

Madhya Pradesh

State (pop., 2008 est.: 69,279,000), central India.

Madhya Pradesh, in its present form, came into existence on November 1,2000 following its bifurcation to create a new state of Chhattisgarh. The undivided Madhya Pradesh was founded on November 1, 1956. Madhya Pradesh, because of its central location in India, has remained a crucible of historical currents from North, South, East and West.

Population (Census 2001)	60348 (In Thousand)
Male	31444 (--"--)
Female	28904 (--"--)
Scheduled Tribes (Census 1991)	12,233 (In Thousand) (19.94 %)
Scheduled Castes (Census 1991)	91,55,(In Thousand) (15.40 %)
Area (in sq. kms.)	308,000
Districts	50
Tehasils	272
Development Blocks	313
Total villages	55,393
Populated villages	52,143
Gram Panchayats	23,051
Literacy	64.1 percent
Male	76.5 percent
Female	50.6 percent
Density of Population	196 per sq. kms.
Male-Female Ratio	920 : 933

A number of festivals are celebrated in Madhya Pradesh. An important tribal festival is Bhagoriya marked by traditional gaiety and enthusiasm. Shivratri is celebrated in Khajuraho, Bhojpur, Pachmarhi and Ujjain and has its own local flavour while Ramnavami festival at Chitrkoot and Orchha has a unique sense of devotion imbued with tradition.

Festivals of Orchha, Malwa, Pachmarhi bring to the fore, repertoire of culture and art of the people. Tansen Music Festival, Gwalior, Ustad Allaaddin Khan Music Festival of Maihar, Kalidas Samaroh, Ujjain and Festival of Dances at Khajuraho are some of the well known art festivals of Madhya Pradesh.

TOURIST CENTRES

Perfectly preserved medieval cities, refreshing and enchanting wildlife sanctuaries and some of the holiest and most revered pilgrim centres offer to the tourist the most fulfilling experience. Tranquil beauty of Pachmarhi, glittering splendour of Marble Rocks and roaring sound of Dhuandhar Fall at Bhedaghat, Kanha National Park, with its unique Barasingha and Bandhavgarh National Park with its prehistoric caves and wildlife are some of the major attractions of the state. Gwalior, Mandu, Datia, Chanderi, Jabalpur, Orchha, Raisen, Sanchi, Vidisha, Udaygiri, Bhimbetika, Indore and Bhopal are the places well-known for their historical monuments. Maheshwar, Omkareshwar, Ujjain, Chitrakoot and Amarkantak are major centres of pilgrimages. Unique temples of Khajuraho are famous all over the

world. The temples of Orchha, Bhojpur and Udaypur attract large number of Tourists as well as pilgrims. Archaeological treasures are preserved in the museums at Satna, Sanchi, Vidisha, Gwalior, Indore, Mandsaur, Ujjain, Rajgarh, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Rewa and may other places.



Shri Rameshwar Thakur, Governor



Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister

Cabinet Ministers	Department	R.No.	District In Charge	Phone No.			Address	VS/PA/PS
				Mantralaya	Residence	Vidhansabha		
 <u>Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan,</u> <u>Chief Minister</u>	General Administration, Narmada Valley Development, Aviation and other Department	501	-	2441581 2441033 2441096 2551396 2441781 (Fax)	2442231 2735876 2442241 2660322 2540500	2440241 2440242 257623 (fax)	Shyamla Hills	Shri Harish Shri Prashant Shri Shrivastava Shri Santosh Sharma
 <u>Shri Babulal Gaur,</u> <u>Minister</u>	Urban Administration and Development, Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation	514	Harda	2550631 2441584 2441583	2441578 2761555 2775611 2775586	2440258	B-6, 74 Bunglows	Shri Shrivastava Shri Yadav Shri Kamal

	<u>Shri Raghawji, Minister</u>	Finance, Planning, Economics and Statistics, 20 points Implementation, Commercial Taxes	213	Indore	2441340	2430726 2441060 (Fax)	2440267 2441719 2467943	B-19, Char Imali	Shri Gupta Shri Raghuvanshi
	<u>Shri Jayant Mallayya, Minister</u>	Water Resources, Housing and Environment	538	Gwalior, Tikamgarh	2441784	2554366 2675388 2440553	2440258	B-27, 74 Bunglows	Shri Mahipal Shri Rajendra
	<u>Shri Kailash Vijayvargiya, Minister</u>	Commerce & Industries, Employment, Information Technology, Science and Technology, Public Undertakings, Horticulture & Food Processing, Rural Industries	519	Sagar	2441061	2441161 2578540 2441161 (Fax)	2440246	B-10, 74 Bunglows	Shri Chouhan Shri Paliwal Shri Kamleshwar
	<u>Shri Gopal Bhargawa, Minister</u>	Social Justice, Panchayat and Rural Development	539	Damoh, Panna	2441017	2661271 2441156 2763536 4253922	2440251	B-4, Civil Lines, Professor Colony	Shri Kukreti Shri Rawat Shri Bhargava
	<u>Shri Anoop Mishra, Minister</u>	Public Health and Family Welfare, Ayush, Medical Education, Public Grievances, Bio Diversity/Bio Technology	545	Bhopal	2441362	2441086 2766342	2440247	B-4, 74 Bunglows	Shri Moti Shri Sharma Shri Deepak
	<u>Shri Sartaj Singh, Minister</u>	Forest	513	Betul	2512419 4252390	2418662 2550492	-	Vidhayak Vishram Grah Parisar, Vindhya	Shri Dilip Kayse Shri Suresh Dubey Shri Namdev

								Kothi	
	<u>Shri Narottam Mishra</u> Minister	Parliamentary Affairs, Law & Legislative	544	Jabalpur, Dhar	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>Kunwar Vijay Shah</u> Minister	Tribal and Scheduled Caste Welfare	516	Ujjain	2441075	2441532 2441163	2523182	5, Shyamla Hills	-
	<u>Shri Jagdeesh Devda</u> Minister	Transport, Jail	517	Dewas, Guna	2441006	2441324 2553090	2523165	C-5, 74 Bungalows	Shri Singh Shri Shrivastava Shri Dahare
	<u>Shri Ajay Vishnoi</u> Minister	Animal husbandry, Fisheries, Backward & Minority Welfare Dept.	534	Dindori, Rewa	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>Shri Laxmikant Sharma</u> Minister	Technical Education & Training, Higher Education, Culture, Public Relation, Religious Trusts and Endowments	228	Sehore, Shajapur	2441128	2761585 2441695 2441693	2440258	B-11, 74 Bungalow	Shri Bhargava
	<u>Shri Nagendra Singh Nagaud</u> Minister	Public Work Department	440	Umariya	2441171	2730929 2730927	2440271	Kashana Bungalows Karwala road	Shri Bathre Shri Rawat
	<u>Smt. Archana Chitnis</u> Minister	School Education	536	Khargone, Barwani	2441479	2760188 2441247	2523155	B-20, 74 Bungalows	Srhi Vaishya Shri Saxena Shri Thakur

	<u>Shri Jagannath Singh</u> Minister	Labour	542	Mandla, Seoni	2441361	2440736 2552108 2552107	-	B-11, Char Imali	Shri Nigam
	<u>Dr. Ramkrishna Kusmariya</u> Minister	Farmer welfare and Agriculture Development	543	Sidhi, Katni	2441438	2441380 2761594 2430620	2523175	B-3, Shyamla Hills	Shri Dubey Shri Patel
	<u>Shri Gourishankar Chaturbhuj Bisen</u> Minister	Public Health Engineering, Cooperatives	534	Chhindwara, Narsinghpur	2441377	2776580 2775611 2579717 2574900	-	B-28, Swami Dayanand Nagar, 74 Bunglows	Shri Vanraj
	<u>Shri Tukojirao Puar</u> Minister	Tourism, Sports and Youth Welfare	520	Datia	2441073 2441018	2430876 2431555	2440257	E-9 H/2, Char Imli	Shri Nemichand Jain Shri Vijay Singh
	<u>Shri Karan Singh Verma</u> Minister	Revenue, Rehabilitation	537	Raisen, Vidisha	2441016	4251476 2660607	2523152	B-2, Shyamla Hils	Shri Sharma Shri Shrivastava Shri Herawal
	<u>Shri Umashankar Gupta</u>	Home	518	Ratlam, Rajgarh	2441006	2440303 2441384	-	E-22, 45 Bunglows	-
State Ministers Independent Charge)		Department	R.No.	District In Charge	Mantra_ laya	Res.	Vidhan sabha	Address	VS/PA/ PS
	<u>Shri Paras Chandra Jain</u> State Minister	Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection	145	Mandsaur, Neemach	2677533	2430847 2430848	2440261	B-20, Char Imli	Shri Buade Shri Solanki
	<u>Mrs. Ranjna Baghel</u> State Minister	Woman and Child Development	65	Khandwa, Burhanpur	2441018	2443234 2552030	-	B-13, 74 Bunglow	Shri Rawat Shri Kashiram

	<u>Shri Rajendra Shukla</u> State Minister	Engergy, Mineral Resources	535	Singrauli, Satana	2441190	2430865 2441208	2523180	B-9, Char Imali	Shri Naresh Pal Shri Atul Mishra Shri Mayank Shrotri Shri Anand Bhatt
State Ministers		Department	R.No.	District In Charge	Mantra_ laya	Res.	Vidhan sabha	Address	VS/PA/ PS
	<u>Shri Narayan Singh Kushwaha</u> , State Minister	Transportation, Jail & Home	435	Shivpuri, Bhind	2441171	2431022 2431033	2523174	B-4, char Imli	Shri Biraule
	<u>Shri Kanhaiyalal Agrawal</u> State Minister	General Administration, Narmada Valley Development, Aviation	449	Morena, Sheopur	2441018	2554757 2430457	2523181	B-26, 74 Bunglow	Shri Budhwani Shri Raghuwanshi
	<u>Shri Harishankar Khatik</u> State Minister	Tribal and Scheduled Caste Welfare	64	Chhatarpur	2677533 2676526 2676826	2671024 2671046	2523171	Vidhayak Vishram Grah Khand-1, R.N.-42-43 B-25, 74 Bunglow	Shri Dixit Shri Pandey
	<u>Shri Devsingh Sayam</u> State Minister	Panchayat and Rural Development	327	Shahdol	2441016	2441228 2558775	-	C-18, Shivaji Nagar	Shri Gaur Shri Santosh
	<u>Shri Brijendra Pratap Singh</u> State Minister	Farmer welfare and Agriculture Development	65	Hoshangabad	2441814	2441068 2441688	2523170	B-20. Char Imli	-
	<u>Shri Jaysingh Maravi</u> State Minister	Forest, Revenue	97	Anuppur	2512583	2440583	2523159	Vidhyak Vishram Grah Room No. 60-61	-

	Shri Mahendra Hardia State Minister	Public Health and Family Welfare, Medical Education, Ayush, Technical Education & Training,	129	Jhabua, Alirajpur	-	-	-	-	-
-	Shri Nanabhau Mohod State Minister	School Education	144	Balaghat	2441176	2441243 2431955	2523179	Vidhyak Vishram Grah Room No. 92-93	-
	Shri Manohar Untwal State Minister	Urban Administration and Development,	112	Ashok Nagar	-	-	-	-	-

It is bordered by the states of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. Occupying an area of 119,016 sq mi (308,252 sq km), it is India's second largest state. Its capital is Bhopal. It is the source of some of the most important rivers of India, including the Narmada, the Tapti (Tapi), the Mahanadi, and the Wainganga. It was part of the Mauryan empire of the 4th–3rd centuries bce and was ruled by numerous other dynasties. Under Muslim control from the 11th century ce, it was annexed by the Mughal Empire in the 16th century. It was under Maratha rule by 1760 and passed to the British early in the 19th century. The state was formed after India gained its independence in 1947; its boundaries were altered in 1956. In 2000 the eastern portion of the state was made into the state of Chhattisgarh. Though Madhya Pradesh is rich in mineral resources, its economic mainstay is agriculture.

As its name implies—madhya means “central” and pradesh means “region” or “state”—it is situated in the heart of the country. The state has no coastline and no international frontier. It is bounded by the states of Uttar Pradesh to the northeast, Chhattisgarh to the southeast, Maharashtra to the south, Gujarat to the southwest, and Rajasthan to the northwest. The capital is Bhopal, in the west-central part of the state. Area 119,016 square miles (308,252 square km). Pop. (2008 est.) 69,279,000.

Land

Madhya Pradesh lies over a transitional area between the Indo-Gangetic Plain in the north and the Deccan plateau in the south. Its physiography is characterized by low hills, extensive plateaus, and river valleys.

Relief

The elevation of Madhya Pradesh ranges from 300 to 3,900 feet (90 to 1,200 metres). In the northern part of the state the land rises generally from south to north, while in the southern part it increases in

elevation toward the west. Important ranges of hills are the Vindhya Range, in the west, and its northern branch, the Kaimur Hills, both of which reach elevations of 1,500 feet (460 metres), and the Satpura, Mahadeo, and Maikala ranges, in the south, which have elevations of more than 3,000 feet (900 metres). The Dhupgarh Peak (4,429 feet [1,350 metres]), near Pachmarhi in south-central Madhya Pradesh, is the state's highest point. Northwest of the Vindhya Range is the Malwa Plateau (1,650 to 2,000 feet [500 to 600 metres]). Other features include the Rewa Plateau, in the rugged eastern region of the Vindhya Range, the Bundelkhand Upland, north of the Vindhya Range, the Madhya Bharat Plateau, in the extreme northwest, and the Baghelkhand Plateau, in the northeast.

Climate

The climate in Madhya Pradesh is governed by a monsoon weather pattern. The distinct seasons are summer (March through May), winter (November through February), and the intervening rainy months of the southwest monsoon (June through September). The summer is hot, dry, and windy; in Bhopal, low temperatures average in the upper 70s F (about 25 °C), while high temperatures typically reach the low 100s F (about 40 °C). Winters are usually pleasant and dry, with daily temperatures normally rising from about 50° (about 10 °C) into the upper 70s F (about 25 °C). Temperatures during the monsoon season usually range from the low 70s F (low 20s C) to the upper 80s F (low 30s C).

The average annual rainfall is about 44 inches (1,100 mm). In general, precipitation decreases westward and northward, from 60 inches (1,500 mm) or more in the east to about 32 inches (800 mm) in the west. The Chambal valley in the north averages less than 30 inches (750 mm) of rainfall per year. Most parts of Madhya Pradesh receive almost all of their precipitation in the monsoon months; however, there is considerable rainfall over the northern part of the state in December and January.

Plant and animal life

In the early 21st century, official statistics indicated that nearly one-third of the state's total area was forested, but satellite imagery revealed the proportion to be closer to one-fifth. An even smaller percentage of Madhya Pradesh consists of permanent pasture or other grazing land. The main forested areas include the Vindhya Range, the Kaimur Hills, the Satpura and Maikala ranges, and the Baghelkhand Plateau. Among the state's most notable trees are teak and sal (*Shorea robusta*), both of which are valuable hardwoods; bamboo; salai (*Boswellia serrata*), which yields a resin used for incense and medicine; and tendu, the leaves of which are used for rolling bidis (Indian cigarettes).

The forests abound in large mammals, such as tigers, panthers, bears, gaurs (wild cattle), and many types of deer, including chital (spotted deer), sambar, blackbucks, and the rare barasingha (swamp deer). The woodlands also are home to many species of birds. Madhya Pradesh has a number of national parks and many wildlife sanctuaries, of which the best known are Kanha National Park, in the southeastern part of the state, for the barasingha; Bandhavgarh National Park, in the east, for the endangered white tiger; and Shivpuri (Madhav) National Park, in the north, where there is a bird sanctuary. The Kanha National Park has a sanctuary for tigers, and the National Chambal Sanctuary (administered jointly with Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh), in the northwest, has been established for the conservation of (freshwater) Ganges river dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*), as well as crocodiles, gavials (crocodile-like reptiles), and various large terrestrial animals.

Population composition

About one-fifth of the people in Madhya Pradesh are officially classified as members of Scheduled Tribes (a category embracing indigenous peoples who fall outside the predominant Indian social hierarchy). Among the most prominent of these tribes are the Bhil, Baiga, Gond, Korku, Kol, Kamar, and Maria. Non-Scheduled peoples, who hold a higher status within the Indian social system, make up most of the remaining four-fifths of the state's population.

Hindi, the official state language, is also the language most widely spoken in Madhya Pradesh. Eastern Hindi dialects, represented by Bagheli and Awadhi, are spoken in the southern and eastern parts of the state and in the upper Narmada River valley. Bundeli, a Western Hindi dialect, is spoken in the central and northwestern districts of Madhya Pradesh; Malvi, recognized by some as a Western Hindi dialect as well, is the speech of western Madhya Pradesh.

The second most important language in terms of the number of speakers is Marathi. Urdu, Oriya, Gujarati, and Punjabi are each spoken by sizable numbers. Also spoken are Telugu, Bengali, Tamil, and Malayalam. The Bhil speak Bhili, and the Gond speak Gondi.

Most of the people are Hindus. There are, however, significant minorities of Muslims, Jains, Christians, and Buddhists. There is also a small Sikh population.

Settlement patterns

Roughly three-fourths of the population of Madhya Pradesh is rural, but the distribution of this population is very uneven. Densely populated rural regions are confined largely to the river valleys—the upper Wainganga, the lower Chambal, and the Narmada—and to scattered patches on the Malwa Plateau in western Madhya Pradesh. The largest urban areas are Bhopal, in west-central Madhya Pradesh; Indore, in the west; and Jabalpur (Jubbulpore), in the east-central region. Other major cities include Gwalior, in the north, Ujjain, in the west, and Sagar (Saugor), in the central part of the state.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the basis of Madhya Pradesh's economy. Less than half of the land area is cultivable, however, and its distribution is quite uneven because of variations in topography, rainfall, and soils. The main cultivated areas are found in the Chambal River valley and on the Malwa and Rewa plateaus. The Narmada valley, covered with river-borne alluvium, is another fertile region.

Agriculture in Madhya Pradesh is characterized by low productivity and the use of nonmechanized methods of cultivation. Because only a portion of the sown area is irrigated, the state's agriculture has remained heavily dependent on rainfall; some regions often suffer from drought. Irrigation in Madhya Pradesh is carried out primarily by means of canals, wells, and tanks (village lakes or ponds).

The most important crops are wheat, sorghum (jowar), corn (maize), rice, and pulses (legumes such as peas, beans, or lentils). Rice is grown principally in the east, where there is more rainfall, while in central and western Madhya Pradesh wheat and sorghum are more important. The state is one of the largest producers of soybeans in India. Other crops include linseed, sesame, sugarcane, and cotton, as well as various millets, which are grown in hilly areas.

Livestock and poultry farming also are prominent in Madhya Pradesh. The state contains a significant portion of the country's livestock—cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, and pigs. In addition, the state's many rivers, canals, ponds, and reservoirs support a fisheries industry.

Resources and power

Madhya Pradesh is rich in minerals, though these resources have yet to be fully exploited. There are large reserves of coal and important deposits of iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite, limestone, dolomite, copper, fireclay, and kaolin (china clay). At Panna, in the northeast, there are diamond reserves.

The state is well endowed with hydroelectric power potential, and a number of hydroelectric projects have been developed jointly with neighbouring states. Madhya Pradesh also draws a portion of its power from several thermal stations located within the state. Most of these thermal plants are coal-fired.

Manufacturing

Overall, Madhya Pradesh has remained an industrially underdeveloped state. However, there are several centres of large- and medium-scale manufacturing, most notably in Indore, Gwalior, Bhopal, and Jabalpur, where industrial estates have been established as part of planned development. The principal government-sponsored industries include paper milling, cement production, and the manufacture of heavy electrical items, microelectronics, and optical fibres. Cement works and paper mills also have been established in the private sector, as have facilities for the production of sugar, textiles (cotton, wool, silk, and jute), lumber, flour, and various seed and vegetable oils. Other products of Madhya Pradesh include fertilizer, synthetic fibres, and chemicals.

Of the state's small-scale enterprises, the hand-loom industry has flourished, with saris (garments worn by Indian women) made in Chanderi, gold and silver thread embroidery produced in Bhopal, and carpets woven in Gwalior. The artisans of Gwalior also produce handmade pottery. Jabalpur and Sagar are well-known centres for the manufacture of bidis (hand-rolled cigarettes).

Transportation

In comparison with most other Indian states, Madhya Pradesh has a somewhat less developed infrastructure and communication network. Although served by several national highways, the state has a low density of roads, especially in remote rural areas. However, the construction of bridges across the Narmada and other rivers has greatly helped the development of all-weather traffic routes. The main railroads that pass through the state were originally laid down to connect the ports of Chennai (Madras), Mumbai (Bombay), and Kolkata (Calcutta) with their hinterlands. Important railway junctions include Bhopal, Ratlam, Khandwa, and Katni. Airports at Bhopal, Gwalior, Indore, Jabalpur, and Khajuraho offer domestic service.

Constitutional framework

The structure of the government of Madhya Pradesh, like that of most other states of India, is determined by the national constitution of 1950. The head of state is the governor, who is appointed by the president of India. The governor is aided and advised by the Council of Ministers, which is headed by

a chief minister and is responsible to the elected, unicameral Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha). Madhya Pradesh has High Court benches at Indore, Gwalior, and Jabalpur from which appeals can be made to the Supreme Court of India. Lower courts include district courts and family courts.

At the local level, the state is divided administratively into a number of divisions, which in turn are subdivided into numerous districts. Each division is headed by a commissioner and each district by a collector. The collector exercises both executive and magisterial power. Since 1962 the lowest level of local administration has been entrusted to village panchayats (village councils). In addition, official grievance-redressal committees help to solve local problems.

Health and welfare

Every district in Madhya Pradesh has at least one hospital, typically in an urban centre, and hundreds of community and primary health centres and subcentres spread across the rural areas. The state also has several eye hospitals, mental hospitals, and other specialized facilities for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis, venereal disease, and rabies, which, along with filariasis and leprosy, have remained major health concerns. Gwalior has a cancer research centre. Malaria, which was formerly endemic throughout Madhya Pradesh, has been virtually eradicated.

The government has implemented several social welfare programs, including adult literacy classes and various schemes directed toward the special problems of rural youths, the Scheduled Tribes, and members of other traditionally marginalized communities. There are also a number of programs for women and girls, which include informal social service clubs called mahila mandals, schemes for helping rural women with problems of motherhood, and programs that make education available to girls from economically disadvantaged families. Grants-in-aid are given to social welfare and physical welfare institutions, while the government operates leprosy clinics, as well as homes for the impoverished or otherwise needy citizens.

Education

Roughly two-thirds of the state's population is literate. There are schools for primary, middle, and high school education, as well as specialized schools for polytechnics, industrial arts, and crafts. Madhya Pradesh has a number of state universities; among these, the Dr. Harisingh Gour University (1946; formerly University of Saugar), located at Sagar, and Vikram University (1957), in Ujjain, are the oldest and best-known, while the music school at Khairagarh is one of the finest in India. Jabalpur has an agricultural university, and there is an institute of journalism and public relations in Bhopal.

Art and architecture

Ancient temples, fortresses, and cave works reflect the rich history of Madhya Pradesh. In the foothills of the Vindhya Range, prehistoric paintings dating from roughly 10,000 bce adorn the walls of the Bhimbetka rock shelters (designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2003). In west-central Madhya Pradesh, one of the state's oldest historical monuments is the stupa (Buddhist mound forming a memorial shrine) at Sanchi, near Vidisha. Originally constructed by Ashoka, emperor of India from about 265 to 238 bce, the stupa was expanded by the Shunga kings, who ruled the area during the 2nd and 1st centuries bce. The remains of another stupa, dating to about 175 bce, were excavated in Bharhut, near

Satna, and are now housed in the Indian Museum at Kolkata; the distinctive narrative style of decoration found on this stupa is known as Bharhut sculpture.

Some of the most remarkable ancient artwork of Madhya Pradesh is found in caves. The Bagh caves, near the western town of Mhow, are adorned with paintings on Buddhist topics that date roughly to the 5th century ce. Stemming from about the same period (4th to 7th century) are the Udayagiri caves (Brahmanical and Jaina monasteries), near Vidisha, which exhibit artwork and rock-cut architecture similar to those of the well-known Udayagiri caves in the neighbouring state of Orissa.

The Khajuraho temples, in northern Madhya Pradesh, are widely recognized for their erotic art; they were built by the Chandela kings, who ruled in the region roughly from the early 9th to the mid-11th century. The 14th- and 15th-century palaces and mosque at Mandu, near the western town of Dhar, and the Gwalior fort—perhaps the most impressive of the residences of the former princes of Madhya Pradesh—also constitute notable architectural achievements.

Oral tradition

Many traditions of the tribal peoples of Madhya Pradesh have remained strong, and a great deal of indigenous mythology and folklore has been preserved. The pardhan (bards of the Gond community) continue to sing of the legendary deeds of Lingo-pen, the mythical originator of the Gond people. The Pandwani is the Gond equivalent of the Mahabharata (one of the two great Hindu epics), while the Lachmanjati legend is the Gond equivalent of the Ramayana (the other great Hindu epic). All tribes have myths and legends regarding their origin. Some songs are associated with the celebration of particular life events, such as birth and marriage, while other songs accompany various styles of dance. Folk literature, riddles, and proverbs are other components of the state's rich oral-traditional heritage.

Cultural institutions

The state has several well-known annual cultural events, such as Kalidas Samaroh (for the visual and performing arts) in Ujjain, Tansen Samaroh (classical music) in Gwalior, and a dance festival in Khajuraho, where artists from all over India participate. In Bhopal there is a unique multifaceted cultural complex, the Bharat Bhavan, which functions as a meeting ground for artists from various fields; the sprawling complex houses a museum, a library, an open-air theatre, and a number of conference halls. The state has important yearly religious melas (gatherings) in Mandsaur (Mandasor) and Ujjain, both in the Malwa region of western Madhya Pradesh.

History

Rock paintings and stone and metal implements found in the rivers, valleys, and other areas of Madhya Pradesh indicate that the area has been inhabited since prehistoric times. One of the earliest kingdoms known to have existed in the region was Avanti, with its capital at Ujjain. Located in the western part of present-day Madhya Pradesh, this state was part of the Mauryan empire (4th–3rd century bce) and was later known as Malwa. Attracted by the region's fertile black soils, settlers from different parts of India migrated to Malwa via three important migratory routes—from the western coast, from the Deccan plateau, and from the ancient city of Shravasti and its surrounding territory in the north.

Dynastic rule

Among the various dynasties that ruled part or all of Madhya Pradesh between the 2nd century bce and the end of the 10th century ce were the Shungas (c. 185–c. 73 bce), who ruled in eastern Malwa, the Satavahanas (1st or 3rd century bce–3rd century ce), the Shakas (2nd–4th century ce), and the Nagas (2nd–4th century ce). The whole of Madhya Pradesh lying north of the Narmada River formed part of the Gupta empire (4th–5th century ce) and was the scene of a power struggle against the nomadic Hephthalites (Hunas) and the Kalachuris, the latter of whom occupied part of Malwa but only for a brief period. Yashodharman was the Malwan king who defeated the Hephthalites in the 6th century. During the first part of the 7th century, Malwa was annexed by the emperor of northern India, Harsha (Harahavardhana).

By the 10th century the Kalachuris had risen again to occupy eastern Madhya Pradesh, including the Narmada valley; their contemporaries were the Paramaras of Dhar in what is now the western region, the Kachwahas of Gwalior in the north, and the Chandelas of Khajuraho, about 100 miles (160 km) southeast of Jhansi. Later the Tomaras ruled at Gwalior, and the tribal Gonds ruled over several districts.

Muslim and British rule

Muslim invasion of the area began in the 11th century. The Hindu domains of Gwalior were incorporated into the Delhi sultanate in 1231 by the sultan Iltutmish. Later, in the early 14th century, the Khalji sultans of Delhi overran Malwa, which was subsequently annexed into the Mughal Empire by Akbar (ruled 1556–1605), the greatest of the Mughal emperors. Maratha power extended into Malwa at the beginning of the 18th century, and a large part of what is now Madhya Pradesh had come under the control of an alliance of Maratha rulers—the Maratha confederacy—by 1760. With the defeat of the peshwas (hereditary Maratha chief ministers who centralized Maratha rule) in 1761, the Sindhia dynasty of Marathas was established at Gwalior in the north and the Holkar dynasty, also Maratha, at Indore in the southwest.

In the early 19th century the area became increasingly agitated as Pindari robber bands, composed of horsemen formerly attached to armies of Maratha chiefs, began to raid towns and villages from their hideouts in central India. The Pindaris, who received the tacit protection of the Sindhia and Holkar dynasties, had formed these autonomous bands beginning in the late 18th century, when the Maratha confederacy was weakening from internal dissension and from the growing military presence of the British. By 1818 British armies were able to suppress not only the Pindaris but also the various Maratha dynasties. That year the Nerbudda (now Narmada) River and Saugor (now Sagar) territories, containing much of northern Madhya Pradesh (including Gwalior and Indore of the Sindhia and Holkar dynasties), were ceded to the emerging British Empire.

During the next 40 years the British consolidated their control over the area. In the early 1830s British armies were required to suppress the thugs (Hindi: thag), a fraternity of assassins and plunderers (dating from at least the 14th century) who were roaming across central India. By 1854 all of Madhya Pradesh had fallen under British control. The present borders began to take shape in 1861, when the Sagar and Narmada territories and the Nagpur plain to the south were merged to create the Central Provinces. In 1903, with the addition of the Muslim territory of Berar, the area was renamed the Central Provinces and Berar. This administrative unit, however, did not include those parts of the north and west of the present state (Malwa, Bundelkhand, and Baghelkhand) that from 1854 formed sections of the Central

India Agency. The Muslim state of Bhopal, situated between the Central India Agency and the Central Provinces and Berar, remained a protectorate of the British.
