



Captain Hardwari Singh Ahlawat | Haryana | 14 Aug 2025

Why in News?

Captain Hardwari Singh Ahlawat of **Azad Hind Fauj**, played an instrumental role in **liberating the Jhansi Regiment** (Rani of Jhansi Regiment) from British siege.

- Rani of Jhansi Regiment was **an armed unit of women warriors headed by Captain Lakshmi Swaminathan**. It is believed to be the first female infantry in military history.



Key Points

- **Liberation of Jhansi Regiment:** In 1945, **Captain Ahlawat**, under **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's orders**, led a successful operation to **free the Jhansi Regiment from British forces**, firing over 4,000 rounds and killing around 300 British soldiers.
- **Role in the INA:** Captain Ahlawat, **born in Deighal village (Jhajjar, Haryana)**, joined the **Azad Hind Fauj in 1942**, along with 32 soldiers from his village.
 - **Netaji Bose honored him with the prestigious "Sher-e-Hind"** award for his courage and appointed him as his Personal Staff Officer (PSO).
- **Military Achievements:** Under Ahlawat's leadership, **INA forces freed the Lepoppa Hills area near Burma**, defeating the British forces and hoisted **India's flag on the mountain post** (elevation of 7,000-8,000 feet).
- **Post-War Life:** After the surrender of Azad Hind Fauj in 1945, Ahlawat, along with 17,000 INA soldiers, was **imprisoned in Delhi's Red Fort**.
 - He was released on 31st December 1945, by the British government (**after INA trials or**

Alert for Bird Flu in UP | Uttar Pradesh | 14 Aug 2025

Why in News?

Uttar Pradesh has issued a **state-wide alert** due to the growing **threat of Bird Flu (H5N1)**, directing relevant departments to implement strict safety protocols to protect animals and birds, especially in zoos and wildlife sanctuaries.

- CM Yogi has instructed to **reinforce safety measures in zoos, bird sanctuaries, national parks**, wetlands, and cow shelters to prevent any outbreak of Bird Flu.

Key Facts About Bird Flu

- **About: Bird flu (avian influenza)** is a highly contagious viral disease **caused by avian influenza A viruses**, particularly subtypes **H5N1 and H5N8**, affecting both wild and domestic birds.
- **History of Human Cases: First human cases** were reported in **1997 (Hong Kong)**. Most have occurred in Asia and were linked to close contact with infected birds.
- **Transmission:** H5N1 spreads primarily **through direct contact with infected live or dead birds** or contaminated environments (e.g., live bird markets).
 - **Human infections of H5N1** are **rare**, with a **high fatality rate** (~60%), much **higher than Covid-19** (~3%).
 - **Transmission from mammals to humans** has been observed, **but airborne and sustained human-to-human transmission are not confirmed**.
 - H5N1 is listed as a **priority disease** under **WHO R&D Blueprint**.
- **Symptoms:** Common symptoms include high fever, cough, sore throat, and muscle aches.
 - Severe cases can **lead to respiratory failure or neurological complications**. Some individuals may remain asymptomatic despite exposure.
- **Treatment:** Current seasonal flu vaccines do not protect against H5N1.
 - **Antiviral drugs** like oseltamivir are effective, especially when administered early in high-risk or severe cases.

Types of Influenza Virus

Type	Hosts	Impact on Humans	Key Features	Public Health Relevance
Influenza A	Humans, birds, pigs, other animals	High – causes pandemics and severe epidemics	Subtypes (H1N1, H5N1) based on HA & NA proteins	Major global concern; pandemic potential
Influenza B	Humans	Moderate – seasonal flu outbreaks	Two lineages: B/Yamagata and B/Victoria; slower mutation	Seasonal flu impact; affects vulnerable groups
Influenza C	Humans (rare)	Low – mild respiratory illness	No epidemics; long-lasting immunity	Limited concern; self-limiting
Influenza D	Cattle and other animals	None	No human infections; animal monitoring	Veterinary relevance; no human threat

Bihar Government Doubles Pension for JP Senanis | Bihar | 14 Aug 2025

Why in News?

The Bihar government has announced an increase in the pension for [Jayaprakash \(JP\) Movement fighters \(JP Senanis\)](#), who were **imprisoned during the Emergency (1975-77)** for supporting socialist **leader Jayaprakash Narayan's movement (1974)**.

- CM Nitish Kumar emphasized that the initiative was taken to honor the contributions of these fighters and their role in Bihar's development.

Note: 5th June 2025 marks the 51st anniversary of [Jayaprakash Narayan's](#) call for **Sampoorna Kranti (Total Revolution)**, also known as the **JP Movement**, which was launched on 5th June 1974 by Jayaprakash Narayan at Gandhi Maidan, Patna.

Key Points

- **Pension Increase:** Fighters who were **imprisoned for more than six months** will now receive a pension of **₹30,000 per month, up from ₹15,000**.
- Those who were **jailed for up to six months** will see their pension **increase from ₹7,500 to ₹15,000 per month**.
- In the **event of the pensioner's death**, their **surviving spouse** will also **receive the same pension amount**.

Key Points About JP Senani Samman Pension Scheme

- **Scheme:** This adjustment falls under the "**JP Senani Samman Pension Scheme**", which was initiated by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in 2009.
 - The **scheme is named after** the iconic **socialist leader, Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan**.
- **Beneficiaries:** Currently (2025), **3,354 individuals in Bihar are receiving this pension**, while **CM Nitish Kumar, despite being eligible, has never availed** of it.
 - The notable beneficiaries of the scheme are **Lalu Prasad Yadav** (ex-chief minister of Bihar) and **Sushil Kumar Modi** (former Deputy CM of Bihar).
- **Eligibility Conditions:**
 - **Period of Participation:** 18th March 1974- 21st March 1977.
 - Beneficiaries must have been imprisoned under the **Maintenance of Internal Security Act (MISA)** or **Defence of India Rules (DIR)**.
- **Duration Categories:**
 - **Category 1:** 1 to 6 months of imprisonment.
 - **Category 2:** Imprisonment exceeding 6 months.
- **Additional Benefits:** Eligible individuals receive free medical care equivalent to that provided to freedom fighters.

Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme

- The **Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme** was launched in **1972** as the **Freedom Fighters Pension Scheme** and was later renamed and liberalized in **August 1980**.
- Administered by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs**, Government of India, it provides financial support to the freedom fighters who participated in India's independence struggle.
- **Total Beneficiaries (Ever):** 171,689 freedom fighters and their dependents.
- **Current Active Pensioners (as of July 2025):** 13,212 living freedom fighters.
- **Widows Receiving Pension:** 9,778.
- **Annual Budget (2024-25):** ₹600 crore.
- **Coverage:**
 - **Time Period:** Freedom fighters who participated in movements between **1857 and 1947**.
 - **Recognized Movements:** Includes **40 major movements**, such as the **Quit India Movement**, **Jallianwala Bagh**, and others.