



Freedom Fighter: Prahlad Patel

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister recalled the **'Nation First'** spirit of freedom fighter **Prahlad Patel** on his 115th birth anniversary.

- He noted Shri Prahladji Patel's generosity in social service and his sacrifice. And **requested universities in Gujarat should carry out research and bring to light such forgotten freedom fighters** and underscore their contribution in the independence movement.

Who was Prahlad Patel?

- Prahlad Patel hailed from Becharaji in Gujarat and fought for India's independence from British rule, and later joined the **'Bhoodan' movement** of social reformer **Vinoba Bhave**.
 - He **donated 200 bighas** of land that he owned.
- The freedom fighter joined the freedom struggle on the call of **Mahatma Gandhi** and underwent imprisonment in Sabarmati and Yerawada .
- Shri Patel's father passed away when he was incarcerated but Shri Prahladji Patel **did not accept the conditions of apology** that were put forward by the colonial rulers for allowing him to perform the last rites.
 - He also **supported many freedom fighters who were fighting underground**.
- Prahlad Patel also helped **Sardar Patel** in the **merger of princely states after independence**.
- When Gujarat was formed in 1960, he even **contested elections from the Chanasma seat in Patan district** and took the entire region on the path of development.

Source: PIB

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