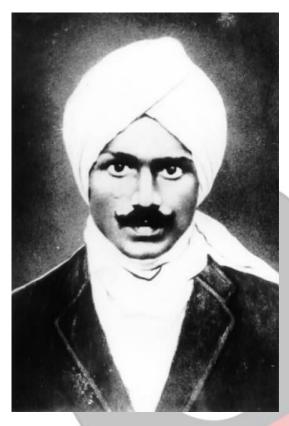


Mahakavi Subramania Bharati

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.

The Vision

• 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 "Pudiya Russia" ("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), Pudiya Russia 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 <u>International Bharati Festival 2020</u> 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.



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