

The Vanguard of Victory: Bengali Women in the Revolutionary Struggle

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The Indian freedom struggle is often pictured as a male-dominated arena, but Bengali women were not merely participants; they were architects, warriors, and symbols of resistance. Defying the rigid constraints of gender, class, and religion, they operated from the shadows and the front lines, combining intellectual fury with armed rebellion.

The Armed Vanguard

- **Pritilata Waddedar (1911–1932):** Led the 1932 attack on Pahartali European Club and chose martyrdom over capture, becoming a symbol of bravery and sacrifice.
- **Kalpana Datta (1913–1995):** A strategist in the Chittagong Armoury Raid, she became a key figure in revolutionary literature, demonstrating women's roles as equal tacticians.
- **Bina Das (1911–1986):** Fused intellectual resistance with armed struggle, notably attempting to assassinate the Bengal Governor, and defying colonial oppression in both academia and battle.

The Intellectual Architects

- **Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain (1880–1932):** A visionary feminist, she founded a school for Muslim girls and envisioned a gender-reversed utopia in her story *Sultana's Dream*, advocating for women's education as a foundation for liberation.

The Unseen Network

- **Kamala Das Gupta (1907–2001):** Operated covertly, using her homemaker role to smuggle weapons and coordinate safe houses, preserving the revolution's underground network.
- **Nanibala Devi (1898–1977):** A master of disguise, she endured torture without betraying her comrades, embodying the revolution's code of honor.
- **Labanya Prabha Ghosh (1886–1956):** Mobilized rural women through literacy and secret meetings, contributing to the intellectual backbone of the revolution.

The Symbol of Mass Defiance

- **Matangini Hazra (1869–1942):** Known as "Gandhi Buri," she led the Quit India Movement in her seventies, holding the tricolour until her death at the hands of the police, symbolizing non-violent resistance.

These women proved that the fight for India's independence was not only about freedom but also gender equality.



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“YOUR SUCCESS, OUR COMMITMENT”