# Pariksha Saathi — Madhya Pradesh GK Notes

1 topics • 11 lessons • updated 28 October 2026

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The Madhya Pradesh GK topics in the syllabus of: MP Police Constable, MPPSC Prelims. Each topic ends with a link to its free practice questions; full mock tests are free in the Pariksha Saathi app and on the website.

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Madhya Pradesh General Knowledge

**Revision sheet**

## Madhya Pradesh General Knowledge

### Madhya Pradesh General Knowledge

**What the exam asks:** MPPSC Prelims and MP Police Constable papers draw 10 to 20 questions from state GK. The favourites are formation of the state, ancient and medieval dynasties with their capitals and monuments, rivers and dams, national parks, minerals, state symbols, folk arts, literary figures and the location of institutions. Most questions are one-line recall, so the trick is to learn each fact together with its district or river.

**Ancient and medieval history:** Bhimbetka rock shelters in Raisen district carry Stone Age paintings. Ujjain (Ujjayini) was the capital of the Avanti Mahajanapada. Ashoka built the Great Stupa at Sanchi, and the Heliodorus pillar at Besnagar near Vidisha was raised by a Greek envoy in honour of Vasudeva. The Udayagiri caves near Vidisha, with the Varaha panel, belong to the Gupta age. The Chandelas built Khajuraho, the Paramaras ruled Malwa from Dhar, where Raja Bhoj patronised learning and began the giant Bhojeshwar temple at Bhojpur, and the Kalachuris ruled from Tripuri near Jabalpur. Dilawar Khan Ghuri founded the Malwa Sultanate in 1401; Hoshang Shah shifted the capital to Mandu, where Ghiyasuddin Khilji built the Jahaz Mahal and Baz Bahadur and Rupmati became legend. Rani Durgavati of the Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga died fighting Akbar's general Asaf Khan in 1564. Chhatrasal carved out Bundelkhand and gave a share to Peshwa Bajirao I. Ahilyabai Holkar ruled from Maheshwar and the Scindias, founded by Ranoji, ruled Gwalior.

1857 and the modern state: Rani Lakshmibai fell near Gwalior in June 1858 and Tantya Tope was hanged at Shivpuri in April 1859. Gond rulers Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah were executed at Jabalpur in 1857, and Tantya Bhil of Nimar was hanged in 1889. Chandrashekhar Azad was born at Bhabra, now in Alirajpur district, and Dr B R Ambedkar at Mhow. Madhya Pradesh was formed on 1 November 1956 by merging Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal State and the Hindi parts of the old Central Provinces; Ravishankar Shukla was the first Chief Minister and Bhopal became the capital. Chhattisgarh was separated on 1 November 2000. The Bhopal gas tragedy of 2 to 3 December 1984 involved methyl isocyanate from the Union Carbide plant.

**Geography:** Madhya Pradesh is the heart of India, touching Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. The Tropic of Cancer crosses districts such as Ratlam, Ujjain, Bhopal, Vidisha, Sagar, Jabalpur and Shahdol. Regions are the Malwa plateau with black regur soil, Bundelkhand, Baghelkhand (Rewa, Satna, Sidhi), Nimar and the Vindhya and Satpura ranges. Dhupgarh near Pachmarhi, 1350 metres, is the highest point. The Narmada rises at Amarkantak and flows west through a rift valley to the Gulf of Khambhat; the Tapti rises at Multai and also flows west, while the Son rises near Amarkantak and flows to the Ganga. The Chambal rises at Janapav near Mhow, the Shipra passes Ujjain, the Betwa flows past Orchha and the Ken through Panna. Dams to remember: Gandhi Sagar on the Chambal, Bargi, Indira Sagar and Omkareshwar on the Narmada, Tawa on the Tawa, Bansagar on the Son. The Marble Rocks and Dhuandhar falls are at Bhedaghat near Jabalpur.

**Forests and wildlife:** the state has the largest forest area in the country and earned the title tiger state. Kanha (hard-ground barasingha), Bandhavgarh in Umaria, Pench (Jungle Book country), Panna on the Ken, Satpura inside the Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve, Madhav at Shivpuri, Sanjay in Sidhi, Van Vihar in Bhopal and Kuno in Sheopur are the main national parks. The National Chambal Sanctuary protects the gharial. The Bhoj wetland at Bhopal was the state's first Ramsar site in 2002.

**Economy:** Panna is India's only diamond-mining district, Malanjkhand in Balaghat is a major copper mine (Hindustan Copper), Balaghat gives manganese, Singrauli gives coal and power, Katni gives bauxite and limestone. The state is the soya state, a leading pulses producer and famous for Sharbati wheat from Sehore. Pithampur in Dhar is the auto hub, BHEL is at Bhopal, NEPA newsprint at Nepanagar, the Security Paper Mill at Narmadapuram (formerly Hoshangabad), the Bank Note Press at Dewas and ordnance factories at Jabalpur. Chanderi (Ashoknagar), Maheshwari (Khargone) and Bagh prints (Dhar) are GI handicrafts. Rewa hosts the 750 MW ultra mega solar park.

**Polity and culture:** the Vidhan Sabha has 230 seats and there is no Vidhan Parishad; 29 Lok Sabha and 11 Rajya Sabha members; High Court at Jabalpur with benches at Indore and Gwalior. Madhya Pradesh has the largest tribal population of any state, with Bhils, Gonds, Baigas, Korkus and Saharias. State symbols: barasingha, dudhraj (paradise flycatcher), banyan and palash (flower; some lists give the Madonna lily). Folk dances include Rai and Badhai of Bundelkhand, Matki and Phulpati of Malwa and Karma of the Gonds and Baigas. Tansen is remembered at Gwalior, Alauddin Khan founded the Maihar gharana, Lata Mangeshkar was born at Indore and Kishore Kumar at Khandwa. Festivals: Simhastha at Ujjain, Kalidas Samaroh at Ujjain, Khajuraho dance festival, Lokrang at Bhopal and the Bhil Bhagoria haat. Writers: Makhanlal Chaturvedi (Ek Bharatiya Atma), Subhadra Kumari Chauhan and Harishankar Parsai of Jabalpur, Bhavani Prasad Mishra. State awards: Tansen Samman for music, Kalidas Samman for the arts, Kabir Samman for poetry, Maithili Sharan Gupt Samman for Hindi literature.

**Traps:** Bhilai steel plant is in Chhattisgarh, not Madhya Pradesh. Chitrakoot is shared with Uttar Pradesh. Mandu is not a UNESCO site; Khajuraho, Sanchi and Bhimbetka are. The Son does not flow west like the Narmada and Tapti. Indore, the largest city, is not the capital and is not crossed by the Tropic of Cancer. Mahakaleshwar and Omkareshwar are the state's only two jyotirlingas.

### Examples

- Formation date to lock in: 1 November 1956 (state formed), 1 November 2000 (Chhattisgarh carved out). Same date, 44 years apart.
- Three UNESCO World Heritage Sites (as of 2026), all with letters S, K, B: Sanchi (Buddhist stupa), Khajuraho (Chandela temples), Bhimbetka (rock shelters).
- West-flowing rivers of MP are Narmada and Tapti, both in rift valleys between Vindhya and Satpura. Son rises at the same Amarkantak but flows north-east to the Ganga.
- Dam to river: Gandhi Sagar = Chambal, Bargi and Indira Sagar = Narmada, Bansagar = Son, Tawa = Tawa, Rajghat = Betwa.
- Highest peak Dhupgarh (1350 m) is in the Satpura range at Pachmarhi, not at Amarkantak in the Maikal hills.
- Mineral map: Panna = diamond, Malanjkhand (Balaghat) = copper, Balaghat = manganese, Singrauli = coal, Katni = bauxite and limestone.
- Capitals of dynasties: Paramara = Dhar, Kalachuri = Tripuri (Jabalpur), Chandela = Khajuraho region, Malwa Sultanate = Mandu, Holkar = Indore and Maheshwar, Scindia = Gwalior, Bundela = Orchha.
- 1857 deaths and places: Rani Lakshmibai near Gwalior (June 1858), Tantya Tope hanged at Shivpuri (April 1859), Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah executed at Jabalpur (1857).
- Birthplaces: Lata Mangeshkar = Indore, Kishore Kumar = Khandwa, Chandrashekhar Azad = Bhabra, Dr Ambedkar = Mhow, Atal Bihari Vajpayee = Gwalior, Kailash Satyarthi = Vidisha.
- Numbers: Vidhan Sabha 230, Lok Sabha 29, Rajya Sabha 11, no Vidhan Parishad, High Court at Jabalpur with Indore and Gwalior benches.
- Awards: Tansen Samman = classical music, Kalidas Samman = arts, Kabir Samman = poetry, Maithili Sharan Gupt Samman = Hindi literature.

- Trap pair: Bhilai steel plant is in Chhattisgarh; the MP industrial names are BHEL Bhopal, Pithampur auto hub, NEPA Nepanagar and ordnance factories Jabalpur.

> **Quick revision:** MP formed 1 Nov 1956, first CM Ravishankar Shukla, Chhattisgarh separated 1 Nov 2000; Vidhan Sabha 230, Lok Sabha 29, Rajya Sabha 11, High Court Jabalpur (benches Indore, Gwalior); Narmada rises at Amarkantak and flows west, Tapti at Multai; highest peak Dhupgarh (Satpura); UNESCO: Khajuraho, Sanchi, Bhimbetka; Panna diamonds, Malanjkhand copper, Singrauli coal; largest forest area and tribal population (Bhil largest); state animal barasingha, bird dudhraj, tree banyan, flower lily; jyotirlingas Mahakaleshwar and Omkareshwar; Bhopal gas tragedy 1984 (methyl isocyanate).

### Ancient Madhya Pradesh: Bhimbetka, Mahajanapadas, Mauryas and Guptas

**Prehistoric Madhya Pradesh:** Human history in the state begins in the Stone Age. The Bhimbetka rock shelters in Raisen district, about 45 km south-east of Bhopal in the Vindhyan hills, were identified by the archaeologist V. S. Wakankar in 1957. Hundreds of sandstone shelters carry paintings in red and white mineral colours showing hunting, dancing and animals such as bison, tigers and elephants; the oldest layers go back to the Mesolithic age. Its name is popularly read as Bhim-baithka, the seat of Bhima, and it became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003. At Hathnora in the Narmada valley (Sehore district), Arun Sonakia of the Geological Survey of India found a fossil human skull in 1982, known as Narmada Man and regarded as the oldest human fossil found in India. Adamgarh near Narmadapuram has Stone Age tools and paintings, and Chalcolithic farming villages have been excavated at Navdatoli near Maheshwar and at Kayatha near Ujjain.

**Avanti and Chedi:** In the sixth century BCE two of the sixteen Mahajanapadas named in Buddhist texts lay in present Madhya Pradesh. Avanti, in western Malwa, had its capital at Ujjayini (Ujjain) on the Shipra, with Mahishmati, usually identified with Maheshwar on the Narmada, as its southern centre. Its king Chanda Pradyota was a contemporary of the Buddha and a rival of Magadha, and Avanti was finally absorbed into Magadha under the Shishunaga dynasty. Chedi lay in the Bundelkhand region with its capital at Shuktimati; in the Mahabharata Shishupala is the king of Chedi. Ujjain stood on the trade route from the Ganga plain to the western ports, which kept it wealthy for over two thousand years.

**Mauryas and Ashoka in Malwa:** Under the Mauryas, Ujjain was the headquarters of the western province of Avanti. Ashoka served as viceroy at Ujjain in the reign of his father Bindusara, and the Sri Lankan chronicles say he married Devi, a merchant's daughter from Vidisha, the mother of Mahendra and Sanghamitra. Ashokan inscriptions in the state include minor rock edicts at Rupnath (Katni district), at Gujarra (Datia district), one of the few edicts that name the king as Ashoka, and at Saru Maru (Sehore district), as well as a pillar edict at Sanchi warning monks against splitting the Sangha. Ashoka built the first stupa at Sanchi, in brick, in the third century BCE.

**Shungas, Sanchi and Vidisha:** After Pushyamitra Shunga overthrew the last Maurya king Brihadratha around 185 BCE, Vidisha (ancient Besnagar, on the Betwa) became a major Shunga centre; his son Agnimitra governed from there and is the hero of Kalidasa's play Malavikagnimitram. In the Shunga period the Sanchi stupa was enlarged and cased in stone, and the railings of the Bharhut stupa in Satna district were carved with Jataka stories; Alexander Cunningham found them in 1873 and they are now in the Indian Museum, Kolkata. In the late second century BCE Heliodorus, the Greek envoy of the Indo-Greek king Antialcidas of Taxila to king Bhagabhadra, set up a Garuda pillar at Besnagar on which he calls himself a Bhagavata, a devotee of Vasudeva; local people call it Khamba Baba.

**Satavahanas and Shakas:** The Satavahanas of the Deccan extended their power into eastern Malwa in the first century BCE. The four carved toranas (gateways) of the Great Stupa at Sanchi belong to this phase: an inscription on the southern gateway records a gift by Ananda, foreman of the artisans of king Satakarni, and another says that the ivory workers of Vidisha carved part of it. Western Malwa with Ujjain passed to the Shaka rulers known as the Western Kshatrapas; the greatest of them, Rudradaman I, ruled from Ujjain and is known from his Junagadh inscription of 150 CE.

**The Gupta age:** Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya) ended Shaka rule around the end of the fourth century CE and made Ujjain a second capital. The Udayagiri caves near Vidisha, about twenty rock-cut shrines, date from his reign: one carries an inscription of 401 CE and another the great Varaha panel showing Vishnu as a boar lifting the earth

goddess. At Eran (ancient Airikina) on the Bina river in Sagar district there is an inscription of Samudragupta, and a pillar inscription of 510 CE from the time of Bhanugupta records that the wife of his general Goparaja burnt herself on his pyre, the earliest inscriptional evidence of sati. Early Gupta temples survive at Tigawa (Katni district), Sanchi (Temple 17), Nachna (Panna) and Bhumara (Satna), and the Bagh caves in Dhar district have paintings often compared with Ajanta.

**Kalidasa and Ujjain:** Tradition places Kalidasa among the nine gems (navaratna) of king Vikramaditya's court, usually identified with Chandragupta II. His Meghaduta sends the cloud messenger over Ujjayini and the Mahakal temple, and Malavikagnimitram is set at Vidisha; his other works are Abhijnanashakuntalam, Vikramorvashiyam, Raghuvamsha, Kumarasambhava and Ritusamhara. The Vikram Samvat era, which begins in 57 BCE, is linked by tradition to Vikramaditya of Ujjain. Ujjain was the prime meridian of ancient Indian astronomy; Varahamihira, author of the Brihat Samhita and Pancha Siddhantika, worked here, and Brahmagupta is associated with its observatory. The Kalidas Samaroh is held at Ujjain every year.

**Examples**

- Bhimbetka (Raisen district): Stone Age painted rock shelters identified by V. S. Wakankar in 1957; UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2003.
- Narmada Man: fossil human skull found by Arun Sonakia at Hathnora, Sehore district, in 1982, regarded as the oldest human fossil found in India.
- Mahajanapadas in MP: Avanti (capital Ujjayini, southern centre Mahishmati) and Chedi (capital Shuktimati, Bundelkhand); Avanti's king Chanda Pradyota was the Buddha's contemporary.
- Ashoka was viceroy at Ujjain and married Devi of Vidisha; his edicts are at Rupnath (Katni), Gujarra (Datia, names him as Ashoka), Saru Maru (Sehore) and on the Sanchi pillar.
- Sanchi Great Stupa in three phases: Ashoka's brick stupa (Maurya), stone casing and enlargement (Shunga), four carved toranas (Satavahana).
- Heliodorus pillar (Khamba Baba), Besnagar near Vidisha: set up in the late second century BCE by the envoy of Antialcidas, who called himself a Bhagavata, a devotee of Vasudeva.
- Bharhut stupa (Satna): Shunga-period railings with Jataka stories, found by Cunningham in 1873, now in the Indian Museum, Kolkata.
- Udayagiri caves near Vidisha: Gupta rock-cut shrines of Chandragupta II's time with the Varaha panel and an inscription of 401 CE.
- Eran (Sagar district), on the Bina: the pillar inscription of 510 CE (Bhanugupta's time) is the earliest inscriptional record of sati.
- Ujjain: zero (prime) meridian of ancient Indian astronomy, workplace of Varahamihira, setting of Kalidasa's Meghaduta; the Vikram Samvat starts in 57 BCE.

> **Quick revision:** Bhimbetka (Raisen) rock shelters found by Wakankar 1957, UNESCO 2003; Narmada Man skull at Hathnora (Sehore) 1982; Mahajanapadas Avanti (Ujjayini, Mahishmati) and Chedi (Shuktimati); Ashoka viceroy at Ujjain, edicts at Rupnath, Gujarra, Saru Maru, Sanchi; Shungas at Vidisha, Bharhut railings, Heliodorus pillar (late second century BCE); Satavahana toranas at Sanchi; Chandragupta II took Ujjain, Udayagiri Varaha panel (401 CE); Eran sati record 510 CE; Kalidasa, Varahamihira and Ujjain.

### Medieval Madhya Pradesh: Parmaras, Chandelas, Malwa Sultans, Gonds and Marathas

**Regional kingdoms:** After the Guptas, central India was divided among regional dynasties; the Gurjara-Pratiharas held Gwalior in the ninth century, and the Teli ka Mandir in its fort is assigned to the Pratihara age. From the tenth century the Parmaras of Malwa, the Chandelas of Bundelkhand and the Kalachuris around Jabalpur dominated, until the Turkish invasions weakened them.

**Parmaras and Raja Bhoj:** The Parmaras ruled Malwa first from Ujjain and later from Dhar (Dhara Nagari). The poet-king Vakpati Munja was killed by the Chalukya king Tailapa II. His nephew Raja Bhoj (about 1010-1055) is the most celebrated ruler of medieval Madhya Pradesh. A scholar-king credited with works such as the Samarangana Sutradhara on architecture and the Saraswati Kanthabharana on poetics, he founded the Bhojshala, a Sanskrit

school at Dhar, began the Bhojeshwar Shiva temple at Bhojpur in Raisen district, never finished but housing one of India's largest lingams, and is credited with creating the great lake of Bhopal, a city whose name is often derived from Bhojpal. A later Parmara, Udayaditya, built the Udayeshwar (Neelkantheshwar) temple at Udaypur in Vidisha district, and Parmara rule ended when Alauddin Khalji's army took Malwa in 1305.

**Chandelas and Khajuraho:** The Chandelas, founded by Nannuka in the ninth century, ruled Jejakabhukti (Bundelkhand) with Khajuraho as their temple city and the forts of Kalinjar and Mahoba, both now in Uttar Pradesh, as strongholds. Between about 950 and 1050 they built the Khajuraho temples in Chhatarpur district in the Nagara style from sandstone: Yashovarman built the Lakshmana temple, Dhanga the Vishvanatha temple, and the Kandariya Mahadeva, the largest, is attributed to Vidyadhara, who resisted Mahmud of Ghazni. Tradition speaks of 85 temples, of which about two dozen survive. Paramardi (Parmal) lost to Prithviraj Chauhan in 1182; his generals Alha and Udal are the heroes of Bundeli ballads.

**Kalachuris and Tomars:** The Kalachuris (Haihayas) ruled the Chedi country from Tripuri, modern Tewar near Jabalpur; Gangeyadeva took the title Vikramaditya and his son Lakshmikarna, who attacked Malwa in Bhoj's last years, was the strongest king of the line. The Chaunsath Yogini temple at Bhedaghat is a Kalachuri work. At Gwalior the Kachchhapaghata king Mahipala built the Sahasrabahu (Sas-Bahu) temple in 1093. In the late fourteenth century the Tomars made Gwalior independent. Dungar Singh had giant Jain images carved into the rock of the fort, and Man Singh Tomar (1486-1516) built the Man Mandir palace and, for his Gujar queen Mrignayani, the Gujari Mahal. He was a great patron of Dhrupad music, and the text Man Kautuhal is associated with him.

**Malwa Sultanate and Mandu:** Dilawar Khan Ghuri, the Tughlaq governor of Malwa, became independent in 1401 with Dhar as his capital. His son Hoshang Shah (1406-1435) moved the capital to Mandu, also called Shadiabad, the city of joy; his tomb there is regarded as India's first marble building and is said to have inspired the builders of the Taj Mahal. Mahmud Khalji founded the Khalji line of Malwa, and Ghiyasuddin Khalji built the Jahaz Mahal. Bahadur Shah of Gujarat annexed Malwa in 1531. Later Baz Bahadur, son of Sher Shah's governor Shujaat Khan, ruled from Mandu; his love for the singer Rani Roopmati is remembered in Roopmati's Pavilion. Akbar's general Adham Khan defeated Baz Bahadur at Sarangpur in 1561, and Roopmati took poison rather than be captured.

**Gonds, Bundelas and Mughals:** The Gond kingdom of Garha-Katanga grew strong under Sangram Shah, credited with 52 forts. His son Dalpat Shah married Durgavati, a Chandela princess; after his death she ruled for their son Vir Narayan, beat back Baz Bahadur, and died fighting Akbar's general Asaf Khan near Jabalpur on 24 June 1564. In the north the Bundelas founded Orchha on the Betwa under Rudra Pratap Singh in 1531. Vir Singh Deo, who had Abul Fazl killed in 1602 for prince Salim (Jahangir), built the Jahangir Mahal at Orchha and the palace at Datia, and the Hindi poet Keshavdas, author of Ramchandrika and Rasikpriya, belonged to the Orchha court. Akbar's last conquest was the fort of Asirgarh near Burhanpur in 1601, called the key to the Deccan, and Mumtaz Mahal died at Burhanpur in 1631. In Aurangzeb's time Chhatrasal built a Bundela kingdom with Panna as capital and, attacked by Muhammad Khan Bangash, sought the help of Peshwa Bajirao I, to whom he gave a third of his territory.

**The Marathas:** Bajirao I's victory over the Nizam near Bhopal in 1737 and the Treaty of Durai Sarai (Doraha) in 1738 gave Malwa to the Marathas. Three Maratha houses came to rule much of the region: the Holkars at Indore, the Scindias at Gwalior and the Pawars at Dhar and Dewas, while the Bhonsles of Nagpur held parts of Mahakoshal. Malhar Rao Holkar founded the Holkar state; his daughter-in-law Ahilyabai Holkar ruled from 1767 to 1795 from Maheshwar on the Narmada, rebuilt the Kashi Vishwanath temple in 1780, endowed temples and ghats across India and encouraged Maheshwari weaving. Ranoji Scindia founded the Scindia house with Ujjain as its first capital, Mahadji Scindia became the strongest power in north India after Panipat, and Daulat Rao Scindia moved the capital to Gwalior (Lashkar).

### Examples

- Raja Bhoj (Parmara, about 1010-1055): capital Dhar, Bhojshala, Bhojeshwar temple at Bhojpur (Raisen), the great lake of Bhopal; author of the Samarangana Sutradhara.
- Khajuraho (Chhatarpur): Chandela temples of about 950-1050 in the Nagara style; Lakshmana temple by Yashovarman, Kandariya Mahadeva attributed to Vidyadhara.

- Kalachuris of Tripuri (Tewar near Jabalpur): Gangeyadeva and Lakshmikarna; the Chaunsath Yogini temple at Bhedaghat.
- Gwalior: Sas-Bahu temple built by the Kachchhapaghata king Mahipala in 1093; Man Singh Tomar (1486-1516) built Man Mandir and the Gujari Mahal for queen Mrignayani.
- Malwa Sultanate: Dilawar Khan Ghuri independent in 1401 at Dhar; Hoshang Shah shifted the capital to Mandu (Shadiabad); Baz Bahadur lost to Adham Khan at Sarangpur in 1561.
- Rani Durgavati of Garha-Katanga died fighting Akbar's general Asaf Khan near Jabalpur on 24 June 1564.
- Orchha on the Betwa, founded in 1531 by Rudra Pratap Singh; Vir Singh Deo built the Jahangir Mahal; the poet Keshavdas wrote Ramchandrika at the Orchha court.
- Asirgarh near Burhanpur: Akbar's last conquest (1601), the key to the Deccan; Mumtaz Mahal died at Burhanpur in 1631.
- Chhatrasal of Panna took Bajirao I's help against Bangash; the Treaty of Durai Sarai (1738) gave Malwa to the Marathas.
- Maratha houses: Holkar (Indore; Ahilyabai ruled from Maheshwar, 1767-1795), Scindia (Ujjain, then Gwalior), Pawar (Dhar and Dewas).

> **Quick revision:** Pratiharas at Gwalior (Teli ka Mandir); Parmaras of Dhar, Raja Bhoj (about 1010-1055), Bhojpur temple, Bhojshala; Chandelas built Khajuraho (about 950-1050), Kandariya Mahadeva; Kalachuris of Tripuri, Chaunsath Yogini at Bhedaghat; Sas-Bahu temple 1093; Man Singh Tomar's Man Mandir and Gujari Mahal; Malwa Sultanate 1401, Mandu, Baz Bahadur and Roopmati, Sarangpur 1561; Durgavati died 24 June 1564; Orchha founded 1531; Asirgarh 1601; Treaty of Durai Sarai 1738; Holkars, Scindias, Pawars.

### Modern Madhya Pradesh: British Rule, the Revolt of 1857 and the Freedom Struggle

**British control:** The Third Anglo-Maratha War brought central India under the British. At the battle of Mahidpur (Ujjain district) on 21 December 1817 the Holkar army was defeated, and by the Treaty of Mandsaur in 1818 Indore accepted British supremacy and gave up territory. Lands taken from the Marathas were organised as the Saugor and Nerbudda Territories, which were joined with Nagpur to form the Central Provinces in 1861 with Nagpur as capital; Berar was added to its administration in 1903, and the province was named Central Provinces and Berar in 1936. The princely states, including Gwalior, Indore, Bhopal, Rewa, Dhar, Dewas, Datia, Orchha and Panna, were supervised through the Central India Agency, set up in 1854, whose Agent to the Governor-General sat at Indore.

1857 in Madhya Pradesh: The revolt reached the region on 3 June 1857, when the troops at Neemuch rose. On 1 July 1857 soldiers led by Saadat Khan attacked the British Residency at Indore, and the troops at Mhow followed. At Jabalpur the Gond king Shankar Shah and his son Raghunath Shah, who had written poems calling for revolt, were blown from cannon on 18 September 1857. Rani Avantibai Lodhi of Ramgarh in the Mandla region raised an army against the British and, when surrounded, took her own life on 20 March 1858; the Bargi dam is named Rani Avantibai Lodhi Sagar after her. Raja Bakhtawar Singh of Amjhera in Dhar was hanged at Indore in 1858.

**The Jhansi and Gwalior connection:** Rani Lakshmibai's Jhansi is now in Uttar Pradesh, but her last battles were fought in Madhya Pradesh. After the fall of Jhansi and Kalpi she joined Tatya Tope and Rao Saheb, and with the help of the Gwalior army they took Gwalior fort on 1 June 1858, while Jayajirao Scindia fled to Agra. She died fighting the force of Hugh Rose near Gwalior on 18 June 1858, and her samadhi is at Gwalior. Tatya Tope then led a long guerrilla campaign across central India until he was betrayed by Man Singh of Narwar, captured in the Paron forest and hanged at Shivpuri on 18 April 1859.

**Tribal resistance:** The Bhils and other tribes of the Nimar and Satpura forests resisted British rule for decades. Bhima Nayak, a Bhil leader of the Barwani region, fought the British during and after 1857 and was sent to the Andaman Islands. Tantya Bhil of Nimar, called the Indian Robin Hood, raided government treasuries and rich moneylenders and shared the loot with the poor; he was caught through treachery and hanged at Jabalpur in 1889, and his memorial stands at Patalpani near Mhow.

**Satyagrahas in the national movement:** The Jhanda (Flag) Satyagraha began at Jabalpur in 1923, when the authorities objected to the national flag being hoisted on the Town Hall; Pandit Sundarlal led it, Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was among those arrested, and the movement spread to Nagpur. During the Civil Disobedience Movement

of 1930, tribal people of the Satpura region broke the forest laws in the Jungle Satyagraha: Ganjan Singh Korku led it at Ghoda Dongri in Betul, and police firing at Turiya in Seoni district killed several satyagrahis. On 14 January 1931 British troops fired on a peaceful gathering at Charan Paduka on the Urmil river in Chhatarpur district, an event called the Jallianwala Bagh of Madhya Pradesh. In 1939 the 52nd session of the Indian National Congress was held at Tripuri near Jabalpur, where Subhas Chandra Bose, re-elected president after defeating Gandhi's candidate Pattabhi Sitaramayya, faced the crisis that led to his resignation.

**Revolutionaries and writers:** Chandrashekhar Azad was born on 23 July 1906 at Bhabra, a village of the present Alirajpur district now named Chandrashekhar Azad Nagar. A leader of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, he fell fighting the police at Alfred Park, Allahabad, on 27 February 1931. Makhanlal Chaturvedi, known as Ek Bharatiya Atma, edited the nationalist weekly Karmaveer and wrote Pushp ki Abhilasha. Pandit Ravishankar Shukla, Seth Govind Das, Dwarka Prasad Mishra and Pandit Sundarlal led the Congress in Mahakoshal, and Subhadra Kumari Chauhan of Jabalpur wrote the famous poem Jhansi ki Rani.

**Princely Bhopal and its merger:** Bhopal, founded by Dost Mohammad Khan, was ruled by four Begums from 1819 to 1926: Qudsia Begum, Sikandar Begum, Shah Jahan Begum and Sultan Jahan Begum, the last of whom became the first Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University in 1920. Her son Nawab Hamidullah Khan resisted merging his state into the Indian Union after 1947, but the Vilinikaran (merger) Andolan forced the issue, and Bhopal became part of India on 1 June 1949, administered by the Centre through a Chief Commissioner; under the Constitution it became a Part C state in 1950.

**Examples**

- Battle of Mahidpur (Ujjain district), 21 December 1817: the Holkar army was defeated; the Treaty of Mandsaur followed in 1818.
- Central Provinces formed in 1861 with Nagpur as capital; Berar added in 1903; renamed Central Provinces and Berar in 1936; Central India Agency (1854) sat at Indore.
- 1857 in MP began at Neemuch on 3 June 1857; Saadat Khan attacked the Indore Residency on 1 July 1857.
- Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah, the Gond king and his son, were blown from cannon at Jabalpur on 18 September 1857.
- Rani Avantibai Lodhi of Ramgarh (Mandla region) gave her life on 20 March 1858; the Bargi dam is named after her.
- Rani Lakshmibai died near Gwalior on 18 June 1858; Tatya Tope, betrayed by Man Singh of Narwar, was hanged at Shivpuri on 18 April 1859.
- Tantya Bhil, the Indian Robin Hood of Nimar, was hanged at Jabalpur in 1889; his memorial is at Patalpani near Mhow.
- Jhanda Satyagraha: Jabalpur, 1923, led by Pandit Sundarlal. Jungle Satyagraha, 1930: Ghoda Dongri (Betul) under Ganjan Singh Korku, firing at Turiya (Seoni).
- Charan Paduka (Chhatarpur), 14 January 1931: the Jallianwala Bagh of MP. Tripuri session of the Congress (near Jabalpur), 1939: Subhas Chandra Bose president.
- Chandrashekhar Azad was born on 23 July 1906 at Bhabra (Alirajpur); Bhopal merged with India on 1 June 1949.

> **Quick revision:** Mahidpur 21 Dec 1817, Treaty of Mandsaur 1818; Central Provinces 1861 (Nagpur), Berar added 1903, Central India Agency at Indore; 1857 began at Neemuch 3 June, Indore Residency attacked 1 July; Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah executed 18 Sept 1857; Avantibai died 20 March 1858; Lakshmibai fell at Gwalior 18 June 1858; Tatya Tope hanged at Shivpuri 18 April 1859; Tantya Bhil hanged 1889; Jhanda Satyagraha Jabalpur 1923; Jungle Satyagraha 1930; Charan Paduka 1931; Tripuri 1939; Azad born Bhabra; Bhopal merged 1 June 1949.

### Formation of Madhya Pradesh: Merger of 1956, Legislature, High Court and State Symbols

Four units before 1956: After independence the area of the present state lay in four units. Old Madhya Pradesh, a Part A state, was the former Central Provinces and Berar with its capital at Nagpur, and Pandit Ravishankar Shukla was its Chief Minister. Madhya Bharat, a Part B state, was formed on 28 May 1948 from Gwalior, Indore and smaller Malwa states, with Jiwajirao Scindia as Rajpramukh and Gwalior and Indore as its winter and summer capitals. Vindhya Pradesh, formed in 1948 from the princely states of Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand with Rewa as capital,

became a Part C state in 1950. Bhopal State, merged with India on 1 June 1949, was also a Part C state, and Shankar Dayal Sharma was its Chief Minister from 1952 to 1956.

The reorganisation of 1956: The States Reorganisation Commission of 1953, with Fazl Ali as chairman and K. M. Panikkar and H. N. Kunzru as members, reported in 1955, and the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 followed. Madhya Pradesh was formed on 1 November 1956 by joining Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal State and the Hindi-speaking Mahakoshal districts of old Madhya Pradesh. The Marathi-speaking Vidarbha districts, including Nagpur, went to Bombay State; the Sunel enclave of Mandsaur went to Rajasthan, and the Sironj sub-division of Kota came to Madhya Pradesh. The new state was then the largest in India by area, and 1 November is celebrated every year as Madhya Pradesh Sthapana Diwas.

**Capital and first office-holders:** Bhopal, the capital of the former Bhopal State, became the capital of the new state. The first Governor was Dr B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, the first Chief Minister Pandit Ravishankar Shukla, who died on 31 December 1956, and the first Speaker of the Vidhan Sabha Pandit Kunjilal Dubey. Justice M. Hidayatullah, later Chief Justice of India and Vice-President, was the first Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. The state secretariat (Mantralaya) is Vallabh Bhawan in Bhopal, and the Vidhan Bhavan was designed by the architect Charles Correa.

**Separation of Chhattisgarh:** The Madhya Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 created Chhattisgarh out of the south-eastern districts on 1 November 2000, exactly 44 years after the state was formed, with Raipur as its capital. Madhya Pradesh lost the Bhilai steel plant, the Korba power and aluminium centre, the Bailadila iron ore mines and much of the Bastar forest, and became the second largest state by area after Rajasthan. The Vidhan Sabha fell from 320 to 230 seats as 90 seats went to Chhattisgarh; Lok Sabha seats fell from 40 to 29 and Rajya Sabha seats from 16 to 11.

**The legislature:** Madhya Pradesh has a unicameral legislature, the Vidhan Sabha, with 230 members elected for five years; since the 2008 delimitation, 35 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 47 for Scheduled Tribes. The Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act, 1956 added Madhya Pradesh to Article 168 among the states with a Legislative Council, but that provision was to come into force only on a date to be notified by the President, which has never happened, so no Vidhan Parishad has ever existed. The state elects 29 members to the Lok Sabha, with 4 seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and 6 for Scheduled Tribes, and 11 members to the Rajya Sabha.

**Courts and state bodies:** The High Court of Madhya Pradesh has its principal seat at Jabalpur and benches at Indore and Gwalior; it traces its origin to the Nagpur High Court of 1936. The Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission (MPPSC) is at Indore and the Board of Revenue at Gwalior, while the Lokayukta, set up under an Act of 1981, the State Election Commission and the Board of Secondary Education are at Bhopal. After the 73rd Constitutional Amendment the state passed its Panchayat Raj Act in 1993 and in 1994 held panchayat elections under the new system; it is often cited as the first state to do so.

**State symbols:** The state animal is the barasingha (swamp deer), whose hard-ground subspecies survives in Kanha; the state bird is the dudhraj or Indian paradise flycatcher; and the state tree is the banyan (bargad). The mahseer was declared the state fish in 2011 and malkhamb the state sport in 2013, and the state song Mera Madhya Pradesh, written by Mahesh Shrivastava, was adopted in 2010. These symbols are frequent one-line questions, often framed as matching pairs.

### Examples

- Before 1956: old Madhya Pradesh (Part A, capital Nagpur), Madhya Bharat (Part B, Gwalior and Indore), Vindhya Pradesh (Part C, Rewa) and Bhopal (Part C).
- Madhya Bharat was formed on 28 May 1948 with Jiwajirao Scindia as Rajpramukh; Bhopal merged with India on 1 June 1949.
- States Reorganisation Commission: Fazl Ali (chairman), K. M. Panikkar and H. N. Kunzru; Madhya Pradesh formed on 1 November 1956.
- Firsts: Governor Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Chief Minister Ravishankar Shukla, Speaker Kunjilal Dubey, Chief Justice M. Hidayatullah.

- Chhattisgarh formed on 1 November 2000 under the MP Reorganisation Act, 2000: Vidhan Sabha 320 to 230, Lok Sabha 40 to 29, Rajya Sabha 16 to 11.
- Vidhan Sabha: 230 seats (35 SC, 47 ST); unicameral; a Vidhan Parishad was provided for by the Seventh Amendment, 1956 but never set up.
- Lok Sabha: 29 seats (4 SC, 6 ST); Rajya Sabha: 11 seats.
- Locations: High Court Jabalpur (benches Indore and Gwalior), MPPSC Indore, Board of Revenue Gwalior, Mantralaya at Vallabh Bhawan, Bhopal.
- State symbols: animal barasingha, bird dudhraj, tree banyan, fish mahseer (2011), sport malkhamb (2013), song Mera Madhya Pradesh (2010).

> **Quick revision:** Before 1956: old MP (Part A, Nagpur), Madhya Bharat (Part B, 28 May 1948), Vindhya Pradesh (Rewa), Bhopal (merged 1 June 1949); SRC of Fazl Ali; MP formed 1 Nov 1956, capital Bhopal; first Governor Pattabhi Sitaramayya, CM Ravishankar Shukla, Speaker Kunjilal Dubey, CJ Hidayatullah; Chhattisgarh separated 1 Nov 2000; Vidhan Sabha 230 (35 SC, 47 ST), unicameral; Lok Sabha 29, Rajya Sabha 11; High Court Jabalpur with Indore and Gwalior benches; MPPSC Indore; barasingha, dudhraj, banyan, mahseer, malkhamb.

### Geography of Madhya Pradesh: Location, Borders and Physiographic Regions

**Location and size:** Madhya Pradesh lies between 21°6' and 26°30' north latitude and 74°9' and 82°48' east longitude, at the centre of India, which is why it is called the heart of India. The Tropic of Cancer (about 23.5 degrees north) runs almost through the middle of the state, crossing districts such as Ratlam, Ujjain, Bhopal, Vidisha, Sagar, Jabalpur and Shahdol. The state covers 308,252 sq km, 9.38 per cent of India's area, and since 2000 it has been second in area after Rajasthan. It stretches about 870 km from east to west and about 605 km from north to south. Census 2011 counted about 7.26 crore people, with a density of 236 persons per sq km.

**Neighbours:** The state is landlocked and has no international border. It touches five states: Rajasthan to the north-west, Uttar Pradesh to the north and north-east, Chhattisgarh to the south-east, Maharashtra to the south and Gujarat to the west. Of these boundaries, the shortest is the one with Gujarat. Rivers mark parts of these borders: the Chambal separates the state from Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh along stretches of its course, and the Narmada forms a short border with Maharashtra.

**Rocks beneath the land:** The landforms follow the geology. The oldest Archaean rocks, including the Bundelkhand gneiss and granite, form the northern plateau. Dharwar rocks in Balaghat and Chhindwara hold manganese. The Vindhyan system of sandstone and limestone, named after the Vindhya range, covers the Rewa-Panna region, where the Panna diamond field lies. Gondwana rocks in the Son, Satpura and Narmada basins hold coal, and the lava flows of the Deccan Trap cover Malwa and the western Satpura, weathering into black soil. River alluvium fills the Narmada valley and the Chambal plains.

**Malwa and the Gird region:** The Malwa plateau in the west is the largest physiographic region. Built of Deccan Trap basalt and covered with black soil, it slopes gently to the north and is bounded on the south by the Vindhyan scarp above the Narmada. The Chambal, Shipra, Kali Sindh, Parbati and Betwa drain it, and Indore, Ujjain, Dewas, Ratlam, Mandsaur and Bhopal stand on it; the Chambal rises at Janapav hill near Mhow. Its fertility gave rise to the old saying Malav dharti gahan gambhir, dag dag roti pag pag neer. North of Malwa lies the Madhya Bharat plateau with the Gird region of Gwalior, Bhind and Morena, cut by the ravines of the Chambal.

**Bundelkhand, the Vindhyas and Baghelkhand:** The Bundelkhand plateau in the north (Datia, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur and parts of Shivpuri and Sagar) is made of granite and gneiss, with rocky hills, old tanks and rivers such as the Betwa, Dhasan and Ken flowing north to the Yamuna. The Vindhyan range rises as an escarpment north of the Narmada and continues east as the Bhander and Kaimur hills; behind it lies the Rewa-Panna (Vindhyan) plateau of sandstone and limestone, with waterfalls where rivers drop off its edge. Baghelkhand, the eastern plateau around Sidhi, Shahdol and Singrauli, is drained by the Son and holds the Gondwana coalfields.

**Narmada valley and the Satpura-Maikal ranges:** The Narmada valley is a rift valley between the Vindhyas to the north and the Satpura to the south, filled with fertile alluvium around Jabalpur, Narsinghpur and Narmadapuram. The Satpura range runs between the Narmada and the Tapti from the Rajpipla hills in the west through the Mahadeo hills

to the Maikal range in the east. Dhupgarh (1350 m) in the Mahadeo hills near Pachmarhi, the Queen of Satpura, is the highest point of the state. The Maikal range meets the Vindhyas at the Amarkantak plateau, where the Narmada and the Son rise. In the west the Burhanpur gap through the Satpura, guarded by the fort of Asirgarh, was the old route from north India to the Deccan.

**Traps to avoid:** The highest peak is Dhupgarh in the Satpura, not Amarkantak in the Maikal range. Indore, the largest city, lies south of the Tropic of Cancer, while Bhopal and Ujjain lie close to it. The Vindhyas are mainly the edge of a plateau rather than a fold mountain chain. Malwa's black soil comes from Deccan lava, while Bundelkhand's thin soils come from ancient granite.

**Examples**

- Extent: 21°6' N to 26°30' N and 74°9' E to 82°48' E; about 870 km east to west and about 605 km north to south.
- Area 308,252 sq km (9.38 per cent of India): second largest state after Rajasthan since 2000.
- Five neighbours: Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Gujarat; shortest border with Gujarat; landlocked.
- The Tropic of Cancer crosses the middle of MP through districts such as Ratlam, Ujjain, Bhopal, Vidisha, Sagar, Jabalpur and Shahdol; Indore lies south of it.
- Malwa plateau: the largest region, Deccan Trap basalt and black soil; the Chambal rises at Janapav near Mhow.
- Bundelkhand plateau: the oldest rocks (Bundelkhand gneiss and granite), with the Betwa, Dhasan and Ken flowing north to the Yamuna.
- The Narmada valley is a rift valley between the Vindhyas to the north and the Satpura to the south.
- Highest point: Dhupgarh (1350 m) in the Mahadeo hills of the Satpura, near Pachmarhi, the Queen of Satpura.
- Amarkantak plateau in the Maikal range: meeting point of the Vindhya and Satpura, source of the Narmada and the Son.
- Census 2011: about 7.26 crore people, density 236 persons per sq km.

> **Quick revision:** MP between 21°6'-26°30' N and 74°9'-82°48' E, heart of India, Tropic of Cancer through the middle; area 308,252 sq km (9.38 per cent), second after Rajasthan; five neighbours, shortest border Gujarat; Bundelkhand gneiss oldest, Vindhyan sandstone, Gondwana coal, Deccan Trap in Malwa; regions: Malwa plateau, Gird, Bundelkhand, Vindhyan plateau, Baghelkhand, Narmada rift valley, Satpura-Maikal; highest point Dhupgarh 1350 m; Amarkantak where Vindhya meets Satpura.

### Rivers, Dams and Lakes of Madhya Pradesh: Narmada, Tapti, Chambal, Betwa, Son

**River systems:** So many rivers rise in Madhya Pradesh that it is often called the maika, the parental home, of rivers. They belong to four systems. The Chambal, Sindh, Betwa, Ken and Son flow north or north-east to the Yamuna and the Ganga; the Narmada and the Tapti flow west to the Arabian Sea through rift valleys; the Mahi also flows west, into the Gulf of Khambhat; and the Wainganga flows south to the Godavari. The Narmada and the Tapti are unusual among the big rivers of the peninsula because they flow west and form estuaries rather than deltas.

**The Narmada:** The Narmada rises at the Narmada Kund in Amarkantak (Anuppur district) in the Maikal range and flows about 1312 km, about 1077 km of it in Madhya Pradesh, before entering Gujarat and meeting the Gulf of Khambhat near Bharuch. Called Reva in the Puranas and the lifeline of Madhya Pradesh, it is circled on foot by pilgrims in the Narmada parikrama. Along its course are the Kapildhara falls near the source, the Dhuandhar falls at Bhedaghat near Jabalpur, where it cuts a gorge through marble rocks, the island of Omkareshwar (Mandhata) and the Sahastradhara rapids near Maheshwar. Its longest tributary is the Tawa from the south; other southern tributaries include the Burhner, Banjar, Shakkar and Ganjal, while the Hiran, Barna and Kolar join from the north. The Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal, set up in 1969, gave its award in 1979, sharing the waters among Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

**Projects on the Narmada:** The Bargi dam (Rani Avantibai Lodhi Sagar) near Jabalpur was among the first major dams completed on the river. Indira Sagar at Punasa in Khandwa district has one of the largest reservoirs in India and a 1000 MW power station, and downstream the Omkareshwar project generates 520 MW; the Maheshwar hydel project lies further west. The Tawa dam on the Tawa near Itarsi irrigates the Narmadapuram plain. Madhya Pradesh

receives 57 per cent of the power from the Sardar Sarovar dam in Gujarat. In 2014 the Narmada-Kshipra link began lifting Narmada water into the Shipra, the river of Ujjain; it was the state's first river-linking scheme.

**Tapti, Mahi and Wainganga:** The Tapti (Tapi) rises at Multai in Betul district, a name taken from Mul-Tapi, the source of the Tapi. It flows west about 724 km through Burhanpur, Maharashtra and Gujarat between the Satpura and the Ajanta hills and enters the Gulf of Khambhat near Surat; the Purna is its main tributary. The Mahi rises in the Vindhyas of Dhar district, flows through Jhabua and Ratlam into Rajasthan and Gujarat, and is known as the river that crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice. The Wainganga rises in Seoni district and flows south to join the Wardha; their combined stream, the Pranhita, joins the Godavari. The Pench, which gives its name to Pench National Park, belongs to this system.

**Chambal, Betwa, Ken and Sindh:** The Chambal (ancient Charmanvati) rises at Janapav hill near Mhow in Indore district and flows north through Malwa, forming parts of the borders with Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh before joining the Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh; the Shipra, Kali Sindh and Parbati are its tributaries in the state. The Gandhi Sagar dam (1960) in Mandsaur district is the first of the Chambal valley dams built jointly with Rajasthan, followed downstream by Rana Pratap Sagar, Jawahar Sagar and the Kota barrage. The Betwa (Vetravati) rises in Raisen district near Bhopal, flows past Vidisha and Orchha, is dammed at Rajghat in a joint project with Uttar Pradesh, and joins the Yamuna at Hamirpur; the Bina, Dhasan and Jamni are its tributaries. The Ken rises in the Kaimur hills, flows through Panna National Park and the granite canyon of the Raneh falls, and joins the Yamuna in Banda district of Uttar Pradesh. The Sindh rises in Vidisha district. The Ken-Betwa link was planned as the first project of the national river-linking programme.

**The Son and the east:** The Son rises at Sonmuda near Amarkantak, flows north and then east through Shahdol and Sidhi, and joins the Ganga near Patna; its tributaries include the Johila, Gopad and Rihand. The Bansagar dam on the Son at Deolond in Shahdol district is a joint project of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. On the Rewa plateau the Tons (Tamsa) and its tributaries drop over the plateau edge in waterfalls such as Chachai on the Bihad, Keoti on the Mahana and Purwa on the Tons.

**The lakes of Bhopal:** Bhopal is called the City of Lakes. The Upper Lake (Bada Talab or Bhojtal) was created in the eleventh century by an earthen dam on the Kolans river and is credited to Raja Bhoj; it remains a major source of the city's drinking water. The Lower Lake (Chhota Talab) was built in 1794 by Chhote Khan, a minister of the Nawab of Bhopal. Together they form the Bhoj Wetland, which became the state's first Ramsar site in 2002. A local saying runs: Tal to Bhopal tal, baki sab talaiya.

### Examples

- Narmada: rises at Amarkantak (Anuppur), about 1312 km long (about 1077 km in MP), flows west through a rift valley to the Gulf of Khambhat; forms an estuary, not a delta.
- On the Narmada: Kapildhara falls near the source, Dhuandhar falls and marble rocks at Bhedaghat (Jabalpur), Omkareshwar (Mandhata) island, Sahastradhara near Maheshwar.
- The Tawa is the longest tributary of the Narmada; the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal was set up in 1969 and gave its award in 1979.
- Narmada dams: Bargi (Jabalpur), Indira Sagar (Punasa, Khandwa; 1000 MW), Omkareshwar (520 MW), Maheshwar; the Tawa dam is on the Tawa.
- The Tapti rises at Multai (Betul) and meets the sea near Surat; the Mahi crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice.
- The Chambal rises at Janapav (Mhow); Gandhi Sagar dam (Mandsaur, 1960) is the first of the Chambal valley dams built with Rajasthan.
- Betwa (Vetravati): Raisen, Vidisha, Orchha, Rajghat dam with UP, joins the Yamuna at Hamirpur. Ken: Panna, Raneh falls, joins the Yamuna in Banda.
- The Son rises at Sonmuda near Amarkantak and joins the Ganga; Bansagar (Deolond, Shahdol) is a joint project of MP, UP and Bihar.
- The Wainganga rises in Seoni district and flows south to the Godavari system; Rewa waterfalls: Chachai (Bihad), Keoti (Mahana), Purwa (Tons).

- Bhopal lakes: Upper Lake (credited to Raja Bhoj, dam on the Kolans) and Lower Lake (1794); together the Bhoj Wetland, a Ramsar site since 2002.

> **Quick revision:** Narmada rises at Amarkantak, about 1312 km (1077 km in MP), west through a rift valley, estuary at Bharuch; Dhuandhar at Bhedaghat; longest tributary Tawa; tribunal 1969, award 1979; Bargi, Indira Sagar (1000 MW), Omkareshwar (520 MW); MP gets 57 per cent of Sardar Sarovar power; Narmada-Kshipra link 2014; Tapti from Multai; Mahi crosses Tropic of Cancer twice; Chambal from Janapav, Gandhi Sagar 1960; Betwa, Ken to Yamuna; Son from Sonmuda, Bansagar; Bhoj Wetland Ramsar 2002.

### Climate, Soils, Forests and Wildlife of Madhya Pradesh

**Climate:** Madhya Pradesh has a tropical monsoon climate with three seasons: summer from March to mid-June, the rainy season from mid-June to September, and winter from November to February. Being far from the sea, the state has a continental character, with very hot summers in the north and north-west, where temperatures in the Gwalior-Chambal region can rise above 45 degrees Celsius, and cool winters. Most rain comes from the south-west monsoon, largely through its Bay of Bengal branch entering from the south-east. Rainfall therefore decreases from south-east to north-west: Pachmarhi in the Satpura receives the most, while the Bhind-Morena-Gwalior region receives the least. Western disturbances bring light winter rain (mawatha) that helps the rabi crop.

**Soils:** Black soil (regur or kali mitti) covers the Malwa plateau, the Narmada valley and parts of the Satpura. Formed from Deccan Trap basalt, it is clayey, holds moisture, swells when wet and cracks when dry, is rich in lime, iron, magnesium and potash but poor in nitrogen, phosphorus and organic matter, and suits soybean, cotton, wheat and gram. Red and yellow soils cover eastern districts such as Balaghat, Mandla, Shahdol and Sidhi, where rice is the main crop. Alluvial soil is found in the Chambal plains of Bhind, Morena and Gwalior, and mixed red and black soils cover Bundelkhand. Soil erosion is severe along the Chambal, where gullies have carved badlands (ravines) in Bhind and Morena.

**Forests:** Madhya Pradesh has long had the largest forest area of any Indian state. Teak (sagaun) dominates the dry deciduous forests of the centre and west, especially in the Satpura and Vindhyan hills, while sal dominates the moist deciduous forests of the east and south-east around Mandla, Balaghat and Dindori; thorn forests of babul and khair occur in the dry north-west. Minor forest produce supports tribal families, especially tendu leaves used for bidis, mahua, chironji and bamboo. The Bori forest in the Satpura was declared India's first reserved forest in 1865. The Indian Institute of Forest Management is at Bhopal and the Tropical Forest Research Institute at Jabalpur.

**Tiger reserves and national parks:** Kanha (Mandla and Balaghat), a national park since 1955, was among the first nine tiger reserves of Project Tiger in 1973 and saved the hard-ground barasingha from extinction. Bandhavgarh in Umaria, with its ancient hill fort, is known for its high density of tigers. Pench (Seoni and Chhindwara) is linked with Rudyard Kipling's The Jungle Book. Panna on the Ken lost all its tigers by 2009 and was restocked through a reintroduction that became a conservation success. Satpura with Bori and Pachmarhi, Sanjay-Dubri in Sidhi, Madhav at Shivpuri, Van Vihar in Bhopal and the Ghughua fossil park in Dindori are other protected areas. The white tiger Mohan was captured in the Rewa forests in 1951, and a white tiger safari opened at Mukundpur near Rewa in 2016.

**Kuno, the lion plan and Project Cheetah:** Kuno National Park in Sheopur district takes its name from the Kuno river, a tributary of the Chambal. It became a wildlife sanctuary in 1981 and a national park in 2018. It was chosen as a second home for the Asiatic lions of Gir, so that the species would not depend on a single population, and villages were relocated from the forest for that purpose. In 2013 the Supreme Court ordered that some lions from Gir be moved to Kuno. Kuno then became the home of Project Cheetah: on 17 September 2022 eight cheetahs brought from Namibia were released there, returning the species to India, where it had been declared extinct in 1952; a second group came from South Africa in February 2023.

**Sanctuaries and biosphere reserves:** The National Chambal Sanctuary, shared with Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, protects the gharial, the Ganges river dolphin and river turtles, and the Ken and Son gharial sanctuaries do the same on those rivers. Sailana (Ratlam) and Sardarpur (Dhar) were set up for the kharmor or lesser florican, and Ghatigaon near Gwalior for the great Indian bustard. The Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve, set up in 1999 around Satpura National

Park and the Bori and Pachmarhi sanctuaries, joined UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009. Amarkantak-Achanakmar (2005), shared with Chhattisgarh, joined the network in 2012, and Panna (2011) joined in 2020.

**Examples**

- Rainfall decreases from south-east to north-west: Pachmarhi gets the most, the Bhind-Morena-Gwalior region the least; winter rain from western disturbances is called mawatha.
- Black soil (regur) of Malwa: formed from Deccan Trap basalt, holds moisture, rich in lime and potash, poor in nitrogen and phosphorus; ideal for soybean and cotton.
- Red and yellow soils of the east (Balaghat, Mandla, Shahdol) grow rice; alluvium in Bhind-Morena; the Chambal ravines are the result of gully erosion.
- MP has long had the largest forest area of any state: teak in the centre and west, sal in the east; Bori (1865) was India's first reserved forest.
- Kanha (Mandla, Balaghat): national park 1955, Project Tiger reserve 1973, home of the hard-ground barasingha.
- Bandhavgarh (Umaria), Pench (Seoni, Chhindwara; The Jungle Book), Panna (on the Ken; tigers reintroduced after 2009), Satpura and Sanjay-Dubri (Sidhi).
- Kuno (Sheopur), on a tributary of the Chambal: wildlife sanctuary in 1981, national park in 2018, prepared as a second home for the Asiatic lions of Gir; cheetahs from Namibia released here on 17 September 2022 (Project Cheetah).
- White tiger Mohan was captured in the Rewa forests in 1951; a white tiger safari opened at Mukundpur near Rewa in 2016.
- Biosphere reserves: Pachmarhi 1999 (UNESCO network 2009), Amarkantak-Achanakmar 2005 (UNESCO 2012), Panna 2011 (UNESCO 2020).
- Kharmor (lesser florican) sanctuaries: Sailana (Ratlam) and Sardarpur (Dhar); gharial: National Chambal, Ken and Son sanctuaries.

> **Quick revision:** Tropical monsoon climate, three seasons; rainfall falls south-east to north-west, most at Pachmarhi, least in Bhind-Gwalior; mawatha winter rain; black regur soil of Malwa from Deccan basalt, red-yellow soils in the east, alluvium in Chambal plains, Chambal ravines; long the largest forest area of any state, teak west, sal east, tendu leaves; Bori first reserved forest 1865; Kanha 1955 and Project Tiger 1973, barasingha; Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura; Kuno sanctuary 1981, national park 2018; Pachmarhi biosphere reserve 1999, UNESCO 2009.

## Agriculture, Minerals and Industries of Madhya Pradesh

**Farming seasons and crops:** Agriculture is the main occupation of the state. In the kharif season, sown with the monsoon, the main crops are soybean, rice, maize, jowar, cotton, urad and tur; in the rabi season, sown after the rains, they are wheat, gram, lentil (masur) and mustard. The black soil of Malwa and the Narmada valley suits soybean and wheat, the red and yellow soils of the east suit rice, and the Chambal plains grow mustard and wheat.

**Leading crops:** Madhya Pradesh is called the Soya State because it led the spread of soybean cultivation in India from the 1970s, centred on Malwa; the ICAR Indian Institute of Soybean Research is at Indore. The state has long been India's leading producer of pulses, especially gram. Sharbati wheat of Sehore and the Malwa region is famous across the country. Nimar (Khargone and Barwani) is the cotton belt, Burhanpur is known for bananas, Mandsaur and Neemuch grow opium poppy under licence along with isabgol and garlic, and tribal districts such as Dindori grow the millets kodo and kutki. The Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya at Jabalpur, founded in 1964, is the state's oldest agricultural university.

**Diamonds and coal:** Panna district has been modern India's main source of diamonds. They occur in a kimberlite pipe at Majhgawan, where the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) set up a mechanised mine, and in gravels and conglomerates that local people dig on lease. Coal occurs in the Gondwana basins: Singrauli, headquarters of Northern Coalfields Limited, Sohagpur (Shahdol), Johilla (Umaria), Pench-Kanhan (Chhindwara) and Pathakheda (Betul). Singrauli's coal feeds the Vindhyachal super thermal power station of NTPC, and the region is called the energy capital of India. Satpura (Sarni) and Sanjay Gandhi (Birsinghpur) are other thermal power stations.

**Metals and other minerals:** Malanjkhand in Balaghat district has one of India's largest copper deposits, mined open-cast by Hindustan Copper Limited. Balaghat and Chhindwara produce manganese from Dharwar rocks, mined by MOIL. Limestone from Katni, Satna, Rewa, Damoh and Maihar supports a large cement industry and has made Satna a cement city. Bauxite occurs at Amarkantak and in Katni, Mandla, Balaghat and Shahdol, rock phosphate in Jhabua and Sagar, and dolomite, fireclay, pyrophyllite and diaspore in several districts. The marble of Bhedaghat near Jabalpur is famous.

**Public sector and security industries:** The Security Paper Mill at Narmadapuram (formerly Hoshangabad) makes paper for currency notes and other security documents, and the Bank Note Press at Dewas prints currency notes. NEPA Mills at Nepanagar in Burhanpur district was India's first newsprint mill. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has a major plant at Bhopal, and Jabalpur is a defence production centre with the Gun Carriage Factory, the Vehicle Factory and the ordnance factory at Khamaria. The Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology at Indore works on lasers and particle accelerators.

**Industrial areas:** Pithampur in Dhar district, near Indore, is called the Detroit of India for its automobile units. Mandideep near Bhopal and Malanpur near Gwalior are other industrial areas. Indore is the commercial capital of the state, and Nagda in Ujjain district has a large viscose fibre plant. The Bhilai steel plant, built with Soviet help when Durg was part of Madhya Pradesh, has been in Chhattisgarh since 2000, so it is a trap answer in questions about Madhya Pradesh.

**Handloom textiles:** Chanderi in Ashoknagar district weaves light silk-and-cotton saris with zari borders and small butis. Maheshwar on the Narmada weaves Maheshwari saris with reversible borders, a tradition encouraged by Ahilyabai Holkar. Bagh print of Dhar district is hand-block printing with natural dyes, named after the village of Bagh. Bherugarh near Ujjain is known for batik and block prints, and Bhopal for zari-zardozi embroidery and the beaded batua purse.

**Examples**

- MP is called the Soya State; the ICAR Indian Institute of Soybean Research is at Indore.
- MP has long led India in pulses, especially gram; Sharbati wheat of Sehore is famous.
- Crop belts: cotton in Nimar, bananas in Burhanpur, opium poppy and isabgol in Mandsaur-Neemuch, kodo and kutki millets in Dindori.
- Panna: modern India's main source of diamonds; NMDC set up a mechanised mine on the Majhgawan kimberlite pipe.
- Coal: Singrauli (Northern Coalfields headquarters, NTPC Vindhyachal), Sohagpur (Shahdol), Johilla (Umaria), Pench-Kanhan (Chhindwara), Pathakheda (Betul).
- Copper: Malanjkhand (Balaghat), Hindustan Copper Limited; manganese: Balaghat and Chhindwara (MOIL).
- Limestone from Katni, Satna, Rewa, Maihar and Damoh feeds the cement industry; Satna is the cement city.
- Currency chain: Security Paper Mill, Narmadapuram (paper) and Bank Note Press, Dewas (printing); NEPA Mills, Nepanagar, was India's first newsprint mill.
- Industry places: Pithampur (Detroit of India), Mandideep, Malanpur, BHEL Bhopal, ordnance factories at Jabalpur, RRCAT Indore.
- Textiles: Chanderi (Ashoknagar), Maheshwari (Maheshwar), Bagh print (Dhar), Bherugarh batik (Ujjain). Trap: the Bhilai steel plant is in Chhattisgarh.

> **Quick revision:** Kharif: soybean, rice, maize, cotton, urad, tur; rabi: wheat, gram, masur, mustard; Soya State, soybean research institute at Indore; leading pulses producer; Sharbati wheat of Sehore; Panna diamonds (Majhgawan, NMDC); coal at Singrauli (NCL, Vindhyachal), Sohagpur, Pench-Kanhan; Malanjkhand copper; Balaghat manganese; Satna cement; Security Paper Mill Narmadapuram, Bank Note Press Dewas, NEPA Nepanagar; BHEL Bhopal; Pithampur Detroit of India; Chanderi, Maheshwari, Bagh print; Bhilai is in Chhattisgarh.

### Tribes, Folk Dances, Music, Festivals and Dialects of Madhya Pradesh

**Tribes:** Madhya Pradesh has the largest Scheduled Tribe population of any state: Census 2011 counted about 1.53 crore tribal people, 21.1 per cent of the state's population. The Bhils, the largest tribe of the state and of India, live mainly in the western districts of Jhabua, Alirajpur, Dhar, Barwani and Khargone. The Gonds, the second largest, live

in the centre and east, in Mandla, Dindori, Seoni, Chhindwara, Betul and Shahdol; their Pardhan sub-group are bards and painters. The Korkus, a Munda-speaking tribe, live in the Satpura districts of Betul, Harda and Khandwa, and the Kols in Rewa, Satna and Sidhi.

**Particularly vulnerable groups:** Three of the state's tribes are listed as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The Baigas of Mandla, Dindori and Balaghat practised bewar shifting cultivation and are known for their tattooing; the Baiga Chak area of Dindori is their heartland. The Bharias live in the deep Patalkot valley of Chhindwara, and the Sahariyas in the north-west, in Sheopur, Shivpuri and Guna.

**Tribal art and festivals:** Gond painting, with dots and lines filling figures of animals, trees and gods, became famous through Jangarh Singh Shyam, a Pardhan Gond artist from Patangarh in Dindori district who was brought to Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal; the style is often called Jangarh kalam. Pithora painting is a ritual wall painting of the Bhils and Bhilalas, full of horses and riders, made to fulfil a vow. Bhagoria is the Bhil festival of the Jhabua-Alirajpur region, held as weekly haats in the days before Holi and famous for music, dancing and the choosing of partners. The Gonds and Baigas perform the Karma dance, and the Madai fairs bring tribal communities together.

**Folk dances by region:** Each cultural region has its own dances. In Bundelkhand, Rai is performed by Bedni women dancers to the mridang, Badhai on happy occasions and Diwari around Deepavali, and the Alha ballad of the heroes Alha and Udal is sung in the rains. In Malwa, women perform the Matki dance with earthen pots, and Maach is the folk musical theatre of Ujjain. In Nimar, Gangaur is the main festival and dance. The Gonds dance Karma and Saila (a stick dance), the Korkus Thapti, the Sahariyas Lahangi and the Baigas Pardhoni at weddings.

**Music:** Gwalior is a cradle of Hindustani music. Raja Man Singh Tomar patronised Dhrupad, and the Gwalior gharana is regarded as the oldest gharana of khayal singing. Tansen, born at Behat near Gwalior and a disciple of Swami Haridas, served Raja Ramchandra of Rewa before joining Akbar's court as one of the nine gems; his tomb at Gwalior is the venue of the Tansen Samaroh held every December. Ustad Allauddin Khan made Maihar the home of the Maihar gharana; his disciples include Ravi Shankar, his son Ali Akbar Khan, his daughter Annapurna Devi, Nikhil Banerjee and Pannalal Ghosh, and he founded the Maihar band. Kumar Gandharva made Dewas his home.

**Festivals and institutions:** The Simhastha Kumbh is held at Ujjain on the Shipra every twelve years, when Jupiter is in Leo (Simha); it was held in 2004 and 2016. The Khajuraho Dance Festival, held each February against the backdrop of the temples, has showcased classical dance since 1975, and the Kalidas Samaroh at Ujjain celebrates Sanskrit drama and the arts. Bharat Bhavan in Bhopal, a multi-arts centre designed by Charles Correa, opened in 1982, and the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya (National Museum of Mankind) in Bhopal displays the life of India's communities.

**Languages and dialects:** Hindi is the official language. The main regional dialects are Malvi in Malwa (Indore, Ujjain, Ratlam), Nimadi in Nimar (Khargone, Khandwa, Barwani), Bundeli in Bundelkhand (Sagar, Damoh, Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur) and Bagheli in Baghelkhand (Rewa, Satna, Sidhi). Isuri, famous for his phag songs, is the best-known Bundeli folk poet. Among tribal languages, Bhili and Gondi have the most speakers, and Korku belongs to the Munda family.

### Examples

- Census 2011: MP has India's largest Scheduled Tribe population, about 1.53 crore (21.1 per cent of the state).
- Bhil: largest tribe (Jhabua, Alirajpur, Dhar, Barwani). Gond: second largest (Mandla, Dindori, Seoni, Chhindwara).
- PVTGs of MP: Baiga (Mandla, Dindori, Balaghat), Bharia (Patalkot, Chhindwara), Sahariya (Sheopur, Shivpuri, Guna).
- Gond art: Jangarh Singh Shyam of Patangarh (Dindori), the Jangarh kalam. Pithora: ritual horse paintings of the Bhils and Bhilalas.
- Bhagoria: the Bhil festival of haats held before Holi in the Jhabua-Alirajpur region.
- Dances: Rai, Badhai, Diwari (Bundelkhand); Matki (Malwa); Gangaur (Nimar); Karma, Saila (Gond); Thapti (Korku); Lahangi (Sahariya).
- Tansen: born at Behat near Gwalior, disciple of Swami Haridas, at Rewa and then Akbar's court; the Tansen Samaroh is held at Gwalior every December.

- Ustad Allauddin Khan made Maihar the home of the Maihar gharana; his disciples include Ravi Shankar, Ali Akbar Khan and Annapurna Devi.
- Simhastha at Ujjain every twelve years (Jupiter in Leo), held in 2004 and 2016; Khajuraho Dance Festival every February; Bharat Bhavan, Bhopal, opened in 1982.
- Dialects: Malvi (Malwa), Nimadi (Nimar), Bundeli (Bundelkhand; folk poet Isuri), Bagheli (Rewa, Satna, Sidhi).

> **Quick revision:** Largest ST population, 1.53 crore (21.1 per cent, Census 2011); Bhil largest, Gond second; PVTGs Baiga, Bharia (Patalkot), Sahariya; Gond art of Jangarh Singh Shyam, Pithora of Bhils, Bhagoria before Holi; dances Rai, Badhai (Bundelkhand), Matki (Malwa), Gangaur (Nimar), Karma, Saila (Gond); Gwalior gharana oldest khayal gharana; Tansen of Behat, Tansen Samaroh; Allauddin Khan's Maihar gharana; Simhastha at Ujjain (2004, 2016); Khajuraho Dance Festival; Bharat Bhavan 1982; Malvi, Nimadi, Bundeli, Bagheli.

### Monuments, Pilgrim Centres and Famous Personalities of Madhya Pradesh

**World Heritage sites:** UNESCO has inscribed the Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986), the Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989) and the Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003) on its World Heritage List. The Khajuraho temples in Chhatarpur district fall into a western group with the Kandariya Mahadeva, Lakshmana, Vishvanatha and Chitragupta temples, an eastern group of Jain temples such as Parshvanath and Adinath, and a southern group; the Chaunsath Yogini is the oldest, and the site was brought to wider notice by the British officer T. S. Burt in 1838. Sanchi in Raisen district has the Great Stupa with its four toranas, Stupa 3, which held relics of the Buddha's disciples Sariputta and Mahamoggallana, Temple 17 of the Gupta age and an Ashokan pillar. Bhimbetka, also in Raisen district, preserves prehistoric rock art.

**Gwalior fort:** On the Gopachal hill, the fort holds monuments of many dynasties. The towering Teli ka Mandir is assigned to the Pratihara age, the Sas-Bahu temples date from 1093, and a small Chaturbhuj temple carries an inscription of 876 CE that has one of the oldest dated uses of the numeral zero. Man Singh Tomar's Man Mandir palace is decorated with coloured tiles, and his Gujari Mahal is now an archaeological museum. Gurdwara Data Bandi Chhor marks the release of Guru Hargobind from imprisonment in the fort. In the city below are the tombs of Muhammad Ghaus and Tansen, the Scindias' Jai Vilas Palace and the samadhi of Rani Lakshmibai.

**Mandu, Orchha and Maheshwar:** Mandu in Dhar district, the Malwa Sultans' city of joy, has the Jahaz Mahal between two lakes, the sloping-walled Hindola Mahal, Hoshang Shah's marble tomb, the Jami Masjid, Baz Bahadur's palace and Roopmati's Pavilion looking over the Narmada valley. Orchha on the Betwa has the Raja Mahal, the Jahangir Mahal, the riverside chhatris of the Bundela kings and the Ram Raja temple, where Rama is worshipped as a king and given a guard of honour. Maheshwar, Ahilyabai Holkar's capital, has its fort and ghats on the Narmada and is identified with ancient Mahishmati.

**Jyotirlingas and pilgrim centres:** Madhya Pradesh has two of the twelve jyotirlingas. Mahakaleshwar at Ujjain on the Shipra is a south-facing (Dakshinamukhi) lingam famous for its dawn Bhasma Aarti, and Omkareshwar stands on the island of Mandhata in the Narmada in Khandwa district, an island said to be shaped like Om. Other centres include Amarkantak, the source of the Narmada; Chitrakoot in Satna district on the Mandakini, linked with Rama's exile and shared with Uttar Pradesh; the Sharda Devi temple at Maihar; the Pitambara Peeth at Datia; the Jain hill of Sonagiri near Datia; and Sanchi for Buddhists.

**Other sights:** Visitors also go to the Bhojeshwar temple at Bhojpur, the Udayagiri caves, the marble rocks of Bhedaghat, Pachmarhi with its Pandav caves and Bee Falls, the Jantar Mantar observatory built at Ujjain by Sawai Jai Singh II, Indore's Rajwada and Lal Bagh Palace, Bhopal's Taj-ul-Masajid, one of the largest mosques in Asia, and the Asirgarh fort near Burhanpur.

**Personalities:** Several makers of modern India were born in Madhya Pradesh. Dr B. R. Ambedkar was born at Mhow on 14 April 1891, Chandrashekhar Azad at Bhabra in 1906 and Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Gwalior on 25 December 1924; Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, the ninth President of India, was born at Bhopal in 1918. Dr Hari Singh Gour, an eminent lawyer and the first Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, founded the University of Sagar in 1946 with his own savings. Osho (Rajneesh) was born at Kuchwada in Raisen district and taught philosophy at Jabalpur.

**Writers and artists:** Lata Mangeshkar was born at Indore and Kishore Kumar at Khandwa, both in 1929, and the state gives national awards in their names. Makhanlal Chaturvedi, born at Babai in Narmadapuram district, won the first Sahitya Akademi Award for Hindi in 1955 for Him Tarangini. Gajanan Madhav Muktibodh, author of Andhere Mein, was born at Sheopur, and Bhavani Prasad Mishra, who wrote Geet Farosh, in Narmadapuram district. The satirist Harishankar Parsai was born at Jamani near Itarsi, also in Narmadapuram district, and won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1982 for Viklang Shraddha Ka Daur. Note the traps: Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, who lived and worked in Jabalpur, was born near Allahabad, and Ustad Allauddin Khan of Maihar was born in Bengal.

### Examples

- UNESCO World Heritage inscriptions: Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986), Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989), Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003).
- Khajuraho (Chhatarpur): western, eastern (Jain) and southern groups; Kandariya Mahadeva is the largest; brought to wider notice by T. S. Burt in 1838.
- Sanchi (Raisen): Great Stupa with four toranas, Stupa 3 with relics of Sariputta and Mahamoggallana, Temple 17 of the Gupta age.
- Gwalior fort: Teli ka Mandir, Sas-Bahu temples (1093), Chaturbhuj temple zero inscription (876 CE), Man Mandir, Gujari Mahal, Gurdwara Data Bandi Chhor.
- Mandu (Dhar): Jahaz Mahal, Hindola Mahal, Hoshang Shah's marble tomb, Roopmati's Pavilion.
- Orchha (on the Betwa): Raja Mahal, Jahangir Mahal, Bundela chhatris and the Ram Raja temple, where Rama is worshipped as king.
- Jyotirlingas: Mahakaleshwar (Ujjain, on the Shipra, south-facing, Bhasma Aarti) and Omkareshwar (Mandhata island in the Narmada, Khandwa).
- Birthplaces: Ambedkar at Mhow (1891), Azad at Bhabra (1906), Vajpayee at Gwalior (1924), Shankar Dayal Sharma at Bhopal (1918).
- Arts and letters: Lata Mangeshkar (Indore), Kishore Kumar (Khandwa), Makhanlal Chaturvedi (Babai; first Hindi Sahitya Akademi Award, 1955), Muktibodh (Sheopur), Harishankar Parsai (Jamani; Sahitya Akademi Award 1982 for Viklang Shraddha Ka Daur).
- Traps: Subhadra Kumari Chauhan was born near Allahabad but worked in Jabalpur; Allauddin Khan of Maihar was born in Bengal; Rani Lakshmibai's Jhansi is in Uttar Pradesh.

> **Quick revision:** UNESCO: Khajuraho 1986, Sanchi 1989, Bhimbetka 2003; Khajuraho western, eastern (Jain), southern groups, T. S. Burt 1838; Sanchi Stupa 3 relics of Sariputta; Gwalior fort: Teli ka Mandir, Sas-Bahu 1093, zero inscription 876 CE, Man Mandir; Mandu: Jahaz Mahal, Hoshang Shah's tomb; Orchha Ram Raja temple; jyotirlingas Mahakaleshwar and Omkareshwar; Ambedkar Mhow, Azad Bhabra, Vajpayee Gwalior, Shankar Dayal Sharma Bhopal; Lata Indore, Kishore Khandwa; Makhanlal Chaturvedi first Hindi Sahitya Akademi Award 1955.

Free practice questions: parikshasaathi.com/q/mp-state-gk/

# Revision sheet

Every lesson’s quick-revision box in one place, for the last read before the exam.

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| **Madhya Pradesh General Knowledge** | MP formed 1 Nov 1956, first CM Ravishankar Shukla, Chhattisgarh separated 1 Nov 2000; Vidhan Sabha 230, Lok Sabha 29, Rajya Sabha 11, High Court Jabalpur (benches Indore, Gwalior); Narmada rises at Amarkantak and flows west, Tapti at Multai; highest peak Dhupgarh (Satpura); UNESCO: Khajuraho, Sanchi, Bhimbetka; Panna diamonds, Malanjkhand copper, Singrauli coal; largest forest area and tribal population (Bhil largest); state animal barasingha, bird dudhraj, tree banyan, flower lily; jyotirlingas Mahakaleshwar and Omkareshwar; Bhopal gas tragedy 1984 (methyl isocyanate). |
| **Ancient Madhya Pradesh: Bhimbetka, Mahajanapadas, Mauryas and Guptas** | Bhimbetka (Raisen) rock shelters found by Wakankar 1957, UNESCO 2003; Narmada Man skull at Hathnora (Sehore) 1982; Mahajanapadas Avanti (Ujjayini, Mahishmati) and Chedi (Shuktimati); Ashoka viceroy at Ujjain, edicts at Rupnath, Gujarra, Saru Maru, Sanchi; Shungas at Vidisha, Bharhut railings, Heliodorus pillar (late second century BCE); Satavahana toranas at Sanchi; Chandragupta II took Ujjain, Udayagiri Varaha panel (401 CE); Eran sati record 510 CE; Kalidasa, Varahamihira and Ujjain. |
| **Medieval Madhya Pradesh: Parmaras, Chandelas, Malwa Sultans, Gonds and Marathas** | Pratiharas at Gwalior (Teli ka Mandir); Parmaras of Dhar, Raja Bhoj (about 1010-1055), Bhojpur temple, Bhojshala; Chandelas built Khajuraho (about 950-1050), Kandariya Mahadeva; Kalachuris of Tripuri, Chaunsath Yogini at Bhedaghat; Sas-Bahu temple 1093; Man Singh Tomar's Man Mandir and Gujari Mahal; Malwa Sultanate 1401, Mandu, Baz Bahadur and Roopmati, Sarangpur 1561; Durgavati died 24 June 1564; Orchha founded 1531; Asirgarh 1601; Treaty of Durai Sarai 1738; Holkars, Scindias, Pawars. |
| **Modern Madhya Pradesh: British Rule, the Revolt of 1857 and the Freedom Struggle** | Mahidpur 21 Dec 1817, Treaty of Mandsaur 1818; Central Provinces 1861 (Nagpur), Berar added 1903, Central India Agency at Indore; 1857 began at Neemuch 3 June, Indore Residency attacked 1 July; Shankar Shah and Raghunath Shah executed 18 Sept 1857; Avantibai died 20 March 1858; Lakshmibai fell at Gwalior 18 June 1858; Tatya Tope hanged at Shivpuri 18 April 1859; Tantya Bhil hanged 1889; Jhanda Satyagraha Jabalpur 1923; Jungle Satyagraha 1930; Charan Paduka 1931; Tripuri 1939; Azad born Bhabra; Bhopal merged 1 June 1949. |
| **Formation of Madhya Pradesh: Merger of 1956, Legislature, High Court and State Symbols** | Before 1956: old MP (Part A, Nagpur), Madhya Bharat (Part B, 28 May 1948), Vindhya Pradesh (Rewa), Bhopal (merged 1 June 1949); SRC of Fazl Ali; MP formed 1 Nov 1956, capital Bhopal; first Governor Pattabhi Sitaramayya, CM Ravishankar Shukla, Speaker Kunjilal Dubey, CJ Hidayatullah; Chhattisgarh separated 1 Nov 2000; Vidhan Sabha 230 (35 SC, 47 ST), unicameral; Lok Sabha 29, Rajya Sabha 11; High Court Jabalpur with Indore and Gwalior benches; MPPSC Indore; barasingha, dudhraj, banyan, mahseer, malkhamb. |
| **Geography of Madhya Pradesh: Location, Borders and Physiographic Regions** | MP between 21°6'-26°30' N and 74°9'-82°48' E, heart of India, Tropic of Cancer through the middle; area 308,252 sq km (9.38 per cent), second after Rajasthan; five neighbours, shortest border Gujarat; Bundelkhand gneiss oldest, Vindhyan sandstone, Gondwana coal, Deccan Trap in Malwa; regions: Malwa plateau, Gird, Bundelkhand, Vindhyan plateau, Baghelkhand, Narmada rift valley, Satpura-Maikal; highest point Dhupgarh 1350 m; Amarkantak where Vindhya meets Satpura. |
| **Rivers, Dams and Lakes of Madhya Pradesh: Narmada, Tapti, Chambal, Betwa, Son** | Narmada rises at Amarkantak, about 1312 km (1077 km in MP), west through a rift valley, estuary at Bharuch; Dhuandhar at Bhedaghat; longest tributary Tawa; tribunal 1969, award 1979; Bargi, Indira Sagar (1000 MW), Omkareshwar (520 MW); MP gets 57 per cent of Sardar Sarovar power; Narmada-Kshipra link 2014; Tapti from Multai; Mahi crosses Tropic of Cancer twice; Chambal from Janapav, Gandhi Sagar 1960; Betwa, Ken to Yamuna; Son from Sonmuda, Bansagar; Bhoj Wetland Ramsar 2002. |

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| **Climate, Soils, Forests and Wildlife of Madhya Pradesh** | Tropical monsoon climate, three seasons; rainfall falls south-east to north-west, most at Pachmarhi, least in Bhind-Gwalior; mawatha winter rain; black regur soil of Malwa from Deccan basalt, red-yellow soils in the east, alluvium in Chambal plains, Chambal ravines; long the largest forest area of any state, teak west, sal east, tendu leaves; Bori first reserved forest 1865; Kanha 1955 and Project Tiger 1973, barasingha; Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura; Kuno sanctuary 1981, national park 2018; Pachmarhi biosphere reserve 1999, UNESCO 2009. |
| **Agriculture, Minerals and Industries of Madhya Pradesh** | Kharif: soybean, rice, maize, cotton, urad, tur; rabi: wheat, gram, masur, mustard; Soya State, soybean research institute at Indore; leading pulses producer; Sharbati wheat of Sehore; Panna diamonds (Majhgawan, NMDC); coal at Singrauli (NCL, Vindhyachal), Sohagpur, Pench-Kanhan; Malanjkhand copper; Balaghat manganese; Satna cement; Security Paper Mill Narmadapuram, Bank Note Press Dewas, NEPA Nepanagar; BHEL Bhopal; Pithampur Detroit of India; Chanderi, Maheshwari, Bagh print; Bhilai is in Chhattisgarh. |
| **Tribes, Folk Dances, Music, Festivals and Dialects of Madhya Pradesh** | Largest ST population, 1.53 crore (21.1 per cent, Census 2011); Bhil largest, Gond second; PVTGs Baiga, Bharia (Patalkot), Sahariya; Gond art of Jangarh Singh Shyam, Pithora of Bhils, Bhagoria before Holi; dances Rai, Badhai (Bundelkhand), Matki (Malwa), Gangaur (Nimar), Karma, Saila (Gond); Gwalior gharana oldest khayal gharana; Tansen of Behat, Tansen Samaroh; Allauddin Khan's Maihar gharana; Simhastha at Ujjain (2004, 2016); Khajuraho Dance Festival; Bharat Bhavan 1982; Malvi, Nimadi, Bundeli, Bagheli. |
| **Monuments, Pilgrim Centres and Famous Personalities of Madhya Pradesh** | UNESCO: Khajuraho 1986, Sanchi 1989, Bhimbetka 2003; Khajuraho western, eastern (Jain), southern groups, T. S. Burt 1838; Sanchi Stupa 3 relics of Sariputta; Gwalior fort: Teli ka Mandir, Sas-Bahu 1093, zero inscription 876 CE, Man Mandir; Mandu: Jahaz Mahal, Hoshang Shah's tomb; Orchha Ram Raja temple; jyotirlingas Mahakaleshwar and Omkareshwar; Ambedkar Mhow, Azad Bhabra, Vajpayee Gwalior, Shankar Dayal Sharma Bhopal; Lata Indore, Kishore Khandwa; Makhanlal Chaturvedi first Hindi Sahitya Akademi Award 1955. |

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