



GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE, FOR MEN KURNOOL.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Criteria-7(Best Practices -2)



Criteria-7(Best Practices-2)

Regular Debate on Historical Issues--- Jallianwala Bagh (1919):

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919 remains one of the most debated events in colonial history, with interpretations ranging from a deliberate act of terror meant to enforce imperial control to a tragic miscalculation that accelerated India's independence movement. The controversy lies in whether it was an isolated atrocity or part of a broader imperial strategy of violence.

Historical Issues in Debate:

Background:

- **Date & Place:** 13 April 1919, Amritsar, Punjab (during the Baisakhi festival).
- **Context:** Protests against the Rowlatt Act, which allowed detention without trial, were growing across India.
- **Gathering:** Thousands of men, women, and children assembled peacefully in Jallianwala Bagh, a walled garden, to protest and celebrate Baisakhi.

1. Colonial Intent vs. Misjudgement:

- **Deliberate Strategy of Empire:** Some historians argue the massacre was not an aberration but part of Britain's broader imperial policy of using violence to suppress dissent. Joash Lawrence describes it as "an essential but unacknowledged strategy of empire".
- **Individual Miscalculation:** Others suggest General Dyer acted independently, misinterpreting unrest as rebellion, and his decision to open fire was a personal error rather than official policy.

2. Impact on Indian Independence:

- The massacre is widely seen as a **turning point** in India's struggle for freedom. It shattered trust in British rule and galvanized leaders like Gandhi to intensify the non-cooperation movement.
- Critics argue that while it accelerated nationalist sentiment, independence was already inevitable due to global shifts after World War I.

3. Moral Responsibility and Apology:

- Debate continues over whether Britain owes a **formal apology**. While some British leaders have expressed regret, no official apology has been issued, raising questions about historical accountability.
- Supporters of an apology argue it would acknowledge colonial violence; opponents claim it risks oversimplifying complex imperial history.

4. Historiographical Perspectives:

- **Colonial Narratives:** Early British accounts often justified the massacre as necessary to restore order.
 - **Postcolonial Scholarship:** Modern historians emphasize the massacre as a **spectacle of colonial violence**, intended to instill fear and maintain imperial dominance.
 - **Global Context:** The event coincided with unrest in Ireland and Egypt, suggesting Britain was struggling to maintain control across its empire.
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Regular Debate on Historical Issues--- Jallianwala Bagh (1919): 18-12.2025

Guests: DR.T. Madanna, DR.R. Roshan, DR.K. Mallikarjun, G. Nageswara Rao and DR. M. Umar



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Celebration's festivals on National leaders:

National leaders in India are honoured through major national festivals like Republic Day, Independence Day, and Gandhi Jayanti, as well as special commemorations for figures such as Sardar Patel, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and Birsa Munda. These celebrations blend patriotic ceremonies, cultural programs, and public events that highlight their contributions to the nation.

Major National Festivals Honouring Leaders

- Republic Day (26 January)
- Marks the adoption of the Constitution in 1950.
- Celebrated with a grand parade in New Delhi showcasing India's military strength and cultural diversity.
- Honors leaders like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who played a key role in drafting the Constitution.

Independence Day (15 August)

- Commemorates India's freedom from British rule in 1947.
- The Prime Minister hoists the national flag at the Red Fort, paying tribute to freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose.

Gandhi Jayanti (2 October)

- Celebrates the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Observed with prayer meetings, cleanliness drives, and events promoting non-violence and truth.

Special Commemorations for Leaders

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- Honoured on National Unity Day (31 October).
- Events include “Run for Unity” marathons and tributes at the Statue of Unity.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Remembered through cultural programs, poetry recitations, and memorial events highlighting his role as Prime Minister and poet-politician.

Birsa Munda

- Tribal leader celebrated for his role in resisting colonial rule.
- His birth anniversary (15 November) is observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, with cultural events and tributes to tribal heritage.

Major National Festivals Honouring Leaders:

Festival/Day	Date	Leader Honoured	Key Celebrations
➤ Republic Day	26 January	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (architect of the Constitution)	Grand parade in New Delhi, showcasing military strength and cultural diversity.
➤ Independence Day	15 August	Jawaharlal Nehru (first Prime Minister) & freedom fighters	Flag hoisting at Red Fort, PM’s speech, cultural programs nationwide.
➤ Gandhi Jayanti	2 October	Mahatma Gandhi	Prayer meetings, cleanliness drives, tributes at Raj Ghat.
➤ Ambedkar Jayanti	14 April	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar	Seminars, rallies, and tributes to his role in social justice and drafting the Constitution.
➤ Sardar Patel Jayanti (National Unity Day)	31 October	Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	“Run for Unity” events, tributes at Statue of Unity in Gujarat.

Festival/Day	Date	Leader Honoured	Key Celebrations
➤ Children’s Day	14 November	Jawaharlal Nehru	School programs, cultural events celebrating Nehru’s love for children.
➤ Teachers’ Day	5 September	Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan	School and college events honoring teachers, inspired by Radhakrishnan’s legacy.

How These Festivals Are Celebrated:

- ❖ **Public Holidays & Parades:** Republic Day, Independence Day, and Gandhi Jayanti are gazetted holidays with nationwide observances.
- ❖ **Educational Programs:** Schools and colleges organize debates, plays, and essay competitions to spread awareness of leaders’ contributions.
- ❖ **Cultural Activities:** Folk dances, patriotic songs, and exhibitions highlight India’s unity and diversity.
- ❖ **Tributes & Memorials:** Leaders are remembered at their memorial sites (e.g., Raj Ghat for Gandhi, Red Fort for Nehru’s Independence Day speech).

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Government College For Men, Kurnool
(A Constituent College of Cluster University)
Date:

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE FOR MEN - KURNOOL
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
January - 30th

Principal & Programme Officer
NSS Unit - I
Government College for Men







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