Neelam Sanjiva Reddy (1913-1996)

Context

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, paid homage to Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, former President of India, at Rashtrapati Bhavan today (May 19, 2020) on his Birth Anniversary. He paid floral tributes in front of the portrait of Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy.

About Neelam Sanjiva Reddy

- He was one of the foremost political leaders from Andhra Pradesh. He participated in various freedom struggles against the British and was imprisoned several times.

- He was elected to the Constituent Assembly in India.

- **Chief minister of Andhra Pradesh:**
  - When the Andhra Province was separated from Madras and T. Prakasam became the Chief Minister of Andhra, Sanjeeva Reddy was appointed Deputy Chief Minister.
  - When the new state of Andhra Pradesh was constituted Sanjeeva Reddy became its first Chief Minister and served in that capacity from 1956 to 1959. He again became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in 1962 for one year.

- **Lok sabha speaker:** Sanjeeva was speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1969.

- **Presidential election against VV Giri:**
  - He then contested for the office of the President as the official Congress candidate against V. V. Giri who was then the Vice-President.
  - The Presidential resulted in the split of the Congress with an overwhelming section siding with Indira Gandhi, who had rebelled against the old guard, headed by Shri Nijalingappa, which came to be known as the Congress (O).
  - Thus the Congress came to be divided into the Congress (O) and Congress (R) parties. The Presidential election went in favour of Mr. V. V. Giri.

- **President of India (25 July 1977 to 25 July 1982):** After the defeat of the Congress (R) in the Lok Sabha elections of 1977, Sanjeeva Reddy was elected with the backing of the Janata Party as the sixth President of India. As president, Reddy worked with Prime Ministers Morarji Desai, Charan Singh and Indira Gandhi.