



Mahakavi Subramania Bharati

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Why in News

Recently, the Vice-President paid tributes to **Mahakavi Subramania Bharati** on his **100th death centenary**.



Key Points

- **Birth:** 11th December 1882, in Ettayapuram, Madras Presidency.
- **Brief Profile:** Indian writer of the **nationalist period (1885-1920)** who is regarded as the **father of the modern Tamil style**.
 - Also known as '**Mahakavi Bharathiyar**'.
 - His **strong sense of social justice** drove him to fight for self-determination.

- **Involvement during Nationalist Period:**

- After 1904, he **joined the Tamil daily newspaper Swadesamitran.**

This exposure to political affairs led to his involvement in the extremist wing of the **Indian National Congress (INC)** party.

- In order to proclaim its revolutionary ardour, Bharathi had the **weekly newspaper named 'India'** printed in red paper.

- It was the **first paper in Tamil Nadu** to publish political cartoons.
- He also published and edited a few other journals like **"Vijaya"**.

- **Attended the annual sessions of INC** and discussed national issues with extremist leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, **B.G. Tilak** and V.V.S. Iyer.

His participation and **activities in Benaras Session (1905) and Surat Session (1907)** of the INC impressed many national leaders for his patriotic fervour.

- Published the sensational **"Sudesa Geethangal"** in 1908.

- Bharati's reaction to the Russian Revolutions of 1917, in a poem entitled **"Pudiyarussia" ("The New Russia")**, offers a fascinating example of the poet's political philosophy.

- He was **forced to flee to Pondicherry (now Puducherry)**, a French colony, where he lived in exile from 1910 to 1919.

- During this time, **Bharati's nationalistic poems and essays** were popular successes.

- **Important Works:** Kaṇṇan pāṭṭu (1917; Songs to Krishna), Panchali sapatham (1912; Panchali's Vow), Kuyil pāṭṭu (1912; Kuyil's Song), Pudiyarussia and Gnanaratham (Chariot of Wisdom).

Many of his English works were **collected in Agni and Other Poems and Translations and Essays and Other Prose Fragments (1937).**

- **Death:** 11th September 1921.

- **International Bharati Festival:**

- The **International Bharati Festival 2020** was organised by the Vanavil Cultural Centre (Tamil Nadu) which marked his **138th birth anniversary.**

- **Scholar Shri Seeni Viswanathan** received the **Bharathi Award for the year 2020.**

Source: TH