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1935 - 2020

Pranab Mukherjee: political giant, consensus builder

**Cong leader left an
indelible imprint on
Indian politics**

SAGAR KULKARNI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Pranab Mukherjee, who passed away on Monday at 84, strode the political stage like a colossus in his five decades of public life, often helping his party and the country navigate troubled waters.

A quintessential consensus builder when coalition politics dominated the country, Mukherjee had friends across the political spectrum, from the Left parties to the BJP - a friendship that held him in good stead as he defended the Congress-led governments in Parliament and later as the 13th President of India.

The diminutive leader was a key troubleshooter for prime ministers Indira Gandhi, P V Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh, and a "father figure" to Narendra Modi, who honoured him with the Bharat Ratna in 2019 thanked him

Cong's go-to

B S ARUN

Pranab Mukherjee was a politician that any party would love to have. A no-nonsense leader, he was the go-to man for the Congress party or the UPA government of 2004-14 faced a crisis.

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for being a guide through the maze of national governance after he became the prime minister in 2014.

Pranab was never a mass leader, but left an indelible imprint as India went through internal strife in the troubled 80s, the economic crises in the 1990s and took giant strides in enhancing foreign relations during the UPA years.

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