



Gopal Krishna Gokhale

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Why in News

The Prime Minister of India paid tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his Jayanti.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale was a great social reformer and educationist who provided exemplary leadership to India's freedom movement.

Key Points

- **Birth:** 9th May, 1866 in Kotluk village in present-day Maharashtra (then part of the Bombay Presidency).
- **Ideology:**
Gokhale worked towards social empowerment, expansion of education , struggle for freedom in India for three decades and rejected the use of reactionary or revolutionary ways.



- **Role in Colonial Legislatures:**

- **Between 1899 and 1902**, he was a member of the **Bombay Legislative Council** followed by work at the **Imperial Legislative Council from 1902** till his death **(1915)**.
- At the Imperial legislature, Gokhale played a key role in framing the **Morley-Minto reforms of 1909**.

- **Role in INC:**
 - He was **associated with the Moderate Group of Indian National Congress (joined in 1889).**
 - He became **president of INC in 1905 in Banaras session.**
 - This was the time when bitter differences had arisen between his group of **'Moderates' and the 'Extremists'** led by **Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** among others. The two factions **split at the Surat session of 1907.**
 - Despite the ideological difference, **in 1907**, he intensely **campaigns for the release of Lala Lajpat Rai**, who was imprisoned that year by the British at Mandalay in present-day Myanmar.
- **Related Societies and Other Works:**
 - He **established the Servants of India Society in 1905** for the expansion of Indian education.
 - He was **also associated with the Sarvajanik sabha journal** started by Govind Ranade.
 - In 1908, Gokhale **founded the Ranade Institute of Economics.**
 - He started english weekly newspaper, **The Hitavada** (The people's paper).
- **Mentor to Gandhi:**
 - As a liberal nationalist, he is **regarded by Mahatma Gandhi as his political guru.**
 - Gandhi wrote a book in Gujarati dedicated to the leader titled **'Dharmatma Gokhale'**.

Morley-Minto Reforms 1909

- The reforms included the **admission of Indians to the Secretary of State's council, to the viceroy's executive council**, and to the executive councils of Bombay and Madras, and the **introduction of an elected element into legislative councils** with provision for **separate electorates for Muslims.**
 - The reforms were regarded by Indian nationalists as too cautious, and the provision of separate electorates for Muslims was resented by Hindu.
- The **legislative councils at the Centre and the provinces** were increased in size. The Act increased the maximum **additional membership of the Imperial Legislative Council from 16 to 60.**

- The legislative councils at the Centre and the provinces were to have **four categories of members** as follows:
 - **Ex officio members:** Governor-General and members of the executive council.
 - **Nominated official members:** Government officials who were nominated by the Governor-General.
 - **Nominated non-official members:** Nominated by the Governor-General but were not government officials.
 - **Elected members:** Elected by different categories of Indians.
The elected members were **elected indirectly**.
- **Indians were given membership** to the Imperial Legislative Council for the **first time**.
- It introduced **separate electorates for the Muslims**.
Some constituencies were earmarked for Muslims and only Muslims could vote for their representatives.
- **Satyendra P Sinha** was appointed the first Indian member of the **Viceroy's Executive Council**.

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