



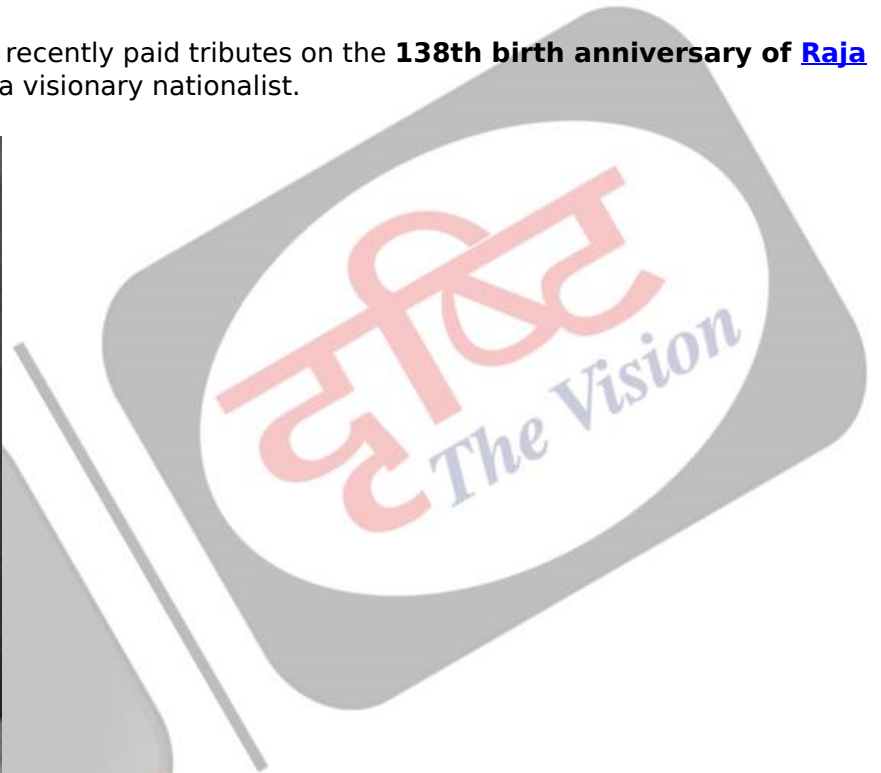
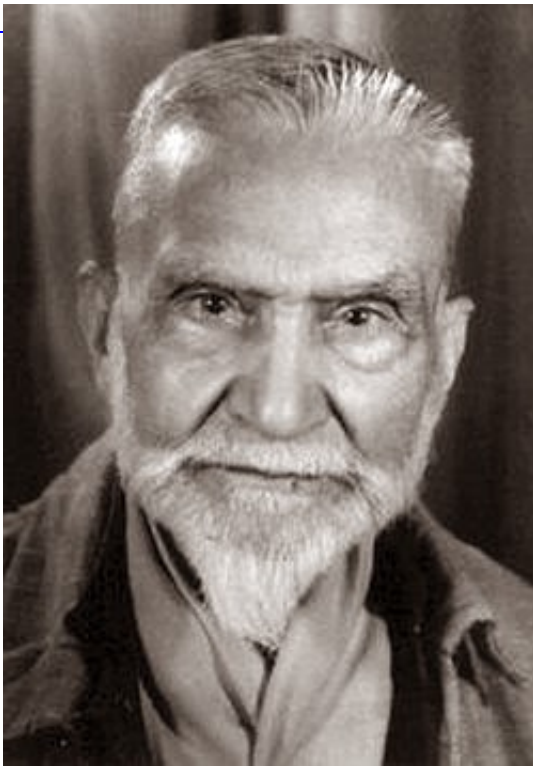
Birth Anniversary of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh

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Why in News?

Vice-President of India Jagdeep Dhankhar recently paid tributes on the **138th birth anniversary of Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh(1886-1979)**, a visionary nationalist.

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Who is Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh?

- **Background: Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh was born** on 1st December 1886, in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh.
 - He was a freedom fighter, revolutionary, writer, social reformer, and internationalist.
- **Contribution to Education:** Founded **Prem Mahavidyalaya** in 1909, a technical institute at Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh. It is **India's first polytechnic**, to promote indigenous technical education.
- **Freedom Movement Contributions:**
 - Participated in the **1906 Congress session** in Kolkata and promoted indigenous industries. Mahendra Pratap was also deeply involved with the **Swadeshi movement** and would constantly promote small industries with indigenous goods and local artisans.
 - Mahendra Pratap was deeply involved in India's struggle for independence. In **1915, during World War I**, he proclaimed the **first Provisional Government of**

- India in Kabul, Afghanistan**, with himself as its president, opposing British colonial rule
- He sought support from countries like **Germany, Japan, and Russia** for India's fight against British colonial rule.
 - He is said to have met **Vladimir Lenin in 1919**, two years after the **Bolshevik Revolution**.
- He also formed the **Executive Board of India in Japan** in 1940 during the **Second World War**.
- **Internationalist and Peace Advocate:** Mahendra Pratap was nominated for the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1932** for his global advocacy for peace and his efforts to expose **British atrocities in India and Afghanistan**.
 - The nomination described Raja as a **"Hindu patriot", "editor of the World Federation", and "unofficial envoy of Afghanistan"**.
 - In 1929, Mahendra Pratap launched the **World Federation in Berlin**, which later influenced the creation of the **United Nations**.
 - **Political Career:** After independence, he worked hard to promote the idea of **Panchayati Raj** and served as a **Member of Parliament** from **Mathura** (1957).
 - **Legacy:** Remembered for his crucial role in the **Indian independence movement**, especially through **international diplomacy and creating awareness**.

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