

CHANDRA SEKHAR AZAD

Telugu Original

Mydhili Venkateswara Rao

English Translation

K. Sreedharan M.A.(English), M.A.(Journalism), M.A.(Economics)

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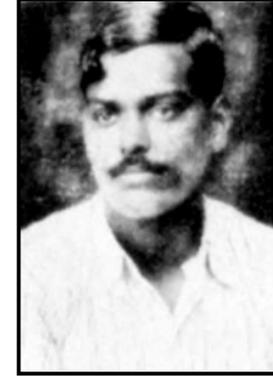
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When both Azad and Tiwari were in the Alfred park, the police attacked the park. On noticing the arrival of the police, Azad asked his traitor comrade to run away from there and save his life.

Poor Azad still believing Tiwari to be his friend. Tiwari ran away from there pretending to be reluctant.

Azad was surrounded by a large force of police. He tried to defend himself from behind a tree, there was quite a shooting match.

He injured some policemen. Azad fall down with the police bullets. The police kept firing at his dead body. When the police found people were gathering in the park.

The police took away dead Azad in their van. They cremated his body and immersed his mortal remnants in Triveni confluence. A rebel star dissappeared from the revolutionary sky.



Chandra Sekhar Azad

Chandra Sekhar Azad

In the history of India's struggle for freedom we find two categories of leaders. Undisputedly Gandhiji was of the masses. But Gandhiji followed a non-violent path that was the Satyagraha method. There were two groups in the Indian National Congress, they were

1. Moderates such as Gokhle, Jawaharlal Nehru and M.G. Ranade.

2. Extremists or Militant wing, this group consisted of Tilak, BipinChandra pal, Lala Lajpat Rai and Aurobindo Ghose

and the third group was followed the principles and doctrines of Gandhiji -

It was during those days, there existed the militant school of politics in India. Later this

school manifested into revolutionary school of patriots believing in violent methods for the achievement of political ends.

Revolutionary groups in those days were recruited almost exclusively from the Hindu middle classes. One name which no Indian forgets forever was 'Azad' - Chandra Sekhar Azad.

He was a great martyr, a revolutionary and a spot-less patriot who has not heard of the great patriot and dare devil 'Chandra Sekhar Azad'.

His sole aim of life was to cut the shackles of slavery from the feet of mother India. He used violent methods to dethrone the British authority, rule and ultimately imperialism. Though he was considered as a revolutionary, his impact on the Indian youth was great.

The land of Uttar Pradesh has given birth to eminent freedom fighters and national leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri and Chandrasekhar Azad and these names are always on the lips of Indians. Their service to the country is immeasurable.

The first decade of the 20th century offered a challenge to the new generation to choose between two decisive phases of the Indian National movement- The phase of the 'Extremism' of Lal-Bal-Pal and the Gandhian phase of non-violent and Olan.

Year 1919 was a watershed year in Indian history. This year changed the course of Indian freedom struggle. A very great tragic event happened in India that year.

British soldiers opened fire on a gathering in Jallianwala Bagh and kept on firing till their stock of bullets, exhausted.

The ground had only one exist and was covered by the British. The firing led to death of countless persons - grown - up men, woman and children. Blood flowed like a stream. The event struck a big terror in the minds of Indian people. This incident drew the attention of the entire world.

During this time, the Indian National Congress was fighting for the country's freedom. It had awakened the people's love for their country and was uniting the people.

Chandrasekhar, when he was just 15, he had drifted towards the terrorists, and he became one of their prominent men in North India. Chandrasekhar and his associates such as Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, believed that purely terrorist methods were useful.

Azad thought that some time in future a violent conflict might take place, but this would not be terrorism.

He ruled out terrorism as such, so far as the question of Indian freedom was concerned. But then, he added, what was he to do when

no chance was given him to settle down as he being hounded all the time by the government.

Chandrasekhar was born on 23rd July, 1906 in a village named Bhanwra in Kanpur district of the Uttar Pradesh. He was the son of the couple Pt. Sitaram Tiwari and Jag Rani Devi. As a male-baby he had a glowing moon-like round face. So, the parents named their male baby 'Chandrasekhar'.

Sitaram Tiwari was a watch man of an orchard. Though he was a small employee, he executed his job perfectly. He used to help the needy people. His co-villagers would respect him for his helping nature and honesty.

Infant Chandrasekhar

Though Chandra had a cherubic face, he was a weakling. On account of lack of proper diet Jagrani Devi's three earlier infants had died soon after their births. Only her eldest son Sukhdev was survived besides the new born.

Hyperactive Boy

Bhanwra area was mostly tribal. The people of this area were superstitious and held weird myths.

As Sitaram had been earning a meagre salary, he would not feed milk to his new-born baby. Chandra had a lean body on account of malnutrition. Sitaram couple pampered their 'Chandra' abundantly. Jagrani Devi had mal-

nutrition ravaged body. So that poor mother could not breast-feed her little infant. How cruel, the god is! he gives children to poor couples who are unable even to offer milk to their children, and he refuses offspring to rich-childless couple. God is a paradox, who can understand his miracles.

One day Sitaram learned through a tribal man, that if a child were fed tiger meat he would grow into a tiger like courageous human. Then an idea hit upon on Sitaram's mind, as he was not unable to feed his child Chandra properly he wanted to give some meat of a tiger every day. From then Sitaram used to feed young Chandra a bit of tiger flesh hopefully.

The tiger meat strengthened Chandra, Physically and mentally in a miraculous manner. Chandra started to exhibit tigerish traits very early.

The Dare Devil

It was the Diwali festival night. That night had a peculiarity for that night, there took place an incident which proved the dare devilery of Chandra. Some children gathered near the house of Chandra on Diwali night to burst fire crackers along with Chandra. They asked Chandra to show his guts in bursting the crackers in a different way.

Then Chandra - the daredevil held half a dozen sparklers in his hand and lit them in one

go as small children squealed in delight. It was a great fireworks show in that Diwali night. Children who gathered there shouted with childish enthusiasm and merry.

Cascading sparks kept falling and roasting the fearless chandra's hand. And he just stood ignoring his pain, busy in being happy to see younger children enjoying the sparkler spectacle.

Jagrani Devi who was preparing some sweets in side of the house, learned about this incident. Then she immediately came out screaming to protect her little Chandra from fireworks. This incident proves the tendency of Chandra.

The Childhood of Chandrasekhar

Day by day Chandra developed interest in adventures games and experiments. Just at that time came the Diwali festival. Chandra preferred the canon to other fireworks. Canon was nothing but a gun powder stuffed iron pipe. When one side tip of that iron pipe was lit, a metal ball came out of that iron pipe with a bang and hit a distant target.

Chandra has passion for this play - weapon. Though Chandra liked canon his father refused to buy a canon for Chandra for it harm his son.

But Stubborn Chandra did not leave his intention. He himself wanted to buy a canon.

But he would not afford it for the lack of money. So, he planned to sell some fruits from his father's orchard.

Chandrasekhar misunderstood, that the orchard was their own and used to take some fruits and sell them in the market for money to buy canon and gun powder.

One day Sitaram found the Chandra indulged in fruit theft. He became furious. He gave a terrific thrashing to Chandra. Later Chandra realised his mistake.

On that day, he decided firmly not to commit any mistake in the future. Chandrasekhar was stubborn person. If he takes a decision on any matter, he never changes it. Whether it is good or bad or dangerous, he used to do whatever he wished to do.

Chandra's Education

Sitaram Tiwari decided to educate Chandra to divert his attention from pranks to career development. Sitaram's elder son Sukhdev was a mentally retarded he was not joined the school until then. Now Sitaram decided to educate both his sons.

Manoharlal Trivedi

Manoharlal Trivedi was a desciplined government school teacher. He teaches his students not only lessons but also disciplined life style. He believed in using can as an effective teach-

ing aid and his policy was not spare the baton and spoil the child.

Manoharlal and Sitaram were childhood friends. So, Sitaram requested his childhood buddy. Trivedi to tutor his sons. Trivedi agreed to Sitaram's request.

At the age of five Chandra started going to school along with elder brother, Sukhdev. After returning from the school Chandra and his brother would took tutions from Trivedi. The disciplined passionate tutor and unruly Chandra were the weired combination.

While teaching Trivedi always kept a cane by his side and used it whenever Chandra or his elder brother erred. Oneday, while teaching, the turor wrongly pronounced a word by a slip of his tongue and carried on. Chandra sekhar then picked up the cane atonce and gave two whacks to the shocked tutor.

Sitaram watched this incident and immediately rushed to the scene to control the situation. He shouted out at Chandra. Then Chandra reasoned "when we strdents err, our tutor canes us. So, I canned him when he erred.

The perplexed father couldnot ask any more explanation his son and asked the turor, to excuse him. But the turor happly said to sitaram "I am very lucky for I got a student who punished even his erred master and he is a sincere boy".

Such stickler to rules and principles Chandra sekhar was from the very childhood. He showed the same nature when he faught the colonial rulers as he grew up.

Man Proposes, God Disposes

Sitaram Tiwari wanted his son to become a sanskrit scholar. As his elder son was a hopeless choice he pinned all his hopes on his younger son Chandra. Chandra's tutor Sri Trived recognised latent talents of his student and started to show an extra interest in his studies.

While Sitaram Tiwari wanted that Chardra, would bring fame to his family, Chandra was in two minds on his career planning. Chandra would not decide what to do in future.

Chandrasedkhar used to go a nearby forest along with his friend for passing his leisure time. One day he met some tribal in that forest, then he made friendship with them.

Chandrasedkhar learned archery from the tribals. With in a short period, he became an expert in shooting any target with arrows with a great perfection. Chandra's friends lauded him for his excelent archery skills.

Hide and Seek

Chandra used to play Hide and seek with a great tactice. When he played the police role he would catch the thief in seconds and while

he played role of the thief, his friend (police) would not find that where azad had hide. Such was his brains. He frequently bunked school and went to forest to play some new adventurous games.

He always wished to see new places and to do new things. He craved for something new and adventurous.

On noticing all these activities of Chandrasekhar, his father decided to place his son in some job. Then Chandra had to join as an attender in Taaluk office in Alirajpur. Though Chnadra was a clever man, was not good at English.

As he lacked English knowledge he had to adjust with a small job. At that times India was under the rule of the English, English-learned people were regarded for higher jobs in government offices.

Chandra joined the job on coercion of his parents. He has no interest in that job. He would wait for a release from that slavery.

Book reading was one of the good hobbies, he had. By studying different books, he learned about different places in India. He wished to visit many places including Bombay.

His Liking for Bombay

One day a pearl trader came to Chandra's office on some business purpose. From that

trader, Chandra learned about the majestic and attractive Bombay. Then Chandrasekhar developed a passion upon visiting Bombay.

Chandra decided to go to Bombay to get a good job with a handsome salary and left for Bombay.

The daring and dashing Chandra arrived at Bombay. He walked along the pompous streets of Bombay. He watched a new world with busy people.

He wondered on seeing posh buildings, costly hotles and mouth- watering eatables and fashionable people.

Though he had around him many eataries and restaurants, he could not eat any food for he had no even paisa on with a tired body and mind.

Chandra reached a beach. There he sat against a tree. He felt hungry and thirst. He had no way to get food as he had no money. He searched for a job. Unexpectedly he got a job. His new job was to painting boats.

Chandra did finish his job very well in a short time. The contractor who gave him that job was impressed with Chandra's performance. Then he appointed Chandra as a permanent worker in the painting section.

Chandra spent some time there as a worker in the boat yard. Though he saved some amount of money, he never used it for luxuaries.

He even tried to convince his fellow workers, who used to spend their hard-earned money on gambling and liquor into discarding bad habits.

But nobody paid heed to his advices. Day by day Chandra developed hate against the materialistic Bombay culture. Then he decided to left for Kasi by boarding a train without a ticket.

Kasi, a religious centre. An abode of Lord Viswanath and a top sanskrit educational center. After arriving at Kasi, Chandra decided to materialise the wishes of his father by becoming a sanskrit scholar there.

Chandrasedkhar as a Sanskrit Scholar

In those days in Kasi, sanskrit was taught for free along with offering free meals and accommodation.

Infact, Chandrasekhar didnot exactly know what he actually wanted, and where his goal was. Some mission was calling him away which was unclear.

Someone in deep trouble was sending him message for help which his ears could not hear his heart could feel. It was making him so restless. He must quest his mission.

After reaching Kasi or Benarus he wrote a letter to his parents informing them of his whereabouts and asking them not to worry about him.

Chandrasedkhar started his sanskrit studies earnestly. Besides being a pilgrim center, Benarus has been a centre of education too. There was a tradition in Kashi (Benarus) of generous rich people providing free meals to sanskrit students as religious charity.

They also gave regular cash assistance for clothes and lodging. Hence, Chandrasekhar faced little problem for expenses.

He had grown into a robust young man who could easily influence others who felt pride in helping him out.

Meanwhile, his elder brother, Sukhdev, got a job as a postman. So, Sitaram Tiwari also started sending him some money. By then, Chandra realised that becoming a sanskrit scholar was not his heart's call. He found that his mind mostly wandered away when he tried to study.

The Political Scene in 1920's

Balgangadhar Tilak passed away. Then Gandhiji became the sole leader of Indian National movement.

The political scene in the country was hotting up. Gandhiji was started his new and sharp weapon - Satyagraha. The militant revolutionaries of Bengal had swung into action.

The government had enacted 'Rowlett' act to suppress fundamental rights of Indians. Storms of protests were sweeping the country

against it. Chandrasekhar used to read news papers. One day he read news about the Jalianwalabagh massacre.

Chandra was upset by the violent incident at Jalianwalabagh in Amritsar in Punjab, where the British police officer general Dyer had fired innocent Indians, who were holding a meeting. There was bloodshed on the ground of Jallianwala bagh.

The Rowlatt act itself a draconian act. According to this act the government had the powers for trials without right of appeal to special courts. Chandrasekhar found himself reading such news with infinite wrath.

Whenever he saw police resorting to lathi charge on innocent Indians, his heart wanted to explode in protest. Chandrasekhar became an anti Britishers.

Chandrasekhar Stoned the Policemen

It was in 1921, Gandhiji had given a call to the nation not to cooperate with the British which he called non-cooperation movement.

Gandhiji called upon the people, young and old, male and female, Masters and students to participate in the struggle for India independence.

The entire country found itself in a mood of defiance, to do - or - die for the country. Personal welfare and safety had now no place in

the thoughts of the youth. Young lion Chandra sekhar too started to gather some young men of his age and started satyagraha.

Youngmen shouted the 'Vandemataram' slogan. All the people of Kasi, surprised to see the courage and patriotism being showed by young Chandrasekhar and his friends. Men, woman, irrespective of their age and status followed Chandrasekhar's procession. At that time Chandrasekhar was just 16.

Chandrasekhar gathered all and told them about the boycott of foreign goods and foreign garments.

On hearing the inspiring and ferocious speech of young Chandrasekhar, all the woman started to throw, their costly foreign clothes into the flames.

Chandrasekhar felt happy at the action of the patriotic Indians. One day Chandrasekhar was holding a procession with hundreds of people.

While the people moving forward while shouting the Vandemataram, the police attacked the crowd. They lathi charged people, indiscriminately.

They brutally thrashed even boys. On seeing this cruel behaviour of the police men, Chandrasekhar in a fit of wrath picked up a stone and threw it at the English police officer who was ordering the policemen.

The stone hit the police officer on the forehead and the blood oozed out and trickled down to drench his uniform. Meanwhile Chandrasekhar slipped away.

It was a grave matter because a white officer was injured. Then the British authorities ordered for a man hunt to catch the culprit. A constable had seen a boy throw the stone at the English Police. Chandrasekhar's face with a sandal wood Tilak on the forehead was etched in the constable's mind.

He claimed that he would recognise that face if it came before him. On learning this clue the police started man hunt like hounds.

The police made house to house search with that constable. At last, they reached the room where the culprit lived. The walls of the room were plastered with the pictures of the Indian National leaders and revolutionaries. Most of them were garlanded.

The police knew it was the home of some freedom supporter of intense emotions. Then, the constable looked hard at Chandrasekhar's face with Tilak.

suddenly everything fell in place. The constable announced 'that is the boy who threw the stone at the English police officer. Chandrasekhar didn't look frightened. He was calm. The police hand cuffed him and led him to the police station.

The Memorable Coldnight

Chandrasekhar was put in the police lock-up room for the night. It was a cold winter night. He only had 'Kurta' and dhotio on. The police didn't give him any blanket. The station incharge thought that the cold would make the unruly boy beg for mercy.

At 2 A.M, the station incharge left his warm bed to check on the lock-up room to see if the boy was alive or frozen to death.

The stone-slabs of the floor felt like ice sheets. What the station incharge saw in the lock-up room was incredible. Chandrasekhar was sweating. He had been doing push-ups in longot(Indian brief) having cast off his kurta and dhoti aside.

The police man watched open mouthed not believing his eyes. Then, he quietly retreated disappointed.

That was the night when Chandrasekhar found out who he rally, was and what the mission of his life.

My name is Azad

The next day Chandrasekhar was produced in the court by the police. Mr. Kher Phant - the magistrate was a known baiter of militant youth. Chandra stood in the dock like a young lion.

He appeared calm and stoic and fearless too. The megistrate looked sternly at the boy

who looked back belligerently at him. The trial began. The trial itself was a symbol of the patriotic youth power.

"What is your name?" the magistrate asked.

"Azad", came the defiant reply.

"Father's name?"

"Freedom"

"Occupation?"

"Liberation of the country"

"Where do you live?"

"In Prison", the hostile under-trial boy shot back (Here Chandrasekhar wanted to declare, that India was turned a prison by the foreign rulers). The magistrate felt as if he had been slapped.

He announced the sentence. "Fifteen lashes of baton" (Here the magistrate too realised the suppression of the foreign rulers and the genuine angry of the culprit. But he was working under the British government. So he was helpless and he had to punish a candid patriot).

Though he was imposed such a cruel punishment Chandrasekhar alias Azad looked unimpressive.

The Bloody Punishment

Azad, a boy of 15 tender years age, stood in Langot, with his hands tied to the whipping posts for the punishment. Azad not showed

even a bit of tension or fear on his moon-like face. He appeared calm and cool.

The sadistic jailor, Ganda singh, smacked his lips in glee. The striker was ready with well oiled baton.

Ganda singh began the count, "one!".. the baton flashed down... zap!

But the baton did not produce no painful scream out of the victim. Instead Azad let out a full throated slogan, "Bharat Mata Ki jai".

The baton zapped fifteen time. "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" echoed in the courtyard fifteen times.

Azad's back was bruised, ripped, bloodied and criss-crossed with red, blue and black lines.

But Azad still stood defiant, cocky and undefeated. Mother India is great as she has been producing many and many patriots who are laying down their lives for their mother India.

Azad - The Rising Sun

After the lashing, Azad was given the regulatory compensation money by the jailor. Azad threw the money at the jailor's face with utter contempt.

The news about the punishment had reached to people outside like a wildfire. When Azad walked out of the gate of the court a sizable crowd was already there to give him a hero's welcome.

The people garlanded young Azad and he was carried off on the shoulders of the admiring youngmen in a procession that hailed the young hero and raised anti-British slogans.

In the evening, a rousing reception was organised by people to honour the hero, Azad in Gainwapi colony where he live. He was again smothered with garlands and flowers. In oneday, a 14 years old boy had graduated into a full feldged hero.

The bruise marks and blue-black lines on his back had become the medals and stripes of a veteran soldier. And he had just begun his battle against enemy.

Azad's Inspiring Speech

After the fecilitation programme, Azad started his thought provoking speech. Though it was his maiden speech, Azad spoke his heart. He spoke in a simple language to express his feelings, his agony for his country. People who gathered there understood the need to fight the British. Azad aroused the hidden patriotic feelings of the masses.

At the end of his speech, Azad said to the people as thus : Traitors from a foreign country had been ruling India. And some police men who were licking the shoes of the foreign traitors arrested and punished me.

But they would not get the same opportunity in the future and no police man could ar-

rest me, while I was alive. I live and die as Azad. I fight for the freedom of my country. I even offer my life for the nation, but I don't surrender to heinous Britishers forever. I swear by my mother India. I will fight and die as Azad.

Azad kept his word and laid down his life in an encounter with the police. Azad's precedents were published in a news paper, named 'Maryada'. Dr. Sampooranandha was the proprietor of that news paper. He was top class leader and patriotic Indian. He lauded, Azad as ideal young lion of India.

Azad Walked the Revolutionary Path

When the news of Azad's lashing was carried out in news papers, the Panic father, Sitaram rushed to Benaras to take his son back home.

But Azad refused to go home. He was now the son of the Mother India and promised to dedicate his life to her cause. Yes Azad was blessed son of his mother and mother India.

During this tense period there was a violent confrontation between the police and the masses at small village. Chauri Chaura in the united provinces (U.P). Gandhiji immediately called off the non-cooperation movement despite protest from all over India. It frustrated angry youth like Azad who were itching for action.

Wellknown revolutionary, Sachindra Sanyal who was released from jail in 1920, had united two militant outfits (one was started by NarendraBhattacharya and the other was established by Sasindranath Sanyal) to form a single party name 'Hindustan Republican Association' with its head quarters in U.P.

This party grew fast tapping all the frustrated young men. Azad came into contact with one of its members and joined the party which was inspired by the Russian Revolution 1917. By force of his personality, zeal, spirit and dedication, he became a leading member of the party in no time.

Bengal the Mother Land of Revolutionaries

It was in Bengal that the national movement was organised for the first time in India, on a massscale.

Bengali mass actions against the colonial oppressors in 1905 initiate the nation-wide upsurge of the national- liberation movement in the first decade of the 20th Century.

Naturally enough, the radical trend turned in to the national movement was more prominent in Bengal.

By whatever name - Anarchists, extremists, or seditionists those may be called who are taking part in the movement for indepen-

dence, whatever efforts may be made to humiliate and crush them, however many patriots may be sent to jail or in exile, yet the spirit pervading the whole country.

The defeat of Tzarist Russia in the war exploded the myth of the unconquerability of European armies in Asia of the superiority of Europeans, which the colonial rulers had impressed on the Indian and other people of east.

Japan's imperialist circles, however couldn't sympathise with the liberation movement in India and other Asian countries, and soon declared their support of Briton's position in India.

The radical elements were inspired by the example of the heroic liberation struggle set by the Russian Revolution.

Some of the Bengali leaders wanted to learn the art of revolutionary struggle from the Russian people. The rebels in many places committed arson and individual murders.

Even in modern times, the naxalite movement first started in the West Bengal. Comrade, Charumajundar was the forerunner of naxul movement.

So, extremist activities, Revolutionary practices were first unfolded in West Bengal, later those movements spread to the other parts of the country.

Bhagat Singh

Bhagat Singh was born on September 28, 1907 in a village in Punjab province. His father Sardar Kishen Singh was a brave and adventurous person. Bhagat's mother 'Vidyavati' too was a courageous woman who was awarded 'the mother of Punjab' for her bravery. Kishen Singh named his third son 'Bhagat' which means 'the fortunate'.

Bhagat Singh's family indulged in freedom struggle. Sardar Kishen Singh was jailed many times. From his childhood Bhagat was a bright student. He was ahead of others in his class. He showed his leadership qualities even from his school days. His childhood itself indicated that later he would become a great leader. Patriotism flowed in his veins from the days of his childhood. He was indeed an unparalleled patriot.



At the time of the Jallianwalabagh massacre, Bhagat Singh was just twelve years old. His mind was disturbed by this event. Bhagat thought, "the people who had assembled in Jallianwalabagh carried no weapons nor was there a way to escape from the park.

And the British police kill the innocent people". When Bhagat Singh was thirteen he decided to participate in the national movement.

Then Bhagat Singh left his school and joined the movement.

Bhagat Singh took part in non-cooperation movement. Every week he would collect foreign clothes from the houses of his locality and heap them together and then burn them.

It was in 1922, during the course of this movement there took a violent incident in U.P in a village named Chauri Chaura. A mob of protestors locked up some policemen in a police station and burned them alive. At many places similar incidents of mob violence took place.

Then Gandhiji felt very sad at this violence. Then he immediately suspended 'the non-cooperation movement'. Bhagat Singh was severely disappointed with Gandhiji's decision of cancellation of the movement.

Bhagat Singh firmly believed that armed revolution was the only practical way of gaining freedom. Bhagat Singh was deeply inspired by revolutionaries of Ireland, Italy and Russia. It was in 1928, Bhagat Singh first time met Chandra sekhar Azad at Delhi.

With this union activities the revolutionaries gained new strength and speed. At Agra, Bhagat Singh and other revolutionaries started a Bomb manufacturing factory. They prepared bombs and tested them at Jhansi fort. That was a success.

Basically both Bhagat Singh and Chandra sekhar Azad were against violence. But Bhagat felt, the distinction between crime and terrorism, although both use violence, was based on the intention of those who use it.

It was April, 1929, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were arrested and put in jail for throwing bombs in the Central Legislative Assembly.

In prison they were made to suffer in every possible way. Bhagat and his comrades decided to fight against the wretched conditions of prisoners. They went on fast for two months. Finally the government came down.

In trail Bhagat, reiterated his patriotic violent actions and were intended to drive away the colonial rulers.

At last the verdict was given. Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were to be hanged. Indian people never forget that courageous and patriotic Hero Bhagat Singh.

Azad in the Disguise of a Monk

In the party, Azad met most of the revolutionaries who were to create history in the militancy chapter of Indian freedom struggle. Azad did a great job in recruiting new members to the party.

He roamed about in a monk's disguise, met young people, probed their thinking, tested their

character and commitment and then recruited the useful ones in the revolutionary party.

The biggest problem that the organisation faced was lack of funds. It had no money to finance its plans and activities. In sheer desperation the party members decided to rob rich people to raise funds.

By now Azad had become a forceful voice in the organisation. He put a strict condition to the robbery plan that no member will misbehave, dishonour or man handle any woman under any circumstances.

A principled young man as Azad was, he saw a sister or a mother in every woman. The dare devil Ramprasad Bismil was to lead the robbery missions. But he was a hard core revolutionary.

Robberies for the Sake of the Country

Azad was a righteous person. He agreed to Rob only the rich. The revolutionary gang first robbed the house of a rich village headman. The male members were over powered easily.

Then everything went wrong. The woman members of the house noticed that the young revolutionaries were shying away from them as if they were live wires.

And no one even warning them. When some woman pushed revolutionaries, they just fell back. Emboldened by this strange behaviour

of the youngmen the woman started manhandling them and snatching away their pistols or revolvers. The revolutionaries couldn't even collect their loot as the woman thwarted their attempts.

Ramprasad Bismil realised that it was wrong to end up in a fiasco. He ordered his comrades to flee.

They fled leaving behind their pistols and revolvers. It was a disaster. Bismil asked Azad to tone down his strictness about woman to practical level. But Azad would make no compromise on it.

During a raid on a richman's house they got big cash and valuables. Just then, Azad saw the comrade who had led them there handling a young woman. Azad flew in rage. He took out his pistol and shot the offender dead.

Thus the situation took a new turn. They fled leaving behind loot and arms. Another fiasco one other time, after successful robbery, before fleeing Bismil noticed that Azad was missing.

He went back inside the robbed house and found Azad being held prisoner by an old woman by holding his hand. Azad was not pulling his hand free lest it should mean disrespect to the lady. He was looking just silly. Then Bismil pulled Azad free and rebuked "you Brainless man! you will get us all in a mess some day!".

A Missed Luck

One day, a monk turned revolutionary informed that a wealthy Mahant of the Math (Monastery) was on his death bed. He was looking for a faithful disciple to make him the heir to his throne.

The 'Matt' had enough money to solve all their financial problems and the huge monastery could serve as the party's head quarter, he claimed.

The party choose Azad to become Mahant's disciple, win his confidence and inherit the 'Mutt' for the party. The members thought that Azad's winsome personality and sanskrit education would do the trick. Azad had to agree partly because the robbery bids had failed because of him.

Azad became Gazipur Mahant's disciple. But the young revolutionaries were out of luck. Instead of dying, the Mahant recovered and became healthy.

Mahant now guzzled glasses of milk and juices, gobbled fruits and rich quantities of foods to keep death away. In sheer frustration Azad fled from there when the party asked him to stay on.

The Sensational Pamphlet

To propagate the ambitions and programmes of the 'Indian Republic Association', a

pamphlet was prepared and printed in English. Though there was the danger of being caught by police for secretly printing an anti-government pamphlet, the revolutionaries successfully prepared the propaganda material.

But the main problem was, to distribute those pamphlets through out the country, without being caught by the police. But this mission was assigned to the tactical executioner - Azad.

Under the leadership of Azad, enthusiastic and patriotic young revolutionaries, distributed the pamphlets across the country.

It was a tight rope walk, to distribute pamphlets to masses without being noticed by the police.

As decided earlier, the mission was successfully completed. All the youngmen in the country received the pamphlets and they thoroughly read it and inspired by the content of the pamphlet.

Youngmen, who were emotional with the patriotic feelings felt satisfied. Now they got a path to faught the Britishers.

Now, they learn, that there were selfless, fearless and patriotic rebel leaders to guide them towards their ultimate goal.

That was to break the fetters of the Mother India. The Britishers later found that pamphlets were distributed by Azad and his comrades. So

there started a chase for Azad. But Azad did not stay at place even for days, he kept moving to different places to meet different types of rebels and assigning them some responsibilities of handling secret operations.

Navabharat Sabha

Azad learned, that some another revolutionay outfit 'Navabharat Sabha' which was started by Sardar Bhagat Singh, SukhDev and B.C. Yashpal in Lahore, then he decided to meet those young revolutionary leader in Lahore. So, he made some secret arrangements to meet them.

Meanwhile the British authorities, sternly trying to cursh the revolutionary trend in India. Infact, the Britisher had been suppressing revolution by using crooked, heinous methods.

The Britishers entered India, on the pretext of trading. Later with their 'Divide and Rule Policy' they conquered the whole land.

Where Azad Meets Bhagat

Azad reached Kanpur which had become the center of the underground revolutionaries and it was Hindustan Republic Association's base.

Comrade Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi was a nationalist and a great admirer and supporter of revolutionaries. He earnestly wished the independent India.

'The Pratap' was edited by Vidyarthi. He used to meet revolutionaries and their leaders. He knew most of them.

He became friendly with Azad who paid visits to his office often. On one such visit, he saw a lean sikh youth working behind a bench. The sikh youth also stared at him feeling a magnetic attraction.

After sometime was passed and after some suspense prevailed, Vidyarthi introduced Azad and Bhagat singh to each other.

It was a historic union of India's two most brilliant revolutionary youth who were to enact later, the most inspiring episode of our freedom struggle. Bhagat singh was a patriot and had no interest in worldly pleasures and he was dead-against the tyrannical Britisher's rule.

Bhagat had come to Kanpur to evade marriage his family was forcing on him. Vidyarthi had employed him in his editorial department and got him a room to live in.

Azad and Bhagat singh had heard so much about each other. Bhagat singh had also joined 'Hindustan Republican Association'.

The members knew about this freedom fighter family background, his role in swadeshi movement, his zeal, knowledge and spirit of commitment.

They had a lot to talk about. Bhagat singh's room became their head quarter. Others joined

them. They extensively discussed policies, future plans, revolution, ways to strengthen the organisation.

Chandrashankar Azad had a friend who was in money business. He agreed to lend Azad Rs 6000/- as a personal loan which was to be returned in 6 months.

Azad took the loan to finance the propaganda plan of the organisation. The money was used for printing posters and handbills through which to propagate revolutionary messages amongst the masses.

As decided earlier, with that money handbills and posters were printed in Pratap press. The message was a wake-up call to the country men. Azad got the publicity handbills distributed and posters pasted on walls over night in Benaras.

It was grand success. Bhagat singh went to Pratapgarh fair with some comrades to distribute handbills among the congregated population. The police and C.I.D men in civildress were keeping watch in the fair.

They caught Bhagat singh and his comrades distributing anti-government printed matter. The offenders managed to run away. The police went in chase.

Bhagat singh took out his pistol and fired in air to scare the police men. It worked and the revolutionaries escaped.

The Mother Blessed

While Azad was deeply immersed in revolutionery activities, Sitaram Tiwari fall ill and after few months passed away.

Azad's elder brother Sukhdev had also died of protracted pneumonia. His mother, Jagrani Devi had come to Kanpur to live in a small house.

Azad would come and go like a wild cat a few times a month only. One night, Azad dropped in with Bhagat singh and Vijay. The overjoyed Jagrani Devi fed them Azad's favourited 'sweetmeat' which she always kept ready. Then, the three went to sleep while she prepared proper meal.

After eating Azad asked leave of his mother with tears in her eyes, she begged her son to stay atleast for the night. Azad said, "Mother, I can't stay. The greater mother, Mother India is calling me to do my duty for her.

For her sake we all are required to make sacrifices. Take not having me near you as your part of sacrifice.

You fed me tiger flesh. Show the courage of the mother of a tiger and bless us". Then, the three dissappeared.

A secret Meeting in Jhansi

Gandhiji thought to get independence of India through the Satyagraha - a non-violent path, but young revoluitonaries felt, that with-

out violence and bloodshed, the colonial rulers would not leave India.

Jhansi Laxmi Bai, Tantia Tope like faught the Britishere with arms. Peaceful methods would not yield any concret result.

In Jhansi (in Madhay Pradesh) a secret meeting was proposed to be held. Many revolutionaries from Kanpur and Lahore came to attend the secret meeting.

But in the minite, Azad came to knew that police were going to attack Jhansi, to arrest all the revolutionaries, then he immediately cancelled the meeting and alerted all his comrades to escape from Jansi.

Kakori Train Robbery

As Bhagat singh had come into the notice of the police in Pratapgarh fair, Kanpur was no more a safe place for him.

Vidyarthi sent him away to a village to serve as the head master of the national school which was a by product of the freedom movement. Later from there, he went back to Punjab.

While at Kanpur, Bhagat singh had raised voice against the revolutionaries committing robberies for however noble cause.

After the roberies, they realised that it was earning them a bad name. They were losing sympathy of the people.

The authorites were getting a chance to paint the militants as common criminals. In a

meeting of the party members, it was decided to stop robbing members of the public. Instead they were to target only the government treasuries and property.

It was 9th August, 1925 at 10.30 P.M a passenger train coming from Moradabad to Hardoi arrived at Balaman junction.

Three youngmen boarded a second class compartment and seven boarded the third class bogie.

When the train was approaching the Kakori station, someone pulled the emergency chain and the train stopped.

Ten young men trooped out of the train brandishing pistols. Two of them ran to the engine cabin and the driver and fireman were gagged.

Two ran towards the guard cabin. The guard was dragged out and made to lie on the ground face down.

The rest marched along the coaches on both sides of the train with raised guns warning the passengers not to make trouble and stay out. Then, three militants dragged out the treasury chest from the guard cabin.

It contained the money collections of several railway stations. The treasury chest was hammered open.

All the revolutionay youth disappeared into near by jungles with the rich haul. The group

that pulled off this sensational robbery consisted of Ram Prasad Bismill, Azad, Keshav Chakravarthi and so on. It was a direct challenge to the government.

The C.I.D went to work with its informers and the police spread its dragent. One by one all the revolutionaries involved were nabbed, among them the group leader, Ramprasad Bismill.

The police tortured them horribly. They used third degree and many people were questioned. Then the police arrested a large number of revolutionaries. But Chandrasekhar could not be trapped. He had slipped into the forest of Jhansi. It was in the forest that Azad met some green revolutionaries.

He began training them in use of arms. Azad was famed for his marks manship. One day trainees said, "we want to see your marksmanship". Then Azad said, "I will target that small leaf let hanging by that lowest branch. You watch! What I am going to do!".

He shot three bullets. But the leaflet didn't even stir. The trainees found three neat holes in it. They wondered at Azad's shooting skills.

The Hindustan Socialist Republican Army

Chandrasekhar Azad, formed the Hidustan Socialist Republic Army. The aim of this Indian

revolutionary movement was, not only set India free, but also to create a Socialist state. Azad was an outstanding revolutionary and martyr of the Indian freedom struggle. Azad represented the youth who were dissatisfied with the Gandhiji's politics and groped for revolutionary alternatives.

ShivaRam Raj guru, Bhagat Singh and Azad were sacrificed their lives for the freedom of India.

It was in 1928, Simon Commission visited India. The purpose of this commission was to decide how much freedom and responsibility could be given to the people of India. This commission was severely opposed by the Indian leaders.

A country wide protests were held to oppose the Simon Commission. This commission had no even an Indian member in it. So the national leaders opposed the Simon Commission.

Whereever the commission went, people protested with black flags, shouting 'Simon go back'. It was in October in 1928, Simon Commission reached Lahore. In Lahore town a great procession was held under the leadership of Lalalajpat Rai.

While the protesters were peacefully conducting their procession, the police lati charged the agitators. Then a British police officer named

Saunders rushed forward and hit LajpatRai on the chest.

As Lalaji was too old man to bore those phisical thrashing, he fall on the ground. Later he was joined in the hospital. unfortunately Lalaji passed away. His death was a heavy loss for revolutionaries.

They decided to revenge this brutal act and they wanted to teach a lesson to the British government. Later the British police officer was killed by the revolutionaries under the leadership of ChandraSekhar Azad.

The British were horrified at the murder of Saunders. The Britisher understood, that this murder was masterminded by the Hindustan Samajvadi Prajatantra Sena (The Indian Socialist Republic Army).

The British government was terrified by such courage and patriotism exibited by the Indian youth. Then the government decided to punish the killers of Saunders at any cost. Bhagat Singh and Rajguru and Azad were escaped from Lahore.

Azad disguised himself as a Bramin Scholar and escaped safely from the polictrap. It was in April, 1929 Azad and Bhagatsingh decided to throw a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly. During the bombing at the Assembly, Bantukeswar Dutt was the associate of Bhagat Singh. Sukhdev was also involved

in the explosion in the Central Legislative Assembly.

Azad as a Swamiji

Azad spent nearly an year in the forest while coaching the green revolutionaries. When he got fed-up with the Jungles, he arrived at a nearby village, that was a hamlet, named Dingarpur.

Tehre Azad erected a hut near a small BhajRangbali temple. Azad used to sit on a raised brick platform in meditation posture.

The villagers, steeped in superstitions, thought that Azad was a great saint. People flocked to him to pay obeisance. Soon, crowds began to mill around him to make him a religious circus.

Then the vexed Azad told the gathering, "leave me alone, I am not what I appear to be and please go away and don't waste your working hours here".

But they pay no heed to Azad's request. More disciples started to visit him. Even a big feudal lord of that village visited Azad.

Then Azad told him, I am a Brahmachari named Harishankar. See, I don't want these crowds. I want solitude. Suggest some such place.

Then the feudal lord asked Azad, "O, Swamiji! no place is more secluded than my building. Come and live at my house".

Thus Azad arrived at another solitary place. Later the feudal lord and Azad became friends and Azad found out that the richman was against the British.

Then Azad revealed his true identity to him. The feudal lord was over joyed to know that he had been hosting the famous revolutionary.

Azad showed him his weapons and gave them to him for safe keeping. After sometime Azad left the building and got a job in a motor company under the name 'Hari Shankar'. The days were passing slowly.

Meanwhile the police was searching for Azad all over the U.P frantically. A big reward was announced on his head.

Then U.P had become too hot for Azad. So, he secretly arrived at Bombay to avoid the polic dragnet.

In Kakori case, Ram Prasad Bismill, Roshan, Ashfaq and Rajendra Lahari were sentenced to death. The news wrenched Azad's heart. For days he remained paralysed.

Azad roamed around Bombay aimlessly with the pain in his heart of the fate of Kakori comrades. The pain was aggravated by the fact that he could do nothing to help his sentenced pals.

There was no help or shelter available to Azad in Bombay. Now Azad wanted to live only to continue his fight against the British rule.

Then Azad again started working in the dock-yard.

V.D. Savarkar and Azad

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was also a wellknown revolutionary. He terrorised the British government. He was impose a life sentence. And he was put in the infamous 'Kalapani' prison in the Andamans.

While he was in the Kalapani prison, he planned and escaped so strategically, from there. Accidentally, Azad met Savarkar in Bombay.

He comforted Azad like this, " You may win or fail in your efforts or you may loss your dear and near, but as a rebel, you must not loose courage, leave about past and proceed with new men and hopes towards your target".

For some months Azad spent a mechanical life in Bombay and later he arrived at his native place. Meanwile Bhaghat singh had done some efforts to set up militant network in Punjab. Bhagat singh got popularity in Akali movement and was brutally torchered by the Police.

Then Bhagat singh and Rajguru searched for Azad on account of the 'Kakori' train robbery 'Hindustan Republican Association' became unorganised Party.

Azad Arrived at Native Place

Sadashiv Malkopore was the leader of rebels in Jhansi area. Azad reached Jhansi from

Bombay. He described his experiences in Jhansi jungles. He also told Sadasiv of the future plans of Bhagat Singh.

One day Azad asked Sadasiv, to come along with him to his native place Bhnawra. Sadadiv went to Bhanwra with Azad. Both secretly reached that village. Azad felt happy when he stepped on his native land.

After a ten-long years, Azad met his beloved teacher Manoharlal. Azad prostrated on the feet of his master. Then Manoharlal hugged his disciple affectionately. Both were exchanged their well being.

Azad met his mother and took meal there. He and Sadasiv spent four days there and on the 5th day on account of ensuing police ride, both of them were left that village in the mid-night.

Bantukeshwar Dutt

During the bombing at the assembly, Bantukeshwar Dutt was the associate of Bhagat singh. Bhagat singh and B.K. Dutt were sentenced to transportation for life in the Delhi Assembly bomb case. After conviction they were transferred to Mianwali and Lahor jails respectively.

They started hunger strike for better treatment to political prisoners in jails. After a few days Bhagat singh was also shifted from Mianwali to Lahore central prison. Dutt was al-

ready there. They jointly addressed a letter to the home member, Government of India, enumerating their demands.

From here started a period of prolonged struggle for better treatment to political prisoners in jails.

Azad - Bhagat Singh

A famous revolutionary hailing from Uttar Pradesh. Chandrasekhar Azad became popular as 'Azad' when arrested during non-cooperation movement and questioned by the court, he repeatedly told his name as 'Azad'.

He believed that aggression was necessary to end the colonial rule. Azad became a member of the Hindustan Republican Association.

Azad took part in the Kakori train robbery conspiracy of 1925 and worked in association with the Bengal revolutionaries.

He became a leader of the 'Hindustan Social Republican Army' and the head of its military division.

He was involved in a number of incidents such as the second Lahore conspiracy, the Delhi conspiracy, the killing of Saunders in Lahore and the throwing of the bomb in the Central Assembly.

Azad shot himself at Alfred park in Allahabad while fighting with police.

Saunders was Killed

It was in February Simon Commission visited India. The purpose of its visit was to decide how much freedom and responsibility could be given to the people of India.

This commission had no Indian in it. Therefore the Indians were unhappy and annoyed. People decided to make it impossible for the commission to work.

They decided to drive it back to England. Wherever the commission went, people protested with black flags, shouting 'Simon go back'.

In October 1928, Simon commission arrived at Lahor. There it had to face a big procession against it 'Naujawan Bharat Sabha' arranged the procession. Thousands of people took part in it. Its leader was Punjab lion 'Lalajpat Rai'.

Trouble started near the railway station itself. The revolutionaries did not allow the Simon Commission to proceed.

The police remained helpless. It could not protect the members. By that time, the police superintendent ordered the lathi charge. The police began to beat people with heavy sticks. People started running. But Lalajpat Rai and his companions did not move.

'Saunders' an inhuman police officer rush forward and hit Lajpat Rai on the chest. With that

lethal blow the old lion fall down. Due to this he suffered for a month and died.

His death was a heavy loss for revolutionaries. They decided to revenge this heinous act and they should kill Saunders.

Azad planned to kill the killer of his beloved leader. On the appointed day, in the evening when Saunders was coming out of the police station Rajguru shot Saunders, at the same time Bhagat singh too shot Saunders.

Saunders fall down and dead. Bhagat singh and Rajguru escaped from the spot. The police was unable to find them.

Azad Group Escaped in Disguises

Saunders was murdered by the revolutionaries. The British government was shaken by such courage and nationalism of the Indian youth. They were hell bent on arresting the guilty.

The police C.I.D had began a search for the murderers all over the city.

But the Britishers were no match for the youths Chandrasekhar Azad, Bhagath singh and Rajguru.

These three escaped from Lahore. Bhagat dressed himself as a foreign youth and wore a hat. Rajguru left the place disguised as an ordinary workers.

Azad travelled as a Pandit(Scholar). All of them travelled by train in a first class bogie. The railway station was filled with a eagle-eyed C.I.D's.

But all the three escaped without any harm. The police searched and searched for Bhagath singh and Rajguru, but could not find the duo. Three months passed without any trace of them.

It was in April, 1929, the Central legislative Assembly met in Delhi.

The government decided to place two bills in the assembly, which were likely to harm the country's interests.

The condition was that even the Assembly refected the, the viceroy was entitled to use his special powers and approve them, and they woul become laws.

The Indian Socialist Republican Army decided to resist this move. Then they took this opportunity to spread the noble objective of their party and therefore decided to send Bhagat singh and Batukeshwar Dutt to Delhi to throw, two harmless bombs in the Legislative Assembly and get arrested.

Azad and Bhagat managed to secure, two visitor passes to enter the Assembly hall. The duo went into the Assembly hall using those passes to test their effectiveness two days before the assembly meeting. On the 8th April,

1929 Rajguru and Bhagat singh sat in the visitor's gallery.

The session commenced. The government placed the bills before the Assembly. The members rejected them.

Later, a member of the government began an announcement that the viceroy had exercised his special powers.

At once, a bomb fell from above and exploded casting a terrifying sound. Immediately another bomb fell. There were sounds of shooting too.

The entire hall was filled with smoke. People ran helter skelter. By the time, red pumplets fell from the visitor's gallery.

In them, the particulars of the Republican Army were given and the government was condemned.

The hall was filled with the slogan 'Long live revolution'. In fact the revolutionaries had not planned to kill any one. But this incident drew the attention of the entire world.

After the incident the government searched and seized the Lahore bomb factory and another factory in Shaharanpur. Bhagat and his comrades were put in Lahore prison.

The trial of bomb on assembly was completed. Finally the verdict was given. Bhagat singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru were awarded death sentence.

Azad Met Jawaharlal Nehru

Bhagat singh did not become popular because of his acts of terrorism, but because, he seemed to vindicate, for the moment, the honour of Lalalajpat Rai, and through him of the nation.

Motilal Nehru who has a sympathetic towards Azad send a Rs. 1500/- to Azad and asked him to left India and go to socialist Russia to settle there. But Tiger Azad refused to flee from his motherland.

Azad met Jawaharlal in Allahabad. He asked Jawahar, wheather the Lord Irvin and Gandhiji pact would fecilitate the release of revolutionaries from the jails.



But Jawahar sadly answered Azad, "Azad I am very sorry to say, that Gandhiji never encourage violence and he won't do any help for revolutionaries. I can tell you only onething - Please forgive me for my helplessness".

It was February 27, 1931 in the Alfred park, in Allahabad. An associate betrayed him. It was Tiwari who was the last comrade of Azad, cheated Azad for a Award of ten thousand rupees.