Chapter-VI

Conclusion

The World War II in Europe provided an opportunity to the Indian revolutionaries in South-East Asia where they led violent struggle for independence of their country. Many personalities like Sardar Pritam Singh, Baba Amar Singh, and Rash Behari Bose etc. were working against British imperialism abroad for many years where by forming societies and institutions. But the diplomatic compulsions always hampered their efforts. The entry of Japan and its various victories in Indonesia, Malaya, Singapore and Burma changed the situations and created chances for revolutionaries to seek support and sympathy of those who were fighting against British imperialism.

Japan was also in a dire need of an outside support in the given situation. It knew the importance of India in term of culture, man power and other resources. Therefore, it opened itself for all those who were willing to be a part and parcel of ‘Co-Prosperity sphere in South-East Asia’ so that British hegemony could be challenged and eliminated from the entire Asia. The Indian revolutionaries especially Sardar Pritam Singh and Rash Behari Bose immediately took initiatives and started interactions with Japanese authorities as well as among themselves. Their efforts bore fruit and it was decided during the Bangkok conference to raise an organisation which would be the custodian of struggle for freedom of India abroad. Japan, Germany, Italy and other countries
which were fighting against the Allies tried to give support to the cause of Indian liberation movement.

The genesis of I.N.A. was the result of common interest of Indian revolutionaries as well as foreign powers especially Japan. The whole period of Mohan Singh's army i.e. from January to December 1942, I.N.A. was dominated, directed and controlled by the two officers and two agencies of Japanese Intelligence Services. Japanese never trusted I.N.A. That is why Mohan Singh raised strong objections against the treatment given by Japanese forces to I.N.A. officers and sepoys. Mohan Singh wanted complete freedom from Japanese dominance and disobeyed the directions not only from Japanese Militarists but Rash Behari Bose also. Rash Behari Bose was very puzzled and he asked Japanese Military Authority to remove Mohan Singh from the Generalship of I.N.A. when Mohan Singh disbanded the I.N.A. as an army, it increased the problems of not only to the Indian Independence League but also to that of the Japanese. Therefore Japanese arrested Mohan Singh and mostly the I.N.A. personnel left I.N.A. in the revolt of such treatment meted out to Mohan Singh.

In February-March, 1943, Rash Behari Bose and his aides started to persuade I.N.A. personnel to rejoin I.N.A. but they could not succeed. Now they requested to the Japanese highest ruling authority that Subhash Bose must be brought to Singapore to lead the whole movement. After some hesitations, Japanese authority gave permission and Netaji arrived Singapore in the first week of July, 1943.
Subhash Chandra Bose was an ardent realist in political sphere. He believed in the bargaining politics rather than idealism. That is why he could succeed in having more freedom for his reorganized army than that of Mohan Singh. But the tragedy of Subhash and his reorganized I.N.A. was that they had lost all those soldiers who were trained and capable. Therefore, he called for Indians residing in South-East Asia to allow their sons and daughters to join army to fight against the British imperialism whose nature was quite oppressive and exploitative. Consequently, thousands of civilians including women flocked to join the training centres. But this fresh effort to train the incumbents could not give required results. Thus, the whole second half of 1943 was the period of training for the newly recruited personnals.

Netaji called for 'Total Mobilisation' by exhausting all Indians residing in South-East Asia to contribute their men, money and material. The provisional Government of Free India, which Bose established in October 1943, brought the question of India’s freedom struggle out of the narrow domestic sphere of the British Empire into the broad field of international politics. Japan’s keen interest in the formation of I.N.A. and recognition of the Government of Free India followed by Germany, Italy and other Asian powers had given a new status to India. But in reality Japanese authority made no sincere efforts in their commitment which was given during the Bangkok Conference and various meetings between I.I.L. leaders and military and civil officers of Japan. Despite many requests on the part of I.N.A. officers and even from Netaji, Japanese military authority did not give any
adequate and desired help during the Imphal-Kohima campaign in 1944. It forced Netaji to go to Tokyo where he could succeed in having more freedom for his army. However, situation was badly turning against I.N.A. as well as Axis powers because Japanese could not even succeed in providing food and medicine to I.N.A. That is why starvation and diseases took heavy toll. Therefore, I.N.A. failed in their campaigns. I.N.A. proved that the Indian soldier was not merely a mercenary but was a valorous volunteer who did not hesitate even to lay down his life for shake of his country as a true son of his Motherland. The officers of the army demonstrated their skill to lead independently and their human resourcefulness in meeting difficulties. Above all, the organisation of the Indian national Army set a brilliant example of communal harmony and comradeship during their struggle against colonial masters.

Indian National Army was a warning to India’s foreign rulers that they could no longer depend implicitly upon the loyalty of the Indian mercenary troops to keep India under their control. Subhash Bose failed, he hitched his wagon to a wanning star. During the whole period of II World War, Japan did not show any appreciable and cooperative interest in increasing the power of I.N.A. Likewise, the collaboration of Netaji with Germany failed to achieve the desired result. He resisted Germans or Japanese attempts to use him as a tool. He conducted his operations in Germany and South-East Asia as an independent leader.
He also envisaged social, economic and political equality for all as a goal of I.N.A.'s struggle for freedom through regeneration of new social order. The leadership of the Indian National Army was of the firm opinion that without the education for all, gender equality, agricultural and industrial development, good health, and political freedom from Britishers would be only the change of oppressor. Although in political methods, the I.N.A. was different from Mahatma Gandhi and his Congress, but on the social objective, they held similar opinions with more advance ideology than that of the Congress. Almost all the revolutionaries including Rash Behari Bose and Subhash Bose had great regard to Mahatma Gandhi and his non-political ideologies. They disassociated themselves from Mahatma Gandhi and Indian National Congress only for fighting against British imperialism but as nation got freedom they were curious to see Mahatma as the 'Father of Nation'.

The remarkable finding of I.N.A. was that it had clear and sound foreign policy in which every nation had to respect the integrity of all other nations. They could also succeed in establishing work-culture among their civil and military personnels. Bose had a clear vision for future India that after independence the democratic system would be discontinued for several years till teaching the lesion of patriotism/nationalism to the Indian people. This value which he wanted to inculcate among the Indians is amply needed today's context in such a rampant corrupt policy and society. So his ideas are quite relevant even today.
Britishers saw a conspiracy behind the defection of those officers and sepoys of Indian Army who raised I.N.A. under Capt. Mohan Singh. They did not give due importance to this also. But the response of whole country in support of trialed personnel compelled the Congress leadership to take the side of these heroes.

Gandhi and Nehru legitimised the I.N.A. The trial of I.N.A. personnel was most significant for both the Congress and Muslim League to increase their claim and make their bases strong among the electorates. The trial created great excitement among the leaders of various political parties, common men, Media and generated the harmonious feelings among the people of whole India irrespective of their religion.

Finally, one can extract the inference from the foregoing analysis in this thesis of historical developments during the whole period of II World War that all the streams of Indian nationalism were going to stand against the British imperialism and the aims and objects of I.N.A. were not different from that of Congress and Mahatma Gandhi. Like Gandhi, Bose had also future planning and programme for the development of the nation and society. The Planning Board established by Bose during his Presidency of the Indian National Congress was continued in post-independent India by Jawaharlal Nehru for the over-all development of the country in proper framework. Had he been alive and continued to participate in Indian polity, he would have been the most popular leader of India. He could give a new lead to the nation in making and build India quite strong not only in Asia but also in the world. The
leadership of the Congress which is ruling even now could no longer be in existence in the country. He is still enjoying the confidence of the Indians who have utmost respect for this great son of India in their hearts till today.