

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF EDUCATION SECTOR 20D, CHANDIGARH

ENLIGHTENMENT AMIDST HERITAGE: A CHRONICLE OF THE EDUCATIONAL EXPEDITION TO JODHPUR AND JAISALMER

Date: March 26th, 2024

In a beautiful fusion of academic rigor and thrilling adventure, Government College of Education, Sector 20D, Chandigarh, witnessed a stirring spectacle as a group of esteemed faculty and eager students embarked on a remarkable educational escapade. This distinguished cohort, comprising five illustrious faculty members and fifty-five enthusiastic students from the B.Ed program, set out on a transformative journey to the historic realms of Jodhpur and Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

This educational pilgrimage, a cornerstone of the B.Ed 4th semester curriculum, commenced its inaugural chapter on the evening of March 19th, 2024, heralding the dawn of a narrative steeped in exploration and enlightenment.

As the sun descended gracefully below the horizon, painting the sky with hues of gold and crimson, the precincts of the college buzzed with palpable excitement. Dr. Sapna Nanda, the esteemed principal, graced the occasion with her presence, bestowing her heartfelt blessings upon the intrepid voyagers. With a spirit aflame with anticipation and a thirst for knowledge, the group embarked on their odyssey, their vessel of exploration a luxurious AC bus, poised to traverse the vast tapestry of the Indian heartland.

Day 1: March 19th, 2024

On the beautiful evening of March 19th, 2024, the illustrious journey commenced as the group embarked from the college grounds towards the enchanting city of Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Amidst the stirring farewell, Dr. Sapna Nanda, the esteemed principal, graced the departure, extending her warmest wishes for a safe and enriching voyage. Accompanied by the esteemed faculty members - Dr. Neelam Paul, Dr. Mukhtiar Singh, Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur, and Mr. Raj Kumar, the students set forth with boundless enthusiasm and anticipation, their hearts brimming with excitement for the adventures that lay ahead. During the journey to Jodhpur, a brief pause of one hour was scheduled at the Kaithal Restaurant for a delightful dinner break.



Dr. Sapna Nanda (Principal) wishing safe journey to Students, Accompanying Staff before departure to Jodhpur.

Day 2: March 20th, 2024

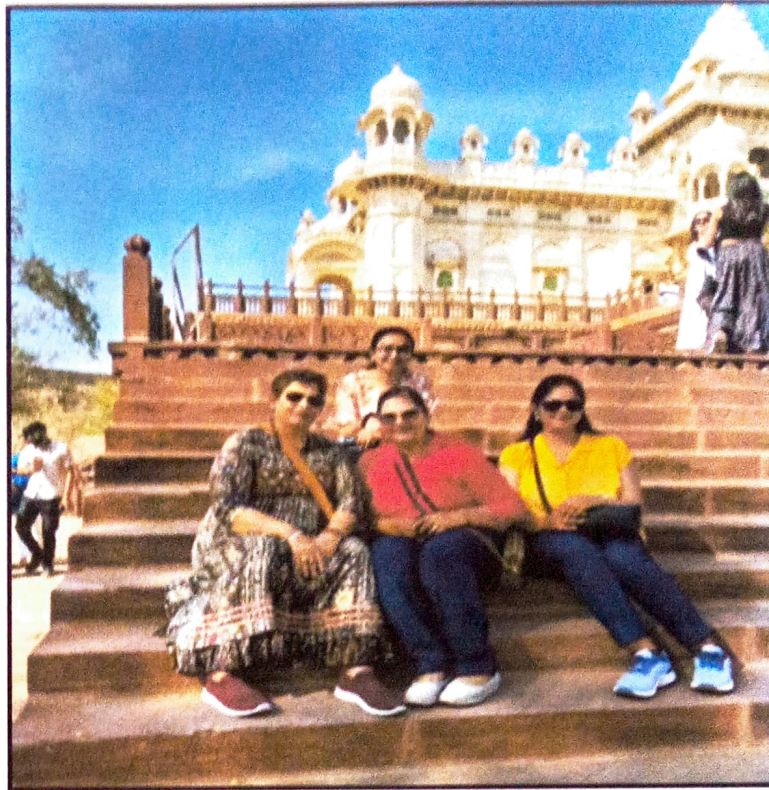
Following a lengthy journey spanning approximately 720 kilometers from Chandigarh to Jodhpur, the group reached their destination around 1:00 PM and promptly checked in at Hotel Madhuram Royale. There, the students were graciously assigned rooms on a quad-sharing basis, ensuring their comfort and convenience. Prior to embarking on their exploratory endeavors, the hotel treated them to a sumptuous breakfast buffet replete with a diverse array of culinary delights, which they savored with delight.

With their appetites satiated and spirits rejuvenated, the group set out from the hotel at 2:00 PM to commence their local sightseeing tour of Jodhpur. This immersive excursion provided the students with a captivating glimpse into the city's vibrant tapestry of culture, bustling markets, and tantalizing cuisine. Moreover, they gleaned invaluable insights into Jodhpur's rich historical heritage and distinctive geographical terrain, enriching their understanding of this enchanting destination.

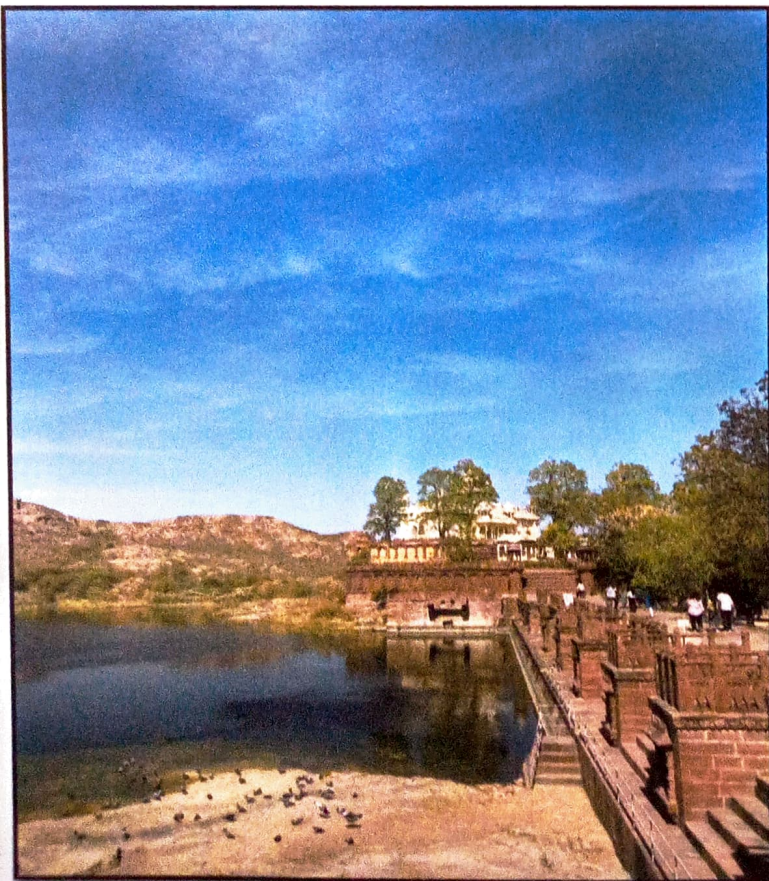
The Jaswant Thada The first location was the Jaswant Thada which is a cenotaph located in Jodhpur, in the Indian state of Rajasthan. It was built by Maharaja Sardar Singh of Jodhpur State in 1899 in memory of his father, Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, and serves as the cremation ground for the royal Rajput family of Marwar. The cenotaph's grounds feature carved gazebos, a tiered garden, and a small lake. Students were given time to explore the place freely and enjoy the breathtaking Rajputana Architecture of Jodhpur.



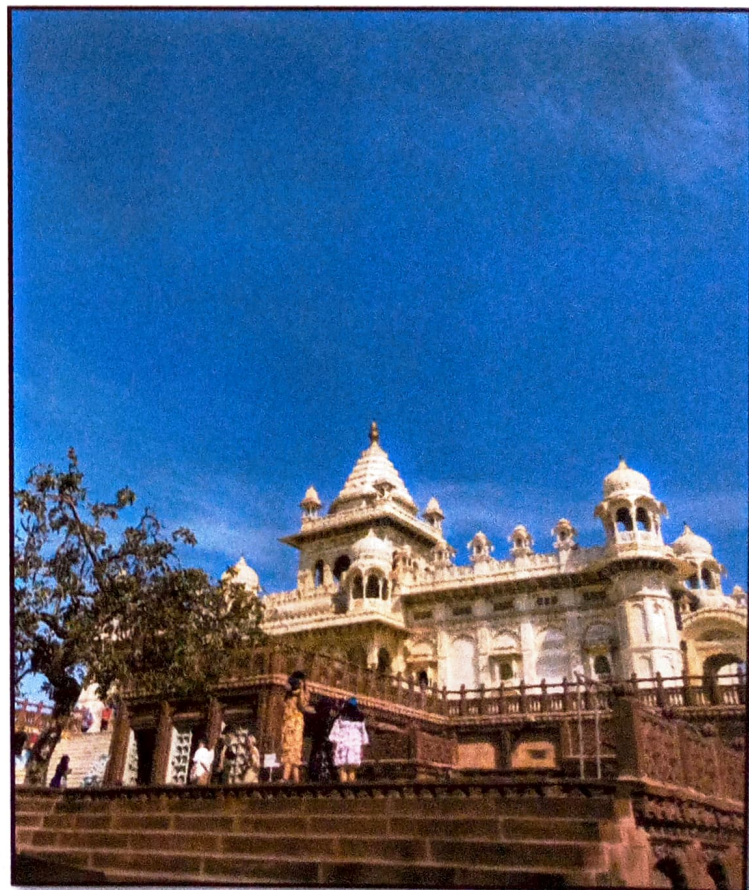
Group photograph in front of Jaswant Thada,
Jodhpur, Rajasthan.



Students enjoying The Jaswant Thada Monument
with the teachers.



The Scenic beauty of Jaswant Thada.

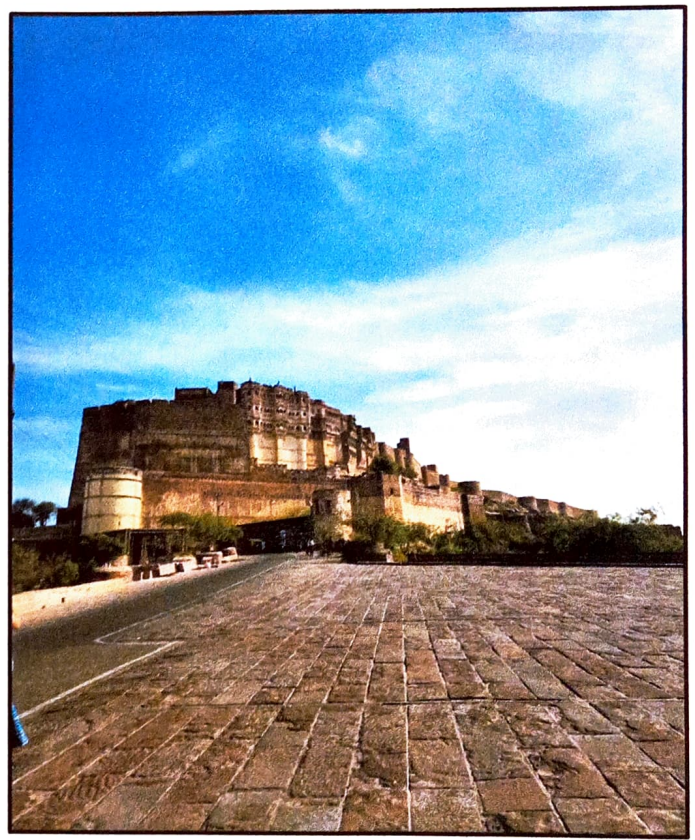


The Beautiful Monument Jawant Thada

The Mehrangarh Fort:

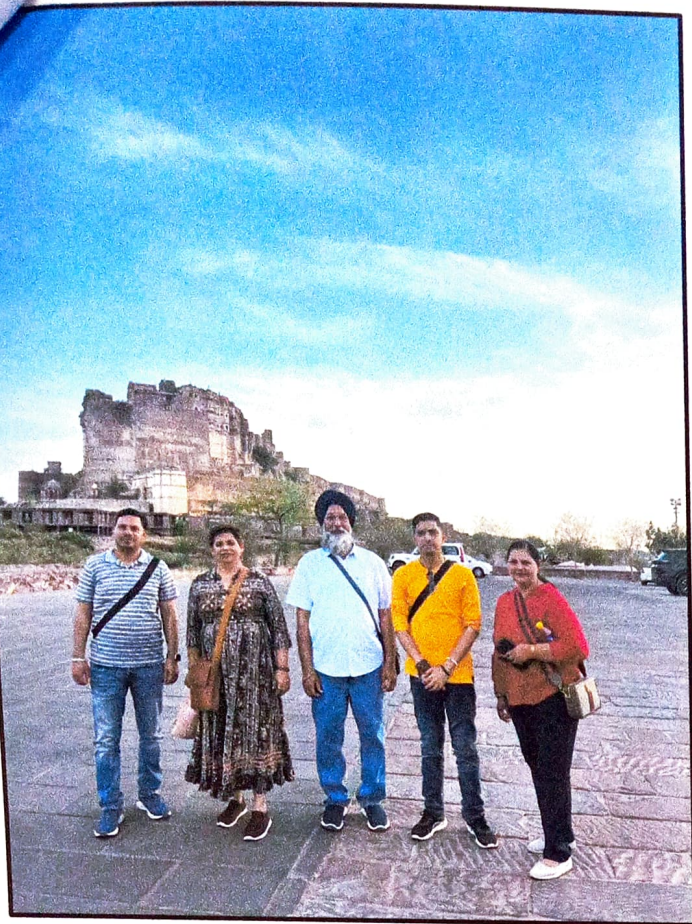
Leaving Jaswant Thada behind, the group set their sights on Mehrangarh Fort, a majestic sentinel perched atop a 122-meter hill. Spanning an impressive 1,200 acres, the fort complex is a testament to Jodhpur's rich history. A knowledgeable local guide accompanied them, bringing the fort's significance to life. The students were captivated by the architectural beauty and awestruck by the breathtaking panoramic view of the entire Blue City of Jodhpur sprawling beneath them.

After a full day exploring the Blue City, the group returned to Hotel Madhura Royale for a delicious dinner buffet. The evening continued with some fun activities – a DJ party and a pool party – where the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Group Photograph in front of Mehrangarh Fort,
Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

The beautiful Mehrangarh Fort



Teachers at the fort.



Students exploring the fort.

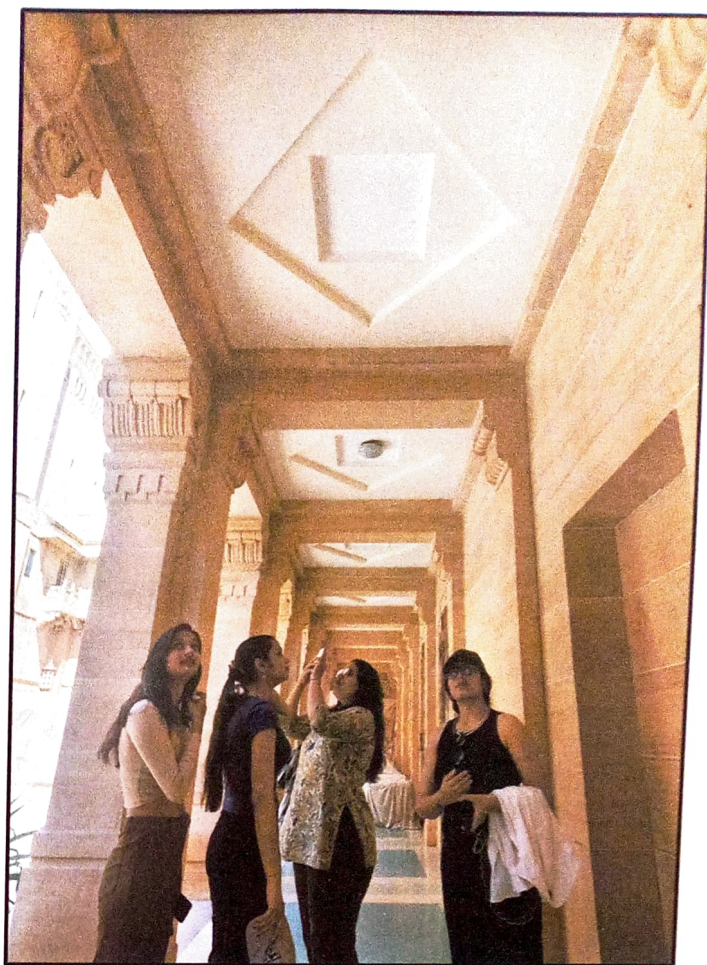
Day 3: March 21st, 2024

Breakfast Buffet was provided to the group before checking out of the Jodhpur Hotel at 10:00 AM. This was continued with the site seeing of the Blue City, Jodhpur.

Umaid Bhawan Palace

The next stop on their architectural adventure was Umaid Bhawan Palace, one of the world's largest private residences. Named after Maharaja Umaid Singh, the palace serves as the principal residence of the former Jodhpur royal family. A part of the palace is also managed by Taj Hotels and houses a museum. Here, students delved into the past, exploring a captivating display of royal artifacts and historical items. They spent a considerable amount of time immersing themselves in the palace's rich heritage before departing for Jaisalmer.

After exploring Umaid Bhawan, the group departed for Jaisalmer. They stopped for lunch at a roadside dhaba along the way, enjoying a one-hour break from the journey.



The Mesmerizing Umaid Bhawan Palace.



Students enjoying the beautiful palace with teachers.

Kohinoor Sand Dunes

After a scenic 270-kilometer bus journey, we arrived at the Jaisalmer Kohinoor Sand Dunes, our destination for the night. A warm welcome awaited us in the form of a mesmerizing Rajasthani folk music and dance performance. The students were delighted by the vibrant spectacle and even joined in for a group dance with the local artists, creating a truly memorable experience. A traditional Rajasthani dinner capped off the evening, leaving everyone feeling happy and fulfilled.



Group Dance by students and folk dancers

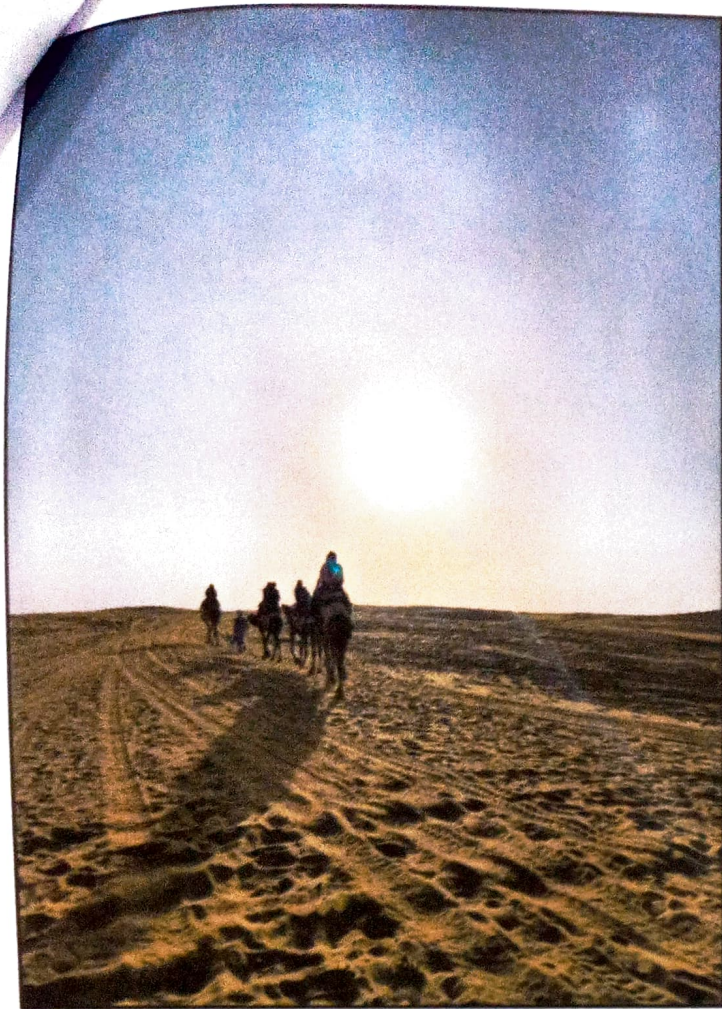


Traditional Welcome at Kohinoor Sand Dunes in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan with folk songs and dance.

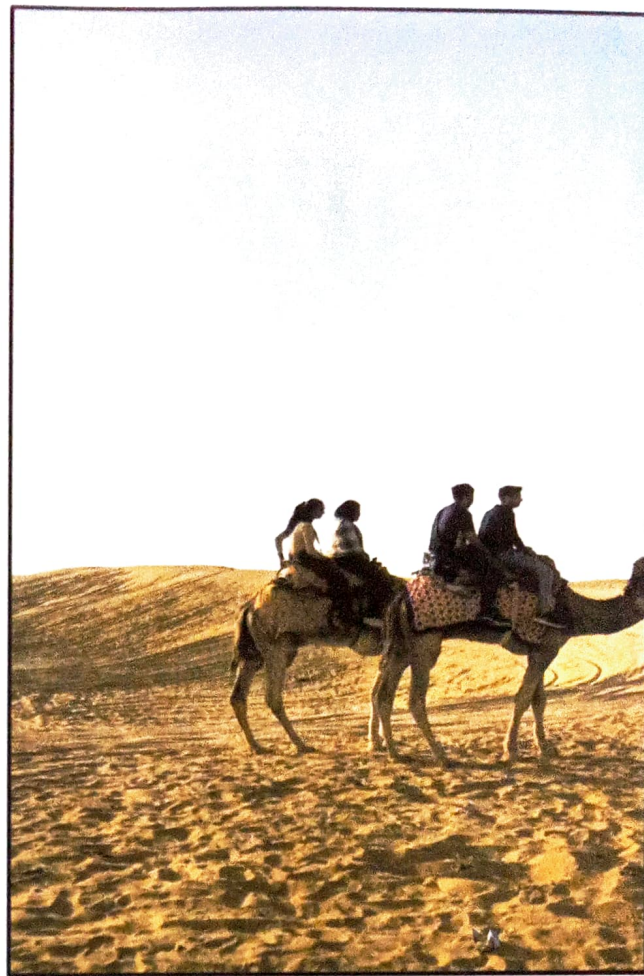
Day 4: March 22nd, 2024

Desert Safari and Adventure Sports

An early morning desert safari was planned to witness the sunrise over the sand dunes of Jaisalmer. A group of 7 to 8 students left the camp at 5:30 AM in each Thar and reached the sand dunes by 6:00 AM, just in time to witness the beautiful sunrise. They spent a considerable amount of time in the sand dunes, soaking up the moment. Camel rides were provided for everyone. Adventure sports like paragliding and bike riding were available for students to participate in, depending on their preferences.



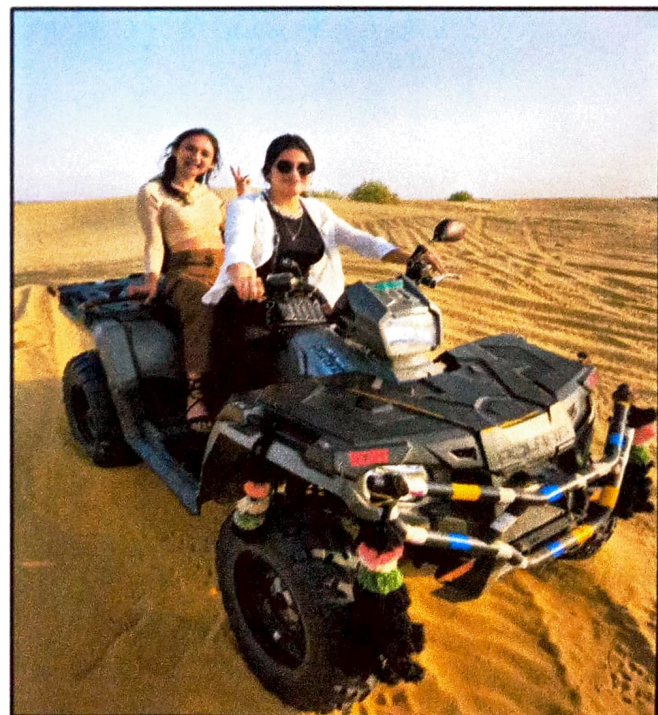
The beautiful Dessert.



Camel Riding at the desert.



Jeep Safari at the Sand Dunes of Thar Desert.

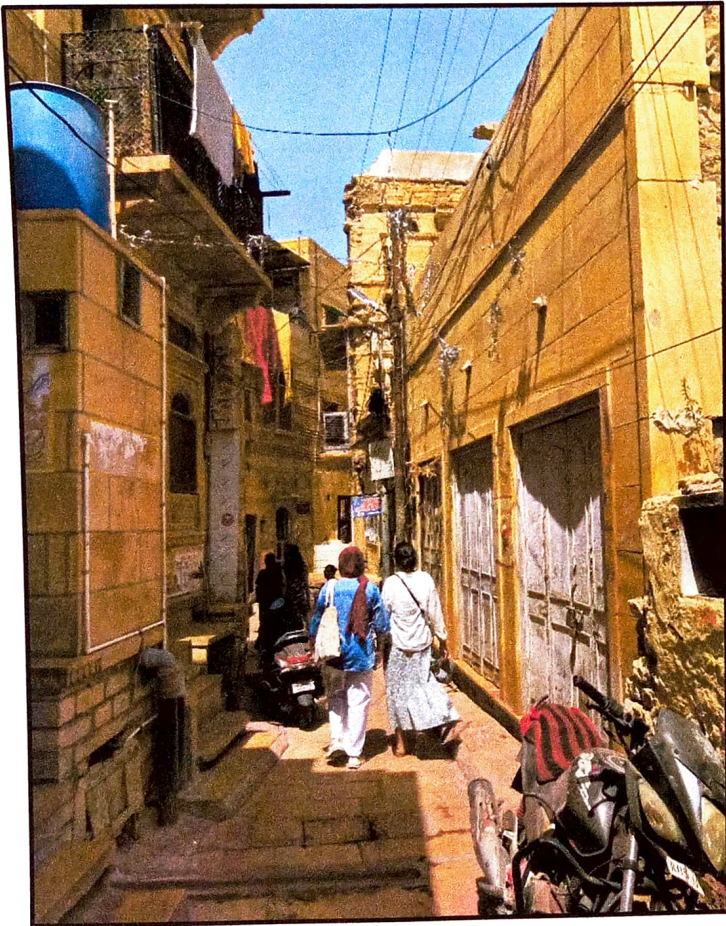


Students enjoying ATV.

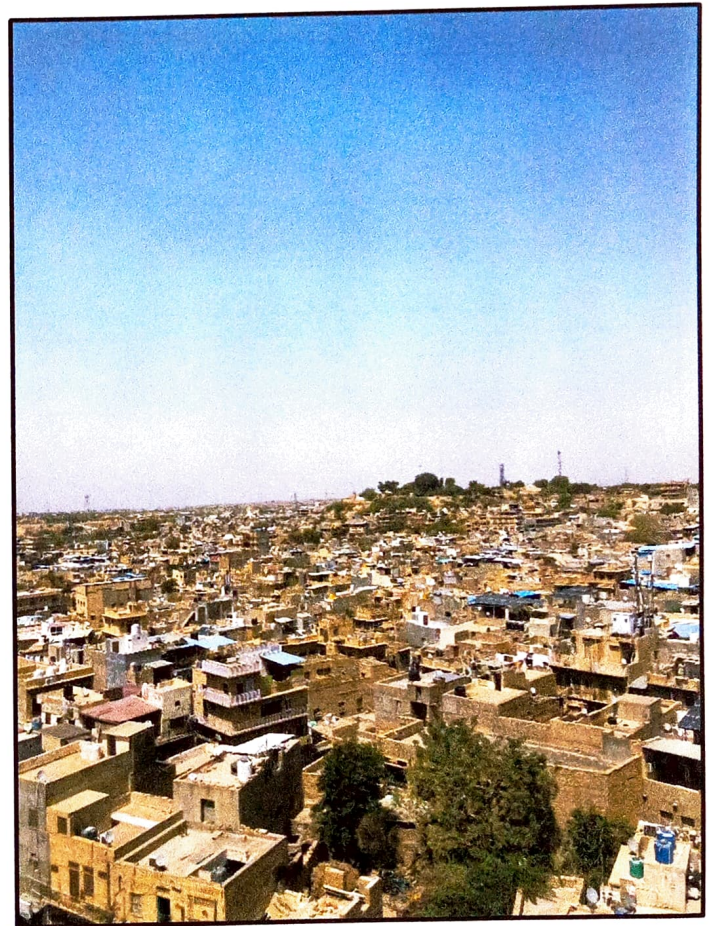
Upon returning from the desert safari, breakfast was provided at the camp. Students were then given time to get ready before checking out at 11 AM to carry on with the local site seeing in Jaisalmer.

Jaisalmer Fort

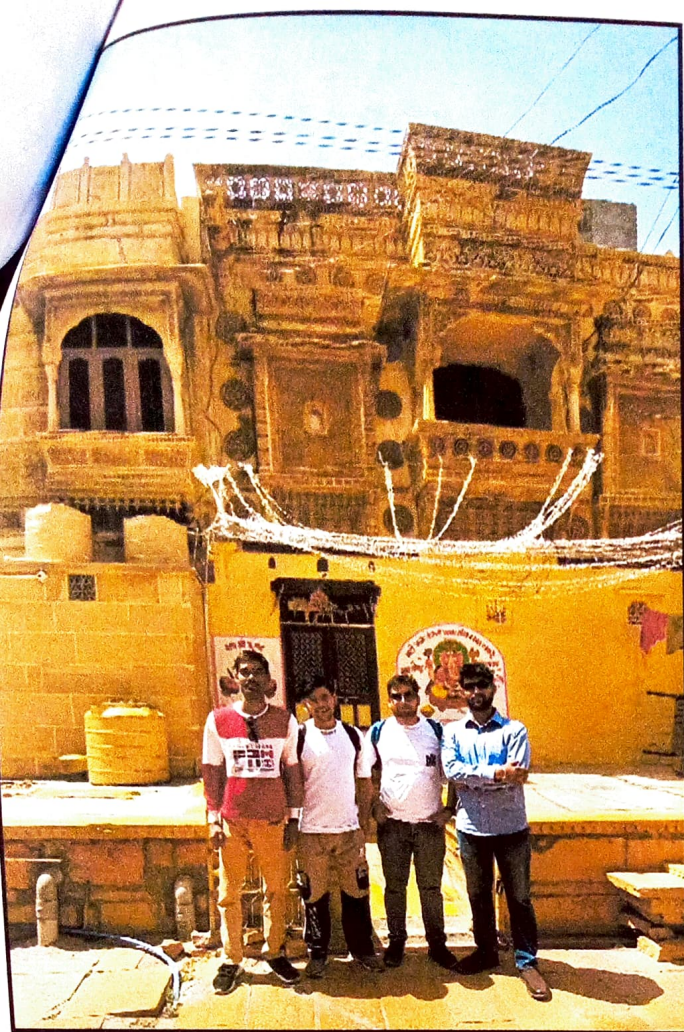
A local tour guide accompanied the group as they explored Jaisalmer Fort and learned about its historical significance. One of the very few "living forts" in the world, nearly one fourth of the old city's population still resides within its walls. Panoramic view of the Golden City was visible from the heights of the fort and the exploration gave an insight into the local culture of the city.



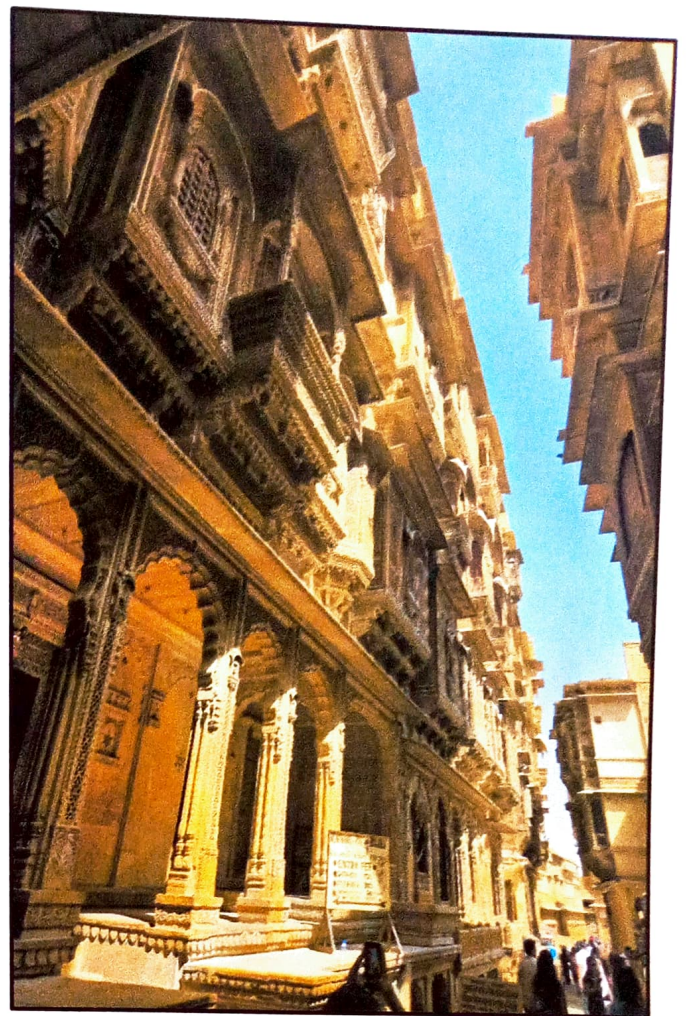
Students exploring The Jaisalmer Fort,
Rajasthan.



The view of The Yellow City from the fort.



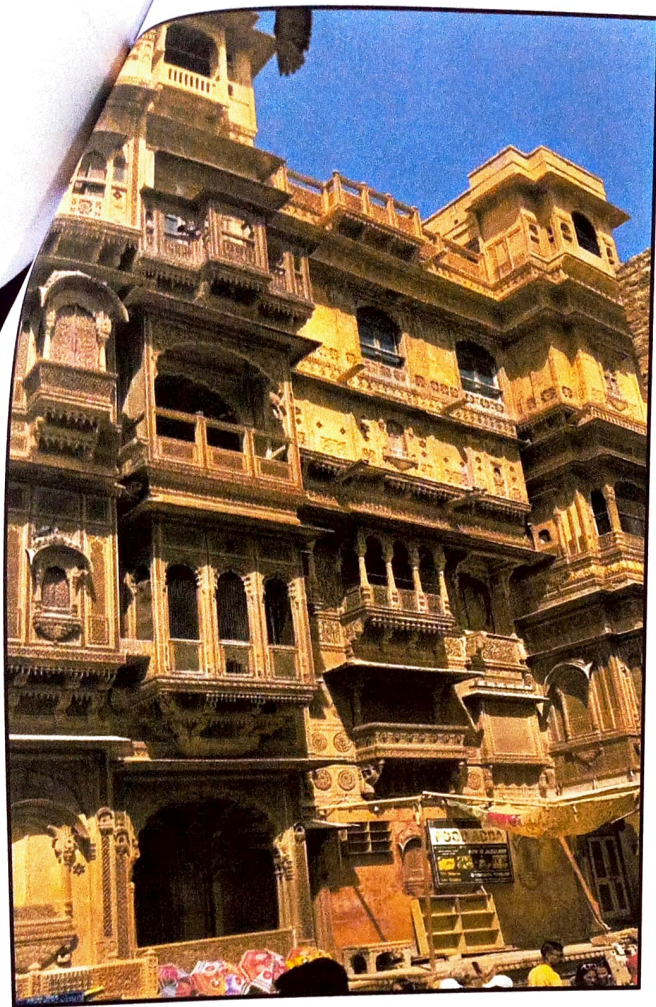
Inside the streets and buildings of Jaisalmer Fort.



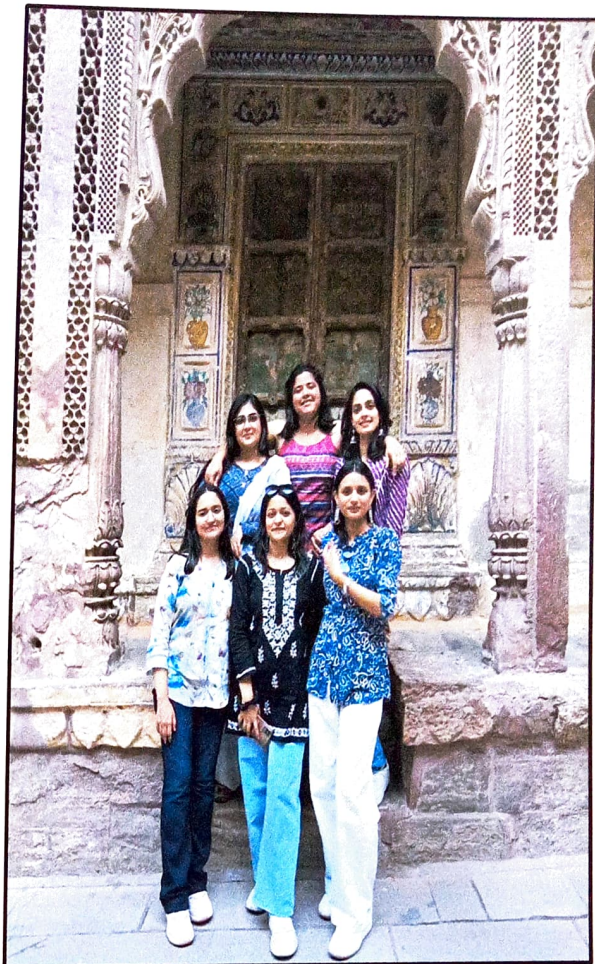
Capturing the architecture of Jaisalmer Fort.

Patwa ki Haveli

The exploration continued to Patwa ki Haveli in Jaisalmer, where students witnessed marvelous architecture. The Haveli, along with the streets and historic buildings, including even the local houses, were all carved from the locally available yellow stone. Students were then left free to explore and enjoy the architectural beauty at their own pace.



The beautiful architecture of Patwa ki Haveli.

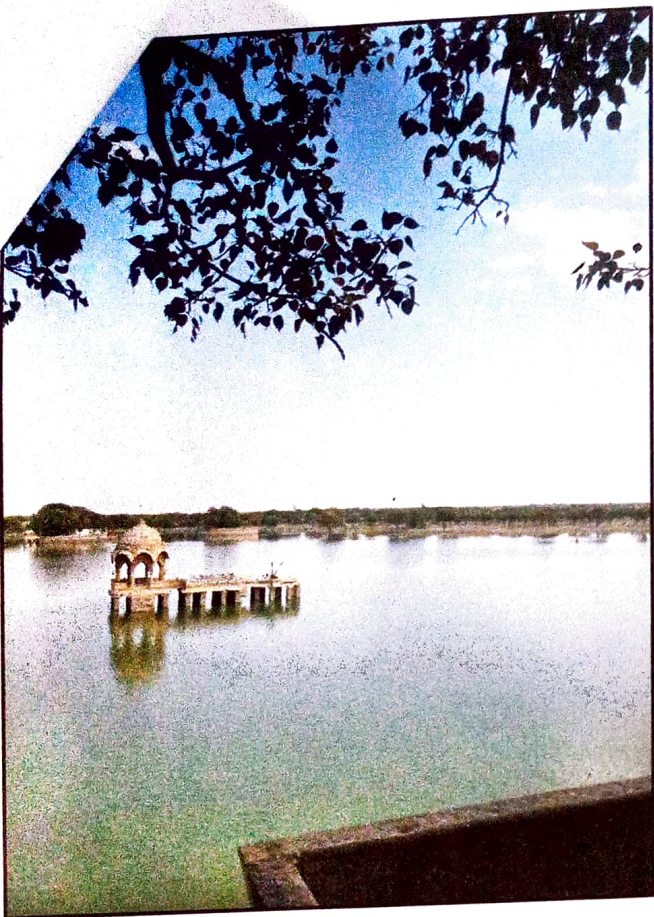


Students enjoying.

Gadisar Lake

The Gadisar Lake, an artificial lake located in the southern part of Jaisalmer, served as the last stop of both the day's itinerary and the entire trip. Built by Rawal Jaisal, the founder king of Jaisalmer, it was once the sole source of water for the region. The students revelled in the lake's mesmerizing evening beauty before indulging in a delicious lunch at nearby cafes. Local street shopping capped off the trip, with the streets brimming with affordable local textiles and jewelry.

After a busy and exploration-filled journey through Jodhpur and Jaisalmer, our trip concluded as our group departed for Chandigarh at 7:00 PM. We made a one-hour stop for dinner at 11:00 PM enroute to Chandigarh.



The scenic beauty of historically significant place Gadisar Lake, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.



Students enjoying and capturing the beauty of Gadisar Lake, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

Day 5: March 23rd, 2024

On the final day of the trip, the group stopped at a roadside dhaba for breakfast and to freshen up. In the evening of March 23rd, 2024, we arrived at the college premises by 4:00 PM. All students later safely and promptly reached their respective homes, informing the accompanying staff of their arrival.

The four-day educational trip to Jodhpur and Jaisalmer proved to be a resounding success. Students gained valuable firsthand experience in history, culture, and geography, enriching their academic curriculum. Beyond academics, the trip fostered teamwork, independence, and lifelong memories. The well-planned itinerary balanced historical exploration with exciting activities, ensuring a truly enriching experience for all participants.

Accompanying Staff

1. Dr. Neelam Paul
2. Dr. Mukhtiar Singh
3. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar
4. Mrs. Gurmeet Kaur
5. Mr. Raj Kumar.


Student's Organizing Committee

1. Anjali (201)
2. Rashi Aswal (215)
3. Sonu Kumar (223)
4. Saloni (230)
5. Shachi Sudhir (239)
6. Ananya Nautiyal (242)
7. Swati (251)
- 8..Kriti Shukla (252)
9. Kirandeep Kaur (259)
10. Jaspreet Kaur (287)
11. Himani (297)

(Incharge)

1. Dr. (Mrs.) Neelam Paul

2. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar


Principal