होळकरांचे ऐतिहासिक योगदान	प्रा. डॉ. गणेश जी. माने	25
07.	उपनिषदांमधून प्रतिबिंबित होणारी शिक्षण पद्धती	डॉ. माधवी गोडबोले	29
भाग २			
08.	MAHATMA GANDHI'S FOLLOWER : MUNSHI MIR SHUKRALLAHA	Dr. Vijay Kautikrao Desale	34
09.	Shri ŚivarājābhisekhaPrayogai: Ek adhyayana (A Study)	Dr. Vrushi Bhosale	37
10.	मंथ्यानांचे विलगीकरण :- जुनागड प्रश्न, ट्टेदरावाद प्रश्न आणि काश्मीर प्रश्न	प्रा. डॉ. वैशाली शांताराम बागुल	45
11.	ग. प्र. प्रधान यांचे 'स्वातंत्र्यसंग्रामाचे महाभारत' एक संदर्भ ग्रंथ	प्रा. डॉ. वंदना भोयर	50
12.	पार्वीम्यान निर्मितीची वाटचाल आणि भारताची पतळणी	प्रा. डी. पी. बागुल	54
13.	"झोपट बाबासाहेब आंबेडकरांचे स्वातंत्र्योत्तर कालखंडातील दलित साहित्य चळवळ आणि दलित चळवळ यातील योगदान."	भूषण प्रदीपकुमार देशमुख डॉ. वंदना स. भोयर	57
14.	देश विभाजन की त्रासदी और चर्तमान	डॉ. जितेंद्र प्रताप शेळके	60
15.	सततत्रता आन्दोलन में काशी विद्यापीठ के इतिहास विभाग के आचार्योंका इतिहास का अध्ययन और चिन्तन	डॉ. सुरेश प्रसाद पाण्डेय	65

२०, ३१  
१००३

भारताच्या स्वातंत्र्याची अमृत वर्षाच्या विशेषे झालेली साऱ्यास

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Page



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# MAHATMA GANDHI'S FOLLOWER: MUNSHI MIR SHUKRALLAHA

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## ABSTRACT:

Munshi Mir Shukrallaha was a leading Gandhian follower from Khandesh. He was inspired by the ideology of Mahatma Gandhi. He worked for Hindu Muslim unity in Khandesh. Even he participated in Bardoli Satyagraha with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He made a propaganda of khadi in Khandesh area and Khadi got momentum because of his great contribution for it. This paper is an attempt to throw light on the contribution of Munshi Mir Shukrallaha to spread Gandhian ideology and thoughts in the Khandesh area.

Mir Shukrallaha's family made great contributions in the revolt of 1857 but after that their condition became too critical. "After 1857 faced tremendous difficulty so Shukrallaha's father migrated to the Basti district in Terai Region of Nepal to keep his family away from British. There too he felt uncomfortable. He fed up with the British exploitation and wanted to go back to motherland. Finally Mir Farzat Ali settled in South Khandesh with his family."1.

## Patriotism of Munshi Mir Shukrallaha:

Shukrallaha and his son Akbar Ali were in Dhule jail for participating in the freedom struggle movement at the time of Shukrallaha's father Farzat Ali's death. He craved to attend the funeral ceremony of his father but he didn't get the parol for attending the funeral of his father. He felt upset but he had pride for the service of the nation.

"British laid a condition to Mir Shukrallaha and Akbar Ali for attending the funeral that they should give written consent that they would not participate in any movement against the British in future."2. But they both turned down the offer of British. They gave preference to the nation over their father's funeral. It shows their love and sacrifice for the nation.

## Mir Shukrallaha and Non-cooperation Movement:

Mir Shukrallaha was inspired by ancestor's sacrifice for the nation and he also fought for the nation throughout his life. Khilafat movement was popular in Khandesh as well as in India because of that Muslim leaders came into the mainstream of the nation. At the same time Mahatma Gandhi's Non-cooperation movement was in full flow in India and Khandesh and Gandhian followers could not keep themselves away from the Movement. They enthusiastically participated in this movement. "Mir Shukrallaha of Jalgaon joined this Movement since then he remained a faithful worker of National Congress."3.



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"Khilafat committee was established in Jalgaon and Appasaheb Dastane was appointed as the President of the Committee. Mir Shukrallaha and Ishwarlal Gandhi were appointed as secretaries of the committee. He was a member of Hindus as well as secretary of Maharashtra khilafat movement. Mahatma Gandhi and Shaukat Ali had tremendous faith over Mir Shukrallaha. "Mir Shukrallaha was inspired by Shaukat Ali and Mahatma Gandhi when Gandhiji guided his followers at Bhusawal in 1921." 4 Since then Mir Shukrallaha had been actively participating in the freedom struggle movement. "Mir Shukrallaha toured Malegaon and made awareness among the people by addressing at Johar chowk and Bhendi Bazaar in 1920-1921. It made Malegaon popular in the production of Khadi." 5

**Efforts for Hindu Muslim unity:**

Hindu Muslim unity was an important factor for the independence of India. "Gandhian follower, Shukrallaha had implemented different types of programmes with his companions which were introduced by Mahatma Gandhi like Kondwada Satyagraha, liquor picketing, Khadi production, national education, eradication of untouchability etc. in 1919-1920. Congress committees were established to work different programmes in the country. "6. Shukrallaha did all this works before the beginning of Mahatma Gandhi's village development activities. "He always took efforts for the Hindu-Muslim unity. Mir Shukrallaha was the president of the committee established to oppose the opening of Slaughter house at Rotan in 1920."7 "He-used to take meeting wherever Hindu Muslim met took place and made awareness among the people by visiting temples and mosques. He was the source of Hindu Muslim unity therefore Muslims as well as Hindus respected him. He toured twice in Maharashtra and devoted his life in the service of the nation."8 Due to this work Gandhian people used to treat him as a follower of Mahatma Gandhi.

**Spread of Khadi:**

Mir Shukrallaha contributed a lot for the spread of Khadi. He spread Khadi by banning foreign clothes. "He was President of Congress Committee when Mahatma Gandhi visited Khandesh in 1927 at the same time an ashram was established for cutting cotton thread at Pimpala near Jalgaon. For many days Mahatma Gandhi stayed in Pimpala ashram and guided his workers for National movements."9. Mir Shukrallaha played an important role in the spread of Khadi in Mahatma Gandhi's Non-cooperation movement and banning foreign clothes. He went to different villages of Western Khandesh and spread Khadi.

**Involvement of Mir Shukrallaha in Bardoli Satyagraha:**

British intended to increase revenue upto 30% in the Bardoli taluka of Gujarat state on the outskirts of East Khandesh. Farmers in Bardoli started revenue ban Satyagraha under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. "Mir Shukrallaha went to Bardoli to join this Satyagraha with his

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companion Devakinandan Narayan in July 1928."10. Mir Shukrallaha participated in Satyagraha by visiting villages like Darod, Khedcamp, Bajipura, Dar, Tem in Gujarat with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. "After returning in khandesh he made awareness among the weavers " 11.it developed economical independence ongoing the people of khandesh .it encouraged to imbibe Gandhi thoughts and made the nation strong.

### Liquor banning and Eradication of Untouchability:

Being a great social worker, Mir Shukrallaha tried to keep people away from addiction. For that he made awareness among the people. He encouraged social workers to oppose liquor shops in their locality. He supported the Village development movement of Mahatma Gandhi by opposing the liquor shops and banning liquor. "He delivered an effective speech in Mhasawad for the banning of liquor on 18th May, 1921. His great speech left an effective impression on the people of the locality."12

Eradication of untouchability was an important village reforming work of Mir Shukrallaha. He began this work by discussion with Thakkar Bappa. He didn't believe in caste, creed and religions. He was a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi who believed in unity and equality of the people.

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