



## Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia

### Why in News

The Prime Minister of India paid tribute to **socialist Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia** on his death anniversary.

### Key Points //



- **Birth:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 1910 in Akbarpur, Uttar Pradesh

- **Brief Profile:**

- Indian politician and activist who was a prominent figure in socialist politics and in the movement towards Indian independence.
- Much of his career was devoted to combating injustice through the development of a distinctly Indian version of socialism.

- **Socialism** refers to a set of political ideas that emerged as a response to the inequalities present in, and reproduced by, the industrial capitalist economy.

- **Lohia's Idea of Socialism:**

- Lohia identified **five kinds of inequalities** that need to be fought against simultaneously: inequality between **man and woman**, inequality based on **skin colour, caste**-based inequality, **colonial rule** of some countries over others, and **economic** inequality.
- For him struggle against these five inequalities constituted five revolutions. He added two more revolutions to this list: revolution for **civil liberties** against unjust encroachments on private life and revolution for **non-violence**, for renunciation of weapons in favour of Satyagraha. These were the seven revolutions or **Sapta Kranti** which for Lohia was the ideal of socialism.

- **Education:**

- **Bachelor's degree (1929)** from the **University of Calcutta** and a **doctorate (1932)** from the **University of Berlin**, where he studied economics and politics.

▪ **Pre-Independence Role:**

- In **1934**, he became **actively involved in the Congress Socialist Party (CSP)**, founded that year as a left-wing group within the Indian National Congress.
- A **vehement opponent of Indian participation on the side of Great Britain in [World War II](#)** (1939-45), he was arrested for anti-British remarks in 1939 and again in 1940.
- With the emergence in **[1942 of the Quit India movement](#)**—a campaign initiated by Mahatma Gandhi to urge the withdrawal of British authorities from India—Lohia and other CSP leaders (such as **[Jaya Prakash Narayan](#)**) mobilized support from the underground. For such resistance activities, he was **jailed again in 1944-46**.

▪ **Post Independence Role:**

- Lohia and other CSP members **left the Congress in 1948**.
  - He **became a member of the Praja Socialist Party** upon its formation in **1952** and served as general secretary for a brief period, but **internal conflicts** led to his **resignation in 1955**.
  - He **established a new Socialist Party** (1955), for which he became chairman as well as the **editor of its journal, Mankind**.
    - He advocated for various socio-political reforms in his capacity as party leader, including the abolition of the caste system, stronger protection of civil liberties, etc.
  - In **1963**, Lohia was **elected to the Lok Sabha**, where he was noted for his sharp criticism of government policies.
- Some of his **works** include: 'Wheel of History', 'Marx, Gandhi and Socialism', 'Guilty Men of India's Partition', etc.
- **Death:** 12<sup>th</sup> October, 1967.

**[Source: PIB](#)**

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