

LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 01 - Sonipat | 15 - Banswan |
| 02 - Karar Ibrahimpur | 16 - Khirbi |
| 03 - Dewarhu | 17 - Singar |
| 04 - Kasanda | 18 - Malab |
| 05 - Kurar | 19 - Luhinga Kalan |
| 06 - Dehra | 20 - Baded |
| 07 - Mahoti | |
| 08 - Bhalsi | |
| 09 - Waisari | |
| 10 - Deeghot | |
| 11 - Murtzabad | |
| 12 - Gharot | |
| 13 - Mandkola | |
| 14 - Manduri | |

Focus on

Sonepat, Panipat, Palwal and Nuh

Overview

Places visited :	20
Distance travelled :	2861 Kms
Elements mapped :	227
Scholars approached :	3
Craftspeople approached:	1

Sonepat, Panipat, Nuh and Palwal districts were visited during the third field visit in Haryana. Sonepat and Panipat share their district boundaries with Uttar Pradesh. Yamuna river flows on the eastern boundary of the districts. Most people here belong to the Jatt community. Palwal and Nuh share their district boundaries with Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, where the people are predominantly from the Meo community. Distinct variations in the lifestyles and therefore in the vernacular furniture were observed in these districts.

In Sonepat and Panipat, *chaupal* was observed to be an important public space where men gathered and spent their time by playing cards. They sat on *takhat* (bench) and discussed about the ongoings in the village. The cultural significance of a *takhat* differed in Nuh, where it is generally exchanged between the families of the bride and groom during marriage rituals. The legs of a *takhat* (locally known as *paae*) are made using turned wood and lacquer of bright colours such as red and yellow. The top rail is embellished using mirrors and embossed metal (mostly brass) fittings. The gifted benches are either used in homes or donated to mosques by the family. In the Meo community of Nuh, *patada* (low seat) was used for offering *namaz* (prayers). Having one side pointed, it is placed facing towards the direction of Mecca. This is part of the bridal gifts during a wedding. In Palwal district, a rudimentary floor seat called *muddi*, made of dried stalks

of rice crop, was used as a seat while cooking food on *chulha* (hearth).

In Dehra village of Panipat district, a *palna* (cradle) made from *shehtoot* (mulberry) branches was recorded in a residence. It was shallow in depth and hung from a *kunda* (hook) on the ceiling using cotton rope. The *palna* was lined with cotton bedding before the child was made to sleep. Such *palna* would be made during winters when the mulberry branches are flexible with the appropriate amount of moisture in them. Another type of cradle called *jhula* is often made by tying a cotton cloth or old saree on the frame of *khaat* (charpoy). The larders in this region were similar to the ones found in Punjab and other parts of Haryana. Locally known as a *jaali*, such larders were made out of wood and metal wire mesh. It was used to store perishables and spice containers.

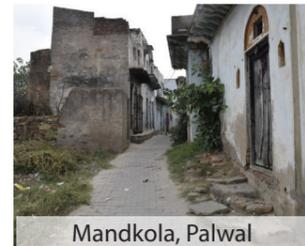
Most houses had shelves known as *tandi* on which utensils were displayed. The surface of most *tandi* would be covered using a plastic cover or newspapers with patterns cut out on them. In some houses utensils were stored in in-built alcoves called *almari*. Other vernacular furniture and objects recorded were *musal-ukhal* (mortar pestle) to grind grains, *tokra* (basket) to give fodder to the cattle, *rai* (churner) to churn the buttermilk while seated on *pidi* (stool). Water pitcher storage like *parhendi* and lamp holders called *divassi* were also recorded.



Kasanda, Sonepat



Dehra, Panipat



Mandkola, Palwal



Malab, Nuh



01



02



03



04



05



06



07



08

01. Takhat (Bench) in the chaupal, 02. Takhtposh (Bench), 03. Khaat (Charpoy) with Jhula (Cradle), 04. Palna (Cradle) 05. Mudhi (Floor seat), 06. Jaali (Larder), 07. Patada (Low seat), 07. Tandhi (Shelf)

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