

May 2017

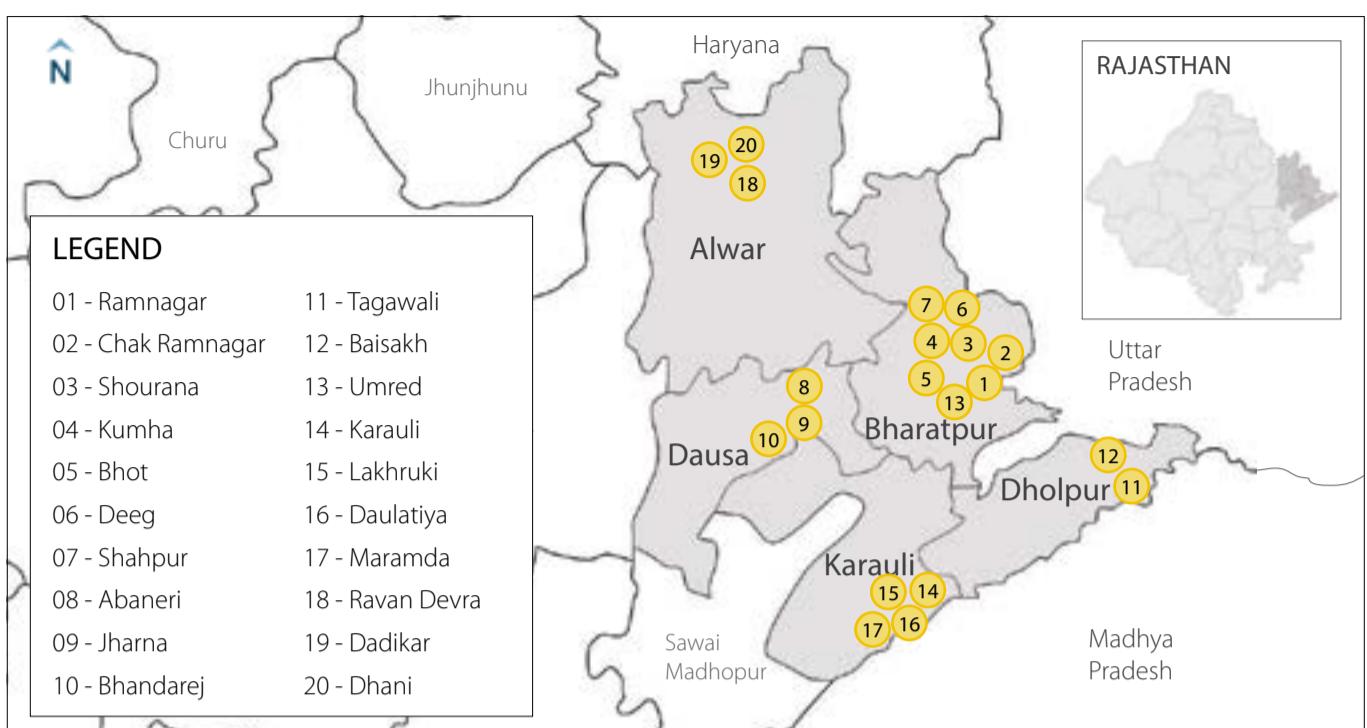
**Focus On - East Rajasthan**  
Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa,  
Dholpur & Karauli

**OVERVIEW**

Places Visited :	23
Distance Travelled :	3015 km
Elements Mapped :	278
Scholars Approached :	2



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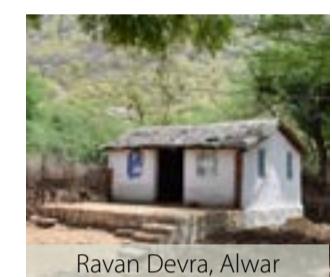
Deeg, Bharatpur



Baisakh, Dholpur



Lakhruki, Karauli



Ravan Devra, Alwar



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The field visit focused on Alwar, Bharatpur, Dausa, Dholpur and Karauli districts of east Rajasthan. These districts are located in the eastern part of the Aravali Range of Rajasthan and share borders with Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. It is a plateau region with hills and forests defining the landscape. Culturally, the districts are part of the Mewat Brij region.

Daybeds called *takaht* are common furniture in the region. A *takaht* is used in both public and private spaces, for a diverse range of everyday activities. It is also used in gatherings of the panchayat which is a village council formed by a group of five influential older men acknowledged by the community. The men sit on the *takaht* while resolving conflicts in the community. The *takaht* is generally made of wood. When made of stone, it is referred as *athai*. An *athai* is mostly found in public spaces in Karauli.

Another important vernacular furniture is the *kothi*. *Kothi* is a granary and in these regions, is mostly used to store wheat. The size, shape and ornamentation of the *kothi* is customised by the makers, who are the women

of the house. The walls of the *kothi* are made of mud and reinforced with wooden members. The wall surfaces are finished with a coating of lime plaster. The women also make grain pots from paper mache called *kuthila* to store smaller quantities of grain. Chests made of wood and metal are used to store household items and are called *sandook*. The *sandook* also acts as a safe to store jewellery and money. *Khat* are also commonly used as sleeping furniture in the region.

The visit brought light on various objects used in daily chores. A *dabno* (food cloche) made of metal strips is used to cover fresh food. *Sigadhi* (mud hearth) is filled with coal and used to make a local delicacy called *Baati* or to boil milk. *Nandola*, a clay vessel for churning butter and *rai*, the churning apparatus are commonly used. A stone mortar *okhli*, which is inbuilt in the floor is a familiar sight in every house. A variant of the *okhli* is the *ukhal* which is shaped in the form of a deep container. This is used to grind spices or to separate grain from the husk. The pestle is known as a *musar* or a *musli*.



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A monthly report of field visits conducted as a part of Study of Vernacular Furniture of North West India

1. Khat (Charpoy)
2. Kothi (Granary)
3. Sandook (Chest)
4. Takhat (Bench)
5. Nandola (Vessel)
6. Kuthila (Container)
7. Sigadhi (Mud hearth)
8. Athai (Bench)
9. Dabno (Food cloche)
10. Chowki (Low table)