



145th Birth Anniversary of Munshi Premchand

Why in News?

On the **eve of Munshi Premchand's 145th birth anniversary**, **Postmaster General Krishna Kumar Yadav** highlighted the deep connection between Premchand and the postal family.

- He also emphasized **Premchand's transition from idealism to realism**, which makes his **work highly relevant to today's social environment**, particularly in addressing ongoing issues such as **poverty, casteism, gender discrimination, and exploitation**.





Key Facts About Munshi Premchand

- **About:** Munshi Premchand, born as **Dhanpat Rai Srivastava** on **31st July 1880**, in **Lamhi village near Varanasi**, is considered one of the most influential novelists, storywriters, and **thinkers in Hindi and Urdu literature**.
 - After Premchand's first unsuccessful marriage, he **remarried Shivarani Devi** (in 1906), a **child widow**, which was considered a **revolutionary act at that time**.
 - His wife, **Shivarani Devi**, wrote a memoir titled '**Premchand Ghar Mein**' after his death.
- **Early Life and Education:** Premchand was born to **Munshi Ajaib Lal** (a post office clerk) and **Anandi Devi**.

- He learned **Urdu** and **Persian** early on and attended **missionary school** for English education. He completed his **matriculation** in 1898 and went on to earn a **B.A.** in **1919** from **Allahabad University**, specializing in **English, Persian, and History**.
- **Career Path:** From **1899 to 1921**, Premchand worked as a **school teacher** and a **Deputy Sub-Inspector of Schools**.
 - In **1921**, he resigned from government service in response to [Gandhi's non-cooperation movement](#).
- **Literary Career and Pen Names:** Initially, he wrote under the pen name '**Nawab Rai**', a childhood nickname. He later adopted '**Premchand**' after the **British colonial government** **banned his collection 'Soz-e-Watan'** in **1910**.
 - His literary brilliance earned him the title '**Upanyas Samrat**' (**Emperor of Novels**) and '**Magician of the Pen**' from contemporary Hindi writers.
- **Major Contributions to Literature:** Premchand is considered the **pioneer of realism** in **Hindi and Urdu literature**.
 - He is known for writing over **300 short stories** and **18 novels**, most notably '**Godan**,' '**Kafan**,' '**Pus Ki Raat**,' and '**Panch Parmeshwar**', which resonate even today for their critique of **society and human emotion**.
 - He contributed to leading **Hindi and Urdu journals** such as '**Zamana**,' '**Saraswati**,' '**Madhuri**,' '**Maryaada**,' '**Chaand**,' and '**Sudha**.' He also edited and published the prominent **Hindi newspaper**, '**Jagran**,' and the **literary magazine** '**Hans**.'
 - Premchand purchased **Saraswati Press**, but it eventually suffered losses and shut down. Later, he moved to **Mumbai** to **write film scripts**.
- **Modern Recognition: Premchand's literary legacy** continues to thrive, with the **Sahitya Akademi Premchand Fellowships** established in **2005** to honor his memory.
 - Many of his works have been adapted into films, including **Satyajit Ray's 'Shatranj Ke Khiladi'** (1977). His stories have been translated into numerous Indian and international languages, further cementing his place as a literary icon.
 - The **period from 1918 to 1936** is regarded as the '**Premchand Era**' in the field of **Hindi literature**, during which **his works** continued to touch upon **themes of social justice, equality, and freedom**, remaining relevant even in today's world.
 - The **Department of Posts** issued a **Commemorative Postage Stamp** in **1980** to honor his immense contribution to Indian literature and society.
- **Final Years and Legacy:** Premchand was elected as the **first president of the All-India Progressive Writers' Association** in **1936**.
- **Death:** He passed away on **8th October 1936** in **Varanasi** at the age of 56.