



Teachers' Day 2024

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Why in News?

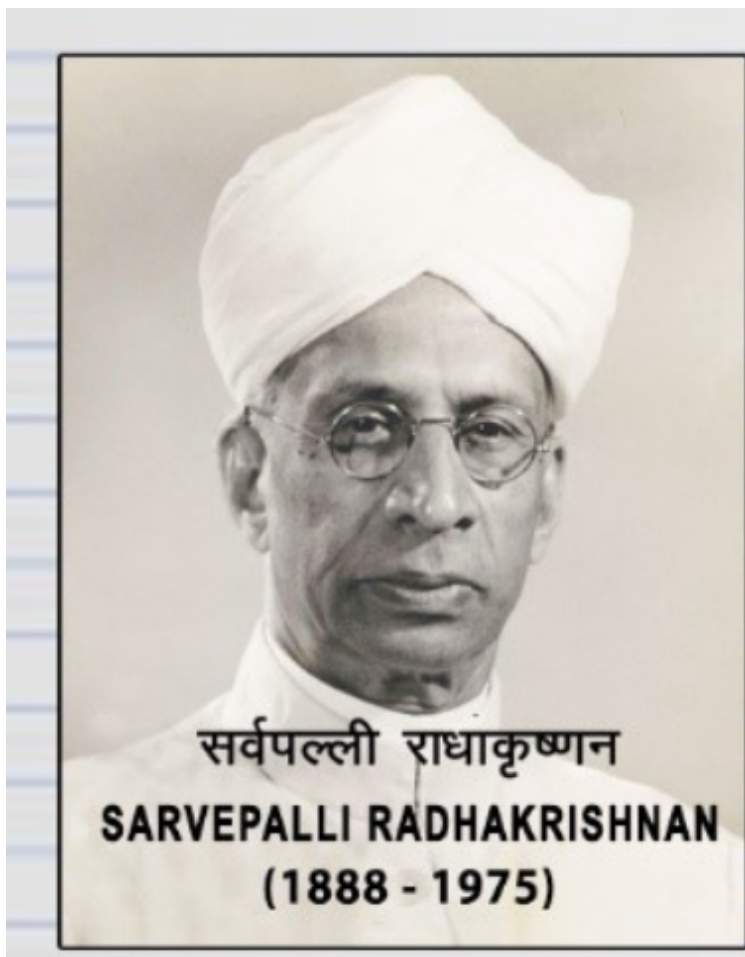
Recently, India celebrated [Teachers' Day](#) on **5th September 2024** marking the birth anniversary of [Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan \(1888-1975\)](#).

- On this day, the President of India confers the [National Teachers' Award \(NTA\)](#) to honour teachers and recognise their contributions in empowering and educating society.

What are Key Facts About Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan?

- **Birth:** He was born into a **Telugu family** in Tiruttani town of Tamil Nadu, on **5th September 1888**.
- **Academic Achievements:** He held several prestigious positions, including the **King George V Chair at Calcutta University** from 1921 to 1932, the **second Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University** from 1931 to 1936, and the **fourth Vice-Chancellor of [Banaras Hindu University](#)** from 1939 to 1948.
 - Moreover, he was **Professor of Eastern Religion and Ethics** at the **University of Oxford** from 1936 to 1952.
- **Political Career:** He became the **first Vice President of India (1952-62)** and later the **second President of India (1962-67)**.
- **Philosopher:** He is widely acknowledged in philosophical circles as a “**bridge-builder**” between India and the West.
 - He defended Hinduism against what he perceived as “**uninformed Western criticism,**” helping to establish a more nuanced understanding of the religion on a global scale.
- **Recognition:** In **1954**, he was awarded the country's highest civilian award, [Bharat Ratna](#).
 - In **1931**, he was awarded with **knighthood by King George V**, former King of Britain, for his remarkable academics.

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What is the National Teachers' Award?

- **About NTA:** It was instituted to celebrate the **unique contribution of teachers** and to honour them who have improved the quality of education and enriched the lives of students.
 - It carries a **certificate of merit, a cash award of Rs. 50,000 and a silver medal.**
 - It is given by the **Ministry of Education.** In 2024, 82 teachers were selected for NTA.
- **Eligibility of Teachers for NTA: School teachers and Heads of Schools** working in recognized primary/middle/high/higher secondary schools are eligible for selection. E.g., Schools run by State Govt./UTs Administration, Schools affiliated to CBSE etc.
 - Only **regular teachers and heads of schools** with a minimum **ten years of services** are eligible.
- **Non-Eligibility for NTA:** Teacher/Headmaster should **not** have been involved in providing **private tuition.**
 - **Contractual teachers and [Shiksha Mitras](#)** are not eligible.
 - Educational **Administrators, Inspectors** of Education, and the **staff of training Institutes** are not eligible for these awards.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** Teachers are evaluated based on the **evaluation matrix** which contains **two types of criteria** for evaluation.
 - **Objective Criteria:** Under this the teachers are awarded marks against each of the objective criteria. It is given the weightage of 10 out of 100.
 - **Criteria Based on Performance:** Under this, teachers are awarded marks on criteria based on performance e.g., **initiatives to improve learning outcomes, innovative experiments undertaken** etc. These criteria are given the weightage of 90 out of 100.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. With reference to the scholars/litterateurs of ancient India, consider the following statements: (2020)

1. Panini is associated with Pushyamitra Shunga
2. Amarasimha is associated with Harshavardhana
3. Kalidasa is associated with Chandra Gupta-II

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2018)

1. As per the Right to Education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a State, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down by the concerned State Council of Teacher Education.
2. As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
3. In India, more than 90% of teacher education institutions are directly under the State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Ans: (b)

Q. Who among the following Gandhian followers was a teacher by profession? (2008)

- (a) A. N. Sinha
- (b) Braj Kishore Prasad
- (c) J. B. Kriplani
- (d) Rajendra Prasad

Ans: (c)

