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# A Study on the Contribution of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in Indian Freedom Struggle

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#### ABSTRACT

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was born on 23 January 1897 in a Kayastha family in Cuttack. In 1920 he got the fourth position in the I.C. S. examination, but during the non-cooperation movement, in April 1921, he resigned from this service and started working as an aide to his political guru 'Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das'. In October 1924, prominent leaders of the Swaraj Party, including Subhash Babu, were arrested on charges of having links with terrorist elements. Subhash became the president of AITUC in December 1929 and remained in this position till 1931. On 3 May 1940, Subhash Babu established the Forward Bloc within the Congress. On July 4, Subhash Chandra Bose became the President of the 'Indian Independence League.' Bose gave the slogan 'Delhi Chalo' and established the Azad Hind Government on 21 October 1943. Azad Hind Fauj's slogan was 'Delhi Chalo', salutation 'Jai Hind' and national anthem was 'Shubh Sukh Chain Barkha Barse' and their motto was 'freedom or death'. On July 6, 1944, Bose used the address 'Father of the Nation' for Gandhi for the first time on Azad Hind Radio and said - 'India's last war of independence has begun. Father of the Nation! We seek your blessings and best wishes in this holy war of liberation of India. Thus we can say that there was a very significant contribution of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in National Movements.

Keywords: - Subhash, Chandra, Bose, Contribution, National, Movement, India, Deshbandhu, Mandalay jail, Non Cooperation Movement

#### Introduction

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was born on 23 January 1897 in a Kayastha family in Cuttack. His father's name was Jankidas and his mother's name was Prabhavati devi. In 1920 he got the fourth position in the I.C. S. examination, but during the non-cooperation movement, in April 1921, he resigned from this service and started working as an aide to his political guru 'Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das'. Das established the National College for the education of government college dropouts and made Subhash Chandra its principal. After the establishment of the Swaraj Party, Subhash became the secretary of this party and the editor of the daily newspaper 'Banglar Katha'. Chittaranjan Das moved to Calcutta. After becoming the mayor of the municipal corporation, 27-year-old Subhash was appointed as the chief executive officer. Subhash also operated his English daily 'Forward'. On 2 January 1932, while going from Bombay to Calcutta, Subhash was arrested from Kalyan station and sent to Seuni Jail.

#### **Objectives**

- 1. To study the Role of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in National Movements.
- 2. To study impact of Netaji in Freedom struggle of India.
- 3. To study the role of forward Block in the National Movements of india.
- 4. To study the Contribution of Azad hind fauj in the freedom struggle of India.

#### **Research Methodology**

This research study is based on secondary data. The researcher has referred to various historical books, text s, articles, blogs and many other web pages to increase the existing knowledge of this topic. Very deeply and critical analysis of these sources helped to understand the key role of netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in the freedom struggle of India.

#### Literature Review

In October 1924, prominent leaders of the Swaraj Party, including Subhash Babu, were arrested on charges of having links with terrorist elements. After some time, Subhash was sent from Alipore Jail in Calcutta to Verma's Mandalay Jail, where Tilak had lived for six years and Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Singh had lived for one year each. Subhash was released from there in May 1927 after two and a half years due to ill health. At the time of his release J.J. M. Sen Gupta and B. N. There was a struggle going on between the people to take over the Congress. Ended Sammal's supremacy by supporting Subhash Sengupt, but after some time differences arose with Subhash's Gandhi supporter Sengupt.

In September 1929, Jawaharlal Nehru, the nominated president of the Congress, appointed Subhash as a member of his executive, but shortly after, Subhash resigned in a dispute over the elections of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. Subhash became the president of AITUC in December 1929 and remained in this position till 1931. During this period emerged as the most influential leftist member within the Congress. In January 1930, the government imprisoned him on charges of treason for leading a procession organized in support of political prisoners in Bengal. He was released three days after the Gandhi Irwin Pact.

On 2 January 1932, while going from Bombay to Calcutta, Subhash was arrested from Kalyan station and sent to Seuni Jail. From here he was sent to Jabalpur and Madras respectively. During this time his health deteriorated so much that a medical committee constituted by the Government of India recommended that he be sent to a suitable climatic place. In October 1932, he was sent to Bhuwali Sanitarium in Uttar Pradesh but there was no improvement in his health. He was released from jail on 12 February 1933 on the condition that he would go to Europe for treatment at his own expense. Dr. Shelan Sen was sent along to take care of his health, but two prominent doctors of Bombay, G. B. Deshmukh and B. B. Sathe was not allowed to examine his health. In 1934, Subhash's book 'The Indian Struggle 1920-34' was published. Subhash was under house arrest during the 1937 elections. He was released on 17 March 1937 after being exiled and kept under house arrest for more than five years. He was elected unopposed to preside over the 1938 Haripura (Gujarat) Congress session. He defeated Pattabhi Sitaramaiya in the election of the President of the Tripuri session to be held next year, but after the internal fight of the Congress, he resigned from the post of the President after the Tripuri session. Expressing satisfaction over this resignation, Rabindranath Tagore called Subhash Babu 'Desh Nayak'.

On 3 May 1940, Subhash Babu established the Forward Bloc within the Congress, to which Shilbhadra Baji of Bihar was also among the prominent people to join. On 22-23 June 1939, the first All India Conference of the Forward Bloc was held at Kawasji Jehangir Hall, Bombay. In this session, unity was established among all the leftist parties with the aim of subhash's nationalization, a 'Left Solidarity Committee' was formed in which representatives of Samajwadi Dal, National Tape Radical People and Forward Bloc were made members. Most of the members of the Congress Samajwadi Party supported the Forward Bloc, but Jayaprakash Narayan criticized it and preferred to maintain unity. MN Roy, a prominent member of the Radical League, also opposed the formation of the Left Solidarity Committee. Thus the Forward Bloc became another nexus of the already divided Left. On the other hand, in the All India Congress Committee, Patel proposed that no member of the Congress could participate in the Civil Disobedience Movement without the prior permission of the State Congress Committees. In protest against this, the Forward Bloc under the leadership of Subhash Babu celebrated All India Protest Day on 9th July. The All India Congress Committee immediately removed Subhash Babu from the post of President of the Bengal Pradesh Congress in which Gandhians like Azad and P.C. Chap and B.K. Dhankubers like C. Rai and Krishnashankar Rai were included. Later (January 1940) C.F. In a letter written to Antral, Gandhi used the address 'my son' for Subhash and said that it was necessary to teach a lesson to 'a spoiled 'good' of the family for his neck. Due to this entire controversy, its effect on the popularity of the Congress can be seen in the form of its membership which decreased from 4.5 million in 1940-41 to just 1.4 million as compared to 1938-39.

Subhash decided to start civil disobedience movement from July 3, 1940 to remove Hallwell memorial of Calcutta by contacting Muslim League. Regarding this memorial built in memory of the 'Blackhole' tragedy, most of the people believed that this type of incident never happened and was imagined by the British only to tarnish the name of Siraj-ud-daulah. Subhash wanted to use this incident involving the last independent Muslim ruler of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daula, as a form of Hindu-Muslim unity against the British. Subhash was arrested on July 2, 1940, under Section 129 of the Defense of India Act, even before starting this movement. In August 1940, the Government of Bengal decided to remove the Hallwell Memorial.

Subhash Babu was kept in the Presidency Jail in Calcutta. On November 26, he wrote in a letter to the Governor of Bengal and his ministers that 'a man must die so that the nation may live. Today I must die (so that India can achieve freedom and glory). He started a hunger strike from 29 November. In view of his rapidly deteriorating health, he was released on 5 December 1940 and placed under house arrest at Elgin Road, Calcutta In the midnight of 16-17 January, Subhash escaped from house arrest disguised as a Maulvi, in order to escape from the spies, Subhash Babu along with his nephew Sisir Bose reached Gogoh-Railway Station (about two hundred miles from Calcutta) by car and there Took a train to Delhi. Subhash arrived in Peshawar in Delhi as 'Mohammad Ziauddin', a traveling inspector of the Empire of India Life Assurance Co. Ltd. He was received in Peshawar by Bhagatram Talwar (pseudonym Rehmat Khan). From there he was entertained by Uttamchand. Arrived in Kabul and disguised himself as a 'deaf-mute pilgrim'. From here the Italian embassy sent him to Germany via Moscow with a fake passport named 'Orlando Mazzotta', where he was welcomed by Ribentrap. The Subhash Chandra Bose Farari reminded of Chhatrapati Shivaji's escape from the captivity of Emperor Aurangzeb.

In Germany, Subhash was given the title of 'Netaji' on the lines of fascist leaders, which was the Hindi meaning of Hitler's 'Del Führer', Mussolini's 'Il Duce' and the Frankos' 'El Caidillo'. The slogan of 'Jayhind' was started from here also.(who along with Iqbal Shaidai founded the Azad Hind government in Rome in 1941 and Radio Tare also originated from here. Sardar Bhagat Singh's uncle Ajotsingh Himalaya, a radio station to aid Subhash Babu's efforts moved) to Germany, who was then teaching language at the University of Naples (Italy). In Germany, Subhash Babu made three proposals and asked

them- Should be given a chance to do anti-British propaganda through German radio, should be allowed to build 'Azad Hind Fauj' from Indian prisoners of war in Germany and Germany make a joint declaration of Indian independence with your allies Japan and Italy. The first two of these offers were accepted. Bose established the 'Independent India Center' whose prominent members included A.C.N Nambiar, Girja Mukherjee and M.R. Vyas was involved. Vyas hosted daily broadcasts in Azad Hind Radio broadcast in seven languages Persian, English, Bengali, Hindustani, Telugu, Tamil and Pashto used to have. Bose established the 'Indian Legion' of four thousand soldiers in Berlin on 25 December 1941. The responsibility of training was handed over to Adalbert Syafridge from Germany. Bose met Hitler with von Traut as interpreter on 29 May 1942. Unfortunately Hitler could neither speak English and could not understand. Due to this the meeting was unsuccessful. When Germany decided to use them against Russia, he decided to leave Germany and go to South-East Asia.

Leaving behind his wife Amelie Shankle and two-month-old daughter Anita, Bose boarded a German submarine (U-180) on 9 February 1943 with Abid Hasan to reach Japan. On 28 April he was transferred to a Japanese submarineI- 29. The code name of this submarine was 'Matsu' and Bose was named 'Matsuda'. He was Finally reached Tokyo on 16 May after a dangerous journey of about 25,000 kilometers for three months. Japanese-controlled Singapore arrived on 2 July 1943. On July 4, Subhash Chandra Bose became the President of the 'Indian Independence League' after Rasbihari Bose handed over the reins of East Asia. On his arrival in Tokyo from Singapore, the Japanese Prime Minister announced that Japan did not want to occupy India. After reaching Singapore in Japan, Bose gave the slogan 'Delhi Chalo' and established the Azad Hind Government on 21 October 1943. He kept the posts of President, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief with himself and the charge of finance, propaganda and women's organization was given to AC Chatterjee, S. A. Iyer and Dr. Lakshmi Swaminathan. Bose took the oath in Cathay Hall that 'in the name of God, I take a holy oath that I will free India and 38 crore people of my country'. After this, his speech got blocked due to emotions and tears started flowing down his cheeks. The whole hall was stunned and most of the people could not hold back their tears. Netaji took care of himself and after this, falling forward said 'I Subhash Chandra Bose will continue the holy war of freedom till the last moment of my life. I will always be ready to shed the last drop of my blood to protect India's independence.' Other members of the cabinet took oath after him.

The Azad Hind Fauj adopted the tricolor flag of the National Congress, with the only difference being that instead of the charkha in the middle of the Congress tricolor flag, the flag of the army had a 'leaping lion' which was the symbol of India's freedom struggle. Azad Hind Fauj's slogan 'Delhi Chalo', salutation 'Jai Hind' and national anthem 'Shubh Sukh Chain Barkha Barse' (Hindustani adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's hymn 'Bharat Bhagya Vidhata') were adopted. Their motto was 'freedom or death'.

This Azad Hind government, which declared war with Britain and America, was first recognized by Japan on 23 October, following which eight other countries followed: Verma (24 October), Croatia (27 October), Germany (29 October), Nanking (1 November), Manchaco (1 November), Italy (9 November), Thailand (19 November) and the Philippines gave recognition. The President of the Free State of Ireland, Dr. Belera also personally greeted Netaji. Subhash reorganized the Azad Hind Fauj with headquarters in Rangoon and Singapore. The Shere Dil guerrilla group was divided into three regiments named after Gandhi, Azad and Nehru. Later, under the leadership of Shahnawaz Khan, a fourth regiment was formed in the name of 'Subhash'. Under the leadership of Captain Lakshmi Swaminathan, a women's military force named Rani Jhansi Regiment was formed.

Subhash Chandra Bose's contribution to the national movement On 6 November 1943, Japanese Prime Minister Tojo announced the handing over of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands won by the British to the Azad Hind Fauj, after which these islands were renamed 'Shaheed' and 'Swaraj' respectively. Given. Lieutenant Colonel A. D. Loganathan was appointed as the administrator of these places. The Provisional Government also had a small territory called Jiyawadi whose area was about 50 square miles. In 1944, when the Azad Hind Fauj along with the Japanese army attacked Assam, then two places named Manipur and Vishnupur also came under its authority.

#### Discussion

The campaign of Azad Hind Fauj's invasion of India was named 'Operation U-Go'. On 4 February 1944, the Subhash Brigade advanced from Rangoon to the Arakan hills, where it inflicted a crushing defeat on the British contingent on the Arakan front. On 18 March 1944, the Azad Hind Fauj entered the Indian border for the first time. Colonel S. A. Under the leadership of Malik, a contingent of this army went deep inside the Indian territory and on 14 April he hoisted the national tricolor at a place called Morang in the state of Manipur. A. C. Chatterjee was appointed as the first governor of the liberated areas. On the other hand, on 7 April 1944, Azad Hind Fauj surrounded Imphal. It seemed that Imphal would fall in three weeks, but in the meantime, due to heavy rains, Azad Hind Fauj lost contact with the Japanese army. In May, the Azad Hind Fauj set foot on Indian soil at Mathdok (an outpost located south-west of Chittagong in Bangladesh) near Cox's Bazar, but due to lack of necessary equipment in the weakened conditions of the Axis countries in World War, it was retreated. Had to move A detachment left under the leadership of Surajmal unsuccessfully tried to protect this place for some time. Thus the Azad Hind Fauj remained active during March-June 1944 on Indian soil. It is surprising that the Bengalis who were considered by the British to be the 'least fighting among the Indian castes'. This armed struggle was carried out under the leadership of the same Bengali (Subhash Babu).

On July 6, 1944, Bose used the address 'Father of the Nation' for Gandhi for the first time on Azad Hind Radio and said - 'India's last war of independence has begun. Father of the Nation! We seek your blessings and best wishes in this holy war of liberation of India. A battalion of the Azad Hind Fauj led by Shahnawaz was sent to attack Imphal along the Bharat Verma border with Japanese forces, where their morale was broken due to the ill-treatment meted out to them by the Japanese. They were not only denied supplies and weapons, but were forced to do menial jobs for Japanese soldiers. After the failure of the Imphal attack, the Japanese forces began to retreat, after which the hopes of India's independence by the Azad Hind Fauj ended forever. Netaji's India campaign started at a time when the chances of the Axis Powers winning the war had almost waned. Even before he left Germany for Japan, the defeat of fascists had started in Stalingrad.

It is said that Netaji have died in a plane crash on 18 August 1945 at Taihoku Airport in Japan, a few days after Japan's surrender. Habibur Rahman was with him at the time of this accident. The incident of Netaji's death became quite controversial, with many famous people claiming to have seen him or to have been at some place in the world after 18 August 1945. It was believed that the news of his death was fabricated to save him from the hands of the victorious Allies. In these circumstances, a three-member committee was formed by Nehru in April 1956, in which Major General Shahnawaz Khan, Subhash Chandra Bose's elder Suresh Chandra Bose and I.C.S. Officer S. N. Mayatra was included. The task of this committee was to find out the circumstances under which Netaji left Bangkok on 16 August and his alleged death in the air crash. Confirming Netaji's death in the plane crash, two members of the committee in their report said that the mortal remains kept in Takis's Renkoji temple were his. Suresh Chandra Bose disagreed with the opinion of both his colleagues and said that 'the decision taken by them is not certified'. During the time of Indira Gandhi, the former Justice of the Punjab High Court, G. D. Khosla, referred to the establishment of one membership Commission, Who was to investigate Netaji's disappearance in 1945.

#### Conclusion

In 1992, it was announced to posthumously award 'Bharat Ratna' to Netaji, but a complaint was presented against it in the Supreme Court. In May 1998 the United Nations and in February 1999 England informed India that Netaji would no longer be considered a war criminal. The Government of India could not present any proof of Netaji's death, due to which the court ordered to withdraw this title given in the posthumous category. In April 1999, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government once again constituted a one-man commission headed by Manoj Kumar Mukherjee to investigate Netaji's death. Netaji's call 'You give me blood, I will give you freedom' is still an inspiration for all Indians. Gandhi called Subhash a 'compelling personality', 'patriot of the patriots' (head of the patriots) and Sarojini Naidu called him 'the flaming sword of Indian patriotism'. Thus we can say that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was a great patriot. He has bore many difficulties and gave a great contribution in freedom struggle of India.

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