Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the revered figure of the Indian independence struggle was shot to death bringing in another shattering event in the history of India.

Who was the accused assassin of Mahatma Gandhi?

Nathuram Vinayak Godse, a Hindu militant shot Gandhi at point blank range on 30th January 1948. Godse believed that Gandhi was responsible for the unfortunate partition of the country and it was this hatred that made him assassinate Gandhi.

How did Godse appear at his trial?

Godse did not challenge his conviction under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code. Although he failed in his matriculation, he was widely read. While arguing his Appeal, he showed a fair knowledge of the English language and a remarkable capacity for clear thinking. Though a devout Brahmin by birth; Godse worked actively for the eradication of untouchability and caste system. He was not against Ahimsa, but was against Gandhi’s bias for Muslims.

Where and how was Godse convicted?

A Special Court was constituted to conduct the trial on 27th May 1948. Shri Atma Charan Agrawal, I.C.S. was appointed as the Judge. The venue of the court was the memorable Red Fort, Delhi. Nathuram Godse and Narayan Apte besides 10 others were accused of different charges. The hearing was closed on December 30, 1948 and the judgment was pronounced on February 10, 1949 announcing the death sentence of both Godse and Apte. Godse was hanged at Ambala Jail on November 15, 1949.

Fascinating Forts

Reviewing History

Famously known as the birthplace of Shivaji, Shivneri fort in Pune is a historical military fortification. Born on 19th February 1630, Shivaji spent his childhood in the fort and acquired his military training. It is located approximately 105 km from Pune. The boundary wall of the Shivneri Fort was built so high to protect the fort from the enemies. Inside of this fort there is a temple of goddess ‘Shivai Devi’. A larger than life statue of Shivaji is situated in front of the Shivneri fort. Approximately seven doors help one enter the fort. The fort encompasses a water pond called ‘Badami Talav’ located in the centre. A statue of Shivaji’s mother, Jijabai is located beside the water pond of the Shivneri fort. An interesting feature of Shivneri fort of Pune is a mosque with two towers which are joined by a graceful arch. To add to the attraction is a light and sound show presented by the Government.

Subhash Chandra Bose, affectionately called as Netaji, was one of the most prominent leaders of the Indian freedom struggle. Born on 23rd January, 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa, Bose was a brilliant student right from his childhood. He was strongly influenced by Swami Vivekananda’s teachings and was known for his patriotic zeal as a student.

Enlightening masses

Initially Bose worked under the leadership of Chittaranjan Das, an active member of Congress in Calcutta. It was Chittaranjan Das, who along with Motilal Nehru, left Congress and founded the Swaraj Party in 1922. While in Congress, he enlightened the students, youth and labourers of Calcutta.

Formation of INA

In 1941, Netaji went to Japan and formed the Indian National Army (INA) or Azad Hind Fauj in 1943 to overthrow the British Empire from India. The movement came to acquire legendary status among Indian masses. In 1945 the INA waged a war from the North-west of our country. He inspired his army with the slogan ‘Chalo Delhi’.

Last words

On 17th August 1945, Bose died in an unfortunate plane crash while flying from Bangkok to Tokyo. Though he did not live to see independent India; his words ‘Jai Hind’ spirited the freedom struggle.

Lighting Lives

A True Revolutionary

Shivaji’s Cradle

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