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Contribution Of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose In Indian Freedom Movement

Rupali Dutta**Abstract :**

Subhas Chandra Bose was one of the most influential leaders of India's Freedom movement. more over, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was a radical leader in India's freedom struggle. He believed in armed resistance to overthrow British rule. He led the Indian National Army (INA) and founded the Azad Hind government. His bold actions and famous slogans awakened millions of Indians.

Bose passed the high-level Indian Civil Service (ICS) exam in 1920 but resigned in 1921 to join the freedom movement. He was elected President of the Indian National Congress in 1938 and 1939. He formed this political party in 1940 to unite leftist and radical forces for immediate independence. He took charge of the INA (Azad Hind Fauj) in 1943. He united Indian prisoners of war and volunteers to fight the British militarily. Bose formed a brave all-women military regiment under the INA, promoting gender equality in the independence fight.

"Give me blood, and I will give you freedom!" – His rallying cry for armed sacrifice. "Delhi Chalo" (March to Delhi) – The INA's battle cry. "Jai Hind" (Victory to India) – The popular patriotic greeting he introduced. On October 21, 1943, Bose established the Provisional Government of Free India in Singapore. This government was recognized by several countries and demonstrated his ability as a world leader. Therefore it must be say that, his contribution in Indian freedom movement is most significant.

Subject :

Subhas Chandra Bose[e] (23 January 1897 – 18 August 1945) was an Indian anti-colonial nationalist whose defiance of British authority in India made him a hero among many Indians but his wartime alliances with Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan left a legacy vexed by authoritarianism antisemitism and military failure. The honorific Netaji (Hindustani for "Respected Leader") was first applied to Bose in Germany in early 1942—by the Indian soldiers of the Indische Legion and by the German and Indian officials in the Special Bureau for India in Berlin. It is now used throughout India Bose was born into wealth and privilege in a large Bengali family in Orissa during the British Raj. The early recipient of an Anglo-centric education, he was sent after college to England to take the Indian Civil Service examination. He succeeded with distinction in the vital first exam but demurred at taking the routine final exam, citing nationalism to be the higher calling. Returning to India in 1921, Bose joined the nationalist movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian National Congress. He followed Jawaharlal Nehru to leadership in a group within the Congress which was less keen on constitutional reform and more open to socialism. Bose became Congress president in 1938. After reelection in 1939, differences arose between him and the Congress leaders, including Gandhi, over the future federation of British India and princely states, but also because discomfort had grown among the Congress leadership over Bose's negotiable attitude to non-violence, and his plans for greater powers for himself. After the large majority of the Congress Working Committee members resigned in protest, Bose resigned as president and was eventually ousted from the party.

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In April 1941 Bose arrived in Nazi Germany, where the leadership offered unexpected but equivocal sympathy for India's independence. German funds were employed to open a Free India Centre in Berlin. A 3,000-strong Free India Legion was recruited from among Indian POWs captured by Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps to serve under Bose. Although peripheral to their main goals, the Germans inconclusively considered a land invasion of India throughout 1941. By the spring of 1942, the German army was mired in Russia and Bose became keen to move to southeast Asia, where Japan had just won quick victories. Adolf Hitler during his only meeting with Bose in late May 1942 agreed to arrange a submarine. During this time, Bose became a father; his wife, or companion, Emilie Schenkl, gave birth to a baby girl. Identifying strongly with the Axis powers, Bose boarded a German submarine in February 1943. Off Madagascar, he was transferred to a Japanese submarine from which he disembarked in Japanese-held Sumatra in May 1943. With Japanese support, Bose revamped the Indian National Army (INA), which comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British Indian army who had been captured by the Japanese in the Battle of Singapore. A Provisional Government of Free India (Azad Hind) was declared on the Japanese-occupied Andaman and Nicobar Islands and was nominally presided over by Bose. Although Bose was unusually driven and charismatic, the Japanese considered him to be militarily unskilled, and his soldierly effort was short-lived. In late 1944 and early 1945, the British Indian Army reversed the Japanese attack on India. Almost half of the Japanese forces and fully half of the participating INA contingent were killed. The remaining INA was driven down the Malay Peninsula and surrendered with the recapture of Singapore. Bose chose to escape to Manchuria to seek a future in the Soviet Union which he believed to have turned anti-British.

Bose died from third-degree burns after his plane crashed in Taiwan (then under Japanese occupation) on 18 August 1945. Some Indians did not believe that the crash had occurred, expecting Bose to return to secure India's independence. The Indian National Congress, the main instrument of Indian nationalism, praised Bose's patriotism but distanced itself from his tactics and ideology. The British Raj, never seriously threatened by the INA, charged 300 INA officers with treason in the Indian National Army trials, but eventually backtracked in the face of opposition by the Congress, [aj] and a new mood in Britain for rapid decolonisation in India. Bose's legacy is mixed. Among many in India, he is seen as a hero, his saga serving as a would-be counterpoise to the many actions of regeneration, negotiation, and reconciliation over a quarter-century through which the independence of India

was achieved. His collaborations with Japanese fascism and Nazism pose serious ethical dilemmas, especially his reluctance to publicly criticise the worst excesses of German anti-Semitism from 1938 onwards or to offer refuge in India to its victims.

Subhas Chandra Bose believed that the Bhagavad Gita was a great source of inspiration for the struggle against the British. Swami Vivekananda's teachings on universalism, his nationalist thoughts and his emphasis on social service and reform had all inspired Subhas Chandra Bose from his very young days. The fresh interpretation of India's ancient scriptures had appealed immensely to him. Some scholars think that Hindu spirituality formed an essential part of his political and social thought. As historian Leonard Gordon explains "Inner religious explorations continued to be a part of his adult life. This set him apart from the slowly growing number of atheistic socialists and communists who dotted the Indian landscape."

Bose first expressed his preference for "a synthesis of what modern Europe calls socialism and fascism" in a 1930 speech in Calcutta. Bose later criticised Nehru's 1933 statement that there is "no middle road" between communism and fascism, describing it as "fundamentally wrong". Bose believed communism would not gain ground in India due to its rejection of nationalism and religion and suggested a "synthesis between communism and fascism" could take hold instead. In 1944, Bose similarly stated, "Our philosophy should be a synthesis between National Socialism and communism."

In a short, it must be said..... Subhas Chandra Bose, popularly known as Netaji, was one of the most influential leaders of India's freedom struggle. He believed that India should achieve independence through active resistance, including armed struggle if necessary.

Major contributions of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Leadership in the Indian National Congress Bose joined the Indian freedom movement at a young age. He became President of the Indian National Congress in 1938 and again in 1939. He advocated complete independence (Purna Swaraj) and rapid action against British rule.

Formation of the Forward Bloc After disagreements with other Congress leaders, Bose founded the All India Forward Bloc in 1939. The organization aimed to unite all anti-colonial forces. Formation of the Indian National Army (INA) Bose reorganized and led the Indian National Army, also known as the Azad Hind Fauj. The INA consisted mainly of Indian prisoners of war and expatriates in Southeast Asia.

Its objective was to fight alongside Japan to free India from British rule. Establishment of the Provisional Government of Free India In 1943, Bose proclaimed the Provisional Government of Free India (Azad Hind

Government). Several countries recognized this government. It symbolized India's claim to sovereignty during British rule. Military Campaigns The INA advanced toward India's northeastern frontier and participated in battles around Imphal and Kohima in 1944. Although the campaign was ultimately unsuccessful, it demonstrated a determined armed challenge to British rule. Inspiring Nationalism Bose inspired millions with powerful slogans such as:

"Give me blood, and I will give you freedom."

"Jai Hind" (later adopted as a national slogan).

"Delhi Chalo" (March to Delhi).

His leadership encouraged patriotism, sacrifice, and unity among Indians. Impact on British Rule The INA trials held after World War II generated widespread public support across India. Many historians believe that the INA's activities and the unrest they inspired among sections of the British Indian armed forces contributed to weakening British confidence in maintaining colonial rule, alongside mass movements led by other leaders.

Conclusion :

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose made a unique and significant contribution to India's freedom movement by advocating armed resistance, leading the Indian National Army, establishing the Azad Hind Government, and inspiring Indians with courage and patriotism. Although India ultimately achieved independence through a combination of political negotiations, mass movements, and other factors, Bose's efforts remain an important and respected part of the country's struggle for freedom.

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