

REMEMBERING BAJI RAO I

ON HIS BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

(18 August 1700 – 28 April 1740)



- ★ He was a general of the **Maratha Empire** in India.
- ★ He served as **Peshwa (Prime Minister)** to the **fifth Maratha Chhatrapati (Emperor) Shahu** from **1720** until his death. He is also known by the name **Bajirao Ballal**.

❖ **CHILDHOOD & EARLY LIFE**

- ★ Bajirao was born on **18 August 1700** into a Marathi Chitpavan Brahmin family as the son of **Balaji Vishwanath** and **Radhabai**. He had a younger brother called **Chimnaji Appa**.
- ★ His father was the **first Peshwa** of **Chhatrapati Shahu**. As a young boy he often used to accompany his father on military campaigns and was well trained by the Maratha cavalry generals. Under his father's able guidance, he grew up to be a disciplined and highly skilled warrior.
- ★ His father was treacherously arrested by **Maharaja Shahu's army-in-chief Dabhaji Thorat** in **1716**. Bajirao chose to accompany his father to jail and remained with him for two years till he was released. He travelled with his father to Delhi in **1718**.

❖ LATER YEARS

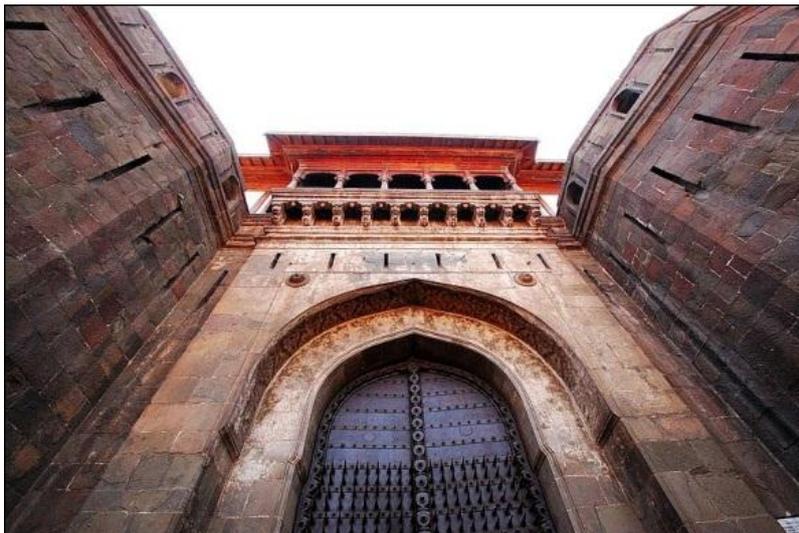
- ★ His father **Vishwanath died in 1720**. Chhatrapati Shahu immediately announced the appointment of Bajirao as the new Peshwa even though the young man was barely **20** years old.
- ★ Bajirao was a tall and well-built man who in spite of his young age possessed great military skills. His appointment to the prestigious position of Peshwa at such a young age made many in the Maratha court jealous, but it did not take Bajirao long to prove that Shahu had made the right decision in choosing him.
- ★ From the very beginning he set his eyes upon extending the Maratha Empire. He embarked on his first major campaign in **1723** and conquered Malwa followed by **Gujarat**. Then he went on to annex most of central India and even dared to attack the imperial Delhi.
- ★ Eventually the administrative capital of the Maratha Empire was moved from Satara to the new city of **Pune in 1728** at his suggestion. Chhatrapati Shahu had tremendous faith in Bajirao who fearlessly confronted the Mughals and played a major role in weakening their stronghold on the Indian subcontinent.
- ★ Bajirao led several military campaigns over a career spanning two decades. He is credited to have created the later Kingdoms of Scindias (**Ranoji Shinde**) of **Gwalior**, **Holkars (Malharrao)** of **Indore**, **Gaekwads (Pilaji)** of **Baroda**, and **Pawars (Udaiji)** of **Dhar** as part of the Maratha Empire.
- ★ The courageous warrior was highly skilled in military manoeuvres and warfare. He fought over **41** major battles and many other smaller ones, and is reputed never to have lost a battle. He is especially noted for his victory over **Bangash Khan** who was regarded as the bravest commander of the Mughal army.

❖ MAJOR BATTLES

- ★ Bajirao was known for his military tactics and the Battle of Palkhed which he fought against the **Nizam-ul-Mulk** of Hyderabad is considered a great example of his brilliant execution of military strategy. Eventually the Nizam was defeated by the Marathas and Bajirao was hailed as the hero of the Marathas' resounding victory.

❖ PERSONAL LIFE & LEGACY

- ★ Bajirao's first marriage was to Kashibai with whom he had two sons: **Nanasaheb and Raghunathrao.**
- ★ His second marriage was to, the daughter of Maharaja Chhatrasal of Panna by a Muslim wife. Mastani was a beautiful and brave woman, skilled in horse-riding, spear-throwing and swordsmanship. However, Mastani was never accepted by Bajirao's mother and brother as she was a half-Muslim. This marriage also caused a rift in the orthodox Hindu Pune society of the time.
- ★ Mastani gave birth to a son who was called **Krishnarao** at birth. However the orthodox Hindus did not allow the couple to raise their son as a Hindu. So the boy was renamed **Shamsher Bahadur** and raised a Muslim.
- ★ Bajirao died of an illness on **28 April 1740.** Mastani too died shortly afterwards. According to popular folklore she committed suicide, though the exact details of her death are not known.
- ★ Bajirao's legend has inspired several books, television series, and films, one of the most popular ones being the movie '**Bajirao Mastani**' (2015) directed by **Sanjay Leela Bhansali.**



Shaniwarwada palace fort in Pune was built as the seat of the Peshwa rulers during Bajirao's reign.

REMEMBERING NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ON HIS DEATH ANNIVERSARY

(January 23, 1897 – August 18, 1945)

❖ EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

- ★ Born on **January 23, 1897** in **Cuttack, Orissa**
- ★ Parents - **Janakinath Bose** and **Prabhavati Devi**
- ★ He had his primary education at Protestant European School in Cuttack
- ★ In **1913**, he got admitted to the Presidency College where he studied briefly
- ★ He later joined the Scottish Church College at the University of Calcutta and passed his **B.A. in 1918 in Philosophy**



❖ ICS EXAMINATION

- ★ He came fourth in the ICS examination
- ★ But, he did not want to work under British
- ★ He resigned from his civil service job on **April 23, 1921**

❖ **BOSE IN INDIA**

- ★ He joined the Indian National Congress in 1927 under the leadership of **C.R. Das**
- ★ He worked with Jawaharlal Nehru
- ★ Netaji was the source of inspiration for the youth and the masses
- ★ He made several youth join the national movement
- ★ He was not satisfied with the peaceful means of struggle adopted by Gandhi
- ★ He was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in **1938 and 1939**

❖ **FORWARD BLOC PARTY**

- ★ Bose founded the Forward Bloc Party in **May 1939**
- ★ Party functioned as a wing within the Congress
- ★ Forward Bloc was declared to be a radical and progressive party
- ★ Bose declared that his party would employ all possible means to wrest independence from the British

❖ **BOSE IN GERMANY**

- ★ Disguised as an Afghan, Bose escaped from India and reached Germany.
- ★ He met Hitler, the leader of Germany and sought his help.
- ★ Though Hitler refused to concede Bose's demand for a free Indian Government, he was allowed to start a **Free India Centre** in Berlin on November 1942
- ★ Centre established the **Azad Hind Radio**
- ★ Bose organised **Azad Hind Fauz** or the Indian Legion in Germany

❖ **BOSE IN SOUTH EAST ASIA**

- ★ Bose went to Japan and met the Prime Minister of Japan
- ★ Then, he went to Burma in **1942**

- ★ Burma had been then occupied by the Japanese
- ★ Japanese had captured a large number of Indian prisoners who served under the British. They were more than 20,000 in number
- ★ They were released from the Japanese

❖ **INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY**

- ★ Subash Chandra Bose formed the Indian National Army with these Indians
- ★ In 1943, Subash went to Singapore
- ★ There, the Presidentship of the Indian Independence League was handed over to Subash by **Rash Behari Bose**
- ★ Subash became the Supreme commander of the INA or Azad Hind Fauj on **August 25, 1943**
- ★ His slogan **Jai Hind** echoed throughout India and it became the popular form of salutation
- ★ **Delhi Chalo** was another famous slogan of Bose

❖ **BRIGADES OF INA**

- ★ Subhash Brigade
- ★ Gandhi Brigade
- ★ Azad Brigade
- ★ Jhansi Rani Regiment - under the captaincy of **Lakshmi Seghal** from Tamil Nadu

❖ **PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT**

- ★ On **October 21, 1943**, a Provisional Government of Free India was formed in Singapore
- ★ Bose was the supreme commander of the Army and Head of the State
- ★ A Cabinet was formed under Bose

❖ **ARMED STRUGGLE**

- ★ On **October 23, 1943**, Provisional Government headed by Bose decided to declare war on Britain

- ★ Bose's army reached upto Manipur, the North Eastern part of India on March 21, 1944
- ★ Unfortunately due to heavy rains and other adverse circumstances, the army met with disaster
- ★ Soldiers had to retreat. Many lost their lives in Burma
- ★ In 1945, Japan was forced to surrender during World War II.
- ★ Indian soldiers were arrested
- ★ Netaji hurried back to Tokyo from Bangkok

❖ **PLANE CRASH**

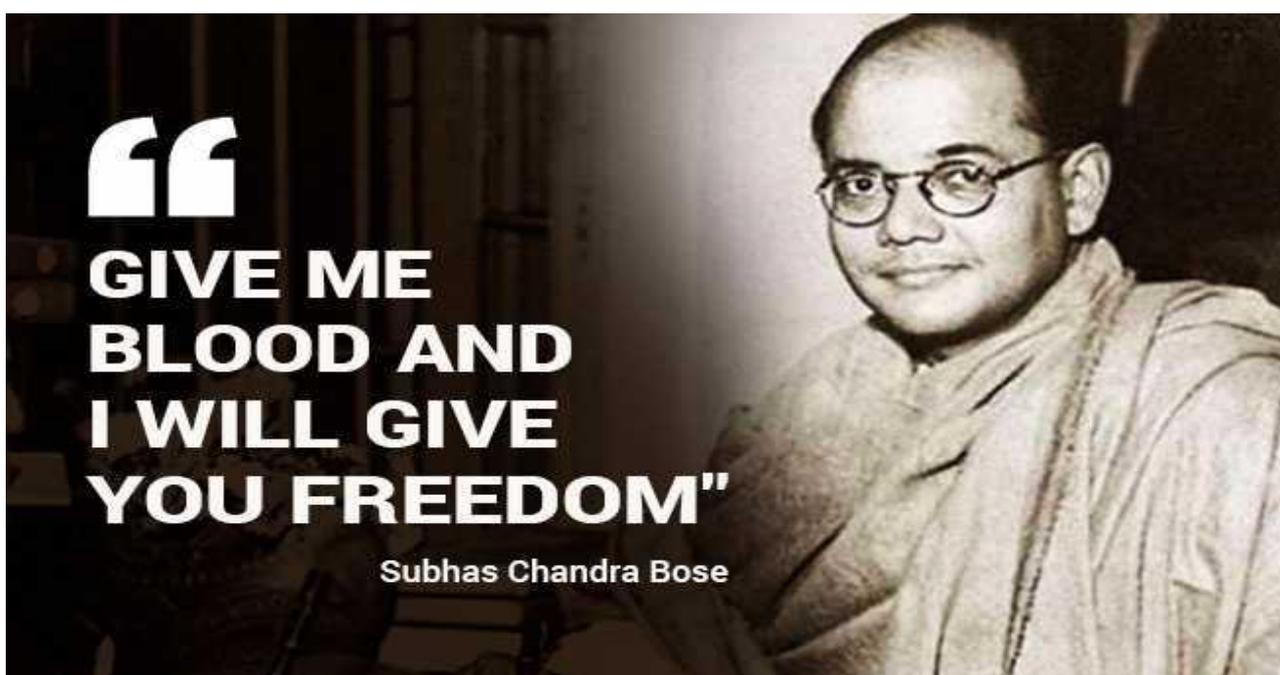
- ★ It is believed that Bose was killed in an air crash on the way in Taipei on **August 18, 1945**

❖ **PERSONAL LIFE**

- ★ Wife - Emilie Schenkl
- ★ Daughter – Anita Bose Pfaff

❖ **BOOKS WRITTEN BY BOSE**

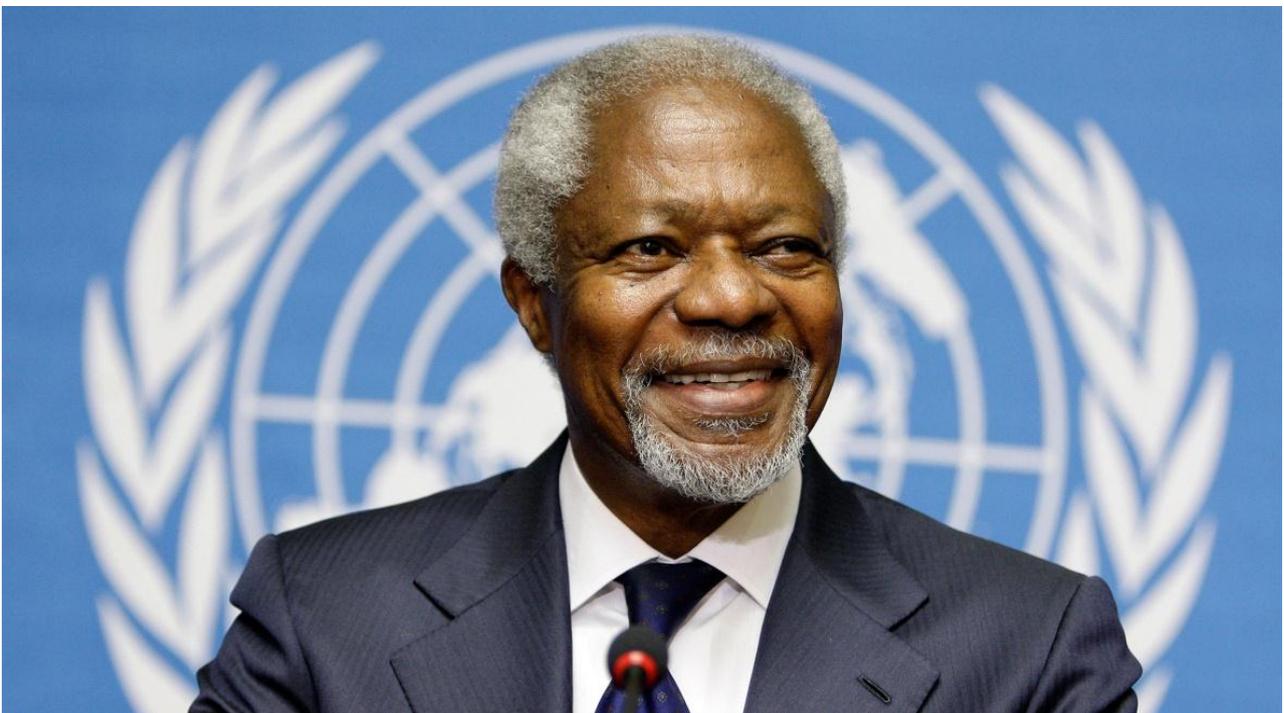
- ★ The Indian Struggle
- ★ An Indian Pilgrim



Mr. KOFI ANNAN IS NO MORE

(April 8, 1938 – August 18, 2018)

- ★ **Seventh** Secretary General of the United Nations
- ★ First Black African to be appointed as Secretary General
- ★ Period – January 1, 1997 to December 31, 2006
- ★ Recipient of the **2001** Nobel Peace Prize along with UN



❖ EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

- ★ Born in the Kofandros section of **Kumasi** in the Gold Coast (now **Ghana**) on April 8, 1938
- ★ He attended an elite boarding school and at the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi
- ★ He finished his UG in Economics at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1961
- ★ From there, he went to Geneva, where he began his graduate studies in international affairs and launched his U.N. career.

❖ **ROLE OF ANNAN IN UNITED NATIONS**

- ★ In **1962**, Kofi Annan started working as a Budget Officer for the World Health Organisation
- ★ Annan worked for the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa in Ethiopia, its emergency force in Egypt
- ★ He started working at the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva in **1980**
- ★ In **1983**, he became the Director of administrative management services of the UN Secretariat in New York
- ★ In the late **1980s**, Annan was appointed as an Assistant Secretary-General of the UN in three consecutive positions
- ★ Mr. Annan served as the Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping between **March 1992 and December 1996**

❖ **ANNAN AS SECRETARY GENERAL**

- ★ Annan was appointed as the Secretary-General of UN on **December 13, 1996 by the UN Security Council**
- ★ He is the **first office holder** to be elected from the UN staff itself
- ★ Annan succeeded **Boutros Boutros-Ghali** of Egypt as the **7th** Secretary General of UN
- ★ He was re-elected for a second term in **2001**

❖ **ACTIVITIES IN UNITED NATIONS**

- ★ Annan recommended for the expansion of Security Council and a host of other UN reforms
- ★ He proposed for a fundamental overhaul of the **United Nations Secretariat**
- ★ Annan played a key role in the establishment of **Millennium Development Goals in 2000**

- ★ Annan suggested the establishment of a United Nations Information Technology Service
- ★ On 26 July 2000, **United Nations Global Compact** was officially launched at UN headquarters in New York
- ★ Annan proposed the establishment of a **Global AIDS and Health Fund**

❖ **DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES OF ANNAN**

- ★ During the invasion of Iraq in **2003**, Annan called on US and UK not to invade without the support of UN
- ★ He played an important role in the transition from military to civilian rule in **Nigeria in 1998**
- ★ He supported the efforts of East Timor to secure independence from Indonesia in 1998
- ★ Annan supported sending a UN peacekeeping mission to **Darfur, Sudan**

❖ **POST UN CAREER OF ANNAN**

- ★ In **2007**, Annan established the Kofi Annan Foundation
- ★ In **February 2012**, Annan was appointed as the **UN-Arab League envoy to Syria** in an attempt to end the civil war
- ★ Annan served as the Chairman of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security
- ★ Chancellor of University of Ghana from **2008 – 2018**
- ★ In **September 2016**, Annan was appointed to lead a UN Commission to investigate the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh

❖ **PERSONAL LIFE AND DEATH**

- ★ Wives - **Titi Alakija and Nane Maria Lagergren**
- ★ Children – **Kojo, Ama and Nina**
- ★ Annan died on **August 18, 2018** in Bern, Switzerland at the age of **80**.