

Locational Analysis of Forts and Palaces of Golden Triangle Region of Rajasthan

Dr. Nirmala Lalwani

Abstract- Cultural heritage provide an automatic sense of unity and allows us to understand the previous generations and the history of where we come from. Forts and palaces are the best examples of cultural heritage. They are the representation of our glorious past. They are the reminiscence of the living witnesses of the golden historic era of over a thousand years. They are the epitome of courage, stand testimony to the evolution and are a symbol of cultural expressions. Golden Triangle is one of the most captivating tourist circuits in India. The Golden Triangle, which falls in Rajasthan, consists of four districts namely Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dausa. The golden triangle region of Rajasthan has a glorious history. This area is famous all over the world for its stunning forts and palaces which were built by kings in previous ages. They are the perfect example of the architectural heritage of Rajasthan. Golden triangle region of Rajasthan, being a renowned tourist centre of the world is visited by more than fifteen lakhs tourists annually. Our heritage is our pride. We all have some responsibility to save and preserve it for our future generation. As forts and palaces are the prime attractions of this area, their conservation and renovation becomes indispensable. 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.

Introduction

Right from the dawn of civilization the human beings had a feeling of protection for their own survival from natural calamities, wild animals and other rival human agencies. Obviously this feeling initiated the need of shelters by raising barriers around their dwellings. This might have been an earliest creation of the human mind to construct the ramparts, fortifications (Forts) around his residence.

The term 'Fort' is derived from the Latin word 'Fortis' (strong) and 'Facere' (to make). In the early Sanskrit literature the term 'Durga' has been often used while discussing the importance of particular Janapada during the period of its political upheaval. 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 forts¹. The word "Palace" comes from old French word 'Palais' (imperial residence)².

Golden triangle region of Rajasthan is rich in architecture and is a delight for all kinds of tourists with its mighty forts and shimmering palaces. They have survived the test of time and offer a glimpse of diverse culture and traditions of Rajasthan. This area has a history of about 5000 years and the forts and palaces here are testimonials of the royal past of Rajasthan. Tourism helps preserve several places which are of historical importance by declaring them as heritage sites. For instance, the Amber Fort, Deeg palaces and HawaMahal would have been decayed and destroyed had it not been for the efforts taken by Tourism Department to preserve them.

One of the significant economic features of tourism industry is that income earned by forts and palaces would not only be spent in their renovation but also it will help in the overall development of Rajasthan. Furthermore measuring the success of tourism involving nature and culture should not just be based on

number of visitors or amount of income, rather measurement should include the length of stay, quality of the experience and whether natural and cultural resources have been conserved.

Objective

Main objective of this paper is to show that golden triangle region of Rajasthan is having a rich cultural heritage of forts and palaces .For this purpose whole study has been designed to locate and to analysis the present condition of forts and palaces of golden triangle region of Rajasthan.

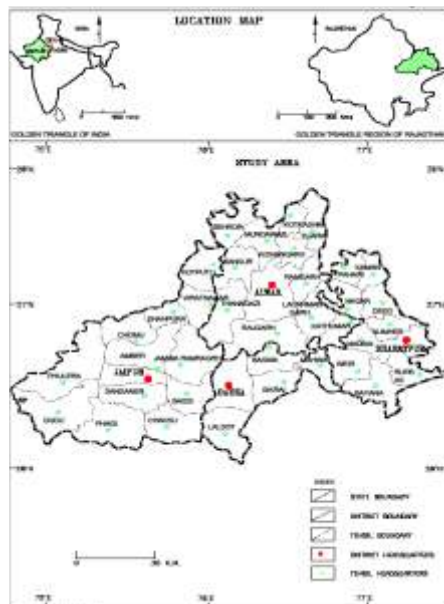
Data Base and Methodology

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, field survey was conducted of Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dausa districts to know about the present condition of forts and palaces of the golden triangle region of Rajasthan.

Study Area

The Golden Triangle is so called because of the triangular shape formed by the locations of New Delhi, Agra and Rajasthan on a map. The Golden Triangle, which falls in Rajasthan, consists of four districts namely Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dausa. This is fascinating tourist circuit, which covers four predominant and historical districts of Eastern Rajasthan. They are Jaipur district (Capital of Rajasthan), Alwar (Rajasthan ka Sinh Dwar, also a part of NCR), Bharatpur (Rajasthan ka Pravesh Dwar) and Dausa (Devnagri), which are all connected to each other by good road and rail links. The history of this whole area is deeply entwined with the stories of royal princes and princesses, with grand Mughals.

This area lies between the parallels $23^{\circ} 03'$ and $30^{\circ} 12'$ north – latitude and $69^{\circ} 30'$ to $78^{\circ} 17'$ longitudes. It is bounded in the north by Haryana, east by Uttar Pradesh, south-east by Madhya Pradesh. The total area of Jaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur and Dausa district is 11,588 sq. kms, 8380 sq. kms, 5066 sq. kms, 3432 sq. kms respectively (Fig. 1).



Results and Discussion

1. Forts and Palaces of the Golden Triangle Region of Rajasthan

Being a part of the Golden triangle, this area has emerged as one of the popular tourist destinations in India for both domestic and foreign tourists. This area has been famous for its kings, princes and their heroic deeds and kingly affairs. The forts and palaces of this area are spectacular sights and marvellous monuments. Besides being exemplary architectural wonders, they are the setting for the various historic and dramatic episodes and wars. The extensive use of marbles, stain glass, gold, silver and metal inlaid work, make the palaces breathtaking sights. The forts were constructed to be impregnable garrisons. The tall walls, ramparts and moats still stand testimony to the military genius of the Rajput warriors³. Most of these forts and palaces have withstood many attacks and sieges. These forts and palaces have a long story of romance, courage, determination and sacrifice. The imposing forts boast of well-designed palaces, magnificent cenotaphs and huge towers.

I) Forts and Palaces of Jaipur district

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'. This part has emerged as one of the popular tourist destinations in India for both domestic and foreign tourists. The royal land dotted with numerous 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.

Table 1
Forts and Palaces of Jaipur District

Name of Fort / Palace	Tehsil and District	Name of Period/ Built By	Features
Amber Fort and Palace	Amber , Jaipur	1600 AD Raja Man Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Jaigarh Fort	Amber , Jaipur	1726 Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh- II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • Also known as 'Victory Fort' • In good condition • Contains beautiful palaces, gardens , temples courtyards • World's largest cannon on wheels is kept here

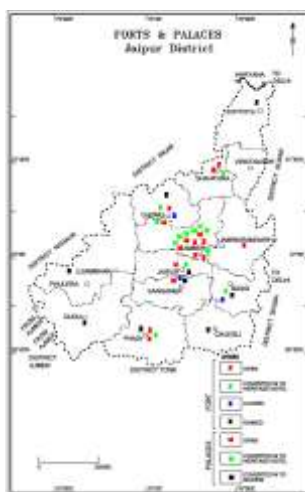
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Property (under royal family) Ticketed monument
Nahargarh Fort	Amber , Jaipur	1734 AD Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh- II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In good condition Known as Tiger fort of Rajasthan Protected by Government of Rajasthan Contains beautiful palaces, terraces Ticketed monument
Moti dungri Fort	Jaipur city, Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed fort Temple inside fort (opens only once a year) Private Property
Sankota garh	Jamwa Ramgarh, Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In good condition Private Property
Paota Fort	Kotputli, Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In ruined condition
Ladana Fort	Phagi , Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry only on prior permission In good condition Private Property
Madhorajpura Fort	Phagi , Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In ruined condition
Fort Peepla	Phagi , Jaipur	150 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opens for tourist In good condition Private Property
Mahandabag Fort	Phagi , Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In ruined condition Private Property
Jobner Fort	Sambhar , Jaipur	Raja Ajit Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In bad condition There is another fort in the front of Jobner fort, which is in good condition
Tekchandpura Fort	Bassi , Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In bad condition
Madhogarh Fort	Bassi , Jaipur	Madho Singh nearly 400 years ago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converted into heritage hotel
Nayla Fort	Bassi , Jaipur		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In ruined condition
Bichoon Fort	Dudu, Jaipur		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In complete ruined condition
Morrji Fort	Chomu , Jaipur		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In good condition

Samode Fort	Chomu , Jaipur	16 th century Rawal Berisal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In ruined condition • Private property
Samode Palace	Chomu , Jaipur	16 th century Rawal Berisal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel
Chomu Fort	Chomu , Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In ruined condition
Chomu Palace	Chomu , Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now 'Chomu Palace and Hotel Spa' is running here. • Private Property
Garudwasi Fort	Chaksu , Jaipur	Chauhan clan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In bad condition • Temple inside a fort, opens only on 'Maha Shivratri'
Shahpura Fort and Palace	Shahpura , Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In good condition
Vishangarh Fort and Palace	Shahpura , Jaipur	Rajendra Rao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel
Manoharpura Fort	Shahpura , Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • Ruined condition
Bagru Fort	Sanganer , Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In good condition
Achrol Fort	Amer, Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In good condition
Chandwaji Fort	Amer, Jaipur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In good condition
Albert Hall	Jaipur city, Jaipur		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • Well maintained • Earlier it was a palace and now converted into Government Museum • Under control of Government of Rajasthan • Ticketed monument
Hawa Mahal	Jaipur city, Jaipur	1799 Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • Well maintained • Under control of Government of Rajasthan • Ticketed monument
City Palace	Jaipur city, Jaipur	1699-1744 Maharaja Jai Singh – II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • Well maintained • Contains Palaces like Chandra mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Mukut

City Palace	Jaipur city, Jaipur	1699-1744 Maharaja Jai Singh – II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • Well maintained • Contains Palaces like Chandra mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Mukut Mahal, Maharani Palace, Govind Dev temple, Museum • Private Property
Jal mahal	Amer, Jaipur	18 th century Maharaja Jai Singh – II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not opened for tourist • Located in the middle of Man Sagar Lake • Well maintained • Under control of Government of
Ram Bagh Palace, Bissau Palace, Santha Bagh, , Narain Niwas Palace, Diggi Palace	Jaipur city, Jaipur		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel
Toda Palace	Bassi, Jaipur		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, Morriji 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).



ii) Forts and Palaces of Alwar district

Alwar is one of the most important tourist places in Rajasthan. The forts and palaces in Alwar are a great attraction for tourists. These forts and palaces are embedded with a lot of historical significance as well as architectural splendour. Hence, tourists visiting these places get a clear idea of the history of Rajasthan as well as the architectural grandeur of the place. Alwar is such a prominent name among the lists of places in Rajasthan that has a number of forts and palaces. These fort and palaces in Alwar are a great way to get aware of the rich cultural heritage of the place. They are truly a piece of architectural marvel. Table no. 2 shows the tehsil wise list of beautiful forts and palaces of Alwar district. Alwar city is situated on the mid-way of Delhi-Jaipur line of Western Railway. It is well connected by road with Jaipur and Delhi. Bhangarh, Bala Quila, City Palace and Vijay Mandir Palace are the most favourite forts and palaces of Alwar city.

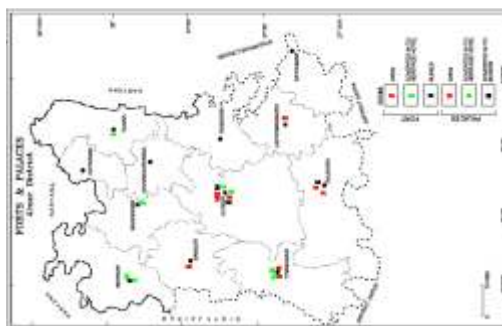
Table 2
Forts and Palaces of Alwar District

Name of Fort / Palace	Tehsil and District	Name of Period / Built By	Features
Alwar Fort or Bala Quila	Alwar city, Alwar	1550 AD Raja Hasan Khan Mewati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In good condition • Under the control of Government of Rajasthan
Bhangarh haunted Fort	Rajgarh, Alwar	1613 AD Madho Singh – I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • National Protected Fort • Maintained fort • Renovated by Archaeological Survey of India
Ajabgarh Fort	Rajgarh, Alwar	16 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In complete ruined condition
Kankawadi Fort	Rajgarh, Alwar	17 th century Jai Singh- II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In ruined condition • Under the control of Government of Rajasthan
Neemrana Fort and Palace	Behror, Alwar	1464 AD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel • Under Neemrana Hotels group
Tijara Fort	Tijara, Alwar	1836 AD Maharaja Balwant Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel • Private Property (Neemrana Hotels group)
Tatarpur Fort	Mandawar, Alwar	450 years ago	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel
Hill Fort Kesorli	Alwar city, Alwar	14 th century by Yaduvanshi Rajputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel • Under Neemrana Hotels group

Dadhikar Fort	Alwar city, Alwar	1100 years ago by King Chand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converted into heritage hotel
Bansur Fort	Bansur, Alwar	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In good condition
Tehla Fort	Rajgarh , Alwar	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In good condition
Govindgarh Fort	Lachhmangarh, Alwar	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In good condition
Kushal garh	Thana gazi, Alwar	14 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In good condition
Pratapgarh Fort	Thana gazi, Alwar	Maharaja Pratap Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist In good condition
Vijay Mandir Palace	Alwar city, Alwar	1918 Maharaja Jai Singh Prabhakar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open for tourist on prior permission In good condition
Sariska Palace	Thana gazi, Alwar	1892 A.D. Maharaja Jai Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converted into heritage hotel
Siliserh lake Palace	Thana gazi, Alwar	1845 AD Maharaja Vinay Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converted into heritage hotel
City Palace or Vinay Vilas Mahal	Alwar city, Alwar	1793 AD Raja Bakhtawar Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Converted into museum

Source – Department of Archaeology and Museums, Jaipur, Rajasthan

With reference to table no 2, situated at a distance of about 33 kms from Alwar City, Rajgarh tehsil is famous for its haunted Bhangarh Fort and old fort known as Kankwari Fort. Ajabgarh Fort is ruined fort, which is situated between Bhangarh and Pratapgarh Forts. Old palaces that bear all the evidence that once the state experienced are now renovated into heritage hotels. Staying in these heritage hotels gives the tourists the opportunities to experience the extravagant lives of the then kings and maharajas. Dadhikar Fort, Fort Kesroli, Neeemrana Fort, Siliserh Palace and Sariska Palace are the best examples of it (Fig 2).



Locational Analysis of Forts and Palaces of Golden Triangle Region of Rajasthan

Dr. Nirmala Lalwani

iii) Forts and Palaces of Bharatpur district

Known as the Bird Paradise and the eastern gateway to Rajasthan, Bharatpur is situated 50 km west of Agra. It was the capital of the erstwhile princely state of Bharatpur. Since it falls within the Golden Triangle comprising Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, Bharatpur can be easily accessed by tourists. Raja Suraj Mal (founder of Bharatpur) had used the enormous wealth that he acquired during his reign and built numerous forts and palaces across the kingdom. He constructed the impregnable Lohagarh Fort in the early 18th century along with two towers within the ramparts, the Jawahar Burj and Fateh Burj. The inaccessible Lohagarh Fort could withstand repeated attacks of British forces led by Lord Lake in 1805, when they laid siege for over six weeks⁴. Monuments in the fort include are Kishori Mahal, Mahal Khas and Kothi Khas. Moti Mahal and towers like Jawahar Burj and Fateh Burj were erected to commemorate the victory over the Mughals and the British army. The Gateway has paintings of huge elephants.

Deeg Palace is another strong and massive fortress of Bharatpur. It is known for its famous water palaces, gardens and fountains. The palace forms a quadrangle with a garden and walkways at its centre. Decorative flowerbeds, shrubs, trees and fountains cool this place considerably during summer. Two huge water tanks, Gopal Sagar and Rup Sagar, on either side also helped to bring down the temperature. Bayana tehsil of Bharatpur district has immense historical importance. A major attraction of Bayana is the Bayana Fort. The Fort stands as a witness of the amalgamation of Hindu and Muslim cultures that had once taken place in Bayana. The wonderful architectural features that are embedded in the red sandstone structure talk about the historical glory which was an integral part of Bayana till the 16th century. But the present state of Bayana Fort has declined and does not in any way match its enviable status. At the same time it is not devoid of tourist attraction. Table no. 3 shows the list of forts and palaces of Bharatpur district.

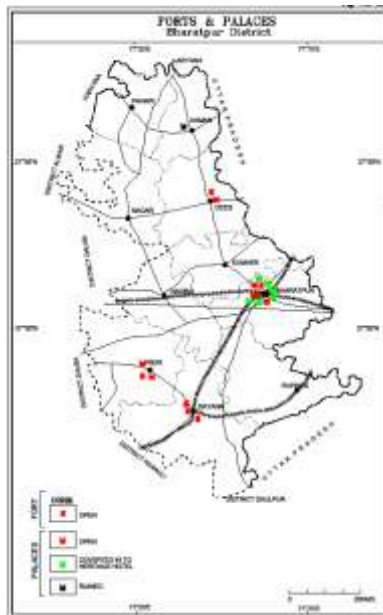
Table 3
Forts and Palaces of Bharatpur District

Name of Fort / Palace	Tehsil and District	Name of Period/ Built By	Features
Lohagarh (Iron Fort)	Bharatpur city, Bharatpur	1756 A.D. Maharaja Suraj Mal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In good condition • Three palaces inside the fort are kothi Khas, Kishori Mahal , Mahal Khas • Governmemt Museum and Temple inside the fort • Ticketed monument (only for museum) • National Protected Monument
Deeg Fort and Palace Or Jal Mahal	Deeg , Bharatpur	Badan Singh in 1722	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In good condition • Palaces inside the fort are Haridev Bhawan , Nand Bhawan , Keshav Bhawan , Suraj Bhawan • Ticketed monument

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Protected Monument
Bayana Fort and Palace	Bayana, Bharatpur	11 th century AD Sawai Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In good condition • Palace inside the fort • Protected Fort of National Importance
Weir Fort and Palace	Weir, Bharatpur	Badan Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens for tourist • In good condition • Safed Palace , Phulbari Palace inside the fort • Protected Fort of National Importance • Under control of Government of Rajasthan
Lal mahal	Rupwas , Bharatpur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opens for tourist • In good condition
Moti Mahal	Bharatpur city, Bharatpur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel • Under the control of Thakur Vishwendra
Laxmi Vilas Palace	Bharatpur city, Bharatpur	1899 A.D. Maharaja Raghunath Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel • Originally known as Ragnath Niwas
Kaman or Cheel Mahal	Kaman , Bharatpur	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into stadium • Ruined condition • Protected Monument
Golbagh Palace Udai Vilas Palace Pratap Palace	Bharatpur city, Bharatpur	100 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel

Source – Department of Archaeology and Museums, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Lohagarh Fort, Deeg Fort, Bayana Fort, Weir Fort are some beautiful forts of Bharatpur district. Today tourists have a great opportunity to experience the royalty of forts and palaces of Bharatpur district by staying in them as most ancient structures. Many palaces in this area have opened their doors to tourist as running heritage hotels. Moti Mahal, Laxmi Vilas Palace, Golbagh Palace and Pratap Palace are some palaces, which is now converted into heritage hotels. Cheel Mahal is a ruined palace (Fig 3).



iv) Forts and Palaces of Dausa district

Dausa district lies on the Jaipur – Agra route and is kind of a heritage getaway. This part of Golden triangle has less number of forts and palaces other than Jaipur, Alwar and Bharatpur district. Table no. 4 shows the list of forts and palaces of Dausa district.

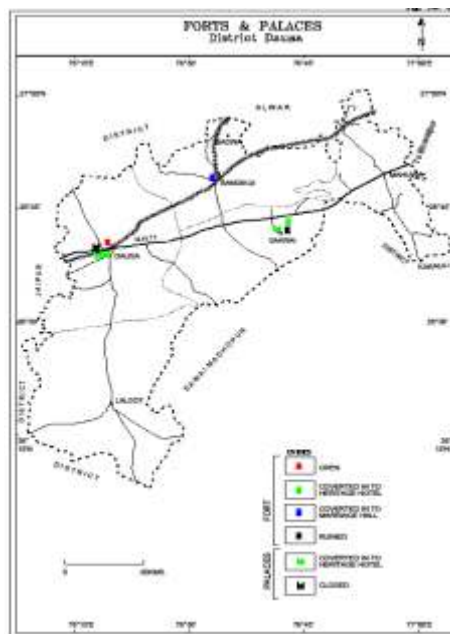
Table 4
Forts and Palaces of Dausa District

Name of Fort / Palace	Tehsil and District	Name of Period/ Built By	Features
Dausa Fort	Dausa city, Dausa	Kushwah clan in the 16 th century	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In good condition • Two Temples inside the fort
Geejgarh Fort	Sikrai , Dausa	Chauhan clan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In ruined condition • Local Families are living here.
Khawaroji Fort	Sikrai , Dausa	Rajput clan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In ruined condition • Khawaroji palace is located in the

Khawaraji Fort	Sikrai , Dausa	Rajput clan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open for tourist • In ruined condition • Khawaraji palace is located in the back site of fort, now it is a heritage hotel
Lotwara Fort	Bandikui, Dausa	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into marriage hall • Private property
Bhadrawati Palace	Dausa city, Dausa	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel
Umaid lake Palace	Dausa city , Dausa	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converted into heritage hotel
Pratap Vatika Mahal	Dausa city, Dausa	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed

Source – Department of Archaeology and Museums, Jaipur, Rajasthan

The Fort of Dausa is on the top of hills, which is said to be 1200 years old. Surrounded by hills on three sides, and having Amol Ghati nearby with natural beauty, this place has worth to visit by tourists. Khawaraoji Fort is famous for residence of the ruler Raoji and natural beauty. This fort is now converted into the 'Khawaraoji Heritage Hotel'. Another fort known as Lotwara Fort is in ruined condition and now it has changed into marriage garden. Bhadrawati Palace and Umaid lake Palace are now converted into heritage hotels (Fig 4).



2. Flow of tourists in the Golden Triangle Region of Rajasthan

The numerous forts and palaces of this part of golden triangle are in fact a testimony to its rich historical background. This whole area is garlanded by the presence of number of beautiful forts and palaces that echo the splendid history of Rajasthan. Magnificent forts and Palaces such as Amber Fort, Alwar Fort, Lohagarh Fort, Bayana Fort, Bhangarh, Nahargarh Fort, City Palace, Kishori Palace, Samode, Hawa Mahal, Jal Mahal, Rambagh Palace and Deeg Palace are spectacular sights which attract hordes of tourists every year. With so many heritages, on display in the form of forts and palaces, it is no surprise then that tourists coming to this area always feel the urge to come back. Table no 5 represents the tourist arrival (Domestic and Foreign) in the study area from 2001 to 2014. Though Dausa district has very less number of tourist arrival, so its tourist statistics is not shown in the following table.

Table 5
Tourist Arrival in Study Area (2001 – 2014)

Year	Jaipur District		Bharatpur District		Alwar District	
	Domestic	Foreigner	Domestic	Foreigner	Domestic	Foreigner
2001	655715	172950	101181	9553	118454	15841
2002	589414	81451	61361	5181	136604	7368
2003	640130	105161	70336	8949	190037	8711
2004	968123	206272	73691	33525	210861	11416
2005	198000	387295	87427	24052	239541	20158
2006	1278603	441910	70140	20145	303577	17496
2007	1287072	464841	63253	17355	252126	22872
2008	1138859	456165	42902	18816	97,605	26119
2009	995996	283423	41689	23052	82,905	19238
2010	1133543	368512	46962	30360	82,808	19131
2011	1035885	416824	52566	34643	139,241	15,592
2012	998703	534256	67676	41326	145809	15,062
2013	1104905	566429	69370	43166	116800	12,852
2014	1170152	568234	69225	40386	123835	18,887
Total	1,31,95,100	50,53,723	9, 17,779	3,50,509	22, 40, 203	2,30,733

Source - Progress report (2013-2014), Tourism Department, Rajasthan

The study area has emerged as one of the popular tourist destinations in India for both domestic and foreign tourists. Table no 5 reveals that there is a constant increase in the total tourist arrivals (Domestic and Foreign) in area, from the year 2001 to 2014. This is all because of the popularity of its magnificent forts and palaces and the calm and cool environment provided by the Rajasthanis. The arrivals came down in 2009, because of the Jaipur serial bomb blasts and recession in the economy on the world level, but again in 2011, the graph shows upward trend till 2014. Further scrutiny of table no. 3.14 reveals that the Jaipur, shows the high rate of domestic and foreign tourist arrival from the year 2001 to 2014 followed by Alwar and Bharatpur. Jaipur is the royal part of Rajasthan offers many grand forts and palaces, which are part of the heritage of India and attract a large number of tourists from all over the world.

Conclusion

Mesmerizing forts and palaces of golden triangle region of Rajasthan 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 the golden triangle region of Rajasthan plays a significant role in the state of Rajasthan, which are acknowledged world wide as a famous tourist's sites.

Scattered all around in the study area, 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 study area 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), Jaipur Development Authority, Public Works Department, Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Ltd are playing an important role in the conservation and protection of forts and palaces of golden triangle region of Rajasthan.

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography

MJRP – University, Jaipur

References

1. **Batra, N.L.(1996)** : Heritage Conservation - Preservation and restoration of Monuments , Aryan books international New, Delhi, pp 35.
2. **Manchanda, Bindu** (2005): Forts and Palaces of India – Sentinels of History , lustre press roli books , p.56.
3. **Manchanda, Bindu** (2005): Forts and Palaces of India - Sentinels of History , lustre press roli books , p.60.
4. **Prabhakar, Manohar** (1972): Cultural heritage of Rajasthan, Panchsheel Prakashan, Jaipur, pp.45.