

## Festivals and Fairs of Madhya Pradesh

### **Festivals of Madhya Pradesh :-**

The festival of Shivaratri is celebrated, mainly in Khajuraho, Bhojpur and Pachmarhi in the state. The Malwa festival of Indore, Mandu and Ujjain and the dance festival of Khajuraho have a special contribution in keeping the folk-culture alive.

### **Some Important Festivals :-**

#### **Bhagauria festival-**

This festival of the Bhil tribe is celebrated on the occasion of Holi when the rabi crop is ripened. This festival starts seven days before Holika Dahan, mainly three festivals are celebrated in it. The first two days are followed by Gulaliya, then two days by Gol Gadedo festival and the last two days by Ujadia festival. This is also a festival of Bhagoria Bhils.

#### **Ghadalya festival:-**

In the Ghadalya festival, the girls collectively dance together on the occasion of Navratri. This is the main festival of Malwa. In these, grains and money are collected in their area by placing a perforated pitcher on the head of a young woman and singing a song. Similar to the Ghadalya festival, a festival called Chhala is also celebrated by unmarried youths.

#### **Karma Festivals:-**

Karma festivals are mainly celebrated by the people of Oraon tribe in the joy of coming to greenery. When the paddy is ready to be planted, the festival is celebrated and the Karma dance is performed.

#### **Suata festival :-**

Like the Ghadalya festival of Malwa, Suata festival is famous in the Bundelkhand region. In this festival an ornate statue of the demon is installed on the wall and in the upper part of it, a statue of Shiva-Parvati is placed, the sun and moon are made on the wall, then the young women worship and sing.

#### **Bhaiya Dooj:-**

Bhaiya Dooj festival is celebrated twice a year in Madhya Pradesh. One is celebrated after Holi in Chaitra month and the other after Deepawali in Kartik month.

#### **Hareli or hairi :-**

This festival has special significance for the farmers. They worship the tools used in their agricultural use on this day. This festival is celebrated on the new moon of Shravan month. In Mandla district, It is celebrated on the full moon of this month and in the month of Ashad in Malwa region. In Malwa it is called "Hariyagodha".

### **Akshaya Tritiya:-**

Akshaya Tritiya of Baishakh month (April-May) is the main festival of unmarried women, in which women worship the Vat tree.

### **Larukaz festival:-**

Larukaj, the chief festival of the Gond tribe, is celebrated in honor of Narayana Dev. This festival is a symbol of a pig's marriage. It is believed that happiness, prosperity, and prosperity prevail in the family through this festival.

### **Bachchavaras festival :-**

This festival is celebrated in the month of Shravan. On this occasion, women worship cows and only eat food made of millet, moth and gram.

### **Navan festival:-**

This festival is celebrated on the 11th day of Deepawali on the harvesting crops in Bundelkhand. Sugarcane and jowar are worshiped on this day.

### **Gangaur Festival:-**

This festival is celebrated twice a year in Malwa region. Once in Chaitra month and second time in Bhadrpada month, Shiva-Parvati ji is worshiped in this festival.

### **Naurata festival:-**

This festival, which lasts for 9 days at the time of Dussehra, is mainly celebrated by women. During these 9 days, women worship Maa Durga and keep fast. Garba dances are also performed in many places.

### **Rasnava festival:-**

This festival is celebrated by the Baigas of Mandla district in the memory of Adi Purush Naga Baiga. In this festival, the Baiga people worship bees on the 9th day.

### **Meghnath festival:-**

This festival is celebrated by the Gond tribes in Phagun. Meghnath is considered this supreme deity. It is celebrated by the Gond tribals on the first side of the month of Phagun. On this occasion, the tribals perform pooja rituals.

### **Sanja and Mamulia :-**

This festival is celebrated by unmarried women, which lasts for 16 days in the month of Ashwin. Under this, the young women make various shapes with dung on the wall of their houses and perform group dances in the evening.

### **Madai festival:-**

Madai is the festival of Gonds and their subcastes in southern Madhya Pradesh. It is celebrated in Mandla and Dindori districts.

### **Kaksar festival :-**

This festival is the main festival of Abuzhmadia tribals. In this festival, young boys and girls reach each other's villages dancing. In this, unmarried young men and women choose the best life partner for themselves.

## **Fairs of Madhya Pradesh**

### **Simhastha Mela (Kumbh Mela) :-**

One of the world-famous fairs in India is the Kumbha Simhastha Mela, which is held on the banks of the Kshipra River in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. Simhastha fair is held at an interval of every twelve years. This fair is held from the full moon of Chaitra month to the Vaishakh Purnima.

### **Fair of Pir Budhan : -**

This fair has been taking place in the Samvara region of Shivpuri district for almost 250 years. The Pir Budhan fair is held in the month of August-September at the mausoleum of the Muslim saint Pir Budhan.

### **Hira Bhumia Fair : -**

The Heera Bhumiya Mela is held in Gwalior region in the months of August and September. This fair is organized in memory of Hiraman Baba.

### **Jageshwari (Jogeshwari) fair : -**

A fair of Goddess Jageshwari (Jogeshwari) is held at Chanderi in Ashok Nagar district. It is held annually in March-April near Hauz Khas Pond.

### **Tejaji's Fair : -**

Tejaji's fair is organized at Bhamawar in Guna district. This fair is held on the birth anniversary of Tejaji. Tejaji's fair is also held in Nimar district.

**Fair of Mahamrityunjaya :-**

In the Mahamrityunjaya temple located in Rewa district, a fair of Mahamrityunjaya is organized on Basant Panchami and Shivaratri.

**Fair of Ramlila :-**

This fair is organized in Bhandar tehsil of Datia district. This fair is held in the month of January-February.

**Shivaratri Fair of Amarkantak :-**

Shivaratri fair is held at the origin of the river Narmada, Amarkantak,. This fair is being organized for many years.

**Fair of Chandi Devi :-**

Chandi Devi is considered to be an incarnation of Goddess Parvati at a place called Ghoghara in Sidhi district. This fair is held in March-April.

**Barman's Fair :-**

Fair of Barman A thirteen-day fair is held on the occasion of Makar Sankranti at the well-known Brahmin Ghat located on the banks of the Narmada River in Narsinghpur district.

**Fair of Kana Baba :-**

The fair of Kana Baba is held at the samadhi of Kana Baba in a village called Sodhalpur in Hoshangabad district.

**Nagaji's Fair :-**

A fair of Nagaji is organized in Porsa village of Morena district in the memory of Nagaji, the saint of Akbar.

**Fair of Kaluji Maharaj :-**

The fair of Kaluji Maharaj takes place in Piplya Khurd in Khargone district (Western Nimar) for about a month. In this fair, keema bulls of Nimari breed are bought and sold.

**Fair of Singaji :-**

Fair of Singaji A fair is held for a week in August-September in Piplya village of Khargone district (Western Nimar).

**Dhamoni Urs :-**

Dhamoni Urs is organized in April-May at the tomb of Baba Mastan Ali Shah located at Dhamoni in Sagar district.

**Bhagoria Fair:-**

Bhagoria Haat / Bhagoria Fair is held every year on the occasion of Holi in the Jhabua district.

**Baba Shahabuddin Auliya's Urs:-**

Baba Shahabuddin Auliya's Urs is held for only four days in the month of February in the Neemuch district. Here is the tomb of Baba Shahabuddin.

**Sonagir Fair : -**

On the occasion of Holi, a five-day fair is organized at the famous Shri Digambar Jain pilgrimage site at Sonagir, located in Datia.

**Mathaghoghara Fair : -**

On the occasion of Shivaratri festival at the place called Bhairavnath in Seoni district, a 15-day monastery fair is organized.

**Fair of Garibnath : -**

In the memory of Baba Garibnath, a follower of the Nath sect, this fair is organized in the month of Chaitra in the village of Avantipur Badodia in the Shajapur district.

**Sankua Fair : -**

This fair is organized every year on the full moon of Kartik month at Sunkua salt place situated on the banks of Sindh river in Datia district.

**Fair of Rampapali : -**

A five-day fair is organized on the occasion of the full moon of Kartik month on the banks of the Chandan river in Balaghat district.

**Gotemar Fair : -**

This fair is held in Pandhurna of Chhindwara district on the new moon day of Bhadrapada month and on the banks of the Jam river situated in the middle of Savargaon.

**Other major fairs**

| <b>Fair / Urs</b>     | <b>Place</b>                    |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fair of barman        | Narsinghpur (Gadarwada village) |
| Fair of navagraha     | Khargone                        |
| Fair of Chamunda Devi | Dewas                           |
| Martyr's fair         | Sanavad (Khargone)              |
| Siddheshwar Fair      | Shivpuri                        |
| Bal Dauji's Fair      | Panna                           |
| Ijitma's Fair         | Bhopal                          |
| Jal Bihari Fair       | Chhatarpur                      |
| Mandhata Fair         | Khandva                         |
| Dharmarajeshwar Fair  | Mandsaur                        |
| Bhagoria Haat         | Jhabua                          |
| Naudevi ka mela       | Rawatpura (Bhind)               |
| Fair of Salkanpur     | Budhni (Sehore)                 |
| Nath Ghoghra Fair     | Sivani                          |
| Fair of Bhairavnath   | Sivani                          |
| Kundeshwar Fair       | Tikamgarh                       |
| Ramji Baba's Fair     | Hoshangabad                     |
| Rahas fair            | Gadhakota (Sagar)               |
| Balaji's Fair         | Burhanpur                       |
| Banganga Fair         | Shivpuri                        |
| Madhai's Fair         | Dindori                         |

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Shankar's Fair                      | Chauragarh (Pachmarhi)   |
| Meghnath Fair of Umreth             | Chhindwara               |
| Fair of Vadakpur                    | Damoh                    |
| Fair of Badoni                      | Datia                    |
| Sankua fair                         | Datia                    |
| Fair of Ratangarh                   | Datia                    |
| Ramleela Fair                       | Datia                    |
| Sonagiri Fair                       | Datia                    |
| Madhya Pradesh's largest trade fair | Gwalior                  |
| Magh Ghoghra Fair                   | Bhairathan (Suture)      |
| Chandidevi's Fair                   | Ghoghara Village (Sidhi) |
| Fair of heera bhumiya               | Guna                     |
| Fair of Jageshwari Devi             | Chanderi (Ashoknagar)    |
| Teja Baba's Fair                    | Snaavat (Guna)           |
| Sharad Samaiya's Fair               | Panna                    |
| Sahastradhara Mela                  | Mandla                   |