



# Ram Prasad Bismil

## Why in News?

On 11<sup>th</sup> June 2023, **126<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary** of Ram Prasad Bismil was commemorated. Known for his revolutionary spirit and poetic prowess, Bismil played a significant role in the fight against British colonial rule.

## What are the Key Points about Bismil?

### ▪ Birth:

- Bismil was born on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1897, in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district to Murlidhar and Moolmati.

### ▪ About:

- Bismil joined the Arya Samaj (founded in 1875 by Dayanand Saraswati) and became a talented writer and poet, using pen names like '**Bismil**' meaning '**wounded**' or '**restless.**'
- The **ideals of a revolution first took root in his mind** when he read about the death sentence awarded to **Bhai Parmanand**, an Indian nationalist and Arya Samaj missionary.
  - He was 18 then and vented his anguish through his poem '**Mera Janm**'.
- He **believed in revolutionary methods of freedom struggle** which were in contrast to **Gandhian methods.**

### ▪ Contributions of Ram Prasad Bismil:

#### ◦ The Mainpuri Conspiracy:

- Bismil grew disillusioned with the moderate wing of the Congress Party and founded a revolutionary organization called '**Matrivedi**'.
- In **1918**, Bismil and Dixit got involved in the Mainpuri Conspiracy in which they distributed prohibited literature.
  - On 28 January 1918, Bismil distributed two of his writings to people- a pamphlet titled **Deshwasiyon ke Naam Sandesh (A Message to Countrymen) and Mainpuri ki Pratigya (Vow of Mainpuri)**.
- To collect funds for their parties **they looted government coffers on three occasions in 1918**

#### ◦ Founding the Hindustan Republican Association:

- In **1920**, he formed the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** with Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Jadugopal Mukherjee.
- The HRA's manifesto, largely penned by Bismil, **aimed to establish a federal Republic of United States of India** through an armed revolution.

#### ◦ The Kakori Train Action:

- The Kakori train robbery in **1925** was a major action of the HRA, aimed at acquiring funds for their activities and generating publicity.
- Bismil and his companions **Chandrasekhar Azad** and **Ashfaqulla Khan** decided to loot a train in Kakori near Lucknow.
- They were successful in their attempt but were arrested alongside a dozen other HRA members within a month of the attack and tried under the **Kakori Conspiracy Case**.
- The legal process lasted 18 months. **Bismil, Lahiri, Khan and Thakur Roshan Singh were awarded death sentences.**

- **Poetry and Writing:**
  - Bismil's prolific writings, including patriotic verses in Hindi and Urdu, **inspired Indians to join the freedom struggle.**
  - His poems reflected concerns for societal issues and principles of equality and human dignity.
- **Advocacy for Hindu-Muslim Unity:**
  - Bismil's close friendship with fellow revolutionary poet Ashfaqullah Khan symbolized communal harmony.
  - In his last letter before his hanging, he **emphasized the need for Hindus and Muslims to unite for the nation's service.**
- **Death:**
  - He was **hanged on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1927** at Gorakhpur Jail.
  - He was cremated on the banks of river Rapti, and the site was rechristened as Raj Ghat later.

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