

### *TRIBES OF MADHYA PRADESH*

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## TRIBALS IN MADHYA PRADESH



Madhya Pradesh is dominated by the Tribal population. The differences in the tribal community, spread over in various parts of the state, is clearly seen not only on the basis of their heredity, lifestyle and cultural traditions, but also from their social, economic structure, religious beliefs and their language and speech. Due to the different linguistic, cultural and geographical environment, and its peculiar complications, the diverse tribal world of Madhya Pradesh has not only been largely cut-off from the mainstream of development. The population of Tribals in Madhya Pradesh is 122.33 lakh constituting 20.27% of the total population of Madhya Pradesh (603.85 Lakh), according to the 2001 census. There were 46 recognized Scheduled Tribes and three of them have been identified as "Special Primitive Tribal Groups" in the State. The differences in the tribal community , spread over in various parts of the state is clearly seen not

only on the basis of their heredity, lifestyle and cultural traditions, but also from their social, economic structure, religious beliefs and their language and speech. Due to the different linguistic, cultural and geographical environment, and its peculiar complications, the diverse tribal world of Madhya Pradesh has not only been largely cut-off from the mainstream of development.

Name of tribe	Sub-tribe	Population (Census 1981)	Districts inhabited
Gond	Pardhan, Agariya, Ojha, Nagarchi, Solhas	5349883	All districts, mainly spread on both banks of Narmada River in Vindhyas and Satpura
Bhil	Barela, Bhilala, Patliya	2505888	Dhar, Jhabua, East Nimar
Baiga	Bijhwar, Narotia, Bharotiya, Nahar, Rai Bhaina, Kadh Bhaina	248949	Mandla, Balaghat
Korku	Movasiruma, Nahala, Vavari, Bodoiya	66781	East Nimar, Hoshangabad, Betul, Chhindwara
Bharia	Bhumiya, Bhuihar, Pando	195490	Chhindwara, Jabalpur
Halba	Halbi, Bastariya, Chhatisgarhiya	236375	Balaghat
Kaul	Rohiya, Rauthail	123811	Rewa, Satna, Shahdol, Sidhi
Mariya	Abujh Mariya, Dandami Mariya, Metakoitur	195490	Jabalpur, Mandla, Panna, Shahdol, Chhindwara
Sahariya	-	261816	Guna, Shivpuri, Morena, Gwalior, Vidisha, Rajgarh

## DISTRIBUTION OF TRIBAL POPULATION

The main tribal groups in Madhya Pradesh are Gond, Bhil, Baiga, Korku, Bhariya, Halba, Kaul, Mariya, and Sahariya. Dhar, Jhabua and Mandla districts have more than 50 percent tribal population. In Khargone, Chhindwara, Seoni, Sidhi and Shahdol districts 30 to 50 percent population is of tribes. Maximum population is that of Gond tribes.



### **GONDI PEOPLE**

The Gond (Gōndi) are a people in central India. The Gond, or Gond people are spread over the states of Madhya Pradesh, eastern Maharashtra (Vidarbha), Chhattisgarh, northern Andhra Pradesh, and western Orissa. With over four million people, they are the largest tribe in Central India. The Gond language is related to Telugu and other Dravidian languages. About half of Gonds speak Gond languages, while the rest speak Indo-Aryan languages including Hindi. The Gonds are traditionally agriculturalists; some practice shifting cultivation, while others raise cereals or herd cattle. Gond society is highly stratified and does not conform to the usual image of egalitarianism among tribals. The Gonds belong to a category of very large tribes (also including Santals and Bhils) that have traditionally dominated the regions in which they have lived. However, like other Adivasis, the Gonds have suffered from increasing landlessness since the 1960s.

Traditional Gond religion involves a distinct pantheon of gods and spirits, which many Gonds practice along with Hinduism. Gondwana or "land of the Gonds", is a loosely-defined area of southeastern Madhya Pradesh, eastern Maharashtra, and parts of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, and northern Andhra Pradesh. The region was home to several Gond kingdoms from the 15th century to the mid-18th century, when the Marathas expanded into the region from the west.

### **HALBA**

**Halbi**, Halba, is a tribal caste community of India. This community is mostly found in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh & Maharashtra. It is claimed that Halbis descend from the intermarriage of Maratha militiamen, who were the military force in Bastar state, and tribal women, particularly Gonds.

GONDI	
<b>Languages</b>	Gondi, Hindi
<b>Religion</b>	Hinduism, traditional beliefs
<b>Related ethnic groups</b>	Dravidian people • Brahui people • Kannadigas • Khonds • Kodava • Malayalis • Tamils • Telugus • Tuluvas

## **BHIL**

**Bhils** are a tribal people of Central India. They speak Bhil languages, a group of Indic languages. Bhils are a scheduled tribe in the states of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan in western and central India, as well as in Tripura in far-eastern India, on the border with Bangladesh. Bhils are also settled in Tharparkar district of Sindh in Pakistan. The Ghoomar dance is one well-known aspect of Bhil culture. In feudal and colonial times, many Bhils were employed by the ruling Rajputs in various capacities, e.g. as Shikaris because of their knowledge of the terrain. Many had even become warriors in armies. They were in the Mewar army of Maharana Pratap Singh and like Chhatrapati Shivaji, were experts in guerilla warfare



<b>BHIL</b>	
<b>Population in Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>4,619,068</b>
<b>Languages</b>	<b>Bhil languages</b>

## **BAIGA**

**Baiga** is a tribe found in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand states of India. The largest number of Baigas is found in Baiga-chuk in Mandla district and Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh. They have sub-castes - Bijhwar, Narotia, Bharotiya, Nahar, Rai Bhaina, and Kadh Bhaina. Their population as of Census 1981 was 248,949. The Baiga tribe in Madhya Pradesh is known for its unique culture.



They do not interact even with other tribals like the Gonds, believe in a hand-to-mouth existence, and do not try to access education, eat outside their community, or associate with others. After a death in the family, the Baigas just leave the house and build another. They are totally dependent on the jungle, they do not engage in tendu patta collection, which is a major livelihood provider in Madhya Pradesh. The Baigas live for the present, and do not think of the future. Their love for the country liquor called mahua daru is absolute, and they spend their week's earnings on liquor on Fridays and Saturdays. The baiga takes coarse food and shows no extravagance in this aspect. They eat coarse grain, kodo, and kutki, drink pej, eat little flour and are normally content with what little that they get. One of the prime foods is pej that can be made from grounding macca or from the water left from boiling rice. One of the tribes for whom tattooing is an integral part of their lifestyle is the Baiga tribe. This tribe inhabits the dense hilly forests in the eastern part of the Satpuras, in Shahdol, Bilaspur, Rajnandgaon, Mandla, and Balaghat districts. The Biagas are of Dravidian stock and are one of the eight extremely backward and primitive tribes of M.P.

In Hindu Mythology, popular Bhil figures are Shabari, who offered Rama and Laxmana half-eaten Ber (berries) fruit when they were searching for Sita Devi in the forest. Maharishi Matanga was another Hindu Bhil sage who became a Brahmana. It is noteworthy that Lord Rama appears in a Bhil myth where there has been a flood that wiped out humanity and Rama suggests how it can be repopulated.

## KORKU

**Korku** is a little-known tribe of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra in India. The largest number of the Korkus is found in Betul and Chhindwara districts of Madhya Pradesh and in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra. They share the love of the forests with the Gonds, they are also excellent agriculturists and in Bhainsdehi tahsil of Betul district have pioneered the cultivation of potatoes and coffee. Their Korku language belongs to the Kolarian or Munda family, isolated in the midst of a Dravidian (Gondi) population. The Korkus are also closely associated with the Kalto or Nihali people, many of whom have traditionally lived in special quarters of Korku villages. Korku is spoken by a total of approximately 478,000 people, mainly in four districts of southern Madhya Pradesh (Khandwa, Harda, Betul, Hoshangabad) and three districts of northern Maharashtra (Rajura and Korpana tahsils of Chandrapur districts) Manikgarh pahad area near Gadchandur in Chandrapur district) (Amravati, Buldana, Akola).

The nouns may have either one of the three genders: masculine, feminine or neutral. The adjectives are placed before the nouns they qualify. Korku is spoken in a reducing number of villages and is gradually being replaced by Hindi. This tribe lives in small groups of huts made by grass and wood. They socially consume liquor made by Mahua flowers which is prepared in almost all the houses.

## BHARIA

**Bharia** is one of the interesting tribes of Madhya Pradesh in India. The Bharias live in Patalkot, which is a completely isolated valley some 400 metres below Tamia in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh. This valley is the source of Dudhi River. Patalkot is totally inaccessible by road and one enters along a foot-path only. There are hundreds of medicinal plant species in the Patalkot valley. The Bharias have a deep knowledge of the herbs and medicinal plants growing within their valley and the herbal healers from the Bharia community are known as Bhagats. According to Dr Deepak Acharya, Bhumkas can treat various human disorders.

## KAUL

**Kaul** is also a tribal community dwelling in Rewa division and Jabalpur district in Madhya Pradesh, India. These people are also known as Kolarian and Mundari tribes. Rohia and Rothail are their sub-castes. Kaul tribes have adopted the Hindu system of living. They believe in Hindu religion and deities. Their deities are Dulha Dev, Bairam Dev and Bada Dev. They believe in the existence of ghosts. They also have faith in *Jādu-tonā*. Kaul people are dependent on agriculture for livelihood. Their main occupation is agriculture and animal husbandry. They have their own Panchayats known as Gohia. They are more politically conscious than other tribes in Madhya Pradesh. Kaul is a surname found in India and is commonly believed to have originated amongst the people of the Kashmir Valley. People with Kaul surname are now found in various parts of India. Kaul surnames are also found in parts of Europe. The name Kaul is also German.

## KORKU

Spoken in:	Central India (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra)
Language family:	Austro-Asiatic, Munda, Core Munda, North Munda

## SAHARIA

**Saharia** is a little-known tribe in India. The Saharias are found mainly in Morena, Bhind, Gwalior, Datia, Shivpuri and Guna districts of Madhya Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan. They live in the Khair, Kardhai and Babool forests of the valleys of the Kuno, Parbati, Sindh, and Kali Sindh rivers. Their agricultural income is marginal but they get substantial additional income from working in the forests and collecting minor forest produce such as honey, edible gums, manufacture of kattha, collection of chironji, tapping Salai trees etc. They also find employment in large grass reserves of the Kuno valley. The Saharias are good huntsmen. The leader, called the Keshav of the tribe, uses primitive hand languages and signs to communicate with the hunters of the tribe during a hunt. The hunting tactics used by the Saharias are similar to those used by Native Americans.



## **PLANNING WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING & INDUSTRIAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**



A programme on human resource development for Industrial Disaster Risk Management (IDRM) in the country is being implemented by DMI in association with gtz/InWEnt Germany. This programme has the approval of Ministry of Environment and Forests, GOI. Gtz-Inwent will provide financial & technical support for this programme for the next three years. As a first step a two days Planning Workshop was organized by Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal on "**Industrial Disaster Risk Management (iDRM)**" during 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2008 at Bhopal.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. N. Vinod Chandran Menon Member, NDMA, Dr. Ch. Kamlage, Senior Project Manager InWEnt and Mrs. Alka Upadhyaya, Executive Director, DMI. Dr. Jurgeon Bischoff, Director, Gtz, New Delhi and Dr. Rakesh Dubey, Director along with the senior officials of Industries, Regulatory bodies and scientific institutions attended the programme.

Around 59 participants attended the workshop. As a major outcome of the workshop, a strategy for developing a working human resource in Industrial disaster risk management was finalized. In planning workshop DMI was awarded to organize four national level workshops on the various facets of Industrial disaster risk management at different parts of the country.



## Training Programme on Legislation on Hazardous Waste Management & Batteries

Disaster Management Institute (DMI), Bhopal has organized a two-days training programme on '**Legislation on Hazardous Waste Management & Batteries**' during May 15-16, 2008 at Conference Hall, Hotel Samrat, Indore. The training programme was financially supported by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India. Altogether 30 participants participated in the training programme from different industries and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB's). The training programme was free of cost.



## VISIT OF GERMAN DELEGATES TO DMI



Delegation from Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Mr Walter Stechel, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in India, Dr Walter Zoller, Counselor Social & Labour Affairs & Dr Andreas Pfeil, Head of Economic Corporation & Development visited Disaster Management Institute (DMI) on 7th May 2008. Delegation had a discussion with Dr. Rakesh Dubey, Director, DMI along with his team members to explore the future possibility in the area of environmental and industrial disaster risk management. They also visited Chairman, DMI & Principal Secretary of Govt. of Madhya Pradesh in this connection.

## MOCK DRILL ON CHEMICAL (INDUSTRIAL) DISASTER MANAGEMENT



A mock drill on chemical (Industrial) disaster management was organized under the aegis of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) & Disaster Management Institute, Bhopal, with the help of Directorate of Industrial Health & Safety and Govt. of Maharashtra, involving Rastriya Chemical Fertilizers, (RCF) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) at Chembur- Mumbai, on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2008. The major emphasis of the mock drill was to assess the preparedness level of the major accident hazards units of RCF, BPCL, and HPCL, and District Administration to deal with chemical (Industrial) Accidents. The theme of the drill was designed around three simulated scenarios viz. rupture of ammonia pipeline connection between storage and filling of tankers at RCF, fire in bulk storage tank at BPCL and failure of Liquefied Petroleum Gas(LPG) Horton sphere from HPCL leading to a vapour cloud explosion.

Employees in the industries ran helter-skelter as sirens buzzed and the police and fire- fighting personnel cordoned off the area to extinguish fire and rescue people trapped in the industries hit by mishaps. Rescue personnel from the district administration and neighbouring industries were also deployed as part of Disaster Management Plan. The drill was a part of preparedness among the district administration to tackle emergency. On the whole, it came out well barring a few shortcomings like lack of protected equipments for fire-fighting personnel and less numbers of ambulances and bed strength for emergency medical care.



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