

The Rajput of India

Sandip and his sister Archana listened intently as their grandfather, Gaurav continued his story: “The **Rajput** in Chittorgarh fortress realised that their defeat to the invading Muslim Moghul army was imminent. All the women then gathered, dressed in their bridal finery and committed mass suicide with the children by jumping into a huge burning funeral pyre. Later, all the men dressed in saffron robes rode out to their deaths in the battlefield.” “How awful!” exclaimed Archana in horror. “Why commit mass suicide?” asked Sandip, shuddering. “Mass suicide was more honourable than to fall into the hands of the enemy,” explained Gaurav. “That is why being **Rajput**, you youngsters must always uphold your own self-honour and also the honour of your people.”

About 45.63 million **Rajput** live primarily in India’s northern states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The main languages spoken are Hindi, Bhojpuri, Maithili and Marwadi. A fiercely proud people, the name ‘Rajput’ means ‘The Son of a Ruler’. Their traditional occupation is military service, though today many are landowners, farmers, traders and civil servants.

Historically, it was usually the **Rajput** states that suffered the brunt of aggression from Muslim invaders due to geography. Their patriotism is legendary, an ideal often embodied with fanatical zeal.

The main deity of these staunch Hindus is Durga the goddess of war. A strong pride in their self-identity is a main barrier to the **Rajput** receiving God’s plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. **Rajput** Christians form a very small minority (0.02%).

- Pray against the age-old forces of idolatry, death, violence and pride over the **Rajput**.
- Pray for successful and relevant evangelistic efforts among the **Rajput**.
- Pray for the few **Rajput** Christians to become spiritual warriors in Christ’s army who will boldly and yet lovingly share the Good News with their own people.

This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info:

<https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>, <http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>