Module 1 (a): Rajasthan History and Culture

Rasfreenotes Team has bifurcated the Rajasthan history and culture into following subtopics based on their relative importance for RAS Prelims:-

1. Rajasthan : Pre Independence Kingdoms
2. Rajasthan : Language and Dialect
3. Rajasthan : Famous Literature
4. Rajasthan : Major Forts
5. Rajasthan : Main centers for Handicraft
6. Rajasthan : Male Costumes and jewellery
7. Rajasthan : Female Costumes and jewellery
8. Rajasthan : religious systems and their Seats
9. Rajasthan : Unification of Rajasthan in seven stages
10. Rajasthan : Famous Temples and Religious Places
11. Rajasthan : Tribal Communities of Rajasthan
12. Rajasthan : Monuments of Rajasthan
13. Rajasthan : Famous Palaces
14. Rajasthan : History of Mevar
15. Rajasthan : History of Marvar
16. Rajasthan : Rathore of Bikaner
17. Rajasthan : Kachwaha of Amer
18. Rajasthan : Chauhans of Sambhar
19. Rajasthan : Chauhans of Ranthambore
20. Rajasthan : Chauhans of Jalore

Rasfreenotes.in

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 91 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com

21. Rajasthan : Major Historical wars of Rajasthan

22. Rajasthan : Agricultural Movements of Rajasthan

23. Rajasthan : Tribal Movements of Rajasthan

24. Rajasthan : Folk Dances of Rajasthan

25. Rajasthan : Lok Devta and Lok Devi

26. Rajasthan : Famous Kul Deviyan

27. Rajasthan : Fairs of Rajasthan

28. Rajasthan : Festivals of Other Communities

29. Rajasthan : Animal fairs of Rajasthan

30. Rajasthan : Word-bank of rajasthan

31. Rajasthan : Word-bank for Ornaments

32. Rajasthan : Traditions and customs of Marriage

33. Rajasthan : Folk Songs of Rajasthan

34. Rajasthan : Taxes

35. Rajasthan : Freedom struggle and Prajamandals

Rasfreenotes.in

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 91 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com

Rajasthan :Sources of Historical Knowledge of Rajasthan

The advent of men in Rajasthan can claim greater antiquity than many other regions of India. It is a geological fact that the Aravalli ranges are older than the Himalayas. In ancient rive beds and natural rock – shelters of Rajasthan have been discovered fairly early traces of human habitations. Palaeoliths in abundance have been reported from Marwar and Mewar from Marwar and Mewar regions of Rajasthan. Then we have a rich microlithic assemblage at Bagor (Bhilwara District). In fact, the Chambal river-valley, Banas-Berach basin, Luni river basin, rock-shelters of Viratnagar, ancient – lake sites, old river – terraces, and several open air sites from different parts of Rajasthan have yielded palacolithic and microlithic implements, indicating the early activities of man in Rajasthan.

Thereafter we find rich chalcolithic cultures at Ahar (Udaipur), Ganeshwar (Sikar District) and Balathan (Udaipur District). The recently excavated site of Balathal has presented the evidence of a chalolithic village which is earliest (dated to 2500 B.C.) onto only in Rajasthan, but in India.

The banks of the Saraswati river, which flowed through the western part of Rajasthan, became the centers of two early and formative civilizations of India viz. the Indus – Saraswati civilization and the Vedic civilization. Kalibangan (Hanumangarh District) was an important center of Indus - Saraswati civilization in Rajasthan. The Vedic literature mentions the Matsyas and the Salvas as located near the river Saraswati and there is evidence to believe that by the close of the Vedic age Rajasthan had become fully colonized by the Vedic tribes. The relics of Painted Grey ware culture have been reported from the dried- up beds of Saraswati and Drshadvati rivers. We also have evidence of Painted Grey Ware (PGW) from Noh (Bharatpur), Jodhpur (Jaipur), Viratnagar (Jaipur) and Sanari (Jhunjhunu). These sites represent the growth of Iron Age in Rajasthan.

Archaeological Sources

Inscription

Rasfreenotes.in

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 91 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com

The inscriptions serve as a very authentic evidence for the reconstruction of the history and culture of Rajasthan. Not only do thehelp us i n building up the chronology and political history on a firm basis; they also offer reliable pieces of information about the contemporary life and conditions in Rajasthan. Rajasthan is blessed with both Sanskrit and Persian Inscriptions.

Listed below are some of the important inscriptions in Sanskrit reported from Rajasthan.

1. Barli Fragmentary Stone Inscription (5th or 4th century B.C.): This fragmentary inscription was found in the temple of Bhilot Mat a,
   about a mile from the village Barli, situated about 36 miles southeast of Ajmer. The inscription is now preserved in the Ajmer museum. It is engraved on a white stone which formed part of a hexagonal pillar. The characters are Brahmi. The language is P rakrit
   mixed with Sanskrit.
2. Ghosundi Inscription:- Located near chitorgarh, has been broken into pieces, Its written in Sanskrit in Brahmi script.Its dated 2nd Century B.C.
3. Manmori Inscription:-713 AD, Near Chitorgarh, related to Mori dynasty
4. Sareshwar Inscription:- 953 A.D., Udaipur
5. Bijoliya Inscription:- 1170 A.D. , related to Chauhan dynasty
6. Chirve Inscription:- 1273, Udaipur, related to Mewar History.
7. Ranakpur Inscription:-1439 A.D., Mewar history from Bapa to Rana Kumbha.
8. Kirti Stambh inscription:- 1460 AD, By Rana Kumbha after Defeating Gujrat and Malwa forces.
9. Raisingh inscription, 1594 AD , at Bikaner fort, by Naresh Raisingh
10. Amber inscription, 1612 A.D., related to Kachwa rulers of Amber
11. Jagganath inscription:- 1652 A.D., Udaipur, Related to Mewar History for Bappa to Maharana Jagatsingh
12. Rajprashir inscription:- 1676 A.D. , Rajnagar , Largest inscription of nation

Listed below are some of the important inscriptions in Persian reported from Rajasthan.

1. On the wall of Dhai Din ka Jhopra of Ajmer which is 1200 A.D.
2. Dhaibi peer Dargah, Chitorh which is 1325 A.D.
3. Pushkar which is 1615 A.D.

Copper Plate Inscriptions:-

1. Ahard Copper Plate Inscriptions 1206 AD
2. Khareda Copper Plate Inscriptions 1437 AD
3. Chokali Copper Plate Inscriptions 1483 AD
4. Puru Copper Plate Inscriptions 1535 AD

Coins

Coins, though they are small in size, sometimes play a big role in illuminating history not known other sources. They also serve as ancillary evidence for the history known from other sources. Excavations and accidental findings have so far yielded thousands of coins from different parts of Rajasthan.

Rasfreenotes.in

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 91 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com

The earliest coins reported from India are known as 'punch marked coins' which are made of silver and are dated from c. 600 B.C. to 200 B. C. The punching devices of these coins have no inscriptions; instead they have a number of symbols. A very big hoard of punch- marked coins was discovered from Rairh (Tonk District) in Rajasthan. This hoard consisted of 3075 punch – marked coins of silver.

An another significant hoard from Rajasthan is that of Gupta gold coins discovered at Bayana (Bharatpur District). It consists of 1821 gold coins, which add to our knowledge of Gupta period in general. This hoard has furnished valuable information about Gupta currency in particular. It is also indicative of the prosperous conditions prevalent in India during the Gupta period. The artistic designs on these coins revel about the aesthetic sense of the society. Five Gupta coins of silver from Ajmer discovered by Dr. G.H. Ojha and one silver coin of Kumaragupta from Naliasar- Sambhar discovered by Dr. Satya Prakash offer some insight into the religious inclinations and artistic taste of people. On the coin of Kumaragupta – from Naliasar- Sambhar, a peacock as a vehicle of Swami – Kartikeya, has been designed in a very beautiful manner. Six gold coins of Gupta age were discovered from Bairh, a place situated near Rairh in 1962. Some gold coins of Gupta age are also reported to have been discovered from the areas of Jaipur, Ajmer and Mewar, 'dmonastrating the important role the coins played in the economic life of the people during the Gupta age'.

Useful information is also provided by several small hoards of coins issued by various dynasties, tribes and rulers of Rajasthan. Bairat has yielded 28 coins of Indo-Greek rulers, 16 of which belong to Menander. Excavation from Sambhar have yielded many coins which include 6 punch – marked coins of silver, 6 Indo – Sassanian copper coins. Rangamahal has provided several Kushana coins, including some post-Kushana coins. Kshatraps coins are reported from Nagari (Chittorgarh).

A significant number of coins were issued by the republican tribes of Rajasthan. Prominent amongst them are the coins of the Malava tribe. Thousands of copper coins issued by the Malavas have been discovered, mainly from Nagar or Karkota Nagar (Tonk District) and Rairh (Tonk District). The Malava coins from Rajasthan are invariably of copper and a fairly large number of them bear their tribal name. The Malava coins can be put in three categories. The first category of coins bear the legend Malavanam Jayah (i. e. victory to the Malavas). The other two categories of coins consist of those coins which were discovered in association with the Malava coins and resemble the latter in fabric. The coins of second category bear no legend, while those of the third bear enigmatic legends like Gajava, Haraya, Jamaka, Magacha, Masapa, Pachha, Bhapamyana etc. the meaning of these legends is not obvious to

Rasfreenotes.in

PSCNotes free sample: first 5 of 91 pages. Full PDF at pscnotes.com