

## Conservation and Protection of Forts and Palaces of Jaipur District

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### Abstract

Heritage conservation and protection is an investment in our community that rewards us today and leaves an invaluable resource for future generations. Protecting our cultural heritage is economical, historical and also a cultural process. Forts and palaces are the best examples of cultural heritage. They are the representation of our glorious past. Our heritage is our pride. We all have some responsibility to save and preserve it for our future generations. Jaipur district is a popular tourist spot not only in India but also in the world. It is a major destination in the popular 'Golden Triangle of Delhi-Agra-Jaipur'. Jaipur district (capital of Rajasthan state) has been emerged as one of the popular tourist destinations in India for both domestic and foreign tourists. As forts and palaces are the prime attractions of this area, their conservation and protection becomes indispensable. Conservation and preservation of forts and palaces keeps our history alive, which will automatically increase the inflow of tourists to this area. In this research paper, an attempt has been made to show the richness of our cultural heritage of the Jaipur district in terms of forts and palaces and to analysis the work of conservation of these forts and palaces. This study is based on primary as well as secondary data.

### Introduction

The term 'Fort' is derived from the Latin word 'Fortis' (strong) and 'Facere' (to make). Another Sanskrit word 'Pur' cannot be overlooked which was equally prevalent to denote the fortified city or village. Later on the Sanskrit term 'Durgam' denoted the invincible forts<sup>1</sup>. The word "Palace" comes from old French word 'Palais' (imperial residence). In modern times, the term 'Palace' has been applied by archaeologists and historians to large structures that housed combined ruler, court and bureaucracy in "palace cultures". In informal usage, a "Palace" can be extended to a grand residence of any kind. A palace is a grand residence, especially a royal residence or the home of a head of state or church dignitary, such as a bishop, archbishop cardinal or pope.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes preservation, restoration, reconstruction, protection and adaptation and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these. The aim of conservation is to retain or recover the cultural significance of a place and must include provision for its security, maintenance and future<sup>2</sup>. Forts and palaces of Jaipur district are the theatre of its glorious history. Jaipur district is surrounded by number of royal forts and palaces. This area is famous for its ancient palaces and forts, with elaborate architecture that serves as a resplendent reminder of their royal heritage. The major attractions of this area for the foreign and domestic tourists are Amber Fort, Nahargarh Fort, Jaigarh Fort, Bagru Fort, Morrji Fort, Shahpura Fort and Palace, Hawa Mahal, City Palace, Albert Hall, Samode Palace, and Jal Mahal. In order to create a favourable atmosphere for developing tourism industry and to conserve and protect our cultural heritage, role of government policies is quite significant here. Their preservation, upkeep and protection are essential to preserve its history for future generations. Many organisations are working for the conservation and preservation of forts and palaces of this area.

### Objective

Main objective of this paper is to show that Jaipur district is having a rich cultural heritage of forts and palaces and many organizations (government as well as private) are playing significant role in the

conservation and protection of forts and palaces of this area.

### Data Base and Methodology

Basically this study is based on both primary and secondary data. Secondary data has been collected from various departments such as Department of Tourism, Rajasthan (Jaipur), Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, Department of Archaeology and Museums as well as from the private agencies involved in this field. To authenticate the theoretical knowledge, tehsilwise field survey was conducted of Jaipur district to know about the present condition and conservation work of forts and palaces.

### Study Area

The Golden Triangle is so called because of the triangular shape formed by the locations of New Delhi, Agra and Jaipur district (Capital of Rajasthan) on a map. So Jaipur district is one of the important legs of this famous Golden Triangle tourist circuit. Jaipur district situated between 26° 23' and 27° 51' north latitude and 74° 55' to 76° 50' east longitude and is bounded in the north by the state of Haryana as well as Sikar district of Rajasthan, in the south by Tonk district, on the western border by the district of Ajmer and Nagaur and on its eastern boundaries by Alwar and Dausa district. Total length of the district from east to west is 180 km and total width from north to south is 110km. The district occupies a coveted position and engulfs an area of 11143 sq. kms, which is 3.36 percent of total area of the state.

### Major Findings

#### (i) Forts and Palaces of Jaipur District

Jaipur district is a major destination in the popular 'Golden Triangle of Delhi-Agra-Jaipur'. This royal land has dotted with numerous royal forts and palaces. The walled Jaipur city with its pink facade and old heritage buildings attracts a lot of admiration from visitors. Amber Fort, Jaigarh Fort, Nahargarh Fort, Hawa Mahal, Samode Palace and City Palace are most visited forts and palaces of this area. They are apt testimonials of the bygone era and a reminder of their lingering romance and chivalry. Magnificent forts and palaces that are not worth to miss in this land of wonders are presented in **Table No. 1.**

#### Forts and Palaces of Jaipur District

S. No.	Name of Fort / Palace	Tehsil and District	Name of Period/ Built By	Features
1	Amber Fort and Palace	Amber, Jaipur	1600 AD Raja Man Singh	Open for tourist Well - maintained Protected by Government Of Rajasthan Contains Diwan-i-Am , Diwan- I-Khas, Shish Mahal Maota lake and Shiromani Mata temple 'World Heritage Site'since 2013 Ticketed monument
2	Jaigarh Fort	Amber , Jaipur	1726 Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh- II	Open for tourist Also known as 'Victory Fort' In good condition Contains beautiful palaces, gardens ,

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				temples courtyards World's largest cannon on wheels is kept here Private Property (under royal family) Ticketed monument
3	Nahargarh Fort	Amber, Jaipur	1734 AD Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh- II	Open for tourist In good condition Known as Tiger fort of Rajasthan Protected by Government of Rajasthan Contains beautiful palaces, terraces Ticketed monument
4	Moti dungri Fort	Jaipur city, Jaipur	-	Closed fort Temple inside fort (opens only once a year) Private Property
5	Sankota garh	Jamwa Ramgarh, Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In good condition Private Property
6	Paota Fort	Kotputli, Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In ruined condition
7	Ladana Fort	Phagi, Jaipur	-	Entry only on prior permission In good condition Private Property
8	Madhorajpura Fort	Phagi, Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In ruined condition
9	Fort Peepla	Phagi, Jaipur	150 years old	Opens for tourist In good condition Private Property
10	Mahandabag Fort	Phagi, Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In ruined condition Private Property
11	Jobner Fort	Sambhar, Jaipur	Raja Ajit Singh	Open for tourist In bad condition There is another fort in the front of Jobner fort, which is in good condition
12	Tekchandpura Fort	Bassi, Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In bad condition
13	Madhogarh Fort	Bassi, Jaipur	Madho Singh nearly 400 years ago	Converted into heritage hotel
14	Nayla Fort	Bassi, Jaipur		Open for tourist In ruined condition
15	Bichoon Fort	Dudu, Jaipur		Open for tourist In complete ruined condition
16	Morriji Fort	Chomu, Jaipur		Open for tourist In good condition

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17	Samode Fort	Chomu , Jaipur	16 <sup>th</sup> century Rawal Berisal	Open for tourist In ruined condition Private property
18	Samode Palace	Chomu , Jaipur	16 <sup>th</sup> century Rawal Berisal	Converted into heritage hotel
19	Chomu Fort	Chomu , Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In ruined condition
20	Chomu Palace	Chomu , Jaipur	-	Now 'Chomu Palace and Hotel Spa' is running here. Private Property
21	Garudwasi Fort	Chaksu , Jaipur	Chauhan clan	Open for tourist In bad condition Temple inside a fort, opens only on 'Maha Shivratri'
22	Shahpura Fort and Palace	Shahpura ,Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In good condition
23	Vishangarh Fort and Palace	Shahpura ,Jaipur	Rajendra Rao	Converted into heritage hotel
24	Manoharpura Fort	Shahpura ,Jaipur	-	Open for tourist Ruined condition
25	Bagru Fort	Sanganer , Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In good condition
26	Achrol Fort	Amer, Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In good condition
27	Chandwaji Fort	Amer, Jaipur	-	Open for tourist In good condition
28	Albert Hall	Jaipur city, Jaipur		Open for tourist Well maintained Earlier it was a palace and now converted into Government Museum Under control of Government of Rajasthan Ticketed monument
29	Hawa Mahal	Jaipur city, Jaipur	1799 Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh	Open for tourist Well maintained Under control of Government of Rajasthan Ticketed monument
30	City Palace	Jaipur city, Jaipur	1699-1744 Maharaja Jai Singh - II	Open for tourist Well maintained Contains Palaces like Chandra mahal, Mubarak Mahal , Mukut Mahal , Maharani Palace, Govind Dev temple, Museum

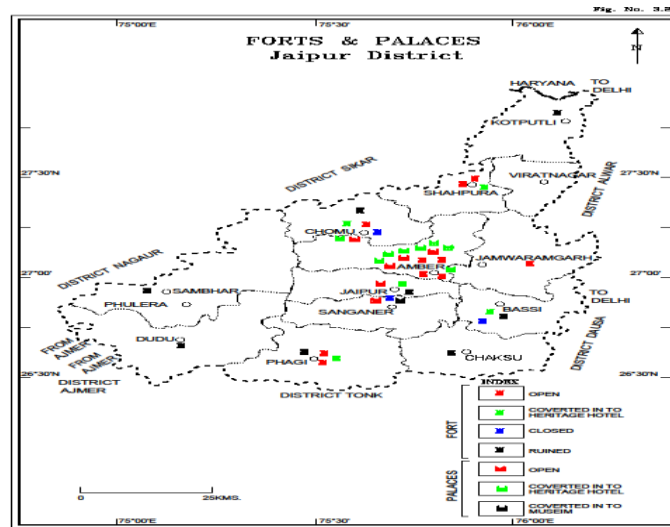
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				Private Property
31	Jal mahal	Amer, Jaipur	18 <sup>th</sup> century Maharaja Jai Singh - II	Not opened for tourist Located in the middle of Man Sagar Lake Well maintained Under control of Government of Rajasthan
32	Ram Bagh Palace	Jaipur city, Jaipur		Converted into heritage hotel
33	Bissau Palace	Jaipur city, Jaipur		Converted into heritage hotel
34	Santha Bagh	Jaipur city, Jaipur		Converted into heritage hotel
35	Narain Niwas Palace	Jaipur city, Jaipur		Converted into heritage hotel
36	Diggi Palace	Jaipur city, Jaipur		Converted into heritage hotel
37	Toda Palace	Bassi, Jaipur		Converted into heritage hotel

**Source** - Department of Archaeology and Museums, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Table no.1 reveals that almost every tehsil of Jaipur district is lined with fabulous forts and palaces built by various rulers and architects. These forts and palaces were generally built outside the walled city over the high hills to protect the city. Apart from Amber Fort, Nahargarh Fort and Jaigarh Fort, other forts of Jaipur district like Sankotgarh, Shahpura Fort, Morrji Fort, Ladana Fort, Fort Peepla, Bagru Fort, and Achrol Fort are also worth watching. But some forts such as Jobner Fort, Paota Fort, Madhorajpura Fort, Bichhon Fort, and Mahandabaad Fort are now in ruined condition. Royal residences such as Samode Palace, Vishangarh Palace, Ram Bagh Palace, Bissau Palace, Santha Bagh, Toda Palace, Narain Niwas Palace, Diggi Palace have been now turned into heritage hotels, where the visitors can still experience the magic of India's imperial past (Fig 1).



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**(ii) Conservation and Protection of Forts and Palaces of Jaipur District**

In India, the first instance of conservation was, when Emperor Ashoka ordered to conserve wildlife in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC. Then in the 14<sup>th</sup> century AD, Firuz Shah Tughlaq ordered to protect ancient buildings. Later, during the British rule, the “Bengal Regulation (XIX)” was passed in 1810, and the “Madras Regulation (VII)” was passed in 1817<sup>3</sup>. These regulations vested the government with the power to intervene, whenever the public buildings were under threat of misuse. Then in 1863, ‘Act XX’ was passed, which authorised the government to prevent injury to and preserve buildings remarkable for their antiquity or for their historical or architectural value. ‘The Rajasthan Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Antiquities ACT, 1961’, Rajasthan Tourism Policy, ‘Adopt a Monument’ (AAM) scheme’ The Rajasthan Heritage Conservation Bill, 2014 are the major acts and policies which are related to the conservation and protection of forts and palaces of Jaipur district. Following are the important organisations, which are working for the conservation and protection of forts and palaces of Jaipur district.

- I DAM (Department of Archaeological and Museums), Government of Rajasthan
- II AD and MA (Amber Development and Management Authority)
- III ASI (The Archaeological Survey of India’ Jaipur Circle)
- IV JDA (Jaipur Development Authority)
- V PDCOR limited (Infrastructure Project Development Company)
- VI PWD (Public Works Department)
- VII RTDC (Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Ltd)

**I DAM (Department of Archaeology and Museums), Government of Rajasthan:**

‘The Department of Archaeology and Museums’ in Rajasthan, since its inception in 1950, has been making concerted efforts to discover, preserve, protect, exhibit and interpret the cultural legacy embodied in various forms of art and architecture with its head office at Jaipur city. The main function of this department is to declare such sites and monuments as ‘protected’ by maintaining their original shape and structure. The Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Government of India, under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and Government of Rajasthan allocate funds for this purpose. Table no. 2, shows the list of state protected forts and palaces of the Jaipur district.

**Table 2****State Protected Forts and Palaces of the Jaipur district (2016)**

S.NO	Name of Fort / Palace
1.	Amber Palace on Hill, Amber
2.	Nahargarh Fort
3.	Jal mahal
4.	Hawa Mahal
5.	Albert Hall, Ram Niwas Bagh
6.	Sheesh Mahal of Samode Palace
7.	Chomu Fort
8.	Nayla Fort and Palace

Source – Department of Archaeology and Museums, Jaipur

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Department of Archaeology and Museums has been working on Hawa Mahal, since 2007 and spent rupees 185 lakhs (till 2009) on restoring not just the Hawa Mahal but also buildings around it. In 2005, restoration and renovation works on the 'Hawa Mahal' were undertaken, to give a face lift to the monument at an estimated cost of ` 45 lakhs<sup>4</sup>. Hawa Mahal has been restored after a long gap of more than fifty years. This was the biggest ever restoration and renovation government project undertaken for this historic monument. Catering to the present day requirement are CCTVs and LED lights that have altered the very feel and ambience of this 18<sup>th</sup> century monument. With 360 lakhs that have been received under the 'Tourists Destination Scheme' sanctioned by the Union ministry of tourism, the Hawa Mahal has gone through substantial restoration to almost make it look as though it belongs to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As part of the restoration, the walls of the monument are now being restored with plaster work.

An expenditure of 3.79 crore was incurred on preservation and renovation of the monument during 2004-09 under central sponsored scheme, and state plan. The walls on the sides of the ramp have been covered with polycarbonate sheets to protect them from the scribbling done by visitors. The restoration was aimed at giving a face lift to the monument and preserving it for the future. So every step taken in the restoration work was studied well in advance by experts as it is not an easy exercise to repaint and repair the monument and at the same time maintains its originality. Restoration has apparently changed the very rationale behind the Hawa Mahal. The iconic landmark of the pink city underwent a makeover with fixed coloured glass in the pyramid-shaped facade with five stories. Now the 953 small windows with tiny lattice work are sealed with red, green, blue and amber glasses, to keep the hawa out of the mahal.

## II AD and MA (Amber Development and Management Authority):

'Amber Development and Management Authority' was formed by the state government under 'Rajasthan society registration Act, 1958' as a registered society in November 2005. Its main aim is to conserve and protect 'Amber Fort' and its surrounding areas. The conservation, restoration and development works executed at Amber Palace from the year 2008 to 2015 is shown in table no. 3.

**Table 3**

### **Conservation and Restoration work executed at Amber Fort/ Palace complex (2008-2015)**

S. No.	Name of work	Expenditure incurred (in lacs)	Date of completion
1.	Maintenance of gardens (Dil-E-Ram Bagh and Kesar Kyari)	2.05	14/02/2008
2.	Supply garden benches at Amber Palace	1.92	24/02/2008
3.	Conservation / Restoration work of Pyau gate and elephant gate	9.59	31/05/2008
4.	Conservation / Restoration work of Choor Singh ki Haveli	3.81	14/06/2008
5.	Work of Kesar Kyari , east facade for light and sound show	18.48	29/07/2008
6.	Plantation at Sheesh Mahal Garden	6.21	07/08/2008
7.	Scarping and polishing of doors and windows in Kesar Kyari	0.60	12/08/2008

8.	Distilting of wells at Amber palace	1.09	14/08/2008
9.	Conservation / Restoration work of Art gallery	23.69	16/08/2008
10.	Traditional Rahat system in water lifting area	0.62	20/08/2008
11.	Scarping and polishing at Diwa-E-Aam	1.07	29/08/2008
12.	Interior of VIP lounge	3.25	14/10/2008
13.	Conservation / Restoration work of gardens Kesar Kyari	14.80	20/10/2008
14.	Work of stone flooring in Jaleb Chowk	108.15	27/10/2008
15.	Conservation / Restoration work of Hamam building and Dil-E-Ram Bagh	23.99	14/11/2008
16.	Providing and installation of fountain in Rambagh	10.57	10/01/2009
17.	Restoration work of Jaleb chowk - II and III floor	39.16	10/02/2009
18.	Restoration of existing cascade in Kesar Kyari	5.52	02/03/2009
19.	Supply and fixing dhoolpur white stone signage	4.15	09/03/2009
20.	Conservation / Restoration work of Narsingh ji temple and Pracheen Mahal	30.15	31/03/2009
21.	Wooden railing at Amber palace	1.56	20/03/2009
22.	Marble flooring in various parts in Amber Palace	0.85	25/04/2009
23.	Conservation / Restoration work of Diwan- E-Aam and Diwan- E- Khas	36.72	01/06/2009
24.	Conservation and restoration of Bawodi Pariyon ka Bagh	15.54	07/07/2009
25.	Development of parking at north side	3.50	10/10/2009
26.	Marble flooring and skirting in toilet at VIP lounge	0.63	06/02/2010
27.	Shifting of 2 no .power loom from Hathi stand	0.25	20/03/2010
28.	Renovation work of existing ticket window of Amber palace	0.90	20/04/2010
29.	Providing and fixing of stone jail gallery between Diwan – E- AAm and Mansingh Mahal	1.30	20/04/2010
30.	Conservation and restoration of Hathi stand near tehsil building Amber	7.83	06/05/2011
31.	Mirror work in Sheesh Mahal	5.80	22/05/2011
32.	Work of wooden railing at Kesar Kyari	0.09	11/08/2011
33.	Renovation of kitchen and various protection works in Pariyon ka Bagh and surrounding area of Amber Palace complex	4.59	11/08/2011
34.	Providing tourist facilities (construction of toilets, mawatha parking, restoration of pathway and tunnel	88.86	04/04/2012

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	to Jaigarh Fort)		
35.	Repairing of benches of Sound and light show at Kesar Kyari	1.20	26/10/2012
36.	Conservation and restoration of fresco paintings in Diwan- E- Aam, Mansingh Mahal and Dil- E- Ram Bagh	60.61	25/11/2012
37.	Construction of interpretation centre	4.33	21/05/2013
38.	Restoration of Diwan – E- Aam Chhajja	2.89	21/05/2013
39.	Illumination work in Diwan- E- Aam, Mansingh Mahal and Dil- E-Khas	128.30	28/08/2013
40.	Electrical wiring work at Maotha	0.99	05/04/2014
41.	Providing and fixing of foot lights in parking area of Amber palace	12.43	31/03/2015
42.	Providing and fixing of G.I. pipe from water storage tank to temple general toilets	1.26	15/06/2015

**Source** – Amber Development and Managing Authority, Jaipur

Nahargarh Fort is designated as 'State Protected Monument of Rajasthan' under the 'Rajasthan Monuments, Archaeological Sites and Antiquities Act of 1961'. Over the years, a lot of conservation works has been undertaken by the state government to protect and maintain this ancient monument. The conservation work executed at Nahargarh Fort from 2011 to 2012 is shown in table no. 4.

**Table 4**

**Conservation/Restoration work executed at Nahargarh Fort (2011-2012)**

S.No.	Conservation /Restoration work	Expenditure incurred (in lacs)	Date of completion
1	Development of parking area	47.50	19/03/2011
2	Development of landscaping and construction of Pathway , Toe wall Part- I	71.01	10/09/2011
3	Landscaping and construction of Pathway, Toe wall Part- II	102.72	14/09/2011
4	Conservation and Restoration work of doors and windows at Nahargarh Fort	15.41	31/03/2012
5	Conservation and Restoration work of walls near and around Padao restaurant at Nahargarh Fort	64.12	04/08/2012

Source – AD and MA , Jaipur

Conservation and restoration work of fresco paintings of Chandra Prakash Mahal, Ratan Prakash Mahal and Basant Prakash Mahal (Nahargarh Fort) has been done under centrally sponsored scheme

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(CSS) in the year 2013 (shown in table no.5).

**Table 5**

**Fresco Painting Work at Nahargarh Fort (2013)**

S.No.	Name of work	Expenditure incurred (in lacs)	Date of completion
1.	Conservation and Restoration work of Fresco paintings and Araish at ground floor of Chandra Prakash Mahal	53.02	22/01/2013
2.	Conservation and Restoration work of Fresco paintings and Araish at ground floor of Ratan Prakash Mahal	58.66	31/05/2013
3.	Conservation and Restoration work of Fresco paintings and Araish at ground floor of Lalit Prakash Mahal	44.84	31/05/2013
4.	Conservation and Restoration work of Fresco paintings and Araish at ground floor of Laxmi Prakash Mahal	47.95	31/05/2013
5.	Conservation and Restoration work of Fresco paintings and Araish at ground floor of Basant Prakash Mahal	52.98	31/05/2013

Source - AD and MA , Jaipur

There are some ongoing conservation and restoration projects of Nahargarh Fort (table no.6) which are expected to be completed till 2017. Table no 6 shows the sanctioned amount for these ongoing projects along their date of commencement.

**Table 6**

**Ongoing Conservation Projects of Nahargarh Fort (2015-16)**

S.No.	Name of work	Sanctioned amount (in lacs)	Date of start
1	Repairing and Maintenance of street lights at Nahargarh Fort	2.75	01/12/2013
2	M.S. fabrication work at Nahargarh Fort	2.35	24/05/2015
3	Surface dressing at Nahargarh Fort	4.21	24/05/2015
4	Civil repair and Maintenance at Nahargarh Fort	19.25	01/06/2015

Source - AD and MA, Jaipur

**III ASI (ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA - JAIPUR CIRCLE):**

'The Archaeological Survey of India' covers a wide extent of area all over India. It consists of 24 circles

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headed by 'Superintending Archaeologists, assisted by 'Deputy Superintending Archaeological Engineer', Assistant Superintending Archaeological Engineer' and subordinate conservation staffs to look after the upkeep of those monuments and sites which are centrally protected monuments.

In 1985, the 'Jaipur circle' was created after the bifurcation of already existing two circles i.e. Delhi and Vadodara for the better preservation, conservation and maintenance of the 152 nationally protected monuments of Rajasthan. After that, 9 more monuments have been declared to be of national importance. At present, the Jaipur Circle is looking after the maintenance and conservation of 161 monuments/sites. These monuments and archaeological remains of diverse nature are located in the region since prehistoric times to the present. They are scattered from Dholpur in the east to Jaisalmer in the west and Ganganagar in the north to Banswara in the south of Rajasthan.

#### **IV JDA (JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY):**

'Jaipur Development Authority' was constituted under the 'Jaipur Development Authority Act 1982' (Act. 25) under the 'Department of Urban Development and Housing', Government of Rajasthan. This body is the agency of the government of Rajasthan responsible for preparation and implementation of master plan for the Jaipur city in Rajasthan. It is engaged in infrastructural and basic amenity development for Jaipur and also environment conservation and development of rural areas around the city. Zone - 7 or Action - 7 department of Jaipur Development Authority' is responsible for conservation, restoration and redevelopment work of heritage properties of Jaipur district such as Jal mahal Project. The Fort wall at Amber was lying in depilated condition. Rajasthan heritage development and management authority carried out conservation and restoration of fort wall in about 7.5 kilometre length with the funds provided by Jaipur Development Authority i.e. Rs 750 lacs. This work was started in April 2007 and completed in November, 2009<sup>5</sup>.

#### **V PDCOR LIMITED (INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMPANY):**

PDCOR limited (Infrastructure Project Development Company) is a company jointly promoted by the 'Government of Rajasthan' and 'Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited' to facilitate private sector investment in the infrastructure sector in the state of Rajasthan. The company was incorporated in December 1997 and commenced its operations in May 1998. This company has the capability to provide institutional support to the government in successfully structuring and implementing infrastructure projects and conservations projects on a public-private partnership format. The company is uniquely positioned to provide policy advisory and institutional restructuring services to the Government. Ecological restoration of Jal mahal and Man Sagar Lake are the major conservation projects done by this company along other government and subordinate organisations.

#### **VI PWD (PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT- CENTRAL AND STATE):**

A Public Works Department (PWD) or 'Department of Public Works' is a common name for a government department or ministry responsible for public works. Rajasthan Public Works Department has a glorious history in the development of the state since pre independence. The department is mainly entrusted with construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and government buildings. The department also acts as Technical Advisor to the state government in these matters. It has now grown into a comprehensive construction management department, which provides services from project concept to completion, and maintenance management. It is also engaged in the conservation, restoration and redevelopment work of heritage monuments at centre as well state level.

#### **VII RTDC (RAJASTHAN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION):**

The 'Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Limited' (RTDC). It is a company registered under 'Companies Act 1956' with its headquarter at Jaipur. The Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (RTDC) was incorporated on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1978 as a wholly owned government company to promote tourism in the state of Rajasthan and to cater incoming foreign and domestic tourists by way of providing accommodation, catering, transport, and package tour and bar facilities. It has a successful history of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in 'Jal Mahal Tourism Project' with 100 acres of land at the threshold of Jaipur City, in which a multi component tourism product having hotels, convention centre for above 1500 people with food courts, craft bazaar and recreational centre are in course of implementation.

### Conclusion

Mesmerizing forts and palaces of Jaipur district tell the bygone era of former royal seat of the Rajputs. As tourism contributes more than 2000 crores to the state's economy, thus importance of heritage tourism such as forts and palaces of Jaipur district plays a significant role in the state of Rajasthan, which are acknowledged world wide as a famous tourist's sites. Tourists are attracted to those places of historical significance which have a legacy of rich cultural heritage such as forts and palaces.

Scattered all around in the Jaipur district, many forts and palaces have a uniqueness of their own, with each one of them narrating a story about its kings, kingdom and colourful culture. Many Forts and palaces of Jaipur district are still retaining their old glory and exquisite décor. They are kept well conserved in their original form. Many of them have been converted into heritage hotels with present day interiors and rugged exteriors. The mixture of traditional and contemporary allows tourists to see these remnants and enjoy the grandeur of living in one of them. Many acts and laws have been made for the conservation and preservation of forts and palaces of this area. Various government bodies like Department of Archaeological and Museums (DAM), Amber Development and Management Authority (AD and MA), The Archaeological Survey of India - Jaipur Circle (ASI) and Jaipur Development Authority are playing such an important role in the conservation and protection of forts and palaces of Jaipur district.

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