

As a part of “Induction programme of I B.Tech 2021-22 batch”

# Commemorating **unsung National Heroes** on **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**



# Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



- **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.
- This **Mahotsav** is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey but also hold within them the power and potential to enable Prime Minister's vision of activating India 2.0, fueled by the spirit of **Atmanirbhar** Bharat.



**CAPTAIN LAKSHMI SAHGAL**

**OFFICER OF THE  
RANI OF JHANSI  
REGIMENT, INA**

**UN Sung  
STORIES**  
— OF —  
**UN Sung  
HEROES**

# Captain Lakshmi Sahgal

(1914 - 2012)

75  
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**Captain Lakshmi Sahgal** is an activist of the Indian Independence League (IIL), an ex-officer of the Indian National Army (INA), and the Minister of Women's affairs in the Azad Hind Sarkar.

A doctor by profession, Captain Lakshmi came into the limelight in India towards the end of World War II for her role as the commander of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment of the INA and her role as a minister in Subhas Bose's Azad Hind government.

Lakshmi Sahgal later became involved in politics in independent India, serving as a member of parliament in the Upper House and later running for President as a left wing candidate.

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## EARLY LIFE



- Lakshmi Sahgal was born as Lakshmi Swaminathan to A.V. Ammakutty and Dr. S. Swaminathan on 24 October 1914 in Malabar under Madras Presidency.
- Her father, Dr S. Swaminathan, a leading lawyer practicing Criminal Law at Madras High Court.
- Her mother, A.V. Ammukutty, better known as Ammu Swaminathan, a social worker and freedom fighter.
- Lakshmi studied in Queen Mary's College and later chose to study medicine and received an MBBS degree from Madras Medical College in 1938.
- A year later, she received her diploma in gynecology and obstetrics.
- She worked as a Doctor in the Government Kasturba Gandhi Hospital located at Triplicane Chennai.

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## FREEDOM FIGHTER



- In **1940**, she left for Singapore and during her stay at Singapore, she met some members of **Subhas Chandra Bose's Indian national Army (INA)**.
- In **1942**, during the surrender of Singapore by the British to the Japanese, Sahgal aided wounded prisoners of war, many of whom were interested in forming an Indian Independence Army (IIA).
- On **July 2, 1943**, Subhas Chandra Bose arrived in Singapore. In the next few days, at all his public meetings, Netaji spoke of his determination to raise a women's regiment, the "**Rani of Jhansi Regiment**".
- Women responded enthusiastically to join the women brigade and **Dr. Lakshmi Swaminathan** became **Captain Lakshmi**, a name and identity that would stay with her for life.

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## POLITICS



- In **1971**, Sahgal joined the **Communist Party of India (Marxist)** and represented the **CPIM** party in **Rajya Sabha**.
- She was one of the founding members of **All India Democratic Women's Association** in 1981 and led many of its activities and campaigns.
- Lakshmi Sahgal was **nominated** the Left Front's candidate for post of **President of India in 2002**. She was the sole counter-candidate **to the winning A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.

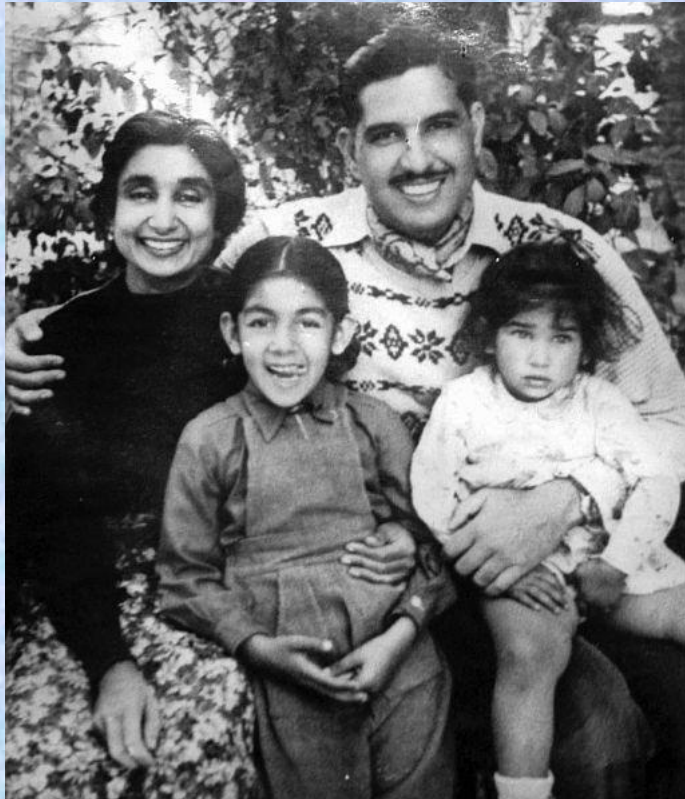
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## PERSONAL LIFE



- In March 1947, **Colonel Prem Kumar Sahgal** and **Captain Lakshmi** were married in Lahore, British India.
- After their marriage, they **settled in Kanpur**, where she continued with her medical practice and aided the refugees who were arriving in large numbers following the Partition of India.
- She was still seeing patients regularly at her clinic in Kanpur in 2006, at the age of 92.
- They had **two daughters**: Subhashini Ali and Anisa Puri.
- Her daughter **Subhashini Ali** is a prominent communist politician and a labour activist.



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## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



- In 1998, she was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** by the President of India, **Sri K. R. Narayanan**.
- In 2010, she was bestowed with **honorary doctorate by University of Calicut**, Kerala.

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## DEATH



- On **19 July 2012**, Sahgal suffered a cardiac arrest and **died on 23 July 2012 at 11:20 A.M**, at the age of 97 at Kanpur.
- Her body was donated to **Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Memorial (GSVM) Medical College, Kanpur** for medical research.

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## Sources:

1. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/captain-lakshmi-sahgal-1914-2012-a-life-of-struggle/article3672666.ece>
2. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakshmi\\_Sahgal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lakshmi_Sahgal)

**THANK YOU**