India: MP State Elections: Landslide Victory for Modi's Party

December 6, 2023

December 3, 2023: New Delhi, India: The results of Madhya Pradesh upset all the Election Psephologists, with **Bharatiya Janata Party** (BJP) winning a land-slide victory over **Indian National Congress** (INC).

Shivraj Singh Chouhan   ***Kamal Nath***

In MP, BJP and INC were led by two formidable leaders, Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Kamal Nath respectively.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the incumbent Chief Minister of MP, assumed office on 23rd March 2020. He had earlier been the Chief Minister from 29 November 2005 to 12 December 2018.

Kamal Nath was the Chief Minister of MP from 17 November 2018 to 20 March 2020.

State of Madhya Pradesh (Central India)

Population: 72.63 Mn (5th); Area: 308,252 Km^2 (2nd);

GDP: $150 Bn (10th); GDP per capita: $2,100 (24th)

Capital: Bhopal, Population: 1.80 Mn

Formation of State: 26 January 1950; Language: Hindi

References: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madhya_Pradesh,
https://results.eci.gov.in/AcResultGenDecNew2023/partywiseresult-S12.htm and
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_Madhya_Pradesh_Legislative_Assembly_election
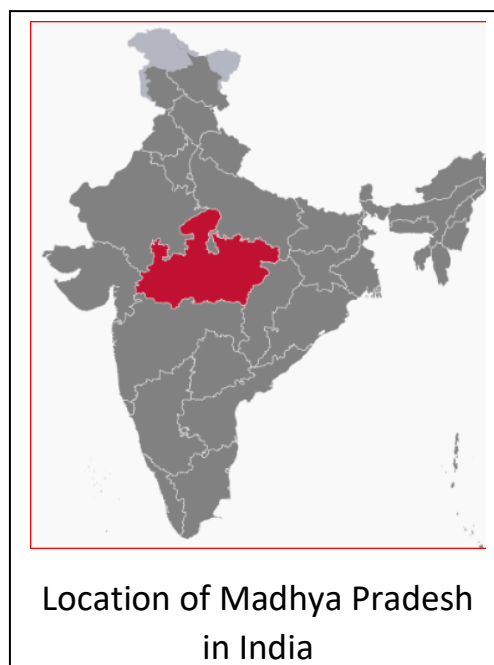
MP has five major cities: **Indore** (Population: 2.17 Mn), **Bhopal** (Population: 1.88 Mn), **Jabalpur** (Population: 1.27 Mn), **Gwalior** (Population: 1.1 Mn) and **Ujjain** (Population: 0.59 Mn).

FORESTS: According to the 2011 figures, the recorded forest area of the state is 94,689 Km^2 constituting, 30.7% of the geographical area of the state. It constitutes 12.3% of the forest area of India. Per capita forest area in MP is 2,400 m^2 (0.59 acres) as against the national average of 700 m^2.

A CREDITABLE PROGRAM of PLANTING TREES: India is densely populated and the forest area per capita is, therefore, small.
In 1950, **Kanhaiyalal Maneklal Munshi**, the then Minister for Agriculture and Food of India, initiated the festival of Van Mahotsav Day *(Forest Day). It is a 7-day festival from July 1-7 every year.*

In January 2019, 1.5 million volunteers in the state planted 66 million trees in 12 hours along the Narmada river. In the South, a religious leader is encouraging his follow In the South, **Sadhguru**, a religious leader is encouraging his followers to plant 20 Mn trees along the Cauvery river. (The World Economic Forum has called for planting 1 Tr trees by 2030.)

Location of Madhya Pradesh
in India

Party	2023		2018		
	Seats won	Vote Share	Party	Seats won	Vote Share
Bharatiya Janata Party - BJP	163	48.55%	BJP	109	**41.02**%
Indian National Congress - INC	66	40.40%	**INC**	**114**	40.89%
Bharat Adivasi Party - BHRTADVSIP	1	5.52%*	SP**	1	1.3%
Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC)	0	Not Available	Independents	4	5.82%
Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)	0	3.40%	BSP	2	5.01%

5.52% is the vote for others, including GGP

***Samajwadi Party** (SP)*

EDITORIAL COMMENTS: www.DiGiNews360.com notes that in 2023, Madhya Pradesh elections were so keenly fought that most of the smaller parties were squeezed out.

*www.DiGiNews360.com also notes that **Indian National Congress** had a major reduction in support and the number of seats fell steeply from 114 in 2018 to 66 in 2023. The basic reason was the attacks on Hinduism by an alliance Partner of INC, the **Dravid Munnetra Kazhgam** (DMK). DMK declared that its objective was to eradicate Hinduism. (DMK has no presence in Madhya Pradesh and it is only present in only one State of India i.e. **Tamil Nadu,** in the southern part of India**.**). INC kept quiet about this statement of DMK, because it did not want to upset its alliance with DMK and because INC thought that this statement, made in the far southern part of India will not affect the electorate in Madhya Pradesh (MP). But in today's inter-connected world, this assumption failed completely and INC lost the election in MP badly.*

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