



Renowned Gandhian G.G. Parikh Passes Away

Why in News?

Dr. Gunvantrai Ganpatlal (G.G.) Parikh, a Gandhian, **freedom fighter**, and socialist leader, passed away on 2nd October 2025 at the age of 101.

- He spent his life strengthening the **labour movement**, **consumer co-operatives**, and spreading democratic socialist values.



Key Points

- **Early Life and Role in Freedom Struggle:**
 - Born in **Rajkot** on **30th December 1924**.
 - Participated in the **Quit India Movement (1942)** and was imprisoned for 10 months.
 - Mentored by **Acharya Narendra Dev**, which shaped his socialist ideology.
 - Married **Mangala Parikh**, a Gandhian and Shantiniketan alumna, in 1948.
- **Contributions to Public Life:**
 - **Medical Service:** A practicing doctor in Mumbai and rural Maharashtra; ran clinics for decades, treating the underprivileged at nominal charges.
 - **Labour Movement:** Active in **Hind Mazdoor Sabha**, leading workers' struggles for rights and dignity.
 - **Political Role:** Associated with **Samajwadi Paksha**, **Seva Dal**, and later the **Janata Party** after the Emergency.

- **Emergency Era:** Arrested during the **Emergency**; linked with the Baroda Dynamite case.
- **Yusuf Meherally Centre:** Founded in **1962 at Taara village, Panvel (Raigad district, Maharashtra)**.
 - Promoted **Gramodyog (village industries)** aligned with Gandhian ideals.
- **Social and Political Movements:**
 - Builder of **consumer co-operatives** like Apna Bazaar, Gaondevi Society, and Nan Chowk Society.
 - Promoted **women's empowerment** through Samajwadi Mahila Sabha.
 - Advocated for **communal harmony**, led a **Bharat Yatra (2005)** to involve youth in grassroots development.
 - Supported **zero-carbon initiatives** and experimented with sustainable agriculture.
- **Legacy & Relevance:**
 - Embodied **Gandhian values** of service, self-reliance, and grassroots empowerment.
 - His life reflects the **interlinkage of freedom struggle, socialism, and community development**—a model of democratic socialism in practice.

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