
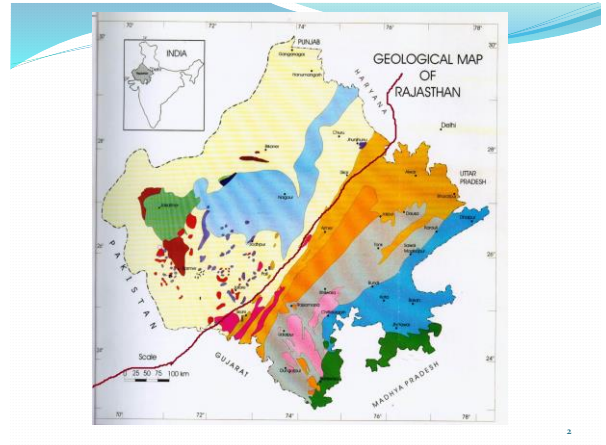


History of Common Property Resources in the Thar Desert



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Land Coverage of The Thar Desert

Forests < 1.8%

Various Village Institutions : > 5.6%

About 92% are remaining institutions which includes agriculture and fallow land

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Biodiversity Regime of Great Indian Thar Desert

- 1. State and central Protected**
 - National Parks
 - Wildlife Sanctuaries
 - Conservation Reserve
- 2. Peoples Protected**
 - Village Institutions

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**Biodiversity Ensure
Good Ecology**

**Which Leads To
Good Villages Economy**

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Diversity Holding in Thar Desert

900 + Plant Species
86 + Grasses
2000 + Animal Species
32 Million Livestock
Over 29 Million People

6

Role of Desert Biodiversity in Local Livelihoods

Repository of

Flora resource : Food-Fodder-Water-Firewood-
 Fencing-Gum-Resin-Fiber-Thatching-Timber
 Non-edible Oils-Dyes-Tannin-Herbal Support

Faunal resource: Meat-Wool-Hair-Skin-Hide-Fur-
 Fat-Horn, Bones for Craft & Cottage

Because of

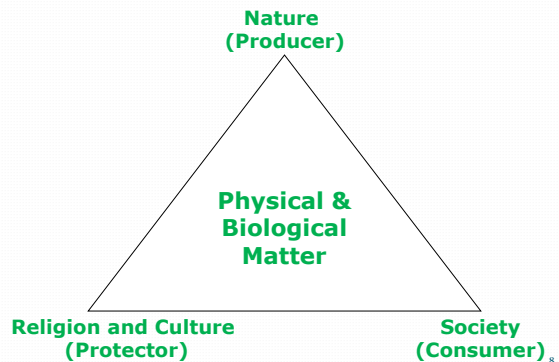
Species Richness, Genetic Variation, Diversity

Which is helped by

Desert Ethos, Peoples Science,
 Oral Traditions, Survival of People

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A Dynamic Desert Ecosystem



Various Village Institutions in Rajasthan

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Oran | : Sacred Silviculture |
| 2. Gauchar | : Annual Nutrition Banks |
| 3. Agriculture
(including fallow) | : Biomass Generators |
| 4. Sand dunes | : Moisture Retainers |
| 5. Gravel Lands | : Poor Biomass Zone |
| 6. Wastelands | : Low Productivity Zone |
| 7. Agors | : Water Catchments |
| 8. Water Bodies | : Biomass Accelerators |
| 9. Forest Enclosures | : Native-Exotic Plants |

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Oran Dynamics

- Assuming oldest Oran about 800 yrs. old.
- Most came into existence 150-500 yrs ago.
- To maintain life support system and livestock economy

History

- Description goes back to over 600 years
- 'Bahis', Oral Stories, Anecdotes, Folk Lore
- Local Heros, Deities and Sculpture

Geographical Coverage

- Entire Thar desert

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Why Orans (village forest) & Gauchars (village pasture) are Important?

Biodiversity, People & Livestock Support Institutions

Based on

Species Richness-Genetic Variation-Diversity

Influences

Culture-Social Fabric-Food Habits

&

Agriculture Practices

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Gauchars of Thar in Relation to its Rainfall, Area and Livestock

S. No.	District	Ann. Rainfall mm	Area	Livestock 2 (Laks)	Gauchar (ha) ¹
1	JODHPUR	290	22850	37.89	1,23,000
2	Nagaur	310	17718	32.27	74,000
3	Pali	480	12387	27.38	92,000
4	Jalore	418	10640	18.13	51,000
5	BARMER	260	28387	41.76	2,13,000
6	Jaisalmer	140	38401	24.77	89,000
7	Bikaner	260	27244	25.31	39,000
8	Churu	320	16830	21.00	48,000
9	Sikar	440	7732	17.96	48,000
10	Jhunjhunu	445	5928	12.48	45,000
11	Sriganganagar	248	20362	14.27	26,000
	Total	Range : 140-480	205941	273.16	8,46,000

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Orans of Barmer

Small :1395 bighas
 Large :17,947 bighas

(Dhok Virarmata)

Orans of Jaisalmer

Small :5125 bighas
 Large :42,000 bighas

(Bhadariyaji)

Orans of Jodhpur

Small :2545 bighas
 Large :55,315 bighas

(Barsingo ka bada -Phalodi)

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Dyeing Gauchars (Example: Bikaner District)

Original Status In Bighas	Present Status In Bighas
------------------------------	-----------------------------

- 81 Villages of Bikaner Tehsil
Now under Lunsaran (command area) Gauchar +Oran = 49245 :Reduced to 15984
- Sare Nathania Gauchar 27205 :Reduced
- Napasar Gauchar 9890 :Encroached
- Bheenasar Gauchar 5207 :Protected by people
encroachment removed
- Jaymal Sar Village 2416 :1225
- Mehrasar Village 2370 :Totally lost
- Kheera Village 1221 :190
- Panpalsar Village 614 :Lost
- Kolayat Tehsil Gouchars of 25 Villages :Lost
- Chatargarh Village 2786 :1200
- Condition in other districts :Decay

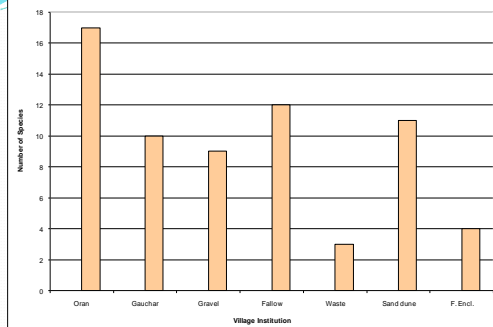
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Animal-Plant Interrelationship in Orans

S. No	Name of Plants	Animals	Nests	Burrows	Total
1	<i>Prosopis cineraria</i> (Khejari)	49	45	43	137
2	<i>Capparis decidus</i> (Ker)	36	26	143	205
3	<i>Zizyphus nummularia</i> (Bordi)	28	19	27	74
4	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i> (Angreji babool)	03	01	01	05

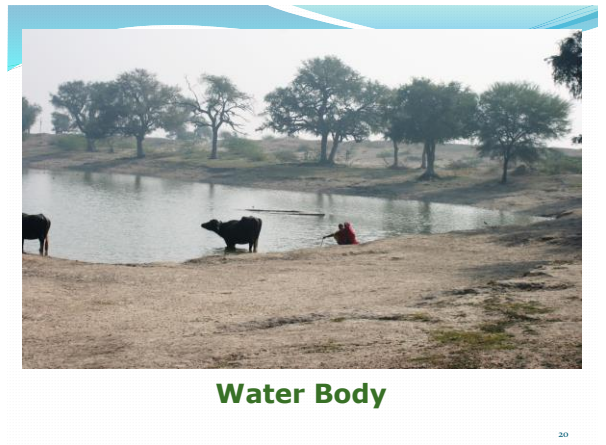
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Animal Diversity in Village Institutions



Animal Diversity including mammals
 rodents, birds, reptiles, arthropods (insects)

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Nadi /Talab

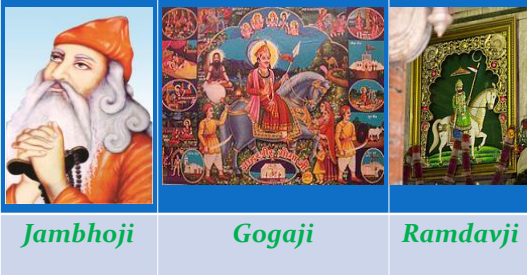


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Orans in Desert thus have been named after about 100 such revered dignitaries like Karnimata, Vankalmata, Jogmaya, Chamunda Ramdeoiji, jamboji, Papbuji, Gogaji, and Mamaji ka Oran. In most *Orans* a temple of a deity or local hero or 'Than' is present thus maintaining sanctity of the Oran till date.

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Folk Deities of Rajasthan



Jambhoji

Gogaji

Ramdevji

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Folk Deities of Rajasthan



Paboji

Karni mataji

Veer Tajaji

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Jambhoji : Founder of Bishnoi sect

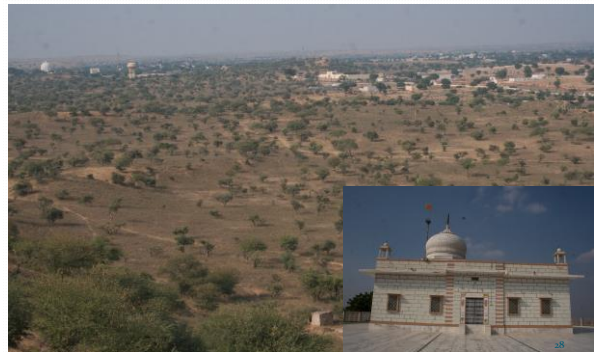
(Born in 1451 A.D. in a village Pipasar and died in 1536)



He launched *Bishnoism* at Samrathal Dhora in 1485 A.D. Jambho ji, was born in a Rajput family of Panwar clan in a remote village Pipasar in 1451 A.D. He was the only child of his parents i.e. Father, Lohat ji Panwar and Mother, Hansa Devi.

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Bishnoi temples: Samrathal Dhora



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Bishnoi temples: Mukam



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Life style



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Rich faunal diversity: Mammals



Birds



Biodiversity around Bishnoi Villages



33

Wildlife



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No cutting and Looping of Khajari tree in Bishnoi village



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Collection and preservation of natural resources



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Thanks



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