

## ENHANCEMENT OF TOURISM IN BIKANER CONCERNMENT TO RED SANDSTONE MONUMENTS OF THE CITY

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### THE INCUBATION OF TOURISM IN RAJASTHAN SPECIAL CONCERNMENT TO STRONGHOLDS, PALACES: HAVELIS & CHHATTRIS

Endowed with unbleached beauty and tremendous history Rajasthan has a flourishing tourism industry. It's one of the most renowned tourist destination in India for both native & foreign tourists. It captivates tourist for its extensive forts, splendourous palaces, elegant & glowing havelis & memorable architecture of Chhatris.

The Fort construction affiliate with 8 forum of architecture & included in the last one<sup>1</sup> a fort accommodated by palaces, temples, ponds houses and the local bazars from inside (a small town) that means these forts worked as defence<sup>2</sup>, to collect essential goods<sup>3</sup>, and gave shelter to masses and their animals & assets during war time.<sup>4</sup>

However most of the forts were built at medieval time, so influence of Islamic architecture<sup>5</sup> can be seen clearly.<sup>6</sup> The main strongholds of Rajasthan are Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Junagarh (BKN), and Meharangarh etc.

Compatible to the other states of India, Construction of palaces on a massive scale took place in Rajasthan, which are not only eminent by the vision of architecture, but also very good from the point of technology such as Hawamahal of Jaipur, Lallgarh Palace of Bikaner Amber Palace etc.

The enormous house structure<sup>7</sup> which is the best example of Home architecture called a Haveli or Haili<sup>8</sup> in Rajasthan. The alluring part of a Haveli is "Jharokha" which generally 3 x 6 in measurement & a solid stone stripe attached underneath.

The chhatris also plays a great role to fascinate tourists towards Rajasthan. The main attraction of a chhattri is its pillars, which denotes the Architecture of vivid historical era.

### ENHANCEMENT OF TOURISM IN BIKANER: RELEVANT TO RED STONE BUILDINGS OF CITY

Deep in the solace of the "Thar Desert" is situated the "Jangal Country or Desha" meaning a no man's country being corsed by occasional carvans or half-wild nomads. This "Jangal Desha" also got a refrence in the great Indian epic "Mahabharata"<sup>9</sup>, cotains in its ambit an endless series of beautiful waves of natural sand dunes and behind those waves of sand dunes lays one of the most beautiful & interesting centre of later Indian art called "Bikaner".

The state of Bikaner was founded in 15<sup>th</sup> century by Rao Bika<sup>10</sup> & he was also the first ruler of the state. bikaner was ruled by several rulers to be precise 22 rulers after the demise of Rao Bika.

This whole division immensely ambellish with art & architecture, and various tourist attraction which attracts a huge amount of tourist from all over the world.

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Originally the art & architecture of Bikaner got the Patronage from Monarchy as well as rich and affluent class. It would not be out of place to mention the fact that it was only this class of Bikaner who predominantly contributed towards construction of all the Havelies. We can divide architecture of Bikaner into two main parts.

## **UNDER MONARCHY**

Under this the main construction were Junagarh fort, Lallgarh Palace, Chhattres etc.

**Junagarh Fort** was built by Maharaja Rai Singh (1589-1594)<sup>11</sup> This fort was built on a flat piece of land covered by 40ft wide walls and 20-25 deep ditches on all sides.<sup>12</sup> The construction of this stronghold cannot be attributed to any one ruler's efforts rather distinct rules contributed in it's construction and modification to give Junagarh fort a new and captured look among vivid Mahals, Anup Mahal, Karan Mahal, Chandra Mahal, Badal Mahal, Gaj Mandir & Vikram Villas etc. are included. In almost all the Mahal's local painting style usta art and Manobat Kala has been done also the local, pure hindu & Indo-Muslim architectural styles is used.

**Lallgarh** Palace was built between 1902-1926 by Maharaja Gangasingh Ji, on Memory of his father Maharaja Lall Singh. The building was commissioned by the British- Controlled regency for Maharaja while he was still in his minority as They considered the existing Junagarh place unsuitable for a modern Moharch.

Palace is a unique and beautiful example of Indo-Sarcenic style. Fine minute Jali Jharokha with floral & Geometrical designs, open courtyards, Zenana Mahal gives a feel of combination of Rajput Mughal architecture whereas billiard room, swimming pool and bathrooms etc. gives Impression of European style architecture. The palace attracts tourist from different countries throughout the year.

**The Chhatris** of Bikaner are situated on the five miles in east. These Chhatris occupies an important place in architecture as they were used as commemorates to various rulers for construction purpose in almost all the chhatris the red sand stone were used<sup>14</sup> as key material, later the experiment with white Marble can be seen easily. Here again combination of Indo Islamic architecture is visible. Floral & Geometrical designs were used to highlight the Motifs. for beautification & ornamentation various hindu deities, barahmasa & raagmala were depicted in inner walls of the ceilings.

## **CONSTRUCTION UNDER EFFLUENT & RICH CLASS**

The rich class contributed a lot in the construction of Havelis in old Bikaner city and these Havelis could be traced to every niche & corner of the of the city. These Havelis are made of red stone & their construction pattern is similar in most of the case. Ornamentation is also similar wherein motifs of Jalis & Jharokhas and carving on stone thereon is almost same in all cases an ordinary haveli comprises of a Barsali (Gallery) or open countyard, a small temple, saal (inside rooms), daankhana or diwankhana (living room) ghumaria (Tehkhana or basement). These Havelis are usually have 2 or 3 floors.

For ornamentation of these havelis local & traditional art from such as Mathern art, Usta art and Manobat week is used. These Havellies founds a Change in their construction pattern with a change in time.

Most of the historical buildings in Bikaner were built in red stone alongwith yellow Jaisalmeri stone and white marble and for plastering Bajri, roda (pieses of stones) Sweet lime stone, and raw & baked bricks were used. The artisams were both Hindu & Muslim hence we found the impact of both religious archilectural features in most of the buildings.

For ornamentation purpose symbols were taken from ancient and traditional hindu literature. Amongst them were Hansa, Makara, Kirti Mukha, Mithun, Kamal bell, Manglika shubha Chinha etc. floral & geometrical designs with Minute artistic features were made on Jalis & Jharokhas

### **ADVANCEMENT OF TOURISM IN BIKANER: POSSIBILITIES & RESOURCES**

The globalization of world has improved the connectivity, communication and mobility between nations. Today we can see more & more tourist moved from one place to another frequently. However there are potential & positive working behind the growing number of tourist in Bikaner, but somehow there are some specific areas that should be developed and implemented for tourism Promotion on Bikaner such as-

- To give the tourist a better socio- cultural environment.
- Restoration & balanced development of heritage buildings of Bikaner.
- Promotion of cultural, historical & spiritual tourism in the city.
- Small brochures/monogram of historical monuments could be given to the tourist for their knowledge.
- The tourist guide should be well equipped or well-known to the history, art & architecture of the particular monument.

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