

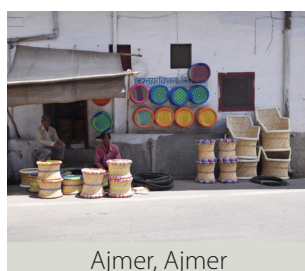
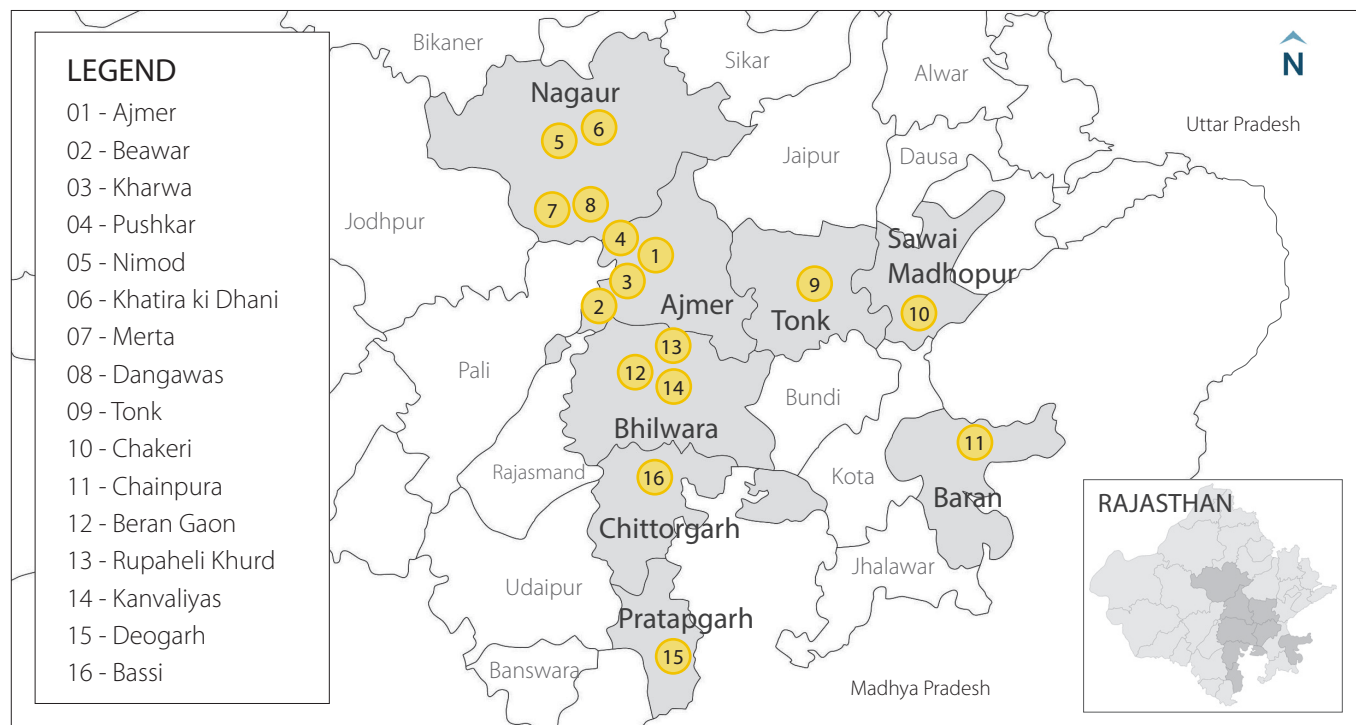
June 2017

## Focus On -

Ajmer, Baran, Bhilwara, Chittorgarh, Nagaur, Pratapgarh, Sawai Madhopur &amp; Tonk districts

## OVERVIEW

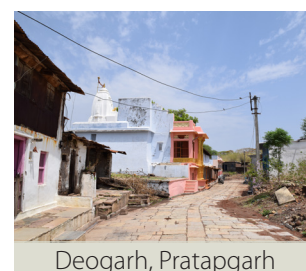
Places visited :	16
Distance travelled :	2890 km
Elements mapped :	273
Scholars approached :	3
Craftspeople approached :	7



Ajmer, Ajmer



Khatira ki Dhani, Nagaur



Deogarh, Pratapgarh



Beran Gaon, Bhilwara



The field visit focused on the districts of Ajmer, Baran, Bhilwara, Nagaur, Pratapgarh, Sawai Madhopur and Tonk. Ajmer and Nagaur are the central districts of Rajasthan which are separated by the Aravali range. The districts of Chittorgarh, Pratapgarh, Baran and Sawai Madhopur share boundaries with the state of Madhya Pradesh. Majority of the population engage in agriculture and livestock herding as occupations.

A vernacular furniture common to the agrarian communities is the **kothi** (granary). A type of granary found in the districts of Sawai Madhopur, Bhilwara and Pratapgarh is called **kotha**. Almost resembling a cabinet, the walls of the **kotha** are built using a mixture of mud and husk. The opening of the **kotha** is fitted with a wooden shutter. The inside of the **kotha** has shelves and concealed compartments used to store money and valuables. A unique granary found in Nagaur was called **kowadliya**, the walls of which were made from mud and cow dung mixed in equal proportions. The grain stored in the **kowadliya** was mainly wheat.

**Pidha** (low seat), **bajot** (low table) and **khatli** (charpoy) are used as seating and sleeping furniture in most houses of this region.

A **mudha** (reed stool) is made by the craftspeople of the Yadav community in Ajmer, who have migrated from Bharatpur in east Rajasthan. The **mudha** is made from stalk of the **sarkanda** plant (known as **baroo** in Ajmer). Rope made from the leafy covering of the plant is used to web the seat of the **mudha**. Colourful nylon ropes are used for the seats in contemporary designs. People who herd cattle carry grass and fodder in baskets from the farms to the cattle sheds. These baskets are also made from the **sarkanda** plant and are called **khari**.

At Bassi village in Chittorgarh district, artisans of the Kumawat community make the **kaavad**. **Kaavad** is a portable shrine with multiple folding doors, on which stories from epics and myths are painted. These are used by the Kavadia Bhatt, the priests who narrate the epics using the illustrations represented on them.



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

1. **Kotha** (Granary), 2. **Kowadliya** (Granary), 3. **Kothi** (Granary), 4. **Kaavad** (Shrine), 5. **Khari** (Basket), 6. **Mudha** (Chair), 7. **Khatli** (Charpoy), 8. **Chowki** (Low Stool), 9. **Pidha** (Stool) & 10. **Parinda** (Water Pitcher Stand)

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