

## Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



India," Subhas Chandra Bose wrote to his mother when he was only 15, "is God's beloved land." Thirty- three years later, towards the end of his life, he told fellow-Indians: "Never for a moment falter in your faith in India's destiny. There is no power on earth that can keep India enslaved. India shall be free and before long."

Known as Netaji (leader), Mr. Bose was a fierce and popular leader in the political scene in pre-independence India. He was the president of the Indian National Congress in 1937 and 1939, and founded a nationalist force called the Indian National Army. He was acclaimed as a semigod, akin to the many mythological heroes like Rama or Krishna, and continues as a legend in Indian mind.

Subhas Chandra was born on January 23rd 1897 in Cuttack (in present day Orissa) as the ninth child among fourteen, of Janakinath Bose, an advocate, and Prabhavati Devi, a pious and God-fearing lady. A brilliant student, he topped the matriculation examination of Calcutta province and passed his B.A. in Philosophy from the Presidency College in Calcutta. He was strongly influenced by Swami Vivekananda's teachings and was known for his patriotic zeal as a student. His parents' wishes kept him away from the Indian freedom struggle and led him into studies for the Indian Civil Service in England. Although he finished those examinations also at the top of his class (4th), he did not complete his apprenticeship and returned to India, being deeply disturbed by the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre. He came under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi and joined the Indian National Congress. Gandhiji directed him to work with Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, the Bengali leader whom Bose acknowledged as his political guru.

Bose was outspoken in his anti-British stance and was jailed 11 (eleven) times between 1920 and 1941 for periods varying between six months and three years. He was the leader of the youth wing of the Congress 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.

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 and finally at the historic Lahore Congress convention, the Congress had to adopt Poorna Swaraj (complete freedom) as its motto. Bhagat Singh's martyrdom and the inability of the Congress leaders to save his life infuriated Bose and he started a movement opposing the Gandhi-Irwin Peace Pact. He was imprisoned and expelled from India. But defying the ban, he came back to India and was imprisoned again!

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. He brought a resolution to give the British six months to hand India over to the Indians, failing which there would be a revolt. There was much opposition to his rigid stand, and he resigned from the post of president and formed a progressive group known as the Forward Block (1939).

The second World War broke out in September of 1939, and just as predicted by Bose, India was declared as a warring state (on behalf of the British) by the Governor General, without consulting Indian leaders. The Congress party was in power in seven major states and all state governments resigned in protest.

Subhas Chandra Bose now started a mass movement against utilizing Indian resources and men for the great war. To him, it made no sense to further bleed Indians for the sake of colonial and imperial nations. 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 British were afraid of violent reactions in India, should something happen to Bose in prison.

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## Cultural Calendar for August

- August 8** Film: Gandhi  
Language: English  
Directed by: Richard Attenborough  
Venue & Time: ICC 5.30 p.m. Duration : 3 hours
- August 10** An evening of Sitar recital  
by eminent artiste Dr. Nirmala Kumari Rodrigo  
Venue & Time: ICC 6.30 p.m.
- August 15-18** In celebration of the 60th Independence Day of India, a musical evening by Neil Nongkynrih and the Shillong Chamber Choir.  
15<sup>th</sup> Tuesday- Lionel Wendt Theatre, Colombo at 6.30 p.m.  
17<sup>th</sup> Thursday- Lionel Edirisinghe Hall, University of the Visual and Performing Arts, Colombo 7. At 3.00 pm  
18<sup>th</sup> Friday - Trinity College Auditorium, Kandy  
(Admission by invitation. Please contact the Indian Cultural Centre for further details)
- August 18** Film: Sardar  
Language: Hindi (With English subtitles)  
Directed by: Ketan Mehta  
Venue & Time: ICC 5.30 p.m. Duration : 3 hours
- August 25** Film: Subhas Chandra  
Language: Hindi (With English subtitles)  
Venue & Time: ICC 5.30 p.m. Duration : 3 hours
- August 30** *Kathakar* - One day workshop on Kathak dance, the classical dance of North India by Ms. Moksha Samarasooriya  
A lecture demonstration replete with extensive film clips and video clips of great Kathak dancers of India.  
Venue & Time: ICC 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.  
(Please contact the Indian Cultural Centre for registration on tel # 2500014)
- August 31** *Swara Rangana* - Kathak dance & Hindustani vocal music recital by Ms. Rupashika Ranatunga and Ms. Sadhana Ranatunga and their students  
Venue & Time: ICC 6.30 p.m.

(Admission to all programmes is free on first come first served basis, except the programmes on 15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August)

Bose suddenly disappeared in the beginning of 1941 and it was not until many days that authorities realized Bose was not inside the house they were guarding! He traveled by foot, car and train and resurfaced in Kabul (now in Afghanistan), only to disappear once again. In November 1941, his broadcast from German radio sent shock waves among the British and electrified the Indian masses. It also gave fresh confidence to the revolutionaries in India who were challenging the British in many ways.

The Axis powers (mainly Germany) assured Bose military and other help to fight the British. Bose had struck alliance with Germany and Japan. He felt that his presence in the East would help his countrymen in freedom struggle and second phase of his saga began. It is told that he was last seen on land near Keil canal in Germany, in the beginning of 1943. A most hazardous journey was undertaken by him under water, covering thousands of miles, crossing enemy territories. He was in the Atlantic, the Middle East, Madagascar and the Indian ocean. Battles were being fought over land, in the air and there were mines in the sea. At one stage he traveled 400 miles in a rubber dinghy to reach a Japanese submarine, which took him to Tokyo. He was warmly received in Japan and was declared the head of the Indian army, which consisted of about 40,000 soldiers from Singapore and other eastern regions. Bose

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ICCR

August 2006



Santhal Bandhus, Mixed media, 54 x 36 cms., 1991

## Indian Cultural Centre

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## In Retrospect .....

1<sup>st</sup> June

**Carnatic Flute & Bharatha Natyam Recital by Ms. Jayaprada Ramamurthy & Ms. Geetha Ganeshan and their students**



Ms. Jayaprada Ramamurthy & Abhinaya Kala Ratna Geetha Ganesan of Uttara Centre for Performing Arts, India along with their students presented a brilliant performance of Carnatic flute & Bharatha Natyam recital at the Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The performance commenced with the flute recital in which Jayaprada played "Raghunatha Nanru" and continued with "Rama Rama", "Lanka Shaankari", "Vara Leela", "Thillana" and concluded with "Srinivasa Govinda". The dance recital by Geetha and her students included items such as "Sita Kalyanam", "Sri Krishna's Visvaroopam" and an item describing 5 elements – water, sky, earth, wind and fire choreographed by Geetha for which live accompaniment was provided by Ms. Jayaprada and her students on flute. The evening was very well enjoyed by the dance lovers gathered at the Centre.



9<sup>th</sup> June

**Lecture on Evolution of Carnatic Music by Prof. Gananaa Kulendran**



Prof. Gananaa Kulendran, former Professor & Head of Department of Music & Centre for Advanced Bharatha Natyam, Tanjore Tamil University, India delivered an interesting and informative talk on Evolution of Carnatic Music at the Centre which was very well appreciated by the audience gathered at the Centre. In her talk she explained about the history behind the evolution of Carnatic music and also how various ragas were identified and which were used most at a particular era. She also spoke about the various poet saints and also about the "Bhakthi Gee" movement. The lecture was followed by an interactive session on same.

15<sup>th</sup> June

**Chiaroscuro - An exhibition of water colour paintings by Mr. Nuwan Nalaka**



Mr. Nuwan Nalaka, final year student of Rabindra Bharathi University, Kolkata, India and also an ICCR scholarship holder held an exhibition of water colour paintings entitled Chiaroscuro at the Centre from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June. His paintings mainly depicted various moods and culture of Kolkata.

His mastery of the delicate medium of water colour was very well appreciated by the audience. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Director of the Indian Cultural Centre, Smt. Nagma Mallick. Nalaka displayed around 27 paintings.



20<sup>th</sup> June

**Kathak Dance & Tabla Recital by Ms. Veronika K.Dassanayake & Mr. Aashish Dewangan**



Ms. Veronika K.Dassanayake & Mr. Aashish Dewangan, students of Bhatkhande Music Institute, Lucknow presented a Kathak dance & tabla recital on 20<sup>th</sup> June. The evening commenced with the Kathak dance performance by Ms. Veronika and continued with Tabla recital by Aashish in which he played "Tan", "Peshkar", special "Kayadas" of Delhi & Farukkhabad, "Kayada" in Aadilaya, "Gat" in Aadi laya, "Rela", and concluded with "Laggi" and "Rau". Both these talented young musician & dancer gave an outstanding performance, providing the audience with an evening of splendid music and dance.



30<sup>th</sup> June

**Bharatha Natyam Recital Mr.P.N.Vikas**



Mr. P.N.Vikas of Malayala Kalagramam, New Mahe presented a brilliant Bharatha Natyam recital which captivated the audience gathered at the Centre. Mr. Vikas commenced his performance with "Nandi Chollu" a pure nritta item where the dancer performs to the mirudangam syllables and continued with a "Varnam", in Sri Ranjani ragam set to Aadi thalam, "Keerthanam" and concluded with a "Thillana".

## NEW COURSES

### BHARATHA NATYAM

Course commenced	:	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2006
Class days	:	Tuesday & Friday / Wednesday & Saturday
Age limit	:	Over 6 years
Course fee	:	Registration fee Rs.250/= + Monthly fee Rs.500/=
Registration	:	Commenced from 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2006

### KATHAK

Course commenced	:	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2006
Class days	:	Monday & Thursday
Age limit	:	Over 6 years
Course fee	:	Rs.750 Registration fee Rs.250/= + Monthly fee Rs.500/=
Registration	:	Commenced from 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2006 Vacancies Exist

## Films in August

GANDHI

SARDAR

SUBHAS CHANDRA



A Series of films based on the freedom movement and its front rank leaders. Films sponsored by the Secretariat for commemoration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence Government of India and released by the National Film Development Corporation of India

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called it the Indian National Army (INA) and a government by the name "Azad Hind Government" was declared on the 21st of October 1943. INA freed the Andaman and Nicobar islands from the British, and were renamed as Swaraj and Shaheed islands. The Government started functioning.

Bose wanted to free India from the Eastern front. He had taken care that Japanese interference was not present from any angle. Army leadership, administration and communications were managed only by Indians. Subhash Brigade, Azad Brigade and Gandhi Brigade were formed. INA marched through Burma and occupied Coxtown on the Indian Border. A touching scene ensued when the soldiers entered their 'free' motherland. Some lay down and kissed, some placed pieces of mother earth on their heads, others wept. They were now inside of India and were determined to drive out the British! Delhi Chalo (Let's march to Delhi) was the war cry.

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki changed the history of mankind. Japan had to surrender. Bose was in Singapore at that time and decided to go to Tokyo for his next course of action. Unfortunately, the plane he boarded crashed near Taipei and he died in the hospital of severe burns. He was just 48.

The Indian people were so much enamored of Bose's oratory and leadership qualities, fearlessness and mysterious adventures, that he had become a legend. They refused to believe that he died in the plane crash. The famous Red Fort trial wherein Bose's generals and the INA officers were tried, became landmark events. Initially, the British Government thought of a court-martial, but there was a countrywide protest against any kind of punishment. For common Indians, Axis and Allied powers hardly mattered, but they could not tolerate punishment of fellow countrymen who were fighting for freedom. The British Government was in no position to face open rebellion or mutiny and a general amnesty for INA soldiers was declared.

While Bose's approach to Indian freedom continues to generate heated debate in the Indian society today, there is no denying his burning patriotism, his tireless efforts to free India from inside and outside and his reckless adventures in trying to reach his goals. His exploits later became a legend due to the many stories carried by the disbanded INA soldiers who came from every nook and corner of India.

Subhas Bose lives on eternally in the Indian mind, more famous after his death.

Source: website