

***THE ADVENTUROUS LIFE OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE  
WAS DEDICATED TO INDIA'S UNITY AND FREEDOM***

**By Aju Mukhopadhyay**

**Abstract**

Subhash Chandra Bose was a born leader. Under house arrest, he escaped on 16.1.1941 and reached Germany incognito. There he created Indian National Army. He journeyed in a German Uboat on 8.2.1943 and was transferred in a dinghy to a Japanese Submarine in the war-troubled water amid scattered boats, men and whizzing bullets. He reached Tokyo on 13.6.1943. At Singapore he assumed charge of Indian Independence League as President and addressed a gathering of 60000 people: "There is no nationalist leader in India who can claim to possess the many-sided experience that I have been able to acquire." In August 1943 he assumed Supreme Command of the INA and gave the clarion call "Give me blood and I promise you freedom." His battle cry, "March to Delhi or Delhi Chalo" still reverberates. On 21.10.1943 Bose inaugurated the Provincial Government of Free India. It acquired Andaman and Nicobar islands on 6.11.1943 and hoisted the Indian flag at Kohima in March 1944.

Axis Power was defeated with INA and Netaji escaped again on 18.8.1945. The then Prime Minister of Britain twice confirmed that a new and robust Nationalism woke up in Indian hearts around 1946, that they gave freedom mainly because of the erosion of loyalty of Army and Navy to the British Crown due to the activities of Netaji and INA. I. K. Gujral, Ex-Prime Minister of India, witnessed such piquant moments. Netaji was the only leader who galvanized all sections of Indian community.

It was he who actually created a situation when the British finally decided to grant Freedom to India even as he was not in the scene. He could have brought independence without partition. The situation created by him and his INA towards the dawn of Indian Independence ushered in true integrity among all communities in India. Not only of Independence but he was the true hero of Unity among Indians. History should be properly recorded and taught to posterity. Political slogans and cheap activities are apart from the true role expected of a real leader.

**The Adventurous Life of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was Dedicated to India's Unity and Independence**

Born in 1897, Subhas Chandra Bose was very meritorious student, exceptionally courageous and straightforward. Pure patriotism and indomitable character helped him to overcome all impediments. A devotee of Mother Kali, inspired by Swami Vivekananda, he had a spiritual bent of mind to keep Gita as his guide. Garibaldi and Mazzini also inspired him. He suggested students' military training in University supported by his belief in armed force and struggle in driving out the colonisers. He stood fourth in IAS with highest mark in English but resigned to serve his country.

Determined to bring freedom to his Motherland Subhas Chandra Bose planned and arranged everything undergoing utmost hardship and torture. And finally sacrificed himself. He ushered in a new tide of nationalism which denied the existence of foreign elements in its body. Indian Defence force turned entirely against the rulers. This was their main reason for leaving a 200 years' Empire forever.

A born leader, he became the President of Indian National Congress in 1938; contested and won election in the next year also but it was against the dictatorial wishes of the supreme command of the party. Not allowed to work properly with his team by a political clique, he resigned from Congress and formed 'Forward Block' with like-minded people. During his entire political career in India he was mostly kept in jail or exiled unlike his colleagues. He was singled out as the most obstinate opponent of the colonialists. Close to the people, he was denied their presence for fear of his influencing them. Never were his tenacity, promise and determination flagged due to personal friendship with the rulers or blind support for any individual at the cost of the country. Rulers before and after independence were afraid of his presence, even before and after his disappearance from the political scenes.

Under house arrest, he escaped on 16 January 1941 and reached Germany incognito. There he organized India Office and created INA. Determined to really 'Do or Die' he plunged in the struggle joining the most dangerous human groups during the 2nd World War with clear understanding of their help to free India. During the perilous days of the Second World War, on

8 February 1943 he embarked on a journey in a German Uboat and reached Madagascar. In the perilous water amid scattered boats, men and whizzing bullets they were transferred in a dinghy to a Japanese submarine and reached Tokyo on 13 June 1943. With the help of the Japanese Premier Tojo he moved to Singapore and assumed charge of the Indian Independence League as its President. On 9 July 1943 Bose asserted to a gathering of 60000 people: "There is no nationalist leader in India who can claim to possess the many-sided experience that I have been able to acquire."

In August 1943 he assumed Supreme Command of the INA. Ever remembered for his clarion call to his countrymen, "Give me blood and I promise you freedom" and a battle cry of "March to Delhi or Delhi Chalo", Bose inaugurated the Provincial Government of 'Free India' on 21 October 1943. The provisional Government acquired its first Indian territory when Japan handed over Andaman and Nicobar islands to it on 6 November 1943. Indian flag was hoisted in Kohima in March 1944. The INA with the Japanese soldiers carried out a heroic campaign against the Allied Forces. Netaji moved from battle field to battle field. With the defeat of Axis forces fall of INA was inevitable.

It was announced by a Japanese News agency that Netaji died in a plane crash near the airport at Taipei (Taihoku) on 18 August 1945 which was his own way to exclude him from any reference after he had fled from the clutches of the Allied Forces. Though the Government wished to prove that he died in a Air Crash, evidences proved the opposite. "The spectre of Bose's coming back from the dead still troubled the establishment" (Anuj 46). In spite of all uproar in Indian Parliament and public demand the mystery has not yet been solved. Netaji left but his dignified presence was vivid in the mind and psyche of Indian people that led to the country's freedom.

I. K. Gujral, Ex-Prime Minister of India, who was present at the Karachi uprising of the Royal Indian Navy in 1946, wrote on 20.2.2006,

"The naval mutinies of February 1946 remain indelible in the Nation's mind and even more deep in the psyches of those like me who had witnessed this turning point in history of the freedom struggle. . . .

“Their high morale was inspiring. The on-lookers spilled on the road to join the slogan shoutings, ‘Netaji Ki Jai’ and Bharat Mata ki Jai”<sup>1</sup>.

In his speech to the House of Commons (on 15.3.1946) while deciding to send the Cabinet Mission to hand over charge or freedom British Prime Minister Clement Attlee uttered some of the compelling reasons for the same:

“It is a time emphatically for very definite and clear action. . . . The temperature of 1946 is not the temperature of 1920 or of 1930 or even of 1942. The slogans of an earlier day are discarded. Indeed, sometimes words that seemed at that time to Indians to express the height of their aspirations are now set on one side, and other words, other ideas, are substituted. Nothing increases more the pace of the movement of public opinion than a great war. . . . I am quite certain that at the present time the tide of nationalism is running very fast in India and, indeed, all over Asia . . . . I remember so well, indeed, I think we put it in the Simon Commission Report, that although there were great differences in the expression of nationalist sentiment between what are called the extremists and the moderates, and although in many circumstances there might be such a stress on communal claims as might seem almost to exclude the conception of nationalism, yet we found that Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Mahrattah, the politician or civil servant – among all of them that conception of nationalism had been growing stronger and stronger. Today I think that national idea has spread right through and not least, perhaps, among some of those soldiers who have given such wonderful service in the war. I should like today, therefore, not to stress too much the differences between Indians. Let us all realise that whatever the difficulties, whatever the divisions may be, there is this underlying demand among all the Indian peoples. . . . the obvious reason for sending out Cabinet Ministers is that we send out persons of responsibility who are able to take decisions. Of course, there must be an area in which there may have to be a reference back. . . . It is worthwhile recording that twice in 25 years India has played a great part in the defeat of tyranny. Is it any wonder that today she claims – as a nation of 400,000,000 people that has twice sent her sons to die for freedom – that she should herself have freedom to decide her own destiny? My colleagues are going to India with the intention of using their utmost endeavours to help her to attain that freedom as speedily and fully as possible. If, on the other hand, she elects for independence, in our view she has a right to do so. . . .

I have always hoped myself that politically India might be the light of Asia.” 2

The Governor of what is now called Uttar Pradesh wrote to the Viceroy in New Delhi in November 1945 that those hitting the streets were actually suggesting that “Bose is rapidly usurping the place held by Gandhi in Popular esteem.” (Anuj 5)

Once when Lord Attlee visited Calcutta and remained a guest of P. B. Chakraborty, the then Governor of West Bengal in 1956, he gave an interview to the Governor. Chakraborty adds, "My direct question to Attlee was that since Gandhi's Quit India movement had tapered off quite some time ago and in 1947 no such new compelling situation had arisen that would necessitate a hasty British departure, why did they had to leave?"

"In his reply Attlee cited several reasons, the principal among them being the erosion of loyalty to the British crown among the Indian Army and Navy personnel as a result of the military activities of Netaji."

“That's not all. Chakraborty adds, "Toward the end of our discussion I asked Attlee what was the extent of Gandhi's influence upon the British decision to quit India. Hearing this question, Attlee's lips became twisted in a sarcastic smile as he slowly chewed out the word, ‘m-i-n-i-m-a-l!’" 3

“Before he was assassinated in 1948, Gandhi- a senior journalist told me- rebuked Nehru and Patel for not being able to reign in partition madness and wished that his ‘other son’ (Subhas) was here!’ Reminded by Congressman, who had witnessed the dressing down, that Bose was dead and he had himself come to that belief, Gandhi shot back, ‘He’s in Russia.’” (Anuj 45)

From all facts it may be gathered that if Netaji the Hero of Modern India lived in the country then there might not be a partition, at least not a blood-bathed partition as happened. He was the only leader who galvanized all sections of Indian community. He could have ushered in a path of united India towards real development and progress. Should we look clearly at the recordings of events and facts in history and change the notion about how India achieved independence or stick to our prejudiced mindset to teach wrong history to our students and the posterity?

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### Bio

**Based on Pondicherry and Kolkata, Aju Mukhopadhyay** is a bilingual award winning poet, critic and author. He has authored 35 books and has received several awards from India and abroad besides other honours. He has so far published ten books of poems in English besides two in Bangla. He regularly contributes to journals and books in India and abroad. Besides usual poetry he has been regularly writing Japanese short verses of different genres. His works are widely anthologised and translated in several Indian and international languages. He has published works on wildlife, Nature, Environment, Spirituality and Philosophy besides his main area; LITERATURE.

**His poetry in English** has been published in 29 anthologies besides 9 books containing critiques on his poetry. Critique on his poetry has been published in various journals and his

poems in some anthologies have been variously commented on by large numbers of critics. Many of his works have been acclaimed and honoured like one of his poems remaining at the top of the list of poems in [www.asianamericanpoetry.com](http://www.asianamericanpoetry.com) from December 2007 for about three months and inclusion of his poem in the list of top ten recent poems by [www.Poetsindia.com](http://www.Poetsindia.com). His poems were at the top of the list in some other sites like Moontowncafé.com. He is **published as World Poet** in Margutte (Italian), Poetas Del Mundo (Spanish from Chile), Best Poetry.com, World Poetry Yearbook, World Poetry Society and others.

**Beginning his career as a short story writer**, editing two literary journals of short stories in Bengali, his short stories in English have been published in five anthologies including in "Einfach Menschlich" (Simply Human), published by the German Language Department of the University of Mumbai, where his short story has been translated in German and selected as one of the Indian Short stories. He won second short story prize in 2007 from Bangalore. A book containing papers on his short stories along with other writers and two books containing papers on his novel, "In Train" along with other writers has been published.

He has contributed **essays** in more than 61 scholarly books besides large numbers of journals. He has written more than 200 essays, published in books and journals.

#### **Writing Critiques on other Poets**

He has so far written essays on and reviewed books of poems of more than 70, mostly Indian English Poets.

#### **Feature Writings**

Aju Mukhopadhyay has done some miscellaneous literary works like writing features on current affairs, on festivals, environment and markets in different local magazines and in the Daily National Newspaper like The Hindu, Chennai, India where he wrote for five years from 1998 and wrote Saturday features in another Newspaper, The New Indian Express, Chennai, India for two years; 2004-2005. His prose works on Nature and other non-fiction works abound.

**Among the foreign journals** he is published in Syndic Literary Journal (US), Creature Feature from Cyprus, Sons of Camus International Journal from Canada /Cyprus, [www.Kitaab.com](http://www.Kitaab.com) (Singapore), Sketchbook (US), The Seventh Quarry Swansea Poetry Magazine (Wales,UK), All Poetry.com (US), Author's Den (US) and many others.

**He has participated in more than 45 national and international conferences and festivals;** on literature and environment including SAARC Sufi Festival, World Haiku Festival, and World Poet and Writers' Peace Meet. Eight Interviews on him have been published in magazines, websites and books. He has travelled across some important countries of Asia, Europe, America and Africa and has written many travel pieces, published in acclaimed journals.

#### **Awards and Honours**

He is listed in the Who's Who of Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi, India.

He was awarded **Certificate of Competence as a Published Writer** by the Writers Bureau, Manchester, UK in 2000. He was awarded **Best Poet of the Year-2003** by the Poets International, Bangalore, India. He was given second prize in a short story competition in 2007 by Bizz-Buzz, Bangalore. He was conferred with **2007 Editor's Choice Published Poet** award by the International Library of Poetry, USA and **Excellence in World Poetry Award, 2009** by the International Poets Academy, Chennai. Many of his poetic works have been acclaimed and honoured like one of his poems remaining at the top of the list of poems in [www.asianamericanpoetry.com](http://www.asianamericanpoetry.com) from December 2007 for about three months and inclusion of his poems in the list of top ten recent poems by [www.Poetsindia.com](http://www.Poetsindia.com). Lucidity Poetry Journal from Sugar Land, USA has awarded him **Certificate of Merit** for his poem, "Structural Violence" in June 2011. The American Biographical Institute, 5126 Bur Oak Circle, Raleigh, NC 27612 selected him for **American Order of Merit** in 2009. The Editor of The Sons of Camus Writers International Journal (Edited from Canada and published from Cyprus) conferred on him in Autumn 2013: **The Albert Camus Centenary Writing Award**

**Honourable Mention Certificate and Certificate of Appreciation** (issued by Editors of "Oh My Sweetest Love: A timeless Treasure": Anthology; Vishwabharati Research Centre, Pune) February 2017, **Certificate of Excellence for contribution to Poetry Anthology, 'Core Realm of Cosmic Peace and Harmony'** published by The Poetry Society of India, 2017. One of his poems, Image of a Rustic Girl, was published as one of the best poems from around the world by the **Festive Poetry.com** in December 2017.

His awards and credits in writing Japanese Short Verses has been recorded in Haiku Foundation of the US which may be referred to Haiku Foundation. docu an international site.

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**His latest book, Consciousness, Spirituality and Philosophy has been published by a European Publisher, Lap Lambert Academic Publisher on Invitation.**

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