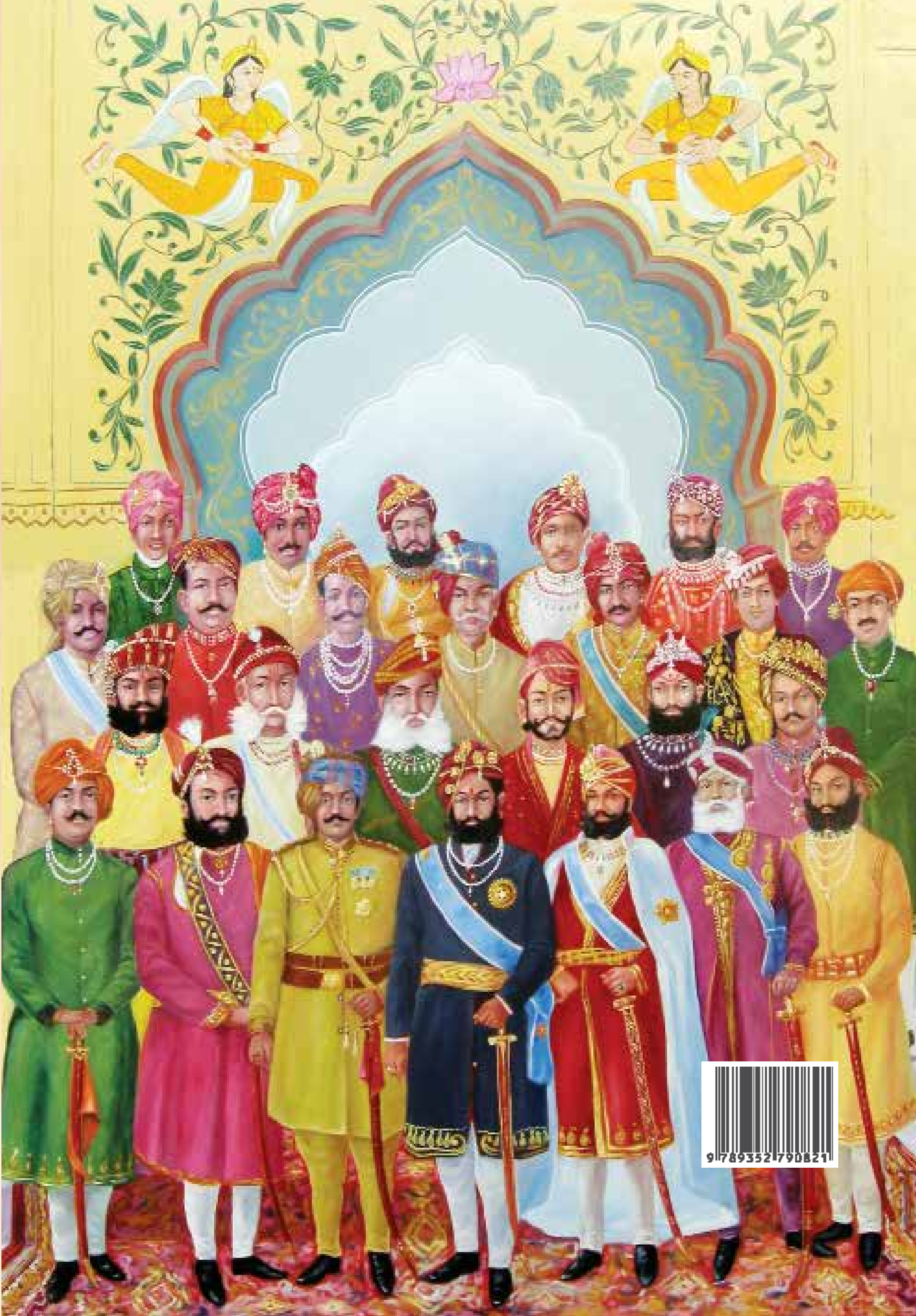


Dr D.K. Taknet is a distinguished business historian and writer. He has undertaken many analytical research studies and been awarded scholarships and fellowships by premier institutions such as the University Grants Commission, Indian Council of Social Sciences Research, New Delhi, and others. He is the author of numerous books which have been widely reviewed, excerpted and serialised in daily newspapers. Enriched with over thirty years of research and teaching, his documentation of Indian industrialists and business houses has resulted from over a thousand interviews with eminent corporate executives and organisations. In addition, he writes extensively for the national and international print media.

An avid traveller, he has participated in a wide range of international seminars and conferences, and is also associated with several prestigious professional and social organisations throughout the world. Recipient of the President's Award, he is currently working on several research projects of national importance. He can be contacted at dktaknet01@gmail.com.

*Back cover caption:* The nobles of Rajputana now called warriors of Rajasthan are well-known, throughout the world, for their spirit of chivalry, valour, loyalty and endurance. The national poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar remarked, "Whenever I tread the soil of Rajasthan – the mother of valiant warriors – I shiver with fear lest I should trample upon the mortal remains of a male or a female warrior." The mothers of this land infuse bravery and patriotism into the hearts of their children right from the time they are in the cradle. No wonder the whole of Rajasthan is replete with examples of unparalleled heroism. But what amazes one is the fact that besides battlefields, the people of Rajasthan have unfurled the banner of triumphant success also in the field of the Indian army, trade, commerce and industry with their indomitable courage and indefatigable spirit.



# Rajasthan

A LAND OF BEAUTY AND BRAVERY

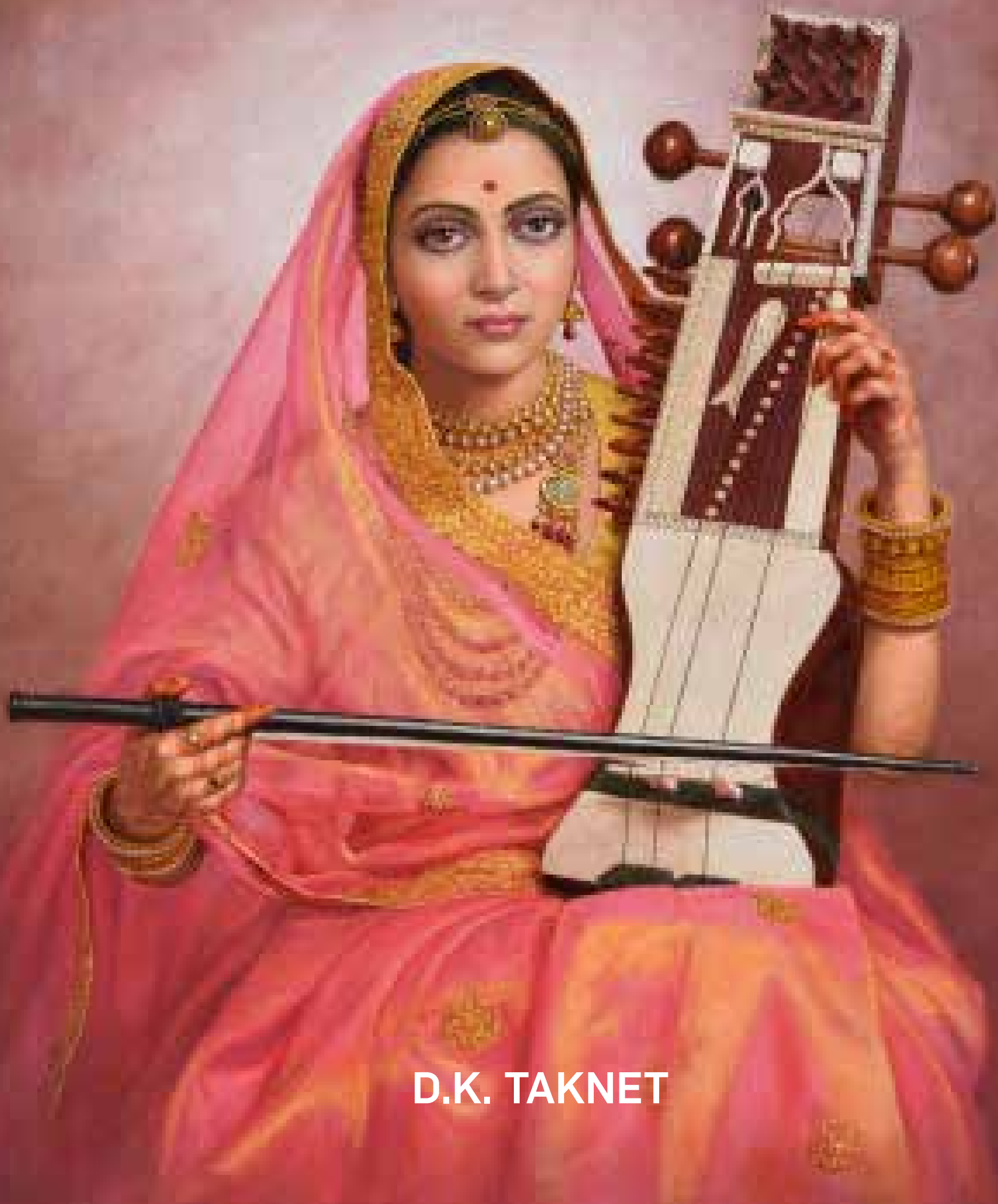
D.K. TAKNET



IIME

# Rajasthan

A LAND OF BEAUTY AND BRAVERY



D.K. TAKNET

Rajasthan, as one of the oldest civilisations in the world, is an exotic symbol of Indian culture which is known for its chivalry, valour, sacrifice, romance, loyalty and perseverance. Its name evokes golden sand dunes of the Thar desert; the architectural splendour of forts, palaces and temples; the ancient Aravalli range; India's largest saline lake, Sambhar; diverse flora and fauna; unique cuisine; brave, sturdy, cheerful and resourceful inhabitants. Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists and Parsis coexist peacefully, in harmony with community celebration and well-being.

Widespread fascination with colours and patterns finds vivid expression on the walls of village houses. The exuberant celebration of traditional festivals manifests in age-old traditions, rituals, sports, and pageantry. Joie de vivre is expressed through dance and music, envelops and brings the desert to life. Rajasthanis have excelled in all the major spheres of life and achieved particular success as entrepreneurs and innovators, given their qualities of tenacity, enthusiasm, grit, drive and sense of mission. The socio-cultural, religious ethos, and the natural geographical terrain have served to strengthen their zest for life.

This book captures some of the lesser known aspects of Rajasthan's past and present, blending the finest aspect of its rich heritage. The state is celebrated for its exquisite miniature paintings, frescoes, fabrics, artefacts and fine jewellery which mirror its creativity. This also finds rich expression in folk music, instruments and musicians. Numerous magnificent temples adorned with intricate carvings and sculpture built over the centuries dot the entire state, making a popular pilgrim resort for people of different faiths.

The Rajasthani story epitomises man's triumph over a harsh desert land. *Rajasthan: A Land of Beauty and Bravery* encapsulates the mystique and uniqueness of the state. This pictorial book comprising 345 pages richly illustrated with over 350 rare, colour photographs, paintings, lithographs, maps, documents, 104 black and white photographs, illustrations and line sketches, published for the first time are calculated to capture the imagination of the discerning reader.

*Front Cover Caption:* A beautiful Rajasthani woman with musical instrument painted by artist Gopal Swami Khetanchi. Who is known for painting petite female figures, Rajput women and Rajasthani village women, as well as adapting classical European paintings to Indian versions. Distinguishing features of his style are uniqueness, delicacy and swiftness of drawing. His works span from romanticism to deep realism.

Beautiful Rajasthan is one of the most attractive and colourful states of India which never ceases to amaze with its old-world charm and magical beauty. It is a land of colours, dances, festivals, rituals, and music. The diverse collection of music of the state has attracted people all over the world. Describing the beauty of this splendid state in a few lines is practically an impossible task. But it reflects in the lifestyle and numerous professions of its inhabitants who are equally known for their indomitable spirit, courage, gallantry and valour. Its historical ballads recited by bards and folk-singers inspire heroism. The brave sons of its soil have always been willing to sacrifice their lives for their motherland. In fact, the beauty of Rajasthan is truly hard to beat.





*Dedication*  
05

*Foreword*  
09

*Introduction*  
11

*Preface*  
13

1 VALOUR, WARS AND HEROES  
16

2 CREATORS OF DESTINY  
86

3 POETRY... IN STONE, CLAY AND ON PAPER  
198

4 THREADS OF LIFE: FAIRS AND FESTIVALS  
266

5 MAGICAL HANDS  
306

6 DESERT ADVENTURE : LURE OF TOURISM  
362



*Rajputs in the Eyes of People*  
426

*Glossary*  
430

*Bibliography*  
437

*Photo Credit*  
444

*Index*  
446







Its history dating back to the Indus Valley Civilisation, 2,500 BC at least, the modern state of Rajasthan was formed on 30 March 1949 when the territory of Rajputana, comprising princely dependencies of the British Raj, merged with free India. This opened a fresh chapter in the annals of the region, characterised till then by its regal heritage, assertive kingdoms, power play and feudal mores. Democratic India's Constitution was based on the ideal of equality, and a quasi-socialist model of development was adopted.

Even so, enclaves of formidable wealth and privilege continued to exist, of old ruling families and the new rich. Among the former were the erstwhile royals and aristocrats of Rajasthan; and among the latter, the thriving business class that was dominated by some prominent families from the Shekhawati region of the state. Though based in other parts of the country and abroad, the Mittals, Birlas, Goenkas, Dalmias, Poddars, and many others retained their ancestral *havelis* and cultural bond with their desert homeland.

Besides being a visual feast, *The Colours of Rajasthan* is a valuable contribution. Generally, coffee table books are rich in visuals but light on content. However, this pictorial book is as serious about bringing out the history of the subjects in depth as it is about tracking rare photographs about them. Undoubtedly, Dr D.K. Taknet's meticulous research deserves congratulations as well as the gratitude of the reader. The rare images, both of the past and the present, offer visual pleasure while the accompanying descriptions make for absorbing reading. And, indeed, it is this ability to cherish the old and blend with the modern that sums up the story of Rajasthan.





Rajasthan is one of the most fascinating states of India and perhaps the richest in terms of cultural heritage. It is also the largest. This magical land of colours is known for its valour, chivalry and romance. It is immensely rich in history, hospitality and natural beauty. The state has unusual diversity in all forms: inhabitants, costumes, traditions, customs, music, dialects, cuisine and environment. Rajasthan always teems with joy and bonhomie that are unique to this part of the country. The natural terrain is simply mesmerising, with the lofty Aravalli Hills — one of the oldest ranges in the world — spreading out, and the golden sand dunes of the great Thar desert undulating gently.

The state is a haven for diverse wildlife and rich variety of flora and fauna. There is a certain magic about travelling through Rajasthan, which is unequalled by any other place in the world. Its past, people, their inherent drive to explore and great potential in the present time fascinates economists, sociologists, anthropologists and historians around the globe.

Dr D.K. Taknet has delved deep into the past and present of Rajasthan in a comprehensible and splendid style. This book delineates not only the contributions of past builders but of present-day leaders and pioneers to continue the constructive tradition of their predecessors. I facilitate Dr Taknet, IIME, a Research Institute and the Department of Tourism for producing this well-written, lucid and informative book about India's most exotic state.





## Preface

Rajasthan, the desert state, is known as the land of the Rajputs, warriors and entrepreneurs, and spread across an area of 3,42,239 square kilometres. The low Aravalli hill acts range as a buffer against the advance of desert sand, and demarcates two distinct regions: one dominated by scrub, thorn and shifting sands, and the other fertile, green and rich in mineral deposits. Discovery of large oil reserves efforts the prospect of a prosperous economic future. The economy is principally agrarin. Rajasthan is bound to the west and north-west by Pakistan; in the north and north-east by Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh; in the east and south-east by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; and in the south-west by Gujarat.

The desert, forests, ravines, wetlands and water systems harbour varied wildlife. A few are endangered species. Forests were conserved by royals. Princely states ruled under central, imperial control. Some kingdoms fragmented into smaller ones, and feuds over ascendancy were common features. The Heritage palaces astound beholders within the walls of invincible forts. The ostentatious lifestyle of erstwhile royalty and rich merchants is juxtaposed with rustic life. Farmers till the parched land and women walk several miles daily to fetch pots of water from streams and ponds. The aggressively martial credo has ceded to the mercantile ethos. Rajasthani merchants today control trade and business and have made a monumental contribution to the industrial development of the country.



Camel Corps of Bikaner, Rajputana Rifles and President's Security guards epitomise the old martial tradition. Rajsthani soldiers have won laurels and honours in the armed forces. Modern modes of communication have made the state easily accessible. Surmounting the harsh terrain, people celebrate life for their love of vibrant colours, festivals, dance, folk music and feasting.

Rajasthan is a haven of hospitality. It abounds with stories of heroism; of eternal love; and of sacrifice. With bursting bazaars, *havelis*, palaces, forts and shrines, wildlife sanctuaries offer exciting excursions to explore during vacations and venues to host business conventions.

IIME's comprehensive and systematic research study bridges the wide chasm that exists in research on this subject. This pictorial book is based on studies from primary and secondary sources. Our team travelled over 2,75,000 kilometres and spent over 1,500 days researching and interviewing over 5,000 people directly or indirectly. People from diverse backgrounds narrated true stories, replete with untapped facts, truths and inspiring anecdotes. The research team diligently poured out approximately 2,25,000 pages of information, apart from data of personal records, memoirs, diaries and ledgers, British gazetteers, census reports, daily newspapers, journals and reports of conventions and conferences that were held periodically.

The Business History Museum (BHM)-IIME, which is a treasure trove of knowledge and literary sources, helped immensely during research. The collection of rare, old and new books and journals on a vast spectrum of subjects enriched the research phenomenally. I acknowledged the competent assistance rendered by various private and public libraries, museums, art collectors and galleries in India and abroad: where mainly the paintings, lithographs, line sketches, maps, illustrations and photographs have been reproduced.

In the course of research, I was confronted with adverse challenges. Geographically, an extensive area had to be

covered and astronomical resources and manpower were required to collect primary and secondary data, along with visuals. I embarked upon the research journey with limited finances at my disposal, primarily with the support of an indefatigable spirit, dedication, enthusiasm and never-give-up attitude, and conviction of my team associates. I owe a debt of gratitude to the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan. There are many samaritans whose names have not appeared here, whose wishes always encouraged me to produce the best. Sincere thanks and appreciation to Jehanara Wasi, an accomplished editor, for her constructive suggestions and punctilious editing of the book. Many thanks to Pankaj Bhatnagar and his team of designers – the understated design lends a timeless elegance to the book.

Finally, I owe a debt of heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to my wife Sujata who is a pillar of strength, patience and motivation. Her painstaking efforts in undertaking art and photo research, and scrupulously examining the manuscript to offer valuable critical suggestions, have enhanced the quality of the book. The infinite love, enthusiasm and youthful spirit of my son Devang has continuously inspired and rejuvenated me afresh. He is truly the wind beneath my wings and I would never have flown without him. I feel blessed that they are an integral part of my life. I believe that the Rajasthanis will continue to play a pivotal role in business and as nation-builders for years to come. The lives of the stalwart Rajsthani personages that have been described in the book will be a beacon of hope and inspiration to the youth of India.

Jaipur

D.K. Taknet





C H A P T E R 1

# Valour, Wars and Heroes





Vistas of sun-drenched desert...one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world, the Aravallis, running from north-east to south-west for over 600 kilometres in precipitous, parallel ridges; and the fertile plains to the east and south-east of the Chambal river, the *annadata* (sustenance-giver)... Rajasthan's destiny bears the stamp of the indelible influence of its topography. Romanticised by bards, artists and historians, the never-say-die ethos of its proud inhabitants has managed, century after century, to transform plaintive cries of suffering, resulting from natural disasters or battles, into songs of glory and legends of valour and patriotism.

Rajputana, now called Rajasthan, is home to one of the oldest civilisations in the world, and is a symbol of Indian culture. Celebrated globally for its ethos of chivalry, courage and romance, its ballads have inspired heroism through centuries. Legends of daredevil sons who sacrificed their lives for their land's honour continue to enthrall people of India. Lt Col James Tod, the author of the monumental work, *Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*, observed: 'There is not a petty state in Rajputana that has not had its Thermopylae, and scarcely a city that has not produced its Leonidas.'

Indeed, Rajasthan conjures up images of a land coloured in crimson by the glint of steel...of men whose footprints on the sands of time have left a legacy that no storm can ever erase...a history



of those whose dedication and undying commitment to a word once given made their challengers tremble and quake. A land of stark beauty, its challenging terrain meant for those who can play for dauntingly high stakes. No wonder then that it takes centre stage in the annals of Indian history. In his book *Discovery of India*, Jawaharlal Nehru observed: 'Among the people of India today none are more typically Indian or prouder of Indian culture and tradition than the Rajputs. Their heroic deeds in the past have become a living part of that very tradition...'

The name Rajasthan evokes enchanting images of golden sand dunes across the Thar desert; splendid forts, palaces and temples; hoary Aravalli hills; Sambhar, the country's largest saline lake; amazing varieties of flora, fauna, brave, sturdy and cheerful people.

## Land of Valiant Warriors

It will be apt here to describe briefly the realm of the Kurus, over which Parikshit ruled. The kingdom, according to the epic *Mahabharat*, stretched from the Saraswati to the Ganga. In the 'Digvijaya-parva' it is said to extend from the border of the land of the Kulindas (near the sources of the Sutlej, Yamuna and Ganga) to that of the Surasenas and Matsya (in the Mathura and Bairat regions); and from the frontier of Rohitaka (Rohtak in present-day Haryana) to the domain of the Panchajas of Rohilkhand. It was divided into three parts: Kurujanganla-Thekuru proper and Kurukshetra. Kurujanjangla, as its name implies, was probably the wild region of the Kuru realm that stretched from the Kamyayaka forest on the banks of the Saraswati to Jhandwa near [samipatah] the Yamuna. The Kuru realm proper was probably located in the region of Hastinapur (beside the Ganga), being identified with a place near Meerut. The boundaries of Kurukshetra are mentioned in *Taittiriya Aranyaka* as being Kandava in the south, Turghna in the north, and Prinnh in the west. The *Mahabharat* gives the following description of Kurukshetra: 'South of Saraswati and north of the Drishadwati, he who lives in Kurukshetra really dwells in heaven. The region that lies between Tarantuka and Marantuka or Arantuka, the lakes of drama and Machakruka, this is Kurukshetra, which is also called Samanta Panchal and the northern sacrificial altar of the grandsire {Brahma}.'

Sourced from *Political History of Ancient India* by Hemchandra Raychaudhuri, Rajasthan is bound in the west and north-west by Pakistan; in the north and north-east by Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh; in the east and south-east by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh; and in the south-west by Gujarat. Historically, Rajasthan was always ruled by princely states, under central, imperial control. Its history has been dominated by valiant warriors and stories of their brave deeds, resulting from a desire to remain independent. The official histories of different ruling families are a litany of leadership qualities and exemplary patterns of gallantry, which percolated to society.



*Top and facing page:* Rajasthan is among the few tropical deserts of the world, possessing the highest population density. The earliest inhabitants of Rajasthan belonged to the Great Harappan Civilisation. Archaeological findings in Luni Basin, Buddha Pushkar, Ahar Valley, Kalibanga, Pilibanga and Sanchoe revealed that early man inhabited this area about 6,000-8,000 years ago. The colourful and exotic state of Rajasthan, spellbinding 'Land of the Kings', epitomised the soul of India. It was the abode of the mighty Rajputs, clans of intrepid warriors who claim descent from the sun, moon and flames of a sacrificial fire, ignited to revive the wandering souls of the ancient 'Kshatriyas'. They claim to be descended from the thirty-six royal Kshatriya clans mentioned in the Puranas and the two Indian epics, the *Mahabharat* and *Ramayan*.





The British were impressed by the militant traits of the Rajputs. Lt Col Tod noted: ‘What nation on earth could have maintained the semblance of civilisation, the spirit or the customs of their forefathers, during so many centuries of overwhelming depression, but one of such singular character as the Rajput...Rajasthan exhibits the sole example in the history of mankind, of a people withstanding every outrage barbarity could inflict or human nature sustain, from a foe whose religion commands annihilation; and bent to the earth, yet rising buoyant from the pressure, making calamity a whetstone to courage... Not an iota of their religion or custom have they lost...’

Paying tribute to this heroic land, India’s acclaimed poet Ramdhari Singh Dinkar remarked: ‘Whenever I tread the soil of Rajasthan—the mother of valiant warriors—I shiver with fear lest I should trample upon the mortal remains of a male or a female warrior.’ Glorified as the land of warrior-begetting mothers, fearlessness and patriotism were said to be infused in the hearts of its youth right from the cradle. No wonder then that heroism was the cornerstone of their lives. Today, Rajputs, Brahmins, Jats, Bishnois, Marwaris, Jains, Kayasths, Bhils, Minas, Garasias, other castes and sub-castes of

this great land stand singularly proud of their respective identities, myths, beliefs and folklore; and collectively support an integrated social and cultural system that has withstood the test of time.

The intriguing reality of Rajasthan vests in its paradoxes and contradictions. While a harsh desert, formidable in its solitary splendour dominates, mountain ranges, lakes, rivers, forests and fields manifest immense beauty. Fairytale palaces astound the beholder within the walls of austere, invincible fortresses. The ostentatious lifestyle of erstwhile royals and rich merchants contrasts sharply with the bleak existence of rural folk, who till the parched land from dawn to dusk for two square meals and walk several miles for a few pots of water. Though the landscape is often devoid of colour, the people who have made it their home have suffused it with myriad hues via clothes, jewellery, artefacts and handicrafts, homes, monuments and even objects of daily use.

### Kalibangan: A Glorious Civilisation

Rajasthan is considered the home of one of the oldest civilisations. Tools identified with the Lower Paleolithic period, dates between c. 5,00,000 and 50,000 before



the present era, have been excavated in the region of the Aravalli hills. The site at Nagari, near modern Chittorgarh, is regarded as one of the richest Paleolithic sites of the region and indeed of India. Similarly, excavations in north and north-western Kalibangan and the surrounding areas; south-eastern areas of Gilund, Aharand and Balathal; and central and north-eastern areas of Ganeshwar bear historical evidence relating to the Middle and Upper Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Chalcolithic periods. The presence of copper-using Chalcolithic cultures has similarly been confirmed.

Archaeological excavations in Kalibangan by A. Ghosh and others led to the finding of Rajasthan. Kalibangan, meaning ‘black bangles’, gets its name from the numerous fragments of weatherbeaten terracotta bangles that were found strewn all over the excavated site. The site of Kalibangan is believed to be a part of the famous Indus Valley Civilisation. The emphasis on detailed town planning is proof of a well-established society. Today, Kalibangan falls within the newly formed Hanumangarh district of the state, where remnants of fortifications, fire altars, paved roads, flooring, painted pottery, terracotta and copper objects have been found.



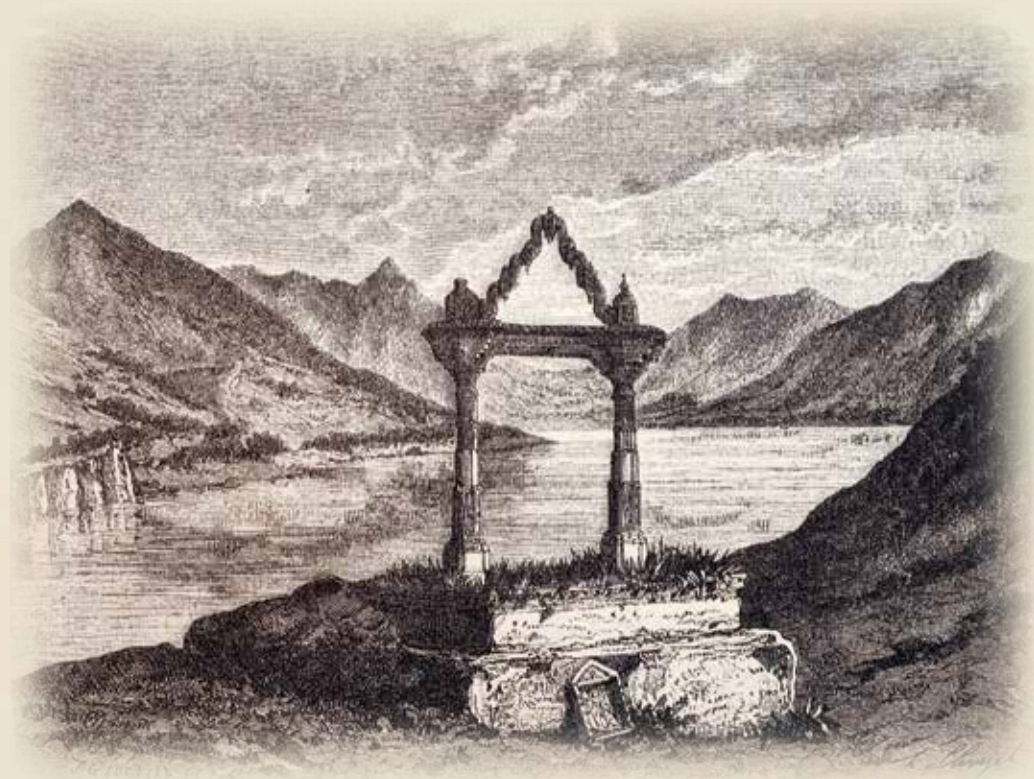
*Top, facing page top and bottom:* Rajput, son of a king; hailed as the Hindu Kshatriya, symbolical of innate courage and daredevil spirit. Rajputs traced their origins to the ancient Kshatriya dynasties of India. The Kshatriya ideal was to always support and sustain the common people. Belonging to three lineages—Suryavanshi (solar race), Chandravanshi (lunar race) and Agnivanshi (fire race)—Rajputs nurtured a martial personality. Rajput kings defeated Muslim forces in the first Battle of Tarain (1191); Battle of Rajasthan (730 CE); Battle of Ranthambore (1299); and Battle of Dholpur (1519). Prithviraj Chauhan, Rao Chhatrasal, Maharana Pratap and the rebel Durgadas Rathore were prominent fighters. The Battle of Haldighati was fought at Haldighati, Rajasthan in 1576 for four hours between the Rana of Mewar, Maharana Pratap and Mughal Emperor Akbar’s forces led by Man Singh I.





*Top and bottom:* The Rajputs rose to prominence during the sixth to twelfth centuries. Royal families of erstwhile kingdoms constructed cenotaphs or *chhatris* over the course of centuries. The *chhatri* literally means an umbrella, and this design was incorporated to build these cenotaphs. Most of these *chhatris* were designed as umbrellas with four pillars in memory of the great kings and queens who ruled their respective kingdoms during the golden period.

Rajasthan is a place of interest to both archaeologists and geologists. Kalibangan and Akal Wood Fossil Park are two important places that attract them the most. Kalibangan was a town situated on the banks of the Ghaggar river, Hanumangarh district, Rajasthan, 205 kilometres from Bikaner. Archaeologists have proved the existence of the Indus Valley Civilisation in the Thar desert on the basis of the remnants of the pre-Harappan and Harappan settlements. The archaeological remnants found at Kalibangan indicate that Rajasthan had once been an important centre of the ceramic industry as the paintings on the pottery found resemble Harappan designs.



Discoveries of the terracotta male head and double-headed human figurine are notable. The male head is a rare representation of the anthropomorphic form of the people of Harappa. Other interesting findings include an animal with a moveable head, an hour glass, a bowl-shaped oval cart's middle part, carinas with five lamps, a rattle ball, a toy cart frame, and a feeder or pipe. Quite outstanding was the discovery of the world's earliest ploughed field that indicates the use of the plough and the method of sowing two types of grains.

In a significant finding in 2006, ruins considered to be older than those of Kalibangan and the Harappan civilisation were excavated in the village of Baror in Ramsinghpur, Sriganganagar. The findings include copper tools, utensils, furnaces, ornaments, bangles and other objects believed to be more than 1,500 years old. Furthermore, excavations in the Banas Valley region in Ahar in south-eastern Rajasthan have shown that the people of Ahar in c. 3,500 BC produced fine and decorated pottery, smelted and fashioned copper objects, and cultivated rice. From the remnants of *pucca* houses and furnaces, it can be surmised that the inhabitants of Ahar led an organised life.

Rajasthan is a land where history has not been forgotten. The past combines marvellously with the present, absorbing the finest from the rich heritage and merging it with current endeavours. The *odhnis* of the women of the Gameti community resemble the trademark red and black pottery of the Ahar culture. The religion of the ancient Ahars still survives among the Kalbelia community, to which the noted dancer Gulabo belongs.

The excavations in Kalibangan have unravelled a strikingly sophisticated urban lifestyle. The town that was built around a central acropolis had a methodical system of streets that intersected at right angles, and an advanced drainage network. Kiln-fired bricks were used to build houses, and bathrooms had terracotta water pipes and even faucets. A sophisticated system of weights and measures, and attractive children's toys have been found, including an artistic whistle shaped in the form of a bird. Kalibangan was obviously a prosperous civilisation, which was equal, if not superior to, the most flourishing civilisations of the ancient world. The Archaeological Survey of India describes it succinctly: 'If, as surmised by some, Harappa and Mohenjodaro were two provincial capitals of the big Indus Valley Empire, it is not unlikely that Kalibangan was the third.'

## Saraswati: A Lifeline

It is a universal truth that rivers are the lifeline of the country, and some of the world's oldest civilisations such as the Indus Valley, Mesopotamian and Egyptian have all flourished along the banks of rivers. Indeed, the history of Rajasthan began 5,000 years ago in the Saraswati-Drishadwati Valley region. In the third to second millennium BC, the Saraswati river, along whose banks the 'Arya' sages are said to have composed the *Rigveda*—the world's oldest scripture—flowed from the north-east and south-west of present-day Rajasthan. Though it is generally believed that the Vedic Aryans came to India from outside and settled along the banks of rivers in the north-western parts of India, in the context of modern Rajasthan it may be stated that the Bhils and Meenas were the earliest dwellers of the region.

The remains of Aryan and non-Aryan settlements discovered from Anupgarh, Tarkhanavala and Chak indicate that the relations between the two groups was one of harmony and comradeship. The *Satapatha Brahmana* mentions the Matsya and Bharata branch of Aryans flourishing in north-western Rajasthan. Owing to seismic disturbances, the Saraswati-Drishadwati region was hit by a severe drought around 1,500 BC. The Aryan and non-Aryan tribes then moved their settlements to the east in search of fertile lands.

The Matsyas settled around Jaipur and the non-Aryans moved towards the Aravalli hills and south-eastern forests and plateau regions. According to Puranic tales, Dhundhu, the son of Madhu, established Dhundhumara (known as *Dhundhad*) in the desert region. The shortest trade route between North India and the rich port cities of Gujarat and Malabar was straddled by a town called Amber. A non-Aryan tribe of the Nagas settled in the south-eastern belt of Rajasthan. Aryan and non-Aryan cultures existed during the Vedic period in Rajasthan.

The north-western part of the region is believed to have been known by the name *Marukantara*, as used in the *Ramayan*. According to the *Mahabharat*, the Jangal region of Rajasthan was under the Kuru-Pandavas and Matsyadesa was either under their control or enjoyed the status of an ally. Madhyamika near Chittor was under the Shibi tribe.

The political character of Rajasthan after the *Mahabharat* war was up to BC 600. However, literary traditions reveal many important facts till the age of