

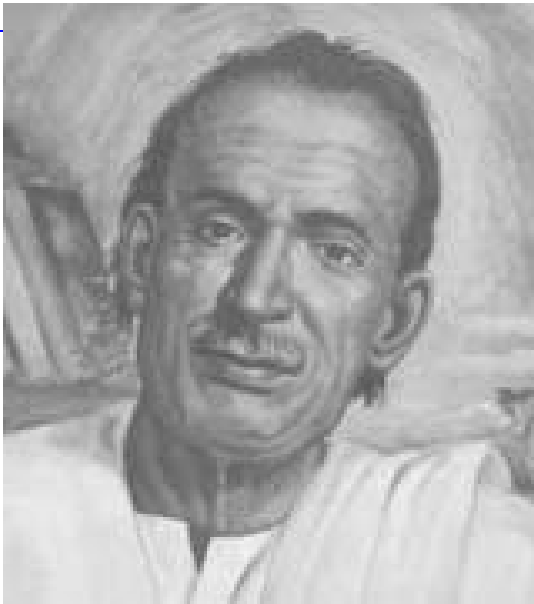


Acharya Kripalani

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to **Acharya Kripalani on his Jayanti.**

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Who was Acharya Kripalani?

▪ About:

- He was born on **11th November 1888 in Hyderabad, Sindh.**
- His original name was **Jivatram Bhagwandas Kripalani** but was popularly known as Acharya Kripalani. He was an independence activist, Indian politician and an Educationist.

▪ Educationist:

- From 1912 to 1927, he taught at various places before becoming wholly involved in the freedom movement.
- He earned the moniker 'Acharya' around 1922 when he was teaching at the Gujarat Vidyapith, founded by the Mahatma a couple of years before.

▪ An Environmentalist:

- He, along with Vinoba Bhave, was involved in preservation and conservation activities throughout the 1970s.

▪ Independence Activist:

- He was associated with Gandhi by 1917 after Gandhi had taken up the cause of indigo workers in Gujarat.
- He was part of the [Non-Cooperation Movement \(1920-22\)](#) and the Civil Disobedience movements (started in 1930) and [Quit India Movement \(1942\)](#).
- He was the President of **Indian National Congress (INC)** at the time of independence. He served in the Interim government of India (1946-1947) and the Constituent Assembly of India.

▪ **Political Career:**

- He became **one of the founders of the Kisan Mazdoor Praja Party (KMPP)** after independence leaving congress.
- He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1952, 1957, 1963 and 1967 as a member of Praja Socialist Party.
- He moved the **first-ever [No confidence motion](#)** in Lok Sabha in 1963, immediately after the India-China War (1962).
 - In 1963, Sucheta Kripalani, a Congress leader became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, a first for any woman in the country while her husband Acharya remained an opponent to the Congress.
- He was a critic of Nehru's policies and Indira Gandhi's rule. He was arrested during Emergency (1975).

▪ **Books:**

- **My Times**, his autobiography published posthumously in 2004.
- Kripalani was the author of several books, including **Gandhi: His Life and Thought (1970)**.

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