



Rani Durgavati

Why in News?

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh government launched a six-day rally called the **Rani Durgavati Gaurav Yatra** to commemorate the life and **legacy of the 16th-century queen**, Rani Durgavati, who fought against the Mughals.

Who was Rani Durgavati?

▪ About:

- Rani Durgavati, born in 1524 in **Mahoba's Chandela dynasty** (present-day Uttar Pradesh, near the border with Madhya Pradesh), was a symbol of **India's self-determination**.
 - Chandelas were known for building the famous **Khajuraho temples** in the 11th century.
- She married Dalpat Shah, the son of Gond King Sangram Shah, and ruled the kingdom of **Garha-Katanga** after the death of her husband in 1550 with great vigor and courage.
 - The Kingdom of Garha-Katanga included the regions of **Narmada Valley and parts of Northern Madhya Pradesh**.
 - Gond tribe **is a prominent tribe in central India** known for their rich cultural heritage and resilience.
- As per the government's documentation, **the queen and her generals managed the affairs of the kingdom for 16 years**.



▪ **The Mughal Attack on Garha-Katanga:**

- Rani Durgavati, the brave queen of Garha-Katanga, opposed the **Mughal Empire's expansion** in the mid-16th century.
- Rani Durgavati displayed strong leadership while fighting against **Akbar's commander Asaf Khan** and the neighboring Malwa Sultan Baz Bahadur. She initially triumphed in the battle against Asaf Khan's attack on her kingdom.
- However, the Mughals regrouped and overwhelmed her forces. Rather than surrendering, Rani Durgavati chose to sacrifice her life.

▪ **Legacy and Recognition:**

- Revered as a patriotic ruler who symbolized **India's self-determination**.
- Described as a combination of **beauty, grace, courage, and bravery** by Abul Fazl, the court historian of Akbar.
- Remembered for her sacrifices and as a defender of her culture.

Source: IE

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