



## Veer Savarkar Jayanti

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### Why in News?

On 28<sup>th</sup> May, the **Prime Minister** paid tribute to **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (Veer Savarkar)** on his birth anniversary.



### Who was Vinayak Damodar Savarkar and What were his Major Contributions?

#### ▪ Early Life:

- Born on **28<sup>th</sup> May, 1883**, in Nashik, Maharashtra, VD Savarkar (also known as **Swatantryaveer Savarkar**) was a **freedom fighter, politician, lawyer, writer, and social reformer**.

#### ▪ Related Organisations and Work:

- Founded **Mitra Mela** in 1899, later, it was renamed as the **Abhinav Bharat Society** in 1904.
- Established **Free India Society** in London in **1906** to foster revolutionary nationalism among Indian students abroad. Played a key role in the **India House** in London (founded by **Shyamji Krishna Verma**), a hub for revolutionary activities.
- Advocated **guerrilla warfare**, allegedly involved in making **handmade bombs**, and provided legal aid to **Madan Lal Dhingra**.
- Authored the influential book "**Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?**" (**1923**) and also wrote "**The History of the First War of Indian Independence**".

- Savarkar sometimes wrote using the pen-name "**Mahratta**" for some of his writings.

#### ▪ Trial & Sentence:

- He was **arrested in 1909** on charges of **plotting armed revolt against the [Morley-Minto reform \(Indian Councils Act 1909\)](#)**, later **extradited and sentenced to life imprisonment** and deported to the **Cellular Jail** in the **[Andaman and Nicobar Islands](#)** (also known as **Kala Pani**).
  - He was later interned at **Ratnagiri** until 1937.
- He **attempted to escape** while being transported via **Marseilles** but was **recaptured by British authorities**.

#### ▪ Political Career and Ideology:

- After his release, Savarkar served as **President of the Hindu Mahasabha (1937-1943)** and opposed the **[Quit India Movement \(1942\)](#)**, considering it impractical.
- He engaged in discussions on the **Cripps Mission** and **Wavell Plan**, promoting national unity.
- Influenced by **Tilak, Lajpat Rai, and Bipin Chandra Pal**, Savarkar envisioned a **unified nation with equal rights for all**, rooted in loyalty to India.
- A **strong advocate of civil liberties and social reform**, he fought against **casteism**, promoted **inter-caste marriages**, **Dalit temple entry** (e.g., **Patit-Pavan Mandir**), **sea-crossing**, and **reconversion to Hinduism**.

#### ▪ Death & Legacy:

- In **1964**, feeling that his mission was complete after India's independence, Savarkar began a **hunger strike on 1st February** and died on **26th February 1966**.
- In recognition of his contributions, **Port Blair Airport** in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was renamed **Veer Savarkar International Airport** in **2002**.

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