



Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar



CONTEXT

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar on her birth anniversary.



AHILYABAI HOLKAR (1725–1795)

- She was the celebrated queen of the **Holkar dynasty** who ruled the **Malwa kingdom** in the **18th century**.



- Born in Chondi village, Ahmednagar (Maharashtra)** and married to Khanderao Holkar, son of Malhar Rao Holkar.



- Revered as the “**Philosopher Queen**” for her enlightened and **people-centric governance**.



- After the deaths of her husband, father-in-law and son, she **assumed the administration of Malwa in 1767**.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- She is remembered for her **model of justice, welfare-oriented governance, and cultural preservation**.



- Ahilyabai **rebuilt important temples** such as the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple** and **Somnath Temple** in the **18th century**.

- She promoted **women's education, widow remarriage, and opposed practices like sati**.



- She also worked for the **upliftment of tribal communities and lower castes**.



- Under her rule, **Maheshwar and Indore** became **major trade centres**, and the famous **Maheshwari saree** tradition flourished.