



## Birth Anniversary of Pingali Venkayya

### Why in News?

On **2<sup>nd</sup> August**, PM Modi paid **tributes to Pingali Venkayya** on his 149th birth anniversary, highlighting his immense **contribution in designing India's national flag**, a symbol of the nation's unity, diversity, and independence.

- He also **urged citizens to support the [Har Ghar Tiranga movement](#)** by unfurling the **Tricolour at their homes**.



### Pingali Venkayya

- **He was born on 2nd August 1876** in Bhatlapenumarru village, near Machilipatnam, **Andhra Pradesh**, and **passed away on 4th July 1963** at the age of 86.
- He fought the **Second Boer War (1899-1902)**.

- In **1913**, he delivered a lecture in Japanese in Bapatla, Andhra Pradesh, called '**Japan Venkayya**'.
- He was also **known as Patti Venkayya for his research into the Cambodia Cotton**.
- In 2009, **a postage stamp was released for his contribution**.

## Evolution of Flag

- In **1916**, **Pingali Venkayya** published a booklet titled **A National Flag for India**, featuring nearly **30 designs** for a [potential Indian flag](#), inspired by flags of other nations.
- **Venkayya's design** for the National Flag was **finally approved by Mahatma Gandhi** in a Congress meeting in [Vijayawada](#) in 1921.
- The initial flag, called the [Swaraj flag](#), consisted of two red and green bands (representing the Hindus and the Muslims religious communities). The flag also had a [charkha](#), which represented [Swaraj](#).
  - Mahatma Gandhi advised Venkayya to add **a white band to represent peace**.
- The [Flag Committee \(1931\)](#) replaced the **red with saffron** and placed saffron on top followed by white and then green. The **charkha was placed on the white band** in the middle.
  - The **colors stood for qualities and not communities** i.e., the **saffron for courage and sacrifice, white for truth and peace, and green for faith and strength**. The charkha stood for the welfare of the masses.
- Post-Independence, a national flag committee under [President Rajendra Prasad](#) replaced the **charkha with the Ashok Chakra**.

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