

RK Science (PG) College , Kalwar , Jaipur
Geography sem -VI FLP-II

Sec.A Question 1 (A) Show 5 symbols in the map (5*2=10)

1 Panchana , 2 Abu Mountain , 3 Mehragarh , 4 Nathra of Pal , 5 Nathdwara 6 Bhatner Fort , 7 Bangaga River , 8 National highway No. 12 (b) Short Questions Choose any 5 questions. Each question carries a mark weightage of 2 .

1 Rajasthan In present In How many? Districts Are

2 Beneshwar Dham Connected Is

3 Kajri Why Famous Is 4 Amrita Goddess award What Area Connected is 5 Shadewala Oil Area Where Located 6 Lignite Coal Where Out go Is

Sec.- B Choose any 4 questions, choosing 1 question from each unit. Each question carries 15 marks.

Unit(1)

✓ 1 Rajasthan To Physical Departments In divided Do happened West sandy Field Of Description Do it

2 Rajasthan of climate of Chief Features Of Description Do it And

Thorn Thwaite Of According Rajasthan of climate Departments To Detailed Description Do it

Unit (2)

✓ 3 Rajasthan of Natural vegetation But climate Of Effect To Explain | State In found know those various Type Of forests Of Description Do it

- 4 Rajasthan In livestock Of Types And Distribution Of About In Illustrated Description Do it

Unit(3)

- 5 Rajasthan In found know those Minerals Oil And Coal Of Chief Area Of Description Do it

✓ 6 Rajasthan In cotton clothes Industry Of Localization And Distribution Of Reasons of Detailed Explanation Do it

Unit(4)

✓ 7 Rajasthan In Bhil Tribe Of Accommodation site economy And Bhil Society / Social Life
But Environment Of Effect Of Description Do it or Rajasthan of economy In Dairy Industry
Of place Determined Do it State Government By Dairy Development For did Went efforts
Of Description Do it

8 Rajasthan In Garasia Tribe Of Accommodation Location, Economy And Society But
Environment Of Effect Description Rajasthan In population Of Growth, Density, Literacy
, Sex Ratio, Distribution Of About In Expansion From Illustrated Description Do it

Broad Physical (Relief) Features

The physiography of Rajasthan is very diversified and has been greatly influenced and determined by geological structure as well as by erosional processes. In fact, Rajasthan stretches into two major physiographic divisions of India, namely the Great Plains and the Central Highlands. The Western Desert is a sandy plain that occupies the western part of the Great Plains, while the area east of Aravalli falling in the northern part are the central Highlands. Aravalli range and areas located in western and eastern parts of it are marked by a variety of relief features and physiography. V.C. Mishra in his book *Geography of Rajasthan* (1967) has divided the state into the following physiological divisions:

1. Western Sandy Plains:
 - (a) Sandy Arid Plains (Marusthali)
 - (b) Semi-Arid Transitional Plains (Rajasthan Bagar)
 - (i) Luni Basin (Godwar Tract)
 - (ii) Plain of Interior Drainage (Sekhawati Tract)
2. Aravalli Range and Hilly Region
 - (a) Aravalli Range and Bhoart Plateau
 - (b) North-eastern Hilly Region
3. Eastern Plains
 - (a) Banas Basin
 - (b) Chappan Plains
4. South-eastern Rajasthan Pathar (Hadoti Plateau)
 - (a) Vindhyan Scrapland
 - (b) Deccan Lava Plateau

The physical features of the above mentioned regions are as follows:

Figure 3.1
Physiographic Regions

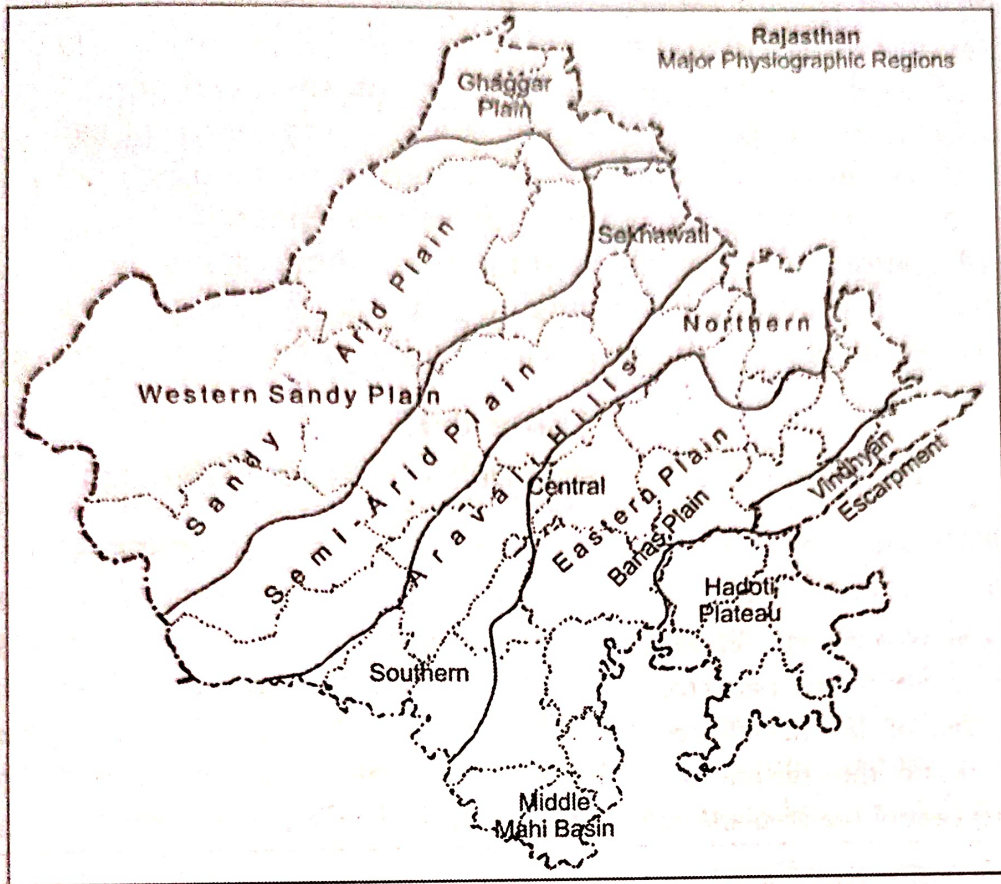
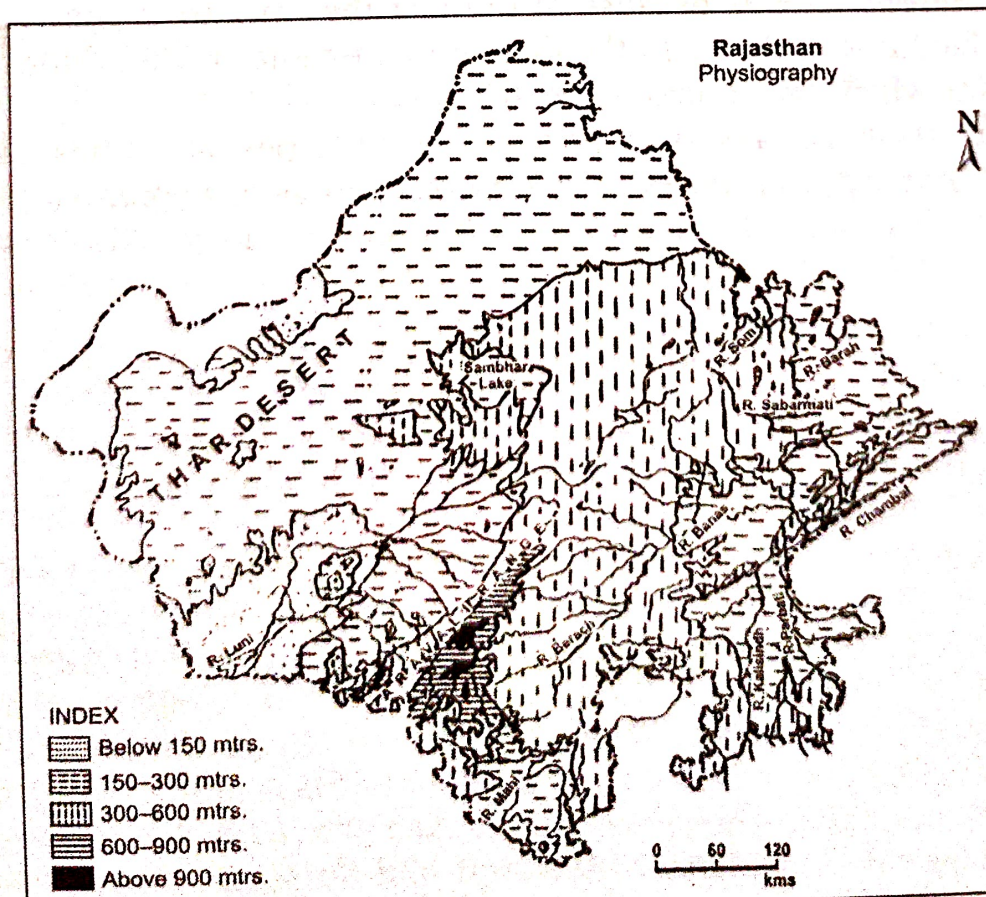


Figure 3.2
General Relief



Western Sandy Plain

The region located west of Aravalli is a desert and semi-desert region and is a part of the *Great Indian Desert* or *Thar Desert*. The eastern boundary of the western sandy desert (including semi-arid part) is mainly marked by 50 cm isohyet, while the western boundary is the international boundary between India and Pakistan. This desert region is a vast expansion of sand and, sand dunes are the only surface features, although in some areas rocky structures can be seen, especially in Barmer–Jaisalmer–Bikaner tract. In Barmer–Jaisalmer–Bikaner track which is dune-free, there are a large number of exposed rocky formations belonging to Jurassic to Eocene formations. The degree and extent of sand dunes in western Rajasthan is given in Table 3.1.

Table 3.1

Degree and Extent of Sand Dunes in Western Rajasthan

<i>Extent of Dunes</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Area</i>
No dunes	41.5
0 to 20 per cent of the area affected	11.5
20 to 40 per cent of the area affected	4.8
40 to 60 per cent of the area affected	14.7
60 to 80 per cent of the area affected	18.6
80 to 100 per cent of the area affected	8.9

Source: Geography of Rajasthan, V.C. Mishra, National Book Trust, India, New Delhi, 1967.

The above estimate has been done long back and the present situation is entirely different. This is because of the fact that due to expansion of canal irrigation facilities in this area the degree and extent of sand dunes has been changed, for which latest data is not available.

In the western desert region, different types of dunes have been identified. The types of dunes are based on their size, shape, wind direction and vegetable cover. The main types of dunes found in this region are as follows:

1. *Longitudinal or Linear Dunes*: According to Soar (1989) the linear dunes are of three types – Sief, Vegetated Linear and Linear. These types are found in south-west of Jaisalmer, south-west of Ramgarh and in Jodhpur and Barmer districts. In Luni basin also, such dunes are seen. The height of these dunes varies from 10 to 60 metres.
2. *Barkhan or Crescent Shaped Dunes*: Crescent shaped dunes have a gently sloping convex windward side and steep leeward side. Their height varies from 10 to 20 metres and width from 100 to 200 metres. Such dunes are found in Churu (Bhalari), Jaisalmer, Sikar (at Mendha River valley), Suratgarh, Lunkaransar, Karnimata, Barmer, Osian and Jodhpur.
3. *Transverse Sand Dunes*: These dunes have been formed in areas where direction of wind remains same for a long period. Such dunes are located in Pungal area of Bikaner, Rawatsar and Suratgarh area, as well as in

Churu and Ganganagar districts. The height of these dunes vary from 10 to 40 metres.

4. *Parabolic Sand Dunes*: These dunes are widely spread in the desert area of Rajasthan. Parabolic sand dunes are formed by vegetation and deflation in between plain areas. The height of these dunes vary from 10 to 25 metres, but their arms sometime extend up to 3 to 4 km long in a Chevron pattern.
5. *Star Sand Dunes*: Such dunes are mostly found in Mohangarh area of Jaisalmer–Pokhran as well as in Suratgarh area. Their height varies from 10 to 25 metres but isolated dunes are at a height of 5 to 6 metres.
6. *Network Dunes*: At the margins of linear, transverse and parabolic dunes, network dunes used to develop at many places. Such dunes are found in north-eastern part of Thar Desert specially in Haryana area.
7. *Obstacle Sand Dunes*: Such dunes are formed due to certain obstacles such as tree, shrub, house, any part of settlement, rock structure, etc. These are of a small hillock type. Budha Pushkar, Nag Pahar, Bichun Pahar, Jobner Pahar, Sikar hills, Kuchaman hills are examples. Such dunes can also be found east of Aravalli at Chaksu, Phagi, Bagru, Gohandi and Javad area.
8. *Shrub Coppice Dunes*: These dunes develop around shrub or around dense grass either on windward or leeward side. Such dunes are visible in western desert area. The height of these dunes is less than 5 metres.

The Western Desert Region of Rajasthan can be divided into two distinct sub-regions according to their topographical variations: (a) Sandy Arid Plain, (b) Semi-Arid Plain or Rajasthan Bangar.

Sandy Arid Plain

Sandy Arid Plain or Marusthali constitutes the major part of the western desert, the characteristics of which have already been described. This region covers the greater part of the plain of Marwar and it includes the districts of Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Churu, western two-third of Barmer and Jodhpur districts and part of western Nagaur district. The characteristic topographical features are vast stretches of sand and rock outcrops. The erosional topography is evident in Barmer, Jalore, Jaisalmer and other areas where rock outcrops are exposed at the surface. A characteristic erosional topography is seen in such areas in the form of round *bosses* and *tor* with wind polished surfaces. As described earlier, the dune formation in this sandy arid plain is a very characteristic geomorphic feature. In this region longitudinal, barkhan and transverse dunes are very common. Shifting sands, locally termed as *Darians* are common especially in the west, near Shahgarh village. This desert plain is essentially a flat plain formed of the alluvium deposited by rivers originating from the Himalayas as well as the Aravallis. The plain has an average elevation of 200 metres. Rocky outcrops are visible in Pokaran, Jaisalmer and Ramgarh areas in the form of small hillocks consisting of granite, limestone and sandstone. Salty lakes like Bap, Pohkran, Lunkaransar also exist in this region.

Semi-Arid Plain or Rajasthan Bangar

The eastern part of the desert region of Rajasthan is a semi-arid region also known as *Rajasthan Bangar*. In this part, the older rocks protrude above the surrounding sandy surface. Gullying has given rise to conglomerate landscape. This region is further divided into three sub-regions, namely Luni Basin, Shekhawati and Nagaur uplands.

Luni Basin (Godwar Tract)

River Luni is a significant river of western Rajasthan, it rises from the Aravalli hills south-west of Ajmer and flows towards the south-west. Luni river has many small tributaries which jointly form the Luni Basin, spreading in Pali, Jodhpur, Jalore, Sanchor and Sirohi districts. Although the region is an alluvium plain but there are also some isolated hills located in the region. The topographical features of the area, lying south of Luni and its tributaries Khari and Jawai, suggest that the initial geomorphic processes were fluvial which dissected the sedimentary rocks of this area. At present the wind action is more predominant, although occasional floods are also caused in these streams.

The topography is marked by hills with steep slopes and extensive alluvial plains. The western alluvial plains, the south-western alluvial plains and the south-western portions of the foot hills are covered with aeolian sand deposits. Gradually the surface was covered with sand dunes resulting in the hummocky appearance of the topography. At Pachpadra and Kapara salt water depressions also exist.

Plain of Interior Drainage (Shekhawati Region)

This region is a plain of inland drainage and located in Churu, Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur and Deedwana-Kuchaman districts. The eastern boundary is marked by the 50 cm isohyetal line. The Aravalli is not a continuous range north-east of Ajmer. It is broken and full of wide gaps as at Sambhar Lake, east of Sikar and between Ajmer and Beawar, where the sand dunes extend for several kilometres over the eastern plain. This plain is full of sand hills typical of this area and the landscape is full of several low depressions. The important salt lakes in this region are Sambhar, Degana, Didwana and Kuchaman. There is only one seasonal river, Katali, and that too gets lost in the sandy terrain when it enters the Churu district. In this region the sand dunes are of barkhan type, while in some areas they are of longitudinal type. The average height of the tract is 450 metres above mean sea-level.

Nagaur Uplands: Although, Nagaur uplands are also part of Shekhawati region but some parts of it, specially Parbatsar tehsil also have hills. These hills are the offshoots of the Aravalli. There are some hillocks in Nawa tehsil which also extend upto Ajmer and delimit its southern boundary. The average height of this area is 300 to 500 metres from the mean sea level. This region is unique because of its topography, salty lakes, inland drainage, ancient rocks and also barren topography.

Ghaggar Plain: This region covers about three-fourth part of Hanumangarh and Ganganagar districts. This plain is formed by the flooding of River Ghaggar. In fact Ghaggar River is a *dead river* and is considered the ancient *Saraswati* and *Drashadwati* river of Vedic period. But now only its bed exists, which is locally known as *Nali* and gets flooded during rainy season. The Ghaggar Plain is also a semi-arid region but its ecology has changed due to irrigation facilities provided by Gang, Bhakhara and Indira Gandhi Nahar.

Natural Vegetation, Forest Resources, Wildlife and Their Conservation

Natural Vegetation

Natural vegetation is a physical element and an index of other environmental factors such as climate, soil, landforms. It controls the temperature and helps in rainfall by increasing humidity. It is also a controller of soil erosion. Forests are assets to mankind and a natural resource of national importance. Rajasthan has a variety of natural vegetation ranging from sub-tropical evergreen forests in the east and south-east of the Aravalli range to scanty vegetation in the western arid region. The main concern of the state is the lesser forest cover and its degradation.

The vegetational pattern of the state is an expression of the prevailing ecological conditions. Geographical conditions play a vital role in the life or evolution of a flora. In fact the flora is an outcome of the physiographic, climatic, pedological and hydrological conditions of the area. In Rajasthan, the location and distribution of natural vegetation including forests have been greatly influenced by physical, climatic and biotic factors.

The physiography of the state is a controlling factor

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Geographical Classification/Types of Forests

The classification of vegetation and/or types of forest based on environmental conditions specially on climatic conditions is a common classification. Since Rajasthan state is the biggest state of the country, its geographical conditions are varied, so is its vegetational pattern. The various types of vegetation/forests found in the state are as follows:

(1) *Dry Teak Forests (Tectona Grandis Forests)*: Teak forests, are located in the southern and south-eastern parts of the state. Banswara forest Division is having maximum teak forest area, while in Chittorgarh, Udaipur and Baran forest divisions these are found in mixture with other trees. In these areas annual rainfall varies from 70 to 110 cm. The height of the teak trees appears to depend on the soil conditions of the different areas. Generally the height of the trees ranges between 9 to 13 metres. Teak wood is commercially useful and used for furniture, panels of doors, windows and house construction. Apart from the forest trees, shrubs and grasses of different varieties also grow in this region.

(2) *Anogeissus Pendula Forests*: These forests cover widespread area in the state, which is more than 50 per cent of the forest area. *Anogeissus pendula* is a tree of dry hot regions. This tree is most commonly found on the lower and gentle slopes, though its occurrence is also noticed on small hillocks and low ridges. The wood of this tree is hard and strong and is also useful for firewood and making charcoal. The wood is also used for making agricultural implements.

(3) *Mixed Deciduous Forests*: This type of forest is common in Udaipur and some parts of Kota, Bundi, Chittorgarh and Sirohi districts. These forests occur at elevations of 300 to 1,200 metre and mostly occupy the plateau section and the gentle slopes where the soil is poor. The common trees found in these forests are *Dhokra*, *Gular*, *Mango*, *Palash*, *Bamboo*, *Oak*, *Thor*, *Tendu*, *Semal*, etc. The wood from these forests is used for small timber, fuel and charcoal.

(4) *Boswallia Senata (Salar) Forests*: *Boswellia senata* is found in the upper ridges of Aravalli hills and occurs in Alwar, parts of Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Salumber, Sirohi, Ajmer, Beawar and Jaipur Rural districts. This occurs in pure patches or in mixture with other species like *Sterculia urens* and *Lannea coromandelica* or *Ziziphus species*.

(5) *Butea Monosperm (Dhak) Forests*: The species are characteristics, of badly drained clay soils and occupy the foothills and depressions. These occur generally in pure patches but also sometimes mixed with *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Acacia lencopholea*.

(6) *Sub-Tropical Evergreen Forests*: These occur about 52 sq km around Mt. Abu at elevation of 1,070 to 1,375 metres where, the rainfall is 150 cm or more annually. The main species are *Flacourtia indica*, *Bauhinia, purpurea*, *Erythrina suberosa*, *cratevea religiosa*. *Mangifera indica* and *Syzygium cumimi* occur in the slopes of Mt. Abu.

(7) *Tropical Thorn Forests*: These thorny trees grow mostly in the lower hill slopes and in undulating terrain in Jodhpur Rural, Jaipur Rural, Dudu and Ajmer, Beawar districts, where the average rainfall is between 25 to 50 cm. The trees vary in height from 4.5 to 6 metres. *Prosopis* is a useful tree specie of this tract providing good timber. In areas covered by this forest, there is good growth of grasses of various species.

Vegetation in the Western Desert Region

The western desert region of Rajasthan is an area where the rainfall is 20 cm and even less. Jaisalmer, Barmer, Balotra, Bikaner, Ganganagar, Anoopgarh, Hanumangarh districts and their adjoining areas are included in this region. This is a sandy area and vegetation is very sparse and few patches of trees can be seen at considerable intervals. Although with the availability of water the pattern of tree cover has changed along canals, but basically this area is dominated by spiny scrub jungle to dry deciduous forest type.

The common trees grown in this area are *Acaciaarabica* (babul), *Acacia senegal* (kumta), *Prosopis spcigera* and *Prosopis julijlora*. *Prosopis julijlora* is one of the best fodder trees of the region and it can grow under varied climatic and soil conditions and topography. This tree is also used for stabilizing sand dunes. *Prosopis spicigera* grows in arid and semi-arid conditions and also on rocks and sandy surface. Several shrubs and grass species are also grown in this region. *Eleonutus hirsutus* and *Pachum turgidum* are two grass species grown in driest part of the desert. Both these species are suitable fodder for cattle and sheep.

Cotton Textile Industry

The cotton textile industry in the state owes its origin under the patronage of the rulers of the former princely states. They granted various facilities and concessions in the form of exemption of some taxes, octroi, grant of land at nominal charge and loans at low rates of interest, etc. In spite of the concessions the growth of textile industry in the state was slow and only a few textile mills have come up. This is because of the physical and economic conditions of the state. The first cotton textile mill was started at Beawar in year 1889 as The Krishna Mills Ltd. In 1906 'Edward Mills' and in 1925 'The Maha Lakshmi Mills Ltd.' were started. All these mills were located at Beawar. The other textile mills before independence were 'Mewar Textile Mills' at Bhilwara established in 1938, 'Maharaja Ummed Singh Mills Ltd.' at Pali in the year 1942 and in 1946 'Sadul Textile Mill' was started at Sriganganagar.

The number has gone up to 64 in 2018-19. Among them some of them are very small. Thus, prior to independence there were seven textile mills in

the state. Their total production was about 30 lakh metres. This industry came under strain during early post-independence period, because of obsolete machinery and competition with other modern mills in the country. A committee was set up by the Government of Rajasthan to look into the difficulties and needs of the textile industry. With several facilities provided by government the cotton textile industry now has become an important industry of the state.

In 2017-18 the production of cotton mills in the state was as follows: Cotton yarn – 1,70,041 tons, polyester yarn – 43,465 tons, viscose yarn – 8,510 tons, polyester-viscose yarn – 1,84,570 tons, acrylic yarn 3,797 and other yarn – 51,512. The fabric production was 1,966.99 lakh metres. The main centres of textile mills are Bhilwara, Kishangarh, Beawar, Pali, Gulabpura, Udaipur, Sriganganagar, Abu Road, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Alwar, Kota, Bhawanimandi, Hanumangarh, Vijainagar, etc. In February 2009, central government declared Bhilwara as a *Textile Export City*. The factors of localization of textile industry in Rajasthan are:

1. Availability of cotton
2. Suitable climate, i.e. areas of wet climate
3. Availability of water
4. Power supply
5. Cheap labour
6. Nearness to market
7. Capital
8. Technology

Bhil

The Bhil is the largest tribal group in India and found mostly in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Rajasthan also Bhil is a major tribal group mostly concentrated in southern and south-eastern Rajasthan.

The term *Bhil* as evident comes from the generic term *Bil*, meaning bow in the Dravidian language. Bhil is also known as *Kirat* and is a Puranic tribe, often referred in Puranas and Ramayana. Historically, they ruled over the territories of Southern Rajasthan, through the rulers like Dungariya (Dungarpur), Bansia (Banswara), Kotea (Kota) and Deawa (Udaipur). They used to be considered as the most trustworthy soldiers. Abul Fazal in Aina-i-Akbari wrote about Bhils that they were the most industrious and law-abiding people.

Habitat, Houses and Settlement

The Bhils are mountain-dwellers. They live in the hilly and mountainous areas of the Aravallis. In Rajasthan, Bhils have occupied the hilly, undulating areas mostly in districts of Dungarpur, Udaipur, Sirohi, Rajsamand, Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, Banswara, Bhilwara and Kota and also in the adjoining districts. These areas are having humid and sub-humid climate and also have a dense forest cover in comparison to other areas of the state.

Most of the Bhil population lives in scattered villages and in many cases in isolated huts located either on lower hill top areas or on a slope of the hill. A Bhil hutment is erected on a small hillock in the midst of its patch of cultivated land. Each hutment is complete in itself having a living room, store, open or shaded kitchen and also has an attached place for cattle within a single enclosure. The walls of the houses are either of mud or of stones arranged systematically. The roofs are usually made of straw, leaves and also with clay tiles. Some times stone slab are also used to make roofs. The front mud walls are often decorated with rough drawings of flowers and animal images with lime and ochre. The group of 10 to 12 houses are known as *Phala* and 4 to 6 *phala* combined are known as *Pal*.

Economy

Living in the forests and hilly tracts, especially in the areas of isolation, the Bhils are largely dependent on forests and agricultural land. While they gather fruits, leaves, nuts and roots from the forest and hunt wild animals and birds for their sustenance, they also grow cereals, vegetables and fodder crops for their families. The agriculture which is subsistent in character is practised with primitive and indigenous technology. The Bhils of Rajasthan used to practice shifting agriculture, locally known as *Valara*. This type of agriculture is done on a hilly slope after clearing the forest. The yield per unit area is low and during the failure of summer monsoon, the Bhil's economy

Apart from agriculture, Bhils are also engaged as agricultural labourers, mining workers, and now also in government service. In traditional economy Bhils used to follow barter system (exchange of products with other products). In tribal areas of Rajasthan, weekly markets locally known as *hats* are common and these are the place of exchange of commodity. Such weekly markets are very common in Banswara, Pratapgarh, Chittorgarh and Kota districts. These markets play a vital role not only in the economy of the Bhils but also act as a social institute. During the last fifty years the Bhil economy and economic structure has also changed with the help of government incentives and development programmes. The economic structure is changing but its rate is slow and still there is a long way to go.

Food

Maize is the staple food of the Bhils throughout the year. The small millets like rice is taken on festival and festive occasions. Now the wheat distributed through fair price shops has also become popular. *Rabdi* is a common preparation which is made by boiling flour in water or milk. Bhils are non-vegetarians and they eat mutton, buffalos meat, meat of other animals, fish and birds. Particularly on ceremonial occasions they take non-vegetarian meat of goats, sheep, and buffalos as food. Bhils are also much addicted to liquor which is distilled from the flowers of 'Mahuva' tree or from the bark of *babul* and molasses. Drinks are very common on festivals, marriages and after-harvest.

Clothing

The clothes of the Bhils in the past were very scanty but now they are using clothes of various types. The style of their clothing is traditional and typical. A male Bhil ordinarily covers his head with turban (*feta*). The poor Bhils who cannot afford to wear a 'feta', put on a 'feti' (short turban). They cover upper portion of body with a shirt and lower portion with a 'dhoti' or with a smaller piece of cloth. The dress of a female consists of a 'ghaghara' (petticoat) and 'Choli' and a 'Sari'. *Hadla* or sari is a long piece of cloth of the length of 4 to 5 metres. It is used to cover the head and a portion of the body. The girls cover their head with a piece of cloth known as *Odhni*. Now the dress of the Bhils, especially of the younger ones has changed and they also now wear readymade garments. Bhils wear ornaments of silver, brass, zinc and nickel. Generally the women attire themselves with the lac and glass bangles. The other ornaments of women are *hansali* and *murki*.

Social Structure

The Bhils are organized into a number of patrilineal exogamous groups or clans. Each clan is distinctively named and consists of a totality of related individuals from the same ancestors. The clans among the Bhils are generally named after plants or animals to which the clan members ascribe their origin. Bhils are living in scattered hilly areas in their own 'Phala' and the group of 'phala' is known as 'Pal'. The head of the 'Pal' is known as 'Gameti' or 'Palji'.

This post is an ancestral one and they used to settle disputes. Their organization is quite strong and whenever there is any danger on individual or on village, they beat drums or alarm with 'baru' and soon all male members assemble at the place for any emergency.

Marriage among the Bhils is not a sacrament. For a Bhil, both male and female getting married is a mark of adulthood and maturity. Marriages are done either in arranged manner or through elopement. The young Bhil boys and girls often select their partner by choice on the occasion of any festival gathering or in periodic markets also. Widow marriage is in vogue. The widow marries only after the mourning period of the deceased husband is over. Traditionally, the Bhils practice polygamy.

The position of women is not very strong among the Bhils. The parents take greater care of a girl than that of boy because she not only assists the household work when unmarried, but also brings for her father a considerable amount of bride price (*dapa*) when married. The marriage is conducted by a priest.

Language, Culture and Religion

'Bhili' is a spoken language of Bhils, which is an Indo-Aryan language. Bhil women wear traditional saris and Bhil men wear loose long 'Kurta' and a 'dhoti'. Their popular weapon is bow of bamboo and they are good hunters also.

Religious practice among Bhils differs from place to place. Most of them worship local deities like Sitamata, Bhiroba, Kanhoba and Khandoba. They also worship tiger god called *Vaghdev*. Bhils are a highly superstitious tribe. They have *Bhagat* or *Gurus* who perform the religious rites. Since Bhils live in symbiotic relationship with forests and trees, they have come to identify them with supernatural spirits. The most respected trees are the peepal, mango, banana, and amri. The most popular and sacred among the trees is the peepal, with which many taboos are attached. It is specially worshipped in the month of March. Agricultural tools and implements are also worshipped. Cow-dung is also worshipped as it enhances soil fertility.

In Bhils of Rajasthan *Baneshwar* fair is the main religious festival. The fair is held during the period of Shivratri (in the month of January or February). This fair is held at the confluence of river Som and Mahi in Dungarpur district. On this occasion Bhils gather together and set up camps on the banks of the Som and Mahi River. They perform dances around the fire and sing traditional songs. Bhils also worship Mahadev, Keserianath, Bharoji and Khakhhal dev as well as other Hindu gods and goddess.

Holi is the most important festival of Bhils. They consider Holi as *Jogan Mata* (Mother of the Universe). Holi is essentially a community festival. Diwali, Dashera, Shiv-ratri, Teej, Makar-Sakrant, Navratri, etc. are also celebrated by them. They perform special dances at the time of festivals.

In brief, Bhils are the main tribal group of Rajasthan. In spite of several government efforts, most of them are still backward. Their children are now going to schools and many of the youngsters have also been selected for