

#MEDIA

World Press Freedom Day

The Theme of World Press Freedom Day 2024 is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the environmental crisis"



World Press Freedom Day is observed on 3 May every year. This day is dedicated to the fundamental principles of press freedom and to defend the media from attacks on their independence. It also serves as a reminder that it cannot be easily become a 'journalist.'

The theme of World Press Freedom Day 2024 is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the environmental crisis." The theme World Press Freedom Day changes every year and now let's have a look at the history, significance, theme, and ways to observe World Press Freedom Day 2024.

The media is responsible for bringing the truth to the public. However, they often face challenges in performing their duties, such as threats, violence and censorship. It is important for the government and the public to understand and create a conducive environment for the press and the journalists to perform their duties in the most righteous way possible. As we gear up to celebrate the special day, here are a few things that we should keep in mind.

History

After the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference in 1991, the United Nations General Assembly in 1993 established *Press Freedom Day* to be observed every year on May 3. The first Press Freedom Day was observed in 1994. The day is established with the intention of ensuring freedom of press and also remembering and honouring the journalists, who lost their lives in the line of duty. Over the years, the day has become a platform to celebrate journalistic achievements, remember those who lost their lives in the pursuit of truth, and discuss media challenges. This



Famous Gazak of Bharatpur.



Preparation of Gazak.

It was an embarrassing moment, as I had prefaced our visit with fulsome praise for the visual delight that awaited us. It turned out to be a horrendous sight. Setting aside my original intention of highlighting the plus points of our ancestral property, since none existed any more, I hesitatingly asked the owner's son about the confectioners.

His grim face broke into a smile and he said that the shops were in existence and churning out delightful stuff as usual. This was a relief, and the next obvious query was about *Madan gazakwala*. His face reverted to the grim aspect and, in fact, became grimmer. "Bhajee! He is a past magician, who has lost his '*hunar*' (expertise)." I was totally puzzled and perplexed.

MADAN-GAZAKWALA

#TASTY-LESS

Late Rajendra Shekhar
belong to Bharatpur, a district of Rajasthan bordering UP. Mathura, a town of UP, is just about 50 kilometres away. Bharatpurians feel quite at home in towns of UP, bordering Bharatpur, because of striking similarities in ways of living and culture.

The significance of World Press Freedom Day is to highlight the importance of press freedom in a society. It is to ensure that the public has access to information and that the government respects the freedom of expression of the people. It is also a reminder that the government has a responsibility to create a conducive environment for the development and growth of the media sector and to ensure the safety and security of journalists.

How To Celebrate
Celebrating World Press Freedom Day can take many forms, each highlighting the importance of a free press in different ways. Here are some suggestions inspired by various ideas:

- **Read and Share Quality Journalism:** Pick articles from reputable sources and share them on your social media. It's a simple way to appreciate and spread high-quality reporting.

- **Write to Your Representatives:** Voice your support for press freedom legislation. Letting leaders know that you care about journalism's role in democracy can lead to positive change.

- **Educate Yourself on Media Literacy:** Learn how to identify reliable sources and check facts. Being well-informed helps you navigate the vast amount of information online.

- **Honor Journalists' Work:** Take a moment to remember reporters who have been killed or lost their lives in the line of duty. Reflecting on their sacrifices underlines the day's significance.

The *Raja* was delighted and naturally keen that Pandit Girdhari Lal be ensconced within the *Mahal* (Palace) complex but Panditji politely declined. He wanted to live in an atmosphere that precluded the *Raja* breathing down his neck. The ruler had no option but to grudgingly accept Panditji's terms.

Pandit Girdhari Lal, my great grandfather, was the founder of our family. His ancestral home was at Hardiwar, a focal point for ritualistic rites. The *Raja* of Bharatpur, a firm believer, was a regular visitor to the holy city.

On his trips, he made it a point to attend the religious discourses of Pandit Girdhari Lal and came back totally spellbound by Panditji's profound erudition and eloquence. Eventually, he sat aside his hesitation and decided to approach Panditji with a proposal. Would he be kind enough to become the *Raj Purohit* of Bharatpur and side by side, initiate the *Raja*'s children in Hindu rites and rituals? After initial reluctance and a lot of deliberation, Panditji accepted the proposal.

He was so good that his name and fame had spread far and wide. Actually that's a bit of an exaggeration considering that Mathura or Agra could hardly qualify to be termed as 'far and wide' from Bharatpur.

Anyways, considering that the connoisseurs of *gazak* came all the way from Mathura/Agra to purchase his *gazak*, it was like the 'mountain going to Muhammad.' And even for that, they had

come very early and stand in the queue, while hoping that *Madan* would have enough left after the regular local customers had been catered to.

Presuming that I have roused the reader's curiosity and tickled his taste-buds sufficiently enough, I'll proceed to give relevant details.

A modern version of *Dahiwalli Gali* My story dates to 1930 minus the *Fashionistas* and Resort.

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