



Ram Prasad Bismil

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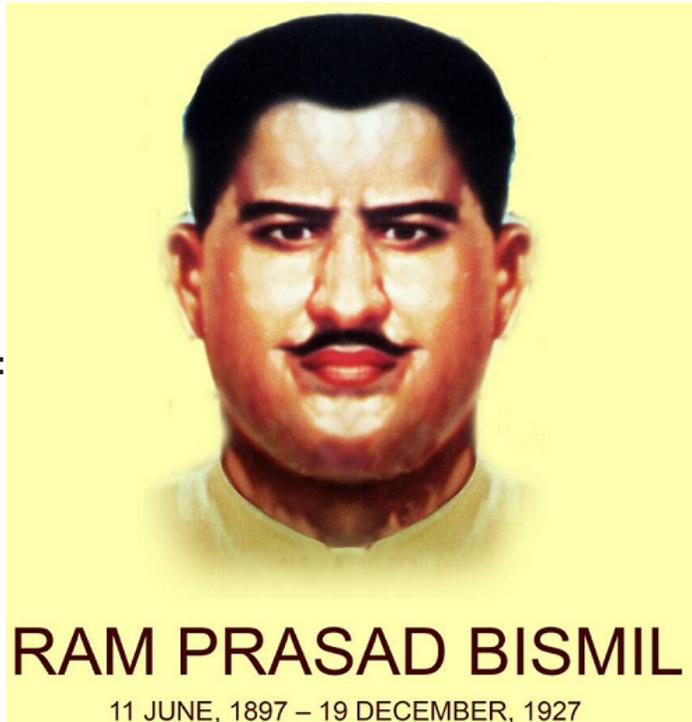
Why in News

Recently, the Ministry of Culture organised a special ceremony at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh to mark the **birth anniversary** of freedom fighter **Ram Prasad Bismil**.

Key Points

- **Birth:**
Was born on **11th June, 1897**, in a village in **Uttar Pradesh's Shahjahanpur district** to **Murlidhar and Moolmati**.

- About:



- Was among the most **noteworthy Indian freedom fighters** who resisted British colonial forces till his last breath.
- Joined the **Arya Samaj** founded by **Dayananda Saraswati in 1875**. This had a profound influence on him, he **often employed poetry** as his weapon of choice in the fight against the imperialist forces.
- 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 all of 18 then and vented his anguish through his poem '**Mera Janm**'.
- Believed that **freedom cannot be achieved without violence**, bloodshed, which meant his views were in stark contrast to **Mahatma Gandhi's** ideals of 'ahimsa'.

- **Contributions:**
 - **Organizations:**
 - Formed organisation **Matrivedi** and got in touch with **Genda Lal Dixit, a school teacher.**

Both shared revolutionary ideas and wanted to organise the youth of the country to fight the British government.
 - Bismil was one of the chief founders of the **Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)** along with Sachindra Nath Sanyal and Jadugopal Mukherjee.

HRA was **founded in 1924** and its constitution was drafted chiefly by Bismil.
 - **Major Cases:**
 - Was involved in the **Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918** in which police found a few young people including Bismil selling books that were not prescribed by the government.
 - Published a pamphlet titled '**Deshwasiyo ke Naam**' and distributed it along with his poem '**Mainpuri ki Pratigya**'. To **collect funds for the parties, they looted government coffers.**
 - He **escaped arrest by jumping into the Yamuna River.**
 - In 1925, Bismil and his companions **Chandrasedkar 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.**
 - **Others:**
 - Attended the 1921 session of the **Indian National Congress** at Ahmedabad.
 - While lodged in Gorakhpur Central Jail, **Bismil went on a hunger strike demanding to be treated as a political prisoner.**
 - In Lucknow Central Jail, Bismil wrote his autobiography, considered as one of the finest works in Hindi literature and also the cult song "**Mera rang de Basanti chola**".
- **Death:**
 - Hanged on **19th December 1927** at Gorakhpur Jail.
 - Was **cremated on the banks of river Rapti** and the site was rechristened as Raj Ghat later.

Source: PIB