

## TOURISM AND TOURIST PLACES IN MADHYA PRADESH

### INTRODUCTION

Madhya Pradesh, as its name implies, lies in the heart of India. Whose topography ranges from plateau with the Vindhya and the Satpura mountain ranges, the plains in the east, meandering rivers, rocky hills and ravines to lush green forests. State offers all important pillars of Indian tourism like pilgrim tourism, wildlife tourism, heritage tourism, buddhism, adventure sports, etc.

The state boasts of a wide variety of attractions to suit all tourist tastes, from ancient temples to national parks and sanctuaries, stupa, forts and palaces, a host of cultural and tourist festivals to splendid venues for international conference and conventions of global standards. The best known tourism products of Madhya Pradesh in global and national tourism market are its heritage and archeological sites, wildlife territories, pilgrimage centers, leisure and business centers and the rich classical, folk and tribal culture.

Three sites in Madhya Pradesh have been declared world **heritage sites by UNESCO**. They are the Khajuraho group of monuments, rock shelters of Bhimbetka and Buddhism monuments at Sanchi. Some of the other important tourist attractions include Amarkantak, Bhopal, Chaneri, Dhar, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Maheshwar, Mandu, Orchha, Sonagiri and Ujjain.

- Oh, fine Ujjain! Gem to Avanti given,
  - Where village ancients tell their tales of mirth and old romance!
  - Oh, radiant bit of heaven, Home of a blest celestial band whose worth Sufficed though fallen from heaven, to bring down heaven on earth!
- Poorva Megha – 32*
- “Meghdootam”*
- This is the beautiful descriptions of the Pradesh in the fourth century AD classic “Meghdootam” by legendary Sanskrit poet Kalidas.

Madhya Pradesh is resplendent with the hill ranges of the Vindhyas and the Satpuras and is lush green throughout. The landscape is beautified by rivers, whose names have the sound of water in them-Narmada, Tapti, Betwa, Chambal, Son and many others, and have great historical significance. So adorned with meandering rivers, hills, lakes and forests, Madhya Pradesh has a varied natural setting and has mesmerizing beauty.

Jungles have a unique and exciting panorama of wild life. Bandhavgarh in Rewa district has hoisted to world fame for its phenomenal and solitary

asset : the white tigers. Numerous National Parks of Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Shivpuri, Panna and several others offer wonderful opportunities to have thrills of viewing life in them.

The state has celebrated the golden jubilee of its existence in the year 2006 but it is as old as hills, witness to many civilizations. History has blessed it with distinguished marks in the shape of numerous monuments, right from rick shelters to wonderfully architecture Forts, Palaces, Temples, Stupas and innumerable monuments.

## **FAMOUS TOURIST ATTRACTIONS OF MP**

Some of the famous tourist attractions of Madhya Pradesh

### **KHAJURAHO (CHHATARPUR)**

#### **IMAGE**

Khajuraho has made its place in the sphere of tourism and is famous worldwide for its temples of sculptural splendour. Built by the **Chandelas**, a Rajput clan between 950 and 1050 AD, these temples represent some of the most exquisite specimens of Hindu architecture and sculpture. The temples are India's unique gift to the world and the state of Madhya Pradesh proudly celebrates its name. Here, the male-female statues in pairs, chiseled in postures of divine union scale the zenith of sculptural art. Today, only 22 temples are left though originally there were 85.

These temples are a paean are a paean to life, to love, to joy, perfect in execution and sublime in expression. They are unique architecturally too and are very different from the temple prototype of their period. Each stands on a high, masonry platform with a marked upward direction in the structure, further enhanced by vertical projections to create the effect of grace and lightness.

Built during the period of Chandel's, these temples are mostly made of **sandstones**, brought from the quarries of **Panna** which is situated on the east bank of the **Ken river**. The stone blocks were fitted together as the use of mortar was not known and this further adds to its value. All the temples of Khajuraho pertain to a cognate style and a distinctive architecture and temples belonging to the **Shaiva, Vaishnava and Jain** sects are found here. The exceptions are the three temples of Chausatha Yogini, Brahma and Lalguan-

Mahadev, which are constructed partly of granite and partly of sandstone. All temples are grouped in three geographical divisions, Western, Eastern and southern. Main temples at Khajuraho include-Kandariya Mahadev temple, Parshvanath temple, Adinath temple, Duladeo temple, Chaturbhuj temple and Matangeshwar temple.

Monuments of Khajuraho are a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1986).

## **UJJAIN**

Located on the banks of **river Shipra**, Ujjain is one of the oldest and holiest of Indian cities. Formerly a famous center of learning, Ujjain is sanctified with the memories of Sandipani Rishi, great poet Kalidas, King Vikramaditya and the great Emperor Ashok. It is here that the grand Kumbh Mela, also known as Simhastha, is organized once in 12 years. One of the chief places of pilgrimage of the country, Ujjain finds its place in the Vedas, the Puranas, the Ramayan and the Mahabharat. Ujjain has one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of the country.

Following are the prominent Tourism Places in Ujjain.

- Sandipani Ashram
- Mahakaleshwar Temple
- Harsiddhi Temple
- Mangalnath Temple
- Jantar Mantar (Astronomical Observatory)
- Kaliadeh Palace
- Bade Ganeshji Ka Mandir
- Gopal Mandir
- Chintaman Ganesh Temple

## **JABALPUR**

Jabalpur is also known as the cultural capital of Madhya Pradesh and has a collection of historical, archeological and natural places. Jabalpur is a major administrative and educational center and is also the seat of **High Court** of the state. Antiquity of the town dates back to Mahabharata era.

Jabalpur was the capital of Gond Kings during the twelfth century and was later the seat of **Kalchuri dynasty**. Jabalpur is also the most convenient base to visit the famous **Kanha** (173 km) and **Bandhavgarh** (194 km) National parks.

Following are the prominent tourist points in Jabalpur.

- Marble Rocks at Bhedaghat.

- Madan Mahal Fort
- Sangram Sagar and Bainamath
- The Samadhi of Rani Durgavati
- Devtal
- Pisanhari Ki Madiya
- Tripuri
- Rani Durgavati Museum
- Dhuandhar Fall
- Chausath Yogini Temple

## **AMARKANTAK**

Amarkantak, the source of the river **Narmada**, one of the holiest rivers of the country and the lifeline of Madhya Pradesh is adorned by natural beauty and beautiful landscape. Kalidas, the great Sanskrit poet, has mentioned about the beauty of Amarkantak in his works of literature. Waterfalls such as Kapil Dhara and Dugdha Dhara are also famous tourist points here. Narmada Udgam Mandir, a temple built at the source of the river Narmada, is one of the holiest places in India and is visited by tourists all over the country. Annual '**Shivaratri**' and '**Nag Panchmi**' fairs celebrated here also attract thousands of pilgrims.

Mandu was originally the capital of Malwa's Parmar rulers. Other than its monuments, natural surroundings and history, what sets Mandu apart from other medieval cities is the tale of love and devotion going beyond the confines of royalty and religion. Mandu celebrates the romance of the gallant king of Malwa, **Baz Bahadur with Rani Rupmati** a woman of unparalleled beauty and grace. A reservoir known as Rewa Kund stands witness to their legendary love story. Some of the other tourist attraction in this city are the Echo Point, the Lohani Cave and temples associated and Sunpoint, near the caves.

All over this place we find ruins of Afghan architecture. The Central Group of monuments includes-

- The Nilkanth Shrine
- Nilkanth Mahal
- Jahaz Mahal
- Hindola Mahal
- Hoshang Shah's Tomb built by Mahmud Khilji, was India's first building made completely of marble)
- Jami Masjid of Mandu
- The Ashrafi Mahal
- Baz Bahadur's Palace

- Rani Rupmati's Pavilion

Bhimbetka is one of the most famous sites in the state of Madhya Pradesh which has immense historical significance. Over 600 rock shelters belonging to the Neolithic age have been discovered at Bhimbetka. Paintings in caves depict the life of the prehistoric cave-dwellers, making the Bhimbetka group an invaluable archeological treasure in the history of human race. It became a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 2003. Out of hundreds of caves with paintings some 12-15 are open for visitors.

In the year 1957, Indian archaeologist **Dr. Vishnu Sridhar Wakankar** noticed a uniquely impressive landscape from the window of a train while travelling south from Obedullaganj. There were spectacular giant rocks and entrances in caves. This led to the discovery of a significant and valuable tourist destination in Madhya Pradesh.

These caves contained not just stone artefacts from prehistoric age but something more – the walls and ceilings of caves were covered with paintings. Later, Wakankar and his students copied the drawings accurately and presented them in international conferences in France and United States. Though the real value of this discovery was realized later, in 1970s, when more archeologists visited Bhimbetka; it added a new feather in the cap of tourist destinations of Madhya Pradesh.

## **PACHMARHI**

Pachmarhi is a beautiful hill station in the lush green **Satpura Ranges** and is at an altitude of 1067 m. Pachmarhi is blessed with excellent weather and registers maximum rainfall in the state. Its most enchanting feature is its natural beauty and fine climate. It is believed that Pachmarhi is named after the ancient rock cut caves, where the five Pandava brothers are said to have taken refuge. The discovery and development of Pachmarhi as a hill station in the year 1857 by Captain Forsyth has, however, turned it into a wonderful tourism retreat.

Pachmarhi offers park like woods and glades for quiet walks, shady bridle paths and lead to breathtaking views at the edge of the plateau. It offers the panorama of streams and waterfalls that collect into cool pools for bathing and challenging hills for rock climbing and adventure sports. Pachmarhi offers comfortable as well as inexpensive tourism accommodation and facilities.

Major Tourist Attractions at Pachmarhi:

- Priyadarshini Point
- Water Falls (Bee fall and Rajat Vihar)

- Jatashankar
- Rock Shelters
- Dhoopgarh
- Pandava Caves

## **SANCHI (RAISEN)**

Sanchi is one of the world's most famous **Buddhists' pilgrimages**, known for Stupas, Temples, Monasteries, and Pillars dating from the third century BC to the twelfth century AD Sanchi is also a renowned UNESCO **World Heritage Site (1989)**. Stupas at Sanchi were built by the Great Mauryan Emperor Ashoka. The life of Lord Buddha is inscribed on the arches of the Stupas. Relics of Sariputra and Mahamoggallana, two chief disciples of Buddha, were unearthed in Sanchi.

Following are the major attractions at SANCHI.

- Great Stupa Number 1
- Stupa Number n2
- Stupa Number 3
- Ashokan Pillar
- Udaygiri Caves (20 Caves)
- Gyaraspur

One of the lesser known but important monument near Sanchi are the temples at Gyaraspur.

## **CHANDERI**

Chanderi is known for its magnificent and large fort, built during the Mughal period. There are several monuments of the Malwa Sultans and the Bundela Rajputs. The old Chanderi town has numerous Jain temples dating back to ninth and tenth century, which attract thousands of **Jain pilgrims** every year. The picturesque town surrounded by hills, lakes and forests is also known for its very well known fine **sarees** and brocades.

## **BHOPAL**

Beautiful Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, is situated in picturesque setting, around two magnificent lakes. The city is literally the heart of India and casts an unusual spell on the visitor right from the moment one arrives. Historical monuments, old mosques and palaces, lakes, well laid out gardens and parks, bustling market places of the old and the new city are a feast in store for tourists.

The city of Bhopal was named after its founder **Raja Bhoj**, the famous tenth century ruler of Paramara dynasty, who is believed to have built the big lake of Bhopal. The city was destroyed in the fifteenth century by **Sultan Hoshang Shah** of Malwa. The existing city was built by Dost Mohammad Khan, an Afghan Governor who seceded from the Mughal empire after Aurangzeb's death and established his own dynasty-the Nawabs of Bhopal.

Bhopal was also ruled by two efficient women rulers namely Sikander Begum (1857-1901) and Shah Jehan Begum (1901-1926). Shah Jehan Begum, the great queen and the eighth ruler of Bhopal, built many monuments in the city and is credited with Bhopal's postal system, railways and water works. Bhopal today presents a multifaceted profile, the old city with its teeming market places, fine old mosques and palaces which bear the aristocratic imprint of its former rulers and the new beautifully planned city with wide avenues, parks and gardens, government buildings and residential areas which are functional, practical and esthetic.

Following are the prominent tourist places in Bhopal.

- Taj-ul-Masajid
- Bharat Bhawan
- Jama Masjid
- Shaukat Mahal and Sadar Manzil
- Gauhar Mahal
- Upper and Lower Lakes
- Van Vihar National Park
- National Museum (Museum of Man)
- State Archeological Museum
- Moti Masjid or Pearl Mosque
- Laxminaran Temple
- Aquarium

## **BHOJPUR**

About 28 km south-east of Bhopal, Bhojpur is famous for the **Bhojeshwar Temple** which is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple which has earned the **Somnath of the east**, owes its origin to the eleventh century Paramara King Raja Bhoj.

This temple was partially completed and it's a simple square with sides of over 66 feet. The dome is richly carved, though incomplete, has a magnificent, soaring strength of line and is supported by four pillars. The lower doorposts are plain while the columns and upper sections inside are richly carved and are magnificent.

## **GWALIOR**

The ancient capital city, i.e. Gwalior has been a cradle of great dynasties and a living heritage of heroism. The antiquity of the city dates back to eighth century, when Suraj Sen, a chieftain, founded the city and named it after Gwalior, a famous saint who cured him of a deadly disease. Gwalior which is also known as the city of palaces, temple and monuments witnessed the rule of great Rajput clans like Pratiharas, Kacchwahas and Tomars. Its tradition as a royal capital continued until the formation of independent India, with Scindias having their dynastic seat in this ancient royal city.

Gwalior is also the land of the prodigy of Hindustani classical music, the great **Tansen**. The mesmerizing and unique moments of a glorious past have been preserved that make Gwalior unique and timeless. The town has memorials of earliest freedom fighters like Taty Tope, Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi and several Scindia princes.

Following are the most Prominent Tourist Places in Gwalior.

- Tansen's Tomb
- Tomb of Ghaus Mohammad
- Jai Vilas Palace
- Jai Vilas Museum
- Fort (built in 525 AD)
- Man Mandir Palace
- Teli Ka Mandir
- Sas-Bahu or Sahastrabahu Ka Mandir
- Gujari Mahal Museum
- Kala Vithika and Municipal Museum
- Sun Temple

## **ORCHHA (NIWARI)**

The ancient city is still untouched by present times and has retained the medieval aura. The city has magnificent fort complex and spectacular temples and palace. The important and the famous ones are Jehangir Mahal, Raj Mahal, Rai Praveen Mahal, Ram Raja Temple, Chaturbhuji Temple, Laxminarayan Temple, etc. These palaces and temples were built during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and are marvels of architecture. These are known for beautiful murals of the **Bundelas**.

## **INDORE**

The name of the city of Indore is taken from Indreshwar temple built in eighteenth century. It is located in the heart of the Malwa plateau and was



given to Malhar Rao Holkar by the Maratha peshwas. Indore was planned and built by **Rani Ahilyabai**, the brave Holkar queen, and it lies to the west of the state. It was the capital of Holkar dynasty and has an important historical background. S

Indore is a major textile trading center and today Indore is a thriving city, developing in economic, social and cultural spheres so fast that it is also known as “**Mumbai of Madhya Pradesh**”. Indore has registered a remarkable industrial growth and has also earned the name of “Commercial capital” of the state. The city is major center of economic activity and it offers growth opportunities to everyone from big industrialists and manufacturers to wholesalers and retailers, from renowned hotel groups to small food caterers.

**Pithampur, once called Detroit of India** where a large number of automobile industries are based, is situated near Indore but is situated in Dhar district. A number of hospitality groups have established their business in Indore. It is a gateway for important tourist places like Ujjain, Dhar, Mandu, Omkareshwar and Maheshwar.

Following are the most Prominent Tourist Places in Indore.

- Rajwada
- Bade Ganpati
- Lal Bagh Palace
- Chhatri Bag
- Kanch Mandir
- Central Museum
- Gandhi Hall
- Annapurna Temple

## **DHAR**

Dhar was the capital of Paramara kings, of whom **Raja Bhoj** is the most famous king. The city came under the Muslim influence during the rule of Delhi Sultanate. The architecture in Dhar reveals a conglomerate of Hindu, Afghan and Mughal styles. The image of goddess from Bhojshala temple of Dhar is now a display in London, British Museum.

## **CAVES OF BAGH**

The Caves of Bagh, named after a neighboring village, are situated at a distance of 97 km from Dhar on the southern slopes of the Vindhya hills.

The cliff side, in which they are excavated, rises some 150 feet above the Bagh River, and is remarkable as being the only outcrop of sandstone in an otherwise basaltic region.

## OMKARESHWAR

Omkareshwar is situated on the **confluence of the rivers Kaveri and Narmada**. Omkareshwar has one of the twelve Jyotirlingas enshrined in the temple of Omkar Mandhata with beautiful surroundings. This medieval temple was built in Brahmani style and is encircled by the river Narmada and its stream Kaveri. The architecture of the temple is magnificent. Gouri-Somnath temple, Siddhanath temple of the island and one cave of Adi Shankaracharya are famous tourist attractions.

## MAHESHWAR

Maheshwar is on the banks of river Narmada. Its ancient name is **Mahishmati**. Maharani Ahilya Bai built a beautiful fort and Ghat here, the temples of Kaleshwar, Ahilya museum Raj-Rajeshwar and Vithaleshwar, Peshwa ghat and canopy over the grave of the members of Holkar family are famous. Boating from Ahilya ghat to Sahastradhara, at a distance of 3 km is a mesmerizing experience. Maheshwar is famous for its **silk and cotton sarees**. Devi Ahilya Bai established it as capital place of Holkars.

## PRELIMS CAPSULE

- Monuments of Khajuraho are situated in Chhatarpur district. Khajuraho was the religious and Cultural center of Chandela rulers.
- Khajuraho was build by Chandel rulers between 950 and 1050 AD.
- In the year 1986, Khajuraho was included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Temples related to Shaiva, Jain and Vaishnav religion are found in Khajuraho.
- Chitragupta temple of Khajuraho is the only Sun Temple in Khajuraho.
- Monuments of Khajuraho are also known as pilgrimage of architecture.
- Sanchi Stupa is present in the Raisen District which was built by king Ashoka in third Century BC.
- In the year 1989, Sanchi stupa was included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- Sanchi is alos known as Buddha City or Bauddha Nagari.
- Orchha was made capital by Bundela of Bundelkhand and is in the Niwari district.

- Orchha has been declared as holy place by Madhya Pradesh government.
- Maihar is situated in the Satna district and has also been declared as a Holy place.
- Maihar is famous for goddess Sharada Temple and is also known as music city or Sangeet Nagari. It is also famous for Aalha Udal.
- Total number of caves in Udaigiri is 20 and was built during fourth century to tenth century AD.
- Cave number 5 depicts the Varah incarnation of God Vishnu and cave number 19 is called Amrit cave or gufa.
- Famous Pashupatinath Temple is situated in Mandsaur on the banks of Shivna river.
- Bawan Gaja in Barwani has 72 feet tall Lord Aadinath Idol.
- Muktagiri situated in Betul district is holy place for Jainas.
- Pavagiri is Khargone, Sonagiri is in Datia and Gommatgiri is in Indore.
- Maheshwar is situated in the Khargone district whose ancient name is Mahishmati.
- Maheshwar was the capital of Devi Ahilya famous for Maheshwari sarees.
- Maheshwar has been mentioned in the Ramayan as well as the Mahabharat and has been declared as holy place by government of Madhya Pradesh.
- Ujjain is situated on the banks of river Shipra where every 12 years Simhastha takes place.
- Ujjain is known as the city of Lord Mahakal and was formerly called as Ujjaini.
- The only south facing Shiv temple and one among 12 Jyotirlingas is found in Ujjain.
- When Jupiter enters Leo zodiac sign, Simhastha is organized at Ujjain every 12 years.
- Sandeepni Ashram is situated in Ujjain where Lord Krishna got educated.
- Jantar Mantar observatory is also situated at Ujjain and was built by King Jai Singh.
- Amarkantak is situated in Anuppur district at Pushprajgarh tehsil and is the place of origin for Narmada, Son and Johila River.

- Amarkantak has ancient temples which were built by Kalchuri rulers.
- Chitrakoot is in Satna district and has been declared as holy place by Madhya Pradesh government.
- Chitrakoot is considered to be the place of incarnation of Brahma Vishnu and Mahesh (Bala Avtar).
- During 14 years of banishment lord Ram, Laxman and goddess Sita came as guests of Maharshi Atri and Sati Ansuya.
- Mandu is situated in the Dhar district and its ancient name is Manda Durg or Mandavgarh.
- Mandu is also known as city of joy.
- Hindola palace, Jahaz palace and Rani Rupmati palace is situated in Mandu.
- Pachmarhi is also known as the heaven for tourists and is the only hill station in the state of Madhya Pradesh.
- Dhupgarh is the highest peak in Pachmarhi.
- Pachmarhi situated in the Hoshangabad district in Satpura Range.
- Dhuadhar waterfall at Bhedaghat is situated on the river Narmada at Jabalpur.

#### **RECENT MISCELLANEOUS FACTS**

- Vidisha included in Aspirational Scheme of NITI Ayog.
- First Tuesday of every month to be observed as Revenue Day.
- National Conference on PMGSY road maintenance was held at Bhopal. Theme was 'E-marg' software development by MP.
- Subhadra Kumari Chauhan Smriti Samaroh to be held in Chhindwara.
- Air Quality Index of MP (by MP Pollution Control Board)-
  - Most Polluted District-Satna (177).
  - Least Polluted District-Chhindwara (35).
- District Indore of MP got 1<sup>st</sup> position in Swachhta Sarvekshan 2018. Bhopal secured 2<sup>nd</sup> position in the list.
- Devi Ahilyabai Airport in Indore declared to be no. 1 airport in Asia-Pacific region.
- Dr. Usha Khare honored with National Teachers' Award 2017 in New Delhi by Venkaiah Naidu.

- 5<sup>th</sup> Nadi Mahotsav to be held in Hoshangabad district at Bandrabhan.
- Israel to collaborate in water management, floriculture and setting up of 'Centre for Excellence' in Sehore and Shajapur districts of MP.
- Miss Deshna Jain (Indore) got 1<sup>st</sup> position in Miss Deaf Asia Contest and third position in Miss Deaf Contest held in Taiwan.
- 'ADVENTURENEXT' 2018 held first time in Asia in Bhopal.
- Shri Balkavi Bairagi (writer/author from Neemuch and Amritlal Wegad passed away.
- On World Tribal Day (9<sup>th</sup> August), MP govt. announced holiday in 20 tribal dominated districts.
- Bhedaghat has been declared as holy place by government of Madhya Pradesh and is also known for white marbles.
- Chausat Yogini temple is a Bhedaghat.
- Omkareshwar is situated at Khandwa district on the banks of river Narmada.
- One of the 12 Jyotirlingas is at Omkareshwar and has been declared as holy place by government of Madhya Pradesh.
- Omkareshwar is also famous for hydroelectric power plant as well as National Park and also for Omkar Mandhata temple.
- Pillar of Heliodorus is situated at Vidisha.
- Bandhavgarh in Umarid district is famous for George Castle and the National Park.
- Chanderi Place is situated at Ashoknagar.
- Madhya Pradesh was adjudged the best state for comprehensive development of tourism at the national tourism award for the year 2014-15.
- MP bagged Hall of Fame National Award 2018, given to a state for being judged the best one for tourism three years consecutively.

## **CURRENT UPDATE**

- **Garbha Sanskaar Pilot Project** has been started under 'swastha mahila swastha pradesh' campaign in medical colleges of Indore, Bhopal, Jabalpur. Under this, 50 women will be selected and treated using allopathy, homeopathy, ayurveda, naturopathy, yoga and even mantras.

- **Cross mother milk banks** will be established in Indore Medical College and JP hospital Bhopal.
- **In School Education Quality Index** released by NITI Aayog, MP is ranked 15 in the country. Kerala, Rajasthan, Karnataka are ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.
- **ATAL (All India Council of Technical Education Training and Learning) Academy** will be opened in Bhopal.
- **Model Career Center** will be set up in Jabalpur for skill development and technical training of youth.
- **Professor Anil Sadgopal** has been honored with Hommi Bhabha Award 2018 for his contribution in the field of science and education.
- **Grade 9 student Samparpan Malaviya** of Ratlam will be given Jeevan Raksha Padak for catching a snake that had entered anganwadi center and saving children's lives. Jeevan Raksha Padak is a civilian life saving award presented by the Government of India since 1961 for 'courage and promptitude in saving life under circumstances of grave bodily injury to the rescuer'.
- **'Premchand Srijan Peeth'** has been established in Vikram University, Ujjain.
- **Dragon Fruit cultivation** has been started in Saindhwa (Badwani district). Dragon fruit, also known as Pitaya or strawberry pear is a tropical cactus fruit indigenous to the Americas.
- **MP Tourism Board bagged 10 National Awards in different categories-** The Awards were presented in National Tourism Awards 2019 organized in September 2019 (World Tourism Day) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India. These include :
  1. Best Adventure State – Madhya Pradesh
  2. Best Tourism Promotion Publicity Material – Lonely Planet Pocket Guides
  3. Best Maintained & Differently Abled Friendly Monument- Buddhist Monument at Sanchi.
  4. Best Wildlife Guide- Manoj Kuar, Panna
  5. Best Heritage City- Orchha
  6. Best Airport- Indore
  7. Best Tourist Transport Operator- Radiant Travel
  8. Swachhta Award- Indore
  9. Excellence in Publishing in Foreign Language- Chinese Brochure