



## Rapid Fire Current Affairs

### Bal Gangadhar Tilak Birth Anniversary

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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 [Indian National Congress](#) 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](#)

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**Pratihara Ruler Mihir Bhoja**



A controversy surrounding the unveiling of a statue of **Samrat Mihir Bhoj**, a 9<sup>th</sup>-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](#)

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## 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](#)

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## Chandra Shekhar Azad



- On **July 23<sup>rd</sup>**, we commemorate the birth anniversary of **Chandra Shekhar Azad**, 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 [non-cooperation movement](#)** 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 **[Hindustan Socialist Republican Association \(HSRA\)](#)**, 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 movement](#)

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