



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Rani Lakshmi Bai

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Why is in news? PM remembers Rani Lakshimbai on her Jayanti

Lakshmi Bai was born on **November 19, 1835**, in Kashi, India. She was brought up in the household of the Peshwa (ruler) Baji Rao II

She was married the **Maharaja of Jhansi, Gangadhar Rao**, but was widowed without bearing a surviving heir to the throne.

The Maharaja **adopted a boy as his heir** just before his death. **Lord Dalhousie**, the British governor-general of India, **refused to recognize the adopted heir and annexed Jhansi** in accordance with the Doctrine of Lapse.

Uprising against the British:

She refused to cede Jhansi to the British. Shortly after the beginning of the mutiny in 1857, which broke out in Meerut.

She **offered stiff resistance to the invading forces** and the rescuing army of Tantia Tope, another rebel leader, was defeated at the **Battle of Betwa**.

Lakshmi bai fought bravely against the British and gave a tough fight to **Sir Hugh Rose** so as to save her empire from annexation.

She **died** fighting on the battlefield on **June 17, 1858**.

When the **Indian National Army started its first female unit** (in 1943), it was named after the valiant queen of Jhansi.

Doctrine of Lapse:

It was an **annexation policy followed widely by Lord Dalhousie** when he was India's Governor-General **from 1848 to 1856**.

According to this, any princely state that was under the **direct or indirect control of the East India Company where the ruler did not have a legal male heir** would be annexed by the company.

It was enforced in the cases of Satara (1848), Jaitpur and Sambalpur (1849), Baghat (1850), Chota Udaipur (1852), Jhansi (1853), and Nagpur (1854)

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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**