

Dr Rajendra Prasad

December 4, 2020

In news

The President of India paid homage to Dr Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, on his birth anniversary

A brief history of Dr. Rajendra Prasad(1884-1963)

- He was born in 1884 in Bihar's Ziradei
- He was an Indian politician, lawyer, and journalist who was the first president of the Republic of India (1950–62).
- His father, Mahadev Sahai Srivastava, was a scholar of both Sanskrit and Persian languages. His mother, Kamleshwari Devi
- In June 1896, at an early age of 12, he was married to Rajavanshi Devi.
- Prasad joined the Presidency College, Calcutta in 1902, initially as a science student. He passed the F. A. under the University of Calcutta in March 1904 and then graduated with a first division from there in March 1905
- A devoted student as well as a public activist, he was an active member of the Dawn Society(under Satish Chandra Mukherjee)
- Prasad was instrumental in the formation of the Bihari Students Conference in 1906 in the hall of Patna College.

His role in India's independence movement

- His first association with Indian National Congress was during the 1906 annual session organised in Calcutta, where he participated as a volunteer, while studying in Calcutta.
- Formally, he joined the Indian National Congress in the year 1911, when the annual session was again held in

Calcutta

- During the Lucknow Session of Indian National Congress held in 1916, he met Mahatma Gandhi.
- During the satyagraha at Champaran in 1917, Mahatma Gandhi asked him to come with his volunteers
- He gave up his law practice in 1920 to join the noncooperation movement.
- As a journalist in the nationalist interest, he wrote for **Searchlight in English**, founded and edited the Hindi weekly **Desh ("Country")**, and started his **lifelong campaign to establish Hindi as the national language**.
- He was deeply **influenced by Mahatma Gandhi and went to jail during the 'Salt Satyagraha' of 1931 and the 'Quit India Movement' of 1942**.
- He was a president of INC in 1934, 1939, and 1947
- In **1946 Prasad was sworn in as minister for food and agriculture in the interim government** preceding full independence.
- From **1946 to 1949 he presided over the Indian Constituent Assembly** and helped to shape the constitution.
- **Rajendra Prasad was unanimously elected president in 1950** and, after the first general election (1952), was chosen by an overwhelming majority of the new electoral college; **in 1957 he was elected to a third term**.
- Prasad retired from public life in 1962 because of his deteriorating health. That same year he was honoured with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

His literary works

- Satyagraha at Champaran (1922)
- Division of India (1946, online)
- Atmakatha (1946), his autobiography written during his 3-year prison term in Bankipur Jail
- Mahatma Gandhi and Bihar, Some Reminiscences(1949)
- Babu Ke Kadmon Mein (1954)

- Since Independence (published in 1960)
- Bharatiya Shiksha
- At the feet of Mahatma Gandhi