

Birth Anniversary of Ram Prasad Bismil

Why in News?

On 11th June 2025, the **birth anniversary of freedom fighter <u>Ram Prasad Bismil</u>** was commemorated. Renowned for his revolutionary spirit and poetic brilliance, he played a pivotal role in **India's struggle against <u>British colonial rule</u>**.



Key Points

- Birth and Early Life:
 - Ram Prasad Bismil was born on 11th June 1897 in Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.
- Early Influences and Ideology:
 - Bismil joined **the Arya Samaj**, **founded by <u>Dayanand Saraswati</u>** in **1875**, and began writing under pen names like 'Bismil', meaning 'wounded' or 'restless'.
 - He embraced revolutionary ideals after reading about the death sentence awarded to Bhai Parmanand, an Arya Samaj missionary and nationalist.
 - At the age of 18, he expressed his anguish through the powerful poem 'Mera Janm'.

- He supported armed revolution, believing it to be a more effective path to independence than Gandhi's non-violent approach.
- Major Contributions:
 - Mainpuri Conspiracy:
 - Disillusioned with the Congress's moderate stance, Bismil **founded a revolutionary group** named **Matrivedi**.
 - He was involved in the Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918, wherein the police found a
 few young people, including Bismil selling books that were prescribed by the
 government.
 - He and his associates carried out three successful raids to loot government funds to support their cause.
 - Formation of Hindustan Republican Association (HRA):
 - In 1924, Bismil co-founded the <u>Hindustan Republican Association (HRA)</u> with Sachindra Nath Sanyal, Ashfaqulla Khan, Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee and Jadugopal Mukherjee.
 - He drafted most of HRA's manifesto, envisioning a federal "United States of India" established through armed revolution.
 - Kakori Train Action:
 - In 1925, Bismil, along with **Chandrasekhar Azad and Ashfaqulla Khan**, led the Kakori train robbery to fund revolutionary activities.
 - They successfully looted the train near Kakori, but British authorities arrested them within a month.
 - After an 18-month-long trial, Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, and Roshan Singh were sentenced to death under the Kakori Conspiracy Case.
- Literary Contributions:
 - Bismil wrote stirring patriotic poetry in Hindi and Urdu that inspired countless Indians to join the freedom struggle.
 - Bismil's poem 'Sarfroshi Ki Tammana, Ab hamare Dil Me hai' became a clarion call for the Indian Freedom movement.
 - His works reflected deep concerns for social justice, human dignity, and equality.
- Martyrdom:
 - The British executed Bismil on 19th December 1927 at Gorakhpur Jail.

Note: In August 2025, the Uttar Pradesh government renamed 'Kakori Kand' to 'Kakori Train Action', stating that the word 'Kand' (meaning 'incident' or 'scandal') carries a negative connotation and undermines the significance of this historic act in India's freedom struggle.

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