

# RSSB

Rajasthan Staff Selection Board

Combined Junior Engineer  
Examination, 2020

# General Knowledge

*with special reference to Rajasthan*

Comprehensive Theory  
*with Practice Questions*

*Also useful for various Public Sector Examinations  
& other Competitive Examinations*



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# Preface

The compilation of this book **General Knowledge** is motivated by the desire to provide a concise book which can benefit students who are preparing for **Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB)**.

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**B. Singh** (Ex. IES)

This textbook provides all the requirements of the students, i.e. comprehensive coverage of General Knowledge topics and objective types questions articulated in a lucid language. This book not only covers the syllabus of Rajasthan Staff Selection Board (RSSB) in a holistic manner but is also useful for other competitive examinations. All the topics are given the emphasis they deserve so that mere reading of the book helps aspirants immensely.

Our team has made their best efforts to remove all possible errors of any kind. Nonetheless, we would highly appreciate and acknowledge if you find and share with us any printing and conceptual errors.

It is impossible to thank all the individuals who helped us, but we would like to sincerely thank all the authors, editors and reviewers for putting in their efforts to publish this book.

With Best Wishes

**B. Singh**

CMD, MADE EASY Group

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# Contents

# General Knowledge

1. History of Rajasthan .....	01 ~ 54
2. Art & Culture of Rajasthan.....	55 ~ 134
3. Political History of Rajasthan.....	135 ~ 158
4. Geography of Rajasthan.....	159 ~ 238
5. Economic Development of Rajasthan.....	239 ~ 288
6. Previous Year Questions (CE & ME JE, Exam-2016).....	289 ~ 302

# RSSB

Rajasthan Staff Selection Board

Combined Junior Engineer Exam

# History of Rajasthan

Comprehensive Theory  
with Practice Questions



*The state of Rajasthan in India has a history dating back thousands of years. It was the site of the Indus Valley Civilization. The early medieval period saw the rise of the Mughal Empire. The Mughals granted high positions to Rajput rulers who allied with them. However, some Rajput kingdoms did not accept Mughal suzerainty and were constantly at war with them. The Mughal rule effectively ended in the 18th century, when the Maratha Empire conquered much of the subcontinent.*

1.	Ancient Civilisation of Rajasthan	2
2.	Historical Period of Ancient Rajasthan	7
3.	Gurjara-Pratihara Dynasty	14
4.	Guhila Dynasty of Mewar	20
5.	Chauhan Dynasty of Rajasthan	27
6.	Rathore Dynasty of Rajasthan	34
7.	Kachwaha Dynasty of Amber (Jaipur)	39
8.	Other Major Dynasties of Rajasthan	43
	Practice Questions	47

# Ancient Civilisation of Rajasthan

## Introduction

- Ancient civilization is a major landmark in the history of development of socio-economic culture and settlements of Rajasthan which were dated back to about 5000 years ago.
- Rajasthan is one of the oldest lands at the World blessed with human origin. Here Aravalli Mountain is even older than Himalaya. There was Tethys Sea on place of present Desert area, Saraswati and Drishadvati rivers used to drained into this Sea.
- A major Sanskrit epics of ancient India, Mahabharat describes about Aburdachal, Puskaranya etc. area and Ramayan also describe the Marukanta which is now known as Rajasthan.
- Rajasthan's different region were known by different names as Jaangal Desh, Sapaoldalash, Kuru Desh, Matsya Desh, Sursenn Desh, Shiv, Bangar, Maru or Marwar, Gujartra, Arbud, Maad, Hadauti, Malwa region.
- Remnants of the ancient stone age have been located along the bank of the rivers and their subsidiaries in Ajmer, Alwar, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Jaipur, Pali, Tonk etc. regions.

## Kalibangan Civilization

- Kalibangan is the largest prehistoric site in Northern Rajasthan. It lies along the left bank of the dried-up bed of **Ghaggar** river (Ancient Sarasvati and Drashdwati) which is located at **Pilibangan in Hanumangarh** district of Rajasthan.
- It was one of the main sites of the Indus Valley Civilization and has given the evidence of both Pre-Harappan culture in the lower layer and Harappan civilization in the upper layer.
- It comprises of three mounds, the larger one in the middle, the smaller in the west and the smallest in the east.
- Kalibangan site was discovered by **Luigi Pio Tessitori**, an Italian Indologist and linguist. It is supposed to be older than 4000 B.C. and was

evacuated by **Amlananda Ghosh**, a former Director General, Archaeological Survey of India in 1952. Later, during 1961-69, excavation was carried out by **B. B. Lal** and **Balkrishna Thapar**.



- Kalibangan Civilization extensively belongs to Pre-Harappan Period (3500 BC – 2500 BC) and Harrapan Period (2500 BC – 1500 BC).

## Features of Kalibangan Civilisation

### Features of Pre-Harappan Settlement:

- The pre-Harappan settlement was a fortified parallelogram, the fortification wall being made of mud-bricks. The houses within the walled area were also made of mud-bricks.
- Kalibangan has given the evidence of the earliest (2800 BC) **ploughed agricultural field** ever revealed through an excavation.
- It is also a site which has given an evidence of earliest recorded "Earthquake" and is considered to have contributed to the end of this remarkable site of the Indus Valley Civilization.



- The **Fire altars** evacuated at Kalibangan reveal that the people were ritualistic and believed in worship of fire.
- A **charging bull** (terracotta figure) which denoted to signify the “realistic and powerful folk art of Harappan Age” has been found at Kalibangan.
- Among all **ploughed field** is the most important discovery of Kalibangan Site.

#### Features of Harappan Period:

- During the Harappan period, the structural pattern of the settlement was changed.
  - There were now two distinct parts: the citadel on the west and the lower city on the east. The citadel complex was a **fortified parallelogram**, consisting of two equal but separate parts. The fortification was built throughout of **mud-bricks**.
  - The southern half of the citadel contained some five to six massive platforms, some of which may have been used for religious or ritual purposes. The northern half of the citadel contained residential buildings of the elite. The lower city was also fortified.
  - The houses were built of mud-bricks, baked bricks being confined to drains, wells, sills, etc.
  - Beside the above two principal parts of the metropolis, there was also a third one, situated 80 m east of the lower city. It consisted of a modest structure, containing four to five ‘fire-altars’ and as such could have been used for ritualistic purposes.
  - The **burials** have been found in two types of pits viz. circular graves and rectangular graves.
  - The evidences show that bones of **camel** also found at Kalibangan.
- Unlike other Indus Valley Civilisation sites, it has not shown any evidence of drainage system.
  - Seals are also found, among which **cylindrical seal** is a prominent, depicting a female figure between two male figures, fighting or threatening with spears.

#### Bagore Civilizations

- The Bagore site is located on the **Kothari River** in **Bhilwara district** of Rajasthan.
- The excavation of this Mesolithic site was done by **Virendra Nath Mishra** and **Vasant Shinde** in 1967.
- During the excavation, it was found that the nomadic pastoralists of Bagore were indulged in domestication of cattle, goats and sheep in early 5000-3000 BC.
- The mesolithic age saw beginning of the tradition of various ways of disposal of the dead and human burials have been found at Bagore. It is the largest mesolithic site in India.

#### Gilund Civilization

- The Gilund site is located on **Banas river** in **Rajsamand district** of Rajasthan. It is one of the most ancient site belong to pre-Harappan Civilization.
- In this prehistoric site two mounds evacuated, which is above the surrounding fields in height and covering an area of 500 X 250 yards.
- Mounds were partially excavated by a team under the direction of **B. B. Lal** during 1959-60.
- Gilund was occupied from approximately Harappan Period.
- Here various housing structures have been evacuated, as well as large buildings with long parallel walls, workshops, refuse heaps, and an exterior wall surrounding the site.
- Found workshop area has revealed that the occupants practiced small-scale craft production.
- Further evacuation of area also shows that the inhabitants were agro-pastoralists, means that they mixed agricultural practices with livestock herding practices.

## Bairath Civilization

- Bairath is located in the present Jaipur district of Rajasthan. It is discovered by **Dayaram Sahani** in 1922. This site covered with important hills like **Beejak dungari**, **Bheem Dungri** and **Moti Dungri**. Ashoka's rock inscription was also discovered from the Beejak dungari by Captain Burt (1938).
- Bairath which is also known as Virat Nagar in ancient time, was the capital of Matsya Pradesh.
- Evidences of punch marked of silver and copper are found. It also shows that humans are familiar to Iron. They were used **Shankh Script** as per proofs.

## Ganeshwar Civilization

- This site is located on the river of **Kantli** near **Neem Ka Thanna** in Sikar districts. The evidences show that this civilization developed during copper-age.
- The reason behind the find of predominantly copper implements in this civilization is the proximity of **khetri copper reserves**.
- Red pottery was found here with black portraiture and around thousand pieces of copper were also found.
- Ganeshwar is located near the copper mines of the Sikar-Jhunjhunu area of the Khetri copper

belt in Rajasthan. Excavations revealed copper objects including arrowheads, spearheads, fish hooks, bangles and chisels. With its microliths and other stone tools, Ganeshwar culture can be ascribed to the pre-Harappan period.

- This area mainly supplied copper objects to Harappa, and people of Ganeshwar used stones instead of bricks for making home. This civilisation also shows the evidences of beginning of hunting and animal husbandry.

## Balathal Civilization

- This archaeological site is located in Vallabh Nagar in **Udaipur** and discovered by **V.N. Mishra** in 1963. This site belongs to Copper age 2800BC-1500BC. Here 5 Iron-Smelter found.
- It's a second site where the clothes were found after the Bairat Civilization.

## Bhinmal Civilization

- It is located in Jalore district and reflects about the trade relations with Unani civilization. In ancient time it was also known as Shrimaal. Huen Shang has visited the ancient city.
- It was explored by the **Ratna Chandra Agrawal** in 1953 -54 A.D.

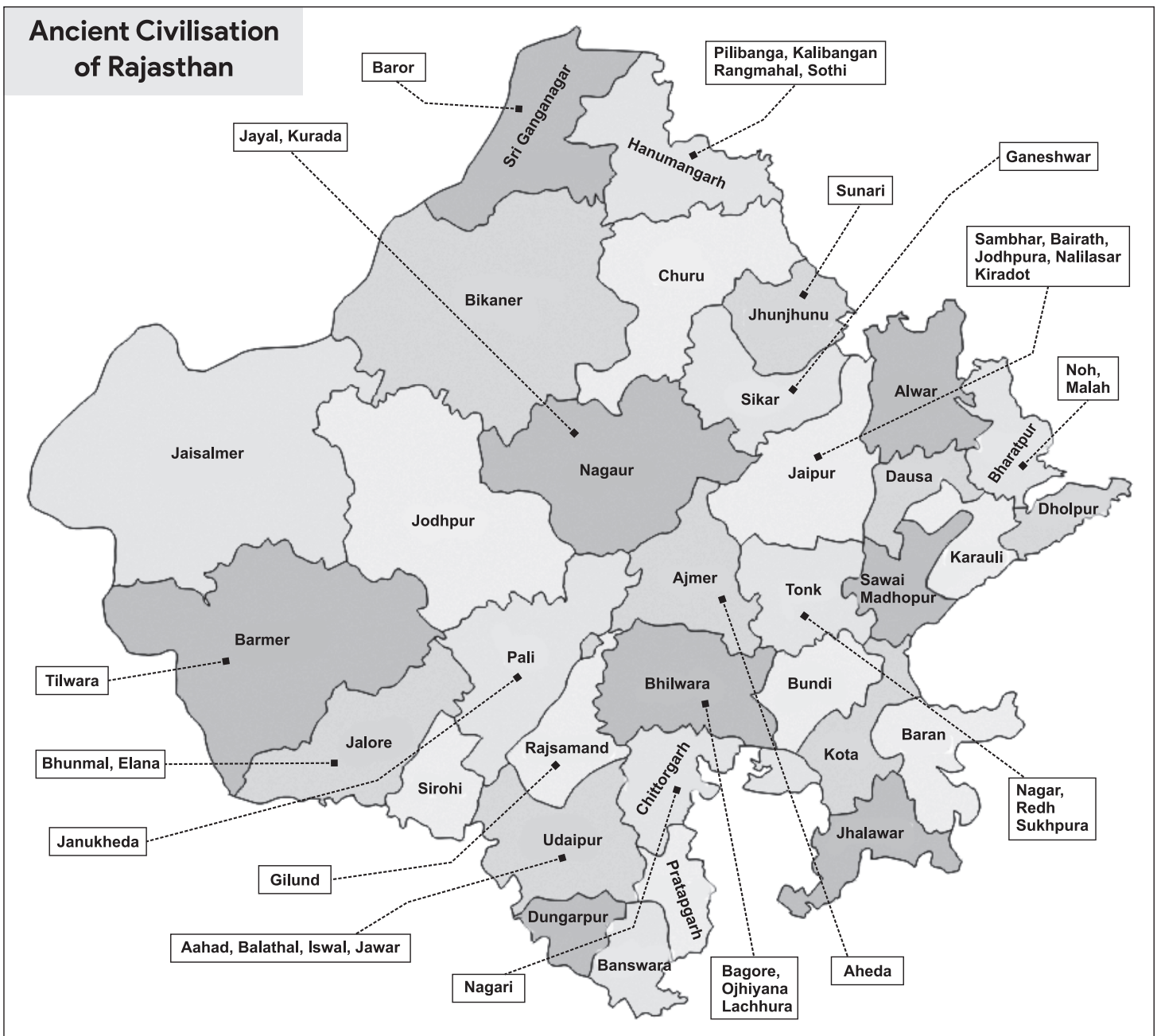
### Other Important Civilisations and their location

Sl.	Civilisation	Location
1	Ishwal Civilizations	Udaipur
2	Aahard (Ahar)Civilization	Udaipur
3	Rangmahal Civilization	Near Ghaggar River, Hanumangarh
4	Ojhiyana Civilization	Bank of Khari River, Bhilwara
5	Tilwara Civilization	Bank of River Luni, Barmer
6	Barore Civilization	Anupgarh Tehsil of Sri Ganganagar district
7	Sunari Civilisation	Khetri Tehsil in Jhunjhunu
8	Noh Civilisation	Noh, Bharatpur
9	Nagari Civilisation	Bank river Bairach River, Chittorgarh
10	Redh Civilisation	Dheel river, Tonk



- It is a geological fact that the Aravalli ranges are older than the Himalayas. In Ancient River beds and natural rock-shelters of Rajasthan have been discovered fairly early traces of human habitations.
- 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 found Palaeolithic and microlithic implements, indicating the early activities of man in Rajasthan.
- Thereafter many chalcolithic cultures at Ahar (Udaipur), Ganeshwar (Sikar District) and Balathal (Udaipur District) are found.
- The recently excavated site of Balathal has shown the evidence of a Chalcolithic village which is earliest (dated to 2500 B.C.) not only in Rajasthan, but in India.
- The banks of the Ghaggar river (Saraswati river), became the centres early civilizations, among which Kalibangan (Hanumangarh District) was an important civilisation in Rajasthan.
- Vedic literature mentions the Matsyas and the Salvias as located near the river Saraswati and it also mentioned that at that time there was settlements of many tribes

### Sources of the History and Culture of Rajasthan.



## Stone Epigraphs (Shilalekh)

- **Barli Stone-Epigraph (Shilalekh):** It is considered as the oldest epigraph (before 200 BC) in Rajasthan which was found from Bhilot Matta Temple' **Ajmer** and it relates to Jain Temple. It has been inscribed in Brahmi Manuscript.'
- **Ghosundi Stone-Epigraph (in 'Brahmi Manuscript & Sanskrit Language):** It has been found at Ghosundi Village Chittorgarh. It relates to Gajj Dynasty flourished in 200 BC and speaks of a wall construction and accomplishment of Asvamegha Yagya. 'It is the oldest Shilalekh of Vaishnav Sect and propounds Bhagwat Religion.
- **Badwa Shilalekh (Kota):** It is the oldest and the first Shilalekh of Mokhari Kings who are inscribed (Brahmi Manuscript'& Sanskrit Language)' to have accomplished 'Yagna' in 295 AD.
- **Nagari Stone-Epigraph:** Dr DR Bhandarkar found it at Nagari. It has been housed at **Ajmer** Museum. The epigraph in Sanskrit and reveals Vishnu Worship' around 424 AD and its manuscript is Brahmi.
- **Samoli Stone-Epigraph:** It has been found at Bhomat, Udaipur. It belongs to Guhil Dynasty flourished around 661 AD.
- **Manmori Shilalekh:** It relates to Maurya Dynasty and it carries description of Chitrangadh Maurya who built Chittorgarh. It reveals that this Dynasty emerged from Fire Dynasty.
- **Mandor Stone-Epigraph:** There are two epigraphs at Mandor. First epigraph reveals the worship of Vishnu and Shiv around 685 AD. The second one was inscribed in 837 AD in praise of Gurjar Pratihar king '**Baauk.**' It gives an account of Pratihar Dynasty.
- **Basantgarh Shilalekh (Sirohi):** It was inscribed in 682 AD and relates to king Vermlat.
- **Ghatiyala shilalekh (Jodhpur):** It was inscribed by Kakku Pratihar. It describes MagCaste Brahmins. It evidences Varana (caste) System. Naghatt made Merta as its capital.
- **Harshnath Stone-Inscription:** It has been found at the temple on Harsh Mount (Sikar) and belongs to Chauhan king Vighraaj (973 AD).
- **Bijolia Stone-Inscription:** Inscribed by Guna Bhadra on 5th Feb 1170 and narrates about Chauhan Dynasties of Ajmer and Sambhar revealing Vasudev Chahuman as founder of the dynasty who set up Chauhan Empire at Shakambari in 551AD having built Sambhar Lake. This describes Chauhans as Vatsootriya Brahman. It evidences that during that period the land was used to be divided and land subsidy as called Dohali. It also reveals that Vighraaj-IV conquered Delhi. It describes social, political and economic situation of the age.
- **Kirti Tower:** It has been written in Sanskrit in Chittor Fort on many rocks and narrates Kumbha's victories on Malva and Gujarat. Inscribed by **Mahesh Batt** during Rana Kumbha's period, it throws light on political, cultural, religious and social scenario of the age.
- **Achleswar Prashasti:** It reveals the emergence of a man from Agnikund and the founder of Parmars was Dhoomraj.
- **Siwana Stone-Inscription:** Inscribed in 1537AD, it speaks of Maldev's Siwana victory.
- **Chirwa Stone-Inscription:** It has been inscribed in 1273 AD at the door of a temple in **Udaipur** revealing the achievements of Bappa Rawal 's ancestors including Padam Singh, Tej Singh, Samar Singh etc. It also describes social and religious conditions of the age.
- **Chittor Stone-Inscription:** It was inscribed in 1278 AD. It reveals religious tolerance of Guhil Dynasty. The king belonged to Shaiv Sect but the inscription shows him extending financial help for Jain Temple a fine example of religious tolerance.
- **Ranakpur Prashasti:** This Shilalekh stands in Chaumukhi Temple of Ranakpur. Accordingly, Ranakpur was set up by Dipa. It gives the account of kings from Bappa to Maharana Kumba from Mewar. It mentions the victories of Kumbha.
- **Kumbhalgarh Prashasti:** It is the most important source of knowing ancestry of Mewar Kings.
- **Kumbhalgarh Shilalekh:** There are total five Shilalekh in Sanskrit with Nagari Manuscript. It describes Mewar Kings and Bappa has been told to beaking. Its fourth Shilalekh tells Hammic victory Chelawat and he was called 'Vishamghati Panchangn. It reveals that Mewar was divided in four parts - Chittor, Mewar, Aghat & Bagad. It profusely describes Kumbha's victories and other works.



## 2

## CHAPTER

# Historical Period of Ancient Rajasthan

## Mahajanpada Period (600 BCE -300 BCE)

- The period after the birth of Gautama Buddha is generally called Mahajanapada Period.
- The major realms or Janapadas of the Indian subcontinent in the Vedic Period (Iron Age), had by the 6th century BC evolved into the sixteen classical Mahajanapadas.
- Each of these Janapadas was named after the Kshatriya tribe (or the Kshatriya Jana) who had settled therein.
- The list of sixteen great Mahajanapadas to be found in the early Buddhist texts of the **Ahuttara Nikaya** and the **Mahdvastu**. Another Buddhist text like Digha Nikaya and Chulla-Niddesa also mentioned evidences of Janpadas.
- The Jaina's **Bhagvati Sutra** gives a slightly different list of 16 Mahajanapadas.
- India History Map - Mahabharata Period Each Mahajanapada had a capital city, which was often fortified. Each mahajanapada was characterised by, among others, an impress of the culture of a particular group of people. The expression of such a culture resulted in the characteristic cultural landscape of the mahajanapada.
- The modern state of Rajasthan was also part of several Mahajanpadas which mainly includes:
  1. Matsya
  2. Saurasena
  3. Kuru

## Matsya Mahajanpada

- Matsya Kingdom was one of the Sixteenth Mahajanapadas of Indian Subcontinent. The kingdom was established by an Indo-Aryan tribe of ruled a kingdom located south of the Kuru,

and west of the Yamuna river which separated it from the kingdom of the Panchalas.

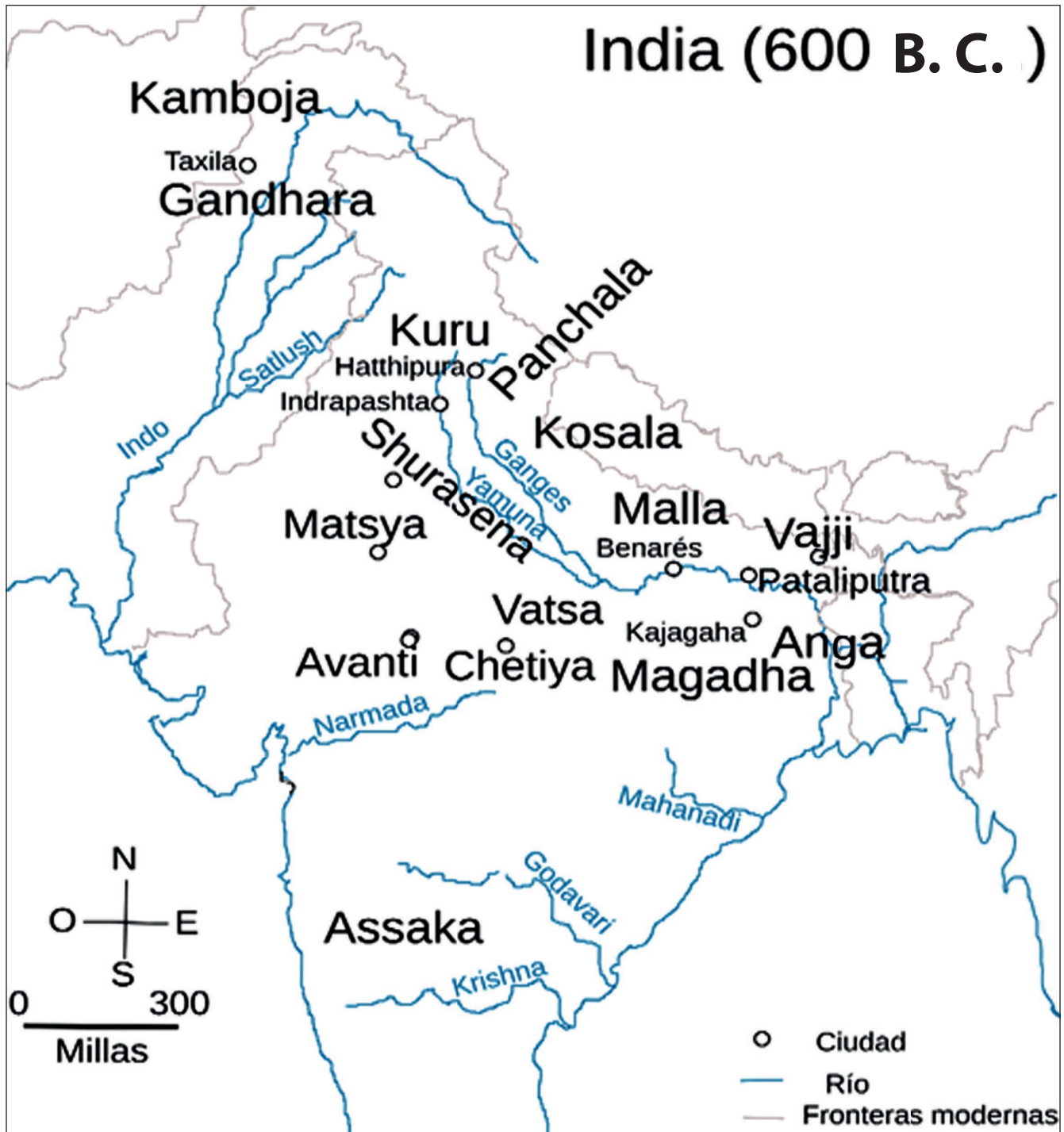
- It roughly includes area of modern Rajasthan of Jaipur, Bharatpur and Alwar.
- The capital of Matsya was at **Viratanagari** (Bairat), it was named after founder king **Virata**.
- Matsya kingdom was founded by king Matsya who was the twin brother of **Satyavati**, a contemporary to Bhishma.
- Upaplavya was a notable city of the kingdom.

## Saurasena Mahajanpada

- Surasena was an ancient Indian Kingdom which is located near to the present-day Braj region in Uttar Pradesh, with Mathura as its capital city.
- It covers area of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli in present day Rajasthan.
- Information about Surasena is mentioned in Ramayana, a Hindu epic. The Buddhist text **Anguttara Nikaya**, also mentioned about a powerful kingdom of Surasena in the 7th Century B.C.
- Megasthenes, an ancient Greek writer refer to the people of this kingdom as **Souraseni** and mention its capital as **Methora**.

## Kuru Mahajanpada:

- Kuru was a great kingdom in ancient time, which covers modern-day states of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, western part of Uttar Pradesh and a part of northern Rajasthan.
- In Rajasthan it covered part of northern Alwar region.
- **Indraprastha** was the capital of Kuru Janapada.



### Sixteen Mahajanapadas and their capital

Sl.	Mahajanapadas	Capital	Modern location
1	Anga	Champa	Munger and Bhagalpur
2	Magadha	Girivraja/Rajagir	Gaya and Patna
3	Kasi	Kasi	Banaras

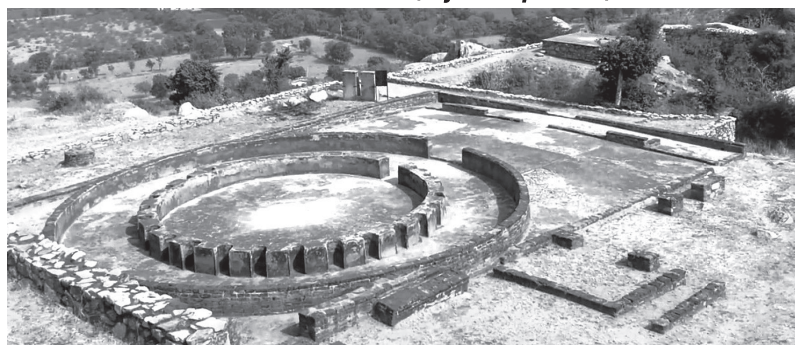
Sl.	Mahajanapadas	Capital	Modern location
4	Vatsa	Kausambi	Allahabad
5	Kosala	Sravasti	Eastern Uttar Pradesh
6	Saurasena	Mathura	Mathura
7	Panchala	Ahichchatra and Kampilya	Western Uttar Pradesh
8	Kuru	Indraprastha	Merrut and S.E. Haryana
9	Matsya	Viratnagar	Jaipur
10	Chedi	Sothivali / Baiida	Bundelkhanda
11	Avanti	Ujjain / Mahismati	Madhya Pradesh and Malwa
12	Gandhara	Taxila	Rawalpindi
13	Kamboja	Pooncha	Rajori and Hajra (Kashmir)
14	Assaka	Pralisthan / Paithan	Bank of Godavari
15	Vajji	Vaishali	Vaishali
16	Malla	Kusinara	Deoria and U.P.

### Mauryan Period of Rajasthan (300-180 B.C.)

- Ashoka was an Indian emperor of the Maurya Dynasty who ruled most of the Indian Subcontinent from 269 B.C. to 232 B.C. Rajasthan was also part of Mauryan Kingdom.
- After witnessing the mass deaths of the Kalinga War, which he himself had waged out of a desire for conquest he embraced Buddhism.
- Maurya dynasty ruler Maan Mori ruled in Rajasthan till 734 AD, at last he was killed by Bappa Rawal of the Guhilot clan. According the inscription of Kansawa of Kota the Maurya ruler Dhawal was ruler in region that time.

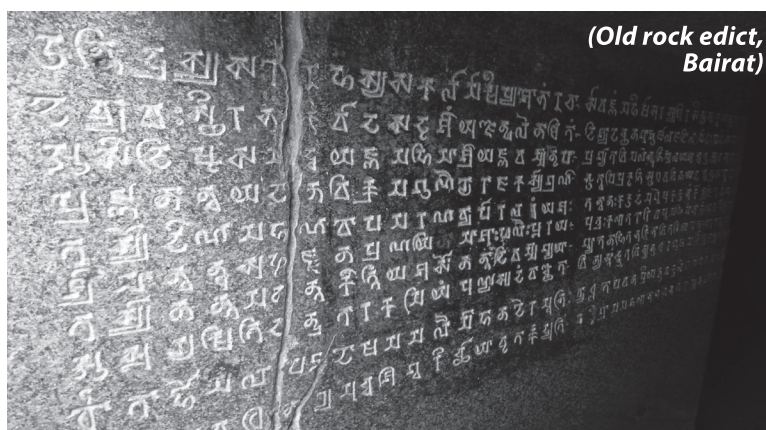
- **Ashoka Shilalekh** is an old rock edict of emperor Ashoka and is located **Bairat**. This is an isolated place with great scenic beauty and immense historical significance. Ashoka, the emperor of the Maurya Dynasty engraved his announcements and laws on these rock edicts.
- The ruins of the **Bijak-ki-pahadi**, a Buddhist Chaitya from the 3rd century BCE located in Bairat, are the oldest free-standing Buddhist structures in India.

(Bijak-ki-pahadi) ▼



### Indo-Greek Kingdom in Rajasthan

- Indo-Greek Kingdom was ruled by more than 30 kings at the various parts of the northwest and northern Indian subcontinent during a period from the 2nd century BCE to the beginning of the 1st century CE.



(Old rock edict, Bairat)

- The Greek king **Demetrius** invaded India early in the second century BC and formed the kingdom in Indian subcontinent.
- The Indo Greeks remained in India up to First Century C.E. and later paving the way for the Shakas (Scythians), Pahlavas (Parthians) and the Kushanas (Yuezhi).
- **Shakas (Indo-Scythians) Kingdom:**
  - Shaka's people are migrated from southern Siberia to Indian subcontinent parts of Gandhara, Kashmir, Punjab, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
  - The first Saka king in India was Maues or Moga who established Saka Kingdom in Gandhara and gradually extended their territory over north-western India.



- **Kushan Kingdom:**
  - They belonged to the **Yuehchi tribe** who lived in region of Turkmenistan and due to war pressure they migrated eastwards.
  - They invaded India in the 1st century A.D. and occupied the western part of India after defeating Parthians and Sakas.



### Gupta Kingdom in Rajasthan

- The Gupta dynasty established by the founder **Sri-Gupta** around 240 CE. The empire covered most of Northern India and Eastern Pakistan, parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan and what is now eastern India and Bangladesh.
- Shaka ruler Rudradam killed by Samundragupta and established Gupta kingdom in Rajasthan region. Later on the whole Rajasthan came under the rule of Guptas, when Vikramaditya killed the last Shaka ruler and occupied complete western India.
- The capital of the Gupta Kingdom was Pataliputra, present day Patna in modern India.
- The period of the Gupta Empire is known as Golden Age of India, embracing art, architecture, literature, sculpture and education.
- Various Sculptures of Gupta Period are found in Ajmera (Dungarpur), Abhaneri (jaipur), Mandore, Osian (Jodhpur), Neelkanth, Sacheli (Alwar) and Kalyanpur, Jagat (Udaipur).