CHAPTER 2

AREA AND PEOPLE
INDIA

India is the seventh big country of the world, with total surface area 3287263 sq km. It has 2.4% land area and 16.7% population of the whole world. Geographically India extends from $8^04'$ to $37^06'$ north and $68^07'$ to $97^025'$ east. The union of India comprises 28 states, 6 union territories and one national capital territory. The population of India according to 2001 census is 846.32 million. It has 439.23 million males and 407.07 females. The literacy rate in the country (excluding Jammu and Kashmir) is 52.21 percent.

MADHYAPRADESH

In 1956 Madhya pradesh was created by merging of former Madhyapradesh Bhopal, Vindhya pradesh and the central province region and Barar. Madhyapradesh is located in the central part of India therefore it is named so. Capital of Madhya Pradesh is Bhopal. It is the seventh state in order to population. Total population is 6,03,85,118 ie: 5.73 percent of total population of India. Geographically M.P. is situated at $21^06'$ north axis to $26^054'$ north and $74^0$ east to $82^047'$ east. Total area is 3,08245 Sq km. It is second big state in order to area. 2001 census shows that the total population of Madhya pradesh is 60,348023,(female population is 28904,371). Literacy rate of female population is 50.3 percent. Population of schedule caste is 9155177 and schedule tribe is 12233474.

JABALPUR

LOCATION AND AREA

Jabalpur district is comprised with in the commissionership of division of the same name and is situated in the center of Madhya Pradesh. It is bounded on the west by Damoh and Narsimhapur districts, on the north by Panna and Satna Districts, on the east by shahdol and Mandla District and on the south by Seoni district. The district has an irregular shape extending longitudinally from south-west to north-east. Total area of the district is 10160sq. kms. Geographically Jabalpur Division extends from $21^0$ to $4^0$ north and $79^0$ to $81^0$ east
POPULATION (GENERAL, SC/ST)

Total population of the district according to 2001 census is 2151203 persons. Comprising 1127304 males and 1023899 females. Rural population of the district is 923863 persons (744539 males and 698962 females) and urban population is 1227340 persons (639115 males and 567346 females).

The scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population of the district as per 2001 census is 273953 persons and 322890 persons respectively. (Statistical summary of M.P., 2004)

LANGUAGES AND RELIGION

Main languages spoken in the district are Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Punjabi, Sindhi and Urdu. Religion-Wise breakup of population is indicated below as per 1981 census: Hindus: 2007386, Muslims: 122930 Christians: 22822. Sikhs: 12881, Buddhists: 1466, Jains: 26858, other religions and persuasions: 4400

HISTORY

History of the Jabalpur country is back to about 272 B.C this is perhaps the oldest inscription found in the east while central provinces and shows that the district was included in the south province of Asoka’s empire. The Maurya dynasty to which Asoka belonged came to an end in about 184 B.C. When it was overthrown by Pushyamitra, the commander in-chief of the last Maurya king. Whether this new sung dynasty founded by Pushyamitra exercised any jurisdiction over the territory now comprised in Jabalpur district is not known.

Kalchuri

The next important dynasty, which ruled over the district, is that of the Kalchuris. The exact date of their advent in the district is not known. The khalchuri had heir own era, this began On 5-9-248 A.D- but it seems to be fairly certain that they were not ruling Jabapilur country till at least the beginning of the 7th century.
British rule

The British East India Company till the mutiny of 1857 ruled the district. Initially, the district and the rest of the Narbada country were administered by a commissioner, with headquarters at Jabalpur. In 1820, a new division known as "the Sagar and Narbada Territories" consisting of 12 districts, was formed with headquarters at Jabalpur. In 1835, the district was added to the new province designated as "north western provinces". The Bundhela rising of 1842 in Sagar district, the result of popular discontent at the jurisdiction of the new civil courts, did not affect the Jabalpur district. Jabalpur, however, was very much in picture during. The upheaval known as the 1857 mutiny, which started with the revolt of the Indian sepoys at Meerut on 10-5-1857. The mutiny in Jabalpur started after the brutal execution of Raja Shankarshan and his son Reghunathshah, of the Garha-Mandla dynasty. The pargana of Bijeraghogarh was confiscated and annexed to Jabalpur district. In the year 1858 the queen of England from the East India Company assumed the administration. The British rule lasted till 15th August 1947 when the British had to give up power and acquiesce in India's independence.

GEOGRAPHY AND PHYSICAL FEATURES

Physiographically the district admits of division into five natural regions. The first of these is known as 'Haweli this consists of the south-western portion of the district, almost entirely situated between the Hiran river and the Bombay-Howrah Railway line. Almost the whole of the patan tehsil, Panagar Revenue Inspector's circle of Jabalpur tehsil, and parts of Sihora tehsil adjoining patan tehsil and extending right upto the town of Sihora are included in the haveli. The rich black cotton soil with its embanked fields which is a predominant feature of the havieli lies in the valleys of the Narbada and the Hiran and the area may be called the Granary of the district. The area to the south east of the haveli, consisting of the southern portion of Jabalpur tehsil, is covered by Deccan trap and has all the features peculiar to trap formation. This consists in the west of the Bargi Revenue Inspector circles of Jablpur tahsil, and in the east of the kundam and Khamaria Revenue inspector circles. The soils are frequently inferior, suitable generally for millets only. But good black soils also
occur in parts of the Bargi circle below the Narmada, and in the Imlai tract of
the Khamaria circle. This region is interspersed with supurs of the Satpura; and
by the Naga Hills, which forms part of the boundary between Jabalpur and
Mandla districts.

The eastern portion of Sihor tehsil adjoining Umaria (Bandhogarh) tehsil
of Shahdol distrcit, and lying to the north of the trap area is characterised by low
ridges of metamorphic rocks. It is a country of hills and jungles where good
soils alternate with solid of poor fertility. The tract around Bahoriband of Sihora
tehsil and the western portion of Murwara tehsil are similar, both consisting of
shady soils, poor in fertility. The only fertile portion of this division lies near the
cliffs of the Bahnder range in the Sihora tehsil. The last natural division of the
district consists of the eastern part of Murwara tehsil corresponding to the
former Bijeraghogarh pargana. Watered by the Mahanadi and its affluent Katni,
this is an oper tract with good soils, and is not cut across by many hills.

The principal mountain systems of the district are the Bahander and the
Kymore both offshoots of Vindhya, the Bhitrigirhr; and spurs of satpuras in the
south. The bhande rages starts from the junction of the Hiran and the narbads;
runs along the western border of the district separating it from Damoh upto
Katangi, extending thenceforward towards bahoriband. The kymore range
starts at katangi, and for some distance running almost parallel to the Bhande
ranges, forms the boundary between Jabalpur and Damoh districts. Turning a
little eastwards to pass through the western portions of Sihora tehsil, it runs
along the boundary of the Murwara tehsil, and Maihar tehsil of Satna district,
and finally leaves the district at its northeast corner. The Bhitrigarh hill in the
eastern parts of Sihora tehsil run from south-west to the north. They rise
abruptly out of the back alluvial deposits and in their neighbourhood soils are
reported to change with rapidity. In the south, there are ranges of the satpuras,
which from the boundary between the Seoni and Jabalpur districts while hills
locally known as naga pahar separate for some distance the district form
Mandla district (Beyond Kundam). There are also detached groups of hill near
sleemna-bad, and the kanejuha hills in the Murwara tehsil.
RIVERS, CANALS AND WATERWAYS

The Narbada, the principal river of the district, and its tributaries, Hiran and Gaur drain the southern part of the district. The Narbada enters the district from the south-east at the pint where the boundaries of Mandla and Seoni districts converge towards Jabalpur district; it pursues a westerly course and forms part of the boundary between Narshimhapur and Jabalpur districts. Hiran rises near Kundam in Jabalpur tehsil, and after flowing north for some distance, bends to the west and joins the Narbada at the pint where it enters Narsimhapur district. The Gaur rises in Mandla district and meets Narbada about five miles due south of Jabalpur. Mahanadi river does not belong to the Narbada system.

TOWNS, VILLAGES

The district at present comprises 6 Tehsils and 13 Community Development Blocks. It has 18 towns and 2400 villages (2257 inhabited villages and 143 uninhabited villages).

COMMUNICATIONS

Jabalpur town is a big railway center with a big goods yard. Murwara also is an important railway junction and has a big marshalling yard. Besides, Jabalpur and Murwara towns are big centers of road transport, both passenger and goods.

Railway Transport.

Development of railway traffic in the district started with the opening of the East Indian Railway in 1867 connecting Jabalpur with Calcutta, a distance of 733, miles. Three years later the railway line to Bombay was also opened for traffic. 21 years later, with the construction of Katni Bilaspur line, the distance from Jabalpur to Calcutta was reduced to 643 miles. The Murwara tehsils was still further opened out in 1899 by the construction of Katni-Bina section. Narrow gauge line, it connects Jabalpur with Gondia in Bhandara district via Nainpur Junction in Mandla district. A Broad-Gauge line, serving the needs of Kymore town runs from Jhukehi to Kymore. The line is not open to passenger
traffic so far. The district has a total railway mileage of 178.5 miles of which 149.5 miles are of broad gauge.

Road Traffic

The district is well provided with road communication having a total mileage of 1380 (Including 293 miles of forest and 407 miles of village roads)

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Gross cropped area in the district is 493000 hectares and net area sown in the district in the year 1989-90 is 42400 hectares. Percentage of total irrigated area to gross cropped area is 12.6 per cent. Wells are major source of irrigation in the district. Principal crops grown in the district are wheat and rice. Details on area sown, production and average yield of major crops in the years 1989-90 are furnished below:

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Cows and buffaloes are main livestock of the district.

INDUSTRIES

Jabalpur district is one of the principal mining areas of the state. It produces a large variety of minerals, the most important being limestone. Bauxite, clay, fire caly, steatite (soapstone) Felspar and managenese are other ores mined. Ochre and red oxide of iron is also mined in small, but significant quantities. High-grade iron ore containing 55.99 to 59.34 per cent of iron exists in the kanhwara hill, about ten miles northeast of Murware town. The reserves are estimated at 49 million tons in three bands, and though are not extensive enough for a large steel plant, are big enough for a small sized plant.

The most important limestone in the district is Katni limestone, so known because it is quarried extensively near Katni town for lime burning. Jabalpur district are also rich in bauxite, the mineral from which the metal aluminum is extracted in two stages. Though somewhat inferior in its metal content to the Amarkantak bauxite (64 per cent alumina) the quality of the ore in the district is
nonetheless good. Talc, managanese, red oxide of iron, etc. are some of the other minerals mined in the district.

The cement, lime and ceramics are the mineral based industries in the district. They are located in the towns of Jabalpur. The district has one of the biggest cement factories in the country and of course, the biggest (and till a few years ago the only one) in the state at Kymore.

Saw milling and Biri making are the principal forest based industries in the district. With 38 sawmills registered under the factories Act in 1956, Jabalpur was the largest center of the industry. Smaller establishments producing furniture and other wooden products are considerable. Biri Industries the biggest industry in the state and in the district, its special appeal to the workers is partly due to its being a household industry, and partly because it puts cash in the hands of agricultural labourers and petty cultivators in the slack season.

The district is reported to have a cotton mill with a licensed capacity of 51 powerlooms. The industry is, however, carried on usually on a household or cottage industry scale. A significant feature of the industry is that it is mostly localised in the town of Jabalpur, where the units are all electricity driven. All of the 304 powerloom household establishments are in Jabalpur city (almost wholly concentrated in the predominantly muslim wards). 95 households engaged in cloth -weaving on handloom exist in the rural areas of the district; indicating the the socially significant fact that the industry is dying out in the rural areas. Even the castes like mehra and kori who are traditionally weavers have given it up. The reason why the industry has managed to thrive in the urban area of Jabalpur is perhaps because it is subsidised by the Government, who also help to channelise its finished goods to the market.

Jabalpur district is one of the biggest centers in the country for the production of arms and ammunition. The gun carriage factory situated in the north-east of the city was opened in 1905 the ordnance factories at Khamaria and Katni were setup in the first few years of the second world war. The post and telegraph department has a workshop in Jabalpur city for production of postal articles including telephones. It employed about 1400 workers in 1961.
Besides, there are numerous dal, oil and rice mills, ice-factories, foundries and rice mills, ice-factories, foundries and transport workshops in Jabalpur city. An Industrial Estate has been constructed in the Adhartal area of Jabalpur town. It has 40 sheds, and of these 5 sheds were allotted to Government schemes and 10 to private parties by the end of 1961. A rural industrial workshop is also proposed to be started at village Baghraji in Kundam block.

TRADE, COMMERCE AND EXPORT

Most of the cement produced in the factory at Kymore is used within the State. Pipes, bricks and tiles also have markets mostly within the State. The ceramic products and the asbestos cement sheets are exported to other States. The refractory bricks have a ready market in the railway, and the steel project at Bhilai and other places in the State. There are two factories turning out simple rubber products at Murwara town.

TOURISM

Important places of tourist interest in the district are Madan Mahal fort, Pisan Hari Jain temple. Tilwara Ghat, Mala Devi Mandir, Gwari Ghat, Sangram Sagar and Bajna Math and Bheda Ghat the marble rocks. Kanha national park, one of the Asia’s finest parks is located at a distance of 173 kms. from Jabalpur.

FAIRS AND FESTIVAL

Important fairs and festivals organized in different parts of the district are Kajalia, Kataighat Ka Mela, Sankrant, Chandi Mela, Ratha Yatra, Chandi Mela, Sati ka Mela, Bajarang Mela, Satdharma Fair, Vishnu Barah Fair, Basant Panchmi, Urs, Shivratri, Barughat ka Mela, Shankarji ka Mela, Sidha Bada ka Mela, Ramnavmi, Khawaja Urs, Angarh Mahabir Fair, Mahabir Jayanti, Nav Durga, Bheraghat Fair, Gowarighat Fair. Peer Sahib’s Urs

EDUCATION

According to 2001 census, total literates (excluding the population in the age group of 0-6 years) are 1420238 persons. Of these, 830725 are males and
589513 are females. In the rural areas of the district 494526 persons (309565 males and 184961 females) are literates and in urban areas 925712 persons (5211605 males and 404552 females) are literates.

As per 2001 census there are 1693 primary schools, 756 middle schools, 318 high/higher secondary schools, 40 colleges and 18 professional and other schools in the district. Literacy is generally associated with urbanization. Greater the urbanization of an area, higher is the literacy rate found there. This is, by and large, true as far as towns of Jabalpur district are concerned. Jabalpur (Municipality), Jabalpur Cantt, and Khamaira are constituent units of Jabalpur Urban Agglomeration which in fact is one urban Agglomeration which in fact is one urban entity and the combined literacy rate works out to 60.74 per cent.

University Education

The origin of collegiate education in the District can be traced back to 1865 when the old Sagar High School was upgraded and named Jabalpur Government College. The College was named Robertson College in 1916. The year 1923 was signalized by the establishment of Nagpur University. The University Act was brought into operation on the 4th August 1923. The 1930's showed better progress in the field of collegiate education in the District. The two Colleges, viz. The Hitkarini Sabha Law College and the Hitkarini Sabha City College, that sprang up during this period were admitted in 1933-34 to the privileges of the Nagpur University for a period of five years. In Efforts to cultivate a rural bias amongst students of Normal schools also achieved a fair measure of success. Students were desired to take up a particular work in a neighbouring village, this giving them practical lessons in rural up lift. During the period 1942-47 the collegiate education in Jabalpur gained further momentum. Some of the important events of this period include the upgrading of Mahakoshal Mahavidyalaya (old Robertson College) to post-graduate status, the introduction of Home Science in the Prantiya Shikshan Mahavidyalaya and the establishment of an Engineering College at Jabalpur. When Independence dawned in 1947, Jabalpur had only six colleges imparting instruction in Arts, Science, Law and Engineering. The next decade saw the birth of 13 colleges.
In 1958-59 Jabalpur became one of the largest centers of university education in India and it could then boast of the privileges of a separate University administering university education in 20 colleges under to faculties. Before the formation of Jabalpur University in 1957 the colleges of Jabalpur were affiliated to the Calcutta and Allahabad Universities upto 1923 to the Nagpur University till 1946, and afterwards to the Sagar University.

The Jabalpur University is one of the youngest Indian Universities, having territorial jurisdiction concurrent with the revenue District of Jabalpur. The University started functioning from the 12th June 1957. On Gandhi Jayanti Day, i.e., 2nd October 1957 the University was formally inaugurated by the late Pandit Govind Vallabhb Pant. In 1959 the University Grants Commission approved the scheme for the establishment of six Departments of Post-Graduate Studies and Research in Humanities, and a University Library. The Three-Year Degree Course in Arts, Science, Commerce and Home Science commenced in 1960-61. Post-Graduate degree of M.D. and M.S. in the Faculty of Medicine and the Degree of M.V.Sc. in the Faculty of Veterinary Science were introduced in 1961.

In the establishment of the Agricultural University with the assistance of the University of Illinois, U.S.A., the State of Madhya Pradesh met a long felt want of technical know-how in the field of Agricultural research and extension. Named after, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Vishwa Vidyalaya was formally inaugurated by Shrimati Indira Gandhi on the auspicious day of 2nd October 1964. On 1st December 1964 the Government of Madhya Pradesh transferred to the University the Six Agricultural Colleges of the State at Jabalpur, Raipur, Rewa. Indore, Gwalior and Sehore, and the two Veterinary Colleges at Mhow and Jabalpur together with all Research Centres.

A Government Engineering College was started in Jabalpur in 1947 which had its affiliation to Sagar University prior to the formation of Jabalpur University. It provides instruction in Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and Telecommunication Engineering for B.E. degree, and Soil Mechanics and Foundation, Internal Combustion, High Voltage, Radio and U.H.F., V.F. and Advanced Electronic courses for M.E. degree. Kalaniketan is another industrial school in the District, started in July 1947. Candidates trained in Crafts and Arts
and Workshop Engineering are awarded the High School Learning Technical Certificate, which entitles them to admission to a pre-engineering course of one year. This Course was started in 1952 and is affiliated to the Jabalpur University. Of late 30 seats in Applied Arts have been provided in the Institute.

The oldest Professional Institutions in the District are the Prantiya Shikshan Mahavidyalaya and the Hitkarini Law College. Its present name was adopted in 1948. This institution is a big training center of teachers, offering B.Ed., M.Ed., and M.A. Psychology courses, Postgraduate course in Psychology was introduced in this institution in 1947. The Madhya Pradesh College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Jabalpur was established in 1948. The Sharda Sangit Vidyalaya is the oldest school of music. In 1947 the Bhatkande Sangit Mahavidyalaya was established. The Sangeet Kala Niketan is yet another school of instrumental music started functioning under the auspices of the Bengali Club in 1953. The only Government institution that imparts instruction in Music and Dancing in Jabalpur is the M.H. College of Home Science for Women where these are optional subjects. In 1868 the Hitkarini Sabha established a Sanskrit School, the Hitkarini Sanskrit Pathasala in Jabalpur with very few students. At collegiate level, the Mahakoshal Mahavidyalaya, Jabalpur has Sanskrit as one of its arts subject’s upto the post-graduate level. The Institute of Languages and Research, established in 1956, is an important landmark in this field of education.

MEDICAL

Medical facility of one type or other is available in 165 villages of this district, which constitutes 7.31 per cent of total inhabited villages. The system of medicine known and practiced in this country from ancient times is Ayurved.

Alopathic system of the medicine in the District is as elsewhere in the country.

The construction of the present building of the Military Hospital in 1861. In the year 1905, the Gun-Carriage Factory was built at Jabalpur and with it a dispensary inside the precincts and a hospital known as Satpura Hospital was started. On the civil side, the slab on Victoria Hospital, depicting it as 'City Main
Hospital 1876', indicates the existence of medical facilities for civil population. It is reported in the Jubulpore District Gazetteer (1909) that the District had seven dispensaries maintained from dispensary funds, three of which viz., the Victoria Hospital, the City and the civil Dispensary were located at Jabalpur, while the others were situated at Sihora, Murwara, Patan and Bijairaghogarh. The system of registering births and deaths, which is now in vogue though not wholly scientific, was introduced in some parts of Jabalpur District during the year 1864-65. In general the District is healthy in most part of the year. "The climate for the most part of the year is pleasant and salubrious and Jubulpore is generally looked upon as one of the most desirable stations in the province."

Victoria Hospital is a District headquarters hospital established in the year 1876. Raja Gokuldas donated it in 1876. Elgin Hospital is a very old institution, probably started in 1873, with its sister branch, the children's hospital (known as Crump Hospital). Now it mainly provides maternity training to the General Nurses and training to Auxiliary Nurses and Midwives.

Since November 1956, due to the establishment of a Medical College at Jabalpur under the Second Five Year Plan both these hospitals have been attached to the college. All kinds of specialist services are available at these institutions for all classes of patients. The Victoria Hospital is serving as a Medical and Surgical unit and Lady Elgin Hospital as an Obstetrical and Gynecological Unit for teaching facilities. Police Hospital was started in 1918 in the Police Lines for the treatment of Police personnel and their families. Jail Hospital is situated inside the Jail and mainly meant for the treatment of prisoners and under-trials. It also provides outdoor treatment for the Jail staff. The Medical staff consists of one full time Medical and two Assistant medical Officers. S.A.F. Hospital was started in 1948 at Khamaria for the S.A.F., with an accommodation of 10 beds and one Medical Officer to look after.

Cantonment General Hospital was started in the year 1924 for the treatment of the people of Cantonment area. The Cantonment Board manages it. Infectious Diseases Hospital is managed by Jabalpur Corporation. It is situated at a place known as Chandal Bhata. Previously, there were only a few huts for the isolation of infectious cases, but in 1922, the Municipal Committee (now Corporation) appointed a Health Officer for the first time, who gave it the
shape of a Hospital. Till 1935 Jabalpur was the Junction of G.I.P. Railway. E.I. Railway and B.N. Railway. It was in the year 1926 that E.I. Railway handed over this section to G.I.P., Railway and since then the present Central Railway Hospital came under their control City Dispensary is situated in front of Kotwali. Before 1876, when Victoria Hospital did not exist it might have been the first dispensary serving the population of Jabalpur. The dispensary was started in 1870. The present building was donated by Rai Bahadur Kapoor. Civil Dispensary came into existence in the year 1913-14 for the residents of Civil Lines. It is situated near the Police Lines and is also managed by the Dispensary Fund Committee. This dispensary also serves as a center for post-mortem examination. Through the efforts of Dr. (Late) George D'Silva, Mohanlal Hargovind Charitable Dispensary dispensary was started in the year 1947 in the Madan Mahal area and is financed by the Firm Mohanlal Hargovind. Seth Munnalal Jagannath Charitable Dispensary was started in the year 1957 by the Trust of the same name in Milniganj area. Garha Dispensary is run by the Jabalpur Corporation Bhentalava Dispensary is run by the Jabalpur Corporation and was started in 1956. Employees State Insurance Dispensaries came into existence in 1957The Mahakoshal Mahavidyalaya and the Engineering College are also having outdoor dispensaries with a separate Medical Officer in each. In addition to the above Allopathic medical institutions, medical relief is also provided by a network of 53 Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries under different Janapada Sabhas and seven Government Ayurvedic dispensaries. There is also one Homoeopathic dispensary and one Ayurvedic College in the district. Branches of Indian Medical Association and Indian Red Cross Society have also contributed much towards disseminating information on public health problems.

A food laboratory under the Civil Surgeon, Jabalpur, meant primarily for the detection of food Adulteration under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, has been established recently. This enactment includes provisions for eradicating the evil practice of food adulteration that has been rampant in the country. Nutrition and diet surveys are also being carried on in the preventive and social medicine department of the Medical College, Jabalpur. A Family Planning Clinic was established at the Elgin Hospital in May 1956 with a
token aid from the Rotary Club, Jabalpur. The services rendered comprised advise on family limitation, and proper spacing of children, examination and treatment of sterility cases, and sterilization of suitable cases on medical and socio-economic grounds. There is another Family Planning Clinic run privately by Dr. P.L. Chopra in Jabalpur City since 1952 Dr. P.L. Chopra has written about nine books in Hindi on Family Planning for the use of laymen. The Regional Family Planning Training Centre at Jabalpur was established in April 1962. It conducted two training courses of two months duration during the year. In all 15 Health Visitors, 5 Staff Nurses, and 2 Midwives were trained at this center.

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