

# VIDYA BHAWAN BALIKA VIDYAPITH SHAKTI UTTHAN ASHARAM LAKHISARAI

Class 7<sup>th</sup>S Subject: History. Date 26.12.2020.

## Ch: The making of Regional Cultural

### Rajputs and Traditions of Heroism (Notes)

In the 19th century- a region (constituting most of present-day Rajasthan)-called Rajputana by the British-area inhabited only or mainly by Rajputs (partially true)- were (and are) several groups who identify themselves as Rajputs in areas of northern and central India-several people other than Rajputs live in Rajasthan- Rajputs contribute to the distinctive culture of Rajasthan-cultural traditions were closely linked with the ideals and aspirations of rulers. From the 8th century, most of the present-day state of Rajasthan was ruled by various Rajput families-Prithviraj was one such ruler-they cherished the ideal of the hero who fought valiantly, often choosing death on the battlefield rather than face defeat. Stories about Rajput heroes recorded in poems and songs- recited by specially trained minstrels- preserved the memories of heroes – inspire others to follow their example. Ordinary people were attracted by these stories – which often depicted dramatic situations, and a range of strong emotions – loyalty, friendship, love, valour, anger, etc. – Sometimes, women figure as the “cause” for conflicts-as men fought with one another to either “win” or “protect” women- they are also depicted as following their heroic husbands in both life and death – there are stories about the practice of Sati or the immolation of widows on the funeral pyre of their husbands.

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