

# JANARDAN RAI NAGAR RAJASTHAN VIDYAPEETH

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With the awakening of national consciousness in the early years of the last century, a few notable efforts were made in British India to improve the system of education prevalent in India during that time. Gujarat Vidyapeeth, started by Mahamatma Gandhi, aimed at preparing youth to serve and uplift the rural masses; Shantiniketan tried to bring the cultures of the East and West into universal harmony; Jamia Milia tried to educate the Muslims in leading with the needs of the main stream of national wide and the Gurukul Change aimed at preserving the cultural heritage of the nation keeping with the requirements of the modern age. Inspired by the same spirit Pandit Janardan Rai Nagar established "Rajasthan Vidyapeeth" in 1937 to uplift the down-trodden common man in the feudal state of Mewar. Started as Night Study Centre for the Elementary, Secondary and Advanced Courses in Hindi, our national language, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth has grown into a large complex of more than 50 institutions spread over several districts of Rajasthan.

Historically, Rajasthan has been a paradise for knowledge seekers, as it has a rich cultural heritage in the form of manuscripts, historic documents, icons, photographs and monuments. Late Manishi Pandit Janardan Rai Nagar's initiative and vision led him to start the Prachin Sahitya Shodh Sansthan in 1941 to preserve, edit, translate and publish old manuscripts. Probably, it was a unique Institute of its kind in Rajasthan, which was established for the conservation of cultural heritage.

After the historic event of the unification of Rajasthan, 'Hindi Vidyapeeth' added new dimensions to its basic objectives. It became a leading Non-Government Organization during the course of its journey and the founder Pandit Janardan Rai Nagar renamed it as Rajasthan Vidyapeeth. Early sixties proved to be the landmark in the history of Rajasthan Vidyapeeth when it decided to meet the challenges, which started springing up after independence. The first Prime Minister of India had deep faith in democracy and he decided to spread the message of sharing responsibilities at the grass-root level. As a result the Panchayati Raj institutions came into existence. Rajasthan Vidyapeeth also decided to join hands with the GOI to share this responsibility and established Community Centers Department and Janata College during the Second Five-Year Plan. The objective was to provide benefits to the people of remote villages. It was the beginning of the full-fledged Institute of Adult & Continuing Education. During this period, Vidyapeeth started a new unit, which is called JANPAD, with the objective of propagating the knowledge of day-to-day local national affairs for the urban society through black-board / broadcast service mass communication being the aim.