

**ADDRESS BY THIRU BANWARILAL PUROHIT, HON'BLE GOVERNOR OF
TAMIL NADU AT UNVEILING THE STATUE OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE
AT RAJ BHAVAN, CHENNAI ON 23.01.2020 AT 5.00 P.M**

Anaivarukkum Maalai Vanakkam

**Hon'ble Vice President of India
Thiru. Venkaiah Naidu ji**

Thiru. Edappadi. K. Palaniswami,
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. O.Panneerselvam,
Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

Thiru. P. Dhanapal,
Speaker, Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly

Thiru. Anandrao V. Patil, I.A.S.,
Secretary to Governor

Thiru. K. N. Ramaswamy,
Director, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan

Distinguished Invitees

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me immense pleasure to preside over this function of unveiling the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Raj Bhavan by auspicious hands of the Hon'ble Vice-President of India. Here, I would like to place on record that Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, has come forward and donate this statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Raj Bhavan. I appreciate this noble gesture and thank the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

The biographical details of Netaji's life are very well known to all of us. But it is absolutely necessary for us to know the nature of his contribution to the national cause. It is necessary to remind ourselves that Netaji Bose was a unique icon not just of freedom-fighters, but also of the youth of India of his time and later on -- even now, I must insist. Very importantly, he was also an icon of all the revolutionaries who picked up the gun to fight the British. And as if these dimensions were not enough to help the motherland in those times of terrible crisis, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose proved to be an intellectual of high order and a person with incredible spiritual energy that he used to convert his efforts into something absolutely sublime, something that our words may never be able to capture in fullness.

When he was sent to the terrible Mandalay prison in Burma -- now Myanmar -- for a period of about two years, Netaji wrote six papers highlighting the philosophy of the Indian nation that he predicted was about to become free from the foreign rule. Unfortunately, much of that work has been lost, but whatever is available tells us what the great leader stood for.

When he was in exile and moved from one European capital to another, Netaji worked systematically to establish a connect with the world leaders, as a statesman of New India, creating its diplomatic footprint, explaining to the world what New India stood for and what its presence would mean to the world.

Of course, something wonderful also happened to him in personal life -- he met Emily, the beautiful Austrian-origin lady, and married her. The couple gave birth to a child, Anita, who has often treated herself as Indian, fully conscious of her iconic stock.

The high intellectual substance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's being came in full flow and complete evidence in two phases of his life. The first phase was when as a young leader of the Congress party he stood shoulder to shoulder with men of the eminence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and finally Mahatma Gandhi. He gave the Congress a rare strength of steel when he refused to budge by the moderate and rather timid policies of some of its leaders. The British feared him the most -- far more than they did of other leaders. He stood up in an eye-ball to eye-ball confrontation with almost all Congress leaders and even defeated them in the organisational election in 1939 to become the party's most-sought-after president despite his being very unwell at that time, in Tripuri in Madhya Pradesh.

The second phase showing evidence of his tremendous organisational and leadership abilities and intellectual and spiritual prowess came up when he formed the Azad Hind Government in Exile and won official global recognition from nation after nation even when the world was threatening to get torn asunder due to World War II. The philosophical base which he gave to the Indian nation in those trying and testing times is what is still in evidence in today's India well after his passing away. No matter their contrarion stances, the leaders of modern India after Independence could not ignore Netaji's ideals and ideas and incorporated a lot of those in the philosophy on which they created the superstructure of the nation in changing times. Many may not admit this today, but those who have known what Netaji did for India would know the absoluteness of truth in this assertion.

He headed a government then and led the full-fledged Indian National Army that stormed onto the Indian soil and declared independence. That was not just an act of

military endeavour -- that was, in fact, an act of diplomacy as well, plus an act of establishing the signature of New India on world map. In fact, India became spiritually free on that day when the INA's flag started fluttering over Indian soil. That India became actually free on August 15, 1947, proved to be a technical detail that has made us proud.

The high quality of Netaji's intellectual and spiritual footprints that came to fore during those two phases is something that the nation will never forget, must never forget. fighter,

Subhas Chandra Bose was a charismatic influencer of the youth and earned the epithet 'Netaji' by leading the Indian National Army during India's struggle for Independence.

Netaji was born in Cuttack in Orissa and passed his B.A. in Philosophy from the Presidency College in Calcutta. He was deeply influenced by Swami Vivekananda's teachings and was known for his patriotic zeal as a student. His father wanted Netaji to become a civil servant and sent him to England to appear for the Indian Civil Service Examination. He joined Indian Civil Service Examination at the young age of 23. Netaji was placed fourth with highest marks in English. But his urge for participating in the freedom movement was intense and in April 1921, he resigned from the coveted Indian Civil Service.

In a letter to his brother Sarat Chandra Bose, Netaji wrote that "Only on the Soil of Sacrifice and Suffering Can We Raise Our National Edifice." In December 1921, Bose was arrested and imprisoned for organizing a boycott of the celebrations to mark the visit of Prince of Wales to India. During his stay in Berlin, Netaji married Emily, an Austrian-origin lady and after the birth of their daughter Anita, they came back to India.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose worked under the leadership of Chittaranjan Das, an active member of the Congress party in Calcutta and regarded him as his Political Guru. He himself started the newspaper 'Swaraj', and also edited C.R. Das's newspaper 'Forward'. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose played an important role in enlightening the students, youths and labourers of Calcutta. In his fervent wait to see India as an independent, federal republic, he emerged as a charismatic and firebrand youth icon. He was admired for his great ability in organization development. He served several stints in prison for his nationalist activities during this time.

In a roundup of nationalists in 1925, Netaji was arrested and sent to prison in Mandalay, in Myanmar. In 1927, after being released from prison, Netaji became general secretary of the Congress party and worked with Jawaharlal Nehru for Independence.

A little later, Netaji was again arrested and jailed for civil disobedience. During this time he became Mayor of Calcutta in 1930. Netaji resigned from the Congress party in 1939 and formed the Forward Bloc.

Netaji called out Indians for their whole-hearted participation. There was tremendous response to his call "Give me blood and I will give you freedom" -- *Tum Mujhe khoon do, mein tumhe azaadi doonga* -- and the British promptly imprisoned him. In jail, he declared a hunger-strike. When his health deteriorated, the authorities, fearing violent reactions, released him but put him under house-arrest.

In January, 1941, Netaji made a planned escape and reached Berlin, Germany. Germans assured him their full support in his endeavours and he gained allegiance of Japan as well. He took a perilous journey back east and reached Japan where he

assumed command over 40,000 soldiers recruited from Singapore and other south East Asian regions. He led the 'Indian National Army' and captured the Andaman and Nicobar islands from the British and rechristened it as Shaheed and Swaraj Islands. A provisional "Azad Hind Government" started functioning in the captured territories. The Indian National Army crossed Burma Border, and stood on Indian soil on March 18, 1944. Unfortunately, the tide of the World War turned and the Japanese and German forces surrendered, which compelled him to call off further advancement. On 6 July 1944, in a speech broadcast by the Azad Hind Radio from Singapore, Bose addressed Mahatma Gandhi as the "Father of the Nation" and asked for his blessings and good wishes for the war he was fighting. This was the first time that Gandhi was referred to by this appellation.

Netaji said and I quote, "One individual may die for an idea, but that idea will, after his death, incarnate itself in a thousand lives".

Netaji was among the few Indian leaders to realize the need of national planning and also to indicate the lines on which planning should proceed and I quote, "I have no doubt in my mind that our chief national problems relating to eradication of poverty, illiteracy and disease and the scientific production and distribution can be tackled only along socialistic lines. The very first thing that our future national government will have to do is to set up a commission for drawing up a comprehensive plan for reconstruction."

He claimed at the 1928 Maharashtra Provincial Conference, and I quote, "One of the most hopeful signs of the time, is the awakening among the youth of this country. . . Friends! I would implore you to assist in the awakening of youth and in the organization of the youth movement. Self-conscious youth will not only act, but will also dream; will not

only destroy, but will also build. It will succeed where even you may fail; it will create for you a new India -- and a free India -- out of the failures, trials and experiences of the past."

I am sure that the banner of Netaji will continue to fly with grandeur and majesty all over India. I extend my best wishes and greetings to all those assembled here on this happy occasion.

Nandri Vanakkam....

Jai Hind....

Jai Tamil Nadu....