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for the development of the Indian nation. She was a pioneer in the field of women's education and social reform. She was a member of the Indian National Congress and the All India Women's Association. She was a leading figure in the Indian women's movement and a pioneer in the field of women's education and social reform. She was a member of the Indian National Congress and the All India Women's Association. She was a leading figure in the Indian women's movement and a pioneer in the field of women's education and social reform.

ROLE OF SAROJINI NAIDU IN INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

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Sarojini Naidu was born on February 13th, 1879 in Hyderabad, to Aghore Nath Chaturbhagy and Kamla Sundari Devi. She belonged to a Bengali family of Kulin Brahmins. But her father, Aghore Nath Chaturbhagy, after receiving a doctor of science degree from Edinburgh University, settled in Hyderabad State, where he founded and administered the Hyderabad College, which later became the Nizam's College.

She attended national fame for entering Madras University at the age of twelve. As a child, Sarojini was a very bright student. She was proficient in 5 languages: Hindi, English, Persian, Urdu, Telugu and Bengali. She began writing fiction at the age of twelve. At sixteen, she travelled to England to study first at King's College London and subsequently at Girton College, Cambridge. While in England, she identified with the Suffragette movement. Also in England, she was encouraged by the poets Arthur Symonds and Edmund Gosse to explore Indian themes in her writing, such as India's landscape, her temples and her people. On her return to India in 1898, she married Govindarajah Naidu, a medical doctor who belonged to a low caste. The marriage caused some consternation in orthodox Hindu society, but it was a happy marriage.

Role in Indian Freedom Movement

It was in 1905 that she joined the Indian National Congress in protest over the Partition of Bengal. She met Gopal Krishna Gokhale through whom she came into contact with several prominent faces of India's freedom struggle including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kishorlalji Tagore and Annie Besant. She was urged by Gokhale to use her intellect for the cause and she dedicated herself to politics and Indian freedom movement, taking a respite from writing. Sarojini. In 1906 she addressed the Indian National Congress (INC) session in Calcutta on women's education, and also spoke to the Indian Social Conference there. Awarded the colonial Kaiser I Hind in 1911 for food relief work, Naidu remained a political activist.

Naidu played an important role in women's rights struggle in India. She helped in shaping *Women's Indian Association* in 1917 with Annie Besant and others. The Association sought equal rights including the right to vote and represent. She presented the need to include more women in the Congress and in the freedom struggle. During 1918, British and Indian feminists, including Naidu set up a magazine called 'The Dawn' to present international news from a feminist perspective.

In March 1919, the British government passed the Rowlatt Act by which the possession of sedition documents was deemed illegal. Mahatma Gandhi organized the Non-Cooperation Movement to protest and Naidu was the first to join the movement which the government worked to suppress. In July 1919, Naidu became the Home Rule League's ambassador to England where the Government of India Act (1919) was being passed, which did create an Legislative Assembly but with a small membership of 93 elected delegates (with 42 appointed and an upper house of 34 elected and 20 appointed members). It did not grant women the vote. In July 1920 she returned to India and on August 1 Mahatma Gandhi declared the Non-Cooperation Movement. In January 1924, she was one of the two Indian National Congress delegates at the East African Indian Congress. She travelled in East and South Africa as an advocate of the needs of the scattered Indian communities.

