

4. Acharya Vinoba Bhave – Personality in News

Prime Minister pays tribute to Acharya Vinoba Bhave on his Birth Anniversary. At the SCO meeting, India championed a strong, rules-based WTO system to ensure fair trade and protect the interests of developing nations. This call comes amid a crisis in the WTO's dispute settlement mechanism, whose Appellate Body is non-functional, undermining global trade rules.

Early Life and Philosophical Foundation

Birth and Identity – Born as Vinayak Narahar Bhave on September 11, 1895, he is popularly known and revered as Acharya Vinoba Bhave.

Core Philosophy – A staunch advocate of non-violence (Ahimsa) and human rights, he is celebrated as a spiritual successor to Mahatma Gandhi, a dedicated freedom fighter, and a profound social reformer.

Association with Mahatma Gandhi

A Life-Changing Encounter – Inspired by a 1916 speech by Mahatma Gandhi at Banaras Hindu University, a young Bhave famously burned his school and college certificates, abandoning formal education to join the national movement.

First Meeting – He first met Gandhi at the Kochrab Ashram in Ahmedabad on June 7, 1916, an event that deeply influenced his life's path and cemented his commitment to Gandhian principles.

Commitment to Constructive Work – At Sabarmati Ashram, Bhave fully dedicated himself to Gandhi's constructive programs, including teaching, spinning Khadi, promoting village industries, implementing Nai Talim (new education), and spearheading sanitation and hygiene initiatives.

Role in India's Freedom Struggle

The First Satyagrahi – In a testament to his discipline and commitment, he was personally chosen by Mahatma Gandhi to be the first individual Satyagrahi, launching the Individual Satyagraha movement on October 17, 1940.

Advocate for Swadeshi – He was a passionate proponent of the Khadi Movement, spinning fabric himself, and a firm believer in the Gandhian principles of non-cooperation and Swadeshi (the use of Indian goods).

"Geetai" – The Gita in Marathi – During a five-year imprisonment in 1932 for his role in the freedom struggle, he delivered a series of talks on the Bhagavad Gita to fellow inmates. These profound discourses were later compiled into his famous Marathi translation, "Geetai".

The Bhoodan Movement – A Call for Land Justice

Initiation – After India's independence, Bhave started the landmark Bhoodan (Land Gift) Movement in 1951.

Objective – The movement's goal was to address the severe inequality in land ownership by persuading wealthy landowners to voluntarily donate a portion of their land to be redistributed among the landless poor.

Impact – This unique, non-violent approach to land reform inspired millions, empowered rural communities, and fostered a national conversation on socio-economic equality.

The Sarvodaya Movement – Welfare for All

Guiding Philosophy – This movement was based on the Gandhian ideal of "Sarvodaya," which translates to the "welfare of all" or "progress for all," with a focus on the most marginalized.

Leadership – After independence, the movement was advanced as a major social reform initiative by both Vinoba Bhave and Jaiprakash Narayan.

Vision for Society – It advocated for decentralized, self-reliant, village-based communities (Gram Swaraj) where decisions were made collectively and resources were shared equitably, aiming to reduce inequalities and ensure a life of dignity for every individual.

Legacy and Enduring Influence



A Life of Service – Vinoba Bhave is remembered for his deep compassion, selflessness, non-violent advocacy, and unwavering commitment to social reform and rural upliftment.

Impact on Land Reforms – His pioneering work in land redistribution through the Bhoodan Movement left a lasting and transformative impact on India's socio-political landscape.

An Enduring Inspiration – Even after his death on November 15, 1982, his synthesis of deep spiritual teachings with practical, actionable social reforms continues to guide activists, policymakers, and social workers.

Key Literary Works

Title	Description
Gita Pravachan	A series of profound discourses on the Bhagavad Gita, making its spiritual wisdom accessible to the masses.
Swarajya Shastra	A treatise on the philosophy of self-governance, outlining the principles for achieving true independence.
Madhukar	A collection of insightful essays reflecting his thoughts on spirituality, social reform, and self-reliance.
Teesri Shakti	An important work discussing "The Third Power"—the empowerment of women—and the role of non-violence in social transformation.
Thoughts on Education	His philosophical exploration of a new, value-based education system (Nai Talim) and its role in creating a just society.
Bhoodan Yajna	A personal chronicle of his experiences, thoughts, and the guiding philosophy behind the Bhoodan Movement.

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