



Servants of India Society (SIS)

Why in News?

Tensions have reignited between **Pune-based Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE)** and its parent body, the **Servants of India Society (SIS)**, with both parties express concerns regarding financial management matters.

Key Points

▪ Servants of India Society (SIS):

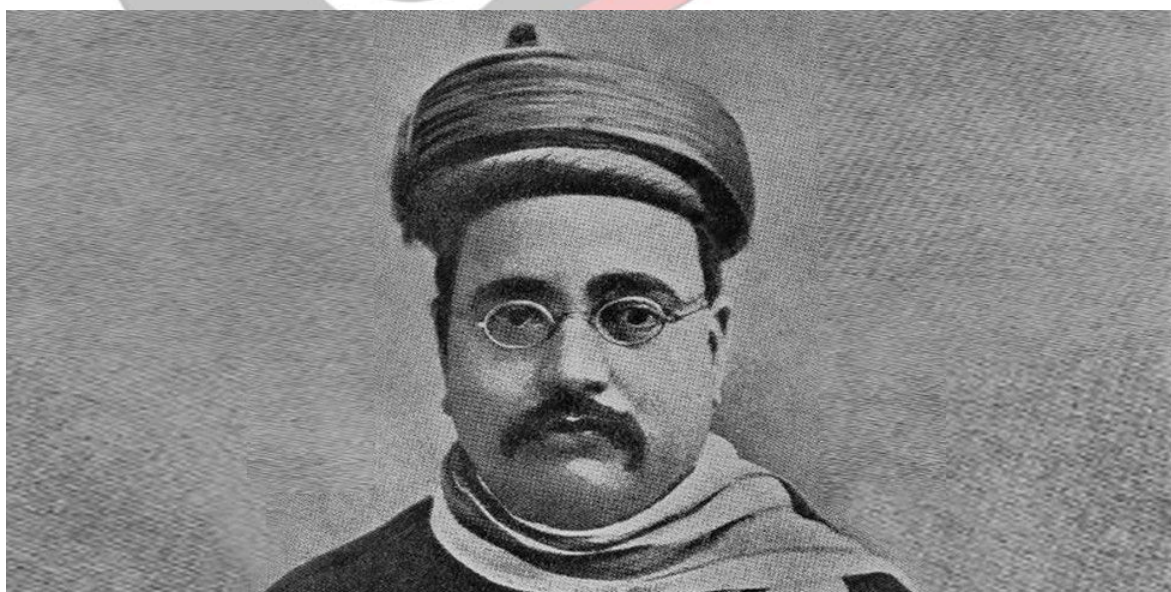
◦ About

- Established on **12th June 1905, in Pune** by [Gopal Krishna Gokhale](#), along with G.K. Devadhar, A.V. Patwardhan, and N.A. Dravid.
- Gokhale envisioned the Society as a platform to train committed individuals who would serve the nation with a spirit of dedication and service.
- The Society aimed to **promote political education, constructive agitation, and constitutional methods** to further India's national interest.
- Members were viewed as missionaries of Indian nationalism, working for the upliftment of the people.

◦ Prominent Members and Contributions:

- Early members included influential nationalists like V.S. Srinivasa Sastri, Hriday Nath Kunzru, and A.V. Thakkar.
- The Society made notable contributions to [India's independence movement](#), and its ideals continue to shape Indian public life.
- The Society played a key role in shaping India's freedom struggle by nurturing leaders **committed to non-violence, reform, and constitutionalism**.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale



▪ **Early Life and Education:**

- Gopal Krishna Gokhale was born on **9th May 1866 in Maharashtra.**
- He belonged to the first generation of **Indians to receive a university education and graduated from Elphinstone College in 1884.**
- Gokhale was deeply **influenced by Western political thought**, especially the ideas of **John Stuart Mill and Edmund Burke.**
- He considered **Justice Mahadev Govind Ranade his mentor** and was regarded as Ranade's **"Manas Putra" (spiritual son).**

▪ **Political Career and Reform Work:**

- He became a **senior leader of the [Indian National Congress](#)** and played a vital role in its moderate faction.
- In **1905, he founded the Servants of India Society** to promote education, social reform, and constitutional methods for achieving self-rule.
- Through his roles in the Congress, legislative councils, and civil society, Gokhale persistently advocated for social and political reforms.

▪ **Mentorship to Mahatma Gandhi:**

- Gokhale was a **mentor to [Mahatma Gandhi](#)**, especially after Gandhi's return from South Africa.
- He introduced Gandhi to the realities of Indian society and politics and helped shape his early views on reform and nation-building.

▪ **Legislative Contributions:**

- His **testimony before the Welby Commission** on India's finances earned him national acclaim.
- Gokhale's budget speeches in the Central Legislative Council stood out for their depth and statistical rigor.
- He played a key role in the formulation of the **[Morley-Minto Reforms \(1909\)](#)**, which expanded Indian participation in governance.

▪ **Legacy and Death:**

- Gokhale was **known as a scholar-statesman** and is often hailed as India's greatest liberal leader of his time.
- He **passed away on 19th February 1915.**