

3. ***Provide an account of the contributions of Ram Manohar Lohia during the Indian freedom struggle and in post-independence India. (150 words) 10***

Approach:

- Introduce by giving a brief account of Ram Manohar Lohiaji.
- Bring out the contributions made by him during the Indian freedom struggle.
- List his contributions in post-independence India.
- Conclude accordingly.

Answer:

Ram Manohar Lohia was a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement. The following are his contributions to the Indian freedom struggle and in post-independence India:

Contributions to India's independence struggle:

- He was **one of the founders of the Congress Socialist Party in 1934** and **editor of its mouthpiece 'Congress Socialist'**.
- In 1936, he was selected by Jawaharlal Nehru as **the Secretary of the Foreign Department of the All India Congress Committee**, which was the highest body of the Congress Party.
- He **opposed Indian participation on the side of Great Britain in World War II** and was arrested for anti-British remarks in 1939 and 1940.
- He was at the forefront of the **Quit India Movement in 1942** and set up underground radio stations called, Congress Radio, at Bombay and Calcutta to disseminate the much needed information to the masses to sustain a leaderless movement. He was **jailed again in 1944-46** for resistance activities.
- He **opposed the partition of the country in 1947**. However, after partition, he was keen to **promote the idea of a confederation of India and Pakistan**.

Contributions to post-independent India:

- After independence, he was **against Portugal's continuing sovereignty over Goa**. For this, he inspired and strengthened the fight against colonial rule.
- He served as the General Secretary **of the Praja Socialist Party**, which was founded in 1952, but conflicts within the party led to his resignation in 1955. Later that year, he established a **new Socialist Party**, for which he became the Chairman as well as the **editor of its journal, Mankind**.
 - He advocated for various socio-political reforms in his capacity as the party leader, including the abolition of the caste system, the adoption of Hindi as India's national language, and stronger protection of civil liberties.
- He advocated five independent revolutions for five inequalities - **gender, economic status, race, caste and colonial rule based inequalities**. Later, he added two more revolutions against violence through satyagraha and against unjust public encroachment in the private sphere and called them '**Sapta-Kranti**' and advocated them as '**real Socialism**'.
- With regard to the economic strategy to be adopted after independence, he **suggested the use of labour-intensive technology as against capital-intensive technology and public ownership of large-scale industries**.
- He advocated **devolution of politico-administrative power** and supported **Panchayati Raj**.
- As an internationalist, he **advocated pacifism, opposed nuclear weapons, protested against racial inequality, and dreamt of a world without visas and passports**, thereby in effect recommending the concept of '**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**'.

The thoughts and ideas of Ram Manohar Lohiaji still reverberate in the political and intellectual landscape of India and find practical application in economy, religion, society, and politics.