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# Nanaji Deshmukh

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**Why is in news?** PM pays tributes to Bharat Ratna Nanaji Deshmukh on his Jayanti

**Chandikadas Amritrao Deshmukh BR**, better known as **Nanaji Deshmukh**, was a social reformer and politician from India.

He was born on **11 October 1916** in Maharashtra's Hingoli district.

He was **posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award in 2019 by the Government of India.

He was awarded **Padma Vibhushan in 1999**.

He was a leader of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh and also a member of the Rajya Sabha and one of main architects of the Janata Party.

He was **influenced by Lokamanya Tilak** and his nationalist ideology.

He **actively participated** in Acharya Vinoba Bhave's **Bhoodan**.

Deshmukh was the **main force behind** social activist Jayaprakash Narayan's **agitation for total revolution**.

He was a social reformer with focus on health, education and rural self-reliance.

He established Chitarkoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalaya in Chitrakoot the **India's first rural University**.

He did great work towards the **anti-poverty and minimum needs programme**.

Nanaji implemented the **philosophy of integral humanism** to improve the living standards of more than 150 villages of Bundelkhand.

Deshmukh died on **27 February 2010** in the premises of Chitrakoot Gramoday Vishwavidyalaya that he established.

**Kamaraj IAS Academy**

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477** / Whatsapp : **09710729833**