



Dignitaries on the dais - From Left to right Dr. Neelam Arora – Principal, Lala Lajpat Rai College; Poonam Mahajan – MP Mumbai, Devendra Fadnavis – Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Dr. Kamal Gupta – Chariman, Lala Lajpatrai Institute of Management and Dr. Sunil Gupta – Trustee, Lala Lajpatrai Educational Institutes



Lighting the inaugural lamp



DR. KAMAL GUPTA,
Chairman, LLM



Dignitaries honour the statue of Lala Lajpatrai



Vinod Gupta Felicitates MP Poonam Mahajan



MP Poonam Mahajan addresses the audience



A traditional welcome for CM Devendra Fadnavis



In the moment – CM Devendra Fadnavis & Dr. Kamal Gupta



Standing for the national anthem

LALA COLLEGE CELEBRATES THE 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUNJAB KESARI – LALA LAJPATRAI

On the 150th birth anniversary of freedom fighter and socialist Lala Lajpat Rai, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis asked the youth to strive to become the best, which would help India to become a global power by 2025. He was speaking at an event organized by Lala Lajpatrai College on January 28.

The programme on Tuesday, started by honouring the Lion of Punjab, also called the Punjab Kesari, Lala Lajpatrai and his life – from his birth in a small town in Punjab to becoming a lawyer and a social reformer until his death while struggling towards the Simon Go Back Movement. The programme was also attended by the Member of Parliament of Mumbai-North Central Constituency Poonam Mahajan.

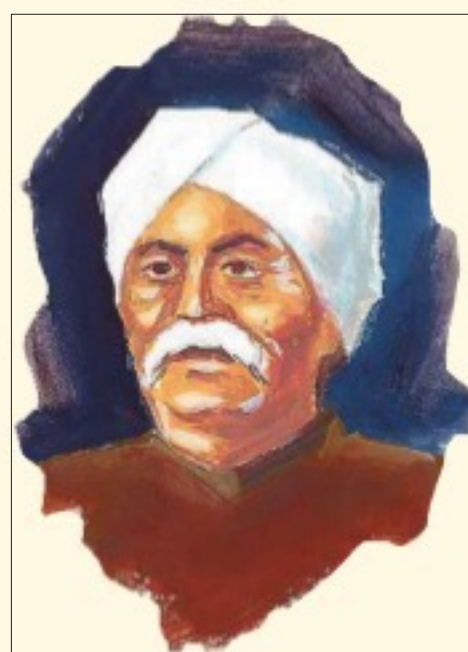
Welcoming the guest of honour, Dr. Kamal Gupta, the Chairman of the Lala Lajpatrai College said, "It is my honour and privilege to commemorate the 150 anniversary of the legendary Lala Lajpatrai. He was known as the Punjab Kesari, who sowed the seed of the freedom struggle for the country. We, as an institute, will always be indebted to him for he was the man who fought for a free India. As an honour, I acknowledge the young and dynamic leader Poonam Mahajan and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and welcome them."

The Lala Lajpatrai Trust was formed in 1959 on the eve of his Centenary Birth Celebration, to promote education. Lala Lajpatrai Educational Institute is named after this exuberant and revolutionary and reformist. An educationalist, freedom fighter, visionary and a pioneer, Lalaji played a vital role not only in giving shape to education system in India, but also impetus to the Swadeshi Movement.

For the nationalist fervour shown by Lalaji, who along with Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra formed the Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate,

urged Indians to join the Swadeshi Movement. Lalaji was not only a fine lawyer but also a noted author with several books to his credit.

As Mahatma Gandhi pointed out "Men like Lalaji cannot die as long as the sun shines in India's sky." The Institute is celebrating with all enthusiasm and commitment to commemorate the Sesquicentennial Birth Centenary of Lala Lajpatrai.



During the function, Fadnavis stressed upon the fact that with a population of 365 million between the age group of 10 and 24 years, India is the largest youngest nation of the world, which will go on to become the largest youngest democracy by 2025.

"Lala Lajpatrai was not merely a freedom fighter, but was a visionary who was a social reformist and understood the problems of the country. He started Punjab National Bank and setting up organization in the smaller villages which would take the nation ahead," Fadnavis said. "He is inspired a lot of people and was a firm believer of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and today when Maharashtra has a college after his name, only goes on to emphasise his relation with the state," he added.

Fadnavis stressed on the need for good governance and participation

from the youth, explaining that presently as the 150th anniversary of Lalaji's birth is being celebrated, the youth should remember that now the fight is for good governance.

Lalaji has once appealed to the people, "I do not know whether I shall remain, but you should never worry. My spirit after me will go on exhorting you to make more sacrifices for liberty." Keeping that spirit, Fadnavis told the students, "We can rule the world if we direct the youth power of the country and we use it wisely," he said.

Further, he said that there will be several occasions between 2020 and 2025 when Indians will have the highest number of youngsters as a part of its population, more than any other country of the world. The entire world will be getting old and they will need human power and the responsibility will rest on Indians. If India will be able to channelize the youth, it will be able to control the world.

Fadnavis also stressed to the students that only studying is not important but there is a need for quality in the 21st century. "One need not stand at the border to fight for the country, but instead just ensure that he does bit towards improving the country, and that would help achieve the target. Becoming a doctor or engineer is not the only destination, but instead try to become the person trying to bring a change in the life of four other people. That will be enough. The day every individual or youth decides to not allow corruption, we will be able to abolish it," he explained to the thousands of students sitting in the auditorium.

Swami Vivekananda had explained patriotism towards the country in three easy steps – the first being feeling for the fellow countrymen; the second to decide that sitting tight is no option, brining change is necessary; and the third, taking a small step in your sector towards improving the situation. That would be true service to the country.



CM Devendra Fadnavis delivers his address



Dr. Kamal Gupta & CM Devendra Fadnavis with statue of the Punjab Kesari



Dr. Kamal Gupta felicitates CM Devendra Fadnavis



Dr. Kamal Gupta welcomes CM Devendra Fadnavis



CM Devendra Fadnavis with Dr. Kamal Gupta



The dignitaries stand for the national anthem



The dignitaries with the college staff