

Subhas Chandra Bose said and I quote, "Freedom is not given, it is Taken."

India could have been independent in the year 1939. India could have avoided the decimating partition which sacrificed the lives of millions of Indians. Yet, such a hollow victory would have been a costly one. And this was understood by the great leaders of our beloved country. After centuries of constant struggle and tribulation suffered by the iron-willed Indians, victory was in sight. The British Empire could no longer extinguish the ferocious fire within, and had to give ground.

As the last gambit, they offered Indians a deal that promised to fulfill all the hopes and dreams that they had fought for, but on the condition that India becomes a Dominion of the Great Britain. It was an enticing offer as India would have its own constitution and regulations, it would have control over its own destiny. But, the biggest enticement would be ending the gruelling war, which had seen millions of Indians being martyred already. We could have taken the offer. Yet the calm minds prevailed, and we fought on.

How could the unswerving and resolute Mother India stop at nothing short of PURNA SWARAJ, full and complete independence? The British were offering liberty, however the fine prints said otherwise. The laws would have been made by Indians, however the final say would have been with the British Parliament. The Heads of States would be Indian, yet the Sovereignty would be with Great Britain and its Monarch. Indians would be in control of all fields of governance, yet the ringleader would still be Great Britain.

After half a decade of fighting, millions of sacrifices and a nation divided into parts, did we get our Full and Complete Independence, PURNA SWARAJ. We gave our prestigious Constitution, formed and drafted by the most acclaimed Indian of that time, the power of Sovereignty. We vested the highest authority of our nation in the Constitutional Principles, an amalgamation of all that the people of those times hoped for the New India. And the President was given the role to delegate that power on our constitution's behalf.

Therefore, Republic Day is celebrated separately in our country. Indians first fought for freedom, then for full and complete independence. We fought for a Sovereign Democratic Republic of India. We could have had an easier victory, but we fought for a brighter future.

Bharat Mata Ki Jai !