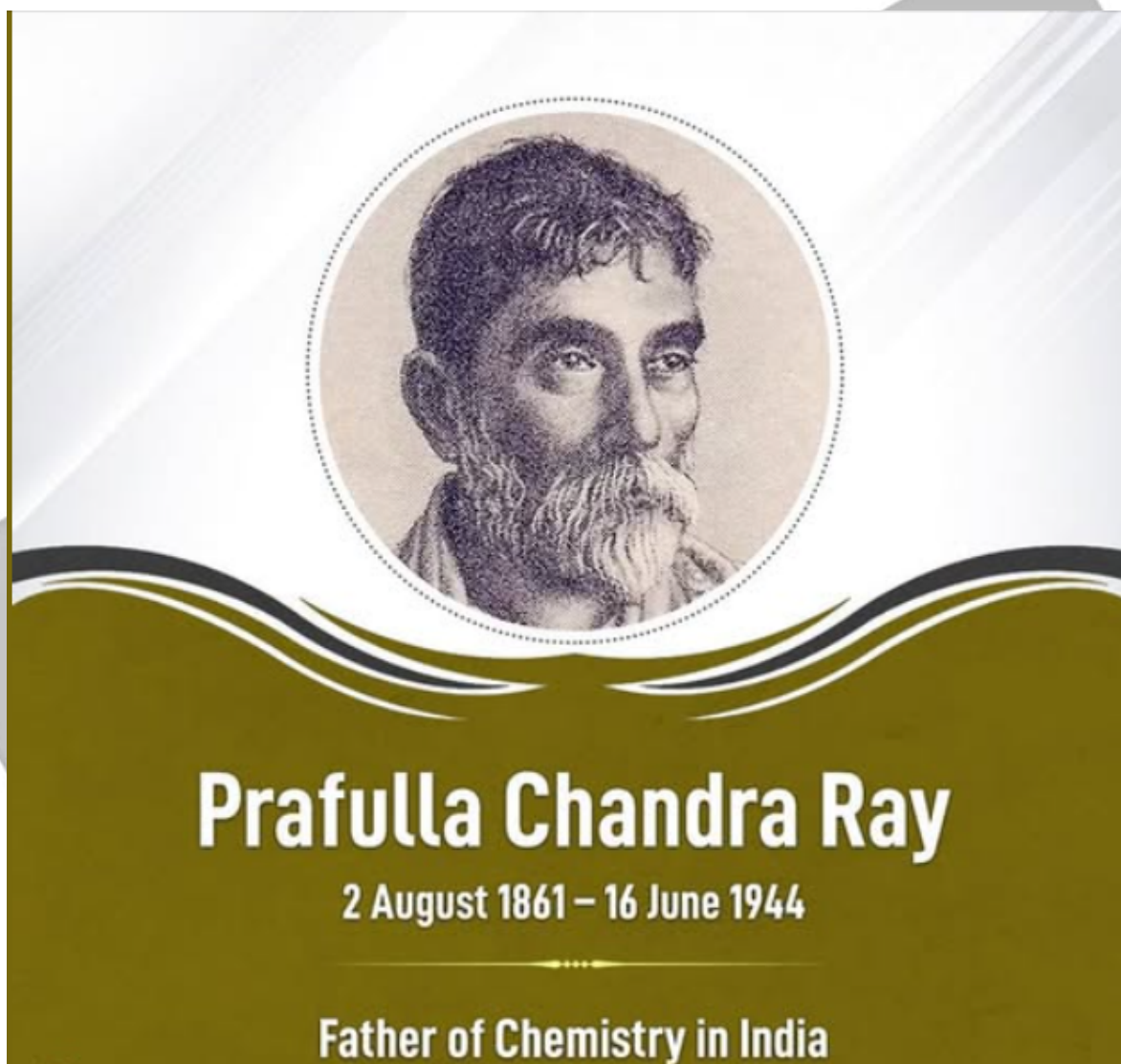




Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray

Why in News?

On the **164th birth anniversary** of [Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray](#), the pioneer of modern chemistry in India, various commemorative activities were organised.



Key Points

- **About:** Prafulla Chandra Ray (1861–1944), often hailed as the **“Father of Indian Chemistry,”** was a pioneering scientist and educator who is regarded as one of India’s earliest modern chemical researchers.
 - **Trained at the University of Edinburgh**, Ray spent many years at Presidency College

and Calcutta University.

▪ **Work:**

- He is credited with discovering the stable compound **Mercurous Nitrite** in 1895.
- A staunch nationalist, Ray was committed to advancing Bengali enterprise and established the **Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works in 1901**.
- Ray was an active supporter of the [Swadeshi Movement of 1905](#) and considered the use of Bideshi articles a crime of treason against India.
- Ray **opposed the caste system** and other irrational social practices, actively promoting social reform until his death.

▪ **Awards and Recognitions:**

- Honored by the British Government, he received the title of **Companion of the Indian Empire (CIE)** and then with the **Knighthood in 1919**.
- **In 1920**, he was elected General President of the [Indian Science Congress](#).
- In recognition of his contributions, **India Post** issued a postage stamp in his honor on **2nd August 1961**, marking his birth anniversary.

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/acharya-prafulla-chandra-ray-2>

