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Azad Hind Fauz: Objective, Feature and Contribution for Our Times

Received 10 January 2026
Revised 25 May 2026
Accepted 26 May 2026
Published 27 May 2026

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Introduction

The National Anthem of Azad Hind Fauz encapsulates the crux of the philosophy of Subhas Chandra Bose and his vision for the future of independent India. It primarily encompasses how people from all over India come together to praise their country and wish for good fortune, happiness, and ease for everyone in India. The people of India from Himalaya to the sea hail, "Long Live India!" and celebrate the beauty of their country.

National Anthem of Azad Hind Fauz

May Good Fortune, Happiness and ease rain down upon India;
On Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat, Maratha on Orissa and Bengal,
On the Indian Ocean, on the Vindhya Mountains,
On the Himalayas, the blue Jammu and the Ganges.
May the ways be praised, from Thee our life from thy body gain hope.
May the rising sun shine down upon the world and exalt the name of India
In every heart may thy love grow and thy sweetness take shape
So that every dweller in every province.
Every faith united, every secret and mystery put aside.
May come into thy embrace, in plaited garlands of love.
May the rising sun shine down upon the world and exalt the name of India.
May the early morning with the wings of a bird praise Her. And with all the power and fullness of the winds bringing freshness into life.
Let us join together and shout: 'Long Live India' , our beloved country.
The rising sun shines upon the earth, exalted the name of India.
Victory! May India's name be praised.
(Toye 2011, p. 18)

The national anthem of AHF demonstrates the central objectives of the national unification in which he mentions that all the regions ranging from the greater Himalayas to the southern sea and from the western ghats to the eastern ghats. Such territorial description of the country reminds us of 'Akhand Bharat', that Subhas was talking as an idea of

India . The anthem of AHF mentions that India is a multiverse amalgamation of different culture and tradition through and through, that summarises unity in diversity. It's the different flowers put together to form a garland. The prosperity of India in term of economical growth, industrial revolution and progress in agriculture has a clear mention in his treatise. He advocated for the holistic development of the country. The Anthem basically call for the recognition of the united India amongst the disparate hues that our country is a constituent of, and world should acknowledge this the very unison in differentiation. Therefore, if we look at the National Anthem of the AHF in unanimity, it lays down the principles and philosophy that determines the future of India. Thus, this chapter examines the fundamentals of Azad Hind Fauz, its objectives, and its role in the struggle for India's Freedom. It also discusses how Bose's ideas concerning freedom differs from those of other nationalists such as Gandhi, Ambedkar and other modern leaders of colonial India.

The Context

The British ruled India for more than 200 years. Two important developments require mention in the history of national struggle. Firstly, in 1818, the downfall of Marathas led to the establishment of British colonies across length and breadth of India. Secondly, the first war of independence took place in 1857, which has caused in people the rage within the nationalist for complete independence of India. Therein, the struggle for India's independence was shaped by two beliefs, one section acquired the method of non-violence and other faction adopted violent method to struggle. Subhas Chandra Bose belong to the latter faction by establishing Azad Hind Fauz (AHF) which took active part in the struggle for freedom from 1943-1945. With the successful spread of Indian national Army (INA) across the south Asia, it had become the only hope for the people of India to achieve independence. He was jailed many times but his determination for freedom could not stop him. (Nagesh,2007, p. 9). His famous slogan "Tum Mujhe Khoon Do, Main Tumhe Azadi Dunga", had percolated within the nerve of the people who had faith in the violent method to achieve freedom. A pan Indian support for Bose was not an accidental phenomenon, rather several events ranging from the defeat of the 1818 Maratha regime, the first war of independence 1857 to the 1911 partition, Jallianwala Bagh Massacre etc. All collectively became the grounds to support Bose's vision of armed struggle against British rule in India. The people had realized that violent method is the only path they could see hope in. This idea was supported by many poets who sing songs of the freedom struggle by 1920s (Toye 2010, p. 34). After his rejection to serve the British government and resignation from Indian National Congress, Bose decided to form a powerful and determined army which could fight against the British Government. He formed the Provincial Government of Azad Hind in Singapore during 1943. (Drishti,2021,p2). While he flew the country and took exile abroad, he therefore initiated freedom struggle during world war II (1939-1945).

Formation of Azad Hind Fauz

Azad Hind Fauz was formed by Indian nationalist Mohan Singh in 1942 which is later revived by Subhas Chandra Bose. It is also known as Indian National Army (INA). This name was abandoned due to the differences between Indian and Japanese leaderships and later reinstated as AHF by Bose. When, Giani Pritam Singh (Sikh Missionary and a freedom fighter) left Bangkok, he came in contact with the officers of the Indian National Army. It was Captain Mohan Singh, who was the senior most officer at Jitra, met Giani Pritam Singh and requested him to join the Indian National Army. (Ayer,1972, p. 31). Similarly there are many officers like Pritam Singh who had joined INA due to its efficiency and effectiveness in operation.

Objective

The Azad Hind Fauz (AHF) or Indian national Army (INA) had a clear objective and plans to serve. The first and the most important objective of AHF was to free India from the clutches of the Britishers. To make India feel supreme in the eyes of the foreigners. AHF wanted to promote quick thinking and self-reliance among Indians by encouraging warriors, thinkers as they would be vital for the establishment of laws and parliament after independence (Toye 2010, p. 35). It also want to formulate an independent and strong army for India not only for the security but also for participating in the developmental programs of independent India. Through a strong military, strong international relation establishment was also a very vital objective of AHF. The fundamental objective of AHF was not merely to take the control of rule from British, but to achieve complete swaraj, in which AHF would contribute to a great extent. The role of AHF was also expected for the speedy reform of the society and initiating industrialization. The training of the AHF aimed at developing responsibility and honor among the officers of all ranks. They were expected to established thinking of themselves as Indians first and Indians at the last. (Ayer 1972, p. 34)

Features

Bose had clearly laid down the characteristics and features for a strong and successful Army. The Army was to be determined and goal oriented. It had the quality of both the organizations i.e. IIL and INA at the same time. Inclusion of women in the army with a woman leader/commander such as Lakshmi Singhal was historic and unique. The army had to take an oath to fight against the enemies till their last breath under the national tricolour. The AHF has representation from every sector, religion, caste, and sections of society. This was the great uniting force adopted by Bose in AHF. It was also a great step against the British government's divide and rule policy. Participation of students and youths in the AHF was encouraged. Recently, following the path of Bose, the current government has launched a historic opportunity for the youth to become Agni-veer. By including youth in the Army, Bose wanted to exalt the youth at an early age for the service of the nation. Strength, heroism and sacrifice was the key to the

functioning of the AHF, It is said that "Strength which came from sacrifice, heroism and fortitude not from superior rations and equipment" (Toye 2010, p. 132). Toye in his writings has mentioned, "When India got freedom all those who are not in the service of the British Government and are efficient in their work will be taken over by the new government……provided they were not pro-British at heart, and……had not gone out of their way to harm the independence movement."(Toye, 2010, p. 132). No faith on non-violence and Gandhism. AHF did not believe in non-violence acts but instead simply reciprocated the acts according to the actions received. Radio as the medium of information broadcast and exalting the youth was the greatest feature of AHF. AHF abolished all the barriers which could divide the Indians such as separate kitchen and religious difference within the army (Ayer 1972, p. 34)

Contribution and Impacts

Azad Hind Fauz had a profound impact on India as well as Indians, inspiring millions and developing a confidence to fight for freedom from British rule. It also demonstrated to the British government that Indians were unwilling to serve foreign rule. The impact of Azad Hind Fauz is not only military but also it seeded the courage and determination in the hearts of Indians for self-rule. The Fauz made the British government realize the great patriotism of Indians that they would not follow the service to the foreign reign. (Barman 2020, p. 78). The Indian National Army (INA) was supported by many countries and social reformers in its revolt for establishment. Meghnad Saha introduced principles of national planning, which included the ideas of self-determination, equality among citizens, economic development, and social justice. Bose proposed that India should focus on industrial needs and requirements, create a research council and adopt a policy for the growth and development of basic industries. He also suggested surveys for the economic and security of industries necessary for the National Planning Commission (Bose 1995, p. 71).

Conclusion

People in East Asia supported Azad Hind Fauz, an army of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose composed of soldiers from all castes and different languages, on their march to freedom in India, singing 'Kadam Kadam Badhaye ja'. Japan and Germany surrendered and the mission failed, but the Army continued his policies and missions after Netaji's death in a plane crash. India has a well-developed army that is one of the most powerful in the world which do have influence of Bose. This strong and ambitious force is what makes India a powerful and a developed country intend to serve to the world as well.

It is said that, "India is an epitome of the world, and almost all the problems of the world are to be found in this country. Thus, the solving of any problem in India amounts to the solving of a problem in the world." (Sanyal, 1949 p. 237) India has survived through many

struggles and sufferings, hardships, and conflicts. It is because of the people who fought for the country and followed the path of Bose.

Having a great sense of respect and vision, the government of India has started many programs and opportunities for the youth and provide opportunities for the youth to participate in getting Army training through schemes such as Agniveer. It has also started NCC (National Cadet Corps) and NDA (National Defence Army) for both young girls and boys where they learn to follow the path of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Now, it is the most important task and responsibility to maintain brotherhood and equality among the people of India and Netaji has rightly said that "Thorny indeed is the road to freedom, nevertheless, it is also a road to immorality" (Sanyal 1949, p. 238).

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