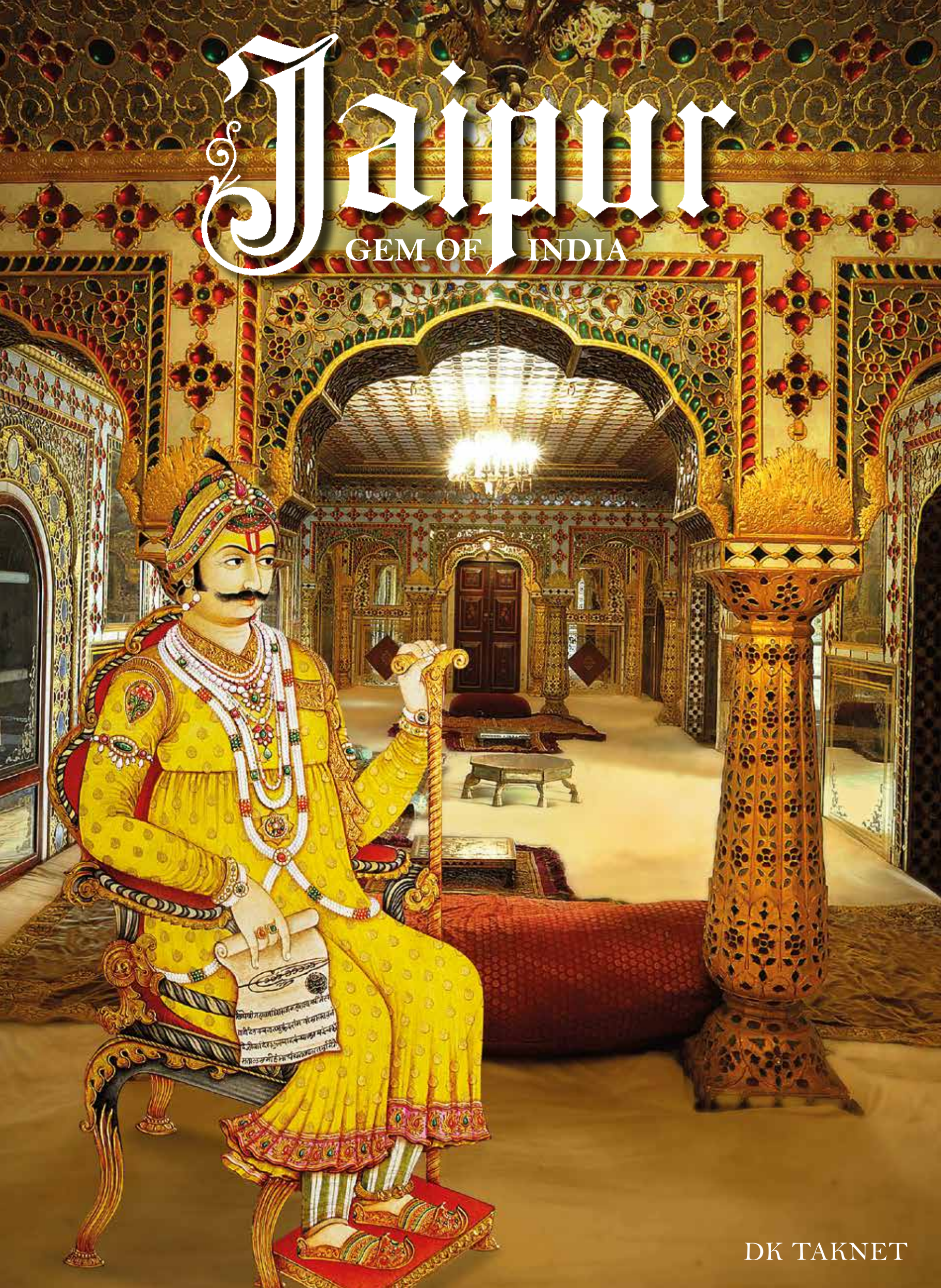
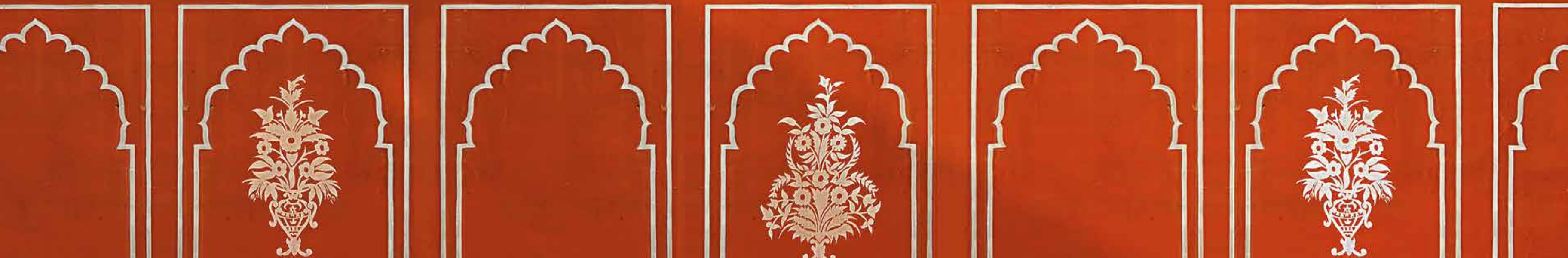
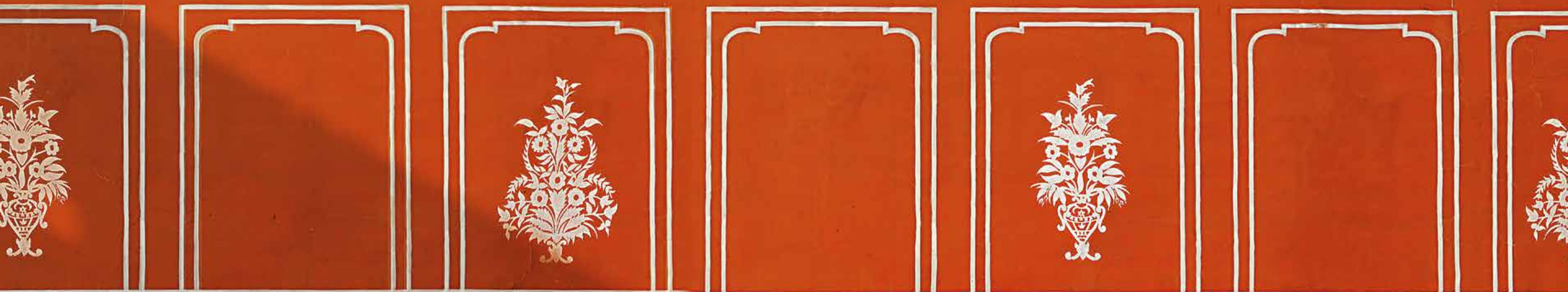


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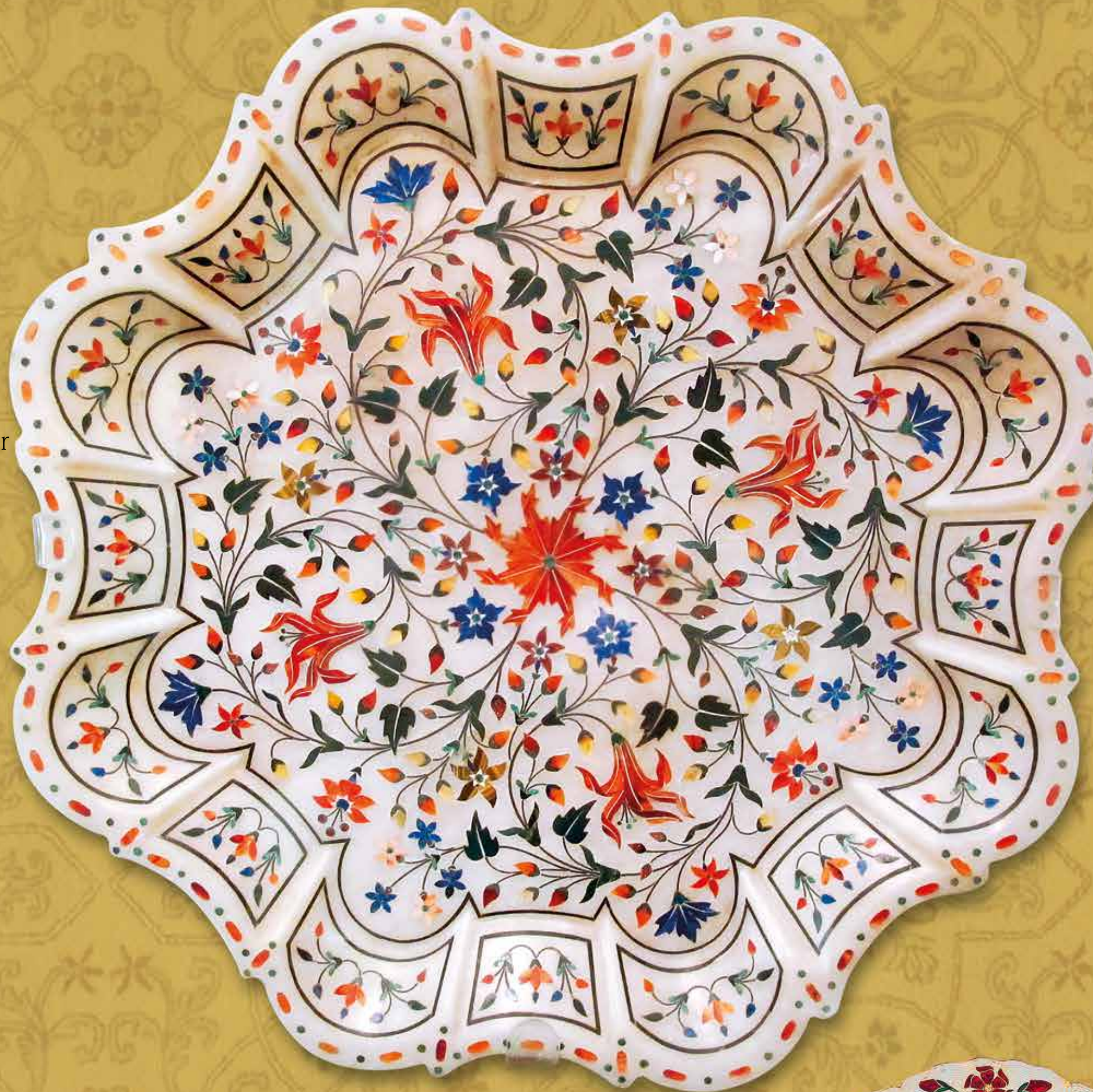
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*Dedicated to the creators and builders of the unique city, Jaipur.
From maharajas to past and present masons, artists, entrepreneurs,
government officials and the people of Jaipur,
who have over the centuries laboured unsung, braving hostile
conditions to make the Pink City one among the seven
most beautiful cities of Asia.*

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Introduction

‘For those who are lost, there will always be cities that feel like home,’ remarks British author Simon Van Booy in his novel *Everything Beautiful Began After*. Jaipur has such a welcoming and all embracing, all-encompassing feel in its pink-tinged ethereal being. Deeply rooted in its rich cultural heritage, this ultra-modern and world-class city has the basic fibre of its traditions embellished delicately with contemporary infrastructural amenities, quite like the silvery *zari* weave intermeshed into a Kota cotton saree, representing the quintessential Rajasthani warp and weft!

In fact, Jaipur is well-known as the first ‘planned city’ of India and has forever been a potpourri of many cultures and traditions. Its chequered history has played a pivotal role in enriching its arts, crafts, culture, literature and architecture, while preserving its essential character. It was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. Each new ruler or regime, every phase of history and every brick on every façade of a fort or a palace added immensely to the city’s treasure trove of traditions, shaping its heritage, rich and vibrantly hued as the jewels of royalty. While the city has earned a distinction in handicrafts, blue pottery, sculpture, jewellery and textiles, its reputation in diamond polish is one to reckon with.

The history of religious performances in India singles out Jaipur as a unique place, as it boasts of conducting the Ashwamedha sacrifices, which can be performed only by a universal monarch. In Sanskrit learning, Jaipur comes next to Benaras and is called *Aparaa* (another) Kashi. Madhusudan Ojha goes down in the history of Sanskrit as a distinguished scholar, who discovered scientific theories in the Vedas and delivered lectures in London in 1902. Again, the city is the only place which has more than four thousand temples—more than the temples in Mathura and Varanasi put together. Even the temple of the tenth incarnation of Lord Vishnu, known as Kalki, who is yet to descend on this earth, has been built in anticipation! Such is the faith of its people. Jaipur, also called the city of astronomy, has painstakingly and lovingly preserved the stone observatory known as Jantar Mantar, another scientific wonder for its time.

Over the last century, Jaipur’s heritage has been documented by various historians and scholars, but what has been attempted through this project is a comprehensive study of the history of the city and its rulers, in a methodical and exhaustive manner. Dr DK Taknet, a renowned scholar and author, has undertaken this noble venture of bringing out a complete, encyclopaedic and all-encompassing study of the rich heritage of Jaipur. Replete with interesting anecdotes and legends, evocative images and photographs, and research material from myriad sources, the three hundred year spectacular journey of this inimitable land is captured within the pages of this rich and dazzling extravaganza.

Jaipur

Devarshi Kalanath Shastri, Sanskrit Scholar



Facing page: Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, founder of Jaipur by artist Deepak Sharma

Foreword

The very name of Jaipur produces a hundred images in one's imagination. Some have given voice to these images through poetry and art, while others have made conscious efforts to understand the complex dynamics of the city's creation that contribute to the experience of living in or visiting the Pink City.

It all started, centuries ago, with the able and courageous leaders of this city's past. The wise rulers who planned and built the city of Jaipur, established this place as one of the few well-constructed cities of the world. Along with this, the culture and social rituals, which the rulers of Jaipur's past introduced, have been the guiding light that still illuminates this world-class heritage city.

While exploring the past, this book also slides into the present. The author has, in great detail provided an account of Jaipur's current social, economic and political scenario. It becomes clear that the city is still clinging to its past—a fact that motivates and enlivens its very existence. However, armed with an inspiring combination of past glories and solid present infrastructure, Jaipur is forging a secure and beautiful future for itself.

In this book by Dr DK Taknet, Jaipur truly takes on an ethereal quality as a wonderful spread of visual and factual information spills out of every page. All this is achieved in a language and style that is accessible to all. The chapters in this book have been divided into past, present and future, thereby scripting the journey from a heritage city steeped in royal traditions to the hi-tech city with a modern and flourishing economy. Though the task of recording and linking these elements in time has been difficult, given the richness of information, the author has tried his best to communicate them with utmost lucidity and comprehensiveness. I congratulate him and recommend his work to every kind of book lover.

Princess Diya Kumari
The City Palace, Jaipur



Preface

For me, the city of Jaipur is like a living and breathing entity with its soul intact despite many, many centuries of its existence. It has always fascinated and interested me with its diversities, cultures, festivals, handicrafts, rituals, celebrations, royal history and its contemporary growth. The idea was to encapsulate all that Jaipur represents and stands for in one manuscript, which then becomes reference material for students, historians, travellers, artists, artisans, scholars, connoisseurs and even common people. This book dwells on all these facets and much more.

The fact that after the era of the maharajas of Jaipur, the public has played a pivotal role in the multifaceted development of the city by promoting a better quality of life in Jaipur has also been highlighted in this book. It has emerged as a metropolitan city and continues its steady growth. This global visibility that the city has gained over the years as a world-class tourist destination is tilting the scale in its favour for ventures that seek pollution-free, cost-effective and peaceful locations to set up their operations. 'Brand Jaipur' needs no introduction and is well known to the entire world. There seems to be no looking back for this city which, though personified through its rich cultural heritage, is also on an aggressive path of recognition as one of the more significant modern-day metropolises of the world.

This book focuses on the colourful history of Jaipur, and its lesser-known events, facts and wonderful people with their variegated activities, and is remarkable and endlessly engrossing. Our team had to travel over 1,50,000 km and spent 1,460 days researching and interviewing over 5,000 people directly or indirectly associated with Jaipur, ranging from chairmen emeritus to vegetable-sellers. People from diverse backgrounds poured their hearts out to narrate fascinating stories, replete with previously unsuspected facts, inspiring anecdotes, opinions and vignettes, providing dramatic insights into this great city. In order to write this book we had to also pore over approximately 1,75,000 sheets together with other data including reports, news cuttings, journals, official records, periodicals and publications. My thanks for research

support provided by the Research Advisory Committee and research associates and Business History Museum (BHM)-IIME, which is a treasure trove of knowledge and literary resources. We had access to its outstanding collection of rare, old new books and journals on a vast spectrum of subjects, which enriched my research phenomenally. I must acknowledge the courteous and efficient services received from various private-public libraries, museums, art collectors and galleries in India and abroad. It was a truly mammoth task to distil the essence from my research to fit into the limited space available. All in all, it has been personally a very enriching trip down the lane.

I am most sincerely grateful for all the valuable support, constant and peerless guidance and help extended by GP Birla, chairman, Hindustan Charity Trust - BIC (A Birla foundation) whose wish was fulfilled through this publication. A special thanks to Nirmala Birla, CK Birla, S Ahmed, Vijay Verma, DR Mehta, CK Mathew, GS Sandhu, P Agrawal, Ajit Singh, Vikram Singh Chouhan, Sundeep Bhutoria, Om Arora, Ganpat Singhji, Chandra Devi, NR Kothari, Vimal Chand Surana, Prakash Surana, Rajiv Jain, Sanjay Kothari, Anup Bohra, Dileep Baid, Badri Modi, Kishan Rungta, HD Kotahwala, Romi Tholia, Prakash Kothari, Ravi Ajmera, Ramdhan Attar, Dharmendar Tank, RK Rawat, Om Goyal, Prachir Surana, Manoj Agrawal, Deepak Baid, Bhakti Hariani, Suman, NK Chaudhary, Upendra Bothra, Ram Babu Sarraf, RS Vijaivargiya, Subhash Sharma, Ajay Agarwal, Vinay Jain, Bhavna and Nandita Kumar.

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shoot photos of selected pieces; these images have enriched the visual narrative of the publication. My heartfelt gratitude to Mohan Lal Soni, Virendra Bannu, Suresh Sharma Ramu Ramdev, Govind Ramdev and Deepak Sharma for preparing paintings especially for this book.

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I also acknowledge my debt of gratitude to Princess Diya Kumari, for her perceptive foreword. My warm thanks to the team of Yogesh Gajwani for taking active interest in producing the highest quality of design. I wish to acknowledge Satyapriya Bal, Shiv Hari, Rajesh Kudiwal, Ram Singh Shekhawat and Govind Singh Negi for their coordination, computer and technical assistance. My genuine and heartfelt thanks to management, executives and technicians of the press for their untiring efforts in printing this book and devoting all the care and attention needed to make it into a valuable production. Persons whose names do not appear have given me no less encouragement, and I am gladly grateful to them too.

Finally, I owe a deep debt of gratitude and appreciation to my wife Sujata who has been a constant source of strength, courage and encouragement. The love, enthusiasm and youthful spirits of my sons Devashish and Devang have always inspired and rejuvenated me. They put up with many long and lonely evenings to enable me to complete this research study. They are truly the wind beneath my wings and I would never have flown without them. I feel privileged to have them as a part of my life.

I sincerely hope this book will help in creating an innovative and creative understanding and appreciation of Jaipur and do justice to everyone's expectations. This is a small contribution to this comprehensive and unending subject of study—the city of Jaipur.

Jaipur
October 2013

DK Taknet



Rulers of Amber and Jaipur

1. MAHARAJA PRITHVIRAJ SINGH I (1502–1527)

6. MAHARAJA BHARAMALLA (1547–1573)

7. MAHARAJA BHAGWANTDAS (1573–1587)

8. RAJA MAN SINGH I (1587–1614)

9. MAHARAJA BHAO SINGH (1614–1621)

10. MIRZA RAJA JAI SINGH I (1621–1667)

11. MAHARAJA RAM SINGH I (1667–1688)

12. MAHARAJA BISHAN SINGH (1688–1699)

13. MAHARAJA SAWAI JAI SINGH II (1700–1743)

14. MAHARAJA SAWAI ISHWARI SINGH (1743–1750)



15. MAHARAJA SAWAI MADHO SINGH I (1751–1767)

16. PRITHVI SINGH II (1768–1778)

17. MAHARAJA SAWAI PRATAP SINGH (1778–1803)

18. MAHARAJA SAWAI JAGAT SINGH (1803–1818)

19. MAHARAJA SAWAI JAI SINGH III (1818–1835)

20. MAHARAJA SAWAI RAM SINGH II (1835–1880)

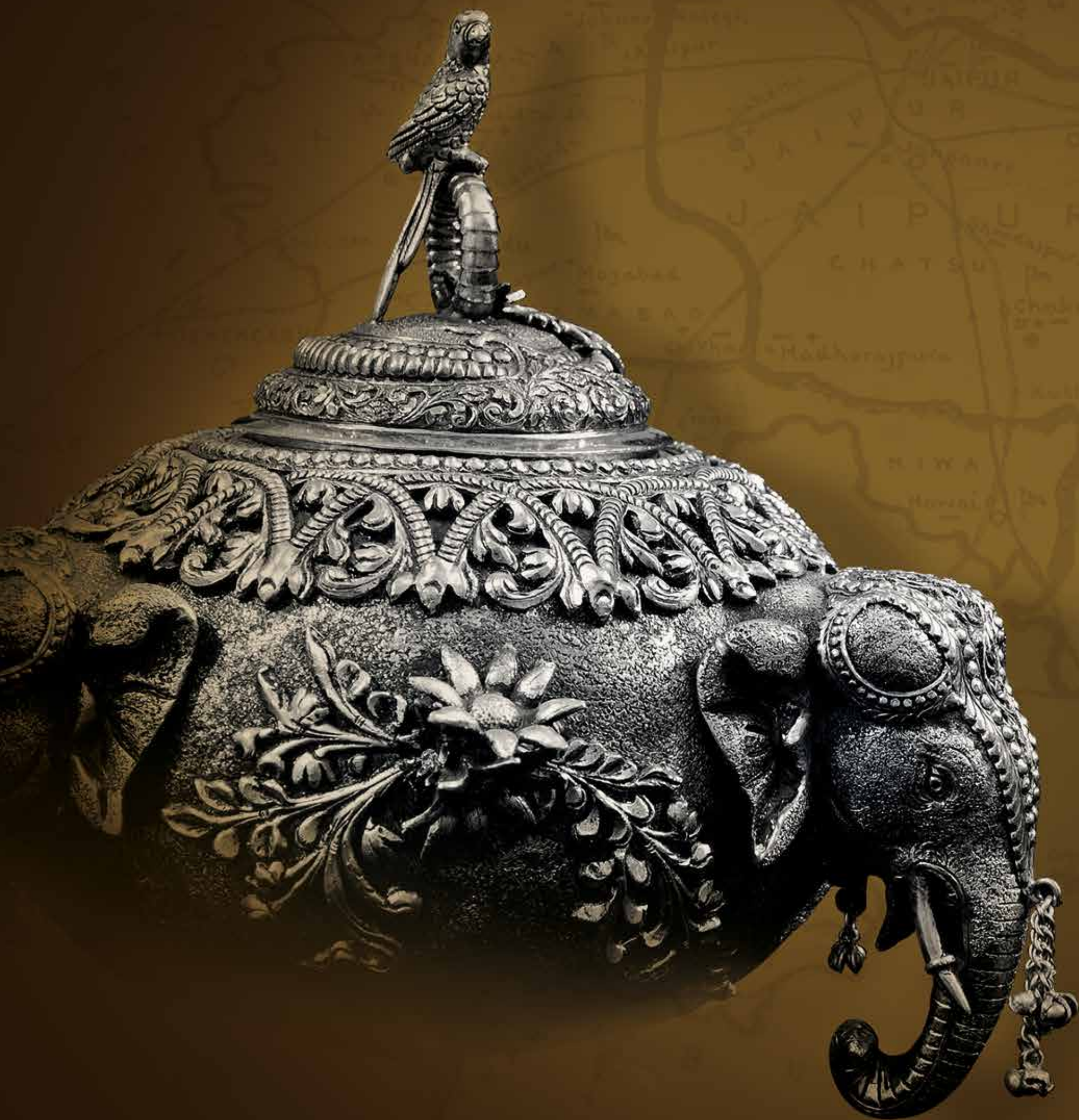
21. MAHARAJA SAWAI MADHO SINGH II (1880–1922)

22. MAHARAJA SAWAI MAN SINGH II (1922–1970)

23. MAHARAJA SAWAI BHAWANI SINGH (1970–2002)

24. MAHARAJA SAWAI PADMANABH SINGH (2002–PRESENT)

Sawai Man Guard at
Tripolia Gate, Jaipur



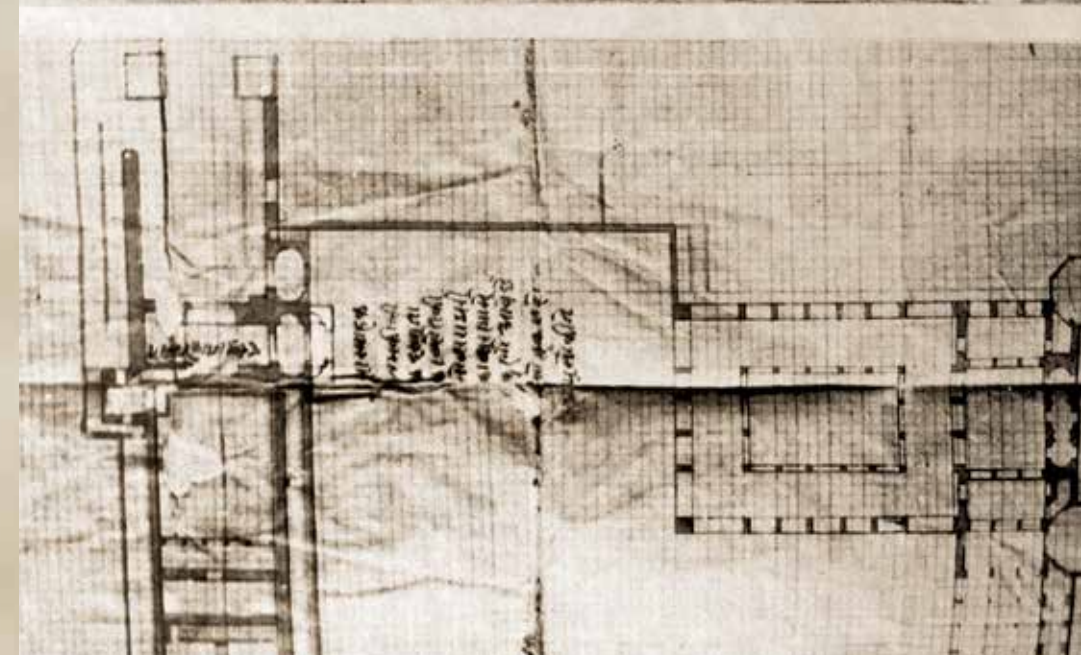
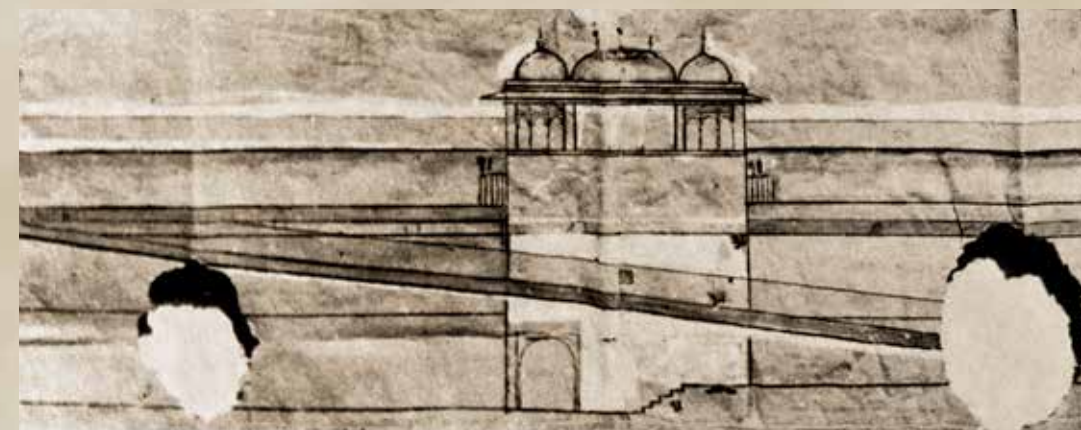
CHAPTER 1

Historical Evolution of Jaipur



*'Jagat mein aakar kya kiya,
kabhi na dekha Jaipuria?'*
(A Local Saying)

'WHAT HAVE YOU ACHIEVED IN THIS WORLD,
IF YOU HAVEN'T SEEN JAIPUR?'



Top left: A blueprint depicting a section of the Ganesh Pol, which is a gate that leads to the private royal palaces. A view of the ramp is also seen.

Below left: Plan of the Diwan-e-Aam Chowk, showing the two gates; the Singh Pol (top left) and the Ganesh Pol.

Top right: A *khanjar*, or a dagger, embellished with feisty tiger motifs. Nobility and members of the royalty always carried these on their person for their protection.

Facing page: An artistic impression of the Amber Palace, with the Jaigarh and Nahargarh forts forming the backdrop. These architectural marvels dotting the sandy landscape of Jaipur lend a distinct character and persona to this historical city. Warm, earthy hues are deployed by the artist, capture the rustic ambience of the landscape.

thereal! Like a fairy tale! This is usually how the city of Jaipur is described by those who have experienced it. Capital of the state of Rajasthan, Jaipur was the first planned city of India. Incorporating the best of Mughal and British cultures in art, architecture, design, jewellery, city planning and education, the maharajas who ruled the state and built the city over time never compromised on their roots. What greets visitors in Jaipur is an awe-inspiring juxtaposition: a perfectly planned urban space, redolent with history and offering the most modern amenities. Such an evolution must be understood. So, it is imperative to delve into Jaipur's history and discover how it all began.

AMBER AND JAIPUR: SEATS OF THE KACHHAWAHA RAJPUTS

The rulers and statesmen of Amber and Jaipur have played an unparalleled role in shaping the history of northern India from the Mughal to the Colonial period. The state of Amber (Amer), which included the area later named as Jaipur, lay in

