

HISTORY**Lala Lajpat Rai**

Recently, the Prime Minister paid tribute to Lala Lajpat Rai on his Jayanti. Lala Lajpat Rai's birth anniversary is celebrated on 28th of January every year.

Key Points**Birth:**

- He was born on 28th January, 1865 in a small village named Dhudike in Punjab's Ferozepur district.

About:

- Lala Lajpat Rai was one of the greatest freedom fighters of India.
- He was also called 'Punjab Kesari' and 'Lion of Punjab'.
- He studied law at the Government College, Lahore.
- Was influenced by Swami Dayananda Saraswati and joined the Arya Samaj in Lahore.
- He believed that the ideals in Hinduism combined with nationalism will lead to the establishment of a secular state.
- Along with Bipin Chandra Pal and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, he formed the Lal-Bal-Pal trio of extremist leaders.
- He was also involved with the Hindu Mahasabha.
- He fought against untouchability.

Contributions:**• Political:**

1. He joined the Indian National Congress (INC) and participated in many political agitations in Punjab.
2. For his political agitation, he was deported to Burma without trial in 1907 but returned after a few months because of lack of evidence.
3. He was opposed to the partition of Bengal.
4. He founded the Home Rule League of America in 1917 in New York. In the US, he worked to get moral support for the Indian independence movement from the international community.
5. He was also elected President of the All India Trade Union Congress.
6. He supported the non-cooperation movement of Gandhi at the Nagpur session of the Congress in 1920.
7. He protested against the Rowlatt Act and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre that followed.
8. He was elected deputy leader of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1926.
9. In 1928, he moved a resolution in the assembly refusing cooperation with the Simon Commission since the Commission had no Indian members.

• Social:

1. He founded Hindu Relief movement in 1897 to provide help to the famine-stricken people and thus prevent them falling into the clutches of the missionaries.
2. He founded the Servants of People Society in 1921.

- **Literary:** His important literary works include Young India, England's Debt to India, Evolution of Japan, India's Will to Freedom, Message of the Bhagavad Gita, Political Future of India, Problem of National Education in India, The Depressed Classes, and the travelogue 'United States of America'.

• Institutional:

1. He founded several institutions and organizations such as Hisar Bar Council, Hisar Arya Samaj, Hisar Congress, National DAV Managing Committee.
2. He was the editor of the Arya Gazette, which he had founded.
3. He co-founded the Punjab National Bank in 1894.

Death:

In 1928, he was leading a silent protest against the Simon Commission in Lahore when he was brutally lathi-charged by Superintendent of Police, James Scott. He died of injuries sustained a few weeks later.

POLITY**Supreme Court on MLAs' One-year Suspension**

Recently, the Supreme Court has set aside the one-year suspension of 12 BJP MLAs from the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. The Supreme Court held that suspension for a year was 'unconstitutional, substantively illegal and irrational'.

Key Points

About the Suspension of MLAs:

- The MLAs were suspended for misbehaviour in the Assembly pertaining to disclosure of data regarding OBCs.
- The challenge to suspension relies mainly on grounds of denial of the principles of natural justice, and of violation of laid-down procedure. The 12 MLAs have said they were not given an opportunity to present their case, and that the suspension violated their fundamental right to equality before the law under Article 14 of the Constitution.
- **Rule 53 of Maharashtra Assembly:** It states that the "Speaker may direct any member who refuses to obey his decision, or whose conduct is, in his opinion, grossly disorderly, to withdraw immediately from the Assembly".
 1. The member must "absent himself during the remainder of the day's meeting".
 2. Should any member be ordered to withdraw for a second time in the same session, the Speaker may direct the member to absent himself "for any period not longer than the remainder of the Session".

Arguments by Maharashtra Assembly:

- **Article 212:** The House had acted within its legislative competence, under Article 212, and courts do not have jurisdiction to inquire into the proceedings of the legislature. Article 212 (1) states that "The validity of any proceedings in the Legislature of a State shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure".
- **Vacancy of Seats:** The state had also said that a seat does not automatically become vacant if the member does not attend the House for 60 days but it becomes vacant only if declared so by the House. It was submitted that the House is not obligated to declare such a seat vacant.
- **Article 194:** The state has also referred to Article 194 on the powers and privileges of the House, and argued that any member who transgresses these privileges can be suspended through the inherent powers of the House. It has denied that the power to suspend a member can be exercised only through Rule 53 of the Assembly.

Arguments by the Supreme Court:

- **Irrational Suspension:** Suspension of a member must be preferred as a short term or a temporary, disciplinary measure for restoring order in the Assembly. Anything in excess of that would be irrational suspension.
- **Manipulating Opposition:** It said that a thin majority coalition government could use such suspensions to manipulate the number of Opposition party members. Such Opposition will not be able to effectively participate in discussions/debates in the House fearing suspension of its members for a longer period.
- **Violation of Basic Structure of the Constitution:** The basic structure of the Constitution would be hit if the constituencies of the suspended MLAs remained unrepresented in the Assembly for a full year.
- **Constitutional Requirement:** The bench referred to Article 190 (4) of the Constitution, which says, "If for a period of sixty days a member of a House of the Legislature of a State is without permission of the House absent from all meetings thereof, the House may declare his seat vacant."
- **Statutory Requirement:** Under Section 151 (A) of The Representation of the People Act, 1951, "a bye-election for filling any vacancy shall be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy".
- This means that barring exceptions specified under this section, no constituency can remain without a representative for more than six months.
- **Punishing Whole Constituency:** The Supreme Court said that the one-year suspension was prima facie unconstitutional as it went beyond the six-month limit, and amounted to "not punishing the member but punishing the constituency as a whole".
- **Question of Supreme Court Intervention:** The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the question of whether the judiciary can intervene in the proceedings of the House. Constitutional

experts, however, say that the court has clarified in previous rulings that the judiciary can intervene in case of an unconstitutional act done by the House.

ECONOMY

Cage Culture in Aquaculture

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying organised a webinar on “Cage aquaculture in Reservoir: Sleeping Giants” as a part of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav”. Department of Fisheries, GOI earmarked the investment targets for promoting cage aquaculture under flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

Key Points

About:

- Cage aquaculture involves the growing of fishes in existing water resources while being enclosed in a net cage which allows free flow of water.
- It is an aquaculture production system made of a floating frame, net materials and mooring system (with rope, buoy, anchor etc.) with a round or square shaped floating net to hold and culture large numbers of fishes and can be installed in reservoir, river, lake or sea.
- Cage farms are positioned in such a way to utilize natural currents, which provide the fish with oxygen and other appropriate natural conditions.

Factors Causing Cage Culture:

- Factors such as increasing consumption of fish, declining stocks of wild fishes and poor farm economy have increased interest in fish production in cages.
- Many small or limited resource farmers are looking for alternatives to traditional agricultural crops.
- In view of the high production attainable in the cage culture system, it can play a significant role in increasing the overall fish production in India.

Significance:

- **Removes Constraints of fish farming on land:** Farming of fish in an existing water body removes one of the biggest constraints of fish farming on land, i.e., the need for a constant flow of clean, oxygenated water.
- **Least Carbon Emission:** Cage culture is a low impact farming practice with high returns and least carbon emission activity.
- **Expanding Opportunities:** Aquaculture appears to be a rapidly expanding industry and it offers opportunities even on a small scale.
- **Better Utilization of India's long Coastline:** Suitable locations in India's long coastline, vast brackish water areas available in coastal states and other underutilized water bodies can be better utilized by adopting cage culture.
- **Offers alternative income Source:**
 1. Since the investment is low and requires very little / no land area, this farming method is ideal for small-scale fisher folks as an alternative income source.
 2. This can be taken up as a household / women activity since labour involved is minimal and can be managed by a small family.
 3. The design of the cage and its accessories can be tailor-made in accordance to the individual farmer's requirements.

Challenges:

1. Feed to the caged fish must be nutritionally complete and kept fresh.
2. Low Dissolved Oxygen Syndrome (LODOS) is an ever present problem and may require mechanical aeration.
3. Fouling of the net cage.
4. Vandalism or poaching is a potential problem.
5. Navigation issues.
6. Accumulation of unused feed and excreta will lead to water pollution as well as eutrophication.
7. Change in water quality parameters.
8. Conflicts within the local community.
9. Predation by aquatic mammals and birds.
10. Escapement.
11. Overcrowding of aquatic organisms in cages.

Initiatives related to Fisheries

1. Matsya Setu
2. Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).
3. Blue Revolution
4. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)
5. Kisan Credit Card (KCC)

Way Forward

- There is a need to have a robust cage culture system in reservoirs including potential markets to ensure good returns to the farmers.
- Need for the scientists and the Fisheries Departments of the States/ UTs to motivate fish farmers and develop innovative ways as well as policies for increasing profits, decreasing input cost, species diversification and increasing the production and productivity of cage culture systems in the reservoirs.
- There is a need for promotion of cage aquaculture in reservoirs of the country by following good management practises and providing support services.

PRELIMS FACT

Padma Awards 2022

General Bipin Rawat, first Chief of Defence Staff who died in an air crash recently, and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh who headed the State during the Babri Masjid demolition were conferred with Padma Vibushan posthumously on the eve of the Republic Day (73rd). Padma Vibhushan, part of the Padma series, is the second highest civilian award.

Key Points

Background:

- The Padma Awards are announced annually on Republic Day (26th January).
- Instituted in 1954, it is one of the highest civilian honours of India.

Objective:

- To recognize achievements in all fields of activities or disciplines where an element of public service is involved.

Categories:

- The Awards are given in three categories:
 1. Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service),
 2. Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher-order) and
 3. Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- Padma Vibhushan is highest in the hierarchy of Padma Awards followed by Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

Disciplines:

- The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service etc.

Selection Process:

- **Padma Awards Committee:** The Awards are conferred on the recommendations made by the Padma Awards Committee, which is constituted by the Prime Minister every year.
- **Awarded by President:** The awards are presented by the President of India usually in the month of March/April every year.

Bharat Ratna

1. Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the country.
2. It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.
3. It is treated on a different footing from Padma Award. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President of India.
4. The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a particular year.

DAILY ANSWER WRITING PRACTICE

Qns. Striking the right balance between continental and maritime security would be the best guarantor of India's long-term security interests. Analyze the statement in the context of the Eurasian and Indo-pacific regions. (250 Words)

Introduction

In continental context, there is increased militarisation of the borders with Pakistan and China, with the Ladakh sector now increasingly looking like it will see permanent deployment on the Siachen Glacier. To meet this challenge, evolving an effective continental strategy for India will be a complex and long-term exercise. While we concentrate on continental side, maritime strategy also is equally important for India and must have a recourse of its own, without being bogged down by pressures from Western forces.

Body

Reasons for difficulties for India in Eurasian region

- **INSTC:** Difficulties have arisen in operationalising an alternative route — the International North-South Transport Corridor on account of the U.S.'s hostile attitude towards Iran.
- **Blockade on Iran:** It may appear strange that while we join the U.S. and others in supporting the right of freedom of navigation in the maritime domain, we do not demand with the same force the right of India to conduct interstate trade, commerce, and transit along continental routes — be it through the lifting of Pakistan's blockade on transit or the lifting of U.S. sanctions against transit through Iran into Eurasia.
- **Afghan crisis:** With the recent Afghan developments, India's physical connectivity challenges with Eurasia have only become starker.
- **New threats:** China's assertive rise, the precipitous withdrawal of forces of the United States/North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from Afghanistan, the rise of Islamic fundamentalist forces are great threats. The marginalisation of India on the Eurasian continent in terms of connectivity must be reversed.

Need for balancing continental and maritime security in India

- India's maritime vision and ambitions have grown dramatically during the past decade, symbolised by its National Maritime Strategy, the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative for the Indian Ocean Region and major initiatives relating to the Indo-Pacific and the Quad, in which maritime security figures prominently.
- This was an overdue correction to the historic neglect of India's maritime power.
- It was also a response to the dramatic rise of China as a military power.
- It may also be a by-product of the oversized influence over our think-tank community of Anglo-Saxon strategic thinking, which has tended to emphasise the maritime dimensions of China's military rise more than others.

Measures for Long term security by India

- Going forward, it is clear India will not have the luxury of choosing one over the other; we would need to acquire strategic vision and deploy the necessary resources to pursue our continental interests without ignoring our interests in the maritime domain.
- This will require a more assertive push for our continental rights — namely that of transit and access, working with our partners in Central Asia, with Iran and Russia (not that we have many other options), and a more proactive engagement with economic and security agendas ranging from the SCO, Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).
- Stabilising Afghanistan is a necessary but not a sufficient condition. There is need to ensure an alternate way to reach Central Asia and Eurasia.

Conclusion

Striking the right balance between continental and maritime security would be the best guarantor of our long-term security interests. But this will not be easy as we would need to work with different partners on different agendas even while their geopolitical contradictions play out in the open. India will need to define its own parameters of continental and maritime security consistent with its own interests. In doing so, at a time of major geopolitical change, maintaining our capacity for independent thought and action (namely strategic autonomy) will help our diplomacy and statecraft navigate the difficult landscape and the choppy waters that lie ahead.

DAILY QUIZ

Q1. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as a financial mechanism for which of the following conventions?

1. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

2. Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
3. UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
4. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- a. **1 and 3 Only**
- b. 3 and 4 Only
- c. 1, 2 and 4 Only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q2. Consider the following statements about National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR):

1. It was set up under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.
2. It works under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development.
3. It is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. **2 only**
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Q3. Academic Bank of Credit (ABC) was in news recently, is proposed under the

- a. National Policy of Education 1986
- b. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- c. **National Education Policy 2020**
- d. None of the above

Q4. The quadrilateral security dialogue does not include:

- a. Russia
- b. **Germany**
- c. India
- d. Japan

Q5. The 'State of World Population Report' was released by which of the following?

- a. Population Matters
- b. Partners in Population and Development
- c. **United Nations Population Fund**
- d. International Organization for Migration