An Institute For Civil Services  
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RAS MAINS - 2018  
PAPER -I  
Rajasthan History Art & Culture  
  
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Chapter : 1  
—: Ancient History of Rajasthan :—  
  
The desert land of rajasthan has been birth place of ancient Stone Age, Indus age and copper age  
civilizations of Kalibanga, Bairath, Ahar and Ganehswar. The evidences have been found at these places  
for development of an ancient civilization. The evidence of human habitations can be seen in these  
civilizations which also gives proof for Mesolithic and Neolithic history.  
  
Aryan History of rajasthan  
  
Rivers like Sararvati and Drushdwati has been a shelter for Aryans and they established Aryan  
settlements in the Doab region. The hymns for Indra and Soma in the Vedic literature, the rules framed  
for Yajnas and their importance was all composed in the these river vallys. The texts of Mahabharata and  
Puranas talk about the Jangal (Bikaner) and Marukantar (Marvar) were associated with Krishna and  
Balram, who belonged to the Yadava branch of Aryans.  
  
Age of Janpada  
  
The tribes of Shivi, Malav and Arjunay belonging to southern Punjab, came to Rajasthan as to  
recover and preserve their independence after the invasion of Alaxander. Those who stayed established  
the Matsya and Rajanya Janpada of Bharatpur, Shivi Janpada of Nagri and Shalva Janpada of Alwar. The  
period between 300 BC to 300 AD was dominated by Malav, Arjunay and shivi in Rajasthan. Jaipur  
region was the main centre of power of Malavas which later on spread to Ajmer, Tonk and Mewar  
region. In Bratapur-Alwar region the Arjunaya dominated and Yodheya formed a republic state in the  
northern Rajasthan in northern Rajasthan.  
  
From the second century BC, Rajasthan fell under the influence of Buddhism but the Hinduism  
got promoted by infiltration of these tribes. The republic democracy emerged in these small Janpadas  
could not survive for long and got eroded due to attacks from the invaders and Indian Kings.  
  
Mauryas and Rajasthan  
  
Some part of rajasthan was under the reign of Mauryas, the Ashokan rock edict at Bairath and the  
temples built by his successors confirms their dominience and influence. According to Kumara Prabandh  
and other Jain scriptures, the Chitranga Sarovar, Mansarovar near chittor and Chittorgarh fort was built  
by Mauryan king Chitrangad. Edict near Kota in Kanasva from 795 AD mentions Mauryan king Dhawal.  
  
After the death of Harshvardhan, the political unity of India started eroding. In this era many new  
Janpadas started emerging, Rajput dynasties started to establish their states. The Pratihar and Rathors of  
Marvar, Guhils of Mewar, Chauhans of Sambhar, Kachhwahas of Amer and Bhatis of Jaisalmer were the  
major tribes of Rajput emerged more influential.  
  
¢ The scholars theorise on the basis of rock edicts that, around 6" century AD, the Pratihars ruled in  
the region surrounding Mandor, which later was succeded by the Rathors.  
  
e Around the same time Chauhans started to establish their influence in Sambhar region and later  
became very strong.  
  
¢ During 5" and 6" century AD the Guhils settled in Mewar and surrounding region.  
  
¢ The Parmar became powerful in Athurna and Abu during the 10 century AD.  
  
e The Chauhans started to re-establish their reign in regions such as Jalore, Ranthambhore and  
Hadoti in 13" centuary AD with the authority constantly being challenged of erosion.  
  
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Ancient regions of Rajasthan  
  
The region we today know as Rajasthan was never considered as a single state of entity in ancient  
time. It was better known as the various states and Janpadas in the region. George Thomas used the  
word Rajputana for the first time in 1800 AD. Famous Author Col. James Todd for the first time used  
the term Raythan or Rajasthan for the region in his book titled Annals and activities of Rajasthan in  
1829. The same term was continued after the independence of India.  
  
e Jangal Desh: Bikaner and Jodhpur; the king was known as Jangaldhar Badshah.  
  
e Sapaldaksh: Ajmer and Central Nagore; ruled over by Chauhans.  
  
e Shursen: east Alwar state, Bharatpur state, Dholpur and Karauli state; Capital: Mathura  
  
e Matsya: southern and western alwar state; capital: Viratnagar.  
  
e Kuru: Northern Alwar state; capital: Indraprasth.  
  
e Shiv: Udaipur state; capita: Madhyamika; the region had influence of Mev people; the region  
also known as Medpat or Pragvat.  
  
e Maru: the region aroung Jodhpur state; the southern part was known as Gurjaratra.  
  
e WVangad: Dungarpur, Banswara region;  
  
e Aburd: Sirohi state  
  
e Maad: Jaisalmer state  
  
e Hadoti: Kota and Bundi state  
  
¢ Malay: Parts of southern Jhalawar  
  
Ancient Civilisations  
  
e There is no evidence for when and how humans at first place emerged in Rajasthan, but the  
ancient remains have been found in the many regions and river vallys i.e. Ajmer, Alwar,  
Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Jaipur, Pali, Tonk etc.  
  
e Palaeo lithic age: Chittor and surrounding region has most abundant bunch of tools belonging to  
this region. The Luni Basin also contains remnants for this era.  
  
e Meso-lithic age: Luni and its tributaries, Bedach and its tributaries in Chittor.  
  
e Neo-lithic age: Bagore and Tilwara; Ajmer, Nagore, Sikar, Kota, Bundi, Tonk etc.  
  
Bronz-Age (Kalibanga):  
  
e This region was situated in current day Hanumangarh on the shore of ancient rivers of Sararwati  
and Drishdwati around 2400-2250 BC.  
  
e Contains pre, mature and later harappan cultural evidences. It contains one of the oldest  
agricultural lands belonging to pre-harappan culture.  
  
e Personal and Public drainage facility, city cleanliness and pots to store garbage were parts of the  
extraordinary system.  
  
e The firealtars found are example of presence of religious society.  
  
e The script found on the eartern pots and seals, is similar to the Indus valley script, which is still  
un-ciphered.  
  
e Many agricultural tools made from bronze are also found.  
  
e Contains two regions, eastern region with the common people settlement and western region  
fortified citadel. Both the regions are fortified with a common wall.  
  
Ahar civilization:  
  
e Originated in the Ayar river valley region in south-western Rajasthan around 4000 years ago.  
The region was constantly flourished and destroyed till the 18" century.  
  
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e It was part of the Banas river civilization. This region flourished due to presence of copper  
mines in the surrounding region. The Dhulkot excavation site has found so far copper axes, tools,  
bones and Bamboo parts.  
  
e City Plan: The houses were planned to have open space and open streets. The presence of 4 to 6  
Chulhas represents presence of large families.  
  
e Trade and relations: Presence of Greek coins belonging to 3 to 1" century BC from Bagore  
and surrounding region. The civilization also kept close contacts with peripheral regions such as  
Navdatoli, Harappa, Naagda, Eran, Kaytha etc.  
  
Bairath civilization:  
  
e The region around Jaipur is identified with the region as the capital Viratnagar of Matsya Janpada.  
  
e The primitive hills of this region are Bijak Dungri, Moti Dungri, Bhim Dungri etc. The Bhabru  
Edict of Ashoka was discovered by Captain Bert on Bijak Dungri.  
  
e Buddhism: remains of Stupa and Budda temple (Gol Mandir).  
  
e Chinese pilgrim Huen-tsang has also mentioned Bairath in his records.  
  
Other civilizations found in Ganeshwarm Khetri, Dariba, Ojhiyana, Kurada etc also contains  
evidences such as copper tools and weapons. Sunari, Iswal, Jodhpura, Red etc belong to the Iron Age  
civilization.  
  
Rajasthan in Post-Gupta Age:  
  
e After the fall of Gupta Empire there was a deficiency in the central power and the republics of  
rajastahan declared them independent.  
  
e There were constant attacks from the invaders and from within the region. The Shaka invasion led  
by Mihirkul almost destroyed the already fragile lack of authority situation. Yashovarman of  
Malva was successful in defeating Shakas or Hunas in 532 AD, which brought peace to the region  
but the region could never emerge out of the devastation.  
  
e Rajasthan was constantly in the process of cultural infusion from outside and by 6™ century the  
foreigners got so much mingled with the locals that it gets hard to tell the difference since then.  
  
Previous Year Questions  
Q. Ancient city which is mentioned in both Mahabharata and Mahabhashya?  
(RAS Pre 2016)  
  
A. Virat nagar (Bairath)  
  
B. Madhyamika (Nagri)  
  
C. Red  
  
D. Kakort  
Q. During which of the following rulers the Delhi Shivalik sthambh edict was placed?  
(RAS Pre 2013 held on 31-10-15)  
  
A. Arnoraj  
  
B. Vigraharaj IV  
  
C. Prithviraj II  
  
D. Prithviraj UI  
Q. What is the Significance of Ghosundi Inscription?  
  
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