



RAJASTHAN Through Districts



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About the Book

Since antiquity, Rajasthan has been land of kings and kingdoms. At the time of Independence (1947), Rajasthan had 19 Princely states and 3 Chief-ships. As per the Indian administrative setup these states have been merged, divided, transferred to convert into 33 distinct districts. While administrative efficiency has been the driving force behind the districts, the long history, lineage and diversity has allowed each of the districts to boast of unique history, culture, trades, folks, physical features and places peculiar to each one of them.

The book aims to serve as a macro-level guide and explores the history, geography, art and culture of each of these districts of Rajasthan, in a unique way. It contains 33 chapters, one on each of the 33 districts. For each district, *location, history, rulers, historical places, geography, natural places, major fairs and festivals, minerals and aspects of population* have been covered. Small pictures of the objects have been included to improve the feel of the topic.

The book can be a companion to lone traveller in land of Rajasthan, guiding her/him across the history, context of historical things, natural geography of places, flora, fauna & the natural places, worth visiting in each district. It is also a keep for people who want to understand the long history, diverse culture, and multiplicity of traditions of Rajasthan, in a simple, short yet structured way.

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Chapter 1. Ajmer

Location, Area & Administration:

Ajmer is located at an altitude of 200 meters from sea level with co-ordinates 26° 27, N. lat. and 74° 44, E. long. Situated on slopes of Taragarh hills, Ajmer occupies the heart of Rajasthan. Ajmer is surrounded by Tonk & Jaipur districts in east, Nagaur in north, Pali district to the west and Rajsamand & Bhilwara district to the South.

History of Ajmer:

The history of Ajmer sublimates in 7 century A.D, when scion from Macavati of Chauhan dynasty, Ajaipal established himself at Ajmer and erected the fort of Tarragarh (present name). His successor Dola Rae, lost Ajmer to Islamic Invasions, to be recovered by Manik Rae. Rao Beelundeo defended Ajmer against Mahmud of Ghazni and Ajmer continued to be ruled by Chauhan dynasty, in spite of repeated invasions by Turkic Muslim armies from Central Asia across the north of India. Prithviraj Chauhan, also known as Rai Pithora succeeded to the throne in 1178 CE at the age of 13. Chauhan defeated Muhammad Ghor in the First Battle of Tarain in 1191 but was defeated, captured at the Second Battle of Tarain (1192).

Khawaja Muinuddin Chishti famous as Garib Nawaz, visited Ajmer during reign of Prthvi Raj Chauhan and established the Chishti Order of Sufism in the Indian subcontinent.

Even after Ajmer was conquered by Muhammad of Ghor, founder of the Delhi Sultanate, in 1193. The Chauhan rulers were able to gain autonomy upon the payment of a heavy tribute to him. Ajmer regained independence under the ruler of Mewar in 1365. Shortly there began contest between Maharajas of Mewar and Marwar for control of Ajmer, until 1532 when, the Marwar conquered it.

In 1553, the state was under control of the Hindu Emperor Hem Chandra Vikramaditya (Hemu). In 1556, Hemu was defeated and killed in the Second Battle of Panipat and control of Ajmer passed to the Mughal emperor Akbar in 1559. It was in Ajmer that Sir Thomas Roe, as ambassador of King James I of England, had his audience with Emperor Jahangir on 19th January 1616 A.D. which laid the stepping stone of the British Raj in India through the charter of free trading granted to the East India Company by the Emperor.

In 1627 A.D, it was in Ajmer that Shah Jahan, on the death of Jahangir, proclaimed himself Emperor of India while returning from Udaipur and proceeding to Delhi. And after a furious battle on 11th, 12th

and 13th of March 1659 A.D, it was in Ajmer again that a beginning of the decline of Moghul Empire was made with the victory of Aurangzeb against his brother Dara Shikoh.

In the early 1700s century, control passed to the Marathas.

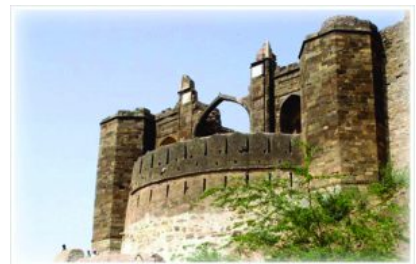
In 1818 Ajmer became part of the Province of Ajmer-Marwar in the colonial British Raj when British forced the Marathas to cede the city for 50,000 rupees. It consisted of the districts of Ajmer and Merwara, and were physically separated by the territory of the Rajputana Agency. Ajmer-Marwar was directly administered by the British Raj, by a commissioner who was subordinate to the Governor-General's agent for Rajputana.

Ajmer-Marwar remained a province of India until 1950, when it became the Ajmer State. Ajmer state became part of Rajasthan state on 1 November 1956.

Ajmer Historical Places:

Taragarh Fort:

Taragarh fort was first built by *Chauhan king Ajaipal* on Taragarh Hill. It is also said that Rana Sanga's brother Prthvi Raj made a portion of for his wife Tara and named it Taragarh. The fort guarding Ajmer, was the seat of the Chauhan rulers and was again believed to be built by Mughal ruler Akbar.



Taragarh is reputed to be one of the oldest hill forts in India and the world. The battlements run along the top of the hill. The walls are two miles (3 km) in circumference and the fort can only be approached by way of a very steep slope. When it fell to the British Raj, the fort was dismantled on the orders of Lord William Bentinck and was converted into a sanatorium for the British troops.

Adhai din ka Jhopra

Adhai din ka Jhopra is actually a Masjid built by *Qutub-ud-Din-Aibak*, first Sultan of Delhi, in AD 1199. Sultan *Ilututmish* had subsequently beautified it in AD 1213 with a screen pierced by corbelled engrailed arches which appears in this country for the



first time. However, a large number of architectural members and sculptures of temples are lying inside the *verandah* of the complex for safety and security purposes by the department which shows the existence of a Hindu temple in its vicinity during circa 11th-12th Century AD. This mosque, built from the dismantled remains of temples, is known as Adhai-din-ka-Jhonpra possibly from the fact that a fair used to be held here for two and a half days.

The Ajmer Sharif Dargah:

Ajmer Sharif, situated at the foot of the Taragarh hill, is the shrine of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. It contains the domed tomb of the saint and several white marble buildings arranged around two courtyards, including a massive gate donated by the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Akbari Mosque, built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.



Akbar used to come here by foot on pilgrimage from Agra every year in observance of a vow when he prayed for a son. The large pillars called "Kose ('Mile') Minar", erected at intervals of two miles (3 km) along the entire way between Agra and Ajmer mark the places where the royal pilgrims halted every day.

Akbari Fort & Museum:

This fort was constructed in 1570 by Akbar and is also called as Daulat-khanna or Magazine. Plans for battle of Haldighati were finalized in this fort in 1576 and Jehangir camped in the fort for 3 years to bring mewar under mughal control. This fort is a magnificent example of Mughal architecture and it is the location from where Salim, as the Emperor Jahangir read out the farman permitting the British East India Company to trade with India. In 1801, control of fort passed to British who converted it into magazine (armory).



Currently, the fort is converted into a state museum and houses a collection of Mughal, Rajput armor and sculpture. The fort also has beautiful paintings and Janana portion has excellent picchkari works.

Soni ji ki Nasiyan:

Soniji ki Nasiyan is a Jain Temple located in Ajmer and is a wonderful example of ornate architecture, dedicated to Risabhadev or Adinath. Its entrance is made of red stone and the marble staircase inside is engraved with images of the holy Tirthankars – omniscient teachers of Jain faith who taught righteousness. The temple was constructed in the late 19th century. Its main chamber, Swarna Nagari (City of Gold), is aptly named so because of the several gold-plated wooden figures it houses within its walls. This famous architectural marvel is also mentioned in Kurt Titze's book, 'Jainism: A Pictorial Guide to the Religion of Non-Violence.'



Maqbara Shaikh Husain:

It houses the tomb of Khwaja Husain Chishti Rehamatullah Alaih (Shaikh Husain Ajmeri) who was the Peer of Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Emperor Akbar's Time, He was the great grandson of Khwaja Moinuddin Hasan Chishti Rehmatullah Alaih, his tomb was built in 1637–1638 by Khwaja Alauddin Chishti and Sajjadanashin Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin.

Mayo College:

Mayo College was founded in 1875 by Lord Mayo, Viceroy of India. The architecture of the school buildings is in the same style as royal Rajasthani architecture. The school's main building, in white marble, is a classic example of Indo-Saracenic architecture.

Ajmer Fairs & Festivals:

Pushkar Fair (October- November)

Pushkar Fair is one of the largest cattle fairs in the country, which is held every year at *Pushkar on Kartik Poornima* (Full Moon, Oct-Nov). Apart from the buying and selling of livestock, it has religious significance and has become an important tourist attraction. Competitions such as the "*matka phod*", camel races, parades, "longest moustache", and "bridal competition" are the main draws for this fair which attracts thousands of tourists. The 12 day affair has hundreds of horses, camels and buffaloes being bought & sold. Vendors sell handlooms, snacks sweetmeats, ice crushes, Bangles, Camel Saddles etc. The entire town comes to life with men wearing colorful turbans and women clad in gorgeous

odhnis. With the setting of the Sun, the atmosphere resounds with bells ringing and worship is called 'Deepdaan' and the entire lake is illuminated with floating lights. The view is mesmerizing not just at the lake, market but also at the sandunes of thar & camel safari.

Pushkar Fair Dates: 8-14Nov. 2016, 28 Oct. to 4 Nov. 2017, 15-23 Nov. 2018.

Urs Fair

Ajmer Urs (death anniversary) is the largest Muslim fair in India where thousands of devotees pilgrimage for the Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti at the dargah of the saint in Ajmer. The Urs celebrations continue for six days, commencing with the hoisting of a white flag on the tomb by the Sajdanashin (successor-representative) of the Chishtia order. Over the following days, the tomb is ritually anointed with rosewater and sandalwood paste; qawwalis are sung and poetry recited in praise of the Almighty, to create an atmosphere of brotherhood and happiness amongst people of different backgrounds.

At the time of the Urs, a busy bazaar springs up at the foot of the dargah. Flowers, embroidered prayer rugs, prayer caps and decorative chadars are among the many things to be found in the bazaar, apart from the usual souvenirs which make their way to fairs such as this. Further, in the exteriors of the dargah surrounds, one may also come across two giant cauldrons cook sweet rice seasoned with condiments and dry fruits to be dished out as sanctified food or 'tabarukh'.

Geography of Ajmer:

The eastern portion of the district is generally flat, broken only by gentle undulations. The western parts, from north-west to south-west, are intersected by the Aravalli Range. Many of the valleys in this region are sandy deserts, part of India's Thar Desert, with an occasional oasis of cultivation. Some fertile tracts are also present; among these is the plain on which lies the town of Ajmer. This valley has an artificial lake, and is protected by the massive walls of the **Nagpathar range** or Serpent rock, which forms a barrier against the sand. The only hills in the district are the Aravalli Range and its offshoots.

Peaks: **Taragarh (Todgarh)**

Ajmer Rivers:

- The *Banas River* touches the south-eastern boundary of the district near Samur.
- *Khari river* forms the boundary between Ajmer and Bhilwara districts.

- *Luni river* which is a major source of irrigation and fulfilling water requirements of central, western and south west Rajasthan has its origin in the valley of *Nag Pahar*. Two small streams—the Sagarmati, Saraswati, pour their waters into Luni.
- *Dai River*, also originates its Ajmer and flows in south-east direction to meet Banas.
- *River Rupangarh* origins near Salemabad(Ajmer) and runs in north-east direction to fall in Sambhar lake.

Ajmer Natural Places:

Anasagar Lake

It is an artificial lake built in 1135 -1150 AD by *Arnouraj Chauhan*, the grandfather of Prithvi Raj Chauhan III. The lake is named after him. The lake is spread over 13 Kilometers. The pavilions or Baradari of Sangmarmar marble at Anasagar were built by Shahjahan in 1637 and the Daulat Bagh Gardens were built by Jehangir. There is a Circuit house on a hill near the lake that used to be British Residency. There is an island in the center of the lake which is accessible by boat.



Lake Foy Sagar

Lake Foy Sagar is an artificial lake built by an English engineer, *Mr. Foy* in 1892 AD. This work was taken up to provide famine relief through wage employment to locals. Lake Foy Sagar offers a beautiful view of the Aravalli range.

Pushkar Lake

Pushkar Lake around which the Pushkar town has developed is located amidst Aravalli ranges approx. 12 kms to the north-west of Ajmer city. The mountain range called as *Nag Pahar* ("snake mountain") separates the lake from the city of Ajmer. The valley is formed between the two parallel ranges of the Aravalli hills running south-west to north-east. The lake is considered Sacred and a prime Hindu pilgrimage also regarded as "Teerth Raj" in local dialect.

Todgarh-Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary:

Todgarh-Raoli wildlife Sanctuary is situated in 3 districts including Pali, Ajmer & Rajsamand. It has 475.2 Square kms of area, which is habitat to panther, hyena, wolf, green pigeon and jungle fowl.

**Ajmer Natural Resources:**

Ajmer district is the prime producer of *quartz* and leading producer of *feldspar*. Other minerals available in the district are base-metals, cement grade limestone, granite, marble, asbestos, wollastonite, garnet, calcite, emerald, soapstone, magnesite, fluorspar, mica etc.

Ajmer Population:

According to the 2011 census, Ajmer has a population of around 551,360 in its urban agglomeration and 542,580 in the city. In average literacy, Ajmer occupies 8 positions among districts of Rajasthan. It has male literacy rate is at 82.4 percent and female literacy rate of 55.7 percent to have combined rate of 69.3 percent.

Chapter 2: Alwar

Alwar Location, Area & Administration

Alwar is located in the north-east of Rajasthan between 27°34' & 28°4' north Latitudes and 76°7' & 77°13' east Longitudes. Alwar is bounded by Mahendragarh (Haryana) in north-west, Gurgaon (Haryana) in the north and north-east, by Bharatpur in the east, by Duasa in south and Jaipur in south-west & west direction.

The district covers an area of 8380 sq. kms. comprising 16 tehsils, namely Alwar, Bansur, Behror, Govindgarh, Kathumar, Kishangarhbas, Kotkasim, Laxmangarh, Malakhera, Mundawar, Neemrana, Rajgarh, Ramgarh, Reni, Thanagazi, Tijara

Alwar city is located at a distance of 165 kms from Jaipur the state's capital city which is also the nearest airport.

History of Alwar

During ancient period around 1500 BC, Alwar was part of Matsya region of olden times whose capital was Viratnagar. Also known as Matasya Desh, this is said to be the Pandavas, the mighty heroes of the Mahabharata, spent the last years of their 13-year exile.

Early medieval times, Alwar was ruled by Jadaun clan of Chandravanhi rajputs. In early 13th century Nahar Khan of the same Chandravanshi clan converted to Islam in thirteenth century during Firuz Shah Tughlak's regime. Alwar Khan who was the descendent Nahar Khan, established the kingdom of Alwar in 1412 A.D.

During Mughal period, Khanzada Hasan Khan Mewati fought against invader Babar and later on Hasan Khan's nephew Jamal Khan gave his two daughters to Humayun and Bairam Khan in marriage. In the 1550s, Khanzada Rajput king of Ulwar was overthrown by Akbar's military campaign to encircle Mewar Kingdom.

Later on 25th November 1775, Rao Pratap Singh raised his standard over the Alwar Fort and founded the modern kingdom of Alwar.

Rulers of Modern Alwar State

- Pratap Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1775–1791) Rao Raja of Alwar
 - Founded the princely state of Ulwar.
- Bakhtawar Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1791–1815) Rao Raja of Alwar
 - He also devoted himself to the work of extension and consolidation of the territory of the State.
 - Maharao Raja Bakhtawar Singh rendered valuable services to Lord Lake, during the latter's campaign against Marathas, in the battle of Laswari, in the Alwar territory when the State troops assisted him in finally breaking the Marathas and Jat powers.
 - As a result, in 1803, the First Treaty of Offensive and Defensive Alliance was forged between Alwar State and the East India Company. Thus, Alwar was the first princely State in India to enter into Treaty Relations with the East India Company.
- Bane Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1815–1857) Maharao Raja of Alwar
- Sheodan Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1857–1874) Maharao Raja of Alwar
- Mangal Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1874–1892) Maharaja of Alwar
- Jai Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1892–1937) Maharaja of Alwar
 - It was in the times of Jai Singh that name of state was changed from Ulwar to Alwar.
- Tej Singh Prabhakar Bahadur (1937–1971) Maharaja of Alwar
 - Following the independence of India in 1947, Alwar acceded unto the dominion of India. On 18 March 1948, the state merged with three neighboring princely states (Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli) to form the Matsya Union. This union in turn merged unto the Union of India. On 15 May 1949, it was united with certain other princely states and the territory of Ajmer to form the present-day Indian state of Rajasthan.

Alwar Historical Places

Kesroli Hill Fort

This 14th century fort is best known for its turrets, ramparts and arched verandas. The Yaduvanshi Rajputs, who are said to be descendants of Lord Krishna, built it. Today, the fort has been converted into a heritage hotel.



Bala Quila

The Bala Qila (meaning young fort) was built on the foundations of a 10th century mud fort and is a towering structure set atop a hill. Strong fortifications, graceful marble columns and delicate latticed balconies make up the fort. Bala Qila can be entered through six gates, namely Jai Pol, Suraj Pol, Laxman Pol, Chand Pol, Krishan Pol and Andheri Gate.



Alwar City Palace

Raja Bakhtawar Singh built the city palace in 1793 AD. The palace is an amazing mélange of the Rajputana and Islami styles of architecture. The highlight of this palace is graceful marble pavilions set on lotus flower bases in the central courtyard. The palace that once belonged to the Maharaja has been converted into the District Collectorate. Its grand halls and chambers now house government offices.



Bhangarh Town

Located fifty kilometres from Sariska Sanctuary is the splendid town of Bhangarh which was built in the 17th century by Raja Madho Singh. The most popular legend states that the town was cursed by an evil magician and was subsequently abandoned. The evil effect of the curse is believed to be working even to this day. In fact, Bhangarh holds the distinction of being one of the most haunted places in India.



The Palace Museum

The Palace Museum is a must-visit for anyone with an interest in the opulent life and lifestyle led by the Maharajas of Alwar. Rare manuscripts, including one depicting Emperor Babur's life, Ragamala paintings and miniatures and even historic swords that once belonged to Muhammad Ghor, Emperor Akbar and Aurangzeb can be found here.

Moosi Maharani ki Chhatri

This cenotaph, built in the memory of Maharaja Bakhtawar Singh and his queen, Rani Moosi, reflects the Indo-Islamic style of architecture. The upper portion comprising columned pavilions and domed arches is made of marble while the lower section consists of pillars in red sandstone. The memorial is rated as one of the finest of its type.



Neemrana Fort

History says that Neemrana Fort was built by the Yaduvanshis, believed to be the descendants of Lord Krishna. Its story is rife with conquests and defeats and it has passed from the Rajputs to the Mughals and the Jats, before finally coming back to the Rajputs in 1775. Today, it is being run as a famous heritage hotel.



Fateh Jung Gombad

This spectacular tomb, which is a combination of domes and minarets is an artistic marvel. Constructed from high quality sandstone, its massive dome can be seen from afar and is a blend of Hindu and Muslim architecture. It is dedicated to Fateh Jung who was a kind-hearted minister of the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan.

Tijara Jain Temple

About 60 kilometres from the Alwar-Delhi route lies this important centre of Jain pilgrimage. The exquisitely decorated ancient temple was built to commemorate the eighth Tirthankar, Shri Chandra Prabha Bhagwan. The son of King Mahasen and Queen Sulakshana, he ruled his kingdom for several years before receiving Diksha and being initiated. After serving mankind for several years, he meditated for a month and attained Nirvana.

Talvraکش

The Sariska-Alwar road leads to this enchanting site where pilgrims bathe in hot sulphur springs. Tinkling scattered temple bells and strolling langurs lend it a unique ambience. It is famous as the place where Mandav Rishi sought penance.

Fairy Queen

The Fairy Queen is a national treasure and the oldest working locomotive engine in the world. The engine was built in 1855 and acquired by the Eastern Indian Railways from a British firm. The train that harnesses this engine is now used for tourism between Delhi & Alwar.

Alwar Fairs & Festivals

Matsya Festival

The Matsya festival of Alwar held in November over two days is the foremost of all fairs and festivals of Rajasthan. It is celebrated to glorify the prosperity, traditional values and colorful customs of the region.

Other Festivals

- Choochar Sidh: The main fair of Mewat, is attended chiefly by Meos
- Bilali Fair: It is celebrated at Bansur, on the Jaipur border in honour of Shitla Devi, during the months of March-April.

Geography of Alwar

Geography of Alwar comprises of rivers, mountains, plains and semi-arid areas. The beautiful ranges of the Aravali Hills surround the city, which act as a natural barrier for the city, protecting it from the harsh and dry winds during the summer season. The rocky ranges of the Aravallis break the undulating plateau into fragments. The city is adorned with expansive stretches of dense deciduous forests that are inhabited by rich flora and fauna.

Rivers of Alwar

Around Alwar region, five rivers used to flow but due to deforestation and mining activities the rivers dried up. Presently due to the special initiative of **Tarun Bharat Sangh**, rivers **Arvari and Ruparel** were revitalized again by using the traditional water harvesting methods and by constructing 'Johads' or small earthen check dams.

Sahibi or Sabi River

- It is the largest river of Alwar District
- Two of its stream rises near Bairath & Sewar hills in Jaipur. The river flows in north-east direction across Alwar to Najafgarh lake near Patodi in Haryana.

Ruparail River

- Ruparail river rises in Thanagazi tehsil from Udaynath hills.
- It is also called as Lasavar river and varah river. The river flows in south-east direction to flow into Bharatpur.

Alwar Natural Places

Sariska Tiger Reserve

Sariska is a wildlife refuge that was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955. In 1978, it was included in Project Tiger and given the status of a tiger reserve. In 1979 it was upgraded to National Park. Further, 16th-century Kankwadi fort, built by Jai Singh II, is also located near the centre of the park. Sariska is famous for Bengal Tigers but other species such as such as the Indian leopard, striped hyena, Indian jackal, chital, sambhar, nilgai, chinkara, four-horned antelope, wild boar, hare, hanuman langur can also be found inside the park.



Sillserh Lake

Located 15 kilometres to the southwest of Alwar, this tranquil lake is nestled amidst forested hills and boasts of magnificent cenotaphs on its bank. In 1845, Maharaja Vinay Singh constructed a hunting chalet here for his Queen, Shila. Today it is a tourist bungalow.



Garbhaji Waterfall

Garbhaji Falls is a popular destination for foreign and local tourists. The breathtaking sight of the water cascading off the rocks is the best feature of the place. Ideal for photographers and nature lovers, it is also popular with people who love to explore a city beyond its man-made structures.

Purjan Vihar

One has Maharaja Sheodan Singh to thank for this attractive garden that was conceptualised and constructed in 1868. A picturesque place, locally known as Simla (the Summer House), was added to this garden to provide respite from the blazing sun.



Alwar Natural Resources

The metallic minerals include copper(Pratapgarh, Kho-Dariba and Bhagoni), iron and manganese, while non metallic minerals include batytes, silica sand, quartz, yellow ochre, pyrophyllite, soapstone, limestone, granite and marble etc.

Alwar Population

According to 2011 census the population of Alwar district was 36,71,999. It is 3rd largest populated district after Jaipur & Jodhpur.

Chapter 3: Banswara

Banswara Location, Area & Administration

District of Banswara is situated in the southern most part of Rajasthan, at an average altitude of 302 meters. It is the small district with area of 5037 sq. km and lies between 23.11° N to 23.56° N latitudes and 73.58° E to 74.49° E. longitudes. The district boundary in the east and south coincides with the state boundaries of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat respectively; where as the northern-eastern and western boundaries of Banswara coincide with district boundaries of Pratapgarh and Dungarpur districts, respectively.

Banswara district is composed of 11 tehsils namely Abapura, Anandpuri, Banswara, Bagidora, Choti Sarvan, Gangadtalai, Ghatol, Ganoda, Garhi, Kushalgarh, Sajjangarh.

History of Banwara

Since antiquity, Banswara has been land of tribes. Around 1400 BC, Bhils and Minas roamed and ruled the land. The princely state of Banswara was established by Jagmal Singh after defeating and killing a Bhil ruler Bansia or Wasna. The district is said be named after the same Bhil ruler or probably for the "bans" or bamboo forests in the area.

The rulers of the state bore the title 'Maharawal' from 1688 onwards.

Banswara State became a British protectorate on 16 November 1818.

Banswara district forms eastern part of the region known as Vagad or Vagwar. Another popular name of Banswara is 'Little Kashi' or 'Lodhikashi', due to the presence of 12 and a half Swayambhoo Shivalingas.

Historical Places of Banswara

Tripura Sundari

Tripura Sundari is the temple, devoted to Goddess Tripura Sundari or Turita Mata, which has beautiful idol of black stone having 18 hands each carrying a symbol, while the Goddess is seen riding a tiger. The exact date of construction of this temple is unknown but, it is said to have been built before Samrat Kanishka (Kushana time), who ruled here. It is one of the 'Shakti Peeths' of the Hindus.

Mangarh Hill (Jallianwallah Bagh of Rajasthan)

It was on Mangarh hill, six years before the Jallianwallah Bagh massacre, that over 1,500 Bhil tribals that were gathered for a peaceful meeting under social reformer *Govindgiri and Punja*, were killed by British forces on November 17, 1913. In 2016, CM of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje declared that a national museum will be built at the martyrdom site.

Madareshwar Temple

This is a famous temple of Lord Shiva built inside a natural cave on top of a hill towards the eastern part of the city. It provides a sensational view.

Paraheda

Paraheda is a famous Shiva temple located in Garhi Tehsil. It was constructed by King Mandlik in the 12th century and is approximately 22 kilometres from Banswara. Shri Raj Mandir or more popularly known as the City Palace, situated on a hillock overlooking the town, is built in Rajput Architecture style in the 16th century.

Cheech

This village is known for its famous 12th century old temple of 'Lord Brahma'. which houses a statue of Lord Brahma of an average man's height.

Talwara

This town is famous for the ancient temple of the Sun, Laxmi Narayan Temple, Jain Temple of Sambharnath, Lord Amaliya Ganesh, Maha Laxmi Temple, Dwarkadhish Temple and Jain Temple of Sambharnath. A number of Sompura Sculpture artists can be seen carving stones on the roadside in Talwara.

Andeshwar Parswanathji:

Andeshwar Parswanathji is a famous Jain temple located on a small hill in Kushalgarh tehsil. The temple is home to rare Shilalekhs from the 10th century.

The place also houses two Digamabara Jain Parshwanatha temples.

Abdulla Pir

It is a popular shrine of a Bohra Muslim saint. This is the Dargah of Abdul Rasul, known as Abdullah Pir, situated in the southern part of the city. Every year a large number of people, specially of the Bohra Community, take part in the 'URS' at the Dargah.

Fairs & Festivals of Banswara

Holi

Holi is the main festival for the tribals. During Holi tribes wear their traditional dresses carrying swords & sticks and perform the "Gair dance", a typical tribal dance of this region.

Divasa (Haryali Amavasya)

Divasa is a festival celebrated on the last day of first fortnight of Shravanmas. On this day special bath is performed to Bullocks and other animals, and prayers are offered to them as they are considered God's different posture.

Aamligyaras

This festival is celebrated on the 11th day of the bright half of Phalgun and unmarried boys and girls observe fast on this day. They go to a pond in the afternoon, wash themselves and bring small branches of tamarind trees. The Bhils attend the fair armed with bows, arrows and swords. This festival is held at Ghodi Ranchod, Bhim Kund, Sangmeshwar, etc.

Beneshwar Fair

The biggest tribal fair is held at Beneshwar (in Dungarpur) at the confluence of Mahi, Som and Jhakhm. A number of tribals from Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan gather to immerse the mortal remains of the dead. They worship, sing and dance on Magh Purnima, which falls in the month of February. The mela is held between Magh Shukla Gyaras and Magh Krishna Panchami.

Ghotia Amba Fair

This is a colorful and traditional fair held every year from Chaitra Thrayodashi to Chaitra Shukla Duj. The Bhils gather to take a holy dip in the tank near the temple with idols of Pandavas. They demonstrate their faith in the holy mango trees and Kaila Pani.

Mangarh Mela

The important fair of the tribals is held on Margshirsha Purnima. At this fair the tribals of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat participate and they pay tribute to Guru Govindgiri, founder of the Samp Sabha.

Geography of Banswara

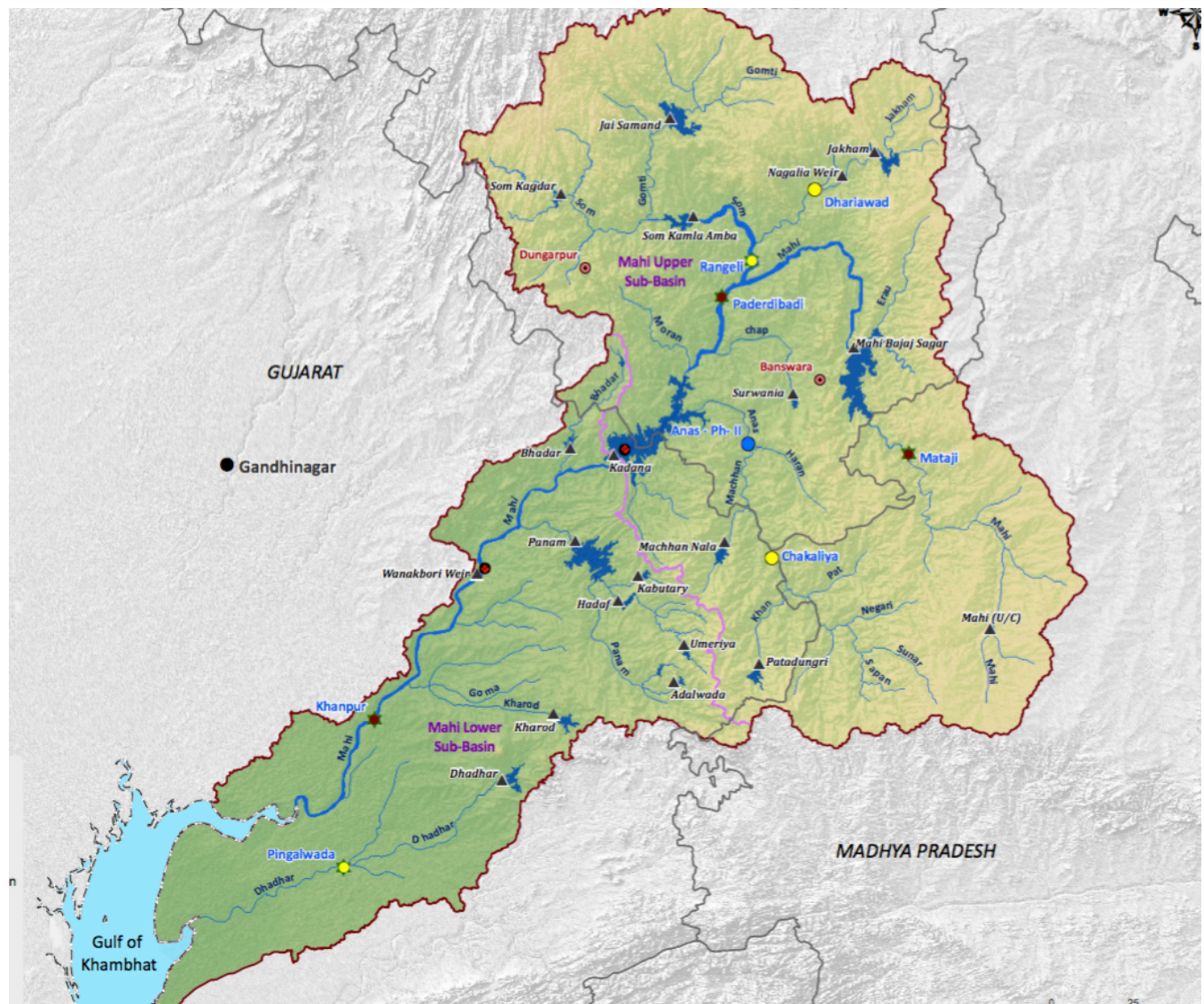
Banswara is also known as 'City of Hundred Islands' due to presence of numerous islands on the Mahi River named "Chachakota" (where the islands located). During rainy season, the region is surrounded natural surrounding water falls including Kagdi fall (Singpura) Juha fall, Kadeliya fall, Bhuadara fall, Jhulla fall & Cha-cha falls.

Tropic of Cancer passes through Banswara.

Rivers of Banswara

Mahi

- Mahi is the largest river of Banswara, which originates from Amjara hills near Dhar in Madhya Pradesh. It enters Rajasthan from Khatun Village in Banswara and cuts twice the tropic of cancer.
- Tributaries of Mahi include Som, Jhakham, Anas, Chanp, Erav, Hiran and Kagdi.



Banswara Natural Places

Mahi Dam

The Mahi dam was constructed on Mahi river between 1972 and 1983 under the Mahi Bajaj Sagar Project for the purposes of hydroelectric power generation and water supply. It is the Second largest dam in Rajasthan.

Kagadi Pickup Weir

Kagadi lake is a part of Mahi Bajaj Sagar & is located on Ratlam Road, 3 kilometres from the main city.

Dialab Lake

Dialab lake is a lake with mythological significance, it is believed that the Pandavas stayed here during their exile. There is a tunnel, which is believed to be going up to Ghotiya Amab, which the Pandavas used for their passage during the rainy season. A major part of the lake itself is covered with lotus flowers. On the banks of the lake is Badal Mahal, the summer residence of the former rulers.

Ram Kund

Ram Kund is also known as 'Phati Khan' because there is a deep cave under the hill. There is a Pool of cold water found throughout the year. It is said that Lord Ram, during his exile came & stayed here.

Anand Sagar Lake

Anand Sagar lake, also known as Bai Talab, is an artificial lake constructed by Lanchi Bai, the Rani of Maharawal Jagmal Singh. The lake is located in the eastern part of Banswara and is surrounded by holy trees known as 'Kalpa Vriksha', famous for fulfilling the wishes of visitors. The 'chattris' or cenotaphs of the rulers of the state are also scattered nearby.

Banswara Natural Resources

The mineral wealth of Banswara district, is constituted mainly by non-metallic minerals like rock phosphate, limestone (Oda-bassi, Kalinjara), marble (Tripura-Sundri), dolomite, soapstone, graphite etc.

The metallic minerals occurring in the district include manganese (Leelwana, Talwada), iron (Loharia), lead-zinc and copper ores. Recently presence of gold is reported in Jagpura-Bhukhia, Teemrana Mata, Khamera-Undwala area of Banswara

Banswara Population

As per 2011 Census, Banswara has total population of 17,98,194. The main occupation of the people, specially of tribals, is agriculture. The tribals live in small one-room houses, known as "tapra", which lie scattered all over the area. The main dialect spoken in the district is Wagri, a mixture of Gujrati and Mewari.

Chapter 4: Baran

Location, Area & Administration:

The district of Baran extends from 24-25' to 25-25' North latitudes, 76-12' to 77-26' east longitudes and is located at altitude of 265 meters from sea level. Baran is located on southeast corner of Rajasthan and touches Shrotpur, Shivpuri and Guna Districts of Madhya Pradesh along east side. Further, Baran is bordered in northwest by Kota and southwest by Jhalawar District of Rajasthan State.

Baran has an area of 6,955 Sq. Kms and is divided into 8 tehsils for purpose of administration namely Anta, Atru, Baran, Chhabra, Chipabarod, Kishanganj, Mangrol & Shahbad.

History of Baran:

Baran city was under Solanki Rajputs in the 14th -15th century. The area was named 'Baran' owing to the twelve villages under Solanki's. There are also saying that since the soils of the area are mostly 'Barani' so it is called 'Baran'.

Before Indian independence in 1947, most of present-day Baran District was part of the princely state of Kota, although Shahabad tehsil was a discontinuous portion of Jhalawar princely state, and Chhabra tehsil was a discontinuous portion of Tonk princely state.

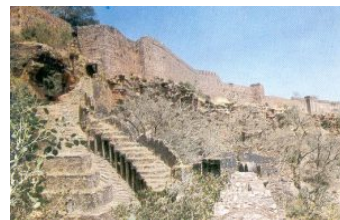
Post Independence, the rulers of the princely states acceded to the Government of India .On 31 March' 1949, Rajasthan was reconstituted and Baran was converted into Sub Division headquarters of Kota district.

The present district Baran was carved out of erstwhile Kota District on 10th April 1991.

Historical Places of Baran:

Shahbad Fort

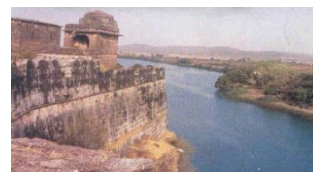
Shahabad fort is one of the strongest forts in Hadoti area. It is located at about 80 km. from Baran. The Chauhan Vanshi Dhandhel Rajput Mukutmani Dev constructed Shahbad fort in the 1521 A.D. (Samvat 1577). This is situated in the dense forest area on the high mountain ranges and is surrounded by



Kundakoh valley, waterfalls and a lake. The Topkhana (artillery) has Nawalbaan tope(cannon), Barudkhana and some temples in the forts are still secure.

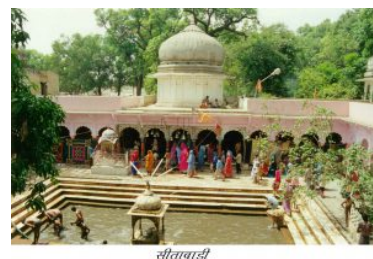
Shergarh Fort

Shergarh fort is situated in Atru tehsil, about 65 km. from Baran district headquarters. The fort is located atop a hillock on the bank of Parban river. Shershan named the fort as Koshvardhan. A stone edict of 790 AD proves the antiquity of the place.



Sitabari

Sitabari is situated in Kelwara kasba on National Highway road connecting Shivpuri- Gwalior. The place has mythological significance and worshipped as the area where 'Sita mata' lived after being left-out by Lord Rama. This place is also known as the birthplace of Lav & Kush. There are several Kunds in Sitabari namely Balmiki Kund, Sita Kund, Laxman Kund, Surya Kund, Lav-Kush Kund. Sita-Kuti is also situated in the forest area near the temple. The tribal Sahariya fair is held at this place in the May/June every year.



Bhand Devara

Ramgarh-Bhand Devra temples are situated about 40 km. from Baran. The Shiv Mandir of Ramgarh was built in 10th century on the Khajuraho style. Due to the Maithun Statues, the place is named as Bhand Devra. This temple is situated on the bank of pond and is now under the Archaeological department. This temple is known as Rajasthan's mini Khajuraho.



Nahar Garh Fort

The fort is about 73 km. from Baran in Kishanganj tehsil. Fort is an impressive structure in red stone and a fine example of the Mughal architecture.

Kanya Dah- Bilas Garh

Bilasgarh is situated in Kishanganj tehsil. Bilasgarh was the big city during the Khechi kingdom which was destroyed to ruins by the order of Aurangazeb.

It is said that the daughter of the king Khechi was very beautiful and for her Aurangazeb send his force and ruined the city Bilasgarh. The princess ended her life in the 'Bilasi' river, the spot is now known as Kanyadeah. The ruins of the Bilasgarh are still situated in the lonely place inside dense forest area.

Festivals & Fairs of Baran:

Dol Mela

Dolmela is organised at the Dol Talab (Pond) in the Baran city from Jaljhuini Akadshi. The main attraction of this festival is a big Shobha Yatra (procession) which have about 54 Dev Viman (The Holy Statue Carriers) which is also known as DOL, of all the major temples of the city. In this procession some Akhadas also demonstrates their Kartab (type of physical exercise). The procession started from Shreeji temple comes to the Dol Talab where all the Dev Vimans are worshiped and then these are sent back to the respective temples. This fair is organised for 15 days which is very popular among the local residents as well as the residents from the Rajasthan state. People from adjoining Madhya Pradesh also visit for this fair. This fair is the symbol of communal harmony in the area.



Sita Bari Mela

Sitabari is located near Kelwara kasba, about 45 km from the Baran city. A tribal fair is organised here on **Jeshta Amavasya** and is attended by Sahariya tribe in large numbers. Hence, it is also considered as Kumbh in the Sahariya tribe. The Swyambar (marriage function) of Sahariya tribes is organised in this fair where people comes from all over Rajasthan state and adjoining Madhya Pradesh A Sahariya boy drops the handkerchief for proposing Sahariya girl in the fair, if the Sahariya girl accepts the Handkerchief, it is said that they are agreed for marriage. The bride and grooms take the 7 rounds (sat phere) of the Barnawa tree and after the blessings of their parents they are accepted as married couple. This fair is also called animal fair where good varieties of Cow, Buffalo etc. selling-purchasing are made.

Phuldol Festival

Phuldol is the one of the oldest folk festival of the Rajasthan state. The festival is organized yearly in the Kishanganj town on the occasion of Holi. As a part of tradition groom visits in-laws home with his friends to play Holi. On the day of Holi-Dulandi, lots of **Swang** (type of drama) is played. Some of the famous swangs are Gidh-Rawan-Yudh, Band-Bandi swang etc. In the night big 'Shobhayatra' known as 'PhulDolo' is taken out in the town. Lots of people from nearby places come to witness the festival.

Brahmani Mataji Mela

Brahmani Mata fair is organized in the **old fort near Sorsan**. The fair is organized on **Magh-Shukla-Saptmi** and is the only Donkey fair in the Hadoti region where donkey and kachhar are bought-sold in large numbers.

Piplod Christmas fair

This fair is organised in the only Church of the Baran district in the village Piplod in Atru tehsil. This fair is organised on 25 December every year. Though the fair belongs to christians, but locals belonging to hindu & muslim faiths also participate equally.

Geography of Baran:

The land in Baran slopes gently northward beginning from the high table land of Malwa in Madhya Pradesh. The land is generally fertile. There are hills in the South, North and Eastern portion of the district. The hills in the east of Shahabad tehsil have the highest point, named as **Mamooni** (546 meters above mean sea level) in the district. These hills form part of Aravali Ranges. Their slopes are gently and steep and woods mostly cover them. The land of the district slopes gently from South to North and the drainage is through tributaries of Chambal, Parbati & Parwan.

Parbati or Parvati rises in Sehor area of Vindhya and flows in Northwest direction to enter Baran near Karayahat. It flows through Baran & Kota and meets Chambal at paliya village near Kota border.

Natural Places of Baran:

Sorsan Wildlife Sanctuary

Sorasan Wildlife Sanctuary is located on a flat stony plateau of uninhabitable scrubland with a number of small water bodies that can sustain variety of birds, animals, and reptiles. The sanctuary has area of 41 sq. km and lies between river Parwan, running on its western limit and villages with fertile, irrigated, and arable land on the east.



Baran Population:

According to the 2011 census, Baran has a population of around 12,23,921 of which 79.21 percent is rural & 20.79 percent is urban. Baran has a sex ratio of 926 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 67.38%. Further, Baran has a population density of 175 inhabitants per square kilometer.

Chapter 5: Barmer

Location, Area & Administration

Barmer district is located between 24,58' to 26, 32'N Latitudes and 70, 05' to 72, 52' E Longitudes. Barmer is located in western Rajasthan, with Jaisalmer to its North, Jalore on its South, Pali and Jodhpur to its East and Pakistan to its West.

The total area of the district is 28,387 square kilometres.

Administratively, Barmer is divided into 14 tehsils namely Barmer, Baitu, Chohtan, Dhorimanna, Gida, Gadraroad, Gudhamalani, Ramsar, Samdhari, Sedwa, Shiv, Sindhari, Siwana and Panchpadra.



History of Barmer:

The Name:

In earlier times, the area was known by the name “Mallinath” (मल्लिनाथ) after Mallinath, the son of Rao Salkha. Mallinath is considered a God and still worshiped by Rajputs. The area around the “Luni” river was called “Malani” or “मलानी”, derived from the name Mallinath.

In the 18th century, British rulers adopted the name Barmer or Balmer . The name Barmer is derived from the name of the earlier 13th century ruler Bahada Rao Parmar (Panwar) or Bar Rao Parmar (Panwar), it was named Bahadamer (“The Hill Fort of Bahada”).

Rulers of Barmer

- Rao Salkha
 - Rao of Kher
- Rawal Mallinath
 - Founder of Mahecha Clan (a Rathore Sub-clan)

- Rawal Jagmal
 - Rao of Malani
 - Rawat Lunka
 - He attacked Juna with help of his elder brother Rawal Mandalak which was under Chauhan ruler Mudha ji and made his capital, his descendants are known as Barmeras.
 - Rawat Shekha
 - Rawat Jaita
 - Rawat Ratoji
 - Rawat Bhima
 - Founder of present Barmer city
 - Rawat Kalyanmal
 - Rawat Duda ji
 - Rawat Ram Singh
 - Rawat Tezpal Singh
 - Rawat Bhara ji
 - Rao Bhara Ji divided the territory of Barmer equally among his five sons namely Sahiba Ji, Kishan Dass Ji, Lal Singh Ji, Kheenva Ji and Pabba Ji.
 - Rawat Lal Singh ji
 - Rawat Man Singh
 - Rawat Dal Singh
 - Rawat Bhabhut Singh
 - Rawat Panney Singh
 - Rawat Bakidas
 - Rawat Jawahar Singh
 - Rawat Heera Singh
-

- Rawat Ratan Singh
- Rawat Ummed Singh
 - Ex-Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly from Barmer between 1962–1967, and the Sheo constituency in 1985-1990.
- Rawat Tribhuvan Singh
 - He is the current heir of Barmer Gaddi, he was adopted in year 2009 by Late Rawat Umed Singh Ji Rathore's wife Rani Sampat Kanwar (daughter of Thikana Mahansar, Shekhawati).

Historical Places of Barmer

Siwana Fort:

Siwana Fort was constructed in 10th century by Narayan Panwar. In local language its name is Gadh Siwana. After the battle of Giri Summel Rao Maldeo took refuge in this fort from Sher Shah. During 1308-09 under reign of Sataldev, the fort was attacked by Allaudin Khilji which resulted in first Jauhar/Saka. In 1597, Akbar with Motaraja Udai Singh attacked Siwana fort at the time of Kalyanmal which resulted in 2nd Jauhar.



Kiradu Temple

Keradu Temple might have been constructed before the 6th century at the time of "Parmar" Dynasty. There are five temples in all and most remarkable of them is Someshvara Temple. These temples feature impressive sculpture and a Solanki style of architecture. There are 4-5 Big Temple structure of Golden colour and a Sun Temple. The temple is well entitled as "Khajuraoh of Rajasthan". The design of the temple are identicle to the Khajuraoh Temple and Sun Temple at Orrisa. The temple is ruin and with lack of images of God and Goddess. The Keradu was earlier Headquarter of Barmer and it was attacked by Mohammad Gauri in 1140AD who had destroyed the temple structure and its images.



Vankal Mata Temple

Vankal Mata Temple is situated at the west end of the city on a 675 feet high hill, the ancient citadel of the 16th century (fortress), which was called Barmer citadel , whose remains still exist.

Shri Parshwanath Jain Temple

Shri Parshwanath Jain temple was originally a temple of Mahavira. This temple was renovated in the fifteenth century. 120 idols were brought here from Kalidrah and this beautiful and miraculous idol was installed here as Mulnayak (main idol of the temple) in the year 1429 of the Vikram era (1373 AD). It is among the hills in the distant forest at a distance of 13 kilometers from Balotra.

Raniyadehipura

Raniyadeshpura is a small is located near Kalyanpur town {N.H.112} known for Rokaidya Hanumanji temple, Bherunathji temple, vera wala, & Thakur ji temple.

Fairs & Festivals of Barmer

Barmer Thar Festival

In 1986, District administration in collaboration with the Tourism Department started the festival as a practice to enhance tourism potential and to maintain archeological, historical, religious places. The purpose of the festival is to showcase Barmer handicraft industry at international level. The event runs for three days and its programmes includes folk dances, classical performances, folk-music concerts and craft exhibition for tourist and local audiences as well.



Barmer Cattle Fair:

A Cattle fair is held every year at Tilwara village situated on the banks of the Luni river. The fair goes on for a fortnight in the months of March and April.

Folk Culture of Barmer:

Barmer is known for its folk music and dance. The **Bhopas (priest singers)** who compose music in honour of the deities of the region and its war heroes, are found in Barmer. The other folk musicians come from a community called the Muslim Dholis (drummers). **Langas and Manganiars** are the some of these communities.

Geography of Barmer

Barmer is located in the western part of the state forming a part of the Thar Desert and has arid, semi-arid type of climate. The longest river in the district is the **Luni**. It is 480 km in length and drain into the Gulf of Kutch passing through Jalore.

Natural Places of Barmer

Desert National Park

Most of the desert national park lies in Jaisalmer district. The park is habitat of Rajasthan's state bird **Great Indian Bustard**.

Mahabar Sand Dunes

Mahabar Sand Dunes are about 5 km away from Barmer which is a sandy site and famous for sunrise and sunset viewing.



Interesting Places:

Panchpadra:

- Construction of oil refinery of 9mppd has been started in Pachpadra in Barmer.

Uttarlai

- Uttarlai, India's first under ground airbase is situated in Barmer.

Population of Barmer

According to 2011, Barmer has population of 26,03,751 with 93.02 percent of population residing in rural areas & 6.98 percent in urban areas. Barmer had an average literacy rate of 56.53%, with 70% of the males and 40% of females being literate.

Chapter 6: Bharatpur

Location, Area & Administration:

Bharatpur is referred to as eastern gate of Rajasthan and is situated between 26° 22' to 27° 83' North Latitude and 76° 53' to 78° 17' East Longitude, with an average elevation of 100 meters above sea level. Bharatpur touches district of Alwar in the Northwest. The northern border of the Bharatpur touches Gurgaon district (Haryana), eastern border touches district of Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), southern border touches district of Agra (Uttar Pradesh) and district of Dholpur of Rajasthan. It touches Dausa in southwest.

Bharatpur district has an area of 5066 Sq. Km, which is divided into 11 tehsils namely Bharatpur, Bhusawar, Bayana, Deeg, Kaman, Kumher, Nagar, Nadbai, Pahadi, Rupbas and Weir for administration.

History of Bharatpur

Bharatpur is part of ancient mythology with Bharatpur being place of Pandavas residence in the 13th year of their exile. During 5th Century BC, Bharatpur was part of Matsya Kingdom. The town was named Bharatpur after Bharata.

At the end of the 17th century, **Jat Baija with his son Rajaram**, Zamindar of the village of Sinsini, took advantage of the weakness of the Mughal Empire to enlarge his territory. Lord Ram's brother Laxman is the family deity of the erstwhile royal family of Bharatpur. The name 'Laxman' was engraved on the arms, seals and other emblems of the state.

Rulers of Bharatpur

- **Raja Ram**, 1670–1688
- **Churaman**, 1695–1721
 - The Jat power in Bharatpur strengthened in the 18th century under the leadership of Badan Singh and Churaman. However, the Mughals got Jat Churaman killed in 1721.
- **Badan Singh**, 1722–1756
- Churaman's brother Badan Singh became a very powerful Jat leader following the death of Churaman.

- Maharaja **Suraj Mal**, 1756–1767
 - Maharaja Suraj Mal captured the fort of Bharatpur by vanquishing Khemkaran, the rival chieftain and laid the foundation for Bharatpur.
- Maharaja **Jawahar Singh**, 1767–1768
- Maharaja **Ratan Singh**, 1768–1769
- Maharaja **Kehri Singh**, 1769–1771
- Maharaja **Nawal Singh**, 1771–1776
- Maharaja **Ranjit Singh**, 1776–1805
- Maharaja **Randhir Singh**, 1805–1823
- Maharaja **Baldeo Singh**, 1823–1825
- Maharaja **Balwant Singh**, 1825–1853
- Maharaja **Jashwant Singh**, 1853–1893
- Maharaja **Ram Singh**, 1893–1900 (exiled)
- Maharani **Girraj Kaur**, regent 1900–1918
- Maharaja **Kishan Singh**, 1900–1929
- Maharaja **Brijendra Singh**, 1929–1947
 - Matsya Union was the first State to be formed in Rajasthan with the integration of Alwar, Bharatpur, Dholpur and Karauli which joined the Indian Union.

Historical Places Bharatpur

Lohagarh Fort

Lohagarh fort was built by Jat Raja Surajmal in 1733. True to its name, Lohagarh Fort has withstood many attacks by the British, but was ultimately captured by Arthur Wellesley. The famous door of Lohagarh fort was brought by Maharaja Jawahar Singh from Delhi in 1765. Lohagarh Fort differs from



others by its aura of rugged strength. The fort is surrounded by a moat which used to be filled with water to keep enemies out. Interesting monuments inside the fort are Kothi Khas, Mahal Khas, Moti Mahal and Kishori Mahal. Raja Suraj Mal built Jawahar Bhurj and Fateh Bhurj to commemorate victories over the Mughals and the British.

Ganga Mandir

The Ganga Mandir resides in the heart of the city of Bharatpur and is one of the most beautiful temples in Rajasthan. Maharaja Balwant Singh started constructing this temple in the mid-19th century. A magnificent deity of Ganga Maharaj made of pristine white marble resides inside the temple.



Bharatpur Palace and Museum

Located within the premises of the Bharatpur Palace is Kamra Khas, a museum that contains a vast number of antiques, over 581 stone sculptures, 861 local art and craft wares and ancient scriptures that depict the art and culture typical of Bharatpur. The palace itself was built in stages by various Maharajas and is a fine fusion of Mughal and Rajput architecture. The various apartments in the palace have a variety of richly patterned floor tiles decorated with exquisite designs.

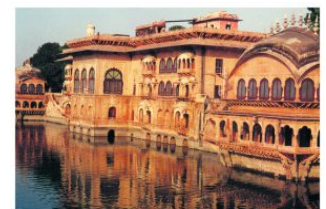


Laxmangarh Mandir

The temple is dedicated to Laxman, brother of Lord Rama, and is famous for its typical Rajasthani style of architecture and beautiful pink stonework. Visitors will enjoy the intricate carvings of flowers and birds on doorways, ceilings, pillars, walls and arches.

Deeg

Deeg is a beautiful garden town situated north of Bharatpur. The highlight of Deeg is an impressive fort surrounded by moats and gateways. It was built by Raja Suraj Mal and stands over a slightly elevated point. Although the interiors are almost in ruins, the watch tower containing a gun still maintains watch over the city.



Kaman

Kaman is locally also known as Kamaban. The old town is located at the north of Bharatpur and is a part of the Brij area where in mythology Lord



Krishna spent his early years. The site is a place of pilgrimage and is annually visited by a large number of Vaishnavs in the month of Bhadva as a part of the **Banyatara**. The ruins of a temple / mosque consisting of 84 pillars named Chaurasi Khamba are the main attraction.

Fairs & Festivals of Bharatpur

Brij Holi Festival

The Braj festival in Rajasthan is held every year for two days in the Shukla Paksha of the Phalgun month, a few days prior to Holi. The festival is dedicated to Lord Krishna who is believed to have spent a considerable amount of time in a region called Braj in Rajasthan. The highlight of this festival is the **Raslila dance** performed with great zest and unity.

Geography of Bharatpur

The terrain in Bharatpur & Nadbai is plain while that of Bayana & Rupbas tehsils is diversified by hills. Bharatpur is located in the arid terrains and is drained by seasonal rivers Ban Ganga, Rooparel, Kankud, Gambhir and Parvati. **Bandh Baaretha** Dam has been constructed on the **Kakund River** to supply water for drinking and irrigation purposes.

- The Ban Ganga originates in Ramgarh hills in Jaipur and passes through Dausa and Bharatpur districts to meet the Yamuna River in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Rooparel River starts from Udaynath hills in Alwar District and enters the district in Kaman Tehsil.
- The **Gambhir River** starts from Pachana Dam of Karauli District, and meets the Ban Ganga in Bayana Tehsil.

Natural Places of Bharatpur

Keoladeo Ghana National Park

The Keoladeo Ghana National Park is considered to be one of the richest bird areas in the world today. It is a **UNESCO world heritage site, Ramsar Wetland & included in Montreux Record**. Every year, thousands of migratory waterfowl birds such as green sandpiper and cranes visit the park during winter. In mid 18th century as a small reservoir **Ajan Bund (dam)** was constructed that has led to one of the world's most fascinating and spectacular bird reserves. The National Park is bound by Ban Ganga in north and Gambhir in south.



Bandh Baretha

Band Baretha is an old wildlife reserve of the rulers of Bharatpur, currently under the administration of the Forest Department. The construction of the dam on **Kakund River** was started by Maharaj Jaswant Singh in 1866 AD and completed by Maharaj Ram Singh in 1897 AD. The palace inside the reserve was built by Maharaj Kishan Singh and is the private property of the Bharatpur royal family. Band Baretha has been declared a wildlife sanctuary by state government and is a bird watcher's paradise because of over 200 species of birds, including the elusive Black Bittern.

Bharatpur Natural Resources

Estimated 2.5% of the total area of the district comes under the area of mines and minerals. Minerals are generally found in the area of Bayana, Kama, Weir, Bhusawar, Deeg, Roopwas & Bharatpur. Main mineral found in the district are Saltpeter, Copper, Lead, Barytes, Silica Sand, Soap stone, Brick clay, quartzite etc. Brick clay is found generally all over the district.

Bharatpur Population

Bharatpur has population of 25,49,121. Bharatpur has an average literacy rate of 82.13%, which is higher than the national average of 74.04%; with male literacy of 90.41% and female literacy of 72.80%. The languages commonly spoken in Bharatpur are Hindi and Braj-Bhasha.

Chapter 7: Bhilwara

Location, Area & Administration:

Bhilwara is located at an altitude of 421 meters from sea-level with coordinates 25.35°N Latitude and 74.63°E Longitude. Bhilwara is bounded by Ajmer district from north, Bundi district from east, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Madhya Pradesh from South and Rajsamand district from west.

Bhilwara has an area of 10508 Square Km. and for administration has been divided into 16 tehsils namely Asind, Banera, Badnore, Bhilwara, Beejoliya, Hameergarh, Hurda, Jahazpur, Kareda, Kotri, Mandal, Mandalgarh, Phuliya Kalan, Raipur, Shahpura and Sahada.

History of Bhilwara:

In Indian mythology, Bhilwara finds mention in Mahabharata where Arjuna, while going to Dwarika with all Gopis, is said to have fought here during the Mahabharata period. Bhilwara's cultural history can be traced back to the Nagar Brahmins mentioned in the Skanda Purana.

In ancient times the Bhilwara was part of Guhil and Chouhan rulers of the state. According to the ancient Chronological description, it is believed that Bhilwara town was found at some stage in 11th century, at the same time when a "Bhil" tribe constructed a shrine for Lord Shiva at the region of the "Jataun ka Mandir".

During the Mughal period Bhilwara was part of the kingdom of Mewar under the Shahpura principality. Historical records show that Mandal served as the military base of the Mughals when they had attacked Chittaurgarh. A watch tower that was built on a small mound in Mandal is now a Devi temple.

Mewar state had also set up a mint (Taksal) in Bhilwara, where coins known as 'BHILADI' were minted and from this denomination was derived the name of the district.

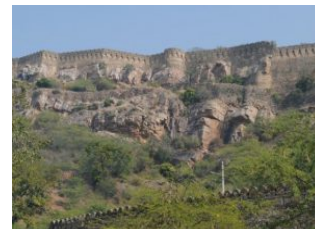
In 1858, a fierce battle was fought at the Sanagner village in Bhilwara, between renowned revolutionist Tantya Tope and the British.

The Mewar State and Shahpura Riyasat merged in "Syunkt Rajasthan" and district of Bhilwara came into existence in 1949.

Historical Places of Bhilwara:

Mandalgarh Fort:

Mandalgarh Fort Bhilwara is believed to have been built by **Rana Kumbha** and is the 3rd fort of Mewar region, the other two being Chittoragrh and Kumbhalgarh. However, According to Veer Vinod, the fort had been constructed by **Mandiya Bhil and Chanana Gurjar**. The fort is located on a part of Aravali hill range along confluence of **Banas, Berach & Menali**.



Badnore Fort:

Badnore Fort is situated at asind road and distance is 70 km from Bhilwara.

Ramniwas Dham

Bhilwara has the famous Ramdwara of Ramsnehi Sampraday. The founder Guru of the sampraday was Swami Ramcharanji Maharaj, who preached his followers here later, he moved to Shahpura, 50 km from Bhilwara, where the present headquarters of Ram Snehi Sampraday known as Ram Niwas Dham is located.



Other Places:

- **Battis Khambon ki Chhatri**. This place is situated in Mandal far 16 km from Bhilwara city. It has chhatri made of sandstone with 32 pillars.
- **Pur Udan Chatri**

Famous temples of Bhilwara:

- **Harni Mahadev** – Founded by the ancestors of the Darak family, a Shivling lies under the mountain, built into a Shiva temple is 8 km from the city. Near this place a very nice garden “Samriti Van” is situated.
- **Chamunda mata Mandir** – located on the same hill of Harni Mahadev
- **Adhar Sheela Mahadev**- where a huge rock is resting on a small one, is located at Pur.
- **Tilesva Mahadev Mandir** – is located in Bijauliya tehsil.

- **Mandakini Mandir** – Bijauliya- There are three temples and one pond. The “Lkulish” statue at the entrance of main gate of this temple. On the main gate there are two statue of Parvati and Ganesh are situated. The temples are “Hajreshwar Mahadev” and “Undeshwar” also situated here.
- **Swaibhoj Temple:** This temple is situated in Asind tehsil and is famous religious place of “Gurjar” community. The place where this place is situated is called “Gosth Dadawat”. A small pond is exist with the name of “Rathora Talab” or “Prem Sagar”. The fair is held on “Bhadrapad Chhath” in a year.
- **Dhanop Mataji:** This famous temple of “Maa Durga” is Approximately 85 km far away from Bhilwara in shahpura tehsil.
- **Bagore Sahib** is Sh. Guru Govind Singh Ji stayed here when he was on journey to Punjab. This historical Gurdwara is situated at a distance of 20 km from town Mandal in Village Bagore of Tehsil Mandal, District Bhilwara, Rajasthan. This holy place has been blessed by the visit of the Tenth Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- **Kyara ke Balaji** has a natural image of Lord Hanuman. It is said that the image spontaneously appeared on the rock. Patola Mahadev Temple, Ghata Rani Temple, Beeda ke Mataji Temple and Neelkanth Mahadev Temple are nearby attractions situated on the beautiful hills of the Aravali mountain range.

Fairs & Festivals of Bhilwara:

Name of festival	Descriptions
Sheetla Shaptami	This festival is celebrated after the Holi festival. And normally celebrated in Bhilwara. It similar to Holi. The people celebrate this festival by using colors.
Rang Teras (Nahar Nritya)	This most famous festival celebrated some area of bhilwara district. The special attraction of this festival is “Nahar Nritya” which is celebrated in Mandal.
Gote mar holi	The people enjoy this festival with colors.
Navratra	It is most popular event generally celebrated in all over India. This festival dedicated to goddess “Durga”. The people also enjoy “Dandiya” dance in front of “Maa Durga”.
Gangaur	It is very popular festival that is celebrated in all over rajasthan as well as Bhilwara district. This festival belongs to dedicated to Goddess Parvati and the of Lord Shiva.
Phooldol Mahotasav	This is the famous fair. It is held for 5 days after holi by Ramdwara temple. Mahotasav celebrated in Shahpura, Bhilwara.

Geography of Bhilwara:

The district of Bhilwara is situated on an elevated plateau. The eastern part of the district has a cluster of hills. The Aravali ranges at several places intersect the district. The hill ranges in Northeast corner of the district extend upto jahajpur tehsil. The ranges are also predominant in the Southeast in Mandalgarh tehsil. Occasional inselberg, low-lying hillocks and chains of ridges break the monotony of peneplained tract. The area of the district generally slopes gently except in western & northwestern part where slope is high.

Soils of Bhilwara:

The soil of the district varies from sandy loam to heavy loams. Soils of the district are classified as follows:

- **Clay loam or medium black:** This type of soil is found in the hilly areas in the central parts of the district.
- **Loam:** This type of soil is found in the entire district.
- **Sand and sandy loam:** This type of soil is found mostly near the banks of rivers and nallahs.
- **Loam pebbly & stony:** These types of soils are met within the hilly areas of the eastern blocks of the district.

Climate of Bhilwara:

The district has a hot dry summer and bracing cold winter. The cold season is from December to February and is followed by hot summers from March to the last week of June. The south-west monsoon season which follows, last till about mid September. The period from mid September to about the end of November constitutes the post monsoon season.

Rivers of Bhilwara:

Though there is no natural lake in Bhilwara but there are number of ponds and dams. Many rivers meander their way through the Bhilwara district of Rajasthan. Bhilwara district falls in the Banas (9157.2 sq km), Chambal (1164.9 sq km) & Luni basins (133.0 sq km). Major River of the district is **Banas**, which flows in northeast to easterly direction. It enters near village Doodiya in Bhilwara tehsil in the west flowing towards east and takes an abrupt turn towards north-northeastern direction near Bigod downstream of the confluence with **Berach River** and again takes an easterly turn near Kanti and finally flows towards northeast till it enters Tonk district. Total length of the Banas River is 142 km in

Bhilwara district. Channel pattern of Banas is sinuous and changes to more or less straight between Bigod and Rajamahar indicating structural control on the drainage pattern. Important tributaries are Berach, Kothari, Unli, Mendi, Nakadi, Chandrabhaga and Khari River. All these are ephemeral.

Bhilwara is famous for its textile & minerals industries. There are more than 850 manufacturing units in the town.

Natural Places of Bhilwara:

- **Meja Dam:** The Meja dam is one of the biggest dam of the district and famous for green mount park.
- **Triveni Sangam:** This is holy place where many people worship here. It is the Sangam of three rivers Banas, Bedach, Menali. At this place the ship temple is also situated.
- **Hameergarh Eco-Park:** This Eco-park is situated at Hills of Hameergarh far 18 km from Bhilwara. The park is famous for “Chinkara”. You can see Blue Bulls, Jackals, Foxes, Vultures and many other wild animals. The “Mansha Mahadev” famous Shiv Temple is situated here.
- **Samriti Van**

Natural Resources of Bhilwara:

Bhilwara district was well known for mica mining in the country for considerable long period but after the discovery of huge deposit of lead-zinc near village Rampura-Agucha by state department, this district has attained national importance. Other important minerals available in the district are copper ore, soapstone, clay, quartz, feldspar, garnet, dolomite, clacite, limestone, silica sand, marble, granite and sandstone.

Population of Bhilwara:

According to the 2011 census, Bhilwara district has population of 24,10,459 out of which 78.72 percent belong to rural areas & 21.28 percent belong to urban areas. The decadal growth rate of population from 2001-2011 has been 19.60 percent. The district has a population density of 230 inhabitants per square kilometer. Bhilwara has sex ratio of 969 females for every 1000 males, and overall literacy rate of 62.71%.

Chapter 8: Bikaner

Location, Area & Administration:

The present district of Bikaner lies just south of the river Ghaghar, located between 27°11' and 29°03' North latitude and 71°54' and 74°12' East longitudes. Bikaner is surrounded by Sri-ganganagar in north, Hanumangarh in north-east, Churu in east, Nagaur in south-east, Jodhpur in South, Jaisalmer in south-west and Pakistan in west.

District of Bikaner is spread over an area of 30247 Sq. Km and is divided into 8 tehsils namely Bikaner, Chhattargarh, Khajuwala, Kolayat, Lunkaransar, Nokha, Poogal & Sridungargarh.

History of Bikaner:

Since Mahabharat times, the area of present Bikaner was a barren wilderness and called "Jangladesh". Subsequently, the territory was under occupation of Jat clans who ruled by their own chiefs and governed by their own customary law.

During 15th century when Rao Bika, son of Rao Jodha arrived at Bikaner, the region was possessed by seven Jat cantons namely Sihag, Dhaka, Punia, Godara, Saran, Beniwal, Johiya and Kaswan. Rao Bika used the mutual rivalry existing between Jat clans to carve out space for his own kingdom. According to James Tod, the spot which Bika selected for his capital, was the birthright of a Nehra Jat, who would only concede it for this purpose on the condition that his name should be linked in perpetuity with its surrender. Naira, or Nera, was the name of the proprietor, which Bika added to his own, thus composing that of the future capital, **Bikaner**.

Rulers of Bikaner

- Rao Bika(Beeka) (1465-1504)
 - Founder of kingdom of Bikaner
 - Branch of Rathores – Bika rathores.
 - Married daughter of Bhati (jaisalmer)
- Rao Naroji (1504-1505)
- Rao Lunkaran (1505-26)
- Rao Jait Singh (1526-42)

- Killed fighting Marwar forces under Rao Maldeo.
 - Rao Kalyan Singh (1542-71)
 - Marwar forces Kalyan Singh to flee but he takes help of Sher Shah Suri and defeats Rao Maldeo
 - Resists attack by Mughal, Akbar till 1570, when Akbar gains submission.
 - Raja Raj(Rae) Singh I (1571-1611)
 - He and Akbar, each married a princess of Jaisalmer.
 - Rai Dalpat Singh Dalip (1612-1613)
 - Rai Surat Singh Bhuratiya (1613-1631)
 - Rao Karan Singh Jangalpat Badhshah (1631-1667)
 - Deposed by Aurangzeb
 - Maharaja Rao Anup Singh (1669-1698)
 - 1st to be granted the title 'Maharaja' by Aurangzeb
 - Served in the Deccan campaign at Salher in 1672, Bijapur in 1675, and the siege of Golconda in 1687.
 - He was administrator of Aurangabad 1677-1678
 - Maharaja Rao Sarup Singh (1698-1700)
 - Maharaja Rao Sujan Singh (1700-1735)
 - Maharaja Rao Zorawar Singh (1735-1746)
 - Maharaja Rao Gaj Singh (1746-1787)
 - First of his line granted permission to mint his own coinage by Emperor Alamgir II
 - Maharaja Rao Rai Singh II Raj Singh (1787-1787)
 - Maharaja Rao Surat Singh (1787-1828)
 - Entered the protection of the East India Company with a subsidiary alliance in 1818.
-

- **Maharaja Rao Ratan Singh (1828-51)**
- **Maharaja Rao Sardar Singh (1851-72)**
 - Provided support to British against Indian mutiny of 1857
- **Maharaja Rao Dungar Singh (1872-1887)**
 - First to introduce electricity to Rajasthan.
 - He also sets up a police force, a hospital and a modern administrative system.
- **Maharaja Sir Rao Ganga Singh (1887-1943)**
 - 1st World war in France & Flanders 1914-15
 - Signed the Treaty of Versailles on behalf of India on 28 June 1919
- **Maharaja Sir Rao Sadul Singh (1943-1950)**
 - Signed the instrument of accession to the Dominion of India on 7 August 1947.
 - Merged his state into the present state of Rajasthan, India on 30 March 1949.

Historical Places of Bikaner:

Junagarh Fort

Junagarh Fort was constructed in the year 1588 A.D by Raja Rai Singh, one of Emperor Akbar's most distinguished generals.. It is believed that crocodiles were bred in the water moat surrounding the formidable fort. The construction is a fine blend of Mughal, Gujarati and Rajput style of architecture. The picturesque courtyards beautify the fort. The fort complex houses some magnificent palaces constructed in red sandstone and marble like Anup Mahal, Chandra Mahal, Hawa Mahal, Dungar Mahal, Diwan-e-khas and Ganga Mahal.



The fort also houses a **Prachina Museum** which contains royal costumes, textiles and accessories of Rajasthani royalty.

Lalgarh Palace

Lalgarh Palace was built by Maharaja Ganga Singh in the year 1902 in memory of his father Maharaja Lal Singh Ji. The red sandstone construction is a fine blend of Mughal, Rajput and European architectures styles. The design was conceptualised by Sir Swinton Jacob.



The first floor of the Palace houses **Sadul Singh Museum**. The lives and the passions of the three successive kings of Bikaner are reflected in the art museum. The rare artifacts, Georgian paintings, and the photographs seen here stand proof of the interests and the heroics of the three kings namely Maharaja Ganga Singh, Sadul Singh and Karni Singh.

Gajner Palace

The Gajner Palace was founded by Maharaja Gaj Singh ji of Bikaner in the year 1784, and then completed by the great Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner on the banks of the lake. The palace served as retreat after hunting for the royal family. The red sandstone construction is a glowing example of stunning architecture. The palace is situated in the thick of forest and you could view migratory birds flock in great numbers.



Ganga Singh Museum

Ganga Singh Museum was founded by Maharaja Ganga Singh in the year 1937. The museum contains a rich display of archaeological artefacts from Harappa and the early Gupta periods. There are separate sections for paintings, arts and craft, woven carpets, clay pottery, ancient coins and Rajput weaponry. The paintings on golf leaves are excellent.



Rampuria Group of Havelis

Bikaner has several havelis (aristocratic homes), the most famous cluster being the Rampuria Group of Havelis. The havelis are built of dulmera (red) stone, include – jharokhas (casements), entrances, latticed windows, divankhanas, gumaharias or basements. These massive havelis are decorated with golden work of the highest quality and Jharokhas are decorated with designs of flowers & leaves. There is Victorian influence in the design and also include exquisite wood carvings.



Jain Temple Bhandasar

Jain Temple was commissioned by Bhandasa Oswal in the year 1468 and completed in the year 1514. The structure is influenced by Rajputana architecture and includes unique and intricately sculpted pillars, frescos and the gold leaf work, with a blend of red sandstone and white marble used in the construction. The mirror work in the temple is unique as well.



Kodamdesar Temple

Kodamdesar temple is located 24 kilometres from Bikaner. The deity Kodamdesar Bhainru Ji was installed by Rao Bikaji sometime during the first three years of his arrival from Jodhpur. This place of worship was initially chosen as the site to lay the foundation of Bikaner, but was later shifted to its present location.



Fairs & Festivals of Bikaner:

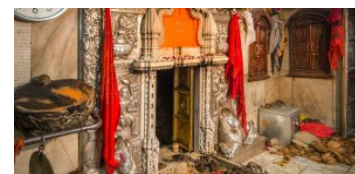
Camel Festival

The Camel Festival is organized by the Department of Tourism of the Rajasthan Government at Bikaner in January every year. The festival starts with a colorful procession of bedecked camels in backdrop of the Junagarh Fort. Among other things, tug-of-war contest, best breed competition, camel dance and acrobatics are held. The camels display amazing footwork, dancing gracefully to the directions of their trainers. Bridal bridles, be jeweled necks, jingling anklets and camel shadows, cast a spell on the audience. In the evenings, is held a traditional rendezvous of renowned artistes and folk performers.



Karni Mata Fair

Karni Mata Fair is held at Deshnok, a small town near Nokha, twice in a year. The first and larger fair is held in March-April during the Navratras from Chaitra Shukla Ekam to Chaitra Shukla Dashmi the second fair is held in September – October, also during the Navratras, from Ashvin Shukla Ekam to Ashwin Shukla Dashmi.



Karni Mata has been worshipped as a goddess by her principal followers, 'Charans', as well as the rulers of Bikaner(Rathores), who regarded her as the patron deity. The Karni Mata Fair is held in her

honor. The temple of Karni Mata at Deshnok is a stone and marble structure and is also known as Madh. Inside the shrine, a 75 cms. image of Karni Mata adorned with a 'mukut' (tiara) and garlands are installed. Her image is accompanied by the images of her sisters and the sisters of Avad Mata.

Kapil Muni Fair of Kolayat Fair

Kapil Muni fair is organized during the full moon of kartik (Nov) at Kolayat. There are 50 ghats border the lake where devotees come to take a holy dip in the lake. The place is identified as worship place of Kapil Muni, the propounder of Sankhya (one of the six ancient philosophy school in ancient India). A cattle fair is also held at this place during the same time.



Gangaur Festival

Gangaur Festival in Bikaner is celebrated in the month of April every year. As the term Gan indicates Lord Shiva and Gauri is the divine consort of the Lord, hence the festival of Gangaur is followed to celebrate the divine bliss of Goddess Parvati – the other name of Gauri. The women of Bikaner have a special role to play in the Gangaur festival. Celebrated for 18 whole days, the Gangaur festival is followed by the people of Bikaner by taking out a colorful procession.



Geography of Bikaner:

The major parts of the district covers desolate and dreary regions which form part of the Great Indian desert of Thar. The district can be classified into two natural divisions (i) **north and western desert** and (ii) **south & eastern semi desert**. In greater part of the district the plain is undulating or interspersed with shifting sand hills, the slopes of which are slightly furrowed by the action of wind. There are no hills and no rivulets or streams of any significance. The district has a dry climate with large variations of temperature and scanty rainfall.

Many geologists believe that during the Jurassic, Cretaceous and Eocene periods the western part of Rajasthan including Bikaner district was under the sea. Later in upper Tertiary period area got uplifted into dry land.

Geologically the oldest rocks exposed in the limited area and encountered in dug &, tube wells *etc.* have been equated to upper vindhyans of south east Rajasthan known as trans Aravalli- Vindhyan. Over-lying them are Tertiary formations followed by quaternary to recent sediments.

Natural Places of Bikaner:

Gajner Wildlife Sanctuary

Gajner wildlife Sanctuary is located 32 kilometres from Bikaner, on the Jaisalmer road and is a lush green forest which is a haven to the nilgai, chinkara, black buck, wild boar, flocks of imperial sand grouse and many other species of migratory birds that make the sprawling forest their winter home.



Katariasar Village

Katariasar village is located 45 kilometres from Bikaner on the Jaipur Road and the village is rich in ethnic, rural and cultural life. In Katariasar, one can walk on sand dunes and view the sunset against the desert landscape. The main attraction of this village is its inhabitants, the **Jasnathjis**, who are fire dancers. Herds of chinkaras, desert foxes, rabbits, peacocks, parrots and partridges can be spotted here.



National Research Centre on Camel

The first Asian Nation Camel Breeding Centre is situated at Jorbeer near Bikaner. The centre is spread out over 2000 acres of semi-arid land and is managed by the Government of India. It is also a great tourist place in Bikaner district.

Bikaner Natural Resources:

The district of Bikaner is a vast sandy tract. Majority of the area is covered with sand except some exposures near Kolayat and in Nokha tehsil. These are locally called as **Magras**. In these areas various types of sandstone, clay & limestone have been re-vealed at different levels.

Bikaner district has some very important nonmetallic mineral deposits in state. It has vast resources of **lignite and gypsum**, besides **clay, fullers earth, ochre and grit**. The best quality gypsum in India was found at **Jamsar**, small occurrences of red sandstone and lime stone are also found at places. Limestone

at **Sarunda** is high grade at places (upto 54% CaO) but the de-posit is small and suitable for a mini cement plant. Glass sand is utilised in glass industry.

Bikaner district is well known for its **lignite depos-its**. During the erstwhile Bikaner state thermal power generation was based on the lignite resources of Palana. There have been continuous efforts for development and use of lignite deposits. Recently an MOU has been signed for exploitation of **Barsingsar** deposit.

Bikaner Population:

According to 2011 census, the population of Bikaner is 23,63,937 with 66.14 percent being and 33.86 being urban.

Chapter 9: Bundi

Location, Area & Administration:

Bundi is located in a narrow gorge surrounded on three sides by hills of the Aravalli Range and is located at **25.44°N 75.64°E** and an average elevation of 268 meters. The district of Bundi is bordered by **Tonk** in north direction, **Sawai-Madhopur** in north-east, **Kota** in east, **Chittorgarh** in south, and **Bhilwara** in west.

Bundi district has 5850 Sq. Km, which is divided into 6 Tehsils namely Bundi, Indragarh, Hindoli, Keshavraipatan, Nainwa and Taleda.

History of Bundi:

In ancient times, the area around Bundi was inhabited by various local tribes majority group belonging to Meena. Bundi is said to derive its name from a former Meena tribe chief called Bunda Meena. Bundi was previously called “Bunda-Ka-Nal”, Nal meaning “narrow ways”. Later, the region was acquired by Rao Deva Hada, who took over Bundi from Jaita Meena in 1342, and established a princely state Bundi, renaming the surrounding area called Hadoti, the land of great Hada Rajputs.

Rulers of Bundi

- **Rao Deva Hada (1342-43)**
 - Laid the foundation of hada state of Bundi after taking possession from **Jaita Meena**.
- Rao Napuji (1343-84)
- Rao Hamuli (1384 – 1400).
- Rao Birsingh (1400 to 1415).
- Rao Biru (1415 to 1470).
- Rao Bandu (1470 to 1491).
- Rao Narayan Das (1491 to 1527).
- Rao Suraj Mal (1527 to 1531).
- Rao Surtan Singh (1531 to 1544).

- *Rao Raja Surjan Singh (1544 to 1585)*
 - Akbar & Man Singh I – negotiate treaty with Surjan Singh – hence given title of “Rao Raja”
 - Given government of Benares.
- *Rao Raja Bhoj Singh (1585 to 1608).*
- *Rao Raja Ratan Singh (1608 to 1632)*
 - Ratan Singh & his son Madho Singh – fight war against rebels & win during jehangir reign.
 - Jehangir divides Hadoti to Bundi & Kota, giving Kota as separate state to madho Singh
 - Shah Jehan confirmed grant of Kota to Madho Singh.
- *Rao Raja Chhattar Sal Singh (1632 to 1658)*
 - Chhattar Singh is made governor of Delhi by Prince Dara Shikoh (the son of Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan), but he dies fighting against Shah Jahan’s successor, Aurangzeb.
- *Rao Raja Bhao Singh (1658 to 1682)*
 - Fights Aurangzeb and win against Raja Atmaram. Aurangzeb impressed and reconciles with Rajao Bhao making him governor of Aurangabad.
- *Rao Raja Anirudh Singh (1682 to 1696)*
- *Rao Raja Budh Singh (1696 to 1735)*
 - *On Aurangzeb death Budh Singh ji supports Bahadoor Shah Alam, wheras Ram Singh of Kota sides with Prince Azim> Hence, rivalry between Bundi & Kota develops.*
- *Rao Raja Dalel Singh (1735 to 1749).*
- *Rao Raja Umaid Singh (1749 to 1770) – (1773 -1804).*
- *Rao Raja Ajit Singh (1770-1773).*
- *Rao Raja Bishen Singh (1804-1821).*
- *Maharao Raja Ram Singh Sahib Bahadur (1821-1889)*

- Colonel HH Maharao Raja Shri Sir **Raghubir Singh Sahib Bahadur** (1889-1927)
 - Supported Britain in WWI
- Major HH Maharao Raja Shri Sir **Iishwari Singh Bahadur** (1927-1945).
- HH Maharao Raja Shri **Bahadur Singh Bahadur** (1945-77).

Historical Places of Bundi:

Taragarh Fort:

Taragarh Fort was constructed by **Rao raja Bair Singh in 1354** on a hilltop 1426 feet high. In the centre of the fort is located Bhim Bhurj on which was once mounted a particularly large **cannon** called *Garbh Gunjam*, or 'Thunder from the Womb'. With its curved roofs topping pavilions, excess of temple columns and elephant and lotus motifs, the palace is a tribute to Rajput style. The fort includes Hazari Darwaza, Haathi Pol, Nau Dhaan, Ratan Daulatkhana, Darikhana, Ratan Niawas, Chatra mahal, Badal Mahal & Moti Mahal.



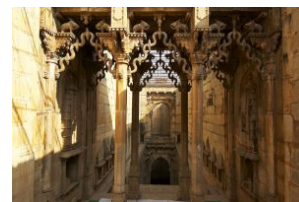
Sukh Mahal

Sukh Mahal, a small, two-storied palace was a summer retreat of past rulers. Located on banks of JaitSagar lake, the palace was constructed by **Rao raja Vishnu Singh in 1773 A.D.** Today, it is quite famous for being the place where Kipling wrote 'Kim'. Many credit the palace as a having played muse to the renowned novel. In fact, part of a movie based on the novel was even shot here.



Rani ji Baori

Bundi has more than 50 stepwells and rightly known as *city of stepwalls*. Raniji ki Baori, also known as 'Queen's Stepwell', is a famous stepwell built in 1699 by **Rani Nathavati Ji**, the younger queen of the ruling king **Rao Raja Anirudh Singh** of Bundi. This multi-storied stepwell displays excellent carvings of Gajraj with his trunk turned inwards, giving the



impression of having drunk from the baori on its pillars. Its high arched gate gives it an inviting appearance.

84 Pillared Cenotaph or चौरासी खंभों की छतरी

As the name suggests, the 84 Pillared Cenotaph is a structure supported by 84 columns. Commissioned by Rao Anirudh, the Maharaja of Bundi, this cenotaph is a tribute to his beloved wet nurse, Deva, who he loved dearly. A popular tourist attraction, this impressive structure is decorated with carvings of deer, elephants and apsaras.



Gadra Cave Paintings:

In 2010, Bundi-based archaeologist Om Prakash Sharma alias Kukki discovered 32 sites in the rock painting stretching over the basin of Mangli river. The rock paintings are about 10,000-year-old and belong to Mesolithic-Chalcolithic period.



Fairs & Festivals of Bundi:

Kajali Teej Mela

The Teej Festival is celebrated throughout the rainy season in Rajasthan, with each region having its own take on celebrations. It is celebrated in Bundi on the third day of Bhadra Pad whereas it is takes place on the third day of Shravana at other places in the state. The fest is particularly vibrant with the traditional procession of the goddess in a decorated palanquin which passes through the main bazaar and the streets.

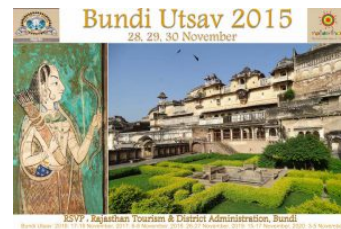


The Gangaur Festival

Gangaur festival is one of the major festivals in Bundi and is celebrated with great devotion by women who are the devotees of goddess Gauri. It marks the celebration of harvest, spring and marital fidelity. Women celebrate this festival for long and prosperous lives of their husbands.

Bundi Festival

Bundi festival was started by Rajmata Sahiba Daulat Kanwar Of Dugari & Shri Madhukarji Gupta which was inaugurated by Shreeji Arvind Singh Mewar & Kunwar Shivam Singh Dugari in 1998. The Keshorai Patan town is embellished during this festival just like Pushkar. The festival is promoted by Rajasthan tourism & district administration of Bundi and will be organized on November 17-19 in 2016.



Fair at Keshavraipatan:

Keshavraipatan is a town located in Bundi districts on banks of **chambal river**. Here, a fair is organized in November month on Kartik purnima, where more than 1 lakh devotees assemble and take bath in Chambal river.

Dargah of Makkeshah is also a revered place located in same area.



Geography of Bundi:

Physiographically Bundi district is irregular rhombus shaped, traversed throughout its whole length from south-west to north-east by a double line of hills constituting the central **Bundi range**, which divides it in about two equal portions. For many miles the precepitous scarp on southern face of this range forms an almost impassable barrier between the plain country on either side. The main rivers crossing the district are **Chambal** and **Mez**. Smaller rivers include **Mangli**, **Eais**, **Talera** and **Ghora Pachar**.

Natural Places of Bundi:

Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary:

Ramgarh Vishdhari sanctuary has an area of 307 Square kms and is situated within hills of Bundi range. Established in 1982, it forms a buffer for Ranthambore National Park. The variety of fauna found in sanctuary include Panther, hyena, Sloth Bear, jackal, Fox, Chital.



Jait Sagar Lake, Bundi

Located close to the Taragarh Fort, this picturesque lake is surrounded by hills and covered with pretty lotus flowers that bloom during winter and monsoon.



Kanak Sagar Lake, Bundi

About 67 kilometres from the town of Bundi lies this wonderful flat lake. There is also a town named after the lake. One can spot several migratory birds here such as bar headed goose and Demoille cranes all through the year.

Nawal Sagar Lake

Nawal Sagar Lake is an artificial lake that is a major tourist attraction and can even be seen from the Taragarh Fort. There is a half-submerged temple dedicated to Lord Varun Dev in its centre. What makes the lake unique is that one can see the reflection of nearby palaces and forts in its waters.



Natural Resources of Bundi:

The most important mineral resources of Bundi are limestone and sandstone. The limestone deposits cater to one of the oldest cement plant of state at Lakheri. However most of the deposits are marginal cement grade and also fall in forest. Other minerals include silica sand, marble, iron, clay etc.

Population of Bundi:

In the 2011 Indian census, Bundi had a population of 5,34,340. Bundi has sex-ratio of 922 females per 1000 males. The population density in Bundi is 193 persons per square km.

Chapter 10: Chittorgarh

Location, Area & Administration of Chittorgarh:

Chittorgarh is located in the southern part of the state of Rajasthan at an altitude of 394 meters above sea level with Latitude of 24.88°N and longitude of 74.63°E. The district has two parts, the smaller portion or Bhainsrorgarh in the east is separated by the state of Madhya Pradesh. Chittorgarh District shares its border with ,Bhilwara District to the North ,Pratapgarh & Neemuch (M.P) District to the South ,Udaipur District to the west and shares border with Madhya Pradesh State to the East.

Chittorgarh has an area of 10,856 square km which is divided into 10 tehsils namely: Chittorgarh, Rashmi, Gangrar, Begun, Kapasan, Rawatbhata, Dungla, bhadesar, Bari Sadri and Nimbahera.

History of Chittorgarh:

The antiquity of chittorgarh is difficult to trace, but it's believed that Bhim the legendary figure of the Mahabharata, visited this place to learn the secrets of immortality and became the disciple of a sage, but his impatience to perform all the rites deprived him of his goal, and out of sheer anger, he stamped on the ground creating a water reservoir, this reservoir is called as BhimLat.

The region was originally called Medhpaat and Lord Shiva (Ekling Nath) is called Medhpateshwar (Lord of Medhpaat). Over time, the name *Medhpath* became *Mewar*.

Later on, it came under Mauryas or Mori Rajputs. Maan Mori, 7th in line ruled the kingdom till 734 AD when he was killed by Bappa Rawal of the Guhilot clan. Born as Kalbhoj, Bappa Rawal was the founder of a dynasty which later comes to rule Mewar.

Rulers of Mewar: (Chittorgarh as Capital)

- Khumar (753 – 773)
- Mattat (773 – 793)
- Bhratrabhat (773 – 813)
- Sinha (813 – 828)
- Khuman II (828 – 853)
 - Repelled up to 24 Muslim attacks.
 - Ruled a Golden Age in Mewar.

-
- Mahayak (853 – 878)
 - Khuman III (878 – 942)
 - Bhratrabhat II (942 – 943)
 - Allat (943 – 953)
 - Possibly near start of his reign, Allat is driven from Chittor by the Paramara king of Malwa, Munja Raja, who then rules Chittor and is succeeded by his nephew, Raja Bhoj. Allat establishes a new capital at ancient Ahar.
 - (953 – 971)
 - The death of Allat leaves a gap in the succession, and there is no Guhilot leader at all for a total of eight years while the Paramaras attack Ahar. The Paramara king, Vakpati Raj of Malwa, rules Chittor. It takes until 971 for a new Guhilot king to reign.
 - Naravan / Narvahan (971 – 973)
 - Shalivahan (973 – 977)
 - Shaktikumar (977 – 993)
 - Amba Prasad (993 – 1007)
 - Fought against Mahmud Ghazni (Yamin-ud-Dawlah Mahmud).
 - Suchivarma (1007 – 1021)
 - Narvarma (1021 – 1035)
 - Kirtivarma (1035 – 1051)
 - Yograj (1051 – 1068)
 - Bairat / Vairat(1068 – 1088)
 - Hanspal (1088 – 1103)
 - Vairi Singh (1103 – 1107)
 - Vijay Singh (1107 – 1127)
 - Ari Singh I (1127 – 1138)
 - Chittor is again captured by Malwa.
-

- **Chaur Singh (1138 – 1148)**
 - The Western Chalukyas attack the Paramaras who hold Chittor.
- **Vikram Singh / Vikramaditya I (1148 – 1158)**
- **Karan Singh (1158 – 1168)**
 - The royal family divides, possibly near the end of Karan Singh's reign. His son Rahap establishes the Sisodia branch of the family while another son, Mahap, establishes the Dungarpur kingdom.
- **Kshem Singh (1168 – 1172)**
- **Samant Singh (1172 – 1179)**
 - Samant Singh occupies Bagar (in the Dungarpur area) during his reign. After seven years on the throne he is slain by Kirtipal Solanki of Nadol in battle at Ghaggar (Punjab).
- **Kumar Singh (1179 – 1191)**
 - Possibly relocated capital to Nagda at end of his reign.
- **Mathan Singh (1191 – 1211)**
 - 1191 – 1192 – Mathan Singh fights in the Battles of Tarain, in which the Chauhan ruler, Prithviraj III, and the Rajput confederation which includes Mewar (the Hindu League) are defeated by the Ghurid Sultan Mohammed Ghuri.
 - 1207 – Chittor is taken and ruled by the Western Chalukyas just as they are facing their own terminal decline.
- **Padam Singh (1211 – 1213)**
- **Jait Singh / Jaitra Singh (1213 – 1253)**
 - During his reign, Jait Singh defeats the Malwa Rajputs who rule Chittor, reinstating its fort as the capital of Mewar. This probably occurs shortly after Sultan Iltutmish of Delhi has destroyed Nagda.
 - 1234 – Sultan Iltutmish of Delhi is defeated by Mewar when he invades the region.

- 1253 – 1261
 - There is an apparent interregnum. No known ruler of Mewar exists during this period, although the circumstances behind the gap are unknown. The relation of the next known ruler of Mewar to his predecessor is also unknown.
- Tej Singh (1261 – 1267)
- 1267 – 1273
 - There is a second apparent interregnum. No known ruler of Mewar exists during this period, and the fate of Tej Singh is unknown, as are the circumstances behind the gap are unknown. It takes six years for Tej Singh's son to ascend the throne.
- Samar Singh (1273 – 1302)
 - Samar Singh builds wall around Mahasati in Chittor. His son, Kumbh Karan, migrates to Nepal (where his descendants become the Nepalese royal family).
- Ratan Singh (1302 – 1303)
 - *Last Guhilot king to rule.*
 - 1303 – 1st Jauhar of Chittor
 - Ala ud din Khilji, Sultan of Delhi, rallied his forces against Mewar, in 1303 AD. The Chittorgarh fort was till then considered impregnable and grand, atop a natural hill. But his immediate reason for invading the fort was his obsessive desire to capture Rani Padmini, the unrivalled beautiful queen of Rana Ratan Singh. The Rana, out of politeness, allowed the Khilji to view Padmini through a set of mirrors. But this viewing of Padmini further fired Khilji's desire to possess her. After the viewing, as a gesture of courtesy, when the Rana accompanied the Sultan to the outer gate, he was treacherously captured. Khilji conveyed to the queen that the Rana would be released only if she agreed to join his harem. But the queen had other plans. She agreed to go to his camp if permitted to go in a Royal style with an entourage, in strict secrecy. Instead of her going, she sent 700 well armed soldiers disguised in litters and they rescued the Rana and took him to the fort. But Khilji chased them to the fort where a fierce battle ensued at the outer gate of the fort in which the Rajput soldiers were overpowered and the Rana was killed. Khilji won the battle on August 26, 1303. Soon thereafter, instead of surrendering

to the Sultan, the royal Rajput ladies led by Rani Padmini preferred to die through the Rajput's ultimate tragic rite of Jauhar (self immolation on a pyre).

- Administration of the captured state is handed to the ruler of the neighbouring state of Jalore, Maldeo.
- **Rana Hammir (1326-64)**
 - Progenitor (Shuruwat karne wala) of the **Sisodia clan**
 - Built the Annapoorna Mata temple, located in the Chittorgarh Fort
 - Alauddin Khilji defeated Rana Ratan Singh (Padmini ne Jaaubar kiya) and transferred administration of new territories (including chitter) to Maldeo, ruler of Jalore.
 - Maldeo , married his widowed daughter Songari with Rana Hammir.
 - Hammir organized overthrow of Maldeo and established Mewar again in 1326.
- **Khaitsi or Khetra Singh (1364-82)**
 - Son of Rana Hammir
 - Conquered back, Mandalgarh, Ajmer, Mandsore & area of Chappan.
 - Obtained victory over Sultan of Delhi at Bakrole.
 - The Kumbalgarh inscription says that "he captured Zafar Khan.- Sultan of Gujarat.
- **Rana Lakha (1382- 1421)**
 - Defeated the imperial army of Delhi at Badnor
 - Had two Sons – Elder – **Rana Choonda** – who took oath not to claim throne of mewar – in the exchange of his father's marriage to Rani Hansa Bai.
 - In compensation – his symbol Lance (Bhala) was superadded to autograph of prince in all grants to vassals. Hence, Lance of Saloombra still precedes monogram of Rana.
 - In line with promise, Rana Mokul (Son from Hansa Bai) succeeded throne.
- **Rana Mokul/Mokal Singh (1421-1433)**
 - After Rana Lakha, as Rana Mokul was minor, Rana Choonda started taking care of administration.
 - But Rani Hansa bai, did not like and asked Rana choonda to leave. He left.

- Rani seek help of father Ranmal of Marwar but later understood intentions of Ranmal.
- Rani called back Choonda, who came in and rescued Mokul Singh.
- Had 3 sons = Rana Kumbha + 2 & daughter Lal Bae.
- **Rana Kumbha (1433-68)**
 - In 1433, defeated Sultan of Malwa, Mahmud Khilji, in Battle of Mandalgarh and Banas.
 - Erected Vijay Stambh (victory tower) – 37 meter/9 floors.
 - Erected 32 Forts in defense of Mewar. Including highest fort in Rajasthan (MRL 1075m) – Kumbhalgarh
 - Additionally he also constructed, the Ranakpur Trailokya-dipaka Jain temple with its adornments, the Kumbhasvami and Adivarsha temples of Chittor and the Shantinatha Jain temple.
 - Credited with writing the **Samgita-rajya**, the Rasika-priya commentary on the Gitagovinda, the Sudaprabandha, and the Kamaraja-ratisara.
 - Sangita-ratnakara and Sangita-krama-dipaka (two books on music by Rana Kumbha.
 - During his reign, scholar Atri and his son Mahesa wrote the prashasti (edict) of the Chittor Kirti-stambha and Kahana Vyasa wrote the Ekalinga-mahamatya.
 - Rana kumbha successfully defended Mewar and expanded his territory at a time when he was surrounded by enemies like *Mahmud Khilji of Malwa, Qutbuddin of Gujrat, Shams Khan of Nagaur and Rao Jodha of Marwar.*
- **Rana Udai Singh I (1468-73)**
 - A In a patricide, Rana Kumbha was killed by his son Udaysimha (Udai Singh I) or Ooda Singh
 - Defeated by his brother – Raemul in battles of Jawar, Darimpur and Pangarh
- **Rana Raemul (1473- 1508)**
 - Other Son – Raemul finally succeeded Khumbha
 - By marrying Sringardevi (daughter of Rao Jodha), Raimal ended the conflict with the Rathores.
- **Rana Sanga (Sangram Singh) (1508-1528)**

- Battle of Gagron: defeated Sultan of Malwa
- Battles of Idgar: 3 battles: fought between Bhar Mal & Rae Mal two princes of Idar, Rana Sanga supported Rae mal.
- Battle of Khatoli & Dholpur: Sanga defeated Ibrahim Lodhi
- Gujarat Invasion: laid siege at Ahmadnagar (Himmatnagar) – defeated Sultan.
- Battle of Khanwa: was defeated by Babur
- Ratan Singh II (1528–1531)
- Vikramaditya Singh (1531–1536)
 - During his reign, Sultan of Gujarat Bahadur Shah sacked Chittor in 1534, Udai Singh was sent to Bundi for safety.
 - Rana Sanga's wife Karnavati – send Rakhi to Humayun.
 - But Humayun late – 2nd Jauhar of Chittor
- Vanvir Singh (1536–1540)
 - Vanvir killed Vikramaditya Singh, and was about to kill Udai Singh II, when Panna Dhai, rescued him with sacrifice of her own child.
- Udai Singh II (1540–1572)
 - 1540, he was crowned in Kumbhalgarh by the nobles of Mewar.
 - Maharana Pratap born in same year (9th May-1540)
 - In 1562, he gave refuge to Baz Bahadur of Malwa. Using this as a pretext, Akbar attacked Mewar in October 1563.
 - Udai Singh retired to Gogunda.
 - Rao Jaimal & Patta – fought with Valor – even Akbar impressed – statue erected at Fatehpur Sikri
 - Jauhar- 3rd Jauhar of chittor (1568)
 - Founded city of Udaipur. This became the capital of Mewar from here on.

Historical Places of Chittorgarh:

Chittorgarh Fort:

Chittorgarh Fort is the largest fort in Asia. The Fort of Chittorgarh is strategically located on the top of a high hilly outcrop of the Aravallis about 180 m above the plains of the valley drained by the Berach River. The fort also contains Gaumukh Reservoir, which is a deep tank fed by a spring. The spring emerges from a rock formation resembling a Gaumukh or 'cow's mouth'. The tank is considered sacred by the locals.



Nagri:

One of the most important townships of the Mauryan era in Rajasthan, situated on the banks of river Bairach. It was formerly known as Madhyamika, which flourished from the Maurya to Gupta era. The excavations over here have unearthed many interesting facts and have showed signs of strong Hindu and Buddhist influence.

Barolo:

The ruins of the famous temples of babaroli, near Rawatbhata. This town is worth visiting, because of the group of ancient temples situated here.

Vijaya Stambh:

Vijaya Stambh is a huge nine storey tower which was built by Maharana Kumbha to commemorate his victory over the Muslim rulers of Malwa and Gujarat in 1440, the tower signifies the victorious spirit of the Rajput Kingdom after securing a victory over the intruder Mohammed Khilji. The tower stands at a height of 37 meters and comprises of 9 floors offer a great view of the city of Chittorgarh and the Chittorgarh Fort.



Kirti Stambh:

Kirti Stambh or the tower of fame is part of the two popular stambhs or pillars inside the Chittorgarh Palace. Kirti Stambh is a 12th-century tower situated at Chittorgarh fort in Rajasthan, India. Dedicated to the first Jain tirthankar Adinath, the stambh is a 22 meter high seven storied tower having a sculpture of Adinath in the second floor. Kirti Stambh is older than another tower in the same fort, known as the Vijaya Stambh (Tower of Victory). The



topmost floor of the pillar offers a panoramic view of the whole Chittorgarh city and attracts a large number of travelers, historians and photography enthusiasts.

Padmini's Palace:

The Padmini palace is Amazing place to visit in Chittorgarh. It was the residence of Rani Padmini who was known for her gorgeous beauty. The palace is a popular tourist attraction because of its rich architecture and association with the Rajput heritage and history. There is a lotus pond near this palace. Ala-ud-din saw the reflection of Queen Padmini in this pool. He was so captivated and entranced by her that he fought a furious battle with Maharana Ratan Singh (husband of Maharani Padmini). This battle changed the history of Chittorgarh.



Rana Kumbha Palace:

Rana Kumbha palace is 15th century palace where Rana Kumbha lived and spent his royal life. This historic monument is very popular among tourists due to its charming and artistic architecture. The founder of Udaipur, Maharana Udai Singh was born in this same palace. Rana Kumbha palace have the cellar where brave Rani Padmini performed an act of jauhar along with other women during an attack of Khilji.



Meerabai Temple

Meerabai, an ardent devotee of Lord Krishna's, worshipped him at this temple. The structure is designed in the classic North Indian style of temples. It rises from a raised plinth and its conical roof can be seen from far. The temple houses a beautiful shrine surrounded by an open porch with four small pavilions in four corners.



Bhainsrorgarh Fort

Bhainsrorgarh is an impregnable fort, inhabited from at least the 2nd century BC. It is dramatically positioned between two rivers, the Chambal and Bamani. It had passed through the hands of several clans before becoming the seat of a premier noble of Mewar, the large region around Udaipur and Princely State of the Sisodia clan. It contains five tanks, temples to Devi Bhim Chauri, Shiva, and Ganesh. The present fort is around 260 years old and was built in the 1740s.



Fairs & Festivals of Chittorgarh:

Maharana Pratap Jayanti

Maharana was born on May 9th 1540 in Kumbhalgarh in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan to Maharana Udai Singh II and Rani Jeevant Kanwar. Maharana Pratap is respected and revered as an epitome of valor, heroism, pride, patriotism and the spirit of independence. His birth anniversary (Maharana Pratap Jayanti) is celebrated as full fledged festival **every year on 3rd day of Jyestha Shukla phase**.



Jauhar Mela:

The fort and the city of Chittorgarh host the biggest Rajput festival called the “**Jauhar Mela**”. It takes place annually to commemorate Rani padmini’s Jauhar, which is most famous. This festival is held primarily to commemorate the bravery of Rajput ancestors and all three jauhars which happened at Chittorgarh Fort. A huge number of Rajputs, which include the descendants of most of the princely families, hold a procession to celebrate the Jauhar.

Meera Mahotsav

Meera Bai (1498 – 1547) was a devout follower of Lord Krishna. Meera Bai was Rajput princess born in about 1498 in Metra, Rajasthan. Her father, Ratan Singh, was the youngest son of Rao Duda, ruler of Merta, and son of Rao Duda ruler and founder of Jodhpur. Ratan Singh belonged to the Rathore clan. She was married to Bhoj Raj, ruler of Chittor.



Meera Smrithi Sansathan (Meera Memorial Trust) along with the district government, organise **Meera Mahotsav every year on Sharad Purnima day (On Mirabai's birth anniversary)** for 3 days. The celebrations also bhajan singing, puja's, discussions, dances, fire works etc.

Teej

Teej is one of the major festivals in Chittorgarh and is also called as the festival of swings. It marks the advent of the monsoon month of Shravan (August). Swings are hung from trees and decorated with flowers. Young girls and women dressed in green clothes sing songs in celebration of the advent of the monsoon. This festival is dedicated to the Goddess Parvati, commemorating her union with Lord Shiva.

Gangaur

The Gangaur Festival is the colourful and most important festival of Rajasthan celebrated throughout the State with great fervour and devotion by womenfolk to worship Goddess Gauri, the consort of Lord Shiva during July-Aug. Gan is a synonym for Shiva and Gaur which stands for Gauri or Parvati who symbolises saubhagya (marital bliss). Gauri is the embodiment of perfection and conjugal love which is why the unmarried women worship her for being blessed with good husbands, while married women do so for the welfare, health and long life of their spouses and a happy married life.

Rang Teras – The Tribal Fair

Rang Teras is a popular tribal fest of Mewar celebrated on the 13th moon night of the month of Chaitra. Since 15th century, the festivals is being organized where Tribals rejoice the harvest of wheat. Farmers pay their honor to Mother Earth for providing them food for next year. As a part of Celebrations, young men in village perform their valiant skills while dancing. It is also celebrated in Sri Krishna Temples all around North India and ISKCON Temples.

Geography of Chittorgarh:

Topographically the district is undulating with scattered hills of the Aravalli ranges. The western southern and northern parts of the district are somewhat plain. A series of hills run North-South forming parallel valleys to the east of Chittorgarh. Bhainsrorgarh area is practically hilly. The district comprises rocks of Bhilwara Supergroup, Vindhyan Supergroup and Deccan Traps.

The main rivers flowing through this district are Chambal, Banas, Berach, Gambhiri, Jakham with smaller rivers like Wagon, Gungali etc. The annual average rainfall is 90cms.

The district of Chittorgarh is good in **forest resources** as the percentage of total area under forest including hills is reported to be 2407 square kilometers which is 22.17% of total geographical area of the district. The forest coverage is above the state average of above 9% under forest. The major species available in the forest area is salar, teak wood, bamboos, katha etc.

Natural Places of Chittorgarh:

Bassi Wildlife Sanctuary:

A sanctuary near Bassi, covering an area of 50 Sq km with panthers, wild boars, antelopes, mongoose and migratory birds. The Sanctuary is situated 5 kms from the Fort on the western fringes of Vindhya Range with series of tableland, gentle slopes and vast stretches of large lakes, water channels of which penetrate into the forest. Among the wild animals baghera sar, langur, lakkar bagha, beddia, lomaari, lider etc. with snakes both poisonous and non-poisonous also being found.

Natural Resources in Chittorgarh

The district can be identified as a **limestone district of Rajasthan**, since the district is endowed with large deposits of cement grade limestone as well as splittable lime stone and sand stone which is used for flooring purposes. Besides these, small deposits of china clay, red ochre, blockable marble etc. are also found in the district.

Population:

According to the 2011 census, Chittorgarh district has a population of 15,44,392 of which 50.76 percent are males & 49.24 percent are females. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 16.09%. Chittorgarh has a sex ratio of 970 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 62.51%. The district has a population density of 193 inhabitants per square kilometer.

Chapter 11: Churu

Location, Area & Administration of Churu:

Recognized as an entry gate to the great Thar Desert, Churu is located in the desert area of Rajasthan. Geographically, the district lies in 28°18'N latitude and 74°58'E longitude. Churu lies in the Jangladesh region of northern Rajasthan and shares boundaries with the Hanumangarh to the north, the Haryana state to the east, the Jhunjhunun and Sikar districts to the southeast, the Nagaur to the south, and the Bikaner District to the west.

The district has an area of approximately 16,830 square km, which has been divided into 6 tehsils namely Churu, Ratangarh, Taranagar, Rajgarh, Sardarshahar, and Sujangarh.

History of Churu:

Churu was founded in 1620 by Jat chieftian Churru. Later, it came under control of Rajputs rulers of Rathore clan. Rao Maldeo, murdered Nana Choudhary, and changed the name of territory from Kalera Bas to Churu.

During war between Bikaner and Churu, the area came under the dominance of Bikaner. It is said that during the war between both the regions all the weapons made by copper and brass got finished, the Churu Thakur requested all the women population of his town to donate their silver ornaments so that the shells made by silver can be utilized for cannons.

Before India's independence in 1947, it was a part of Bikaner State. The district came into existence in 1948 comprising three tehsils Churu, Rajgarh and Taranagar when the administration of Bikaner State was reorganized.

Historical Places of Churu

Churu Fort:

Churu Fort was constructed by Thakur Kushal Singh in 1649 A.D. In 1814, Surat Singh of Bikaner attacked this fort and after ammunition was exhausted, Thakur Shiv Singh fired Cannon balls made of silver in defense of fort. Shiv Singh also constructed Gopinath temple inside the



fort.

Kothari and Surana Haveli

Oswal Jain merchant families constructed these beautiful painted havelis. Malji's Haveli made by Malaji Kothari is the most popular haveli. Another famous haveli is the Surana Double Haveli.

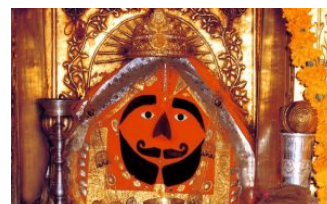


Fairs & Festivals of Churu

Salasar Bala Ji Fair

Balaji Temple is one of the famous religious spots of the district. Two fairs are organized in this temple in the month of April.

On Chaitra Purnima and Ashvin Purnima large fairs are organized which millions of devotees visit as they pay homage to the deity.



Gogaji Maharaj Fair

Almost every village in Rajasthan has a deity dedicated to him. Worship of Gogaji starts in Bhaadra month of Hindu calendar. Grand fairs are held at his birthplace Dadreva (Churu) and Smadhi sthal Gogamedi (Hanumangarh).

Thousands of devotees gather to pay homage at this memorial annually in the month of Bhadrapada during the Gogaji fair, which lasts for 3 days. The fair is held from the ninth day of the dark half of Bhadrapada (Goga Navami) to the eleventh day of the dark half of the same month.



Gogaji Fair

Geography of Churu:

District of Churu is a part of the great Thar Desert. It is covered with a thick mantle of sand and is characterized by 6 to 30 meter longitudinal dunes trending northeast to south west. The ground level in the district is about 400 meters above mean sea level the terrain in general is sloping from south to

north. There are no big hill in the district expect some hillocks. There are no perennial rivers or streams in the district. Wells and ponds are the principal sources of water supply.

The climate of the district is dry desert with large variation in temperature. The minimum and maximum temperature recorded in the district varies from -2°C to 50°C . Relative humidity is generally below 30% except during the brief south east monsoon period when the same rises up to 60% in the district the rainy season usually lasts from July to mid-September and the normal usual rainfall is only 328 mm.

Natural Places of Churu:

Talchhapar Sanctuary:

The Talchhapar Sanctuary is known for its rare black-buck. Apart from the black-buck, some of the other wild animals spotted here are jungle cat, chinkara and varied species of migratory birds.



Natural Resources of Churu:

Churu is not rich in minerals but they are found at few places. The various mineral deposits are copper, salt, petrel, sand stone, limestone, gypsum etc. But these deposits are very small in size and not of much economic importance.

Population of Churu:

According to the 2011 census,

- Churu district has a population of approximately 20, 41,172.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-11 was approximately 6.1%.
- The district has a population density of 148 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- Churu has a sex ratio of 938 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of about 67.46%.

Chapter 12: Dausa

Location, Area & Administration of Dausa

Dausa is surrounded by Mahadev in five directions (Nilkanth, Gupteshwer, Sahajnath, Somnath and Baijnath), so it was named from Sanskrit word “Dhau and Sa”. ‘Dhau’ means “Heaven” & ‘Sa’ means alike so Dausa means alike Heaven.

Dausa is situated in the north-eastern region of Rajasthan, widely known as **Dhundhar** & ruled by **Bargujars**. Dausa is located at 26.88°N Latitude & 76.33°E Longitude, with an average elevation of 333 meters above sea-level. Dausa is an internal district and is surrounded by Jaipur, Alwar, Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Bharatpur and Tonk.

Dausa is roughly semicircular or ‘C’ shape with tapering towards east and west at corners. The total area of district is 3404 square Km which has been divided into 7 tehsils namely Dausa, Sikrai, Nagal Rajawatan, Baswa, Lalsot, Lawan and Mahwa.

History of Dausa

Dausa is believed to have been one of the habitations of pre-historic man. It is believed that there was existence of some human settlements during the chalcolithic era. Archeological surveys in the region have found a number of stone circles on the sloping grounds to the north of the foot of the hill. A couple of them contained cromlechs, a few cairns and sepulchral mound of prehistoric date, deduced as the prehistoric cemetery.

Apart from these facts, Dausa also has ancient mythological significance. The town of **Bhandarej**, was originally known as the city of Bhadravati and finds mention in the great Indian epic Mahabharata.

During Medieval period, The Chauhans & Badgurjars ruled this land in 10th Century A.D. The city of Dausa, rose to fame when it became the first capital of Dundhar. This was in 1006, when the Kacchawaha Rajput king Duleh Rai annexed the region from the Gujjara-Pratihara and the Menaj's control. The foundation that Dulha Rai, laid in Dausa resulted in Kingdom of Amber and later, Jaipur by the same dynasty.

Rulers of Dausa:

- **Sodh Dev, Raja of Dausa (966-1006)**
 - Belonged to Chauhan Dynasty

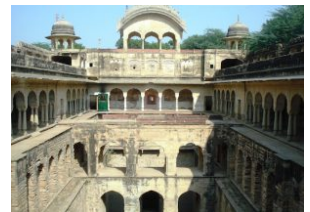
- **Dhola Rai, Raja of Dausa (1006-1036)**
 - In 1006, Dhola Rai married the daughter of Raja Ralhan Singh Chauhan, Raja of Ajmer. Part of the dowry included the region of Dhundhar.
 - Raja Dhola Rai expelled the Badd Gujjar Rajputs from Dhundhar and made alliances with the Minas (tribal people) by promising the continuance of their tribal customs, granting them *jagirs*, and appointing them as *kiladars* (fort wardens).
- Raja Kokil Dev, (1036 to 1038)
- Raja Hanu Dev, (1039 to 1053)
- Raja Janad Dev, (1053 to 1070)
- Raja Pajwan Dev, (1070 to 1094)
- Raja Melaisi Dev, (1094 to 1146)
- **Raja Beejal Dev, Raja of Amber (1146 to 1178)**
 - The capital was shifted to Amber, and now rulers called as Raja of Amber.

Historical Places of Dausa

Monuments at Bhandarej Town

A. Excavations: The town was originally known as the city of Bhadrawati and finds mention in Mahabharata. Bhandarej is also famous for walls, sculptures, decorative lattice work, terracotta utensils etc found in excavation.

Further, The **Bhandarej Baori** (Step Well) is a magnificent architectural creation and has 150 wide steps going towards the main well, approximately 70 feet in width.



The **Bhadravati Palace**, also known as Bhandarej Fort, is an interesting blend of both Mughal and Rajput architecture having courtyards, arched windows and traditionally painted verandahs.

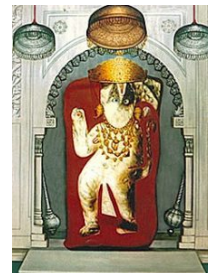
Abhaneri

Abhaneri is famous for its Post-gupta or early medieval monuments. The **Chand Baori**(Step Well) and **Harshat Mata Temple** are prominent monuments. The temple is an excellent example of intricate carving on stone whereas the Baori has stairs with unparalleled artistic and architectural beauty. It is situated at about 33 Kms from the district headquarter towards Bandikui.



Mehndipur Balaji

It is situated about 40 Kms from district headquarter on NH11 towards Mahwa/ Agra. Temple of Bajrang Bali (Hanuman) god is famous for treatment of mentally disturbed people by the PRETRAJ. With the tremendous growth in medical sciences in the world, still people from all over India come to this place to overcome such diseases.



Dausa Fort:

Dausa Fort was constructed on Devgiri Hill, probably first by Badgurjars and subsequently by Kachawahas when they made Dausa as their first capital.

Madhorajpura Fort

Sawai Madho Singh-I after defeating marathas, established the township of Madhorajpura and constructed the fort. According to historians, this fort was used as the headquarters by the Swathi, during the fight between Marathas and Swathi Pratap Singh.

Khawaraoji

Khawaraoji is famous for residence of the then ruler Raoji and natural beauty. It is situated at about 25 Kms from the district headquarter towards Sikrai. Though, it has typical way to reach this place, the fort like residence is converted into the Khawaraoji Heritage Hotel. Surrounded by hills at the three sides, and having Amol Ghati nearby with natural beauty, this place has worth to visit by tourists.



Shrine (Mazhar) of Hazrat Kwhaja Sheikh Jamal Shah:

The shrine is located within the Dausa city. It attracts both the Hindus and the Muslims. The shrine is of 180 years old and has seen several ups and downs so far.

Fairs & Festivals of Dausa

Basant Panchmi Mela

At district headquarter, Basant Panchmi Mela (During February every year) is organised with the worship of idols of Raghunathji, Narshingji and god Surya. The festival is celebrated for three days with a large local market for villagers to procure their essential requirements for the entire year. Besides this, it has all arrangements for rural entertainment. Therefore, it has very much attention and importance for rural population scattered in the district.

Dolchi Holi

In Pavta village, the young men of Gurjar caste, celebrated the traditional Holi with a difference. On the next day of Dhulandi, those young men throw a jet of water on each other using a small pot made up of leather from the four adjacent ponds prepared for this purpose. It goes on for one hour and they face it with brevity and enthusiasm.

Shiekh Jamal's Urs

On Lalsot road, there is a holy place of Sufi Sant Hazaratshah Shekh Jamal. During the Urs, a lot of pilgrims visited to this place every year. famous singers make this more attractive by singing religious songs all over the night.

Hela-Kahayal dangal

The folk art of Hela-Khayal is a unique singing style of this region. Its' uniqueness lies in its traditional singing which is highly stylised yet it has now been skillfully employed to comment on the current

socio-economic-political scenario in a satirical manner. Extremely popular among the village folk of Dausa, Hela singers demonstrate and typify the undying spirit and zest for life of its people.

Geography of Dausa

Hills of Dausa district are parts of the North Aravali ranges. The Lalsot-Bayana Hill range runs from Lalsot to Bayana, demarcates the boundary between Dausa and Sawai Madhopur districts. The Aravali exposures have a perfect concordant sequence of beds from Lalsot to Bayana ridge. A belt of crystalline quartzite is found in hills from Dausa to Bhankari, schistose quartzite is also predominately exposed. The soil of the district is yellowish to dark brown dominantly fine textured, generally suitable for all type of crops.

The climate of the district is dry we have south- western monsoon. The minimum and maximum temperatures recorded in the district vary from 4 to 5 degree Celsius to 47.00 degree Celsius. The average rainfall of the district is 604.03 mm.

There are 36 dams in the district. The major dams are Sainthal Sagar, Kalakho Bandh, Madhosagar Bandh and Moral Bandh. *Morel and Ban Ganga* are major rivers located in the district.

Population

As per the census 2011, the total population of the district was 16.37 Lacs out of which 87.62 population lives in rural area & remaining 12.38% in the urban area.

Chapter 13: Dholpur

Location, Area & Administration:

Dholpur is situated in the eastern-part of Rajasthan, located at 26° 42' 0" North Latitude, 77° 54' 0" East Longitude. It is bordered by Bharatpur district of Rajasthan and Agra of Uttar Pradesh to the north, Gwalior of Madhya Pradesh to the south, Karauli district of Rajasthan to the west and (Moreana) Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh to the east.

Dholpur is the smallest district of Rajasthan with an area of 3034 Square Kms. Administratively; Dholpur has been divided into six Tehsils Dholpur, Bari, Baseri and Rajakhera, Saipau & Sarmathura.

History of Dholpur:

Ancient Period:

- The History of Dholpur date back to the Buddha's Period. During that period, Dholpur was included in Matsya Janpad. During Mauryan rule it was included in the Mauryan Empire.

Early Medieval:

- Around the 8th to 10th centuries, Chauhans ruled over it. In the year 1194 it remained under Mohammed Gauri.

Tomar Rule:

- It is believed that the city got its name Dhawalpuri (then Dholpur) after Raja Dholan Deo Tomar, the Tomar ruler who established the city in 700 AD.

Yadava rulers of Karauli

- The Tomars lost sovereignty to Jadu's of Karauli. The Dholpur fort was built by Dharampal, Raja of Karauli in 1120 A.D

Sultanate Period:

- In 1502, Sikandar Lodi defeated Dholpur King Vinayak Dev and captured Dholpur.

Mughal Period:

- After the death of [Ibrahim Lodi](#), many states declared themselves independent. Mohammed Jaifoon declared himself the ruler of Dholpur. Babar sent Junniad Barlas to Dholpur, who crushed the rebellion and took over the administration of Dholpur in his own hands.

Gurjar rule

- After the death of Aurangzeb, Raja Kalyan Singh Gurjar occupied the fort till 1761 AD, whence Raja of [Bharatpur](#), the Jat ruler [Maharaja Surajmal](#) took control of the fort.

Bamraulia rulers

In Second Anglo-Maratha War between the British and Marathas at Laswari on 1 November 1803, Lord Lake defeated Sindhia. In this war the Jats helped the British. Later, the British concluded a treaty with the Jats and with their help defeated Marathas and won back Gwalior and Gohad from them. The British kept Gwalior with them but returned Gohad to the Jats in 1804.

Gohad was handed over to Marathas under a revised treaty dated 22 November 1805 between Marathas and British. Under the treaty, Gohad ruler Rana Kirat Singh was given Dhaulpur, Badi and Rajakheda in exchange. Rana Kirat Singh moved to Dhaulpur in December 1805. Thus the Rana Jat rulers of Bamraulia gotra ruled Gohad for 300 years from 1505–1805 and after that their rule was transferred at Dholpur.

On 10 January 1806 Dholpur became a British protectorate

Rulers of Dholpur (title Maharaja Rana)

- Kirat Singh (1806-1836)
- Pohap Singh (1836)
- Bhagwant Singh (1836 – 1873)
- Nihal Singh (1873 – 1901)
- Maharani Sateha Devi (1873 – d. 1884) Bhawa (f) -Regent
- Ram Singh (1901-1911)
- Udai Bhan Singh (29 Mar 1911 – 15 Aug 1947)
 - Signed the instrument of accession to the Indian Union on 7 April 1949

Historical Places of Dholpur:

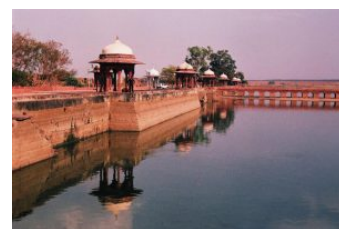
The Machkund Temple:

Muchchhkund is about 4 km from the town of Dholpur. It is an ancient sacred place. It commands a picturesque view. The place is named after Raja Muchchhukand, the 24th of the Suryavanshi Dynasty (the solar race) who is said to have reigned nineteen generations before Lord Ram. According to legend, Raja Muchchhkund was sleeping here when demon Kaal Yaman (while pursuing lord Krishna) accidentally woke him up. The demon Kaal Yaman was burnt to ashes because of a divine blessing to Raja Muchchhkund. It is now a sacred place for pilgrims.



Talab-e-Shahi

Located 27 kilometres from Dholpur (and 5 kilometers from Bari) is a picturesque lake called Talab Shahi. The lake and the palace were built in 1617 A.D. as a shooting lodge for Prince Shah Jahan. The palace and the lake were later maintained by the ruler of Dholpur. The lake attracts a large number of winter migratory fowl such as pintail, shoveller, red crested pochard, common pochard, tufted duck, garganey teal, wigeon and fadwall.



Shergarh Fort:

Located on Banks of river Chambal, Shergarh fort is, said to be first constructed by Raja Maldev during Kushan Period. In 1540, Shershaah reconstructed the fort and named it Shergarh.



Geography of Dholpur:

The Chambal River forms the southern boundary of the district, across which lies the state of Madhya Pradesh. All along the bank of the Chambal River the district is deeply intersected by ravines; low ranges of hills in the western portion of the district supply quarries of fine-grained and easily worked red sandstone.

Range of sand stone hills runs from Dholpur town in a south western direction attaining at one place on attitude of 356.91 Meters above sea level. The land in Dholpur district is fertile and rises from alluvial plain near the level. Hills and broken grounds characterize almost the whole territory, along the valley of the Chambal as irregular and lofty wall of rocks separate the land on the river from the uplands .

Natural Places of Dholpur:

Van Vihar Wild Life Sanctuary:

Van Vihar, an old wildlife reserve of the rulers of Dholpur is spread over an area of 25.60 km² over Vindhyan Plateau, supports a rather open stunted growth of Dhok and Khair trees. Animals like Sambhar, Chital, Blue Bull, Wild Boar, Sloth Bear, Hyena and Leopard inhabit it.



Ramsagar Sanctuary:

Contains picturesque Ramsagar Lake, which supports rich aquatic life including fresh water crocodiles and a number of fishes and snakes. Water birds such as cormorants, white-breasted water hen, moor hen, jacanas, river tern, ringed plover, sand piper, and green and purple herons are quite common. During winter months migratory ducks and geese visit the lake in good numbers. It covers an area of 34.40 sq. Km.



Damoye Waterfall:

A waterfall in Sarmathura. It is the main tourist spot in whole district. It is visible in rainy season [July–September]. Besides this, Damoye has a long and green forest range with wild animals.

National Chambal (Gharial) Wildlife Sanctuary:

The Chambal river remains one of north India's most unpolluted rivers, home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna. National Chambal (Gharial) Wildlife Sanctuary contains the rare Ganges river dolphin. The sanctuary was founded in 1978 and is part of a large area co-administered by Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, within area of 5,400 km². Approximately 400 km of the river is within the reserve. Apart from the Ganges river dolphin, the other inhabitants of the sanctuary include mugger crocodiles and gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*). Migratory birds from Siberia form its rich avian fauna.



Natural Resources of Dholpur:

The mineral wealth of the district is constituted mainly by **sandstone & limestone**. A total of 87 mining leases are existing in the district.

Sandstone: Dholpur district is known for its unique Sandstone. In general Dholpur sandstone is fine to medium grained, compact, resistant to acid, available in different shades and colors and can be easily dressed and chiseled. It takes good polish at cut surface. The colour of the sandstone depends on the constituents of the cementing material. The famous Dholpur sandstone is being used in Rajasthan as well as in neighboring states since centuries as building and dimensional stone. Dholpur Stone has been used to build many famous historical buildings including Rashtrapati Bhawan, Red Forts of Agra and Delhi, Vidhansabha Bhawan, Jaipur and many other forts. It is being used in roofing, flooring, panelling, beams; pillars, door and window sills, cladding, wall facing, making of statue, perforated windows, jalis and carved decorative articles.

Lime Stone: The Vindhyan Limestone occurs in and along the banks of Chambal river. It is grey in colour, fine to medium grained and massive. At present, there is no mining lease for limestone. The main locations of limestone are Sawar Pali, Basai Dang and Rojai Kalan in tehsil Dholpur.

Masonry Stone: The sandstone, which is hard and compact but does not has splittability, is used as masonry stone in the form of Khanda, Gitty & boulders. The leases of Khanda, Gitty, boulders & Bajari are distributed through the district.

Population:

It's population according to census of the year 2011 was 12,06,516 comprising 6,53,647 males and 5,52,869 females. Effective literacy was 76.56%; male literacy was 84.22% and female literacy was 67.74%.

Chapter 14: Dungarpur

Location, Area & Administration:

Dungarpur district is the third smallest district in Rajasthan, situated in the Southern part. It lies between 23.20' and 24.01 N latitude and 73°.22' and 74.23' E longitude. . It is bounded on the north by Udaipur district and on the east by Banswara district. On its South and west, it has common border with state of Gujrat.

Dungarpur has an area of 3781 sq. Km's which is divided into 5 tehsils Aspur, Dungarpur, Sagwara, Simalwara and in 2007, new tehsil of [Bichiwara](#) (Bichhiwara) was created out of the western part of Dungarpur Tehsil.

History of Dungarpur

The material remains of the Ahar civilization discovered in Mewar region constitute remnants of the civilization which may date back to 4000 year ago. From Ahar this culture extended to other centers in the south-east of Rajasthan including parts of present Dungarpur and Banswara district. As a proof, silver coins belonging to 181-353 AD have been unearthed in thousands from [Sarwaniya village in Banswara district](#), also a part of 'Bagar'. The coins establish that this territory was, then, ruled by Kshtrapas or Satraps of the Saka, inhabitants of area lying between Iran and Afghanistan. They entered Afghanistan and India sometime in the first century of the Vikram Era.

However the Gupta rule over this tract cannot be ascertained with exactitude. Thereafter, the territory may have formed a part of the kingdom of Vallabi. Bagar is said to have been invaded by the Arabs between 725 A.D. and 738 A.D. However, their attacks were repelled and they were expelled from these parts.

From the time the parmars of Malwa came to rule Bagar, we get a clear and continuous history of this area. In 1197, [Samant Singh](#), the eldest son of the ruler of Mewar, Karan Singh, the Guhils of Mewar (Udaipur) established their suzerainty in this area.

It is mentioned in the 'Khyats' that [Maharawal Veer Singh Dev](#), the Sixth descendant of Sawant Singh of Mewar, assassinated powerful Bhil Chieftain Dungaria and took possession of Dungaria's village and founded that town of Dungarpur in 1258 A.D.

Rulers of Dungarpur:

- **Rawal Veer Singh**
 - Founded State of Dungarpur
 - Killed in the sack of Chittor by Allauddin Khilji.
- **Bhachundi**
 - Erected the Hanumat Pol
- **Rawal Gopinath**
 - Victory over Ahmedshah, the Sultan of Gujarat in 1433 A.D.
 - Built the Gaipsagar lake at Dungarpur
- **Rawal Somdasji**
 - Repelled the invasion of Sultan Mahmood Shah and Gayasuddin
- **Maharawal Udai Singh I**
- Divided 'Vagad' into two parts. The western portion, with the capital at Dungarpur, he retained for his elder son **Prithviraj** and the eastern portion subsequently known as Banswara, gave to his younger son Jagmal.
- **Maharawal Askaran**
 - Acknowledged the Mughal suzerainty and became a vassal of the Empire
- **Maharawal Punjaraj**
 - Emperor Shahjahan, conferred on him the insignia of the 'Mahimaratib' and a grant of a Dedhahazari Mansab' and 'Izzat' to 1,500 'Sawars in recognition of the services rendered by him to the Emperor in his campaigns in the Daccan.
- **Maharawal Khuman Singh (1691 – 1702)**
- **Maharawal Ram Singh (1702 – 1730)**
 - The Marahattas invaded territory.
- **Maharawal Shiv Singh (1730 – 1785)**
 - Became an ally of the Marahattas

- Maharawal Vairi Sal (1785 – 1790)
- Maharawal Fateh Singh (1790 – 1808)
- Maharawal Jashwant Singh (1808 – Dec 1845)
 - Signed treaty of perpetual friendship, alliance and unity of interests was concluded with the British crown on 11th December, 1818 A.D
- Maharawal Udai Singh (1846 – 1898)
 - Rendered loyal services to the British Government in the Mutiny of 1857
- Maharawal Bijai Singh (Feb 1898 – Nov 1918)
- Maharawal Laxman Singh (Nov 1918 – 15 Aug 1947)
 - Awarded Knight Commander- KCSI (1935) and Knight Grand Commander GCIE (1947)
 - After independence became a Member of the Rajya Sabha twice, in 1952 and 1958, and later a member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly (MLA) in 1962 and 1989.
 - It was in 1945 that the 'Dungarpur Rajya Praja Mandal' came into existence and a year later in 1946, a demand was made for grant of responsible Government under the aegis of the ruler. In March, 1948 the ruler announced the grant of responsible Government. However, on the inauguration of the United States of Rajasthan the local Government came to an end when the administration of the State was handedover to ' Rajpramukh' of the newly formed union of State and Dungarpur was constituted as a district of the United States of Rajasthan.

Historical Places of Dungarpur:

Juna Mahal

Juna Mahal (Old Palace) is a 13th century, seven-storeyed edifice. It is built on a high platform constructed from Pareva stone and its rugged exterior gives it a resemblance of a citadel. It has been elaborately planned with fortified walls, watchtowers, narrow doorways and corridors to delay the enemy for as long as possible. What lies inside is a complete contrast to the exterior. Visitors will be spellbound by the beautiful murals, miniature paintings and delicate glass and mirror work that adorn the interiors.



Udai Bilas Palace

The Udai Bilas Palace has been named after Maharawal Udai Singh II. Its striking design follows classic Rajput architectural style and boasts of detailed designs in its balconies, arches and windows. A beautiful wing built of the local bluish grey stone called Pareva overlooks the lake. The palace is segregated into Raniwas, Udai Bilas and Krishna Prakash, also known as **Ek Thambiya Mahal**. The EkThambiyaMahal is a veritable marvel of Rajput architecture featuring intricate sculptured pillars and panels, ornate balconies, balustrades, bracketed windows, arches and frieze of marble carvings. Today, Udai Bilas Palace functions as a heritage hotel.



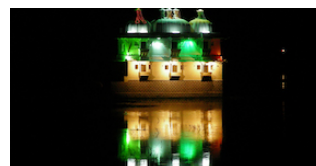
Gaib Sagar Lake

The lake is famous for the shrine of Shrinathji that rests on its banks. The shrine complex contains numerous exquisitely carved temples and one core temple, the Vijay Rajrajeshwar Temple. This temple of Lord Shiva displays the skilled craftsmanship of the famed sculptors or 'shilpkars' of Dungarpur.



Badal Mahal

The Badal Mahal, built using Pareva stone, is another splendid palace of Dungarpur. Located on the banks of Gaib Sagar Lake, it is renowned for its elaborate design and a fusion of the architectural styles of the Rajputs and the Mughals. The monument comprises two stages, three domes and a veranda. Each dome sports a carved half ripe lotus while the largest dome sports three.



Boreshwar Mahadeo

The temple Boreshwar Mahadeo was built during the reign of Maharawal Samant Singh sometime in 1179 A.D. It is situated on the banks of the Som river.

Deo Somnath

On the banks of Som river, there is an old and beautiful Shiva temple called Deo Somnath built in the 12th century. Built of white stone, the temple has imposing turrets. One can see the sky from within the



temple. Though there is a perfect adaptation of parts in the masonry, yet it gives the impression that individual stones are crumbling. The temple has 3 exits, one each in the east, the north and the south. The entrance gates are two storied. The Garbha Garah has a high dome. In front of it is the Sabha Mandap – built on 8 majestic pillars. There are Twenty Torans of which four still exist. Others were destroyed by the flood waters of the Som. The idol of the deity is in a chamber, eight steps below and the entrance is from the Sabha Mandap. There are several inscription by pilgrims and the oldest belongs to 1493 A.D. Several warriors were cremated near the temple and memorials have been raised in their honour.

Galiakot

At a distance of 58 kilometres from Dungarpur, located on the banks of River Mahi, is a hamlet called Galiakot. The place is known for Syed Fakhruddin's shrine. He was a renowned saint who was buried in the hamlet after his death. The shrine is made from white marble and has his teachings engraved on its walls. The inner portion of the dome is decorated by beautiful foliage while teachings of the Quran are engraved in golden letters on the tomb.



Nagfanji

Nagfanji is renowned for its Jain shrines and not only does it attract devotees from Dungarpur but also tourists who travel from far to see the temple. The temple houses statues of Devi Padmawati, Nagfanji Parshwanatha and Dharnendra. The Nagfanji Shivalaya, which is located close to this temple, is also a tourist attraction.



Shrinathji Temple

Maharawal Punraj built this temple in the year 1623. The idols of Shri Radhikaji and Goverdhan Nathji are the main attractions. The complex also houses several shrines dedicated to Shri Banke Bihariji and Shri Ramchandraji.

Surpur Temple

This ancient shrine is located on the banks of the Gangdi River about 3 kilometres from Dungarpur. The area around the temple also houses



other attractions such as Bhulbhulaiya, Madhavrai Temple, Hathiyan Ki Agad and several inscriptions.

Beneshwar Temple

The Beneshwar temple, containing the most revered Shiva Linga of the region, is situated on a delta formed at the confluence of Som and Mahi rivers. The Linga is believed to be Swayambhu or self created. It stands five feet high and is spilt broken at the top in five parts. Just near the Beneshwar temple is the Vishu temple constructed in 1793 A.D. by Jankunwari, daughter – in law of Mavji, a highly revered saint and believed to be an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The temple is said to be constructed at the place where Mavji spent his time praying to God. Two disciples of Mavji called Aje and Vaje built the Laxmi Narayan temple. Though these are other Gods and Goddesses, People identify them as Mavji, his wife, his son, his daughter-in law and disciple Jiandas. Besides these temple, there is also a temple of Lord Brahma.

Fairs & Festivals of Dungarpur

Beneshwar Fair

The biggest tribal fair held at Beneshwar which is at the confluence of Mahi, Som and Jakham rivers. A large number of tribals from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh gather to immerse the mortal remains of the dead. This fair is held on Magh Purnima, in the month of February, which is considered a holy period in this region.



Geography of Dungarpur

A major part of the district is characterized by rugged terrain. The North East- South trending Aravali hill ranges are prominent in the western part. The ground elevation of the area is about 320 mts. While the hills rise upto 552mts. above MSL.

Som & Mahi the two major rivers of the District, the area is drained by a network of streams that discharge their water into the Mahi river.

Mineral Resources of Dungarpur:

Dungarpur has a rich assemblage of minerals. The important ones are Soapstone, Fluorite, Green marble, Basematite etc.

Base Metals

Occurrences of copper are found near Padar-ki-pal, Amjera, Dewal, Methali, Oden etc.

Fluorite

The largest fluorite deposits in the state are located in Mandoo-ki-pal, areas in this district. Other important localities are Kahila Remore, Mata Bhagat, Rahatwali, Thurwadi, Umeria, Singhwadi and Nawagaon. Fluorite is used as flux in metallurgy of iron and aluminum. Acid grade fluorite is used in the manufacture of Hydro-Fluoric acid which is subsequently used in glass and chemical industries.

Soapstone:

The important localities are Dewal, Jakol, Thana, Rohanwara, Pipoloda, Sabli Munger, Padar, Amjera, Parsola, Bharkubdi Sarkan, Surata-ki-pal etc. It is used in cosmetics, refractories, paper & paint, pesticide and insecticide industries.

Asbestos:

Crysotile variety of Asbestos is found sporadically near Dewal, Jodol, Gokulpura etc. Villages associated with ultra basic rocks. Tremolite variety is also from fairly workable deposits.

Marble:

Serpentine rocks are being mined as green marble near Dewal, Surata, Dachki, Hirata, Simalwara, etc. Villages. The marble takes good polish and has good market.

Limestone:

Crystalline pink-grey-white limestone occurs in two belts in Dungarpur district near Sabla, Munger, Harwar etc. villages. Another limestone band occurs near Harwar, Nithuwa villages. It is off white to grey in colour. It is also being used as marble.

Building Stone

There are large Occurrences of slates and phyllites which are being mined at places for use as building stone. Phyllites are excavated near Rampura, Denandi, Baramagra etc.

Population of Dungarpur

According to the 2011 census, Dungarpur district had a population of 13,88,906. The district had a population density of 368 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 25.39%. Dungarpur had a sex ratio of 990 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 60.78%.

Chapter 15: Hanumangarh

Location, Area & Administration:

Hanumangarh is one of the northern most district of Rajasthan, located between 29° 5' to 30° 6' North Latitude and 74° 3' to 75° 3' east Longitude. The district is surrounded by Churu in south, Sri Ganganagar in west, Punjab and Haryana in north and east respectively.

The district has area of 12,645 km², which is divided into seven tehsils: Hanumangarh, Sangaria, Rawatsar, Nohar, Bhadra, Tibbi and Pilibanga for the purpose of administration.

History of Hanumangarh:

The Hanumangarh district has a significant place in the ancient history. Excavations at Kalibanga and Pallu have revealed the ancient civilizations. The remains found at Kalibangan in 1951 reveal that this area was a part of nearly 5000 years old Indus Valley Civilization. The district has more than 100 'Mounts' where the remains of ancient civilizations have been buried. The remains of including human skeleton, unknown scripts, stamps, coins, utensils, jewelry, toys, statues have been kept at Museum at Kalibangan and National Museum, New Delhi.

During early times, Hanumangarh was the kingdom of 'Bhati' Rajputs. Bhupat, son of Bhati King of Jaisalmer founded the city and named it as Bhatner, in the memory of his father. Further, he also built Bhatner Fort in 295 A.D. Since then, rulers like Timur, Ghaznavis, Prithvi Raj Chauhan, Akbar, Qutub-ud-din-Aybak and Rathores had captured this fort.

Finally, in 1805, the Bhattis were defeated at Bhatner by Raja of Bikaner Soorat Singh. Since this conquest occurred on Tuesday, which is considered as the day of Lord Hanuman, the Soorat Singh changed the name from Bhatner to Hanumangarh.

In his recent research History, Dr. G.S.Devra has established the area of Talwara lake as the historical famous field of Battle of Tarain between Mohd. Ghori and Prithviraj Chauhan. The contemporary writers have described Talwara lake as Mauj-e-Aab and Bhatner fort as 'Tavar Hind' fort.

Historical Places of Hanumangarh

Kalibangan Archaeological Site

Kalibangan is a part of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization that is some 5000 years old. It has not only the relics of the Harappan settlements from the 2500 BC – 1750 BC, but also the Pre-Harappan settlements from the 3500 BC – 2500 BC. The excavations at Kalibangan revealed Harappan seals, human skeletons, unknown scripts, stamps, copper bangles, beads, coins, toys, terracotta and shells, wheels, jewellery, utensils, toy carts, markets, remnants of wells, bathrooms, graves, a fort and streets.



Kalibangan Archaeological Museum

The museum was established in 1983 to store and exhibit the materials that were excavated from the archeological site of Kalibangan between 1961 and 1969. The Archaeological Museum is located in Kalibangan on the southern shores of the River Ghaggar.



Bhatner Fort:

The Bhatner Fort, otherwise known as the Hanumangarh Fort, is located on somewhat elevated land with gigantic barricades along the banks of the River Gaggar in the centre of Hanumangarh. In 295 AD, Bhupat, son of Jailsamer's King Bhatti built this strong fort. Since then, rulers like Timur, Ghaznavis, PratihviRaj Chauhan, Akbar, Qutub-ud-din-Aybak and Rathores had captured this fort. The strength of this fort has been mentioned in the autobiography written by Timur called "Tuzuk- e- Timuri." Even Mughal Emperor Akbar described this fortification in his book "Ain- I- Akbari".



It has many towering gates surrounding the fort and many big rounded bastions that stand at intervals. There are three statues, which bear inscriptions, and an ancient building called "Jain Pasara" is situated inside the fort. There is also a tomb inside this fort, where Sher Khan is kept. Sher Khan was the nephew of Sultan Ghiyas-ud-din-Balban (1266 – 1290) as well as the Governor of the Fort.

Shri Gorakh Nath Ji Temple:

The temple is located at Shri Goraknath Teela, Gorkhana in Nohar tehsil. There have been nine Siddhas in the **Nath cult**, the foremost of them is Shri Gorakh Nath who was an accomplished yogi. This place is said to be the site of ascetism of Shri Gorakh Nath where his fire place (Dhuna) is even today present. It is also believed that Shri Gogaji met Shri Gorakh Nathji here and became his principal disciple.



The Dhuna Guru Gorakhnath is on a mound, hence it is called Gorakh teela. Dhuna of Gorkh Nathji is also an object of worship. In this temple there is a stone image of Goddess Kalika which is made of stone and is in standing posture having the size of 3 ft. Side by side is the black stone idol of Bhairuji of the equal size. By them is the Shiva family and other Samadhis (entombments) of the yogis.

Shri Goga Ji Temple:

The 950 year old temple is located at village Gogamedi in Nohar Tehsil. The temple of Gogaji is a combination of Hindu and Muslim style of Architecture. The temple is built on a high mound. Inside the temple is the shrine of Gogaji, an engraved statue can be seen in the form of a warrior riding horse, with a lance in hand and snake around his neck. Thus the statue appears to be of a valiant knight undaunted and confident. The temple is visited by all caste and all communities.



Shri Bhadra Kali Ji Temple:

This is an ancient temple situated on the banks of Ancient Sarasvati river (Ghaggar river). It was repaired and renovated by Maharaja Ganga Singh Ji of Bikaner. The Maharaja was devoted to Goddess Bhadra Kali, one of the many forms of Goddess Durga. The idol of Bhadra Kali in red stone is enshrined here. The Temple has a High Shikhar of a rounded shape. While the temple has no circumambulatory path. It has a Sabha Mandapa or a prayer hall. A Verandah, a sacrum sanctorum and a Kitchen are also there.



Sila Mata – Sila Peer Temple

The old Sila Mata – Sila Peer Temple is a mark of communal harmony. Located close to the bus stand of Hanumangarh City, the idol of this temple is worshipped by Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims.



Shri Kabootar Sahib Gurdwara

Shri Kabootar Sahib Gurdwara is located at a distance of about 80 km in the town of Nohar. This temple was constructed to celebrate the historic visit of Guru Gobind Singh in the month of November,, 1706.

Gurdwara of Shri Sukha Singh Mehtab Singh

The historically important Gurdwara of Shaheedan Da is located in the city of Hanumangarh. In the 18th century AD, when this gurdwara was constructed, it was named after two martyrs.

Fairs & Festivals:

- DHUNA **Shri Gorakh Nath Ji** – Fair takes place for one complete month in Bhadrapada.
- Shri **Bhadra Kali Ji** – Fair is organized twice, once during Navaratri in the month of Chaitra and also in the month of Ashwin.
- **Shri Goga Ji** – A big fair which runs for one month from the Poornima of Sharvan to the Poornima of Bhadrapad every year.

Geography of Hanumangarh:

The district has plain topography covered with a thick layer of alluvium and wind blown sand. It displays a general slope towards west with the gradient of about 4-5 metre per kilometer. The sand dunes are generally 4 to 5 metres high except in the south western part where they are more intensely developed, being sometimes 10 to 15 metres in height.

Geology is marked by a thick cover of blown sand and alluvium except for a few isolated patches of Recent calcareous and sandy sediments associated with gypsite/ gypsum.

The height of both the districts varies between 168 and 227 m. above the mean sea level. Ghaggar river, locally known as Nali, is an ephemeral one and has northeast to southwest course near the town.

The major work of the district is farming; major crops include rice, millet, cotton, wheat, and vegetables.

Population:

As of 2011 India census, Hanumangarh had a population of 151104. Males constitute 79817 of the population and females 71287. Hanumangarh has an average literacy rate of 78.32%, higher than the national average of 73.0%: male literacy is 85.42%, and female literacy is 70.42%. Sex Ratio of the city is 893 per 1000 males. Sex Ratio of childs is 848 per 1000 boys. The major languages spoken are Bagri, Punjabi and Hindi.

Chapter 16: Jaipur

Location, Area and Administration of Jaipur:

Planned by **Vidyadhar Bhattacharya**, Jaipur holds the distinction of being the first planned city of India. In 1876, when the Prince of Wales visited India on a tour, Maharaja Ram Singh of Jaipur painted the entire city pink (colour pink was symbolic of hospitality), the city has since been fondly called as **Pink City**.

Jaipur the capital & largest city of State of Rajasthan, located at **26.92°N Latitude and 75.82°E Longitude**. It is bounded by Alwar and Dausa districts on the east, Sawai Madhopur District on the southeast, Tonk District on the south, Ajmer District on the west, and Nagaur District on the northwest, Sikar District on the north and [Haryana](#) state on the extreme northeast.

Jaipur district has an area of 11,152 square kms, which is divided into 16 tehsils including Amber, Bassi, Chaksu, Chomu, Dudu, Jamwa Ramgarh, Phagi, Sambhar, Jaipur, Kishangarh, Renwal, Kotputli, Maujamabad, Shahpura, Sanganer, Viratnagar.

History of Jaipur:

In ancient history Jaipur makes appearance through **Bairath**. Bairat's history goes back to the time of the Mahabharata and Mahabhashya, when it was known as "Viratnagar". Viratnagar was the capital of Matsya Mahajanapada. The kingdom came under the control of the neighboring Chedi Kingdom in the 5th century BCE and was later part of the Mauryan Empire.

During medieval times, **Amber**, currently a subdivision of Jaipur, was the predecessor to Jaipur.

Amer (Amber) Rulers: (1036 -1727)

- **Raja Dulha Rao / Dhola Rao (1006-36)**
 - Amber is considered as originally a Meena kingdom, founded by the Chanda Meena king and ruled by Alan Singh (Ralun Singh) of Meena Clan.
 - In 1006, Dhola Rai/Dulha Rao married the daughter of Raja Ralhan Singh Chauhan, Raja of Ajmer. Part of the dowry included the region of Dhundhar.

- Raja Dulha Rao expelled the Badd Gujjar Rajputs from Dhundhar and made alliances with the Minas (tribal people) by promising the continuance of their tribal customs, granting them *jagirs*, and appointing them as *kiladars* (fort wardens).
- Rao Dulha Rao laid the foundation of Amer in 1036/37.
- It is believed that Raja Dulha Rao was killed in this struggle.
- Raja Kankaldev / Kokil Dev (1036-38)
- Raja Hunadev / Hoondev (1038-53)
- Raja Janaddev(1053 – 1070)
- Raja Pujanadev (1070 – 1084)
- Raja Malesidev (1084 – 1146)
- Raja Beejaldev (1146 – 1179)
 - The capital was shifted to Amber, and now rulers called as Raja of Amber.
- Raja Rajdev (1179 – 1216)
- Raja Khilandeve (1216 – 1276)
- Raja Kantaldeve(1276 – 1317)
- Raja Jansideve(1317 – 1366)
- Raja Udaikarna / Udaykarna (1366 – 1388)
- Raja Narsinhadeve(1388 – 1413)
- Raja Banbirsinha(1413 – 1424)
- Raja Udharao (1424 – 1453)
- Raja Chandrasen(1453 – 1502)
- Raja Prithviraj Singh(1502 – 1527)
- Raja Puranmal (1527 – 1534)
- Raja Bhim Singh (1534 – 1537)

- Raja Ratan Singh (1537 – 1548)
- Raja Bharmal (1548 – 1574)
 - Gave daughter to Akbar
- Raja Bhagwandas (1574 – 1589)
- *Mirza Raja Man Singh I* (1589 – 1614)
 - Battle of Haldighati – against Maharana Pratap
- *Mirza Raja Bhao Singh* (1614 – 1621)
- *Mirza Raja Jai Singh I* (1621 – 1667)
 - Aurangzeb deputed him against Maratha king Shivaji – forces treaty of Purander.
- *Mirza Raja Ram Singh I* (1667 – 1688)
- *Mirza Raja Bishan Singh* (1688 – 1699)

Rulers of Jaipur: (1727- 1947)

- *Mirza Raja Sawai Jai Singh II* (1699 – 1743)
 - In 1699, given title of Sawai by Aurangzeb.
 - Formed marriage alliance with marwar & mewar to expel Mughal out of rajputana.
 - However, patch up again, and appointed as governor of Malwa & Agra.
 - A 1721, t Mughal emperor **Muhammad Shah** bestowed upon him the title of Saramad-i-Rajaha-i-Hind
 - In 1723, added the titles of Raj Rajeshvar, Shri Rajadhiraj and Maharaja Sawai
 - Performed Ashwmedha Yajya & Vajapeya (after centuries)
 - Built five astronomical observatories (jantar Mantar) at Delhi, Mathura, Benares, Ujjain & Jaipur.
 - **In 1727: Laid foundation of Jaipur – designed by Vidhydhar Bhattacharya**
 - Translated works by people like John Napier.

- *Mirza Raja Sawai Ishwari Singh* (1743 – 1750)
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Madho Singh I* (1750 – 1768)
 - Was rewarded the fort of Ranthambhore by the Mughal Emperor
 - Founder of City Sawai Madhopur
 - Got Shaikh Sadi's *Gulistan* translated to Sanskrit.
 - Freed the Kachhawaha Kingdom from the Maratha
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Prithvi Singh II* (1768 – 1778)
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Pratap Singh* (1778 -1803)
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Jagat Singh II* (1803 – 1818)
- Mohan Singh (regent) (1818 –1819)
 - Installed on throne by nobles, but was soon deposed.
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Jai Singh III* (1819 -1835)
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Ram Singh II* (1835 -1880)
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Madho Singh II* (1880 – 1922)
- *Mirza Raja Sawai Man Singh II* (1922 –1947)
 - Adopted Son
 - Married Maharani Gayatri Devi
 - Rajpramukh of Rajasthan between 1949-1956.

Historical Places of Jaipur:

Bairath:

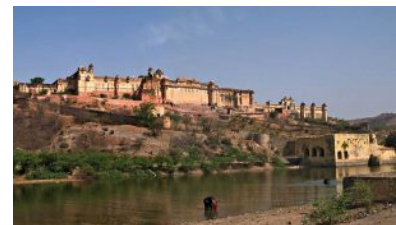
Bairath (Viratnagar) was the capital of the ancient Matsya Mahajanapada. The ruins of the *Bijak-ki-pahadi*, a Buddhist Chaitya (chapel) from the 3rd century BCE located in Bairat, are the oldest free-standing Buddhist structures in India. The town is also home to ruins of a Buddhist monastery, a wood and timber shrine, and rock-cut edict from Emperor Ashoka; dating from the Mauryan period.



Akabar constructed a mint here and his son Jahangir built a beautiful Mughal garden and a remarkable monument with painted chatris and walls.

Amber Fort:

Amer Fort is the complex of palaces, halls, pavilions, gardens and temples, which were built by Raja Man Singh, Mirza Raja Jai Singh and Sawai Jai Singh over a period of about two centuries. It is made of red sandstone and white marble and incorporates both Rajput and Mughal architecture.



The palace complex rises from the placid waters of the **Mootha lake**, which contains Mohan Bari or Kesar Kyari in the center.

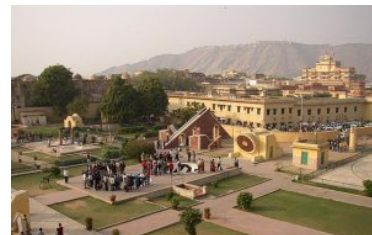
Jaipur City Palace:

Jaipur City Palace was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the founder of Jaipur. The palace is a beautiful blend of Mughal and Rajput styles of architecture. The previous royal family continues to reside in one section of the palace. Located within the walls of the City Palace, Chandra Mahal is a seven-storeyed tower. However, the ground and first floors have now been given over for the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum.



Jantar Mantar:

In the early 18th century, Maharaja Jai Singh II of Jaipur constructed five Jantar Mantars in total, in New Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Mathura and Varanasi. Jantar Mantar in Jaipur is considered to be the largest of the five astronomical observatories. It contains fourteen geometric devices, designed to measure time, track celestial bodies and observe the orbits of the planets around the sun. The Vrihat Samrat yantra is a sundial that can give the local time to an accuracy of 2 seconds.

**Hawa Mahal:**

The Palace of Wind or Hawa Mahal was constructed in 1799 by the poet-king Sawai Pratap Singh. The five-storied structure is made of pink sandstone and has 356 intricately carved jharokhas (windows). It was designed for the women of the royal family to sit in privacy while observing life on the street.

**Nahargarh Fort:**

The northern frontier of Jaipur is fortified by Nahargarh Fort. Situated on a rough crest of the Aravalli range, the fort, which literally means 'abode of the tigers', was built in 1734 by Jai Singh to further defend Amber. Later, in 1868, the fort was extended to its present size. Much of the original structures are now in ruins, but the lovely building added by Sawai Ram Singh II and Sawai Madho Singh II still survive.

**Albert Hall Museum:**

The building gets its name from The Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the inspiration for its design. The exquisitely built Albert Hall is housed in the centre of Ram Niwas Garden. Sir Swinton Jacob conceptualised and designed it using styles from the Indo-Sarcenic architecture and the Prince of Wales laid



the foundation stone of the building in 1876.

Jaigarh Fort:

It is one of the few military structures of the medieval India preserved almost intact containing palaces, gardens, open and covered reservoirs, a granary, an armoury, a well-planned cannon foundry, several temples, a tall tower and a giant mounted cannon-the Jai Ban – the largest in the country. Jaigarh Fort was built by Sawai Jai Singh II sometime in the early 18th century amidst the arid, rocky and thorn-scrub covered hills.



Jal Mahal:

Jal Mahal is a tiny palace located in the middle of small Man Sagar lake.



Abhaneri:

Abhaneri is a village about 95 kms from Jaipur, that has stepwell or 'baoris' and Harshat Mata Temple. The ruins of the temple also speak of the 10th century architectural and sculptural styles. There is a huge tank named "Chand Baori", opposite to the temple fortified on all four sides with bastions for defence.



Bagru

Bagru is located 35 kms away from Jaipur on the Ajmer road leading to Ajmer and is well known for hand block printing on cloth known as Bagru prints. This technique employs a wooden block on which the required design is first carved, and then the carved block is used for transferring the motif in the desired colour onto the fabric. This process is most effective for ethnic floral patterns and for printing in vegetable dyes in traditional Bagru Prints.



Fairs & Festivals of Jaipur:

Gangaur Festival:

Gangaur is one of the most important local festivals in Rajasthan. It is celebrated all over Rajasthan in some form or the other. “gan” is a synonym for Lord Shiva and “gauri” or “gaur” stands for Goddess Parvati, the heavenly consort of Lord Shiva. Gangaur celebrates the union of the two and is all of conjugal and marital happiness. Gangaur is celebrated in the month of chaitra (March-April), the first month of the Hindu calendar. This month marks the end of winter and the onset of spring.



Teej Festival:

Teej is one of the most widely celebrated festivals of Rajasthan. Swings, traditional songs and dancing are the unique features of Teej celebrations in Rajasthan. On the occasion of Teej, markets in Jaipur are stocked with trendiest women accessories and clothes. Most of the fabric clothes display ‘laheria’ (tie and dye) prints. Sweetshops keep different Teej sweets but ‘Ghevar and Feeni’ is the main sweet of the season. The festivals are dedicated to Parvati, also known as Teej Mata.



Sitala Mata Fair

A large fair is held at Sheel Ki Doongri, Chaksu to propitiate the goddess whose wrath, it is believed, can lead to terrible scourge of smallpox.

Elephant Festival:

Elephant festival is unique to Jaipur and is on the full moon day of Phalgun Purnima which falls in the month of February/March. For this festival, elephants are nicely groomed and clothed with colourful and embroidered velvets rugs and parasols and other heavy ornaments like huge elephant



jewellery and anklets decked with bells. Intricate traditional Indian motifs are then painted on their bodies. The festival features Elephant polo and Elephant Dance. However, for first time in many years, the elephant festival was cancelled for two consecutive years, 2012 and 2014, due to protest from the Animal Welfare Board.

Kite Festival:

Kite festival is celebrated on 14 January as Makar Sankranti – heralding the transition of the sun into the Northern hemisphere.



Geography of Jaipur:

Jaipur is located at an altitude of 1417 ft from sea-level, surrounded by Aravalli hills on 3 sides which safeguards it from the rough desert.

Rivers of Jaipur:

Multiple rivers are found passing through Jaipur including Dhund, Bandi, Banganga, Moral, Sabi, Sakha, Dai, and Masi.

- **Sabi (Sahibi) River** originates from the eastern slopes of the Saiwar Protected Forest hills in Aravallis and flows through Mansu, Mandawar, Bahrod, Kishangarh and Tihara to drain into Najafgarh lake in Pataudi, Haryana.
- **Banganga River** originates from the Bairath hills in Jaipur. It passes through Modhapur, Bharatpur and Fatehabad and drains into Yamuna. Jamwa Ramgarh dam has been constructed across the river in Jaipur. The river Banganga has its multiple tributary rivers like Gumti Nala, and Suri rivers on the right side banks and Palasan and Sanwan rivers are on the left bank.

Climate:

Jaipur has a semi-arid type of climate. Temperatures vary in different seasons. May and June are the hottest months in Jaipur. Temperature reaches up to 40-45°C in these months. Annual rainfall is concentrated in the monsoon months between June (Last of June) and September.

The winter months of November to February are mild and pleasant, with average temperatures in the 15-18°C range and little or no humidity. December and January are the coldest months in Jaipur. Temperature varies between 5-10°C in these months but there are however occasional cold waves.

Natural Places in Jaipur:

Ramgarh Lake & Wildlife Sanctuary:

It is famous for its huge artificial lake created by constructing a high bund amidst tree covered hills. The temple of Jamwa Mata and the ruins of the old fort still reminds of its antiquity. On 31 May, 1982, area surrounding lake has been declared as Jamwa Ramgarh Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary has peacock, langoor, chinkara, nilgai and other fauna.



Nahargarh Biological Sanctuary:

This sanctuary was established in 1980 in area of 50 square kms located between Amer, Nahargarh & Jaigarh fort.

Sambhar Lake:

Sambhar is the largest inland salt lake in India. It is also known for holy Devayani tank, beautiful Shakambhari Devi temple, the palace and the nearby ancient town Naliasar. Sambhar lake is also famous for the illusion of water (mirage) during noon times. Sambhar lake is now managed by Sambhar Salts Limited, a joint venture of Hindustan Salts and the Government of Rajasthan.



Natural Resources (Minerals) found in Jaipur District:

A variety of minerals are present in the district, namely, Feldspar, quartz, limestone, Mica, Silica sand, China clay, Pyroplite and other minerals such as Cheja Patthar, marble and some minor minerals. A variety of mineral deposits are found in the district of Jaipur district contributing a good amount to the state revenue each year. Some of these are:

- **Copper:** promising areas exist near Gol and Badshahpur, Dhanla and Ghati Godyana.
- **China clay:** One of the finest varieties of china clay occurs at Buchara and Torda.
- **Dolomite:** 50% production of dolomite for the state comes from Jaipur and Dausa.
- **Iron:** The iron ore deposits are located mainly at Moriya, Rampura, Nayla, Nimla, Raipur, Maonda, Dabla, Bagwas, Tateri and Bania-ka-bas, Lalsot, Ravsola, Bimani.
- **Lime stone:** Cement grade limestone occurs near Kotputli and Maonda. Impure limestone deposits are widespread and occur near Raori, Nayla, Harori, Nimla and Dabla.
- **Soap stone:** The best variety occurs at Dogetha-Jharana.
- **Silica Sand:** Banskhoh and Jhir hills are the main source.

Population:

- While, the current population of Jaipur is estimated to be around 80 Lacs, its population, according to census of 2011, was 66,26,178.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 26.91%.
- Jaipur has a sex ratio of 909 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 76.44%.
- The district has a population density of 598 inhabitants per square kilometer.

Chapter 17: Jaisalmer

Location, Area and Administration of Jaisalmer:

District Jaisalmer is located within a rectangle lying between **26°.4' –28°.23' North Latitude** and **69°.20'-72°.42' East Longitude**. It is bounded by Barmer in the south, Jodhpur in the east and Bikaner in north-east. The western boundary of the district is a part of Indo-Pak international border. The length of international border attached to District Jaisalmer is 471 Kms.

Jaisalmer is the largest district of the state with 38,401 sq. km. area. The district is divided into 4 tehsils namely Jaisalmer, Pokaran, Fatehgarh, Bhaniyana.

History of Jaisalmer:

Jaisalmer kingdom was established in south-western Rajasthan . Once seat of Bhatti Rajputs, has been nicknamed “Golden City” owing to yellow sandstone structures and the gold-coloured desert surrounding it.

Rulers of Jaisalmer (1156 -1947)

- **Rawal Jaisal/Jessul (1156-68)**
 - The Bhatti capital at **Lodorva (Ludarva)** is destroyed by Shihab ud-Din Muhammad (Shihabuddin), the Afghan chief of Ghor.
 - Rawal Jaisal laid foundation of new kingdom with Jaisalmer as its capital.
- Salbahan (1168) -> Baijal –> Chachak Deo -> Tej Rao
- Rao Jaitsi (1276 –
 - Faced 8 years seize by Allaudin Khilji
 - 1st jauhar of Jaisalmer. (1295)
- Karan Singh —> Moolraj —> Ratan Singh à Lakhan Sen
- Dudar

- 2nd Jauhar of Jaisalmer – against Feroz Shah of Delhi
 - Kanar – Punpal – Kehar II – Somji – Lachman – Kailan – Kilkaran – Satal – Bersi – Chachack Deo II – Devidas – Jaitsi II – Karan Singh II
 - Rawal Lunkarn (1530-51)
 - 3rd Jauhar of Jaisalmer- also called half jauhar of Jaisalmer – against local Afghan chief Amir Ali .
 - **Why half Jauhar** – Amir Ali obtained Rawal Lunakaran's permission to let his wives visit the queens of Jaisalmer. But Instead of women he sent armed warriors, which took the guards of the fort by surprise. As there was insufficient time to arrange a funeral pyre and battle seemed lost, Rawal slaughtered his womenfolk with his own hands. However, soon reinforcements arrived, sparing the men from the Jauhar and Amir Ali was defeated. Hence, it is called a half jauhar or Sako.
 - Rawal Maldeo (1551-62)
 - Rawal Harraj (1562-78)
 - Submitted to Akbar
 - Rawal Bhim Singh (1578 – 1624)
 - Rawal Kalyandas (1624 – 1634)
 - Rawal Manohardas(1634 – 1648)
 - *Rawal* Ramchandra (1648 – 1651)
 - *Rawal* Sahal Singh (1651 – 1661)
 - Assists Emperor Shah Jahan in his Peshawar campaign.
 - *Maharawal* Amar Singh(1661 – 1702)
 - *Maharawal* Jaswant Singh(1702 – 1708)
 - *Maharawal* Budha Singh(1708 – 1722)
-

- *Maharawal Akhai Singh* (1722 – 1762)
 - Concluded peace with Bikaner.
- *Maharawal Mulraj Singh II* (1762 – 1819)
 - Signed treaty of friendship with the British for protection.
- *Maharawal Gaj Singh* (1819 – 1846)
- *Maharawal Ranjit Singh* (1846 – 1864)
- *Maharawal Bairisal Singh* (1864 – 1891)
- *Maharawal Shalivahan Singh III Bahadur* (1891 – 1914)
- *Maharawal Sir Jawahir Singh Bahadur* (1914 – 1949)

Historical Places of Jaisalmer:

Akal Wood Fossil Park:

Akal Wood Fossil Park is a fossil park where stood a forest 180 millions years ago. Then the area submersed in to the sea and the tree trunks got preserved in the form of fossils. The fossils are said to represent non-flowering plants and provide a clue to the age of the deposition of sediments.



Jaisalmer Fort:

Also called as **Golden Fort** or "**Sonar Kila**", it is a world heritage site. It was built in 1156 AD by Rawal Jaisal and stands on Trikuta Hill (the tripple peaked hill) among an undulating sea of sand. The fort is built in Sandstone, protected by high walls, approachable through four successive gates, the Akhaiy Pol, the Ganesh Pol, the Suraj Pol and the Hawa Pol.



Patwon Ki Haveli:

One of the most exquisite buildings in the walled city, which truly exemplifies the architectural style typical of erstwhile Rajputana. It is five storeys high and the extensive corridors and chambers are supported by intricately carved pillars. While the haveli has lost some of its early glory, a few paintings and mirror work art can still be seen on the inside walls.



Nathmal ki Haveli:

Carved by Lalu and Hathi, two brothers for the Prime Minister of State, Nathmalji in 19th century. The most interesting fact is that the brothers worked separately, one on the right side and other on the left side, the result is a absolute symphony epitomizing the side by side symmetry during construction. The haveli is richly carved and the inner chambers are decorated with miniature paintings.



Salim Singh ki Haveli

This haveli was built in the first half of the 18th century by Salim Singh, a powerful Chief Minister of Jaisalmer and a part of it is still occupied by descendants of the original residents. The high arched roof is supported by carved brackets designed in the shape of peacocks. The five storied structure dominates the skyline of the walled city due to its form. The haveli begins with a narrow dimension below with an elaborate projecting balcony on the top storey. It is distinguished by the blue cupola roof.



BaraBagh

Literally meaning Big Garden. This garden complex houses chhatris or royal cenotaphs of the Maharajas of Jaisalmer state, including that of Jai Singh II.



Kuldhara:

84 medieval villages were abandoned by the Paliwal Brahmins overnight. The two most prominent of them are Kuldhara and Khabha, located about 18 and 30 kilometres respectively from the southwest of Jaisalmer. The ruins of Kuldhara and Khabha are fine examples of architectural excellence of that era and are a treat for shutterbugs.

Ludarwa:

Ludarwa is also known as ancient Capital of Jaisalmer, but it is more famous for the Jain temples and Kalp Vraksh (The wish tree). The architecture and carving on the stones is fabulous. This place is having very high religious values for the Jain community the Ludarwa is among there main religious places. every year somany Jain peoples come to here for their worship. The whole temple is having very fine carving on every piece of stone used to construct the temple.



Tanot Mata Mandir:

Tanot Mata Temple is located 120 kms from Jaisalmer HQ. Tanot Mata is considered to be a reincarnation of Goddess Hinglaj. There are tales, that during the 1965 India-Pakistan war, Tanot was under heavy attack and shelling. However, none of the shells or bombs fired at the temple exploded.

Fairs & Festivals of Jaisalmer:

The fairs and festivals reflect the multi facets of the rich Rajasthani culture. The major festivals celebrated are Holi, Dussehra, Ram Navami, Diwali, Gangaur, Teej and Basant Panchami, Muharram and the two Eids.

Desert Festival:

Organised by the Department of Tourism around January-February, the Desert Festival is the best place to enjoy rich and colorful Rajasthani



folk culture. The high points of the festival are puppeteers, acrobats, camel races, camel polo, folk dances, etc. It has, on display, some of the most fondly preserved components of Rajasthan's rich culture including fire dancers and Gair dancers of Barmer. The Sunset desert safari at Sam dunes is a special attraction for tourists.

Gangaur Festival:

Gangaur is widely celebrated in the entire state of Rajasthan and Jaisalmer too celebrates the festival with huge fervor. Watch women dressed in the most vibrant colors and singing traditional songs during this 18-day festival. Longing for a husband like Lord Shiva, unmarried women worship Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. Idols are decorated during this festival and later immersed in water on the last day of the festival.



Ramdevra Fair:

Ramdevra Temple is located 12 kilometres from Pokhran on the Jodhpur – Jaisalmer route. It is dedicated to renowned saint Baba Ramdevji. Between August and September, a large fair known as Ramdevra Fair is held here, and it attracts large numbers of devotees who sing devotional songs all night long.

Geography of Jaisalmer:

Jaisalmer District, a part of the Great Indian Thar Desert, is sandy, dry and scorched. The terrain around, within a radius of about 60 kms is stony and rocky. The area is barren, undulating with its famous sand dunes and slopes towards the Indus valley and the Runn of Kutch.

In the vicinity of Jaisalmer town the sand is stony containing numerous rocky ridges & hard undulating plains formed of limestone and sand stone. There is no single perennial river in the district. However with the construction of Indira Gandhi canal the northern part of the district has become green & irrigated.

Natural Places of Jaisalmer:

Desert National Park:

The Desert National Park displays the best of the Thar desert's ecosystem and its varied wildlife. The Park is formed of undulating sand dunes, jagged rocks, dense salt lake bottoms and inter-medial areas. Various species of animals such as black buck, chinkara and desert fox inhabit the Park. The highly endangered Great Indian Bustard, one of the world's heaviest flying birds, can also be seen here. In winter, the park hosts an incredible variety of migratory raptors such as Himalayan and Eurasian Griffon Vultures, Eastern Imperial Eagle, and the Saker Falcon.



Gadsisar Lake:

Gadsisar Lake was constructed in the 14th century by Maharawal Gadsingh to meet the water needs of his arid lands. Considering its importance, many small temples and shrines were constructed around it, transforming it into a pilgrimage centre and a tourist attraction.



Amar Sagar Lake:

Amar Sagar is a small and beautiful lake cum Oasis, adjacent to a 17th Century palace called the Amar Singh Palace. Maharawal Akhai Singh built this palace in honor of one of his predecessors Amar Singh. Next to the palace are pavilions with a large stairs leading down to the Amar Sagar Lake.



Natural Resources/ Minerals of Jaisalmer:

Jaisalmer district is renowned for its mineral wealth. It occupies a significant position on the mineral map of the state. It possesses a wide range of mineral resources and offers considerable potential for further.

With the discovery of steel grade limestone and cement grade limestone the district has come into limelight. Jaisalmer has also shown positive evidence of Hydro carbon accumulation (Natural Gas). The description of minerals occurring in the district is given below:

GYPSUM

- In Jaisaimer district gypsum deposits are reported in Mohangarh, Phalsund, Ghandan, Nokh, Nachana, Satta, Sundra and Lakha Khadar areas.
- Most of the gypsum deposit of the district are just surface deposits and are won by open cast mining method. \

SELENITE

- Selenite is used in manufacture of plaster of Paris.
- It occurs at Mohangarh, Hamir-wali-Dhani, Lakhera, Ramgarh, Bandha, Biprasar, Khuiala and Rupsi.

BENTONITE

- Occurrences of bentonite are reported near Khuiala, Mandha, Khuri, Habur, Mandai, Ramgarh villages.

FULLERS EARTH

- Its occurrences are associated with Khuiala limestone at Khuiala and Mandha areas of the district.
- Other occurrences are. reported near Ramgarh, Sanu and Dhol-ki-Dungari.

WHITE CLAYS

- White clays are found in Kita and Devikot area in the district.

SILICEOUS EARTH

- Siliceous earth is regarded as an excellent filtering aid for colloidal solid solution like Beverage, Fruit juice Syrups, Oils (Vegetable oils & Mineral oil), Antibiotic products, water treatment to remove amoebic cysts and blood fluke larvae, drugs and other pharmaceuticals items are all filtered through silicious earth.

- It can be used as filler in paper, rubber, paints and plastic, as carrier of disinfectant like D.D.T. as admixture in pozzolana cement
- It occurs in Jaisalmer district, at Dharivi, Khurd, Mandai, Sajeet Mimbla . ,

GLASS SAND

- The deposits are reported from Lathi, Devikot and Pithal in Jaisalmer district.

DOLOMITIC CLAY

- White fine grained dolomitic clay having good plasticity is found near village Chacha and, Udhaniya.
- The clay is quite useful as filler in paper, textiles and paint industry.

YELLOW OCHRE

- Small deposits of Yellow Ochre occur near Mandai with thickness of the bed varying from 0.25 to 0.39 mts.
- It is useful for painting of houses.

ROCK PHOSPHATE

- Phosphorite or rock phosphate has been located at Birmania and Fatehgarh.

JASPAR

- It is a cryptocrystalline variety of Quartz and occur near village Chacha, Ramdevera & Pokaran.
- The colour is red to yellow.
- It is used as an abressive for preparation of emery stone and emery paper.

VOLCANIC ASH

- Volcanic ash deposits are located near village Phalsund, Dantal, Fulasar, Swami-ji-ki-Dhani etc.
- It is light green to yellowish in colour.
- At the temp. of around 1300°C it changes to molten glass which can be used for manufacture of various type of glass wares, glass sheets etc.

YELLOW MARBLE

- Jaisalmer is popularly known as golden city because fortress and residential buildings are build of yellow fine grained limestone.
- This limestone is used as marble by cutting and polishing it as tiles. A
- t present it is being quarried near Mool sagar, Amarsagar, Chundi, Bhagata, Wajron ki Dhani and Cipla etc.

STEEL GRADE LIMESTONE

- Steel Grade Limestone occurs near Sanu Habur, Khuiala, Hema-ki-dhani, Nibya, Jethaa, Joshiowala gaon etc. villages

CEMENT GRADE LIMESTONE

- Jaisalmer is endowed with high reserves of cement grade limestone.
- Limestone occuring in Jaisalmer formation is yellowish, massive & occurs near Jaisalmer, South of Moolsagar, Hamera, Amarsagar etc.
- In the Khuiala formation SMS grade limestone is found at top followed by cement grade limestone.

GRANITE

- Jalore Siwana Gariite Suitable for block mining is exposed near Lakha, Randha, Mehron-ki-Dhani, Madli, Kohera.
- This granite is medium grained brick red in colour, occurring as scattered outcrop in plains.

MINERAL FUEL

- Attempts to explore hydrocarbons in Rajasthan dates back to 1956. ONGC has been carrying out investigation for oil and gas since 1962.
- Nine gas fields have been identified near Manhar Tibba, Ghoataru, Bakhri, Khartor, Bantua, Tanot & Ramgarh.
- A gas based power plant of 35 MW capacity has been set up in Ramgarh and is producing electricity.

Population:

- According to the 2011 census Jaisalmer district has a population of 6,72,008.
- The district has a population density of 17 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 32.22%.
- Jaisalmer has a sex ratio of 849 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 58.04%.

Chapter 18: Jalore

Location, Area & Administration of Jalore:

Jalore district situated in the south western part of Rajasthan, formed out of the erstwhile Jodhpur state after independence. This district is situated between **24.48" 5' to 25.48" 37' North Latitude** and **71.7' to 75.5" 53' East Longitude**. The North Western border of Jalore is shared with Barmer, North Eastern boundary is shared with Pali, towards South East lies Sirohi and in south state of Gujarat is in contact.

The total area of the district is 10,640 Sq. KMs, which is 3.11% of the State. The district is divided into 7 tehsils of Jalore, Ahore, Bhinmal, Raniwara, Sanchore, Sayla, Bagoda, Bhadrajun, Chitalwana.



History of Jalore:

According to mythology, Jalore was called as '**Drumkulya**', which stood for the northern part of southern Ocean. Jalore's old name was **Jabalipur** named after a saint- **Mahirishi Jabali**. By the passage of time the name of mountain Kanchangiri & Swarngiri were also frequently used as names of Jalore.

Pratihara king VatsaRaja was the ruler of Jalore during 8th century.

Towards the end of 12th Century, Parmars ruled here. Historians believe that the Jalore fort was built by Parmar rulers. It is known from a stone inscription of 1238 A.D. of fort that Parmar King Biral's-queen Maludevi powered Gold win on Sindhu King.

Nadol king, Arhan's, youngest son Kirtipala started Chouhan tradition in Jalore. The Chauhan lineage of Jalore is as under:

- Kirtipala (c. 1160-1182 CE)
- Samara-simha (c. 1182-1204 CE)
- Udaya-simha (c. 1204-1257 CE)
- Chachiga-deva (c. 1257-1282 CE)
- Samanta-simha (c. 1282-1305 CE)
- **Kanhada-deva (c. 1292-1311 CE)**
 - Wrote Kanha-Prabhandha: Epic elaborating war between Kanha Dev & Alaudin Khilji.

Subsequent Rulers:

- Rathore king Rao Maldev ruled the fort of Jalore in 15th Century.
- During Akbar's rule, Abdul Rahim Khan Khana took it infinitely from Gazni Khan.King.
- Jehangir built the walls of the fort.
- After the death of Aurangzeb it permanently became a part of Jodhpur.

Historical Places of Jalore:

Jalore Fort:

Jalore Fort is one of the nine castles of the Maru', under the Paramaras in the 10th century. It has been known through history as the **Sonagir or the 'golden mount'**. The precise year of its construction is not known however it is believed to be built between the 8th and 10th centuries. Jalore fort is located atop a steep and perpendicular hill 336m high, fortified with a wall and bastions with cannon mounted upon them. The fort has four gigantic gates and is approachable only from one side, after a two-mile long serpentine ascent.



Topekhana:

Topekhana or “the cannon foundry” was built by “Ujjain King” Vkramditya as a “sansrut Pathshala” for education for his public. Later, Muslim Emperor Ala ud din Khilji converted it into a Muslim monument. The structure is imposing, with a spacious forecourt and an intricate facade. The colonnade and the ceiling have been tastefully carved.

Sundha Mata:

Sundha Mata temple is about 900 years old temple of Mother goddess situated on a hilltop called ‘Sundha’. At 1220 m height in the Aravalli ranges there on Sundha mountain is temple of goddesses Chamunda Devi, a very sacred place for devotees.



Dances of Jalore:

Dandiya Dance:

This dance start after holi and continues for many days. In the middle of stage the shehnai players, Nagada beaters and singers sit and male Singer sings ‘Folk Lori’ in lengthy song. Dances beating their sticks together dances parallel with this dance various Dhamal & dance oriented holi songs are sung.



Jalore Dhol Dance:

This dance is performed on the occasion of marriage by mali, Dholi, Sargaras and people of Bhil Communities. It is predominantly a male dance and at start leaders beat drum in ‘Thakna Shaili’. As soon as thakna ends some dancers puts swords in mouth, some with lathis and others taking handkerchief in hands rest only manage body thus the dance starts. Sargaras & Dholis are professional folk singer & drum beaters who are very proficient in the art.



Gair Dance:

This also involves male, who take long sticks and dances around. Dancers are called 'Gairiya'. This dance start next day from holi and lasts fifteen days. Drums, Baakiya and Plate(Thaali) are used for playing music. Folk songs influenced by. "Shringar Ras" & "Bhakti Ras" are also used in this dance. Dancers wear white clothes from shoulder to waist, leather belt is tied, there is also a place for keeping sword in it, frills are tied on the turban.



Crafts of Jalore:

- Handloom work is done at Leta, Jelatara, Degaon, Pur, Vodha, Vasandevda, Lalpura, Bhatip, Khara, Gundau.
- Bhinmal is famous for its Leather traditional footwear (Juti).

Geography of Jalore:

Physiographically, the district is oblong in shape, extending up to Rann of Kutch (Gujarat). The region is generally plain but for some scattered thickly wooded hills in the north and some hillocks in the centre. The eastern portion of the district is rocky while the western tract is a roughly plain dotted with Sand dunes & sand ridges.

In respect of its geological formation, most part of district is formed of fourth century modern century deposits. These deposits can be seen in Grid pattern formed by sand (Balu), new alluvial and old alluvial Soils. In Bhinmal Teshil's South Eastern part of **Jaswantpur**, highest mountains of the district are situated. the highest peak is **Sundha** (991 meters, 3252 feet).

Luni is the main river in the district with its tributaries Jawai, Sukdi, Khari, Bandi and Sagi. All the rivers are seasonal.

Natural Places of Jalore:

Sundha Mata Wildlife Sanctuary:

Sundha Mata wildlife sanctuary has an area of 107 square kilometers and is located in jawai forest area. The Sanctuary has Sloth Bear, Nilgai, jungle cat, Desert fox, striped hyena, hanuman langoor, Vulture, owl, Indian porcupine, rock & jungle Bush Quail & Spotted dove and 120 species of birds.



Natural Resources/Minerals of Jalore:

The following are the rocks and mineral resources of Jalore district:

Fluorspar

- Fluorspar is an important industrial mineral and is the only major source of fluorine.
- It is chiefly used in the manufacture of hydrofluoric acid, as a flux in steel making, as an opacifier and flux in the ceramic industry.
- Fairly large deposits of fluorspar have been discovered near village Karada of Tehsil Bhinmal.
- The main activities of mining are located at Krisna hill, Rekha hill & Santoshi hills.

Granite

- The granite rocks belong to the Malani System of rocks.
- The Siwana and Jalor granites provides rocks of high fassinating colours ranging from flesh to pink and light colors .
- The main activities of mining are located at Khambi, Kavala, Tayab, Bala, Raniwara Khurd etc.

Clay

- Clay occurrence has bee reported near village Bhadrajun and Pal.

Saltpetre

- Village Kanwla in Tehsil Ahor has deposits of saltpetre.

- Saltpetre which is used for local pottery and fire works and ammunitions industry.

Gypsum

- Gypsum deposits are located near Ramsin, chawarda in Ahor Tehsil and at number of places in Sanchole Tehsil.
- Other small deposits are located near Vediya, Chittarwana, Sewada, Hemagura and Haryali area.

Other Minerals:

- Besides above, building stones and masonry stones, Bajri etc. have been produced in the district for local use since long back.
- Dolomitic marble is known to occur near village Rupri, 9.5 Kms. south west of Bhinmal.
- Minor occurrences of graphite and feldspar has also been found in the east of Bhinmal town.

Population:

- According to the 2011 census Jalore district had a population of 18,30,151.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 26.31%.
- The district has a population density of 172 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- Jalor has a sex ratio of 951 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 55.58%.

Chapter 19: Jhalawar

Location, Area and Administration of Jhalawar:

The word Jhalawar, literally means “land of the Jhalas” this being the name of the ruling clan of the former state. Jhala-war district lies in the south eastern corner of Rajasthan between **23° 4’ to 24° 52’ North Latitude** & **75° 29’ to 76° 56’ East Longitude**. It is bounded in the north, north-east and north-west by Kota district and by Madhya Pradesh in the rest of the district.

Jhalawar District has an area of 6219 Sq. Kms which has been divided into 8 tehsils namely Aklera, Asnawar, Gangdhar, Jhalrapatan, Khanpur, Manoharthana, Pachpahar, Pirawa.

History of Jhalawar

Jhala Zalim Singh, the dewan of Kota, developed Jhalawar (then **Chaoni Umedpura**) as cantonment & township, to isolate Kota from Maratha invaders. In 1838, British rulers separated Jhalawar state from Kota state and gave it to Jhala Madan Singh, grandson of Jhala Zalim Singh.

Rulers of Jhalawar:

- **Madan Singh (1838–1845)**
 - 1st independent ruler of Jhalawar.
- Pirthi Singh (1845–1875)
- Bakht or Zalim Singh (1875–1897)
- HH Sh. Bhawani Singh (1897–1929)
- HH Sh. Rajendra Singh (1929–1943)
- HH Sh. Harish Chandra (1943-till merger of Jhalawar State in Rajasthan.)

Historical Places of Jhalawar

Gagron Fort:

Gagron Fort is an example of 'Jal Durg', or Water Fort surrounded by waters of Ahu, Kali and Sindh rivers on three sides. It is included in the list of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. The foundation of this impregnable, magnificent fort was laid in the 7th century. Outside the fort is a *Durgah of Sufi Saint Mitheshah*, where a fair is held every year during the Islamic month of Moharram. Nearby is a monastery of Saint Pipa, a contemporary of Saint Kabir.



Jhalawar Fort:

Situated in the centre of the town, the Jhalawar fort or Garh Palace, was built by Maharaj Rana Madan Singh and his successors added beautiful paintings inside the rooms. The Zenana Khas or the 'Women's Palace' has some excellent frescoes on both, walls and mirrors and they are prime examples of the Hadoti school of art.



Bhawani Natyashala:

The Bhawani Natyashala is one of the most unusual theaters in India, constructed in 1921 A.D where Parsi plays and cultural events would take place. This architectural wonder gives one an excellent insight into the world of theatre and art and is known to have an underground passage which allowed horses and chariots to appear on stage.



Jhalarapatan:

Jhalarapatan, known as the city of bells, is an ancient walled town, founded by Jhala Zalim Singh in 1796 A.D. It is at the same place where the ancient town of Chandrawati was founded by Parmar Raja Chandrasen and later on ravaged by invaders. The entire town lived within the confines of a wall to



protect the trade caravans from Pindaris, as Jhalrapatan happened to be one of the junctions of the caravan route. The 10th century **Sun Temple (Padma Nabh Temple)** is the pride of Jhalrapatan. It is one of the best examples of temple architecture with lovely sculptures. Inside the temple, there is idol of Lord Vishnu.

Fairs & Festivals of Jhalawar

Chandrabhaga Fair

Every year, the Chandrabhaga Fair in Rajasthan attracts travelers, pilgrims and explorers alike with rituals and traditions practiced in this region. Named after the river Chrandrabhaga, it is considered very sacred by the people of Rajasthan. On the full moon night of Kartik purnima devotees take a holy dip in the near by river. A group “Deep Daan” (Offering of lamps) event and cultural programs are of special interest and help tourists acquaint themselves with the people and their culture.



Geography of Jhalawar

The topography of the area is highly undulatory comprising continuous ridges and broad valleys of Vindhyan sandstones and shales, extensive wide plateau, flat topped conical and isolated hills and cultivated plains of Deccan Traps and the alluvial plains.

As a result the district falls in the following physical divisions:

- The Mukandara range which enters the district from the south east, two ridges passing close to Jhalrapatan and continuing north west towards former the boundary of Khanpur with Chhipabarod tehsil of Baran district.
- The hills of Dag, extending upto Pirawa.
- The plateau region with low rounded hills covering most of the southern half of the district.
- The central plain of Pachpahar and Jhalrapatan, extending upto the village of Aklera and Manoharthana across the ridges.
- The plain of Khanpur is between two arms of the Mukandara.

South part of Jhalawar district has the characteristics of the Malwa Plateau, an area of rounded bare hills interspersed by plains. Jhalawar district is an expanse of fertile plain having rich black-cotton soil. The Jhalawar plains stretches in a wide belt from Bhawani Mandi in the west almost up to Asnawar in the east and is bounded on the northern, eastern and southern sides by the Mukandara hills. This is fertile, well watered region crossed by the Ahu and Kalisindh rivers and a number of lesser streams.

Jhalrapatan stands on Vindhyan strats at the northern edge of the great spread of basaltic rocks known as Deccan trap formation, the northern area of which is also called the Malwa trap.

Rivers of Jhalawar:

The rivers and streams of the district belong to the Chambal river system. Except in Gangdhar tehsil, the general flow is from south to north. For the sake of convenience, the rivers of Jhalawar may be divided into two groups — the western group and the eastern group.

- The western rivers are Ahu Piplaj, Kyasri, Kantali, Rawa, Kalisindh and Chandrabhaga. T
- The eastern rivers are Parwan, Andheri, Newaj, Ghar and Ujar. There are artificial lakes Kadila and Mansarovar.

Generally speaking, the Jhalawar rivers have deep beds with the result that water level is below that of the surrounding countryside and hence canals cannot be dug for irrigation.

Natural Resources/ Minerals in Jhalawar:

Due to absence of metamorphic rocks to which most of the metallic minerals are associated, no major metallic mineral of economic importance is found in Jhalawar district. A brief description of minerals found in Jhalawar can be found as under:

Copper:

- There are few old workings of copper just 1 Km. north of Jhalawar town where Malachite and Azurite are present in Jhalrapatan sandstone of Lower Vindhyan.

Bentonite:

- Bentonite is a variety of clay possessing inherent bleaching properties.

- It is of great commercial importance specially in chemical industries, oil drilling, decolourising, vegetable oils, rubber industry, foundries etc.
- There are large number of occurrences spread over in Pirawa, Pachpahar and Jhalra-patan tehsils.
 - Mathniya-Bhandar Tehsil Pirawa.
 - Khetakheda, Tehsil Pirawa.
 - Chandi kheri, Teh. Jhalrapatan
 - Karodiya-Quadir nagar-Chhoti sunel, Teh.

Limestone:

A. High Grade Limestone:

- There are patches scattered in different parts of the district and have been located near Jhalawar road, Jhinkhriya, Kotri, Kishanpura, Karmakheri, Napaniya etc.
- However few patches are promising which have comparatively less amount of chert and have reasonably good extent. These are near Jhalawar road, Kotri-Gardhankheri, Jhinkhriya and Kotrikhurd.

B. LOW Grade Limestone:

- The low grade limestone belonging to Suket shales of lower Vindhya and Sirbhu shales of upper Vindhya is widespread near Gagraun and Sarola kalan respectively.
- The limestone is generally of low grade siliceous, dolomitic and shaly contents.

Laterite:

- Laterite occurs as capping over Deccan- trap hills in south western part of Jhalawar district.
- Extensive deposits are found near sarod, Mishroli, Kolvi, Gunavi, Binayaga, Kysara and around Dag, varying in thickness from less than a meter to over 10 mts.
- This rock was excavated locally due to its soft nature to build temples and caves during the Buddhist period such constructions are seen in Kolvi, Binayaga etc

Gypsum:

- Indications of gypsum were seen in Khanpur.

Chert, Agate Chalcedony:

- In Jhalawar district occurrences of agate and associated crypto-crystalline silica products are found spread in many localities.
- They are found scattered in plains as well as in hill slopes.
- Important occurrences are:-
 - Near village Nasirabad on Richwa-Bakani road.
 - Mundlya Kheri south of Jhalarapatan.
 - Diwallkhera, Borband, Donda, Semli Bhawani etc. Thesil Pirwa.
 - Mariavada Goverdhanpura, Khokhariya etc, between-Bhawanimandi and Dag.
 - Near Garnawad.

Lithomergic Clays:

- The lithomergic clays associated with laterite cappings are found near Sarod, Dag, Gunavi etc. villages but the draw back with these clays is higher iron content which is not separable by washing and electromagnetic separation.

Building Stones:**A. Flaggy Limestone (Kotahstone)**

- Flaggy limestone yielding slabs similar to that of Ramganjmandi has been located in Jhalawar district
- The flaggy limestone of greenish grey colour has been encountered near Kishanpura, Mangal.

B. Flaggy Sandstone:

- Sandstone in the form of slabs and pillars are mined ,on large scale in Jhalawar district.

- There it is associated with two horizons with
 - (i) Jhalrapatan sandstone of lower Vindhya and
 - (ii) Lower Bhander sandstone of upper Vindhya.
- The important mining areas are: Loharia-ki-Dhani, Manak chauk, Bagdhar, Bakaspura, Asnawar Bhanwrasa, Bhalta, etc. all belonging to Jhalrapatan sandstone. The Bhander sandstone quarries exist near Ambala and Laxmipura.

C. Masonary Stones:

- There are huge deposits of sandstone in the district.
- The non flaggy sandstone is quarried and used as masonry stone at number of places around Jhalawar, Asnawar, Jhalrapatan etc.

Population:

- According to the 2011 census, Jhalawar district has a population of 14,11,327.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 19.57%.
- The district has a population density of 227 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- Jhalawar has sex ratio of 945 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 62.13%.

Chapter 20: Jhunjhunu

Location, Area & Administration of Jhunjhunu:

Jhunjhunu lies between 27° 38' & 28° 31' north latitude and 75° 02' and 76° 06' east longitude. It is surrounded by Churu district on the northwestern side Hissar and Mahendragarh district of Haryana State in the northeastern part and by Sikar district in the west, south and south eastern part.

The Total geographical area of the district is 2928 square Kms which is divided into 8 tehsils namely Jhunjhunu, Malsisar, Buhana, Udaipurwati, Nawalgarh, Khetri, Chirawa, Surajgarh.

History of Jhunjhunu:

Ancient History of Jhunjhunu, forms part of Indian mythology, with an anecdote that Pandwas, the heroes of the Mahabharata took bath and bathed their weapons in the Surya Kund, Lohargal.

It is said that, it was ruled over by the Chauhan Dynasty in the Vikram era 1045, and Sidhraj was a renowned king. In the year 1450 Mohammed Khan & his son Samas khan defeated the Chauhans and conquered Jhunjhunu.

Mohammed khan was first Nawab of Jhunjhunu. In 1459, his son Samas khan ascended the throne and . Jhunjhunu was ruled over by of the following Nawabs in succession:

Rulers of Jhunjhunu:

- Mohammed Khan
 - First Nawab of Jhunjhunu
- Samas Khan
 - Ascended throne in 1459
 - Founded the village Samaspur and got Samas Talab constructed
- Fateh Khan
- Mubark Shah

- Kamal Khan
- Bheekam Khan
- Mohabat Khan
- Khijar Khan
- Bahadur Khan
- Samas Khan Sani
- Sultan khan
- Vahid Khan
- Saad Khan
- Fazal Khan
- Rohilla Khan
 - Last Nawab of Jhunjhun
 - Shardul Singh, diwan of Rohilla Khan, occupied jhunjhunu, after the death of Rohilla Khan in 1730.

Shardul Singh

- Shardul Singh was as brave as his ancestor Rao Shekha ji.
- He ruled for twelve years. After his death the estate was divided equally among his five sons. The administration by his five sons was cumulatively known as “Panchpana”.
- Their descendants continued to rule over it till Indian Independence in 1947.

Fairs & Festivals of Jhunjhunu:

Rani Sati Fair:

The Rani Sati Mela in Jhunjhunu which is in the northern part of Shekhawati, attracts thousands of pilgrims and tourists from all over the globe. The fair is held at The Rani Sati Temple on Bhado Amavasya which means no-moon day.

Ramdevji Fair:

This fair is held at Nawalgarh city of Rajasthan. Named after Baba Ramdev, he was believed to have magical powers and is believed that he is an embodiment of lord Krishna. Respected by both the Hindus and Muslims this fair is celebrated in the honor of death anniversary of Baba Ramdev.



Geography of Jhunjhunu:

Physiographically, the district is a mass of rolling sand dunes, hillocks and low lying mounds in its western part. The south eastern part, has off shoots of Aravalli range of hills, which extend from south of Udaipurwati tehsil and continue up to Khetri & Singhana following an almost NE-SW trend. The average elevation is 300-450 mt. above MSL with highest peak near **Lohagarh** at 1051 mts. above MSL.

Shifting sands, active dunes and soil erosion are hallmark of western and central part of the district. The inland drainage is related to **Katli river system**. There are four major streams in the district namely **Dohau, Chandrawati, Udaipur-Lohagarh ki Nadi & Sukh Nadi**.

- River katli originated from Khadela hill sides of Shrimadhampur Tehsil. Sikar and enters near south west of Udaipurwati tehsil running towards north – west direction and ultimately disappears in the sandy tracks of the Churu District. This river, however, divides the district almost into two parts.
- Similarly Dohan River also originates from Shrimadhampur hills and flows to north – eastern direction passing through some eastern part and ultimately disappears in sandy tracks of Mahendragarh district of Haryana.
- There is no lake in the district however small tanks are in existence in some areas. There are only four tanks used for irrigation purposes.

Natural Resources/ Minerals of Jhunjhunu:

Jhunjhunu is fairly endowed with various minerals whose industrial use has immensely contributed to the economy of the district. Of these, the most important is the **copper belt of Khetri** from which mining has been carried out since time immemorial. The different minerals found in the district can be enlisted as under:-

Copper-Gold-Silver

- Out of the three copper producing belts of India, the Khetri copper belt has a special importance due to the ancient workings and its configuration.
- The Khetri Copper belt extends for a strike length of 80 kms. from Raghunathgarh in South to Singhana in North.
- The off-shoots and parallel mineralised zones have been identified around Deoru, Banswas, Dhola Mala etc.

Iron

- Iron ore in the form of a mixture of hematite and magnetite occurs near **Jaonda** where about 0.25 M.T. of reserves with 65% to 70% Fe have been estimated.
- Another 0.38 M.T. reserves with 55% – 65% Fe have been reported from Soir Zamalpura area. Minor occurrences have been also reported between Rajpur and Jaintapura and Kali Pahari area.

Cobalt

- G.S.I. has reported presence of Cobalt associated with pyrrhotite in Akwali – Babai section of Khetri Copper belt. The ore is a mixture of Cobaltite and Danite with about 2.83% Co content.

Limestone

- Limestone is reported from Khiror-Basawa--Parasrampura area, teh. Nawalgarh,
- It occurs beneath a thick soil cover and only intermittent exposures are found.
- Small occurrences of limestone are also reported in the form of small bands and pockets around Paprna, Meena Ki Dhani etc.

Fluorite

- A small occurrence of fluorite is located near village Chhapoli, Teh. Udaipurwati. This prospect was worked by R.S.M.D.C. previously, though no mining activity is being carried out now.

Quartz – Feldspar

- Minor occurrences of quartz-feldspar have been reported from localities in teh.Khetri and teh. Udaipurwati. .

Clays-Red Ochre

- A few leases for clays and red ochre are existing in the district near Gudha, Ponkh, Girawadi, Udaipurwati, Mehrana etc.

Soapstone – Pyrophyllite

- Soapstone-pyrophyllite occurrences have been reported from Khoh, Guda, Mehrana etc. of teh. Udaipurwati and Khetri.

Calcite

- Calcite is being mined in minor quantities around villages Dada, Bansiyal, Badalwas etc. of teh. Khetri.

Granite

- Granites belonging to the Erinpura as well as Malani Igneous suite are exposed intermittently in the district.
- The prominent exposures are of Nand, Rizhani, Maragsar, Makhar, Rasoda & Jhunjhunu of teh.
- Jhunjhunu and Hukumpura Bamlawas, teh. Udaipurwati.
- The granite of the district is light to dark grey pink and red.
- The red granite of Makhar is also being exported.

Marble

- Marble occurrences are reported from Papurna, Meena Ki Dhani, Bhagwatwala ki Dhani etc. of teh. Khetri. The marble is grey, medium to coarse grained, hard and compact.

Population:

- According to the 2011 census, Jhunjhunu district has a population of 21,39,658.
- The district has a population density of 361 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 11.81%.
- Jhunjhunun has a sex ratio of 950 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 74.72%.

Chapter 21: Jodhpur

Location, Area and Administration of Jodhpur:

Jodhpur district is located in western part of Rajasthan, located between **26°00' to 27°37' North latitude** and **72°55' to 73°55' East longitude**. It shares common border with five districts viz., Bikaner, Jaisalmer in north and north west, Banner and Pali in SW & SE and Nagaur in E-NE.

The district has a geographical area of 22850 sq. kms which is 6.60% of total area of the state and 11.6% of total arid zone of Rajasthan. It has been divided into Mandore, Osian, Phalodi, Bilara, Bhopalgarh, Shergarh, Luni, Pipar City, Baori, Balesar Bap, Lohawat, Tinwari.

History of Jodhpur:

The history of Jodhpur revolves around the Rathore Clan. Rao Jodha, the chief of the Rathore clan, is credited with the origin of Jodhpur in India. He founded Jodhpur in 1459. The city is named after him only. It was previously known as Marwar.

Marwar History: Rulers (1226-1949)

- After the destruction of the **Gahadavala kingdom**, and the migration of the Gahadwalas to Rajputana, a prince of the Kannauj kings founded the Rathore dynasty of Marwar in 1226.
- **Rao Siyaji**, grand son of Jai Chandra, of Kannauj, came to marwar during his pilgrimage to dwarka.
- His Son, **Rao Asthan** conquered Pali, and Khed (in western Marwar), but ultimately got killed in battle by Sultan **Jalauddin Khilji** of Delhi.
- **Rao Chanda/Chundarji**, 10th in succession from Siyaji, finally wrested control of Marwar from the Gurjara Pratihara – and established rule of **Rathores in Marwar**.
- Jodhpur was the primary state of Rathores but different states (Bikaner, Kishangarh etc) were also founded by different Rathore rulers.

Rulers of Jodhpur

- **Rao Chanda/Chundarji** secured & found kingdom of Marwar.

- Rao Chanda, is killed in battle by Salim Shah of Multan. The king's son, **Kanha**, subsequently has to fight to retain his throne when his brother Rao **Ranmal**. Ultimately, **Ranmal succeeds**.
 - **Rao Jodha(1438 – 1489)**
 - Son of Ranmal becomes first fully independent king of Jodhpur,
 - 1459- Laid foundation of modern city of Jodhpur
 - Reconquers Mandore from the Sisodiyas of Mewar (Rana Kumbha).
 - Began Construction of Mehrangarh fort.
 - Jodha's son **Rao Beeka** – founded the **kingdom of Bikaner**
 - Rao Satal (1489-1492)
 - Rao Suja (1492 1515)
 - Rao Biram Singh (1515-1515)
 - Son of Bagha
 - Rao Ganga (1515-1532)
 - **Rao Maldeo (1532-1562)**
 - Maldeo refused to ally with either the **Sur Empire or the Mughal Empire** after Humayun regained control of north India in 1555.
 - Muslim historian Ferishta calls him as the "*most Potent Ruler of Hindustan*"
 - In 1543, *Battle of Sammel*: with Sher Shah Suri – Maldeo lost.
 - In 1562, lost Merta and Ajmer to Emperor Akbar, and forced to send two of his sons as hostages to the Imperial Court
 - **Rao Chandra Sen (1562-1565)**
 - 3rd Son but Maldeo named him successor.
 - Elder brother Udai Singh, sided with Akbar – Battle of Merta 1562 – Lost his territories in wars with the Mughals.
 - He was defeated but refused to form any alliance with Mughals.
-

- He continued his struggle until his death in 1581 at Pali, after which, Marwar submitted to Mughal rule in 1583
 - **Raja Udai Singh (Mota Raja) (1583-1595)**
 - Restored by the Mughals with the title 'Raja' as a vassal
 - **Sawai Raja Suraj-Mal(1595-1619)**
 - **Maharaja Gaj Singh I (1619-1638)**
 - To be the first to take the title 'Maharaja' by himself
 - **Maharaja Jaswant Singh (1638-1678)**
 - Shah Jehan made him ruler, in line with his wishes.
 - Author of "Siddhant-bodh", "Anand Vilas" and "Bhasa-bhusan"
 - Aurangzeb revolted against Shah Jehan, Jaswant Singh sided with Shah Jehan – Battle of Dharmatpur. Aurangzeb won – named place of Victory- Fatehabad
 - His son Prithvi Raj Singh – was murdered by Aurangzeb through poisonous robe.
 - **Raja Rai Singh (1659-1659)**
 - Son of Raja Amar Singh
 - **Maharaja Ajit Singh (1679-1724)**
 - When Jaswant Singh died, he left no male heir. But 2 of his wives were pregnant. AJit was born later.
 - However, Aurangzeb appointed Indra Singh as ruler.
 - Durgadas went to Aurangzeb to recognize Ajit singh as successor but Aurangzeb kept condition of converting Ajit to muslim. Durga das disagreed.
 - For 20 years, Marwar remained under direct Mughal rule, Durga das continued stuggle.
 - When Aurangzeb died 1707, Durga das seized occasion, Ajit Singh regained Jodhpur.
 - **Maharaja Abhai Singh (1724-1749)**
 - Battle of Ahmedabad against Sarbaland – won
-

- Battle of Gangwan against Amber.
- **Maharaja Ram Singh (1749-1751)-(1753-1772)**
 - Was defeated in battle by his uncle Bakht Singh at Luniawas, 27 November 1750 and was expelled from Jodhpur and sought refuge in Jaipur.
- **Maharaja Bakht Singh (1751-1752)**
 - Brother of Abhai Singh- defeated his son Ram Singh.
- Maharaja Vijay Singh – 1752-1753) – (1772-1793)
- Maharaja Bhim Singh (1793 1803)
- Maharaja Man Singh (1803 1843)
- **Maharaja Sir Takht Singh (1843-1873)**
 - Not in the direct line
 - Formerly Regent of Ahmednagar.
 - Assists the British in India during the Indian Mutiny of 1857.
- **Maharaja Sir Jaswant Singh II(1873-1895)**
 - Kaisar-i-Hind
- Maharaja Sir Sardar Singh – 1895 1911
- Maharaja Sir Sumair Singh – 1911 1918
- Maharaja Sir Umaid Singh (1918-1947)
- Maharaja Sir Hanwant Singh (1947-47)

Historical Places of Jodhpur:

Mandore:

Towards the north of Jodhpur is the ancient capital of Marwar, Mandore. This area is of major historical importance and you will find the dewals or cenotaphs of Jodhpur's former rulers. Unlike the original chhatri-shaped cenotaphs that are typical patterns of Rajasthan architecture, these are built along the lines of Hindu temples.



Mehrangarh Fort

Situated on a steep hill, Mehrangarh fort is one of the largest forts in India. The beauty and the grandeur of numerous palaces in the fort narrates a saga of hard sandstones yielding to the chisels of skilled Jodhpuri sculptures. The fort is known for its exquisite latticed windows, carved panels, intricately decorated windows and walls of Moti Mahal, Phool Mahal and Sheesh Mahal.



Moti Mahal:

Moti Mahal, as the name suggests, is the Pearl Hall where the royal families held their audience. The hall is known to have glass windows and five nooks that enabled the queens to listen to the proceedings taking place in the Sringar Chowki, The Royal Throne of Jodhpur.



Phool Mahal:

Going by the name, the Phool Mahal or Flower Hall is the most exorbitant of all the halls in the palace. This beautiful chamber is said to be the pleasure dome for the Maharajas. The gold used for constructing the Mahal came from Ahmedabad, Gujarat.



Osian:

65 Kms from Jodhpur, lies ruins of an ancient city called Ossian. This city is famous for Brahmanical and Jain temples, which belong to 8th and 11th century. The shikhar of Sachiya temple is clustered by two rows of turrets, an ambulatory and a large assembly hall with an elaborate ceiling. This town which was once a great trading centre is an oasis and houses an abundance of peacocks. The largest of the 16 Jain and Brahmanical temples is dedicated to Mahavira.

**Khejarla Fort:**

Located 85 kilometres from the main city, the 400-year old Khejarla Fort is situated in a rural setting. The stunning red sandstone monument, now a hotel, is an example of Rajput architecture. Visitors will be mesmerised by the fort's picturesque settings, latticework friezes and intricate Jharokas.

**Ummaid Bhawan Palace:**

Umaid Bhawan Palace was built by Maharaja Umaid Singh in 1929 to counter a famine which had hit the state at the time. It was also known as the Chittar Palace while being constructed thanks to the use of stones drawn from the Chittar hill. The palace was designed by HV Lanchester, a renowned British architect, and was completed in 16 years. Built with sandstone and marble, the architecture of the palace is described as a blend of Indo-Saracenic, Classical Revival and Western Art Deco styles. It is recognised as one of the largest private homes in the world and also one of the more spectacular buildings. It is the only palace built in the 20th century.

**Jaswant Thada:**

This milky white memorial built towards the end of the 19th century as a tribute to the leader Jaswant Singh is a huge tourist attraction. Jaswant Singh, who ruled Jodhpur, invested well in his state. He made attempts to bring down the level of crime, subdue dacoits, built railways and broadly



worked on raising the economy of Marwar.

Ghanta Ghar:

Ghanta Ghar, also known as the clock tower of Rajasthan, is situated in one of the busiest areas of Jodhpur, the Sadar Bazaar. It was constructed by Shri Sardar Singh Ji of Jodhpur. The Sadar Market is quite popular among tourists, who throng the streets to purchase Rajasthani textiles, clay figurines, miniature camels and elephants, marble inlay work and classic silver jewellery.



Sardar Samand Palace:

Built on the banks of the Sardar Samand Lake by Maharaja Umaid Singh in 1933, the Sardar Samand Lake Palace is a spectacular hunting lodge. It remains the royal family's favourite retreat and houses a vast collection of African trophies and original watercolour paintings.



Fairs & Festivals of Jodhpur:

Jodhpur fairs and festivals seem to express the rich culture and traditions Rajasthan. A number of festivals are celebrated in Jodhpur. However the most famous Fairs and festivals in Jodhpur are:

MARWAR FESTIVAL:

The Marwar festival is one the most famous festivals of Jodhpur and India. The two-day festival is held every year in the month of Ashwin (between September and October) and for one night in Osian Town in the Thar Desert, in memory of the heroes of Rajasthan. It was originally known as the Maand Festival. The Marwar festival is a centre of authentic folk music, culture and lifestyle of Rajasthan's rulers. The festival is held at famous venues like the Umaid Bhavan Palace, Mandore and Mehrangarh Fort.



SHEETLAMATA FAIR

It is organized at a place locally known as 'Kaga' in Jodhpur City. This fair is held on Chaitra Badi 8 (March-April) every year. Nearly thirty thousand people assemble in this fair to pay homage to the image of Sheetla Mata.

VEERPURI FAIR AT MANDORE

A fair is held at Mandore, which is about 8 kms from Jodhpur city, in the memory of the heroes of Rajasthan on the penultimate Monday of Shravana (July-August) every year. Offerings of cash, coconuts and sweets are placed before the idols of deities-Ganesh, Bhairon, Chamunda and Kankali. About fifteen thousand persons of all communities congregate in this fair.

DUSHHEHRA FAIR AT MASSORIA HILL

The hillock has been developed as a beautiful picnic spot. A fair is organized on Ashvina Sudi 10 (September-October) every year at a place near Masooria hillock known as 'Rawan-ka Chabutra' where people congregate here on this occasion.

CHAMUNDA MATA FAIR

The Temple of Chamunda Mata is located in Jodhpur Fort. Chamunda Mata is the family deity of Rathors (the former rulers of Jodhpur State). A fair is held on Ashvina Sudi 9 (September-October) every year. More than 50,000 people, who worship the goddess, congregate in the fair.

NAU SATI KA MELA

This fair is held at a place known as Ban Ganga in Bilara town. It takes place on Chaitra Badi Amavasya (March-April) every year. It is held in the memory of nine women who became sati at this place. More than 10,000 persons assemble in this fair normally to take a dip in the Ban Ganga River and also take part in singing and dancing.

BABA-RAMDEO KA MELA

This fair is held at Jodhpur City on Bhadrapada Sudi 2(August-September) at Massoria hillock, where the temple of Baba Ramdeo is situated. A Large number of people gather on this occasion from various parts of the state. It is locally known as Massoria Baba Ka Mela.

Geography of Jodhpur:

The region comprises three distinct physiography units, namely, *the alluvial plains, Escarpments and Ridges and Sand dunes*. Land surface of the district is nearly flat and sandy with exception of some parts of Bilara and Osian Tehsils.

The western & north-western parts of district are characterized by sand dunes. Sand dunes of transverse, longitudinal and parabolic variety are present and attain a height of 10 to 40 m.

There is only one important river in the district, viz., Luni, which enter the district near Bilara and flows for a distance of over 75 kms. before entering in Barmer district.

The climate here is of extreme desert condition of scorching summer with hot dry winds and arid conditions. **Phalodi** is the hottest place in the district where in summers maximum daily temperatures varies between 40°C to 45°C. Occasionally, it rises to 49°C. The winters are quite chilly.

From rain fall point of view, district has two distinct zones i.e., the NW part has 20-30 cms. average rain fall while SE part has 30-40 cms. average rainfall. This rainfall mainly occurs during late June to September.

Natural Places of Jodhpur:

Gudha Vishnoiyan Conservation Reserve:

The Bishnoi community inhabits this village. They are staunch believers in the sanctity of plant and animal life. Villages are marked by Khejri trees and deers which thrive. Wild animals found in the reserve include Chinkara, Black Buck, Wild boar. Also in the village is the Guda Bishnoi Lake. Around the Guda Bishnoi Lake, one can also see numerous migratory birds like domicile Cranes etc,



Ranisar Padamsar:

Located near the Fateh Pole in Mehrangarh, the Ranisar and Padmasar are adjacent lakes that were constructed in the year 1459. Ranisar Lake was built on orders of Queen Jasmade Hadi, Rao Jodha's wife while Padmasar Lake was ordered by Queen Padmini of Rao Ganga, daughter of Rana Sanga of Mewar.

**Kaylana Lake:**

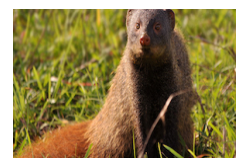
Situated on Jaisalmer road, this small artificial lake is an ideal picnic spot. It is like a canvas with a splash of romantic colors. The beauty of the lake stays with you long after you've experienced it.

**Balasamand Lake:**

Balsamand Lake is about 5 kilometres from Jodhpur on the Jodhpur-Mandore Road. Built in 1159 AD, it was planned as a water reservoir to cater to Mandore. The Balsamand Lake Palace was built on its shore later as a summer palace. It is surrounded by lush green gardens that house groves of trees such as mango, papaya, pomegranate, guava and plum. Animals and birds like the jackal and peacock also call this place home.

**Machiya Safari Park:**

This park is situated on the way to Jaisalmer, about 1 kilometer from Kailana Lake. It offers a bird watching point for visitors and is also home to several animals such as deer, desert foxes, monitor lizards, blue bulls, hare, wild cats, mongoose, monkeys, etc

**Sardar Samand Lake:**

The lake attracts several migratory and local birds such as the yellow-legged green pigeon, Himalayan griffon and Dalmatian pelican, making it a bird watcher's paradise.



Natural Resources/ Minerals of Jodhpur:

Minerals have been playing an important role in development of Jodhpur district for last many decades. The district is mainly rich in non-metallic minerals like sandstone, rhyolite, limestone, jasper, granite, clay, murram, kankar, brick earth, bajri etc. The important Major and minor minerals occurring in the district are :-

Jasper:

- Jasper is silica having dark red colour.
- It has been found to be a good abrasive and is used in making grinding wheels.
- Jasper occurs near Mathania, Osiyan, Rundia, Sopra, Mogra, Lawera and Tamtia.

Dolomite:

- Dolomite having high MgO with low silica percentage is a valuable industrial raw material for steel, refractory, glass and ferromanganese industries.
- Dolomite/dolomitic limestone occurrences are mainly confined to an east-west trending zone between Phalodi and Nagaur.
- Indo Ki Dhani & Indolai Ka Talao area is associated with siliceous dolomite.

Ball Clay:

- Good ball clay is reported from northern part of the district in tehsil Phalodi near village Kanasar-Mandli.
- It can be used in ceramic, rubber & paint industry.

Sandstone:

- This is an important building stone of whole of Western Rajasthan.
- History of its mining in Jodhpur district is 500 years old. Temples and Palaces in Jodhpur area are ample proof of sandstone's utility.
- The important occurrences of sandstone are located around Jodhpur city viz., Mandore, Soor-Sagar, Keru, Berli, Kailana, Balesar, Dechu, Setrawa, Chokri, Ratkudiya, Osiyan, Bhopalgarh etc.
- Handicraft items made out of sandstone are exported in international market.

Limestones:

- This mineral finds multiple uses in variety of industries like cement, chemical, steel, sugar etc.
- There are number of limestone belts of cement to chemical grade occurring in Western Rajasthan, located in Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Pali and Nagaur districts.
- Out of these most important are **Sojat-Bilara-Gotan-Mundwa** & **Jaisalmer belts** having cement-chemical grade limestone.
- Part of Sojat belt passes through the eastern part of Jodhpur district. The important localities are Bilara-Ransigaon, Hariya Dhana, Borunda etc.
- Small occurrences of limestone are also observed near Basni Had Singh, Suwana, Basni-Darmi and Asop villages of Bhopalgarh tehsil.

Granite:

- Granite in Jodhpur district is scattered over 150 sq. kms. area around Pipar, Khejarla, Chokri, Salawas, Madliya, Rawniana, Kosana, Kharia etc.
- Colour varies from grey, pink, cream to red-brown.
- Jodhpur Granite has been classified as plutonic equivalent of Malani rhyolite.

Rhyolite:

- Extrusive phase of Malani suite occupies large part of Jodhpur district.
- The important localities around Jodhpur are Kailana, Fort and Lalsagar.
- Rhyolite is mainly used for making road ballast, gitti and chips and powder.

Ochre:

- Low grade red-yellow ochre is found associated with sandstone near Pichiyak in tehsil Bilara.
- It is used for white washing of houses, floor, walls etc.

Brick-Earth:

- Only one mining lease of brick earth is sanctioned in Kiron Ki Dhani.

Masonry stone:

- Borunda, Ghati, Bujhawad, Daizar, Gangana, Rohilla Kalan, Sar (Sawri-Bhakri) etc. are main localities from where masonry stone is produced.
- In addition to the above, recently department has located new areas of masonry stone near Osiyan, Tinwri, Bhopalgarh, Daizar etc.

Salt:

- Salt occurs in form of brine solution near Malar-Bap area in north of Phalodi. Water is pumped out of wells and is spread in small shallow ponds and Salt is collected by evaporation method.

Population:

- According to the 2011 census, Jodhpur district has a population of 36,85,681.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 27.69%.
- The district has a population density of 161 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- Jodhpur has sex ratio of 915 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 67.09%.

Chapter 22: Karauli

Location, Area & Administration of Karauli:

Karauli lies in the north eastern part of Rajasthan. stretching between $26^{\circ} 02'$ to 27° North latitude & $76^{\circ} 28'$ to $77^{\circ} 25'$ East longitude, having an average altitude of 260 meters above sea level. It is bounded on west by Dausa, South west by Sawai Madhopur, north east by Dholpur and north-east by Bharatpur and east by state of Madhya Pradesh. The main river of the state, Chambal separates the district from Madhya Pradesh.

The district has an area of app. 4985 sq.km. and has been divided into 6 tehsils namely Karauli, Hindaun, Nandauti, Sapotara, Toda Bhim, Mandrail.

History of Karauli:

The predecessor state of the princely state of Karauli, the Kingdom of Mathura, was founded about 995 by Raja Bijai Pal a Yaduvanshi Rajput ruler. Historical data point to Arjun Deo as the founder of the Karauli State in 1348. he capital was successively in the towns of Mathura, Dwarika, Bayana, Timan Garh, Andher Kotla, Mandrayal, U'ntgir and Bahadurpur.

During the 18th century Karauli was under the Maratha Empire until the Marathas were defeated by the British. In 1817, Karauli's ruler signed a treaty with the East India Company and became a British protectorate, the status was maintained till the independence of India in 1947.

After India's independence in 1947, the state under Maharaja Ganesh Pal Deo acceded to the Dominion of India on 7 April 1949; Karauli later merged with the Union of India and became part of the state of Rajasthan.

On 1st March 1997 government of Rajasthan established Karauli district which included five Tehsils of Sawai Madhopur.

Rulers of Karauli State:

The rulers of the state bore the title 'Maharaja'. Karauli was ruled by Jadubansi Rajputs.

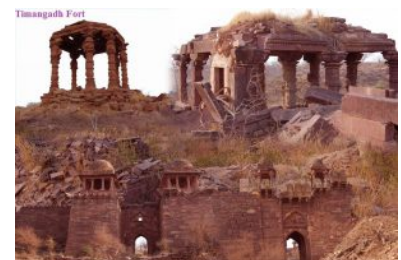
Maharajas

- 1688 – 1724 Kunwar Pal II
- 1724 – 1757 Gopal Singh
- 1757 – 1772 Tursam Pal
- 1772 – 1804 Manik Pal
- 1804 – 1805 Amola Pal
- 1805 – 1837 Herbaksh Pal
- 1837 – 1849 Pratap Pal
- 1849 – 1852 Narsingh Pal
- 1852 – 1854 Bharat Pal
- 1854 – 1869 Madan Pal
- 1869 Lakshman Pal
- 1869 – 1875 Jaisingh Pal
- 1869 – 1871 Vrishbhan Singh Tanwar -Regent
- 1876 – 1886 Arjun Pal II
- 1886 – 1927 Sir Bhanwar Pal
- 1927 – 1947 Sir Bhom Pal
- 1947 – 1947 Ganesh Pal

Historical Places of Karauli

Fort of Timangarh:

Timangarh fort is situated in Masalpur village. According to prevailing believes in Samvat (Hindu Calendar) 1244 Yadhuvanshi ruler Timanpal constructed this Fort. On all four side of this fort their exists unique



sample of 5 feet wide and 30 feet high battlement architecture. It seems as a complete city is enclosed within fort. Market inside fort wall, flooring, garden, temples and remains of well are still available.

Unt Giri Fort:

This fort was established during 15th Century in Kalyanpura village on a tunnel shaped high mountain range. The fort is spread over 4 Km of area, and has a 100 feet high waterfall which directly drop water over a Shivlinga. Till last Mughal Empire, this fort remained in ownership of Yaduvanshi.

Dev Giri Fort:

The Fort is located on east of Unt Giri on bank of Chambal River. In year 1506-07 attack of Sikander Lodhi caused major damage to this fort. In present it has one Bavdi, ransacked stone scriptures and few remains of palace are available.



Mandrayal Fort:

In south of Karauli, on the bank of Chambal River and between the mountain ranges, Mandrayal fort made of red stone is situated on a small hill. Due to its location near Gwalior, from the view of a monument it is considered important. The Surya Pol of Fort receives direct sunlight starting from sunrise to sunset. In year 1327 Maharaja Arjun Dev had acquired this fort, which remained under custodianship of Karauli.



Bahadurpur Ka Killa:

This fort is located on Mundrayal Route, near forest of Sasand Village and deserted environment. 'Bahadurpura Ka Quilla' stands like an insuppressible warrior is an actual example of inseparable Mughal art. Double storied Narup Gopal Bhawan, Saheliyon Ki Bavdi, Artistic Jharokha, 18 feet long girder of common and VIP courts, 5 warriors, Magadh Rai Ki Chatri are worth watching. The fort was constructed by Nagraj was son of Yaduvanshi King Timanpal, expansion of this fort was done throughout 1566 to 1644. Ruler of Jaipur Sawai Jaising also resided in this fort.

Ramthara Fort:

The Ramthara fort is Situated in Sapotara Subdivision of Karauli district between Ranthambore Wildlife Sanctuary and Bharatpur Bird Reserve; it is just 15 kilometers away from Kailadevi Sanctuary.



Rawal Palace:

Established during 13 century Palace (Rawal Palace) made out of Red and White Stone is an example of stone craft. Artistic pictures and carving on huge gate, reticulated vents, artillery, Nahar Kathara, Suri Gurj, Gopalsingh Akhada, Bhanwar Bank, Nazar Bagichi, Manik Mahal, Fountain Pond, Gopal Temple, Deewan-e-Aam, Fauj Kachari, Kirkiri Khana, Giyan Bangla, Sheesh Mahal, Moti Mahal, Harvillas, Ranglal, Teda Kuwa, Jannani Dayothi and others along with effective establishment are also part of its culture and traditions.



Fairs & Festivals of Karauli

There are multiple fairs organized in Karauli including, Kaila Goddess- March- April, Shri Mahaveerji – April- May, Shri Bala ji , Shri Madan Mohan Ji, Ajnimata, Jagdeesh Ji, Gadh Mora, Barwasan Mata, Kadam Khundi, The Ganga Dushera Mela Sagar, Nande Bhumiya Fair, Mahashivratri Pashu Mela, Gandharbh Mela Kailadevi.

Kailadevi Chaitra Mela

The famous temple of Kela devi is situated 25 Kms. from district head quarters. Kaila devi fair is organized in month of march-april, in which men-women, youths, dance without the influence of religion, rich and poor on the Languriya songs. In this fair along with Rajasthan pilgrims from Delhi, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh participate.



Shri Mahaveerji Fair

The famous Shri Mahaveer ji temple is situated in Hindaun tehsil. It is a prominent place of Digamber Jain Community of India. Here, resides a 400 year old statue of Lord Mahaveer. Three day fair of Jain shrine Shri Mahavirji fair has special identity and a chariot festival is the center of attraction.



Fair of Lord Jagdish

The fair is organized of Lord Jagdish in the Kaimri village of Nadouti region. The Gurjar community has a majority in the fair and the people of other category also come to visit the fair.

Geography of Karauli

Karauli is famous for its geographical specialities and having full of natural beauty and covered by Vindhyan and Aravali mountains. In the Karauli tehsil hills become more high and extensive. Hills & broken grounds characterises almost entire area locally known as **Dang**.

Plains are very fertile and clay is very light in weight and sandy. A major part of Karauli & Sapotara tehsils falls in reserve & protected forest. Reserve forest also occur in northern part of Nandauti tehsil. The drainage system is dendritic.

Rivers of Karauli:

- The major river is **Chambal** which forms district and state boundary in east with MP .
- Other river is **Gambhiri** emerging from hills of Nandauti tehsil & flowing through Hindaun and Toda Bhim tehsils.
- Other rivers like Kalisil, Bhadrawati, Bhaisavat, Ata, Manchi and Barkheda solemn rivers are also flowing into the district.

Natural Resources/ Minerals of Karauli

The newly formed Karauli district has some very important non-metallic mineral deposits of the state. It has good resources of Silica sand, sandstone and quartz, besides soap stone, limestone, red oxide, laterite etc. Karauli sandstone is well known for its sculpture and engraving property. The red and spotted variety of Karauli sand stone is exported to various countries i.e. Japan, Gulf & other Asian countries. Hindaun is the main business centre for its processing. The details of the mineral deposits are given below.

SOAP STONE

- The soapstone in the district occurs in Morra-ka--Dungar ridge of Toda Bhim tehsil.
- The talc deposits have been exposed at as many as seven localities near Dhaota, Dwain, Kamalpura, Rajuli, Giarhi, Pura & Morra.
- Of these, the deposits of Dwain, Rajauli and Garhi are fairly large.

LIME STONE

- About 25 kms. S.S.W. of Karauli the Mohali--Keladevi lime stone belt is exposed intermitently over a strike length of 16 kms. with 100 to 200 mts width.
- The limestone is greyish, pinkish and purple in colour and is associated with chert bands at places.

SILICA SAND

- The important silica sand deposits are located in Pator-Sapotara area extending from Ganeshwari to Machh villages over a strike length of 1 km. in Sapotara and Karauli tehsils.
- Besides this the other occurrences are near Jon, Ghat, Parli and Badrela in Toda Bhim tehsil.

LATERITE

- The laterite occurs near village Bajna, Gathra in Sapotra tehsil capping over Rewa sand stone of Upper Vindhyan Supergroup.

RED OXIDES

- It is exposed near Rodhai village of Karauli tehsil. One lease has been executed in the area. At present the production is closed.

OCHRES

- Both red and yellow ochres are available in the district.
- These are found associated with quartzites of Bhilwara Super group.
- The main localities for red ochres are Narayanpura & Tantwara in Sapotra tehsil, Kachrauli in Karauli tehsil.
- Yellow ochre is only located near village Kherata of Karauli tehsil.

IRON ORE

- Near village Karuali about 7 km. east of Hindaun, Iron ore deposit occurs in the banded hematite chert of Kaimur Group of Vindhyan Supergroup.

SAND STONE

- Karauli sand stone is an excellent building stone as it is amenable to receive good polish and intricate carving meant for lattices and arches.
- The sand stone occurs in the form of hill range crossing across the district.
- Most of the quarries are situated in nearby areas of Karauli and Sapotra tehsils.
- Recently Mines & Geology Department has identified 5 splittable sandstone blocks viz. Bhauapura-Ratiapura (10 sq. kms.) Kasara (2.88 sq.km.) Chobe ki Guwari (4.88 sq.km.) Mokaupura--Berda(2 sq. km.) and Bhakri (5 sq. km.) of about 25 sq.km. total area.
- Sand stone is red and buff in colour, fine grained and bedded in nature.

Population

- According to the 2011 census Karauli district has a population of 14,58,459.
- The district has a population density of 264 inhabitants per square kilometer
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 20.57%.
- Karauli has a sex ratio of 858 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 67.34%
- Meena and Gurjar caste dominates in Karauli.

Chapter 23: Kota

Location, Area and Administration of Kota:

Kota district lies between **24° 25' and 25° 51' North Latitude** and **75° 37' and 77° 26' East Longitude**. It is bounded on north and north west by Sawai Madhopur, Tonk and Bundi districts. The Chambal river separates these from Kota district and forms the natural boundary. The district is bounded by Jhalawar, and Mandsor district of M.P. on the south, Baran district on the east and Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan on the west.

Kota district has an area of 5098 sq. km. and comprises of 6 tehsils namely Pipalda, Digod, Kanwas, Ladpura (Kota), Sangod & Ramganj Mandi.

History of Kota:

- Kota seceded from Bundi in 1631.
- Between 1707- 1713 it was again reunited with Bundi
- Kota became British protectorate in 1817.
- Kota rulers bore the title “Maharao”.

Rulers of Kota:

- **Madho Singh**
 - 2nd Son of raja rattan Singh of Bundi, who confirmed grant of Kota to Madho Singh & separation, took place.
- Mukund Singh
- Jagat Singh
- Kishore Singh
- Ram Singh I (1696-1707)
- United with Bundi (1707-13)

- Bhim Singh I (1713-20)
- Arjun Singh (1720-23)
- Durjan Sal (1723-56)
- Ajit Singh (b. bf.1756-57)
- Chhatar Sal Singh I (1757-64)
- Guman Singh (1764-71)
- **Umaid Singh I (1771-1819)**
 - Dewan Zalim Singh – formed state of Jhalawar – 1791
- Kishor Singh II (1819-28)
- Ram Singh II (1828-1866)
- Chhatar Sal Singh II (1866-89)
- Umaid Singh II (1889-1940)
- *Maharo* Bhim Singh II (1940-1947)

Historical Places of Kota:

Alnia:

The Alnia Dam is one of the must-see attractions of Kota. It is renowned for the beautiful rock paintings that date back to the Upper Paleolithic age. Still in good condition, they adorn the bank of the river, making this place definitely worth a visit.

Jagmandir Palace:

The Jagmandir Palace was built by one of the queens of Kota between 1743 and 1745, and is situated in the middle of the Kishore Sagar Lake. Built in red sandstone, it is a monument of exquisite beauty.



The palace is open to tourists who can enjoy boat rides in the Kishore Sagar Lake and the panoramic view of the palace from the lake. The Keshar Bagh, situated near the Jagmandir Palace is well known for its royal cenotaphs.

Garh Palace:

This large complex, also known as the City Palace, is built in a predominantly Rajput style of architecture. The palace is a sprawling complex of suites and apartments built by different rulers of the Rajput dynasty at different times in history.



Maharao Madho Singh Museum

Situated within the walls of the Garh palace, Maharao Madho Singh Museum houses a splendid collection of Rajput miniature paintings of the Kota school. The exquisite sculptures, frescoes and murals present a breathtaking view.

Fairs & Festivals of Kota:

Kota Dussehra Fair:

Dussehra marks the victory of Ram over the demon king Ravana, and the rescue of his wife Sita. Dussehra means the Tenth Day, being the 10th day of the bright half of Ashvin. Highlight of the festivities is the theatrical representation of the encounter popularly known as 'Ramleela'. The climax of the show holds most appeal as it ends with setting alight gigantic effigies of the 10-headed Ravana along with his brother Kumbhkarana and his son Meghnath. These 75-feet tall statues are stuffed with crackers and once set on fire, they burst to create an extravagant show.



Kota Adventure Festival:

Chambal Adventure Festival (9-11 Feb) is three day festival is organized in Kota where Tourists can enjoy Water & Air Sports. Tourists from across the world can witness various events such parasailing, rafting,



wind surfing, water skiing and kayaking. Apart from these activities, visitors can also indulge in rock climbing, gliding, trekking, angling and rural excursions.

Gangaur Festival:

(March- April) – This Festival is dedicated to Gauri, the consort of Lord Shiva and the symbol of marital happiness. It is the most important festival of Rajasthan which maidens and married women celebrate with great gusto and enthusiasm. It begins on the day after Holi and is celebrated for eighteen days. Maidens collect poppy flowers from the fields and make garlands for the Goddess.



Geography of Kota:

Kota is one of the eastern districts of Rajasthan and is something like a dumbbell in shape. A major part of the district is a flat plain called Kota--Haravati-Plain which has its average elevation of 250 m. above MSL. The Mukundara-Hill range with flat tops trending NW-SE and rising-up to 492M. above MSL in the South-Eastern and Eastern parts of the district, is the prominent geomorphic feature of the district. The area slopes gently northward from the high table land of Malwa in Madhya Pradesh.

The area is drained by the perennial river Chambal and its north flowing tributaries. -

Natural Places of Kota:

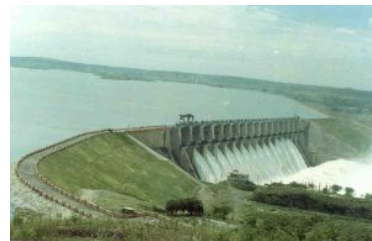
Mukundara Tiger Reserve:

The Mukundara Tiger Reserve is 50 kilometers from Kota. Tigers are often relocated here from Ranthambore Reserve. It has a core area of 417 square kilometers and a buffer zone covering 342.82 square kilometers. Other wildlife includes panther, deer, wild boar and bear. This thickly wooded area is home to a large variety of birds as well.



Jawahar Sagar Dam

Built in the year of 1972, **Jawahar Sagar Dam** is part of the chain of dams constructed under the Chambal Valley Project. Erected over the mighty River Chambal, Jawahar Sagar Dam is an important multipurpose dam of the region of Kota that serves several important functions. The dam is situated 26 km downstream from Rana Pratap Sagar Dam.



Garadiya Mahadev Temple:

One can get a grand view of River Chambal from the Garadia Mahadev Temple. Situated on Dabi Road (NH 76), this temple provides an incredible view of the surrounding wilderness. It is a must visit, especially during monsoon.



Natural Resources/Minerals of Kota:

Owing to the total absence of Metamorphic rocks (to which mostly metallic minerals are associated) no important ore deposits occur in the district. However, it is compensated by dimensional stone of economic importance, such as limestone and sandstone.

SANDSTONE

Owing to its durability, attractive red and white colours and susceptibility to carving and polishing, Vindhyan sandstone has been extensively used as building material.

WHITE SANDSTONE

- Khimuch is an important locality from where white sandstone is produced.
- Since the sandstone is very hard as such it takes polish with great difficulty but if once polished it remains for a very long period.

RED SANDSTONE

- The important quarries are concentrated near Borawas, Deoli, Kasar, Mandana, Kanwas, villages.

LIMESTONE:

There are extensive deposits of Vindhyan limestone in the district around Morak, Chechat, Deoli, Kotri, Milo, Julmi, Nimoda, Darra etc. The limestone is fine grained, hard and thickly bedded. Being of splittable nature at places, it is extensively quarried in Morak, Suket and Ramganjmandi as slab stone and is famous as “**Kota Stone**”.

Limestone is also used for lime making near Indargarh, Mandana, etc. Limestone is found in district in following location:

- Morak-Chechat-Deoli Belt:
- Milo-Julmi Belt :
- Deposit near Suket :
- Deposits between Kolipura and Darra :
- Deposit near Nimoda:
- Deposit near Nimoda-Debri:
- Deposit near Gadepan:

Population:

- According to the 2011 census, Kota district has a population of 19,50,491.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 24.35%.
- The district has a population density of 374 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- Kota has a sex ratio of 906 females for every 1000 males and literacy rate of 77.48%.

Chapter 24: Nagaur

Location, Area & Administration of Nagaur:

Nagaur district is located in the heart of the Rajasthan state between **26°.25" & 27°.40" North Latitude** & **73°.10" & 75°.15" East Longitude**. Seven districts of Rajasthan viz.-Jaipur, Ajmer, Pali, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Churu and Sikar, share the district boundary.

Nagaur is the fifth largest district in Rajasthan with an area of 17,718 Square Kms. It has been divided into 12 tehsils namely, Nagaur, Merta, Jayal, Ladnun, Didwana, Nawa, Makrana, Degana, Parbatsar, Khimsar, Kuchaman City and Mundwa.

History of Nagaur:

Glorified by the bards, the history of Nagaur finds mention even in the Mahabharata. The kingdom of Ahichhatrapur which Arjuna is said to have conquered and offered to his Guru Dronacharya, was perhaps some of the area of the Nagaur district. It was the capital of Jangladesh.

The foundation of city dates back to 4th century BC. Nagas originally ruled over this place and about 7th century onwards the Chauhans became the overlords of Nagaur and it was included in **Sapadalaksha**.

After independence, Nagaur had the honour of being selected as the place in the country from where the Democratic Decentralisation (Panchayati Raj) process was launched by the late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India on the 2nd October 1959.

Historical Places of Nagaur:

Nagaur Fort:

It is said that Nagaur fort was initially built by ruler of Nag dynasty in 2nd century and was then rebuilt in the early 12th century. This fort has witnessed several battles and has also been altered multiple times. Being one of the first Mughal strongholds in North-India it is an outstanding example of Rajput-Mughal architecture.



Khimsar Fort:

It is said that the Nagaur fort was initially built by the ruler of the Nag dynasty in 2nd century, and this 500 year old fort, located on the eastern edge of the Thar Desert was built in about 1523. Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb used to stay at this fort. Black deer roam in herds around this fort.

**Makrana:**

Nagaur district is well known in the world over owing to the presence of Makrana marble. Marble occurring in the vicinity of Makrana town is so famous that 'Makrana' has become the synonymous of marble. World famous Taj Mahal of Agra: Victoria Memorial, Kolkata: Delwara Jain Temple at Mount Abu and Ranakpur Temple in Pali & other famous monuments of excellent architectural art and beauty are constructed of Makrana marble.

Kuchaman Fort:

Kuchaman Fort is the oldest & most inaccessible forts of Rajasthan. Situated on top of a straight hill, it possess unique water harvesting system, a beautiful palace and stunning wall paintings. The rulers of Jodhpur used to mint their gold and silver currency here.

**Khatu**

Khatu's old name was **Shatkup** (six wells). When Shak rulers came to India then they brought two new wells with them which were called Shakandhu (Stepwell) & Kalandh (Rahat). According to Prathivraj Raso, Khatu's old name was Khatwan. Old Khatu is almost destroyed. Now there are two villages, one is called Bari Khatu & other Chhoti Khatu. On the hillock of Chhoti Khatu a small fort built by Prathviraj Chouhan still stands. An old stepwell is located in Chhoti Khatu, known as Phool Bawadi, is believed to be constructed in Gurjara Pratihara period.

Ladnun:

The town of Ladnu in the district has gained its place on the map of the country being the headquarters of the famous 'Jain Vishwa Bharti' which has become a centre of spiritual learning & knowledge under the leadership of Acharya Tulsi, a great Jain saint, who has propagated the philosophy of "ANUV RAT" in order to enlighten people in this area of the country.

Dadhimati Temple:

Also known as Goth-Manglod temple, 40 km away from Nagaur; the oldest temple of the district constructed during the Gupta Dynasty (4th Century), Kul Devi of Dadhich Brahmins.

Gogelav:

This village was established in the name of Lok Devta Gogaji and it is believed that Gogaji's Barat-marriage party had stayed here.

Fairs & Festivals of Nagaur:**Ramdeo Cattle Fair**

This is the third largest cattle fair in Rajasthan founded by the great King of the Jodhpur Dynasty, Umed Singh in honour of Shri Ramdeo ji 56 years back. The fair continues to be held in the month of Magh (January / February). Although the famous Nagauri bull is the prime attraction of the fair, the indigenous breeds of camel, horses, bullocks, buffalos, goat and sheep are in no way less attractive buys. Traders from all over the country participate actively and vie with each other in purchasing high pedigree animals to upgrade their cattle.



Baldeo Cattle Fair:

It is held in the month of Chaitra (March / April) at Merta city every year. Its history dates back 36 years when this fair was initiated in the memory of the great leader of the farmers Baldeo Ram Mirdha. The Nagauri breed of cattle are traded here in abundance and cattle competitions are the biggest attraction of the fair, providing a glimpse of rural Rajasthan.



Veer Tejaji Fair

This is the second largest fair held every year in the month of Shrawan (August / September) at Parbatsar. It is primarily cattle fair but routine things are also bought and sold. Its history dates back to pre-Independence.

Apart from the above mentioned fairs, a number of other fairs are also held in Nagaur district. These include the Sheetla Asthami mela, Hariram baba ka mela, Hanumanji ka mela, Meerabai Charbhuj mela, Parsawanathji ka mela, Sufi Tarkeen Salana Urs, Mataji ka mela, Gusaiji ka mela, Jhulotsawa and the Narsingh Chaturdarshi mela among others.



Geography of Nagaur:

A big part of the district is covered by blown sand and sand dunes which form part of the great Thar district. Active dunes and sand shifting are main hazards to cultivation. Sand dunes are common in the north and western parts, where they arise over 30 meters and are aligned in a north west and south east direction. Constant deterioration of soil and mining activity has resulted in soil erosion.

The Aravali range of hills passes in eastern and south eastern part of the district. The average elevation of the hills in district is barely 310 meters.

A big salt lake exists about 3 Km., to the South West of Deedwana. A part of the famous Sambhar lake falls in Nagaur district.

There is no perennial river in the district, River Luni is a non-perennial river which flows through the district. The flow of river-Luni depends upon the volume of rain fall it receives during monsoons. The river rises near Pushkar in Ajmer district and after passing over the Western slopes of the Aravali enters Nagaur district in the south and flows through it towards the west for nearly 37 Kilometers before entering Pali district.

The western part of the district is devoid of natural vegetation cover except for low herbs and grass which grows on low sand dunes. However, the south-eastern part of the district and part of the northern tehsil of Ladnun & Deedwana have much greater greenery as compared to north-west part of the district Khejri trees are commonly found in the district.

Natural Resources/ Minerals of Nagaur:

It is the Makrana marble which has brought the Nagaur district on mineral map of the world. Other than the marble, limestone of varying grades. i.e. SMS grade, cement grade and chemical grade: tungsten, gypsum, lignite, halite with potash, clay etc. are important mineral resources of district. Mineral wise description is given as below:

LIMESTONE:

Limestone occurring in the district belongs to Bilara Group of Marwar Supergroup. It occurs in three prominent belts.

- The first major and important belt is passing through Gotan, Bilara, Heera, Keria, Hari Singh, Bhawanda, Tadas, Tankla, Manakpur, Bher, Madpura-Gujron Ki Dhani, Chawandia and Tantwas.
- The second one is passing through Mundwa, Rol-Quazia, Gangwana, Surjniyawas Somna and Deh.
- The third belt which is comparatively smaller is located between Jayal and Katothi.

LIGNITE

- As a result of exploration activities of various agencies in Rajasthan, lignite deposits/ occurrences have been proved at 34 locations in **Bikaner, Nagaur and Barmer** districts.

- In Nagaur, Lignite deposits have been confirmed at 9 locations viz. Merta Road and Meera Nagar, Mokala, Indawar, Kasnau-Igear, Kuchera, Matasukh, Kaparion-Ki-Dhani, Nimbri Chandawatan and Lunsare.

MARBLE:

- Since long Makrana in tehsil Parabatsar is known in the world for the production of quality marble.
- Makrana marble belt has been divided into 14 blocks. Out of these 14 blocks, marble produced from Chausara block is white in colour and of best quality.

GYPSUM

- Thick gypseous beds belonging to Nagaur formation are found around Nagaur, Bhadwasi, Khairat, Malgan, Manglot, Pilanwasi and Untiwalia village.

TUNGSTEN

- Occurrences of tungsten in India are very few, the best known deposit being those of **Degana area** in Nagaur district. Here tungsten ore occurs in quartz veins along shear zones in the granite and also as stock works in these hills. It also occurs as alluvial deposit around the foot hills.

SANDSTONE

- The sandstone of Jodhpur group of rocks is exploited from Khatu and Ladnun area. Near Harsolpv and Nagaur, sandstone is extensively quarried for masonry purpose.

CLAYS

- The clays occurring in the district belong to the category of china clay and highly plastic ball clays which are added to induce plasticity and high bonding quality.
- Clay occurs at occur at Khajwana, Kuladah, Indawar, Mundwa, Nimbri Chundawatan, Saradhana and Huldah.

FULLER'S EARTH

- In Nagaur district kuchera – Khajwana Formation (Eocene age) is reported to contain fuller's earth associated with ferruginous grits, gritty felspathic sandstone, black shale and lignite.

COMMON SALT

Salt lake of Nagaur district are considered as an important sources of salt production in the country. The salt lakes of district include:

- The Sambhar lake near Nawa which is partly in Jaipur district,
- Didwana lake
- Kuchaman lake
- Sargot lake

Population:

- As per the 2011 census, the population of the district is 33,07,743, which is 4.82% of the total population of the State.
- Decadal Growth of population between 2001 and 2011 was 19.20%.
- The density of population in the district is 187 persons persq.km, as against 200 of Rajasthan as a whole.
- Literacy rate is 62.80%. Out of this literate population 77.20% are males and 47.80% are females.

Chapter 25: Pali

Location, Area and Administration of Pali:

Pali district is located between **24°45' to 26°29' North Latitudes and 72° 47' to 74° 18' East Longitudes**. It share its boundaries with 8 district of the state; In South west Sirohi & Jalore, in west Barmer; in south east Rajasamand & Udaipur in north Nagore, in North West Jodhpur and in north east Ajmer shares their boundaries with the district.

The district has total area of 12,387 sq. km, which has been divided into 10 tehsils namely Sojat, Marwar Junction, Jaitaran, Raipur, Sumerpur, Bali, Pali, Rohat, Desuri and Rani.

History of Pali:

Geologists trace the existence of Pali to pre-historic age and maintain that it has emerged from the vast western sea spread over a large part of the present day Rajasthan. In the Vedic age Maharshi Javali stayed in this area for meditation and interpretation of Vedas. The Pandavas in the Mahabharata age also have made this area (near Bali) their resting place during the exile. As a part of ancient Arbuda Province, this area was known as Balla-Desh.

During the Kushana Age, King Kanishka had conquered Rohat and Jaitaran area, parts of today's Pali district, in 120 AD. Till the end of seventh century A. D. this area was ruled by the Chalukya King Harshavardhana along with other parts of the present state of Rajasthan.

During the period from 10th to 15th century, boundaries of Pali extended to adjoining Mewar, Godwad and Marwar. Nadol was the capital of Chauhans. All Rajput rulers resisted the foreign invaders but individually fought for each other's land and leadership. After the defeat of Prithviraj Chauhan, against Mohammed Gauri, the Rajput power of the area was disintegrated. Godwad area of Pali become the subjects of then ruler of Mewar, Maharana Kumbha. But Pali city which was ruled by Brahmin rulers with the patronage of neighboring Rajput rulers, remained peaceful and progressive.

The 16th and 17th centuries saw a number of battles in the surrounding areas of Pali. Shershah Suri was defeated by Rajput rulers in the battle of Giri near Jaitaran, Mughal emperor Akbar's army had constant battles with Maharana Pratap in Godwad area. Again after the Mughals had conquered almost all of Rajputana, Veer Durga Das Rathore of Marwar made organized efforts to redeem the Marwar area from Aurangzeb, the last Mughal emperor. By then Pali had become subservient to

Rathores of Marwar state. Pali was rehabilitated by Maharaja Vijay Singh and soon it became an important commercial center.

Under British era in India in 1857, various Thakurs of Pali under the stewardship of Thakur of Auwa fought against the British rule. Auwa fort was surrounded by the British army and then conflicts lasted many days.

Fairs & Festivals of Pali:

Pali District is known for its colorful fairs & festivals, Dusseshra, Diwli, Holi, Ganesh Chaturthi, Janmastmi, Mahavir Jayanti & Mahashivratri etc. are celebrated with sanctity.

SHEETLA SAPTMI FAIR

It is the main fair of the district which is held at Sojat on Chaitra Badi 7 (March-April) Every year. About 20, 00 people assemble in this fair to worship 'Sheetla Mata'. The people put 'Pujapa' and other offerings in the temple in honor of the 'Mata'. The fairs of 'Sheetla Mata' are also held by Bayad in Pali tehsil, Isali in Marwar Jn. tehsil and at Chanod in Bali tehsil.

BARKANA PARASNATH FAIR

The fair is held in Village Barkana of Desuri tehsil on Posh Badi 10 (Dec-Jan) every year. There is a temple dedicated to deity Parasnath. About 10,000 people assemble in the fair to pay their homage to the deity.

SEWARI CATTLE FAIR

This fair is held near village Sewari of Bali tehsil. The duration of the fair is 5 days from posh Badi 2 to 6 (Dec.-Jan.) every year. About 15,000 people assemble in this fair for the purchase and sale of animals. Phalna is the nearest railway station for the fair.

LAKKHI MELA- SONANA KHETLAJI

In the beginning of full moon of Chetra month a fair is organized in the basin of local river Sarangawas of Sonana khetlaji temple at Desuri tehsil. This fair represents the folk culture of not only Pali district

but also of other districts of western Rajasthan. Since this is organized after Holi festival, large number of Gair dancers participate in this fair in their conventional and fancy dresses.

Om Banna Temple

The Sacred temple or than of Om Banna is 20 km away from the city on jodhpur-pali highway. The Motor bike of Om Banna is kept there for the devotees for worshipping.

Geography of Pali:

The shape of the district resembles to an irregular triangle and has generally undulated plains with scattered hills. The Aravalli Range runs along the eastern side of the district from south-west to north-east. The highest peak in the district is 1,099 m.

There is no perennial river in the district. The tributaries Lilri, Sukri, Bandi and Jawai, discharge their water into Luni, the principal drainage of western Rajasthan.

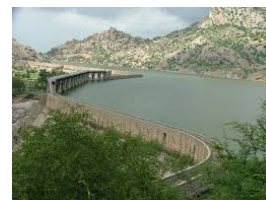
There is no lake or natural spring in the district. But there are number of big and small dams constructed for irrigation purposes. The important dams are Jawai dam in Bali tehsil, Raipur Luni, Hemawas, Kharda and Biratiya Khurd and Walar.

The climate of the district is, on the whole, dry and is very hot in summer and cold in winter. Normal annual rainfall in the district is about 47 cm.

Natural Places of Pali:

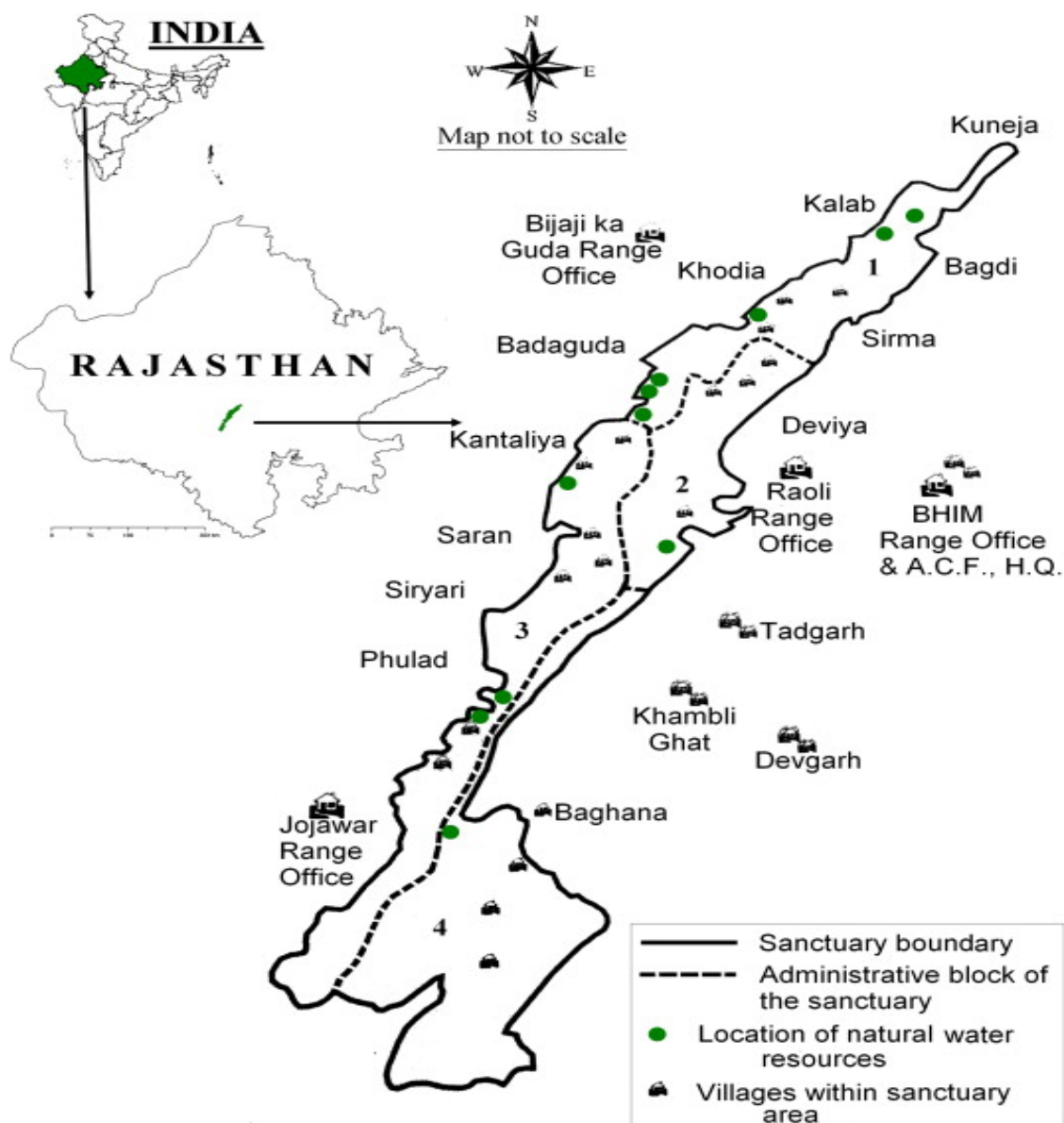
Jawai dam

Jawai Dam is one of the biggest dam of western Rajasthan and situated in Sumerpur tehsil of Pali district, having capacity of 6000 million cubic feet. Jawai Dam is a good tourist spot.



Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary

Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over Ajmer, Pali and Rajsamand districts of Rajasthan. It occupies about 495 km² of tropical deciduous forests and grassland. Major wildlife includes leopard, wild boar, chinkara, common langur, sloth bears and Indian wolf. An ancient Lord Shiva temple surrounded by tall trees of Karanj, Tamarind, and Banyan attract tourist from distance place.



Map Todgarh-Raoli

Natural Resources/ Minerals of Pali:

Pali district is endowed with wide variety of minerals. Both metallic and non metallic minerals are found. Good quality deposits of asbestos, limestone, gypsum, magnesite, quartz are found which have been exploited for last so many years. The details of mineral deposits are given below.

Copper

- Copper mineral has been reported from Chitar and Naya Kheda.

Lead

- Small occurrences of lead mineralization are located near Punagarh and Sandra area.

Nickel

- Minor indications of nickel are noticed around Ranakpur. The occurrence is not of economic value.

Tungsten

- Numerous scheelite bearing skarns were located near village Kararavav, Kuram, Bhimana, Sirava, Thandiberi etc. in tehsil Bali.

Asbestos

- The asbestos deposits in Pali district are located near Dhal, Mala-ka-Guda, Sendra, Pateria, Chhagri-Ka Bhagal, Gorla, Dhambarli, Kanotiya & Ramgarh.
- Small occurrences of asbestos are also noticed near Sandra, Belphana and Halawal villages.

White clay

- At Literia large deposit of white clay was located near the top of the limestone of the Vindhya and overlain by pebble beds.

Felspar Quartz

- The pegmatites occurring around Beranthia Khurd, Bhanuira, Kalyanpura, Kalakot, Raira in Raipur tehsil near villages Nana in Bali tehsil and Sitapura in Sojat tehsil consist mainly of quartz & felspar.

- The felspar is of pink variety.

Calcite

- Calcite occurrences are located at Bara Guda, Budha Lawa, Kalhab, Kapil-Ki -Bagal, Piplan, Nana, Khemel, Alipur, Khoral, Patan, Oayalpur etc.
- These areas mainly fall in Raipur and Jaitaran tehsil.

Magnesite

- The magnesite deposits of Sarupa-Chhaja, Gafa and Airaberi are located in the thickly forested border areas of Ajmer and Pali districts.
- Small occurrences of magnesite are noticed around Koyalvav, Bhimana, Charia ki Bhagal in Bali tehsil and near Bhira in Raipur tehsil.

Garnet

- This mineral has been exploited in past near Devkhedi and Karanpur villages of Raipur tehsil.

Mica

- This is found associated with quartz, felspar in pegmatites near Kalatiya, Khemal etc. villages.

Soap stone

- Small occurrences of soapstone associated with asbestos in ultrabasic rocks are reported from Kanatia & Manpura in tehsil Raipur.

Red ochre/Red oxide

- It is observed near Botha-ki-Dhani in Raipur tehsil where it was being exploited by private mine owners.
- Red oxide and clay are also found around jaitpura & Shyamgarh and have also been worked in past.

Wollastonite

- The occurrence of Wollastonite found near Khera- Uparla village of Udaipur district which also extends into Pali and Sirohi districts.

Lime stone:

- Limestone is also found in Nana, Kararavav and Thandiberi areas and near Ras, Guria-Dhunimata-Deoli-Hullan, Thandiberi-Siyava and Mandla-Atbara

Marble

- Deposits are found at at Jadri, Sindru, Diyana, Bankli, Khiwandi, near Sumerpur town in Bali tehsil, Gurah and Kantaliya in Raipur tehsil.

Building Stone:

- Extensively worked Bar conglomerate at Bar, Giri and Lawacha in Raipur tehsil are the only deposits in the district.

Granite:

- Granite occurs in Kharda-Ki-Dhani, Dharm-Dhari-Chotila, Bali-Maniyari, Nadol-Narlai, Kotsamariya, Bar-Sandra- JhakKi-Chowki, Ramniya, Jawariya, Natra-Jhakhora-Rajora areas.

Population:

- According to the 2011 census, Pali district has a population of 20,38,533.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001–2011 was 11.99%.
- The district has a population density of 165 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- Pali has sex ratio of 987 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 63.23%.

Chapter 26: Pratapgarh

Location, Area & Administration of Pratapgarh:

Pratapgarh is situated in the south-eastern part of Rajasthan, located at 24.03° N 74.78° E with an average elevation of 580 meters. Udaipur, Banswara and Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan and Ratlam, Mandsaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh surround Pratapgarh.

Pratapgarh has an area of 4,117 square meters, which is divided into 5 tehsils, namely, Arnod, Chhoti Sadri, Dhariawad, Peepal Khoont and Pratapgarh.



History of Pratapgarh:

In the 14th century, Maharana Kumbha (1433–1468) ruled Mewar with capital at Chittorgarh. Due to a dispute, Kumbha expelled his younger brother **Kshemkarn** (1437–1473), from his territory. Kshemkarn's family took refuge in the Aravali ranges, in the southernmost part of Mewar regime.

In 1514, Kshemkarn's son **Prince Surajmal** (1473–1530) became the ruler of *Devalia* (*Devgarh*) and established his capital of '**Kanthal-Desh**' at Dewaliya (also called Devgarh).

As the climate of Devgarh was not found to be suitable by the royal family, one of the descendants of Surajmal, **Maharawat Pratapsingh** of 10th generation (1673–1708) started to build a new town near native village Devgarh in 1689–1699 and named it as *Partapgarh*,

At that time, the area of Pratapgarh was reported to be about 889 square miles, whereas **Dhariyawad**, another small town near Pratapgarh, was founded by **Rana Sahasmal**, the grandson of legendary Maharana Pratap in the mid 15th century.

Rulers of Pratapgarh:

- **Soorajmal (1473–1530)**
 - Founded Dewaliya, predecessor to Pratapgarh.
- Bagh Singh (1530–1535),
- Rai Singh (1535–1552),
- Vikram Singh (1552–1563),
- Tej Singh (1563–1593),
- Bhanu Singh (1593–1597),
- Singha (1597–1628),
- Jaswant Singh (1628)
- Hari Singh (1628–1673)
- **Maharawat Pratap Singh** (1673–1708),
 - Founder Pratapgarh

- Prithwi Singh (1708–1718),
- Sangram Singh (1718–1719)
- Ummed Singh (1719–1721)
- Gopal Singh (1721–1756)
- Saalim Singh (1756–1774)
 - Obtained written permission from the then Mughal king Shah Alam II to introduce a local currency for his state and named it as *Saalimshahi-Sikka* (coin), which was made in a local mint-(*Partabgarh-Taksal*).
- Maharawat Saamant Singh (1774–1844)
 - North-western part of this region had very dense forests, a separate state forest department in 1828, was created to manage state's exceptionally rich forest-wealth.
- Maharawat Dalpat Singh (1844–1864)
- Maharawat Uday Singh (1864–1890)
 - Introduced some reforms, established civil courts, started relief works during the notorious Great Famine of 1876-78, opened fair price shops for the citizens and also exempted certain civilian taxes.
 - Uday Singh built a new palace in Pratapgarh for himself in the year 1867 AD more or less on the lines of those built by the Britishers and started living there.
- Maharawat Raghunath Singh (1890–1929)
- Maharawat Sir Ram Singh (1929–1940)
- Ambika Pratap Singh (1940–1948)
 - Who lives in Pune after leaving his native place.

Just after the independence of India in 1947, the princely state of Pratapgarh agreed to join Union of India on a condition that it must be declared as newly independent district in Rajasthan. Pratapgarh remained as an independent district between 1948 and 1952. However, due to reconstitution of district boundaries, Pratapgarh became part of the Nimbahera district and then of Chittorgarh.

After 56 years, On 26th January, 2008 Pratapgarh was announced to be an 33rd independent district of Rajasthan after taking Pratapgarh, Arnod and Chhoti Sadri tehsils from Chittorgarh district, Peepal Khoont from Banswara district and Dhariyawad from Udaipur district.

Historical Places of Pratapgarh:

Devgarh

Devgarh is located in Pratapgarh sub-division on a small hill. It is also known as “Devliya”. This palace is surrounded by small hills and situated at average elevation of 1809 feet from sea level. Rajmahal, old Bawadia, Jain temples are located in Devgarh. A famous temple of “Beejamata” is also situated here, where a fair takes place every year.



A temple of lord Raghunath is placed in Rajmahal itself, where a solar clock is placed on the top of it. The clock tells time according to the light of sun. The Palace and its vicinity also contain some ponds including Tejsagar and Sonela.

Bhanwar Mata Temple

Bhanwar Mata temple was built by King Gori of “Manvaiyani genus” in year 491 AD. Temple is also known as “Bhanwar Mata Shakti Peeth”. It is located in Chhoti Sadri Teshsil of Pratapgarh district.



Culture of Pratapgarh:

Thewa Art:

Thewa is a special art of jewelry making which involves embossing of intricately worked-out sheet gold on molten glass. It evolved in Pratapgarh. Its origin dates back to the Mughal age. Thewa is a traditional art of fusing 23K Gold with multi-coloured glass. The glass is treated by a special process to have glittering effects, which in turn highlights the intricate gold work.



Nathu ji Soni invented the process; the secrets of the craft that passed directly from father to son over the generations remains it in the family only, who call themselves 'Raj-Sonis'. UNESCO, National & State Government, has awarded many of the members from this family.

Fairs & Festivals of Pratapgarh:

The major fairs of this region are- *Ambamata Fair*, *Sita Mata Fair*, *Gautameshwara Fair* (on 'Vaishak-Poornima') and *Bhanwar Mata Fair*. Fairs on stipulated dates are also held in small places like *Shaulee-Hanumanjee*, *Gangeshwara-Parsola*, *Manaa-Gaon*, and *Gupteshwara Mahadev* in and around Pratapgarh.

- **Doondhotsava** is celebrated on Holi. The people of city do not celebrate "Dhulendi" on the following day after Holi, but Dhuledi is celebrated thirteen days after on the Hindu day of "Rang Teras".
- 'Gair'-Dancers can be seen all over the villages during '**Dashaamaataa**' festival.
- A procession of folk-God **Baba Ramdevji** is a regular feature on '**Bhag-Dashmee Teej**'.
- '**Sheetalaa Saptmee**' is also observed in the district, when only "**Makki-Dhoklas**" (cooked before a day prior to the festival) are consumed.

Geography of Pratapgarh:

The district is characterized by undulating topography. The topography of the area is undulating because of the confluence of three different geological formations- Malwa Plateau, Vindhyachal Hills and Aravali ranges. The western, and southern parts are generally plain area. Hills are scattered in Chhoti Sadri, Dhariawad, Peepalkhoont and Pratapgarh tehsils.

The soil is mainly highly fertile Black Cotton Soil made of magma of volcanos.

The major rivers of the district are Jakham, Mahi, and Siwana or Shiv. Other seasonal rivers are Som, Era, and Karmoi.

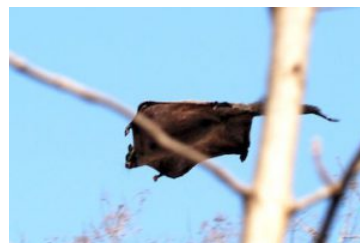
The climate of Pratapgarh is characterized by Sub-tropical dry climate with distinct hot summer, cold winter and rainy monsoon. The highest temperature goes above 43°C in May-June and the lowest up to

6 °C in December-January. The district also experiences average rainfall during the period from June-September

Natural Places in Pratapgarh:

Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary:

The thickly wooded Sita Mata Wildlife Sanctuary sprawls over both the Aravali ranges and the Malwa plateau, with three seasonal rivers flowing through the forest. It covers 423 square km area of mainly dry deciduous vegetation and has exceptionally rich flora and fauna.



It is the only forest region, where more than half the trees are high building value teak. Salar , Tendu, Bad, Peepal , Neem , Amla, bamboo, Sindoor, chironjee, Rudrakshaand Bel trees are found in abundance. The key fauna of the sanctuary are leopard, hyena, jackal, fox jungle cat, porcupine, spotted deer, wild bear, four horned antelope and nilgai etc. However, Sita Mata Sanctuary is famous for flying squirrel.

Another significant place of interest in the Sanctuary 5 km from 'Tikhi Magri' is 'Lakhiya Bhata', where a series of prehistoric animals is engraved on rocks.

Jakham Reservoir

Jakham Reservoir is located at village Anuppura of Pratapgarh. It is constructed on river Jakham, which is tributary of river Mahi.



Natural Resources/Minerals in Pratapgarh:

Non-forest regions of Chhoti Sadri (and part of Pratapgarh and Dhariyawad) have small scale mining activities operations, extracting mainly red ochre, calcite, dolomite, quartz, feldspar and soapstone. Marble, Building-stone and Limestone are also available in small quantities. Their deposits include:

Limestone

- Limestone deposit is found in Danta-Kela-Mela area Peepal khoot tehsil and it extended to Mahi river.

- Limestone bands are also occurring near village Devla in Dhariyawad tehsil having cement grade.

Soapstone

- Soapstone is found in village Dewla, Lohagarh, Bhungapat, Ambav, Gharda of tehsil Dhariyawad.
- This soap stone is found with dolomite rock and mostly is higher grade from cosmetic to paper grade.

Red Ochre & Laterite:

- Red ochre and laterite is found near village Dhamotar, Gopalpura, Chokdi, Kalyanpura, Dongri in tehsil Pratapgarh and village Narani, Bambori, Sakaria etc in tehsil Chhoti Sadr.
- This mineral is overlaying basalt rock.

Barites:

- Barite is found near village Peepaliyakhera, Rayanpura, Kulmipura, Manpura, Bhamardai of tehsil Pratapgarh.

Marble:

- Marble is found near village Deval tehsil Dhariyawad.
- It is of white and grey in colour and blockable in nature.

Masonry Stone:

- It is occurring near village Deval, tehsil Dhariyawad near Pratapgarh and village Kesunda tehsil Choti Sadri.
- Masonry stone is mined from basalt and low grade limestone/dolomite rocks.

Population:

- The prominent language of this region is Hindi, however, “Kanthhalee-Bolee” composed of words from *Malwi*, *Mewari* and *Vagdee* (local dialects) is commonly spoken in villages.
- In 2011, Pratapgarh had population of 8,67,848. As of 2011, it was (may be now also) the second least populous district of Rajasthan (out of 33), after Jaisalmer.
- There was change of 22.78 percent in the population compared to population as per 2001.
- Population density of Pratapgarh district for 2011 is 195 people per km²
- Sex Ratio in Pratapgarh stood at 983 females per 1000 male.

Chapter 27: Rajsamand

Location, Area & Administration:

Rajsamand district is situated at the southern tip of Rajasthan surrounded between $24^{\circ}46''$ & $26^{\circ}01''$ North Latitudes and $73^{\circ}28''$ and $74^{\circ}18''$ East Longitude. It is oval in shape with a very narrow strip stretching to words the north and is surrounded by Bhilwara, Pali, Ajmer and Chittor district.

Rajsamand has an area of 4527 Square Km which is divided into 9 Tehsils namely Amet, Bhim, Deogarh, Kumbhalgarh, Gadbor, Nathdwara, Railmagra, Rajsamand and khamnor.



Historical Places of Rajsamand:

Gilund:

Gilund is an archaeological site, which is one of five ancient sites excavated in the Ahar-Banas Complex, other being Ahar, Ojiyana, Marmi and Balathal. There are three major rivers in the area which include the Kothari, Banas, and Berach. At the ancient site of Gilund, two mounds labelled as 'eastern' and 'western' mounds.

Gilund was occupied from approximately 3000-1700 BCE. These years of occupation are divided into three phases: Late Ahar-Banas 2000-1700 BCE, Middle Ahar-Banas 2500-2000 BCE, and Early Ahar-Banas 3000-2500 BCE. Here various housing structures have been uncovered, as well as large buildings with long parallel walls, workshops, refuse heaps, and an exterior wall surrounding the site.



Kumbhalgarh Fort:

The Kumbhalgarh Fort was built by Rana Kumbha between A.D. 1443 and 1458 on the site of a still older castle which tradition ascribes to Samprati, a Jaina prince of the second century B.C. It is the second most important fort of Mewar after Chittaurgarh. It is defended by a series of walls with battlements and bastions built on the slope of the hill which is reached through seven great gateways viz. Aret Pol, Halla Pol, Hanuman Pol, Ram Pol, Nimboo Pol, Bhairon Pol. Among important temples are those of Mahadeva, Pitaliya Dev, Neelkantha, etc. Bawan Devri and Golerao temples (nine in numbers) are Jaina temples. The most important building, though of later period, is the Badal Mahal or Cloud Palace.



Haldighati:

A place of immense historic interest, where a fierce battle between Maharana Pratap and the Mughal emperor Akbar, was fought in A.D.



1576. The battle field comprises a narrow pass which runs south to north-east and ends in a plains where the main battle took place. The name of the valley, Haldighati derives from its yellow soil having the colour of turmeric or *Haldi*.

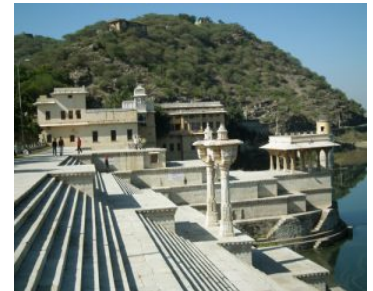
Chetak Samadhi:

Chetak Samadhi is a memorial where Chetak, a faithful horse of Maharana Pratap (AD 1540-1597) took his last breath on 18th June during the battle of Haldighati in AD 1576. In this battle, Maharana Pratap and his horse were severely wounded. The critically injured Chetak saved his master by carrying him from Rakta Talai to the other end of Haldighati by crossing the nearby stream. To remember his loyalty and sacrifice of Chetak, a memorial was raised over the site.



Nav Chowki

The northern portion of Rajsamand lake's embankment is called Nav Chowki. Flights of nine steps at each level descend to the water's edge. There are three *chhatris* or pavilions, intricately carved, depicting figures of gods and goddesses, animal figures and floral and geometrical designs. The gateways *ortoranas*, originally five of which only three exist, are also richly carved and ornamented. All the pavilions and *toranas* are made of white marble. The famous Rajprasasti Sanskrit inscriptions, twenty-four in number containing verses laudatory of Maharana Raj Singh and providing an elaborate history of Mewar in general and Maharana Raj Singh in particular, can be seen all along the *ghats*, fixed in the niches.



Badshahi Bagh:

Badshahi Bagh is the area where Mughal army first set up their camp after realizing the difficulty in fighting along the neck of Haldighati.



Rakhta Talai:

This is the last spot where the second half of the battle of Haldighati was fought between Maharana Pratap (A.D.1540-1597) and the Mughals. As a result, thousands of soldiers on both sides were killed and their blood flowed to such an extent that it formed a pool. The twin cenotaphs that stand to commemorate the exploits of Raja Ram Saha of Gwalior and his three sons who paid the debt of gratitude to their patron with their lives.

**Dewair:**

Maharana Pratap made the adventurous military campaigns of the Mughal ruler ineffective by resorting to guerrilla warfare. On the auspicious occasion of Vijaya Dashmi, in 1576, he was crowned with historic victory, which led to the automatic liquidation of all 36 Mughal military outposts in Mewar. After this humiliating defeat Akbar stopped his military campaigns against Mewar.



The victory of Dewair was a crowning glory for Maharana Pratap and in his famous book "Annals and Antiquities of Rajputana", Col. James Tod described Dewair as "Marathon of Mewar". A victory Memorial has been constructed on the same.

Nathdwara Temple:

Nathdwara Temple is 17th century temple, located in the Aravalli hills on the banks of the Banas River, which houses the idol of Shrinathji, considered an incarnation of Krishna. The idol was originally worshipped at Jatipura, Mathura and was shifted in the 1672, during reign of Aurangzeb, from Govardhan hill, near Mathura along holy river Yamuna after being retained at Agra for almost six months.

Fairs & Festivals of Rajsamand:

Gangaur Festival:

It is a celebration of fertility. It continues to be a major festival for centuries. Ghoomar dance is specially associated with Gangaur. The three days long Gangaur fair is organised by Municipal Council of Rajsamand in the real spirit of devotion in the month of March/ April every year.

Karnimata Fair:

The 9 day fair is organised in the vicinity of Karnimata Temple in Devgarh.

Jhaljholni Ekadashi

A virtual drama of colours in a theatre of green hills, where lacs of devotees get together in the month of September to take lord to the lake near by for the religious bath in a grand procession. People around Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh visit Charbhuj to celebrate the occasion.



Gawri:

Gawri, the famous dance drama, marked among other things, is a month long performance of the Bhil community. It is the major event of entertainment for the rural population and is being played especially in Mewar. Troops of dancers move from village to village, during a month long performance. The functionaries follow strict religious code of conduct. Between the enactment of various episodes, the entire troop dances around a central spot devoted to a deity.

Geography of Rajsamand:

The district surrounded by the Aravali ranges from north to east .It has an average elevation of 547 meters. The Northern part of the district consist of elevated place while the eastern part has vast stretches of fertile plains. The Southern part is covered is rocks, hill and dense forest-where as the western portion known as hilly traits of Mewar is composed by Aravali range stretching from Bhim tehsil to Kumbhalghar. There is one passage in the Aravali range viz Desuri Nall and Sadri which is high points of Pali and Jodhpur.

Rajsamand district is drained by Banas river and its tributaries i.e. Khari, Chandrabhaga, Gomati, Kothari, Ahar etc. The river as well as tributaries are ephemeral and flow only in response to heavy precipitation. The predominant drainage pattern in the western hill ranges is rectangular to sub-rectangular and it is dendritic to sub-dendritic in rest of the area. Drainage pattern in the western hill region is controlled by fractures and joints and in the rest of the area by subsurface lineaments. The area has some lakes and tanks also.

The climate of the district is moderate without significant seasonal variations December & January the coldest month while May and June are the hottest month. The minimum & maximum Temperature recorded at Rajsamand center 7° C and 40° C respectively. The main temperature is 44.0°C. The average rainfall at the district headquarter is 49.5 Cm

Both Rabi and khariff crop are grown in the district. Main crop of khariff are maze, urad, cotton sugarcane, in Rabi crops barley, Wheat, gram and Mustard are the main crops.

Natural Places of Rajsamand:

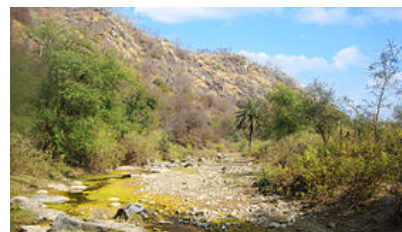
Kumbhalgarh Game Sanctuary

Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary surrounds the Kumbhalgarh fort and covers an area of 578 square km. The sanctuary extends across the Aravalli Range, ranging from 500 to 1,300 metres and covering parts of Rajsamand, Udaipur, and Pali districts. The wild life includes wolf, leopards, sloth bear, hyena, jackal, jungle cat, sambhar, nilgai, chausingha (the four horned antelope), chinkara and hare.



Tatgarh/ Todgarh Raoli Wildlife Sanctuary

The Todgarh-Rawali Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1983 and covers an area of 495 square kms, spread across Pali, Ajmer and Rajsamand. It is composed of tropical deciduous forests and grassland. Major wildlife includes leopard, wild boar, chinkara, common langur, sloth bears and Indian wolf.



Rajsamand Lake:

Rajsamand lake was built in 17th century by Maharana Raj Singh of Mewar, across the Gomati, Kelwa, and Tali rivers. The river Gomti is the main supplier of water to Rajsamand Lake.

Natural Resources/ Minerals of Rajsamand:

Rajsamand district is particularly rich in mineral resources as a large variety of important minerals are found in the district. The important metallic and non-metallic found in the district are Lead Zink, Asbestos, Calcite, Limestone, Quartz, Felspar, Marble and Granite. Soapstone is another important mineral also found in the district.

COPPER:

- Copper occurrence has been reported from Kankroli, Kotharia, Dariba, Majera, Gopakuda, Kel-ki-Kui, Sanar kui in the district.

LEAD ZINK AND SILVER:

- Lead- Zink deposit lies along Rajpura, Dariba, Kel-Ki-Kui, Majera, Gropa, Kunda, Sumer in Rajsamand district.

LIME STONE

- The lime stone is found in tehsil Nathdwara, Bhim of this district.

BARYTES:

- Thin veins, lenticels and of barytes occur near Kivli, Junagarh, Nagria.
- Approximately reserves of 25000 MT Barytes available in the district.

MARBLE:

- In Rajnagar area of the Rajsamand district 537 million tones reserve of white marble has been assessed in Kelwa, Nizrana, Umti, Morchana, Talai, Saproakaguda, Agaria, Parvati, Jhanjer etc.
- The white marble deposits are also found in Amet.
- Green marble belt extending from Modi and "Gogunda" tehsil of Udaipur district is extending in Rajsamand district

SOAPSTONE & PYROPHYLLITE:

- Rajasthan is the leading producer of talc in the country.
- In Rajsamand district talc occurrences have been reported from Rathor-ka—Gudda- Dipura, Nathuwas. Naya Gurha, Gorach Digri Rabcha, Kagmadar, Rama etc.
- Like soapstone there are abundant deposit of Phyrophyllites are found in Rajsamand district, occurring from Delwara in South to Sisvi in North.

Population:

- According to the 2011 census Rajsamand district has a population of 11,58,283.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 17.35%.
- Rajsamand has an average literacy rate of 67%, male literacy is 77%, and female literacy is 57%.
- Rajsamand has a sex ratio of 988 females for every 1000 males.
- The district has a population density of 302 inhabitants per square kilometer.

Chapter 28: Sawai Madhopur

Location, Area & Administration:

Sawai Madhopur, popularly known as the 'Gateway to Ranthambore' is a city with historic episodes and reigns. It is located between 25°.45' to 26°.41' North Latitude and between 75°.59' to 77°.0' East Longitude. On east it is separated from Madhya Pradesh by Chambal river and is bounded by Kota District on the southeast, Bundi District on the south, Tonk District on the west, Dausa District on the north, Karauli District on the northeast and Jaipur District on the northwest.

Sawai Madhopur has an area of 5042 Square Kms which is divided into 8 Tehsils namely Sawai Madhopur, Gangapur, Bamanwas, Bonli, Khandar, Chauth Ka Barwara, Malarna Dungar, and Vazirpur for purpose of administration.

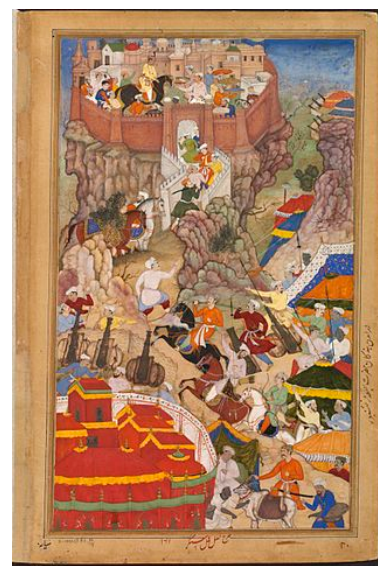
History of Sawai Madhopur:

The early history of Sawai Madhopur originates in Ranthambore fort. The oldest settlements are located near the fort only. According to one popular belief Ranthambore Fort was built by Chauhan Rajput King Sapaldaksha in the year 944 AD, whereas, according to another school of thought the fort was constructed by Chauhan King Jayant in 1110 A.D.

During the course of medieval period, the fort of Ranthambore kept changing hands till 1765, when Mughals handed over the fort to the Jaipur ruler, Sawai Madho Singh.

Brief History of Fort of Ranthambore:

- The Chauhan lost Ranthambore as a result of defeat of Prithviraja III in battle of Tarain 1192. by Mohd. Ghori. But, Prithviraja's son Govindaraja IV accepted the Ghurid suzerainty, and ruled Ranthambore as his vassal.
- The Delhi Sultan Iltutmish captured Ranthambore in 1226, but the Chauhans recaptured it after his death in 1236. In 1299, Maharao Hammir Dev Chauhan sheltered Muhammad Shah, a rebel general of Sultan Ala ud din Khilji, and refused to turn him over to the Sultan. The sultan unsuccessfully besieged



Painting - Akbar's entry to
Ranthambore Fort

the fortress in 1299, but returned in 1301 and captured the fort.

- The fort was captured by the kingdom of Mewar under Rana Hamir Singh (1326–1364) and Rana Kumbha (1433–1468) and later passed to Hada Rulers of Bundi.
- Sultan Bahadur Shah of Gujarat captured the fortress from 1532 to 1535.
- The Mughal Emperor Akbar captured the fort in 1569 and merged Ranthambore with his kingdom. The Mughal rulers ruled the fort till 18th century.

Foundation of Sawai Madhopur:

During the mid 18th centuries the Maratha rulers were gradually gaining power in Western India. In order to check their power, Ruler of Jaipur, Sawai Madho Singh, requested the Mughal king to hand the fort to him but request was not honored. Nevertheless, the **Madho Singh fortified the village of Shergpur and named it after himself, Sawai Madhopur**. Two years later the Mughals handed over the fort to the Jaipur ruler.

During the British Rule Sawai Man Singh built a railway line between Jaipur and Sawai Madhopur. As a result it became accessible from a central spot in the state of Rajasthan.

Historical Places of Sawai Madhopur:

Ranthambore Fort:

Ranthambore Fort was built by the Chauhan rulers in the 10th century. It has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site under the group Hill Forts of Rajasthan. The fort is characterized by temples, tanks, massive gates and huge walls. The fort is well protected by a massive fortification wall provided with stepped and Z-shaped gateway with two strong and massive doors. An architectural marvel, the fort includes includes the Hammir Badi Kachahari, Chhoti Kachahari, Battis Khambha Chhatri, Hamir Palace, Rani Palace, Toran Dwar, Mahadeo Chhatri and Sametonki Haveli within its premises. Among temples, the Ganesa temple is important besides a few Jain temples.



Khandhar Fort:

The imposing Khandhar Fort is a place worth visiting and is situated just 45 kms from Sawai Madhopur. Located on top of a strategic vertical hill, could never come under an easy attack and thus was truly regarded as invincible. This magnificent fortification was long ruled by the Sisodia Kings of Mewar after which it was taken over by the Mughals.



Ghumeshwar Temple

Enshrined in the Puranas, the Ghumeshwar Temple is believed to be 12th or the last of the Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. Situated at the Siwar village in Sawai Madhopur, this temple has many mythological stories weaved around it.



Alanpur Jain Temple:

The early medieval Jaina temple, known as Chamatkarji, is situated outside the city and dedicated to lord Adinatha. The temple compound is enclosed by a modern high parapet wall with small cells all round and is entered from the west. The main shrine is situated in the centre of the courtyard and is enclosed by high wall with entrance in the north. The *garbhagriha* facing east, is *pancharatha* on plan with circumambulatory passage around. The *sikhara* is curvilinear.



Alanpur Baori:

A four line Persian inscription on a rectangular stone slab, fixed in the Ghorri Baori in Alanpur village, belongs to Alauddin Fidan Shah, son of Mahmud Shah Khalji I, Sultan of Malwa. It is dated A.H. 874 (A.D. 1469-70) and records construction of the step-well by Khwaja Jahan son of Bir Ali Turk Khurasani. The slab now broken into four pieces has been taken to the Ranthambhore Fort collection of antiquities.



Fairs & Festivals of Sawai Madhopur:

Ganesh Chaturti Fair:

The Trinetra Ganesha Temple in Ranthambore, is one the most renowned and oldest temples in Rajasthan. Ganesh Chaturthi Fair is the most recognised fair of Sawai Madhopur. It is organised on Bhadav Shukla Chaturthi at Ganesh Temple, in the surrounding of Ranthambhore Fort.



Chauth Mata Fair:

Chauth Mata Fair is organized at Chauth ka Barwara. There is a huge mela organised every year, as per the hindi month magha (Jan – Feb), on the 4th day of the month. This mela lasts for 15 days.

Kaila Devi Fair:

Lakhs of people from different parts of the country come to take part in the Kaila Devi fair of the Karauli district. This fair takes place in the month of April-May Navratras. This beautiful fair in the month of Chaitra witnesses various rituals and activities like KanakDandoti, Mina performers and ladies joining the celebrations.

Shri Mahavirji Fair:

The Shri Mahvirji Fair is held at the Chandangaon village in the memory of BhagawanMahaveer. This fair takes place from Chaitra Shukla Navami to Baisakh Krishna Ekam annually.

Shiv Ratri Fair

An annual fair is held at the Shiv Ratri Ghushmeshwar Mahadeo in village Siwad, 40kms from SawaiMadhopur and 3kms from Isarda Railway Station. It is celebrated with great fervour and gaiety. The entire town dresses up and participates as one. Rituals older than 600 years are still practiced and followed during the fair.

Kalyan Ji Fair

Every year besakh shukla puranmasi this fair is organised at Gangapur City. This fair is organised for Seven days. Thousands of people join this fair.

Geography of Sawai Madhopur:

The district is rectangular in its general shape and falls in the category of the eastern district of the state. It has partly plain and partly undulating hilly terrain. The plain part is fertile and soil in most parts is in light & sandy. South and south east portion of the district comprise hills and broken ground which form a part of a vast track of rugged region enclosing the narrow valley of the Chambal river.

Ranges of Aravalli hills lie in the northern western and southern parts of the district. The height district varies from 450 to 600 meters above sea-level. The highest peak in the north-western Aravali hill located in Bamanwas tehsil is 527 meters high **Bhairan and Utgir** are notable peak in the south of the district.

The **Banas, Moral and Chambal** are the main rivers in the district. The Banas is the largest among them. It is also important to note that no part of the district falls in the category of a desert and also there are no natural springs in the district.

The forest covers an area of about 27.77 % of the total area of the district Dhokara, Khair, Bambu, Neem, Peepal, Sisam etc. are the majors trees of these forest. Major forest products are cooking wood, Charcoal, Tendu leaves, Guegal, Gum, Kattha, Honey etc. A part from these above products one special type of grass known as Khas is also available in abundance in these forest and is used to manufacture Itra & Perfumes etc.

Natural Places of Sawai Madhopur:

Ranthambore National Park:

Situated 14 km from Sawai Madhopur, the Ranthambore Park gets its name from the Ranthambore Fort situated within its boundaries. The National Park, situated amidst the Aravalis and Vindhya ranges is spreads over an area of 392 sq.km of thick forest punctuated with pleasant waterfalls. It is home to the elusive tiger, other animals found here include chinkara, sambhar, cheetal and over 300 species of birds.



Natural Resources/ Minerals of Sawai Madhopur:

The district is enrolled with a variety of mineral resources both metallic and nonmetallic. The metallic minerals include lead, copper and iron ore where as the nonmetallic minerals includes limestone, clays, silica sand and slate. Among other mineral found in the district are laterite, red-oxide, bentonite, barite, manganese sand and bricks clay etc.

Population:

- According to the 2011 census Sawai Madhopur district has a population of 13,38,114.
- The district has a population density of 297 inhabitants per square kilometer.
- Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 19.79%.
- Sawai Madhopur has a sex ratio of 894 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 66.19%.

Chapter 29: Sikar

Location, Area & Administration:

Sikar district is located in the north-eastern part of the state of Rajasthan between 27.21 Degree to 28.12 Degree North Latitude and 74.44 Degree to 75.25 Degree East Longitude. It is bounded on the north by Jhunjhunu district, in the north-west by Churu district, in the south-west by Nagaur district and in the south-east by Jaipur district. It also touches Mahendragarh district of Haryana on its north-east corner.

Sikar has an area of 7742 square Kms which has been divided into 9 tehsils namely Sikar, Laxmangarh, Danta Ramgarh, Neem Ka Thana, Dhod, Khandela, Sri Madhopur, Fatehpur and Ramgarh Shekhawati.

History of Sikar:

Sikar forms part of ancient civilization with both Ganeshwar and Bageshwar (Neem ka Thana), part of pre-Harappan period, being located in Sikar. The primitive name of Sikar was “Veer Bhan Ka Bas” .

During medieval times, Sikar, Churu and Jhunjhunu district comprise of the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan. It was the biggest Thikana (Estate) of the Jaipur State earlier it was known as Nehrawati.

Raja Bahadur Singh Shekhawat, the Raja of Khandela gifted the village (Beer Bhan Ka Bass) to Rao Daulat Singh, son of Rao Jaswant Singh of Kasli Thikana. Rao Daulat Singh changed the name of Veer Bhan Ka Bass village to Sikar in memory of Rao Shekha and constructed a fort here in 1687. In 1721 Daulat Singh's son Shiv Singh became ruler of Sikar.

Rulers of Sikar:

- Rao Daulat Singh (1687/1721)
 - Founded thikana of Sikar
- Rao Shiv Singh (1721/1748)
 - Completed the fort and palaces of Sikar in 1724 and conquered Fatehpur in 1731.
 - Erected the famous Temple of Gopinath Ji.
- Rao Samrath Singh (1748/1754)
- Rao Nahar Singh

- Rao Chand Singh
- Rao Devi Singh
 - Built forts of Raghunathgarh and Deogarh
 - Golden rule in history of Sikar
- Rao Raja Laxman Singh
 - Constructed Laxmangarh Fort
- Rao Raja Ram Pratap Singh
- Rao Raja Bhairon Singh
- Rao Raja Sir Madhav Singh Bahadur (1866/1922)
 - Credit of making huge Victoria Diamonds Jubilee Hall & Madhav Niwas Kothi
 - During the terrible famine in 1899, started many famine relief works, example: 'Madhav Sagar Pond' which was built in 1899.
- Rao Raja Kalyan Singh (1922/1967)
 - Constructed the clock tower as well as the Kalyan Hospital and College for the welfare of public

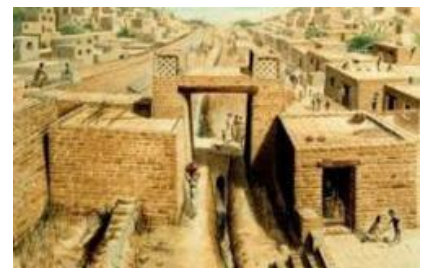
Sikar is a very fascinating and charming place for the tourist. The fresco Painting on the ancient havelies, temples and forts captivate the tourist from abroad. Sikar was the kingdom of royal Shekhawat rajas. Interestingly, three most prominent business homes of the country viz. *Bajajs, Birlas and Goenkas* also belong to the district.

Historical Places of Sikar:

Ganeshwar

Ganeshwar is a village in Neem Ka Thana Tehsil in the Sikar District. Ganeshwar is an ancient site where excavations have revealed the remains of a 4000 years old civilizations.

Historian Ratan Lal Mishra wrote that, when Ganeshwar was excavated in 1977, Red pottery with black portraiture was found which is estimated to be belonging to 2500–2000 BC. Nearly one thousand pieces of copper were found



there. Ganeshwar is located near the copper mines of the Sikar-Jhunjhunu area of the Khetri copper belt in Rajasthan. Excavations revealed copper objects including arrowheads, spearheads, fish hooks, bangles and chisels. With its microliths and other stone tools, Ganeshwar culture can be ascribed to the pre-Harappan period. Ganeshwar mainly supplied copper objects to Harappa.

Harshnath Temple:

The 10th century, Harshnath temple, belonging is located on the Aravalli Hills near Sikar. It is an ancient site containing remnants of old Shiva Temple of 10th Century . Another Shiva temple, constructed in the 18th century by Shiv Singh of Sikar, is situated near the Harshnath temple.



Dargah Huzoor Najam Sirkar

The holy shrine of Hazrat Khwajah Haji Muhammad Najmuddin Sulaimani Chishti, famous as Huzoor Najam Sirkar, is located at Fatehpur Shekhawati District Sikar 165 km away from Jaipur and 55 km from Sikar on N.H. 12.

He belongs to the great *silsilah-e-Chishtiah* and in the 13th century Hijri he played a prominent role in spreading the Silsilah in the all parts of the country.



Laxmangarh Fort:

Laxmangarh town is a popular tourist place that is known for the Laxmangarh Fort. The fort was built on the hill in 1862 by Laxman Singh, Rao Raja of Sikar. It is believed that the foundation of the Laxmangarh town was based on the planning system of the capital city Jaipur.



Haveli's of Laxmangarh:

There are numerous havelis in the town, namely the Sawant Ram Chokhani Haveli, Bansidhar Rathi Haveli, Sanganeria Haveli, Mirijamal Kyala Haveli, Char Chowk Haveli and Kedia Haveli, adorned with fresco paintings in the Shekhawati style.

- The Radhi Murlimanohar temple, constructed in 1845, is popular for the beautiful sculptures of deities on the wall.

Haveli's & Bawdi's of Fatehpur:

Fatehpur is a town in the Sikar which is part of the Shekhawati region. Located on midway between Jaipur and Bikaner (NH-11), Fatehpur is famous for grand havelis with frescos and a number of bawdis. Main attraction of Fatehpur are :-

- Sitaram Kedia Ki Haveli
- Jagannath Singhanian Haveli
- Saraf Haveli
- The Nadine Le Prince Cultural Centre
- The Dwarkadheesh Temple
- Qureshi Farms



Fairs & Festivals of Sikar:

Gangaur:

Gangaur is the one of the most colorful and important festivals of Rajasthan and is observed throughout the state with great fervor and devotion by women who worship Gauri, the consort of Lord Shiva during March–April. The festival commences on the first day of chaitra, the day following Holi and continues for 16 days. For a newly-wedded girl, it is binding to



observe the full course of 18 days of the festival that succeeds her marriage. Even unmarried girls fast for the full period of the 18 days and eat only one meal a day.

Teej:

Teej is the festival of swings. and marks the advent of the monsoon month of Shravan (August). This festival is dedicated to the Goddess Parvati, commemorating her union with Lord Shiva. Goddess Parvati is worshipped by seekers of conjugal bliss and happiness. The traditional *Ghevar* sweet is also associated with the festival. The day before Haryali Teej, is celebrated as *Sinjara*, wherein women put mehendi on their hands and eat *Ghevar*.



Khatu Shyamji Fair:

Khatu Shyam is famous Shyamji temple built with white marbles with water ponds for holy dip and Shyam garden. Khatushyamji is located 65 Km. away from Sikar & 80 Km. from Jaipur via Reengus. The Khatu Shyamji Fair is held in the months of February and March and various forms of dance, art and music are displayed. An annual fair is also held between the Phalgun Sudi Dashmi and Dwadeshi, lasting for three days.



Jeena Mata Fair:

Jeenmata is located in Jeenmata Village at a distance of 29 km from Sikar town in south direction. There is an ancient Temple dedicated to Jeen Mata. A colourful festival held twice in a year in the month of Chaitra and Ashvin during the Navratri which is attended by a large number of devotees.



Geography of Sikar:

The general shape of the district is of an irregular crescent or a bowl. The district can be broadly divided into three natural divisions namely:

- The desert area in the north western portion
- The semi desert area with hillocks on the central portion
- The undulating and hilly area in north and north eastern portion.

The major part of the district is a sandy tract but it is more so towards the north of Sikar which forms a part of the great Indian desert. It is identified by waste land and Sand-dunes.

The hills in the eastern part of district forms part of the Aravalli ranges, which run from North-East to South-West direction. These ranges divide the district in two equal parts and also prevent sand-dunes from western part to travel to eastern part. Area south of Khandela in Sri Madhopur tehsil in central portion of district is an undulating plain.

There are no perennial rivers in the district. But there are five streams namely, Kantli, Mandha, Doha, Sabi and Krishnawati.

Mineral Resources of Sikar:

Sikar district is endowed with some important mineral deposits of the state. It has vast resources of pyrite near Saladipura and lime stone in Neem- ka -Thana areas. Other minerals available in the district are copper, iron, calcite, beryllium, fluorspar, feldspar and barytes.

The details of mineral deposits are given below.

Copper:

Copper mineralization occurs as parallel zones from Mothoka in the north to Ahirwala in the south. Copper – molybdenum mineralisation has been reported from Tejjwala--Ahirwala, Chiplata prospects. In Tejjwala block 0.5 million tonnes reserves with 0.5% Cu have been estimated.

Pyrite

Pyrite deposit are located about 1.5 km. north west of Saladipura village which is 120 km. from Jaipur via Sri Madhopur.

Beryllium (Beryl)

The occurrences of beryl are reported from Torda, Buchara, Churla and Sanwalpura areas in Bairath tehsil.

Feldspar

Green variety of feldspar has been obtained from Kachrada mica mines in Torawati area and the soda feldspars have been obtained from the granite pegmatites of Buchara area as a by product of beryl mining.

Soap Stone

Impure talc occur near Dariba about 20 kms. from Neem-ka- Thana railway station.

Fluorspar

Fluorspar mineralisation is found to occur around Salwari (Chokri) village in 10 kms. area.

Iron Ore

Iron deposits are found in Dabla, Thoi, Neema ka Thana area. Neem ka Thana includes two deposits deposits (i) **Bagoli Sarai- Papra- Pachlangi** area and (ii) **Raipur- Nanawas- Toda Chiplata** area.

Phosphate

Phosphate occurs in form of apatite. The apatite deposit is located near **Kerpura Salwari** village in rocks of Delhi Super group and Post Delhi intrusives.

Calcite

The minerals occurs near Maonda Village. Two important quarries viz. the Bhilkajiwali and Bada khet in this locality have given good production.

Barytes

Barytes deposits are located about 2 km. NE and SSW of the villages Kharakbingpur and Naroda respectively.

Lime Stone

Lime stone deposits are found to occur in and around Patan (from Daulatpura to Balupra through Rampura and Jhamas), Maonda(Sikarwari, Kala Khokhra, Lamba Marhi, Dhamani hill, Kali-Pahari villages).

Marble

Marble (dolomitic limestone) bands occur at places near Kotri, Kerpura, Karoi, Kotriluharwas etc. villages in SriMadhopur tehsil and Rajampura Kalyanpura etc. areas in Neem ka Thana tehsil. These are white, Pink to grey in colour, fine to medium grained.

Granite

Important places are Dabla, Jeetala, Kharbipura, Ajitgarh, Sirohi, Saladipura and Chapoli. The colour is mostly light earthy to pinkish with red garnet spots. It is mostly medium to coarse grained forming an overall granular texture. Some famous varieties are Ajitgarh Grey & Ajitgarh White.

Population:

According to the census of 2011, Sikar has population of 26,77,737. The district has a population density of 346 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 17.04%. Sikar has a sex ratio of 944 females for every 1000 males and a literacy rate of 72.98%.

Chapter 30: Sirohi

Location, Area & Administration:

Sirohi district is situated in the south-west part of Rajasthan between 24°20' and 25°17' North Latitude and 72°16' and 73°10' East Longitude. It is bounded by district Pali in the north-east, district Udaipur in the east, Jalore in the west and Banaskantha district of Gujarat in the south.

Sirohi has an area of 5136 sq. kms which is divided into 5 tehsils namely Sirohi, Sheoganj, Pindwara, Abu Road and Reodar for administration purposes.

History of Sirohi:

The Name Sirohi had been derived from Siranwa hills on the Western Slope of which it stands. In 1405, **Rao Sobha Ji** (Sixth in descent from Rao Deoraj, the Progenitor of the Deora Clan of Chauhans) founded a town Shivpuri on eastern slope of Siranwa hill which is called KHUBA.

Sehastramal, the son of Rao Sobha ji founded the present city SIROHI on western slope and laid foundation stone of the Sirohi fort on second day of Vaisakh in the year 1482 (V.S.) i.e. 1425 (A.D.) on the top the present town of Sirohi and made it his Capital which lies on the Western Slope of the Siranwa hills, later all the area under Deoras came to be known as Sirohi.

After Independence an agreement was signed between Central Government and minor ruler of Sirohi State, with this the State Administration of the Sirohi State was taken over by Bombay Government from 5th January 1949 to 25th January 1950. The first administrator representing a bombay state was Prema Bhai Patel. After final merger with Rajasthan in 1950, an area of 787 Sq. Km. consisting of Aburoad and Delwara tehsils of Sirohi district was renamed with the Bombay State on 01, Nov. 1956, after the recommendation of the State organisation Commission, which forms the present position of the district

Rulers of Sirohi State:

Raos

- Durjan Singh – 1697 – 1705
- Umaid Singh I – 1705 – 1749

- Prithvi Singh – 1749 – 1773
- Takhat Singh – 1773 – 1781
- Jagat Singh – 1773 – 1782
- Verisalji II – 1782 – 1808
- Udaibhan Singh – 1808 – 1847
- Sheo Singh -Regent – 1847 – 1862
- Umaid Singh -Regent – 1861 – 1862
- Umaid Singh II – 8 Dec 1862 – 16 Sep 1875
- Keshri Singh – 16 Sep 1875 – 1 Jul 1889

Maha Raos

- Keshri Singh – 1 Jul 1889 – 29 Apr 1920
- Sarup Ram Singh – 29 Apr 1920 – 23 Jan 1946
- Tej Ram Singh – 5 May 1946 – 15 Aug 1947
- Maharani Krishna – 5 May 1946 – 15 Aug 1947.

Geography of Sirohi:

Sirohi district is broken up by hills and rocky ranges. The granite massif of Mount Abu divides the district into two portions, running from north-east to south-west. The south and south-east part of the district, which lies between Mount Abu and the main spine of the Aravallis, is mountainous and rugged, and is drained by the West Banas River. Abu Road, a station on the main Delhi-Ahmedabad rail line, lies in the valley of the West Banas. Dry deciduous forest is common in this part of the district, and the higher elevations of Mount Abu are covered in conifer forests.

The portion of the district west and north of Mount Abu is drier, lying in the rain shadow of the mountain, which blocks the southwest monsoon. The southwest corner of the district is drained by the Sukri river, an intermittent stream that drains the western slope of Mount Abu. The northwestern

portion of the district is drained by tributaries of the Luni River. The Northwestern thorn scrub forests cover the western and northern portion of the district.

Major Rivers: Jawai, Sukhadi, Khari, Bodi, Krishnavati, Kapalganga, and Banas.

Major Dams: Banas, Oda, Danta, Chandela, Girwar, Niboda, Javal, KarodiDwaj, and Angor.

Major Crops: Millets, Pulses, Sesame, and Red Chillies.

Natural Resources of Sirohi:

The Sirohi district is full of minerals therefore the industries based on minerals were developed rapidly.

PRODUCTION OF MINERAL 2010-11

S.NO.	NAME OF MINERAL	PRODUCTION in tones 2010-2011
1.	LIME STONE(Cement Grade)	11400211
2.	Calcite	83163
3.	Wollestonite	124744
4.	Masonry stone	654150
5.	Granite	51371
6.	Marble Block & Khanda	231060
7.	Lime stone (Crucher)	455109

Population

According to the 2011 census Sirohi district has a population of 10,37,185. The district has a population density of 202 inhabitants per square kilometer. Sirohi has a sex ratio of 938 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 56.02%.

Chapter 31: Sri Ganganagar

Location, Area & Administration:

Sri Ganganagar District is the norther most district of Rajasthan, located between Latitude 28.4 to 30.6 and Longitude 72.2 to 75.3. It is surrounded on the east by Hanumangarh District, (Hanumangarh district was carved out of it on July 12, 1994) on the south by Bikaner District, and on the west by Bahawalnagar district of the Pakistani Punjab and on the north by the Punjab.

The total area of Sri Ganganagar is 7984 Square KMs which is divided into 9 tehsils namely , Sri Ganganagar, Sri Karanpur, Sadulshahar, Padampur, Raisinghnagar, Suratgarh, Anoopgarh, Shri Vijaynagar and. Gharsana.

History of Sri Ganganagar:

Sri Ganganagar is a planned city, named after Maharaja Shri Ganga Singh Bahadur, Maharaja of Bikaner.

In the **ancient times**, two rivers hallowed in Vedic hymns viz. Saraswati (modern Ghaggar or Hakra) and Drishadvati, flowed through this territory. Excavations undertaken at Kalibanga and Rangmahal etc. situated on the bank of the dry-beds of these rivers have proved that the Indus valley civilization had extended upto this place and it was inhabited by the people akin to those who had flourished at Mohenjodaro and Harappa. The rivers, however, dried up in course of time and as a result of this natural calamity the region became inhospitable and desolate.

The medieval history of Sriganganagar is common with the history of Bikaner. Rao Bika, the son of Rao Jodha who was the founder of Jodhpur, established Bikaner in 1488. The territory of modern Sriganganagar district has been a part of the princely state of Bikaner. Along with the other parts of Bikaner state, the area under the Nizamat of Sriganganagar went into the making of the state of Rajasthan.

Historical Places of Sri Ganganagar:

Anoopgarh Fort

Anoopgarh Fort is a ruin in the city of Anoopgarh. It was built by Anoop Singh Rathore.

Laila Majnu Tomb

The tomb (mazar) of Laila-Majnu at Binjaur village is situated near Anoopgarh city 11 km away from Anoopgarh on the western side. Many people associate this Mazar (mausoleum) with fictional and legendary lovers Laila and Majnu. According to the traditional belief Laila-Majnun were from Sindh and came to this place escaping from the clutches of Laila's parents and her brother who were against the love of Laila-Majnun. Laila and Majnu died here and were buried together at this place. Thus this place became a symbol of love and people come here to seek blessings from Laila and Majnu. A fair is held here in June which is attended by hundreds of newlyweds and lovers.

Bror Village

The ruins of the Indus Valley Civilisation are found here. It is located on Anoopgarh-Ramsinghpur road.

Gurudwara Buddha Johad Sahib

The historical Gurudwara of Buddha Johad, the great religious shrine of the Sikhs, is situated 75 kms away to the south-west of Sriganganagar. This is a place where Bhai Sukha Singh and Mehtab Singh brought the head of Massa Rangarh (guilty of sacrilege of the Amritsar Golden Temple) and hung it on a tree on August 11, 1740. This huge Gurudwara has 22 pillars at every floor.

Geography of Sri Ganganagar

Sriganganagar district is a plain region of the vast Thar desert land. It has sandy soil in the west dotted with 4-5 metre high sand dunes. The northern part of the district is mostly covered with forest. The average height of the district from the sea level is 168 to 227 metres.

There remains much climatic variation in Sriganganagar district throughout the year. It is an arid region with very low rainfall. The winter season extends from November to March, the summer season from April to June, rainy season from July to mid-September, and post-monsoon season from mid-September to October.

The average annual rainfall of the district is 20.70 cm. The maximum temperature in summer is 48.4°C and the minimum temperature in winter is 0.6°C. As a result there are scorching heat waves in summer and biting cold waves in winter in the whole district.

Chapter 32: Tonk

Location, Area & Administration:

The district of Tonk is located between latitudes 25°42' to 26°34' and longitudes 75°07' to 76°19'. It is bounded in north by Jaipur district, in the east by Sawai Madhopur district and in the south by Bundi, Kota and Bhilwara districts.

Tonk has an area of 7194 Sq. kms. and comprises six tehsils namely, Malpura, Niwai, Deoli, Tonk, Uniara and Toda Rajsingh.

History of Tonk:

The history of Tonk is very old as it is connected with Bairath culture & civilization. It was known as SAMWAD LAKSHYA in Mahabharat period. In the regime of Mauryas, it is under mauryas then it was merged in to Malvas. Most of the part was under Harsh Vardhan.

In the regime of Rajputs, the parts of this state are under Chavras, Solankis, Kachvahs, Sisodiyas and Chouhans. Later during Mughal period, Jaipur's King Man Singh conquered Tari & Tokra Janpad in the regime of Akbar. In 1643 twelve village of Tokra janpad were given to Bhola Brahmin. Later Bhola gave a name to these twelve villages as 'Tonk'.

Later, it was under the regime of King Holkar and Sindhia.

In 1806, Amir Khan conquered it from Balvant Rao Holkar. Later, British government gained it from Amir Khan. As per the treaty of 1817, British government returned it to Amir Khan. ON 25th March 1948, when Nawab Mohd. Ismile Ali Khan was the ruler; Tonk was merged in to Rajasthan including an area of Tonk and Aligarh Tehsils of old Tonk State Newai. Malpura, Toda Raisingh and Uniara of Jaipur State, Deoli of Ajmer, Marwar and 27 villages of Bundi.

Tonk has been called Rajasthan ka Lucknow, Adab ka Gulshan, Romantic poet Akhtar Shreerani ki Nagri, Meethe Kharboojo ka Chaman, Hindu Muslim Ekta ka Maskan and as result of which Tonk could keep an isolated status in Rajasthan.

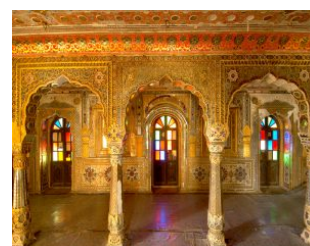
Historical Places of Tonk:

Arabic Persian Research Institute

Arabic Persian Research Institute in Tonk is the premier Indian Institute engaged in promotion and furtherance of Arabic and Persian studies. This institute was established by the Government of Rajasthan in 1978 with the objective of preserving and conserving the sources of Persian and Arabic Manuscripts available in Rajasthan.

Sunhari Kothi

Sunhari Kothi (Mansion of Gold) is a magnificent hall, built by Nawab Mohammed Ibarahim Ali Khan (1867-1930), the Nawab of Tonk. The hall is within the old palace complex, white walls and ceilings are one sumptuous expanse of enamel mirror-work, gilt and painted glass illuminated through stained-glass windows. The entire effect is that of an exquisite piece of enamel jewellery blown up to the size of a hall.



Hathi Bhata

Carved out from a single stone this is a stone elephant which attracts tourists from all over to this place.

Bisaldeo Temple & Bisalpur Dam

Bisalpur or Vighrahapura was founded by the Chahamana ruler Vighraharaja IV in the twelfth century A.D. Bisalpur was preceded by a still older city called Vanapura, which seems to have been ruled by the Takshakas (Nagas) of Todarai Singh. The importance of Bisalpur is due to its temple of Gokarnesvara, also known as Bisal Deoji's temple, constructed by Vighraharaja IV or Visala, who was a devotee of Gokarna. The temple (22.20 m x 15.30 m) has a pancharatha sanctum, antarala, square mandapa and portico with sikhara. The sanctum enshrines a linga. The temple surmounted by a hemispherical dome, is supported on eight tall pillars carved on the lower section with floral festoons, chain-and-bell and circular medallions. There are several short inscriptions which record the visit of pilgrims from time to



time. The earliest of these is dated A.D. 1154-65 and the inscription is important for mentioning the Chahamana chief Prithviraja III.

Hadi Rani Baori, Todrai Singh

The step-tank is rectangular on plan with double-storeyed corridors on the western side, each having arched doorway. Below the lower storey, there are images of Brahma, Ganesa and Mahishasuramardini which are enshrined in niches. On all the three sides, steps are arranged in sets of thirteen each at higher level and five each at lower level, going up to the water level. It is datable to *circa* twelfth-thirteenth century A.D.



Diggi Kalyan ji, Temple

This is a very old temple, the antiquity of which is fabulous. The pinnacle of the temple (Shikhar) is magnificent. There are sixteen pillars supporting the Shikhar which has become extremely attractive because of the statuettes incured thereon. The Sanctum Sanctorum, circumbulatory path, Jagmohan there in are a fine example of elegant architecture in marble. Adjacent is the temple Laxmi Narayan Ji. On the front gateway beautiful figures and statuettes have been incured.



Geography of Tonk:

Tonk district has the shape of kite or rhombus with its eastern and western sides bending some what inward and the south-eastern portion protruding between Sawai Madhopur and Bundi districts. The district is flat at a general elevation of about 214.32 meters above sea level with rocky but scrubby hills.

The district mainly comprises a flat peneplain with thick alluvium cover. The Rajkot Baneta hills in the eastern part of Rajmahal- Toda Raisingh ridge in the southern part of the district with isolated hills, Tordi and Chansen are the main hill ranges of district.

Banas is the only perennial river which flows through the district. It enters Tonk district at Negdia in Deoli Tehsil and from this place it takes serpentine course, diving the district in roughly two third to its west and north and one third to its east and south. Its total length is 400 Kms.

Manshi the principal tributary of Banas travels along the borders of Jaipur and Tonk district between the Tehsils of Malpura and Phagi unitl it turns south to join the Banas at Galod village. The **Sohadra** is

another important river as it feeds the Tordi sagar Tank, the biggest irrigation tank in Rajasthan. It joins Mashi near village Dundia and thereafter meets, Banas River near village Galod. Other small river are khari, Daian , Bandi and Galwa which join Banas and Mashi river at Negdia , Bisalpur , Chaturpura and Chouth-ka-Barwara respectively.

Natural Resources of Tonk:

Tonk district is known on the mineral map of the state for its important occurrences of garnet and aquamarine. Other important mineral occurrences of the district are silica sand, mica, andalusite, corundum, soapstone and building stones.

Aquamarine

Aquamarine is one of the semiprecious varieties of beryl with sea-green to greenish blue in colour and transparent in nature. The occurrences of aquamarine are found near Toda Raisingh, Bagre, Rampura, Jhonparia, Botunda, Tharel and Hamirpur areas. It is found within or at the contact of pegmatite with the schist.

Garnet

Tonk district enjoyed top position in Rajasthan in the production of gem garnet. The almandine variety of gem garnet is found between Rajmahal and Kalyanpura through Bisalpur. Many of the garnet quarries now fall into the catchment area of Bisalpur Dam.

Population:

According to the 2011 census Tonk district has a population of 1,421,711. The district has a population density of 198 inhabitants per square kilometer. Its population growth rate over the decade 2001-2011 was 17.33%. Tonk has a sex ratio of 949 females for every 1000 males, and a literacy rate of 62.46%.

Chapter 33: Udaipur

Location, Area & Administration:

Udaipur, more famous as *City of Lakes* & *Venice of East* is 24.58 degrees N. latitude and 73.68 degrees E. Longitude. Udaipur is bordered by Rajsamand district in north, Chittorgarh & Pratapgarh district in the east, Banswara District in the southeast by, Dungarpur in south and Gujarat is south-east direction, Sirohi in West & Pali in North-west.

Udaipur has an area of 13,883 square kms which has been divided into 12 tehsils namely: Mavli , Gogunda, Kotda, Jhadol, Girwa, Vallabhnagar, Lasadiya, Salumber, Sarada, Rishabhdeo, Kherwara & Semari.

History of Udaipur:

The present city of Udaipur as founded in 1559 by Maharana Udai Singh II as a new capital of the Mewar kingdom. However, the history of Udaipur is of considerable antiquity in form AHAR civilization that flourished in the vicinity of Berach River.

The **Ahar culture**, also known as the Banas culture is a Chalcolithic archaeological culture of southeastern Rajasthan state in India, lasting from c.3000 to 1500 BCE, contemporary and adjacent to the Indus Valley Civilization. Situated along the Banas and Berach Rivers, as well as the Ahar River, the Ahar-Banas people were exploiting the copper ores of the Aravalli Range to make axes and other artefacts. They were sustained on a number of crops, including wheat and barley.

The present city of Udaipur was founded in 1559 by Maharana Udai Singh II in the fertile circular Girwa Valley to the southwest of Nagda, on the Ahar River. In November 1567, the Mughal emperor Akbar laid siege to the venerated fort of Chittor. To protect Udaipur from External attacks, Maharana Udai Singh built a six kilometre long city wall, with seven gates, namely Surajpole, Chandpole, Udiapole, Hathipole, Ambapole, Brahmpole and so on. The area within these walls and gates is still known as the old city or the walled city.

As the Mughal empire weakened, the Sisodia rulers, reasserted their independence and recaptured most of Mewar except for Chittor. Udaipur remained the capital of the state, which became a princely state of British India in 1818.

Rulers of Udaipur:

Rana's before Rana Udai Singh II appear in genealogy of Chittorgarh as Chittorgarh was the previous seat of Government. Both Chittorgarh & Udaipur form part of State of Mewar. The subsequent rulers, when seat of government was Udaipur are mentioned as under:

- **Udai Singh II (1540–1572)**

- 1540, he was crowned in Kumbhalgarh by the nobles of Mewar.
- Maharana Pratap born in same year (9th May-1540)
- In 1562, he gave refuge to Baz Bahadur of Malwa. Using this as a pretext, Akbar attacked Mewar in October 1563.
- Udai Singh retired to Gogunda.
- Rao Jaimal & Patta – fought with Valor – even Akbar impressed – statute erected at Fatehpur Sikri
- Jauhar- 3rd Jauhar of Chittor (1568)
- Founded city of Udaipur.

- **Maharana Pratap (9th May 1540- 29 Jan 1597)**

- Pratap Jayanti, is celebrated annually on the 3rd day of the Jyestha Shukla.
- 1576-Akbar deputed Man Singh I against Maharana Pratap – 18 June 1576- Battle of Haldighati – Pratap defeated.
- Slowly, Pratap recovered many of the territories, made **Chavand**
- Tod, the famous British antiquarian, gave Pratap the title of 'Leonidas of Rajasthan'.

- **Amar Singh I (1597-1620)**

- Born 1559, same year as Udaipur foundation laid by Udai Singh.
- Amar Singh fought with Jehangir
- Battle of Dewar – showed great bravery – killed commander sultan.
- Finally, made peace with Jehangir – treaty negotiated by Shah Jehan – Amar Singh was relieved of making in person presence to Mughal court.

- **Karan Singh II (1620–1628)**
 - **Jagat Singh I (1628–1652)**
 - Made jag Mandir in Lake Pichola
 - **Raj Singh I (1652–1680)**
 - Made Rajsamand
 - **Jai Singh (1680–1698)**
 - Treaty with Aurangzeb
 - Made Lake Jaisamand
 - Amar Singh II (1698–1710)
 - Sangram Singh II (1710–1734)
 - Jagat Singh II (1734–1751)
 - Pratap Singh II (1751–1754)
 - Raj Singh II (1754–1762)
 - Ari Singh II (1762–1772)
 - Hamir Singh II (1772–1778)
 - Bhim Singh (1778–1828)
 - Jawan Singh (1828–1838)
 - **Shambhu Singh (1861–1874)**
 - Adopted son of Maharana Swarup Singh
 - He was the first to set up a school for girls and thus promoted opportunities of education for everyone.
 - He enforced special measures to curb the Sati pratha
 - **Sajjan Singh (1874–1884)**
 - Cousin – was adopted by Maharana Shambhu Singh.
-

- **Fateh Singh (1884–1930)**

- Adopted by Sajjan Singh
- Built Cannuaght dam on Lake Dewali – now named FatehSagar
- Built Fateh Prakash Palace in Chittorgarh fort
- Only Maharaja to not attend the Delhi Durbar, both of 1903 and 1911.

- **Bhupal Singh (1930–1947)**

- On 28 July 1921, following some social unrest in Mewar, Fateh Singh was formally deposed – Bhupal Singh made ruler.
- On 18 April 1948 he became Rajpramukh of Rajasthan and from 1 April 1949 his title was raised to Maha Rajpramukh.

Historical Places of Udaipur:

Udaipur City Palace:

City Palace, Udaipur, was built over a period of nearly 400 years, with contributions from several rulers of the Mewar dynasty. Construction began in 1553, started by Maharana Udai Singh II of the Sisodia Rajput family as he shifted his capital from the erstwhile Chittor to the new found city of Udaipur.



Lake Palace:

Now a hotel, The Lake Palace was originally called Jag Niwas Palace and served as a summer palace. Built between 1743 and 1746 on the island near Jagmandir Palace in Lake Pichola, the palace, which faces east, is a wondrous sight to behold. The walls made of black and white marbles are adorned by semi-precious stones and ornamented niches. Gardens, fountains, pillared terraces and columns line its courtyards.



Jag Mandir:

Jag Mandir is a palace built on an island on the Lake Pichola. Also called the 'Lake Garden Palace', the construction for this began in 1551 and was completed around 1652. The royal family used the palace as its summer resort and for hosting parties. Interestingly, Prince Khurram – later Emperor Shah Jahan – was given shelter here when he rebelled against his father Emperor Jahangir. The palace had such an impact on Emperor Shah Jahan that it went on to become the inspiration for one of the most magnificent Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal.



Monsoon Palace (SajjanGarh)

This 19th century palace is built by Maharana Sajjan Singh on top of Bansdara Mountain. Built with white marble, the palace offers a panoramic view of the city's lakes, palaces and surrounding countryside.



Jagdish Temple:

An example of the Indo-Aryan style of architecture, Jagdish Temple was built in 1651 and continues to be one of the most famous temples in Udaipur. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the structure is an architectural marvel with carved pillars, graceful ceilings and painted walls. This three-storied temple was built by Maharana Jagat Singh.



Ahar Musuem:

Ahar Museum is in close proximity to an impressive cluster of cenotaphs of the Maharanas of Mewar. The museum has a small, but rare collection of earthen pottery. You can also browse through sculptures and archaeological finds, a few dating back to 1700 BC. A 10th century metal figure of Buddha is a special attraction here.

Udaipur Fairs & Festivals:

The dynamic and vibrant dances of Bhavai, Ghoomar, Kachchhi Ghodi, Kalbeliya and Terahtaali add a sparkle to the rich cultural heritage of Udaipur.

- **Ghoomar**- dance is a part of the tribal culture of the Mewar Region of Rajasthan. This is a community dance for women and performed on auspicious occasions where the ladies move gracefully in circles.
- **Kalbelia**, one of the most sensuous dance forms of Rajasthan, is performed by the Kalbeliya snake charmers' community with the sapera dancers wearing long, black skirts embroidered with silver ribbons.
- **Bhavai dance** consists of veiled women dancers balancing up to seven or nine brass pitchers as they dance nimbly, pirouetting and then swaying with the soles of their feet perched on the top of a glass or on the edge of the sword
- **Kachchhi Ghodi** dance is performed on dummy horses where men in elaborate costumes ride the equally well decorated dummy horses. Holding naked swords, these dancers move rhythmically to the beating of drums and fifes.

Gangaur Festival

Gangaur is one of the most important local festivals in Rajasthan. It is celebrated in the month of Chaitra (March–April), the first month of the Hindu calendar. On the eve of Gangaur festival, women decorate their palms and fingers with henna. Udaipur has the privilege of having a dedicated Ghat named after Gangaur. Gangaur Ghat or Gangori Ghat is situated on the waterfront of Lake Pichola. This ghat serves as prime location for celebration of multiple festivals, including Gangaur festival. The idols of Gan and Gauri are immersed in the Lake Pichola from this ghat.

A traditional procession of Gangaur commences from the City Palace which passes through various areas of the city. The procession is headed by an old palanquins, chariots, bullock carts and performance by folk artistes.

Shilpgram Utsav

Shilpgram, a crafts village 3 km west of Lake Fateh Sagar, has displays of traditional houses from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra. There are also demonstrations by musicians, dancers, or

artisans from these states. The 10-day festival organised here in the month of December-January which is a treat for the visitor to an array of exquisite art and craft.

Hariyali Amavasya

Hariyali Amavasya (new moon day of the Sawan / Shravan month) marks the beginning of the monsoons and greenery. It arrives three days before the famous Hartalika Teej (Shravan Shukla Tritiya). People worship God Shiva for abundant rains and good agricultural season. Melas and fests are arranged in several places in the city.

Jagannath Rath Yatra

In Udaipur, the third biggest Ratha-Yatra is organised on the auspicious day of Ashadh Shukla Paksha (bright fortnight) Dwitiya according to Indian Vikram Samvat.

Jal-Jhulni Ekadashi

According to the Hindu calendar, Gyaras, or Ekadashi is basically, the 11th day of each waxing (Shukla paksha) and waning moon (Krishna paksha). This ekadashi, known as Jal-Jhulni Gyaras, or Jal-Jhulni Ekadashi, like all other festivals, is celebrated with great enthusiasm in Udaipur.

Geography of Udaipur:

Udaipur with its lakes lies on the south slope of the Aravalli Range in Rajasthan. The Northern part of the district consists generally of elevated plateaus, while the eastern part has vast stretches of fertile plains. The southern part is covered with rocks, Hills and dense Forest. There are two important passages in the Aravali ranges viz. Desuri Nal and Saoke which serves as a link between Udaipur and Jodhpur District.

The Udaipur Lake System can be divided into the following categories:

- Upper lakes: Lake Badi, Chhota Madar & Bada Madar.

- City Lakes: Lake Pichola, Fateh Sagar Lake, Swaroop Sagar, Rang Sagar, Kumharia Talab, Goverdhan Sagar.
- Downstream Lake: Udaisar Lake.
- River: Ahar River.

Natural Places of Udaipur:

Doodh Talai, Udaipur

The road that takes visitors to Pichola Lake has another popular destination – the Doodh Talai Lake. The lake is nestled between several small hillocks which themselves are tourist attractions. The Deen Dayal Upadhyay Park and the Manikya Lal Verma Garden are part of the Doodh Talai Lake Garden.



Fateh Sagar Lake, Udaipur

This delightful lake, bordered by hills and woodlands, lies to the north of Lake Pichola. This artificial lake is connected to Lake Pichola by a canal. The lake houses the beautiful Nehru Island as well as an islet on which stands the Udaipur Solar Observatory. It was inaugurated by the Duke of Connaught and was initially called Connaught Bundh.



Jaisamand Lake, Udaipur

Jaisamand Lake is known for being the second largest man-made sweet water lake in Asia. It is popular among the locals as a weekend picnic destination. Locals say that the lake was constructed to halt the waters of Ruparel River. This lake boasts of a large island, which is home to various species of birds, at its centre.



Pichola Lake, Udaipur

Pichola was the name of a village that was submerged and lent its name to the lake when it was expanded. The islands of Jag Niwas and Jag Mandir are housed in this lake. Along the eastern banks of the lake lies the City Palace. A boat ride in the lake around sunset offers a breathtaking view of the Lake and City Palaces.



Udai Sagar Lake, Udaipur

Udai Sagar Lake is one of the five striking lakes situated in Udaipur. Located about 13 kilometres to the east of Udaipur, the construction of this lake was started in 1559 by Maharana Udai Singh. The lake is actually a result of a dam being built on the river Berach to supply adequate water to the Maharana's kingdom. Udai Sagar Lake is 4 kms in length, 2.5 kilometres in width and about 9 meters at its deepest.



Sajjangarh Biological Park

Located within parameters of city boundary, Sajjangarh wildlife park has different varieties of animals and birds which have been brought from different parts of world. At present, it houses 60 animals of 21 species including tigers, panthers, lions, ostriches, alligators, rhesus monkeys etc.

Natural Resources of Udaipur:

The mining activity in the Udaipur is known since 14th century when the mining and smelting of lead and zinc was started in Zawar area.

The district is endowed with metallic as well as non metallic mineral wealth, the important are lead-zinc, copper, rock phosphate, soapstone, limestone, barytes, marble etc. In the field of gemstones, the district has shown potential for emerald. It is the leading producer of rock phosphate in the country. Among other minerals like lead-zinc, soapstone, green and pink marble, it has an important place. In

the state, Udaipur district holds 1st position as far as the sale value of mineral production is concerned and is the 11th mineral revenue earning district.

Population:

According to the 2011 census, the total urban population of Udaipur district was 608,426. and the population density was 262/km².