



## Jaisalmer Fort

Source: [HT](#)

The historic **Jaisalmer Fort in Rajasthan**, experienced a collapse of its walls following heavy rainfall, highlighting the need for **better maintenance and preservation** of this [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#). The collapse is attributed to weakened walls due to a lack of proper maintenance.

- The **Jaisalmer Fort is India's only 'living' fort**, with residents living within its walls, making its maintenance crucial for their safety.
  - Built in **1156 AD by Raja Rawal Singh**, the fort was strategically constructed to protect the kingdom from invasions. It was an important trade centre along the [Silk Route](#), **connecting India with Central Asia**.
    - Constructed from **yellow sandstone** that changes colour with sunlight, the fort appears golden, earning it the name "**Sonar Quila**" or "**Golden Fort**."
  - The **Raj Mahal (Royal Palace)** is the largest palace within the fort, featuring ornate balconies and intricate carvings. It is a splendid example of medieval Rajasthani architecture, featuring a remarkable blend of **Islamic and Rajput style influences**.
- The [Archaeological Survey of India \(ASI\)](#) is responsible for the fort's maintenance.
- The hill forts of Rajasthan, including **Chittor, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Gagron, Amer, and Jaisalmer Forts**, were designated as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013**.
  - Jaisalmer Fort along with the Forts of Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh and Ranthambore are protected as [Monuments of National Importance of India](#) under the **Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Act of 1951**.



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