



## Indian National Army's Legacy

**For Prelims:** [Indian National Army \(INA\)](#), [Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose](#), [Kartavya Path](#), [Indian Independence League](#), [Provisional Government of Free India](#), Royal Indian Navy Mutiny, INA Trials.

**For Mains:** Role and legacy of Indian National Army.

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

A veteran of the [Indian National Army \(INA\)](#), celebrated his **99th birthday** by laying wreaths at the statue of [Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose](#) on [Kartavya Path](#).

- The veteran joined INA on **1st November 1943**, at the age of 17.

### What was the Indian National Army (INA)?

- **About INA:** It was a **military force** formed during [World War 2](#) to fight against British rule in India and played a crucial role in **India's struggle for independence**.
- **Formation:**
  - **Mohan Singh:** He proposed forming an **army from Indian prisoners of war (POWs)** and gained Japanese support. He initially led the INA, recruiting about **40,000 soldiers**.
    - However, conflicts with the Japanese **over troop size** led to his removal.
  - **Rashbehari Bose:** He was a veteran **revolutionary** and played a crucial role in **mobilizing support** for the INA and formed the [Indian Independence League](#) in Tokyo (1942).
  - **Subhas Chandra Bose:** On **25th August 1943**, he became the **Supreme Commander of the INA** and later, on **21st October 1943**, established the [Provisional Government of Free India](#) in Singapore.
    - It was recognized by **9 countries** including **Japan, Germany, Italy**, and China (under Wang Jingwei).
    - Under the **Chalo Delhi campaign**, the **INA** hoisted its flag on Indian soil at **Moirang, Manipur** but it ended in **Imphal** due to Japan's defeat in **World War 2**.
- **Collapse:** The **Japanese retreat (1944-45)** weakened the INA. After **Japan's surrender on 15th August 1945**, the INA also surrendered.
  - On **18th August 1945**, Subhas Bose reportedly **died in a Taiwan plane crash**, leading to the INA's disbandment.
- **INA Trials:** After INA's defeat, many INA soldiers were **court-martialed** as POWs, sparking **nationwide protests** that fueled India's independence movement.
  - The first trial at **the Red Fort in November 1945** involved three officers **Prem Kumar Sehgal (a Hindu), Shah Nawaz Khan (a Muslim), and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon (a**

**Sikh**), emphasizing the unity of the INA.

- At the **Bombay Congress session (September 1945)**, a resolution supported INA prisoners. Eminent lawyers **Bhulabhai Desai, Tej Bahadur Sapru, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Asaf Ali** defended them.
- **Major Nationalist Upsurges (1945-46)**: Three major violent confrontations took place during this period:
  - **21<sup>st</sup> November 1945**: Student protests in **Calcutta** against the INA trials led to police firing.
  - **11<sup>th</sup> February 1946**: Demonstrations erupted in **Calcutta** against the sentencing of INA officer **Rashid Ali**.
  - **18<sup>th</sup> February 1946**: The **Royal Indian Navy (RIN)** ratings mutinied in Bombay.

Click Here to Read:

- [What are Key Facts About Subhash Bose?](#)
- [What was SC Bose Role in India's Freedom Movement?](#)

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# NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE



## BIRTH

- 23rd January 1897 (celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas')

*Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar is announced every year on 23 January to honour the selfless service rendered by individuals/organisations in India in disaster management.*

## EARLY LIFE

- Cleared the **Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination** (1919) but resigned later
- Considered **Swami Vivekananda as his spiritual Guru**
- Newspaper - **Swaraj**

## POLITICAL LIFE IN CONGRESS (INC)

- Stood for **unqualified Swaraj** (self-governance)
- Actively participated in **Salt Satyagraha (1930)**
- **Opposed Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931)** & suspension of **Civil Disobedience Movement**
- Won INC Presidential Elections at Haripura (1938) and Tripuri (1939)
- **Resigned from INC (1939)** due to ideological differences with Gandhiji
- Founded '**the Forward Bloc**' party to consolidate the **Political Left**

## INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY (INA)

- Reached Japan-controlled Singapore in July **1943**, issued from there his famous slogan - '**Delhi Chalo**'  
**He also gave the slogan - 'Jai Hind'**
- Announced the formation of **Azad Hind Government** and INA in Oct 1943
- **INA fought allied forces (1944)** in **Imphal** (India) and in **Burma**

*INA was first formed under Mohan Singh and Japanese Major Iwaichi Fujiwara. It comprised Indian prisoners of war of the British-Indian Army captured by Japan in Malay and Singapore.*

## DEATH

- **Believably in 1945** when his plane crashed in Taiwan.



Drishti IAS

**What is the Significance of Indian National Army (INA)?**

- **Direct Challenge to British Authority:** The INA's formation and military campaigns **directly challenged** British rule by attempting to liberate India **militarily** with the help of **Axis powers (Japan and Germany)**.
- **Nationalist Unity:** The **INA trials** united Indians across **religious and political divides**, sparking nationwide protests.
  - Political factions like **Congress, Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha, and Communists** were united against British policies.
- **Impact on the Indian Armed Forces:** The INA inspired **sympathy** among Indian troops, leading to the **Royal Indian Navy Mutiny (1946)**, where **20,000 sailors revolted**, marking a turning point in British control.
- **Forced British Withdrawal:** In **1956**, **British PM** admitted the INA was key to Britain's exit, as fears of **Indian military no longer loyal to the British crown** hastened independence.
- **Legacy and Symbolism:** The INA became a **symbol of armed resistance**, inspiring future generations in India's defense and strategic outlook.
  - The INA's slogan "**Jai Hind**" remains a **rallying cry for national unity**.

**Click Here to Read: [What are Key Facts about Rash Behari Bose?](#)**

## Conclusion

The **Indian National Army (INA)** played a crucial role in India's independence by directly challenging British rule, fostering **nationalist unity, and inspiring armed forces revolts**. Its impact hastened British withdrawal, and its **legacy continues** to influence India's strategic outlook, military ethos, and national identity.

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

Discuss the role of the Indian National Army (INA) in India's struggle for independence.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### **Prelims**

**Q. In the context of Colonial India, Shah Nawaz Khan, Prem Kumar Sehgal and Gurbaksh Singh Dhillon are remembered as (2021)**

- (a) leaders of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement
- (b) members of the Interim Government in 1946
- (c) members of the Drafting Committee in the Constituent Assembly
- (d) officers of the Indian National Army

**Ans: (d)**

**Q. During the Indian Freedom Struggle, who of the following raised an army called 'Free Indian Legion'? (2008)**

- (a) Lala Hardayal
- (b) Rashbehari Bose
- (c) Subhas Chandra Bose

(d) V.D. Savarkar

**Ans: (c)**

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**Mains**

- Q.** Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian Phase. Elaborate. (2019)
- Q.** Highlight the difference in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. (2016)
- Q.** How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss. (2015)
- Q.** In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? (2014)

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