



## PERSONALITY IN NEWS: RANI DURGA VATI

The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved to build a memorial and garden for Rani Durgavati on Madan Mahal Hill in Jabalpur.

### About Rani Durgavati

Rani Durgavati was an influential **queen of Gondwana from 1550 to 1564**. She was a **member of the Chandela Rajput** family and married King Dalpat Shah, the son of King Sangram Shah of Gondwana, this marriage united the Chandelas of Mahoba and the Rajgonds of Garha-Mandla and strengthened their kingdoms.

### Becomes a Ruler

1. When King Dalpat Shah died in 1550, Rani Durgavati took over the administration, **working with Diwan Adhar Kayastha and Minister Man Thakur to manage the kingdom effectively.**
2. **She focused on promoting peace, trade, and goodwill in Gondwana.** To improve the kingdom's defense, she **moved the capital from Singorgarh Fort to the strategically located Chauragarh Fort in the Satpura range.**





## Conflict with Mughal

1. In 1562, Akbar, the Mughal Empire, after defeating Baz Bahadur, the ruler of Malwa, threatened Gondwana; **Mughal army general Khwaja Abdul Majid Asaf Khan desired to conquer Rani Durgavati's kingdom.**
2. When Rani Durgavati learned about the invasion, she prepared to defend her kingdom. **Advisors alerted her about the Mughal strength, but she believed that it was better to fight than to surrender.**
3. She bravely fought and pushed back the Mughal forces three times, but continuous battle drained her resources and the Mughal force dominated her troops.
4. **Facing defeat, Rani Durgavati chose to take her own life rather than be captured.** She killed herself on June 24, 1564, a day now remembered as "Balidan Diwas" or Martyrdom Day.

## Her Legacy

1. In 1983, Madhya Pradesh renamed Jabalpur University as Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya in her honour.
2. In 1988, the Government of India issued a postal stamp to commemorate her sacrifice.
3. In 2018, the Indian Coast Guard launched the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Rani Durgavati, an inshore patrol vessel.