



## Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray

Recently, **2<sup>nd</sup> August** was commemorated as the birthday of **Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray**. **Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray**:

- Often referred to as the "**Father of Indian Chemistry**," **Prafulla Chandra Ray** (1861-1944) was a distinguished Indian scientist and educator, recognized as one of the earliest **modern chemical researchers** in India.
- **Trained at the University of Edinburgh**, Ray spent many years at Presidency College and Calcutta University.

### His Work:

- He is credited with discovering the stable compound **Mercurous Nitrite** in 1895.
- A staunch nationalist, Ray was committed to advancing Bengali enterprise and established the **Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works in 1901**.
- Ray was an active supporter of the [Swadeshi Movement of 1905](#) and considered the use of Bideshi articles a crime of treason against India.
- Ray opposed the caste system and other irrational social practices, actively promoting social reform until his death.

### Awards and Recognitions:

- Honored by the British Government, he received the title of **Companion of the Indian Empire (CIE)** and then with the **Knighthood in 1919**.
- **In 1920**, he was elected General President of the [Indian Science Congress](#).
- In recognition of his contributions, **India Post** issued a postage stamp in his honor on **2<sup>nd</sup> August 1961**, marking his birth anniversary.

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