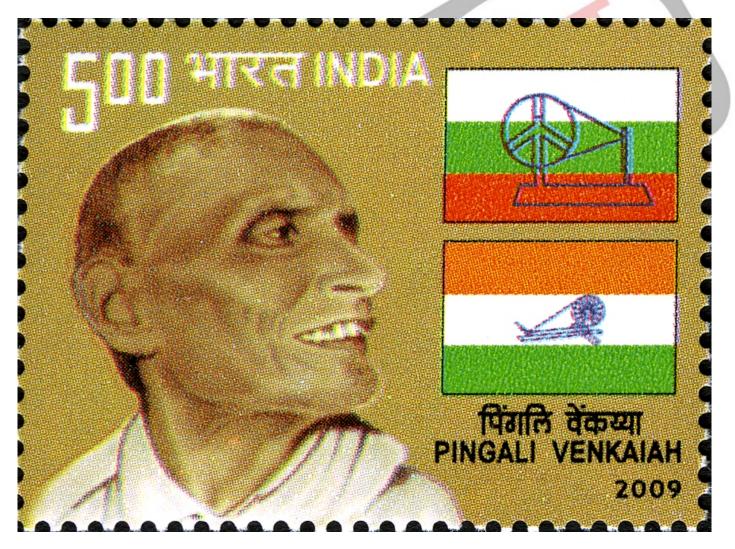


## **Birth Anniversary of Pingali Venkayya**

## Why in News?

On **2<sup>nd</sup> August**, PM Modi paid **tributes to <u>Pingali Venkayya</u>** 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 <u>Har Ghar Tiranga movement</u> by unfurling the <u>Tricolour at their homes</u>.



## 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 <u>Mahatma Gandhi</u> in a Congress meeting in <u>Vijayawada</u> in 1921.
- The initial flag, called the <u>Swaraj flag</u>, consisted of two red and green bands (representing the Hindus and the Muslims religious communities). The flag also had a <u>charkha</u>, which represented <u>Swaraj</u>.
  - Mahatma Gandhi advised Venkayya to add a white band to represent peace.
- The <u>Flag Committee (1931)</u> 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.

Vision

 Post-Independence, a national flag committee under <u>President Rajendra Prasad</u> replaced the charkha with the Ashok Chakra.

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