



Birth Anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Why in News?

Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla paid **tribute to Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak** on the occasion of his birth anniversary (23rd July, 2025).

Key Points

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- **About:**
 - Bal Gangadhar Tilak was **born in July 1856 in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra**, and revered as the father of Indian unrest.
 - 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 ideology**.
- **The Surat Split of 1907:**
 - The Surat Split of 1907 in the **Indian National Congress (INC)** marked a division into Extremist and Moderate factions. Extremists, primarily from the Bombay Presidency, supported Tilak or Lajpat Rai for the presidency.
 - But the split took place when Rasbehari Ghose was elected.
- **Home Rule League & Lucknow Pact:**
 - He founded (1914) and served as president of the Indian Home Rule League. In 1916, **he concluded the Lucknow Pact with Mohammed Ali Jinnah**, which provided for Hindu-Muslim unity in the nationalist struggle.
- **Contribution to Education:**
 - Along with his associate Gopal Ganesh Agarkar and others, he **co-founded the Deccan Education Society** in 1884.
 - Through this society, Tilak played a pivotal role in establishing **Fergusson College** in Pune in 1885.
- **Literary Works:**
 - **Newspapers:** Kesari (Marathi) and The Maratha (English)
 - **Books:** Gita Rahasya and Arctic Home of the Vedas

bal gangadhar tilak

(23 July 1856 - 1 August 1920)

One of the earliest, most vocal proponents of complete independence (Swarajya)

Brief Profile

- Also known as **Lokmanya Tilak**
- Mahatma Gandhi** called him "**The Maker of Modern India**"
- Educationist: A prolific writer and journalist
- Co-founded: **Deccan Education Society** (1884) and **Fergusson College** (1885)



Social and Political Contributions

- Ideology:** A devout Hindu; used Hindu scriptures to rouse people
- Role in INC:** Joined in 1890; Significant role in **Surat Split (1907)** - wanted by extremists to preside over Surat Session
- Slogan:** "Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it!"
- Lal-Bal-Pal Trio:** Led the extremist group with **Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Bipin Chandra Pal**

Contribution to Freedom Movement

- Propagated swadeshi movement
- Led the **Indian Home Rule Movement** with **Annie Besant**
- Founded All India Home Rule League in April 1916

Lucknow Pact (1916) - signed between **INC** headed by **Tilak** and **All-India Muslim League** headed by **Jinnah** for **Hindu-Muslim unity** in nationalist struggle

Literary Works

- Newspapers:** "Kesari" (Marathi) and "The Maratha" (English)
- Books:** **Gita Rahasya** (his *Magnum Opus*) and **Arctic Home of the Vedas**



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