

¹RAJASTHAN-"The Land of Kings" -FEATURES AND FACTS

Rajasthan 'Land of Kings' or 'Land of Kingdom' is India's largest state by area. The state is located in the northwest part of the country and is a home of cultural diversity. Its features include the ruins of Indus Valley Civilization, Temples, Forts and Fortresses in almost every city. Rajasthan is divided into 9 regions; Ajmer State, Hadoti, Dhundhar, Gorwar, Shekhawati, Mewar, Marwar, Vagad and Mewat which are equally rich in its heritage and artistic contribution. These regions have a parallel history which goes along with that of the state.

A world heritage site, Keoladeo National Park near Bharatpur, known for its bird life. Apart from this state has two national tiger reserves namely Ranthambore National Park at Sawai Madhopur and Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar.

The State was formed on 30th March 1949 when Rajputana – name as adopted by the British Crown was merged into the Dominion of India. Jaipur being the largest city was declared as capital of the state.

The early history of Rajasthan includes some of the great Maharanas, Nawabs and Rulers. Prominent among them were Prithviraj Chouhan, Samrat Hem Chandra Vikramaditya (also known as Hemu), Mughal Emperor Akbar, Maharana Udai Singh, Maharana Pratap, Raja Maan Singh and others. Rajasthan's formerly independent kingdoms developed a rich architectural and cultural heritage; same can be seen today in numerous forts and palaces, which are enriched by feature of Muslim and Jain Architecture.

²FORTS AND CITIES

Jaipur, formerly **Jeypore**, is the capital and largest city of the Indian state of Rajasthan. Planned by Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, Jaipur holds the distinction of being the first planned city in India. Renowned globally for its coloured gems, the capital city of Rajasthan combines the allure of its ancient history with all the advantages of a metropolis. The story goes that in 1876, the Prince of Wales visited India on a tour. Since the colour pink was symbolic of hospitality, Maharaja Ram Singh of Jaipur painted the entire city pink. The pink that colours the city makes for a marvelous spectacle to behold. Jaipur rises majestically against the backdrop of the forts of Nahargarh, Jaigarh, and Garh Ganesh Temple.

- **Jaisalmer Fort** is situated in the city of Jaisalmer, in the Indian state of Rajasthan. It is believed to be one of the very few "living forts" in the world. The Jaisalmer Fort also goes by the name Sonar Quila (Golden Fort), as it rises from the desert itself and seems to become one with the golden hues of the sand. The setting sun adds its own magic and shrouds the fort with mystique.
- **Jodhpur** Jodhpur, the second largest city in Rajasthan, is popularly known as the Blue City. The name is clearly befitting as most of the architecture—forts, palaces, temples, havelis, and even houses are built in vivid shades of blue.

¹ <https://www.rajasthan.gov.in/AboutRajasthan.aspx>

² <https://www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in>

³KOTA-THE LAND OF THE CHAMBAL

Kota is the third largest city in the state of Rajasthan and is one of the popular tourist destinations. Situated on the banks of the Chambal River, the city of Kota is famous for its distinctive style of paintings, palaces, museums, and places of worship. The city is known for gold jewellery, Doria sarees, silk sarees and the famous Kota stone. The history of Kota dates back to the 12th century when Rao Deva conquered the territory and founded Hadoti. The independent Rajput state of Kota was carved out of Bundi in 1631. The kingdom of Kota had a turbulent history as it was raided by various Mughal rulers, the Maharajas of Jaipur and even the Maratha warlords. The city of Kota is well known all over the world for its architectural splendor, comprising beautiful palaces, temples and museums, which exhibit the grandeur of the foregone era.

⁴The Rajasthani Schools of Painting-

Kota and Bundi School of Painting-A prolific and distinct school of painting flourished in Bundi in the seventeenth century, which is remarkable for its unblemished colour sense and excellent formal design. Bundi Ragamala dated 1591, assigned to the earliest and formative phase of Bundi painting, has been painted at Chunar in the reign of Bhoj Singh (1585–1607), the Hada Rajput ruler. A distinct feature of Bundi and Kota School is a keen interest in the depiction of lush vegetation; picturesque landscape with varied flora, wildlife and birds; hills and thick jungles; and water bodies. It also has a series of fine equestrian portraits.

The accomplished tradition of painting at Bundi gave rise to one of the most outstanding Rajasthani Schools, Kota, which excels in the depiction of hunting scenes and reflects an exceptional excitement and obsession for animal chase. Bundi and Kota were parts of the same kingdom till 1625 when Jahangir divided the Bundi empire and awarded one part to Madhu Singh, the younger son of Rao Ratan Singh (son of Bhoj Singh of Bundi), for his bravery.

Other famous paintings of Rajasthan-

Miniature Paintings

Gemstone Paintings

Phad Paintings

Kajali Paintings

Kishangarh Paintings

³ <https://www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in>

⁴ <https://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/lefa102.pdf>

⁵ORIGIN OF PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM-

In 1953, the Rajasthan Panchayat Act was enacted and village panchayats were established throughout the state. Rajasthan has the distinction of being a pioneer in accepting the scheme of democratic decentralization, envisaging a three-tier system of representative bodies at the village, block, and district levels. The system later came to be known as Panchayati Raj, which was inaugurated by the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on 2 October 1959 at Nagour in Rajasthan.

The first elections under the Rajasthan Panchayat Samitis and Zilla Parishads Act, 1959 were held in September-October 1959. With the already existing Panchayats at the village level under the Rajasthan Panchayat Act, 1953, the three-tier scheme of Panchayati Raj began functioning on 2 October 1959.

⁵<https://rajpanchayat.rajasthan.gov.in/en-us/aboutus/history.aspx#:~:text=Th%20e%20system%2020later%20came,held%20in%20September%2DOctober%201959>