

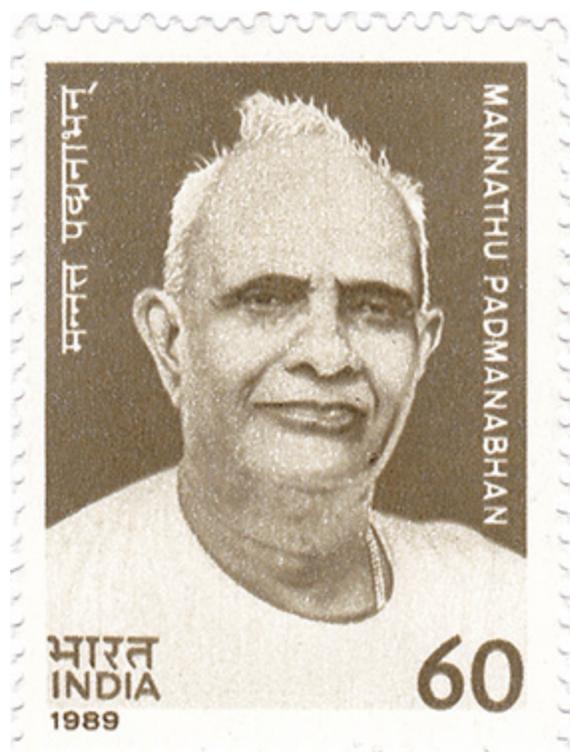


Mannathu Padmanabhan

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Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to **Mannathu Padmanabhan** on his **Punya Tithi** (Death Anniversary).



Key Points

- **Birth:**
He was born on **2nd January 1878** in Perunna, **Kottayam district of Kerala**.

- **About:**

- He was an Indian **social reformer** and **freedom fighter** from the south-western state of Kerala.
- Sardar K M Panicker called him '**Madan Mohan Malaviya** of Kerala.
- He began his career as a **teacher in 1893** in a Government primary school.
- In **1905** he changed his profession and **started practicing law**, in the Magistrates Courts.

- **Political and Social Contribution:**

- He took part in the **Vaikom (1924)** and **Guruvayoor (1931)** temple-entry Satyagrahas and the anti-untouchability agitations.
 - **Vaikom Satyagraha** was a movement in Travancore (modern-day Kerala) for **temple entry of the depressed classes**. It took place near the Shiva Temple at Vaikom, Kottayam district, Kerala during 1924-25. Vaikom was at that time a part of the princely state of Travancore.
 - **Guruvayur Satyagraha** was a Satyagraha (non-violent protest) to allow entry for untouchables into the **Guruvayur Temple** in present Thrissur district, which was then part of Ponnani Taluk of Malabar district, now part of **Kerala**.
- He is regarded as the reformer and moral guide of the members of **Nair community**. He inspired the **Nair community** community members to end practicing bad and orthodox customs.
- He led the Nairs to demand temple entry for all castes and to put an end to **untouchability**.
- In 1914 he established the **Nair Service Society**.
- He became a member of the **Indian National Congress in 1946** and took part in the agitation against Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer's administration in Travancore.
- He was arrested for the **Indian Freedom Movement** on 14 June 1947.
- In 1949, Padmanabhan became a **member of the Travancore Legislative Assembly**.
- In 1964 he was instrumental in the formation of **Kerala Congress**, the **first regional party in India**.

- **Awards & Recognition:**

- He received **Padma Bhushan** in 1966.
- He was honoured with the title **Bharata Kesari** by the President of India.

- **Death:**

- He died on **25th February 1970** at the age of 92.
- **Mannam memorial (or Samādhi)** is located at NSS Headquarters Changanacherry which is a municipal town in **Kottayam district**, Kerala.

Source:PIB