

PERSONALITY IN NEWS:

VEER SAVARKAR

Veer Savarkar Birth Anniversary 2025: Recently, The Prime Minister has paid tributes to **Veer Savarkar** on his Jayanti.

Veer Savarkar Jayanti 2025

- **Date of Celebration:** India observes **Veer Savarkar Jayanti** every year on **May 28** to commemorate the birth anniversary of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.
- **Significance:** The day honours **Savarkar's legacy as a freedom fighter, ideologue, writer, and social reformer**, whose contributions to India's political and ideological landscape continue to influence discourse.

Biographical Details

- **Full Name:** Vinayak Damodar Savarkar; also referred to as **Swatantryaveer Savarkar** or **Veer Savarkar** in Marathi.
- **Date and Place of Birth:** **May 28, 1883**, in **Bhagur village**, near Nashik, in present-day Maharashtra.
- **Professions:** Savarkar was a **freedom fighter, politician, lawyer, poet, historian**, and a **prolific writer**.
- **Date of Death:** He passed away on **February 26, 1966**, following a self-imposed **fast unto death**.



Role in India's Freedom Struggle

- **Early Involvement:** Became politically active while still in **high school** and continued during his time at **Fergusson College, Pune**.
- **Revolutionary Activity Abroad:** During his legal education in **London**, he was associated with the **India House** and founded the **Free India Society** to promote Indian nationalism.
- **Historic Book:** Authored "**The Indian War of Independence**", one of the earliest nationalist accounts glorifying the **1857 revolt** as a unified uprising against British rule.
- **Arrest and Extradition:** In 1910, due to his association with radical nationalist activities, he was **arrested in London** and deported to India.
- **Imprisonment:** Sentenced to **two life imprisonments (totaling 50 years)** in 1911 and incarcerated in the **Cellular Jail (Kala Pani), Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- **Prison Writings:** Authored the ideological treatise "**Hindutva: Who is a Hindu?**" during his imprisonment.
- **Release and Political Role:** Released in **1924**, and later played a major role in the **Ratnagiri Hindu Sabha**, promoting Hindu social reforms.

Ideological Contributions

- **Hindutva Doctrine:** Coined and elaborated the term '**Hindutva**' to describe a cultural and political form of Hindu identity.
- **Social Reformer:** Strongly **opposed untouchability** and **advocated for the abolition of caste-based discrimination** within Hindu society.
- **Reconversion Advocacy:** Encouraged the '**Shuddhi (purification) movement**, which sought the **reconversion of Hindus** who had converted to other religions.

Political Engagement

- **Hindu Mahasabha:** Became a **prominent leader** and served as the **President of the Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943**.
- **Nationalist Agenda:** Promoted a **Hindu nationalist political vision**, distinct from the Indian National Congress.
- **Controversy and Legacy:** Remains a **highly polarising figure** in Indian politics; admired by many for his courage and ideology, but criticised for his views on communalism and his alleged role in the Gandhi assassination conspiracy (from which he was acquitted).

Organisations Associated with Veer Savarkar

1. **Mitra Mela:**

- Formed during his teenage years in **Nasik**.
- Acted as a **precursor to Abhinav Bharat**, focusing on revolutionary ideas and youth mobilisation.

2. **Abhinav Bharat Society (1904):**

- Founded with his brother **Ganesh Damodar Savarkar**.
- Spread across India and London, attracting **revolutionary youth** and nationalists.

3. **India House (London, 1905):**

- Founded by **Shyamji Krishna Verma**.
- Functioned as a base for Indian revolutionaries abroad; Savarkar emerged as a **key ideologue and leader** here.

4. **Free India Society (1906):**

- Formed by Savarkar in **London**, inspired by Italian revolutionary **Giuseppe Mazzini**.
- Aimed at instilling patriotic fervour among Indian students in Britain.

5. **Ratnagiri Hindu Sabha:**

- Post-imprisonment, Savarkar worked through this platform to **reform Hindu society** and promote social unity.

6. **Hindu Mahasabha:**

- Became its national-level face in the late 1930s.
- Advocated for **Hindu unity, militant self-defence, and Hindu political mobilisation** during British rule.

Legacy and Recognition

- **Title 'Veer'**: The honorific **'Veer'**, meaning brave, was bestowed by followers in recognition of his **sacrifices and revolutionary spirit**.
- **Mixed Reception**: His legacy evokes **admiration among right-wing nationalist circles**, while being a subject of **critique from secular and liberal historians**.
- **Literary Legacy**: Left behind a **rich body of work** in Marathi and English, combining poetry, political treatises, and historical analysis.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/events/veer-savarkar-jayanti-2025-top-50-wishes-messages-quotes-whatsapp-statuses-instagram-captions-to-share/articleshow/121454589.cms>