

## Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

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### Rajkumari Amrit Kaur

Recently, the birth anniversary of Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was observed on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.



[Ref: awazthevoice]

### **About Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:**

- She was born in **Punjab's Kapurthala Royal family.**
- She returned to India at **age 20.**

- She fought battles against **Slavery, Purdah system, Child marriage** and **Devdasi**.

#### Her Contribution:

- She had a close association with **Gandhi**, as secretary for sixteen years.
- She actively opposed **Ramsay MacDonald's communal award** in **1932**.
- She participated in the **Salt Satyagraha** and was arrested multiple times for involvement in freedom movements.
- First Health Minister of Independent India.
  - She also laid the foundation of **AIIMS, Delhi**.

#### Contribution to Constitution Making:

- She was elected to the **Constituent Assembly** from **Central Provinces and Berar**.
- She was a member of the **Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee** and the **Minorities Sub-Committee**.
- She advocated against discriminatory practices and supported the **Uniform Civil Code**.

#### Later Contributions and Health Ministry:

- She was the **first Health Minister** post-independence and served for **ten years**.
- She introduced the **AIIMS (All India Institute Of Medical Science) Bill** in Parliament, 1956.
- She advocated for the **nursing profession** and established many **nursing training centres**.
- She was the founding member and Chairperson of the **Indian Red Cross Society**.

#### Recognition and Writings:

- She was the **First female and Asian president** of the **World Health Assembly**, 1950.
- She also became vice president of the **International Red Cross Society**.
- **Key Writings:**
  - Woman in India (1935)
  - Challenge to Women (1946)
  - To women (1948)
  - Gandhi and Women

#### Education and Advocacy:

- She worked towards **free education** for all, focusing on women's education.
- She was the founder member of **Delhi's Lady Irwin College** and the **Indian Council of Child Welfare**.
- She contributed to the establishment of the **Indian Leprosy Association** and the **Tuberculosis Association**.

#### Awards and Honors:

- She was honoured by the League of Red Cross Societies with the **Court Bernadotte Gold Medal**, 1957.

- She received an honorary **Doctor of Laws degree from Princeton University**, 1956.

**Legacy:**

- She passed away on **6 February 1964** in New Delhi.