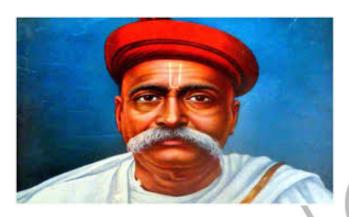


Rapid Fire Current Affairs

Bal Gangadhar Tilak Birth Anniversary



Recently, the Prime Minister of India has paid tributes to **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** on his Jayanti on 23rd July,2023.

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak, born on 23rd July 1856, was a freedom fighter, lawyer, and educationist known as Lokmanya Tilak.
- Founder of the **Deccan Education Society** in 1884, he also established the **Fergusson College** in **1885**.
- Tilak emphasized the need for self-rule or swarajya and popularized the slogan "Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it!"
- Tilak joined the <u>Indian National Congress</u> in 1890 and played a significant role in the **Surat** Split in 1907, advocating complete independence or swarajya.
- He propagated the **Swadeshi and Boycott Movement** to promote Indian self-reliance.
- Tilak founded the **All-India Home Rule League** in April 1916, aiming for Hindu-Muslim unity through the Lucknow Pact in 1916.
- Known for his newspapers Kesari (Marathi) and Mahratta (English) and authored books like Gita Rhasya and Arctic Home of the Vedas.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak passed away on 1st August 1920, leaving behind a significant contribution to India's freedom movement.

Read more: Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Pratihara Ruler Mihir Bhoja



A controversy surrounding the unveiling of a statue of **Samrat Mihir Bhoj**, a 9th-century ruler, in Kaithal district, Haryana, has led to a significant boycott by the Rajput community.

- Mihir Bhoja or Bhoja I (836 885 CE) is the greatest ruler of the Pratihara Dynasty.
- Mihir Bhoj had made Kannauj his capital. He was a devotee of Vishnu, so in honor of Vishnu, he had assumed titles like Varaha and Prabhas.
- The achievements of Mihir Bhoj have been described in his Gwalior Prashasti inscription.

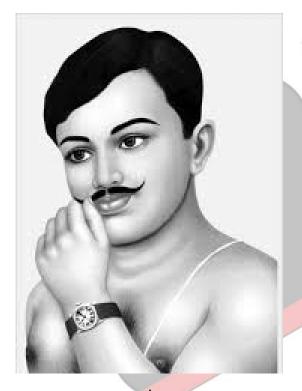
Read more: Pratihara Ruler Mihira Bhoj

The Cannabis Medicine Project

- Government of India recently announced the Cannabis Medicine Project. This research project, undertaken by CSIR-IIIM Jammu, is the first of its kind in India, and it represents a collaboration between the Indian government and a Canadian firm.
 - It aims to explore the medicinal potential of **cannabis**, benefiting patients with neuropathies, cancer, **and** epilepsy.
- Besides the therapeutic implications, the project will also boost investment in Jammu and Kashmir, creating a positive impact on the region's economy.

Read More: Neuropathies, Cancer, Epilepsy

Chandra Shekhar Azad





- On July 23rd, we commemorate the birth anniversary of <u>Chandra Shekhar Azad</u>, an iconic and fearless freedom fighter of India.
- Born in **Bhabhra village (now in Alirajpur District of Madhya Pradesh)** in 1906, Azad joined **Mahatma Gandhi's** <u>non-cooperation movement</u> at a young age of 15 and adopted the name "**Azad**" as a symbol of his defiance against British rule.
- He became a prominent member of the <u>Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)</u>,
 a revolutionary group dedicated to armed struggle against the colonial government.
 - Azad was also involved in daring acts of resistance, including the **Kakori train robbery.**
- Known for his organizational skills and mastery of **disguise**, he pledged to never be captured alive. Tragically, he lost his life on **February 27**, **1931**, in a fierce gunfight with the police.

Read More: Chandra Shekhar Azad, Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Non-cooperation

PDF Refernece URL: https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/rapid-fire-current-affairs-176

