Pariksha Saathi — Rajasthan GK Notes

1 topics • 11 lessons • updated 28 October 2026

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The Rajasthan GK topics in the syllabus of: Rajasthan Police Constable, RPSC RAS Prelims, Rajasthan Patwari. Each topic ends with a link to its free practice questions; full mock tests are free in the Pariksha Saathi app and on the website.

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What the exam asks: Rajasthan GK is the single heaviest block in RPSC RAS Prelims and the Rajasthan Police Constable paper. Questions are almost entirely factual: who founded which city and when, which river rises where, which fort is UNESCO-listed, which fair is held in which district, and the seven stages of integration. Dates, districts and 'first in India' facts are the currency of this topic. Study it as linked clusters (ruler-city-fort-year) rather than as isolated facts.

Ancient and early medieval history: Kalibangan (Hanumangarh district, on the Ghaggar) is a Harappan site famous for evidence of a ploughed field (Early Harappan level) and fire altars. Ahar near Udaipur gives its name to the chalcolithic Ahar-Banas copper culture. Matsya Mahajanapada had its capital at Viratnagar (modern Bairat, now in Kotputli-Behror district), where the Bhabru (Bairat) minor rock edict of Ashoka was found. The Gurjara-Pratiharas, with Mihir Bhoja ruling from Kannauj, dominated north India from the 8th to 10th centuries. The Chauhans of Sakambhari and Ajmer produced Prithviraj III, who defeated Muhammad Ghori at Tarain in 1191 and lost to him in 1192.

Rajput kingdoms: Mewar was founded by Bappa Rawal of the Guhila line at Chittor in the 8th century; its rulers later took the Sisodia name. Chittorgarh saw three famous sieges: Alauddin Khalji in 1303 (jauhar of Rani Padmini), Bahadur Shah of Gujarat in 1535 (Karnavati, Panna Dhai saved Udai Singh), and Akbar in 1568 (Jaimal and Patta died). Rana Kumbha built Kumbhalgarh and the Vijay Stambh. Rana Sanga lost to Babur at Khanwa on 16 March 1527 (some sources give 17 March). Maharana Pratap fought Akbar's army under Man Singh of Amber at Haldighati on 18 June 1576; Bhamashah financed his struggle. Marwar: Rao Jodha founded Jodhpur in 1459; Durgadas Rathore later protected Ajit Singh against Aurangzeb. Amber: Sawai Jai Singh II founded Jaipur in 1727 with architect Vidyadhar Bhattacharya and built the Jantar Mantar. Bikaner was founded by Rao Bika in 1488 and Jaisalmer by Rawal Jaisal of the Bhati clan in 1156.

Modern history and integration: in 1818 almost all Rajputana states signed subsidiary treaties with the British. The 1857 revolt began in Rajasthan at Nasirabad on 28 May; Kota rose under Jai Dayal and Mehrab Khan, and Thakur Kushal Singh of Auwa defied the British. The Bijolia peasant movement in Mewar (1897 onwards) was led by Vijay Singh Pathik; Govind Guru's Bhagat movement ended in the Mangarh massacre of 1913. Prajamandal movements in each state demanded responsible government. Integration took seven stages: Matsya Union (18 March 1948), Rajasthan Union (25 March 1948), United State of Rajasthan with Udaipur (18 April 1948), Greater Rajasthan inaugurated by Sardar Patel on 30 March 1949 (celebrated as Rajasthan Diwas), United Greater Rajasthan with Matsya (15 May 1949), Sirohi (January 1950) and finally Ajmer-Merwara, Abu Road and Sunel on 1 November 1956. Hiralal Shastri was the first Chief Minister; Mohan Lal Sukhadia served the longest (1954 to 1971).

Geography: Rajasthan is India's largest state (3,42,239 sq km, about 10.4 percent of the country) and shares a 1,070 km border with Pakistan across Sri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer. The Aravalli range, the oldest fold mountains in India, runs diagonally from Delhi to Palanpur; Guru Shikhar on Mount Abu (1,722 m) is its highest peak. The Thar desert (Marusthali) lies to its west. The Chambal (dams in order: Gandhi Sagar, Rana Pratap Sagar, Jawahar Sagar, Kota barrage) is the only perennial river; the Banas is the longest river wholly within the state; the Luni is saline after Balotra and vanishes in the Rann of Kutch; the Mahi crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice. The Indira Gandhi Canal starts at Harike barrage in Punjab. Sambhar is India's largest inland saline lake. Keoladeo (Bharatpur) is a UNESCO World Heritage site; Ranthambore (Sawai Madhopur) and Sariska (Alwar) are tiger reserves; Tal Chhapar (Churu) is known for blackbuck. Jaisalmer is the driest district; the wettest districts lie in the south and south-east (by IMD monsoon normals Pratapgarh, Banswara, Jhalawar and Sirohi lead).

Economy and resources: zinc and lead at Zawar (Udaipur), copper at Khetri (Jhunjhunu), marble at Makrana (Nagaur region, now in Didwana-Kuchaman district), rock phosphate at Jhamarkotra (Udaipur), lignite in Barmer and Bikaner. Rajasthan leads India in mustard, bajra, guar and wool. Bhilwara is the Manchester of Rajasthan; Kota doria, Jaipur blue pottery, Sanganer and Bagru prints, and Kota stone are famous products. Power: Suratgarh thermal (Sri Ganganagar), Rawatbhata atomic plant (Chittorgarh) and Bhadla solar park (Phalodi, earlier part of Jodhpur district).

Polity: the Vidhan Sabha is unicameral with 200 seats; Rajasthan sends 25 members to the Lok Sabha and 10 to the Rajya Sabha. The High Court sits at Jodhpur with a bench at Jaipur. Gurumukh Nihal Singh was the first Governor. India's Panchayati Raj system was inaugurated by Nehru at Nagaur on 2 October 1959. The RPSC is headquartered at Ajmer.

Culture: state symbols are the chinkara and camel (animals), great Indian bustard or godawan (bird), rohida (flower) and khejri (tree). Ghoomar, Kalbelia (UNESCO 2010), Gair, Chari, Terah Taali, Kachhi Ghodi and the Jasnathi fire dance are the key folk dances; Ravanhatta, Algoza and Morchang are instruments; Manganiyar and Langa are the hereditary musicians of the west. Fairs: Pushkar (Kartik Purnima), Nagaur cattle fair, Baneshwar (tribal Kumbh), Kapil Muni at Kolayat, Ramdevra, Gogamedi and the Ajmer Urs. Folk deities Pabuji, Gogaji, Tejaji, Ramdevji and Devnarayan each have an associated district and story. Painting schools include Mewar, Marwar, Bundi, Kota, Jaipur and Kishangarh (Bani Thani by Nihal Chand); Phad scrolls come from Shahpura and Pichwai from Nathdwara. The Bishnoi sacrifice at Khejarli (1730, Amrita Devi) is remembered as a precursor of the Chipko tree-hugging movement.

Traps to avoid: Tarain 1191 (Prithviraj won) versus 1192 (Ghori won). Vijay Stambh (Kumbha) versus Kirti Stambh (Jain). Rajasthan Diwas is 30 March 1949, not 1 November 1956. Mehrangarh is NOT among the six UNESCO hill forts. Keoladeo is UNESCO; Sambhar is Ramsar only. The High Court is at Jodhpur, not the capital Jaipur. Hiralal Shastri was the first CM but Tikaram Paliwal was the first elected CM.

Examples

- Chittorgarh sieges in order: 1303 Alauddin Khalji (Padmini jauhar), 1535 Bahadur Shah of Gujarat (Karnavati), 1568 Akbar (Jaimal and Patta).
- City founders and years: Jaisalmer 1156 (Rawal Jaisal), Jodhpur 1459 (Rao Jodha), Bikaner 1488 (Rao Bika), Udaipur 1553 (Udai Singh II; some sources give 1559), Jaipur 1727 (Sawai Jai Singh II).
- Three decisive battles: Tarain 1192 (Ghori beat Prithviraj III), Khanwa 1527 (Babur beat Rana Sanga), Haldighati 1576 (Man Singh led Akbar's army against Pratap).
- Chambal dams downstream in order, mnemonic 'G-R-J-K': Gandhi Sagar (MP), Rana Pratap Sagar (Rawatbhata), Jawahar Sagar, Kota barrage.
- Seven stages of integration: Matsya Union (Mar 1948), Rajasthan Union (Mar 1948), United Rajasthan with Udaipur (Apr 1948), Greater Rajasthan (30 Mar 1949), with Matsya (May 1949), Sirohi (1950), Ajmer-Merwara (1 Nov 1956).
- Mineral-place pairs: Zawar zinc, Khetri copper, Makrana marble, Jhamarkotra rock phosphate, Barmer lignite, Kota stone.
- Six UNESCO hill forts (2013): Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Gagron, Amber, Jaisalmer. Mehrangarh and Junagarh are not on the list.
- Four UNESCO World Heritage entries in Rajasthan (as of 2026): Keoladeo National Park (1985), Jantar Mantar Jaipur (2010), Hill Forts (2013), Jaipur city (2019). Kalbelia dance is on the intangible heritage list (2010).

- Folk deity and district: Pabuji (Kolu, Phalodi), Gogaji (Gogamedi, Hanumangarh), Tejaji (Kharnal, Nagaur), Ramdevji (Ramdevra, Jaisalmer), Devnarayan (Asind, Bhilwara).
- Rivers by fate: Chambal joins the Yamuna; Banas joins the Chambal; Luni dies in the Rann of Kutch; Mahi and Sabarmati reach the Gulf of Khambhat.
- Numbers to remember: Vidhan Sabha 200, Lok Sabha 25, Rajya Sabha 10, Pakistan border 1,070 km, Guru Shikhar 1,722 m, Kumbhalgarh wall 36 km.
- First-in-India facts: Panchayati Raj launched at Nagaur on 2 October 1959; Khejarli 1730 (363 Bishnois) is the best-known early tree-protection sacrifice and a precursor of Chipko.

> **Quick revision:** Largest state, 1,070 km Pakistan border; Guru Shikhar 1,722 m highest Aravalli peak; Bappa Rawal founded Mewar, Rao Jodha Jodhpur 1459, Jai Singh II Jaipur 1727; Khanwa 1527, Haldighati 1576; Greater Rajasthan 30 March 1949 (Rajasthan Diwas), first CM Hiralal Shastri; Vidhan Sabha 200, HC Jodhpur; Panchayati Raj Nagaur 2 Oct 1959; Sambhar largest saline lake, Keoladeo UNESCO; Zawar zinc, Khetri copper, Makrana marble; Kalbelia UNESCO 2010; six hill forts UNESCO 2013; Khejarli 1730 Amrita Devi.

Ancient Rajasthan: Kalibangan, Ahar-Banas Culture, Matsya and the Pratiharas

Why ancient Rajasthan matters: Rajasthan holds one of the longest records of human settlement in India. Stone Age tools have been found along the Banas, Berach, Chambal and Luni valleys, and the state has key sites of almost every later stage: the Mesolithic at Bagor, the Harappan at Kalibangan, the Chalcolithic at Ahar, Balathal, Gilund and Ganeshwar, the Mahajanapada and Mauryan periods at Bairat, and early medieval kingdoms such as the Gurjara-Pratiharas. Exams pair each site with its district, river, excavator and signature find, so learn them in that pattern.

Bagor and the Stone Age: Bagor, on the Kothari river near Bhilwara, is one of the largest Mesolithic sites in India. Excavated by V.N. Misra, it has yielded microliths (tiny stone tools) and some of the earliest evidence of animal domestication in India, chiefly of sheep and goat. Tilwara on the Luni is another Mesolithic site. Such sites show the shift from pure hunting and gathering to herding, which is why Bagor appears in questions on the beginnings of pastoralism.

Kalibangan, the Harappan town: Kalibangan, meaning 'black bangles' after the bangle fragments on its mounds, lies on the bank of the Ghaggar (identified by many with the ancient Saraswati) in Hanumangarh district. A. Ghosh identified it as a Harappan site in 1952, and B.B. Lal and B.K. Thapar excavated it between 1961 and 1969. It has two levels: an Early (pre-) Harappan settlement and a mature Harappan town with a fortified citadel and a separately fortified lower town. Its most-asked finds are a ploughed field with criss-cross furrows from the Early Harappan level, one of the earliest such fields found anywhere, and rows of fire altars that point to ritual practice. It also preserves evidence of an ancient earthquake. Sothi, also in the north, gives its name to an Early Harappan pottery tradition.

Ahar-Banas culture: The Chalcolithic (copper-stone) people of south-eastern Rajasthan are named after Ahar, a mound locally called Dhulkot on the Ahar (Ayad) river at Udaipur, and after the Banas basin where most of their villages lie. Ahar's old name is given as Tamravati because of its copper working; it was excavated in stages from the 1950s, most fully by H.D. Sankalia. The culture's hallmarks are black-and-red pottery painted with white designs, copper axes and rings, houses of stone and mud, and farming that included rice. Gilund in Rajsamand district is a large site of the same culture. Balathal near Udaipur, excavated from 1993 under V.N. Misra, is a fortified Ahar-culture village; a skeleton found there, dated to about 2000 BCE, is the oldest known skeletal evidence of leprosy in India.

Ganeshwar, the copper hub: Ganeshwar, near Neem ka Thana at the source of the Kantli river in north-eastern Rajasthan, is called the mother of India's copper-age cultures. Excavated by R.C. Agrawal and Vijay Kumar, it has yielded a large number of copper objects, including arrowheads, fish-hooks, spearheads and axes, made from ore of the nearby Khetri belt. Because many of these tools resemble Harappan ones, Ganeshwar is seen as a supplier of copper to Harappan towns. Related sites form the Ganeshwar-Jodhpura culture.

Matsya, Bairat and the Mauryas: Of the sixteen Mahajanapadas of the 6th century BCE, Matsya lay in Rajasthan, covering the Jaipur-Alwar-Bharatpur region, with its capital at Viratnagar, modern Bairat north of Jaipur. The Mahabharata links it with King Virata, at whose court the Pandavas spent their year in disguise. Bairat gives two Mauryan records: the Bhabru edict, found by Captain Burt in 1837 and now kept in Kolkata, in which Ashoka

declares his faith in the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha, and a minor rock edict. The remains of a circular Buddhist shrine on Bijak ki Pahadi belong to the same age. After the Mauryas, tribal republics held the region: the Malavas around Nagar near Tonk, the Yaudheyas in the north, the Arjunayanas in the Alwar-Bharatpur area and the Shibis at Madhyamika (Nagari) near Chittorgarh. In 1948 the name Matsya was revived for the first union of princely states.

Guptas and the Gurjara-Pratiharas: Samudragupta's Prayag (Allahabad) pillar inscription records that the Malavas, Arjunayanas and Yaudheyas paid him tribute, and the Bayana hoard found in 1946 near Bharatpur is the largest find of Gupta gold coins. The region around Bhinmal, Jalore and Mandore later came to be called Gurjaratra, the land of the Gurjaras. Bhinmal (Bhillamala) was a centre of learning: the mathematician Brahmagupta wrote his Brahmasphuta Siddhanta there in 628 CE, and the poet Magha belonged to it. From this region rose the Gurjara-Pratiharas, who claimed descent from Lakshmana, the doorkeeper (pratihara) of Rama. One branch ruled at Mandore; the imperial line of Nagabhata I checked the Arab advance from Sindh in the 8th century. Nagabhata II took Kannauj, and Mihir Bhoja (title Adivaraha) ruled from it an empire that fought the Palas and Rashtrakutas in the tripartite struggle; the Arab traveller Sulaiman (851 CE) praised his cavalry. Temples at Osian near Jodhpur show the Pratihara (Maha-Maru) style, and the Prithviraj Raso later counted the Pratiharas among the four fire-born (Agnikula) Rajput clans.

Examples

- Kalibangan (Hanumangarh, on the Ghaggar): 'black bangles'; identified by A. Ghosh in 1952, excavated by B.B. Lal and B.K. Thapar (1961-69); ploughed field and fire altars.
- Ahar (Udaipur, Ahar/Ayad river): mound called Dhulkot, old name Tamravati; gives its name to the Ahar-Banas chalcolithic culture with black-and-red pottery.
- Bagor (Bhilwara, Kothari river): large Mesolithic site excavated by V.N. Misra; early evidence of sheep and goat domestication.
- Balathal (near Udaipur): fortified Ahar-culture village; a skeleton of about 2000 BCE is the oldest skeletal evidence of leprosy in India.
- Ganeshwar (near Neem ka Thana, at the source of the Kantli): 'mother of copper-age cultures'; copper arrowheads and fish-hooks made from Khetri ore and supplied to Harappan towns.
- Matsya Mahajanapada: capital Viratnagar (Bairat); Ashoka's Bhabru edict (found 1837) names the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha.
- Samudragupta's Prayag inscription names the Malavas, Arjunayanas and Yaudheyas; the Bayana hoard (1946) is the largest find of Gupta gold coins.
- Bhinmal (Bhillamala): Brahmagupta wrote the Brahmasphuta Siddhanta there in 628 CE; the region was called Gurjaratra.
- Gurjara-Pratiharas: rose in Gurjaratra (south-west Rajasthan); Nagabhata I checked the Arabs, Nagabhata II took Kannauj, Mihir Bhoja (Adivaraha) was the greatest king.

> **Quick revision:** Bagor Mesolithic (Kothari river, V.N. Misra); Kalibangan Harappan on the Ghaggar, Hanumangarh, ploughed field and fire altars, Lal-Thapar 1961-69; Ahar (Dhulkot, Tamravati) names the Ahar-Banas culture; Balathal leprosy skeleton c. 2000 BCE; Ganeshwar copper, Kantli source; Matsya capital Viratnagar (Bairat), Bhabru edict; Bayana Gupta hoard 1946; Brahmagupta at Bhinmal 628 CE; Pratiharas from Gurjaratra, Mihir Bhoja ruled from Kannauj.

Rajput Dynasties and Medieval Rajasthan: Mewar, Marwar, Amber and the Chauhans

Clans and regions: From the 8th century Rajasthan was divided among Rajput clans: the Guhilas (later Sisodias) in Mewar, the Rathores in Marwar and Bikaner, the Kachwahas in Dhundhar, the Chauhans at Sakambhari, Ajmer, Ranthambore and Jalore, the Bhatis at Jaisalmer, and the Hadas, a Chauhan branch, in Hadoti (Bundi and Kota). Chand Bardai's Prithviraj Raso gives the Agnikula legend that the Pratihara, Parmar, Chalukya and Chauhan clans were born from a sacrificial fire on Mount Abu; James Tod argued for a foreign (Scythian) origin, and G.H. Ojha for descent from the ancient Kshatriyas.

The Chauhans: The Chauhans began at Sakambhari (Sambhar) under Vasudev. Ajayaraja founded Ajaymeru (Ajmer) in the early 12th century, Arnoraja built the Ana Sagar lake, and Vigraharaja IV (Visaldev), author of the play Harkeli Natak, built a Sanskrit college that Qutbuddin Aibak later turned into the mosque called Adhai Din ka Jhonpra. Prithviraj III defeated Muhammad Ghori at Tarain (in Haryana) in 1191 but lost to him there in 1192, opening north India to the Turks. At Ranthambore, Hammir Dev resisted Alauddin Khalji until 1301, and the fall of the fort is counted as the first saka of Rajasthan. Jalore under Kanhadadeva fell to Alauddin in 1311, as told in Padmanabh's Kanhadade Prabandh.

Mewar from Bappa Rawal to Kumbha: Bappa Rawal took Chittor in the 8th century, and tradition credits him with the Eklingji temple near Udaipur, whose deity the Maharanas treated as the real ruler, calling themselves his Dewan. In 1303 Alauddin Khalji took Chittor from Rawal Ratan Singh; Rani Padmini's jauhar and the valour of Gora and Badal became legend, retold in Malik Muhammad Jayasi's Padmavat (1540), and Alauddin renamed the fort Khizrabad after his son. Hammir recovered Chittor in the 14th century and began the Sisodia line. Rana Kumbha (1433-1468) defeated Mahmud Khilji of Malwa at Sarangpur in 1437 and built the Vijay Stambh at Chittor to mark it; tradition credits him with 32 of Mewar's 84 forts, including Kumbhalgarh, designed by the architect Mandan. He wrote the Sangeet Raj and bore titles such as Abhinav Bharatacharya and Hindu Suratrana.

Rana Sanga and Maharana Pratap: Rana Sanga (1509-1528) defeated Ibrahim Lodi at Khatoli in 1517 and led a Rajput confederacy against Babur, winning at Bayana but losing at Khanwa near Bharatpur in March 1527 to Babur's artillery; Babur then took the title Ghazi. Chittor was besieged by Bahadur Shah of Gujarat (1535) and by Akbar (1567-68, when Jaimal and Patta died defending it); after its fall Udai Singh II made Udaipur, which he had founded in 1559, his capital. Maharana Pratap, born in 1540 and crowned at Gogunda in 1572, met Akbar's army under Man Singh of Amber and Asaf Khan at Haldighati on 18 June 1576. Hakim Khan Sur, the Bhil chief Rana Punja and Jhala Mana, who wore the royal insignia to draw the enemy, fought for him, and his horse Chetak died carrying him to safety. James Tod called Haldighati the Thermopylae of Mewar and Pratap's victory at Dewair (1582) its Marathon. Helped by Bhamashah's wealth, Pratap won back most of Mewar and died at Chavand on 19 January 1597. His son Amar Singh I made a treaty with Jahangir in 1615.

Marwar and Bikaner: Rao Siha began Rathore rule in Marwar in the 13th century; Rao Chunda took Mandore, and Rao Jodha founded Jodhpur and Mehrangarh in 1459. His son Rao Bika founded Bikaner in 1488. Against Rao Maldev, Sher Shah Suri barely won at Girri-Sumel in 1544 and said he had nearly lost the empire of Hindustan for a handful of bajra. Mota Raja Udai Singh's daughter Jagat Gosain, married to Jahangir, was the mother of Shah Jahan. When Jaswant Singh died in 1678, Aurangzeb tried to annex Marwar, and Durgadas Rathore protected the infant Ajit Singh.

Amber, Jaisalmer and Hadoti: The Kachwahas under Dulherai set up rule in Dhundhar in the 12th century with Dausa as capital, later moving to Amber. Raja Bharmal was the first Rajput ruler to accept Akbar's overlordship, marrying his daughter Harkha Bai to him in 1562; Man Singh I of Amber became Akbar's leading general and governor of Kabul, Bihar and Bengal. Mirza Raja Jai Singh made the Treaty of Purandar with Shivaji in 1665. The Bhatis ruled from Jaisalmer, founded by Rawal Jaisal in 1156. The Hadas under Rao Deva took Bundi from the Meenas, and Kota became a separate state in 1631 when Shah Jahan gave it to Madho Singh.

Jauhar, saka and the Mughal-Rajput bargain: Jauhar was the self-immolation of women when a fort was about to fall; saka was the final charge of the men, dressed in saffron (kesariya). Chittor saw three sakas (1303, 1535 and 1568), Gagron two (1423 against Hoshang Shah of Malwa and 1444 against Mahmud Khilji), and Jaisalmer is said to have seen two and a half. Akbar made the Rajput rulers partners through marriage alliances, high mansabs and the right to keep their home kingdoms as watan jagirs; at his Nagaur Darbar of 1570 the rulers of Bikaner and Jaisalmer accepted his overlordship. Aurangzeb's reimposition of jizya in 1679 and his move on Marwar broke this bargain.

Examples

- Tarain: in 1191 Prithviraj III defeated Muhammad Ghori; in 1192 Ghori won. Tarain is in Haryana, not Rajasthan.
- Ranthambore 1301 (Hammir Dev against Alauddin) is counted as the first saka of Rajasthan; Jalore fell in 1311 (Kanhadadeva).
- Chittor's three sakas: 1303 (Alauddin, Padmini), 1535 (Bahadur Shah, Karnavati), 1568 (Akbar, Jaimal and Patta).

- Rana Kumbha (1433-1468): Sarangpur victory 1437, Vijay Stambh, Kumbhalgarh (architect Mandan), titles Abhinav Bharatacharya and Hindu Suratrana.
- Khanwa, March 1527: Babur defeated Rana Sanga; Sanga had earlier beaten Ibrahim Lodi at Khatoli (1517).
- Haldighati, 18 June 1576: Man Singh and Asaf Khan for Akbar; Hakim Khan Sur, Rana Punja and Jhala Mana for Pratap; Tod's 'Thermopylae of Mewar'.
- Dewair 1582: Pratap's victory, Tod's 'Marathon of Mewar'; Pratap died at Chavand on 19 January 1597; Mewar-Mughal treaty 1615.
- Girri-Sumel 1544: Sher Shah beat Maldev and said he had almost lost Hindustan 'for a handful of bajra'.
- Bharmal of Amber: first Rajput ruler to accept Akbar (1562); Mirza Raja Jai Singh: Treaty of Purandar with Shivaji (1665).
- Kota separated from Bundi in 1631; Akbar's Nagaur Darbar 1570; Aurangzeb reimposed jizya in 1679.

> **Quick revision:** Agnikula legend in Prithviraj Raso; Ajayaraja founded Ajmer; Tarain 1191 won, 1192 lost; Ranthambore 1301 first saka; Chittor sakas 1303, 1535, 1568; Hammir began the Sisodias; Kumbha: Sarangpur 1437, Vijay Stambh, Kumbhalgarh; Khanwa 1527; Haldighati 18 June 1576, Dewair 1582; treaty 1615; Jodhpur 1459, Bikaner 1488; Girri-Sumel 1544; Bharmal-Akbar 1562; Kota separate 1631.

Modern Rajasthan: 1857, Peasant and Tribal Movements and the Praja Mandals

From Maratha raids to British protection: After Aurangzeb's death in 1707 the Rajput states were weakened by succession disputes and fell prey to Maratha chiefs such as the Sindhias and Holkars and to Pindari bands. Amir Khan, a Pindari leader, was made Nawab of Tonk with British backing in 1817, which is why Tonk was the only Muslim-ruled state of Rajputana. Worn out, the rulers turned to the East India Company under Governor-General Lord Hastings, whose agent Charles Metcalfe negotiated the treaties.

The treaties of 1817-18: In one round of subsidiary treaties almost every Rajput state accepted British protection, giving up an independent foreign policy and agreeing to pay tribute. Karauli signed first (November 1817), followed within months by Kota, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bikaner, Jaipur and the rest; Sirohi was the last, in 1823. In 1818 Daulat Rao Sindhia ceded Ajmer to the British, and Ajmer-Merwara became directly ruled British territory in the middle of the princely states. The Rajputana Agency was run by an Agent to the Governor-General (AGG), with headquarters at Ajmer and a summer seat at Mount Abu. Mayo College was founded at Ajmer in 1875 to educate the sons of the princes.

The revolt of 1857: Rajputana had six British cantonments: Nasirabad, Neemuch, Deoli, Beawar, Erinpura and Kherwara. The revolt in the region began at Nasirabad, near Ajmer, on 28 May 1857, and Neemuch rose on 3 June. In Marwar, Thakur Kushal Singh Champawat of Auwa gathered discontented nobles and the rebel soldiers of the Jodhpur Legion from Erinpura; his men defeated the Jodhpur state forces and, in September 1857, killed Captain Monk Mason, the Political Agent at Jodhpur. At Kota the state's troops rose on 15 October 1857 under Lala Jaidayal and Mehrab Khan, killed the Political Agent Major Burton and held the city for about six months until British forces retook it in March 1858. Tantia Tope's forces moved through Rajasthan in 1858. Most rulers stayed loyal to the British, so the revolt here was led by soldiers and local thakurs rather than by princes.

Peasant movements: In the jagirs (thikanas) peasants paid many cesses (lag-bag) besides land revenue and did forced labour (begar). The Bijolia movement in Mewar, begun in 1897, is often called the longest non-violent peasant movement in India: its leaders included Sadhu Sitaram Das, then from 1916 Vijay Singh Pathik, who set up the Upermal Panch Board, and later Manikya Lal Verma, and it ended only in 1941 when the Mewar government met most demands. In nearby Begun (Chittorgarh), Ramnarayan Choudhary led a movement from 1921, and the 1923 agreement with the thakur was dismissed by the state as a 'Bolshevik settlement'. In Bundi, Pandit Nainuram Sharma led the peasants, and on 2 April 1923 police firing at Dabi killed Nanak Bhil as he sang a flag song. At Neemuchana in Alwar state, firing on a peasant gathering on 14 May 1925 killed many, and Gandhi compared it to Jallianwala Bagh.

Tribal movements of the south: Govind Guru, born in 1858 in a Banjara family at Bansia in Dungarpur, founded the Samp Sabha in 1883 and spread the Bhagat movement among the Bhils, asking them to give up liquor and meat and to resist begar. On 17 November 1913 British-led troops fired on thousands of his followers gathered on

Mangarh hill in Banswara, on the Rajasthan-Gujarat border; local accounts put the dead at about 1,500, and Mangarh is called the Jallianwala of the tribals. In 1921 Motilal Tejawat of Koliyari (Jhadol, Udaipur) launched the Eki (unity) movement of Bhils and Garasias at Matrikundiya in Chittorgarh against forced labour and heavy taxes, with a charter of demands called the Mewar Pukar. On 7 March 1922 troops fired on a large gathering of his followers at Neemda.

Political awakening and the Praja Mandals: Early nationalists included Kesari Singh Barhath, whose Dingal verses 'Chetavani ra Chungatya' (1903) persuaded Maharana Fateh Singh of Mewar to stay away from Curzon's Delhi Darbar, Arjun Lal Sethi of Jaipur and Rao Gopal Singh of Kharwa. From the 1930s Praja Mandals (people's associations) in each state demanded civil liberties and responsible government under the rulers: Jaipur (1931, later led by Jamnalal Bajaj and Hiralal Shastri), Bikaner (1936), Mewar (24 April 1938, Manikya Lal Verma) and the Marwar Lok Parishad (1938, Jai Narayan Vyas) were the leading ones. The Haripura session of the Congress in 1938 asked the people of the princely states to organise their own movements, and many Praja Mandals date from that year.

Towards one state: At independence Rajputana consisted of 19 princely states, 3 chiefships (Lawa, Kushalgarh and Neemrana) and the British-ruled province of Ajmer-Merwara. The States Ministry under Sardar Patel, with V.P. Menon as secretary, held that only states with an annual revenue of at least one crore rupees and a population of at least ten lakh could stand alone; only Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Udaipur qualified. The rest had to merge, and the process ran in seven stages from 18 March 1948 to 1 November 1956, a span of 8 years, 7 months and 14 days.

Examples

- Treaties of 1817-18: Karauli first (November 1817), Sirohi last (1823); Sindhia ceded Ajmer to the British in 1818.
- Tonk: the only Muslim-ruled state of Rajputana; Pindari leader Amir Khan became its Nawab in 1817.
- 1857: Nasirabad first (28 May), Neemuch (3 June), Auwa (Kushal Singh Champawat, Monk Mason killed), Kota (15 October, Major Burton killed).
- Six cantonments of Rajputana in 1857: Nasirabad, Neemuch, Deoli, Beawar, Erinpura and Kherwara.
- Bijolia (1897-1941): Sadhu Sitaram Das, Vijay Singh Pathik (Upermal Panch Board), then Manikya Lal Verma.
- Begun from 1921 (Ramnarayan Choudhary, 'Bolshevik settlement' 1923); Bundi: Nanak Bhil killed at Dabi on 2 April 1923.
- Govind Guru: Samp Sabha 1883, Bhagat movement; Mangarh massacre 17 November 1913 (Banswara).
- Motilal Tejawat: Eki movement from Matrikundiya in 1921, demands called the Mewar Pukar; Neemda firing 7 March 1922.
- Praja Mandals: Jaipur 1931, Bikaner 1936, Mewar 1938 (Manikya Lal Verma), Marwar Lok Parishad 1938 (Jai Narayan Vyas).
- At independence: 19 princely states, 3 chiefships (Lawa, Kushalgarh, Neemrana) and Ajmer-Merwara.

> **Quick revision:** Treaties 1817-18 (Karauli first, Sirohi last 1823); Ajmer ceded 1818, AGG at Ajmer; 1857 began at Nasirabad 28 May, Auwa (Kushal Singh), Kota (Major Burton killed); Bijolia 1897-1941 (Sitaram Das, Pathik, Manikya Lal Verma); Begun 1921; Dabi 1923 (Nanak Bhil); Neemuchana 1925; Govind Guru, Samp Sabha 1883, Mangarh 17 Nov 1913; Eki movement 1921 (Tejawat); Praja Mandals from 1931; 19 states, 3 chiefships.

Formation of Rajasthan: Seven Stages of Integration, Polity and State Symbols

The name: The region was long called Rajputana, a name first used by George Thomas in 1800. James Tod used the name Rajasthan in his Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan (1829). The union formed in 1949 was called Greater Rajasthan, and the name Rajasthan was formally adopted on 26 January 1950, when the Constitution came into force. The integration that created the state is the most-asked topic in this area, so learn each stage with its date, members, capital and leaders.

First three stages (1948): Stage one, the Matsya Union of 18 March 1948, joined Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli with the Neemrana chiefship; Alwar was its capital, Udaybhan Singh of Dholpur its Rajpramukh and Shobharam Kumawat its prime minister, and its name, suggested by K.M. Munshi, recalled the ancient Matsya janapada. Stage two, the Rajasthan Union of 25 March 1948, joined 9 states (Kota, Bundi, Jhalawar, Tonk, Banswara, Dungarpur, Pratapgarh, Kishangarh and Shahpura) with the Kushalgarh chiefship; Kota was its capital,

Maharao Bhim Singh of Kota its Rajpramukh and Gokul Lal Asawa its prime minister. Stage three, the United State of Rajasthan of 18 April 1948, added Udaipur (Mewar); it was inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru, Udaipur became the capital, Maharana Bhupal Singh the Rajpramukh and Manikya Lal Verma the prime minister.

Greater Rajasthan to 1956: Stage four, Greater Rajasthan, was inaugurated by Sardar Patel on 30 March 1949, when Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer, with the Lawa chiefship, joined; this day is celebrated as Rajasthan Day (Rajasthan Diwas). Jaipur became the capital, Sawai Man Singh II of Jaipur the Rajpramukh, Bhupal Singh the Maharaj Pramukh and Hiralal Shastri the prime minister, a title later changed to chief minister. Stage five, the United Greater Rajasthan, came on 15 May 1949, when the Matsya Union merged after the Shankar Rao Deo committee had gauged public opinion there. Stage six, on 26 January 1950, added Sirohi except the Abu and Delwara tehsils, which went to Bombay state; Rajasthan was then a Part B state headed by a Rajpramukh. Stage seven came on 1 November 1956 under the States Reorganisation Act: Ajmer-Merwara (until then a Part C state with Haribhau Upadhyay as chief minister), Abu-Delwara from Bombay and the Sunel Tappa from Madhya Bharat were added, while Sironj went to Madhya Pradesh. The Rajpramukh's office ended and Gurmukh Nihal Singh became the first Governor.

Capital and state offices: Jaipur was chosen as the capital, and to balance the claims of the old states, major offices were spread across other cities. The High Court sits at Jodhpur; the Rajasthan Public Service Commission, the Board of Revenue and the Board of Secondary Education are at Ajmer; and the Directorate of Education is at Bikaner. Exams like this point: the capital and the High Court are in different cities.

Legislature and representation: Rajasthan has a unicameral legislature, the Vidhan Sabha, with 200 members, its strength since the 1977 election; there is no Legislative Council. In Parliament the state has 25 Lok Sabha seats and 10 Rajya Sabha seats. Hiralal Shastri headed the first popular ministry in 1949; Tikaram Paliwal became the first elected chief minister after the 1952 election, and Mohan Lal Sukhadia held the post for the longest unbroken spell (1954-1971). Rajasthan was the first state to launch Panchayati Raj on the Balwantrai Mehta pattern: Jawaharlal Nehru inaugurated it at Bagdari village in Nagaur on 2 October 1959.

The judiciary: The Rajasthan High Court was set up at Jodhpur on 29 August 1949, with Kamla Kant Verma as its first Chief Justice. A bench at Jaipur worked in the early years, was abolished in 1958 and was re-established in 1977, so the court sits at Jodhpur with a permanent bench at Jaipur.

State symbols: The chinkara (Indian gazelle) is the state animal in the wild category (1981), and the camel was declared the state animal in the livestock category in 2014. The great Indian bustard (godawan) is the state bird (1981). The khejri (Prosopis cineraria), the kalpavriksha of the desert, is the state tree (1983), and the rohida (Tecomella undulata), called Marwar teak, is the state flower (1983). Ghoomar is the state dance and basketball the state game.

Examples

- Stage 1, Matsya Union, 18 March 1948: Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur, Karauli and Neemrana; capital Alwar; name suggested by K.M. Munshi.
- Stage 2, Rajasthan Union, 25 March 1948: 9 states including Kota, Bundi, Tonk, Kishangarh and Shahpura; capital Kota.
- Stage 3, United State of Rajasthan, 18 April 1948: Udaipur joined; inaugurated by Nehru; prime minister Manikya Lal Verma.
- Stage 4, Greater Rajasthan, 30 March 1949: Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer joined; inaugurated by Sardar Patel; celebrated as Rajasthan Day.
- Stage 5, 15 May 1949: Matsya merged (Shankar Rao Deo committee); Stage 6, 26 January 1950: Sirohi without Abu-Delwara.
- Stage 7, 1 November 1956: Ajmer-Merwara, Abu-Delwara and Sunel Tappa added, Sironj to Madhya Pradesh; whole process took 8 years, 7 months and 14 days.
- Vidhan Sabha: unicameral, 200 seats; Lok Sabha 25 seats, Rajya Sabha 10 seats.
- High Court: Jodhpur, set up 29 August 1949; Jaipur bench re-established 1977; RPSC, Board of Revenue and Board of Secondary Education at Ajmer.

- State symbols: chinkara (1981) and camel (2014) as animals, godawan bird (1981), khejri tree and rohida flower (1983), Ghoomar dance.
- Panchayati Raj: first launched in India at Bagdari village, Nagaur, by Nehru on 2 October 1959.

> **Quick revision:** Name Rajasthan adopted 26 Jan 1950; Matsya Union 18 Mar 1948 (Alwar); Rajasthan Union 25 Mar 1948 (Kota); United Rajasthan 18 Apr 1948 (Udaipur, Nehru); Greater Rajasthan 30 Mar 1949 (Jaipur, Patel, Rajasthan Day); Matsya merged 15 May 1949; Sirohi 26 Jan 1950; Ajmer-Merwara 1 Nov 1956, first Governor Gurmukh Nihal Singh; Vidhan Sabha 200, LS 25, RS 10; HC Jodhpur 29 Aug 1949; Panchayati Raj Nagaur 2 Oct 1959.

Geography of Rajasthan: Location, Borders and Physiographic Divisions

Location and shape: Rajasthan lies in north-western India between about 23°3' and 30°12' north latitude and 69°30' and 78°17' east longitude. Its shape is roughly a rhombus, often compared to a kite. It stretches 826 km from north to south and 869 km from east to west. The Tropic of Cancer passes through the south of the state, through Banswara district, touching the southern edge of Dungarpur. The extreme points usually asked are Kona village in Sri Ganganagar (north), Borkund in Banswara (south), Katra in Jaisalmer (west) and Silana in Dholpur (east).

Area and borders: With 3,42,239 sq km, about 10.41 percent of India's area, Rajasthan has been the largest state since 1 November 2000, when Madhya Pradesh was divided to form Chhattisgarh. Its total boundary is about 5,920 km. The western boundary with Pakistan, part of the Radcliffe Line drawn in 1947, is 1,070 km long and runs from Hindumalkot in Sri Ganganagar to Bakhasar in Barmer; Jaisalmer has the longest stretch of it. The remaining 4,850 km is shared with five states: Punjab (north), Haryana (north and north-east), Uttar Pradesh (east), Madhya Pradesh (south-east, the longest interstate border) and Gujarat (south-west). The border with Punjab is the shortest.

Four physiographic regions: Geographers divide the state into four regions: the north-western desert, about 61 percent of the area; the Aravalli hills, about 9 percent; the eastern plains, about 23 percent; and the south-eastern Hadoti plateau, about 7 percent. The Aravalli range, running from south-west to north-east, is the great divide: west of it the land is dry and sandy, east of it greener and more fertile.

The Thar desert: The Thar or Great Indian Desert (Marusthali) extends into Pakistan, where part of it is called Cholistan, and it is among the most densely populated deserts in the world. The 25 cm isohyet (a line joining places of equal rainfall) divides it into the arid west, with sand dunes and rocky tracts, and a semi-arid belt to the east that includes the Ghaggar plain, the Shekhawati tract, the Nagauri upland and the Luni basin (Godwar). Dunes take forms such as barchans (crescent dunes), longitudinal dunes and parabolic dunes; shifting dunes are called dharian in Jaisalmer. Playa lakes, saline hollows that fill after rain, are called rann or tat. The Lathi series, an underground freshwater belt between Pokaran and Mohangarh in Jaisalmer, supports sewan grass, which shelters the great Indian bustard.

The Aravalli range: The Aravallis are among the oldest fold mountains in the world, formed in Precambrian times and now worn down to low hills. They run about 692 km from Palanpur in Gujarat to the Raisina hill of Delhi, of which about 550 km, roughly 80 percent, lie in Rajasthan. The range is highest in the south-west and lowest in the north-east. Guru Shikhar (1,722 m) on Mount Abu in Sirohi is the highest peak, crowned by a temple of Dattatreya; Ser (1,597 m) is the second highest. The Uriya plateau near Guru Shikhar is the highest plateau of the state, and the Bhorat plateau lies between Kumbhalgarh and Gogunda. Mount Abu, the state's only hill station, is a granite block with Nakki lake, the Dilwara temples and Achalgarh. The Aravallis are a water divide: rivers to their east drain to the Bay of Bengal and those to their west to the Arabian Sea. Passes through the range are called nal, such as the Desuri nal.

Eastern plains and Hadoti: The eastern plains are drained by the Chambal, Banas and Mahi. The Chambal basin is cut into deep ravines (beehad) in Dholpur, Karauli and Sawai Madhopur, the worst gully erosion in the state. The Banas plain covers much of Mewar and the Jaipur-Tonk area. In the south, the Mahi basin forms the Chhappan plain between Banswara and Pratapgarh, and the Dungarpur-Banswara region is called Vagad. The Hadoti plateau of Kota, Bundi, Baran and Jhalawar is an extension of the Malwa plateau, with Vindhyan sandstone scarps, black soil and the Chambal, Kali Sindh and Parvati rivers.

People (Census 2011): Rajasthan had 6,85,48,437 people in 2011, 5.66 percent of India's population, with a density of 200 persons per sq km, a sex ratio of 928 females per 1,000 males and a literacy rate of 66.1 percent. The desert, though the largest region, is far less densely settled than the eastern plains.

Examples

- Extent: 23°3' to 30°12' N and 69°30' to 78°17' E; 826 km north-south and 869 km east-west; rhombus (kite) shape.
- Area 3,42,239 sq km (10.41 percent of India); largest state since 1 November 2000.
- Pakistan border (Radcliffe Line) 1,070 km, from Hindumalkot (Sri Ganganagar) to Bakhasar (Barmer); Jaisalmer has the longest stretch.
- Neighbours: Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh (longest border) and Gujarat; the Punjab border is the shortest.
- Physiographic shares: desert about 61 percent, Aravalli about 9 percent, eastern plains about 23 percent, Hadoti plateau about 7 percent.
- Aravalli: about 692 km from Palanpur to Delhi, about 550 km in Rajasthan; Guru Shikhar 1,722 m, Ser 1,597 m; Uriya is the highest plateau.
- Tropic of Cancer passes through Banswara; extreme points Kona (north), Borkund (south), Katra (west), Silana (east).
- Lathi series: underground water belt from Pokaran to Mohangarh (Jaisalmer) with sewan grass.
- Census 2011: 6.85 crore people, 5.66 percent of India, density 200, sex ratio 928, literacy 66.1 percent.

> **Quick revision:** 23°3'-30°12' N, 69°30'-78°17' E; 826 km N-S, 869 km E-W; area 3,42,239 sq km (10.41%), largest since 2000; Pakistan border 1,070 km (Hindumalkot to Bakhasar), longest in Jaisalmer; MP longest, Punjab shortest interstate border; desert 61%, Aravalli 9%, plains 23%, Hadoti 7%; Aravalli 692 km (550 km in state); Guru Shikhar 1,722 m; Lathi series; Census 2011: density 200, sex ratio 928.

Rivers, Lakes and Water Projects of Rajasthan

Drainage pattern: Because the Aravallis divide the state, its rivers fall into three systems. Rivers east of the range, such as the Chambal, Banas, Kali Sindh, Parvati and Banganga, drain to the Bay of Bengal through the Yamuna and Ganga. Rivers to the west and south, the Luni, Mahi, Sabarmati and West Banas, reach the Arabian Sea. A large part of the north and west has inland (internal) drainage: rivers such as the Ghaggar, Kantli, Kakni and Mendha end in sand or salt lakes without reaching any sea.

The Chambal: The Chambal (ancient Charmanvati) rises at Janapav hill near Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, enters Rajasthan at Chaurasigarh in Chittorgarh, flows north-east past Kota along the Madhya Pradesh border and joins the Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh. It is usually described as the only perennial river of Rajasthan. Its main tributaries are the Banas, Kali Sindh, Parvati, Bamani and Mej. Its water supports gharials and the Gangetic dolphin in the National Chambal Sanctuary shared by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Chambal Valley Project, a joint Rajasthan-Madhya Pradesh scheme with costs and benefits shared equally, has four structures in downstream order: the Gandhi Sagar dam (Madhya Pradesh), the Rana Pratap Sagar dam at Rawatbhata, the Jawahar Sagar dam and the Kota barrage.

Banas, Mahi and Sabarmati: The Banas, called Van ki Asha (hope of the forest), rises in the Khamnor hills near Kumbhalgarh and is the longest river flowing wholly within Rajasthan. It meets the Berach and Menali at Bigod (Bhilwara) and joins the Chambal at Rameshwar near Sawai Madhopur, where the Sip also meets, forming a triveni. The Bisalpur dam on the Banas in Tonk supplies drinking water to Jaipur, Ajmer and Tonk. The Mahi rises in the Vindhyas in Madhya Pradesh, enters Rajasthan in Banswara, crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice and reaches the Gulf of Khambhat through Gujarat. At Baneshwar (Dungarpur), site of a great fair, it meets the Som and Jakham. The Mahi Bajaj Sagar dam near Banswara, named after Jamnalal Bajaj, produces hydroelectricity. The Sabarmati rises in the Aravallis south-west of Udaipur and flows into Gujarat past Ahmedabad.

Luni and Ghaggar: The Luni rises in the Naga hills near Ajmer, where it is called Sagarmati, and after the Saraswati from Pushkar joins it at Govindgarh it takes the name Luni. Flowing south-west across the desert, it turns saline below Balotra because of the salty soil and ends in the Rann of Kutch. Its major tributaries, such as the Jawai, Sukri and Bandi, join from the left; the Jojri is the only one from the right. The Jawai dam near Sumerpur in Pali is the

largest dam of western Rajasthan. The Ghaggar, identified by many with the Vedic Saraswati, rises in the Shivalik hills of Himachal Pradesh, enters Rajasthan in Hanumangarh and usually dries up there; in floods it reaches Fort Abbas in Pakistan, where it is called the Hakra. It is the longest river of inland drainage in the state.

Salt lakes: Sambhar, near Phulera west of Jaipur, is the largest inland saline lake in India; it is fed by the Mendha, Rupangarh, Khari and Khandela streams and was named a Ramsar wetland in 1990. Didwana produces salt and sodium sulphate. Pachpadra near Balotra gives the purest salt, about 98 percent sodium chloride, which Kharwal families crystallise on twigs of the morli bush. Lunkaransar (Bikaner), Phalodi and Kuchaman are other salt lakes.

Freshwater lakes: Jaisamand (Dhebar), south-east of Udaipur, was built by Maharana Jai Singh in 1687-1691 by damming the Gomati; long the largest artificial lake in Asia, it has islands such as Baba ka Magra and Pyari. Rajsamand at Kankroli was built by Maharana Raj Singh as famine relief; its embankment, the Nauchowki, carries the Raj Prashasti, often called the largest Sanskrit inscription in India, on 25 slabs, composed by Ranchhod Bhatt. In Udaipur, Pichola was built by a Banjara in the time of Rana Lakha and holds the Jag Niwas (Lake Palace) and Jag Mandir islands, and Fateh Sagar, rebuilt by Maharana Fateh Singh, has an island with a solar observatory. Nakki lake at Mount Abu, which legend says the gods dug with their nails, is the highest lake in the state. Ana Sagar at Ajmer was built by the Chauhan king Arnoraja, and Jahangir and Shah Jahan added a garden and marble pavilions. Pushkar is the sacred lake of the Brahma temple.

Canals and water harvesting: The Indira Gandhi Canal, planned by the Bikaner engineer Kanwar Sain and begun in 1958 as the Rajasthan Canal (renamed in 1984), takes water from the Harike barrage at the meeting of the Sutlej and Beas in Punjab. A 204 km feeder brings it to Masitawali Head in Hanumangarh, and the 445 km main canal runs to Mohangarh in Jaisalmer, a total of 649 km. It turned the north-west green but also brought waterlogging and salinity (sem). The older Ganga Canal, built by Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner from the Sutlej at Hussainiwala, opened in 1927. Traditional kunds and tankas (covered cisterns), baoris (stepwells) such as the Chand Baori at Abhaneri, johads and the khadins of Jaisalmer helped people survive dry years.

Examples

- Chambal: rises at Janapav (near Mhow, Madhya Pradesh), usually called the only perennial river of Rajasthan, joins the Yamuna; dams in order Gandhi Sagar, Rana Pratap Sagar, Jawahar Sagar, Kota barrage.
- Banas: 'Van ki Asha', longest river wholly in Rajasthan; triveni at Bigod (Banas-Berach-Menali) and at Rameshwar (Banas-Chambal-Sip); Bisalpur dam.
- Mahi: enters at Banswara, crosses the Tropic of Cancer twice; Baneshwar triveni (Mahi-Som-Jakham); Mahi Bajaj Sagar dam.
- Luni: rises in the Naga hills near Ajmer as Sagarmati, saline below Balotra, ends in the Rann of Kutch; the Jojri is its only right-bank tributary.
- Ghaggar: identified by many with the Saraswati, the longest river of inland drainage in the state, called the Hakra in Pakistan.
- Salt lakes: Sambhar (largest inland saline lake, Ramsar 1990), Didwana (sodium sulphate), Pachpadra (purest salt, Kharwal families, morli twigs).
- Jaisamand (Dhebar, on the Gomati, Maharana Jai Singh, 1687-1691); Rajsamand (Raj Singh, Raj Prashasti on 25 slabs).
- Pichola (built by a Banjara, Rana Lakha's time; Jag Niwas and Jag Mandir); Fateh Sagar (solar observatory); Nakki (highest lake); Ana Sagar (Arnoraja).
- Indira Gandhi Canal: Harike barrage, begun 1958, renamed 1984; 204 km feeder + 445 km main canal = 649 km, ending at Mohangarh.
- Ganga Canal (1927): Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner; Chand Baori stepwell at Abhaneri (Dausa).

> **Quick revision:** Aravalli divides Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and inland drainage; Chambal usually called the only perennial river, Gandhi Sagar-Rana Pratap Sagar-Jawahar Sagar-Kota barrage; Banas longest wholly in state, Bisalpur dam; Mahi crosses Tropic of Cancer twice, Baneshwar; Luni saline below Balotra, Jojri only right-bank tributary; Ghaggar = Hakra; Sambhar largest inland saline lake (Ramsar 1990); Jaisamand, Rajsamand (Raj Prashasti); Indira Gandhi Canal from Harike, 649 km.

Climate, Soils, Forests and Wildlife of Rajasthan

Climate type: Most of Rajasthan has a dry tropical climate, arid in the west and semi-arid in the centre, becoming sub-humid in the south-east and humid around Mount Abu and the far south. Summers are fierce: Phalodi recorded 51 degrees Celsius on 19 May 2016, setting a new all-time record for India. Hot, dry winds called loo blow in May and June, and dust storms (andhi) are common in the north-west. Winters are cold and dry, with frost in the north; western disturbances bring light winter rain called mawath, valuable for rabi crops.

The rainfall gradient: Rain comes mainly from the south-west monsoon between late June and September. The Arabian Sea branch runs parallel to the Aravallis and drops little rain in the west, while the Bay of Bengal branch, arriving from the east, gives most of the state's rain. So rainfall decreases from south-east to north-west: the south and south-east, such as Jhalawar and Banswara, are wettest, Mount Abu receives more rain than any other place in the state, and Jaisalmer is the driest district. The 50 cm isohyet runs roughly along the Aravallis, and the 25 cm isohyet separates the arid west from the semi-arid zone. Rainfall also varies greatly from year to year, which is why droughts and famines recur in the desert.

Soils: Western Rajasthan has sandy desert soils (aridisols and entisols), low in nitrogen and organic matter and quick to drain, suited to bajra, moth and guar. The east has fertile alluvial soils in the Banas and Chambal plains (wheat and mustard), the south has red loamy soils good for maize, and the Hadoti plateau has black soil suited to soybean and cotton. Alkaline and saline soils are treated with gypsum. Wind erosion is the main problem in the desert, gully erosion in the Chambal ravines, and waterlogging (sem) in the Indira Gandhi Canal area. The Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), set up at Jodhpur in 1959, studies desert land use and the fixing of shifting sand.

Forests: Forests cover only a small part of the state. In the west are tropical thorn forests of khejri, babool, rohida, ker and phog; in the Aravallis and the east are tropical dry deciduous forests, where dhok (Anogeissus pendula) is the most common tree; teak forests grow in the south around Banswara, Dungarpur and Udaipur; bamboo grows in the south and south-east; and a little sub-tropical evergreen forest survives only on Mount Abu. Sewan and dhaman grasses cover the desert pastures. Sacred groves called orans, protected by village custom, are an old form of community conservation.

Tiger reserves and national parks: Ranthambore (Sawai Madhopur), among the first reserves under Project Tiger in 1973, became a national park in 1980 and is famous for tigers seen among the ruins of its fort. Sariska (Alwar) became a tiger reserve in 1978; after its tigers were wiped out by poaching, tigers were moved there from Ranthambore in 2008, the first such relocation in India. Mukundra Hills, around Kota, was declared a tiger reserve in 2013. Keoladeo National Park at Bharatpur, a wetland once kept as a duck-shooting reserve by the Bharatpur rulers, was named a Ramsar site in 1981, later became a national park and was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985; it was the wintering ground of the Siberian crane. The Desert National Park (about 3,162 sq km) in Jaisalmer and Barmer protects the great Indian bustard, a critically endangered bird, and contains the Akal Wood Fossil Park with tree fossils about 180 million (18 crore) years old.

Other sanctuaries: Tal Chhapar in Churu is known for blackbuck and migratory birds of prey; Sita Mata in Pratapgarh for the flying squirrel; Kumbhalgarh for wolves; the National Chambal Sanctuary for gharials; the Mount Abu sanctuary for its hill flora; and Jaisamand and Darrah for forest wildlife. At Khichan near Phalodi, villagers feed thousands of demoiselle cranes (kurja) every winter. Chinkara and blackbuck survive in good numbers near Bishnoi villages because the community protects them.

The Bishnoi tradition and Khejarli: Guru Jambheshwar (Jambhoji) founded the Bishnoi sect in 1485 at Samrathal near Bikaner, giving 29 rules (bis-noi, that is twenty-nine) that include protecting trees and animals; his samadhi at Mukam near Nokha is their chief shrine. In 1730, men sent by Maharaja Abhay Singh of Jodhpur came to Khejarli village near Jodhpur to cut khejri trees for lime kilns. Amrita Devi Bishnoi hugged a tree and was killed, and before the cutting stopped 363 Bishnois in all, men, women and children, including her, had given their lives. The ruler then banned tree-felling and hunting in Bishnoi villages. Khejarli is remembered as a forerunner of the Chipko movement, and a national award for wildlife protection bears Amrita Devi's name.

Examples

- Phalodi, 19 May 2016: 51 degrees Celsius, a new all-time high temperature record for India.

- Rainfall decreases from south-east to north-west; Mount Abu is the wettest place, Jaisalmer the driest district; winter rain from western disturbances is called mawath.
- The 25 cm isohyet separates arid from semi-arid; the 50 cm isohyet runs roughly along the Aravallis.
- Soils: sandy desert soil in the west, alluvial in the east, red loam in the south, black soil in Hadoti; waterlogging in the canal area is called sem.
- Dhok is the most common forest tree; teak grows in the south; sub-tropical evergreen forest is found only on Mount Abu.
- Ranthambore: Project Tiger 1973, national park 1980; Sariska: tiger reserve 1978, tigers relocated in 2008; Mukundra Hills: tiger reserve 2013.
- Keoladeo National Park (Bharatpur): Ramsar site 1981, UNESCO World Heritage 1985; former wintering ground of the Siberian crane.
- Desert National Park (Jaisalmer-Barmer, about 3,162 sq km): great Indian bustard and the Akal Wood Fossil Park.
- Tal Chhapar: blackbuck; Sita Mata: flying squirrel; Khichan: demoiselle cranes (kurja); CAZRI at Jodhpur (1959).
- Khejarli 1730: 363 Bishnois, led by Amrita Devi, died protecting khejri trees; Jambhoji founded the Bishnoi sect in 1485 with 29 rules.

> **Quick revision:** Arid west, semi-arid centre, sub-humid south-east; Phalodi 51°C on 19 May 2016; loo, andhi, mawath; rain falls from south-east to north-west, Mount Abu wettest, Jaisalmer driest; 25 cm and 50 cm isohyets; sandy, alluvial, red and black soils, sem; dhok commonest tree; Ranthambore 1973, Sariska 2008 relocation, Mukundra 2013; Keoladeo UNESCO 1985; Desert NP godawan, Akal fossils; Khejarli 1730, 363 Bishnois, Jambhoji 1485.

Agriculture, Minerals and Industries of Rajasthan

Farming in a dry land: Most of Rajasthan's farming is rain-fed, so crops are chosen for drought tolerance. Kharif crops, sown with the monsoon in June-July, include bajra, jowar, maize, moong, moth, guar, groundnut, sesame, cotton and soybean; rabi crops, sown in October-November, include wheat, barley, mustard, gram, cumin, coriander and isabgol. Irrigation from wells and tubewells, the Indira Gandhi and Ganga canals in the north-west and the Chambal canals in Hadoti decides where wheat and cotton can grow. Sri Ganganagar, watered by canals, is called the food basket of Rajasthan.

Crops where Rajasthan leads: For decades Rajasthan has been India's largest producer of bajra (pearl millet), rapeseed-mustard, guar (cluster bean) and moth bean, and a major producer of isabgol, coriander, cumin, fenugreek and gram. Bajra is the staple grain of the desert. Bharatpur hosts the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's directorate for rapeseed-mustard research. Guar seed gives guar gum, used in food processing and oil drilling, and much of it is processed at Jodhpur. Coriander is concentrated in Hadoti, with Ramganj Mandi in Kota a leading market, and Nagaur is famous for methi (fenugreek).

Livestock: In the desert, animals matter as much as crops. Rajasthan has the largest camel population in India and is a leading producer of wool. Famous breeds include the Rathi cow, called the Kamdhenu of Rajasthan, the Tharparkar and Kankrej cattle and the Nagauri bullock; the Chokla sheep, called the Merino of India, and the Marwari and Magra sheep; the Jamunapari, Barbari and Marwari goats; and the Bikaneri and Jaisalmeri camels. The National Research Centre on Camel is at Bikaner and the Central Sheep and Wool Research Institute at Avikanagar (Tonk).

The museum of minerals: Rajasthan's ancient rocks make it so rich in minerals that it is called the museum of minerals. Lead and zinc are mined at Zawar, south of Udaipur, one of the oldest zinc-smelting sites in the world, and at Rampura Agucha (Bhilwara), one of the largest zinc-lead mines in the world; silver is recovered as a by-product, and zinc smelters stand at Debari (Udaipur) and Chanderiya (Chittorgarh). Copper comes from the Khetri belt in Shekhawati, where Hindustan Copper, set up in 1967, runs its complex, and tungsten from Degana in the Nagaur region. Rajasthan is the leading or only producer in India of lead-zinc, silver, wollastonite, gypsum, rock phosphate, calcite and jasper.

Non-metallic minerals and building stone: Rock phosphate is mined at Jhamarkotra near Udaipur, wollastonite in Sirohi and Dungarpur, and gypsum in Bikaner, Nagaur, Barmer and Jaisalmer; gypsum goes into cement and is used to reclaim alkaline soils. Lignite comes from Palana (Bikaner) and Giral and Kapurdi (Barmer). Building stone is a

speciality: white marble from Makrana was used in the Taj Mahal and the Victoria Memorial, red and pink sandstone from Dholpur and Karauli went into many of New Delhi's government buildings, Kota stone (a limestone) is used for flooring, and Jaisalmer gives yellow stone.

Energy: Oil was struck in the Barmer basin at the Mangala field in 2004, and production began in 2009; Jaisalmer also has natural gas. The Rajasthan Atomic Power Station at Rawatbhata (Chittorgarh), built with Canadian help, began working in 1973. Thermal power stations stand at Kota, Suratgarh and Chhabra. With some of the strongest sunshine in India and vast open land, Rajasthan is a major centre of solar power, and the Bhadla Solar Park near Phalodi is among the largest in the world. Wind farms stand in Jaisalmer and Barmer.

Industries and crafts: Rajasthan's first modern cotton mill, Krishna Mills, opened at Beawar in 1889, and its first cement factory at Lakheri (Bundi) in 1915. Bhilwara, with many textile mills, is called the Manchester of Rajasthan. The state is equally known for crafts: Jaipur's blue pottery, made from quartz rather than clay and of Persian origin; the hand-block prints of Sanganer (fine floral designs on white) and Bagru (dabu mud-resist printing with natural dyes); bandhej, the tie-dye of Jodhpur and Jaipur, and leheriya, its wave-patterned form worn at Teej; Kota Doria, a light chequered cotton-silk fabric from Kaithoon; thewa, gold work fused on glass, from Pratapgarh; Molela terracotta plaques of deities from near Nathdwara; and usta art, gold relief work on camel hide, from Bikaner. Several of these, including Kota Doria, Jaipur blue pottery and the Sanganer and Bagru prints, carry GI tags.

Examples

- Rajasthan has long led India in bajra, rapeseed-mustard, guar and moth bean; Sri Ganganagar is the food basket of the state.
- Kharif: bajra, jowar, maize, moong, moth, guar, groundnut; Rabi: wheat, barley, mustard, gram, cumin, isabgol.
- Largest camel population and a leading wool producer; Rathi cow = Kamdhenu of Rajasthan; Chokla sheep = Merino of India; camel research centre at Bikaner.
- Zinc-lead: Zawar (near Udaipur) and Rampura Agucha (Bhilwara); copper: Khetri (Shekhawati); tungsten: Degana.
- Rock phosphate: Jhamarkotra; wollastonite: Sirohi and Dungarpur; gypsum: Bikaner, Nagaur, Barmer; lignite: Palana and Giral.
- Makrana white marble: Taj Mahal and Victoria Memorial; Kota stone for flooring; Dholpur sandstone for buildings.
- Barmer oil: Mangala field found in 2004, production from 2009; Rawatbhata atomic plant from 1973; Bhadla solar park near Phalodi.
- First cotton mill: Krishna Mills, Beawar, 1889; first cement factory: Lakheri, 1915; Bhilwara is the Manchester of Rajasthan.
- Crafts and places: blue pottery (Jaipur), Sanganeri and Bagru prints, Kota Doria (Kaithoon), thewa (Pratapgarh), Molela terracotta, usta art (Bikaner).

> **Quick revision:** Rain-fed farming; leads in bajra, mustard, guar, moth; Ganganagar food basket; largest camel population, a leading wool producer; Rathi, Tharparkar, Chokla breeds; museum of minerals: Zawar and Rampura Agucha zinc-lead, Khetri copper, Degana tungsten, Jhamarkotra rock phosphate, gypsum, wollastonite, Makrana marble; Barmer oil 2004/2009; Rawatbhata 1973; Bhadla solar; Krishna Mills Beawar 1889; Lakheri cement 1915; blue pottery, Sanganer, Bagru, thewa, Kota Doria.

Art and Culture of Rajasthan: Folk Dances, Folk Deities, Fairs, Painting and Dialects

Folk dances: Ghoomar, the graceful whirling dance of women in flared ghaghras, began among the Bhils, was adopted by royal households and is performed at Gangaur and Teej; it is the state dance. Kalbelia, danced by women of the snake-charming Kalbelia community in black skirts to the been and khanjari, was inscribed on UNESCO's intangible heritage list in 2010, and Gulabo Sapera made it famous. In Chari, Gujjar women of Kishangarh balance brass pots with burning lamps on their heads. Kachchhi Ghodi, from Shekhawati, is danced by men riding dummy horses. Terah Taal is performed by women of the Kamad community, devotees of Ramdevji, who tie 13 manjiras to their bodies. Gair is a men's stick dance of the Bhils and others at Holi in Mewar and Marwar. Others include Bhavai, the Jasnathi fire dance of Katariasar and Chakri of the Kanjar women of Hadoti.

Folk deities: Rajasthan's lok devtas were mostly heroes who died protecting cattle, the weak or their word. Pabuji Rathore of Kolu near Phalodi is credited with bringing camels to Marwar and is worshipped as their protector. Tejaji, a Jat of Kharnal (Nagaur), died of a snakebite after keeping his promise to a snake and is worshipped as a snake deity; a large cattle fair is held in his name at Parbatsar, and Bhadrapad Shukla Dashami is observed as Teja Dashami. Ramdevji, a Tanwar Rajput whose samadhi is at Ramdevra (Runicha) near Pokaran, is revered by Hindus as an avatar and by Muslims as Ramsa Pir, so his fair is a symbol of communal harmony. Gogaji Chauhan, born at Dadrewa (Churu), is worshipped as a snake deity at Gogamedi (Hanumangarh). Pabuji, Ramdevji, Gogaji, Harbhuji and Mehaji are the five pirs. Karni Mata of Deshnok (Bikaner), family goddess of the Bikaner Rathores, has a temple famous for its rats (kabba), and Devnarayan, worshipped by the Gurjars at Asind, has the longest phad.

Fairs and festivals: The Pushkar fair, held at the sacred lake and ending on Kartik Purnima, is the best-known camel and cattle fair. Teej (Shravan Shukla Tritiya) celebrates the monsoon and the union of Shiva and Parvati; Jaipur's Teej procession and Bundi's Kajli Teej are famous, and women wear leheriya. Gangaur, the festival of Gauri (Parvati), runs for about 18 days from the day after Holi and ends on Chaitra Shukla Tritiya, with processions in Jaipur and Udaipur; in Jaisalmer Gauri is taken out without Isar (Shiva). The Desert Festival of Jaisalmer, held in Magh and ending on Magh Purnima, has camel events at the Sam dunes. Baneshwar (Dungarpur), held on Magh Purnima where the Mahi, Som and Jakham meet, is called the Kumbh of the tribals; other famous fairs are Kolayat (Bikaner) on Kartik Purnima, the Nagaur cattle fair and the Urs at Ajmer.

Painting schools: Ananda Coomaraswamy first described Rajput painting as a distinct tradition in 1916. Rajasthani painting has four main schools. Mewar is the oldest: the Shravak Pratikraman Sutra Churni (1260), painted at Ahar, is the earliest dated example, and Sahibdin's Ragamala (1628) under Jagat Singh I marks its golden age; Nathdwara is its sub-school, famous for Pichwai cloth paintings hung behind the Shrinathji idol. The Marwar school includes Jodhpur, Bikaner and Kishangarh; at Kishangarh, Nihal Chand painted Bani Thani under Raja Sawant Singh (the poet Nagaridas) in the 18th century, Eric Dickinson called it the Mona Lisa of India, and it appeared on a postage stamp in 1973. The Dhundhar school includes Amber, Jaipur, Alwar and the Shekhawati frescoes on havelis, called an open-air art gallery. The Hadoti school includes Bundi, famed for its Chitrashala and lush nature scenes, and Kota, known for hunting scenes.

Phad and other folk art: Phad is a long cloth scroll painting of a folk deity's life, made by the Joshi families of Shahpura near Bhilwara and unrolled by bhopas at night as they sing the story; Pabuji's phad is recited with the ravanhatta and Devnarayan's with the jantar. The kawad of Bassi (Chittorgarh) is a painted wooden shrine with folding panels used by storytellers, and mandana is floor art drawn by women at festivals.

Language and dialects: Rajasthani, written in Devanagari, has several dialects. Marwari, the most widely spoken, is the language of Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Barmer; its old literary form is Dingal, the heroic poetry of the Charans, while Pingal is the Braj-influenced literary style of the Bhats. Mewari is spoken around Udaipur, Chittorgarh and Bhilwara; Dhundhari (Jaipuri) around Jaipur; Harauti in Kota, Bundi, Baran and Jhalawar; Mewati in Alwar and Bharatpur; and Wagdi, a Bhili dialect with Gujarati influence, in Dungarpur and Banswara. Classic works include Chand Bardai's Prithviraj Raso, Suryamal Mishran's Vansh Bhaskar and Muhnot Nainsi's Khyat; Nainsi is called the Abul Fazl of Rajputana.

Saints: Mirabai, born at Kudki near Merta in the Rathore family of Merta and married to Bhojraj, son of Rana Sanga, gave up courtly life for devotion to Krishna; her padas are sung across India. Dadu Dayal (1544-1603), called the Kabir of Rajasthan, taught nirgun devotion against caste and ritual and founded the Dadu Panth, whose chief seat is at Naraina near Jaipur. Other saints include Jambhoji, Jasnathji, Peepa of Gagron, Ramcharan of the Ramsnehi sect and Charandas, founder of the Charandasi sect.

Examples

- Ghoomar: state dance, women's whirling dance of Bhil origin; Kalbelia: dance of the snake-charmer community, UNESCO intangible heritage 2010.
- Chari: Gujjar women of Kishangarh with lit pots; Terah Taal: Kamad women, 13 manjiras, devotion to Ramdevji; Kachchhi Ghodi: Shekhawati.

- Folk deities and places: Pabuji (Kolu, camels), Tejaji (Kharnal, snakes), Ramdevji (Ramdevra), Gogaji (Gogamedi), Karni Mata (Deshnok, rats), Devnarayan (Asind).
- The five pirs of Rajasthan: Pabuji, Ramdevji, Gogaji, Harbhuji and Mehaji.
- Gangaur ends on Chaitra Shukla Tritiya; Teej on Shravan Shukla Tritiya; Pushkar and Kolayat fairs on Kartik Purnima; Baneshwar on Magh Purnima.
- Earliest dated Mewar painting: Shravak Pratikraman Sutra Churni (1260); Sahibdin's Ragamala 1628 under Jagat Singh I.
- Bani Thani: Kishangarh school, painted by Nihal Chand under Sawant Singh (Nagaridas); called the Mona Lisa of India by Eric Dickinson.
- Phad: scroll painting by the Joshi families of Shahpura; Pichwai: Nathdwara; Kawad: Bassi.
- Dialects: Marwari (west), Mewari (Udaipur), Dhundhari (Jaipur), Harauti (Kota-Bundi), Mewati (Alwar-Bharatpur), Wagdi (Dungarpur-Banswara).
- Mirabai: born at Kudki (Merta), wife of Bhojraj; Dadu Dayal (1544-1603): Kabir of Rajasthan, seat at Naraina.

> **Quick revision:** Ghoomar state dance; Kalbelia UNESCO 2010; Chari (Kishangarh), Terah Taal (Kamad, 13 manjiras), Kachchhi Ghodi (Shekhawati), Gair (Holi); Pabuji-Kolu, Tejaji-Kharnal, Ramdevji-Ramdevra, Gogaji-Gogamedi, Karni Mata-Deshnok, Devnarayan-Asind; Pushkar on Kartik Purnima, Gangaur, Teej, Baneshwar; Mewar, Marwar, Dhundhar, Hadoti schools; Bani Thani (Nihal Chand); Phad of Shahpura; Dingal and Pingal; Mirabai; Dadu Dayal at Naraina.

Forts, Monuments and Famous Personalities of Rajasthan

Forts by type: Ancient Indian texts classify forts by their natural defence: a giri durg stands on a hill (Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh), a jal durg is ringed by water (Gagron), a dhanva durg rises in the desert (Jaisalmer) and a parikha durg is protected by a moat (Lohagarh at Bharatpur). Six forts, Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Gagron, Amber and Jaisalmer, were inscribed together as the Hill Forts of Rajasthan on UNESCO's World Heritage list in 2013. Mehrangarh, Junagarh and Taragarh are famous but are not part of that listing.

Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore and Gagron: Chittorgarh, on a plateau above the Gambhiri and Berach rivers, is one of the largest forts in India; it holds the Vijay Stambh, a nine-storey tower built by Rana Kumbha after his 1437 victory over Malwa, the older Jain Kirti Stambh dedicated to Adinath, Padmini's palace, Kumbha's palace and the Meera temple. Kumbhalgarh in Rajsamand, built by Kumbha with the architect Mandan, has a wall about 36 km long, often called the second-longest wall in the world, and by tradition is the birthplace of Maharana Pratap. Ranthambore in Sawai Madhopur, a Chauhan stronghold, fell to Alauddin in 1301 and contains the Trinetra Ganesh temple. Gagron in Jhalawar is a water fort at the meeting of the Ahu and Kali Sindh, seat of the Khinchi Chauhans and scene of sakas in 1423 and 1444.

Amber, Jaisalmer and Jaipur: Amber near Jaipur, the old Kachwaha capital, was begun by Raja Man Singh I in the late 16th century; it has the Sheesh Mahal and the Shila Devi temple, and the Jaigarh fort above it holds the Jaivana, said to be the largest cannon on wheels in the world. Jaisalmer's Sonar Qila, built by Rawal Jaisal in 1156 on the Trikuta hill in yellow sandstone, is a living fort with homes inside its walls and 99 bastions. Jaipur was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II, planned on a grid by Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, painted pink in 1876 to welcome the Prince of Wales, and inscribed as a World Heritage city in 2019. Jai Singh's Jantar Mantar, the largest of his five observatories (the others are at Delhi, Ujjain, Varanasi and Mathura), with the Samrat Yantra, the world's largest stone sundial, became a World Heritage Site in 2010. The Hawa Mahal, built in 1799 by Sawai Pratap Singh and designed by Lal Chand Ustad in the shape of Krishna's crown, has 953 small windows.

Other forts and palaces: Mehrangarh at Jodhpur, built by Rao Jodha in 1459 on the Chidiyatunk hill, holds the Moti Mahal, Phool Mahal and Sheesh Mahal; near it is the Jaswant Thada, a marble memorial, and on the separate Chittar hill stands the Umaid Bhawan Palace (1929-1943), built partly as famine relief. Junagarh at Bikaner, built by Raja Rai Singh with his minister Karmachand in 1589-1594, is a ground fort on the plain. Lohagarh at Bharatpur, built by Maharaja Suraj Mal with mud ramparts and a moat, withstood Lord Lake's siege of 1805. Taragarh, the Chauhan hill fort, overlooks Ajmer.

Temples and shrines: The Dilwara Jain temples at Mount Abu are masterpieces of marble carving: Vimal Vasahi (1031), built by Vimal Shah, minister of the Solanki king Bhimdev I, for Adinath, and Luna Vasahi (1230), built by the brothers Vastupal and Tejpal for Neminath. The Ranakpur temple in Pali, a four-faced (chaumukha) temple of Adinath built in 1439 by Dharna Shah in Rana Kumbha's reign with the architect Depa, has 1,444 carved pillars, no two alike. The Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti (Gharib Nawaz, died 1236) at Ajmer draws pilgrims of all faiths to its annual Urs, and the Adhai Din ka Jhonpra stands nearby. Pushkar has one of the very few temples of Brahma, Nathdwara the Shrinathji temple whose idol Maharana Raj Singh sheltered from Aurangzeb, and the Kiradu temples near Barmer are called the Khajuraho of Rajasthan.

Personalities: Beyond the kings and warriors of earlier lessons, exams ask about these long-established figures. Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner built the Ganga Canal (1927) and was the first Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes (1921). Hiralal Shastri, the first head of government of Rajasthan, founded the Vanasthali Vidyapith for women's education (1935). Kalibai, a young Bhil girl of Rastapal in Dungarpur, was shot in 1947 while trying to save her teacher Sengabhai. Allah Jilai Bai of Bikaner made the Maand song 'Kesariya Balam' famous. Vijaydan Detha ('Bijji') retold Rajasthani folk tales in Bataan ri Phulwari and, with the folklorist Komal Kothari, built the Rupayan Sansthan at Borunda. Kanhaiyalal Sethia wrote the song 'Dharti Dhoran Ri'. Panna Dhai, Bhamashah, Amrita Devi Bishnoi and the mathematician Brahmagupta of Bhinmal are other names that recur in questions.

Examples

- Hill Forts of Rajasthan (UNESCO 2013): Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Gagron, Amber and Jaisalmer.
- Vijay Stambh: built by Rana Kumbha, nine storeys, after the 1437 victory at Sarangpur; Kirti Stambh: older Jain tower dedicated to Adinath.
- Kumbhalgarh: architect Mandan, wall about 36 km long; Gagron: water fort at the Ahu-Kali Sindh confluence.
- Jaisalmer's Sonar Qila: Rawal Jaisal, 1156, Trikuta hill, a living fort with 99 bastions.
- Jaipur: founded 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II, planned by Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, painted pink in 1876, UNESCO World Heritage city 2019.
- Jantar Mantar, Jaipur: UNESCO 2010, Samrat Yantra is the largest stone sundial; Hawa Mahal: 1799, Lal Chand Ustad, 953 windows.
- Mehrangarh: Rao Jodha, 1459, Chidiyatunk hill; Junagarh: Rai Singh and Karmachand, 1589-1594; Lohagarh: Suraj Mal, withstood Lake in 1805.
- Dilwara: Vimal Vasahi 1031 (Vimal Shah), Luna Vasahi 1230 (Vastupal-Tejpal); Ranakpur: 1439, Dharna Shah, 1,444 pillars.
- Ajmer Sharif: dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti; Kiradu temples near Barmer: the Khajuraho of Rajasthan.
- Ganga Singh: Ganga Canal 1927, first Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes; Hiralal Shastri: Vanasthali 1935; Kalibai of Rastapal, 1947.

> **Quick revision:** Six hill forts UNESCO 2013 (Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Gagron, Amber, Jaisalmer); Gagron water fort; Kumbhalgarh wall 36 km; Sonar Qila 1156; Jaipur 1727, pink 1876, UNESCO 2019; Jantar Mantar UNESCO 2010; Hawa Mahal 1799, 953 windows; Mehrangarh 1459; Junagarh 1589-94; Lohagarh 1805; Dilwara 1031 and 1230; Ranakpur 1439, 1,444 pillars; Ajmer dargah; Ganga Singh; Hiralal Shastri; Kalibai.

Free practice questions: parikshasaathi.com/q/rajasthan-state-gk/

Revision sheet

Every lesson's quick-revision box in one place, for the last read before the exam.

Rajasthan General Knowledge	Largest state, 1,070 km Pakistan border; Guru Shikhar 1,722 m highest Aravalli peak; Bappa Rawal founded Mewar, Rao Jodha Jodhpur 1459, Jai Singh II Jaipur 1727; Khanwa 1527, Haldighati 1576; Greater Rajasthan 30 March 1949 (Rajasthan Diwas), first CM Hiralal Shastri; Vidhan Sabha 200, HC Jodhpur; Panchayati Raj Nagaur 2 Oct 1959; Sambhar largest saline lake, Keoladeo UNESCO; Zawar zinc, Khetri copper, Makrana marble; Kalbelia UNESCO 2010; six hill forts UNESCO 2013; Khejarli 1730 Amrita Devi.
Ancient Rajasthan: Kalibangan, Ahar-Banas Culture, Matsya and the Pratiharas	Bagor Mesolithic (Kothari river, V.N. Misra); Kalibangan Harappan on the Ghaggar, Hanumangarh, ploughed field and fire altars, Lal-Thapar 1961-69; Ahar (Dhulkot, Tamravati) names the Ahar-Banas culture; Balathal leprosy skeleton c. 2000 BCE; Ganeshwar copper, Kantli source; Matsya capital Viratnagar (Bairat), Bhabru edict; Bayana Gupta hoard 1946; Brahmagupta at Bhinmal 628 CE; Pratiharas from Gurjaratra, Mihir Bhoja ruled from Kannauj.
Rajput Dynasties and Medieval Rajasthan: Mewar, Marwar, Amber and the Chauhans	Agnikula legend in Prithviraj Raso; Ajayaraja founded Ajmer; Tarain 1191 won, 1192 lost; Ranthambore 1301 first saka; Chittor sakas 1303, 1535, 1568; Hammir began the Sisodias; Kumbha: Sarangpur 1437, Vijay Stambh, Kumbhalgarh; Khanwa 1527; Haldighati 18 June 1576, Dewair 1582; treaty 1615; Jodhpur 1459, Bikaner 1488; Girri-Sumel 1544; Bharmal-Akbar 1562; Kota separate 1631.
Modern Rajasthan: 1857, Peasant and Tribal Movements and the Praja Mandals	Treaties 1817-18 (Karauli first, Sirohi last 1823); Ajmer ceded 1818, AGG at Ajmer; 1857 began at Nasirabad 28 May, Auwa (Kushal Singh), Kota (Major Burton killed); Bijolia 1897-1941 (Sitaram Das, Pathik, Manikya Lal Verma); Begun 1921; Dabi 1923 (Nanak Bhil); Neemuchana 1925; Govind Guru, Samp Sabha 1883, Mangarh 17 Nov 1913; Eki movement 1921 (Tejawat); Praja Mandals from 1931; 19 states, 3 chiefships.
Formation of Rajasthan: Seven Stages of Integration, Polity and State Symbols	Name Rajasthan adopted 26 Jan 1950; Matsya Union 18 Mar 1948 (Alwar); Rajasthan Union 25 Mar 1948 (Kota); United Rajasthan 18 Apr 1948 (Udaipur, Nehru); Greater Rajasthan 30 Mar 1949 (Jaipur, Patel, Rajasthan Day); Matsya merged 15 May 1949; Sirohi 26 Jan 1950; Ajmer-Merwara 1 Nov 1956, first Governor Gurmukh Nihal Singh; Vidhan Sabha 200, LS 25, RS 10; HC Jodhpur 29 Aug 1949; Panchayati Raj Nagaur 2 Oct 1959.
Geography of Rajasthan: Location, Borders and Physiographic Divisions	23°3'-30°12' N, 69°30'-78°17' E; 826 km N-S, 869 km E-W; area 3,42,239 sq km (10.41%), largest since 2000; Pakistan border 1,070 km (Hindumalkot to Bakhasar), longest in Jaisalmer; MP longest, Punjab shortest interstate border; desert 61%, Aravalli 9%, plains 23%, Hadoti 7%; Aravalli 692 km (550 km in state); Guru Shikhar 1,722 m; Lathi series; Census 2011: density 200, sex ratio 928.
Rivers, Lakes and Water Projects of Rajasthan	Aravalli divides Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and inland drainage; Chambal usually called the only perennial river, Gandhi Sagar-Rana Pratap Sagar-Jawahar Sagar-Kota barrage; Banas longest wholly in state, Bisalpur dam; Mahi crosses Tropic of Cancer twice, Baneshwar; Luni saline below Balotra, Jojri only right-bank tributary; Ghaggar = Hakra; Sambhar largest inland saline lake (Ramsar 1990); Jaisamand, Rajsamand (Raj Prashasti); Indira Gandhi Canal from Harike, 649 km.
Climate, Soils, Forests and Wildlife of Rajasthan	Arid west, semi-arid centre, sub-humid south-east; Phalodi 51°C on 19 May 2016; loo, andhi, mawath; rain falls from south-east to north-west, Mount Abu wettest, Jaisalmer driest; 25 cm and 50 cm isohyets; sandy, alluvial, red and black soils, sem; dhok commonest tree; Ranthambore 1973, Sariska 2008 relocation, Mukundra 2013; Keoladeo UNESCO 1985; Desert NP godawan, Akal fossils; Khejarli 1730, 363 Bishnois, Jambhoji 1485.
Agriculture, Minerals and Industries of Rajasthan	Rain-fed farming; leads in bajra, mustard, guar, moth; Ganganagar food basket; largest camel population, a leading wool producer; Rathi, Tharparkar, Chokla breeds; museum of minerals: Zawar and Rampura Agucha zinc-lead, Khetri copper, Degana tungsten, Jhamarkotra rock phosphate, gypsum, wollastonite, Makrana marble; Barmer oil 2004/2009; Rawatbhata 1973; Bhadla solar; Krishna Mills Beawar 1889; Lakheri cement 1915; blue pottery, Sanganer, Bagru, thewa, Kota Doria.

Art and Culture of Rajasthan: Folk Dances, Folk Deities, Fairs, Painting and Dialects	Ghoomar state dance; Kalbelia UNESCO 2010; Chari (Kishangarh), Terah Taal (Kamad, 13 manjiras), Kachchhi Ghodi (Shekhawati), Gair (Holi); Pabuji-Kolu, Tejaji-Kharnal, Ramdevji-Ramdevra, Gogaji-Gogamedi, Karni Mata-Deshnok, Devnarayan-Asind; Pushkar on Kartik Purnima, Gangaur, Teej, Baneshwar; Mewar, Marwar, Dhundhar, Hadoti schools; Bani Thani (Nihal Chand); Phad of Shahpura; Dingal and Pingal; Mirabai; Dadu Dayal at Naraina.
Forts, Monuments and Famous Personalities of Rajasthan	Six hill forts UNESCO 2013 (Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Gagron, Amber, Jaisalmer); Gagron water fort; Kumbhalgarh wall 36 km; Sonar Qila 1156; Jaipur 1727, pink 1876, UNESCO 2019; Jantar Mantar UNESCO 2010; Hawa Mahal 1799, 953 windows; Mehrangarh 1459; Junagarh 1589-94; Lohagarh 1805; Dilwara 1031 and 1230; Ranakpur 1439, 1,444 pillars; Ajmer dargah; Ganga Singh; Hiralal Shastri; Kalibai.

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