

PERSONALITIES IN NEWS



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Note to Students

Dear Students,

It brings us immense pleasure to present **PT 365 Personalities in News**, a resource crafted with great care to complement your UPSC Prelims preparation. Over the years, we've seen how questions on prominent personalities can shape the outcome of this prestigious exam. Multiple questions in previous years have revolved around personalities like Kautilya, Mahatma Gandhi, Ramanuja etc. This document is our way of empowering you with the knowledge to confidently tackle these questions.

What sets this document apart?

Its innovative design! With **chronological maps** to aid visual memory, **tabular formats** for quick reference, and comprehensive coverage of both historical and contemporary figures, this resource is tailored to make your revision efficient and enjoyable.

The chronology in Ancient and Medieval is as per the personality's birth year, but in the Modern India Section, they have been arranged as per the occurrence of significant events in their lives rather than their birth year.

We encourage you to make this document a part of your exam strategy. Use it not just to memorize, but to connect these personalities to broader themes in governance, society, and culture.

As you journey closer to your goal, remember that persistence and the right tools can make all the difference. Let **PT 365 Personalities in News** be one such tool that lights your way forward.

Wishing you all the best.



One Year
CURRENT AFFAIRS
FOR PRELIMS 2025 IN 60 HOURS

ENGLISH MEDIUM
9 JAN, 5 PM

हिन्दी माध्यम
17 JAN, 5 PM

- Specific targeted content: oriented towards Prelims exam
- Doubt Clearing sessions and mentoring
- Complete coverage of The Hindu, Indian Express, PIB, Economic Times, Yojana, Economic Survey, Budget, India Year Book, RSTV, etc from April, 2024 to May, 2025
- Live and online recorded classes that will help distance learning students and who prefers flexibility in class timing



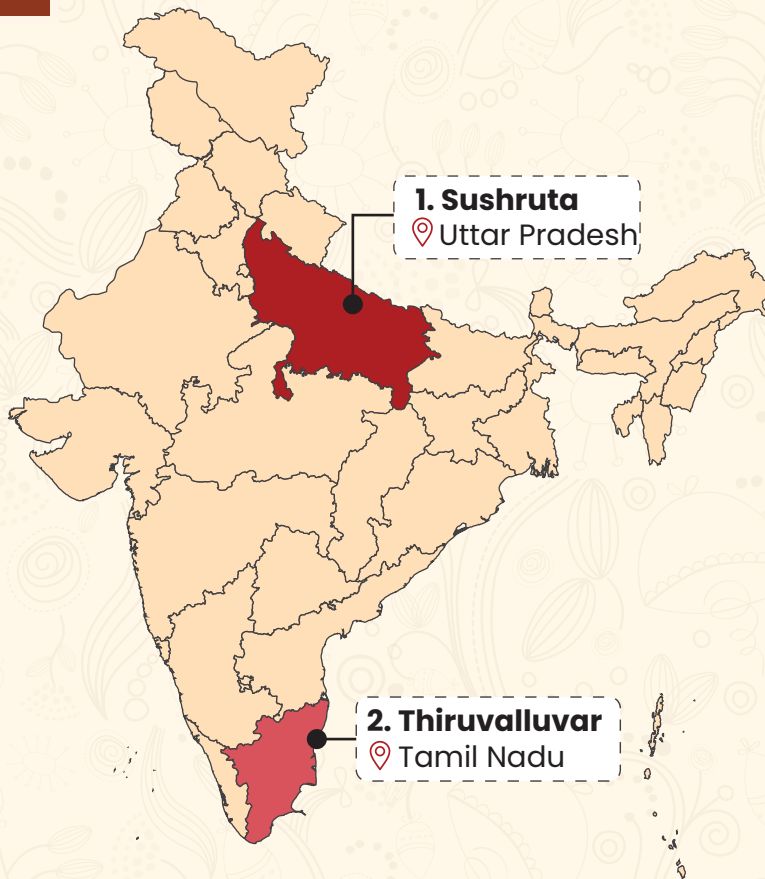
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A. Ancient India



1. Sushruta



All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) organized the Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti on the occasion of **Sushruta Jayanti-2024 (15th July)**.

About Sushruta (c. 7th or 6th century BCE)

⊕ Ancient physician from Kashi (Varanasi) known as the **Father of Indian Medicine and Father of Surgery**.

Key Contributions:

⊕ Author of **Sushruta Samhita** (written in Sanskrit), **one of the Great Trilogy of Ayurvedic Medicine** (Others being Charaka Samhita by Maharishi Charak and Astanga Hridaya by Vagabhata).

→ Covers extensively about pathology, anatomy, and surgical management, along with treatment of 12 varieties of fracture, 6 types of dislocation, skin grafting, rhinoplasty (technique used to reconstruct nose), etc.

2. Thiruvalluvar



Recently, the Tiruvalluvar Chair for Tamil Studies has been established at the University of Houston in the USA.

About Tiruvalluvar (3rd century BCE to 3rd century CE)

⊕ Also known as Valluvar, he was a great **Tamil poet and philosopher**.

⊕ **Birthplace:** Madurai (Capital of Pandyas).

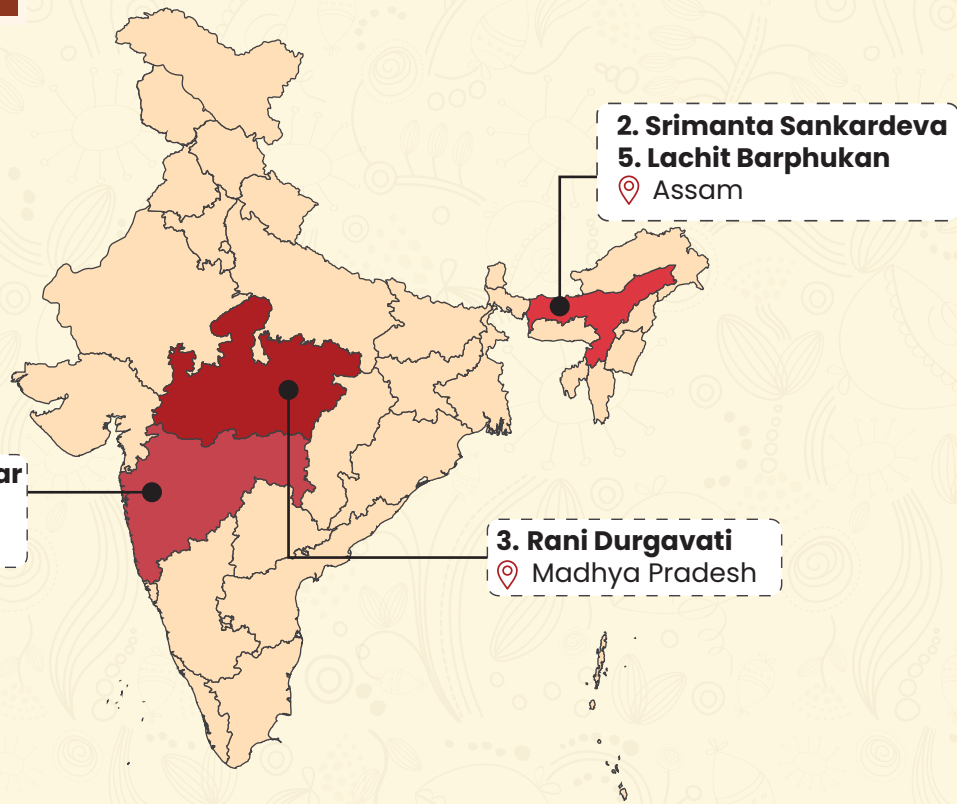
⊕ **Thirukurals** (Sacred Verses) is a collection of his couplets on ethics, politics, economy, and love.

→ It consists of **1330 couplets divided into 133 chapters**.

→ Chapters of Tirukkural are categorized into **Aaram (Righteousness), Porul, (Wealth) and Kamam (Love)**.

⊕ **Recognition:** Tiruvalluvar Day is celebrated on January 15 or 16 by Tamil Nadu.

B. Medieval India



1. Sant Dnyaneshwar



Annual pilgrimage of Sant Dnyaneshwar Maharaj culminated on the auspicious day of Ashadhi Ekadashi.

⊕ Every year followers of **warkari sect** (focused on worship of Lord Vitthal) starts the procession (known as wari) from Dehu and Alandi and ends in Pandharpur on Ashadi Ekadashi.

About Sant Dnyaneshwar

⊕ Born in Alandi (Maharashtra), he was a **13th century Marathi saint, poet, philosopher, etc.**

⊕ He is one of the most revered figures in the **Bhakti movement**, particularly in Maharashtra.

Contribution

⊕ Authored **Dnyaneshwari**, a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita and Amrutanubhav in Marathi.

⊕ Composed numerous devotional poems called **abhangas**.

2. Srimanta Sankardeva



Assam govt has signed MoUs with Visva Bharati University to set up Srimanta Sankardeva chair

About Srimanta Sankardeva

⊕ Born in Aali-pukhuri situated in **Nagaon district of Assam**.

⊕ He was a **saint-scholar, polymath, social-religious reformer**.

Key contributions

⊕ Propagated a form of **Vaisnavism**, called **Ek-Sarana-Hari-NaamDharma** (considered Lord Krishna to be one, eternal and absolute)

His religious system was **strictly monotheistic**.

⊕ Also founded **unique Vaishnavite monasteries** called **Sattras**.

⊕ He is known for creating:

→ New forms of music (**Borgeet**)

→ Theatrical performance (**Ankia Naat, Bhaona**),

→ Dance (**Sattriya**)

→ Literary language (**Brajavali**)

⊕ Literary works: Bhakti Pradipa, Bhakti Ratnakara, Kirtanna Ghosh etc.

3. Rani Durgavati



Queen of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga Rani Durgavati was remembered on her 500th Birth Anniversary (October 05).

About Rani Durgavati (1524 - 1564)

- ⊕ She was born in Kalinjar in Banda district (UP).
- ⊕ She was a **descendant of Chandela dynasty of Mahoba and a contemporary to Mughal emperor Akbar.**

Key Contributions

- ⊕ Took the reins of the **Gond kingdom** in her hands after her husband's death.
- ⊕ **Repulsed attack by Baz Bahadur**, ruler of Malwa [mentioned in **Tarikh-i-Firishta (Persian source)**].
- ⊕ Was a **patron of learning**, and allowed Acharya Bitthalnath to establish a seat of **Pushtimarg Cult at Garha.**
- ⊕ **Constructed reservoirs** such as the **Ranital, Cherital, and Adhartal.**
- ⊕ **Defended her kingdom to death** against contemporary Mughul Subedar Abdul Mazid Khan.
 - Her encounter with Mughal was **documented by Abul Fazl**, Akbar's chronicler and other Persian writers.

4. Sant Tukaram



Maharashtra government approved a proposal to rename Pune Airport as Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Pune International Airport.

About Sant Tukaram

- ⊕ 17th-century saint poet (**Contemporary of Shivaji Maharaj**) and **philosopher related to Bhakti movement of Maharashtra.**
 - Belonged to '**Warkari**' sect (**along with Saint Dnyaneshwar, Eknath & Namdev**) which flourished in medieval Maharashtra.

Key Contributions

- ⊕ Known for **Abhanga devotional poetry** and community-oriented worship through spiritual songs known as Kirtans.
 - Abhanga is in praise of **Lord Panduranga or Vitthal** (Chief deity of Warkari, an incarnation of Vishnu)
- ⊕ **Famous work:** Tukaram Gatha (1632-1650) in Marathi, includes about 4500 Abhangas.
 - His works contributed to the Bhakti movement, which emphasized equality, devotion to God, and social reform.

5. Lachit Barphukan

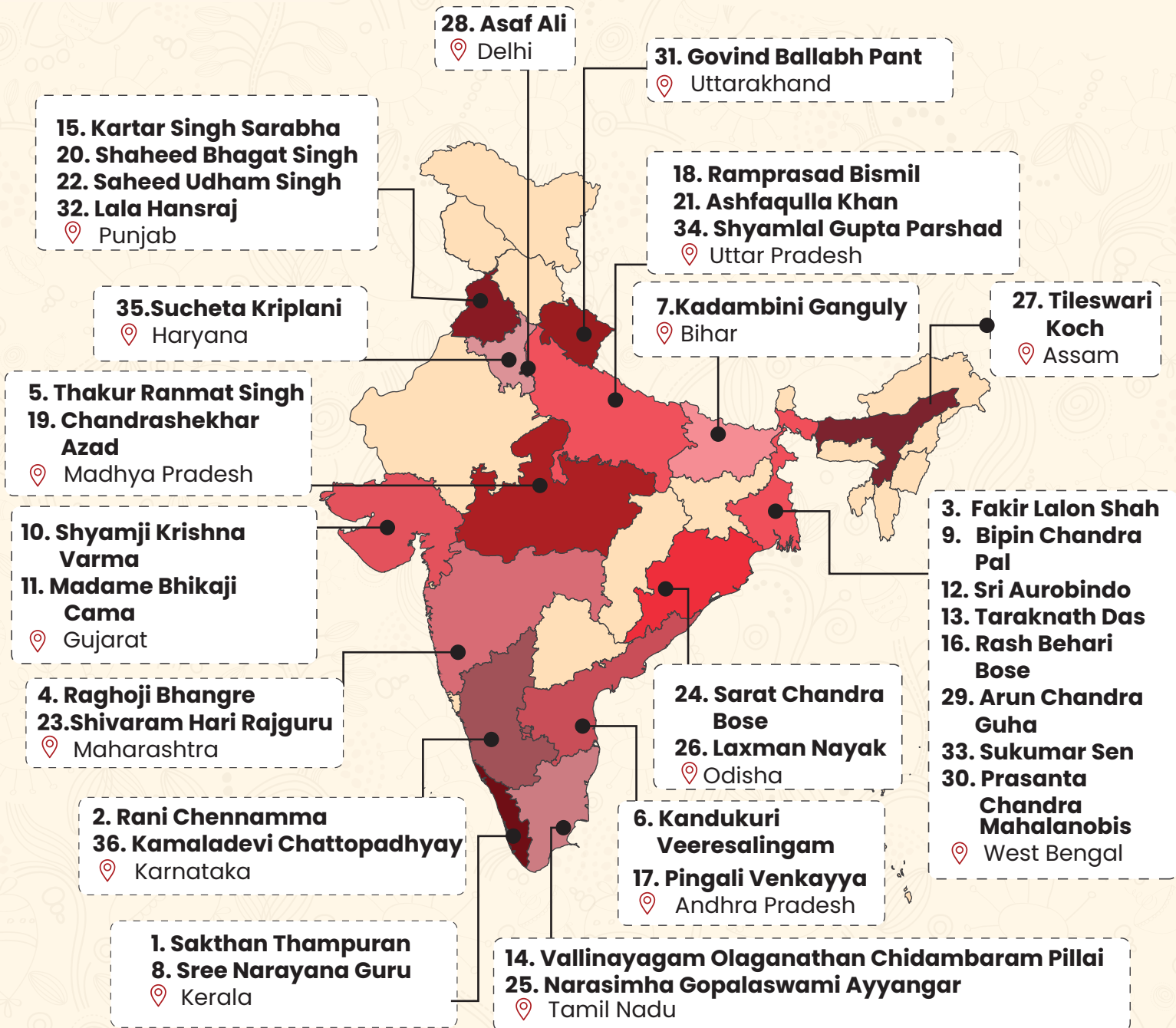


Prime Minister recently unveiled the "**Statue of Valour**", a 125-foot bronze statue of Ahom general **Lachit Barphukan in Jorhat, Assam.**

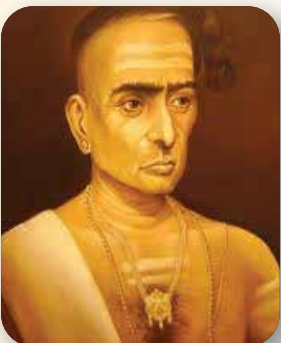
About Lachit Barphukan (1622 - 1672)

- ⊕ He was the **first Barbarua** (military and judicial head) in the Ahom Kingdom.
- ⊕ As a **Barphukan** (commander-in-chief) of the Ahom army, he led successful **campaigns against the Mughals** during the reigns of Emperor **Jahangir and Shahjahan.**
- ⊕ He was the **founder of the Paik practices** (a system of forced labour in the Ahom kingdom).
- ⊕ **Clan:** Lachit Barphukan belonged to Lukhurakhun clan (Ahom kingdom had many clans).
- ⊕ **Role as Military Chief:** King Swargadeo Chakradhwaj Singh appointed Lachit Barphukan.
 - In this authority Lachit Barphukan led the Ahom forces to **victory in the Battle of Saraighat.**

C. Modern India



1. Sakthan Thampuran



The statue of the **Greatest ruler of the Cochin dynasty** 'Sakthan Thampuran' in Kerala fell.

About Sakthan Thampuran (1751 – 1805)

- ⊕ **Raja Rama Varma Kunjipillai** (or Rama Varma IX) is popularly known as Sakthan Thampuran.
- ⊕ He **ruled the Cochin kingdom from 1790 to 1805**.
- ⊕ **Transferred the seat of the Cochin kingdom** from Thrippunithura to modern-day **Thrissur**.
- ⊕ He **started the Thrissur Pooram** (tribute to Lord Shiva), one of the Kerala's largest temple festivals.
- ⊕ He put an end to the institution of the Yogiattirippads and **entrusted temple management to the government**.

2. Rani Chennamma



On the 200th anniversary, a commemorative postage stamp was released to celebrate Rani Chennamma's glorious victory on 23rd October, 1824 against the British rule.

⊕ She was born in in **present-day Belagavi district in Karnataka.**

About Rani Chennamma (1778 -1829)

⊕ She was the **Queen of Kittur.**

⊕ After death of her husband & only son, she adopted Shivalingappa with aim of making him heir to throne of Kittur.

→ However, British refused to recognize Shivalingappa under the '**doctrine of lapse**' and subsequently led to the Revolt.

About Kittur Revolt (1824)

→ It is regarded as the **first Indian armed rebellion against British EIC.**

Also, one of the earliest woman-led anti-colonial struggles.

→ Though British lost 1st battle in 1824, Rani Chennamma was later captured & imprisoned, till her death in 1829.

3. Fakir Lalon Shah



An Indo-Bangla Baul music festival is organized in Dhaka to celebrate the 250th birth anniversary of Fakir Lalon Shah.

About Fakir Lalon Shah (1774-1890)

⊕ Horishpur in Jhenaidah district of **modern Bangladesh.**

⊕ He was a **contemporary of Ramakrishna Paramahansa and Swami Vivekananda.**

Key Contributions

⊕ Founded the '**Lalon Akhrah**' which had around 10,000 followers across all religions.

⊕ He is considered as **Father of Baul Music.**

→ In 2008, Baul songs are listed under **UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.**

⊕ He also influenced personalities like **Rabindranath Tagore and Nazrul Islam.**

4. Raghoji Bhangre



Ministry of tribal affairs recently paid homage to Raghoji Bhangre.

About Raghoji Bhangre (1805-1848)

⊕ **Tribal revolutionary leader**, born in Devgaon of Ahmednagar District (**Maharashtra**) in **Koli Community.**

⊕ His father **Ramji Rao Bhangre** is famous for **Koli rising (1822 - 29)** against money lenders and British rule.

→ **Ramji Rao Bhangre** was subsequently hanged in Cellular Jail.

Key Contributions:

⊕ Bhangre **led the Koli community** against exploitative moneylenders and colonial rule.

⊕ He was eventually captured in 1847 **by Lt. Gell at Pandharpur** and later hanged.

5. Thakur Ranmat Singh



Ministry of Tribal Affairs highlighted the contribution of the freedom fighter Thakur Ranmat Singh.

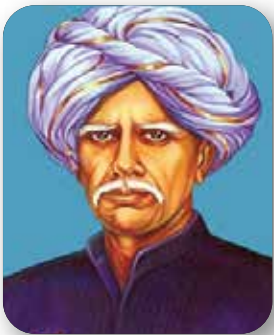
About Ranmat Singh

- ⊕ He held the rank of a Sardar in the service of the Maharaja of Rewa (Madhya Pradesh).

Key Contributions

- ⊕ Played a key role in **starting Revolt of 1857 in Satna, Madhya Pradesh.**
- ⊕ He set up his entire military organization in the jungle itself.
- ⊕ **He attacked the English Residency of Nagaud** and killed the Resident.
- ⊕ He had a fierce fight with the **combined army of the English and Bundelas in the field of Bhelsai.**

6. Kandukuri Veeresalingam



He was remembered on his birth anniversary.

About Kandukuri Veeresalingam (1848 - 1919)

- ⊕ Born in **Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, He was social reformer and nationalist,** considered as **Father of Telugu Renaissance movement.**

Contribution:

- ⊕ Worked **for upliftment of Harijans, remarriage of widows** etc. Started a **girl's school in Dowlaiswaram.**
- ⊕ Constructed temple known as **'Brahmo Mandir' and 'Hithakarini School'** in Andhra Pradesh.
- ⊕ His **novel Rajasekhara Charitramu** is considered to be first novel in Telugu literature.
- ⊕ Started **Viveka Vardhini journal.**

7. Kadambini Ganguly



Recently, birth anniversary of Dr. Kadambini Ganguly was celebrated.

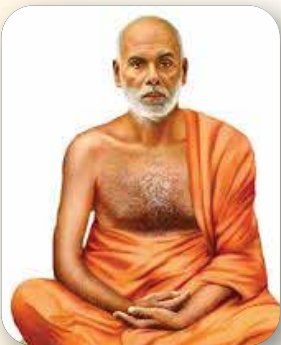
About Kadambini Ganguly (1861 - 1923)

- ⊕ She was born in 1861 in Bhagalpur, Bihar.
- ⊕ She became **first Indian-educated female doctor.**

Key Contributions

- ⊕ She was a **member of Brahma Samaj.**
- ⊕ She was **one of six representatives in the first female delegation** of the 1889 Indian National Congress.
- ⊕ In 1906, she helped organize the **Women's Conference** in Calcutta.
- ⊕ She along with Kamini Roy worked for a government committee to enquire about **conditions of women miners in Bihar and Orissa.**
- ⊕ Her efforts resulted in **India's first Age of Consent Act in 1891.**

8. Sree Narayana Guru



The **170th birth anniversary** of Sree Narayana Guru was celebrated.

About Sree Narayana Guru (1856 - 1928)

- ⊕ Born into the **Ezhava community in Kerala,** which was considered low-caste at the time.
- ⊕ **Philosophical and Spiritual Contributions:**
- ⊕ He embraced **Advaita Vedanta,** the non-dualistic philosophy of oneness.
- ⊕ In 1888, he consecrated a Shiva idol at Aruvippuram, **challenging the caste system** by asserting that divine presence is not the monopoly of any caste.
 - His famous dictum, **"One Caste, One Religion, One God for Man,"** encapsulated this belief.

Poetry and Literature: Narayana Guru wrote numerous works in Malayalam and Sanskrit, including "**Daiva Dasakam**" and "**Atmopadesha Satakam**", which explore spiritual insights and ethics.

Social Reforms:

- ⊕ He established **schools to educate the underprivileged**, challenging the social norms that restricted education to higher castes.
- ⊕ He built **temples where entry was open to all castes**, symbolizing his vision of social equality.
- ⊕ He organized the **All Religions Conference in 1924**.

9. Bipin Chandra Pal



Eminent freedom fighter and nationalist leader Bipin Chandra Pal was remembered on his death anniversary.

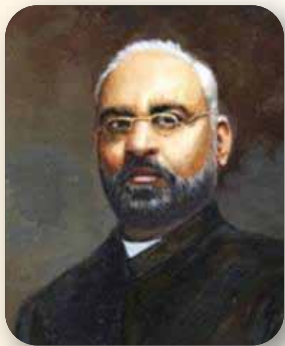
About Bipin Chandra Pal (1858–1932)

- ⊕ Born in Sylhet district (now in Bangladesh).
- ⊕ He was one of the triumvirates of the three great **extremist nationalist freedom fighters**, popularly known as "Lal Bal Pal".

Key Contributions

- ⊕ He popularized the concepts of **Swadeshi and Swaraj** (complete independence).
- ⊕ Preached '**composite patriotism**' as against Bal Gangadhar Tilak's Hindu nationalism.
- ⊕ Was imprisoned for 6 months in the **Bande Mataram sedition case**.
- ⊕ Wrote on the philosophy of **Bengal Vaishnavism**.
- ⊕ **Important publications:** Bande Mataram (daily), New India (Weekly Journal), and Hindu Review (Monthly)

10. Shyamji Krishna Varma



PM paid tribute to freedom fighter Shyamji Krishna Varma on his birth anniversary.

About Shyamji Krishna Varma (4th October, 1857 – 30th March 1930)

- ⊕ Born in 1857 in modern-day Gujarat.

Contributions:

- ⊕ **Founded Indian Home Rule Society, India House in London** to carry out anti-British activities.
 - **Inspired Veer Savarkar** (Member of India House in London.)
- ⊕ **Publication journal (English Monthly):** called "**Indian Sociologist**". Became **first President of Bombay Arya Samaj**, was an admirer of Dayanand Saraswati.
- ⊕ In 1905, **barred from practicing law** by Inner Temple (a professional association for barristers in London) following **charges of sedition**.
- ⊕ In face of criticism, shifted his base from England to Paris and continued his movement.

11. Madame Bhikaji Cama

Eminent revolutionary leader and freedom fighter Madame Bhikaji Cama was remembered on her death anniversary. (Aug 13).

About Madame Bhikaji Cama (1861 – 1936)

She was a revolutionary icon hailing from Navsari district of the

- ⊕ **present-day state of Gujarat.**
- Known as the "**Mother of the Indian Revolution**", she was an ardent
- ⊕ advocate of Indian freedom abroad.



12. Sri Aurobindo

Key Contributions

- ⊕ Started **Paris edition of Bande Mataram** to circulate information about the freedom movement and garnered support nationally and internationally.
- ⊕ In 1905, she **co-founded Paris Indian Society**, also known as **Bharat Mandal**.
- ⊕ On August 22, 1907, she became the **first person to hoist Indian flag on foreign soil in Stuttgart (Germany)**.
 - Flag she unfurled was co-designed by Cama and Shyamji Krishna Varma.

Prime Minister paid homage to Sri Aurobindo on his Birth Anniversary.

About Aurobindo Ghose (15 August 1872 – 5 December 1950)

- ⊕ Born in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ⊕ He was an **Indian nationalist, poet, philosopher, and yogi**.
- His Contributions:**
 - ⊕ He was one of the **founders of youth club Anushilan Samiti**.
 - ⊕ Was arrested in connection with the **Alipore Bomb Case (1908)**.
 - ⊕ Associated himself with **journals like Jugantar, Bande Mataram, and Karmayogi**.
 - ⊕ Established **Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry in 1926**.
 - ⊕ Emphasized on the concept of spiritual nationalism & conceptualized **Integral Yoga system**.
 - ⊕ **Books:** The Life Divine, Savitri, Essay on the Gita, The Synthesis of Yoga, Defense of Indian Culture, etc.



13. Taraknath Das

The birth anniversary of Shri Taraknath Das was celebrated.

About Taraknath Das (15th June, 1884– 22nd December, 1958)

- ⊕ Born in North 24 Pargana, Bengal, Shri Das was a journalist, teacher, philanthropist and revolutionary.
- Contribution**
 - ⊕ In 1903, he **joined the revolutionary organisation Anushilan Samiti** (established by Satish Chandra Bose and Praanath Mitra in Kolkata).
 - ⊕ Started an **anti-British newspaper, 'Free Hindusthan'** in the USA.
 - ⊕ In 1913, he was associated with the **Ghadar Movement**.
 - ⊕ Implicated in the **Indo-German conspiracy case in 1917**.
 - ⊕ Established **Taraknath Das Foundation in 1935, to promote educational activities, to foster cultural relations between the US and Asian countries**



14. Vallinayagam Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai

About Vallinayagam Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai (5 September 1872– 18 November 1936)

- ⊕ Popularly '**Kappalottiya Tamilan**' (the Tamilian who ran the ship) and **Sekkizuththa Semmal** [scholarly gentry who suffered at the oil press]
 - He was the first Indian to run a **Swadeshi Ship (in 1906)**.
- ⊕ Was **disciple of Lokamanya Tilak**.
- ⊕ Interested in labour welfare and participated in **Tuticorin Coral Mills strike (1908)**.
- ⊕ **Literary Works:** Meyyaram, Meyyarivu, a commentary on the Thirukural and compiled ancient works of Tamil grammar, Tholkappiam.



15. Kartar Singh Sarabha



Birth anniversary of Kartar Singh Sarabha is observed on 24th May.

About Kartar Singh Sarabha (1896 – 1915)

⊕ He was an Indian revolutionary born in the village of Sarabha (Punjab).

Key Contributions

- ⊕ He became a **member of Ghadar Party** (founded in Oregon in 1913 to overthrow British rule) and was one of its most active members.
 - He put together the **Punjabi issue of the Ghadar newspaper**.
- ⊕ On returning to India, he **focused on mobilising Indian soldiers to revolt** and simultaneously setup a small scale arms manufacturing unit in Ludhiana.
- ⊕ He was charged with sedition in **Lahore Conspiracy Case** and was executed in 1915 along with his compatriot Vishnu Ganesh Pingle.

16. Rash Behari Bose



Prominent revolutionary leader of India's freedom struggle Rash Behari Bose was remembered on his birth anniversary (May 25).

About Rash Behari Bose

- ⊕ Born in Bardhaman district (Bengal).
- ⊕ Was deeply **inspired by the French Revolution of 1789**.

Key Contributions

- ⊕ Was an active member of **Yugantar group of revolutionaries** under leadership of Motilal Roy.
- ⊕ Acted as an effective link between revolutionaries of Punjab and United Provinces and Bengal.
- ⊕ Involved in **Delhi Conspiracy case** (bomb attack on Viceroy Lord Hardinge), 1912.
- ⊕ Founded the **Indian independence League (1942) in Tokyo**.
- ⊕ Played key role in **Gadar Movement and in formation Azad hind fauj (Indian National Army)**.

17. Pingali Venkayya



Eminent freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya was remembered on his death anniversary (July 04).

About Pingali Venkayya

- ⊕ Born in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ⊕ Believer in **Gandhian principles** and an ardent nationalist.

Key Contributions

- ⊕ **Served as a soldier in the British Army in South Africa** during the Anglo-Boer war.
- ⊕ **Designed the Indian National Flag** on request of Mahatma Gandhi. Participated in different movements including Swadeshi Andolan under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ⊕ **"TirangaUtsav"** was celebrated in 2022 on the occasion of his 146th birthday.
- ⊕ **Literary works:** 'Bharatha Deshaniki Oka Jatiya Patakam' (National flag of India) in 1916.

18. Ramprasad Bismil



Birth anniversary was recently celebrated.

About Ramprasad Bismil (1897–1927)

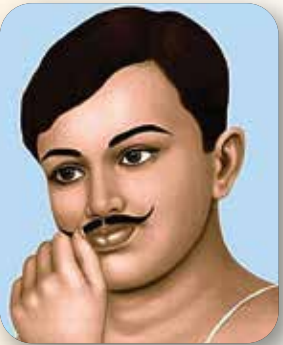
Early Life

☉ Born in the Shahjahanpur district of present-day Uttar Pradesh.

Contribution

- ☉ At young age, **Joined the Arya Samaj Youth Association** and began spreading the teachings of Swami Dayanand.
- ☉ In the **Mainpuri Conspiracy (1918)**, police found Bismil among youths selling banned books.
 - He published a pamphlet titled '**Deshwasiyon ke Naam**' and distributed it along with his poem '**Mainpuri ki Pratigya**'.
- ☉ **In 1924**, Sanyal, Bismil, Ashfaqullah, and Chatterjee united to establish the **Hindustan Republican Association**.
- ☉ He was the mastermind behind the infamous **Kakori Conspiracy Case**.

19. Chandra-shekhar Azad



Recently, He was remembered on his birth anniversary.

About Chandra Sekhara Azad (1906–1931)

Early Life: Born in princely state of Alirajpur.

Key Contributions

- ☉ **Participation in Non-Cooperation Movement:** At age of 15
- ☉ He **declared his title as "Azad"** (The Free), his father's name as "Swatantrata" (Independence), and his abode as "Jail" when arrested.
- ☉ **Joined Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** to take revenge for Lala Lajpat Rai's murder, he participated in
 - **Kakori Train Robbery** in 1925,
 - **shooting of John P. Saunders** in Lahore in 1928
 - attempt to **attack on Viceroy of India's train** in 1929.
- ☉ Reorganised HRA into Hindustan Socialist Republican Association

20. Shaheed Bhagat Singh



Shaheed Bhagat Singh was remembered on his Birth anniversary.

About Shaheed Bhagat Singh (1907–1931)

- ☉ Born in **Lyallpur, western Punjab, India** (now in Pakistan).
- ☉ He influenced by **revolutionary socialism, Marxism and communism** ideals.

Contributions

- ☉ Founded **Naujawan Bharat Sabha in 1926**
- ☉ In 1928, he changed name of Hindustan Republican Association to Hindustan Socialist Republican Association.
- ☉ In 1929 he and **Batukeshwar Dutt**, bombed **Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi** to oppose Public Safety Bill and Trade Dispute Bill while raising the slogan **Inquilab Zindabad**.
- ☉ **Works:** Why I Am an Atheist: An Autobiographical Discourse, The Jail Notebook, etc.

21. Ashfaqulla Khan



Recently, tribute was paid to freedom fighter Ashfaqulla Khan on his birth anniversary.

About Ashfaqulla Khan (1900-1927)

⊕ He was born in 1900 at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Contributions

- ⊕ He along with Ram Prasad Bismil, Sachindra Nath Bakshi and Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee, **founded the Hindustan Republican Association in 1924.**
- ⊕ **Manifesto of HRA titled "The Revolutionary"** listed its objective as establishing a **federal Republic of United State of India** by an organized and armed revolution.
- ⊕ He participated in **Kakori Train Action 1925** and was awarded death sentence along with Ram Prasad Bismil, Rajendra Lahiri and Roshan Singh.

22. Saheed Udham Singh



Martyrdom Day (31st July) of Shaheed Udham Singh has been observed.

About Saheed Udham Singh (1899 -1940)

- ⊕ He was born in Sangrur district (Punjab).
- ⊕ He was **deeply influenced by Bhagat Singh.**
- ⊕ He witnessed the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre (1919) and vowed to avenge the same.

Key Contributions/Work

- ⊕ **He formed Azad Party in Chicago as a part of Ghadar Party.**
- ⊕ On 13th March 1940, he **shot Michael O'Dwyer** who was the then Lieutenant Governor of Punjab when the Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place.

23. Shivaram Hari Rajguru



Great Indian Freedom Fighter Shivaram Rajguru was remembered on his 116th birth anniversary (August 24).

About Shivaram Hari Rajguru (1908 - 1931)

- ⊕ Born in Khed village (renamed as Rajgurunagar) near Pune (Maharashtra).
- ⊕ He was a **key member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).**

Key Contributions

- ⊕ He along with Sukhdev and Bhagat Singh participated in the **assassination of British officer John Saunders in 1928** to avenge death of Lala Lajpat Rai.
- ⊕ On March 23, 1931, all the three great freedom fighters, **Rajguru, Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev were hanged till death** by the British Government at Lahore.
→ **March 23 is observed as 'Shaheed Diwas'** to pay tribute to their martyrdom.

24. Sarat Chandra Bose



Eminent freedom fighter Sarat Chandra Bose was remembered on his 135th birth anniversary (September 06).

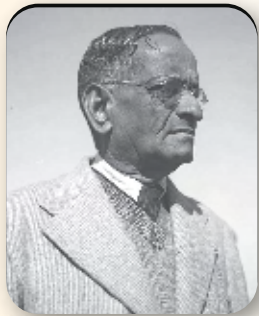
About Sarat Chandra Bose (1889 - 1950)

- ⊕ Born in Cuttak (Odisha)
- ⊕ He was a **member of the Bengal Legislative Council** and a part of the
- ⊕ **Indian National Congress.**
- ⊕ He was also **elected as an Alderman** multiple times in the **Calcutta Corporation.**

Key Contributions

- ⊕ Left his professional practice to join **Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) in 1930**; he was arrested in 1932 for 3-years due to his involvement in the CDM.
Involved with parties having **socialist alignment** such as the **Forward Bloc.**
→ Forward Bloc was founded by his brother Netaji Subash Chandra Bose.
- ⊕ Vehemently **opposed the partition of Bengal and Punjab over religious lines** and resigned from the Congress Working Committee in 1947.
- ⊕ **Published newspapers** such as **The Socialist Republican, Mahajati, and The Nation.**

25. Narasimha Gopalaswami Ayyangar



Madras City Cooperative Building Society Ltd. completes 100 years of which N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar was the first president.

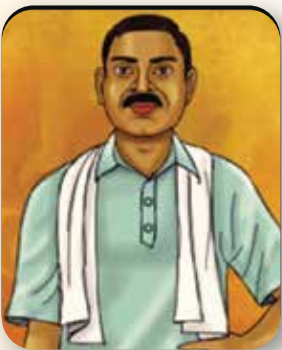
About N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (1882-1953)

- ⊕ He was an able **administrator, freedom fighter and a politician.**
- ⊕ In 1905, he joined the Madras Civil Service and was appointed the **'Diwan' or Prime Minister of J&K in 1937.**

Key Contribution

- ⊕ Elected to **Council of States (1943-47).**
- ⊕ Part of 7-member **Drafting Committee of Indian Constitution.**
- ⊕ He helped put in shape **Article 370.**
- ⊕ Report on Reorganisation of the Machinery of Government in 1949.
- ⊕ Served as **Minister for Defence, Railways and Transport.**

26. Laxman Nayak



Ministry of tribal Affairs highlighted contributions of freedom fighter Laxman Nayak.

About Laxman Nayak Bhumia

- ⊕ He was a **tribal leader of Bhumia community** from Odisha.
- ⊕ He was famous as the **Gandhi of Malkangiri region** because he believed and followed **Gandhian principles of truth, non-violence and peaceful non-cooperation.**

Contributions

- ⊕ Participated in **individual Satyagraha in 1940.**
- ⊕ During **Quit India Movement (1942)**, he asked his fellow tribesmen to respond to the call of 'Do or die' by Gandhiji.
- ⊕ He strengthened the **principle of Swaraj** by advocating the **use of Charkha** through door-to-door campaigns.

27. Tileswari Koch



Recently she was remembered on her death anniversary.

About Tileswari Koch

Early Life:

- ⊕ **Father:** Bhabakanta Barua
- ⊕ **Birthplace:** Nij-Borgaon village on the outskirts of Dhekiajuli (Sonitpur district) Assam.

Contributions:

- ⊕ She was shot by the British on September 20, 1942, during the **Quit India Movement** while attempting to hoist the Tricolour at a police station in Dhekiajuli, along with other freedom fighters.
- ⊕ This incident is sometimes called as **Dhekiajuli martyr** and the procession of freedom fighter to hoist flag is known as **mrityu vahini (suicide squad)** which was led by Monbor Nath.

Honour: Dhekiajuli town marks September 20 as Martyrs' Day in her honour.

28. Asaf Ali



The birth anniversary of Asaf Ali was celebrated.

About Asaf Ali

- ⊕ **Lawyer, freedom fighter, first Ambassador** of independent India to the United States etc.

Key Contributions

- ⊕ One of the **founding members of Home Rule League at Delhi**.
- ⊕ Actively participated in the **Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Individual Satyagraha and Quit India Movement** etc.
- ⊕ Defended **Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt** in central assembly bomb case 1929.
- ⊕ Elected to **Central Legislative Assembly in 1935** as a member of Muslim National Party.

29. Arun Chandra Guha



Freedom fighter and renowned writer Arun Chandra Guha was remembered on his birth anniversary.

About Arun Chandra Guha (1892-1983)

- ⊕ Born in Barisal (East Bengal).
- ⊕ He was a **member of the Constituent Assembly** and, since 1946 a
- ⊕ Member of Parliament till the third Lok Sabha (1963).

Key Contributions

- ⊕ Started taking interest in politics during the **Swadeshi movement of 1905**.
- ⊕ After 1910, he took an active part as a member of **the Jugantar Party**, a secret revolutionary society.
- ⊕ Published Bengali and English journals, **Mandira and Forward**, respectively.
- ⊕ Subscribed to Jatindranath Mukhopadhyay, alias **Bagha Jatin's Zimmermann plan**.
- ⊕ **Literary works:** Shristi Sabhyata, First Spark of Revolution, etc.

30. Prasanta Chandra (P.C.) Mahalanobis



On 'Statistics Day (June 29)', MoSPI launched eSankhyiki portal to establish a comprehensive data management and facilitate ease of dissemination of official statistics in the country.

⊕ Statistics Day celebrates birth Anniversary of P.C. Mahalanobis.

About P.C. Mahalanobis (1893–1972)

Contributions:

- ⊕ Founded the **Indian Statistical Institute**.
Established the **National Sample Survey (1950)** and set up **Central Statistical Organisation**.
- ⊕ **Statistical Organisation**.
Shaped India's **second Five year Plan (1956–61)**, also called the **Mahalanobis Plan**.
 - It focused on **development of public sector and rapid industrialisation**.
- ⊕ Gave **Mahalanobis distance**, a statistical measure.

Recognition

- ⊕ Received **Padma Vibhushan**.
- ⊕ **Establishment of Mahalanobis International Award** given to individual for lifetime achievements in statistics in a developing country or region.
 - Supported by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

31. Govind Ballabh Pant



Eminent Indian **Freedom fighter and first CM of Uttar Pradesh** was remembered on his birth anniversary.

About Govind Ballabh Pant (10 September 1887– 7 March 1961)

- ⊕ Born in Almora, Uttarakhand.
- ⊕ He **started Kumaon Parishad in 1916** and was soon elected to **All-India Congress Committee**.
- ⊕ Got **elected to United Provinces Legislative Council** on a Swaraj Party ticket in 1923.

Key Contributions

- ⊕ Took part in **Salt March, Quit India Movement** and arrested in 1930 for planning **Civil Disobedience Movement**.
- ⊕ Responsible for establishment of **Hindi as an official language** of the central government and a few states.
- ⊕ **Linguistic Reorganization of States:** during tenure as India's home minister from 1955 to 1961.
- ⊕ **Contribution as CM:** Protesting zamindari system, passing the Hindu Code Bill (in Uttar Pradesh), which made monogamy compulsory for Hindu men.
- ⊕ **Award:** Received **Bharat Ratna in 1957**

32. Lala Hansraj



Recently, birth anniversary of Lala Hansraj was celebrated.

About Lala Hansraj (1864–1938)

Early life

- ⊕ **Birth place:** Hoshiarpur district, Punjab
- ⊕ **Parent:** Lala Chunnilal and mother Hardevi
- ⊕ **Influenced by:** Swami Dayanand Saraswati's ideologies.
- ⊕ Popularly known as **Mahatma Hansraj**.

Contributions:

- ⊕ One of the greatest educationists who chose **English-oriented Science-based education with a blend of Vedic ideals**
- ⊕ Co-established the **first Dayanand Anglo-Vedic Schools System**

33. Sukumar Sen



- ⊕ **(DAV) in Lahore in 1886** with Guru Datta Vidyarthi and served as its first Headmaster.
- ⊕ Proposed the inclusion of the **Ashok Dharma Chakra at the Centre of the National Flag.**

A biopic on the life of Sukumar Sen has been announced.

About Sukumar Sen

- ⊕ **First Chief Election Commissioner of India**, served from 1950 to 1958.
- #### Contributions
- ⊕ **Conducted first two Lok Sabha elections of India (1952 and 1957) simultaneously with the Legislative Assembly Elections** based on universal adult franchise.
 - ⊕ **Many innovative methods** were introduced under his leadership to conduct free and fair elections such as **indelible ink** to avoid voter impersonation.
 - ⊕ Served as the **Chairman of the International Election Commission.**
 - ⊕ **Awards and Honour:** Padma Bhushan

34. Shyamlal Gupta Parshad



Famous poet and lyricist Shyamlal Gupta 'Parshad' was recently remembered on his birth anniversary.

About Shyamlal Gupta 'Parshad' (9 September 1896–10 August 1977)

- ⊕ Born in Narwal, Kanpur
 - ⊕ He was a **freedom fighter, journalist, social worker, and teacher.**
- #### Contributions:
- ⊕ Composed patriotic song '**Vijayi Vishwa Tiranga Pyara**' (Jhanda Geet) in 1924.
 - ⊕ He also participated in major movements like '**Salt Satyagraha**' and '**Quit India Movement.**
 - ⊕ **Social worker:** Founded many organizations including college, orphanage, and girls' school.
 - Also actively **opposed dowry system and advocated for widows' remarriage.**
 - ⊕ Edited a **monthly magazine called 'Sachchiv'**
- #### Achievements:
- ⊕ Awarded '**Padma Shri**' in 1973.

35. Sucheta Kriplani



Eminent Freedom Fighter and **India's first women Chief Minister** (Uttar Pradesh, 1963), Sucheta Kriplani was remembered on her birth anniversary (June 25).

About Sucheta Kriplani (1908 – 1974)

- ⊕ She was an Indian politician and freedom fighter born in Ambala district of Haryana.
 - ⊕ She was one of the fifteen eminent women that were **part of the drafting committee.**
- #### Key Contributions
- ⊕ She was a **founding member of the All India Mahila Congress**, founded in 1940.

- ⊕ She participated in **Quit India Movement** and worked underground to evade arrest.
- ⊕ She also **participated in several relief activities**, including the **1934 Bihar earthquake, the 1946 Noakhali pre-Partition riots, etc.**
- ⊕ Part of **several delegations**: Parliamentary Delegation to Turkey (1954); International Labour Organization (1961), United Nations General Assembly (1949), etc.

36. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay



Recently, she was remembered on her birth anniversary.

About Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay (1903 – 1988)

⊕ Born in Mangalore, she was a freedom fighter, social reformer, art enthusiast and politician.

Key Contributions:

- ⊕ Played a key role in **All India Women's Conference (AIWC)**.
- ⊕ **First woman to run for a legislative seat in India**, in the Madras provincial elections.
- ⊕ She convinced Mahatma Gandhi to give women **equal opportunity in Salt Satyagraha of 1930**.
- ⊕ She joined Seva Dal and trained women activists.
- ⊕ In 1936, she became **President of Congress Socialist Party**.

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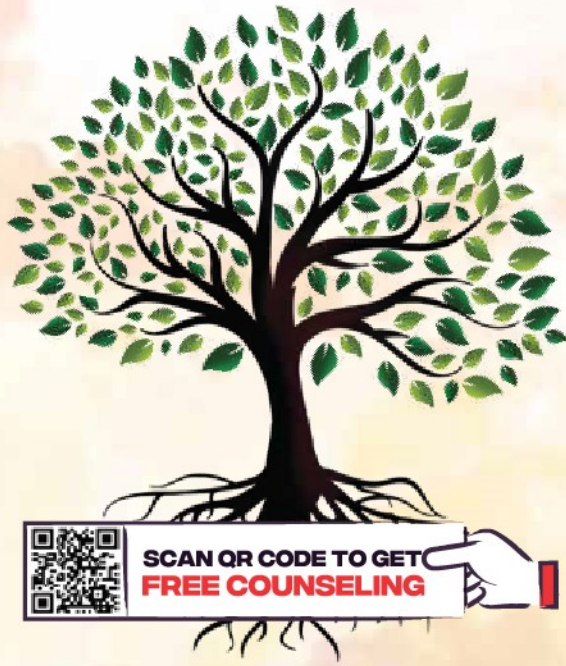
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