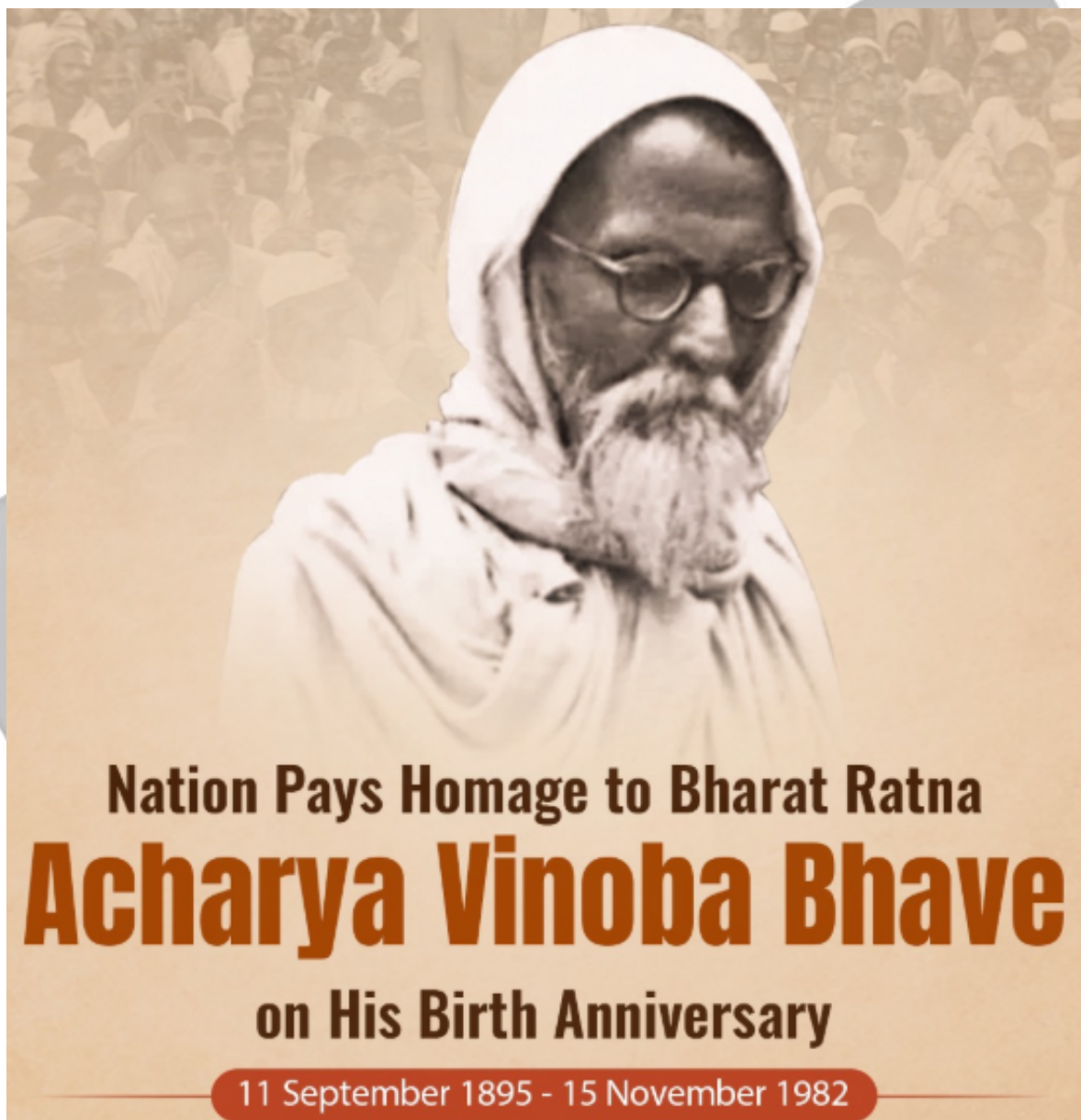




Birth Anniversary of Vinoba Bhave

Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid homage to **Acharya Vinoba Bhave** on the occasion of his **birth anniversary**, recalling his towering contributions to **India's spiritual, social, and political landscape**.



Key Points

- **About:** Vinayak Narahari Bhave was born on 11th September 1895 in Gagode, Bombay

Presidency (Maharashtra).

- He was a freedom fighter, social reformer, and spiritual teacher, deeply influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's principles of non-violence and equality.

▪ **Awards & Recognition: He was the first recipient of the international [Ramon Magsaysay Award](#) for Community Leadership in 1958.**

- He was also conferred with the [Bharat Ratna](#) (India's highest civilian award) posthumously in 1983.

▪ **Association with Gandhi: Vinoba met Gandhi on 7th June 1916 and took residence at the Ashram.**

- The name Vinoba (a traditional Marathi epithet signifying great respect) was conferred upon him by **Mama Phadke**, another member of the Ashram.
- On 8th April 1921, Vinoba, following Gandhi's directives, **went to Wardha** to take charge of a **Gandhi Ashram** and later published a monthly Marathi magazine, **Maharashtra Dharma**, featuring his essays on the **Upanishads**.

▪ **Role in Freedom Struggle: He took part in programs of [non-cooperation](#) and especially the call for the use of Swadeshi goods instead of imported goods.**

- He was also chosen as the **first Individual Satyagrahi** (an Individual standing up for Truth instead of a collective action) by Gandhi himself.
- He was given the honorific title **"Acharya" (teacher)**.

▪ **Bhoodan Movement: In 1951, Vinoba Bhave started his peace trek on foot through the violence-torn region of Telangana.**

- In 1951, the Harijans of the **Pochampalli village** requested him to provide them with around 80 acres of land to make a living.
- Vinoba asked the landlords of the village to come forward and save the Harijans.
 - A landlord got up and offered the required land.
 - It was the **beginning of the Bhoodan** (Gift of the Land) movement.
- The movement **continued for thirteen years**, and Vinoba toured the length and breadth of the country, a total distance of 58741 Km.
- He was successful in **collecting around 4.4 million acres of land**, of which around 1.3 million was distributed among poor, landless farmers.

▪ **Literary Work: His important books include **Swarajya Sastra**, **Geeta Pravachane**, **Teesri Shakti**, etc.**