

Daily Current Affairs

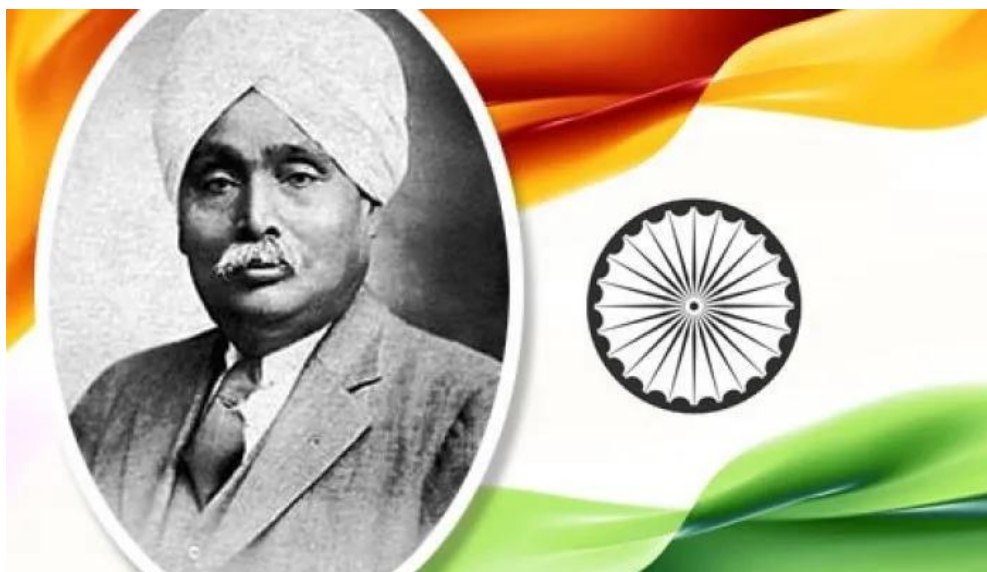
28 January 2025

Lala Lajpat Rai

- Nation is remembering **Lala Lajpat Rai on his 160th Birth Anniversary**. The legendary freedom fighter and flag bearer of the Swadeshi Movement was born on this **day in 1865, at Dhudike in the then Faridkot** district of the Punjab Province of British India.



- His father **Munshi Radha Krishna** was a **government school** teacher and his mother **was Gulab Devi**. He played a pivotal role in India's Freedom Struggle. Known as **Punjab Kesari**, **Lala Lajpat Rai died** of severe trauma injuries he sustained on his head during a baton charge by police in October 1928. The Police did the **Lathi charge when Lalaji was leading** a peaceful protest march against the all-British Simon Commission in Lahore.
- **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'.



- **He founded several institutions and organizations** such as Hisar Bar Council, Hisar Arya Samaj, Hisar Congress, National DAV Managing Committee.
- 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.

India, China Agree On Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

- **India and China have agreed on a slew of measures** during the meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism to stabilize and rebuild bilateral ties. The new understandings include the **resumption of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra**, the restoration of **direct flights between the two countries** and the sharing of **trans-border river data among others.**
- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, **who was on a two-day visit to China**, attended the meeting. The External Affairs Ministry said in a statement, that the relevant mechanism will discuss the modalities for resuming the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra as per existing agreements.



- The two sides also agreed to hold an early meeting of the India-China Expert Level Mechanism to discuss the resumption of the **provision of hydrological data** and other cooperation pertaining to trans-border rivers.
- They also agreed to take appropriate measures to further promote and facilitate people-to-people exchanges, including media and think-tank interactions. They agreed in principle to resume direct air services between the two countries.



- The two sides recognize that **2025, being the 75th anniversary of the establishment** of diplomatic relations between India and China, should be utilized to redouble public diplomacy efforts to create better awareness about each other and restore mutual trust and confidence among the public.



- They will conduct a number of commemorative activities to mark this anniversary. Specific **concerns in the economic and trade areas** were discussed to resolve these issues and promote long-term policy transparency and predictability.
- During his visit, the Foreign Secretary also called on Members of the Politburo of the **Central Committee of the Communist Party of China**, Director of the Office of Central Commission of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China, Liu Jianchao.

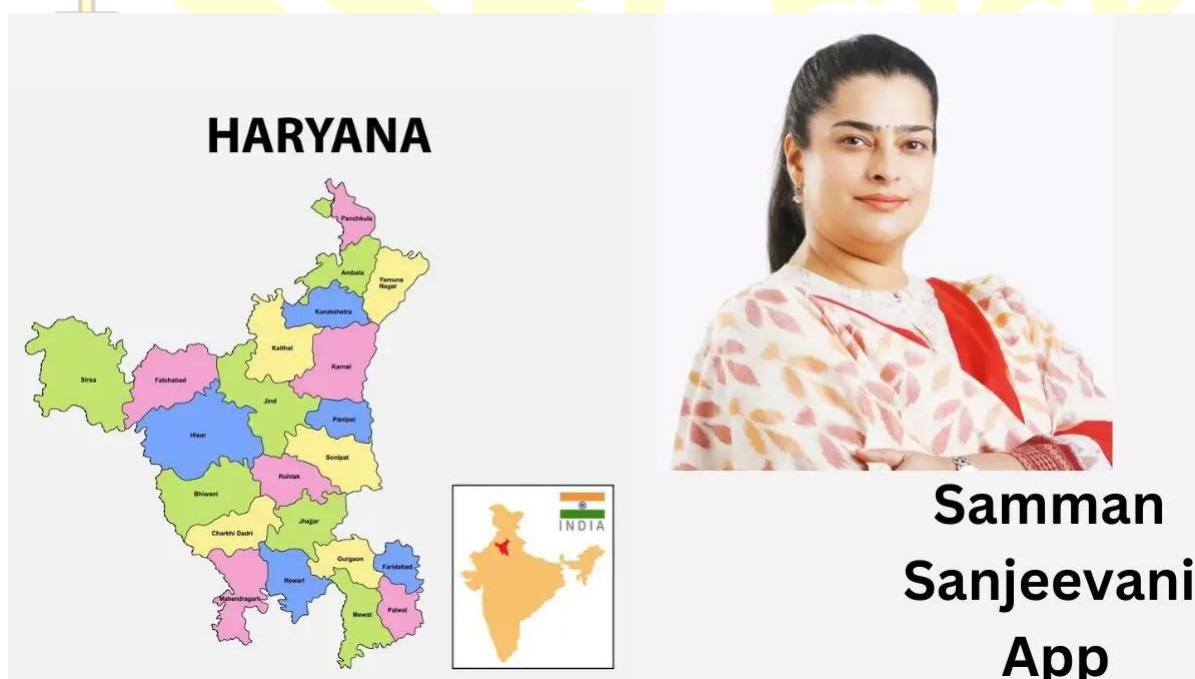
‘Utkarsh Odisha, Make-in-Odisha Conclave’

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate **‘Utkarsh Odisha, Make-in-Odisha Conclave’** at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar this morning. It will be Mr Modi’s second visit to Odisha this month.
- He attended **Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas celebrations** on the 9th of this month at the same venue. **‘Utkarsh Odisha’** is a **flagship Global Investment Summit**, being hosted by the Odisha government and is aimed at positioning Odisha as the anchor of **the Purvodaya vision as well as the** leading investment destination and industrial hub in India.



‘Samman Sanjeevani’

- On National Girl Child Day 2025, Haryana Cabinet Minister Shruti Choudhry launched the ‘Samman Sanjeevani’ app, aimed at enhancing the efficiency of the ‘Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana’.



- The initiative is designed to provide essential services to BPL (Below Poverty Line) women and girls between the ages of 10 and 45, particularly sanitary napkins. This app is a part of the Haryana Government’s ongoing commitment to ensuring timely and efficient delivery of welfare benefits to its citizens.

- The event also marked the **10th anniversary of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'** scheme, a major initiative focusing on women's empowerment. The app tracks facilities provided under the **'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana'**.
- It ensures that beneficiaries receive timely services like the distribution of sanitary napkins. The app collects data on all beneficiaries, providing updates on monthly benefits.
- The app **helps track the timely delivery of services** to beneficiaries. It aims to streamline the administration of the program, ensuring no delays in service provision.

Geo - Tagging Saves Kashmir's Iconic Chinar Trees

- **Kashmir's majestic chinar trees**, long considered a symbol of its cultural and natural heritage, face growing threats from urbanization and infrastructure projects.
- To preserve and monitor these iconic trees, the **Jammu & Kashmir Forest Research Institute (JKFRI)** has launched the **'Digital Tree Aadhar'** initiative, providing each chinar tree with a **unique digital identity**. This ambitious project integrates technology to **protect biodiversity, preserve cultural heritage**, and raise awareness about these remarkable trees.



Geo-Tagging & QR Technology to Preserve Kashmir's Iconic Chinar Trees.

- Initiative Purpose: To **monitor, protect, and manage the health** of every chinar tree in Kashmir. **Modeled after India's Aadhaar system**, every tree is assigned a

unique ID Technology Used: **Geo-tagging with Geographic Information System (GIS)**, Quick Response (QR) codes, and metal cards featuring barcodes for public scanning.



- **Around 10,000 trees have been metal card-tagged so far.** Chinar Census: A systematic survey started in **2021**, **geo-tagging 28,560 chinar trees** to date. Future Expansion: **Chinars in Jammu's Chenab Valley and the Pir Panjal Valley** will also be included. Top Trees: Recording of the top 20 chinars, including the world's third-largest chinar (girth: 74 ft) in Ganderbal district.



- Significance and Chinars play a key role in absorbing carbon and mitigating climate change.
- Recognized as **part of Kashmir's folklore, literature, religious** practices, and historical landmarks. Introduced to Kashmir by Islamic preachers from Central Asia and Persia over 400 years ago.
- Derived from the Persian **phrase "Che naar ast" meaning "What flame is that?"** – inspired by the crimson red leaves in autumn. A 700-year-old chinar in Budgam district, planted by Sufi saint Syed Qasim Shah, is the oldest recorded tree.
- Planted extensively in **Srinagar's Mughal gardens like Naseem Bagh, Nishat Bagh, and Shalimar Garden** in the 16th century. Chinar trees are revered by both Hindus and Muslims, forming part of settings at shrines like Hazratbal and temples like Kheer Bhawani. Featured in numerous iconic Bollywood films, symbolizing romance and nostalgia.

Global Wetland Cities Network

- **Indore and Udaipur have achieved a significant milestone** by becoming the first two cities from India to join the global list of accredited **Wetland Cities under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.**



- This recognition marks an important step in India's commitment to sustainable **urban development and ecological conservation.** Prime Minister Narendra

Modi congratulated both cities, highlighting the importance of balancing urban growth with **environmental sustainability**.

- The accreditation reflects the value of wetlands in providing ecological, social, and economic **benefits, making them vital for the sustainable** development of cities. Indore and Udaipur are the first Indian cities to be recognized under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.



- Both cities were nominated by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)**.
- **Indore: Sirpur Lake, a Ramsar site, is recognized** for its significance as a water bird congregation area and is being developed as a bird sanctuary.
- **Udaipur: Surrounded by five major wetlands**, including Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai, which contribute to the city's culture, identity, and microclimate regulation.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which State Government Has Launched “Samman Sanjeevani” App

- A. Haryana
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: A

2. India Hosted The Second BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting On Cyber Security Cooperation In Which City

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Chennai
- C. New Delhi
- D. Bengaluru

ANSWER: C

3. Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Gujarat
- D. Karnataka

ANSWER: B

4. Pangsau Pass, Lies Between Which Two Countries

- A. India and Bhutan
- B. China and Nepal
- C. India and Myanmar
- D. India and Bangladesh

ANSWER: C

5. Geo - Tagging Of Chinar Trees Started In

- A. Meghalaya
- B. Kashmir
- C. Manipur
- D. Tripura

ANSWER: B

6. Which Organization Conducted The Successful Ground Test Of A Scramjet Engine For Missiles

- A. ISRO
- B. HAL
- C. DRDO
- D. BHEL

ANSWER: C

7. In Which City Is Kidwai Memorial Institute Of Oncology Located, Which Recently Achieved Milestone Of 1,000 Robotic Surgeries

- A. Mumbai
- B. Delhi
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: C

8. On Which Date Is National Voters' Day Celebrated In India

- A. January 24
- B. January 25
- C. January 26
- D. January 23

ANSWER: B

9. Kirkuk Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Country

- A. Israel
- B. Iraq
- C. Australia
- D. Greece

ANSWER: B

10. Which State Launched 'Samman Sanjeevani' App To Track Benefits Under The 'Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana'

- A. West Bengal
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Sikkim
- D. Haryana

ANSWER: D

11. In Which City Will Reliance Industries Build The World's Largest Data Centre

- A. Noida
- B. Ahmedabad
- C. Jamnagar
- D. Pune

ANSWER: C

12. Which Country Hosted The 1st International Pashmina Festival

- A. India
- B. Nepal
- C. Bhutan
- D. Sri Lanka

ANSWER: B

13. In Which City Was Telangana's First 24-hour Drinking Water Supply Project Launched

- A. Warangal
- B. Nizamabad
- C. Karimnagar
- D. Khammam

ANSWER: C

14. On which date is National Tourism Day celebrated annually in India

- A. January 24
- B. January 25
- C. January 26
- D. January 27

ANSWER: B

15. Who Has Been Appointed As The Brand Ambassador For The 25th Anniversary Edition Of FICCI Frames

- A. Ayushmann Khurrana
- B. Ranveer Singh
- C. Alia Bhatt
- D. Vicky Kaushal

ANSWER: A

16. Which Company Received Approval From RBI To Operate As A Payment Aggregator-cross Border Entity

- A. Skydo
- B. Paytm
- C. Razorpay
- D. PhonePe

ANSWER: A

17. What Position Did India Hold In The Edelman Trust Barometer 2025 Rankings

- A. 3rd
- B. 2nd
- C. 1st
- D. 4th

ANSWER: A

18. Sampur solar power plant Situated In

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Nepal
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: C

19. In which state did the Flamingo Festival 2025 take place

- A. Haryana
- B. Aandhra Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: B

20. Earth, Water, Fire, Air, Ether These Are Panchtatvas And When They Combine They Give Rise To New Objects. Principle Of Which Of Vedic Philosophies

- A. Sankhya
- B. Yoga
- C. Vaisheshika
- D. Advita

ANSWER: C