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# Savitribai Phule

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**Why is in news?** PM Modi pays homage to social reformer Savitribai Phule on her birth anniversary

Savitribai Phule was an Indian social reformer, educationalist, and poet from Maharashtra.

She was born on **3 January 1831** in the village of Naigaon in Satara District, **Maharashtra**.

She was the youngest daughter of Lakshmi and Khandoji Nevase Patil, both of whom **belonged to the Mali Community**.

At the age of 9, she was married to 13-year-old Jyotirao Phule.

Jyotirao Phule, better known as Jyotiba, was also a social reformer who worked in the field of women education. **Jyotirao educated Savitribai at home after their marriage.**

Along with her husband, in Maharashtra, she played an important and **vital role in improving women's rights** in India.

She is considered to be the **pioneer of India's feminist movement**.

Savitribai and her husband founded one of **the first modern Indian girls' school in Pune**, at Bhide wada in **1848**.

She worked to **abolish the discrimination and unfair treatment of people based on caste and gender**.

She published **Kavya Phule in 1854** and **Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar in 1892**. In her poem, **Go, Get Education**, she urges the oppressed communities to get an education and break free from the chains of oppression.

In 1852, Savitribai started the **Mahila Seva Mandal** to raise awareness about women's rights. Savitribai called for a women's gathering where members from all castes were welcome and everybody was expected to sit on the same mattress.

She simultaneously campaigned **against child marriage, while supporting widow remarriage**.

In 1863, they **started a home for the prevention of infanticide** in their own house, for the safety of pregnant, exploited Brahman widows and to nurture their children.

After Jyotiba's death in 1890, Savitribai carried forward the work of the organization **Satya Shodhak Samaj** and also chaired the annual session held at Saswad in 1893.

She **initiated the first Satyashodhak marriage**—a marriage without a dowry, Brahmin priests or Brahminical rituals in 1873.

Savitribai Phule **died on 10 March 1897**, while caring for a patient in the clinic she had opened for the treatment of those affected by the bubonic plague.

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**Satya Shodhak Samaj** (Truth Seekers Society):

It was founded by **Jyotirao Phule** in 1873 in Pune.

Satya shodhak samaj was founded with a purpose to give education to the lower castes, scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and made them aware of the exploiting tradition of society.