



Kanoria  
PG Mahila  
Mahavidyalaya  
Jaipur

## **28. One Day Workshop on "Setup of Museums in Heritage Building: A Practical Study of Ajmer Museum"**

**Date: 13-02-2020**

1. Brochure:

Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Jaipur  
in association with  
Department of Archaeology and Museums  
(Government of Rajasthan)

organizing a one day  
Workshop on  
"Setup of Museums in Heritage Buildings :  
A Practical Study of Ajmer Museum"  
at Ajmer  
on 13 February, 2020.

**Resource Person**  
*Mr. Neeraj Kumar Tripathi*  
Superintendent, Ajmer Circle  
Department of Archaeology and Museums  
Government of Rajasthan



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## 2. List of resource person/guests:

1. Mr. Neeraj Kumar Tripathi, Superintendent, Ajmer Circle, Department of Archaeology and Museums, Govt. of Rajasthan
2. Dr. Poonam Pandey, President of Prithviraj Foundation (NGO), Ajmer


## 3. Geotagged photograph of the event:



 26.460556, 74.732916

**Group Discussion at State Film Archives, Ajmer**



 26.460556, 74.732916

**Group Photograph of Participants**


## REPORT OF WORKSHOP AT AJMER

One day workshop on “**Setup of Museums in Heritage Buildings: A Practical Study of Ajmer Museum**” was organized by History Department of Kanoria P.G Mahila Mahavidyalaya in collaboration with Department of Archaeology and Museums ,Government of Rajasthan at Ajmer on 13 February 2020.The workshop aimed to discuss contemporary re-use of historical buildings as museums for conservation of heritage and culture of the country.

Nineteen students of M.A. Semester II and IV of the History Department of the college and two faculty members namely Dr. Suman Dhanaka ,Dr. Shraddha Saxena participated in this workshop. Students reached the Akbar Fort, Ajmer, the venue of the workshop at 10:30 a.m, and entertained the delicious refreshment provided by the Department of Archaeology and Museums of Ajmer . Firstly we were shown the movie ”JEET” in the Auditorium of State Film Archives , Ajmer. The movie was based on issues of women education and child marriage and went on for an hour.

Workshop started around 12:30 p.m. with the lightening of lamps by Mr. Neeraj Kumar Tripathi, Superintendent, Ajmer Circle,Department of Archaeology and Museums assisted by Dr. Suman Dhanaka, Head of History Department, Kanoria, P.G Mahila Mahavidyalaya .The workshop began with a brief Introduction of Ajmer city and Stories about it, narrated by Dr. Poonam Pandey,President of Prithviraj Foundation, an N.G.O of Ajmer followed by addressal of Mr.Neeraj Kumar Tripathi ,the chief spokesperson of the workshop. He explained to the students how museums act as storage house of knowledge encompassing objects of artistic, cultural,historical,tradition and of scientific interests He further talked about categorisation of museums into archaeological and historical museums,science and technology museums,speciality museums,general museums,fine arts museums and so on.

Revealing the history of Ajmer Fort , he explained that Ajmer Mughal fort is one of the most beautiful monuments of the city and shows brilliant work of art and museum. It was built in 1570 A.D. by the Emperor Akbar to serve as home to Akbar during his visits and pilgrimages to Ajmer .During the British occupation in Ajmer, it was converted into a munitions house .The fort was then renamed as the Rajputana Arsenal and a portion of this fort was converted into a museum in 1908 as Rajputana Museum, Ajmer . It was formally opened in October1908 in the main central hall inside the Mughal Fort of Ajmer situated in Naya Bazar , locality of Ajmer. This fort is a grand and elaborate way to learn and gain knowledge about the romantic yet tumultuous and descriptive history of the picturesque city of Ajmer. In this fort Local yellow sandstone from Chhoti Khatu was extensively used and iron bars were used to clamp them . Random rubble masonry with rough stones and coarse lime was used for fort portions . Lime plaster was reserved for places that needed to be secured against water leakage in roofs,canals and drains.The gate of the fort is 20feet in length and 14 feet in width and has steel spikes to protect it from elephants The shape of bastions is octagonal and three storied.. The garden was designed in Mughal Charbagh style. Inside the fort there are stone buildings or Mahal(Diwan-I-Khas) which are beautifully decorated with relief carvings floral inlay work with semi-precious stones and calligraphy.

  
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This hall of private audience was built for the emperor and their families. It is a highly ornamented pillared hall. Also it is evidence of many historical royal events.

But with passage of time it got deteriorated..and under his supervision since 2017 it has been restored to the Divisional Level Museum. The restoration work was not an easy task. There were several problems involved in it. Neeraj sir discussed the problem and ethics in setting up the museum and the enhancement of galleries in Ajmer fort and issues and planning implemented during restoration .Upgrading something old means blending the old with new for generations. It requires balance between development and heritage significance.

Presently the fort museum after restoration displays elegant collection of the most beautiful stone sculptures, pottery, ancient and medieval armoury, coins, decorative art objects,excavated remains, stone inscriptions,copper plate inscriptions,miniature paintings etc.The bold interventions to achieve access in museum are clear and with sensitive response to the qualities of the historic fabric. The fort museum has introduction rooms before excavation gallery,sculpture gallery,jain gallery, buddhist gallery, painting gallery,inscription gallery,decorative art gallery,coin gallery,rest point cum feature gallery. Historical events are displayed through mannequins of Mansingh and Akbar discussing the battle of Haldighati,Prithviraj Chauhan and Chandra Bardai ,Thomas Roe and Jahangir.

Students were overwhelmed by witnessing such a gorgeous museum at Ajmer Fort..Mr Deepak Sharma, senior photographer, Hindustan Times showed the beautiful pictures clicked by him of Ajmer city and its monuments and also group photographs of the workshop were shot .At the end of the program ,vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Ruma, curator of Ajmer Fort The workshop successfully explained the concept of setting up museums in heritage buildings. It is the need of present time to convert heritage buildings into museums so that the rich heritage and culture of India can be conserved and preserved . In Rajasthan many museums are located in historical buildings and many more are into process.

After the workshop we left for visiting Soni ji ki Nasia, one of the worth watching place in Ajmer.It shows the peak of art in India.Next, we went to Adhai Din Ka Jhopra ,a grand piece of slave dynasty.At last we went to the pious place of Ajmer ,The Dargah Sharif and did prayers. While returning we halted at Anasagar Lake and had delicious dinner.

It was one of the most enlightening experiences which not only academically enriched us but also gave us an opportunity to visit history and places of historical importance situated in Ajmer.,we are sincerely thankful to our college and Department of Archaeology and Museums for organising such a wonderful event.

Submitted by: Parul Sharma M.A II  
Semester History student

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