



Date – 25 May 2022

Raja Ram Mohan Roy



- Recently, the Ministry of Culture organized the inauguration ceremony of the year-long festival in the memory of Raja Ram Mohan Roy on his 250th birth anniversary.
- The inaugural ceremony was held at the 'Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation', Salt Lake and Science City Auditorium in Kolkata.
- It is a one year festival which will be celebrated till next year (May 22, 2023).

- This year also marks the 250th birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy and the 50th foundation day of 'Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation'.
- The Ministry of Culture has also unveiled an iconic statue of Raja Ram Mohan Roy at the Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy was the father of modern India's renaissance and a tireless social reformer who ushered in the era of Enlightenment and liberal reformist modernization in India.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy was born on 22 May 1772 in Radhanagar, Bengal in an orthodox Brahmin family.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy had his early education in Persian and Arabic languages at Patna, where he studied the Qur'an, the works of Sufi mystic poets and Arabic versions of the books of Plato and Aristotle.
- He also studied Sanskrit language, Vedas and Upanishads in Banaras.
- From 1803 to 1814, he worked as a private dewan for the East India Company under Woodford and Digby.
- In the year 1814 he resigned from the job and went to Calcutta to dedicate his life to religious, social and political reforms.
- In November 1830, he left for England with the aim of counteracting the possible unrest arising out of the banning of the practice of Sati.

- Ram Mohan Roy went to England for complaints related to the pension of the Mughal Emperor Akbar II of Delhi, when he was given the title of 'Raja' by Akbar II.
- In his address, Tagore called Ram Mohan Roy 'a shining star of Indian history as the inaugurator of the modern era in India'.

Ideology:

- Ram Mohan Roy was greatly influenced by western modern thought and emphasized on rationalism and modern scientific approach.
- The immediate problem of Ram Mohan Roy was the religious and social decline of his native Bengal.
- He believed that religious orthodoxy damages the social life and instead of improving the condition of the society, disturbs the people further.
- Raja Ram Mohan Roy believed that social and political modernization consists only in the purview of religious reform.
- Ram Mohan Roy believed that every sinner should atone for his sins and this atonement should be done through self-purification and repentance, and not through pomp and rituals.
- He believed in the social equality of all human beings and thus was a strong opponent of the caste system.
- Ram Mohan Roy was attracted to Islamic monotheism. He said that monotheism is also the core message of Vedanta.
- He considered monotheism as a corrective step towards the polytheism of Hinduism and Christianity. He believed that monotheism supported a universal model for humanity.

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy believed that unless women were freed from inhuman forms like illiteracy, child marriage, Sati system, and Hindu society could not progress.
- He portrayed the practice of Sati as a violation of every human and social sentiment and as a symptom of the moral degradation of a caste.

Contribution:

Religious Reforms:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy's first publication Tuhfat-ul-Muwahideen (A Gift to the Gods) came out in the year 1803, which exposed the irrational religious beliefs and corrupt practices of the Hindus.
- In the year 1814, he founded the Atmiya Sabha in Calcutta to oppose idol worship, caste rigidity, meaningless rituals and other social evils.
- He criticized the rituals of Christianity and dismissed Jesus as the incarnation of God. In Prispts of Jesus (1820), he tried to separate the moral and philosophical message of New Testament which was given through wondrous stories.

Social reforms:

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy conceived of reformist religious associations as instruments of social and political change.
- He founded the Atmiya Sabha in the year 1815, the Calcutta Unitarian Association in the year 1821 and the Brahmo Sabha (which later became the Brahmo Samaj) in the year 1828.
- He campaigned against the caste system, untouchability, superstition and drug use.

- He was known for his pioneering views and actions on women's freedom and especially the abolition of sati and widow remarriage.
- He opposed child marriage, illiteracy of women and degrading condition of widows and demanded the right of inheritance and property for women.

Educational Reforms:

- Ram Mohan Roy made a lot of efforts to spread modern education among the countrymen. He supported David Heyer's efforts to found a Hindu College in 1817, while Roy's English school taught mechanics and Voltaire's philosophy.
- In the year 1825, he founded the Vedanta College where both Indian teaching and Western social and physical science courses were taught.

Economic and Political Reforms:

Civil liberty:

- Ram Mohan Roy was deeply impressed by and admired the civil liberties given to the people by the British system of constitutional government. He wanted to pass on the benefits of that system of government to the Indian people.

Press Freedom:

- Through the writings and other activities, they supported the movement for independent press in India.
- In the year 1819, the press censorship was released by Lord Hastings, Ram Mohan Roy has three magazines – Brahminist magazine (year 1821); Bengali Weekly – Dialogue Koumudi (Year 1821) and Persian Weekly – Mirat-ul-Akbar published.

Taxation Reforms:

- Ram Mohan Roy condemned the oppressive practices of the Bengali zamindars and demanded fixation of minimum rent. He also demanded tax-free land and abolition of taxes.
- He called for reduction in export duties on Indian goods abroad and the abolition of trading rights of the East India Company.

Administrative Reforms:

- He demanded Indianisation of better services and separation of the executive from the judiciary. He demanded equality between Indians and Europeans.

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Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme



इंदिरा गांधी शहरी रोजगार गारंटी योजना

- The Rajasthan government has released details about the jobs covered under its much-publicized Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme.

- Rajasthan government in its budget speech had announced employment scheme for urban areas on the lines of MGNREGA for rural areas.
- MGNREGA provides employment in rural areas, whereas there was no provision under it for street vendors as well as those working in dhabas and restaurants in urban areas.

Plan:

- Under the scheme, 100 days of employment will be provided every year to the families living in urban areas.
- For labor work of “general nature” the ratio of cost of material and payment will be in the ratio of 25:75, while for special works it will be in the ratio 75:25.
- Emphasis is being laid on providing maximum employment under this.
- On the other hand, a higher physical component would be required to build a property, so the ratio under ‘Special Works’ is 75:25.

Eligibility:

- All people in the age group of 18 to 60 years residing within the urban body limits are eligible for the scheme and migrant workers can be covered in special circumstances such as pandemic or disaster.

Constituent:

Environment protection:

- Plantation of trees in public places, maintenance of parks, irrigation of plants on footpaths and dividers, preparation of

nurseries under Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Forest, Horticulture and Agriculture departments.

Water conservation:

- Anyone can do the work of construction, repair and cleaning of rain water harvesting structures and restoration of water sources for cleaning and improvement of ponds, lakes, stepwells etc.

Work related to sanitation and hygiene:

- This includes solid waste management, labor work, including door-to-door garbage collection and segregation, segregation of waste at dumping sites, cleaning and maintenance of public/community toilets, cleaning of sewers/drains as well as waste generated from construction and demolition Includes removal tasks.

Acts related to defacement of property:

- This includes labor work to remove encroachments as well as illegal boards/hoardings/banners etc., as well as paintings displayed on dividers, railings, walls and other public places.

Convergence:

- Under this scheme those people can be employed in other central or state level schemes which already have physical component and require labor work.

Service:

- This includes labor work in Gaushalas and 'multitask services' in the offices of civic bodies, record keeping etc. In addition, works related to heritage conservation are also included.

- Miscellaneous works, such as security / fencing / boundary wall / work related to protection of urban bodies and public lands, development and management of parking spaces within the limits of urban bodies, capture and management of stray animals, etc.

Requirement of social security for urban areas:

Major Contributors to the Economy:

- The urban sector is an integral part of the development process of the country. Like most countries, India's urban areas contribute a lot to the country's economy.
- Indian city contributes about two-thirds in economic production, make a growing part of the population and are the main receipt of FDI. They are also promoters of innovation and technology.

Hotspots for Businesses:

- Cities also hold the status of a collective hotspot for a wide variety of economic activities.
- As a result of scalable and congested benefits (supply of educational facilities, presence of suppliers etc.), cities attract more business and people.

Center of Social Capital:

- Cities are centers of social capital. They also tend to be the 'meeting points' of culturally or socially diverse groups or centers of discussion on differing views.

Power Center:

- Cities are centers of ever-expanding power, consolidating their position at the expense of towns and villages.

Importance of Urban Employment Schemes:

- Ensures social inclusion by strengthening the livelihood base of the rural poor.
- It gives statutory right to work to urban residents and thereby ensures the right to life guaranteed under the Constitution (Article 21).
- Example- The new state government in Madhya Pradesh has started “Yuva Swabhiman Yojana”.
- It provides employment to skilled and unskilled workers among urban youth and addresses the concerns of unemployment.
- Programs such as these can bring much-needed public investment into towns, which in turn can boost local demand, improve urban infrastructure and quality of services, restore urban commons, and empower urban youth. Can train and enhance the capacity of ULBs.

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Wild polio virus



- In Mozambique, this week the country's first case of 'wild poliovirus type 1' has been confirmed after a child was infected with the disease.
- This is the first case of the disease in Mozambique since 1992 and the second imported case of 'wild poliovirus' in South East Africa this year.
- Earlier this year, an outbreak of the disease was reported in the country of 'Malawi' in South East Africa.
- **Note:** Until now, 'wild polio virus' was found (endemic) only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

What is 'polio'?

- Polio or poliomyelitis is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as 'a highly contagious viral disease'. This disease mainly affects young children.

Transmission:

- The polio virus is mainly transmitted from person to person through the faecal route or other common carriers (such as contaminated water or food).

- By reaching the intestines, the number of this virus multiplies and from there it reaches the nervous system and causes paralysis.

When a country is declared polio-free?

- There are three types of 'polio virus', whose number is 1 to 3. For a country to be declared polio-free, it is imperative to stop the uncontrolled transmission of all three types of viruses.
- Further, for 'polio eradication', both wild and vaccine-derived polio infections have to be reduced to zero.
- After receiving any evidence of virus for three years, India was declared polio free in January 2014. This achievement is considered widely inspired by successful 'Pulse Polio Campaign'.

India's efforts in this regard:

- To prevent the transmission of polio virus in India, under the Pulse Polio programme, all states and union territories have formed 'Rapid Response Teams' to deal with any polio outbreak in the country.
- Government has made oral polio vaccination (OPV) compulsory for those traveling between India and polio affected countries, such as Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Syria and Cameroon since March 2014.

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