



# 168th Birth Anniversary of Bal Gangadhar Tilak

[Source: PIB](#)

On **23rd July**, India commemorated the birth anniversary of [Bal Gangadhar Tilak](#) honouring his legacy as a **freedom fighter and educationist**.

## ▪ Personal Life And Ideology:

- **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.

## ▪ Contribution In 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**.

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# 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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