

Parbati Giri

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | History

Why in News?

Recently, the Prime Minister paid homage to Parbati Giri (1926-1995) on her birth centenary.

- **Born on** - 19 January 1926.
- **Parents** - She was born to Dhananjaya Giri and Shrimati in a Gauntia family.
- **Nativity** - Samlaipadar village, Bargarh district, **Odisha**.
- **Early Activism** - She **dropped out of school at age 11**.
- She was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi and Rama Devi of Bari Ashram.
- She joined the organizational work of Congress in 1938 and started raising awareness in villages.
- Learned weaving, handicrafts, and adopted Gandhism as a way of life.
- **Freedom Struggle** - In 1940, organized meetings and mobilized villagers for Gandhiji's **Khadi Andolan**.
- Encouraged people to spin charkha and wear khadi.
- During the Quit India Movement, Parbati participated in **rallies with the tri-colour flag** and shouted anti-British slogans.
- Parbati Giri went to the Sub Divisional Office (SDO) in Bargarh, sat on the SDO's chair, and ordered the SDO to be brought in tied with a rope, like a culprit.
- This bold act led to her arrest and imprisonment for 2 years.
- Ordered lawyers to vacate Bargarh Court and gave two bangles to those who did not comply.
- She **encouraged many women of Western Odisha to join Satyagraha** and the freedom movement.
- **Social Reform** - She led relief work during the 1951 famine in Odisha.
- Worked for the improvement of jail conditions and the eradication of leprosy.
- Parbati Giri is known as **Mother Teresa of Western Orissa** for her

service to the destitute.

- She was called as ***Banhi Kanya*** for her resilience and nationalist zeal.
- **Centenary Tributes** - The Prime Minister commended her role in the freedom struggle.
- Parbati Giri's passion for community service and work in sectors like healthcare, women empowerment, and culture were highlighted.

References

1. [PIB | Parbati Giri](#)
2. [Indian culture | Parbati Giri](#)

