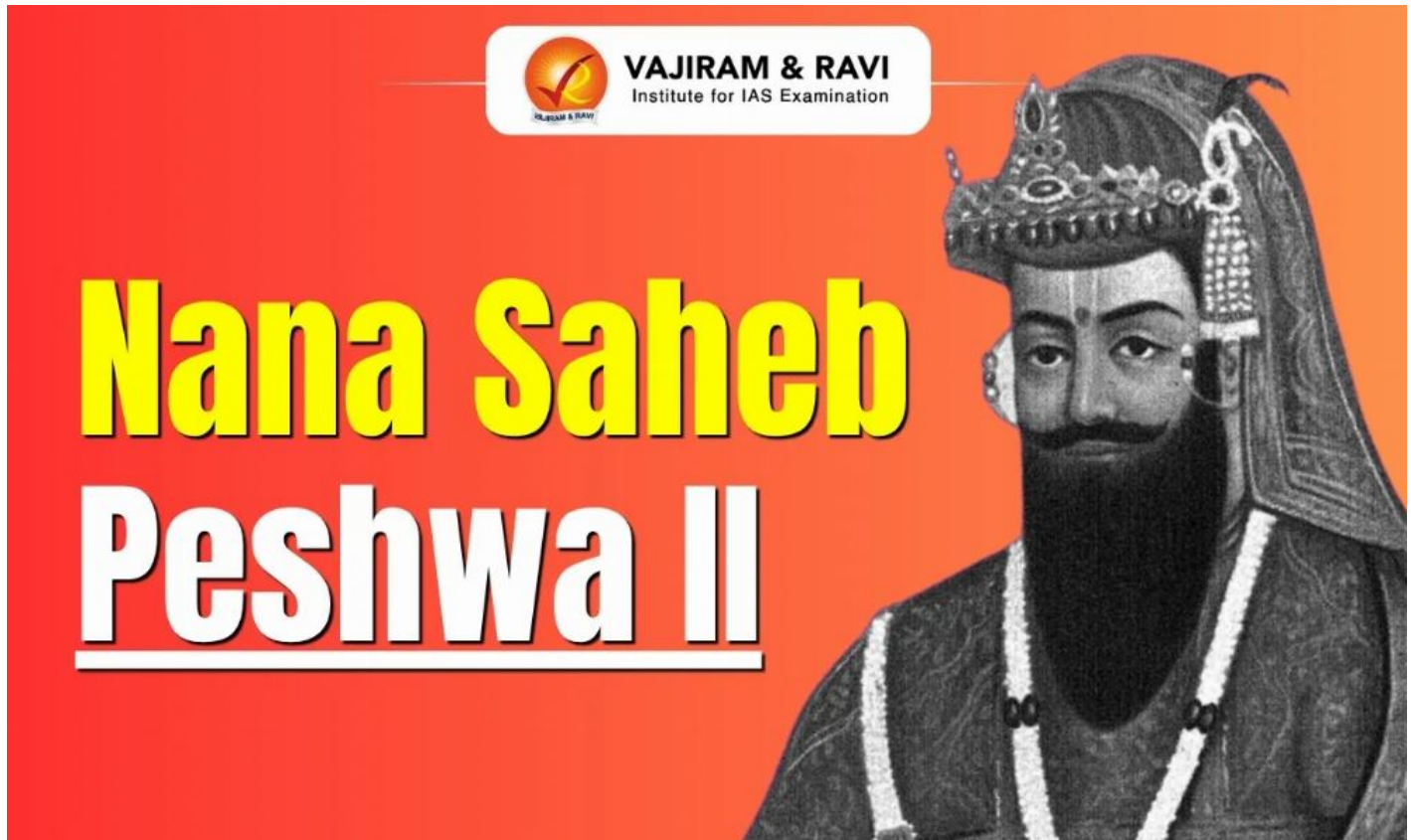


Nana Saheb Peshwa II, Role in Revolt of 1857, Kanpur Uprising

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Nana Saheb Peshwa II was a prominent Indian leader best known for his role in the **Revolt of 1857**, one of the earliest major uprisings against British rule in India. Born as **Dhondu Pant** and adopted by **Peshwa Baji Rao II**, he grew up with a strong connection to the **Maratha legacy**. Although he was not officially recognized by the British as the successor to the Peshwa, this injustice led to deep resentment. Nana Saheb later emerged as a key figure in the struggle against British authority, especially in **Kanpur**, and is remembered as an important symbol of **early resistance and the fight for Indian independence**.

Nana Saheb Peshwa II

- **Nana Saheb Peshwa II**, also known as **Dhondu Pant**, was one of the most important leaders of the **Revolt of 1857**, often called India's **First War of Independence**.
- He was the **adopted son of Peshwa Baji Rao II**, the last ruler (Peshwa) of the **Maratha Empire**, and grew up with a strong sense of royal identity and responsibility.
- Although the British did not officially recognize him as the successor, Nana Saheb believed he had the **legitimate right to the Peshwa title and privileges**.

- This denial played a major role in shaping his opposition to **British rule**, eventually turning him into a **key face of resistance**.
- He is especially remembered for his leadership in **Kanpur**, where he led rebel forces and challenged British authority.

Early Life and Background of Nana Saheb Peshwa II

- Nana Saheb was born in **1824 in Pune** and was adopted by **Baji Rao II in 1827**, as the Peshwa had no biological heir.
- After the defeat of the Marathas, Baji Rao II was exiled by the British to **Bithoor near Kanpur**, where Nana Saheb spent most of his childhood.
- He grew up in a **royal and well-maintained household**, supported partly by a British pension granted to his adoptive father.
- Nana Saheb received **training in administration, warfare, and leadership**, preparing him for a future role in governance.
- He was closely associated with figures like **Tatya Tope (his military mentor)**, **Azimullah Khan (his advisor)** and **Rani Lakshmibai**, all of whom later played key roles in the revolt.
- His upbringing exposed him to both **Indian traditions and British political systems**, shaping his ideas about power and justice.

Role of Nana Saheb Peshwa II in the Revolt of 1857

- Nana Saheb emerged as one of the **main leaders of the 1857 uprising**, particularly in **North India**, where he mobilized both soldiers and civilians.
- His participation was driven by **personal injustice (loss of pension and recognition)** as well as broader **anti-British sentiments**.
- During the revolt, he declared himself the **Peshwa**, symbolizing the revival of **Indian rule and Maratha authority**.
- He played a crucial role in turning the rebellion from a **limited military mutiny into a wider political movement**.
- By organizing troops and gaining public support, he helped strengthen the **fight against colonial rule**.

Nana Saheb Peshwa II and the Kanpur Uprising

- **Kanpur** became the **main center of Nana Saheb's activities** during the revolt.
- He led the **siege of British forces**, where Indian rebels surrounded them and forced them into a difficult situation with limited supplies.
- Eventually, the British agreed to surrender, expecting safe passage, but the events at **Satichaura Ghat** turned violent and became highly controversial.
- This incident made the Kanpur uprising one of the **most debated and emotionally charged events** of the 1857 revolt.
- After initial success, British forces launched a **strong counterattack**, which weakened Nana Saheb's position and forced him to retreat.

Causes of Conflict Between Nana Saheb Peshwa II and the British

- The primary cause of conflict was the **British refusal to continue the pension** that was granted to **Baji Rao II** after his death.
- The British also refused to recognize Nana Saheb's **adoption as valid for succession**, ignoring Indian customs and traditions.
- The policy of **Doctrine of Lapse**, introduced by **Lord Dalhousie**, created widespread dissatisfaction among Indian rulers.
- Nana Saheb made several efforts to resolve the issue peacefully, even sending **Azimullah Khan to England**, but all appeals were rejected.
- These repeated rejections led to **deep frustration and anger**, which eventually turned into **active rebellion** against British rule.

Disappearance and Legacy of Nana Saheb Peshwa II

- After the British regained control of Kanpur, Nana Saheb **disappeared**, and his final fate remains **unknown**.
- Many accounts suggest that he **escaped to Nepal**, while others provide different theories, making his end a **historical mystery**.
- His life is remembered as a mix of **courage, leadership, and controversy**, especially due to the events at Kanpur.
- Some historians consider him a **freedom fighter and nationalist hero**, while others debate his role in certain incidents.
- Despite differing views, Nana Saheb remains an important figure in Indian history and a **symbol of early resistance against British colonial rule**.

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