

My City My Heritage MY INDORE



My City My Heritage

MY INDORE

Initiated by Sahapedia in partnership with the InterGlobe Foundation, the 'My City, My Heritage' project is focused on rediscovering the culture and heritage potential of Indian cities. The project entails exploration, documentation and dissemination of varied heritage and cultural aspects of 10 locations in India, including through the publication of these booklets. As a part of the project, a number of heritage walks, museum tours, baithaks and engaging educational activities for school students and general audiences were organised between 2020 and 2022. The locations covered in the first year were Ahmedabad, Indore, Prayagraj, Goa and Shillong and the locations covered in the second year were Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Nashik.

This booklet documents a mix of well-known as well as offbeat subjects from among Indore's cultural heritage. We hope you enjoy the articles, self-guided walks, museum listings and listicles within and that they enrich your experience of this remarkable city.

More about the project

The My City, My Heritage project caters to a wide user group, including but not limited to children with disabilities and from financially and socially marginalised backgrounds, culture enthusiasts, scholars, heritage professionals and tourists. The project aims at creating opportunities, building interest and capacity of young local scholars through collaborative research, documentation and mapping. An equally important and compelling goal is to create fresh avenues for residents, local administration and local businesses to re-engage with their cities' living cultural heritage and renew old as well as create new relationships of participation, community and ownership within these places. This booklet is a small step in that direction.

More detailed versions of all pieces covered in this editorial and more information about each city can be found on our website. This specially crafted cultural mapping portal features an interactive map, through which you can explore many other locations and themes documented by Sahapedia over the years. Scan this QR code to visit our portal and get access to our entire encyclopaedia.



**My City
My Heritage**
MY INDORE

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FOREWORD

It is with great pleasure that we present to you this compendium of booklets showcasing some of the lesser known and lost treasures of select cities in our country.

InterGlobe Foundation is committed to protecting and restoring the heritage and culture of India. We started this journey about seven years back by supporting the restoration and upkeep of the famous Khan-i-Khanan or Rahim's tomb in New Delhi. Since then, we have taken on a few more large and small restoration projects, which, while directly reviving these monuments, also contribute to the lives of craftspeople and neighbouring communities. Another project we have supported is the documentation and dissemination of a lost dance form.

'My City, My Heritage' is the first large project that we have launched to promote the intangible heritage of our country. We are fortunate to have found an able partner in Sahapedia. As part of My City, My Heritage, we endeavour to curate content and activities around both tangible (like museums) and intangible cultural heritage (like food, music, people, dances, fairs and festivals).

We also hope that in each of the project cities, a group of concerned citizens, institutions and government will come together to carry forward this beautiful curation of their city's history.

The recent disruption of our lives by the COVID pandemic has further brought to light the importance of the outdoors and local economies. This project will ably contribute to both.

We hope these booklets will entice you to discover these cities and their treasures and share it with others. We welcome more organizations, individuals and researchers to build on the repository created here.

I am grateful to Sahapedia and my colleagues at the InterGlobe group of companies for making this project a reality.

With best wishes,

Rohini Bhatia
Chairperson | InterGlobe Foundation

Baba D
KT

Vishni
Dev

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To access Sahapedia's cultural mapping portal, visit map.sahapedia.org/home/

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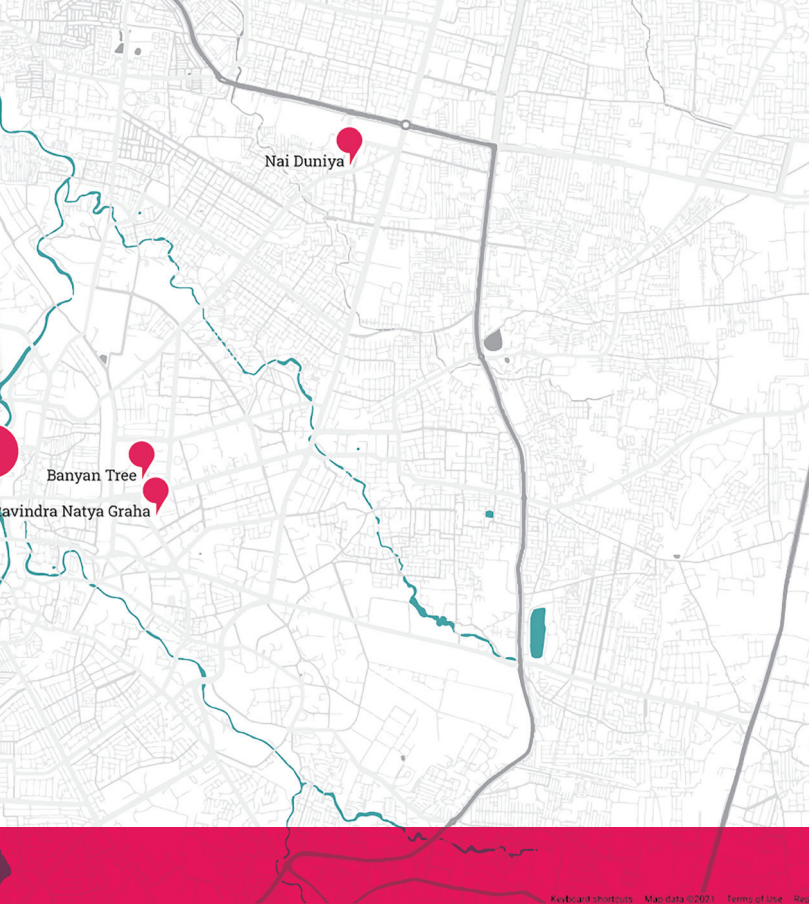


Situated in west Madhya Pradesh on the southern edge of the Malwa plateau along the banks of the tributaries Saraswati and Khan of the river Shipra, Indore is currently the largest and most populous city in the state. The city was the seat of the erstwhile Holkar dynasty and is considered a major hub of education today and one of the cleanest cities in the country.

Originally called Indrapura, Indore records human settlement beginning from the Gupta Empire dating as far back as 465 AD. However, the city attained importance when it was founded in 1715 as a trading town by local landowners. The city subsequently

came under Maratha rule, administered by the Maratha Holkars. It developed into a significant commercial and trade centre, and upon being taken into British control, was used as the administrative centre of Central India until it was acceded to the Indian Union as part of Madhya Bharat, which became Madhya Pradesh in 1956.

Owing to the Holkar dynasty, the city is replete with palaces, including the Rajwada Palace and the Lalbagh Palace. The city is also known for a style of building called 'chhatris', such as the Krishnapura Chhatri, which was designed as an empty commemorative tomb. While colonial influence is



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visible in the Gandhi Hall, built in the Indo-Gothic style, spaces such as the Chappan Dukan, renowned throughout the city for its street food from Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra with a unique Indorian spin, hold much contemporary value.

Indore's textile and handicraft industry has carved out a name for itself through its distinct styles and specialisations; these include the *baagh print*, and smocking and shadow work. The city specialises in cotton textiles, and is famous for producing Maheshwari and Chanderi saree fabric. The Hukumchand Mill, which closed in 1991, played a large role in revolutionising Indore's

textile production, and has left a lasting effect on the city today. In addition to this, the city has inherited a rich tradition of theatre; particularly via Gangadhar Mahadev Dike (Baba Dike), who spearheaded the Hindi theatre movement in Indore through the group Natya Bharti.

While some architectural and cultural phenomena in the city date back centuries, others are contemporary creations. Occupying an important place in Madhya Pradesh's past and present, Indore weaves a tight web of local culture.

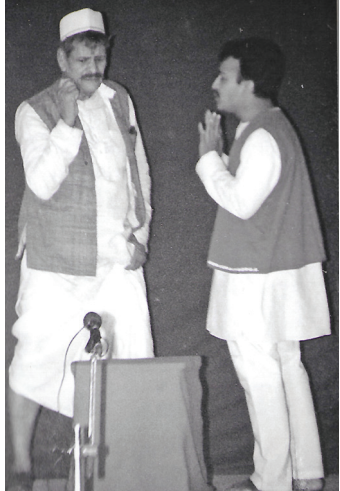


Photo courtesy Arun Dike, special licensing arrangement.

Left: Baba Dike. Right: Baba Dike performed George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion in Marathi as 'Mayuri'.

Theatre in Indore - Baba Dike & Natya Bharti

Established: 1955

Ravindra Natya Graha, located on RNT Marg, has been central to Indore's theatre and dance scene since its inception in 1990. Named after Rabindranath Tagore, the theatre auditorium and exhibition hall has a special history as the legendary theatre troupe Natya Bharti performed here numerous times.

A cornerstone of Indorian theatre, Natya Bharti was founded in 1955 by four key figures: theatre practitioner Baba Dike, artist Vishnu Chinchalkar, journalist Rahul Barpute and musician Suman Dandekar. Performing in a newly independent India, in the 1950s, Natya Bharti plays focused on social issues such as women's empowerment, caste discrimination, and agriculture and social reforms. These plays were performed across India, not only in cities but in smaller towns and village squares across North and Central India, using experimental methods of stage production and music with materials locally available in each location.

One of the four key founders of Natya Bharti was the award-winning Gangadhar Mahadev Dike, known widely as Baba Dike. Born in Neemuch on 7th June 1919, he played an active role in the *Quit India*

Movement in the 1940s and used his playwriting to contribute to the freedom struggle. Over his five decade-long career, Baba Dike gave 2500 performances of over 75 plays. His performances with the Natya Bharti troupe were a mixture of 31 self-penned plays and translations and adaptations of plays by Indian and foreign playwrights such as Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw, Moliere, Tagore, D.L. Roy, and many others. Alongside his work with Natya Bharti, Dike also founded the Little Theatre Group in 1957, a more modern and experimental group which focused on providing not only theatre, but more generally arts opportunities for children.

The legacy which Baba Dike left in Natya Bharti, after passing away on 15th November 1996 at the age of 77, has continued till date, making it the city's oldest theatre institution. Continued by Sriram Jog, Arun Dike and other theatre practitioners, Natya Bharti now focuses largely on Marathi plays, a change from the earlier era of Hindi, but is still an epicentre of the arts in Indore and continues to perform Baba Dike's plays to great acclaim.

■ TIGGY ALLEN

Banyan Tree Publications

1-B, Dhenu Market, 1st Floor

Timings: Mon to Sat | 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Established: 2010

Banyan Tree Publications is a unique publishing house based in the city of Indore. Much unlike anything else in its vicinity, the project was begun by Dinesh Kothari in 2010 to make available a wider variety of literature on less-explored topics, such as environmental studies, organic agriculture, sustainable development, non-mainstream approaches to health and fitness, and nonviolent communication.

Mr Kothari, who pursues this project as a personal passion, is a stockbroker whose experiences in Goa led him to believe that experiential education far outweighs the benefits of rote learning. These ideas were encouraged by another realisation, when Mr Kothari realised that books on the environment were largely unavailable in India. His quest to get books republished eventually led him to establish Banyan Tree, under which he has reissued a variety of literature.

Today, Banyan Tree Publications publishes and distributes books across various languages which often question the institutionalised world as we know it today, and encourage the reader to inculcate a wider understanding of traditional Indian roots and ideologies. The books to be republished are selected on the basis of originality, and authors who write from personal experience are preferred above others.

The bookstore sells physically at its Dhenu Market location as well as online. Their catalogue is diverse, ranging from a collection of Dharampal's writings and books on Gandhian philosophy and globalisation, to titles on agriculture, nature, wildlife, education, organic farming, sustainable development and more. Their location is shared by another venture called Takali, spearheaded by Mr Kothari's son Anuj, which specialises in hand-blocked and hand-printed textiles. Their ideology and philosophy, though uncommon, greatly resonates with other similar ventures, such as the Other India Bookstore in Mapusa, Goa, Earthcare Books in Kolkata and Altermedia in Thrissur, Kerala.

■ NAYANTARA SINGH

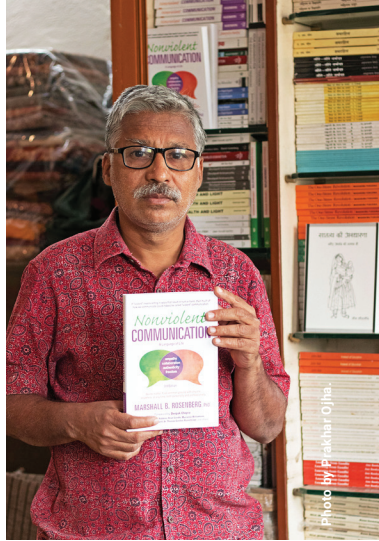


Photo by Prakhar Ojha.



Photo by Prakhar Ojha.



Photo by Prakhar Ojha.

Above: Mr Dinesh Kothari holding a copy of 'Nonviolent Communication'. Middle: Banyan Tree, signage. Bottom: Their catalogue includes titles on agriculture, nature, wildlife, education, organic farming, sustainable development and more.



Photo by Prakhar Ojha



Maharani Krishnabai Holkar's chhatra.

Krishnapura Chhatri

Mahatma Gandhi Rd, Rajwada, Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holker Cloth Market

Timings: Daily | 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Established: Late 1800s

The Krishnapura Chhatri are funerary monuments built by the *Holkar* Maratha dynasty in the late 1800s (CE 1849) to honour three ancestral generations. Today, they sit at a busy intersection in Indore, facing the Khan River's Gangor Ghat. The chhatri for Maharani Krishnabai Holkar (wife of Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holkar II), whom the Krishnapura Chhatri site is named after, was the first, built after her death in 1848. The second and third commemorate Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II and his son, Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar respectively.

Architecturally, chhatris are ornate commemorative monuments built on the cremation site of an important personage. The Krishnapura Chhatri are referred to both as *chhatri* and cenotaphs. Whilst a chhatri is defined by its canopy, etymologically, 'cenotaph' is similar, meaning an 'empty tomb' – like the chhatri, they do not contain remains, but are built to honour specific people or groups.

The entrance gate to Krishnapura Chhatri is on the roadside (west). Walking inside, Maharani Krishnabai Holkar's

chhatri is on the right, and the two chhatri built for Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar and Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar appear consecutively on the left. Each chhatri has a temple, or *garbha griha*, containing a bust and a *shiv-ling*. Facing the shrine's entrance are nandi (bull) statues. Attached is a platformed prayer hall, with ornately carved arches and pillars with 36 pillars in Maharani Krishnabai's chhatri. The carved imagery includes soldiers, animals, musicians and religious figures, with floral motifs on pillars. The entrances are guarded by stone doormen, wearing Maratha-style clothing. The walls of Maharani Krishnabai's chhatri depict Lakshmi, Mahalakshmi and Ardhnarishwar, while Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar II and Maharaja Shivaji Holkar's chhatri contain life-sized statues of the two rulers.

The Krishnapura Chhatri are owned and administered by the Indore Municipal Government, although Indore Gaurav Foundation undertook a 2014 restoration project. At night, the artificial lake's fountain starts operating and the chhatris are illuminated.

Facing page: Ornately carved arches and pillars inside Maharaja Shivaji Rao Holkar and Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar's chhatris.

■ TIGGY ALLEN



Photo by Prakhar Ojha.

Started in the 1940s, Indore *Madrasa* was the first public school in the region.

Indore Madrasa / Shivaji Rao Holkar School

Jail Rd Chiman Bag Ground, Chiman Bag, Indore GPO

Timings: Mon to Sat | 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Established: 1841

Among the various legacy organisations that existed in Indore, the Indore *Madrasa* was a significant one. Being the first public school in the region, it is today known by its more famous name, the Shivaji Rao Holkar School.

The educational institution was established in Indore on June 6, 1841 by Maharaja Harirao Holkar, on the advice of the then-Resident at Indore, Sir Claude Wade. It was the first institution in the region whose pedagogy was based on Western education methods. Prior to this, the *shastris* (teachers) in the Holkar royal service would use only Hindi or Sanskrit as the teaching medium, whereas in this new school, the Maharaja appointed a teacher each for teaching in Hindi, English and Persian. The English branch of the School came to be called the Indore English Madrasa, and later, Sanskrit, Marathi and *Siddhanta* branches were added.

Beginning with only forty students, the institution was initially made operational in the compound of the British Residency, until it was shifted to a *dharamshala* (inn) in Krishnapura a year and a half later, subsequently being named Indore Madrasa. Thereafter,

the School was relocated for the construction of a *chhatra* dedicated to Rani Kesribrai Holkar in 1849, followed by a shift to a site near Pandhari Nath temple. A new building was constructed on August 15, 1850. Before the establishment of the Madrasa, only the rich could arrange schooling for their children, usually at home, but the Madrasa's low fees enabled students from all backgrounds in the region to have access to education. Keshav Kunte, a student of the Madrasa, eventually became the first person from Indore to receive a bachelor's degree.

The institution expanded steadily, and by 1868, the Madrasa was affiliated to Bombay University's high school examination, and by 1869, the student strength had grown to 400. By 1894, the Madrasa was accepted as a centre for the Allahabad Intermediate Examination Board. By 1911, the student strength had increased further, and as a result, the Chiman Bagh grounds were incorporated into the School premises, with a bigger building being constructed. Subsequently, the institution was renamed as the Shivaji Rao Holkar School.

■ VISHESH SARASWAT



Top: The Devlalikar Kala Vithika has been intimately connected to Indore's arts ecosystem since the twentieth century. Centre: Vishnu Chinchalkar. Photo Courtesy: Arun Dike.

Vishnu Chinchalkar and Devlalikar Kala Vithika

540, Mahatma Gandhi Rd, Nagar Nigam

Established: 1927

The Devlalikar Kala Vithika, an art gallery in Indore located on M.G. Road, has a history intimately connected to the city's arts ecosystem since the early twentieth century. Following the implementation of a law decreeing that primary education must include the arts, the private art academy was founded in Indore in 1927 by famed artist Dattatreya Damodar Devlalikar, aiming to tackle the dearth of trained art teachers in Indore. It quickly attained fame for its teaching, producing notable alumni, including N.S. Bendre and M.F. Husain.

The institute originally operated out of a small space but was soon given a new home by the royal family of Indore, the Holkars, at the erstwhile Nar-Ratna Mandir, a community space operating as a portrait gallery as well as a library. The site had also housed Indore's Central Museum until 1969. In 1965, the Devlalikar Kala Vithika was taken over by the government, after which it became the Government Institute of Fine Arts, also known as the Government Fine Arts College, Indore. After



another shift in address in 1980, today the Institute functions from a campus in Vijay Nagar, Indore.

The old building, however, has remained attached to the college institution and is now the Devlalikar Kala Vithika, a two-storied exhibition and gallery space. This is where Vishnu Chinchalkar, a contemporary of Devlalikar, taught fine arts for a brief period until 1966. Known widely as Guruji, Chinchalkar largely used nature in his teaching, helping children look at the world around them in new ways, and creating objects of both utility and beauty. This approach, and the way that Chinchalkar interpreted Indian iconology is also said to have influenced the linework in the creations of his more famous senior, Maqbool Fida Husain.

Unlike some of his contemporaries, Vishnu Chinchalkar is not commercially known. Nevertheless, he had a great impact on fine arts in the city, through his teaching, influencing the style of other artists and through his other work beyond the fine arts.

■ TIGGY ALLEN





Left: Shri Khedapati Sarvajani Vyayamshala equipped with mudgar. Right: Vikram Puraskaar Awardee Narendra Kumar Borasi who currently trains 25 teenagers at the vyayamshala.

Kushti in Indore - Shri Khedapati Vyayamshala

Shri Khedapati Sarvajani Vyayamshala, Banganga

Established: Around 1945

Located in Indore's Banganga area, Shri Khedapati Sarvajani Vyayamshala is one of Indore's few remaining *kushti vyayamshalas* (wrestling training institutions). The establishment, founded around 75 years ago, was set up by the late Nanku Ustad, who was a renowned wrestler of his time, and is presently run by his son, Narendra Kumar Borasi, who himself is a Vikram Awardee and was conferred the title of 'Best Wrestling Athlete' in 1979-80 by the Madhya Pradesh government.

Born in 1975, Borasi is a practicing advocate, but remains committed to training the youth of Indore, which he does free of charge. He currently trains 25 teenagers at the *vyayamshala*, which has been under his guidance for about 20 years. Evenings at the well-equipped *vyayamshala* are for physical training, with drills such as *dand baithak* (push-ups), *bharottolan* (olympic weightlifting) and *rajju arohan* (abseiling), which are followed by game fights in the mud arena.

Wrestling was popularised under the reign of the *Holkars*, specifically Maharaja Tukojiro Holkar, whose support lent the sport public recognition and respect. During his reign, nine *akharas* (traditional wrestling

schools) were established, which were under the guidance of famous wrestling coaches including Mangilal Ustad, Brijlal Ustad, Jhanda Singh Ustad, Ganpat and Chandan Guru, among others. Indore has produced a number of wrestlers who have brought glory to Indian wrestling, domestically and internationally; a fine example being Bhawani Pehelwan, who defeated the younger brother of the international champion Gama Pehelwan, Imam Baksh, at Tukojiro Holkar's fort. Tukojiro's descendant Shivajiro Holkar also took a great deal of personal interest in the sport. During his reign, the wrestler Brijlal Ustad defeated a Punjabi wrestler by a special technique called '*baaharli*'.

The legacy of the sport came close to extinction by the reign of Yeshwantrao Holkar (1799-1811), who did not extend any support to the wrestlers, which caused the wrestlers' skill levels to fall steadily. Now, most of the *akharas* are either in a decrepit state or have been converted into exercise spaces. Nevertheless, there have been attempts to resurrect the sport, through initiatives like 'Kushti Mahadanga', a competition started in 2018 by a local leader. This competition has brought fresh hope for *kushti* in Indore.

Facing page: Wrestlers in a game fight in the mud arena.

■ VISHESH SARSWAT



Photo by Prakhari Ojha.

A wholesale cloth merchant sitting in his shop.

M.T. Cloth Market

Bajajkhana Chowk

Established:

1922

The emergence of industrial cotton mills in Indore, such as the Humkumchand, Swadeshi and Rajkumar mills, gave great impetus to the city's textile markets, creating a path for the formation of the M.T. Cloth Market.

Indore's old wholesale cloth market, it is located at the Bajajkhana Chowk. However, a great many shops were destroyed in a fire in 1906, and in 1921, the old cloth market's committee, the Bajajkhana Cloth Committee, decided to establish a new market. Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar, the head of the *Holkar* state, donated the land required to develop the market, which was subsequently named the Maharaja Tukojirao Holkar Cloth Market, commonly known as the MT Cloth Market. It was established in 1922, under the presidentship of Seth Hukumchand along with the Maharaja Tukojirao Cloth Market Merchants' Association. By 1932, 51 business establishments were a part of this association; today, this number stands at around 12,000.

The market contains around 2,500 small and big clothing shops and showrooms, and sees a weekly footfall

of approximately 10,000 customers. Shops in the market would earlier sell primarily cotton and terycot cloth, which have now been replaced by readymade garments. Today, the market deals with all kinds of fabrics including silk, georgette, synthetic and khadi garments, and imports products from cities across the country, such as Delhi, Panipat, Surat, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Varanasi.

Owing to the old machinery and equipment and lack of capital, the Hukumchand Mill was shut down in 1991, followed by some units of the Rajkumar and Swadeshi mills in 1998. This resulted in Indore losing its top spot in cloth production, although it continues to be a prominent centre for the textile business due to the wholesale and retail cloth markets in the city. The Market now faces competition from other markets in the city, as well as from nearby malls. However, businessmen in the market, such as wholesale operator Mangesh, opine that despite the opening of the Treasure Island Mall, most locals still prefer coming to the M.T. Cloth market.

■ TIGGY ALLEN



An old copy of Nai Duniya from 1982.

Nai Duniya
 4th & 5th Floor, Vikram Urbane 25-A,
 Scheme No. 54, Vijaynagar

Established:
 1947

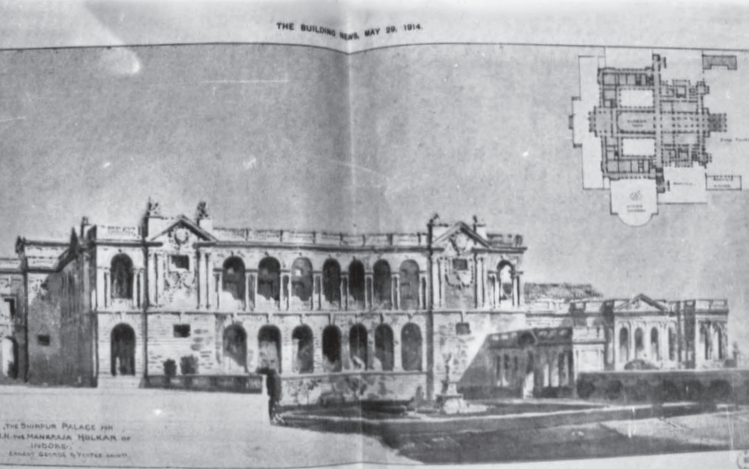
The dissemination of news in Hindi registered a rapid growth in the first half of the 1900s, and this shift in the landscape was perhaps most visible in the city of Indore in Madhya Pradesh. Formally established on June 5th 1947, the Hindi daily, *Nai Duniya*, was a particularly significant publication to be conceived in this period.

Nai Duniya began as a four-page evening daily, priced at one anna and smaller than an average newspaper. The publication was spearheaded by freedom fighters Krishna Chandra Mudgal, Labhchand Chhajlani, Basantilal Sethia and Krishnakant Vyas. After the management was transferred to Labhchand Chhajlani, the newspaper became a morning daily, and despite not being published from a state capital, it went on to receive national acclaim for setting high journalistic standards.

In its prime, the newspaper flourished under the contributions by landmark figures in Hindi journalism, including Prabhash Joshi, Rajendra Mathur, Sharad Joshi and Rahul Barpute, while simultaneously serving as a training

ground for aspiring Hindi journalists. The publication achieved the record of being the most highly circulated daily in Madhya Pradesh in 1964 with a daily circulation pegged at 18,880 copies, and was the first in India to pioneer photo composing and *offset printing* in 1967. Further, it attained readership in nine different state capitals in India as the *Sunday Nai Duniya* and diversified into the first Hindi sports weekly called *Khel Halchal*, as well as a Hindi business journal *Bhav-Tav* in 1982. It was also the first non-English daily in India to launch an internet edition.

Although the paper had been the undisputed leader in the region for four decades, in the 1990s, sales of another Hindi daily called *Dainik Bhaskar* eventually overtook those of *Nai Duniya*, which though strong in Indore, admittedly faced competition throughout the rest of the state. It was ultimately bought out for Rs. 150 crores by Jagran Prakashan Ltd (JPL), the publisher of the country's largest read newspaper *Dainik Jagran* in April 2012.



A drawing of the planned Shirpur Palace, by Sir Ernest George and Alfred B. Yeates. Perspective and plan published in *The Building News and Engineering Journal*, Volume 106 (January to June, 1914).

Phooti Kothi

Sudama Nagar

Phooti Kothi, meaning 'broken palace' in Hindi, is a half-completed, abandoned royal residence located in Sudama Nagar, Indore. The building is the only example of incomplete *Holkar* architecture, with construction starting in 1886, and being abandoned in 1902.

The building was originally commissioned by Tukojiरा Holkar II (1844-1886), considered to have been planned by the Holkars to possibly rival the British; they wanted a more elaborate version of the British Residency at Mhow (Dr Ambedkar Nagar) in eastern Indore. The palace was originally to be called Shirpur Kothi or Shirpur Palace, presumably for its proximity to the Sirpur Lake. According to an archaeologist, Dr D.P. Pandey, the British Resident banned the completion of the building upon getting wind of its purpose. Although construction was paused in 1902, attempts were made to complete the building in 1903. In the 1910s, the British architect Ernest George and the Scottish architect Alfred Yeates drew up a design of what the palace would have looked like; these sketches reveal the intended European influences on the architecture

Established:
1886

with the Kothi being designed in Renaissance style, with arched verandahs and pedimented pavilions along with elements like a zenana and nursery.

The Kothi, though pillared and chambered, is decidedly incomplete, and totally uninhabited. The structure contains an estimated 365 rooms, as well as eighteen semi-constructed temples dedicated to various Hindu deities, which were built much later and were not part of the original plan. The building is built from large slabs of red basalt, and since construction was halted midway, leftover material which was to be used for the roof has been recycled and used to construct other prominent sites in the city, such as Gandhi Hall and the High Court building. Presently, the building is two-storeyed and roofless, with incomplete stairways, interconnected chambers and even a cowshed.

Technically, the site of the Kothi is open to all, but its rooms and passageways are locked. No security guard is present, which has led to neglect, disrepair and general lawlessness in and around the building.

■ NAYANTARA SINGH

Roopankan

44, Shankarganj, Killa Road, Indore

Timings: Open 24 hours

Established: 2004

Nestled in the heart of Indore near the Rajwada Palace exists a multicultural space called Roopankan. Begun by Mr Ashok Dubey and three other associates in 2004, Roopankan evolved out of the need for a simple reading room-cum-community library, and has since transformed into an establishment suited to diverse needs, including educational workshops, artistic events and other cultural activities.

What was started as a commercial printing press called Roopankan by Mr Dubey in 1985, eventually grew into a reading room and then a shared space where cultural activities were held. Although the printing press eventually shut down, Roopankan continued in the form of this multicultural space, which would operate out of a basement, until it was shifted to a three storeyed building in Shankarganj in 2018. Today, the space is incredibly versatile, and is often utilised as a library, reading room, study space, studio, rehearsal room for singing or *nukkad natak* (street plays), and more. Commonly used as an *adda* or meeting space, Roopankan works on a flexible schedule, hosting workshops and lessons for children and others who choose to attend on an informal and voluntary basis. The space is open round the clock, and remains unlocked at all times; students in the neighbourhood use it as a quiet place to study into the early hours of the morning and frequently spend the night at the small guest bedroom on the premises which is available for whoever chooses to make use of it.

Mr Dubey, an avid calligrapher, has extended his hobby to Roopankan; the institution is keenly involved in making posters with Hindi calligraphy on subjects such as current environmental and political issues, educational posters on public transport, media and more. These posters are sold at schools, fairs and conventions and are exhibited at a number of places in Indore and throughout India.

■ NAYANTARA SINGH



Photo by Prakhar Ojha.



Photo by Prakhar Ojha.



Photo by Prakhar Ojha.

Above: Roopankan, front facade. Middle: Mr Ashok Dubey initiated and runs Roopankan. Below: Students in the neighbourhood using the space to study.





Built in 1747, the Rajwada Palace served as a residence for the Holkar dynasty.

Rajwada Palace Museum

Rajwada, Indore

Timings: Tue to Sun | 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Established: 1747 (Rajwada Palace)

Entry Fee: Rs. 10

Facilities:

Photography • Videography

Rajwada Palace was constructed in 1747 and served as a residence for the Holkar dynasty of Central India for several years. The seven-storied building blends Maratha, Mughal, and French architectural styles and is replete with carved stone, wooden *jaalis*, *jharokhas*, and *chhatris*. The Palace now serves as a museum that displays the Holkars' legacy and possessions of historical relevance. Royal statues, paintings, and palanquins are open for viewing, along with antique shields, armors, and rifles.

The Palace's unique amalgamation of architectural influences makes it look like a Mughal monument from the southern side and European one from the eastern view. The Darbar Hall and the Rani Ahilya throne are inspired by French styles. Rajwada's massive wooden gate leads to a courtyard ornamented with Maratha

style balconies, chhatris and windows along with several gallery rooms. It also faces a beautiful garden that contains fountains and sculptures and hosts a light and sound show every evening that narrates the history of the Holkars.

A major part of the Palace was destroyed in the 1984 riots but was later rebuilt by Usha Raje Holkar based on the designs of architects Himanshu Dudwadkar and Shreya Bhargava. The blueprints, materials, and finishes were kept identical to the original plans to maintain authenticity. Rajwada stands at the centre of Indore's Khajuri Bazaar and is constantly bustling with several visitors who are eager to witness Indore's glorious past along with enjoying Indore's street food, cloth markets and local crafts. Tourists can view the entire chronological history of the Holkars and the city of Indore in a light and sound show held every evening in the palace.



Centre: A palanquin on display. Photo by Prakhar Ojha. Facing page: A sculpture of Ardhanari on display.

■ ASHI DUTTA

DIY Heritage Trail

Indore's Architectural Marvels

Indore's function as an important commercial and cultural center for the Holkar, Maratha, and British empires has left it with a myriad of interesting structures. This trail will cover four landmarks that capture the different phases of Indore's history and display the city's rich architectural heritage.

Starting Location: Gandhi Hall

Ending Location: Kanch Mandir

Distance: 2.2 km

Time taken: 2-3 hours

Walk requirements:

Please bring comfortable shoes and water.

RAJWADA PALACE

Rajwada, Indore

Rajwada Palace is the erstwhile residence of the Holkars, constructed in the mid-eighteenth century and most recently renovated by Ushadevi Holkar.

GANDHI HALL

51, Mahatma Gandhi Rd, Shastri Market, New Siyaganj

Indore's Mahatma Gandhi Hall was built as a town hall in 1904 in the Indo-Gothic style by the architect Charles Frederick Stevens.

KRISHNAPURA CHHATRI

Mahatma Gandhi Rd, Rajwada, Maharaja Tukoji Rao Holkar Cloth Market

The Krishnapura Chhatris are memorial structures built on the cremation spots of Maharani Krishna Bai, Tukaji Rao and Shivaji Rao. Built in 1849 AD, the Rajput-esque chhatris are located at the bank of river Khan, and serve as a memorial to the legacy and patronage of the Holkar dynasty of Central India.

KAANCH MANDIR

Itwaria Bazar

Kaanch Mandir is a Jain temple depicting murals of Jain saints constructed in the early 20th century by Sir Seth Hukum Chand Jain.

DIY Food Trail

Exploring the delicacies of Sarafa Bazar

Indore's central geographical location has allowed it to incorporate diverse cuisines, leading to the evolution of a street food style that has become a part of the city's identity. This trail will take you through four popular eateries in Indore's Sarafa Bazaar, each offering a special delicacy that cannot be missed.

Starting Location: Om Namkeen

Ending Location: Swadisht Samosa Corner

Distance: 1 km

Time taken: 2-3 hours

Walk requirements:

Please bring comfortable shoes and water.

SWADISHT SAMOSA CORNER

8, Bada Sarafa, Sarafa Bazar

Swadisht Samosa Corner's most popular item is its khatta samosa, a tangier variation of the regular samosa, and its *dal bafla*, a variation of the popular *dal baati*.

VIJAY CHAAT HOUSE

75/5, Pipli Bazaar square, behind Rajwada, Bada Sarafa, Khajuri Bazar

Vijay Chaat House is famous for its *khopra* patties, a variation of the traditional *aloo tikki* in which the patty is filled with grated coconut.

JOSHI DAHI BADA HOUSE

24, Bada Sarafa, Sarafa Bazar

Joshi Dahi Bada House is one of the oldest *kachori* shops in Indore and is famous for their *dahi vada*, *bhutte ki khees* and *lal balti ki kachori*.

OM NAMKEEN

Malganj Chouraha, 200, Jawahar Marg, Marothia Bazar, MT Cloth Market

Om Namkeen is a popular shop near Sarafa Bazaar that is known for its *mathri*, *chikkis*, Indore *sev* and *aloo bhujia*.



Sahapedia's award winning program, India Heritage walks, offers guided walks across India. Visit www.indiaheritagewalks.org for more.

5 TRADITIONAL CRAFT FORMS

Indore has been the commercial capital of Madhya Pradesh since pre-Independence times, housing local handicraft and handloom industries and a market for goods from neighbouring towns. Here are five native crafts of Madhya Pradesh that can be found in Indore.

Bell Metal Craft

The bell metal craft practiced mostly in the city of Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh, is now popular all over the world for its creative designs and fine workmanship. A unique technique called lost-wax casting is used to create duplicate sculptures from an original one which are then modelled using a mixture of industrial wax, groundnut oil and a binding resin.

Chanderi

The most popular handloom craft of Central India, Chanderi is a handwoven blend of silk and cotton fabrics. Unique bootis or motifs and the sheer texture of the fabric make Chanderi sarees an important local craft form.

Bagh Print

Bagh is a city located in Madhya Pradesh where a migrated community from Sindh started the practice of using a hand block print with natural colours to make geometric and floral patterns on silk or cotton cloth.

Batto Bai Dolls

Handcrafted using cotton, wires and bamboo, Batto Bai dolls are made and sold in pairs across Madhya Pradesh. The dolls come in a variety of sizes and represent different cultural traditions of India, dressed in traditional clothes of different states and regions.

Zari Zardozi

Zari Zardozi is a form of embroidery in which gold coils and beads are stitched onto a fabric to create patterns and motifs.

5 MAESTROS FROM THE INDORE GHARANA OF INDIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

The Indore *gharana* or school of Hindustani music was pioneered by Ustad Amir Khan, who used the Merukhand technique to compose music that has been described as meditative. The Indore gharana survives as an important part of India's musical heritage; here are five names who were responsible for making it one of the most well-respected styles of classical music in the country.

Amir Khan

Amir Khan's music struck a balance between the slow pace of *vistars* and the complex speed of *tan sargams*. As the founder of the Indore gharana of music, he was the recipient of the Padma Bhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award.

Pandit Amarnath

Pandit Amarnath was the first and closest disciple of Amir Khan and is known for further enriching the Indore gharana with his poetry, written under the pen name of Miturang.

Kankana Banerjee

Kankana Banerjee has received the Kala Saraswati, Andhra Ratna Award from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for her numerous national and international performances.

Singh Bandhu

Singh Bandhu is the name given to the popular musical duo of brothers Tejpal Singh and Surinder Singh who began their musical training under Ustad Amir Khan in 1960. They are recipients of a joint Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2004.

Ustad Sultan Khan

Ustad Sultan Khan is credited with reviving the classical string instrument *sarangi* and is revered for dedicating his life to the performance of Indian classical music.

CALENDAR

Festivals and Cultural Events

JAN

MAKAR SANKRANTI

Indore city

The festival of Makar Sankranti or *Pongal* is celebrated in Indore with great enthusiasm and devotion. On this day, the nearby temples of Maheshwar, Omkareshwar and Ujjain host thousands of people who offer traditional dishes of sesame sweets, jaggery and *khichdi* to the gods, and take dips in the holy rivers of Narmada and Shipra.

RAAG AMIR FESTIVAL

Ustad Alauddin Khan Sangeet evam Kala Akademi, of the Madhya Pradesh Cultural Council organises a three-day festival called Raag Amir in memory of the famous musician Amir Khan, the founder of the Indore gharana of Hindustani music.

MAR

RANGPANCHAMI

M.G. Road, Chhatris, Main Square

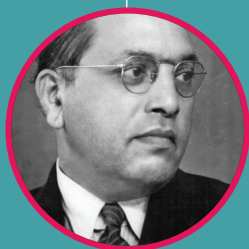
The festival of Rangpanchami is celebrated five days after Holi and has been a vital festival in Indore since the Holkars ruled it centuries ago. Every year, lakhs of people gather on the roads near the Rajwada palace and dance to music while they are sprayed with colours and water by the city's municipal trucks.

APR

AMBEDKAR JAYANTI

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar (Mhow), Indore district

Mhow, a city in Indore district, is the birthplace of India's most eminent Dalit activist and reformer, Babasaheb Ambedkar, who is also revered as the 'Father of the Indian Constitution.' In 1991, the Madhya Pradesh government constructed a memorial to commemorate 100 years of Ambedkar's birth, and since then every year thousands visit the place on Ambedkar Jayanti to pay their respects to the great man.



ANANT CHATURDASHI

Bhandari Mill Tri-circle,
Laxmibai Nagar Rd,
Pologround Industrial Estate

Celebrated on the last day of the 10-day long festival of Ganesh Chaturthi, Anant Chaturdashi in Indore is celebrated by the coming together of the entire city through processions and display of tableaux.

AUG

SEP

OCT

ADIVASI DAY OR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Indore city

Every year on this day, Indore city hosts a procession to commemorate this day as a celebration of indigenous culture, as well as an occasion to address the many problems being faced by members of adivasi communities.

AHILYA UTSAV

The Ahilya Utsav is celebrated in honour of Indore's Holkar queen Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar, who remains an important cultural and historical figure for the people of the city.

KARTIK POORNIMA MELA

Janapav Kuti, Mhow,
Indore district

Janapav is a pilgrimage centre near the town of Indore which is thought to be the birthplace of Lord Parasurama. Every year, on Kartik Poonima, the first full moon night after Diwali, a fair is held near a local temple and ashram that is believed to have been founded by the sage Jamadagni, Parasurama's father.

Glossary of Terms

Baba Dike, Ravindra Natya Graha and Natya Bharti

Quit India Movement : The Quit India Movement, also known as the August Movement, was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 9 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British rule in India.

Krishnapura Chhatri

Holkar: A Maratha dynasty ruling over the state of Indore in Central India, hailing from the Mathura region in the Deccan and of peasant origin.

Garbagriha: The most sacred part of a Hindu temple, in the form of the innermost sanctum housing an idol of the primary deity of the temple.

Shiv-ling: An aniconic representation of the Hindu god Shiva, symbolising generative power and found in Shaivite temples and Hindu shrines.

Shivaji Rao Holkar School

Madrassa: The Arabic word for an educational institution, usually imparting religious, primary or secondary education, but in some cases, secular education as well.

Siddhanta: A Sanskrit term referring to an established line of thinking in any school of Hindu philosophy.

Chhatri: A funerary monument; a chapel built over a tomb.

Kushti in Indore

Holkar: A Maratha dynasty ruling over the state of Indore in Central India, hailing from the Mathura region in the Deccan and of peasant origin.

MT Cloth Market

Holkar: A Maratha dynasty ruling over the state of Indore in Central India, hailing from the Mathura region in the Deccan and of peasant origin.

Nai Dunia

Offset printing: Offset printing, in commercial printing, is a widely used printing technique in which the inked image on a printing plate is printed on a rubber cylinder and then transferred (i.e., offset) to paper or other material.

Phooti Kothi

Holkar: A Maratha dynasty ruling over the state of Indore in Central India, hailing from the Mathura region in the Deccan and of peasant origin.

Bibliography



To get access to bibliography for all the pieces in this booklet visit:

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This booklet documents various well-known and offbeat treasures of Goa's living heritage and culture. Designed as a guide to navigate the state's better kept secrets, the publication spans themes such as built heritage, natural heritage, people and communities, institutions of cultural importance, and literature and the arts.

Other editions include: Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Goa, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Nashik, Shillong, Prayagraj



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