

Vasudev Balwant Phadke

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Home Minister recently paid tribute to **freedom fighter Vasudev Balwant Phadke** on his death anniversary, highlighting his contributions as one of India's first revolutionaries.



[ref-the live maharashtra]

About the Vasudev Balwant Phadke:

- Vasudev Balwant Phadke was born on November 4, 1845, in Shirdhon, Maharashtra.
- Also known as the '**Father of the Indian Armed Rebellion**', he educated his wife **Gopikabai** in literacy, weaponry, and horse riding, defying societal norms
- He was influenced by critiques of the colonial regime in media and speeches by leaders like **Dadabhai Nauroji** and **M G Ranade**.
- He preached **swaraj** across villages, urged youth to adopt entrepreneurship, and promoted **Swadeshi products**, establishing the '**Poona Native Institution**' in **1874** (now **Maharashtra Education Society**) and **Aikyavardhini Sabha** in **1870** for national education and youth awareness.
- Phadke's revolutionary zeal was sparked by denial of leave during his **mother's deathbed** in **1865**, and increased by the **Deccan famine** of the **late 1870s**
- He rallied support among **nomadic tribes**, the Ramoshis, Kolis, Bhils and Dhangars and form a revolutionary army in **1879** to fight British tyranny.
- His army, numbering **300**, attacked **Dhamari** village in **1879**, looting houses of wealthy Marwaris.
- Phadke was captured in **Chhattisgarh** in **July 1879** and died in prison in **Aden, Yemen**, on **February 17, 1883**.
- **Bankimchandra's Anandamath** was inspired by Phadke's life, commemorating his role and legacy in India's struggle for independence.