



Sankalp Smarak: Andaman & Nicobar

Why in News

Recently, a Sankalp Smarak was dedicated to the nation exactly 78 years (**29th December 2021**) after [Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's arrival](#) to India.

- The purpose of smarak is to **preserve this important event in history.**



Key Points

- **About:**
 - The Smarak built in **Andaman and Nicobar** is a tribute to the **resolve of the soldiers of the [Indian National Army](#)** and their innumerable sacrifices.
 - It is also a remainder of the values enshrined by Netaji himself, "**Nishtha, Kartavya aur Balidan**" or "**Commitment, Duty and Sacrifice**" that continue to underscore the ethos of the [Indian Armed Forces](#) and the resolve of the Indian Soldier.
- **Significance:**
 - It is also significant that **Netaji escaped British surveillance from Kolkata on 16th Jan 1941** and stepped back on Indian soil after nearly three years, at Port Blair Aerodrome on 29th Dec 1943.
 - **On 30th December 1943**, he **hoisted the national flag for the first time** on Indian soil, at Port Blair.
 - Netaji's visit to the islands as the **Head of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind (Known as Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind)** and **Supreme Commander of Indian National Army** marked a symbolic fulfilment of his promise that the Indian National Army would stand on Indian soil by the end of 1943.
 - This historic visit also marked a declaration of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands as the**

“first liberated territory of India”.

Subhash Chandra Bose

▪ About:

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (23rd January 1897 – 18th August 1945) is one of the **most celebrated freedom fighters of India.**



- In 1942, he earned the **title ‘Netaji’**, in Germany by the Indian soldiers of the **Azad Hind Fauj**.
- Bose is credited with the very famous slogan, **“Give me blood, and I shall give you freedom!” as well as “Jai Hind”.**
- He is also credited to be the **first man to call Mahatma Gandhi “Father of the Nation”**, in his address from Singapore.

▪ Indian National Army:

- Netaji reached Japanese-controlled Singapore from Germany in July 1943, issued from there his famous call, **‘Delhi Chalo’**, and announced the formation of the **Azad Hind Government and the Indian National Army** on 21st October 1943.
 - The INA was first formed under **Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara** and comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in the Malayan (present-day Malaysia) campaign and at Singapore.
 - The INA included both the **Indian prisoners of war** from Singapore and **Indian civilians** in South-East Asia. Its strength grew to 50,000.
 - The INA fought allied forces in 1944 inside the borders of India in Imphal and in Burma.
 - However, with the fall of Rangoon, Azad Hind Government ceased to be an effective political entity.
 - In November 1945 a British move to put the INA men on trial immediately sparked massive demonstrations all over the country.
- **Impact:** The I.N.A. experience **created the wave of disaffection in the British Indian army** during the 1945-46, which culminated in the great Bombay naval strike of February 1946 and was one of the most decisive reasons behind the British decision to make a quick withdrawal.
 - **Composition of I.N.A:** The I.N.A. was essentially non-communal, with Muslims quite prominent among its officers and ranks, and it also introduced the innovation of a **women’s detachment** named after the **Rani of Jhansi.**

Source: PIB

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