

Jamnagar's pursuit for Identity

Jamnagar is now taking major steps to rediscover its lost identity and revive the glory of its past

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During the 475 years of its existence, Jamnagar has been famous for a variety of different reasons. In the ancient era, the city was known as 'Chhoti Kaashi' owing to the Sanskrit *pathshala* and the 400 temples. Later, during the reign of King Jam Ranjitsinghji, the town was popularly known as the 'Paris of Saurashtra' for its scenic beauty. The king brought about great urbanisation during this period and transformed Jamnagar from a small town to a well managed, colonially influenced city. In the 80's Jamnagar came to be known as

'Brass city', whereas after the 90's it came to be called 'Oil city', owing to the presence of two giant refineries.

Restoring history

The magnificent characteristics of this princely state got diminished with the dawn of the new century. Between surviving attacks of the rapidly growing urbanisation began Jamnagar's quest for restoring its identity. This project was begun by Jamnagar Municipal Corporation (JMC) and a team of committed officers, consultants as well contractors. The agenda was the restoration of old buildings and monuments in order to reclaim the glory of the eras gone by. This mammoth task is being carried out under the guidance and supervision of the State Archeology Department, Gujarat. They have thus taken and extended moral responsibility to restore and maintain such monuments lying within the city area.

Khambaliya Gate

Under this program, the dream of restoring the Khambaliya Gate, which is the only intact gate among the five gates of the old fortress of Jamnagar, has almost been realised. Not more than a few months ago, this gate was in a state of total neglect in spite of being situated right in the heart of the city. Perhaps its location in a crowded area of high traffic is what made it vulnerable to neglect, encroachment and vandalism.

The restoration project of Khambaliya Gate has two main

agendas, consolidation and conservation as well as rehabilitation. Walk way galleries and heritage galleries are being constructed on the ground and first floor respectively. Several craftsmen are now working night and day to revive the ornamental carvings of human figures on both the side facades.

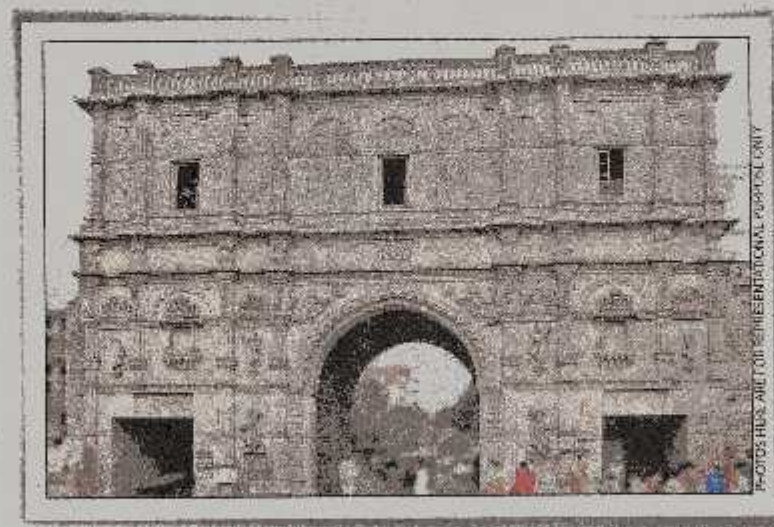
Lakhota Kotho

Another visionary project of restoration, conservation and consolidation of Lakhota Kotho (protected monument) has been initiated by JMC that will direct true urban impact over the city and

generate awareness of heritage among the citizens. The scenic location of Lakhota Kotho in the middle of Ranmal Talav has made it a genuine identity of the city of Jamnagar. Lakhota Kotho is being utilised as a museum since 1946 by Nawanagar State Archeology Department with the display of archeological evidences such as ancient stone sculptures, historical inscription and manuscripts, tempera panel and wall paintings, miniature paintings, glass wares, traditional dresses with embroidery works, coins and currency blocks, books, wooden carved artifacts and battle tools.

The whole project focuses on the overall restoration of the structure with the consolidation of its pathways. It aims at the reorganisation of the museum by documenting its artifacts and installing required interiors and adequate lighting. It will also provide for the conservation of wall and panel paintings in tempera.

Other ideas are that of a documentary film show in the museum to depict the history of the city, as well as a light and sound show to illuminate the Lakhota Kotho and the monuments surrounding the lake. These monuments include pavilions (*chhatris*) at the periphery of the lake, Digjam Arso, Jam Ravalji's



statue, Jam Ranjitsinghji's statue, Jam Digvijaysinghji's statue and Bhujio Kotho.

JMC is paying homage to its rulers for their foresighted development of the city by restoring their statues. These statues involve the Ashta dhatu statue of Jam Ravalji, the founder of the city, the gold coated statue of Jam Digvijaysinghji, who was among the first rulers to hand over their states to Democratic India in 1947. The statues have been shifted from Gandhi chowk to the back of the lake, and have been adorned with cast iron canopies.

Ranmal Lake

JMC is now restricting vehicular movement near the Ranmal Lake area for the development of its front. It aims at providing a segment of the lake's periphery as a safe milieu for citizens and migratory birds. A wall is also being built around the lake to protect the area from noise and air pollution, hence making it perfect for recreational use such as jogging, resting and bird watching.

Bhujio Kotho

Another important project of restoration is that of conservation and consolidation of Bhujio Kotho that collapsed in the 2001 earthquake.

The Bhujio Kotho links the Khambaliya Gate and the Lakhota Kotho, while being well connected with the fort wall, thus providing an exceptional panoramic view of the city.

Bringing back the old charm

All these projects will certainly bring back the grandeur of Jamnagar that was lost in the waves of time. This approach will cultivate awareness among the people about their heritage and give them a sense of pride for their city. Hence JMC has aptly struck a balance between being modern and maintaining a traditional identity.

Khushi Pandya

Jamnagar the city with a touch of royalty is also known as the world's oil city. While its home to the world's largest oil refinery, the city is also a congregation of various tourist spots that would cater to the wanderlust of travelers of every age group.

City of Temples

Jamnagar is also known as the 'Chhoti Kashi' by the locals of the city. It means

the city is an abode to a lot many temples that have a history to attract the travelers.

1. Bala Hanuman Sankirtan Temple: It is a world famous temple



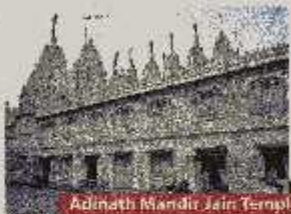
Bala Hanuman Sankirtan Temple

which has etched its name in Guinness Book of world

records for continuous 24-hours chanting of the 'Ram naam', ever since August 1, 1964.

2. Hajareshwar Mahadev: This temple is believed to be 250 years old and consists of one thousand shiv lingas.

3. Adinath Mandir Jain Temple: It is a famous holy spot for jains that was built in the memory of 'Adinath' who was the first jain Thirthankara. When you enter the Adinath Mandir, you can witness the life



Adinath Mandir Jain Temple

stories of the Thirthankaras depicted by colourful representations on the inner side of the temple.

4. Bohra Hajira: Bohra Hajira, is a magnificent tomb which was constructed in worship of a Muslim saint, is worth a visit too.



Bohra Hajira

The princely states

Jamnagar being one of the Princely states is home to a lot of forts. Few worth visiting forts being:

1. Lakhota Palace: It is situated on an island. In the center of the lake stands the circular Lakhota tower. The tower was designed in a way so as to fend off an invading enemy army with the lake acting as a trench. The tower now houses a museum.

2. Bhujlo Kotho: Bhujlo Kotho is a structure built at a height and is famous for its circumference. It provides a panoramic view of the city and the lake.

3. Darbargadh Palace: Darbargadh, the residence for the royal was built in 1540. It is a mix of architectural styles, representing the amalgamation of Rajasthani and European elements.



Bhujlo Kotho

4. Pratap Vilas Palace: A visit to this palace helps you have a peek-a-boo into the life and times of the Jams of Jamnagar.

For the nature lovers

Jamnagar is also home to a variety of flora and fauna that would attract all the nature lovers to come pay a visit.

1. Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary: It's a 17 kms drive from Jamnagar. The bird sanctuary is home to more than 220 species of resident and

2. Marine National Park: This national park was the first of its kind declared in India. It is a 60 kms drive from

Jamnagar. It is a group of 42 islands, the most famous one being the Pirotan Islands. You are sure to see lots of birds and also have a chance of spotting playful dolphins, sea turtles, ray fishes, dugongs, varieties of mangroves, jelly fishes etc. The national park is also home to a rare marine worm commonly known as the Green Spoonworm. It has a distinct feature of sex determination wherein the sex of a Green Spoonworm is determined by external, environmental factors and not by internal, genetic factors as is the case with most other sexually-differentiated organisms.

Jamnagar is also one of the port cities of India. The Bedi Bunder is one of the major visiting attractions for the locals and the visitors of this city. "Bedi Bunder is my favourite spot in this city. I frequently visit the port to relax and feel one with the serenity and quietness of this place," avers Smit Parmar, a young entrepreneur and a resident of the city. Jamnagar also consists of three major dams. The Sasol Dam, Ranjitsagar Dam and Vijarkhi Dam. These dams provide to be great picnic spots for families. The best time to visit these places would be early mornings or late evenings, they also are a delight for bird watchers.

Jamnagar is also well known around the globe for its 'tie and dye' cloth famously known as *bandhani*. Lastly, Jamnagar and its famous dryfruit *kachori* go hand in hand. The city portrays culture, heritage and rich history in its true and pristine sense.

ENCHANTING JAMNAGAR

From islands and beaches to hills, temples, palaces and forts to forests and bird sanctuaries—Jamnagar is a city of charms



Darbargadh Palace

migratory birds, including endangered species such as Dalmatian pelican, Asian open bill stork, black-necked stork, darter, black-headed ibis, Eurasian spoonbill, and Indian skimmer, and provides birdwatchers a chance to sight rare birds in large numbers.



Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary



Pratap Vilas Palace



Marine National Park

(Approved by INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL & GUJARAT NURSING COUNCIL)

ADMISSION

G.N.M.

3 Years

A.N.M.

2 Years



Std.12th
(Age 17 to 35 Years)

For more Details &
Admission Contact

Helpline : 94285 46099

HUMANTORCH SCHOOL OF NURSING

(Approved by Indian Nursing Council - New Delhi)

Saru Section Road, Jamnagar.

No. 9977615506 9999075099

DARSHAN