

## Savitribai Phule

\n\n

### Why in news?

\nCommemorating the 186th birth anniversary of social reformer and poet Savitribai Phule, Google has dedicated a special doodle on the day.

\n\n

### Who is Savitribai Phule?

\n\n

\n

- Savitribai Phule was the wife of Jyotirao Phule, an Indian activist, thinker, social reformer and writer from Maharashtra.

\n

- She was determined to study and was one of the very few indigenous literate women in her era.

\n

- Savitribai, along with her husband Jyotirao Phule, stood up for the rights of women and fought against the injustice faced by them.

\n

- They were the pioneers of women education in India and started the first girls' school in 1848 in Pune.

\n

- Their work extended to many fields including eradication of untouchability and the caste system, women's emancipation and the reform of Hindu family life.

\n

- Savitribai Phule started Mahila Seva Mandal in 1852, which worked for raising women's consciousness about their human rights, dignity of life and other social issues.

\n

- First ever infanticide prohibition home of India was started by Savitribai Phule in 1853.

\n

- They championed widow remarriage and started a home for lower and upper caste widows in 1854.

\n

- In September 1873, Phule, along with the followers, formed the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Seekers of Truth) to attain equal rights for peasants and people from lower castes.

\n

- Savitribai Phule was the first Dalit woman, in-fact the first woman whose poems got noticed in the British Empire.

\n

- The prestigious University of Pune was renamed to Savitribai Phule Pune University in 2014.

\n

- The Government of Maharashtra has instituted an award in her name to recognize women social reformers.

\n

\n\n

### **Legacy of Jyotirao Phule:**

\n\n

\n

- He opened the first native library for low-caste students.

\n

- In 1854, Jyotirao joined the Scottish Mission School as a teacher.

\n

- He was against Sati and child marriages. He was in favor of Western education and demanded free and compulsory primary education—up to the age of 12.

\n

- He advocated technical education for the lower classes.

\n

- He always agitated for better living conditions for the workers in the mills in Bombay as well as for the farmers, a majority of whom were untouchables.

\n

- Phule was bestowed with the title of Mahatma on 11 May 1888 by another social reformer from Bombay, Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandekar.

\n

- His Published works include Tiritiya Ratna (1855), Gulamgiri (1873), Ishara (1885).

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Category: Prelims & Mains | GS - I | Indian History**

\n

