



Rani Lakshmibai

Why in News

Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister has announced that the **Jhansi Railway Station** in Uttar Pradesh will be known as **Veerangana Lakshmibai Railway Station**.

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Key Points

▪ Early Life:

- She was born on **19th November 1828** in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- Her father's name was **Moropant Tambe**. Lakshmibai's childhood name was **'Manikarnika'** and was affectionately addressed as **'Manu'**.
- She had a son **Damodar Rao**, who died within four months of his birth. Following the death of the infant, her husband adopted a **cousin's child Anand Rao**, who was renamed **Damodar Rao** a day prior to the death of the Maharaja.

▪ Role in India's Struggle for Independence:

- Rani Lakshmibai was **one of the brave warriors of India's struggle for Independence**.
- In 1853, when the Maharaja of Jhansi died, Lord Dalhousie refused to acknowledge the child and **applied the Doctrine of Lapse, and annexed the state**.
- Rani Lakshmibai **fought bravely against the British** so as to save her empire from annexation. She died fighting on the battlefield on **17th June 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.

- Thus, any **adopted son of the Indian ruler would not be proclaimed as heir** to the kingdom.
- By applying the doctrine of lapse, Dalhousie annexed the States of:
 - Satara (1848 A.D.),
 - Jaitpur, and Sambalpur (1849 A.D.),
 - Baghat (1850 A.D.),
 - Udaipur (1852 A.D.),
 - Jhansi (1853 A.D.), and
 - Nagpur (1854 A.D.)

Procedure For Changing the Name

- An **executive order passed with simple majority by the State legislature is required to rename** any village, town, city or a station, while an amendment of the Constitution with majority in Parliament is needed for changing the name of a state.
- It is noteworthy that the **Union Home Ministry gives a green signal** to the proposal to change the name of any railway station or place after getting no objection from the Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts, and Survey of India.

Source: Livemint

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