



# Sarojini Naidu- The Nightingale of India

## Why in News?

13<sup>th</sup> February marks the **birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu**. She was famously known as **Bharatiya Kokila (The Nightingale of India)**.

- India celebrates Sarojini Naidu's birth anniversary as **National Women's Day**.

## Who was Sarojini Naidu?

### ▪ About:

- Sarojini Naidu, was an [Indian independence](#) activist, poet, and politician.
  - She was born on **February 13, 1879, in Hyderabad, India**.
- She joined the **Indian national movement** in the wake of [partition of Bengal in 1905](#).
- The British government lauded Sarojini Naidu with the '**Kaisar-i-Hind' Medal** for her service during the plague epidemic in India.

### ▪ Contribution to Indian Freedom Movement:

- **First Indian Woman President of INC:** Naidu was elected as the **first Indian woman president of the [Indian National Congress\(INC\)](#) in 1925(Kanpur Session)** and continued to hold this position till **1928**.
  - **Annie Besant** was the **first woman President of the INC** who presided it in 1917.
- **Participated in Non-Cooperation Movement:** Naidu took part in the [Non-Cooperation Movement](#) launched by Gandhi in 1920 and **was arrested several times** for her involvement in various freedom activities.
- **Lead Salt Satyagraha:** In 1930, Naidu was selected by Gandhi to lead the [Salt Satyagraha](#), a **nonviolent protest against the British monopoly on salt production in India**.
  - On May 21, Sarojini Naidu led 2,500 marchers on the Dharasana Salt Works, some 150 miles north of Bombay.
- **Quit India Movement:** In 1942, Sarojini Naidu was arrested during the "[Quit India](#)" [movement](#) and was jailed for 21 months with Gandhiji.
- **Traveled Abroad to Raise Awareness:** Naidu traveled to different countries, including the **United States and the United Kingdom**, to raise awareness about India's struggle for independence and **to mobilize international support**.
  - She also **represented India at various international forums** and spoke about the Indian independence movement and [women's rights](#).

### ▪ Contribution as a Politician:

- **Second Round Table Conference:** She accompanied Gandhiji to London for the inconclusive **second session of the [Round Table Conference](#) for Indian-British cooperation (1931)**.
- **Governor of Uttar Pradesh:** After India gained independence, **Naidu was appointed as the [governor](#) of Uttar Pradesh**, becoming the **first woman to hold a governor's office in India**.

### ▪ Other Contributions:

- **A Renowned Poetess:** Naidu was a renowned poetess and wrote in both English and Urdu.

- Published in 1912, **'In the Bazaars of Hyderabad'** remains one of her **most popular poems**.
- Her other works include **"The Golden Threshold (1905)", "The Bird of Time (1912)", and "The Broken Wing (1912)"**.
- **Worked for Women's Empowerment:** Naidu was a strong advocate of women's rights and worked tirelessly to empower women in India.
  - She was also a member of the **All-India Women's Conference** and worked to improve the status of women in India.
- **Death:**
  - She died on **March 2, 1949, in Lucknow, India.**
- **Relevance of Sarojini Naidu in Present Times:**
  - Sarojini Naidu was a **multifaceted personality** and **remains a role model for women in India and around the world**. Her **courage, dedication, and leadership inspired millions of Indians** and continue to inspire generations to come.

[For Infographic, Click here](#)

### UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q1. Who of the following is the author of a collection of poems called "Golden Threshold"? (2009)**

- (a) Aruna Asaf Ali
- (b) Annie Besant
- (c) Sarojini Naidu
- (d) Vijayalakshmi Pandit

**Ans: (c)**

**Q2. Consider the following statements: (2015)**

1. The first woman President of the Indian National Congress was Sarojini Naidu.
2. The first Muslim President of the Indian National Congress was Badruddin Tyabji.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (b)**

[Source: ET](#)