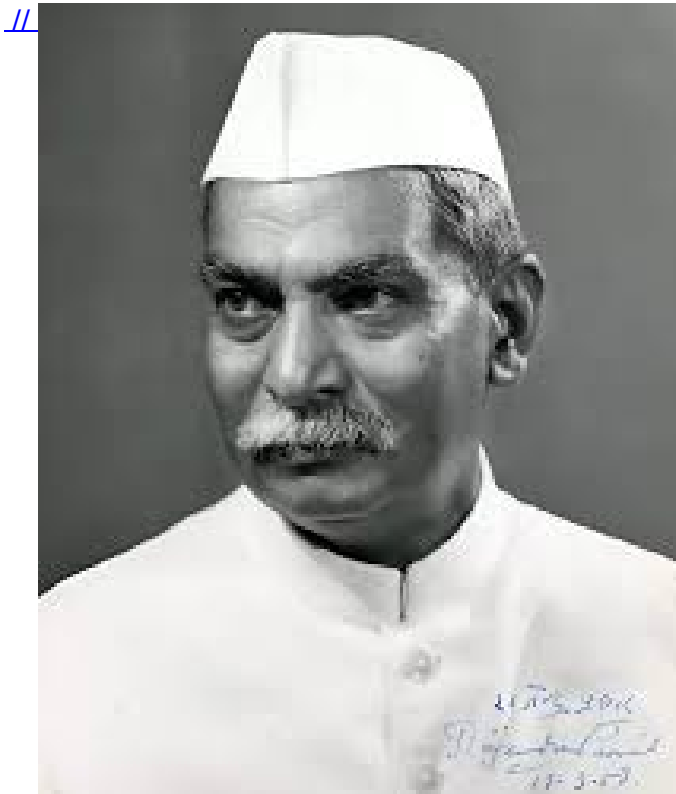




Rajendra Prasad Birth Anniversary

Why in News?

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



Key Points

- 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 **Gandhiji** 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 **Champan Satyagraha** 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 **Gandhiji's non-cooperation movement.**
- **Salt Satyagraha:**
 - In March 1930, Gandhiji launched the **Salt Satyagraha.** Under the guidance of Dr. Prasad, a salt Satyagraha was launched in **Nakhas Pond, Bihar.**
- **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
 - 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 Reminiscences
 - Babu 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.