

enshrined in the *garbhagriha*. The exterior wall of the temple is intricately carved. Four lion figures are shown in the cardinal directions of the *sikhara*.

Parsvanath Temple: This is one of the oldest and most beautiful temples of the fort built during the reign of Maharawal Jai Singh in 1416 CE. It consists of *garbhagriha*, *antarala*, *mandapa*, *trikamandapa* and *mukhamandapa*. The *mukhamandapa* is supported on four pillars decorated with beautiful *toranas*. The interior walls of the temple are beautifully carved with animal and human figures. The shrine is crowned by *sikhara* which is further topped by an *amalaka*. The epistyle courtyard has a double colonnade with ornamented ceilings,

A series of cells are provided on the rear wall of the verandah enshrining images of seated Tirthankaras.

Sambhavanath Temple: Standing on the left of Parsavanath temple, it is identical on the plan and accessible through the *rangamandapa* of Parshvanath temple. The construction of the temple was initiated by the Oswal Brothers in 1494 CE and completed in three years. The sanctum is crowned with dwarf *sikhara*. The cusped ceiling of the *rangamandapa* is decorated with a lotus pendant in the centre and divine musicians and dancers around it. There are two underground chambers below the temple for keeping rare Jain miniatures and manuscripts.

Sitalanathaji Temple: Built-in 1422 CE, it stands on the right of the Parsavanatha temple. It is also approached through the *rangamandapa*. The plan of the temple is like that of the former one. Here the *rangamandapa* does not have any open area and the whole set up seems to be squeezed and carried a very thin sculptural decoration.

Rishavdevji Temple: Located on the right of Chandraprabhuji temple and built around 1480 CE, the temple is facing east and consists of a *rangamandapa* preceded by

an open courtyard, *mukhamandapa* and *gudhamandapa*. The *mandovara* is adorned with human figures. The embattled parapet wall around the *sikhara* is a unique feature of this temple.

Chandraprabhuji Temple: Located on the right flank of the Parsvanath Temple, it was built in 1453 CE. It has a three-storied structure having a shrine dedicated to Chandraprabhu on each floor. On the plan, it has a sanctum followed by a vestibule and domical *rangamandapa*. The entire structure is enclosed by a row of thirty-one miniature shrines leaving a dark and narrow *pradakshinapatha*.



Shantinath and Kunthunathji Temple: This double-storied temple consists of *garbhagriha*, *antarala*, *mandapa* and followed by *ardhamandapa*. The figure of Kunthunathji and Shantinathji enshrines on the ground floor and the first floor of the temple respectively. The roof of the *mula-prasada* is designed in stepped pyramidal fashion with open balconies on all four sides. The distinctive roof has been richly fabricated with roaring lions crowned by an *amalaka* and *kalasa*. The lower *rangamandapa* has four *Torana* pillars while the upper one has a decorated ceiling embellished with the dancers. It is assignable to the fifteenth century CE.

Chamunda Temple: Located on Dussehra Chowk, east-facing situated on raised jagati with *sikhara* and outer squared *mandapa*. Jagati has steps. This temple was the royal worship place.



Conservation of the Heritage Fort:

ASI is conserving the fort since 1979-80 to today, restoring the bastions and fallen portions of the fortification wall. During 1981-82, conservation work was done on Patwa Haveli. Chemical treatment and preservation were carried out on Sambhavanath Temple during 1986-87. Recently, a dilapidated portion of the pitching wall near Police Chowki at the fort was restored during 2016-2018. Similarly, a dilapidated portion near Siv Road was restored during 2018-19. Thus, every year, ASI recognises potential threats to the monument and maintains its aesthetic and heritage value.

Basic Information about Monument:

Location – Jaisalmer

Notification No.: Act No. LXXI of 1951 dated 28-11-1951

Approach: Nearest Airport: Jaisalmer, Nearest Railway Station: Jaisalmer, Nearest Bus station: Jaisalmer.

Nearby Attractive sites: Patwa Haveli, Salam Singh ki Haveli, Nathmal ki Haveli, Teelon Ki Piral, Kuldhara Ancient Village (Whole), Kishangarh Fort, Kishangarh, Jaisalmer, Ghotaru Fort, Ghotaru, Ganesha Fort, Chod, Jaisalmer, Bada Bagh, Jaisalmer etc.

Amenities: Drinking water, washroom facility.

Special Events: Desert Festival in winter (February) is organized every year.

Best Visiting Month: October to March.



ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Ministry of Culture
Government of India



Royal Palace, Jaisalmer Fort

JAISALMER FORT (2023)

SUPERINTENDING ARCHAEOLOGIST

Archaeological Survey of India
Jodhpur Circle, Jodhpur
Contact no. 0291- 2750029,2750032
Email: circlejdh.asi@gmail.com

Save Monuments : Feel Glorious

Jaisalmer Fort, Jaisalmer

(Lat. 26°54'45.0"N, Long. 70°54'45.0"E)

The Fort of Jaisalmer standing majestically on the *Trikuta Hill* is a living testimony to the pride of the Bhati Rulers. The fort of Jaisalmer also known as “*Sonar Killa*” due to its colour. The foundation of the fort was laid on 12th July 1155. The whole structure stands with 99 bastions standing on *Trikuta hill* of around 250 ft high and its length are 1500 and 750 ft respectively.



The fort was most probably completed sometimes before 1244 CE by Rawal Salivahan II, son and successor of Jaisal. However, between the 13th and early 14th century, the fortification walls were constructed for defense purposes, beginning with the inner bastion walls. The 15th century saw a spate of changes in the fort.

There are three parallel walls around it. The first wall supporting the hill is called *Patha* which was built in the 15th century by Maharawal Lakshman Singh. The second retaining wall five meters high around the hill was built by Maharawal Bhim Singh in 1578 CE. The third wall is the main wall of the fort. The fort is approached from the north-east through four successive gateways viz. *Akhai Prole*, *Ganesh Prole*, *Suraj Prole*, *Hawa Prole*.

The rulers of Jaisalmer were great patrons of sculptural art and architecture. Several beautiful Brahmanical and Jain temples,

magnificent palaces, *Havelis* and gateways were built which reflects the skill and dexterity of the stonemasons and artistic excellence of the Bhati rulers. Almost all the real structures inside the fort are built of sandstone and mortar. The carving on the stone is magnificent. The structures / *Havelis* have a well-sculptured façade, the projected *jharokhas*, *balustrades* or *lattice windows* and highly decorative and ornamented porches and columns.



Akhai Prole, the 1st Grand Entrance Gate

Inside the fort, there is a cluster of five palaces or *Havelis* namely *Rang Mahal*, *Sarvottam Vilas*, *Gaj Mahal*, *Zanana Mahal* and *Moti Mahal*. The important temples, here are *Laxminarayan*, *Ratneswar Mahadev*, *Surya*, *Parsvanath*, *Sambhavanath*, *Sitalanatha*, *Chandraprabhu*, *Rishavdev*, *Shantinath* and *Kunthunath*.



Suraj Prole, the 2nd Decorated Entrance Gate



Ganesh Prole, the 3rd Entrance Gate



Hawa Prole, the 4th & Last Entrance Gate



Marvellous stone carving at Janana Mahal

Lakshmi Narayan Temple: It is one of the earliest Brahmanical temples in the fort. Facing west, the temple stands on a raised *jagati* and consists of *sandhara garbhagriha*, *vestibule mandapa* and followed by *mukhamandapa*. The temple is accessible through a flight of steps from the south and west. The *sandhara* sanctum is crowned by a *curvilinear sikhara* and *angasikharas* and assignable to the early phase of the fifteenth century CE.



Lakshmi Narayan Temple

Ratneswar Mahadev Temple: Facing east, the temple consists of *garbhagriha*, *vestibule*, *pillared mandapa* with *kakshasana* and *mukhamandapa* approached through a flight of steps from the north and south. The *sandhara* sanctum has a *curvilinear sikhara* surrounded by *miniature sikharas*. The interior of the temple is decorated with sculptures. *Brahma*, *Mahesh* and *Vishnu* are shown on the *lintel of the door*. The *sabhamandapa* and the shrines of *parvadevatas* are having a *domical ceiling*. The flat roof of the *mukha-mandapa* is supported on two pillars. A *miniature shrine of nagara style* is attached to the south of the main temple. The temple is datable to the *fifteenth century CE*.



Ratneswar Mahadev Temple:

Surya Temple: Facing east, the temple is built over a raised *jagati* and approached through a flight of steps. It consists of *garbhagriha*, *mandapa* with *kakshasana* followed by *mukhamandapa*. The sanctum of the temple has a *curvilinear sikhara* embellished with *miniature sikharas*. The *marble images of Krishna and Rukmini* are