



livelihoods

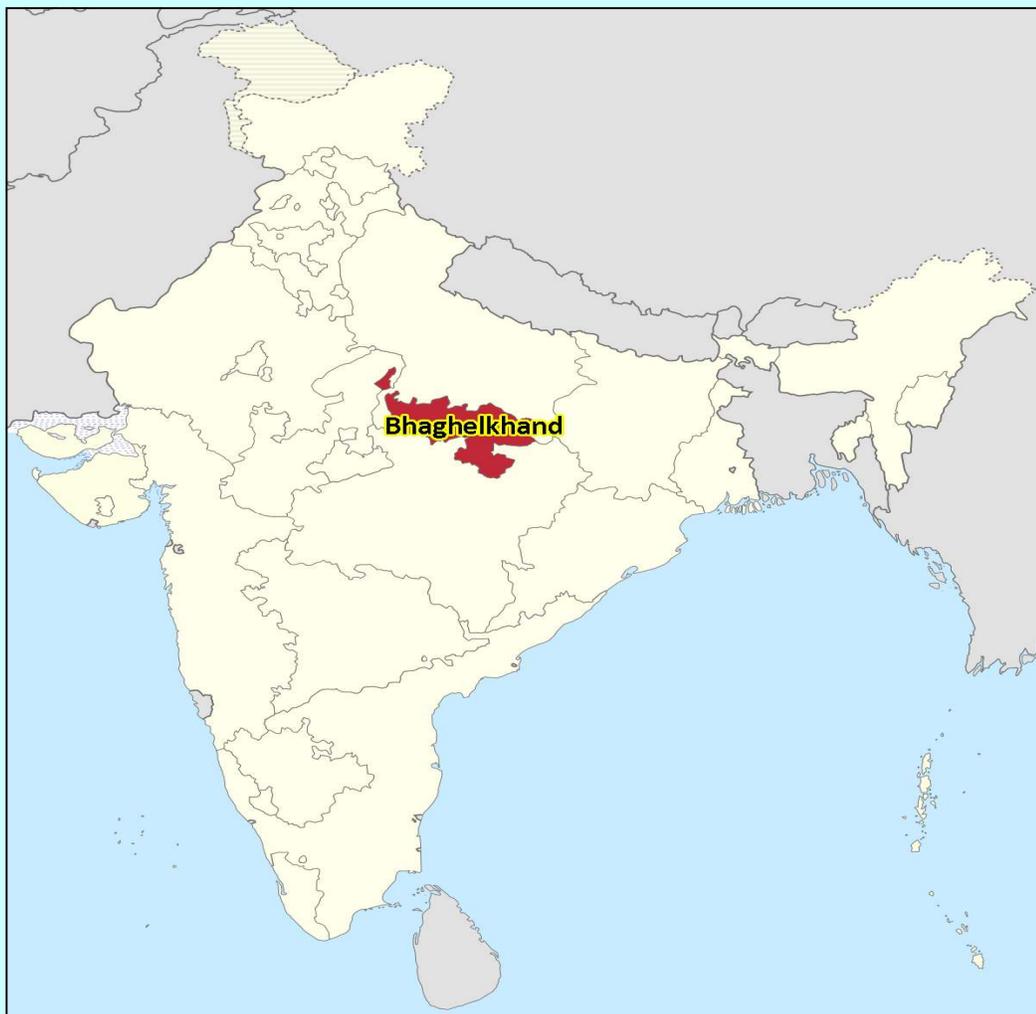
today and tomorrow

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‘Kshetram’

Baghelkhand Region

Baghelkhand region is a mountainous range in central India that covers the North-Eastern region of Madhya Pradesh and a small area of South-Eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is surrounded by the Indo-Gangetic plain in the north and east, Bundelkhand in the west and Vindhya range in the south. Baghelkhand region got its name from the Solanki rulers who came to be known as Baghels.



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Geographical Profile of Baghelkhand Region:

1. Rewa district lies between 24° 18' and 25° 12' north latitudes and 81° 02' and 82° 18' east longitudes. The district is bounded on the north by Uttar Pradesh, on the east and southeast by Sidhi, on the south by Shahdol, and on the west by Satna. It is part of Rewa Division and has an area of 6,240 km². Rewa plateau or uprihar comprises of Huzur, Sirmour and Mauganj tehsils which lie between the Kaimur Range in the South, the Binjh Pahar in the north. This plateau decreases in height from south to north. In the south, the Kaimur Range rises to more than 450 meters above sea level, whereas the alluvial plain of Teonthor is just 100 meters above the sea level. Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh has 11 Tehsils— such as...1. Gurh, 2. Hanumana, 3. Hujur, 4. Jawa, 5. Mangawan, 6. Mauganj, 7. Nai Garhi, 8. Raipur - Karchuliyar, 9. Semaria, 10. Sirmour and 11. Teonthar

2. Satna district is a district of Madhya Pradesh state in central India. The town of Satna is the district headquarters. It has an area of 7,502 km². Satna district has Uttar Pradesh on the north, Rewa on the east, Shahdol on southwest, Umaria and Katni districts on the south, and Panna on the west. The district is part of Rewa Division. The district is divided into the tehsils of Amarpatan, Maihar, Nagod, Uchehara, Birsinghpur, Kotar, Majhgawan, Ramnagar, Rampur baghelan & Sohawal. Satna town is situated in Sohawal tehsil.

3. Shahdol district is a district in the north-eastern part of Madhya Pradesh state in east central India. The town of Shahdol is the district headquarters. The district is also a Division. The total population of the district is 908,100, out of which 391,027 are Scheduled Tribes and 67,528 are Scheduled Castes. Because of the division of the district on 15-08-2003, the area of the district remains 5671 km². It is surrounded by Anuppur in the southeast, Satna & Rewa in the north, Sidhi in the northeast, Umaria in the west and Koriya district of Chhattisgarh in the west. The district extends 110 km from east to west and 170 km from north to south. This district is situated between 22°38' N latitude to 24°20' N latitude and 80°28' E Longitude to 82°12' E Longitude. The district is located in the north-eastern part of the Deccan Plateau. It lies at the tri-junction of Maikal Ranges of the [Satpura Range], the foot of the [Kymore Range] an extension of the Vindhya Range and a mass of parallel hills which extend over the Chhota Nagpur plateau in Jharkhand. In between these hill ranges lies the narrow valley of the Son and its tributaries. Since the Kymore Range extends along the Son just across the northern boundary, the district may be divided into three physiographic divisions. They are:-

- The Maikal Range
- The Hills of Eastern Plateau
- The Upper Son Valley

Baghelkhand Region

- Located to the east of the Bundelkhand Plateau.
- The Baghelkhand is a region of Central India, in northeastern Madhya Pradesh and adjacent southern part of Uttar Pradesh.
- The total area is 14,323 sq. m.



Major administrative and commercial centres are Rewa, Rajgarh, Satna and Shahdol. Singrauli, Renukut, Pipri, and Dudhi, known for coal mining; and Obra, Dala, Sidhi, and Agori, which are transportation centres.

Shahdol is a predominantly hilly district. It is picturesque with certain pockets and belt of SAL and mixed forests.

4. Sidhi district is one of the tribal districts of Madhya Pradesh state of India. The town of Sidhi is the district headquarters. The district is part of Rewa Division. It forms the northeastern boundary of Madhya Pradesh. Sidhi has a number of natural resources with the river Son draining the district, and with coal deposits which feed major industries across the country. Located in the area is the Sanjay Tiger Reserve or Sanjay National Park which tells the magnificence of the Lions here. Sidhi district comprises of seven tehsils: Bahari, Churhat, Gopad Banas, Rampur Naikin, Majhauri, Kusmi and Sihawal. There are four Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha constituencies in this district, namely, Churhat, Sidhi, Sihawal and Dhauhani.

5. Singrauli district covers an area of 5,672 square kilometres (2,190 sq mi) and comprises of five tehsils, namely, Singrauli, Deosar, Chitrangi, Mada and Sarai. There are three Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha constituencies in this district, namely, Chitrangi, Singrauli and Deosar.

Singrauli district has rock cut caves made in the 7-8th century AD in Mada. Singrauli also has painted rock shelters. Ranimachi, Dholagiri and Goura pahad lie in Chitrangi tehsil of Singrauli. These painted rock shelters belong to the Mesolithic age of microlithic implements culture.

6. Chitrakoot district is one of the districts of Uttar Pradesh state of India, and Chitrakoot town is its district headquarters. It is a part of Chitrakoot Division. The district occupies an area of 345,291 km². As of 2011, it is the second least populated district of Uttar Pradesh (out of 71) after Mahoba. Prior to independence of India, it was a part of Baghelkhand agency and came under the administration of Baghelas of Rewa. On 6 May 1997, a new district was carved out from the erstwhile Banda district comprising Karwi and Mau tehsils. The district was initially named as Chhatrapati Shahuji Nagar district. On 4 September 1998, it was renamed as Chitrakoot district.

Demographic Profile of Baghelkhand Region: On the demographic front as per 2011 Census, Rewa district has a population of 2,363,744, and a population density of 374 inhabitants per square kilometre (970/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 19.79%. Rewa has a sex ratio of 930 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 73.42%. Satna district has a population of 2,228,619 and a population density of 297 inhabitants per square kilometre (770/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 19.17%. It has a sex ratio of 927 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 73.79%. In the 2001 census, Satna district had a total population of 1,868,648, out of which 970,114 were males and 898,534 were females. Decadal growth in 1991-2001 was 27.52%. Sex ratio was 926. Density of population was 249 / km². According to the 2011 census, Shahdol district had a population of 1,064,989, and a population density of 172 inhabitants per square kilometre (450/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 17.27%. Shahdol has a sex ratio of 968 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 68.36%. According to the 2011 census, Sidhi District has a population of 1,126,515, and a population density of 232 inhabitants per square kilometre (600/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 23.66%. Sidhi has a sex ratio of 952 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 66.09%. Singrauli district has a population of 1,178,132, and a population density of 208 inhabitants per square kilometre (540/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 28.03%. Singrauli has a sex ratio of 916 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 62.36%. Chitrakoot district has a population of 990,626, and a population density of 315 inhabitants per square kilometre (820/sq mi). Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 29.29%. Chitrakoot has a sex ratio of 879 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 66.52%.

Culture & Languages of Baghelkhand Region: Hindi is the primary language spoken in Baghelkhand. Other languages spoken include Bagheli, which has a lexical similarity of 72-91% with Hindi and is spoken by about 7,800,000 people in Bagelkhand; Agariya, an Austro-asiatic tongue with approximately 72,000 speakers; Bharia, a Dravidian language spoken by at least 200,000 members of

The Baghelkhand

- It houses tribals, dense forests and many wild animals.
- The Kanha National Park is located in this area.
- Important Cities – Shahdol, Umariya Ambikapur etc.

the Bharia tribe and written in the Devanagari script; and Gond, a Dravidian language spoken by at least 200,000 members of the Gond tribe and written in the Devanagari script. There are various famous temples comprising of Hindu and Jain religions in the region, which speak highly of the region’s religious harmony.

Natural Resources in Baghelkhand Region: The Rewa district has a varied terrain that includes alluvial plains, hills, ravines, scrap, rivers and water-falls. The rain-water of the district flows out along two tributary rivers of the Ganges, the Tons or Tamsa and the Son. The Bichiya river flows through the heart of Rewa city. Tamsa or Tons river and its tributaries form waterfalls as they descend from

the Rewa Plateau. These include Chachai Falls (127m) on the Bihar River, the Keoti Falls (98m) on the Mahana River, the Odda Falls (145m) on the Odda River, Bahuti Falls on Chataniha river, and the Purwa Falls (70m) on the Tamsa or Tons. Shahdol district is very rich in its mineral resources such as coal, fire clay, ochers and marble. Coal - The important coal field in the district, Sohagpur Coalfield, contributes a major part in the revenue of the state. The Barakars in this area are about 3100 km². Four coal seams have been recorded from the lower Barakars whereas a few thin seams are reported from Upper Barakars. The Lower Barakar has coal of lower ash content and better quality as compared to that from Upper Barakars. In general, the coal is of low rank, high moisture, high volatiles and non-coking type. A reserve of 4064 million tonnes has been estimated from this field. Clay - Good black clay deposits occur near Jamuni and Hinota. Ochers - Ochers deposit in the Shahdol district is reported from Pachdi. Marble - Marble deposits are found near villages Pasgarhi, Bagdari and Paparedi. Uranium - Shahdol district is the only uranium producer in the region. Sidhi district is a repository of luxuriant natural resources, with river Sone draining the district. It has a spectrum of floristic socio-cultural diversity and ethnic history of tribes. It has a panoramic view of the Kaimur, Kehejua and Ranimunda hills blazing with flowers of flame of forest and intoxicated by the sweet smell of mahua flowers. Chitrakoot district is a hilly and undulating region cut off by numerous rivers and rivulets. Mandakini, Valmiki, Gunta, Gedua, Chakara and Jhuri rivers drain the region. The Chitrakuta mountain range includes hills like Kamad giri, Hanumaan dhara, Janki kund, Lakshman pahari, and Devangana which are famous religious mountains. A large part of the district is a rocky and denuded forested upland called the patha, which is inhabited by Kol tribals. Major minerals found are silica sand, sandstone, granite stone, sand / balu, pahadi muram. The forest of the Chitrakoot predominantly consists of tropical dry mixed deciduous type. The total forest area in the Chitrakoot district is 59,767 hectares which comes around 17.5% of the total geographical area of the district. The wood found in this forest is not of good quality and cannot be used for quality wooden furniture. The main forest species found in the district are dhawa, dhak, ankol, bhavya, tinsa, bel, tendu, bans, kasmri, neem, sakhua, barun, mahua, tilak, ber, aonla, kadamb, bent, indrajau, bijak, and neebu with other flowering, fruiting and shade giving trees. Besides several high value medicinal plants are also found in Chitrakoot forests such as tinospora cordifolia, gymnema sylvestre, achyranthes aspera, urtica indica, curculigo orchioides, dioscorea bulbifera, desmodium gangeticum, coccinia grandis, and cordia macleodii. Satna district has two principal hills - Kaimur and Panna hills. Satna district has undulating terrain and is dotted with mountains, small hilly regions, rivers and few tributaries. Limestone is the main mineral resource used for cement production, which contributes to nearly 10% to India’s annual cement production. The other minerals found are Ocher, Bauxite, White Clay, Laterite, Ordinary sand, Murram Floor Stone and Ordinary Stone. In Satna district, the forest is 2037 sq. km, roughly 30% of the total area. Huge forest wealth is already helping in production of valuable medicinal plants. The rivers of Tons, Son and Paisuni are the three important rivers. Tons is the biggest river, and it rises from Kaimur hill in the Maihar Tehsil. Besides these, there are two small rivers that flow through this region viz., Simrawal and Satna rivers. The region is one of the richest regions in MP and has huge mineral and forest resources. Singrauli district has rich coal deposits

The Baghelkhand

- The river Sone, the Maikal Ranges and the Chhattisgarh region surround the Baghelkhand Plateau, located in eastern Madhya Pradesh. Its height ranges from 550-1033m.
- Stones of the Jurassic Age (about 80 million years ago) can be found in this plateau.
- Most of the coal deposits of Madhya Pradesh are found in this area.

spread over an area of 2,200 square kilometres across the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Singrauli is emerging as India’s energy capital. The place, earlier known as Shringavali after the sage Shringi, was once covered with dense and un-navigable forests and inhabited by wild animals and was considered treacherous.

Agriculture, Soils & Climate of Baghelkhand Region: The region has traditionally been neglected due to its isolated location. The population of the region consists chiefly of poor tribal Gonds and Kols. The agriculture is underdeveloped, Paddy is the principal crop and while other crops such as wheat, corn and gram especially chickpeas are also grown. The rice growing regions include Umaria, Burhar, and Gaurela, Ambikapur, Manendragarh, and Baikunthpur. The region is mainly rain-fed, with cultivation of rice, mustard, green gram, pea, pulses (moong, blackgram and pigeonpea) and groundnut being done this way. In Rabi season, rice (at places) and wheat are cultivated mostly under irrigated condition. Very limited area is covered with summer crops under irrigation conditions. Farmers prefer to integrate cereal cultivation with agroforestry and with vegetables and orchards too. Farmers who have farm lands on the riverside mainly opt for vegetable cultivation. The natural vegetation comprises tropical dry and moist deciduous forests. However, rich farmers grow rice, wheat and gram and, at places, cotton using irrigation facilities. The climate in the region is dry, the maximum temperature goes up to 48.5 degrees in the peak of summer and minimum temperature of 13 degrees during winter.

Economy & Livelihoods in Baghelkhand Region: Rewa district has a limestone belt that runs through the district, and coal is found in surrounding districts of Shahdol, Umaria, Sidhi and Singrauli. Cement factories are located nearby. The district is home to the biggest cement factory and many local populations earn their livelihoods by working in these factories. This district was earlier receiving BRGF funds, as it was categorized as one of the country’s 250 most backward districts. Satna district is the home to limestone production and local populations earn their living by working in small and medium units. This district was earlier receiving BRGF funds. The district has many tourism attractions too as it has major sites of archaeological, religious and tourist interests, and local populations are engaged in tourism-based livelihoods on seasonal basis. Shahdol district was earlier receiving BRGF funds, as agriculture is very backward in practice. The tribals, who predominate the region, continue to prefer cultivation by using old traditional methods. Added to the above facts, tribal farmers have marginal land holding. The yearly yield of the produce from the fields is not enough for their domestic consumption; thus, they earn their livelihoods by working as daily wage labourers. The area is a rain-fed region. Tribals also earn their livelihoods by collecting Non-Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) such as Mahua fruit, wood & seeds etc., which are important sources of income for the tribals. Sidhi district has two spectrums! The Vindhyaachal Super Thermal Power Station, and on the other side, it has floristic socio-cultural diversity. It has a good number of mahua trees. The district was earlier receiving BRGF funds. Local tribal populations have multiple livelihoods; they collect NTFPs from the forests, work as daily wage labourers in lean months, and cultivate crops in their small and marginal land holdings during season, which is sufficient only for their domestic consumption purposes. Singrauli district is the energy capital of India. The district has rich coal deposits. Due to abundance of coal, the Rihand Dam was built in 1961, which led to the transformation and development of the area. Local populations are engaged in these energy companies and earn their livelihoods. Chitrakoot district’s people their livelihoods through tourism, as it is a district which has numerous religious, cultural, historical and archaeological importance. It is believed that the principal trinity of the Hindu pantheon; Brahma, Vishnu and Maheshvar took their incarnation in this region of Baghelkhand. Animal Husbandry activities, vegetable cultivation, backyard poultry, rearing cattle, cottage industries, etc play a very important role in the rural economy. Though the local populations are getting very low output from these animals, they have replaced with cows with buffaloes. The region which was once a forested belt, with livelihoods of local populations centered around forests; has now grown to be a energy hub due to huge availability of natural resources. The agro-ecological region is hot, has sub-humid climate, covered with red and black soils. It is characterized by hot summers and cool winters, receives an annual rainfall of 1000-1600 mm, with a deficit of 500 to 700 mm of water per year. Dependent on rain-fed farming, which has been the traditional practice, it is already suffering due to climate change. Additionally, due to mining activities; the soils have become susceptible to severe erosion hazard. Seasonal

drought in the region is limiting optimum crop yields, dry tillage and inter-tillage practices are difficult to perform. Risk of inundation of the cropped areas during rainy season is high, which is leading to crop failure and nutritional imbalances in the soil.

The Baghelkhand region, due to its peculiar climate and soil conditions, is disadvantageous for agricultural activities, as water scarcity is a common feature. And the region is economically very backward, with the literacy rates being below national average. The indiscriminate use of existing natural resources has pushed many of the local populations into poverty. Continuous drought spells and increasingly uncertain weather has changed farming patterns. Soil deficiency, inadequate supply of quality seeds and plating material, inadequate extension support, lack of emphasis on development of horticulture, lack of post-harvest and marketing infrastructure, lack of suitable programme for livestock development, with reference to dairying etc., has kept this region isolated and underdeveloped. Given the agro-climatic conditions, even a small help from the government can go a long way in majorly improving the livelihood scenario of the existing local populations. ❖