



Savitribai Phule Jayanti

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Why in News

Savitribai Phule Jayanti is celebrated on **3rd January** every year to honour her contribution towards society, women empowerment and education.

She is considered to be one of **India's first modern feminists** and remembered for being India's first female teacher who worked for the upliftment of women and untouchables in the field of education and literacy.



Savitribai Phule

- She was born in **Naigaon, Satara district of Maharashtra on January 3, 1831** and married activist and social reformer **Jyotirao Phule** at the age of nine years.
- With her husband's support, Phule learned to read and write and both of them found **India's first school for girls called Bhide Wada in Pune in 1848.**
- The idea of educating women and the untouchables was considered to be a radical one at that time.

In Maharashtra, a nationalist discourse was playing out between 1881-1920 led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who opposed the setting up of schools for girls and non-Brahmins citing loss of nationality.

- Phule started the **Literacy Mission** in India between **1854-55** and the **Satyashodhak Samaj (Society for Truth-Seeking)**, through which she along with her husband wanted to **initiate the practice of Satyashodhak marriage, in which no dowry was taken.**

- She wrote **poems in Marathi** in which she advocated for values such as humanism, liberty, equality, brotherhood, rationalism and the importance of education among others.

Her books of poems are “**Kavya Phule**” and “**Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar**”.

- She **passed away on March 10, 1897.**

Source: PIB