



CHITTARANJAN DAS : PERSONALITY IN NEWS

NEWS: 150th Birth Anniversary of Freedom Fighter Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das is Celebrated.

WHAT'S IN THE NEWS ?

Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries after paying floral tributes to Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das at his portrait in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan on his Birth Anniversary on 5 November, 2024.

Chittaranjan Das (Deshbandhu)



Early Life

- **Birth:** Born on 5 November 1870 in Calcutta to a prominent Baidya Brahman family from Bikrampur, Dhaka (now Bangladesh).
- **Family:** Son of Bhuban Mohan Das; nephew of social reformer Durga Mohan Das.
- **Brahmo Samaj:** Family actively involved in Raja Ram Mohan Roy's Brahmo Samaj.
- **Marriage:** Married four times; spouses included Basanti Devi, Aparna Devi, Chiraranjan Das, and Kalyani Devi.
- **Education:** Graduated from Presidency College, Calcutta (1890); went to England for higher studies and ICS exam (did not clear).
- **Law Studies:** Completed law in England; returned to India in 1893.
- **London Connections:** Befriended Sri Aurobindo, Atul Prasad Sen, and Sarojini Naidu; promoted Dadabhai Naoroji in British Parliament.

Career

- **Law Practice:** Practiced at Calcutta High Court; defended Brahmabandhab Upadhyay and Bhupendranath Datta on sedition charges.
- **Alipore Bomb Case:** Gained fame by successfully defending Aurobindo Ghosh (1908).
- **Journalism:** Contributed to *Bande Mataram* with Bipin Chandra Pal and Aurobindo.
- **Anushilan Samiti:** Actively engaged with the revolutionary group.
- **Politics:** Entered politics in 1917; played a role in electing Annie Besant as Congress President.
- **Village Reconstruction:** Proposed self-reliant village plans in the Calcutta session using Co-Operative Credit Societies and Local Self Government.

Freedom Movement



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- **Non-Cooperation Movement:** Burned European clothes; adopted Khadi and simple living.
- **Newspaper:** Founded *FORWARD*, later renamed *LIBERTY*, with Subhas Chandra Bose as editor.
- **Calcutta Mayor:** Became the first Mayor of Calcutta Municipal Corporation.
- **Congress Leadership:** Resigned from INC Presidency at the Gaya session after policy disagreement with Gandhi.
- **Swaraj Party:** Co-founded Swaraj Party with Motilal Nehru in 1923 to challenge British rule through the Legislative Assembly.
- **Arrest:** Jailed with wife and son for six months in 1921 during the Non-Cooperation Movement.

Later Life and Death

- **Health Decline:** Health worsened in 1925; moved to Darjeeling for recovery.
- **Death:** Died of fever on 16 June 1925 in Darjeeling; funeral led by Gandhi in Calcutta.

Literary Contributions

- **Poetry:** Published *Malancha* and *Mala* (poetry collections) and *Sagar Sangeet* in 1913.
- **Journal:** Started monthly *Narayana* with contributions from prominent writers like Sharat Chandra Chattopadhyay and Bipin Chandra Pal.

Legacy

- **Public Welfare:** Donated Kolkata property, including his home, for the welfare of women.
- **Darjeeling Home:** His residence, *Step Aside*, now serves as a Mother and Child Care Centre.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2070833>