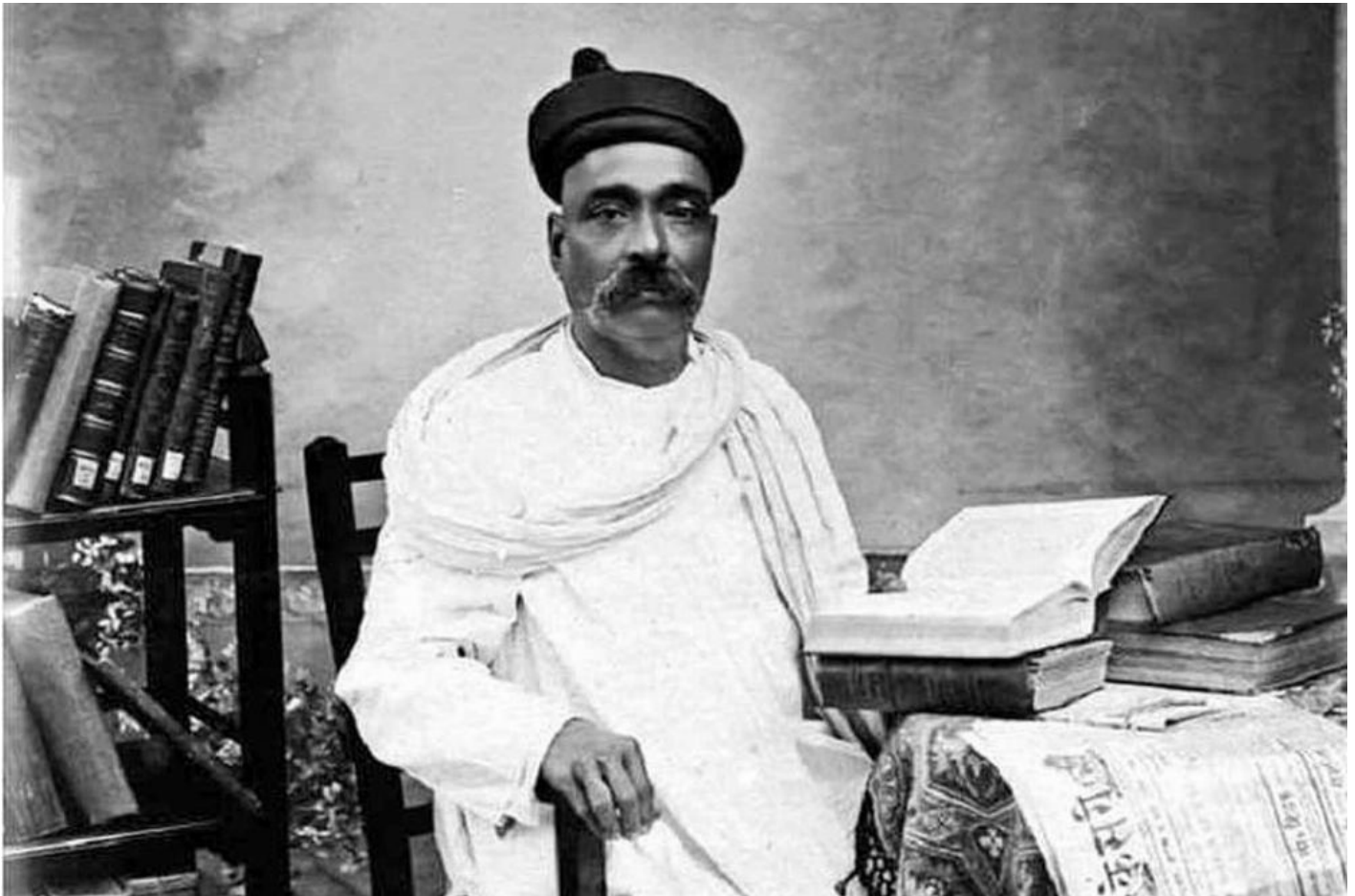


Lokmanya Tilak National Award

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About Lokmanya Tilak National Award:

- The award was **instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust.**
- This award is **given every year on 1st August**, the **death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak**, to persons who have made **remarkable and extraordinary contributions, working for the progress and development of the nation.**

Who was Lokmanya Tilak?

- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, commonly known as Lokmanya Tilak, was a prominent **Indian nationalist, freedom fighter, social reformer**, and **political leader** during the Indian independence movement.

- He was one of the prime architects of modern India and probably the **strongest advocate of Swaraj or Self Rule for India.**
- He **is known for his slogan, “Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it.”**
- He was **born as Keshav Gangadhar Tilak** and his **followers bequeathed upon him the title of ‘Lokmanya’**, meaning he who is revered by the people.
- **Extremist:**
 - He was considered a **radical Nationalist.**
 - The **British Government termed him the “Father of Indian Unrest”.**
- **Organisations:**
 - He **joined the Indian National Congress Party in the year 1890.**
 - He also **helped found the All India Home Rule League** in 1916–18 with G. S. Khaparde and Annie Besant.
 - **Tilak started his Home Rule League in Maharashtra, Central Provinces, and Karnataka and Berar region.** Besant’s League was active in the rest part of India. It aimed to advocate for self-rule and **raise public awareness about India’s right to govern itself.**
- **Literary works:**
 - Tilak was a prolific writer and journalist. He **used his newspaper, “Kesari” (meaning Lion) in Marathi and later “Maratha” in English to disseminate nationalist ideas.**
 - Some of his notable literary works include **“The Arctic Home in the Vedas,”** where he presented his theory that the Vedas originated in the Arctic region, and **“Shrimad Bhagavad Gita Rahasya,”** an interpretation of the Bhagavad Gita from a nationalist perspective.
- **Educationist:**
 - Tilak believed in the power of education and **established the Deccan Education Society in Pune in 1884.**
 - The **society founded Fergusson College and the New English School,** which played crucial roles in promoting modern education in Maharashtra.
 - **Tilak taught mathematics at Fergusson College.**
- **Social Reform:** Lokmanya Tilak was also an advocate of social reform. He actively **supported the eradication of social evils like untouchability and child marriage and promoted education for women.**
- **Lal-Bal-Pal:** He had popular leaders such as **Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai as his political companions,** and the **three were popularly known as the ‘Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate.’**
- **Imprisonments:** He was **arrested for sedition on multiple occasions.** His most **prolonged incarceration lasted from 1908 to 1914,** during which he **wrote the famous book “Gita Rahasya”** (The Secret of the Bhagavad Gita).
- In 1916 **he concluded the Lucknow Pact with Mohammed Ali Jinnah,** which provided **for Hindu-Muslim unity in the nationalist struggle.**

Q1) What is the Home Rule League?

The Home Rule League was a political movement in British India that campaigned for self-government for India. It was founded in 1916 by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant. The Home Rule League was the first mass-based political movement in India, and it played a significant role in the Indian independence movement. The Home Rule League was modeled on the Irish Home Rule League, which had campaigned for self-government for Ireland. The Home Rule League was successful in mobilising Indian public opinion in favour of self-government. The Home Rule League was dissolved in 1920, but its legacy continued to inspire the Indian independence movement.

Source: [PM Narendra Modi to be conferred Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune tomorrow](https://www.vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/lokmanya-tilak-national-award/)

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