

10-CHANDRA SHEKHAR AZAD



Chandra Shekhar Azad, popularly known as Azad, was one of the most fearless and greatest freedom fighters of India. He, son of Pandit Sita Ram Tiwari and Jagrani Devi, was born on 23rd July 1906, in village Bhavra in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh. He received his early education in Bhavra. For education he went to the Sanskrit Pathshala at Varanasi. He was a great worshipper of Lord Hanuman. Once he disguised himself as a priest in a Hanuman temple to escape from the clutches of the British police.

Young Chandra Shekhar was attracted by the non-violent, non-cooperation movement of 1920-21 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. He joined the movement and was arrested and produced before the magistrate. He gave his name as 'Azad' (free), his father's name as 'Swatantra' (freedom) and his residence as 'Prison'. This provoked the magistrate who sentenced him to fifteen lashes. From then on he was known as Azad.

Azad's patriotism and courage inspired others to join the freedom struggle. Chandra Shekhar was the mentor of Bhagat Singh, who was also a great freedom fighter.

Both Chandra Shekhar and Bhagat Singh actively participated in revolutionary activities. He was deeply disturbed by the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar in 1919. He also played a key role in the Kakori case. Chandra Shekhar was a terror for the British Police. He was on their hit list and the British Police badly wanted to capture him dead or alive. On 27th February 1931, Chandra Shekhar Azad was at Alfred Park in Allahabad. He was betrayed by an informer to the British Police. The police surrounded the park and ordered Chandra Shekhar Azad to surrender. Azad fought bravely and killed the policemen. Finally, finding himself surrounded by the police, he shot himself. Thus he kept his pledge of not being caught alive. He used to recite his favourite Hindi couplet.

Dushman ki goliyon ka hum samna karenge

Azad hee rahe hain, Azad hee rahenge

New Words/Phrases

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
fearless	- /'fi:ələs/	बिजब (डुडरर)
freedom fighter	- /'fri:dəm faɪtə(r)/	डुडरर डुडररडुडरर(र)
disguised	- /dɪs'gʌɪzd/	डुडररडुडरर
priest	- /praɪst/	डुडरर
provoked	- /prə'vʌkt/	डुडरर
lashes	- /'læʃz/	डुडरर
mentor	- /'mentɔ:(r)/	डुडरर(र)
revolutionary	- /,revə'lju:ʃənəri/	डुडररडुडरर
massacre	- /'mæsəkə(r)/	डुडररडुडरर

Comprehension Questions

1. Answer the following questions:

- a. Who was popularly known as Azad? What was his favourite Hindi couplet?
- b. When and where was Chandra Shekhar born?
- c. Name the movement for which he was arrested.
- d. What did the magistrate do when he was provoked by Azad?
- e. Why did the British Police want to capture Chandra Shekhar Azad?
- f. What was Azad's pledge? How did he keep it?

Word Power

1. Match the words given in column 'A' with their meanings in column 'B':

'A'	'B'
clutch	to get free from something
disguised	move a person to action
escaped	to take hold of something tightly
provoked	trusted adviser
mentor	to hide one's identity

Language Practice

1. Change the verbs given in the box into past indefinite forms and complete the sentences:

disconnect shock injure run fight

a. Shilpa was ___ and frightened after the accident.

b. Vineet fell and ___ himself.

c. The water supply was ___ due to storm.

d. The rat ___ as soon as it saw the cat.

e. The soldier ___ bravely in the battle.

2. Use the following pairs of words (homophones) in sentences to bring out the difference in their meanings. One is done for you:

Seen- Have you ever seen the sunset at Mount Abu?

Scene- The scene of the sunset at Mount Abu is marvellous.

a. sun, son b. new, knew

c. hair, hare d. see, sea

3. Write four adjectives which qualify Chandra Shekhar Azad.

Let's Know More

» The Madhya Pradesh Government has instituted 'Shaheed Chandra Shekhar Azad Memorial Award' for outstanding social services. The award carries an amount of Rs. 1.50 lakhs.

» Alfred Park in Allahabad, where Azad died has been named after him as Chandra Shekhar Azad Park.

» An inspirational quote by Azad, “Don’t see others doing better than you. Beat your own records everyday because success is a fight between you and yourself”.