

## **International Bharati Festival 2020**

## Why in News

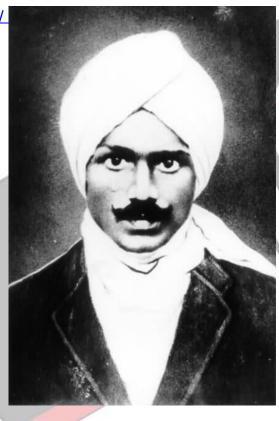
Recently, the Prime Minister has addressed the **International Bharati Festival 2020,** virtually **organised by the Vanavil Cultural Centre** (Tamil Nadu).

■ The event celebrates the **138<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary** (11<sup>th</sup> December 2020) of Tamil poet and writer **Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati.** 

The Vision

• Scholar Shri Seeni Viswanathan received the Bharathi Award for this year.

## Key Points\_//



## Subramanya Bharati:

- **Birth:** 11<sup>th</sup> December 1882, in Ettayapuram, Madras Presidency.
- Brief Profile: An outstanding Indian writer of the nationalist period (1885-1920) who is regarded as the father of the modern Tamil style.
  - He is also known as 'Mahakavi Bharathiyar'.
  - His **strong sense of social justice** drove him to fight for self-determination.
- Involvement during Nationalist Period:
  - After 1904, he joined the Tamil daily newspaper Swadesamitran.

- This exposure to political affairs led to his **involvement in the extremist** wing of the <u>Indian National Congress (INC)</u> party.
- In order to proclaim its revolutionary ardour, Bharathi had the **weekly newspaper named 'India'** printed in red paper.
  - It was the first paper in Tamil Nadu to publish political cartoons.
  - He also published and edited a few other journals like "Vijaya".
- He attended the annual sessions of INC and discussed national issues with extremist leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, B.G. Tilak and V.V.S. Iyer.
  - His participation and activities in Benaras Session (1905) and Surat Session (1907) of the INC impressed many national leaders for his patriotic fervour.
- He published the sensational "Sudesa Geethangal" in 1908.
- Bharati's reaction to the Russian Revolutions of 1917, in a poem entitled
  "Pudiya Russia" ("The New Russia"), offers a fascinating example of the poet's
  political philosophy.
- He was **forced to flee to Pondicherry** (now Puducherry), a French colony, where he **lived in exile from 1910 to 1919.**
- During this time, Bharati's nationalistic poems and essays were popular successes.
- Important Works: Bharati's best-known works include Kannan pāṭṭu (1917; Songs to Krishna), Panchali sapatham (1912; Panchali's Vow), Kuyil pāṭṭu (1912; Kuyil's Song), Pudiya Russia and Gnanaratham (Chariot of Wisdom).
  - Many of his English works were collected in Agni and Other Poems and Translations and Essays and Other Prose Fragments (1937).
- **Death:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 1921.
- Significance in Present Times:
  - The poet's definition of progress had a central role for women. He wrote women should walk with their head held high, looking people in the eye.
    - The government is inspired by this vision and is working to ensure women-led empowerment.
  - He believed in a healthy mix between the ancient and the modern, indicating a need to develop a scientific temper, a spirit of inquiry and march towards progress.
- Bharathi Award:
  - The Bharati Award was instituted in 1994 by Vanavil Cultural Centre.
  - Every year, it is being conferred on eminent persons who have done laudable service in any field of social relevance and thus worked towards the fulfilment of Bharati's dreams.

**Source: PIB** 

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