

Sources of History of Rajasthan

Archaeological Sources

Inscriptions

the inscriptions serve as a very authentic evidence for the reconstruction of the history and culture of Rajasthan .Not only do they help us in building up the chronology and socio-political history on a firm basis, but also they offer reliable information about the contemporary life and conditions of the society .

Important stone inscriptions / Prasasti (प्रशस्ति) found in Rajasthan

Barli(बरली) Fragmented Stone Inscription

- ▶ 5th To 4th BC
- ▶ Oldest inscription of Rajasthan
- ▶ Found in Bhilot Mata Temple, Barli, Ajmer
- ▶ It is now preserved in the Ajmer museum
- ▶ It is engraved on a white stone which formed part of a hexagonal pillar
- ▶ The characters are in Brahmi
- ▶ The language is Prakrit mixed with sanskrit
- ▶ Dr Gauri Shankar Hirachandra Ojha excavated it in 1912

Hathibada or Ghosundi Inscription

- ▶ 2nd to 1st BC
- ▶ It was found from Ghosundi village, Nagari (Chittorgarh)
- ▶ It is a parallelogram (93.6 x 45.90m) of huge cut blocks of stone, popularly known as Hathi-ka-Bara after the legend that Akbar used it as his elephant stable, during his expedition against Chittaurgarh.
- ▶ oldest known Sanskrit inscriptions in the Brahmi Script
- ▶ It was first time deciphered by Dr. D R Bhandarkar

- ▶ It confirms the ancient reverence of Hindu deities Samkarshana– Vasudeva or Balarama– Krishna, temple dedicated to them is found
- ▶ A king belong to Gaj Dynasty, Sarvtat(सर्वतात), had completed the Vedic Asvamedha Sacrifice, he also built outer wall around it.
- ▶ It suggest that one of the roots of the vaishnaism in the form of Bhagavatism was thriving in ancient India

Nandsa Yupe Pillar inscription

- ▶ 225 AD
- ▶ Found near a reservoir at Nandsa village, Bhilwara
- ▶ Describes the vedic rituals and sacrifices
- ▶ It was established by Som

Badwa Pillar Inscription

- ▶ 239 AD
- ▶ Found in Baran
- ▶ It is one of the four places in Rajasthan where such inscribed stone pillars were erected during the third century A.D. which signifies the revival of the Vedic religion.
- ▶ The Badva stone pillar inscription informs that the Maukharis performed a *triratna* sacrifice in A.D. 239 by Balvardhan, Somdev and Bala Singh.
- ▶ It is probable that these Maukharis owed allegiance to the Malava Republic. (reign of Maukhari dynasty begun with the decline of Gupta period and it was founded by Ishan Verma, their capital was Kannauj, Harshwardhan defeated them)

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