



# drishti

## Jayaprakash Narayan and Nanaji Deshmukh Jayanti

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### Why in News

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Prime Minister of India bowed to Loknayak Jayaprakash Narayan and Nanaji Deshmukh, on their Jayanti.

### Key Points

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- **Jayaprakash Narayan (JP):**



- **Birth:** 11<sup>th</sup> October, 1902 in Sitabdiara, Bihar.
- **Influenced By:** Marxist ideas in the USA and **Gandhian ideology.**
- **Contribution to Freedom Struggle:**
  - In **1929**, he joined the **Indian National Congress.**
  - **Imprisonment:**
    - In **1932** imprisoned for a year for participation in the civil disobedience movement.
    - In **1939** for his opposition to Indian participation in **World War II** on the side of Britain but escaped.
  - He played a key role in the formation of the **Congress Socialist Party (1934)**, a left-wing group within the Congress Party.

◦ **Post-Independence Role:**

- In 1948, he left the Congress Party and initiated an anti-Congress Campaign.
- In **1952**, he formed the **Praja Socialist Party (PSP)**.
- In **1954**, he devoted his life **exclusively to the Bhoodan Yajna Movement, of Vinoba Bhave**, which demanded land redistribution to the landless.
- In **1959** he argued for a “**reconstruction of Indian polity**” by means of a four-tier hierarchy of village, district, state, and union councils (**Chaukhamba Raj**).
- Total Revolution: Against Indira Gandhi Regime as she was found guilty of violating electoral laws by the Allahabad High Court. He advocated a program of **social transformation** which he termed ‘**Sampoorna Kranti**’ (**total revolution**) in 1974 against corruption in public life.

**Features:**

- Total Revolution has seven component revolutions, namely-political, social, economic, cultural, ideological or intellectual, educational and spiritual.
  - The objective was to bring in a change in the existing society that is in tune with the ideals of the Sarvodaya (Gandhian philosophy- progress for all).
- **Bharat Ratna: Jayaprakash Narayan** was **posthumously conferred** with India's highest civilian award, the **Bharat Ratna (1999)**, for his **"invaluable contribution to the freedom struggle and upliftment of the poor and downtrodden"**.

- **Nanaji Deshmukh:**



- **Birth:** 11<sup>th</sup> October 1916 in Maharashtra's Hingoli district.
- **Influenced by:** **Lokamanya Tilak** and his nationalist ideology.
  - Dr. Keshav Baliram Hedgewar, founding Sarsangha-chalak(head) of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).
- He was a leader of Bharatiya Jana Sangh and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.
- **Participation:** He actively participated in **Acharya Vinoba Bhave's Bhoodan.**
  - Deshmukh was the **main force behind social activist Jayaprakash Narayan's agitation for total revolution.**
- **Social Activism:** He was a social reformer with focus on health, education and rural self-reliance.
  - He established **Chitarkoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalaya** in Chitrakoot, India's **first rural University** and had served as its Chancellor.
  - He did great work towards the anti-poverty and minimum needs programme.
- **Electoral Politics:** He was one of **main architects** of the Janata Party.
  - He **won in the 1977 Lok election** from Balrampur (UP) Lok Sabha constituency.
  - He was **nominated to Rajya Sabha** in 1999 in recognition of his services to the nation.
- **Death:** 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.
- **Awards:**
  - He was awarded **Padma Vibhushan** in 1999.
  - In 2019, the President of India, conferred the **Bharat Ratna** upon him (posthumously) for his services to the nation.

**Source: PIB**