

Prithviraj Chauhan

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In news- With the release of new Hindi movie 'Prithviraj', both the Gujjar and Rajput communities of Rajasthan have started laying claim over the 12th century king, Prithviraj Chauhan.

About Prithviraj Chauhan-

- Prithviraj belonged to the **Chauhan or Chahaman dynasty of Ajmer** which emerged after the decline of the Pratihara empire in the 11th century AD.
- He ascended the throne in 1177 or 1178.
- Prithviraj's army was able to decisively defeat the invading Ghurids army led by **Muhammad Ghor** in the **First Battle of Tarain in 1191**, but was defeated in the Second Battle of Tarain in 1192.
- The battle marked a watershed moment in the history of medieval India, paving the way for the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate and the beginning of Muslim rule.
- The description of Prithviraj as "*the last Hindu emperor*" can be traced to the British colonial official **James Tod's 'Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan' (1829)**.
- The '**Prithviraja Vijaya**', the earliest Sanskrit 'mahakavya', and the Persian '**Taj al- Ma'asir**' see Prithviraj Chauhan and Muhammad of Ghor as rivals who could never come to terms with one another.
- The image of Prithviraj as a fearless and skilled warrior can be traced back to his depiction in '**Prithviraj Raso**', a poem in Braj Bhasha attributed to **Chand Bardai** (composed in the 16th century).
- Other chronicles and texts that mention Prithviraj include **Prabandha-Chintamani, Prabandha Kosha and Prithviraja Prabandha**, which were composed centuries after his death.
- Prithviraj has also been mentioned in **Karatara-Gachha-**

Pattavali, a Sanskrit text containing biographies of the Kharatara Jain monks.

- The **Alha-Khanda (or Alha Raso)** of the Chandela poet Jaganika also provides an exaggerated account of Prithviraj's war against the Chandelas.
- Only seven inscriptions dated to Prithviraj's reign are available and none of these were issued by the king himself: *Barla or Badla inscription, Phalodi inscription, Madanpur inscriptions, Inscription 1, Inscription 2, Udaipur Victoria Hall Museum inscription and Visalpur inscription.*