

Express View: Remembering the Param Virs

On January 23, the birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, 21 of the largest **unnamed** islands in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands were named after soldiers who have been awarded India's highest military **honour**, the Param Vir Chakra. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the renaming **conveyed** a message about the "**immortality** of the **sacrifices**" that the **soldiers** of the Indian Army, all from different states, speaking different languages and **dialects** and leading different lifestyles **had** made, as they united "in the service of Maa Bharti". During an earlier visit of the Prime Minister to the Union Territory in 2018, Ross Island had been renamed Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island, and Neil Island and Havelock Island were, respectively, renamed Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep.

In his **address** on Monday, the Prime Minister **invoked** the image of the "sea that connects different islands" as a **metaphor** for the "feeling of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'" that **unites** Indian citizens, including the soldiers who "**dedicated** themselves to national defence", many of them **laying down** their lives in the process. With the renaming done in their honour, the islands have become more than just **distant outposts** of a **vast** country — they become a way of making those 21 soldiers a part of the very geography of this land, **memorialised** in earth and water. Thus it is that their **stories** — of Second Lieutenant Rama Raghoba Rane who, in the 1948 war with Pakistan, helped **navigate** a safe path for Indian tanks by **crawling beneath** one across a **minefield**; of Major Shaitan Singh who, despite **grievous** injury continued to motivate his men and fight the enemy in 1962 war; of Company Quartermaster Abdul Hamid who, in 1965, helped destroy several Pakistani tanks before **succumbing** to injuries; of Lance Naik Albert Ekka in **taking down** an enemy gunner in **hand-to-hand combat** in 1971; of Subedar Major (then Rifleman) Sanjay Kumar as he helped the Army capture Flat Top Point in the 1999 war — all **are** now an **indelible** part of the **landscape** of the nation.

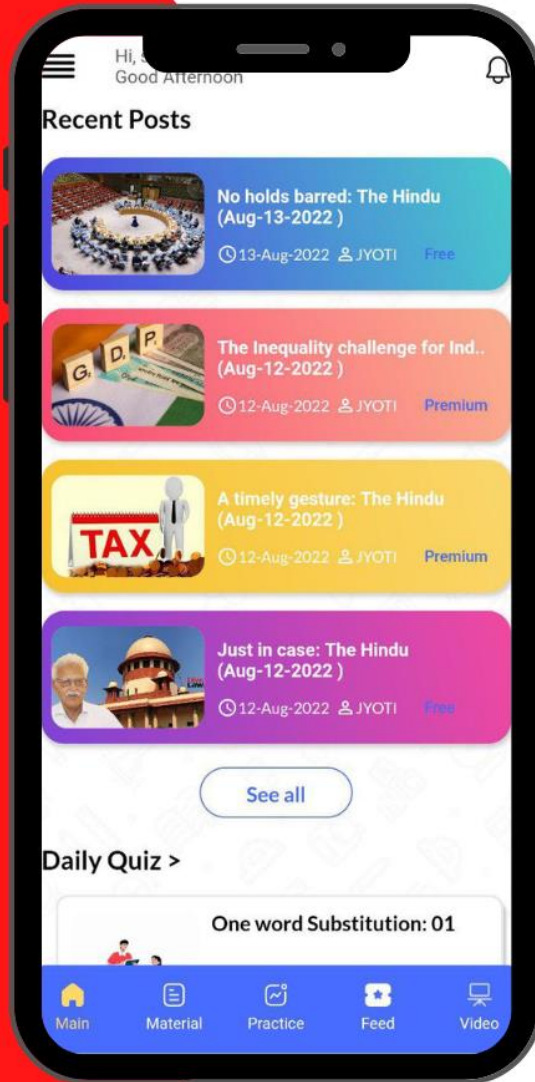
Across the country and around the world, the **sacrifices** made by soldiers in the performance of their duties **have** been **honoured** in **monuments** and **plaques**. **Memorials** are built in stone, wood and metal, with the names of the fallen **inscribed** on them, their brave actions described and their sacrifices **enumerated**, as **gestures** of **remembrance**. The **naming** of 21 Indian islands after 21 soldiers **is** an **imaginative** new way of continuing this tradition.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Unnamed** (adjective) – Unidentified, anonymous, unknown अज्ञात, गुमनाम
2. **Honour** (noun) – Respect, admiration, credit, reputation, tribute सम्मान
3. **Convey** (verb) – express, communicate, indicate, tell, say बताना
4. **Immortality** (noun) – the quality of deserving to be remembered for a long time अमरता
5. **Sacrifice** (noun) – something valuable or important given up as a sacrifice बलिदान
6. **Dialect** (noun) – regional language, variety of language बोली
7. **Address** (noun) – a formal speech that is given to an audience भाषण/संबोधन
8. **Invoke** (verb) – cite, refer to, bring up, adduce आह्वान करना; इस्तेमाल करना
9. **Metaphor** (noun) – a word or phrase that is used in an imaginative way to show that somebody/something has the same qualities as another thing रूपक
10. **Unite** (verb) – join, connect, bring together जोड़ना/ एकजुट करना
11. **Dedicated** (adjective) – wholeheartedly devoted to a job; Devoted, faithful, loyal समर्पित
12. **Lay down** (phrasal verb) – to sacrifice or give up (one's life) बलिदान करना
13. **Distant** (adjective) – Faraway, far-off, remote दूर
14. **Outpost** (noun) – a small military camp or position at some distance from the main army चौकी
15. **Vast** (adjective) – massive, huge, incalculable, immense बड़ा, विशाल
16. **Memorialise** (verb) – preserve the memory of; commemorate. यादगार बनाना
17. **Navigate** (verb) – To make or find a course or way
18. **Crawling** (verb) – move slowly; creep, grovel, crawling, cower रेंगना
19. **Beneath** (preposition) – under, underneath, below, at the bottom of के नीचे
20. **Minefield** (noun) – an area planted with explosive mines. सुरंग-क्षेत्र
21. **Grievous** (adjective) – grave, severe, painful, sad, serious गंभीर
22. **Succumb** (to) (verb) – die from the effect of a disease or injury ; die of मृत्यु को प्राप्त होना

23. **Take down** (phrasal verb) – To cause to die; kill or destroy: मारना
24. **Hand-to-hand** (adjective) – Unarmed; involved bodily contact
25. **Hand-to-hand combat** (noun) – a physical confrontation between two or more persons at short range that does not involve the use of weapons. हाथा पाई
26. **Combat** (noun) – fight, contest, conflict, hostility लड़ाई
27. **Indelible** (adjective) – . Impossible to remove, erase, or wash away; permanent अमिट
28. **Landscape** (noun) – geography, view, scene, countryside परिदृश्य
29. **Honour** (verb) –Respect, Admire, Revere, Reverence, Venerate, Exalt आदर/ सम्मान करना
30. **Monument** (noun) – a building, structure, or site that is of historical importance or interest. स्मारक
31. **Plaque** (noun) – a flat piece of stone or metal, usually with names and dates on it, that is fixed on a wall in memory of a famous person or event पत्थर का एक टुकड़ा, उस पर नाम और दिनांक के साथ, जो किसी प्रसिद्ध व्यक्ति या घटना की याद में दीवार पर लगाया जाता है
32. **Memorial** (noun) – Monument, statue, bust स्मारक
33. **Inscribe** (on) (verb) – to write or cut (carve) words on something लिखना, अंकित करना
34. **Enumerate** (verb) – to name things separately, one by one एक एक करके बताना
35. **Gesture** (noun) – signal, indication, इशारा, संकेत
36. **Remembrance** (noun) – Commemoration, memory, tribute स्मृति, यादगार
37. **Imaginative** (adjective) – Creative, inventive, visionary कल्पनाशील



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