



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Lala Lajpat Rai

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Why is in news? Home Minister Amit Shah pays tribute to Lala Lajpat Rai on occasion of his birth anniversary

Lala Lajpat Rai was born on **28th January, 1865** in a small village named Dhudike in **Punjab's Ferozepur district**.

He was one of the greatest freedom fighters of India.

He was also called '**Punjab Kesari**' and '**Lion of Punjab**'.

He 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**.

He **joined the Indian National Congress (INC)** and participated in many political agitations in Punjab.

For his political agitation, he was **deported to Burma without trial in 1907** but returned after a few months because of lack of evidence.

He was **opposed to the partition of Bengal**.

He **founded the Home Rule League of America in 1917 in New York**. In the USA, he worked to get moral support for the Indian independence movement from the international community.

He was also **elected President of the All India Trade Union Congress**.

He **supported the non-cooperation movement** of Gandhi at the **Nagpur session** of the Congress in 1920. He protested **against the Rowlatt Act and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre** that followed.

He was elected deputy leader of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1926. In 1928, he **moved a resolution in the assembly refusing cooperation with the Simon Commission** since the Commission had no Indian members.

He **founded Hindu Relief movement in 1897** to provide **help to the famine -stricken people** and thus preventing them falling into the clutches of the missionaries.

He founded the **Servants of People Society in 1921**.

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 Glasses, and the travelogue 'United States of America'.

Kamaraj IAS Academy

Plot A P.127, AF block, 6 th street, 11th Main Rd, Shanthi Colony, Anna Nagar, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600040

Phone: **044 4353 9988 / 98403 94477 / Whatsapp : 09710729833**

He was the **editor of the Arya Gazette**, which he had founded. He **co-founded the Punjab National Bank in 1894**.

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.