



# Mahakavi Subramania Bharati

## Why in News

Recently, the Vice-President paid tributes to **Mahakavi Subramania Bharati** on his **100<sup>th</sup> death centenary**.

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## Key Points

- **Birth:** 11<sup>th</sup> December 1882, in Ettayapuram, Madras Presidency.
- **Brief Profile:** Indian writer of the **nationalist period (1885-1920)** who is regarded as the **father of the modern Tamil style**.
  - Also known as **'Mahakavi Bharathiyar'**.
  - His **strong sense of social justice** drove him to fight for self-determination.
- **Involvement during Nationalist Period:**
  - After 1904, he **joined the Tamil daily newspaper Swadesamitran**.
    - This exposure to political affairs led to his involvement in the extremist wing of the **Indian National Congress (INC)** party.
  - In order to proclaim its revolutionary ardour, Bharathi had the **weekly newspaper named**

'India' printed in red paper.

- It was the **first paper in Tamil Nadu** to publish political cartoons.
- He also published and edited a few other journals like "**Vijaya**".
- **Attended the annual sessions of INC** and discussed national issues with extremist leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, **B.G. Tilak** and V.V.S. Iyer.
  - His participation and **activities in Benaras Session (1905) and Surat Session (1907)** of the INC impressed many national leaders for his patriotic fervour.
- Published the sensational "**Sudesa Geethangal**" in 1908.
- Bharati's reaction to the Russian Revolutions of 1917, in a poem entitled "**Pudiya Russia**" ("**The New Russia**"), offers a fascinating example of the poet's political philosophy.
- He was **forced to flee to Pondicherry (now Puducherry)**, a French colony, where he lived in exile from 1910 to 1919.
- During this time, **Bharati's nationalistic poems and essays** were popular successes.
- **Important Works:** Kaṇṇan pāṭṭu (1917; Songs to Krishna), Panchali sapatham (1912; Panchali's Vow), Kuyil pāṭṭu (1912; Kuyil's Song), Pudiya Russia and Gnanaratham (Chariot of Wisdom).
- Many of his English works were **collected in Agni and Other Poems and Translations and Essays and Other Prose Fragments (1937)**.
- **Death:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 1921.
- **International Bharati Festival:**
  - The **International Bharati Festival 2020** was organised by the Vanavil Cultural Centre (Tamil Nadu) which marked his **138<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary**.
  - **Scholar Shri Seeni Viswanathan** received the **Bharathi Award for the year 2020**.

**Source: TH**

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