



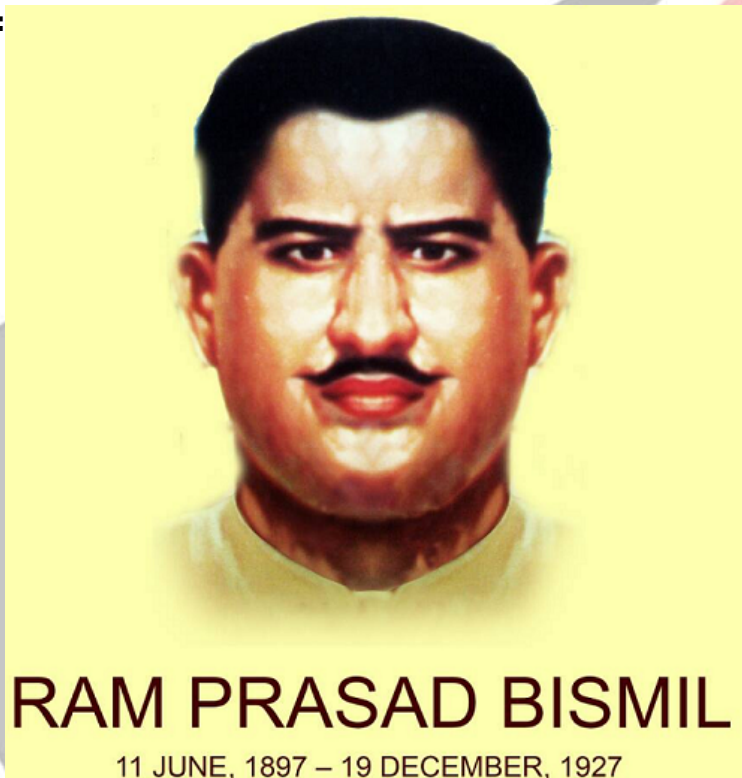
Ram Prasad Bismil

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 **Chandrasekhar 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](#)