



# Bal Gangadhar Tilak

## Why in News

On 23<sup>rd</sup> July, India paid tribute to the freedom fighter and educationist **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** on his **birth anniversary**.

## Key Points //



- **Birth:** He was born on **23<sup>rd</sup> July 1856** in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.
  - Freedom fighter and lawyer, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, is also known as **Lokmanya Tilak**.
- **Educationist:**
  - Founder of the **Deccan Education Society (1884)** along with his associate Gopal Ganesh Agarkar and others.
  - One of the founders of the **Fergusson College (1885)** in Pune through the Deccan Education Society.
- **Ideology:**
  - He was a devout Hindu and used Hindu scriptures to rouse people to fight oppression.
  - Stressed on the **need for self-rule** and believed that without self-rule or swarajya, no progress was possible.
    - **Slogan:** “Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it!”
    - A book ‘**Indian Unrest**’ written by **Valentine Chirol**, an English journalist, stated **Tilak the ‘father of Indian unrest’**.
  - Emphasised the importance of a cultural and religious revival to go with the political movements.
    - Popularised the **Ganesh Chaturthi festival** in the Maharashtra region.
    - Propounded the **celebration of Shiv Jayanti** on the birth anniversary of the monarch Chhatrapati Shivaji.
- **Political Life:** He was one of the earliest and the most vocal proponents of complete independence or swarajya (self-rule).
  - Along with **Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal**, he was part of the **Lal-Bal-Pal trio**

of leaders with extremist outlooks.

- Joined the [Indian National Congress](#) (INC) in 1890.

▪ **Surat Split:** It was the splitting of the INC into two groups - the Extremists and the Moderates - at the Surat session in 1907.

- **Reason:** The extremists wanted either **Tilak** or [Lajpat Rai](#) to be president, so when **Rasbehari Ghose was announced as president**, the extremist resorted to violence. Hence Surat Split happened.
- While **extremists** wanted to end the tyranny rule of British through protest, **Moderates** were aimed at administrative and constitutional reforms.
- The **Extremist camp was led by Lal Bal and Pal** and the **moderate** camp was led by [Gopal Krishna Gokhle](#).

▪ **Contribution to Freedom Movement:**

- Propagated [swadeshi movements](#) and encouraged people to boycott foreign goods.
- **Indian Home Rule Movement:**

- It was a movement in British India on the lines of Irish Home Rule movement.
- Started in 1916, it is believed to have set the stage for the independence movement under the **leadership of Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak** for the educated English speaking upper class Indians.

- **All India Home Rule League:** Founded by Tilak in April 1916 at Belgaum.

- It worked in **Maharashtra (except Bombay), the Central Provinces, Karnataka and Berar.**

- **Lucknow Pact (1916):** Between the INC headed by Tilak and All-India Muslim League led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah for hindu-muslim unity in nationalist struggle.

▪ **Jail:** Between 1908 and 1914, he spent 6 years in Mandalay Prison for defending the actions of revolutionaries Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki.

- Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki had tried to **assassinate the District Judge, Mr. Kingsford** by **throwing bombs** at the carriage in which he was supposed to travel.

▪ **Newspapers:** Weeklies Kesari (Marathi) and Mahratta (English)

▪ **Books:** Gita Rhasya and Arctic Home of the Vedas.

▪ **Death:** He died on 1<sup>st</sup> August 1920.