



growing and agro processing industries. Efforts have been made to convert the western parts of the state into orchards and vegetable growing fields. Given its proximity to Delhi and connectivity to the international airports in New Delhi and Mumbai, the state has the geographical advantage in the export of the same. However there is the need to develop suitable pre and post harvest management infrastructural facilities for the state to fully tap its horticultural potential.

Rajasthan also has tremendous potential in the area of spices. The production of cumin, isabgol, coriander, fennel and fenugreek has been increasingly growing with their exports to foreign markets. However efforts need to be made to upgrade the agri and marketing infrastructure in this respect as well.

The state also has great potential in the development of the agro sector in the state. The agro and food processing industry offers tremendous scope for development of several other industries in the state such as solvent extraction, malt extracts, floriculture, among others. There is also the scope for the development of processing industries based on mango, ber, onion, potato, garlic to name a few. Industries based on herbal and medicinal plants, sheep, goat, buffalo meat processing, poultry and poultry products and non edible oil processing industries also have bright export prospects.

Certain key areas have been identified in the Agri-infrastructure sector in the state where considerable opportunities, for Indian as well as international agribusiness players exist to develop projects using Public Private Partnerships and private sector financing.

Furthermore, the state of Rajasthan offers the potential for the growing of **Jatropha and other oil bearing plants**, which could be used for the production of bio fuels through which the state can meet its energy requirements as well as serve the untapped market. Jatropha, specifically, has high oil content, small gestation period and can grow in a wide range of agro climatic regions. Furthermore the two byproducts of biodiesel are Oilcake and Glycerine which have huge market potential. Oilcake can be used as an excellent source of plant nutrients and is a rich raw material for composting. Glycerine finds application in the personal care, cosmetics and pharmaceutical industry.

The state of Rajasthan offers potential for commercial cultivation for Jatropha since the cultivation of the crop can take place in semi- arid and arid soils, has low moisture demand and requires minimal input and management. The state has vast tracts of arid land which could be used for the cultivation of the same. However, there is the need to assess its commercial viability.



Jatropha plantations are also capable of creating positive social repercussions in the context of Rajasthan. It has the potential for generating rural employment by providing crop cultivation and processing opportunities and reduce the need for local villagers to migrate to cities in search for work. There are various other uses of the Jatropha Plant. The roots can be used as a medicine for snake bites, prematured stems are good for brushing teeth, the leaves can be used as vermicompost, burning dry leaves can control insects & pests and it also provides material for ayurvedic medicine.

Infrastructure

The state of Rajasthan needs to address the issue of connectivity both within the state and with other centers and markets. This would entail increasing the number of rail and air services to and from the State. Given the importance of the road networks in Rajasthan, efforts need to be made to improve the quality of the same. Furthermore, to provide a boost to industrial development the state would need to ensure an effective telecommunication network, state of the art information technology infrastructure, uninterrupted supply of power and upgradation and modernization of industrial area infrastructure. The State Government has identified creation of economic infrastructure as a priority area and has formulated **Vision 2025** which lays emphasis on developing critical infrastructure through Public Private Partnerships.



<i>Area of Concern</i>	<i>Current Status</i>	<i>Proposed Project</i>
Adequate Transport facilities	Inadequate and low quality Transport facilities	
Roadways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important mode of transportation • Requires further modernization and upgradation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPP for upgradation and construction of high quality roads • Four laning and widening of Roads and National Highways
Railways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgradation of existing railway infrastructure required • Further connections with major Indian cities through high speed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite private participation to set up feeder projects near rail heads - e.g Agri Export Zones



	trains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a system of feeder road connections from railway stations
Airways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaipur is the only international airport • A number of airstrips and helipads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further upgradation and modernization of the Jaipur Airport • Upgradation of existing airstrips and helipads • Integrated development plans for areas around the airstrips/airports • Development of an efficient Air Taxi Service system
Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast untapped potential for Wind power 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite more private sector participation to develop renewable energy projects
Industrial Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Industrial Infrastructure is being actively pursued in the state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the T&D system • Development of common infrastructure within and around the Industrial Estates

Information Technology

The government of Rajasthan is in the process of implementing and has set in motion a number of such initiatives in the sphere of 'e-governance' and using IT as a 'business proposition'.

E governance is being promoted by the government of Rajasthan and it has been made one of its prime agendas in the past few years. A number of proactive strategies for the implementation of this system has already been processed and various e governance initiatives have been undertaken such as eMitra, secLAN and RSWAN. However efforts need to be made to ensure that the benefits of such initiatives percolate down to the rural masses to ensure that the entire population can benefit fully from an e governance system.

The state of Rajasthan also has great potential to develop as an Information Technology Centre and is an ideal base for the development of **Information Technology** and **Information Technology Enabled Services**. The state offers following business prospects for the private sector-

- Setting up of BPO and other IT units in IT Parks



- Setting up of CIC being operated by citizens
- IT Units
- R&D Centres

However, the further growth and expansion of this Industry depends on the development and upgradation of Infrastructure which can be developed in the spirit of Public Private Partnerships. The required infrastructure can be classified as follows:

General Infrastructure

This includes the basic infrastructural framework to support the development of Industry as a whole and encompasses:

- Transportation Infrastructure
- Telecommunication Infrastructure/Connectivity
- Power

Specific Infrastructure

This relates to infrastructure specific to the encouragement of the IT industry.

- Hi-Tech Parks
- Trained Manpower/ Human Resource/IT Education & Training

Fiscal Infrastructure

The State Government has to provide the necessary support and encouragement for the IT and related Industries. The government has extended a number of fiscal and non fiscal incentives for the development of this industry. RIICO, in association with SIDBI, is also providing venture capital through the Rajasthan Asset Management Company (P) Ltd. for the IT industry and other knowledge based industries.

Education

The state of Rajasthan had faced an acute problem of illiteracy during the 1990's. However in the last decade various efforts and initiatives undertaken by the state have resulted in Rajasthan witnessing rapid improvements in this area. Provision of quality education would ensure the socio economic and sustainable development of the state which can be achieved through the following.

- Provision of adequate and quality education.
- Employment and participation in the labour market to give a better standard of living to the people of Rajasthan.
- Provision and extension of education services to women.
- Providing vocational training courses and technical education.



There is an urgent need in the state of Rajasthan to train and educate its manpower in order to achieve its developmental targets. Though various efforts and initiatives have been undertaken by the Government to improve the quality and focus of education, significant potential still exists for the further development of this sector.

1. Emphasis should be laid on providing **vocational training courses and technical education** which would provide direct skills for employment in a number of sectors.
2. The government needs to further boost the setting up of institutes which would provide quality **basic and vocational education at the district level**.
3. There should be enhanced **industry- education linkages**.
4. The institutes and universities also need to develop courses that would meet the **manpower requirements of the key industries and sectors**.
5. For the development of the Information Technology industry in the state, there is the need to introduce Information Technology as an essential component of education at the school level. This would ensure the creation of an **IT trained manpower** that could gain employment in the IT and ITES services sector like call centers, database services, content development, medical transcription, etc
6. There is great potential for the development of **Kota as an education hub**. In order to effectively develop Kota as a centre for education and coaching, there exists significant potential to further develop the necessary physical, social and civic infrastructural facilities which would greatly facilitate the development of this region.

Conclusion

There exist a vast number of investment and business opportunities in the state of Rajasthan. Though primarily an agrarian state, the long term growth of the state depends greatly on the development and growth in the manufacturing and services sector. Furthermore the state needs to address the issue of increasing agricultural productivity. Rajasthan has a strategic advantage in terms of its geographical location. Its proximity to Delhi and other parts of the north and north-western India is deemed as favourable for investment and industrial growth.

The challenge in the case of Rajasthan is to harness the untapped potential of the identified sectors and create adequate forward and backward linkages to ensure citizen empowerment and sustainable economic development. Furthermore substantial attention needs to be paid to the development of industrial infrastructure together with basic infrastructural facilities to ensure rapid industrial growth in the state as this is one



of the major impediments to the state's progress. A focused strategy is also required to create a conducive environment for attracting and retaining investments in the key industries and sectors of the state.