

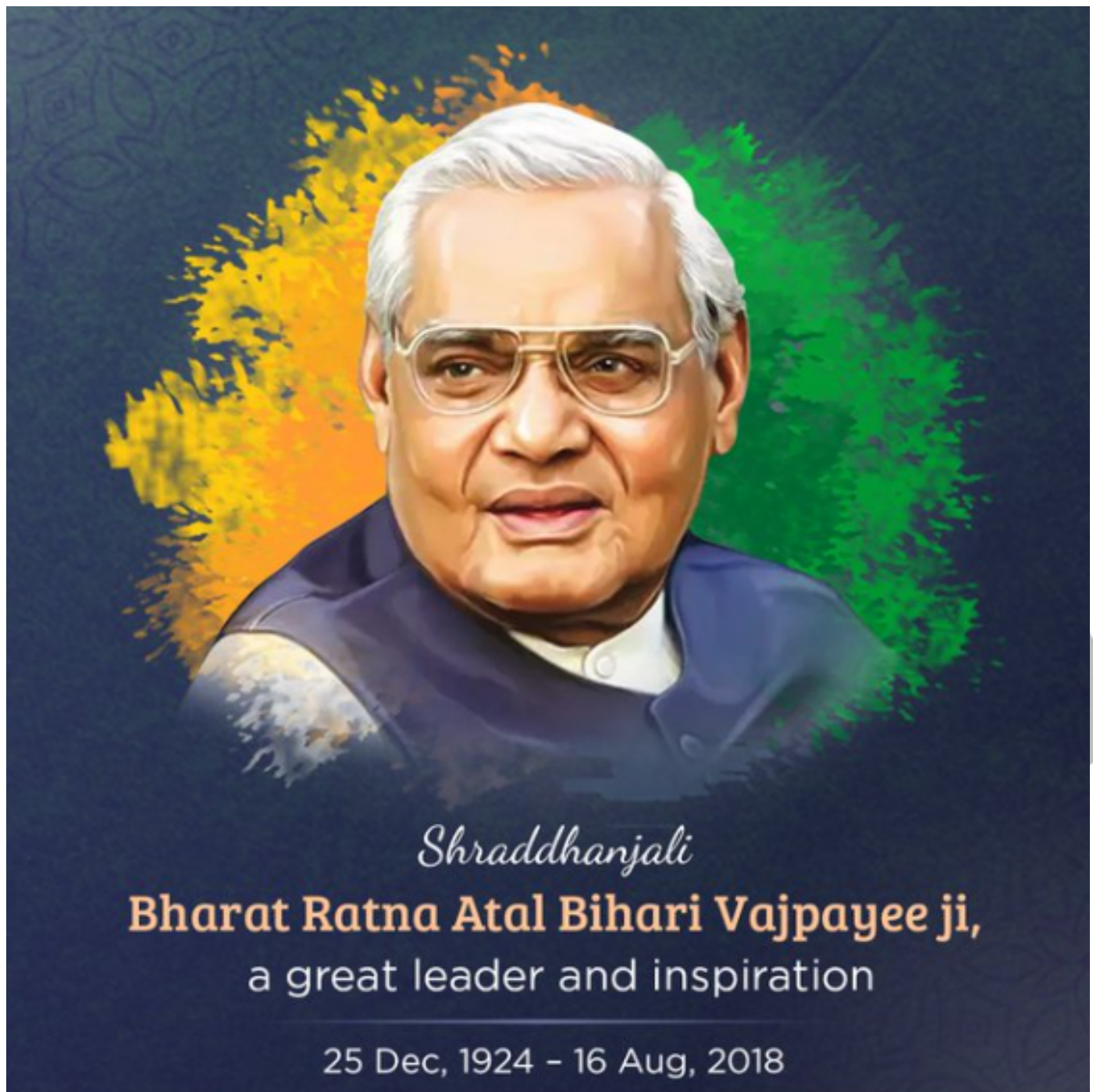


Death Anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with **President Droupadi Murmu** and other dignitaries, paid floral tributes to former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** on his **seventh death anniversary (16th Aug)** at his memorial, '**Sadaiv Atal**', in New Delhi.





Key Points About Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- **Atal Bihari Vajpayee:** Born on 25th December, 1924 in the **erstwhile princely state of Gwalior** (now a part of Madhya Pradesh).
 - He entered in national politics during the [Quit India Movement \(1942\)](#) which hastened the end of British colonial rule.
- **Professional Career:** In 1947, Vajpayee started working as a journalist for newspapers of **Deendayal Upadhyaya — Rashtradharma** (a Hindi monthly), **Panchjanya** (a Hindi weekly) and the dailies **Swadesh and Veer Arjun**.
 - Later, influenced by [Syama Prasad Mookerjee](#), Vajpayee joined the **Bharatiya Jana Sangh in 1951**.
- **Political Journey:** He served as **India's Prime Minister three times** (1996; 1998–2004): **first term** (16th May – 1st June **1996, about 13 days**), **second term** (19th March 1998 – 13th October 1999), **and third term** (13th October 1999 – 22nd May 2004).
 - He was elected **nine times to the Lok Sabha** and **twice to the Rajya Sabha**.
- **Awards and Recognition:** He was conferred with the **country's highest civilian honour**,

the **Bharat Ratna** in 2015 and second-highest civilian honour, the **Padma Vibhushan** in 1994.

- As a parliamentarian, Vajpayee was awarded with the **Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award for Best Parliamentarian in 1994**, which defines him as "a role model par excellence for all legislators."
- His birthday is observed as **Good Governance Day**.

▪ **Demise:** A revered former Prime Minister, he passed away on 16th August 2018.

▪ **Key Achievements:**

- He launched the **Golden Quadrilateral Project**, creating a network of four national highways connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Kolkata.
- Through **second-generation economic reforms**, he liberalized India's economy, fostering industrial growth and attracting foreign investment.
- He led the nation during the **Pokhran Nuclear Tests (1998)**, which established India as a nuclear power while emphasizing peace and non-aggression.
- He inaugurated **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)** in 2000 **for better connectivity and transportation** in rural India.

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