

PAPER –I (HISTORY)

Medieval India refers to a long period of [post-classical history](#) of the [Indian subcontinent](#) between the "ancient period" and "modern period". It is usually regarded as running approximately from the break-up of the [Gupta Empire](#) in the 6th century CE to the start of the [early modern period](#) in 1526 with the start of the [Mughal Empire](#), although some historians regard it as both starting and finishing later than these points. The medieval period is itself subdivided into the early medieval and late medieval eras.

In the early medieval period, there were more than 40 different states on the Indian subcontinent, which hosted a variety of cultures, languages, writing systems, and [religions](#).^[1] At the beginning of the time period, [Buddhism was predominant throughout the area](#), with the [Pala Empire](#) on the [Indo Gangetic Plain](#) sponsoring the Buddhist faith's institutions. One such institution was the Buddhist [Nalanda mahavihara](#) in modern-day [Bihar, India](#), a centre of scholarship and brought a divided South Asia onto the global intellectual stage. Another accomplishment was the invention of the [Chaturanga](#) game which later was exported to Europe and became [Chess](#).^[2] In Southern India, the [Tamil Hindu Kingdom of Chola](#) gained prominence with an overseas empire that controlled parts of modern-day [Sri Lanka, Malaysia,](#) and [Indonesia](#) as overseas territories, and helped [spread Hinduism and Buddhism into the historic cultural area of Southeast Asia](#).^[3] In this time period, neighbouring regions such as [Afghanistan, Tibet,](#) and [Southeast Asia](#) were under [South Asian influence](#).^[4]

During the late medieval period, a series of [Islamic invasions](#) by the [Arabs](#), the [Ghaznavids](#) and the [Ghurids](#) conquered large portions of Northern India. [Turkic general Qutb ud-Din Aibak](#) declared his independence from the [Ghurid Empire](#) and founded the [Delhi Sultanate](#) which ruled until the 16th century.^[5] As a consequence, [Buddhism declined in South Asia](#), but Hinduism survived and reinforced itself in areas conquered by Muslim empires. In the far South, the [Vijayanagara Empire](#) resisted Muslim conquests, sparking a long rivalry with the [Bahmani Sultanate](#). The turn of the 16th century would see introduction of [gunpowder](#) and the rise of a new Muslim empire—the [Mughals](#), as well as the establishment of European trade posts by the [Portuguese colonists](#).^[6] Mughal Empire was one of the three Islamic [gunpowder empires](#), along with the [Ottoman Empire](#) and [Safavid Persia](#).^{[7][8][9]} The subsequent cultural and technological developments transformed Indian society, concluding the late medieval period and beginning the [early modern period](#).

Terminology and periodisation

One definition includes the period from the 6th century,^[10] the first half of the 7th century,^[11] or the 8th century^[12] up to the 16th century, essentially coinciding with the [Middle Ages](#) of Europe. It may be divided into two periods: The 'early medieval period' which lasted from the 6th to the 13th century and the 'late medieval period' which lasted from the 13th to the 16th century, ending with the start of the [Mughal Empire](#) in 1526. The Mughal era, from the 16th century to the 18th century, is often referred to as the [early modern period](#),^[10] but is sometimes also included in the 'late medieval' period.^[13]

An alternative definition, often seen in those more recent authors who still use the term at all, brings the start of the medieval times forward, either to about 1000 CE, or to the 12th century.^[14] The end may be pushed back to the 18th century, Hence, this period can be

effectively considered as the beginning of Muslim domination to [British India](#).^[15] Or the "early medieval" period as beginning in the 8th century, and ending with the 11th century.^[16]

The use of "medieval" at all as a term for periods in Indian history has often been objected to, and is probably becoming more rare (there is a similar discussion in terms of the [history of China](#)).^[17] It is argued that neither the start nor the end of the period really mark fundamental changes in Indian history, comparable to the European equivalents.^[18] [Burton Stein](#) still used the concept in his *A History of India* (1998), referring to the period from the [Guptas](#) to the Mughals, but most recent authors using it are Indian. Understandably, they often specify the period they cover within their titles.^[19]

Periods

Early medieval period

: [Middle kingdoms of India](#)



Fragmented South Asian polities circa 600 CE, after the retreat of the [Alchon Huns](#) and the disintegration of the [Gupta Empire](#).^[20]

The start of the period is typically taken to be the slow collapse of the [Gupta Empire](#) from about 480 to 550,^[21] ending the ["classical" period](#), as well as "ancient India",^[22] although both these terms may be used for periods with widely different dates, especially in specialised fields such as the history of art or religion.^[23] Another alternative for the preceding period is "Early Historical" stretching "from the sixth century BC to the sixth century AD", according to [Romila Thapar](#).^[24]

At least in northern India, there was no larger state until the [Delhi Sultanate](#), or certainly the Mughal Empire,^[25] but there were several different dynasties ruling large areas for long periods, as well as many other dynasties ruling smaller areas, often paying some form of tribute to larger

states. [John Keay](#) puts the typical number of dynasties within the subcontinent at any one time at between 20 and 40,^[26] not including local [rajas](#).

- [Pallava dynasty](#), rulers of [Telugu](#) and some [Tamil](#) areas from the 3rd to 9th centuries.
- [Empire of Harsha](#), a brief period of control of most of north India, from 601 to 647, under [Harsha](#) of the [Vardhana dynasty](#).
- [Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty](#), was the last largest dynasty of northern India which rivalled the Gupta empire in extent and ruled a large swath of northern India from the 6th century to 11th century. They can be differentiated from other kingdoms as they were called Imperial Pratiharas.
- [Chalukya dynasty](#) ruled most of the western Deccan and some parts of South India, between the 6th and 12th centuries. [Kannada](#)-speaking, with capital at [Badami](#).
- [Rashtrakuta dynasty](#), was a Kannada dynasty ruling large parts of the Indian subcontinent between the 6th and 10th centuries and built the World Heritage site of [Ellora](#), [Maharashtra](#).
- [Eastern Chalukyas](#), 7th and 12th centuries, a South Indian [Kannada-Telugu](#) dynasty whose kingdom was located in present-day Andhra Pradesh, they were the descendants of Western Chalukyas.
- [Pala Empire](#), the last major [Buddhist](#) rulers, from the 8th to 12th centuries in [Bengal](#). Briefly controlled most of north India in the 9th century.
- [Chola Empire](#), a South Indian empire which ruled from [Tamil Nadu](#) and extended to include Southeast Asian territories at its height. Ruled from the 9th century to 13th century.
- [Western Chalukya Empire](#), ruled most of the western Deccan and some of South India, between the 10th and 12th centuries. [Kannada](#)-speaking, with capital at [Badami](#).
- [Kalachuri dynasty](#), ruled areas in Central India during 10th-12th centuries.
- [Nagvanshis of Chotanagpur](#), ruled Chotanagpur plateau in [Jharkhand](#).
- [Western Ganga dynasty](#), was an important ruling dynasty of ancient [Karnataka](#), often under the overlordship of larger states, from about 350 to 1000 CE. The large monolithic [Bahubali](#) of Shravanabelagola was built during their rule.
- [Eastern Ganga dynasty](#), was a royal dynasty ruling [Odisha](#) region who are descendants of Kannada [Western Ganga Dynasty](#) and Tamil [Chola Empire](#). They have built famous [Konark Sun Temple](#) and [Jagannath Temple, Puri](#).
- [Hoysala Empire](#), a prominent [South Indian Kannadiga empire](#) that ruled most of the modern day state of [Karnataka](#) between the 10th and the 14th centuries. The capital of the Hoysalas was initially located at [Belur](#) but was later moved to [Halebidu](#).
- [Kakatiya Kingdom](#), a [Telugu](#) dynasty that ruled most of current day [Andhra Pradesh](#), India from 1083 to 1323 CE.
- [Kamarupa](#), 4th to 12th century in [Assam](#), ruled by three dynasties viz [Varman dynasty](#), [Mlechchha dynasty](#), [Pala dynasty \(Kamarupa\)](#).

Late medieval period

This period follows the [Muslim conquests of the Indian subcontinent](#) and the decline of Buddhism, the eventual founding of the [Delhi Sultanate](#) and the creation of [Indo-Islamic architecture](#), followed by the world's major trading nation, the [Bengal Sultanate](#).^{[28][29]}

- [Bengal Sultanate](#), 1352 to 1576, ruled over Bengal and much of [Burma](#).

- [Khandesh Sultanate](#) under [Farooqi dynasty](#), 1382–1601, in the region of [Khandesh](#)
- [Jaunpur Sultanate](#), 1394–1479, in northern India
- [Gujarat Sultanate](#), 1407–1573, in the state of [Gujarat](#).
- [Malwa Sultanate](#), 1392–1562, in the region of [Malwa](#)
- [Bahmani Sultanate](#), 1347–1518, in the Deccan region.
- [Madurai Sultanate](#), 1335–1378, in South India.
- [Chero dynasty](#), ruled from the 12th to 18th century, governed over parts of eastern [Uttar Pradesh](#), [Bihar](#) and [Jharkhand](#).
- [Pithipatis of Bodh Gaya](#), Buddhist rulers of [Magadha](#) with their capital in [Bodh Gaya](#). Ruled from 1120 until the late 13th century.^[30]
- [Khayaravala dynasty](#), tribal state and vassals of the [Gahadavala dynasty](#) which ruled parts of south western [Bihar](#) from the 11-13th century.^[30]
- [Delhi Sultanate](#), five short-lived dynasties, based in [Delhi](#), from 1206 to 1526, when it fell to the Mughal Empire.
- [Karnats of Mithila](#), 1097–1324 in the [Mithila region](#) of North Bihar and Southern [Nepal](#)
- [Oiniwar dynasty](#), 1325–1526 in the Mithila region and successors of the Karnats of Mithila
- [Khanzadas of Mewat](#), initially ruled [Mewat](#) under the Delhi Sultanate from 1372 to 1427 then later under independent rule 1427–1527.
- The [Sena dynasty](#), was a Hindu dynasty that ruled from Bengal through the 11th and 12th centuries. The empire at its peak covered much of the north-eastern region of the Indian subcontinent. The rulers of the Sena dynasty traced their origin to the south Indian region of Karnataka.
- [Gajapati Empire](#), was a medieval [Hindu](#) dynasty that ruled between 1434 and 1541 over [Kalinga](#) (the present day [Odisha](#)).
- [Nagvanshis of Chotanagpur](#), ruled Chotanagpur plateau in [Jharkhand](#).
- [Seuna \(Yadava\) dynasty](#), 1190–1315, an old Kannada-Maratha dynasty, which at its peak ruled a kingdom stretching from the Tungabhadra to the Narmada rivers, including present-day Maharashtra, north Karnataka and parts of Madhya Pradesh, from its capital at [Devagiri](#).
- [Reddy Kingdom](#), 1325 to 1448, ruled in [Andhra Pradesh](#).
- [Vijayanagara Empire](#), 1336–1646, a Hindu-[Kannadiga-Telugus](#) empire based in [Karnataka](#), in the [Deccan Plateau](#) region. [UNESCO World Heritage Site Hampi](#) in Bellary district of Karnataka was their capital city.
- [Rajput States](#), were a group of [Rajput](#) Hindu states that ruled present-day [Rajasthan](#), and at times much of [Madhya Pradesh](#), [Gujarat](#), [Uttaranchal](#), [Himachal Pradesh](#), Western [Uttar Pradesh](#) and Central [Uttar Pradesh](#). Some Rajput States, including the [Kingdom of Mewar](#) and the [Kingdom of Jaisalmer](#), were established in the early medieval period. Many Rajput kingdoms continued under the Mughals and as [Princely States](#) in [British India](#) until [Indian independence](#).

Northeast India

- [Jaintia kingdom](#), 500–1835, a matrilineal kingdom in present-day [Sylhet Division](#), [Bangladesh](#)
- [Chutia kingdom](#), 12th century to 1524, in [Assam](#) and [Arunachal Pradesh](#), fell to the [Ahom kingdom](#).

- [Kamata kingdom](#), established in the middle of 13th century, broke up in 1582 into [Koch Bihar](#) (eventually a princely state) and [Koch Hajo](#) (eventually absorbed partly by the [Mughals](#) and the Ahom kingdom).
- [Ahom Kingdom](#), 1228–1826, [Brahmaputra](#) valley in [Assam](#), eventually taken by the British.
- [Dimasa kingdom](#), 13th century to 1832, in North Cachar Hills and Barak valley in [Assam](#), eventually annexed by the British.
- [Tripura kingdom](#), unknown origin, survived as princely state during the British Raj and absorbed into India.
- [Manipur kingdom](#), unknown to 1949, princely state during the British Raj and absorbed into India in 1949.

Early modern period

The start of the [Mughal Empire](#) in 1526 marked the beginning of the early modern period of Indian history,^[10] often referred to as the Mughal era. Sometimes, the Mughal era is also referred as the 'late medieval' period.

- [Nayaka dynasties](#) of Kannada, Telugu and Tamil kings that ruled parts of south India after the fall of the Vijayanagara Empire in 1646. Their contribution can be seen in Ikkeri, Sri Ranga, Madurai, and Chitradurga. The earliest of its dynasties date from the early 14th century and the latest in the 19th century.^{[31][32]}
- [Kingdom of Mysore](#), a [southern Indian](#) kingdom founded in 1399 in the vicinity of the modern city of [Mysore](#). Fully independent after the fall of the Vijayanagara Empire in 1646, reduced in size by the British, but ruled by the [Wadiyars](#) as a princely state until 1947.
- [Mughal Empire](#), was an imperial state founded by [Babur](#), who had a [Turco-Mongol](#) origin from [Central Asia](#). The empire ruled most of the [Indian subcontinent](#) from the 16th to early 18th century, though it lingered for another century, formally ending in 1857.
- [Maratha Empire](#), 1674–1818, was an imperial power based in modern-day [Maharashtra](#) in western India. Marathas replaced the Mughal rule over large parts of India in the 18th century, but lost the [Anglo-Maratha Wars](#) in the early 19th century, and became rulers of princely states.
- [Sikh Empire](#), 1799–1849, was a major power in the Northwestern part of the [Indian subcontinent](#), which arose under the leadership of [Maharaja Ranjit Singh](#) in the [Punjab region](#). They were usurped by the [British East India Company](#) between the early and mid 19th century, following the British victory in the [Second Anglo-Sikh War](#).^[33]

Historiography

(PAPER –II)

HISTORY 'Land of Kings')^[12] is a [state](#) in [northwestern India](#).^{[13][14][15]} It covers 342,239 square kilometres (132,139 sq mi) or 10.4 per cent of India's total geographical area. It is the [largest Indian state by area](#) and the [seventh largest by population](#). It is on India's northwestern side, where it comprises most of the wide and inhospitable [Thar Desert](#) (also known as the Great Indian Desert) and shares a border with the [Pakistani](#) provinces of [Punjab](#) to the northwest and [Sindh](#) to the west, along the [Sutlej-Indus](#) River valley. It is bordered by five other Indian states: [Punjab](#) to the north; [Haryana](#) and [Uttar Pradesh](#) to the northeast; [Madhya Pradesh](#) to the southeast; and [Gujarat](#) to the southwest. Its geographical location is 23°.3' to 30°.12' North

latitude and 69°.30' to 78°.17' East longitude, with the Tropic of Cancer passing through its southernmost tip.

Its major features include the ruins of the [Indus Valley civilisation](#) at [Kalibangan](#) and [Balathal](#), the [Dilwara Temples](#), a [Jain](#) pilgrimage site at Rajasthan's only [hill station](#), [Mount Abu](#), in the ancient [Aravalli mountain range](#) and eastern Rajasthan, the [Keoladeo National Park](#) of [Bharatpur](#), a [World Heritage Site](#)^[16] known for its bird life. Rajasthan is also home to three national [tiger](#) reserves, the [Ranthambore National Park](#) in [Sawai Madhopur](#), [Sariska Tiger Reserve](#) in [Alwar](#) and the [Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve](#) in [Kota](#).

The State of Rajasthan was formed on 30 March 1949 when the states of the [Rajputana Agency](#) of the erstwhile [British Empire in India](#) were merged into the new [Indian Union](#). Its [capital](#) and largest city is [Jaipur](#). Other important cities are [Jodhpur](#), [Kota](#), [Bikaner](#), [Ajmer](#), [Bharatpur](#) and [Udaipur](#). The [economy of Rajasthan](#) is the [seventh-largest state economy](#) in India with ₹10.20 lakh crore (US\$120 billion) in [gross domestic product](#) and a per capita [GDP](#) of ₹118,000 (US\$1,400).^[17] Rajasthan ranks [22nd](#) among [Indian](#) states in [human development index](#).^[8]

Etymology

Rajasthan means "The Land of Kings" and is a portmanteau of [Sanskrit](#) "Rājā" ('King') and Sanskrit "Sthāna" ('Land') or [Persian](#) "St(h)ān", with the same meaning.^[12] The oldest reference to *Rajasthan* is found in a stone inscription dated back to 625 CE.^[18] The first printed mention of the name *Rajasthan* appears in the 1829 publication *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan or the Central and Western Rajpoot States of India*, while the earliest known record of *Rajputana* as a name for the region is in [George Thomas](#)'s 1800 memoir *Military Memories*.^[19] [John Keay](#), in his book *India: A History*, stated that *Rajputana* was coined by the British in 1829, John Briggs, translating [Ferishta](#)'s history of early Islamic India, used the phrase "[Rajpoot \(Rajput\)](#) princes" rather than "Indian princes".^[20]

History

Main articles: [History of Rajasthan](#) and [List of battles of Rajasthan](#)

Ancient times

Parts of what is now Rajasthan were partly part of the [Vedic Civilisation](#) and the [Indus Valley civilisation](#). [Kalibangan](#), in [Hanumangarh district](#), was a major provincial capital of the Indus Valley Civilisation.^[21] [Topsfield](#)^[22] writes that the [Rajputs](#) first entered India from the north west in the first millennium A.D. They established kingdoms in western India in the region that is now known as Rajasthan.^[22]

A [archaeological](#) excavation at the [Balathal](#) site in Udaipur district shows a settlement contemporary with the Harrapan civilisation dating back to 3000–1500 BCE. Stone Age tools dating from 5,000 to 200,000 years were found in [Bundi](#) and [Bhilwara](#) districts of the state.^[23]



The [Minor Rock Edict](#) 3 of Ashoka, found on the platform in front of the [Bairat Temple](#) of [Viratnagar](#), Rajasthan.^[24]

The [Matsya kingdom](#) of the [Vedic civilisation](#) of [India](#) is said to roughly corresponded to the former state of [Jaipur](#) in Rajasthan and included the whole of Alwar with portions of Bharatpur.^{[25][26]} The capital of Matsya was at [Viratanagar](#) (modern Bairat), which is said to have been named after its founder King [Virata](#).^{[27][need quotation to verify]}

Bhargava^[28] identifies the two districts of [Jhunjhunu](#) and [Sikar](#) and parts of [Jaipur](#) district along with Haryana districts of [Mahendragarh](#) and [Rewari](#) as part of [Vedic](#) state of [Brahmavarta](#). Bhargava also locates the present day [Sahibi River](#) as the Vedic [Drishadwati](#) River, which along with [Saraswati River](#) formed the borders of the Vedic state of Brahmavarta.^[29] Manu and [Bhrigu](#) narrated the [Manusmriti](#) to a congregation of seers in this area. The ashrams of Vedic seers [Bhrigu](#) and his son Chayvan Rishi, for whom [Chyawanprash](#) was formulated, were near [Dhosi Hill](#), part of which lies in Dhosi village of [Jhunjhunu](#) district of Rajasthan and part of which lies in [Mahendragarh](#) district of [Haryana](#).^[30]

The [Western Kshatrapas](#) (405–35 BCE), the [Saka](#) rulers of the western part of India, were successors to the [Indo-Scythians](#) and were contemporaneous with the [Kushans](#), who ruled the northern part of the [Indian subcontinent](#). The Indo-Scythians invaded the area of [Ujjain](#) and established the [Saka era](#) (with their [calendar](#)), marking the beginning of the long-lived Saka [Western Satraps](#) state.^[31]

Bagdawat Gurjar



Devnarayan Bhagwan [Chauhan gurjar](#)

[Devnarayan](#) is a folk deity from Rajasthan, India. Devnarayan Bhagwan was the king of [Gurjar Chauhan Bagdawat](#) dynasty He was an incarnation of Vishnu and he is worshipped mostly in Rajasthan and north-western Madhya Pradesh^[32]. According to tradition, he was born to Sri [Sawai Bhoj](#) and [Sadu mata](#)^[33] on the seventh day of the bright half (shukla saptami) of the month of Maagh in the [Hindu Calendar](#) in Vikram Samvat 968 (911 AD). According to one view historical Devnarayan belonged to 10th century of [Vikram Samvat](#), according another view, he lived in between 1200-1400 (Vikram Samvat era). The first view appears nearer to truth.^[34] The epic of [Devnarayan](#) is one of the longest and most popular [religious](#) oral narratives of Rajasthan^{[35][36]}

Classical era

Gurjara-Pratihara



Ghateshwara Mahadeva temple at the [Baroli Temple Complex](#). The temples were built between the 10th and 11th centuries CE by the [Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty](#).

The [Gurjars](#) ruled for many dynasties in this part of the country; the region was known as [Gurjaratra](#).^[37] Up to the 10th century CE, almost all of [North India](#) acknowledged the supremacy of the Imperial Pratiharas, with their seat of power at [Kannauj](#).^[38]

The country of [Gurjars](#) was called [Gujaratra](#) where **Gurjars** rule. Rajasthan was a big part of [Gurjardesa](#).^[39]

The [Gurjara Pratihara Empire](#) acted as a barrier for [Arab](#) invaders from the 8th to the 11th century. The chief accomplishment of the Gurjara-Pratihara Empire lies in its successful resistance to foreign invasions from the west, starting in the days of [Junaid](#). Historian [R. C. Majumdar](#) says that this was openly acknowledged by the Arab writers. He further notes that historians of India have wondered at the slow progress of Muslim invaders in India, as compared with their rapid advance in other parts of the world. Now there seems little doubt that it was the power of the Pratihara army that effectively barred the progress of the Arabs beyond the confines of [Sindh](#), their only conquest for nearly 300 years.^[40]

Medieval and early modern eras





South Asia
1525 CE

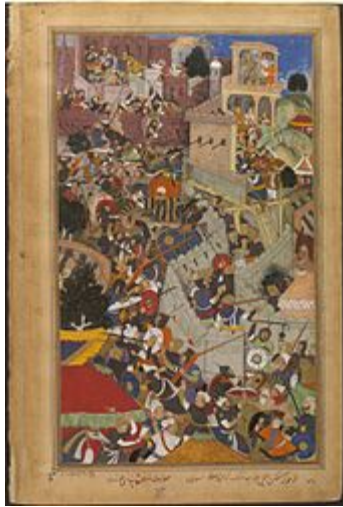
territory (brown), and main South Asian polities c. 1525 CE, on the eve of the establishment of the [Mughal Empire](#).^{[41][42]}

The [Ghurids](#) had made an attempt to invade India through southern Rajasthan, however they were defeated in the [Battle of Kasahrada](#) on 1178 by a confederacy of Rajputs under [Mularaja II](#) of the [Kingdom of Gujarat](#).^[43] [Prithviraj Chauhan](#) led a confederacy of Gurjar clans and defeated the invading Ghurids under [Muhammad Ghori](#) in the [First Battle of Tarain](#) in 1191. In 1192 CE, Muhammad Ghori decisively defeated Prithviraj at the [Second Battle of Tarain](#). After the defeat of Chauhan in 1192 CE, a part of Rajasthan came under Muslim rulers. The principal centers of their powers were [Nagaur](#) and Ajmer. [Ranthambhore](#) was also under their suzerainty. At the beginning of the 13th century, the most prominent and powerful state of Rajasthan was [Mewar](#). Since the invasion of the Muslim Turks from the 13th century onwards, the Rajput resisted the Muslim incursions into India, and preserved [Hindu culture](#) at their courts.^[22]

The Rajputs put up resistance to the Islamic invasions with their warfare and chivalry for centuries. The Ranas of Mewar led other kingdoms in their resistance to outside rule. Rana [Hammir Singh](#) defeated the [Tughlaq dynasty](#) and recovered a large portion of Rajasthan. The indomitable [Rana Kumbha](#) defeated the Sultans of [Malwa](#), Nagaur and [Gujarat](#) and made Mewar the most powerful Rajput Kingdom in India. The ambitious [Rana Sangha](#) united the various Rajput clans, including the [Muslim Khanzadas of Mewat](#) under [Raja Hasan Khan Mewati](#), and fought against the foreign powers in India. Rana Sangha defeated the Afghan [Lodi Empire](#) of Delhi and crushed the Turkic Sultanates of Malwa and Gujarat. Rana Sangha then tried to create an Indian empire but was defeated by the first [Mughal](#) Emperor [Babur](#) at [Khanwa](#). The defeat was due to betrayal by the Tomar King [Silhadi](#) of Raisen. After [Rana Sangha](#)'s death, [Marwar](#) rose as a power center in Rajasthan under Rao [Maldeo Rathore](#). He conquered Jaisalmer, parts of Gujarat, Jalore, Nagaur, Ajmer, Sanchore, Bhinmal, Radhanpur, Bayana, Tonk, Toda and Nabhara. He expanded the territories of Marwar up to Sindh-Cholisthan in west and his northern boundary was just fifty kilometres from Delhi.^{[44][45]} After defeating Humayun, Sher Shah came towards Rajputana. He defeated Chiefs of Rathore army by trickery in [Battle of Sammel](#) and captured some territory of Marwar but it was recovered by Rathores in 1545.^[46]

[Hem Chandra Vikramaditya](#), the Hindu emperor,^{[47][48]} was born in the village of Machheri in [Alwar District](#) in 1501. He won 22 battles against Afghans, from [Punjab](#) to [Bengal](#) including the states of [Ajmer](#) and [Alwar](#) in Rajasthan, and defeated Akbar's forces twice, first at [Agra](#) and

then at [Delhi](#) in 1556 at [Battle of Delhi](#)^[49] before acceding to the throne of [Delhi](#) and establishing the "Hindu Raj" in [North India](#), albeit for a short duration, from [Purana Qila](#) in Delhi. Hem Chandra was killed in the battlefield at [Second Battle of Panipat](#) fighting against Mughals on 5 November 1556.



[Akbar](#) shoots the Rajput commander [Jaimal](#) using a [matchlock](#), during the [Siege of Chittor \(1567–1568\)](#).

During [Akbar](#)'s reign most of the Rajput kings accepted Mughal suzerainty, but the rulers of Mewar (Rana [Udai Singh II](#)) and Marwar (Rao [Chandrasen Rathore](#)) refused to have any form of alliance with the Mughals. To teach the Rajputs a lesson Akbar attacked Udai Singh and killed Rajput commander Jaimal of Chitor and the citizens of Mewar in large numbers. Akbar killed 20,000–25,000 unarmed citizens in Chittor on the grounds that they had actively helped in the resistance.^[50]

[Maharana Pratap](#) took an oath to avenge the citizens of Chittor; he fought the Mughal empire till his death and liberated most of Mewar apart from Chittor itself. [Maharana Pratap](#) soon became the most celebrated warrior of Rajasthan and became famous all over India for his sporadic warfare and noble actions. According to [Satish Chandra](#), "Rana Pratap's defiance of the mighty Mughal empire, almost alone and unaided by the other Rajput states, constitutes a glorious saga of Rajput valor and the spirit of self-sacrifice for cherished principles. Rana Pratap's methods of sporadic warfare were later elaborated further by Malik Ambar, the Deccani general, and by Shivaji".^[51]

Rana [Amar Singh I](#) continued his ancestor's war against the Mughals under [Jehangir](#), he repelled the Mughal armies at Dewar. Later an expedition was again sent under the leadership of Prince [Khurram](#), which caused much damage to life and property of [Mewar](#). Many temples were destroyed, several villages were put on fire and women and children were captured and tortured to make Amar Singh accept surrender.^[52]

During [Aurangzeb](#)'s rule Rana [Raj Singh I](#) and Veer [Durgadas Rathore](#) were chief among those who defied the intolerant emperor of Delhi. They took advantage of the Aravalli hills and caused heavy damage to the Mughal armies that were trying to occupy Rajasthan.^{[53][54]}

After Aurangzeb's death [Bahadur Shah I](#) tried to subjugate Rajasthan like his ancestors but his plan backfired when the three [Rajput Rajas](#) of [Amber](#), [Udaipur](#), and [Jodhpur](#) made a joint resistance to the [Mughals](#). The Rajputs first expelled the commandants

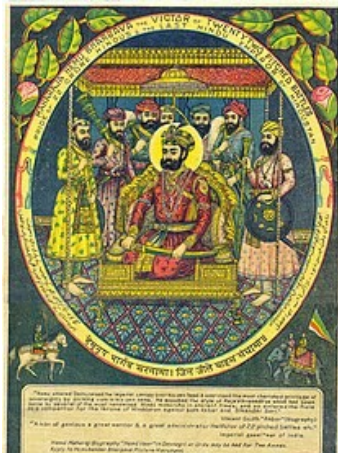
of [Jodhpur](#) and [Bayana](#) and recovered [Amer](#) by a night attack. They next killed Sayyid Hussain Khan Barha, the commandant of [Mewat](#) and many other Mughal officers. [Bahadur Shah I](#), then in the [Deccan](#) was forced to patch up a truce with the Rajput Rajas.^[55] The [Jats](#), under [Suraj Mal](#), overran the Mughal garrison at Agra and plundered the city taking with them the two great silver doors of the entrance of the famous [Taj Mahal](#) which were then melted down by Suraj Mal in 1763.^[56]

Over the years, the Mughals began to have internal disputes which greatly distracted them at times. The Mughal Empire continued to weaken, and with the decline of the Mughal Empire in the late 18th century, [Rajputana](#) came under the influence of the [Marathas](#). The Maratha Empire, which had replaced the Mughal Empire as the overlord of the subcontinent, was finally replaced by the [British Empire](#) in 1818.^[57]

In the 19th century, the Rajput kingdoms were exhausted, they had been drained financially and in manpower after continuous wars and due to heavy tributes exacted by the [Maratha Empire](#). To save their kingdoms from instability, rebellions and banditry the Rajput kings concluded treaties with the British in the early 19th century, accepting British [suzerainty](#) and control over their external affairs in return for internal autonomy.^[58]



[Rana Kumbha](#) was the vanguard of the fifteenth century Rajput resurgence.^[59]



The emperor [Hemu](#), who rose from obscurity and briefly established himself as ruler in northern India, from Punjab to Bengal, in defiance of the warring [Sur](#) and [Mughal Empires](#).



Durgadas Rathore, a Rathore Rajput warrior of [Jodhpur](#) who played an important role in protecting the [Rathore dynasty](#) of [Marwar](#) and for his rebellion against [Aurangzeb](#).



[Maharana Pratap Singh](#), sixteenth-century Rajput ruler of [Mewar](#), known for his defence of his realm against Mughal invasion.



[Suraj Mal](#) was ruler of [Bharatpur](#). Some contemporary historians described him as "the [Plato](#) of the [Jat people](#)" and by a modern writer as the "Jat [Odysseus](#)", because of his political sagacity, steady intellect and clear vision.^[60]

Modern era

[List of palaces in Rajasthan](#)

The State of Rajasthan was formed on 30 March 1949 when the states of the [Rajputana Agency](#)^[61] of the erstwhile [British Empire in India](#) were merged into the new [Indian Union](#). Modern Rajasthan includes most of [Rajputana](#), which comprises the erstwhile nineteen [princely states](#), three chiefships, and the British district of [Ajmer-Merwara](#).^[62] [Jaisalmer](#), [Marwar](#) (Jodhpur), [Bikaner](#), [Mewar](#) (Chittorgarh), [Alwar](#) and [Dhundhar](#) (Jaipur) were some of the main Rajput princely states. [Bharatpur](#) and [Dholpur](#) were Jat princely states whereas [Tonk](#) was a princely state under [Pathans](#). The three chiefships were Lawa, Neemrana and Kushalgarh.^[63]

Geography

[Climate of Rajasthan](#)

The geographic features of Rajasthan are the [Thar Desert](#) and the [Aravalli Range](#), which runs through the state from southwest to northeast, almost from one end to the other, for more than 850 kilometres (530 mi).^[64] [Mount Abu](#) lies at the southwestern end of the range, separated from the main ranges by the [West Banas River](#).^[65] Although a series of broken ridges continues into [Haryana](#) in the direction of [Delhi](#) where it can be seen as outcrops in the form of the [Raisina Hill](#) and the ridges farther north. About three-fifths of Rajasthan lies northwest of the Aravallis, leaving two-fifths on the east and south direction.



[Mount Abu](#).

The Aravalli Range runs across the state from the southwest peak [Guru Shikhar](#) (Mount Abu), which is 1,722 metres (5,650 ft) in height, to [Khetri](#) in the northeast.^[66] This range divides the state into 60% in the northwest of the range and 40% in the southeast. The northwest tract is sandy and unproductive with little water but improves gradually from desert land in the far west and northwest to comparatively fertile and habitable land towards the east. The south-eastern area, higher in elevation (100 to 350 m above sea level) and more fertile, has a very diversified topography. In the south lies the hilly tract of Mewar. In the southeast, a large area within the districts of [Kota](#) and [Bundi](#) forms a tableland.^[66] To the northeast of these districts is a rugged region (badlands) following the line of the [Chambal River](#). Farther north the country levels out; the flat plains of the northeastern [Bharatpur district](#) are part of an [alluvial](#) basin. [Merta City](#) lies in the geographical center of Rajasthan.^[66]

The Aravalli Range and the lands to the east and southeast of the range are generally more fertile and better watered. This region is home to the [Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests](#) ecoregion, with [tropical dry broadleaf forests](#) that include [teak](#), [Acacia](#), and other trees. The hilly [Vagad](#) region, home to the cities of [Dungarpur](#), [Pratapgarh](#), and [Banswara](#) lies in southernmost Rajasthan, on the border with Gujarat and [Madhya Pradesh](#). With the exception of Mount Abu, Vagad is the wettest region in Rajasthan, and the most heavily forested. North of Vagad lies the [Mewar](#) region, home to the cities of [Udaipur](#) and [Chittaurgarh](#). The [Hadoti](#) region lies to the southeast, on the border with Madhya Pradesh. North of Hadoti and Mewar lies the [Dhundhar](#) region, home to the state capital of [Jaipur](#). [Mewat](#), the easternmost region of Rajasthan, borders [Haryana](#) and [Uttar Pradesh](#). Eastern and southeastern Rajasthan is drained by the [Banas](#) and [Chambal](#) rivers, tributaries of the [Ganges](#).

The northwestern portion of Rajasthan is generally sandy and dry. Most of this region is covered by the [Thar Desert](#) which extends into adjoining portions of Pakistan. The Aravalli Range does not intercept the moisture-giving southwest [monsoon](#) winds off the [Arabian Sea](#), as it lies in a direction parallel to that of the coming monsoon winds, leaving the northwestern region in a [rain shadow](#). The Thar Desert is thinly populated; the City of [Jodhpur](#) is the largest city in the desert

and a major metropolitan area of India which is known as the gateway of the Thar desert. The desert has some major districts like [Jodhpur](#), Jaisalmer, Barmer, [Bikaner](#), and [Nagaur](#). This area is also important from a defence point of view. [Jodhpur](#) airbase is one of the largest airbases in India, BSF and Military bases are also situated here. Currently four civil airports are located here: Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Nagaur, of which Jodhpur is the major civil airport, being the 44th busiest airport in India and one of the oldest air strips of India, being built in the 1920s.

The [Northwestern thorn scrub forests](#) lie in a band around the Thar Desert, between the desert and the Aravallis. This region receives less than 400 mm of rain annually. Temperatures can sometimes exceed 45 °C in the summer months and drop below freezing point in the winter. The [Godwar](#), [Marwar](#), and [Shekhawati regions](#) lie in the thorn scrub forest zone, along with the city of Jodhpur. The [Luni River](#) and its tributaries are the major river system of Godwar and Marwar regions, draining the western slopes of the Aravallis and emptying southwest into the great [Rann of Kutch](#) wetland in neighbouring [Gujarat](#). This river is saline in the lower reaches and remains potable only up to Balotara in [Barmer district](#). The [Ghagggar River](#), which originates in [Haryana](#), is an intermittent stream that disappears into the sands of the Thar Desert in the northern corner of the state and is seen as a remnant of the primitive [Sarasvati river](#).



[Mount Abu](#) is a popular hill station in Rajasthan.



The [Thar Desert](#) near [Jaisalmer](#).



Aerial view Udaipur and Aravali hills.

Flora and fauna

: [Wildlife of Rajasthan](#)

State symbols of Rajasthan

Formation day 1 November

State animal [Chinkara](#)^[67] and [camel](#)^[68]

State bird [Godavan \(great Indian bustard\)](#)^[67]

State flower [Rohida](#)^[67]

State tree



The [great Indian bustard](#) has been classed as [critically endangered](#) since 2011

The [Desert National Park](#) in [Jaisalmer](#), spread over an area of 3,162 square kilometres (1,221 sq mi), is an excellent example of the [ecosystem](#) of the Thar Desert and its diverse [fauna](#).^[69] Seashells and massive [fossilised](#) tree trunks in this park record the geological history of the desert. The region is a haven for [migratory](#) and resident birds of the desert. One can see many [eagles](#), [harriers](#), [falcons](#), [buzzards](#), [kestrels](#) and [vultures](#). [Short-toed snake eagles](#) (*Circaetus gallicus*), [tawny eagles](#) (*Aquila rapax*), [spotted eagles](#) (*Aquila clanga*), [laggar falcons](#) (*Falco jugger*) and kestrels are some of the raptor species seen in Desert National Park. Road traffic inside the Park is, however, a threat to several wild species of the park with several species of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals reported to have died as roadkill.^[70]

The [Ranthambore National Park](#) located in [Sawai Madhopur](#),^[71] one of the well known tiger reserves in the country, became a part of [Project Tiger](#) in 1973.

[Tal Chhapar Sanctuary](#) is a very small sanctuary in [Sujangarh](#), [Churu District](#), 210 kilometres (130 mi) from [Jaipur](#) in the [Shekhawati](#) region. This sanctuary is home to a large population of [blackbuck](#), [Desert foxes](#) and the [caracal](#), an [apex predator](#), also known as the *desert lynx*, can also be spotted, along with birds such as the [partridge](#), [harriers](#), [eastern imperial eagle](#), [pale harrier](#), [marsh harrier](#), [short-toed eagle](#), [tawny eagle](#), [sparrow hawk](#), [crested lark](#), [demoiselle crane](#), [skylarks](#), [green bee-eater](#), [brown dove](#), [black ibis](#), and [sand grouse](#).^[72] The [great Indian bustard](#), known locally as the *godavan*, and which is a state bird, has been classed as critically endangered since 2011.^[73]

Wildlife protection



Reclining tiger, [Ranthambore National Park](#)

Rajasthan is also noted for its national parks and [wildlife](#) sanctuaries. There are four national parks and wildlife sanctuaries: [Keoladeo National Park](#) of [Bharatpur](#), [Sariska Tiger Reserve](#) of Alwar, [Ranthambore National Park](#) of [Sawai Madhopur](#), and [Desert National Park](#) of Jaisalmer.

A national-level institute, [Arid Forest Research Institute](#) (AFRI) an autonomous institute of the ministry of forestry is situated in Jodhpur and continuously works on desert flora and their conservation.

[Ranthambore National Park](#) is 7 km from [Sawai Madhopur](#) Railway Station. It is known worldwide for its tiger population and is considered by both wilderness lovers and photographers as one of the best places in India to spot tigers. At one point, due to poaching and negligence, tigers became extinct at Sariska, but five tigers have been relocated there.^[74] Prominent among the wildlife sanctuaries are [Mount Abu](#) Sanctuary, Bhensrod Garh Sanctuary, [Darrah Sanctuary](#), Jaisamand Sanctuary, [Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary](#), Jawahar Sagar Sanctuary, and Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary.

Governance and administration

: [Politics of Rajasthan](#), [Government of Rajasthan](#), and [Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan](#)



Rajasthan Legislative Assembly

The state is governed by a parliamentary system of representative democracy. The governor serves as the state's constitutional leader, whereas the [chief minister](#) assumes the role of both the head of the government and the head of the council of ministers. The [Legislative Assembly](#) consists of 200 members who are elected for five-year terms. The state contributes 25 seats to [Lok Sabha](#), the lower house of the Indian Parliament, and 10 seats to [Rajya Sabha](#), the upper house.^{[75][76]}

The [Government of Rajasthan](#) is a democratically elected body in India with the governor as its constitutional head. [Governor](#) is appointed by the [President of India](#) for a five-year term. The leader of the party or coalition with a majority in the Legislative Assembly is appointed as the chief minister by the governor, and the council of ministers are appointed by the governor on the advice of the [chief minister](#). The governor remains a ceremonial head of the state, while the chief minister and his council are responsible for day-to-day government functions. The council of ministers consists of [Cabinet Ministers](#), [Ministers of State](#) (MoS) and Deputy Ministers. The Secretariat headed by the Chief Secretary assists the council of ministers. The [Chief Secretary](#) is also the administrative head of the government. Each government department is headed by a minister, who is assisted by an [Additional Chief Secretary](#) or a Principal Secretary, who is usually an officer of [Indian Administrative Service](#) (IAS), the Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary serve as the administrative head of the department they are assigned to. Each department also has officers of the rank of Secretary, Special Secretary, Joint Secretary etc. assisting the Minister and the Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary.

For the administration purpose, the state is divided into 10 divisions and 50 districts. [Divisional Commissioner](#), is the head of administration on the divisional level.^[77] The administration in each district is headed by a District Magistrate/District Collector, who is also an IAS officer, and is

assisted by a number of officers belonging to [Rajasthan Administrative Services](#). In Rajasthan, the police force is led by an IPS officer holding the position of [Director General of Police](#). Each district is supervised by a [Superintendent of Police](#), also an IPS officer, who is supported by officers from the Rajasthan Police Services. Their primary responsibility involves maintaining law and order and addressing relevant issues within their respective districts. The management of forests, environment, and wildlife in the district is overseen by the [Divisional Forest Officer](#), who is a member of the [Indian Forest Service](#). This responsibility is carried out with the assistance of officers from the Rajasthan Forest Service and Rajasthan Subordinate Service.



Rajasthan High Court

Rajasthan has its [High court](#) Jodhpur which has its principal seat at [Jodhpur](#) and a bench at [Jaipur](#), with district courts and session courts in each district or Sessions Division, and lower courts at the tehsil level.^[78] The president of India appoints the chief justice of the High Court of Rajasthan judiciary on the advice of the [Chief Justice](#) of the [Supreme Court of India](#) as well as the governor of Rajasthan. In Rajasthan, the Subordinate Judicial Service is an essential component of the state's judiciary, and it is divided into two categories: the Rajasthan Civil Judicial Services and the Rajasthan Higher Judicial Service.^[79] The former includes Civil Judges (Junior Division)/Judicial Magistrates and Civil Judges (Senior Division)/Chief Judicial Magistrate. On the other hand, the latter consists of Civil and Sessions Judges. The [District Judge](#) has control over the Subordinate Judicial Service in Rajasthan.

The politics of Rajasthan has mainly been dominated mainly by the [Bharatiya Janata Party](#) and the [Indian National Congress](#).

Chief Secretary Of Rajasthan is [Usha Sharma](#)^[80] and Director General of Police or DGP of Rajasthan is Umesh Mishra.^[81]

Divisions, districts and cities

Main article: [Districts of Rajasthan](#)



Districts of Rajasthan



Lake

[Palace](#) and [Jag Mandir](#) from a distance, [Lake Pichola](#), Udaipur.



Modern Jodhpur skyline

Rajasthan is composed of the following geographical regions:

1. [Ajmer State](#)
2. [Bagar](#)
3. [Hadoti](#)
4. [Dhundhar](#)
5. [Gorwar](#)
6. [Shekhawati](#)
7. [Mewar](#)
8. [Marwar](#)
9. [Vagad](#)
10. [Mewat](#)

Rajasthan is divided into 50 districts within Ten [divisions](#):

Division

Districts

Jaipur	Jaipur
	Jaipur Gramin
	Alwar
	Khairtal
	Dausa
	Dudu
Jodhpur	Kotputli-Bahroad
	Barmer
	Jaisalmer
	Phalodi
	Jodhpur
Ajmer	Jodhpur Gramin
	Balotara
	Ajmer
	Beawar

<u>Division</u>	<u>Districts</u>
-----------------	------------------

	Nagaur Tonk Shahpura Kekadi Deedwana-Kuchaman
Udaipur	Udaipur Salumbar Chittorgarh Bhilwara Rajsamand
Bikaner	Bikaner Anupgarh Sri Ganganagar Hanumangarh
Kota	Baran Bundi Jhalawar Kota
Bharatpur	Bharatpur Dholpur Karauli Sawai Madhopur Deeg Gangapur
Sikar	Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Neem ka thana, Churu
Pali	Pali, Sirohi, Jalore, Sanchore
Banswara	Banswara, Dungarpur , Pratappgarh

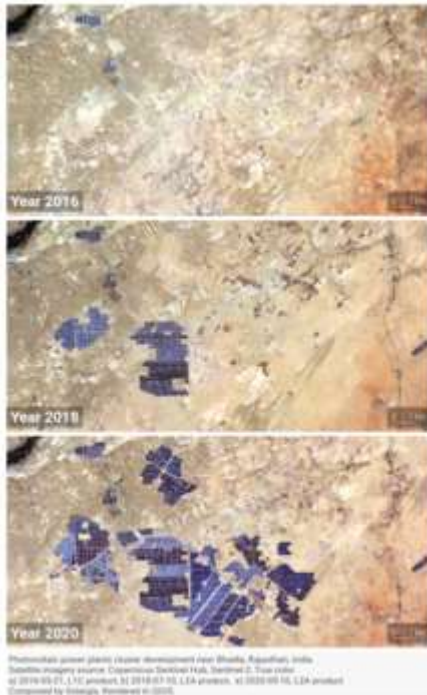
A [district collector](#) or [district magistrate](#), who is appointed by either the [Indian Administrative Service](#) or the [Rajasthan Public Service Commission](#), governs each district. Subdivisions (Tehsils) are responsible for governing districts and are overseen by sub-divisional magistrates. Additionally, districts are further divided into blocks. A block consists of panchayats (village councils) and town municipalities. Tehsils are intermediate level panchayat between the [Zilla Parishad](#) (district councils) at the district level and gram panchayat (village councils) at the lower level. Rajasthan has 5 cities with over one million population. The absolute urban population of the state is 17.4 million, which constitutes 24.87% of the total urban population of the state. There are 10 [municipal corporations](#), 34 [municipal councils](#) and 172 municipal boards or [nagar pachayats](#) in the state. [Jaipur](#), [Jodhpur](#), and [Kota](#) have two municipal corporations each since October 2019, as their populations have exceeded 1 million.^[82]

Communication

Major internet service provider (ISP) and telecom companies are present in Rajasthan including [Vodafone Idea](#), [BSNL](#), [Airtel](#), [Jio](#), [Data Infosys Limited](#), [RailTel Corporation of India](#), [Software Technology Parks of India](#) (STPI). Data Infosys was the first ISP to bring the

internet to Rajasthan in April 1999^[83] and [OASIS](#) was the first private mobile telephone company.

: [Economy of Rajasthan](#)



Timeline of the [Bhadla Solar Park](#) (India) development, the World's largest photovoltaic power plants cluster in 2020

Rajasthan's economy is primarily agricultural and [pastoral](#). Wheat and [barley](#) are cultivated over large areas, as are [pulses](#), [sugarcane](#), and [oilseeds](#). Cotton and tobacco are the state's cash crops. Rajasthan is among the largest producers of [edible oils](#) in India and the second-largest producer of [oilseeds](#). Rajasthan is also the biggest [wool](#)-producing state in India and the main [opium](#) producer and consumer. There are mainly two crop seasons. The water for irrigation comes from wells and tanks. The [Indira Gandhi Canal](#) irrigates northwestern Rajasthan.



Wind turbines near Bada Bagh, Rajasthan.

The main industries are mineral based, agriculture-based, and [textile](#) based. Rajasthan is the second-largest producer of [polyester](#) fibre in India. Several prominent chemical and engineering companies are located in the city of [Kota](#), in southern Rajasthan. Rajasthan is pre-eminent in [quarrying](#) and mining in India. The [Taj Mahal](#) was built from white marble which was mined from a town called [Makrana](#). The state is the second-largest source of cement in India. It has rich salt deposits at [Sambhar](#), copper mines at [Khetri](#), [Jhunjhunu](#), and [zinc](#) mines at Dariba, Zawar mines and Rampura Agucha (opencast) near [Bhilwara](#). Dimensional stone mining is also undertaken in Rajasthan. Jodhpur [sandstone](#) is mostly used in monuments, important buildings, and residential buildings. This stone is termed as *Chittar Patthar*. Jodhpur leads in

the [handicraft](#) and [guar gum](#) industries. Rajasthan is also a part of the Mumbai-Delhi Industrial corridor set to benefit economically. The state gets 39% of the DMIC, with major districts of Jaipur, Alwar, Kota and Bhilwara benefiting.^[84]

Rajasthan also has reserves of low-silica limestone.^[85]

Rajasthan connected 100% of its population to electricity power in 2019 (raising the rate of electricity access from 71% of the population in 2015).^[86] The renewable energy sector plays the most important role in the increase of generation capacities, with the main focus on [solar energy](#). In 2020, [Bhadla Solar Park](#) was recognised as the largest cluster of [photovoltaic power plants](#) in a single region in the world, with the installed power exceeding the 2.2 gigawatt peak.

Transportation

[Jaipur International Airport](#) (JAI) in Jaipur, is the state's largest, busiest and only international airport. Jaipur International Airport offers international service to [Dubai](#), [Bangkok](#), [Sharjah](#) and [Muscat](#). There are five civilian airports in Rajasthan including [Jodhpur Airport](#), [Udaipur Airport](#), [Ajmer Airport](#), [Bikaner Airport](#) and [Jaisalmer Airport](#).^[87] Domestic airports are operated by the [Airports Authority of India](#) (AAI) and shares its airside with the Indian Air Force. These airports connect Rajasthan with the major cities of India such as Mumbai, [Kolkata](#), [Hyderabad](#), [Chennai](#) and [Bangalore](#).

[Railways](#) length in the state constitute 8.66 per cent of all India route length. [Jaipur Junction](#) is the headquarters of the [North Western Railway](#).^[88] Jaipur, [Ajmer](#), [Bikaner](#) are the busiest railway stations in the state. [Kota](#) is the only electrified section served by three Rajdhani Expresses and trains to all major cities of India. [Jaipur Superfast Express](#), fastest train under [Superfast](#) category of trains; connects the finance capital of India [Mumbai](#) to Jaipur. [Luxury tourist train Maharajas' Express](#) runs across North-West and Central India, mainly centered on Rajasthan. There is also an international railway, the [Thar Express](#) from [Jodhpur](#) (India) to [Karachi](#) (Pakistan). However, this is not open to foreign nationals. [Jaipur Metro](#) is the metro rail system in the city of Jaipur. It is the only metro rail system in Rajasthan and has been operational since 3 June 2015. It is the first metro in India to run on triple-storey elevated road and metro track.

The state is served by a substantial road network, providing links between urban centers, agricultural market-places and rural areas. There are 33 [national highways](#) (NH) in the state, covering a total distance of 10,004.14 km (6,216.28 mi).^[89] The state has a total road length of 269,028 km (167,166 mi). The [Department of Public Works](#) is responsible for maintaining and expanding the [state highways](#) system and major district roads. [Jaipur–Kishangarh Expressway](#) forms a segment of the [NH-8](#) which is a part of the [Golden Quadrilateral](#) project. [Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation](#) (RSRTC) was established in 1964 to provide economical and reliable passenger road transport service in the state with connecting services to adjoining states.^[90] For travelling locally, the state, like most of the country, has [auto rickshaws](#) and [cycle rickshaws](#). Average speed on state highways varies between 50 and 60 kilometres per hour (31–37 mph) due to the heavy presence of vehicles; in villages and towns, speeds are as low as 25–30 km/h (16–19 mph).^[91]



[Jaipur International Airport](#)



Maharajah's Express dining saloon



The [Jaipur Metro](#) is an important urban transportation link



[NH 8](#) between [Udaipur](#) and [Ahmedabad](#)

Demographics [List of people from Rajasthan](#)

Historical population		
Year	Pop.	±% p.a.
1901	10,294,090	—
1911	10,983,509	+0.65%
1921	10,292,648	−0.65%
1931	11,747,974	+1.33%
1941	13,863,859	+1.67%
1951	15,970,774	+1.42%
1961	20,155,602	+2.35%
1971	25,765,806	+2.49%
1981	34,261,862	+2.89%
1991	44,005,990	+2.53%
2001	56,507,188	+2.53%
2011	68,548,437	+1.95%

Religion in Rajasthan (2011)^[93]

[Hinduism](#) (88.50%)

[Islam](#) (9.07%)

[Sikhism](#) (1.27%)

[Jainism](#) (0.91%)

[Christianity](#) (0.14%)

[Buddhism](#) (0.02%)

Other religions (0.10%)

According to the [2011 Census of India](#), Rajasthan has a total population of 68,548,437.^[5] The state contributes to 5.66% of India's population. The population density is 201 people per square kilometre. The [sex ratio](#) in 2011, at 928 women to 1000 men, was lower than the national figure of 943. The native [Rajasthani people](#) make up the majority of the state's population. The state of Rajasthan is also populated by [Sindhis](#), who came to Rajasthan from [Sindh province](#) (now in [Pakistan](#)) during the India-Pakistan separation in 1947. As for religion, Rajasthan's residents are mainly [Hindus](#), who account for 88.49% of the population. [Muslims](#) make up 9.07%, [Sikhs](#) 1.27% and [Jains](#) 0.91% of the population.^[94]

Brahmins, according to [Outlook](#) constituted 8% to 10% of the population of Rajasthan as per a 2003 report, but only 7% in a 2007 report.^{[95][96]} According to a 2007 [DNA India](#) report, 12.5% of the state are Brahmins.^[97] According to a report by [Moneycontrol.com](#) at the time of [2018 Rajasthan Legislative Assembly election](#), the [Scheduled Caste](#) (SC) population was 18%, [Scheduled Tribe](#) (ST) was 13%, [Jats](#) 12%, [Gurjars](#) and [Rajputs](#) 9% each, [Brahmins](#) and [Meenas](#) 7% each.^[98] A [Hindustan Times](#) report from 2019 also agrees to the total ST population of 13%, of which [Meenas](#) constitute the biggest group at 7%.^[99] According to a [Deutsche Welle](#) report, the Jats constitute 12–15% of the population of Rajasthan, followed by Meenas with 10% and Gurjars with 6%.^[100] While as per a 2007 [BBC Hindi](#) report, Meenas were 14% and Gurjars were 4% of the state's population.^[101]

Largest cities of Rajasthan by population

City	Population
Jaipur	3,073,349
Jodhpur	1,138,300
Kota	1,001,694
Bikaner	647,804
Aimer	551,101
Udaipur	474,531
Bhilwara	360,009
Alwar	341,422
Bharatpur	252,838
Sri	249,914

Language

Languages of Rajasthan (2011)^[102]

Rajasthani	(36.88%)
Hindi	(27.34%)
Marwari	(9.05%)
Mewari	(6.1%)
Wagdi	(5.54%)
Hadauti	(4.29%)
Dhundari	(2.15%)
Punjabi	(1.68%)
Braj Bhasha	(1.19%)
Bagri	(1.03%)
Others	(4.75%)

[Hindi](#) is the official language of the state, while [English](#) is the additional official language.^[15]

The languages of Rajasthan primarily belong to the [Rajasthani group](#) of [Indo-Aryan languages](#), which most people regard as their own language. In the north are dialects of [Punjabi](#) and [Bagri](#), which is a transition between Rajasthani and Punjabi. In the northeast [Shekhawati](#) and [Dhundari](#) are spoken which gradually merge with [Haryanvi](#). In the east [Mewati](#) is spoken in the [Mewat region](#), while in the far east [Braj](#) is spoken.^[103] To the southeast Haryanvi is spoken. To the west in the heart of the Thar Desert [Marwari](#) is spoken, which merges to [Gujarati](#) in the southwest. In the south, in the [Mewar](#) region, [Mewari](#) is spoken, while in the hills of [Wagad](#), [Wagdi](#), a [Bhil language](#), is spoken. Many speakers of Rajasthani languages refer to their language as Hindi, and Standard Hindi is the medium of education and is common in cities. [Urdu](#) is also common in cities although the vast majority of Muslims speak one of the Rajasthani languages as their first language. [Sindhi](#) is also common in the cities and along the border with Sindh in Pakistan where [Dhatki](#), a transition between Marwari and Sindhi, is the main dialect on both sides of the border.^[citation needed]

The languages taught under the [three-language formula](#) are:^[104]

- First language: Hindi
- Second language: English
- Third language: Gujarati, Punjabi, [Sanskrit](#), Sindhi or Urdu

Culture [Culture of Rajasthan](#)

Food



Rajasthani food

[Rajasthani cooking](#) was influenced by both the war-like lifestyles of its inhabitants and the availability of ingredients in this arid region. Food that could last for several days and could be eaten without heating was preferred. Thus, pickles of Rajasthan are quite famous for their tangy and spicy flavour. The *Panchkuta* delicacy is also a famous one – meaning 5 vegetables – a dish that lasts for several days, and is made out of certain weed plants that only grow in the wild desert. The scarcity of water and fresh green vegetables have all had their effect on cooking. It is known for its snacks like [Bikaneri Bhujia](#).^[105] Other famous dishes include *bajre ki roti* (millet bread) and *lahsun ki chutney* (hot garlic paste), *mawa kachori* [Mirchi Bada](#), [Pyaj Kachori](#) and [ghevar](#) from Jodhpur, [Alwar](#) ka Mawa (milk cake),^[106] *Kadhi kachori* from Ajmer, *Malpua* from Pushkar, Daal [kachori](#) (Kota kachori) from Kota and rassgullas from Bikaner.^[107] Originating from the [Marwar](#) region of the state is the concept of [Marwari Bhojnalaya](#) or vegetarian restaurants, today found in many parts of India, which offer vegetarian food popular among [Marwari people](#). Ghee is an essential ingredient in most Rajasthani cuisines, and dollops of ghee are poured over food as a welcoming gesture for guests.



Dal Bati Choorma, a traditional Rajasthani Dish

[Dal-baati-churma](#) is very popular in Rajasthan. The traditional way to serve it is to first coarsely mash the baati, and then pour pure ghee on top of it. It is served with daal (lentils) and spicy garlic chutney; it is also served with besan (gram flour) ki kadi. It is commonly served at all festivities, including religious occasions, wedding ceremonies, and birthday parties in Rajasthan.^[108]

Music and dance

The [Ghoomar](#) dance from Jaipur, Jodhpur, and [Kalbelia](#) of the Kalbelia tribe has gained international recognition.^[109] Folk music is a large part of the Rajasthani culture.

The [Manganiyar](#), [Meena](#) and [Langa](#) communities from Rajasthan are notable for their folk music. [Kathputli](#), [Bhopa](#), Chang, Teratali, Ghindr, [Gair dance](#), Kachchhi Ghori, and [Tejaji](#) are examples of traditional Rajasthani culture.^[110] Folk songs are commonly ballads that relate heroic deeds and love stories; and religious or devotional songs known as *bhajans* and *banis* which are often accompanied by musical instruments like [dholak](#), [sitar](#), and [sarangi](#) are also sung.

Art

Rajasthan is known for its traditional, colourful art. The block prints, tie and dye prints, [gota patti](#) (main), Bagaru prints, Sanganer prints, and [Zari](#) embroidery are major export products from Rajasthan. Handicraft items like wooden furniture and crafts, carpets, and blue pottery are commonly found here.^[111] Shopping reflects the colourful culture, Rajasthani clothes have a lot of mirror work and embroidery. Traditional Rajasthani dress for females consists of an ankle-length skirt and a short top, known as [chaniya choli](#).^[112] A piece of cloth is used to cover the head, both for protection from heat and maintenance of modesty. Rajasthani dresses are usually designed in bright colours such as blue, yellow, and orange.

Education

See also: [List of institutions of higher education in Rajasthan](#) and [University of Rajasthan](#)



NIIT University in Neemrana, Rajasthan

In recent years, Rajasthan has worked on improving education. The state government has been making sustained efforts to raise the education standard.

Schools in the state are either managed by the government or by private trusts. The medium of instruction in most of the schools is mainly English, or Hindi. Under the [10+2+3 plan](#), after completing secondary school, students typically enroll for two years in a [junior college](#), also known as pre-university, or in schools with a higher secondary facility affiliated with the [Board of Secondary Education](#) or any central board. Students choose from one of three streams, namely [liberal arts](#), commerce, or science. Upon completing the required coursework, students may enrol in general or professional degree programs. The secondary schools are affiliated with the [Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations](#) (CISCE), the [Central Board for Secondary Education](#) (CBSE), and the [National Institute of Open School](#) (NIOS).

Rajasthan has 52 universities, 26 state funded public universities, 7 [deemed universities](#), an [IIT](#) in Jodhpur, an [IIM](#) in [Udaipur](#), an [NIT](#) in Jaipur, a [National Law University](#) in Jodhpur, and one central and state-run university.^{[113][114]} [Kota](#), is renowned for being a hub for training students in various national-level competitive exams that are necessary for securing admission to engineering and medical colleges across the country. In order to promote a reading culture among the rural population, the state has established new libraries up to the [panchayat](#) level and computerised all public libraries throughout the state, providing modern amenities to readers and subscriber.^[115]

Literacy

In recent decades the [literacy](#) rate of Rajasthan has increased significantly. In 1991, the state's literacy rate was only 38.55% (54.99% male and 20.44% female). In 2001, the literacy rate increased to 60.41% (75.70% male and 43.85% female). This was the highest leap in the percentage of literacy recorded in India (the rise in female literacy being 23%).^[116] At the Census 2011, Rajasthan had a literacy rate of 67.06% (80.51% male and 52.66% female). Although

Rajasthan's literacy rate is below the national average of 74.04% and although its female literacy rate is the lowest in the country, the state has been praised for its efforts and achievements in raising literacy rates.^{[117][118]}

In rural areas of Rajasthan, the literacy rate is 76.16% for males and 45.8% for females. This has been debated across all the party levels, when the governor of Rajasthan set a minimum educational qualification for the village panchayat elections.^{[119][120][121]}

Tourism

: [Tourism in Rajasthan](#)



Man in Rajasthan, [India](#).

Rajasthan attracted a total of 45.9 million domestic and 1.6 million foreign tourists in 2017, which is the tenth highest in terms of domestic visitors and fifth highest in foreign tourists.^[122] The tourism industry in Rajasthan is growing effectively each year and is becoming one of the major income sources for the state government.^[123] Rajasthan is home to many attractions for domestic and foreign travellers, including the forts and palaces of [Jaipur](#), the lakes of [Udaipur](#), the temples of [Rajsamand](#) and [Pali](#), sand dunes of [Jaisalmer](#) and [Bikaner](#), Havelis of [Mandawa](#) and [Fatehpur](#), the wildlife of [Sawai Madhopur](#), the scenery of [Mount Abu](#), the tribes of [Dungarpur](#) and [Banswara](#), and the cattle fair of [Pushkar](#).

Rajasthan is known for its customs, [culture](#), colours, majestic forts, and palaces, [folk dances](#) and music, local festivals, local food, sand dunes, carved temples and [Havelis](#).^[citation needed] Rajasthan's Jaipur [Jantar Mantar](#), [Mehrangarh Fort](#) and [Stepwell](#) of [Jodhpur](#), [Dilwara Temples](#), [Chittor Fort](#), [Lake Palace](#), miniature paintings in [Bundi](#), and numerous city palaces and Havelis are part of the architectural heritage of India. Jaipur, the *Pink City*, is noted for the ancient houses made of a type of sandstone dominated by a pink hue. In Jodhpur, most houses are painted blue.^[124] At [Ajmer](#), there is white marble Bara-dari on the [Anasagar](#) lake and [Soniji Ki Nasiyan](#). [Jain Temples](#) dot Rajasthan from north to south and east to west. [Dilwara Temples](#) of Mount Abu, [Shrinathji](#) Temple of Nathdwara, [Ranakpur Jain temple](#) dedicated to Lord [Adinath](#) in [Pali District](#), Jain temples in the fort complexes of [Chittor](#), Jaisalmer and [Kumbhalgarh](#), [Lodurva](#) Jain temples, [Mirpur Jain Temple](#) of [Sirohi](#), Sarun Mata Temple at [Kotputli](#), Bhandasar and Karni Mata Temple of [Bikaner](#) and [Mandore](#) of [Jodhpur](#) are some of the best examples.^[125] [Keoladeo National Park](#), [Ranthambore National Park](#), [Sariska Tiger Reserve](#), [Tal Chhapar Sanctuary](#), are wildlife attractions of Rajasthan. Mewar festival of Udaipur, [Teej festival](#) and [Gangaur](#) festival in Jaipur, [Desert festival](#) of Jodhpur, Brij Holi of Bharatpur, Matsya festival of Alwar, [Kite festival](#) of Jodhpur, Kolayat fair in Bikaner are some of the most popular fairs and festivals of Rajasthan.



Camel rides in [Thar desert](#)



[Pushkar Lake](#) and Ghat

- [Kalbelia](#), a folk dance popular in Rajasthan



[Demoiselle cranes](#) in [Khichan](#) near [Bikaner](#)



[Hawa Mahal](#), [Jaipur](#)

•



[Amber Fort](#) as seen from the bank of Maatha Lake, Jaigarh Fort on the hills in the background

•



[Nakki Lake, Mount Abu](#)

•



[Mehrangarh Fort](#)

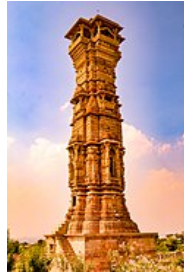
•



Delicate marble carving at [Dilwara Temples](#)



[Lake Palace, Udaipur](#)



Kirti Stambha of [Chittor Fort](#)

Modern historical works written on medieval India have received some criticism from scholars studying the [historiography](#) of the period. E. Sreedharan argues that, from the turn of the century until the 1960s, Indian historians were often motivated by [Indian nationalism](#).^[34] [Peter Hardy](#) notes that the majority of modern historical works on medieval India up until then were written by British and Hindu historians, whereas the work of modern Muslim historians was under-represented.^[35] He argues that some of the modern [Muslim historiography](#) on medieval India at the time was motivated by [Islamic apologetics](#), attempting to justify "the life of medieval Muslims to the modern world."^[36]

[Ram Sharan Sharma](#) has criticised the simplistic manner in which Indian history is often divided into an ancient "Hindu" period, a medieval "Muslim" period, and a modern "British" period. He argues that there is no clear sharp distinction between when the ancient period ended and when the medieval period began, noting dates ranging from the 7th century to the 13th century.^[37]