



## Role of Usha Mehta in Quit India Movement

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### ABSTRACT:

*Usha Mehta was nine when salt satyagraha happened, so she became Gandhian and Freedom fighter. Early in her life she decided to live a celibate life and took up Gandhian lifestyle. Participated in Simon commission as a nine-year-old. She was one of those who hoisted Indian tricolor on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1942 at Gowalia Tank Ground. She is remembered for organizing secret Radio or congress Radio from underground station during Quit India Movement, along with Asaf Ali. They moved the equipment often to avoid being captured which was 42.34-meter Hertz. Her associates were Vithalbai Jhaveri, Chandrakant Jhaveri, Babubhai Thakkar and Nanka Motwani. In his book, 'Secret Congress Broadcasts and Storming Railway Tracks during Quit India Movement', Gautam Chatterje, a historian, says, 'At those dark hours of new black-out the congress Radio went on air and worked as an inspiration for the masses. It spread the message of secularism, internationalism, brotherhood and freedom.'*

**Key words: Quit India Movement, Secret Radio or Congress Radio**

### Introduction

Bombay kept up the struggle through Radio. Usha Mehta was one of the conspicuous workers of the Congress Radio Conspiracy. Usha had an inclining towards the Congress session however this time when the well-known Quit – India goals was passed she was available and was an observer to this significant choice. It was her extraordinary want to plan something for make this goals a triumph. Picketing of outside material shops and alcohol shops was disagreeable to her. She needed to accomplish something other than what's expected.

Usha Mehta's dream was acknowledged when a few companions chose to run a mystery transmitting station. "It spoke to me gigantically and I seized the thought and dove into the movement regardless of staunch resistance from my dad who being an administration worker didn't favor of my thought and who needed me to complete my instruction." Nothing



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deflected this daring young lady, not in any case the peril it introduced to her dad who was a Judge at that point.

The conspicuous pioneers were in prison by August 9, 1942 and it was from this day that arrangements for setting up a radio for the sake of "Voice of Freedom" talking from some place in India were taken close by. A transmitter was fundamental for effectively carrying on the movement. It was felt that the press would movement. It was felt that the press would be done through the radio for the reason. It was felt that press would be edited and all things considered the necessary purposeful publicity should effortlessly be possible through the radio for the reason. It was Babubhai and Usha who initially began working for the radio. Cash must be gotten. A women relative of Usha offered her adornments. Usha was reluctant to acknowledge this offer. At last Babubhai, Khakar got the necessary sum and a transmitter was set up with it.

Another gathering drove by Vithalbai K. Jhavari, presently one of her editors of the birthday volume on Gandhiji, was likewise attempting to set up another transmitter. Other than these two, there were a few different gatherings. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a popular communist pioneer, was aware of everything of these gatherings and attempted to arrange the work. The most dynamic gathering was Babubhai's in which Usha worked.

The Congress Radio had its own transmitter, transmitting station, recording station, its own call sign and to wrap things up a particular wave-length. It began broadcasting on August 14, 1942. "This is the Congress Radio approaching 42.84 meters from some place in India".

It was difficult to trick the police, so the workers of the Congress Radio needed to change their dwelling place frequently. Usha depicts how they disguised their moves. "Luckily for us, one uncle from heartland or our sister or some other relative would act the hero. Uncle needed a level for one month. One of his nephews would proceed to employ it, take the whole gear there and would tensely sit tight for him. Be that as it may, when uncle was normal another level would need to be contracted for some different imaginary reason. Each time the procedure was to go from the telecom station to the railroad station and from that point again to the new transmitting station. This must be done each fortnight or something like that. Once Babubhai and I found a generally excellent spot; very sheltered by us. We were incredibly upbeat at the possibility that we would have the option to carry on at any rate for a month or two. We went to the proprietor to pay the lease. An eccentric contraption was lying there. We



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said, Sethji, what is this expected to be "A distinguishing machine to get the unlawful radios," came the answer. Detecting machine", I shouted in my psyche, yet I took care to see that the face didn't deceive the appearances. Babubhai cunningly went along with him in manhandling each one of the individuals who did such illicit acts and we were off. We said thanks to our stars or having been forewarned in time. The principal expressions of Babubhai were "Behn, we are spared from the tiger's jaws."

Babubhai had cautioned me not to be in white Khadi sari that day however I had demanded it. Since that day, notwithstanding, I changed my dress marginally in order to be less prominent. Usha Mehta was mostly allotted the assignment of broadcasting news and giving talks in Hindustani. It was this telecom station which originally gave the news of Chittagong bomb attack, Jamshedpur strike and the news about monstrosities in AshtiChimur. In the addresses, endeavors were made to explain and clarify the Congress stand both from the national and global perspectives. Broadcasting on world harmony it said; "The Congress sends her message of altruism and harmony to every one of the individuals of the world who are enduring, to nations despite everything opposing and to nations sold out by their own legislatures. India is at present anguish."

Clarifying the Quit – India Movement the remarks were "So far we were directing a movement, however now we are leading a revolution. In a revolution, there is triumph or thrashing. This revolution isn't of one gathering. Broadcasting on world harmony it said; "The Congress sends her message of altruism and harmony to every one of the individuals of the world who are enduring, to nations despite everything opposing and to nations sold out by their own legislatures. India is at present anguish."

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In any case, this Radio couldn't work for quite a while. The administration came to know about it and attacked the spot on November 12, around evening time. The Superintendent of Police and his military experts and a group of fifty odd police officers came to claim the effects of this telecom station. The passage of the Deputy Commissioner didn't stress the



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valiant officers and they didn't want to move from their seats. Babubhai and Usha Mehta alongside numerous others were captured right now case. The police attempted its best to get the subtleties, Om Usha Mehta yet she would not respond to any question identifying with this subject. During the cross examination time frame she was likewise kept in the lock – up. Portraying the life in the police custody she says: "The lock – up period is maybe the most difficult time in the life of a detainee. During the day you need to confront the police officers and around evening time your lone conceivable movement could be either to kill the bugs or to kill time. Again it is humanly difficult to rest in a cell brimming with foulness, earth and sickening smell.

Despite a half year constant cross examination the police couldn't get any data from her lastly accused her of concurring in contriving among and among ourselves as well as other people, to do or cause to be done illicit acts like having, setting up, keeping up and working unlawful remote transmit without legal position or reason biased acts and spreading biased reports."

The case was Emperor versus Babubhai Khakar, Vithalbhai Jhavari, Usha Mehta, Chandrakant Jhavari, and Nanak Motwant. "All through the path" says Usha Metha, "we delighted in so much that I am enticed to state that it was a brilliant time of my life. From the start, we used to bite chocolates or peppermints unperturbed by the endeavors of the Prosecutor who was hard at demonstrating the body of evidence against us. The disclosures of the approvers moreover neglected to upset our serenity."

The case was chosen and Usha Mehta was condemned to four years detainment. She stayed in the prison till April 1946. After her discharge in 1946 she took to educating and later acquired her doctorate certificate on postulation on the "Social and Political Thought of Mahatma Gandhi".

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