

# GOKHALEANA



No. 4.

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REPORTS OF THE NATION WIDE  
BIRTH CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS  
OF THE LATE  
HON. SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE, C.I.E.  
FROM 9-5-1966 — 9-5-1967

**SERVANTS OF INDIA SOCIETY, MADRAS-14**

# GOKHALEANA.

## FOREWORD.

The late Hon. Gopal Krishna Gokhale's Birth Centenary was celebrated all over the country on the 9th May, 1966. Men and women of light and leading in the country, belonging to different political parties and walks of life participated in these celebrations and paid glowing tributes to the life and work of Gokhale, as well as to his qualities of head and heart.

Gokhale's patriotism, spirit of sacrifice, unrivalled knowledge and grasp of public questions, sweet reasonableness, persuasive eloquence and his essential goodness, will, it is hoped, inspire those who read these tributes to emulate Gokhale.

Servants of India Society, }  
MADRAS-14. }  
9-5-1967 }

S. R. VENKATARAMAN.  
*Secretary.*

# Gokhale Birth Centenary

**ANDHRA**

Hyderabad, May 9, 1966

The birth centenary of Gopal Krishna Gokhale was celebrated here today at a function which was presided over by Mr. P. V. G. Raju, Minister for Cultural Affairs.

Mr. Raju said it should be "Our aim to achieve all the objectives of Gokhale, chief among which was compulsory elementary education.

## CHALIHA EULOGISES GOKHALE'S WORK

**ASSAM**

Shillong, May 9,

People of all walks of life today paid their respectful homage to Gopal Krishna Gokhale at a public meeting held here under the Chairmanship of the State's Chief Minister Mr. B. P. Chaliha.

Mr. Chaliha in his address urged the people to draw inspiration from the life of this "great son of India" whose motto was 'serve the country and serve the distressed'.

**BIHAR**

Patna, May 9,

The birth centenary of the late Gopal Krishna Gokhale was celebrated at the Sadaquat Ashram, headquarters of the Bihar Pradesh Congress, here on Monday.

Bust-size portrait of Mr. Gokhale was kept in the Ashram where floral tributes were paid among others by the PCC president, Pandit Misra, the chairman of the State Legislative Council, Mr Deva Saran Singh, and Congressmen and officials.

**G O A**

Panjim, May 9.

A largely-attended meeting organised by the Gokhale Centenary Committee, Goa, was held here today to mark the birth centenary of the freedom-fighter. Mr. K. R. Damle, the Lt. Governor presided.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Dayanand Bandokhar, and the president of the Panjim Municipality, Mr. Tony D'Souza, who addressed the meeting spoke on the life and work of Gokhale.

The proceedings were relayed by the Goa station of All India Radio. Another meeting was held at Margao.

The Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Bandodkar has decided that the Goa Government should display a portrait of Gokhale in the Secretariat.

## PURITY IN PUBLIC LIFE

**GUJERAT**

Ahmedabad, May 9.

Gokhale's birth centenary was celebrated here today at a meeting at which speakers exhorted social and political workers to follow the example of the great leader in maintaining purity of public life and educating the "vast illiterate masses".

Mr. Dinker Mehta, Mayor of Ahmedabad, said those who worked for the welfare of the poor should not be slaves of any "dogmas" and Gokhale, Dadabhai Naoroji and Mahatma Gandhi were among such leaders.

Miss. Indumati Chimanlal, Education Minister presided.

**MAHARASHTRA**

Poona; May 9.

President Radhakrishnan today called upon public workers to develop "an element of reverence and renunciation in life".

Paying tributes to the late Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale for his insistence on "spiritualisation of public and political life", President said the need for that spiritualisation was greater today "when we have power and authority".

Dr. Radhakrishnan was inaugurating here the Gokhale Birth centenary Celebrations at the Servants of India Society founded by Mr. Gokhale.

The President said Mr. Gokhale set for himself a high standard of public life and attempted to spiritualise it. It was this aspect of his character that attracted Gandhiji to Gokhale and Mahatmaji looked upon him as his guru.

Dr. Radhakrishnan said he had seen Mr. Gokhale but had not met him and hence did not claim to have known him.

When as a student he heard Mr. Gokhale in Madras, "we were struck by his patriotism". Mr. Gokhale's greatness lay in his "thorough preparation, careful study and clear judgement".

## SERVICE IDEAL

Mr. Gokhale's Servants of India Society, he said, "has given us a tradition of service which must not be sacrificed at the altar of State or system. We should regard the individual as the end and not the State".

The President observed that in spite of the objectives proclaimed, all sorts of disparities-social, economic and political-existed today". Is it not a challenge for us, he asked.

Maharashtra Dr. Radhakrishnan said, had been known for establishing institutions for education, politics and social work. He named, in particular, the Deccan Education Society, of which Mr. Gokhale was a lifemember, the Servants of India Society, of which he was the founder, and the institutions established by Maharishi D. K. Karve for women's emancipation.

The President added "the people of the country are indebted to Maharashtra for the great example set by these institutions".

Referring once again at the end of his speech to the greatness of Mr. Gokhale, Dr. Radhakrishnan said, "essence of his life was the element of reverence for those who taught him - M. G. Ranade, Dadabhoy Nowroji and Pherozeshah Mehta.

"That element of reverence is lacking in our public life today. The other essence of Mr. Gokhale's greatness was his principle of renunciation. We must adopt reverence in life and renunciation in nature".

Concluding Dr. Radhakrishnan referred to the appeal made by Pandit Hridayanath Kunzru, president of the Servants of India Society to young men to join the society and said, "They will join. But then they must know that a great deal of work remains to be done yet. It can be done only if they adopted the element of reverence and renunciation. They can do it, for our country is famous for sages".

### Dr. H. N. KUNZRU

Earlier, Mr. Kunzru in his welcome speech, said Mr. Gokhale's capacity for hard work put young men to shame and that he "was constantly engaged in re-examining his views so as to have an integrated personality.

“I could also see what pains he took to be constructive in his criticism. Every member of the Servants of India Society, who criticised any Government measure in his presence knew that he would be asked to state reasons for his opinion and how he would like the measure to be changed”.

It was a valuable training that those members, who had the good fortune to join the society in his life-time, received.

Mr Gokhale's experience as a life-member of the Deccan Education Society “was the germ out of which sprang the Servants of India Society” for it made him feel that the future progress of the country required the services of men prepared to devote their full time to public work.

Mr Shankar Govind Gokhale, Secretary of the Society, read out the messages received in the occasion and Mr. A. D. Mani M. P. and Vice-President of the society moved vote of thanks.

The President later visited the Gokhale exhibition.

## STUDY WORKS OF PATRIOTS

Nagpur, May 9

Dr. V. B. Kolte, Vice-Chancellor of Nagpur University, said here today that merely celebrating birth centenaries by garlanding portraits and making speeches on the life and work of great men like Gopal Krishna Gokhale would have no meaning if the work of these great patriots was not deeply studied and practised.



Mr. M. G. Deshmukh, principal of the Nagpur Mahavidyalaya, said that people misunderstood the honest ways of Gokhale because the meaning of politics had changed much since then, today dishonesty was politics.

Mr. G. T. Madkholkar, archbishop Raymond and Mr. C. B. Parekh also spoke on the occasion.

Speaking at a function organised by the Citizen's Committee to celebrate the birth centenary of Gopal Krishna Gokhale in the Nagpur University hall, Mr. Kolte said that the great work done by Gokhale during his stay in England had sown seeds of our independence.

Referring to the apology incident after Gokhale's return to India, Dr. Kolte said such acts required great courage, character and compassion.

Dr. Kolte said that Maharashtra had produced three Gopal Krishnas (Gopal Hari Deshmukh, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar and Gopal Krishna Gokhale) but Gokhale was the greatest of them.

He said that Mahatma Gandhi acclaimed Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Rabindranath Tagore, as his guru and it was a coincidence that the birthday of these two gurus of Mahatma Gandhi were on the same dates.

## ONE OF COUNTRY'S GREATEST TEACHERS

### Tributes paid to Gokhale at Education Officers' Conference.

**MADHYA PRADESH**

Pachmarhi, May 10.

Glowing tributes to the memory of Gopal Krishna Gokhale were paid by Education Secretary Mr. V. S. Krishnan when he inaugurated the conference of officers of the Education Department of M. P. here this morning. Mr. Krishnan considered it particularly significant that the conference of education officers should start its deliberations on the sacred day of centenary of one of the greatest teachers the country has produced.

In an eloquent and inspiring inaugural speech Mr. Krishnan set out the tasks that the education officers have to face in order to renovate the pattern of education in Madhya Pradesh to bring it in line with the modern requirements of the nation and urged on them to emulate the meticulous thoroughness and scrupulousness which marked the working and thinking of that great teacher and guru of Gandhiji the late Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

Earlier, Dr. Atmanand Mishra, Director of Public Instruction, welcomed Mr. Krishnan, Dr. C P. Varma, Prof. Jugdish Prasad Vyas and Mr. V. B. Kulkarni also spoke on the occasion and paid homage to the memory of Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

## "FREEDOM WAS HIS GOAL" SAPRU

Poona, Wednesday, 10-5-66.

Dr. P. N. Saprú, member of Rajya Sabha, said late Gopal Krishna Gokhale believed in prime values of constitutional reforms and though he could not think in terms of freedom those days, freedom was his ultimate goal.

Dr. Saprú was speaking at the Gokhale Birth Centenary Celebrations this evening. Dr. Saprú said that the late Mr. Gokhale was an eminent parliamentarian and fully advocated the interests of India in economical, social and political fields. Mr. Gokhale had strongly criticised the land reforms policies, Dr. Saprú said.

He was a rationalist and completely secular in his approach to problems, Dr. Saprú said. He further added that Mr. Gokhale, as a statesman, fully represented the interests of Indians abroad.

Dr. Saprú said Gokhale was Catholic and secular in his outlook imbued with deep love for humanity.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale was tolerant and broad minded. He entertained all the progressive ideas and strived hard to achieve them inspite of the adverse conditions of the times.

Gokhale was a great liberal who worked for the achievement of a classless, casteless society and for salvation of the down-trodden.

The Governor of Maharashtra, Dr. P. V. Cherian who presided, said Gokhale was pure as crystal a quality which "we cannot too much stress in our public life to-day"

The Governor suggested the publication of the memorial lectures in a book form for the benefit of of the public.

Mr. A. D. Mani, Vice-President of the Society while proposing a vote of thanks said the Society would arrange for publication of the memorial lectures.

## MAHARASHTRA

### A DICIPLE'S HOMAGE TO GOKHALE

Poona, 9-5-1966.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale, whose birth centenary is being celebrated today, was described as a liberal, nationalist and rationalist all rolled into one by prof R. P. Paranjpye in an interview shortly before his death.

Prof. Paranjpye recalled that decades ago when he was a Fellow of the Fergusson College, some students had decided to form a "religious society" and Gokhale had presided over the first meeting.

Paranjpye who had also addressed the gathering remarked "blind faith" in religion was holding India back.

"Gokhale, known to be a rationalist in social life, did not like that speech. He snubbed me", Professor Paranjpye said with a twinkle in his eye.

## RATIONALIST

Prof. Paranjpye, who had the good fortune of being a pupil and a colleague (both as a teacher and follower) of Gokhale, asserted that "although very much a rationalist in his socio-political thought the great liberal leader was a believer in God. And he believed in astrology too".

However, he said, "In his social thought Gokhale was a rationalist and hence was more one with the late Prof. G. G. Agarkar". Gokhale joined the Decan Education Society because eminent men like Lokamanya Tilak were associated with it.

Asked why Gokhale did not participate actively in Agarkar's campaign for social reforms, Prof. Paranjpye said there could be many reasons for that "For one thing", he said, "Gokhale was very much sensitive to criticism. He did not like being mixed up in local controversies. Gokhale preferred to work more on wider problems rather than get involved in smaller issues of *ad hoc* importance."

Gokhale devoted all his time to promote Hindu Muslim unity and to counter the British strategy of "divide and rule". Gokhale was perhaps the first Indian political leader to stress the need for Hindu Muslim unity. It is a known fact that it was Gokhale who had inspired Mahatma Gandhi.

## TWO SCHOOLS

While Gokhale lived there was intense, widespread and long-drawn controversy over the two schools of thought, with the followers of Tilak and Agarkar endlessly arguing on fixing priorities for political struggle and socio-economic reforms. Political struggle being easier to comprehend and having immediate glamour, the Tilak school emerged triumphant and the Rande-Agarkar school gradually faded.

Gokhale being a liberal by nature one naturally felt that he might have tried to arrive at some understanding between the two schools. But he did not do so. Quite possibly, he did not want to get involved in wranglings.

Prof Paranjpye said that "to the best of my knowledge Tilak and Gokhale never had intimate talks". The one memorable occasion when the two leaders met was when Gokhale called on Tilak soon after the Lokamanya's release from Mandalay jail. Gokhale could not climb the stairs, due to heart trouble. It was Tilak who came down to receive the liberal leader.

According to Paranjpye Gokhale was as much a nationalist as Tilak was, although the two differed on the ways and means to achieve the objective.

Mahamahopadhyaya Prof. Datto Vaman Potdar who in his youth was obviously more a Tilakite than a liberal, has this to say of the Gokhale-Tilak relations;

He said he had never an opportunity to know Gokhale personally. But he had heard his speeches and read his writings which "we did not like in those days". Gokhale was very much misunderstood in his days" he ruefully said.

### TILAK'S TRIBUTES

Prof. Potdar then narrated a story on the behaviour of Tilakites towards Gokhale. The late Annasaheb Vijapurkar had started a school at Kolhapur, called Samarth Vidyalaya for imparting "national education". The school was later shifted to Talegaon, near Poona. Around 1910 Prof. Vijapurkar was sentenced to two year's jail in a political case and the school was banned by the British Government.

### MAHARASHTRA

After his release he wanted to revive the institution. Prof. Potdar and his friends, all fresh graduates, had decided to devote themselves to nation building through education of the young. Some desired both Tilak and Gokhale to be on the council of the school. But Prof. Vijapurkar being Tilakite, rejected the suggestion.

But Gokhale was magnanimous. He had patronised Vijapurkar by paying him Rs. 50 every month. Both Gokhale and Vijapurkar hailed from Kolhapur. Prof. Potdar then recalled the last hours and sudden end of Gokhale. Tilak had come down all the way from Sinbagad to attend the funeral of Gokhale.

Another instance of a great man paying homage to another great man, forgetting all differences of opinion,

## GOKHALE WAS SATURNIAN PERSONALITY.

Poona, Tuesday.

On the occasion of Birth Centenary of late Shri G. K. Gokhale, a symposium was arranged on Shri Gokhale's horoscope by the Maharashtra Astrological Society, Poona, in the N. M. V. High School, Poona. Mr. S. K. Kelkar, veteran Astrologer of Poona, said, "Late Shri Gokhale was Saturnian Personality. Saturn in Libra and that too in the ascendant made him cautious, controlled, practical and serious. Shri Gokhale's rationalism, liberalism etc., are the key points of Saturn's character. Saturn-Sun opposition made him lonely in his private as well as in political life".

While commenting on the controversy between Shri Gokhale and Shri Tilak, Shri Kelkar said, "Tilak was Mars-cum Sun personality which diametrically opposes Shri Gokhale's one. It is in the fitness of things that both of them advocated different theories for one and the same National Idealism".

Mr. M.D. Bhat and Mr. S.K. Bhat also spoke on this occasion.

## GOKHALE EXHIBITION

Poona, Thursday :

The people of Poona have responded well to see the unique exhibition of Gokhale's work arranged during the Centenary Celebrations with choice and rare photographs. Due to the vociferous response the Servants of India Society have decided to extend the exhibition till the 15th. Dr. P. V. Cherian,



the Governor of Bombay and Mrs. Tara Cheria here taken round the Exhibition by Mr. S. R. Venkata Raman a member of the Society from Madras who had organised the exhibition.

## POTDAR OPENS CENTENARY EXHIBITION.

Poona, May 9.

"Prof. G. K. Gokhale was a great parliamentarian mainly because he could be firm without being provocative" observed prof. Datto Vaman Potdar, eminent historian here today.

He added "Gokhale was a great parliamentarian but there was no Parliament in this country in his days and now we have parliament but no parliamentarians like Gokhale".

Prof. Potdar was inaugurating the "Gokhale Birth Centenary exhibition" of the Servants of India Society.

## AWAKENING

He pointed out that recently there appeared to be a new awakening and people now wanted to know more about Gokhale, his thoughts and his work.

It was, therefore, our duty to future generations to preserve the documents, writings and correspondence and other "source material" that could throw light on the life and work of Gokhale he said.

## CITY PAYS HOMAGE TO PATRIOT

Bombay celebrated on Monday the birth centenary of Gopal Krishna Gokhale, patriot, statesman and social reformer, whom Mahatma Gandhi claimed as his political guru.

The Maharashtra Government brought out a special number of its periodical, "Lokrajya", devoted to the life and mission of Gokhale. It was simultaneously released in Poona.

Profusely illustrated the magazine captures some glimpses of the patriot's life and his last voyage. Contributors to the special number include Dr. H. N. Kunzru, the late R. P. Paranjpe, Dr. K. N. Katju, Sir R. P. Masani, and Kaka Kalelkar.

### GOKHALE-PIONEER OF FREEDOM MOVEMENT—G. L. MEHTA

The birth centenary of Shri Gopal Krishna Gokhale, a great patriot, statesman and scholar, was celebrated in Bombay on Monday recalling his contribution to educational and social reforms, women's emancipation, and political and economic freedom of the country.

Meetings were held at different places in the city to commemorate the great nationalist whom Gandhiji considered as his political 'guru'.

Addressing a public meeting at C. J. Hall in the evening, Shri G. L. Mehta said that Gokhale had a

deep interest in the social reforms, elevation of women, and fought against the evils of child marriage and cast disabilities.

In the movement of education in India, the name of Shri Gokhale would be written in large letters, he said, and pointed out that the country was not at that stage even today for which he was struggling so much.

Shri Mehta pointed out that this great patriot and nationalist belonged to 'the moderate school' and believed in ways of persuasion. He was a pioneer of national independence movement who exposed the moral evil of foreign rule.

As he believed in the ethical code in politics, Shri Gokhale started Servants of India Society to train men dedicated to the service of the nation, he said.

Paying homage on behalf of the people of Bombay and Maharashtra, State Education Minister M. D. Chowdhary said that Shri Gokhale's life was a guidance for the people in public life.

The Minister said that if Democratic Socialism is to succeed in India we need dedicated men as emphasised by Shri Gokhale, He established Servants of India Society to train men for this purpose.

Shri Chowdhary announced that the Centenary Committee was thinking of establishing chairs at different universities in the name of Shri Gokhale.

BPCC president P. G. Kher said that the present day legislators have to learn from Shri Gokhale how a dedicated and studious man could contribute to better legislation and debates.

Dr. N. N. Kailas Deputy Education Minister proposed a vote of thanks.

Earlier, the statue of the great patriot at Cross Maidan was garlanded by Education Minister Chowdhary, Mayor S. R. Patkar, Sheriff Gangaram Joshi.

A gathering of about 200 admirers of Shri Gokhale who attended the function at the specially put-up shamiana, stood in silence when the contingent of fireman with the automatic ladder helped the dignitaries to garland the statue amidst sounding bugle and 'chowghada'.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Chowdhary said that Shri Gokhale was one of those sons of India who influenced the social and political life of the nation. His contribution to national values was as great as Gandhiji.

Mayor Patkar pointed out that history had recorded the eminent role Shri Gokhale had played in shaping the course of the national movement.

Shri Joshi and Dr. N. N. Kailas, Deputy Education Minister, also joined in paying tributes to the leader.

Gokhale commemoration stamps and first day covers were released for sale at the General post

Office. Five special counters where the stamps were being sold, were thronged by the people. The sale was brisk.

## MAHARASHTRA

### POTDAR OPENS CENTENARY EXHIBITION.

"Prof. G K. Gokhale was a great parliamentarian mainly because he could be firm without being provocative" observed Prof. Datto Vaman Potdar, eminent historian here today.

He added "Gokhale was a great parliamentarian but there was no Parliament in this country in his days and now we have Parliament but no parliamentarians like Gokhale.

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### AWAKENING

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It was, therefore, our duty to future generations to preserve the documents, writings and correspondence and such other "source material" that could throw light on the life and work of Gokhale, he said.

The exhibition included some manuscripts, including the registration deed of the Servants of India Society, diaries and notes and Council papers of Gokhale; the first pencil draft in Gokhale's

handwriting of the "apology" which Gokhale had submitted to the British Government when he could not substantiate charges of excesses made by the police and the army during the plague epidemic in Poona, several addresses presented to him in India and abroad particularly in South Africa and old pictures and photographs.

The exhibition also included Prof. Gokhale's pugrees, walking sticks, coats, 'uparnas' and other things of daily use.

Mr. A. D. Mani, M. P. and Vice-president of the Servants of India society, welcoming Prof. Potdar and a distinguished gathering, including Mr. S. B. Dhavale, son-in-law of the late Prof. Gokhale, disclosed that a committee, formed in Delhi, has been registered as a society for collecting funds to suitably commemorate Prof. Gokhale.

Mr. Dinkar Desai, a senior member of the Society, moving a vote of thanks, said that the exhibition would soon be shown in Bombay and in Delhi.

### INGENIOUS WAY TO WIN FREEDOM.

Poona, May 9.

Prof. G. K. Gokhale, who had immense faith in parliamentary democracy, even wished that he could, by becoming the leader in the British parliament bring freedom to his motherland.

He wished, it appeared, to be the Prime Minister of Great Britain to free India,

That was disclosed here today by Prof. Datta Vaman Potdar, while opening the Gokhale Centenary Exhibition" of the Servants India Society,

Prof. Portdar said that a note in Gokhale's handwriting was recently discovered in old records.

The note, made in pencil, said that he (the late Prof. Gokhale, wished to follow the late Mr. Dada bhai Nowroji, a member of the British parliament.

It appeared that there was an attempt, may be by Gokhale himself, to erase the note.

It has not been erased completely and could be read, through. The note showed that Prof. Gokhale further wished to be the Prime Minister of the British empire so that as the Leader of the British Parliament he could have bestowed independence on India with the consent of Parliament.

## NEW DELHI

### TOLERANCE, HIS SUPEREME TRAIT INDIRA'S TRIBUTE

New Delhi, May 9:

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indra Gandhi, today paid tributes to Gopal Krishna Gokhale whose supereme character she said, was tolerance.

Mrs. Gandhi, who participated in the Gokhale birth centenary celebrations organised by the Maharashtra Information Centre here, said though Gokhale emphasised spiritual values in life he was

never a fanatic in his approach. He gave the slogan that all Indians were brothers and all religions were equal. He was devoted to the cause of the poor.

Mr. V. P. Naik, Chief Minister, of Maharashtra, said Gokhale advocated agro-industrial development. He was keen that irrigation scheme should be undertaken for the country's progress.

Mr. Y.B. Chavan, Defence Minister, Mr. Humayun Kabir, M.P. Mr. Hiren Mukerjee, M.P. and Mr. R. K. Kandhikar, M. P. spoke of Gokhale's contribution of the freedom movement.

Mr. Nuruddin Ahmed, Mayor of Delhi presided.

## NATION REMEMBER GOKHALE

New Delhi, May 9

The nation today paid grateful homage to the memory of Gopal Krishna Gokhale on the occasion of his birth centenary.

Meetings and functions were held all over the country to celebrate occasion.

In New Delhi, the Prime Minister, led a galaxy of leaders, including Maharashtra's Chief Minister, Defence Minister, the Mayor of Delhi and MPS to pay warm tributes to Gokhale at a largely-attended meeting.

The meeting was organised by the Maharashtra Information centre at Sapru House.



Speakers referred to Gokhale's qualities of head and heart and his dedicated service to the country.

They eulogised his services and contribution in the freedom struggle.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi said the country owed a debt to Gokhale, who was the moulder of India's mind. She referred to Gokhale's emphasis on spiritualising public life and said this did not make him a fanatic.

### GREAE TRINITY

He was free from all dogmas and was a true cosmopolitan. The lofty ideals and vows prescribed by him for those in public life were as appropriate today as they were sixty years ago.

If only a small percentage of people in public life kept to these vows, life would be worth living.

Prof. Hiren Mukherjee, communist leader, said the celebrations reminded him of the golden links between the trinity-Bengal, Maharashtra and Punjab—which was in the forefront of the freedom struggle.

### PICK RIGHT MEN AS LEGISLATORS

New Delhi, May 8:

President Radhakrishnan today expressed dissatisfaction over the way in which candidates were selected for legislatures and other public bodies and said that it was one of the factors which was responsible for the disorder in the country.

In a broadcast to the nation on the eve of the Gokhale Centenary Celebrations, he said: 'In the selection of candidates for legislatures or other public bodies we do not seem to insist on the purity of the means. We seem to be possessed by considerations of caste or community and not those of character or capacity'.

Extolling the great life led by Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the President said that those who were engaged in public life should not look upon it as a "career with glittering prizes"

Gokhale, he said, insisted not only on intellectual efficiency but also moral responsibility. It was no wonder that Gandhiji had claimed Gokhale as his political Guru, he added.

The President said though Gokhale died at the early age of 49 his impact on the public life of the country was one of great significance. In accordance with the traditions of our country, Gokhale emphasised the need for renunciation in public life.

"Sarvam vastu bhayanvitam bhuvirnam viaragyam evabhayam".

The President said: While everything in this world is fraught with fear for men, renunciation alone gives fearlessness. When the comforts of the world were in Gokhale's reach and could be his he left them and gave his great talents to the service of the country. Renunciation is the principle of a good life.

## RENUNCIATION

Men are great not by what they acquire but by what they renounce. Those who engage in public work should not look upon it as a career with glittering prizes. Gokhale enrolled in his society members like G. K. Devadhar. A valient fighter for social reforms, N. M. Joshi who influenced the trade union movement, and Srinivasa Sastri who served in varied capacities.

We have with us as the first member H. N. Kunzru, a man of integrity and uprightness, an example to others. Gandhi and Nehru seriously thought of joining the Society. If any one leads a dedicated life, if he is devoted to truth, if he avoids intrigues in public life he is a religious man though he may call himself an agnostic.

When Gokhale visited South Africa in 1912 a well-known Statesman Senator said to him, "Sir, when men like you visit country they purify the atmosphere."

## MODERATION

Those trained by Dadabhai Naoroji, Pheroze-shah Mehta and Ranade believed in moderation. Life is one whole. Political progress and social reform cannot be seperated. Life cannot be compartmentalised. Gokhale sympathised with the poor and the oppressed. In his evidence before the Welby commission he gave expression to the growing poverty of the country under British rule.

Gokhale had deep faith in democratic principles civil liberties, a free association, hatred of racial discrimination of any type and decent standards for all. He was an ardent advocate of free and compulsory education.

Political or religious reformers are critical of the conditions around them but if they are liberal they would not have the sensation of hate. They would be free from the feeling of hate while they are eager to improve the existing conditions.

### TASK AHEAD

The problems facing India in Gokhale's time were formidable. Though he served all sides of our life in a brilliant and whole hearted manner he was conscious of the long distance we have to traverse before we reach the goal. He had faith in the destiny of his country.

"It will no doubt be given to our countrymen of the future generations to serve India by their successes. We of the present generation must be content to serve her by our failures. For hard though it be, out of those failures the strength will come which in the end will accomplish great tasks".

### ART OF GOVERNING: G. R. CITES GOKHALE'S VIEW

Madras, May 9

Mr.C. Rajagopalachari today exhorted young people to follow the good precepts laid down by Gopal Krishna Gokhale and to be brave, truthful and courageous like him.

Mr. Rajagopalachari was speaking after unveiling a portrait of Gokhale at the Lakhmipuram young Men's Association on the occasion of the birth centenary celebrations of the leader of the liberal thought.

He said the late leader belonged to the school of thought which believed that freedom could be achieved by converting Britain with intelligent argument and that, while this process was on, people could be trained in the art of government.

But the extreme nationalists who represented the other school of thought felt that people were always ready for freedom and that there was no need for educating them in the art of government. Bal Gangadhar Tilak belonged to the latter school.

"Now we see", Mr. Rajagopalachari said, "it is not so easy to govern, whatever our education and temperament. Now we realise how difficult that art of government is to govern our elected representatives"

### MAHATMA'S CHOICE

Mr. Rajagopalachari said that Mahatma Gandhi chose Gokhale as his guru on his return from South Africa, because, he thought that Tilak was a "Violent type of man" who believed there was no limit to the means to be employed for achieving freedom.

Mahatma Gandhi also believed he could convert Gokhale to accept his view about the efficacy of passive resistance to achieve freedom.

Gokhale had been asking Gandhiji not to speak of passive resistance because he felt it would push the people into political activity for which they were not ready, and that it would lead to violence.

Both were right; passive resistance had led the country to freedom and on some occasions during the freedom struggle it had also led to violence in some places Mr. Rajagopalachari said.

### TAX BURDEN

Mr. Rajagopalachari said if Gokhale had been alive now, he would have died heart-broken after seeing the enormity of the tax burden imposed on the people by those whom he had authorised to govern. Gokhale had opposed the levy of salt tax.

"But the present Government is bolder than the British Government. They have courage because we encourage them", he said.

The only limit to taxation by the present Government seemed to be the amount of money the Government wanted and not the people's "bearability" of the burden. Instead of spending what it had, Government laid down what it should spend and then start taxing the people. "This is robbery", Mr. Rajagopalachari said.

Earlier, Mr. Rajagopalachari referred to Gokhale's great love for education which he said impelled him to become a teacher.

The portrait was presented by Mr. C. M. Sriniasan and accepted on behalf of the Lyra by Mr. K. Balasubaramania Iyer.

Madras, May 9.

In the morning the statue of Gokhale in the campus of the Madras university was profusely garland.

Garlands were placed by, among others' the Mayor, representatives of the Servants of India Society, the Tamilnad Congress Committee, South Indian National Association the Ranade Library, the foundation-stone of which was laid by Gokhale), the Young Men's Indian Association, the Lakshmiapuram Young Men's Association Mahajana Sabha, Madras, Voter's Council, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Bihar Association World Association of World Federalists' Tamil Writer's Association, the Indian Review and the Mylapore Academy and admirers of Gokhale. Sri. K. Santhanam was present.

The University was represented at the function, by its Registrar, Mr. B. M. Tirunaranan.

## WEST BENGAL

Calcutta, May 9.

The main function was held at the Calcutta Information Centre under the auspices of the West Bengal Government.

"The contribution of Gopal Krishna Gokhale towards the Independence movement was recalled at various meetings held here today to celebrate the birth centenary of this 'illustrious son of India'.

Presiding over the largely-attended meeting, Mr. Sailo Kumar Mukerjee, State Finance Minister, said that the life and work of Gokhale had made the national life glorious and his contribution to the country's history was invaluable.

He said that Gokhale was a vivid example of self-sacrifice and future generations would draw inspiration from his ideals of service above self.

Mr. V. K. Joshi, president of the Maharashtra Mandal, said that Gokhale was one of the personalities who had profoundly influenced events and the course of Indian history prior to independence.

He said that Gokhale appeared in an age when the people had lost their freedom, self-respect and dignity and this national leader tried to awaken the nation from its deep slumber.

Mr. Joshi recalled the intimate connection Gokhale had with Bengal and said that no nation could afford to forget great men like him.

## STAMP ISSUED

Poona, May 9

Prof. Datto Vaman Potdar, purchased the first "G. K. Gokhale stamp" and a first day cover at the special ticket window put up this morning by the Postal Department at the Servants of India Society here.



## UTTARA PRADESH

### GOKHALE BIRTH CENTENARY IN ALLAHABAD

Respectful homage paid to Gokhale

Allahabad, April 15, 1967.

Eminent statesmen, educationists, lawyers, political party leaders and social workers joined hands together here today to pay respectful homage to the late Sri Gopal Krishna Gokhale on the occasion of the concluding function of the Gokhale Birth Centenary.

The public meeting in this connection was organised in the Balrampur Hall of the Hindu Boarding House under the auspices of the Uttar Pradesh Branch of the Servants of India Society. Dr. Kailas Nath Katju, former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh presided. The speakers included Dr. H. N. Kunzru, president of the Servants of India Society, Mr. P. N. Saprú, Prof. S. C. Deb, Prof. K. K. Bhattacharya, Pandit Bishambharnath Pandey, Mr. S. K. Bose, Mr. Lakshmi Narain, Mr. Suresh Ram Bhai, Mr. M. M. Joshi, Mr. V. K. S. Chaudhary and Pt. R. S. Misra.

Presiding over the meeting, Dr. Katju stressed the need for building up the character and morals of the youth and inculcating in them the feeling of renunciation for the service of the motherland. He said that Gokhale was the embodiment of selfless service to the nation, who had sacrificed his all for the country.

Dr. H. N. Kunzru gave a life sketch of Gokhale and said that both in his private and public life, he practised purity. The welfare of the people was nearest to his heart. Though he lived for 49 years only, he had a brilliant record of service to the motherland.

Mr. P. N. Sapro said that Gokhale was a man of progressive ideologies. He believed in the constitutional method of agitation. Prof. S. C. Deb said that Gokhale was a man of multifarious activities and yet he had an integrated personality. Prof. K. K. Bhattacharya asked the youth to emulate the noble example of Gokhale. Pandit Bishambharnath Pandey said that India had produced missionary politicians as against the professional politicians of America and other places. Mr. S. K. Bose said that people must pay their homage to the leader in a proper manner.

