



## Fort Mandore

Historians believe that, the old names of Mandor, the capital of Marwar, were Maddodara, Mandowar and Mandavyapura Durga, derived from the Rishi Mandavya. The place was inhabited even in the Gupta period ( the basis of their belief is use of Gupta script in this region. Situated about 8 km from Jodhpur, Mandore is an ancient site. Local traditions say that, Mandore was first held by the Nagas, followed by the Pratiharas, the Chahamanas and the Muslim sultans of Delhi from whom it was wrested by the Rathors. According to local traditions, Mandore was first held by the Nagas. The river, on the bank of which, it is situated, is called Nagadri. The tank of this place is called Nagakunda or Ahisaila. The Pratiharas of Mandore seem to have recognized the sovereignty of Nagabhata I, and his successors. The king Kakka, described as a great fighter, accompanied Nagabhata II in his expedition against the Pala king of Bengal. Bauka, the son of Kakka, is described as an independent ruler. Mandore was also remained under the control of Chahamanas rulers of Nadol. In 1226 CE, it was captured by Iltutmish for a short period of time and later wrested by the Rathor Rao Chunda in about 1405 CE. This monument is declared as Monument of National Importance vide The Ancient and Historical and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act, 1951 (LXXI of 1951).



## Conservation and Excavation

Archaeological Survey of India, Jodhpur circle is carrying out general maintenance and conservation of the Fort on routine basis.

The Pratihara rulers of Mandore were great patrons of art, and they adorned their capital with many beautiful buildings. Excellent Brahmanical and Jaina temples were constructed during their reign. The Pratihara ruler Rajilla built the rampart of the fort. The excavations carried out in 1909-10 yielded two elaborately carved monoliths of Krishna-Lila scenes. The Brahmanical temple discovered in excavations consists of sanctum with three high terraces which diminish in size towards the top. The original structure was erected in 7th-8th c CE and was restored during 9th-10th c CE. The principal remains containing six columns are elaborately decorated with bands of musicians, kirtimukhas, atlantes, floral designs and other motifs. Apart from several relieves discovered during excavation, one having 'Vamana-avatara of Vishnu' is of particular interest showing that in the 9th-10th c CE, the shrine was consecrated to the worship of Vishnu. The most interesting objects in the castle are two elaborately sculptured monoliths. They were of a fine torana which was intact in the time of Col. Tod, when he visited it. Scenes from Krishna's life such as the uplifting of Govardhana mountain, stealing- butter, upturning the cart and the subjugation of Nagakaliya, have been very well depicted.



## General View of Mandore Fort

Accordingly to D. Sahni, these columns probably belong to the Gupta period stylistically. Some inscriptions have been received during the excavation. One of such of the 9th c CE records that a certain worshipper of Kesava performed a fire sacrifice. Kakkuka, the Pratihara ruler of this place, was great patron of Jainism. A Jaina temple to the north of the cave of Nahada Rao, is a two storeyed structure consisting of small cells running on the three sides of an along. The pillars of the sabhamandapa in front of the shrine are old, dating back to 10th c CE.



## Restored ancient water storage structure

### Appeal

- \* Preservation of country's heritage is the moral responsibility of every citizen, save it for future generation.
- \* please don not walk on the rampart of the monument.
- \* Please do not throw garbage and waste in the monument.
- \* Please do not feed foods the monkeys.
- \* Feel glorious on the rich heritage of the country.

### Nearby visiting place

1. Mandore Garden.
2. Mehrangarh Fort.
3. Chhitar Palace or Umed Bhawan.
4. Clock Tower /Ghantaghar
5. Lake Kaylana.
6. Jaswant Thada.
7. Sardar Smand Lake & Palace.
8. Maha Mandir, a sanctified spot.
9. Machiya Biological Park.



*Dharti Dhora Ri....*

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प्रत्नकीर्तिमपावृणु

ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Ministry of Culture  
Government of India



Monolithic Sculptures Of krishna-Lila

# MANDORE FORT

SUPERINTENDING ARCHAEOLOGIST

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Save Monuments : Feel Glorious

