



Govind Ballabh Pant

Why in News?

On the 137th birth anniversary of first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh **Govind Ballabh Pant** is remembered as one of the country's most prominent freedom fighters and an administrator who played a key role in shaping modern India.

Key Points

▪ Brief Profile:

- Govind Ballabh Pant is remembered as one of the country's most prominent freedom fighters and an administrator who played a key role in shaping modern India.
- He was the **Premier of United Provinces (1937 - 1939), First Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (1946 - 1954) and Union Home Minister (1955 - 1961)** and was a recipient of the highest civilian award, [the Bharat Ratna](#) in 1957.

▪ Early Life:

- Pant was born on 10th September 1887 in Uttarakhand, at Almora.
- When he was 18 years old, he started serving as a volunteer at sessions of the [Indian National Congress](#), looking up to [Gopalkrishna Gokhale](#) and [Madan Mohan Malaviya](#) as his idols.
- In 1907, he decided to study law, after receiving his degree, he started to practise law in Almora in 1910 and eventually moved to Kashipur.
- In Kashipur, he established an organisation called Prem Sabha, that started working towards several reforms and also saved a school from shutting down due to non-payment of taxes to the British government.

▪ Contribution in National Movement:

- Govind Ballabh Pant joined the Congress in December 1921 and soon joined the [non-cooperation movement](#).
- In 1930, he was imprisoned for organizing a [Salt March](#) inspired by Gandhi's earlier actions.
- He was elected to the Uttar Pradesh (then known as United Provinces) Legislative Assembly as the candidate of the Swarajist Party from Nainital.
 - He tried to bring in reforms to do away with the [Zamindari system](#).
 - He also pleaded to the Government for lowering agricultural taxes on farmers.
 - He encouraged many cottage industries in the country and raised his voice against the coolie-beggar law, which forced porters to transport the heavy luggage of British officials without any payment.
 - Pant was always against a separate electorate for minorities, saying the step would further divide communities.
- During the [Second World War](#), Pant tried to conciliate between [Gandhi's](#) faction, which advocated supporting the British Crown in their war effort, and [Subash Chandra Bose's](#) faction, which advocated taking advantage of the situation to expel the British Raj by any means necessary.
- In 1942 he was arrested again, this time for signing the [Quit India resolution](#), and spent three years in Ahmednagar Fort along with other members of the Congress working committee until March 1945.
 - Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru pleaded successfully for Pant's release, on grounds of failing health.

▪ Post Independence

- After independence, Govind Ballabh Pant became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He worked for the upliftment of the farmers and the eradication of untouchability.
- After the death of [Sardar Patel](#), Govind Ballabh Pant was made the Home Minister in the Union Government.
- As a Home Minister, he championed the cause of Hindi as the national language or rashtrabhasha.

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