

LARGER THAN
LIFE
A CELEBRATION OF GREATNESS

Subhash Chandra Bose

(1897 - 1945)



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INTRODUCTION

Subhash Chandra Bose, affectionately called as **Netaji**, was one of the most **prominent leaders of Indian freedom struggle**. Though Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru have garnered much of the credit for successful culmination of Indian freedom struggle, the contribution of Subhash Chandra Bose is no less. **He founded Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj)- I.N.A.** to overthrow British Empire from India and came to acquire legendary status among Indian masses.

BIRTH AND EARLY LIFE

Subhash Chandra was born on 23rd January 1897 in Cuttack. A brilliant student; he topped the matriculation examination of Kolkata province and passed his B.A. in Philosophy from the Presidency College in Kolkata. He was strongly influenced by Swami Vivekananda's teachings and was known for his patriotic zeal as a student. He **went to England for studies of the Indian Civil Service**. In England he appeared for the Indian Civil Service competitive examination in 1920, and came out fourth in order of merit. However, he was **deeply disturbed by the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre**, and left his Civil Services apprenticeship midway to return to India in **1921**.

MEMBER OF INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

After returning to India, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose came under the **influence of Mahatma Gandhi** and joined the Indian National Congress. On Gandhiji's instructions, he started working under **Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das**, whom he later acknowledged his **political guru**. Soon he showed his leadership mettle and gained his way up in the Congress' hierarchy. He was the leader of the youth wing of the Congress

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Party, in the forefront of the trade union movement in India and organized **Service League**, another wing of Congress. He was admired for his great skills in organization development. He was outspoken in his anti-British stance and was **jailed 11 times** between 1920 and 1941 for periods varying between six months and three years.

THE INFLUENCE OF BOSE

At the historic Lahore Congress convention, the Congress adopted '**Poorna Swaraj**' (**complete freedom**) as its motto as advocated by Bose. He was imprisoned and expelled from India. But defying the ban, he came back to India and was imprisoned again! The clouds of World War II were gathering fast and Bose warned the Indian people and the British against dragging India into the war and the material losses she could incur. He was elected president of the Indian National Congress twice in 1937 and in 1939. Later; he resigned from the post of president and formed a progressive group known as the **Forward Block in 1939**.

After the outbreak of World War II, India was declared as a warring state as predicted by Bose. He now started a mass movement against utilizing Indian resources and men for the Great War. There was a tremendous response to his call and the British promptly **imprisoned him**. He took to a hunger strike, and after his health deteriorated on the 11th day of fasting, he was freed and was **placed under house arrest**.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (I.N.A.)

In January 1941, Subhash Chandra Bose **disappeared from his home in Kolkata and reached Germany via Afghanistan**. He then went to

Japan and formed the I.N.A. in 1943. He inspired his army with the battle cry '**Delhi Chalo**'. Even though he did not succeed in this battle, he had driven home his message. The Britishers realised that the Indians were serious about gaining independence, and would assume any means towards that end.

DEATH

On August 17, 1945, Bose died in a plane crash while flying from Bangkok to Tokyo. He did not live to see the Indian Independence, but his spirit still lives through **his words - JAI HIND.**

Quotes

No real change in history has ever been achieved by discussions.



One individual may die for an idea; but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives. That is how the wheel of evolution moves on and the ideas and dreams of one nation are bequeathed to the next.