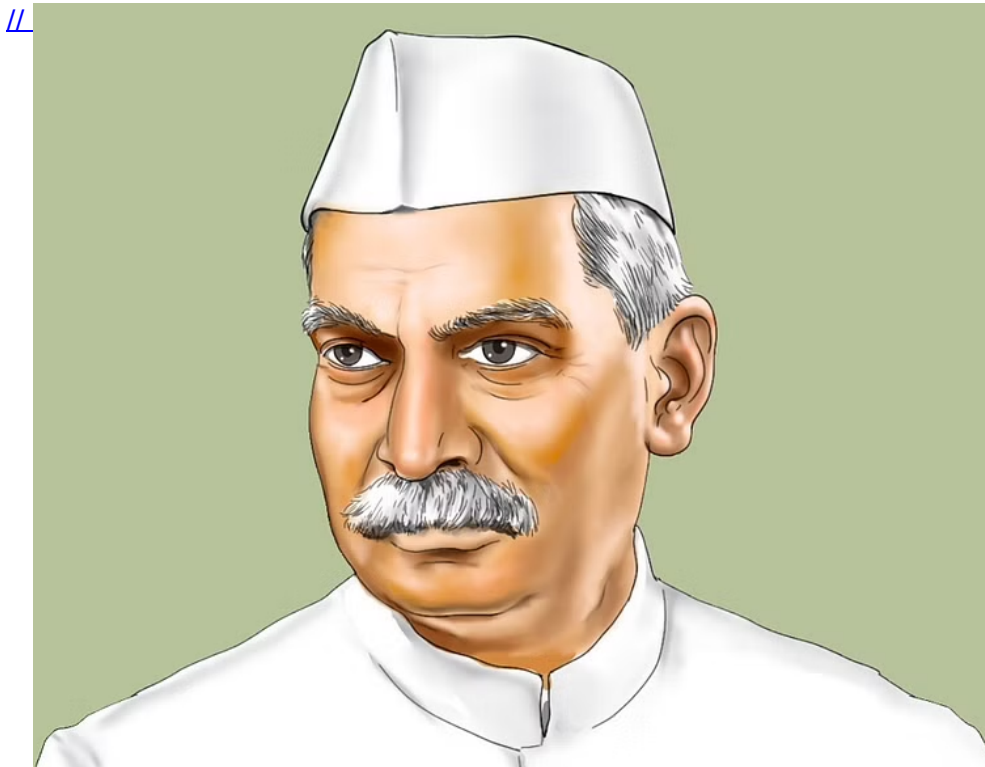




# Dr. Rajendra Prasad

## Why in News?

[The President of India](#) paid floral tributes to **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**, the **First President of India**, on his birth anniversary at Rashtrapati Bhavan on **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022**.



## Who was Dr. Rajendra Prasad?

- **Birth:**
  - Son of Mahadev Sahai, he was born in **Zeradei, Siwan, Bihar** on **3<sup>rd</sup> December 1884**.
- **Education:**
  - He joined the famed **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 **Gandhiji** was on a fact-finding mission in **Chamaparan district of Bihar** to address grievances of local peasants, he called on **Dr. Rajendra Prasad to come to Champaran with volunteers**.
      - Gandhiji's influence **greatly altered many of his views**, most importantly

on **caste and untouchability**.

- The [Champan Satyagraha](#) not only brought him closer to Mahatma Gandhi, but also changed the entire course of his life.
- [The Rowlatt Act of 1918](#) 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 [Gandhiji's non-cooperation movement](#).
- **National College:**
  - He gave up his law practice and started a **National College near Patna**, 1921.
- **Salt Satyagraha:**
  - In March 1930, Gandhiji launched the [Salt Satyagraha](#). Under the guidance of Dr. Prasad, a salt Satyagraha was launched in Nakhass Pond, Bihar.
    - Batch after batch of volunteers courted arrest while making salt. He called for more volunteers.
    - Public opinion forced the Government to withdraw the police and allow the volunteers to make salt.
    - He then sold the manufactured salt to raise funds. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment.
- **Dr. Prasad & Indian National Congress:**
  - He officially **joined the Indian National Congress in 1911**, during its annual session held in Calcutta.
  - He presided over the [Bombay session of the Indian National Congress](#) in October 1934.
  - Following the **resignation of Subhash Chandra Bose** 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 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** as the Minister of Food & Agriculture and gave the slogan of **"Grow More Food"**.
- **Dr. Prasad & Constituent Assembly:**
  - In July 1946, when the **Constituent Assembly** was established to frame the [Constitution of India](#), 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
  - Two and a half years after independence, **on 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Reminiscences
    - 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 28<sup>th</sup> February 1963.

[Source: TOI](#)

