



# Maharaja Chhatrasal

## Why in News

The **Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre** has been inaugurated at **Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh**.

- The Convention Centre, named after the legendary **Bundelkhand King Maharaja Chhatrasal**, was built under the [Swadesh Darshan scheme](#) of the **Ministry of Tourism**.

## Khajuraho

- It is **one of the nineteen identified iconic destinations** in the country.
  - The Ministry of Tourism has framed '**Development of Iconic Tourist Destinations Scheme**', a Central Sector Scheme for development of nineteen identified iconic destinations in the country following a holistic approach.
- The **Khajuraho Group of Monuments** is listed as a [UNESCO world heritage site](#).
  - The temples are famous for their [nagara-style architectural](#) symbolism and their **erotic sculptures**.
  - Most Khajuraho temples were **built between 885 AD and 1050 AD by the Chandela dynasty**.

## Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- Swadesh Darshan, a [Central Sector Scheme](#), was **launched in 2014-15** for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
  - Currently, there are **15 theme based circuits** - Buddhist, Coastal, Desert, Eco, Heritage, Himalayan, Krishna, North-east, Ramayana, Rural, Spiritual, Sufi, Tirthankara, Tribal and Wildlife.
  - Theme-based tourist circuits are developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner to enrich tourist experience and enhance employment opportunities.
- Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides **Central Financial Assistance (CFA)** to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits.
- This scheme is envisioned to **synergise with other schemes** like [Swachh Bharat Abhiyan](#), [Skill India](#), [Make in India](#) etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, driving force for economic growth and building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential.

## Key Points

- **Brief Profile:**

- **Birth** : Born on **4<sup>th</sup> May 1649**, to Champat Rai and Lal Kunwar, into the **Bundela Rajput clan**.
- **Medieval Indian warrior**, fought **against the Mughal Empire**, and established **his own kingdom in Bundelkhand**.
- **Descendant of Rudra Pratap Singh** of Orchha.
- Ancestors were vassals of the Mughal emperor.
- **Death**: 20<sup>th</sup> December, 1731.
- **Power Struggle Against the Mughal:**
  - He **started his struggle in 1671**, and first captured Naugaon region of Chhatarpur district.
  - He **fought for 50 years against Mughals** and **captured a large part of Bundelkhand with his seat of power at Panna**.
- **Relation with Baji Rao I:**
  - Baji Rao I **helped Chhatrasal against the Mughals**. He sent military aid against the Mughal force **led by Muhammad Khan Bangash in 1728**.
  - The Maratha Peshwa **Baji Rao I's second wife Mastani was Chhatrasal's daughter**.
  - Before his death, **Chhatrasal transferred Mahoba and the surrounding area to Baji Rao I** in return for his assistance against the Mughals.
- **Patron of Literature :**
  - His court housed several noted poets. His **eulogies written by Kavi Bhushan, Lal Kavi, Bakhshi Hansaraj and other court poets** helped him gain lasting fame.
- **Religious View:**
  - Disciple of **Mahamati Prannathji**.
  - Swami Prannathji also guided him in **political, social, and economic matters**.
  - Swami Prannathji told Chhatrasal **regarding Diamond mines of Panna** and thus helped him in strengthening his financial position.
- **Legacy:**
  - The **Chhatarpur town and its district** in Madhya Pradesh are **named after Chhatrasal**.
  - **Maharaja Chhatrasal Museum** in Madhya Pradesh and the **Chhatrasal Stadium in Delhi** are also named after the **Maharaja Chhatrasal**.

[Source: PIB](#)

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