

**Ministry of Culture
Government of Bharat**



Centrally Protected Monument and World Heritage Site Ranthambhor Fort



2026

Superintending Archaeologist

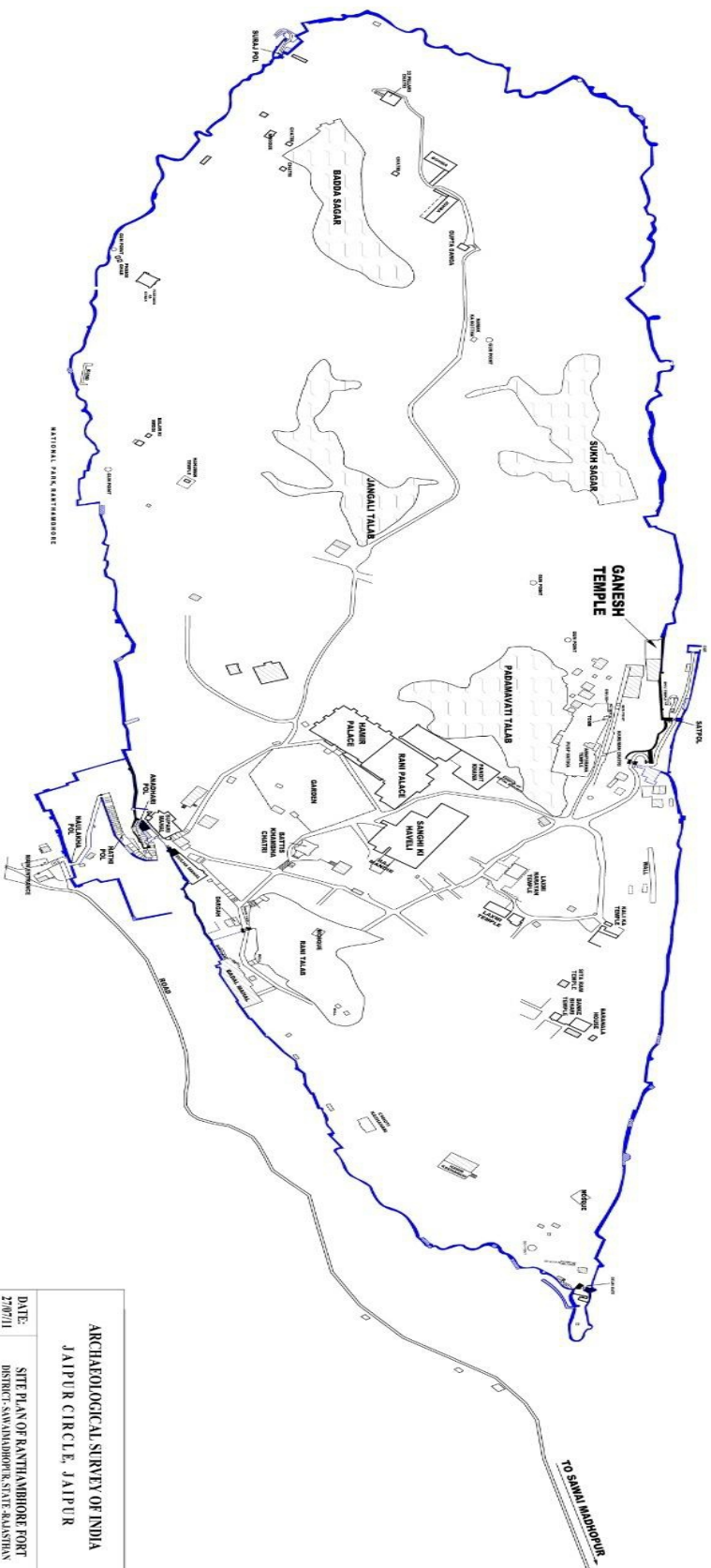
Jaipur Circle

Archaeological Survey of India

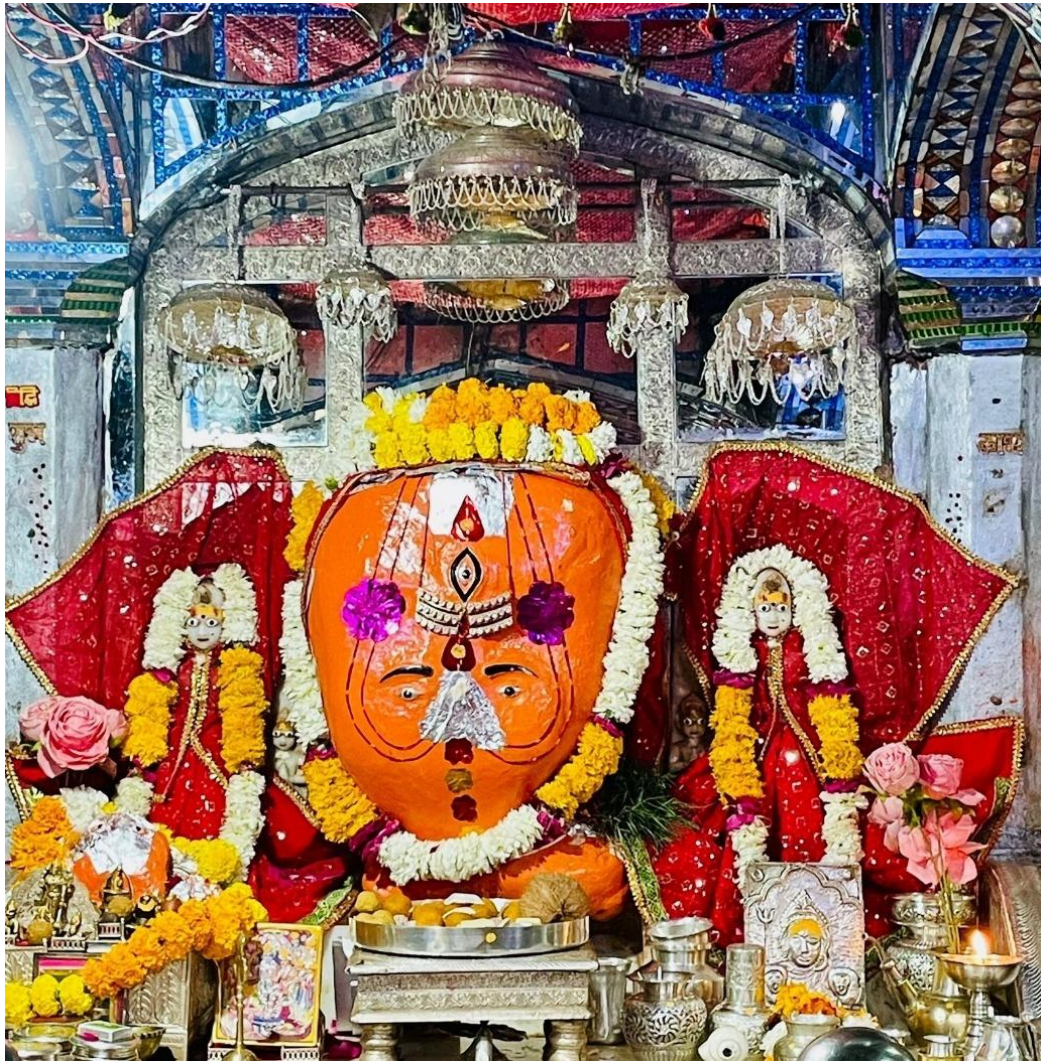
70/133-140, Patel Marg, Jaipur



SITE PLAN OF RANTHAMBHOR FORT



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA JAIPUR CIRCLE, JAIPUR	
DATE: 27/07/11	SITE PLAN OF RANTHAMBHOR FORT DISTRICT-SAMARATHUR, STATE-KARNATAKA
SCALE: 	



Bhagavana Trinetra Ganesa



An aerial view of Ranthambhor fort complex

The Ranthambhor Fort is an established example of forest hill Fort which formed a significant part of the Chahamana kingdom of Sakambhari. It is said to have been constructed by Maharaja Jayantha in the 5th century CE. The Yadavas ruled over it and subsequently, the Fort was occupied by the Muslim rulers of Delhi. Hammir Deo was the most powerful ruler of Ranthambhor and the remains of the palace of Hammir in the Fort are among the oldest surviving structures of an Indian palace.

It is an exceptional testimony to the Rajput cultural traditions of Rajasthan recording warfare, sacrifices and building activities of three major Rajput clans and sub clans of the Chauhans, Sisodias and the Kachhavahas. Loss of the Fort from the hands of the Rajputs in 14th and 16th century CE were significant events that changed the political landscape of India, with respect to the strengthening of the imperial rule of the Sultanate and Mughals in the national context.

Ranthambhor Fort embodies the most primal methods of medieval war-fare, which was completely dependent on exploitation of natural terrain and features (including forest). The Fort is located on a hill in the heart of a dense forest represents the “forest fort” typology of forts in combination with the “hill fort” typology and is a masterpiece of ingenuity, ensuring that the natural terrain around the Fort allows it to be visually obscure from enemies. The ensemble of Fortifications, Gateways, palace structures, water bodies within Ranthambhor Fort exemplify Rajput Fort planning on the hilly terrain. It exhibits characteristics of a strong defensive military stronghold of the Rajputs in the Mewar Braj cultural zone of Rajasthan with technological adaptations utilizing the natural resources of water bodies and mountains in the eastern plain of Rajasthan.

Inside the fort, the Hammir Badi Kachahari, Chhoti Kachahari, Battis Khambha Chhatri, Hamir Palace and Rani Palace, with later additions and in dilapidated condition, are important secular structures. Among temples, the Ganesa temple is important besides a few Jaina temples.

This Fort is surrounded by tiger wild life sanctuary from all sides, which provides a natural habitat for hundreds of wild animals and birds. The Fort is protected as monument of National Importance of Indian under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958 and also designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site among the six hill Forts of Rajasthan in 2013.

Hill Forts of Rajasthan

Six hill forts of Rajasthan namely Ranthambhor, Chittorgarh, Jaisalmer, Kumbhalgarh, Amber, and Gagron were inscribed in the World Heritage list as a Cultural site in the Year 2013. Within the State of Rajasthan, six extensive and majestic hill forts together reflect the elaborate, fortified seats of power of Rajput princely states that flourished between the eighth and eighteenth centuries and their relative political independence.

The extensive fortifications up to 20 km in circumference optimized various kinds of hill terrain, specifically the river at Gagron, the dense forests at Ranthambhor, and the desert at Jaisalmer, and exhibit an important phase in the development of an architectural typology based on established “traditional Indian principles”. The vocabulary of architectural forms and of ornaments shares much common ground with other regional styles, such as Sultanate and Mughal architecture. Rajput style was not ‘unique’, but the particular manner in which Rajput architecture was eclectic (drawing inspiration from antecedents

and neighbours) together with its degree of influence over later regional styles (such as Maratha architecture) do make it distinctive.

Within the defensive walls of the forts, the architecture of palaces and other buildings reflects their role as centers of courtly culture, and places of patronage for learning arts and music as well as housing for the court and military guard. Most had extensive urban settlements within their walls, some of which have persisted to the present day and some also had mercantile centers as the forts were centers of production and of distribution and trade that formed the basis of their wealth. Most of the forts had temples or sacred buildings, some pre-dating the fortifications and outliving the Rajput kingdoms, and many of these remarkable collections of buildings still attract followers. Collectively the forts contain extensive water harvesting structures, many of which are still in use.

As a former capital of the Sisodia clan and the target of three famous historical sieges, Chittorgarh is strongly associated with Rajput history and folklore. Furthermore, the sheer number and variety of architectural remains of early date (ranging from the 8th to the 16th centuries) mark it as an exceptional fort in its scale and monumentality comparable to very few other Indian forts. Kumbhalgarh was constructed in a single process and (apart from the palace of Fateh Singh, added later) retains its architectural coherence. Its design is attributed to an architect known by name –Mandana – who was also an author and theorist at the court of Rana Kumbha in Chittorgarh. This combination of factors is highly exceptional. Situated in the middle of forest, Ranthambhor is an established example of forest hill fort and in addition, the remains of the palace of Hammir are among the oldest surviving structures of an Indian palace. Gagron is an example of a river-protected fort. In addition, its strategic location in a pass in the hills reflects its control of trade routes. Amber Palace is representative of a key phase (17th century) in the development of a common Rajput-Mughal court style, embodied in the buildings and gardens added to Amber by Mirza Raja Jai Singh I. Jaisalmer is an example a hill fort in desert terrain. The extensive township contained within it from the outset and is still inhabited today. Besides it, the group of Jain temples, makes it an important (and in some respects even unique) example of a sacred and secular (urban) fort.

Criterion (ii): The Hill Forts of Rajasthan exhibit an important interchange of Princely Rajput ideologies in fort planning, art and architecture from the early medieval to late medieval period, within the varied physiographic and cultural zones of Rajasthan. Although Rajput architecture shared much common ground with other regional styles, such as Sultanate and Mughal architecture, it was eclectic, drawing inspiration from antecedents and neighbours, and had a degree of influence over later regional styles such as Maratha architecture.

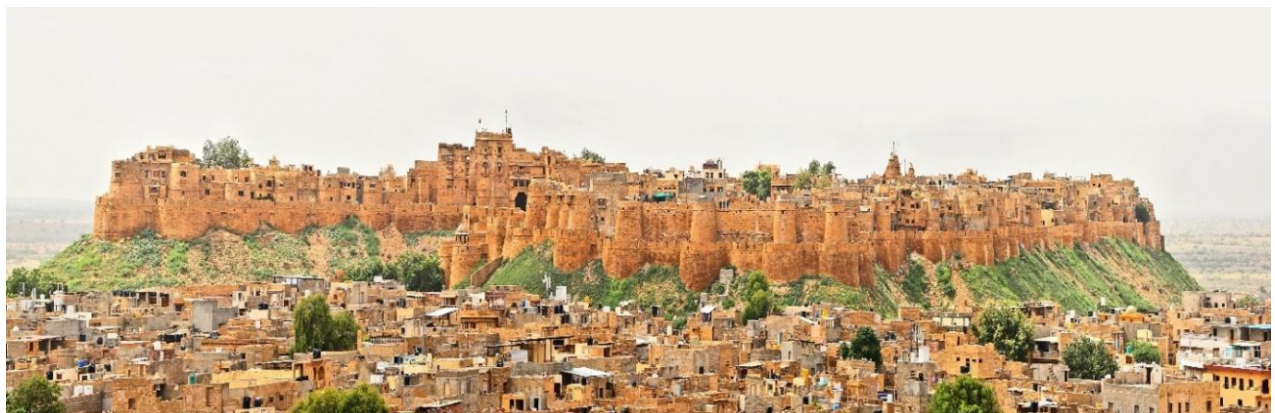
Criterion (iii): The series of six massive hill forts are architectural manifestations of Rajput valour, bravery and cultural traditions, documented in several historic texts and paintings of the medieval and late medieval period in India. Their elaborate fortifications, built to protect not only garrisons for defence but also palatial buildings, temples, and urban centers, and their distinctive Rajput architecture, are an exceptional testimony to the cultural traditions of the ruling Rajput clans and to their patronage of religion, arts and literature in the region of Rajasthan over several centuries.



Ranthambhor Fort



Chittorgarh Fort



Jaisalmer Fort



Kumbhalgarh Fort



Amber Fort



Gagron Fort

Hammir Deo

Hammir Deo was one of the bravest and most celebrated rulers of the Chahamana (Chauhan) dynasty. He is remembered in history for his valour, and strict adherence to promises. One of the most important literary sources for understanding his life and achievements is the *Hammir Mahakavya*, composed by the Jain scholar Nayachandra Suri, which provides valuable contemporary insights into his reign and personality.

Hammir ascended the throne in 1283 C.E., having been placed on the throne by his father, Jaitra Singh. Soon after becoming king, he adopted an aggressive and expansionist policy with the aim of extending his political influence. He undertook a series of successful military campaigns against several neighbouring kingdoms and important centres, including Bhimsar, Mandalgarh, Ujjain, Abu, Ajmer, Sambhar, and Maroth. These victories significantly enhanced his prestige and consolidated his position as a powerful ruler in the region.

Following his military successes, Hammir performed the *kotiyajna*, a grand sacrificial ritual, on the advice of his Rajpurohit, Vishvarup. This act not only symbolised his political supremacy but also reflected his devotion to religious traditions and Brahmanical rituals, which played an important role in legitimising royal authority during the medieval period.

Apart from being a fearless warrior, Hammir also distinguished himself as a patron of architecture and building activities. Many of the monuments and structural remains visible today within the fort complex are traditionally attributed to his reign. These constructions reflect both the strategic and religious priorities of his rule and contribute significantly to the historical and architectural importance of the fort.

The life of Hammir reached a tragic yet heroic end during his final conflict with Sultan Alauddin Khilji in 1301 C.E. According to tradition, during the last phase of the war, Hammir chose death over dishonour and cut off his own head to avoid the humiliation of captivity at the hands of the invading forces. The temple of Bhagavana Siva situated in front of the Sat Pol is believed to stand as a silent witness to this extraordinary act of sacrifice and courage.

Pols of Ranthambhor Fort

The Ranthambhor Fort formed a significant part of the Chahamana kingdom of Sakambhari. It is said to have been constructed by Maharaja Jayanta in the fifth century CE. The Yadavas ruled over it and subsequently the fort was occupied by the Muslim rulers of Delhi. Hammir Deo was the most powerful ruler of Ranthambhor. As per gazetteer, the fort is perhaps ascribed to the Paramaras. The following pols are situated in the fort:

- (a) **Navlakha Pol:** This is the first gate provided with an arch facing east, having a width of 3.20 m. There is a provision of guard rooms and gun slits. It is made of ashlar masonry. A copper plate inscription affixed to the gate states that the existing wooden doors were provided during the period of Sawai Jagat Singh of Jaipur.



Navlakha Pol

- (b) **Hathia Pol:** The second gate, facing the south-east, is 3.20 m wide. It is bounded by natural rock on one side and the fort wall on the other. A rectangular guard room is built over the gate.



Hathia Pol

- (c) **Ganesh Pol:** This is the third gate, facing south, having 3.10 m wide span. The beam of the gate is supported by brackets over which is provided a recessed ogee arch. The eastern side of the gate is attached to the rock.



Ganesh Pol

- (d) **Andheri Pol:** The last gate, facing north, has a span of 3.30 m. It is bounded on both sides by fortification walls and is provided with a recessed ogee arch, having projected balconies on sides.



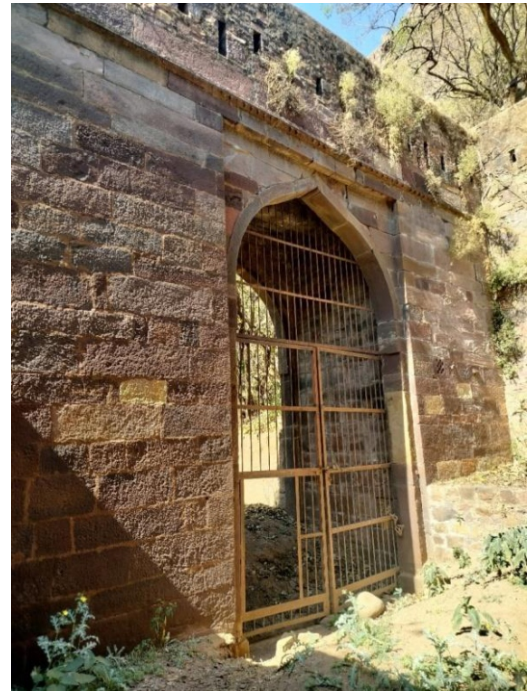
Andheri Pol

- (e) **Delhi Gate:** It is located in the north-west corner, facing north and measuring 4.70 m wide. It is provided with a recessed arch. The gate also has a number of guard cells.



Delhi Gate

- (f) **Sat Pol:** It is the loftiest gateway facing south and is situated on the western side of the fort along the *nullah*. It is 4.70 m wide and is provided with two-storeyed guard cells. Its recess is flanked on both sides by projected balconies. The battlements at the top are built of brick masonry.



Sat Pol

- (g) **Suraj Pol:** Comparatively, it is a small gateway facing east along the eastern fortification. It is 2.10 m wide.



Suraj Pol outer side



Suraj Pol inner side

Palaces situated inside the Ranthambhor Fort

Hammir Mahal

The royal palace, named after the strongest ruler of the fort, is a magnificent building which is accessible from the north through an arched gateway approached by ramps from two directions. The eastern wing is triple-storeyed while the other sides are single-storeyed. Besides, an underground storey also occurs in the north-east corner. The ground storey is multi-chambered with all cells interconnected by small doorways and a common verandah. The ceiling of the verandah rests on plain pillars. The eastern facade of the palace is provided with projected balconies. The access to the first storey is through a ramp. The ceiling of the palatial compartment is flat made of sandstone slabs supported on beams. The palace is built of stone rubble in lime mortar, plastered in lime. Some walls are veneered by stone slabs. The construction of this building is attributed to Hammir (1283-1301 CE).



Hammir Mahal

Rani Mahal

This spectacular building complex is situated near Hammir Palace. Various structures are located inside its boundary but most of them are in a ruinous condition. The entrance gateway is quite imposing, with architectural details similar to the ones found on the main gateways. The entrance gateway of Rani Mahal is made of red sandstone. This complex is constructed of stone laid in lime mortar and lime plastered. The interiors are decorated exquisitely using lime plaster. Originally Rani Mahal seems to have formed part of the Hammir Palace which was separated by a wall at later time.



Rani Mahal

Supari Mahal

This palace space is strategically located with the best view towards Raj Bagh and lake below. Architectural features include projected *jharokhas* on brackets and painted ceilings in rooms inside. This is constructed with coarse rubble stone and lime for walls with lime plaster. Sandstone has been used for columns, brackets and *jalis*.



Supari Mahal Complex

Badal Mahal

It is a huge two-storey building. There are several rooms in it which are related to a common verandah. Additionally, there is an open courtyard. All these rooms are made of red sandstone on top of which the lime plaster has been placed. These rooms also have a dance hall which is based on pillars and double arches. Various decorative motifs have been engraved along with beautiful paintings in another gathering hall.



Badal Mahal

Dulha Mahal

Dulha Mahal is a palace structure of later period located toward the western edge of the fort, onlooking Raj Bagh area. The architectural features are typical of Jaipur style arches, lotus base columns with stucco work. Few rooms have elaborate paintings but the structures are badly damaged.



Dulha Mahal

Pachauri Mahal

Pachauri Mahal, situated near the Satpol gate, is a moderate double-storeyed structure with a closed verandah approached through triple-arched openings on the ground floor and having a projected arched balcony (*jharokha*) flanked by rooms on the upper storey. Except for some decorative treatment on the façade, the structure is devoid of any ornamentation. It was constructed by random rubble masonry laid in lime mortar and plastered with lime.



Pachauri Mahal

Hammir's Kachahri

It is situated in the north-west corner of the fort near the Delhi Gate. Facing north, it is built on a raised plinth and consists of a central chamber (19.50 m x 11.90 m), flanked by two rectangular chambers on either side. The ceiling of the central chamber rests on pillars, arranged in two rows. This arrangement of pillars divides the chamber into fifteen compartments. The base and shaft of each pillar is square. The front of the central chamber consists of five *toranas* resting on a double row of columns. The peripheral compartments have sloping ceiling. It is constructed of stone rubbles in lime mortar veneered by roughly dressed slabs. The construction of this building is attributed to Hammir Deo (1283-1301 CE).



Chhoti Kachahri



Badi Kachahri

Battis Khambha Chhatri

Situated near Hammir Mahal, the Battis Khambha Chhatri is a three-terraced structure approached from north through a flight of steps. The top terrace measuring 12.5 m x 12.5 m, has a roof which rests on thirty-two pillars. These pillars are arranged in two rows on each side. The outer row has six pillars and the inner one has four pillars on each side. The lower part of the pillar shaft is square and the upper part is octagonal, surmounted by capital. The verandah has a flat ceiling while the central portion has a domical ceiling with three smaller domes on each side. The inner faces of the octagonal drum of the dome are decorated with pot-and-foilage and figures of Ganesa and Venugopala. The first two terraces are made of stone rubble with lime plaster and the third one is veneered by red sandstone slabs. This building can be dated *circa* eighteenth-century CE.



Battis Khambha Chhatri



Qazi Peer Sadruddin ki Dargah

Qazi Peer Sadruddin ki Dargah

It is a dome structure with elaborate doors for entry. This monument, facing south-west, has seven graves. Above the dome there are four vaulted stones which have stonework. There is a terrace in front of this *dargah* in which many other graves are located.



Mosque situated inside Rani talab

MOSQUE

The features of the mosque are Islamic with three pointed arches crowned by three domes and decorated with stucco work. It has a small minaret at the back and a stepped gateway in front. Stone and lime mortar was used for construction. The walls have been lime plastered and washed with lime.

JANVARA AND BHANVARA

These two rooms are virtually built for storing food grains and are located near Battis Khambha Chhatri. There are paved pathways to go upstairs and large holes are built on the roof of the chamber so that grains can be added from above to store. The lower gates are provided for the removal of grains.



Janvara

Temples situated inside the Ranthambhor Fort

Raghunath Ji Ka Mandir

In this temple situated on the west side, an open courtyard and a closed courtyard with a sanctum sanctorum is planned. In the sides of the sanctuary, each room and verandah are attached. On the outer walls of the sanctum, beautiful paintings have been executed.



Raghunath Ji Ka Mandir

Jain Mandir

Originally there was a plan for an open pavilion and sanctuary in this temple. Over time, a lot of changes were made and the open pavilion was closed with bricks. Columnised verandahs are constructed on the three sides of this pavilion. The *sikhara* exists above the sanctum sanctorum. Two idols were stolen from here on 07-08 January 1979. Presently, a modern statue of Sambhavanatha seated in *padmasana* is enshrined there.



Annapurna Mandir

This temple is south-facing and is built on a high seat. Its plan includes a sanctum sanctorum, a pavilion and a semi-pavilion. Its terrace is flat. A Sivalinga is established in the sanctum sanctorum. Each of the two side walls of the pavilion is made of stone blocks, in which along with birds and flowers, decorations of *marangon* are engraved. On a pillar located on the left side, a record is inscribed in the Devanagari script, which dates back to 1898 Vikram Samvat (1841 CE).



Annapurna Mandir

Ganesa Mandir

From the point of view of architecture, the structure of this temple is comparatively modern. Within the temple, Bhagavana Ganesa is worshipped as a *svayambhu* deity carved out of rock. Among the local people it is popularly known as "Ranat Bhanvar" and is the centre of highest reverence in this entire area. A grand Ganesa fair is organised here on the occasion of Ganesa Chaturthi every year.



Trinetra Ganesa Mandir

Siva Mandir

It is a small temple, however, it is important among the temples located inside the fort, as it is believed that at this place Hammir Deo had cut off his head and offered it to Siva. Seen here are the Sivalinga, Nandi and carved stone columns.



Siva Mandir



Siva Mandir (inside)

Conservation works carried out by ASI between 2022-2026 at Ranthambhor Fort

Resetting of dislocated pillars and wall of Andheri Gate



Before



After

Replacement of dislocated pillars and carved pillars of the gate after providing proper jack, work of lime plaster and water-tightening. Removal of debris/ *malba* abutting the wall of the gate & lime concrete.

Restoration of Safety wall opposite Annapurna Temple



Before



After

Clearance of debris, Earth work in excavation, filling the good earth in low level area. Laying the R.R. stone masonry in pathway, recess pointing the same. Provision for proper drainage of rain water and other minor repair works.

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Replacement of broken *chhajja* stone, lime concrete, R.R. stone masonry, recess pointing, lime plastering and laying out floor etc.

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Replacement of broken *chhajja* stone, lime concreting, R.R. stone masonry, recess pointing, lime plastering etc.

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Replacement of broken *chhajja* stone, lime concreting, R.R. stone masonry, recess pointing, lime plastering etc.

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Removal of dead load, replacement of damaged roof floor, water-tightening etc.

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Replacement of broken *Chhajja* stone, Lime Concrete, R.R. stone masonry, Recess Pointing, Lime Plaster etc.

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Replacement of broken *Chhajja* stone, Lime Concrete, R.R. stone masonry, Recess Pointing, Lime Plaster etc.

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Replacement of broken *Chhajja* stone, Lime Concrete, R.R. stone masonry, Recess Pointing, Lime Plaster etc.

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase-II)



Before



After

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase I)



Before



After

Conservation of Badal Mahal complex (Phase I)



Before



After

Scientific Treatment of Paintings at Badal Mahal



Before



After

Re-plaster work of dome portion of Battish Khambha Chhatra



During



After

Re-plaster work of dome portion of Battish Khambha Chhatri



Before



After

Removing of decayed / weathered / cracked plaster, provision of lime Plastering, scaffolding and other minor work.

Conservation work of entrance gateway of Battis Khambha Chhatri



Before



After

Development of Bhojanshala near Ganesh Temple



Before



During



After

Maintenance and up-gradation of camp office, inspection room



Before



After

Conservation and restoration of Dulha Mahal



Before



During



After

Conservation and restoration of Dulha Mahal



Before



Conservation and restoration of Dulha Mahal



Before



During



After

Conservation & restoration of gate and adjoining structure near Jogi Mahal



Before



After

Conservation & restoration of gate and adjoining structure near Jogi Mahal



Before



After

Conservation & restoration work of Lakshmi-Narayana Temple



Before



After

Conservation & restoration work of Lakshmi-Narayana Temple



Before



After

Conservation & restoration work of Lakshmi-Narayana Temple



Before



After

Conservation and restoration of Mishradhara Gate



Before



During



After

Conservation and restoration work of Mishradhara Gate



Before



During



After

Conservation and restoration work of Navlakha Gate



Before



After
[39]

Conservation and restoration work of Navlakha Gate



Before



After

Conservation and restoration work of Navlakha Gate



Before



After

Conservation and restoration work of Navlakha Gate



Before



After

Conservation and restoration work of Navlakha Gate



Before



After

Conservation and restoration of Baori, near Navlakha Gate



Before



After

Exposing, desilting & restoration of Baori, near Navlakha Gate



Before



After

Conservation work of Pachauri Mahal and adjoining structures



Before



After

Conservation work of Patali Devi temple



Before



During



After

Fencing work of Patali Devi temple



Before



During



After

Chemical Treatment of Paintings at main Sikhara of Raghunath Temple



Before



After

Providing Public amenities in front of Raghunath Temple



Before



During



After

Conservation & Restoration of adjoining Structure of Rajmandir



Before



After

Conservation & restoration of adjoining Structure of Rajmandir



Before



After

Conservation & restoration of Rajmandir



Before



After

Conservation & restoration of Rajmandir



Before



After

Conservation & restoration of Rajmandir



Before



After

Conservation and restoration of Rani Mahal Complex



Before



During



After

Conservation and restoration of Rani Mahal Complex



Before



During



After

Conservation and restoration of adjoining structure at Singh Ji Ki Haveli (Phase-II)



Before



After

Conservation and restoration of Singh Ji Ki Haveli (Phase-II)



Before



After

Conservation & restoration of fortification wall near Suraj Pol Gate



Before



After

Conservation & restoration of fortification wall near Suraj Pol Gate



Before



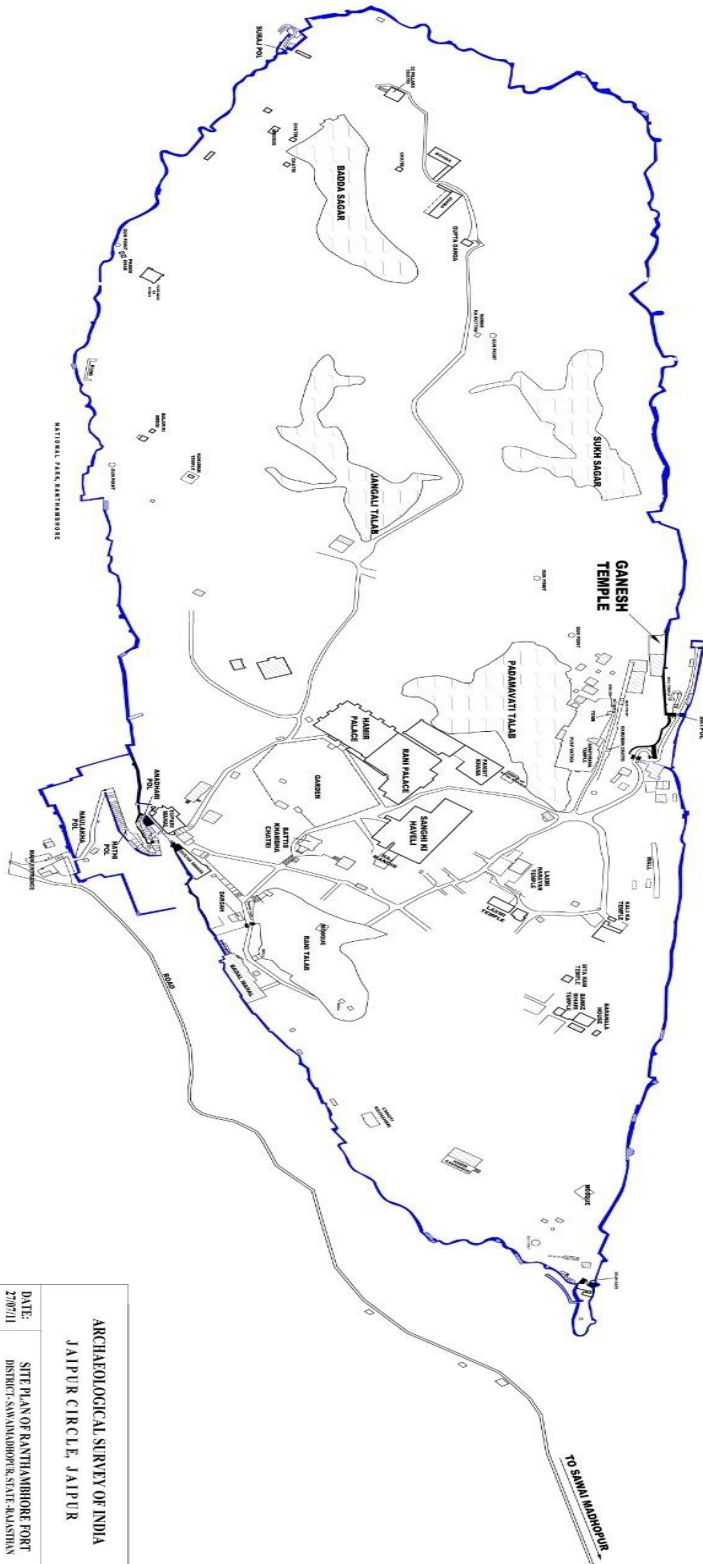
During



GOVT. OF INDIA



SITE PLAN OF RANTHAMBOR FORT



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA	
JAIPUR CIRCLE, JAIPUR	
DATE:	27/07/11
SITE PLAN OF RANTHAMBOR FORT	DISTRICT: SIKHIM, STATE: ARUNACHAL PRADESH
SCALE:	

Further readings:

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and Jaipur Circle team

Published by:

Superintending Archaeologist

Jaipur Circle

Archaeological Survey of India