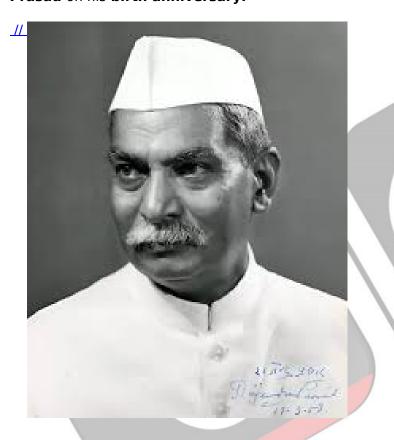


Rajendra Prasad Birth Anniversary

Why in News?

The Prime Minister paid tributes to the country's first <u>President</u>, <u>Bharat Ratna</u> Dr. Rajendra Prasad on his birth anniversary.





- Dr. Rajendra Prasad was born in Zeradei, Siwan, Bihar on 3rd December 1884.
- Education:
 - He joined the Calcutta Presidency College in 1902.
 - In 1915, Prasad appeared in the examination of Master's in Law from the Department of Law, University of Calcutta, passed the examination and won a gold medal
 - In 1916, he commenced his **legal career in the Patna High Court.** He completed his **Doctorate in Law from Allahabad University in 1937.**
- Role in Fight for Freedom:
 - Association with Gandhiji:
 - While <u>Gandhiji</u> was on a fact-finding mission in **Chamaparan district of Bihar** to address grievances of local peasants, he **called on Rajendra Prasad to come to Champaran with volunteers.**

The Vision

- The <u>Champaran Satyagraha</u> not only brought him closer to Mahatma Gandhi, but also changed the entire course of his life.
- The Rowlatt Act of 1919 and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919 pushed Rajendra Prasad closer to Gandhiji.

Call for Non-cooperation:

Dr. Prasad called for non-cooperation in Bihar as part of <u>Gandhiji's non-cooperation movement</u>.

Salt Satyagraha:

 In March 1930, Gandhiji launched the <u>Salt Satyagraha</u>. Under the guidance of Dr. Prasad, a salt Satyagraha was launched in **Nakhas Pond, Bihar.**

Dr. Prasad & Indian National Congress:

- He officially joined the <u>Indian National Congress</u> in 1911, during its annual session held in Calcutta.
- He presided over the <u>Bombay session of the Indian National Congress in October</u> 1934.
- Following the resignation of <u>Subhash Chandra Bose</u> as the President of the Congress in April 1939, He was elected President for the second time.
- In 1946, he joined the Interim Government of <u>Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru</u> as the Minister of Food & Agriculture and gave the slogan of "Grow More Food".

Dr. Prasad & Constituent Assembly:

- In July 1946, when the <u>Constituent Assembly</u> was established to frame the <u>Constitution</u> of <u>India</u>, he was elected its President.
- Committees of Constituent Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr. Prasad includes:
 - Ad hoc Committee on the National flag
 - Committee on the Rules of Procedure
 - Finance and Staff Committee
 - Steering Committee
- On 26th January 1950, the Constitution of independent India was ratified and he was elected India's First President.

Awards & Recognition:

- In **1962**, after 12 years as President, **Dr. Prasad retired**, and was subsequently awarded the **Bharat Ratna**, the nation's highest civilian award.
- Dr. Prasad recorded his life and the decades before independence in many books, which includes:
 - Satyagraha at Champaran
 - India Divided
 - His autobiography "Atmakatha"
 - Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar, Some Reminisences
 - Bapu ke Kadmon Mein

Death:

• Dr. Rajendra Prasad spent the last few months of his life in retirement at the Sadaqat Ashram in Patna. He died on 28th February 1963.

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