

Who was Rani Durgavati?

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About Rani Durgavati:

- Rani Durgavati (1524-2024) was the **descendant** of the famous **Chandela dynasty** of Mahoba and the **queen of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga**.
 - She was born on 5th October 1524 A.D. in the family of famous Chandel emperor Keerat Rai.
 - **The Chandel Dynasty is famous** in Indian history for the valiant **king Vidyadhar**, who **repulsed the attacks of Mehmood Gaznavi**.
 - His **love for sculptures** is shown in the world **famed temples of Khajuraho and Kalanjar Fort**.
 - Rani **Durgavati** was **born in Kalinjar** (Banda, U.P.), one of the most important forts of medieval India.
 - In 1542, she was **married to Dalpatshah**, the eldest **son of King Sangramshah of the Gond Dynasty**. Chandel and Gond dynasties got **closer** as a consequence of this marriage.
 - She **gave birth to a son** in 1545 A.D. who was **named Vir Narayan**.
 - **Dalpatshah died** in about 1550 A.D. **As Vir Narayan was too young** at that time, **Durgavati took the reins of the Gond kingdom** in her hands.
 - **Two ministers, Adhar Kayastha and Man Thakur, helped the Rani** in looking after the administration successfully and effectively.
 - Rani **moved her capital to Chauragarh** in place of Singaurgarh. It was a fort of strategic importance situated on the Satpura hill range.
 - It is said that **trade flourished** during this period. **People were prosperous**.
 - Like her husband's predecessors, she **extended her territory** and accomplished the **political unification of Gondwana**, also **called Garha-Katanga**, with courage, generosity, and tact.
 - She distinguished **herself as a warrior** and **fought with unvarying success against BazBahadur, the Sultan of Malwa**.
 - In the year 1562, Akbar vanquished the Malwa ruler Baj Bahadur and annexed the Malwa with Mughal dominion. Consequently, the state boundary of Rani touched the Mughal kingdom.
 - She is chiefly **remembered for defending Gondwana against the Mughal Empire**. She took on the might of the Mughal Empire with great courage and leadership.
 - Though she **finally faced defeat at the hands of the Mughal army**, she is remembered as a warrior in blood and spirit.
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Q1: What is the Gond Dynasty?

The Gond dynasty arose in the Gondwana region of central India around the 13th century CE. Their influence spread from eastern Madhya Pradesh to western Odisha and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. They governed four major kingdoms: Garha-Mandla, Deogarh, Chanda, and Kherla. The Gond rulers held power between the 16th and 18th centuries in present-day Madhya Pradesh.

Source: [Madhya Pradesh Cabinet gives nod to Rs 100 crore memorial for Rani Durgavati in Jabalpu](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/rani-durgavati/>

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