



# Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant

## Why in News

Recently, a statue of freedom fighter **Govind Ballabh Pant** was unveiled at its new location on a roundabout at the Pandit Pant Marg, New Delhi.

- The statue had to be relocated from its earlier location near Raisina Road circle as it 'fell within the new [Parliament building layout](#)'

## Key Points



### ▪ Brief Profile:

- Govind Ballabh Pant is remembered as one of the country's **most prominent freedom fighters and an administrator** who played a key role in shaping modern India.
- He was the **Premier of United Provinces** (1937 - 1939), **First Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh** (1946 -1954) and **Union Home Minister** (1955 - 1961) and was a recipient of the highest civilian award, [the Bharat Ratna](#) in 1957.

### ▪ Early Life:

- Pant was born on 10<sup>th</sup> September **1887 in Uttarakhand, at Almora.**
- When he was 18 years old, he started serving as a volunteer at sessions of the **Indian National Congress**, looking up to **Gopalkrishna Gokhale and Madan Mohan Malaviya** as his idols.
- In 1907, he decided to study law, after receiving his degree, he started to practise law in Almora in 1910 and eventually moved to Kashipur.
- In Kashipur, he **established an organisation called Prem Sabha**, that started working towards several reforms and also saved a school from shutting down due to non-payment of taxes to the British government.

#### ▪ **Contribution in National Movement:**

- Govind Ballabh Pant joined the Congress in December 1921 and soon joined the **non-cooperation movement**.
- In 1930, he was imprisoned for organizing a **Salt March** inspired by Gandhi's earlier actions.
- He was elected to the Uttar Pradesh (then known as United Provinces) Legislative Assembly as the **candidate of the Swarajist Party** from Nainital.
  - When in Government, he tried to bring in reforms which would do away with the **Zamindari system**.
  - He also pleaded to the Government for lowering agricultural taxes on farmers.
  - He **encouraged many cottage industries** in the country and **raised his voice against the coolie-beggar law**, which forced porters to transport the heavy luggage of British officials without any payment.
  - Pant was always **against a separate electorate for minorities**, saying the step would further divide communities.
- During the **Second World War**, Pant tried to **conciliate between Gandhi's faction**, which advocated supporting the British Crown in their war effort, and **Subash Chandra Bose's faction**, which advocated taking advantage of the situation to expel the British Raj by any means necessary.
- In 1942 he was arrested again, this time for signing the **Quit India resolution**, and spent three years in Ahmednagar Fort along with other members of the Congress working committee until March 1945.
  - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru pleaded successfully for Pant's release, on grounds of failing health.

#### ▪ **Post Independence**

- After independence, Govind Ballabh Pant became the **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh**. He worked for the upliftment of the farmers and the eradication of untouchability.
- After the death of **Sardar Patel**, Govind Ballabh Pant was **made the Home Minister in the Union Government**.
- As a Home Minister, he **championed the cause of Hindi as the national language** or rashtrabhasha.

**Source:PIB**