# 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


