



115th Birth Anniversary of St Mother Teresa

Why in News?

The **115th birth anniversary of [Saint Mother Teresa](#)** was celebrated on **26th August 2025**, at **Mother's House**, Kolkata.

Key Facts About Mother Teresa

- **Mother Teresa, born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu** in 1910 in **Skopje, Ottoman Empire (now North Macedonia)**, dedicated her life to serving the poorest of the poor.
 - Her journey began at the age of 12 when she felt called to serve as a missionary.
- **In 1928, at the age of 18, she** moved to India, where she took her vows in 1931. For 17 years, she taught at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta.
- Mother Teresa founded the **Missionaries of Charity on 7th October 1950**, after receiving approval from the Vatican.
 - Her order, which expanded globally, focuses on caring for the destitute, including refugees, the elderly, and those suffering from [AIDS](#), among others.
- By the 1990s, the **Missionaries of Charity had over one million Co-Workers across 40 countries**, spreading Mother Teresa's spirit of compassion.
 - **She received numerous accolades**, including the **Pope John XXIII Peace Prize (1971)**, the [Nehru Prize \(1972\)](#), and the [Nobel Peace Prize](#) in 1979 for her tireless work in promoting peace and understanding.
- Mother Teresa **passed away on 5th September 1997**, leaving behind a lasting legacy of compassion and service.
 - She was **canonized (declared as a saint)** by **Pope Francis in 2016**, further cementing her status as one of the most beloved humanitarian figures in the world.

Note: Mother Teresa remains the **only [naturalised citizen](#)** to have been **awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna (1980)**.

- She is also one of **only two foreigners** to have **received the [Bharat Ratna](#)**. The **other is Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan**, known as the "Frontier Gandhi," who was honoured in 1987.