

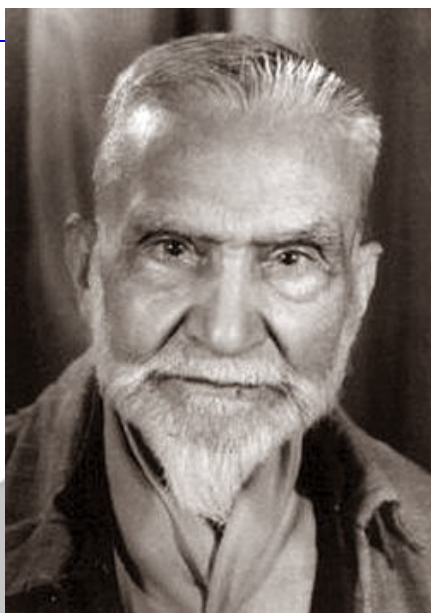


Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of **Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh (1886-1979) State University in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh.**

Key Points //



- **Brief Profile: Born in Hathras (UP) in 1886, he was a freedom fighter, revolutionary, writer, social reformer, and internationalist.**
 - He was well versed in eight different languages and practised different religions.
- **Promoted Education:** In **1909**, he gave up his own residence in Mathura to be converted into a technical school named **Prem Mahavidyalaya**.
 - It is said to have been the **country's first polytechnic.**
- **Contribution to the Freedom Struggle:**
 - In **1913**, he took part in **Gandhi's campaign in South Africa.**
 - He established a **"Provisional Government of India (Bagh-e-Babur)" in Kabul** in the middle of **World War-I** in **1915.**
 - He **declared himself president**, and his fiery fellow revolutionary **Maulana Barkatullah of Bhopal, prime minister**, of the Provisional Government.
 - He is said to have **met Vladimir Lenin in 1919**, two years after the Bolshevik Revolution (in Russia).
 - In **1925**, he **went on a mission to Tibet and met the Dalai Lama.** He was primarily on an unofficial economic mission on behalf of Afghanistan, but he also wanted to expose the British brutalities in India.

- The Raja **finally returned to India a year before Independence**, and immediately began work with Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Others:**
 - In **1929**, he launched the **World Federation** (which later became the force behind the **United Nations**) **in Berlin**. He was **nominated for the 1932 Nobel Peace Prize**.
 - In free India, he diligently **pursued his ideal of panchayati raj**.
 - He **entered Lok Sabha** as an Independent candidate from Mathura **in 1957**.

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