

WITNESS THE
MAGIC OF
Jalore

foreword

On behalf of District Administration, Jalore, Tourism Department, Govt. of Rajasthan and Jalore Vikas Samiti, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to witness the magic of Jalore highlighting the sights of this magnificent district which leave you spell bound.

Famous as 'The Granite City' Jalore, the heart of Rajasthan was once known as the land of meditation. This kingdom of wonder which illuminates the Thar enriching the land with mesmerizing glimpses.

Set on the foothills of Swarngiri mountain, just 140 km from Jodhpur and 340 km from Ahemdabad, prime attractions of the District are the "Jalore fort" (one of the nine castles of maru), 'Sundamata temple' (about 900 years old temple of mother goddess), '72 Jinalaya' (spreading itself across 80 acres of land made purely of marble). It is also a proud home to numerous mosques, Jain and Hindu temples. Also Jalore hosts the gateway of the sacred river Narmada to the State of Rajasthan.

The land garners its centuries old traditions, mysterious religious culture and untouched pure natural scenery that fills you with peace and serenity in contrast of the typical city life.

Jalore grounds ethereal and timeless beauty which appears to have stepped straight out of a book of art. It is a miracle worth beholding.

Finally I should not forget Jalore's biggest attraction of all, its friendly and hospitable people. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

We wish to see you soon.

Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni

IAS

District Collector & Chairman
Jalore Vikas Samiti



From the Secretary

Jalore Vikas Samiti which excels itself in various spheres is now presenting the archaeologies, historical, economical and culture heritage of Jalore before the world through this Coffee table book 'Magical Jalore'.

'Jalore Mahotsav 2015' which was organized between 15-17 February 2015, was welcomed with active participation of the tourists and the citizens of Jalore district. The festival undoubtedly thrilled millions of spectators with its majestic grandeur.

Famous photographer Shri Umesh Gogna has treasured these exotic and eye catching moments through his excellent photography wreathing all the glimpses of the programme and the historical places of interest in and around the district.

This inspiration is drawn entirely with the integrated efforts and sole leadership of our honorable District Collector and also the president of Jalore Vikas Samiti Dr. Jitendra Kumar Soni whose guidance and far fling sight along with priceless contribution is incredible. We acknowledge our sincere obligation to the Co-ordinator of the Mahotsav Mr. Manvendra Singh Rajpurohit and to all those who have contributed whole heartedly in the 'Jalore Mahotsav 2015'.

Definitely these treasured of 'Jalore Mahotsav 2015' and the dedicated efforts of all will elevate Jalore as a historical heritage.

Well Wisher



Mohan Parashar
Secretary
Jalore Vikas Samiti

padharo mhare des



Jalore, a city just the right size- small enough to easily come across the people you know, big enough to satisfy a man consumed with wanderlust. Whether it's the culinary joy of Marwari cuisine, a walk through the history in India's pilgrimage town or a view of the beauty of real rustic Rajasthan, this city has it all. Travel back in time into an Indian fairytale and charm your eyes with the palaces, courtyards and temples, as you watch people buzzing about in the tiny narrow lanes and alleys. Jalore will amaze you with its cultural magnificence for sure.

Past, Present and Future

What is a city without its history? Despite the advance developments in the city, Jalore heritage remains treasured and well-preserved. Visit an old monument, or stroll down the old lanes. Learn where the city is going by peering into its past - from its humble beginnings to its transformation

The history of the district dates back to the 8th century, when the region was ruled by the Pratihara King, Vatsa Raja. Later, towards the end of the 12th century, the region fell into the hands of the Parmars, who built the famous Jalore Fort.

Post 1164, the region came under the administrative control of Kumarpal, who belonged to the Solanki branch of the Chalukya clan. Soon, Kirti Pal, Nadol king Arhan's youngest son, spread the Chauhan tradition in Jalore. After Kirti Pal, the Jalore throne was ascended by Samar Singh and after him by Uday Singh.

The entire lineage of Chauhans ruling the region, were known by the name of Songara Chauhan, after the mountain Swarnagiri, which contained their fort. During the reign of Kanhad Dev Songara, who was the successor of Samanta Simha, Jalore was attacked and destroyed by Alauddin Khilji, the Sultan of Delhi. In the 16th century, the land of Jalore went into the hands of the Mughal Empire and then after, part of Marwar state till its merger in Rajasthan state.

Since time immemorial, Jalore has been renowned as the centre of literature and culture in Rajasthan. Shaiva and Jaina religions are predominant in the district, which also influences the culture of the region. Dhol dance, Dandiya, Shakur dance and Matki dance are popular folk dances and are performed during the festivals. Major festivals celebrated in the region are Gangaur, Teej, Akshaya Tritiya, Diwali, Holi, Mahaveer Jayanti and Eid.

Gaze, Indulge and Captivate

Places you must explore:

Jalore Fort

Jalore Fort, also known as 'Golden Mount' or 'Sonagir' is considered as one of the most secure forts across the country. Nestled atop a hill nearly 1200 ft in height, the entry gate can only be reached through a serpentine ascent of around two-miles up the hill. The fort features four gates - Suraj Pol, Dhruv Pol, Chand Pol and Sire Pol. The typical construction of the Suraj Pol helps the first rays of the rising sun enter through its gateway.

To get upto the fort, one needs to scale a steep way, for about two hours. The palace inside the fort is now deserted, with only its ruins left to view. The Topekhana or the canon foundry is the most vital structure of the fort. It was built by Ala-ud-din Khilji in the 14th century. A few mosques are found inside the fort, which are believed to be built using the remnants of 84 Hindus and Jain temples. Presently, this fort belongs to the State Government's archaeological department and has been declared as a protected building since 1956.

Topekhana

In the middle of Jalore Town, remnants of a Sanskrit school and a shrine of King Bhoj who was a scholar of Sanskrit are found. King Bhoj was known for building a number of schools in Dhar, Ajmer and Jalore. During the pre-independence period, artilleries were kept in these school buildings and it was known as Topkhana.

After independence, the supply officers transformed it into storage for food grains. This building is now under the state's archaeological department and is guarded by security personnel. This school is adorned with stone carvings, which is a major attraction. It is flanked on both sides with small temples. The most interesting feature of Topkhana is a room, built 10 ft above the ground with stairs leading to it. It might be considered as the seat of the headmaster or teacher. This school building is supported by 276 pillars. There is a temple on the left side of the main gate of the school that might have housed an idol or a Shiva Linga, in the past.

Jalore Wildlife Sanctuary

Jalore Wildlife Sanctuary is a small locally owned sanctuary about 130 km from Jodhpur near Jalore town. The sanctuary is a remote natural jungle spread over an area of 190 square km. It is home to a sizeable number of endangered wild animals.

Indian Gazelle, Desert fox, Leopard, Asian-steppe wildcat, Tawny eagle and long billed vulture can be spotted. Herds of Blue-Bull antelopes and Gazelles roam freely right outside the camps that are set for tourists in the heart of the jungle.

Forest authorities operate two safaris daily which lasts for about three hours. The tourists are escorted by guards and a naturalist who imparts information about the forest and helps them find the animals. Bird watchers can spot

up to 200 different species of birds in the Jalore sanctuary. There are opportunities for adventure seekers to explore the trails as part of full day hikes that are offered with lunch to the top of the granite mountain ecosystem inside the sanctuary. If you are lucky, you can see sloth bears and leopards on the trail.

You may have to make prior bookings as only six tourists are allowed to stay in the sanctuary every day. The number has been set low by the local authorities to increase the probability of sightings and to give the tourists the experience of being in a jungle without any disturbance.

Sundha Mata Temple

There is a temple of Goddess Chamunda Devi, called Sundha Mata Temple, atop the Sundha Mountain in the Aravalli Range. The temple is built at a height of 1220 m above the sea level and is considered as a sacred place by the devotees. It is located at a distance of 105 km from Jalore. The place is frequented by thousands of devotees from Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The Sundha Temple is made of white marble and the design of the pillars is reminiscent of the pillars of the Dilwara Temple at Mount Abu. The temple houses an idol of Goddess Chamunda, placed within a huge stone. Along with Goddess Chamunda, a BhurBhuva Swaweshwar Shiva Linga is also worshiped at the temple.

The temple also features some inscriptions of historical value, like the Harishen inscription. In the main temple, an idol of Shiva and Parvati are also found. Different communities have built dining halls where fresh food is served free of cost. Lately, ropeway services have been established to reach the temple.

Neelkanth Mahadev

The Neelkanth Village of Jalore District is famous for the Neelkanth Mahadev Temple. The temple is located at the entrance of the village and is built on a high mound. The southern face of the temple is adorned with minaret like pillars, which are one of the main attractions of this temple. The temple is considered to be very old.

It is said that the troops of Alauddin Khilji attacked Jalore and tried to destroy the Shiva Linga of the Neelkanth Mahadev Temple. Instead they were attacked by black bees and were forced to retreat. Alauddin Khilji is said to have begged the mercy of Shiva and built a west facing, mosque like temple at the site, to please the lord. The Shiva Linga of Neelkanth Mahadev Temple is partly black and partly yellow, which indicates an attempt to destroy it.

Though the temple has been reconstructed a number of times, many broken pillars, stone inscriptions and idols of gods and goddesses can be found lying inside the temple complex. The temple attracts large crowds during the rainy season and Shivratri.

Jain Pilgrim, Bhandavpur

Bhandavpur is located at a distance of 65 km from Jalore. The place has an ancient Jain temple which is 600 years old. The temple enshrines a statue of Lord Mahavir Swami, which is 1200 years old. This lotus shaped temple attracts visitors from as far as Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.

A fair is held twice in a year at the temple site, which is attended by thousands of devotees.

Mosque of Malik Shah

The Mosque of Malik Shah built by Ala-ud-din Khilji, is located in the centre of the Jalore Fort. The design of the mosque indicates that the designers drew inspirations from the Gujrati style of architecture.

Sire Mandir

The Sire Temple, nestled at a height of 646 m on the Kalashachal mountain, is located to the west of Jalore. It is around 3 km away from the town of Jalore. While scaling the mountain, one can also find the imprint of Nath Ji's footsteps. Adjacent to the temple, there is a big water hut and parking place for vehicles.

This temple, built by Raja Ratan Singh, enshrines a Shiva Linga established in a rounded cave. In front of the temple, there is a big statue of an elephant, built of cement and stone. It is said that Jodhpur's king, Mansingh, prayed at the temple to get back his kingdom.

Jahaz Temple, Mandwala

The village of Mandwala is located at a distance of around 20 km from Jalore. The main attraction of the village is a unique temple built on a ship, at the grave of Surishwar Maharaj. This temple is visited not only by Jain worshippers, but also by people from other communities. The temple enshrines an idol of Shantinath Bhagwan. Dining halls and rest houses are available here, for the benefit of visitors.

Jain Temple, Bakra Road

Every year on Posh Magh Shukla Saptami, a big fair is held here on the birth and nirvana date of Gurudev Rajendra Surishwar Ji. Main temple is built 7 feet above ground level. On top of the temple there are big turrets where rounded wheels are engraved everywhere adding to the beauty of the building.

Kirti stambh and Nandishwar Deep Teerth

Nandishwar Deep Tirth is located beside the Collectorate Office of Jalore. There are only seven temples of Nandishwar Deep across India. Near the main entrance of Nandishwar Deep Temple, there is a 72 ft tall, 5 storied tower from where, the whole of the town of Jalore can be viewed.

The tower has the statue of Mahaveer Swami. Near the western gate of Nandishwar Deep, the temple of Asthapadh has been established, featuring statues of Asthapadh pilgrims on all four sides.

Sevada's Pataleshwar

On the way to Raniwara and Sanchore, around 125 km away from Jalore, is a temple called Sevadas Pataleshwar belonging to the 8th century AD, where Lord Shiva is worshipped. The intricate sculpting work found at this temple is quite rare in Rajasthan.

How to get here?

By Air

Nearest Airport is Jodhpur Airport 141 Km from Jalore and Udaipur, 200 kms from jalore, where. At Jodhpur one can find nearly any domestic flight. There are direct flights to Jaipur, Delhi, Mumbai and other metros. There is also an air strip at village Nun about 35 km from Jalore City.

By Road

National Highway No.15 (Bhatinda-Kandla) passes through the district in Sanchore tehsil. All the block head quarters are connected with bus routes. One can come to Jalore from Jodhpur, Jaipur, Udaipur and Ahmedabad through Rajasthan roadways and other private operators.

Local Transport

Jeep-Car Taxis are available for visiting Jalore and nearby areas. Auto Rickshaws are available for local City visit.

By Rail

Jalore is situated in Samdari-Bhildi segment, connect Jalore directly with Jodhpur Division network in Rajasthan and Gandhidham, Ahmedabad network in Gujarat. Its well connected to Delhi Ahmedabad railway line & 70 kms from Falna.

Play, Cheer and Explore

Jalore Mahotsav (Festival) welcomes you.

Jalore festival showcases the culture of Jalore and the best of things Jalore district has to offer. You can witness or even volunteer to take part in any of the contests.

Attractions: Handicrafts, cattle, crops, plants, wild life, dance forms, academic seminars, singing camps, dances, village-life, sports, youth career guidance, cultural programs, trade fair, food-stalls, sports competitions for all age-groups, kavi sammelan, artificial rock-climbing etc.

Business, Meetings and Opportunities

A sought after business destination since the beginning of time.

Historically speaking, the cities of Rajasthan have always held an important position in the business history of the world. Desert caravans and traders from faraway lands visited well-known cities like Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Jaipur and conducted their business in the state. The new-age business hub even today, Rajasthan is one of the most preferred business destinations for people around the world. Abundant natural resources, investment-friendly policies, vast and unexplored talent pooling a secular environment are the reasons why national and international business giants are drawn to this magnificent state.

In the recent years, a lot of leading firms like Honda, Eicher-Polaris and Ambuja cements have made huge investments in the state while a number of firms are in the process of setting up shops in the state. National and international business houses have also been looking at business opportunities in the state. Rajasthan also houses an exclusive

Japanese Manufacturing Zone in Neemrana. The success of this project has intrigued the Korean fraternity, who has decided to set up an exclusive Korean Industrial Zone in the region of Alwar.

Rajasthan is strategically located on the proposed **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) and the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC)**. Jalore being on the mapping area of the DMIC along with other zones passing through this 1500 km long corridor will be offered high-speed and high-load connectivity for the movement of freight. The zones all along this corridor will be developed as industrial corridors all the way to Mumbai.

Jalore - The Granite City, beholds a major granite industry with about 1200 industrial processing units manufacturing granite in almost 50 various shades making Jalore the hub of granite production in northern India.

Welcome to Jalore

If you yearn to experience the traditional old world appeal of Rajasthan's culture and values, the old streets of Jalore with its captivating day-to-day activities and aromatic smells will charm you. You'll experience this city, with the echoing music of its entertainment outlets, the beam of vehicle lights searching for the perfect late-night snack and colourful streetlights - a spectacle that proves Jalore as a definite place to visit for world travellers.



Left: SUNDELAV TALAV An ancient pond circumvented by famous temples of historic values.

Above: A panorama of Jalore Fort perched atop the Swarangiri Hills adjoined by religious temples.



Left: The magnificent Suraj Pole (Sun Gate) is one of the four mighty gates that lead into the Jalore Fort. It has been built in such a way that the first rays of the morning sun enter through this gateway, hence the name.

Above: Glimpses of the fort demonstrating the Ranivas (queen's palace) and the meeting hall



An arresting aerial view of Jain temples, Shiva temple, Devi temple, Masjid, Old Mahal, Bawadi set atop the Swarnagiri hills.



Left: DEEWAN-E-KHAS The private audience in the where maharajas convene with their advisors and courtisans.

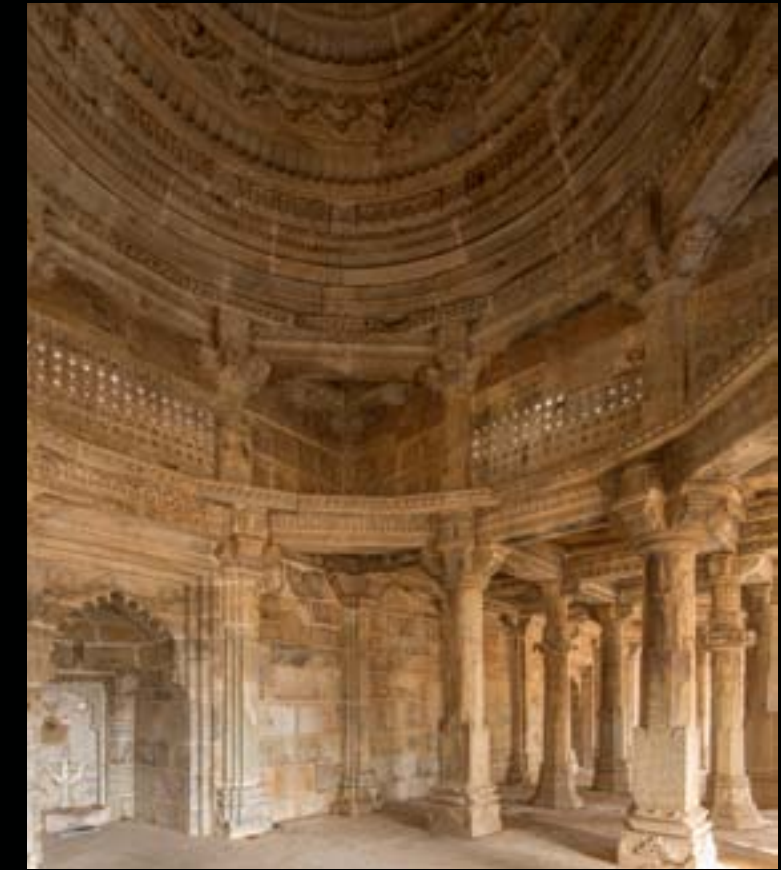
Right Above: ZAROKHA (window) : A type of overhanging enclosed balcony used in Mughal architecture allowing women in purdah to watch the events outside.

Right Bottom: The sculpture of a stambh or pillar



Left: A tree rooted outside the Bayosa Mandir (Devi temple) enveloped by knots of faith in different cloths and dresses denoting the old customs and the prevalence of the belief of the people.

Right Above: Bhadrarajub, Chhatries –formerly called Subhadrajune is made up of two words, the name of Subhadra (sister of lord Krishna) and Arjuna (third among the five pandava brothers). According to the Mahabharata legend, Lord Krishna advised Arjuna to flee with his sister from Dwaraka and marry her. They were then married here by a Brahmin priest.



TOPEKHANA or The Canon Foundry is renowned for its architecture. The colonnade and the ceiling are tastefully carved. It was built by then ruler Raja Bhoj for a Sanskrit school. The school building is supported by 276 pillars. It was later converted to Topekhana.

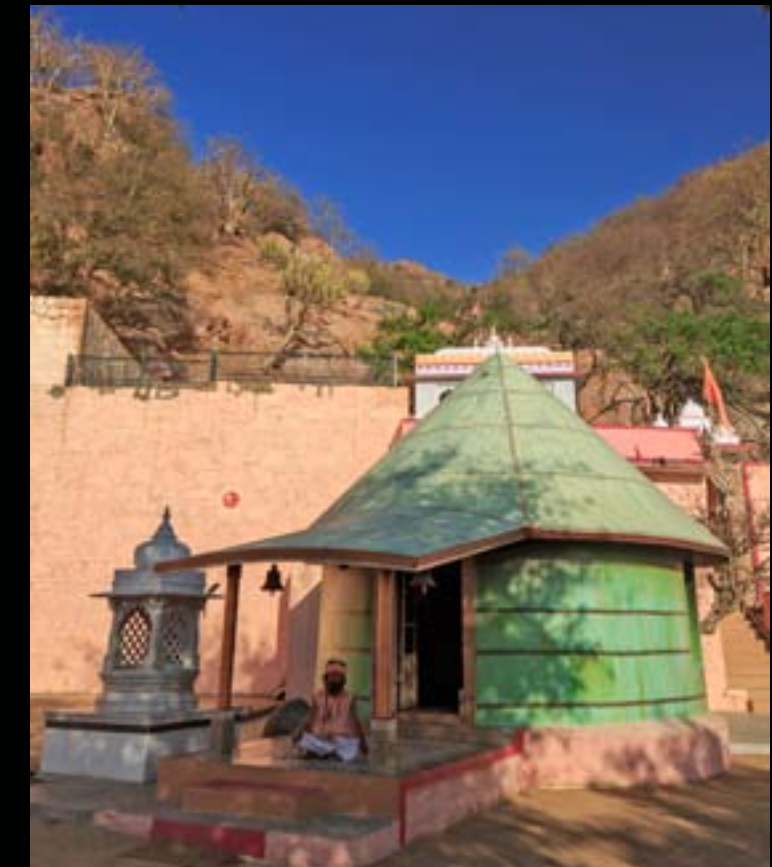
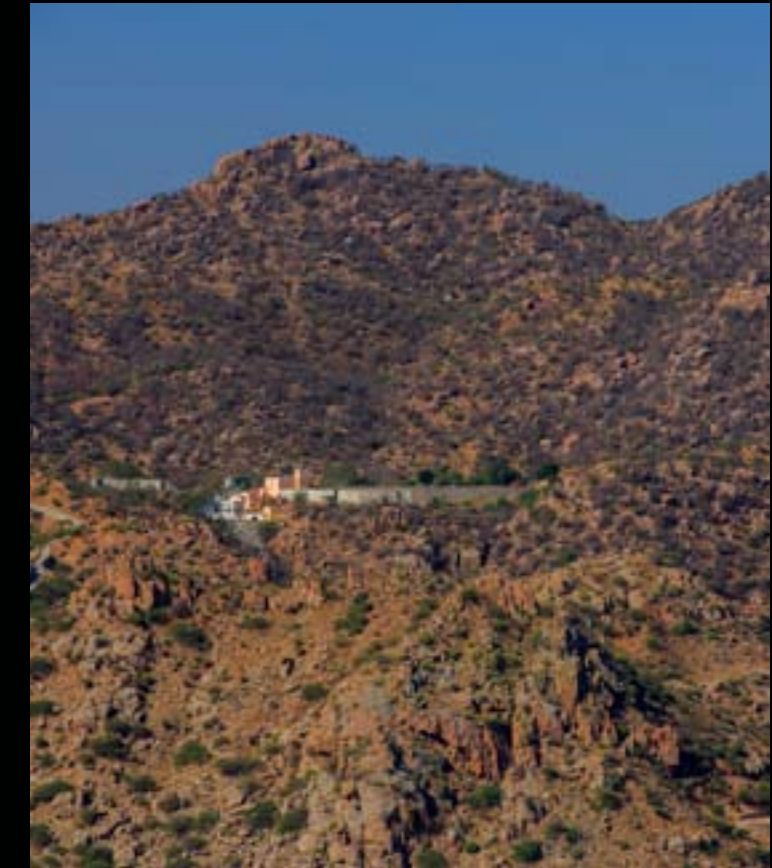


Left: Kailash Dham A famous Lord Shiva temple situated about 15 km north of Jalore town.

Right Above: Hanuman ji Temple located in Kaniwada about 10 Km from the city.

Right Bottom: Jain Temple at Mandwala also known as Jahaj Mandir is built in the shape of a boat and is carved from marble.





Left: The relaxing, arduous, meditative and every shade in between of the Sindha Hills.

Right Left: Kirti Stambh at the famous Nandishwar Dweep Jain Temple at Jalore.

Right Above: Picturesque of the roadway to Chitt-Harni (A place which has thee divine power of captivating each and every one's heart).

Right Bottom: Chitt Harni: The holy place of Nathsampradaya.



Left: 72 Jinalaya at Bhinmal is a Jain pilgrimage and is home to 72 smaller temples Lord Mahavira. It is spread over an area of 80 acres.

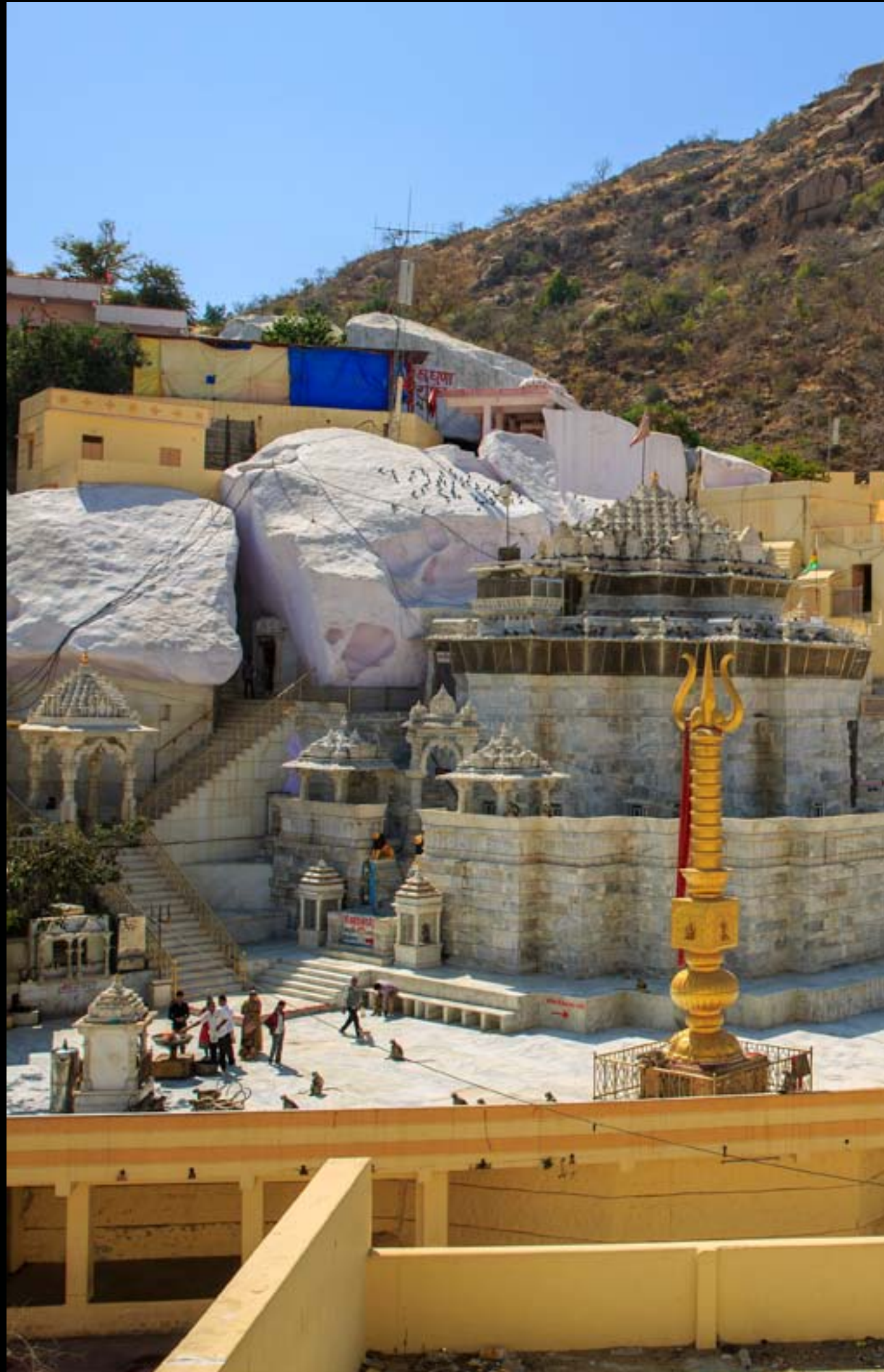
Right Above: The famous Varahashyam Temple in Bhinmal is dedicated to the Varaha avatar of Lord Vishnu. The temple contains inscriptions and carvings which beautifully narrate the story.

Right Bottom: Kshemkari Mata Temple at Bhinmal



Left: Chandinath Temple at Baori

Right: Sewadha Shiva Temple



Left: Sundha Mata Mandir atop the Sundha Hills made of white marble also features Harishen inscriptions. The famous Devi Temple attracts thousands of worshippers every day.

Right: Ropeway service that has been established to reach Sundha Mata Temple.



Left: Khodeshwar Mahadev Temple at village Javia, Jaswantpura is a very famous Shiva temple of the district.

Right: The barren stony slopes of Jaswantpura Hills.





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Left: Chimpanji Rock point at Mslawas near Siana

Above: A shepherd guarding herbs of sheep brusing the pasture lands





Left: Rangoli : A folk art of India in which patterns are created on the floor using materials like rice, dry flour, colored sand or flower petals and is meant to sacred value.

Right: Sarva Dharma Prayers which encompass all the religions and promote the feeling of brotherhood irrespective of the religion, caste and creed being conducted at the Jalore Mahotsava (festival)



Left: Camel Tattoo Show portraying an excellent program of Jalore Mahotsava conducted by skilled and experienced BSF jawans.

Right: Shobha Yatra- Procession of the Mahotsava



Left: Flag Hoisting in the stadium

Right: Colorful costumes, traditional props and captivating dance steps highlighting the famous Gair folk dance.



Above: Mehandi (Henna tattoo) competition- illustrating the use of henna via sketching of decorative design to adorn women's hands and feet as a part of social and holiday celebrations.



Left: Career counseling and guidance programs. Outdoor games being held.

Right Above: Fancy dress competition

Rights Bottom: Dance competition



Left: Camel tattoo show portraying an excellent program if Jalore Mahotsava conducted by skilled and experienced BSF jawans

Above: BSF members conducting a march past on camels



Left: BSF members riding camels walking past the crowd in the venue grounds

Above: Proficient and trained BSF members and camels illustrating various stunt moves



Left: Solo Dance competition

Above: Jalore Laughter Challenge



Left: Five Dance- a rare performance art conducted by Jas-Nathi sampraday of Khatriyasaar village near Bikaner at Jalore Mahotsava

Right Above: Run for Jalore- a public participation irrespective of age groups to commemorate the Jalore Mahotsava functions





Left: Dog show featuring various dog breeds

Above: Activities pertaining to recreational education like the youth program designed to involve the youth



Left: Miss and Mr. Best Couple competition being held

Above: Kavi sammelan. A formal/informal gathering of poets usually in Hindi. The participants recite their poetry to each other and have a general discussion on literary issues



Left: Bicycle race

Above: Beautification of Sundelav Talav



Left: Vintage car show portraying heritage and ancient motors

Above Top Right: Akal geet or solo singing

Above: Bike stunt men performing during manoeuvre





Above: Kalbelia Dance performed by the Kalbelia tribe to celebrate joyful moments in the community. Garba Dance that originated in Gujarat performed in a circular formation



Left: Braj Holi Flower Show Program- performance by dance troupes showering petals of flowers

Above: A view of the audience at the culture programs and Kavi Sammelan





