

Mahendra Singh Tikait

March 20, 2021

In news: Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait has organized Raitha Mahapanchayat in Shivamogga (Karnataka), where his father Mahendra Singh Tikait had participated in a meeting of Kudremukh Ulisi in the place in January 2000.

A brief note on Raitha Mahapanchayat & Shivamogga

- The Shivamogga city is hosting the first Raitha Mahapanchayat of southern India
- The same city gave birth to farmers' movements and the Dalit struggle
- Shivamogga has a long history of people's movements. **The Raitha Sangha took birth in the district and attracted nationwide attention** with the Kagodu Satyagraha in 1951.
- **That movement prompted many senior socialist leaders, including Ram Manohar Lohia, to visit the place.** With that, the socialist movement also received significant support in the district.
- In later years, the struggles of seeking grant of land for the landless tenants put pressure on the governments to bring in pro-farmer laws.
- **Dalit Sangharsha Samiti took birth in Shivamogga under the leadership of M. Krishnappa**, who was teaching in a college at Bhadravati.
- Besides this, Shivamogga has always been at the forefront in pro-environment struggles. Writers, activists and intellectuals actively participated in the **Kudremukh Ulisi (Save Kudremukh) movement.**
- **Rakesh Tikait's father Mahendra Singh Tikait had participated in a meeting of Kudremukh Ulisi in Shivamogga in January 2000.**

About Mahendra Singh Tikait

- **He was an Indian farmer leader from the state of Uttar Pradesh, India**
- **Birth:** He was born in 1935 at village Sisauli in Muzaffarnagar District of Uttar Pradesh.
- **Party:** President, Bharatiya Kisan Union

Role in Farmers related movements

- Tikait first became a significant figure in 1987 when he organised a campaign in Muzaffarnagar demanding the waiving of electricity bills for farmers
- **Boat Club Rally, Delhi:** This rally took place in 1988 demanding higher prices for sugarcane and the waiving of electricity and water charges for farmers, which was agreed by then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
- **Protest in Lucknow-1990-92:** Against U.P government, demanded higher price for Sugarcane and heavy rebates in electricity dues. And also demanded for writing off farmers' loans up to Rs 10,000