

Commemorating unsung National Heroes on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



Introduction of Kunwar Sing



Grand Portrait



Kunwar Singh is also known as **Babu Kunwar Singh**, was a leader during the [Indian Rebellion of 1857](#). At the age of 80, he led a selected band of armed soldiers against the troops under the command of the British [East India Company](#). He was the chief organiser of the fight against the British in [Bihar](#). He is popularly known as **Veer Kunwar Singh** or **Veer Babu Kunwar Singh**



Early life



Kunwar Singh was born on 13 November 1777 to Maharaja Shahabzada Singh and Maharani Panchratan Devi, in Jagdispur of the Shahabad (now [Bhojpur](#)) District, in the state of Bihar. He belonged to the [Ujjainiya Rajput](#) clan. A British judicial officer offered a description of Kunwar Singh and described him as "a tall man, about six feet in height". He went on to describe him as having a broad face with an [aquiline nose](#). In terms of his hobbies, British officials describe him as being a keen huntsman who also enjoyed horse-riding.



After his father's death in 1826, Kunwar Singh became the [taluqdar](#) of Jagdispur. He married the daughter of Raja Fateh Naraiyan Singh, a wealthy [zamindar](#) of the Deo-Munga estate in [Gaya district](#) who belonged to the [Sisodia](#) clan of Rajputs.



Role in the 1857 rebellion



Singh led the [Indian Rebellion of 1857](#) in [Bihar](#). He was nearly eighty and in failing health when he was called upon to take up arms. He was assisted by both his brother, [Babu Amar Singh](#) and his commander-in-chief, [Hare Krishna Singh](#). Some argue that the latter was the real reason behind Kunwar Singh's initial military success. He gave a good fight and harried British forces for nearly a year and remained invincible until the end. He was an expert in the art of guerilla warfare.



Singh assumed command of the soldiers who had revolted at Danapur on 25 July. Two days later he occupied [Arrah](#), the [district headquarters](#). Major [Vincent Eyre](#) relieved the town on 3 August, defeated Singh's force and destroyed Jagdishpur. During the rebellion, his army had to cross the [Ganges](#) river. Douglas' army began to shoot at their boat. One of the bullets shattered Singh's left wrist. Singh felt that his hand had become useless and that there was the additional risk of infection due to the bullet-shot. He drew his sword and cut off his left hand near the elbow and offered it to the Ganges.



Singh left his ancestral village and reached Lucknow in December 1857 where he met with other rebel leaders. In March 1858, he occupied [Azamgarh](#) and managed to repel the initial British attempts to take the area. However, he had to leave the place soon. He retreated towards his home in [Ara, Bihar](#). On 23 April, Singh had a victory near Jagdispur over the force led by Captain le Grand.



Death



In his last battle, fought on 23 April 1858, near Jagdispur, the troops under the control of the British East India Company were completely routed. On 22 and 23 April, being injured he fought bravely against the British Army and with the help of his army drove away the British Army, brought down the [Union Jack](#) from Jagdispur Fort and hoisted his flag. He returned to his palace on 23 April 1858 and soon died on 26 April 1858.



Legacy



- To honour his contribution to India's freedom movement, the [Republic of India](#) issued a commemorative stamp, on 23 April 1966. The [Government of Bihar](#) established the [Veer Kunwar Singh University](#), Arrah, in 1992.
- In 2017, the Veer Kunwar Singh Setu, also known as the [Arrah–Chhapra Bridge](#), was inaugurated to connect north and south Bihar.
- In 2018, to celebrate 160th anniversary of Kunwar Singh's death, the government of Bihar relocated a statue of him to [Hardinge Park](#). The park was also officially renamed as Veer Kunwar Singh Azadi Park.