



I.N.A.CHIEF

# Senapati Bhonsle



father of national discipline Scheme

Dr.d.g.naik

# **Senapati Bhonsale**

## **THE I. N. A. CHIEF & FATHER OF NATIONAL DISCIPLINE SCHEME**

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To them  
Who laid their lives with a will  
to make their motherland free.

*"Lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime"*

\*

Secretary to the President of India  
Rashtrapati Bhawan  
New Delhi 4.  
4 April 1964

Dear Shri Ajgaonkar

The President is glad to know that you intend to publish a short biography of the late General Bhonsle. The National Discipline Scheme with which his name will always be associated, performs a useful role in the training of youth and the President hopes that its scope will be expanded in the years to come.

Yours sincerely  
S. Datt

Shri G. F. Ajgaonkar,  
336/2 Bhai Jiwan Lane,  
Bombay 2.

\*

## **FOREWARD**

It must be acknowledged at the very outset that my friend Shri G. F. Ajgaonkar is the author of this biography of Senapati Jagannathrao Bhonsale. I have been knowing Shri. Ajgaonkar for quite some time. He is a research worker in historical records and a noted author of books in Marathi. He hails from the village Ajgaon in Sawantwadi Taluka. Jagannathrao also hailed from a wadi of the same village. For many generations there has been a very close and consistent friendship between the two families of Shri Ajgaonkar and Jagannathrao Bhonsale. Even as a boy Shri Ajgaonkar became a great favourite of Jagannathrao.

In 1946, when the I. N. A. prisoners were in the Red Fort of Delhi, Shah Nawaz Khan and Dhilon among them had received some publicity. It was at this stage that Shri Ajgaonkar wrote a biographical article on his friend Jagannathrao in the Navashakti, a Marathi daily of Bombay, under the caption 'A Maharashtriya in the Red Fort !' The article caused quite a sensation. The people were agreeably surprised to learn for the first time that Jagannathrao Bhonsale of Tiroden-Sawantwadi, the I. N. A. Chief was actually among the prisoners in the Red Fort ! Navashakti, naturally was flooded with calls from all corners demanding further information about the imprisoned I. N. A. Chief. The Editor of Navashakti obliged by engaging Shri Ajgaonkar to write a series of articles on Jagannathrao.

After his release from the Red Fort when Jagannathrao came to Bombay he very much appreciated Shri Ajgaonkar's selfless work, gave him important interviews on burning problems of the day and finally secured his close association and co-operation as a publicity volunteer of the

I. N. A. Relief Committee. Shri Ajgaonkar thus came to be very cordially related to Jagannathrao and very soon became his confidant by dint of his agreeable qualities. Jagannathrao repeatedly pressed him to accept some honorarium for his work and went to the extent of offering to set up a press for him to facilitate publicity; but Shri Ajgaonkar thankfully declined both. He was so happy on enjoying Jagannathrao's confidence and close association that nothing else would allure him.

There was, however, one thing Shri Ajgaonkar devoutly wished for. He was eager to place before the public a full account of the tantalising but exemplary life of the illustrious Senapati. He lived with Jagannathrao in Bombay during Mrs. Chandrikadevi Bhonsale's short illness and last days. It was then that Jagannathrao disclosed his heart to Shri Ajgaonkar. He related from memory the details about the Eastern Front, about reverses and victories, his own role in the war for the allies and the I. N. A. He spoke very feelingly about the lack of discipline among our younger generation and politicians of the day as well. He explained at length his own plans for toning up the moral standards of the Nation. Shri Ajgaonkar took copious notes of what he heard from Jagannathrao and what he himself observed of him very closely and very soon prepared a tentative outline of Jagannathrao's biography. Although averse to publicity of any kind Jagannathrao liked the idea of the biography being published as it was likely to spot-light the very urgent need of national discipline among the younger generation of our country. Shri Ajgaonkar got the biographical data approved by Jagannathrao in due course of time.

In 1952, Jagannathrao got elected to the Lokasabha on the Congress ticket. He had to leave for Delhi; but he had not forgotten the biographer - his friend Shri Ajgaonkar.

Jagannathrao invited him to Delhi to finalise the plans of publishing the biography and also to study his National Discipline Scheme and write about it. Shri Ajgaonkar also was keen on going to Delhi to give finishing touches to the biography if not for anything else. But the intended trip did not come off ! On account of unavoidable private difficulties Shri Ajgaonkar could never go to Delhi to avail of the standing invitation. He became helpless, could do little except fretting and blaming the irony of fate. His idea of publishing the biography remained only an idea ! He became extremely impatient and worried as many long years rapidly passed without the Senapati's biography seeing the light of the day. Very quickly after these years of frustration came a day when the Senapati himself passed away ! All the light went out of the day and the world seemed full of misery.

Jagannathrao's sudden death gave a stunning jolt to Shri Ajgaonkar. The shock dazed him quite and left him without energy to reconcile himself to the reality of his great loss. When I went to him to offer my heartfelt condolences he had no words - he had only grief. He regained strength only to express his deep regret that the Senapati's biography was not out in print in his life time. He saw no prospect of the biography being brought out after his friend's unexpected passing away. I was quite moved by Shri Ajgaonkar's grief and did not know how to console him. I do not remember how but I suggested to him that a well-knit short sketch of the Senapati's life might be published in English without much inconvenience of expenditure. He liked the idea, but wondered if I could possibly take up the task of doing the sketch in English from his biographical notes in Marathi.

I do not know how it happened but I undertook the task all right, wondering, however, about the result of the

undertaking all along. Shri Ajgaonkar promptly made over his manuscript to me. After plodding and struggling with the notes for more than three and a half months I am somewhat successful in giving a shape to the biographical data. I wish it to be appreciated that mine is only an effort to marshal the data in the form of a biography. My sincere desire to bring some consolation to Shri Ajgaonkar in his great frustration is my apology for making the effort. How far this effort has been fruitful is hardly my concern. It is entirely a matter for those willing to judge.

**D. G. Naik,**

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## PREFACE

The realisation that I shall be missing for ever my loving friend Jagannathrao Bhonsale is indeed very distressing. He was an embodiment of many sterling and almost incompatible qualities that are rarely seen together in one person. Coming as he did from a peasant family in an unknown Konkan village, he lived to be the Architect of the I. N. A. and the National Discipline Scheme. Despite constant temptations and military hazards he lived a pure and exemplary life. I got convinced long back that a biography of my friend would go a long way in sobering the younger generation of our country.

Encouraged partly by Jagannathrao himself I started preparing an outline of his biography and in due course of time more than half the way was covered the biography was half done. But it remained half done only by Jagannathrao's unexpected death in May 1963. I became very much disappointed and dejected but unmistakably felt that it was my moral duty to bring out at least a booklet spotlighting the salient features of the Senapati's life. I was, however, so much confused and embarrassed by the sad event that I could not see the way out.

It was at this stage that my learned friend Professor Dr. Naik came to my rescue. He suggested that an English version of my biographical data in Marathi could be done and very kindly undertook to do it himself. Dr. Naik comes from the Ratnagiri District of Konkan. He has a great regard for Konkan and Konkani people. I came in his very close contact in connection with the work of the Konkan Marathi Dialects Research Institute, Bombay. Dr. Naik is the founder-Director of this research institute.

He is a reputed author of books in Marathi and English. His recent publication 'Art of Autobiography' is the first book of its kind. Dr. Naik at present is the Head of the English Department of Sir Mathuradas Vissanji College, Andheri, Bombay 69.

I felt extremely relieved by the sympathetic gesture of a person of Dr. Naik's stature. I also felt assured about the result of his undertaking. Now I am extremely happy to note that the biography has come out wonderfully well at his expert hands. He has made the narrative of events in the Senapati's life so exciting and eloquent that it is difficult to put aside the biography without reading it completely. The biography possesses the truthfulness of a history and the charm and suspense of a novel. I do not know when my Marathi biography of the Senapati will come to light. But I have not the shadow of a doubt that the Senapati's biography by Dr. Naik will be doing the good work of inspiring the youth, the future pillars of our country. Dr. Naik is sure to get the credit he deserves so well for the worthy job of conveying the Senapati's invaluable message to the millions of our country. I, however, have no appropriate words to express my deep gratitude to him for what he has done for me. I am happy to remain, therefore, ever indebted to him.

**G. F. Ajgaonkar**

### **Publisher's Note**

I must first of all acknowledge my heart - felt thanks to Smt. Radhabai T. Desai but for whose active co-operation the biography of Senapati Bhonsale would not have seen the light of the day. I must also thank Shri M. B. Joshi for the tidy work of printing the book in record time. I, however, regret very much that on account of the haste to bring out the issue in time, some spelling errors remained uncorrected. I assure the readers that all these mistakes will be duly corrected in the second edition of the book.

**R. N. Ralkar**  
Publisher.

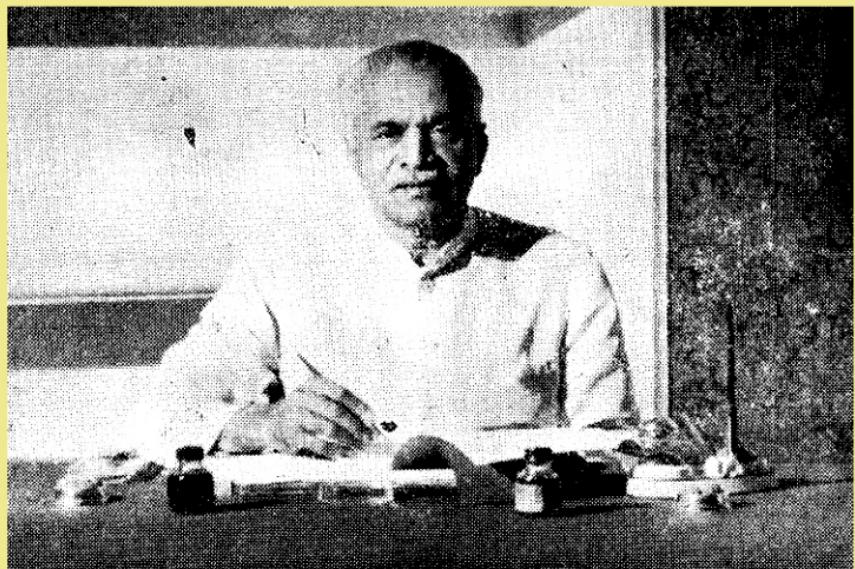


**Jagannathrao Bhonsle**

after his release from the Red Fort



**The Sardar with the General Senapati**



**Father of the N. D. S.**

# **Senapati Bhonsale**



## **CHAPTER I.**

### **Tantalising Early Life**

On the 15th of May 1963, newspaper flashed headlines about the sudden death of Senapati J. K. Bhonsale, the I. N. A Chief. He collapsed on the previous day while attending a cultural programme organised by the N. D. S., at Sariska in Rajasthan. Sitting by the side of our Premier the Senapati fell like a Karmayogi and at a time when his mission—his dear ideal of the National Discipline Scheme—was just taking shape. He was the Pioneer, the Founder and the Director of the Scheme. His sudden and dramatic and stunned many including the Prime Minister. Since then people are naturally anxious to know more about the departed leader.

As is usual in such cases condolence meetings were held ; homages and eloquent tributes paid ; sessions adjourned ; prayers recited ; the stock funereal phraseology well nigh exhausted. But inspite of all this our country knows precious little about this patriot whose greatness does not lie merely in the dramatic end of his life but in living a life bristling with instance drama all along. The formal flamboyance can hardly be expected to quench the thirst for knowing the man in Jagannathrao who is no longer amongst us. A modest effort is, therefore, made

in the following pages to give a short sketch of the life and work of Jagannathrao Bhonsale.

Jagannathrao was born on 20th April 1906, in his ancestral wada at Tiroden in Sawantwadi Taluka. Tiroden is a small wadi on the border of Ajgaon town and hence its name :—Teer + wadi = Teerwadi = Tirwaden = Tiroden. The Senapati's ancestors were known in the area as Sawant-Bhonsalas. They had blood relations with the royal rulers of Sawantwadi. When Shivaji Maharaj came to South Konkan for consolidating the 'swaraj' the Tirodkar Bhonsalas were of great help in his mission by dint of their valour and integrity of character. Since then many men from the house of Tirodkar Bhonsalas have distinguished themselves in martial spirit in the country especially at Gwalior and Baroda. Jagannath inherited all the martial and patriotic qualities of his forefathers. But his original name was not Jagannath. It was Krishnarao. He was the third son of his father Devarao. It is a freak of fortune that instead of being called Krishnarao Devarao Bhonsale, he is known as Jagannathrao Krishnarao Bhonsale :

Devarao's younger brother Vithalrao was a very pious and godfearing man. He had great respect for his valiant forefathers and for the house of Tirodkar Bhonsalas in particular. He had an only son Krishnarao by name. The young Krishna was a very bright and promising lad. All prophesied that he would enhance the glory of the House by dint of his qualities. But fortune frowned and Krishnarao met with a fatal accident while at Kolhapur. This was a veritable bolt from the blue to the loving father and the hopes of many were rudely shattered. Who could console the distressed father who had set such a store by

his only son ? He however, got some solace by looking on his young smart nephew Krishnarao in whom he saw the qualities of his dead son. He appealed to his brother Devarao to give the young Krishna as a son in adoption to Tarabai, the widow of his son Krishnarao. Seeing the broken hearted father's inconsolable grief, Devarao, consented and the adoption ceremony was duly performed. Since then Krishnarao Devarao Bhonsale is known as Jagannathrao Krishnarao Bhonsale for all practical purposes.

Jagannath started his primary schooling in the village school of Tiroden. His secondary education was done partly in the Kalsulkar English School, Sawantwadi and partly in the Mission High School, Vengurla. In his school days Jagannath could hardly be called a scholar ; but he was an all-rounder. Extra-curricular activities attracted him more than the stereotyped class work within four walls. He availed himself of the field exercises and achieved wonderful efficiency. The education which stood him in good stead later he thus got outside the class-room. A secondary school of those days could not be expected to employ fruitfully the energies of a young boy of Jagannath's calibre.

Happily at this juncture Jagannath was introduced to Shrimant Bapusaheb of Sawantwadi by his elder brother Amritrao. The V Khemsawant of Sawantwadi Gadi was popularly known as 'Bapu', that is father. He was quick to praise but slow to criticise. To the deserving but poor students of his State he was ever a loving guardian. It was no mean tribute for the Ruler of a petty State in Konkan to be called an 'Ideal Prince' by Mahatma Gandhi.

The I Great War was just over. Bapusaheb had helped the British in many ways and had actually served on the front during the War. It was not surprising that he commanded great respect with the Government of India. Bapusaheb enjoyed the privilege of recommending one royal Maratha youth for military training every year to be admitted in the Prince of Wales Military College at Dehra Dun. He was actually in search of such a boy, to be recommended by him. It was a happy coincident that our young smart ebullient Jagannath should approach Bapusaheb at this very juncture ; Bapusaheb's experienced eye judged the boy's calibre at a glance. He was extremely happy, for he was convinced that the young boy was directed to him by Providence. Without further ado Bapusaheb recommended Jagannath for the Military College. Jagannath got immediately admitted in the Prince of Wales Military College of Dehra Dun.

This was the beginning of Jagannath's romantic career. He was hardly fourteen then. People were agreeably surprised to hear the good fortune of a village boy who so far had not lived away from home. His mother Gangabai was acquainted with the good fortune of her son and her consent for his departure to Dehra Dun was sought. The loving mother with tears of joy and sadness in her eyes gave her consent and blessings to the boy. Gangabai was sad but also glad that her Jagannath was going away from home to enhance the glory of the House of Bhonslas. Moreover she was greatly relieved to know that Shrimant Bapusaheb himself had taken a personal interest in her boy and hence Bapusaheb was his real guardian. At the age of fourteen Jagannath left home with his mother's blessings for the Military College. Six

years later when he returned home from the Military College, he was a Lieutenant in the Indian Army. The loving Gangabai washed him with tears of joy and paid a silent tribute to God.

Among the newly admitted cadets in the college at Dehra Dun Jagannath was the youngest, and hence he was often teased and made fun of by other senior cadets. But within a short while Jagannath's proficiency in almost all games won him such a praise that he became the most popular cadet in the whole college. But his peculiar fortune did not allow him a smooth sailing. His constitution although quite healthy could not adjust itself to the new way of life and surroundings with the result that he was soon confined to bed with Typhoid.

Typhoid was a very serious calamity in those days. Survival of a typhoid patient was regarded almost as a miracle. Shrimant Bapusaheb who had taken such a keen interest in Jagannath's welfare and had become his voluntary guardian was paralysed by the unhappy news of his ward's serious illness. He immediately maintained a telegraphic contact with the college authorities to learn about Jagannath's condition. After two anxious, agonising weeks, Bapusaheb was greatly relieved to know that Jagannath was out of danger. Bapusaheb was all praise to merciful God; he had no doubt Jagannath's survival was Providential.

In 1924, immediately after completing his training, Jagannath was to be appointed an Officer in the Indian Army. But this was not to be. A greater and more unexpected honour was in store for Jagannath. While in the Military College of Dehra Dun, young Jagannath's extraordinary buoyancy, smartness and proficiency in the

college courses won the hearts of all the teachers and they unanimously recommended him for higher training in the Military College at Sandhurst in England. Admission to this college was considered a great honour and was strictly restricted to those candidates who had previous military experience of approved merit.

In 1924, Jagannath, at the age of eighteen, instead of joining the Indian Army, boarded a steamer for England. At this very time Deshgaurao Subhashchandra Bose was languishing in the notorious Mandalay prison. It was a very remarkable irony that the two illustrious sons of our country who within a decade and half were to play together such a unique role under the I. N. A. were then in quite opposite directions, unknown to each other, pursuing contrary ends. The Deshgaurao was moving heaven and earth to throw the British yoke of slavery off our shoulders. This was a high offence against the rulers and he was, therefore, promptly clamped into jail. Jagannathrao could hardly be expected to visualise the political horizon of India at that young age. Moreover, he was selected for higher training in an English Military college. Very soon he would return to India as an officer in the Army and as would be proper, would do his best to defend the British ' Raj ' in our country.

Jagannathrao boarded the steamer for England. But his passage was not smooth. Ill fortune crossed his path. Two days before boarding the steamer, Jagannathrao had received a knee injury while playing Hockey. By the time the steamer reached London, the pain from the injury became unbearable. Jagannathrao was immediately removed to a hospital. He was almost unconscious on

account of the pain. The doctors of the hospital held a meeting and unanimously decided on amputing the injured leg if the patient's life was to be saved. Poor Jagannathrao ! Blood froze in his veins when he heard the doctors' verdict. Good God ! What a cruel chance ! Had he come all the way from home to England to be thus operated on and maimed for life ? He felt very miserable and destitute not so much on his own account but for those near and dear ones far away in the motherland. Why should fate play such a nasty trick with those innocents by dashing their hopes and wishes to dust !

But unexpectedly the dark threatening cloud of calamity cleared away ! Jagannathrao was taken on the operation table. Chloroform was being administered. By chance a well-known expert doctor happened to come there at the very moment. Jagannathrao's case was immediately brought to his notice. The doctor carefully examined the patient and prescribed a remedy without operation being necessary. Jagannathrao heaved a sigh of relief and silently expressed his deep gratitude to merciful God for directing the saviour doctor to him at the critical hour. In later life Jagannathrao used to remember this occasion and his throat would get choked with emotion. Many a time he exclaimed, " But for that angle doctor who came uninvited I would have been nowhere !" In 1926 he completed the course of Military College. He was immediately appointed Lieutenant and was placed at Quetta. After assuming the charge of his office at Quetta Jagannathrao took a month's leave to spend at the native place. He was eager to run home to fall prostrate before his mother, to meet the patron Bapusaheb and to greet his numerous friends.

One hot afternoon in the month of April 1927. Lt. J. K. Bhonsale in Khaki emerged out of a service bus from Belgaum at the crowded Sawantwadi motor stand. Sawantwadi is a sizable town skirting a big Talao and surrounded by hills. The rains are usually heavy and the Talao is always full. The weather remains sultry all the year round except for a month or two of winter. April began in a blaze of heat. It was palpable quivering around in ascending layers. The much jolted bus-travellers gasped for breath. The thirsty looked eagerly at the nearby Talao full of water; but not a drop to drink as irony would have it ! The tank was then a breeding place of mosquitoes and to drink its water was a sure invitation to malaria.

Lt. Jagannathrao took out his trunk and without waiting for a coolie took it on his shoulders and started quietly walking towards the bus for Tiroden. He disliked pomp and a show of authority. He was unassuming by nature and possessed humility of the first order. The owner of the Bharat Motor Service Shri Abasaheb Bhaat recognised the Lieutenant and warmly welcomed him. He also lovingly scolded him for not giving intimation of his arrival, in the absence of which a welcome function could not be arranged. Jagannathrao thanked Abasaheb for his affection and goodwill but assured him that a welcome function would have definitely embarrassed him. He asserted that although he had the good fortune of enjoying royal patronage he was a modest village boy and as such he must keep his proper distance. Abasaheb also felt very happy at Jagannathrao's humility and gladly saw him off for Tiroden.

## CHAPTER II

# Romance and Happiness

While in the Military College at Dehra Dun in 1923, Jagannathrao came to Sawantwadi to spend a few vacation days with his patron Shrimant Bapusaheb and his wife Rani Parvatidevi. Parvatidevi was a grand-daughter of Sayajirao Maharaj Gaikwad and had then just come from a short stay at Baroda. Parvatidevi had also brought along with her a very lovely, budding girl of about eleven years. She was obviously a near relation of the Gaikwads. Jagannathrao was hardly seventeen then. Moreover he was not of a romantic turn of nature. The hard, exacting Military training had scarcely given him any chance to entertain thoughts of love. But true, it was, that the moment he saw the unknown girl he became extremely fascinated by her inspite of himself. The girl was too young. Moreover, she was from a royal family and Jagannathrao was proud of being a village lad. But these apparent barriers could not prevent his attachment to the girl. After becoming aware of his attachment Jagannathrao had to leave for the Military College and then abruptly for England. He never heard about the girl during this time. Most probably he also forgot this first flowering of love in his life.

In 1927, Jagannathrao came to his native place from Quetta on a month's leave. He first of all went straight to Tiroden and spent a few happy days with his mother and near relatives. He readily forgot that he was an important officer in the Indian Army and abandoned himself

to village folk-pleasurers. He amused himself by going in for angling with his childhood fisher-friends. Then he visited Shrimant Bapusahab at the Amboli Hill Station. Jagannathrao was surprised beyond measure to see here the same girl who had touched in him a romantic vein four years back at Sawantwadi. All the past thoughts of love that appeared to be dead became very much alive in Jagannathrao's heart.

Kumari Chandrikadevi, for that was the girl's name, was hardly fourteen then. She was the eldest daughter of Sardar Appasaheb Jagadale of Kolhapur and was brought up in the royal family of Baroda. Rajamata Padmavatibaisaheb treated her as her own daughter. She was thus accustomed to an aristocratic way of life—a life of ease and luxury. Jagannathrao also hailed from a royal Maratha family but the royalty was over long back. The financial position then was far from satisfactory. The expenses of Jagannathrao's Military training proved top heavy with the result that the ancestral property had to be mortgaged. No doubt Jagannathrao had achieved something remarkable for all this. At the age of twentyone he got the coveted post of an officer in the Army by dint of his intrinsic qualities and good fortune. But his khaki uniform and his future career that still was shrouded in uncertainty were not the things to make a favourable impression on a tender aristocratic girl. But who knows how, it happened all right.

Tender, royal Chandrikadevi hung on the raw, rough Lieutenant with dazed eyes of love His unknown Military career lured her as it were. Inscrutable are the ways of love indeed. We happily get reminded of the famous line of Mahakavi Bhavabhuti here—

अविद्यति पदार्थन् आतरः कोस्ति हेतुः  
न चलु वहिष्यापि प्रीतयः संशयते ।

There must be a secret invisible bond of love in the world. Otherwise there appears to be no explanation to why we feel instantly repulsed by some persons and irresistibly drawn to others inspite of ourselves. There is an element of truth in the belief that marriage alliances are settled in Heaven. We are lucky here below if we could discover early our already fined partner. Jagannathrao and Chandrikadevi were really lucky to discover quite early their Heaven-made match. The young pair spent fifteen days in the ambrosial holiday resort of Amboli, exploring fresh avenues of love and ultimately decided on marriage as early as possible. The consent of elders on both sides for the match was sought and easily obtained.

In December 1928 Jagannathrao and Chandrikadevi were duly married according to Hindu religious rites. The marriage ceremony took place at Baroda with great eclat. On account of this marriage alliance Jagannathrao became closely associated with the ruling house of Baroda. Since the marriage Jagannathrao for decade or so enjoyed great prosperity and all-round happiness. He and his beloved Chandrikadevi lived away in a Paradise as it were, unconcerned and unaffected by the rough and tumble of life. Jagannathrao was not devoid of virtues; but during the ten years of his blissful married life he scarcely thought of his country and his people. Like most other Indian Civil and Military officers he owed allegiance to the British rulers and he was one of the most obedient servants of His Majesty's Government. He did not bother about another thing except doing his job honestly and won grey praise on several occasions.

In 1935 V Royal Maratha Battalian to which Jagannathrao was attached, was in Kannur Town, situated on the sea. Jagannathrao was staying in the hotel 'West Cliff On Sea' with Chandrikadevi. Those were the days of Christmas and many young European couples were making merry on the beach and in the waters of the sea. Standing by the railings of the wharf, Jagannathrao and Chandrikadevi with her binoculars were enjoying the sight, the romance of young happy couples floating on the sea water. All of a sudden there started a stampede on the shore. Men and women ran helter skelter. A frantic cry for help from a drowning couple rang in the air. Thousands of holiday makers stood aghast and looked on the helpless couple anxiously but dared do nothing. Jagannathrao snatched the binoculars from his wife and realized the gravity of the occasion in a flash. Next moment he was ready to plunge into the dangerous waters to help the drowning couple !

No sooner did the Commander of the Battalian Col. Pearson grasp Jagannathrao's desperate intention than he shouted to him at the top of his voice, " Bhonsalesss, don't go You will drown yourself ! Bhonsale I order you not to go. Come back. Bhonsale I order you !" But Jagannathrao was not in a mood to heed his Commander's orders at that moment. He forgot his position in the Army. He forgot the Commander. He even forgot his dear Chandrikadevi and other relations ! All he remembered and saw was the drowning couple that needed to be saved from the jaws of death. He took a piece of string from some one and dashed into the water . He reached the couple in no time. He tied one end of the string to the couple and taking the other in his hand started

resolutely swimming towards the shore. The task of dragging the couple on was by no means an easy one. The struggle was against the receding tide. The first outburst of applause from the onlookers for the daring deed was over and consternation took its place. It was almost certain that the sea would now claim three victims instead of two!

Chandrikadevi also watched her husband's adventure; but she was not unduly agitated. Her royal breast swelled with pride at her husband's charitable and courageous deed. When she realised the danger to his life she became humble and silently prayed to merciful God for his safety. After a tantalising struggle for an hour or so Jagannathrao, dragging the couple with him, succeeded in reaching the shore and safety. Shouts of joy and admiration from a thousand mouth rent the air and the sky. The devoted Chandrikadevi became dumb with delight. Tears of joy gathered at the eyes and streamed down her lovely cheeks. Jagannathrao was given a hero's ovation. Col. Pearson was also one of the spectators. He did not say a word to Jagannathrao or to any one else for that matter. He reported the whole episode confidentially to the High Command in England.

Col. Pearson's report caused quite a sensation in England. The entire country was pleasantly shocked by Jagannathrao's humanity and courage. He was acclaimed a great hero. His name resounded from every corner of Great Britain. Newspaper editors were glad to get a sensational news item. A leading newspaper of London gave great publicity to the event by publishing Jagannathrao's photograph with the intriguing headlines "A young officer disobeys his Commander twice." The Royal Humane Society of London honoured Jagannathrao by

conferring on him its Life Saving's Silver Medal. On special invitation Jagannathrao went to London and received the Medal and a special testimonial of merit from the Emperor Edward VIII.

Jagannathrao thus passed quick days of honour, glory and all-round happiness in the company of his sweet Chandrikadevi. He knew nothing else. He was doing his job well; was honoured and promoted for doing it well. Was there anything else to be thought of? Was there any other duty that urgently required his attention? But such question did not disturb him during the ten blissful years. "Ignorance is blise where it is folly to be wise" Yet another and a unique honour was in store for Jagannathrao. A few days after the Silver Medal episode, Pratapsingh Maharaj Gaikawad decided to go on a world tour. Jagannathrao had already made himself indispensable to the Maharaja both by his own virtues and the close connection of his dear Chandrikadevi with the house of the Gaikwads. He was very happy to go round the world in the company of Pratapsingh Maharaj.

Jagannathrao together with Pratapsingh Maharaj visited France, England, America, China, Japan, Honolulu, East Indies Isles and Ceylon. He returned to the mother-land a wiser man but not a happier one. He became thoughtful. He compared the lot of the people of the countries he visited with that of his own people. He discovered a great difference and disparity. All these years of his own prosperity he had never imagined that there was something seriously wrong with our people at large. Like many others he also had the convenient view that His Majesty the Emperor of India was in his Heaven and all was right with India. Jagannathrao's uneasiness

increased, for his very loving patron and guardian Shrimant Bapusaheb had died accidentally and was not there to guide him any more. His complacency about the beneficial British rule in India came to be rudely shattered. He found his people riddled with ignorance, disease and poverty. They could do little to shake off these evils under the British domination.

This mental turmoil marked the end of the happy stage in Jagannathrao's life. The realisation that he owed some debt to his people came gradually but surely. The patriot in him started asserting itself. Because of this already prepared mental background and transformation of spirit Jagannathrao later could take the quick decision of organising the I. N. A. to fight the British, his erstwhile masters. In 1942 after the fall of Singapore Jagannathrao became a Japanese war prisoner. Chandrikadevi at home became very anxious when she first heard the news of the Singapore debacle. She was having a very hard time since the II war started. Now there was every likelihood of Jagannathrao being killed in action at Singapore. Chandrikadevi became greatly changed. She lost appetite and weight. Her parents became alarmed at her condition and tried to console her in many ways but in vain. She was a devoted Hindu wife and engrossed herself in prayers and reading Dnaneshwari.

After the conclusion of the war Jagannathrao was brought to his motherland but as a prisoner of war by the British rulers of India ! He was confined in the historic Red Fort and was awaiting trial for high treason. Chandrikadevi became more unhappy at this for she knew what the result of the trial would be; she knew that her husband was awaiting death. As a royal Maratha lady, she was

not frightened by death; but she was for honourable death. She now devoutly wished that Jagannathrao had fallen in the field fighting the enemies. She was allowed by the authorities to see her husband only once. When she went there Jagannathrao was shocked to see a mere skeleton of his beloved Chandrikadevi. The redoubtable I. N. A. Chief trembled for a moment to see death approaching his wife. He realised to his great dismay that Chandrikadevi was killing herself as she had lost hopes of his survival.

In 1946, Jagannathrao and others were acquitted from the charge of treason. The whole nation resounded with wild applause for the I. N. A. Chief. Now he was free and could once again live in peace and happiness with his dear wife. But peace and happiness sluded him then onwards. Chandrikadevi was overjoyed at her husband's honourable survival. But she was now too weak even to stand her great delight! Death for her was a matter of some days and she knew it perfectly well. Now she was not sorry. She was very happy and paid a silent tribute to merciful God for saving her husband. Jagannathrao attended on her personally. He would spare no pains to bring her the slightest relief. He took her at last to Baroda. Chandrikadevi was lying in her bed with an emaciated but smiling face. She had then just finished the reading of one of the Dnaneshwari Adhyayas. Fixing her gaze on her husband's face, with a silent benediction in her mouth, she allowed death to take away her great soul! Chandrikadevi was dead! Jagannathrao's latest triumph was not unmixed. It became tainted by his wife's death. This reminds us of Shelley's generalisation, "Our sincerest laughter with some pain is fraught." But in the



**Netaji—Supreme Sacrifice.**



**Senapati Bhonsle**



**Jagannathrao's last drive with the P. M.**

case of Jagannathrao it was not some pain. The death of his wife was the death of his sincerest laughter !

Condolence messages from all over the country started pouring on the bereaved Senapati. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel had a special regard for Jagannathrao. He wrote "....Chandrikadevi, a loving and devoted wife as she was, very courageously went through the ordeal of separation from you of six long troubled years, and just when there would have been a happy reunion, she is snatched away by death ! God's ways are inscrutable. I hope and pray that merciful God will give you the necessary strength to bear this irreparable loss." Jawaharlal Nehru said that he was greatly shocked by the news of Chandrikadevi's death. He expressed his heart-felt condolences. Babu Saradchandra Bose's telegram ran, "Extremely grieved. Please accept heart-felt condolences." Maharaja Scindia of Gwallor wrote : "I am distressed to hear the death of Chandrikadevi, your beloved wife. I hope that God will give you strength to bear this stroke of misfortune. May the departed soul rest in peace !" Jagannathrao thanked all the sympathisers and well-wishers but he knew perfectly well that the stage of love and happiness, for him, was gone for ever !



## CHAPTER III

### The Eastern Front

The world became engulfed in a great conflagration in 1939 for the second time. India would have remained aloof from the war and from any war for that matter if it could. But the British rulers dragged her into it against its will and inspite of strong protests by national leaders. This war was forced on England and its allies too by Hitler's intransigence. Hence they were not prepared for it; but they had to face the situation at any cost. Jagannathrao was then the Commander of 'E' Company in the Maratha Light Infantry. Recruiting in India was far from satisfactory. After the English debacle at Dunkirk Jagannathrao's English colleagues in the Army lost all hopes of saving their country from Hitler's fury. They said to Jagannathrao : "We are finished now ! We are lost, undone." From the very beginning Jagannathrao and others had not seen any bright prospect in the War for the allies. He was selected for special training in war strategy and was sent to the Staff College at Quetta for the purpose.

The war strategy course came to conclusion rather abruptly and Jagannathrao joined the Light Maratha Infantry at Peshawar in September 1940. Deshgauraо Subhashchandra was under home arrest at Calcutta at this time. Later Subhashchandra managed to escape from the confinement and reached Peshawar on 17th January 1941, disguised as one Ziauddin. The two illustrious sons of our country who, in the near future, were to make together such a tremendous self-sacrifice for the liberation of the

motherland, were both at Peshawar then; But they did not know each other and were pursuing exactly opposite courses. Jagannathrao was an important Military officer, specially trained in war strategy, Very soon he was to go to the front to defend the British masters. On March 28, 1941, Subhashchandra reached Berlin and on this very day Jagannathrao came to Ahmednagar with his battalion. Jagannathrao was a real soldier. Fighting was in his blood. He was eager to meet the enemy in the field. In May 1941, he received orders to join the three Indian Co. Headquarters at Bareili. ( बरेली ).

The movements of the Army were a top secret. Jagannathrao was impatient to be in action; but what could he do except waiting for orders and guessing about the next destiny of his Company ? Then one day they were actually moving and the movement was towards Calcutta. Now the ingenious Jagannathrao guessed and guessed rightly that he was to be in readiness in the East either in Burmah or in Malaya. So going to the actual front was a matter of few days. Jagannathrao took a week's leave and came to Sawantwadi to meet his mother, near relations and friends. It was a very warm welcome home but a sad parting. Every one knew what it was to go to war. Moreover the dear ones are usually overwhelmed by imaginary evils. अतिस्नेहः पापशक्ति Jagannathrao parted from the near and dear ones who bade him a farewell with heavy hearts.

Jagannathrao's guess about Malaya being the field of battle proved true. About 12th of May 1941 the Head Co. left Calcutta and reached Penang in Malaya on 18th May. Malaya was till then regarded a very safe quarter for the British Army. Japan was no doubt a

formidable power in the East. But it was engaged in war with its neighbour China since 1933. Of course Japan occasionally gave threats of action. But Jagannathrao's English colleagues did not take them seriously. They were more or less complacent and were happy to believe that Japan could not afford to be hostile to the British and the Allies at that juncture. On account of the general complacency the defence arrangements in Malaya were rather poor.

But very soon the complacency of the English officers was rudely shaken. Lord Wavell the Governor General of India was declared to be the Commander-in-Chief of East Asia. A clash with the Japanese appeared to be imminent. After one month's stay at Penang the headquarters of the 'Third Co.' was shifted to Kuala Lumpur, Jagannathrao was here given the important post of the Air Liaison Officer. His immediate task was to secure air protection to the Army Headquarters from the air bases in Malaya.

The Air Liaison work exacted a hard task from Jagannathrao. He moved throughout Malaya combed the whole region and tried to gauge its strategic worth. Jagannathrao was very much disappointed by the inadequacy of road transport and shortage of drinking water. He was very quick to see that Malaya was not quite the place either for defence or attack. After the war was over, talking about Malaya, he once observed "there were only two highways which were tolerable; very few planes and even those not in good order. Inadequate ammunition; pleasure-loving and inexperienced troops, and the entire country riddled with thick forests. These were very disappointing features and the prospect was very bleak indeed.

But my complacent English colleagues were hopeful of holding their own at least for six months in the event of a clash with Japan. But later events proved the lack of initiative and carelessness on their part very costly for them."

There was a tremendous confusion in the Head Co. when the American Information Agency sent the intelligence that on 31st November 1941, ten Japanese warships carrying troops and two destroyers had started pressing towards Saigon. Jagannathrao was immediately sent to the Air Port of Alostar. There also he found a considerable chaos. It was an unenviable situation. No one knew what exactly was happening and what step to take. Clash with the Japanese was then a certainty and a matter of few hours. Jagannathrao met Mr. Forbes, the Wing Commander of Alostar. To fight or not to fight was the problem before him. But he was not free to take his own decision. He was awaiting orders from England. Commander Forbes was anxious to avoid a clash as far as possible. His plight was pitiable. He had only twenty-four bombers half of which were out of order. Jagannathrao inspected the other air bases at Singapatani and Butterworth; but the condition there was more or less the same. He, therefore, turned towards Panang.

In Panang Jagannathrao visited the Advance Co-Headquarters under the command of Major C. S. Smith, G. S. O. I. Co. Headquarters. He and Major Smith became great friends. Jagannathrao received excellent co-operation from the Major. When later he was killed in action Jagannathrao was given the command of his battalion. From Penang Jagannathrao came back to Kuala Lumpur, but without stopping there he straight went to Singapore

to inspect the air base there. Group Wooly and his men at Singapore seemed to be very enthusiastic in the hope of an opportunity to bomb the Japanese warships at Saigon. At this very time the invincible British warships Prince of Wales and Repulse reached the sea off Singapore. Singapore itself was a formidable Fort, equipped with sixteen inches long range and antiaircraft guns. Naturally, it was counted as a strong hold of the British Army. Jagannathrao discovered enthusiasm and cheerfulness in the British camps in Singapore.

Jagannathrao by his amiable qualities endeared himself to almost all the officers connected with the Eastern Front. General Sir Louis Heath was the Commander of the 3rd Indian Corps. He was very sympathetic to Indians. Captain B. J. Choudhari was his A. D. C. This was perhaps the only instance of its type. General Health, Major Smith and Brigadier Foseth, B. G. S., Co. Headquarters, repeatedly advised Jagannathrao to return to India where he could work as an Instructor in the Military Academy of Dehra Dun. It was a sincere suggestion and was due to their great affection for Jagannathrao. They rightly felt that work at the Front was rather risky for a young prospective officer of Jagannathrao's calibre. But Jagannathrao would not avail himself of this honourable opportunity of freeing himself from the actual fight. To leave the battlefield at this critical moment was for him cowardice of the highest type. He was a real 'kshatriya' and to remain in the field was a great honour to him. A tangible material gain could never make him budge an inch from this purpose.

While at the Co. Headquarters in Malaya Jagannathrao cultivated the friendship of Shri S. K. Ghosh, G. S. O.

II, V. Punjab Regiment. Jagannathrao was an excellent Cricketer and a Tennis player as well. He was also proficient in Table Tennis. Shri Ghosh and Jagannathrao won the table tennis doubles cup in Malaya. The Indian settlers in Malaya were mostly labourers. The Malayese people therefore had no favourable opinion of Indians in general. They were very much surprised than to see Indian Army officers like Jagannathrao rubbing shoulders with European officers, and their former prejudice about Indians gradually vanished.

At Kuala Lumpur Asians were not allowed to become permanent members of the European clubs. Jagannathrao protested against this discrimination by refusing to become a temporary member of a club. General Heath very much appreciated the spirit behind Jagannathrao's stand and immediately issued an ultimatum to all the clubs. He warned them that the clubs that would object to the Indian Army officers becoming permanent members would be instantly boycotted by all the Army officers. The warning had its desired effect. Permanent membership of all the European clubs was thrown open to Indian Army officers without further ado. Jagannathrao thus, by the integrity of his character, unknowingly won a decisive battle for him and for India.

Most of the Regiments in Malaya were of Indians under British officers. If British India was to be saved from its Eastern enemies Malaya should be defended at all costs. This was a part of the British war strategy and was perhaps the right step. But the Indian troops were more or less discontented for being pulled out of India against their will. In addition to the Indian and British troops there was one Division of Australian soldiers. There

were constant bickerings and even skirmishes between the British and the Australians. The Indian soldiers were not being sympathetically treated regarding food, and leave facilities. The people of Malaya in general were not quite happy to see foreign troops on their soil. The discontent of Indians reached a bursting point. They would gladly welcome the Japanese if they chose to come. Jagannath-rao saw all this without undue apprehension. He knew his duty well in any eventuality and could keep composed at all points.

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## CHAPTER IV

### Japanese War Thrust

The Second World War started in 1939. Japan in the Far East was apparently neutral for some time; but during this period of seeming neutrality it was steadily but systematically preparing for a major onset. Japan's designs began to be evident when Franco was subdued by Hitler in 1940. Formosa island was already in its occupation. Formosa became Japan's important naval base. Immediately after the defeat of France by Germany, Japan occupied the French Indochina without much effort. The French officers there offered practically no resistance. For them a war was over which hardly had begun. Japan lost no time in establishing military and air bases in Indochina. On December 8, 1941, Japan started war against America by shattering Pearl Harbour. England therefore had to declare war against Japan. America, England and Russia were the Allies then. Germany, Italy and Japan were the Axis Powers. But Russia had not yet cut off its friendly relations with Japan.

Japan's war thrust was indeed very stupefying ! It declared war on 8th December. On 9th December a solitary Japanese plane returning from Java Islands spied the two formidable British warships Prince of Wales and Repulse doing war exercises in the narrow Malayan Strait. Next day three Japanese destroyers bombed the warships and before anything could be done in the name of defence the two Floating Fortresses, England's pride, kissed the dust at the bottom of the sea ! Japan thus struck a stun-

ning blow to England's naval might in the East at the very outset. 13th December 41, 20th December 41, and 2nd January 42, were the dates on which Japan made a clean-sweep of the Guan Island, Penang and Manila respectively. In the second week of February 42 Singapore the so far invincible British Fort of the East fell into the hands of the Japanese. In the first week of March Rangoon was captured. Andaman and Nicobar Island fell to them on 23rd March and Mandalay was surrendered on 1st May, 1942.

The British Army in the East was much embarrassed when the expected reinforcements from India and England failed to reach them in time. It was constantly being harassed by the Japanese through the bombing of their bases during the day time. In this many Indian Divisions got completely wiped out. The army could move forward only during the night under the cover of darkness. A considerable relief was felt among the army headquarters when a squandron of American hurricane bombers reached Singapore. Their efficacy was greatly advertised. But these hurricanes did not come in contact with the Japanese planes at all. One of the Hurricanes carrying machinery was forced to land at Batu Pahat and thus easily fell into the Japanese hands with all its war material.

Jagannathrao's Headquarter was near Joharbaru. On 25th January, 1942, nearly thirty Japanese planes bombarded the Headquarter and the destruction was complete. Among other things all the private possessions of Jagannathrao were rendered into ashes. These things were not new to Jagannathrao since the clash with Japan started. But his grief was inconsolable at the loss of one particular photograph—his own photograph with his wife.

and children. Nevertheless, he was full of gratitude to merciful God for his own survival. In this clash Major Anderson was killed. Jagannathrao was offered his post but he thankfully declined it. He desired to remain at his present post. Whatever work was entrusted to him he did it with zest and real interest. He minutely observed the Japanese war strategy and learned many valuable military secrets. He gained confidence and knew very well how to countercheck the Japanese onset. Unfortunately, Jagannathrao's experience and insight into war strategy were not availed of by the authorities. Joharbaru was left to the enemies and whatever army survived the air attack started retreating towards Singapore. It reached Singapore on 31st January 1942.

In Malaya Jagannathrao found that the British never fought in the real sense of the term. Defence as far as possible and then retreat were the aspects of their war policy in general. Even this policy was not pursued with any vigour worth the name. The Japanese on the other hand were superior in this war in almost every respect. Jagannathrao admired the Japanese pilots very much. They won the three-fourth of the battle every time. They would destroy the air umbrella of the British army in no time and the finishing touches would be given by the advancing Japanese troops. The Japanese resorted to Guerilla warfare and became wonderfully successful in it. Jagannathrao found that the British army in general was without any zeal and heart in this war. That, according to him, was one of the main cause of the swift and complete British debacle in the Malayan war.

The retreating British army from Joharbaru and other quarters in Malaya under the command of General Heath

successfully reached Singapore on 31st January 1942. General Percivle was then in the overall command of Singapore. Singapore was famed to be an invincible British Fort in the East. Grores of rupees were spent on its fortifications. Its defence was, therefore, a matter of prestige for the British. When all the troops were securely in, the Singapore causeway was ordered to be blown out in order to prevent the possibility of the Japanese advancing from seawards. All the officers including Jagannathrao were entrusted with different parts of Singapore for erecting barricades and taking other defensive steps. Jagannathrao was in the Malayan Seminary. He saw that every officer was trying to do his best in the circumstances. But there was lack of co-ordination and proper liaison. After the fall of Singapore, Jagannathrao was amazed to find in one place as enormous quantity of barbed wire that could have been wrapped round the whole Singapore seventeen times, lying idle for lack of knowledge.

Japanese planes started bombarding Singapore when Jagannathrao and his colleagues had hardly completed their defence arrangements. Antiaircraft guns started returning the fire. At this stage Jagannathrao's attention was arrested by the sixteen inches giant British guns in Singapore. They were all focussed towards the sea and were immovable as they were made fast into the baricades. Jagannathrao pointed out to the Commander the utter uselessness of these immovable longrange guns in the event of a landward enemy thrust in the opposite direction. But he was told that there was no possibility of the Japanese advance from that direction. Later events, however, showed that Jagannathrao was in the right. Japanese soldiers actually entered Singapore proper at midnight on

7th February. The news reached all the army headquarters like wildfire. One over-confident Colonel in the Australian General Staff said "there is no doubt that the Japanese have rushed into this stronghold of ours. We will arrange to drown them in the sea tomorrow morning! Now everyone sleep soundly!"

Jagannathrao realised that that was not the time to contradict the stupid Colonel. He immediately awakened all the other officers at that dead of night to apprise them of the gravity of the situation. When the officers collected together they broke the news to General Percivle. The General directed that the 12th Reserve Brigade should face the enemy as soon as possible. But 12th Brigade never made the intended attack, for it was already hopelessly battered by Japanese bombers on its way to Singapore in the Impress of Russia warship. Only four hundred troops were left in the Brigade and those also were untrained and inexperienced. Thus, the Japanese could press on without any opposition. On 8th February Field Marshal Lord Wavell left a message to the army in Singapore to fight to the last and he flew to India. At this juncture the 17th English Division reached Singapore. It was on its way to Africa but was diverted for the defence of Singapore. All that this English Division could do was to postpone the fall of Singapore by a couple of days.

Before the final attack was launched, the Japanese Commander, General Tamashita airdropped an ultimatum to the British General in Singapore, "We are strong enough to wipe you out. It is in your interest to surrender to us with all your troops and equipment." The British officers were naturally very angry at this and talked of meeting the audacious Japanese and crushing them. Colonel Smith

was commanding the 18th Gadwal Rifles on the Front. He was killed in action on the night of 10th February. Jagannathrao was immediately appointed in his place. Jagannathrao had always wished to be in the forefront of the battle. He readily accepted the responsibility. He was the first Indian officer, so far, to be allowed to operate on the Front. Jagannathrao busied himself directing troop movements. The fight was on. Bombs were killing troops to the right and to the left. The very air was thick with smoke. Quite a disheartening situation ! But Jagannathrao was for pressing on against the enemy. At this juncture he received orders to retreat towards Thompson hill.

Jagannathrao reached Thompson hill with his jawans. He immediately started fortifying the hill. He kept in readiness two Artillery Regiments. At about ten O'clock in the night the Japanese tanks started pressing forward towards Jagannathrao. He gauged the situation in a moment and ordered the Artillery to open fire with such a resounding success that the challenging Japanese tanks turned about and went back to a distance of four to five miles. Jagannathrao was the first Indian Army officer to be made a Colonial. The Indian soldiers in the Army were agreeably surprised to see European officers taking orders from him. The soldiers felt happy to be under their own Commander. Jagannathrao too was very happy to get the chance of playing war tactics with the enemy on his own. So far he had only to obey orders from commanding officers although on many occasion he doubted the advisability of their decisions. This also proved a blessing in disguise for our country. But for the grounding and first-hand experience of conducting war operations that Jagannathrao got here, he would not have been so

wonderfully equal to take up the tremendous task of the I. N. A.

The responsibility of saving Singapore was now virtually on Jagannathrao's shoulders. Whatever army was there then, consisted mostly of Indian soldiers. English officers worked under Jagannathrao's command. Jagannathrao was handicapped almost in every respect; but still he was confident of teaching a lesson to the Japanese by dint of his skill and determination. He was naturally encouraged by his initial success in beating back the Japanese tanks. But how could he prevent the inevitable! Surrender was in store for the British in this their so-called strongest fort! Orders were received for immediate and unconditional surrender! The English officers who had no heart in the fight welcomed the decision and decided to grab the opportunity to leave the field. They rushed to Jagannathrao who was in charge of the Gadwal Rifles for permission to leave Singapore for India quietly; They entreated Jagannathrao also to do the same.

Jagannathrao was a real Kshatriya. He knew very well how to conduct himself honourably in the vicissitudes of war. Leaving the poor soldiers in the lurch on occasions of reverses for saving one's neck was the meanest thing for a leader, he thought. But he did not think meanly of those who wanted to escape to safety. He readily gave them the permission and even went to the extent of helping them to escape to safety from the Japanese Soldiers. As for himself, he decided to remain with the Jawans to share the common lot. He would never leave them for his personal safety. The Singapore war was now over. Jagannathrao and his Indian jawans became Japanese prisoners of war.

Jagannathrao's personality like gold emerged brighter from the Singapore debacle. The real Senapati in him started asserting itself. The Indian jawans, although prisoners were happy that their Senapati was with them They become emotionally one. Jagannathrao's personality was the uniting force. They became prepared for any sacrifice at his mere bidding. This, as would be seen later, was the foundation of the unique oneness and integrity of the I. N. A. For more than two month Jagannathrao and his Indian jawans were Japanese prisoners in Singapore. There was nothing exciting then. The usual monotony of war prisoners was very depressing indeed ! Jagannathrao was calm and resigned to his lot. He was patiently waiting, did not know for what. Very shortly fortune had for him a great leap forward. Jagannathrao took the leap with confidence as if he was being groomed for it all along and proved himself excellently equal to the unique task of the I. N. A.



General Bhonsle in a happy mood.



The ailing General Bhonsle ( N. D. S., Sariska )

## CHAPTER V.

### The I. N. A. And After

The famous revolutionary of Bengal Babu Rashbehari Bose had managed to escape to Japan about 1912. Since then he was busy organising various activities from Tokyo to mobilise world opinion in favour of India's Independence. Before Japan entered the Second World War in 1941, it recognised India's Independence by a treaty with Babu Rashbehari. Rashbehari had established " Indian Independence League " in Tokyo, and he was its President. According to the treaty Japan delivered to Rashbehari the Indian Prisoners in its possession and the British territories so far captured. Among the delivered prisoners there was one Indian officer, Captain Mohansingh. Babu Rashbehari founded the Azad Hind Fauj or Indian National Army by absorbing the Indian prisoners with the help of Captain Mohansingh. Naturally Capt. Mohansingh was made the Chief of the Fauj. There was hardly any further hopeful development under Mohansingh's leadership. On the other hand, within a very short time Mohansingh and his other colleague Col. Gill disappointed Babu Rashbehari by letting down the I. N. A. Babuji's great effort was thus undone. The I. N. A. was broken. The morale of the jawans was rudely shattered. They blamed Rashbehari and the Japanese Govt. for their frustration and disappointment.

The veteran revolutionary Babu Rashbehari was in an unenviable position then. His I. N. A. was no longer an army of disciplined jawans, but a mob of disgruntled hooligans. He called upon Jagannathrao Bhonsale as a

last desperate resort. He knew that Jagannathrao hailed from a royal Maratha family. He had also heard many accounts of his valour and his regard for the soldiers. Rashbehari felt that only Jagannathrao could set right the hopeless affair of the I. N. A. The Babu exhorted Jagannathrao in the name of Shivaji Maharaj to take up the challenge for our country's sake. Jagannathrao, of course, needed no exhortation to take up the job that best suited to his calibre. But he was very unassuming by nature and on his own would never have gone forward to do anything. Now the offer was made to him by a person of Babu Rashbehari's stature. He accepted it wholeheartedly and without the least hesitation. He was immediately appointed the Director of Rashbehari's Military Bureau.

Jagannathrao started the work of reorganising in right earnest. The welfare of the disgruntled I. N. A. personnel was the first thing to be looked after. Jagannathrao took personal interest in the well-being of the jawans. He made inquiries after them. His sympathetic approach on most of them to the great cause of the I. N. A. Jagannathrao propagated among them the need for a united front under the banner of the I. N. A. for getting back our independence from the British. Very shortly he was able to divide the soldiers and other personnel into two categories, the one of those who would willingly join the I. N. A. and the other of those who were reluctant to join and therefore, would remain as Japanese prisoners of war. Jagannathrao gave them a free choice. There was not the least coercion on any of them. Most of them opted for the I. N. A. The I. N. A. which was only a name then was re-started by Jagannathrao on a very sound foundation. Regular parades and training started under Jagannathrao's strict

supervision. By the time Deshgaurao Subhashchandra left Germany for Singapore. The reborn I. N. A. of Senapati Bhonsale was over twenty thousand strong of trained and enthusiastic Indian jawan. Singapore was its chief centre.

On 4th July 1948, Jagannathrao received Subhashchandra at the Singapore airport. The smart jawans of the I. N. A. gave him a march past. Subhashchandra was extremely pleased at Jagannathrao's work. The weather-beaten Babu Rashbehari was considerably old then and was keeping indifferent health. He felt greatly relieved at Subhash Babu's arrival and leaving the entire charge of the I. N. A. to him, retired into solitude in Japan. Jagannathrao handed over the supreme command of his I. N. A. to Subhash Babu. Thus the Deshgaurao became the Supreme Commander, the Netaji of the I. N. A. and Jagannathrao the Chief Architect of the I. N. A. was very happy to accept under him the post of the Chief of Staff. Jagannathrao's humility and the spirit of self-denial for a cause came in sharp contrast with the self-seeking attitude of Captain Mohansingh and his fellow travellers.

Netaji was the Supreme Commander of the Army but he was not a military man. The field work and military operations were all deservingly entrusted to Jagannathrao. In August 1943, Netaji made a proclamation of a free Government of India in Singapore. Many nations then had recognised this Government. Netaji then made a tour of Indian establishment in East Asia for the propagation of the effort to free India. He received tremendous response from all corners in terms of money and man-power. Even children offered to be taken up in the I. N. A. In December 1943, Netaji and Jagannathrao attended the 'East Asiatic Conference' held in Japan. Jagannathrao on this

occasion stayed in Japan for about two months. During this short period of time he visited many Japanese villages and small-scale industries. He tried to learn through minute observation the secret of Japan's all-round development in an unimaginably short time. He was particularly impressed by the Japanese method of training their children. In short Jagannathrao made the most of his time and gained a fruitful knowledge of many things.

For about a year and half the I. N. A. under Jagannathrao's direction gained successive victories. They were pressing forward towards the goal—the goal of reaching Delhi. The well-known marching song of the I.N.A. ('Chalo Delhi....') was designed accordingly. Japan was its main ally. But by the end of the year 1944, Japan began to betray signs of weakness. Germany in the West was almost defeated. The I. N. A. Jawans under Jagannathrao, with the 'Chalo Delhi' song in their mouths marched on against heavy odds from Rangoon to Imphal. The British resistance on the Burmah Front was growing with the passage of time. Advance for the I. N. A. was impracticable. Netaji reviewed the whole situation and directed the I. N. A. to retreat to Singapore. The retreat started; but many Jawans refused to retreat. They preferred dying in the field fighting to tracing their steps backwards. Thousands did die on the Imphal front with the 'Chalo Delhi' song in their mouth. After much harrowing experience Jagannathrao reached Bangkok. At this juncture America struck the last blow against Japan by dropping atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The devastating result of this outrage is a matter of common knowledge. Japan had no other alternative but to surrender to the Allies—immediately and unconditionally. The last ray of hope for the I. N. A. melted into thin air.

After Japan's surrender, Netaji one day was to leave Bangkok for Tokyo. A plane was kept in readiness for him to fly. Netaji was anxiously waiting for the arrival of Jagannathrao who was also to accompany him to Tokyo. Jagannathrao came; he saluted his Netaji, but told him that he had decided to remain behind. Netaji was taken aback a little but was quickly satisfied by Jagannathrao. Jagannathrao said that when the Netaji would be away it was very essential that at least the Chief Officer should be with the disheartened jawans. This was the second occasion when Jagannathrao preferred to be with the rank and file of the army to going away for safety. Netaji was visibly moved by Jagannathrao's unexpected and magnanimous gesture and said that he had not at all known Senapati Bhonsale till that moment. Presenting his own pocket gold watch to Jagannathrao, Netaji said in a choked voice "Take this as a keepsake. I will require your invaluable help in India." Saying these words Netaji boarded the plane and the plane vanished with him in a twinkling :

With Japan's surrender the Second World War was over. The Allies emerged victorious out of the holocaust. The I. N. A. was defeated. The British army officers in Bangkok tried to tease Jagannathrao for what they described as his imprudence; but Jagannathrao was as magnanimous as ever. In victory as well as in defeat he was true to the noble traditions set by Shivaji Maharaj. The I. N. A. Jawans and their Chief Jagannathrao were brought back to their own country as British prisoners of war! Jagannathrao was kept in the historic Red Fort of Delhi. He and others were to be tried for high treason, and it did not require a soothsayer to predict that death would be the fate of them all. It would be difficult to find a parallel

to Jagannathrao's fluctuating fortune. The whole nation was plunged into grief by anticipation of the hero's fate. And what an irony of late ! The patriot was being punished as a traitor for being a true patriot ! The threatening clouds of calamity, however, cleared away after six long anxious, agonising months.

Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the late Bhulabhai Desai and others, Jagannathrao and his other I. N. A. personnel were proved not guilty and hence were set at liberty. They were now free citizens of India. The entire nation rightly celebrated this great event. Jagannathrao came back to his people in Maharashtra. Wherever he went he was accorded a hero's welcome. His popularity was then at its zenith. His name was resounding through the length and breadth of our country. After the hard trials of cruel fate he could now enjoy life as others enjoy, indulge in the satisfaction of physical pleasures as others do. But, for Jagannathrao the phase of pleasure-seeking was over. Within a few weeks of his release and acquittal his devoted wife Chandrikadevi left him for the other world. Since her death he became a real Sanyasin. But the Sanyasin Jagannathrao rededicated himself to work for the Nation—to work especially for the welfare of those I. N. A. jawans who had thrown their lot with him for the Nation all along.

In August 1947, the eagerly sought swaraj came to India bringing in its trail the partition and innumerable other problems. The problem of rehabilitation of the heroic I. N. A. jawans was very urgent indeed ! In fact, the well-being of the jawans was a matter of prestige for our country. Surely, the nation owed them something more than a mere expression of gratitude. The nation

happily was now free from the foreign yoke. Our national leaders were at the helm of affairs. The idol of the nation, our dear Jawaharlal Nehru was the Prime Minister. All the people were happy in the expectation that the Prime Minister would do all that was proper to be done in the case of the I. N. A. men who brought the swaraj nearer by dint of their determined struggle against heavy odds.

But the people were rudely shocked and greatly disappointed as they were let down in their legitimate expectation by their own beloved leaders in authority. The I. N. A. men could not be conveniently absorbed in the Indian army, nor could they be given any other fruitful employment ! The disbanded I. N. A. personnel came to be reduced to a band of destitutes in their own newly independent country, thanks to the unhelpful attitude of their own free Government. Praise of the I. N. A. was no longer heard. It became a subject of ridicule and disparagement instead. The lot of the I. N. A. men became worse than that of the refugees from Pakistan ! They had no place of honour in their own free mother-land ! Even lip sympathy for them became rare.

The only person who stood by the discarded I. N. A. men was Jagannathrao. He had popularity but no power. He was deeply pained by their plight. The wounds of ingratitude are indeed very deep. Shakespeare rightly says that 'winter wind does not bite so high as ingratitude.' The I. N. A. men were smarting under the wounds of ingratitude on the part of those who should have known better. Wise people do not keep any association with distibutes ! But Jagannathrao took the destitutes to his heart.

ज्यासी आपगिता नाहीं त्यासी घरी जो हृदयी  
तोचि साषु ओळखावा, देव तेथेचि जाणावा ॥

Sant Tukaram has expressed in these lines what we should think of a man like Jagannathrao who did not hesitate to embrace the discarded, miserable wretches of the I. N. A. He decided to do his best in rehabilitating as many of them as possible. Whenever he went, the helpless men thronged round their earstwhile Senapati for the redress of their grievances. It was a tremendous task. Jagannathrao single-handed as he was, did his best in the matter. But what he could do was naturally little compared with the vast that remained undone. Occasion proves the merit or otherwise of man. Jagannathrao stood the test of the occasion magnificently when many others grievously failed.

When Jagannathrao was released after the trial, he had no peace of mind. He was mentally tormented by the picture he saw in India. He had previously spent some months in Japan and he was thrilled to see how Japanese children were trained in National Discipline. A nation of disciplined, determined and dedicated people, like that of Japan, he thought would never be subjugated even if defeated some time. On the contrary India was newly independent. At the advent of swaraj the confusion on the political plane became worse confounded. The future remained bleak. In comparison with Japan, Jagannathrao saw that India was a tremendous wasteland of manpower. He clearly visualised the dangers of free India and pleaded for the proper defence of its frontiers. He had never been an orator to win applause or attention by a mere jugglary of words. But he spoke from the bottom of his heart. He pointed out in the clearest possible terms that

if the hard-won freedom was to be a reality, an India of nationally disciplined, trained and strong men was urgently needed. He went as far as offering to take the initiative in the matter of training.

Jagannathrao's sincere proposals for toning up national discipline failed to impress the authorities. The importance of military preparedness for the defence of the country was not realised. The complacent and convenient view that India became free through a nonviolent civilian struggle was gaining ground. Moreover, our illustrious leaders told us that we had no enemies, that there was no danger to our frontiers in foreseeable time. Jagannathrao was very uneasy at all this. He was anxious for the training of the shapeless manpower in the country, especially the younger generations. He had excellent schemes for the training, but they remained in his mind.

Jagannathrao came to be elected an M. P. on the Congress ticket in the 1952 general elections. But he was not happy. Politics could not allure him. Service was the mission of his life. When Ministership was offered he deliberately asked for the portfolio of rehabilitation of refugees! He made a beginning in the field of training by the training of refugee children on the Japanese model. Encouraged by the result, Jagannathrao launched his National Discipline Scheme in 1954.

When Chou-en-lai visited our country the N. D. S. trained children at Delhi made a grand display before him and our Prime Minister also was very much impressed by it for the first time. Jagannathrao was happy and started working more vigorously for extending the scheme further. In due course of time the N. D. S. was generally approved of by the Union Government. But the Government some-

how could not pay to Jagannathrao's scheme the attention they deserved.

Jagannathrao lost the 1957 General Election. He hailed his defeat as a God-sent. His heart was never in politics. Now he was free to devote politics. Now he was free to devote all his time to his dear mission. The N. D. S. became a passion with him. Unluckily he did not receive the co-operation he should have from the authorities. He knew very well that India was vulnerable both externally and internally. As a military expert he knew the weak points of our Himalayan front and did not make a secret of it. Unfortunately, Jagannathrao's insight into things militarily important was not availed of. He was very sad that the authorities failed to realise the importance of national discipline and the efficacy of his scheme to achieve that.

In October 1962, our Chinese friends attacked our so-called enemyless country on the Himalayan front. Jagannathrao was perhaps the only leader of note who was not at all surprised at the Chinese aggression on our soil. He was also not surprised at the Indian reverses and the Chinese quick advance into our territory. Our Prime Minister then understood clearly what Jagannathrao had been consistently advocating about national discipline. But it was too late then! The nation was caught napping, unawares and unprepared. Jagannathrao, among others, was consulted for measures to be taken to avoid damage. But how can Rome be built in a day? The inevitable happened. The Indian reverses on the Himalayan front could not be avoided. Jagannathrao over-worked himself those days. He was already keeping indifferent health. Doctors had advised him to take rest and

had warned against over-strain. But Jagannathrao knew only one thing then He knew that if the Chinese evil was to be successfully met with, an India of nationally disciplined, determined and dedicated people was urgently needed.

Jagannathrao feverishly started working out numerous plans of expanding the N. D. S. He took no rest and did not avoid strain. The ailment of heart grew worse and yet he took no rest. He pressed on. It was a struggle for the nation. He had ever been a Senapati. It was impossible for him to retire at that critical time. The fight was on. The Senapati's head was almost severed from the body like that of Murarbaji; his heart was riddled with bullets like that of Baji Prabhu. But the fight for the nation was not over. The fight was on. The Senapati fell fighting by the side of our Prime Minister and in falling won the battle. The nation received a shock treatment. The importance of the N. D. S. was no longer a matter of controversy. It became a reality. What Jagannathrao could not achieve in his life, he achieved in his death ! Thus came to a close the book of a fluctuating fortune—the life of Senapati Jagannathrao Bhonsale on 14th May 1963, at Sariska in Rajasthan.



## CHAPTER VI

# National Discipline Scheme

Jagannathrao's National Discipline scheme has come to stay. The seed of the scheme was planted in his mind very early. He was lucky to get a chance of going round the world before the second world war. He made the most of this opportunity, a military man as he was, in studying the methods of training children in various countries in the values of life side by side with physical discipline. He was very agreeably impressed by what he saw in this connection especially in the U. K., Germany and Japan. He came back from the world tour to resume his duty as the Lt. in the Indian Army. The absence of any kind of systematic training af the Indian children made him very uneasy. But nothing could be done about it even if one wanted to India was under the British domination and Jagannathrao himself was a military servant of the Government.

Jagannathrao got a second chance of going to Japan in 1943, this time as the I. N. A. Chief and in the company of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. He lived in Japan for about three months on this occasion and during this period of time visited many Japanese villages, small scale industries, schools and other training centres for children. He wanted to learn how a small nation like Japan with limited resources could challange the combined might of the allies in 1942. He was amazed at Japan's all-round progress in an unimaginably short time. A keen observer that he was, he was quick to realise that the secret of Japan's success lay in the national discipline together with

physical fitness of the people at large. Every emphasis was laid on integrity of character, patriotism and the spirit of supreme sacrifice for the country if need be. Jagannathrao rightly felt that a nation of highly disciplined, determined, and dedicated people like that of Japan could never be wiped out, even if defeated sometimes.

Jagannathrao very much admired the Japanese method of training their children and devoutly wished for a similar scheme for Indian children. After the conclusion of the second world war he came back to India as a prisoner but was set at liberty within a short time. Soon afterwards India became independent and Jagannathrao was full of hopes. He was eager for experimenting on the younger generation on the Japanese lines. But the enthusiastic Jagannathrao was very much disappointed by the conditions obtained in the country at that time. Swaraj came to us at a very awkward time—at a time when we were hardly prepared for it. The one hundred and fifty old years of the foreign domination had maimed quite our capacities and capabilities. During the years of national agitations our people cultivated fearlessness in courting imprisonment. There was indeed no dearth of volunteers ready to fill the prisons but there was a severe dearth of able administrators, so essential for making the long cherished swaraj a reality.

It would be difficult to find a parallel to the confusion amongst the politicians of the day. The evil of indiscipline had become all embracing. During the various freedom movements indiscipline among the students and the people as well came to be encouraged knowingly or unknowingly. The Demon of indiscipline assumed alarmingly enormous proportions at the dawn of our swaraj.

Jagannathrao was quick to see that many of the politicians of the day were the most indisciplined and unscrupulous in their approach. He also realised that something could be done about the student indiscipline but the task of reforming the politicians was absolutely hopeless.

Jagannathrao repeatedly spoke about the urgent need of bringing about an emotional integration of the people. He pleaded for the immediate introduction of training in national discipline to the younger generation. His speeches were patiently heard; his writings were eagerly read. But somehow they did not evoke much interest among the authorities. Jagannathrao regretted the attitude of the authorities but was not disheartened. He patiently waited for an opportunity to give a trial to his scheme. In 1952 he became an M. P. and a Minister and very opportunely got the Refugee Rehabilitation portfolio. He made a beginning of his National Discipline scheme by training the refugee children at Delhi.

The importance of the N. D. S. is now realised on all hands. The scheme is being extended by the Central Govt. to all the states of the Union. The more people come to know about the scheme the better they will understand their own role in it. The Government, of course, is doing its best in publicising the scheme. But it is in the fitness of things that Jagannathrao's biography should bear some appraisal of his scheme. Two such appraisals of the scheme by Jagannathrao himself are therefore included here. The two writings give a clear picture of the National Discipline Scheme and help get a glimpse of the architect of the scheme as well.

### **Introduction :**

I am convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that the method that we are trying to adopt, though only as an experimental measure, promises unqualified success in the direction of imparting real and solid training to our younger generation. Naturally, in this scheme the inclusion of discipline occupies a supreme place. Any form of discipline, if it is real, will have some semblance of military training. But it can have nothing whatsoever to do with regimentation as such. Regimentation, as it is loosely referred to by many, is associated with a degree of undesirable features like the subordination of all individuality to some cast-iron uniformity and restrictions. The scheme that we are trying to put into effect is almost the opposite of what is commonly known as regimentation. In our scheme, every single child develops a natural pride in his own individual personal qualities of intellect and character. The emphasis is all the time on the child's self-reliance, concentration and sense of patriotism. The child is all the time encouraged to look upon himself as a very potential future citizen of India who will develop himself to fit into that role in due course. The faculties the child will develop under our scheme will make the maximum contribution towards enabling the child to develop to the highest level of human endeavour and achievement. There is the constant suggestion underlying the entire training that what the child is going to be depends entirely on himself and that he is no way subjected to irksome restrictions or external control that is likely to curb initiative and bold enterprise. There is, of course, no gainsaying the fact that no discipline worth the name can be given to each individual boy or girl separately except in highly

developed countries where the parents at home and the public schools of the country provide sustained degree of training for the child. This, of course, is not practicable in India for some time to come.

(2) In the circumstances prevailing in India, today discipline can be imparted to children only *en-masse*. It is this necessity to give the training *en-masse* for the time being that gives the whole scheme an appearance of military method. This is entirely superficial and in any event this appearance of military bias should not be confused with regimentation at all. The reason is, the whole approach is fundamentally different from the concept of regimentation. Regimentation avoedly acts out to crush the individual and make him feel that he is only a small part of a huge machinery with no thought or feeling of his own. On the contrary, this scheme from the very beginning lays special emphasis on the pride of the individual in himself and actively encourages qualities of self-confidence and self-reliance.

(3) I hope that I have succeeded in convincing you that the approach of this scheme is absolutely correct and will in no circumstances lead itself to be abused or degenerated into anything that may be construed as an attempt at regimentation.

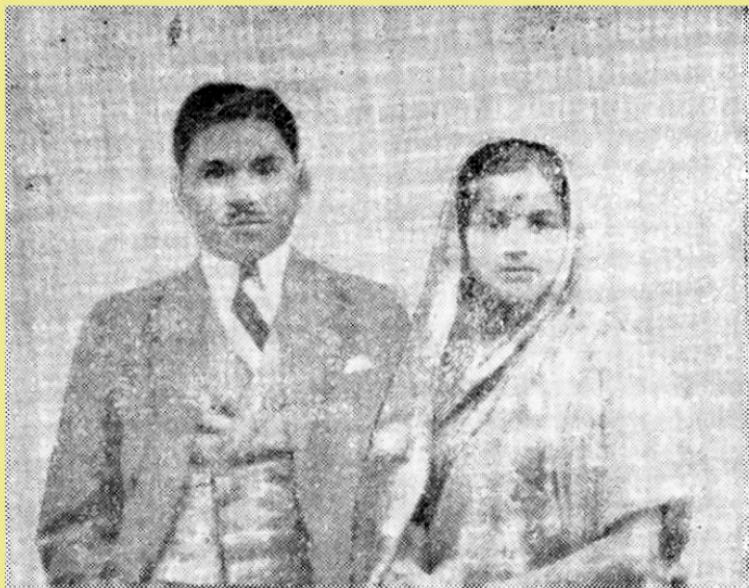
(4) Perhaps it may not be out of place to mention the fact that we are actively engaged throughout the country in encouraging the N. C. C. because we want the youth of the country to take to military training enthusiastically so that if ever the need should arise, young Indians may not be found totally unprepared for service in the cause of the country. There is also the territorial force for which it is still so difficult to rouse enthusiasm among the young



Jagannathrao in England ( 1937 )



Jagannathrao, Babu Rashbehari and Netaji  
Singapore ( 1943 )



**Jagannathrao and Chandrikadevi**



**Drive with the Rashtrapati**

men. This is partly due to the fact that the right attitude of mind has not yet been developed in our youth.

( 5 ) After all, even in our Parliament the need to give military training including weapon training has been urged for all adults.

## **II The scheme for Delhi State :**

The small experiment conducted with this scheme in Kasturba Niketan and Nava Hind High School having proved an unqualified success according to competent and impartial observers, the next step has to be considered and a practical scheme drawn up with a view to introducing the scheme over a wider field. It would be desirable, as an initial effort, to apply the scheme to all the 53 Government High or Higher schools in Delhi State. The original experiment having been conducted in two schools in Delhi, it is quite appropriate that the expansion of the scheme also takes place in a widening circle in Delhi State itself. One of the advantages of choosing Delhi State schools as the first subject of the experiment on a larger scale is that the experiment over a wider area would be conducted within the sight of the Union Ministry of Education. Any adjustments that the Union Ministry may consider necessary during the process of the experiment could be carried out promptly and the results of such adjustments also assessed without delay. Thus we ensure the movement having the benefit of the constant watch and guidance of the Union Ministry.

The scheme for Delhi State would be as follows :—

There are 53 Government High and Higher Secondary schools in Delhi State with a total strength of 47,507

boys and girls. The training of these boys and girls will require a total number of 210 instructors, of whom 10 will be officers.

Now it is impossible to find all the 200 competent instructors immediately. However competent an instructor may be in all other respects, it must be remembered that perhaps for the first time in his life he is going to be an instructor for school children.

The 200 instructors will be given one month's intensive training in the Instructor's Training School which will be run by the 10 officers who after having trained the instructors will be absorbed in the cadre of officers. The minimum cost of this training would be as follows :—

- 1) Rent of premises, electricity, water charges etc.
- 2) One Head Clerk, one upper-division clerk, two lower division clerks, one stenographer, one driver, one cleaner and two peons, to look after the purely administrative side of the school.

3. The ten officers and the 200 men will receive board and lodges but they will pay for them out of their salaries.

Out of these 10 officers, one will be designed as the Deputy Director of Physical Education of the entire training scheme. He will be in charge of the school and at the same time there will be two Asstt. Directors of Physical Instruction. Their scales will be as follows :—

Dy. Director of Physical Education (Starting salary)	600-40-800/50-1150. Rs. 800/- P. M,
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Two Asstt. Director of Physical Education.	400-25-500-30-800.
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**Five Inspectors of Physical Education**      180-30-350.

**Two Inspectors of Physical Education  
at Headquarter :**      180-30-350.

20 Instructors receiving will begin drawing the following scale of Rs. 120-8-200/E. B. 10-300, and 180 instructors Rs. 30-5-120/8/220.

4. Furniture : Office furniture, typewriters, sundries.
5. Transport : One station wagon with loud speaker.  
One jeep.  
Two motor-cycles.
6. Contingency : including imprest amount.
7. It is highly essential to have an experienced public relation officer so that the scheme is worked out in a really favourable atmosphere and is popularised in areas to which it is applied. Public opinion has got to be built up on a steady and systematic manner. The Public Relations Officer will be assisted by a stenographer and a peon and will have a small office at the headquarters of the organization and he must be provided with a jeep. His grade may be fixed at Rs. 400-25-500-30-800 and he be given a starting salary of Rs. 500/- p.m.

The Public Relations Officer will work directly under the Deputy Director of Physical Education.

The recruitment to the entire personnel of instructors beginning with the Deputy Director of Physical Education and ending with the men on the 80-220 grade as also the civilian staff to a considerable extent will have to be men with special aptitude and taste for the training envisaged in this scheme. The recruitment of the entire personnel of the Instructor's Organisation including the civilians should

be carried out by a small committee of three persons who have a thorough knowledge of the peculiar requirements of this organisation. This will ensure the recruitment of the necessary men in the quickest possible time so that the organisation may begin functioning.

Every one of the persons recruited will be on a 3 months probation during which period any man's services can be terminated without notice. After the probationary period is over, they will be confirmed for the duration of the scheme.

The total outlay on the scheme will be :—

Salaries as per Appendix A.	2,26,710
Allowances as per Appendix A.	2,15,523
Contingencies as per Appendix A	12 600
Training School as per Appendix A	5,464
Recurring expenditure as per Appendix A	37,200
<hr/>	
Say	5,33,197 .
<hr/>	
5,5 lacs.	

All instructors when they are posted to various schools must be provided with quarters within the school compound, if possible, a maximum of 10% of their salary being deducted for accommodation.

If the scheme is approved in broad outline, further details like syllabus will be worked out later.



## NATIONAL DISCIPLINE

One of the many problems which face the country at present and to which the attention of everyone, who takes an intelligent interest in the development of our younger generation at schools and colleges into useful citizens, has been forcibly drawn during recent years, is the problem of indiscipline. Indiscipline is visible not only amongst students but can also be noticed amongst politicians, services, organizations, etc. While the country has made rapid progress in almost every other sphere, the problem of discipline has not received the attention it deserve. Countries like U. K., Germany and Japan have high traditions of discipline. It is this trait of their character which makes these nations truly great. It is, therefore, imperative that in order to make our country equally strong and great, we must strain every nerve to build up discipline among our younger generation.

(2) The growth of indiscipline amongst students may be put down to the senseless use of slogans and demonstrations which seem to have become the fashion of the day in the political field due to a misconceived notion of freedom a feeling that you have only rights and no duties, to a confused sense of values that literacy is education and that education received through a few text books and cheap notes is culture, to indiscriminate admissions to colleges of stndents who are likely to benefit little by University education, to the unfortunate atmosphere of flippancy in which fun and frolic of the vulgar type have taken the place of morality and beauty, and possibly to a sense of frustration and lack of purpose in life.

(3) Growth of indiscipline amongst politicians is, alas, due largely to greed for power. The principle of service of the country on which Mahatmaji had laid so much emphasis appears to have been consigned to the limbo of oblivion. This is not all. What is far worse is that unscrupulous and self-seeking politicians do not hesitate to contaminate young students. If India is to become great, these things must be eschewed and discarded.

(4) It is true that so long as India was under bondage we had no opportunity of tackling our different problems. But with the dawn of freedom, it rests with us to grapple with this difficult problem in right earnest. Fortunately, for us we have amongst us a great leader and statesman who is loved and respected and held in great esteem and affection and on whom rests the heavy responsibility of giving a lead to the country. I have no doubt in my mind that with his help and guidance this vexed problem which has eluded solutions so far will no longer remain a problem.

(5) In this connection I venture to make a few suggestions. Discipline is normally imparted to young boys and girls in three different places, viz. :—

- (a) at home, (b) in school and (c) when they go out in the world.

I am sure no one will deny that the home is the most suitable place where lessons in ordinary discipline can best be taught to young boys and girls when their minds are most receptive. In India, however, unfortunately, the parents of young students, majority of whom are illiterate, have not had proper training in discipline themselves and

they are therefore not in a position to impart "elementary training in discipline to their young children at home.

(6) Training in discipline at home generally not being possible, it can, therefore, be imparted only in schools and emphasis is laid on studies and attainment of bookish knowledge. This is not a happy sign and if we are to prosper as a nation, the present system of education shall have to be reformed. Great responsibility therefore devolves on the teachers for training the young generation on right lines, and it is the duty of the teacher to see that a bond of active and responsive co-operation is established between him and the student during the whole process of his education and formation of his character. It will be clear, therefore, that if proper training of mind is not given to a student in the school, he will not know how to use his mind when he comes out in the world. Students these days seem sometimes to lose their way and in periods of uncertainty, become easy victims of exploitation by extraneous influences which divert their attention from the pursuits of knowledge. The exploitation at the hands of unscrupulous agitators is a challenge to the teachers and students alike and it is time that this challenge is met boldly and steadfastly and with courage and determination. If one happens to be present at a congregation the lack of discipline both among the younger generation as well as elderly people manifests itself in many ways and cannot escape attention. Discipline, cannot, however, be inculcated simply by putting the young boys in khaki. Attention has to be paid to a host of other details such as cleanliness, mode of speech, dress, mode of sitting and standing in the class-room while answering a question, punctuality, behaviour towards his fellow children and in

fact to every detail which would ultimately contribute towards his becoming a disciplined citizen of our country. This of course can be done only when we have got trained teachers for this purpose.

(7) If discipline is not taught at home or school then we have no right to expect discipline from such students when they come into the open world.

(8) I visited Japan twice. My second visit in 1943 was undertaken with a view to discovering how a small country like Japan with a population hardly equat to 1/5th of this country and with its a meagre resources could challenge the Anglo-Americans in 1942. Though the Japanese lost the war, there is no denying the fact that they impressed the whole civilized world with their sense of discipline, their patriotism and their spirit of sacrifice, displayed in all the theatres of the Second World War. I found that in Japan every care is taken to see that sufficient attention is paid to the training of the boy particularly in the matter of discipline right from the time of his admission to the school till the conclusion of his studies. The spirit of patriotism is also instilled in him during his school days. One of two periods are exclusively kept apart for what is known as spiritual training. The curriculum of this training is worked out by the State with the sole object of infusing in the younger generation a spirit of patriotism. The spirit of sacrifice displayed by the Japanese has no parallel in the world. I have myself watched a Japanese spontaneously committing Harakiri on account of the failure of a mission assigned to him. A high sense of descipline and patriotic fervour inculcated in him, drives him to a state of frenzy which takes into account no other consideration except that of the country

to which he belongs. We must not forget that this spirit of sacrifice has not been uncommon in the history of India either. Rajput history is replete with instances of warriors committing 'Johar' when they had lost all hopes of success. I am all in favour of reviving this dormant spirit in a systematic and scientific manner.

(9) After a careful and detailed analysis of what I saw there, I have come to the conclusion that Japanese possess three great qualities namely, discipline, patriotism and the spirit of self-sacrifice.

(10) I must make it clear at once that I am not enamoured of the Japanese but I certainly do admire their virtues and qualities and I think it will be a good thing if we could profitably develop these virtues among our younger generation to the advantage of our country.

(11) I venture to give below my suggestions in brief for the attainment of our object,

(12) Specially trained teachers should be posted to schools and colleges to discipline the younger generation. They will be required to perform the following tasks :—

- (a) Instil discipline in the students.
- (b) Make them healthy through physical and military training.
- (c) Impart spiritual training.

(13) In our country there are several lacs of ex-service men willing to work in any capacity. A good number of them are first-class trainees who could be entrusted with the above task. They are particularly well-qualified and fitted for this kind of training. Simul-

taneously, civilian teachers already in schools, can also be trained for this work.

( 14 ) These instructor will, of course, have to be put through a short refresher course, to ensure, uniformity throught the country. When this batch of instructors is trained at special training centres, they should be posted in various schools and colleges and they should in turn put the teachers through a short course—define the relations between the teachers and their pupils—of what to expect, how to detect and check the faults which manifest themselves in the students in their young age. Unless and until the teachers know how to detect and correct faults, in and outside the class-rooms the mere posting of instructors for physical and spiritual training will not haye much effect. A great responsibility therefore devolves on the teacher who are with the children, for the children, for the greater period of the day, of keeping an eye on the student's faults and correcting them effectively In this connection a special list of ' DOS ' and ' DONT'S ' will have to be worked out.

( 15 ) As regards (b)—physical and military training—the course should be simple and attractive and graceful of performance and the aim should be to turn out smart and healthy students thoroughly disciplined to face the problems of life. The actual details of their course can be worked out, if the scheme is accepted in principle.

( 16 ) As regards (c)—spiritual training—I would suggest that a committee might be set up to go into the question of determining the carriculum with due regard to India's ancestral heritage, culture, stamina of the people and traditions which would help inculcate in the younger

generation, the qualities of leadership and patriotism. To my mind, spiritual training is most essential for building up, on progressive lines, a newly independent nation like ours.

(17) There is yet another important factor which cuts at the very root of indiscipline and that is the proper training of the eyes which play a very important role in developing one's character and personality. Whenever I have had occasion to enter a classroom in a school. I have invariably found the students turning their eyes towards the person entering the class-room. Such a thing would not happen in a disciplined class. This shows lack of concentration. In Germany and Japan the armies had to undergo a very comprehensive course of training of the eyes. I have experimented on it in Bombay and Delhi and am very happy to say the result has been very encouraging.

(18) The main idea which has prompted me to suggested the introduction of this training is to discipline the student world which will incidentally infuse in them the spirit of patriotism and sacrifice.

## **N. D. S. As A Part of Education**

The need to inject social, democratic and nationalistic elements into the body of our education and to increase its powers of resistance against sickness such as casteism, linguism, sectional loyalties and indiscipline is keenly realised by our national leadership.

Chief among the agencies that strive to give the much needed fillip to our educational pattern is the National Discipline Scheme of Govt. of India. The aim of the scheme which is a wing under the Ministry of Education is to supplement the existing order of education and not to supplant it. The children of today live and learn in a free democratic India; in an atmosphere much different to the one that existed when we were attending school. New factors, new ideals and values have emerged out of our free status as a nation and it is but natural that the existing scheme of education finds itself rather unequal to answer these recent demands. The N. D. S. in active collaboration with our present day educational system aspires to answer these requirements and to make our education full and able to meet the needs of today.

### **The Five Phases of N. D. S. Programme**

Unlike other unilateral discipline schemes, the N. D. S. has a wide scope Broadly speaking the training under the National Discipline Scheme is imparted under its five following phases :-

- (1) Drill
- (2) Spirit Infusing Training
- (3) Cultural Development
- (4) Organisation
- (5) Administration.

The National Discipline Scheme aims at creating a healthy mind in a healthy body. It has been universally recognised that drill is the foundation of discipline and in consequence, this type of training is imparted through simple and easy manoeuvre drill, parades, sports and games. Physical training, not only serves to develop the physique of the children and promote good health, but also develops in them a spirit of comradeship and leadership. It also promotes the co-ordination of the movements of children in a group and gives them a sense of precision and oneness.

**Spirit Infusing Training** as a part of the National Discipline Scheme plays a very important role in the development of the children's character and personality. By series of lectures delivered by well - qualified instructors, the child is taught to appreciate a sense of duty to himself, to the community and country. Sectarian and sectional loyalties are discouraged and attention is paid to number of details of habit such as cleanliness, punctuality and the value of time. Special care is taken to remind the child of India's past glory, tradition, culture and heritage.

**The Cultural Development** and unity of our children from a very important phase in the training under N. D. S. Folk-dances and folk-songs embodying the highest-

cultural traditions of the various regions in India are taught scientifically to the children. Cultural activities that are common to all the parts of our land from south to North, striking a chord of response and consciousness of the oneness of our country are laid emphasis upon. An action song depicting the glory of our land is sung to the accompaniment of instruments and it is indeed a sight to see the children moving in rhythm supplementing the music with sensitive physical movements. The consciousness of nationhood and oneness is to be achieved not by words but by such pattern of dance and music, infusing into our children a keen sense of appreciation of the essential cultural unity of our country.

The sponsors of the scheme are aware that the slumbering sense of the centuries - old emotional and cultural unity of our country needs only to be awakened by recalling to the minds of our children the glory of our past and the richness of our heritage. Once we wake up that feeling in the minds of our youth and appeal to their sense of patriotism, we would have securely laid the foundation for the future of country.

Children are taught elementary principles of ADMINISTRATION. Interest is aroused in the child in the receptive period of his life about his future work. As regards ORGANISATION, the scheme attempts to impress upon the young children the advantage of a methodical, concentrated and corporate working. They are given practical training in organising meetings, parades, games and competitions and are shown the grace, beauty and effectiveness that methodical working and planning lends to an occasion.

## **Some Observation on Jagannathrao's N. D. S.**

I think the problem which we have to face rapidly is the so called discipline. It can be met with more effectively by giving this physical training and I should like the Chief Ministers to consider this matter and encourage it.

The second thing is a thing which is called National Discipline Scheme which was started by the Rehabilitation Ministry here for children in schools of refugees who come here from Punjab. There are plenty of them in Delhi. It was started in Delhi and it has spread to Bengal and else where and our Deputy Minister for Rehabilitation, Shri Bhonsle, is incharge of it. Well he has produced extraordinary results and it is most impressing to see 3000 of these children, boys and girls to display such a fine discipline. It is very amazing to see for half an hour these children. I have been wanting to spread it. It has spread to some extent. But still I think it is confined to refugee children. It is good for all schools. The other day Mr. Chon En-lai, the Prime Minister of China saw it in Delhi and he said in Bombay that there were two things which have impressed him the most one is the National Physical Laboratory here and the other is this National Discipline Scheme. He asked Bhonsle to send some people to China. Bhonsle has done remarkable well and I think we should encourage it in our schools. It is spreading in Delhi and Punjab Schools and it is very very good. As a matter of fact he is doing such good work that I feel like relieving him of all other work and putting him in charge of this work alone... Really it has produced very good results for the money spent on it."

**Jawaharlal Nehru.**

After having watched everthing carefully and having read the literature of the National Discipline Schame, I have not the least doubt that from the point of view of National Discipline as well as from the point of view of generating in our young people a sense of national integration, this scheme is entitled to be regarded as the most important in the country. I say this with a good deal of deliberation and the sense of responsibility because I believe that I am the first member of the National Integration Council, who have had the privilege of spending a day seeing for myself what is being done in the quest of leadership under the banner of National Descipline Scheme. It will indeed be a very good thing for the National Integration Council to have at least one meeting here so that they could see themselves what are the practical ways of bringing about national integration as already done at Sariska. My fear, however, is that the members will perhaps feel that there is no need for National Integration Council and may disband it. In any case I shall make it my duty to report to the council what I have seen, and what happiness for the country I see in the development and the extension of this very unique enterprise that has been started by Gen. Bhonsle.

Sd/-**Dr. C. D. Deshmukh**  
 Vice-Chancellor,  
 Delhi University.

"I have, ever since I came to India, wondered if there is a remedy for some of the ills, one reads about so much in the papers—indiscipline of students, lack of enthusiasm, lack of patriotism and self-confidence. After so many years spent in India even a foreigner begins to associate himself with the country he lives in while doing so I began dreaming about a school were NEW INDIA is shaped. It is such a surprise for me that this school exists already, here in Sariska. I think it is the best thing I saw in India in a 10 year stay".

**Mr. Thilo Bode.**  
**Representative, Die Welt, Hamburg.**



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