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She is diligent at work with a vision to provide holistic education. Being an ardent reader band critic of literature she believes that literature has a great influence on both individuals and society and it can inculcate great qualities like leadership in the individuals. Leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It's about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others' success, and then standing back and letting them shine. This idea is the driving force behind this compilation.

The work aims at throwing light on the genesis of nationalistic ideology in the days of freedom struggle so that it becomes easier for the present generation to understand it's true spirit.

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Indian English Literature with
Freedom Struggle as Background

Dr. D. Uma Rani
G. Manibabu
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Foreword

Nothing reflects the society better than literature. So also, the Freedom struggle for the present generation is better explained through literature. The present work is planned and aims at throwing light on various writings having the influence of Freedom struggle in any part of its literary creation, there by highlighting the essential spirit of Nationalist Movement, so that the present generation, will understand the roots of democratic India. As we celebrate 75 years of Independence – Azadi ka Amrith Mahotsav, it would behoove us to remember the role of pre-Independence literature in our freedom struggle.

The uniqueness of the book is that it has invited analysis/review on writing in other Indian languages which have Freedom struggle as an integrated part in its theme or characters. Those works speaking of the unsung heroes of our greatest struggle are very much entertained. It is an attempt to recall and remember forgotten heroes of our freedom struggle, many of whom might be renowned yet unknown to the new generation. The aim of recreating and bringing forth stories, which lay as faded memories of the past, shall serve as a medium of inspiration and encouragement for the coming generations. It encompasses all spheres of life, most of all by enriching our hearts and souls. The spirit of India is incomplete whilst we take our unsung heroes along this journey of growth and development. Their ethos and principles ought to be recalled and respected as done in the compilation of the book consists of papers presented by the participants of the seminar conducted as a part of the celebration of of Azadi ka Amrithmahotsav

– They Mirrored the Struggle.

CHAPTER-09
**INDIAN ENGLISH LITERATURE WITH FREEDOM
STRUGGLE**

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Abstract

Literature played a significant role in the struggle for India's freedom. Beginning with the 19th century, when nationalist ideas began to emerge and literature in different Indian languages entered its modern phase, more and more writers began to employ literature for patriotic purpose. Most of them, in fact, believed that because they belonged to an enslaved country, it was their duty to create Literature of a kind that would contribute to the all-round regeneration of their society and pave the way for national liberation. Even when freedom from the British rule had not yet emerged as a programme of any major political organisation or movement, and the Indian National Congress was concerned only with constitutional agitation, the realisation of subjection and the need for freedom had begun to be clearly expressed in literature. With the passage of time, as the freedom movement began to attract larger sections of the people, and the demand for freedom became more insistent, literature strengthened the growing idealism of the people. But it also did something more. Besides inspiring people to

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make all kinds of sacrifices for the cause of the country's liberation, literature also brought out the weaknesses of the nationalist movement and its leaders. The ideology, thought and writings of great men of letters shaped the great freedom movement of India. During the days of freedom struggle several men of letters produced creative works which inspired nationalism and patriotism among people.

The paper aims to examine the vision of Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Mulk Raj Anand, Sarojini Naidu and Jawaharlal Nehru and anti colonialism in Indian English writings before and after Independence.

Tagore

The powerful patriotic spirit of Tagore's literary works brought him in the mainstream of the freedom struggle and earned him national wisdom. He not only gave importance on political freedom but also spiritual freedom. Tagore in his poem, "where the mind is without fear" writes:- Where the mind is led by thee into ever-widening Thought and action into that heaven of freedom My father, let my country awake. His works generated a spirit of liberating India from colonialism. He was on a poetic mission to save India from slavery. His works ignited passion and united people to dedicate them to the national struggle. He opposed the partition of Bengal along communal lines and hated the idea of division of his beloved state. He advocated for Swadeshi, composed soul – stirring songs, addressed meetings and led protest marches.

Tagore suggested the people of country to get freedom on humanitarian grounds. "It is my conviction that my countrymen will truly gain their India by fighting against the education which teaches them that a country is greater than the ideals of humanity". He opposed the ideas of nationalism initiated from West. Tagore gifted to India her national anthem. The song generated a sense of national unity during the days of freedom struggle which made India stronger than before. He was a seer and national builder and his contribution of his songs to the national freedom was immense.

Mahatma Gandhi

Great men die physically, but continue to live in the memories of people by their actions and work. Mahatma Gandhi was one of such men among others. Mahatma Gandhi is such a socio-political figure who is barely impossible for someone to forget or ignore. He influenced every aspect of human consciousness and became a source of writing in different fields like history, politics, philosophy, literature, sociology and so on. Indian English Literature echoes 'Gandhian Consciousness' both in pre-independence and post-independence period. Mahatma Gandhi and his ideology dominated literature of twentieth century and continued to have its presence even on today's literature. Kai Nicholson observes in his book *A Presentation of Social Problems in the Indo-Anglican & the Anglo-Indian Novel*, "A character who has loomed large in Indo-Anglican fiction during and after his life time is Mahatma Gandhi." (Kai, 239). Gandhi's philosophy and life became an example and an ideal for most great people of the world to lead a comfortable life.

Many great people like Nelson Mandela, Dalai Lama have confessed about the influence of Gandhian ideology and philosophy on them and their work. His influence was all pervasive and inescapable. Gandhian ideals like 'Ahimsa' (non-violence), 'Satyagraha' (insistence of truth) and non-violent ways of struggle like boycott of English things and lifestyle have had a tremendous impact on the political movements of the world. Even the life of Mahatma Gandhi was quite impressive his saint-like austerity, limited needs that have instilled a new sense of pride and purpose for Indians and foreigners.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Jawaharlal Nehru was an important leader of Indian Independence Movement and Indian National Congress. He became the first Prime Minister when India won its independence on August 15, 1947. He served as the country's prime minister for 16 years. Nehru promoted parliamentary democracy, secularism, and science and technology

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during the 1950s, powerfully influencing India's arc as a modern nation and also two important works of Jawaharlal Nehru are 'Discovery of India' and 'The Glimpses of World History'. "The Discovery of India" contains the historical facts are mentioned chronologically which gives a beautiful perspective on India – the past and the pre-independence era. "The Glimpses of World History" contains important aspects of the history of humankind from [Ancient Greece](#). During the 1920s and 1930s Nehru was repeatedly imprisoned by the British for civil disobedience. In 1928, he was elected president of the Congress. By the end of World War Two, Nehru was recognised as Gandhi's successor. He played a central role in the negotiations over Indian independence.

Nehru advocated state-sponsored industrialisation, increasing the "wealth-producing capacity" and using atomic energy for civilian use. But he realised that for industrialisation to be viable it needed a supportive agrarian economy and a small-scale industrial base.

Mulk Raj Anand

Mulk Raj Anand, (born December 12, 1905, Peshawar, India [now in Pakistan] died September 28, 2004, Pune), prominent Indian author of novels, short stories, and critical essays in English, who is known for his realistic and sympathetic portrayal of the poor in India.

Mulk Raj Anand came into the field of literary writing after facing a family tragedy related to the rigidity of India's caste system. In his debut written essay, he responded to an aunt's suicide after her family had excommunicated her for having a meal with a Muslim woman. He started his writing career in England by writing some short reviews in S. Eliot's magazine, 'Criterion'. During the 1930s and 40s, he actively took part in politics and gave many speeches at the meeting of the Indian League.

In 1935, his first novel 'Untouchable' was published which expose the dark side of India's untouchable caste system. The novel is beautifully written by using Hindi and Punjabi idioms in English. This

experiment captured the vernacular inventiveness and gave Mr. Anand, the reputation of India's Charles Dickens.

In the same year, he founded the Progressive Writers' Association along with other two writers Sajjad Zaheer and Ahmed Ali. In 1937, Anand Ji joined the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. During this period, he wrote numerous essays and articles on various political issues. From 1939 to 1942, he began lecturing in literature and philosophy at London County Council Adult Education Schools and the Workers' Educational Association.

During the 1930s and 40s, he gave his time to the politics of London and India. He was an active member of the Indian National Congress as well as the British Labor Party. During World War II, Mulk Raj Ji worked as a scriptwriter and broadcaster also in the film division of BBC London. In 1946, he launched the magazine about fine arts named 'Marg' which was mainly funded by JRD Tata and later got financial support from Tata Group. In 1947, Anand Ji came back to India. From 1948 to 1966, he spent his time teaching at various universities. In the 1960s, he served as a professor of Literature and Fine Arts at the University of Punjab.

From 1965 to 1970, Mr. Anand served as the fine art chairman at Lalit Kala Akademi.

In 1970, he also became the president of Lokayata Trust after which he created a community and cultural center in Hauz Khas village, Delhi. In the same year, he joined the International Progress Organization (IPO) working on the issues related to cultural self-awareness among countries.

Sarojini Naidu

Sarojini Naidu was an Indian political activist and poet. A proponent of [civil rights](#), [women's emancipation](#), and [anti-imperialistic](#) ideas, she was an important person in [India's struggle for independence from colonial rule](#). Naidu's work as a poet earned her the sobriquet 'the Nightingale of India', or 'Bharat Kokila' by Mahatma

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Gandhi because of colour, imagery and lyrical quality of her poetry. After some experience in the suffragist campaign in England, she was drawn to [India's Congress](#) movement and to [Mahatma Gandhi's Nonco-operation Movement](#). In 1924 she travelled in [eastern Africa](#) and [South Africa](#) in the interest of Indians there and the following year became the first Indian woman president of the National Congress—having been preceded eight years earlier by the English feminist [Annie Besant](#). She toured [North America](#), lecturing on the Congress movement, in 1928–29. Back in India her anti-British activity brought her a number of prison sentences (1930, 1932, and 1942–43). She accompanied Gandhi to London for the inconclusive second session of the [Round Table Conference](#) for Indian–British cooperation (1931). Upon the outbreak of [World War II](#) she supported the Congress Party's policies, first of aloofness, then of avowed hindrance to the Allied cause. In 1947 she became governor of the [United Provinces](#) (now [Uttar Pradesh](#)), a post she retained until her death.

Sarojini Naidu also led an active literary life and attracted notable Indian [intellectuals](#) to her famous salon in Bombay (now [Mumbai](#)). Her first volume of [poetry](#), *The Golden Threshold* (1905), was followed by *The Bird of Time* (1912), and in 1914 she was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. Her collected poems, all of which she wrote in English, have been published under the titles *The Sceptred Flute* (1928) and *The Feather of the Dawn* (1961).

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