

Famous speeches of Subash Chandra Bose – its impact on Freedom Fighters of Nagapattinam District

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Abstract : The history of India's Struggle for freedom is a unique chapter in the history of mankind. Freedom fighters of India vehemently carried the Nation forward towards the constitutional goal of complete Independence. The Indian National Army of Subash Chandra Bose occupied an immortal place. His famous speeches during the organisation of Indian National Army attracted many people to change their life style for the cause of freedom. Freedom fighters of Nagapattinam District went to South East Asian countries for seeking fortune and joined INA by the impact of famous speeches of Subash Chandra Bose. They played an important role in Indian National Army and they should be honoured in a befitting manner.

Keywords – *Speeches of Subash Chandra Bose, Indian National Army, Freedom Fighters.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The history of India's Struggle for freedom is a unique chapter in the history of mankind. Freedom fighters of India vehemently carried the Nation forward towards the constitutional goal of complete Independence. The contribution of Mahatma Gandhi and Subash Chandra Bose in India's Freedom struggle were regarded complementary in character. Gandhiji from inside India and Subash Chandra Bose from beyond India's borders destroy the very foundation of the imposing edifice of the British Empire. Subash Chandra Bose was a Militant Nationalist and an extremist par excellence. To create an armed force in a foreign country with an intention to work for the achievement of Indian Independence was a great difficult task. It is quite possible for Subash Chandra Bose to accomplish this task. The Indian National Army of Subash Chandra Bose occupied an immortal place. It created a new sense of freedom, honour, dignity and prestige among the Indian people. Every Indian youth must know about the heroic deeds of Subash Chandra Bose for getting Patriotic Inspiration. His famous speeches during the organisation of Indian National Army attracted many people to change their life style for the cause of freedom. This descriptive study deals with the impact of famous speeches of Subash Chandra Bose on the INA freedom fighters of Nagapattinam District.

II. THE INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY

The Indian National Army was an armed force formed by Indian Nationalists in 1942 in Southeast Asia during World War II. Its aim was to secure Indian Independence from British Rule. It formed an alliance with imperial Japan. The army was first formed in 1942 under Mohan Singh by Indian Prisoners of war of the British Indian Army captured by Japan in the Malayan Campaign and at Singapore. This first INA collapsed and was disbanded in December 1942 due to differences between the INA leadership and the Japanese Military over its role in Japan's war in Asia. It was revived under the leadership of Subash Chandra Bose after his arrival of Southeast Asia in 1943.

III. SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE

Subash Chandra Bose was born in Cuttack on 23rd January 1897. His father, Janakinath Bose, was a public prosecutor who believed in orthodox nationalism and later became a member of the Bengal legislative council His mother prabhavati Bose, a remarkable example of Indian Womanhood. Subhas was admitted in the Baptist mission school at Cuttack in 1902, and when he was in the fourth class, he joined the Ravenshaw collegiate school, Cuttack and remained there up to 1913. He was an intelligent student and his command of English was superb. He was greatly influenced by his Head master Beni Madhav das. Besides he was greatly influenced by the philosophy of Swami Vivekananda.

He passed the High school Examination from the Ravenshaw collegiate school in 1913 by standing second in the Calcutta University. There after he joined the presidency college Calcutta. He took philosophy as his major subject. After graduating with first class honours Degree in philosophy, Bose was educated at Cambridge University, one of the prestigious educational institutions in the Eastern region of India. Undoubtedly he was a very popular student on account of his high command of English and debating capacity. He also passed all his examinations with distinction. As a college student, Bose joined university training corps and fairly excelled in military training and shooting. In 1920, Bose took the Indian civil service entrance examination and was placed in the Fourth rank. However, he resigned from the prestigious Indian civil service in April 1921 despite his high ranking in the merit list and went on to become an active member of India's Independence movement. Under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi Bose joined the Indian National Congress. Bose advocated complete freedom for India at the earliest whereas the congress committee wanted it in phases through a Dominion status other younger leaders including Jawaharlal Nehru supported Bose. Bose carried an open propaganda since 1935 against the pernicious Federal Scheme of British and preparing the country for a national struggle. The peak period of Bose's Political career in India began with his elevation to the Presidential Chair of Indian National Congress.

He believed " The future of India lay with those radical and militant forces that will be able to undergo the sacrifice and suffering necessary for winning freedom. Naturally he became the hero of the younger congress men, who believed in socialism and in aggressive methods. Subash strongly believed that an armed rebellion was necessary to wrest Independence from the British. Thus Bose's fundamental differences with Gandhi in respect of both policy and tactics forced him to quit the congress and form a new party known as the Forward Bloc. In May 1939 Bose founded the Forward Bloc. Bose launched the anti-imperialist national struggle through the revolutionary organ of the forward Bloc. The British Government naturally looked upon Bose as a dangerous revolutionary and arrested him on 2 July, 1940 under section 129 of Defence of India Rules.

Netaji believed that foreign assistance was a must to free India from British rule. In 1939 when the Second World War broke out, Subash sought assistance from Germany, Italy, Japan, as they were enemies of Britain and thus would be natural allies. In 1941, he evaded a house arrest in Calcutta by disguising himself as a Maulavi and going to Kabul, Afghanistan later he procured an Italian Passport and fled to Berlin, Germany. There he met Hitler and discussed his plans and sought his assistance to free India. He also sought his assistance from Mussolini. From time to time, he aired his speeches on the Azad Hind Radio from Berlin to communicated his intentions of fellow Indians and Indians in Germany gave him the little of Netaji and the slogan of Jai Hind. After the defeat of Germany in World War II, Netaji realized that he could not continue his struggle from Germany any more. Ultimately Netaji reached Japan in June 1943.

IV. REVIVAL OF INA

On 4 July 1943, two days after reaching Singapore, Bose assumed the leadership of the IIL and the INA in a ceremony at Cathay Building. Bose's influence was notable. His appeal re-invigorated the INA, which had previously consisted mainly of prisoners of war; it also attracted Indian expatriates in South Asia. He famously proclaimed. Give me blood! I will give you freedom. Local civilians joined the INA doubling its strength. They included barristers traders and plantation workers as well as many had no military experience. About 18000 Indian civilians also enlisted during this time.

The Indians in East Asia responded to him in the fullest measure. In fact the response to his call for total mobilization was truly unprecedented in the long history of liberation struggle since 1857 – what followed was a glorious saga of an entire emigre nation – men, women and children the soldier, the peasant, the worker, the businessman, the professional and all merging their identity with the mother nation and throwing in all their resources for her liberation.

V. SELECTED SPEECHES OF SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE

Dilli Chalo

Comrades " How many of us will individually Service this war of freedom, I do not know. But I do know this that we shall ultimately win and our task will not end until our surviving heroes hold the victory – parade on another graveyard of the British Empire – the Lalqilla of Ancient Delhi.

Soldiers of India's Army of Liberation! Today is the proudest day of my life. Today it has pleased Providence to give me the unique honour of announcing to the whole world that India's Army of Liberation has come into being. This Army has now been drawn up in military formation on the battlefield of Singapore, which was once the bulwark of the British Empire. This is the Army that will emancipate India from British yoke... Every Indian must feel proud that this Indian Army has been organised entirely under Indian leadership, and that when the historic moment arrives, under Indian leadership it will go into battle... Standing today on the

graveyard of the British Empire, even a child is convinced that the almighty British Empire is already a thing of the past... Comrades! My soldiers! Let your battle cry be: **Dilli Chalo**.

Throughout my public career, I have always felt that, though India is otherwise ripe for Independence in every way, she lacks one thing. An army of Liberation George Washington of America could fight and win freedom, because he had his army. Garibaldi could liberate Italy, because he had his armed volunteers behind him. It is your privilege and honour to be first to come forward and organize India's National Army.

(Address to the soldiers at the Military review in front of the Town Hall, Singapore, July 5, 1943).

“ Total mobilization for a Total War”

“ Total mobilization for a Total War” out of this total mobilization, I expect at least three lakhs soldiers and three crores of dollars. I want also a unit of brave Indian women to form a death – defying regiment who will wield the sword which the brave Rani of Jhansi wielded in India's First war of Independence in 1857.

If Indians outside and inside India will do their duty, it is possible for the Indian people to throw the British out of India and liberate 388 millions of their countrymen. Our countrymen at home are now hard-pressed and they are demanding a Second Front. Give me total mobilisation in East Asia and I promise you a second front – a real second front for the Indian struggle.

(Speech at a huge mass rally at the Padang in front of the municipal offices, Singapore July 9, 1943.)

Freedom fighter N. Govindarajoo of Sirkazhi was the eye witness of the above speech and INA parade at Singapore. He was impressed by Netaji and joined in INA.

Oath of Allegiance

“ I Subash Chandra Bose will continue this sacred war of freedom till the last breath of my life.

In the name of God, I take this sacred oath that to liberate Indian and the thirty- eight crores of my countrymen, I shall always remain a servant of India and look after the welfare of thirty-eight crores of Indian brothers and sisters. This shall be for me my highest duty.

Even after winning freedom, I will always be prepared to shed the last drop of my blood for the preservation of India's freedom.

(Oath of Allegiance taken at a historic conference convened by the Indian Independence League at the Dai Toa Gokijo, Singapore – October 21, 1943).

Freedom fighter M. Narayanasamy of Tharangambadi Taluk attended the above said meeting at Singapore and registered his name worked at field propaganda section.

On to Delhi

On 3 February he bade them fare well. Blood is calling for blood. Arise! We have not time to lose. Take up your arms. There in front of you is the road. Our pioneers have built. We shall March along that road. We shall carve out way through enemy's ranks, or if God wills, we shall die a martyr's death. And in our sleep we shall kiss the road which will bring our Army to Delhi. The road of Delhi is the road to freedom on to Delhi.

VI. NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT

The District of Nagapattinam lies on the shores of the Bay of Bengal between latitude 10.7906⁰N and Longitude 79.8428⁰E an area of 2,715 square Kilometres (1048 Sqml). The District Capital, Nagapattinam lies on the eastern coast 350 kms down south of the State capital Chennai and of Tiruchirappalli. It has an average elevation of 9 metres (30 feet) above the mean sea level. The district has a coast line of 187 Kilometres. This is Peninsular delta District surrounded by Bay of Bengal on the East, Palk Strait on the South and land on the West and Northern Side.

Nagapattinam is a unique District with all its historical and cultural significance. Nagapattinam is one of the constituents of Chola mandalam, acclaimed as the most prominent among the ancient Tamil kingdoms. Coastal town Nagapattinam was the Headquarters of a region during the period. This region has been named after Kshathiriyar Sigamani, one of the titles of RajaRaja Cholan. Nagapattinam was also known as “ Cholakula Vallippattinam” . The Heritage of the town is found in the Burmese historical text of 3rd century B.C. The same text gives evidence of a BuddhaVihar built by the great Ashoka. Nagapattinam is derived from Nagar, referring to people from Sri Lanka who settled here and Pattinam referring to town. There are urn burials in and around the city from the Sangam period indicating some level of human habitation. In the early Seventh Century AD, Saint Thirunavukkarasar (Appar) who provided the earliest definitive reference to Nagapattinam. He described Nagapattinam as a Vibrant City, fortified with walls and a port with significant traffic.

During the tenth century, Nagapattinam came under the complete sway of the cholas, who were the most powerful rulers of South India in this period. Nagapattinam was the prominent port of cholas for trade and conquering gateway to the east. In the 11th century CE, Chudamani Vihara, a Buddhist monastery was built by Javanese King Sri Vijaya Soolamanivarman with the patronage of Rajaraja Chola. About the commencement of the Christian era, it appears to have been a Chief City of the little known Naga people, from whom its name was no doubt derived. It became later one of the earliest settlements of the Portuguese on the east coast and was called by them “ the city of Choramandel” . It was naturally one of the first centres of the Portuguese mission. The Portuguese had commercial contacts with this town during the Thanjavur Nayaks rule - Sevvappa Nayakkar and Acchuthappa Nayakkar. The Portuguese commercial centre was established in 1554. Later this town full into the hands of British in 1781 after the two naval battles between British and French fleets were fought off the coast of Negapatam, as it was then known: the first in 1758 as part of the Seven years war and the second in 1782 as part of the American Revolutionary war. The town was taken by the British from the Dutch in 1781. When the Dutch and British reached a peace agreement in 1784, Nagapattinam was formally ceded to the British. 277 Villages with Nagore as the headquarters were handed over to the East India Company.

From 1799 to 1845 CE Nagapattinam was the Headquarters of Tanjore District. Nagapattinam and Nagore were incorporated as a single municipality in 1866 C.E. The town remained one of the chief ports to the Madras Presidency. Thus Nagapattinam has the history of over 2000 years for its credit. History of Nagapattinam covers a period of two hundred years and it narrates the glorious past of the place which saw the rule of the Cholas, the Portuguese, the Dutch and also the rule of the British East India company. Nagapattinam remains today as the Headquarters of Nagapattinam District.

Nagapattinam District, the land of communal harmony, was carved out by bifurcating the composite Thanjavur District on 18-10-1991. This district has traditionally been referred to as East Thanjavur and paddy granary of South India.

VI. IMPACT OF SUBASH CHANDRA BOSE ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF NAGAPATTINAM DISTRICT

Freedom fighters of Nagapattinam District Spontaneously and actively participated in Indian National Army of Subash Chandra Bose. The total number of INA freedom fighters of Tamil Nadu is 4236, Among this 4263 INA Freedom fighters, 361 freedom fighters belonged to Nagapattinam District. These freedom fighters went to Far Eastern Countries for seeking employment. 42 freedom fighters of Nagapattinam District were impressed by the speeches of Subash Chandra Bose at Singapore, Malaysia and Penang and Burma. These freedom fighters have worked in rubber plantation, Departmental stores and labourers in various fields.

31 freedom fighters of Nagapattinam District attended the meeting conducted by Netaji at municipal ground, Singapore. After attending the meeting only they have changed their attitude and Joined INA. Seven freedom fighters attended the public meeting held at Malaya – They heard the clarion call of Netaji for Total mobilization for a total war. 4 freedom fighters who worked in Penang and after attending Bose’ s meeting, they left their job and joined in INA.

Freedom fighters of Nagapattinam District M.S. Kadirvelu, Nagapattinam Taluk

Kadirvelu went to Malaya in 1939 on a business of his own. He joined in I.N.A in 1943, only eight days, prior to joining, the I.N.A. which came under the control of Bose.

The Statesmanship and the valour of Subash attracted him very much and he enrolled himself in I.N.A. The speech delivered by Bose in the municipal ground at Singapore on July 1943, was the main cause for his joining the army. He was one among the crowd, listening to the extempore speech rendered by great Orator Bose. While the meeting was in progress, there was rain. Subash Chandra Bose was astonished that even rain could not disturb the crowd and he emphasized the audience about the necessity and need to achieve Independence for India. He was prepared to die in this regard. He said he had left India with a view to render assistance for freedom movement in India. Thus Subash Chandra Bose out of his own efforts and skill got assistance in a foreign country and worked for the Independence of India. Seeing this Kadirvelu realized his bounden duty to join the I.N.A. He Joined the I.N.A, accordingly soon after his joining the I.N.A,. Kadirvelu was giving training in Azad Training centre at Singapore. He worked as Instructor for the members who had joined in the I.N.A in villages. While so, rendering services with a desire to go to war front he wrote to the head office at Singapore and got permission. He Joined the Guerilla 6th Regiment at Singapore on 15th April 1944 as Lance Naik. He stayed in Camps in the villages. When he worked in the I.N.A the Government of Japan gave him a document of INA at Sungai Supput camp at Malaya. Japan surrendered unconditionally. British army

arrested the I.N.A personnel and put into prison. They were ill treated, after 6 months they had released from Jail on 26th February 1946.

**Govindarajoo, S/o. Nachi Padajachi,
Perunthottam, Sirkazhi.**

Govindarajoo of Sirkazhi Taluk had occupied at Singapore as Head Rigger in Lorong Lalet Water Department on 20-03-1940. In 1942, Netaji came to Singapore and called Indians who lived at Singapore and Malaysia to join in I.N.A for Indian freedom Govindarajoo joined I.N.A and got training. Severe training was given at Siam forests. At night time was also the sepoy were aware of enemies. They used code words. He was also one among those sepoy. He waged war at Burma war front and attacked by the British. When the Japanese got defeat at the hands of America, I.N.A. forces were disbanded. He rendered service as INA sepoy from 01-09-1943 to 07-11-1945 He returned to India. He passed away in 1994. He shared all his experiences as sepoy in I.N.A. to his son Govi. Subramanian. Govindaraj Subramanian is residing at Mayiladuthurai and he is the founder and president of All India Netaji Congress and I.N.A. freedom fighter' s Heirs association.

**M. Narayanasamy, S/o. Muthusamy Naidu,
Tharangambady Taluk**

M. Narayanasamy of Thillaiyadi served in Indian Independence League, a body working side by side with the Indian National Army as a propagandist. At Singapore he joined Indian youth League, an association, headed by S.C. Goho. Narayanasamy worked as captain in Volunteer force and rendered service to people. Japanese captured Singapore. In 1943, he joined INA under Netaji. On 21-10-1943 Subash Chandra Bose declared Free India Government at Cathay Hall. Narayanasamy went to attend the meeting. As per rules, he registered in Nusun Camp at Field Propaganda Section worked as Second Group Chief Officer. He was then arrested and imprisoned at Bidadari Camp jail. Thus every freedom fighter of this Thillaiyadi area has some inspirational and motivational influence to others and their contribution to society is imperative.

VII. CONCLUSION

From the above description, It is found that Subash Chandra Bose – his patriotic fervour, quality of leadership, political acumen, organisational skill, pragmatic thinking and fearless character mark him out as a lion among the nationalist of his age who symbolized the hopes and aspirations of millions of Indians. Today after more than seven decades we miss his magical presence, ennobling words and dedication to the cause of motherland.

The study exposed the fact that the spirit of Nationalism and patriotism has deep impact in every one of the society in those days. For achieving freedom they were ready to sacrifice their life. The struggle made by these sincere patriots ushered the urge for liberation of people of many countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The struggle for the freedom of India took an international footing. Hence the younger generation of our country should develop their personality by continuing to draw inspirations from the sentiments, courage, heroism, nobility of character and ideals of our freedom fighters.

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