



Uda Devi Pasi : A Sniper who Surprised the British

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ABSTRACT :

Indian history is littered with stories of heroic women who contributed significantly to the country's freedom movement. One such braveheart is Uda Devi Pasi, a warrior who was martyred in the first struggle of independence in 1857. Born in the village of Ujiriao in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Because of her willingness to engage in India's freedom struggle, Uda Devi Pasi became affiliated with Begum Hazrat Mahal. Uda Devi established a women's brigade, mostly made up of Dalit women, to fight the British regiment stationed near the Gomti River with her assistance. The women of this brigade were dubbed 'Veeranginis,' which translates to "brave heroines." Makka Pasi, Uda Devi's husband, was killed in the battle of Chinhat. Uda Devi Pasi bravely risked her life, motivated by her grief, to ensure that the British unit could not break reinforcements. While nothing is known about the specifics of the combat, British Commander Campbell and W. Gardon Alexander documented the circumstances of her death in their reports of the movement. They claim Uda Devi Pasi climbed a pipal tree and opened fire on British soldiers. She is said to have killed 32 to 36 soldiers. But it wasn't until she slumped to the ground that the soldiers realized she was a woman. Campbell was moved by her bravery and respectfully bowed to her. Uda Devi Pasi continues to inspire people who are aware of her bravery and sacrifice for the country. Her bravery and skill as a sniper serve as a reminder of the important role that women, particularly those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds, played in achieving the freedom that we have today. We salute Uda Devi Pasi in the spirit of freedom and emancipation.

Keywords : Uda Devi Pasi, freedom, struggle, Ujiriao, sniper, martyr.

Northern India was in a condition of virtual lawlessness in the fall of 1857. The cities of Delhi, Jhansi, and Kanpur were engulfed in a broad uprising against the British East India Company's expanding hegemony. In Lucknow, a tiny British garrison at the Residential on the banks of the Gomti clung tenaciously to life. The dwindling group of British soldiers, loyal Indian sepoy, and non-combatants teetered on the brink of annihilation throughout the summer of 1857, surrounded by rebels and lacking essential supplies. In September, a previous column of British soldiers pushed through but were forced to retreat due to a lack of ammunition.

The Indian Rebellion of 1857, which battled against the British East India Company, alarmed Uda Devi Pasi. While history has emphasized the role of upper-class heroines in the struggle, lower-class resistance fighters such as Uda Devi Pasi were also present during the battles for independence from British colonial authority. The warriors, or 'Veeranganas,' of the 1857 Indian Rebellion are Uda Devi Pasi and her military sister participants.

She was born into a lower-class family in an Oudh hamlet.

She grew up with a grudge towards the repressive Britishers, earning the moniker "Dalit Veerangna." She married Makka Pasi, who was a soldier in Begum Hazrat Mahal's army. As the country approaches its 75th anniversary of independence, it's also a good opportunity to reflect on the effort and patriotism of hundreds of unknown Indians who made tremendous sacrifices throughout the struggle for independence.

They came from small communities in rural areas, but they shared an ambition of freeing India from colonial control. They had played a crucial part in the fight against atrocities in reaction to those who believe that the Britishers are responsible for the very concept of India. Who were these ordinary men and women with extraordinary grit and desire to rescue their motherland's honor? Regrettably, their tales of valor and bravery are omitted from our history books. Today, we'll remember Uda Devi Pasi's daring sniper mission. During India's first fight of independence in 1857, she led the terrible assault of Sikandarabad in Lucknow.

As the Indian people's dissatisfaction with the British authority grew, Uda Devi Pasi approached the queen of that district, Begum Hazrat Mahal, to demand that the war be declared. The Begum aided her from a women's unit under her command in order to prepare for the fight that was coming their way. Uda Devi Pasi and her husband were both members of the armed resistance when the British attacked Awadh. He fought valiantly but ended up as a martyr. She launched her final effort in full force after learning that her husband had died in the conflict.

Uda Devi Pasi was reportedly enraged at Makka Pasi's martyrdom and promised to punish him. She directed his troops to assault the approaching British force from several angles. Dressed as a male soldier, she climbed a tree with pistols in both hands and enough ammunition.



Freedom Fighter



Fierced Sniper

In November 1857, Uda Devi Pasi fought in the fight of Sikander Bagh. She climbed a pipal tree and began shooting at advancing British forces after giving orders to her battalion. Many of the victims had bullet wounds, indicating a steep, downward trajectory, according to a British officer. Suspecting a hidden sniper, he ordered his officers to fire at the trees, which dislodged a rebel who died instantly.

The sniper was identified as Uda Devi Pasi after an investigation. She was armed with a pair of hefty old-pattern cavalry pistols, one of which was still loaded in her belt, and her pouch was still around half full of ammo, while she had killed more than a half-dozen men from her perch in the tree, which had been meticulously prepared before the attack.

Uda Devi Pasi is still a source of motivation for women from non-dominant castes today. Every year on November 16, members of the Pasi village gather at the site of her death plunge to honor her as an anti-imperialist rebel who defied convention and gave a boost to India's fledgling independence movement. They travel from all across India to pay their respects to Uda Devi Pasi's image.

Uda Devi Pasi Martyrdom Day is a day for Pasis to celebrate their ancestors' valor and martial spirit by chanting the rousing phrases Uda Devi Pasi Amatur Rahe (Uda Devi Pasi Immortal) and Uda Devi Pasi Zindabad (Long live Uda Devi Pasi).

She has been martyred for more than a century. Lower communities, however, respect Uda Devi's sacrifice as a symbol of strong womanhood and keep her memory alive. We need to re-discover and add the heroic feasts of local heroines and Veeranganas in our history books.

Every year on November 16th, the Pasis get together to commemorate Uda Devi Pasi's martyrdom. Participation was a fundamental aspect of the great rebellion. Women from many walks of life, not just those from royal and noble families, but also those from marginalized groups, played a major part. Even though everyone battled for independence, it was only handed to a select few. My paper's goal is to spotlight these Sheroes. I propose that the government consider recruiting a Provincial Armed Constabulary as a result of this study. The formation of women's PAC battalions is a great step toward empowering women from underprivileged backgrounds, and it's only right that one of the units is named after "Veerangnas" like Uda Devi Pasi.

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