



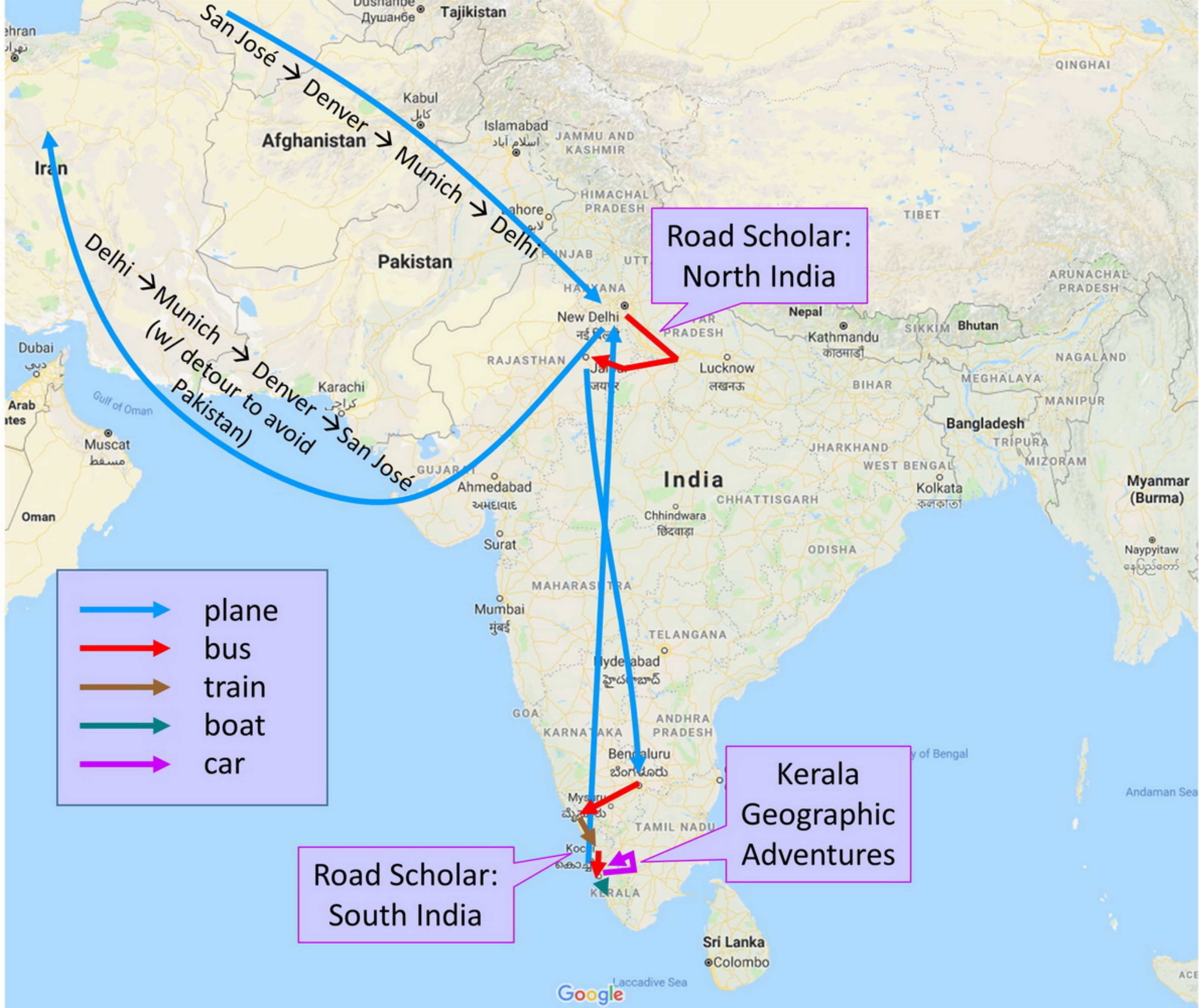
india

2019

part 1

Road Scholar:

Northern India



Road Scholar:
North India

San José ↔ Delhi

Feb 26 - Mar 1

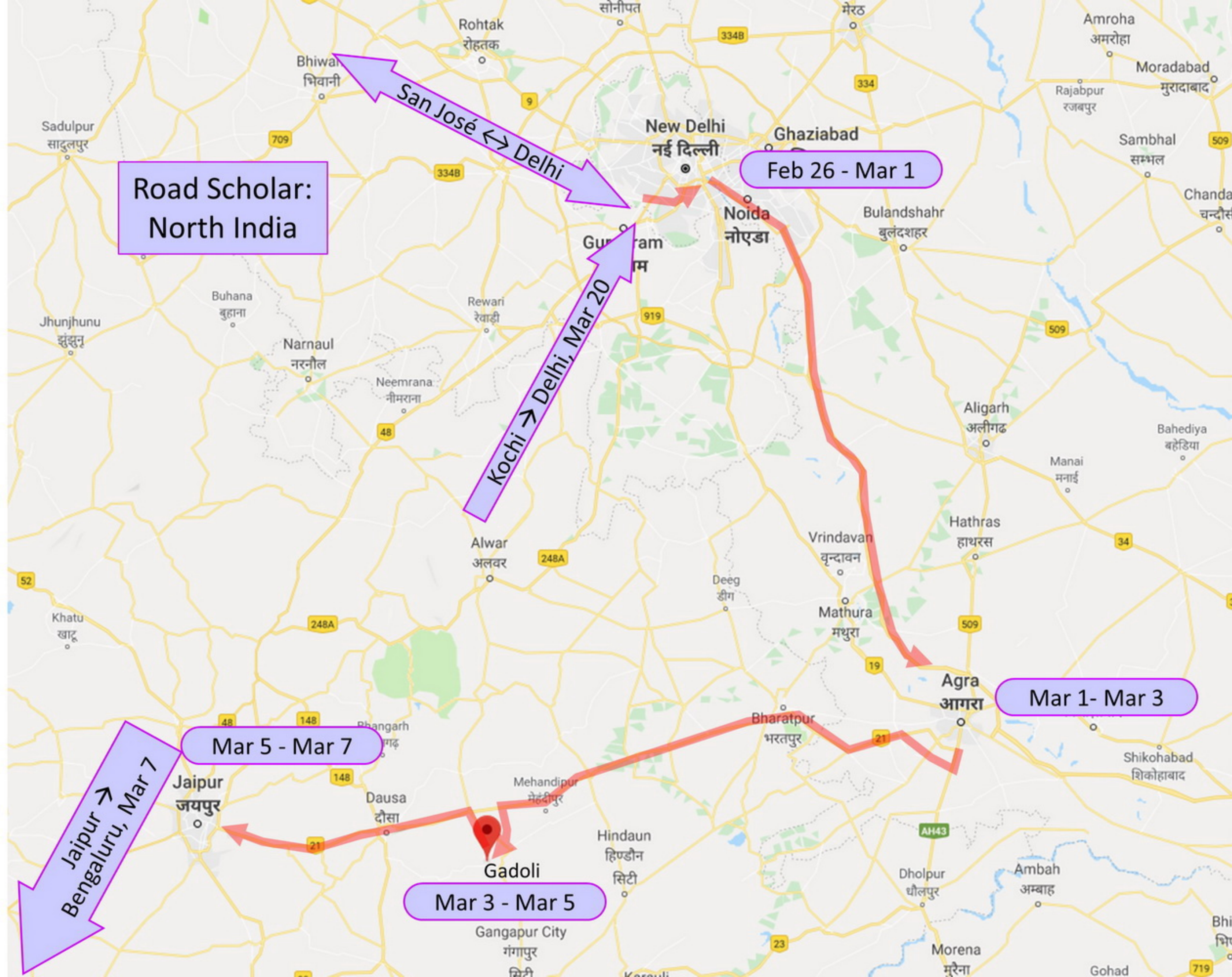
Kochi → Delhi, Mar 20

Mar 5 - Mar 7

Jaipur →
Bengaluru, Mar 7

Mar 3 - Mar 5

Mar 1- Mar 3





the tour group:
Arnie, Cookie, [guest lecturer], Sheila, Liv, Larry, Pete, John
Carole, Carol, Celia, Bob, Dave, Debbie, Karen, Denise, Janet, David



our guide: Jayanta ("Jay") Kar



the most capable bus driver,



... and the apprentice/trainee/assistant.

ਵੇਈਹਿ



Delhi is a large, complex city,



... with traffic congestion,



... with dusty, dirty poverty, ...



... poor housing, ...



... and better housing, ...



... and schools, ...



... and glittering modern 5-star hotels.



The Road Scholar tour put us up in elegant hotels.



We had a little time before the official start of the tour, so we hired a tuk-tuk driver to go exploring on our own:



we snagged our new friend, Karen,
crammed into the back of the tuk-tuk, ...



... and visited the "Lotus Temple" -- a Bahá'í House of Worship.



Okay, everyone's here! Let's officially start the tour!



First stop: the Jama Masjid Mosque.



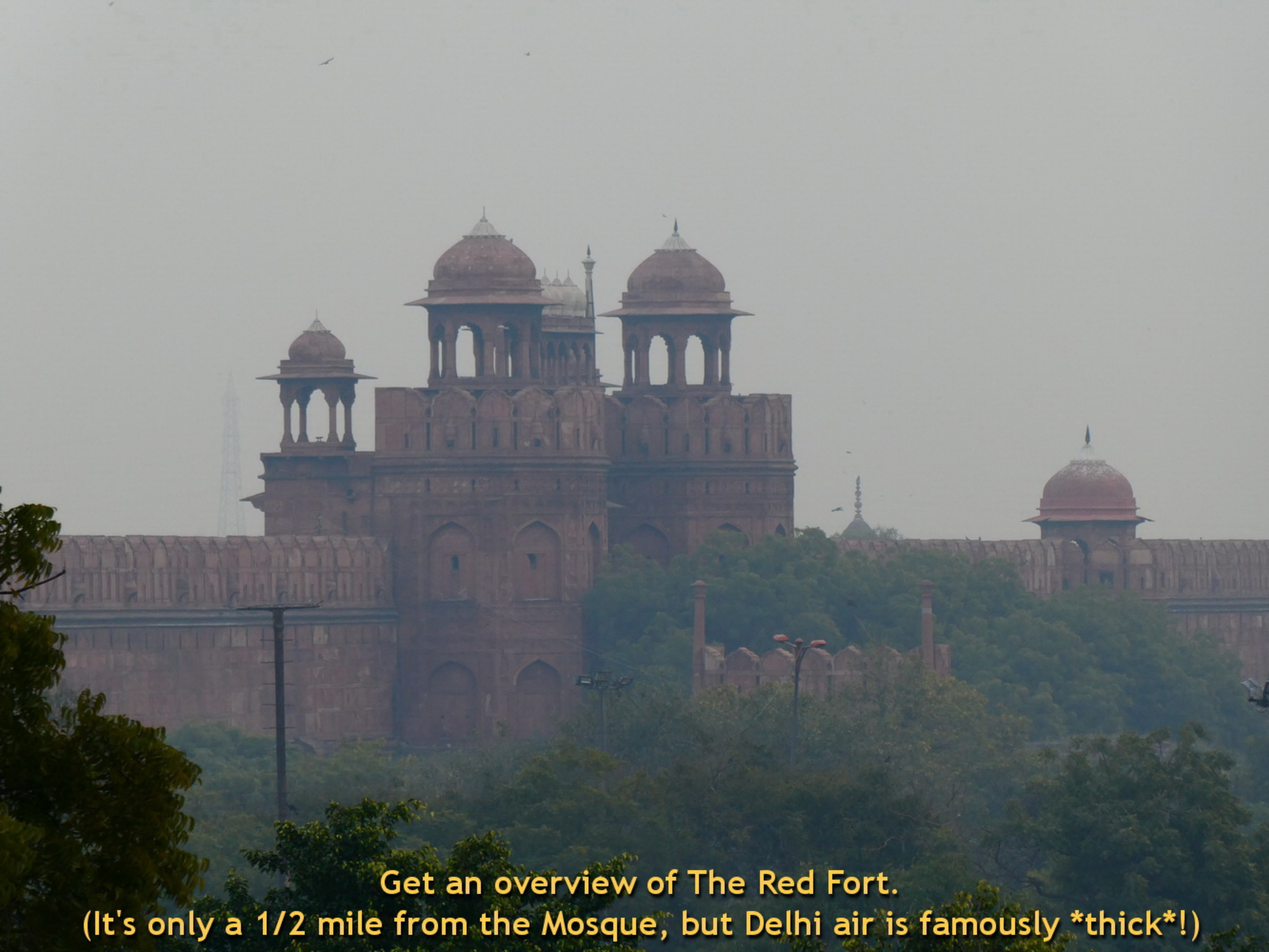
مینار ٹکٹ کاؤنٹر
मीनार टिकट काउन्टर
TOWER TICKET COUNTER
BILLET DE TOUR
EINTRITTSGEBÜHRE FÜR DENTURM
BIGLIETTO PER LA TORRE
BILLETE PARA LA TORRE
←



(Women are required to wear gowns...)







Get an overview of The Red Fort.
(It's only a 1/2 mile from the Mosque, but Delhi air is famously *thick*!)



A kingfisher gives colorful contrast to the Mosque's red stonework.



A view of a market just outside the Mosque's wall.



Our tour includes a bike-rickshaw ride thru central Old Delhi.



FANCY DRESS

2208, KUCHA ALAMCHAND, KINARI BAZAR, DELHI

Ph: 011-23273083, 011-23273084
VINOD KUMAR PRAMOD KUMAR
(Gote)

2081, Kinari Bazar, Delhi-110006

The streets are narrow and crowded:
bikes are the best way to get around!



Famously chaotic and crowded!



India has 6 types of monkeys. Here, Rhesus Macaques watch the Delhi street scene.



Old Delhi is also famous for its tangled electrical wiring.



The streets are crowded and noisy!



And yet the local residents know how to find a way to relax.



Whew! We made it out, alive!



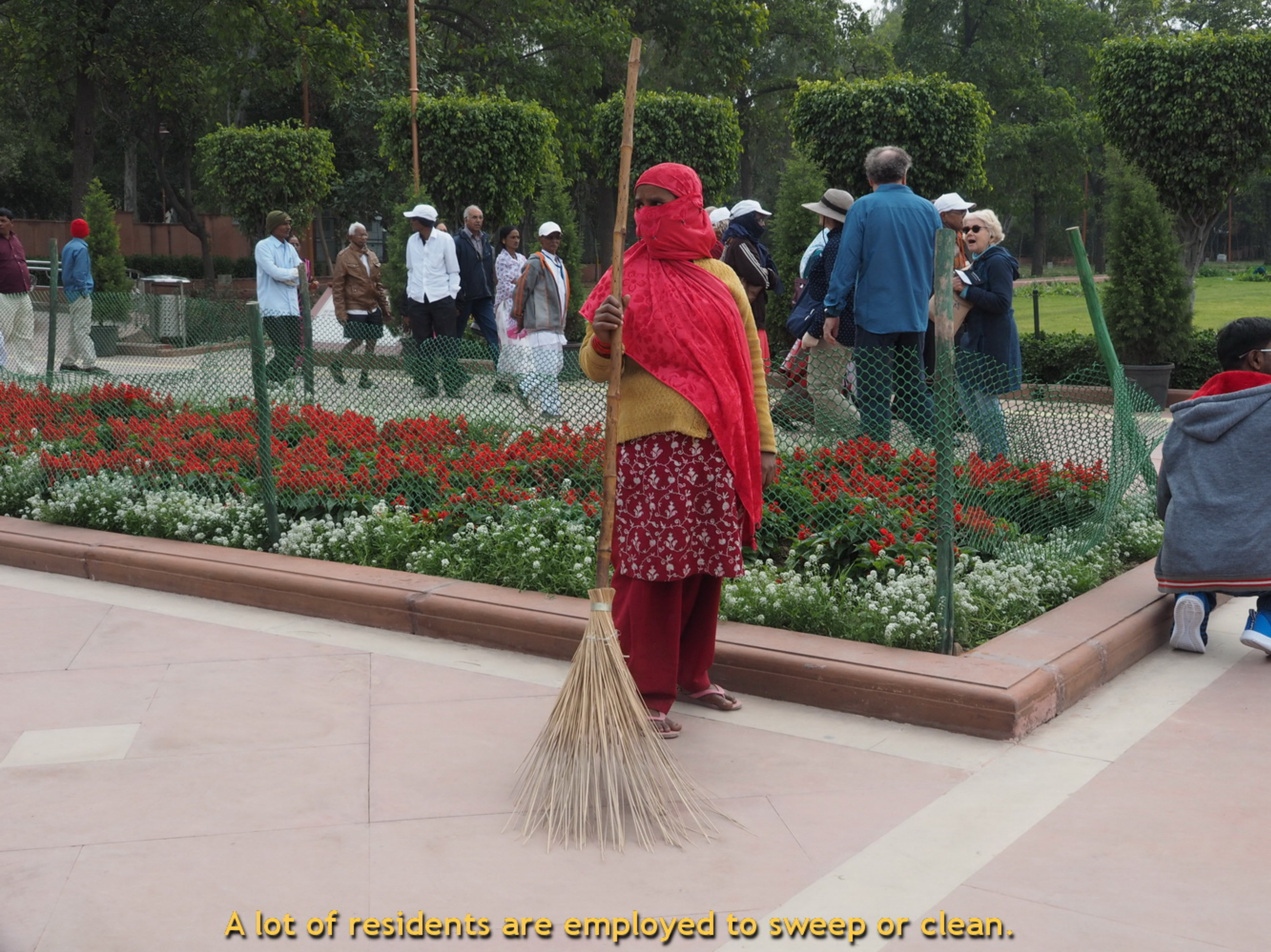
Our guide, Jay, explains Indian snack food: roasted beans & lentils, served with chilies and tomatoes.



After a lecture on Gandhi, we tour some of the monuments to him.



The Raj Ghat: the memorial to where Gandhi was cremated.



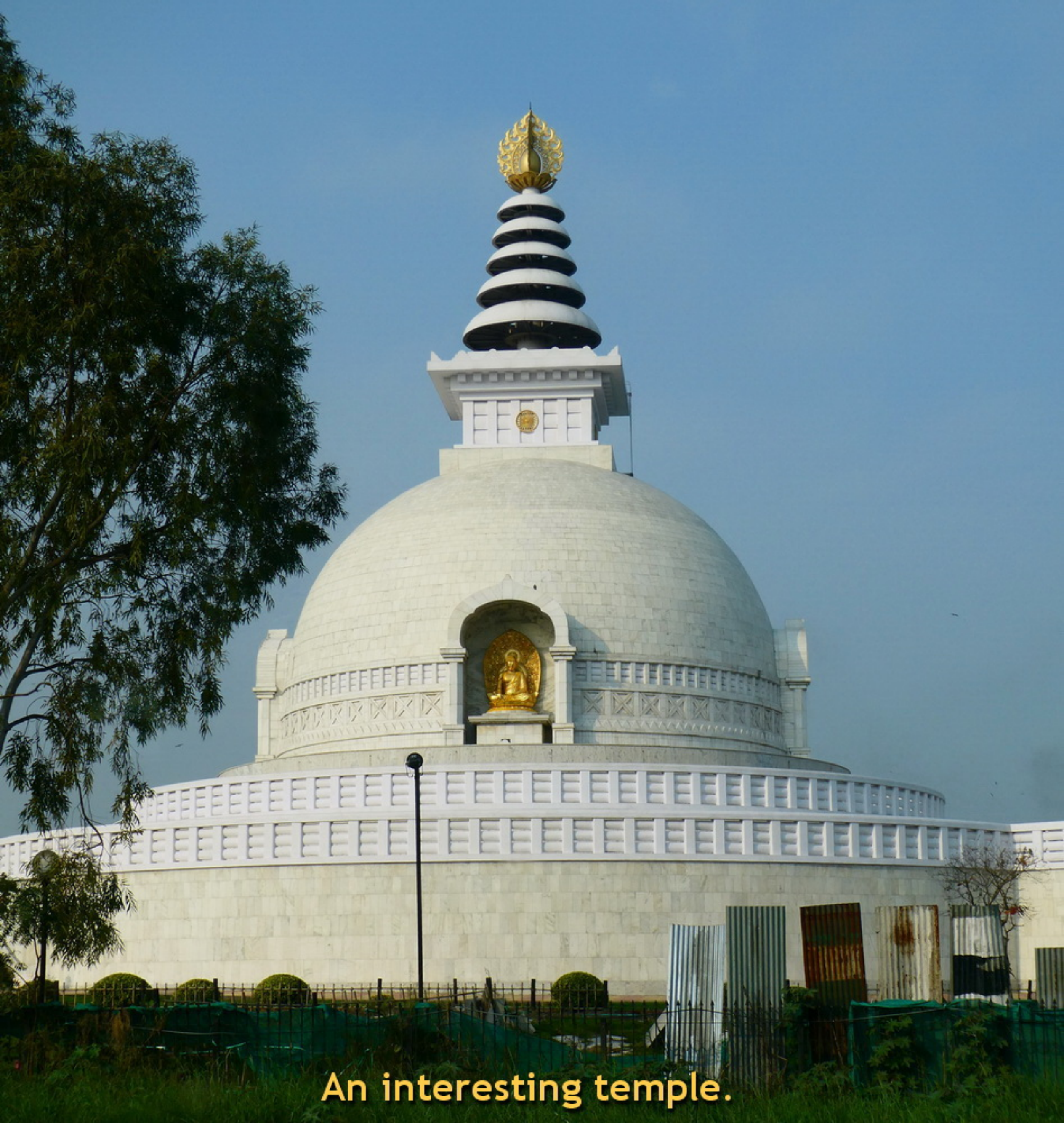
A lot of residents are employed to sweep or clean.





Back in the bus for a driving tour of Delhi.





An interesting temple.



The President's Estate.



Have some chai from a local street-vendor.
(It's okay: the water's been boiled...)



We tour "Gandhi Smriti", a museum honoring Gandhi -- and the site of his martyrdom.



शहीद स्तम्भ के लिए रास्ता
THE WAY TO THE MARTYR'S COLUMN

30 जनवरी 1948 को अन्तिम बार इसी मार्ग से
बापू प्रार्थना के लिए गए।

FOR THE LAST TIME GANDHIJI WENT TO THE
PRAYER MEETING THROUGH THIS PATH.



Gandhi was a frequent guest here.
These are his personal belongings. Note the carving...





We visit the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib -- a Sikh Temple.



Before entering, the women must cover their heads, ...



... and the men must wear turbans.



After visiting, we donate labor by helping make "roti" (whole-wheat flatbread).



More from the bus tour: the "India Gate",



and an interesting art sculpture.

महात्मा गाँधी मार्ग
Mahatma Gandhi Marg
ਮਹਾਤਮਾ ਗਾਂਧੀ ਮਾਰਗ
مہاتما گاندھی مارگ



Road Scholars arranged for several "Home Hosted Dinners" so that we could interact with local residents. After splitting into smaller groups, we here had dinner with Madhu & Alok Goyal.



Driving out of Delhi, we see the housing gets better as we go further out...





At the outer edge of Delhi.



Beyond the edge of town. Note how thick the air is:



... in addition to all the cars and trucks, and trash fires, there are also numerous wood-fired brick kilns.

वृक्ष



Gateway to "the Mausoleum of Itmad-ud-Daulah", ...



... aka, "The Baby Taj" (or "the first draft").



***We* are the exotic foreigners, and people ask to take selfies with us(!)**



(Most of the visitors are natives. It's a great place to take portraits.)



You never know what you'll see, looking out the window. (Poor donkeys!)



First glimpse of the Taj Majal.



"Mehtab Bagh": gardens (and once also a reflecting pool) across from the Taj Mahal. Note that the complex also includes a red mosque and its mirror image.



Seems that, if it weren't for the Taj Majal right next door, the Mosque would be a world-class monument in its own right.



This is the classic setting for wedding proposals, ...



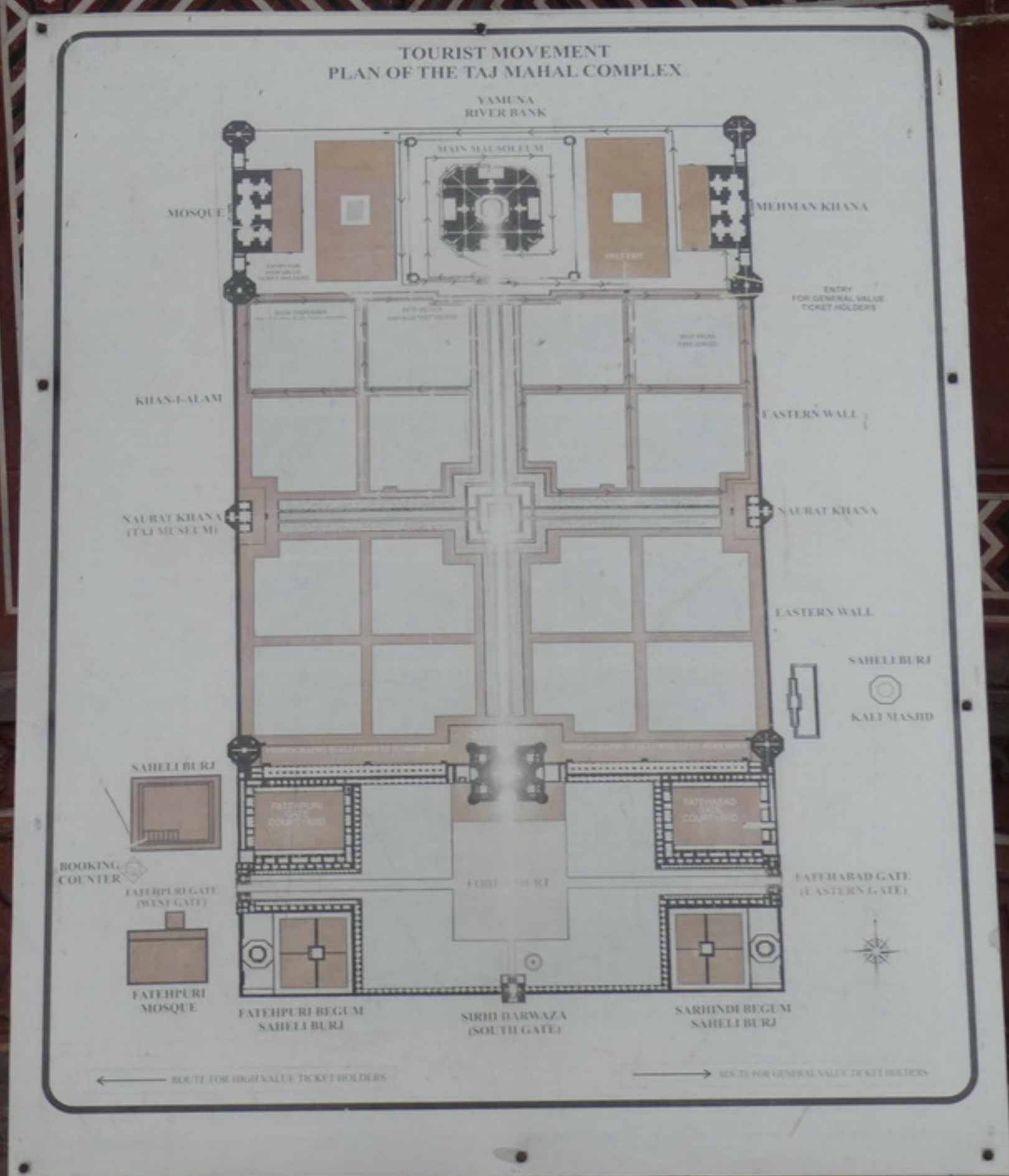
... as well as for old married couples (!)



In fact, this is a great place for anyone to come and pose!



Next morning: the main event -- visit the Taj Mahal itself.
But first, we must "run the gauntlet" -- and run with the bulls!



Okay, here's the plan: we enter from the south, pass thru the Great Gate, walk the length of the reflecting pool, and reach the Taj Mahal at the top.



The Southern Gate.



The Great Gate.







Selfie!



"We were there!"



"We *all* were there!"



(Everyone was there!)



(Once one recovers from its brilliance and immensity,
one starts to notice other things, ...)



... such as that the reflecting pool had been drained for cleaning.)



People come visit from around the world, ...



... and they see us as the exotic foreigners.



Karen taking a picture of Liv taking a picture ...



... of one of the minarets.



"Picture perfect!"
(or: "I've been framed!")



Immediately adjacent the Taj Mahal, contrast.



Also in Agra: the Agra Fort.



Having stormed the gate, our group now gets ready to disperse and explore.

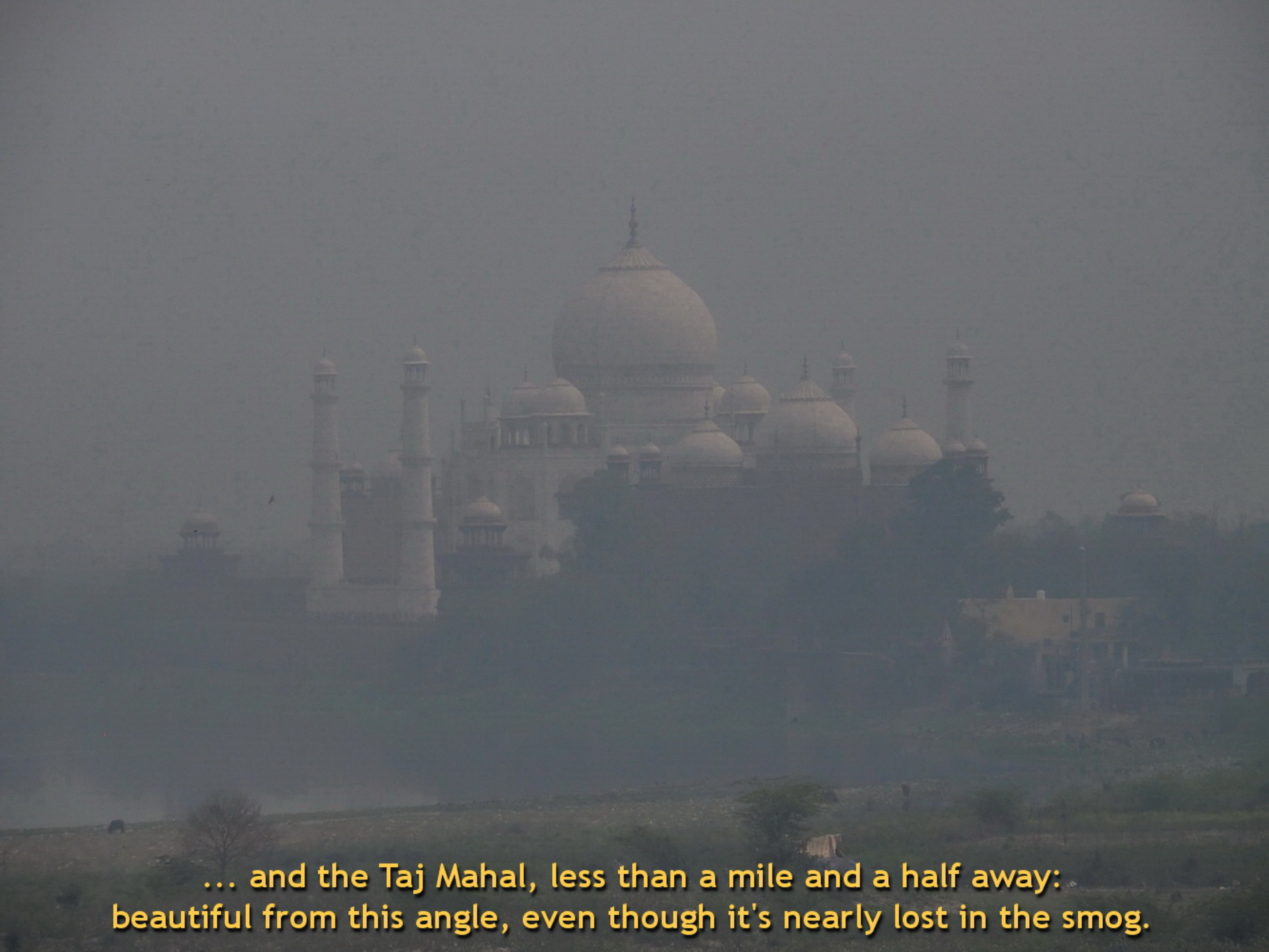




From the walls of Agra Fort, we see a rose-ringed parakeet, ...



... a Black Kite, ...



... and the Taj Mahal, less than a mile and a half away:
beautiful from this angle, even though it's nearly lost in the smog.



We were getting stuffed from all the great buffets of Indian cuisine, so, on our "night off", Pete & Debbie joined us for a little lighter fare ...



... a McDonald's "Spinach & Corn" burger and some spicy fries.
(And, in India, "spicy fries" *are* spicy!)



WANTED GROOMS

BY CASTE

BRAHMIN

SM4 Mum based Girl 5'3" MBA US highly placed valued/connected fly seeks well qualified boy. 9773289679 sharmask31@yahoo.com

PQM4 Daughter / Sr. consultant Engr. - Bgr / Well settled in Bgr / 18 LPA / 35 yrs / USA H1 visa holder / wts no 91-987325444

PQM Fair B'ful MBA HR wkg Brahmin girl for 5'2" 20.11.85 740PM Looking H'some Boy from Del/Ncr bsd eell Settled fmly send BHP: kmbadvocate@gmail.com, # 9811459487

KKB NM VFair Sep'84/5'7" Chief Mgr Govt. Bank. Prof. Match Com. / IIT / IIM

PQM4 Kayasth 90/5'1" / Fair & B'ful Girl, BA (Hons), LLB from NUJS Kolkata, Elite Family. Seeks well Qualified & Settled Boy from reputed family. Contact: s.c.sahai@gmail.com, 9313260136 & 8130744256.

SHRIV. 93/5'1" Ansh Mglk b'ful girl B.E., MBA wkg Top MNC in Mumbai, father Er. Gztd ofr Indore, pref. B.E. + MBA/MTech, subcaste no bar abhashrivastava1017@gmail.com, 9406811020/0731-2592231.

SHRIVASTAVA BE, MBA & Master. (US) mglk 29/5'2" Smrt bful v.fair girl wrkng in Chicago seeks suitably qlfd wrkng boy. 9425806387, aradhna1960@gmail.com

SM4 MBA, merit, smart Beau. 29 5'5" Girl wrkng in PSB, looking for d'upl'g in MNC, settled boy from reputed fam. Contact: 9619081720, e: shrikantjohri@gmail.com

SRIV. 28, V.fair, 5'4", b'ful, M.Tech, Wkg in MNC @Blr, 15 LPA, Pref tetotaler PQM@Blr 9212163064, srivbp@gmail.com

SM4 Saxena fair girl 25/ 5'3" B'Tech wkg MNC 14 lpa. Father IRS(retd). 9456295355/ rajivp885@gmail.com.

AMBASTHA Girl 1993/5'1" Milky White B.Tech doing IT job seeks suitable groom. Contact-9905130175/ 9661870928

KHATRI

B'FUL Fair Homely Girl of Reputed Khatri Family of Lucknow April 83/5'2" Convented, JNU Topper PH.D Landon UNI Asstt. Professor in Delhi Univ. Boy from NCR Prefd. Caste no bar. Email: Mehrotra.tanushri@gmail.com 09838075050, 09838070702

SM Preferably Dr. IAS, IRS for soft spoken convented Dr. (MD. Pedia.) Jan'86/5'2" belongs to reputed Khatri F'mly of Lucknow. Caste no bar. Email: mehrotra.tanushri@gmail.com 09838075050, 09838070702

PQM for Beautiful Punjabi Khatri Girl MCA 5'4" Oct. 1984 working in Delhi. Pref. Delhi and NCR. Cont- 9005733346 sekhar.sunny42@gmail.com

SM4 NM, 28/5'2" Sethi Khatri girl MBA, wkg in bank, RBI, b'ful, hmly, fthr b'ness, rptd fmly seek prof qlfd match 97176 19961, gsethi146@gmail.com

PQM4 BDS girl Aug 78, 5'3" working in NCR as dentist. Caste no bar. Contact: 9729130212, 8930854411 (watsapp).

B.TECH (CS), Mgr-Big-4 Co. Ggn, Khatri B'ful girl 31, 5'6", N/M, Pref. (Btech+MBA) or CA. Caste No Bar, 9868851406, E: allianceskk@gmail.com

B.TECH, Asst. Bank Man- 29 5'5" Girl wrkng in PSB, looking for d'upl'g in MNC, settled boy from reputed fam. Contact: 9619081720, e: shrikantjohri@gmail.com

SM 4 38/5'3" V.B.ful, Rich, A'wal Girl MD Radiology, Artemis Hosp, GGN, 30 Lac. sks DM / MCH/ Radiology/ IIM/ IAS / IRS/ IPS /CA. Mo: 9178873269. Email: jindal_tiya@rediffmail.com

B.TECH MNIT, MBA (Fin.) IMT Ghaziabad, SM4 Slim Fair Bansal Girl, 27, 5'3", Working in Leading MNC (12 LPA), Very Reputed Family from Jaipur. Send Biodata & pic at: aglmatch@gmail.com

SM 4 B'ful, healthy, NM, 89/ 5'2" garg girl, M.Sc. Interior Design (Gold Medalist) fellow at TFI, Seeks smart edu. boy. Decent Marriage. 8826563737, E: satishgarg19@gmail.com

AGGARWAL Singhal NM Delhi fair, smart girl 21.07.87/ 22:40/Delhi/5'7"/CA/wkg in GGN, Asst Manager 11.5 Lpa Whatsapp & Cont: 9210010404

PQM4 CA fair Slim 12.4.85, 18:30 / 5'4" Singhal Aggarwal Delhi based girl wrkg in MNC Ggn. # 9868810296 / 9650868400 Email: matri0532@gmail.com

SM4 b'ful, fair, Garg girl Oct 1990/5'1", Delhi, MBA in (HR), father B'man, seeks teetotlar/ veg Del/NCR pref Arya Samaji fmly. 011-40367604, 9818346155

SM4 b'ful, Goyal fair 24 / 157 / MBA wkg MNC Ggn, financially sound, fthr Dr. running Multi-speciality hosp E.durgahospital dadri@gmail.com # 9811708346

SM4, 27/5' b'ful slim conv Gupta girl B.Arch Lko, M.Arch frm SPA Delhi, prsntly Wrkg in Delhi 9838591334 akgsnp65@gmail.com

SM4 Singhal NM Girl 5'7" / 24.9.87/00.31 Meerut Msc Biot ech, Lecturer Pref Service, Decent Marriage 9411819920 em.: vmsinghal@gmail.com

FOR B'ful Singhal Girl, 5'2" Jan 87 MDS, Govt. Col. Bng. wkg in Delhi Pref. Dr./B.Tech/CA/ MBA 9215542392, 9215542395 anawangupta@gmail.com

PQM Fair B'ful MBA HR wkg Brahmin girl for 5'2" 20.11.85 740PM Looking H'some Boy from Del/Ncr bsd eell Settled fmly send BHP: kmbadvocate@gmail.com, # 9811459487

NORTH INDIAN

SUITABLE qualified match for brahmin girl 1987/5'2" , MBA Manager in MNC Pune, Email: pakhi.dub@gmail.com Mob: 9793475980

RAJPUT

SM4 raj gri 5'7"/30, Adv in AOR firm SC/HC, parent sr.burecrt Seeks qlfd Adv./CI-1 ofcr/Civil Services/IIT/IIM w/placed boy Uppr Caste no bar. # 7834894357 BHP to v.laxmi2108@gmail.com

SUITABLE well educated match from a decent Rajput family required for Rajput girl, aged 28 yrs, height 5'5", MBA, working at leading bank in Mumbai. Contact 978594120

SM4 b'ful fair 33+ Bisen Vats 5'5" Asst. Prof. (Pvt. Univ. Delhi-NCR). Rajput Boy Only. Contact: 9625630283 Email: ks93122@gmail.com

V.B'FUL 1991, 5'3" B.Tech (IIT) +MBA (ISB) Working NCR 15 LPA Father Reputed Insud. seeks Govt.CI-1 Or Prof Match Email: formati27@gmail.com

CAIP/ Businessman reqd for CA, CS, 5'5, fair, Slim bhati rajput girl, born JAN92. Indore based biz family. Call- 9425314487.

RAJPUT beautiful girl B.Tech+MBA 27/5'5" seeking alliance from highly posted grooms in Govt./PSU/MNC. Cont Ranchi Mob: 9973768253

PQM4 Chauhan Manglik Girl, 26-5-93/5'7" UP based convent. Edu., B.Tech, MBA Working in ICICI, Mum. 9829031181, 9461179753

ALLIANCE for slim & fair Daughter 32/5'4" Divorcee B.Te ch. MBA (IIM) wrkg Profsn'l B'lore 20LPA seeks groom Rajput alliance. M-8789394231

PUNDHIR Non mglk fair MBA 24/9/90, 5'5" girl dent mr rg wanted well stld Rajput Boy. #9811305109, 9821367975 E:ampundir975@gmail.com

PQM b'ful fair slim 27/5'3" slim MS (Comp) Wkg Pvt com, USA H1B1 visa holder. Only Christian US bas wkg pref. #9301141083/9424300877

HINDU

SEARCH for equivalent qualified Handsome Boy for Hindu Bengali Girl, fair, 28/5'4" doing 'Post Doc' in New York. Mobile: 9757399918 / 9969103857

MAURYA Kushwaha girl 34 year, MBA. BED divorcee looking for suitable groom pushpaa.pradeep@gmail.com Ct: 8340201745/ 9663126686

PQM4 26/5'4" / B.E.(Mech.), Pursuing MBA (IRMA) family based in Bhopal, seeking Hindu suitable match. #9425608352, 9425608365.

HINDU Nai MSc Economics fair b'ful girl 24/5'4" NCR based MNC job well established family. Cont-7827457373, Email: diptigrb@yahoo.com

PQM4 Rastogi Girl 28/5'3" / B.Sc (Maths) (DU) M.Sc Maths (SAU) wrkg in I.S.R.O. SNR Scientist at Ahmedabad 10LPA. Mobile: 9359992668

ALLIANCE INVITED

An affluent Rajput business family invite alliance for their 35/5'3" educated, non-working beautiful, energetic, confident & divorced girl from good looking, well placed, sincere & understanding Hindu boy. Send BHP to xcllence.mumbai@gmail.com

Mobile: 9324403013

MUSUM

SUNNI Muslim girl 28 5'2 MSc Scientist divorced with kid. Looking for Bangalore based well settled suitable match (kid responsibility taken by girls parents). Korla also preferred. 7204444242 & mail: primaryboy@gmail.com

GROOM IIT IIM wkg match for R.Tech IIM I petty smart B'f 5'6" 27y girl kanyasha or upper class may contact 9811308801

SM4 Chetri Edu Girl 28 12 94 B.Tech (IIT) wrkg in NCR. Parents & Ggn ofr

ELITE BRIDES W

AGARWAL, 32, 5ft 8", Investment Bank well known Institute. Lives in Mum financially well off. Looking for a likeminded educated match from Hindu community. 9311451516

ARORA, 34, 6ft 2", Management Consultant, a well known Institute. Lives in USA. Look likeminded and well educated match from a community in USA. Contact: 9312092381

YADAV, 31, 5ft 11", Professor, MCH in Urology. Financially well off. Parents are well known Doctors. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match. Contact: 8882654550

AGARWAL, 32, 5ft 11", Doctor, MBBS/MD from a well known Institutes. Lives in UK. Father is a renowned Paediatrician. Family is financially well off with a net worth of several Crores. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match from any community in India/Abroad. Contact: 9310065725

BANIYA/ MITTAL, 34, 6ft 2", Software Developer Graduate from a well known Institute. Family is financially well off. Father is a retired IAS Officer. Looking for a likeminded and well educated match. Contact: 8882654550

Exclusive matchmaking services
Call us: 1800 200 4455

There's a "Grooms Wanted" page as well.
(Note how they're divided by caste.)



We pass thru the Aravalli Range -- the oldest mountain range in India.



Rural India is poor, ...



... but the kids are still happy!



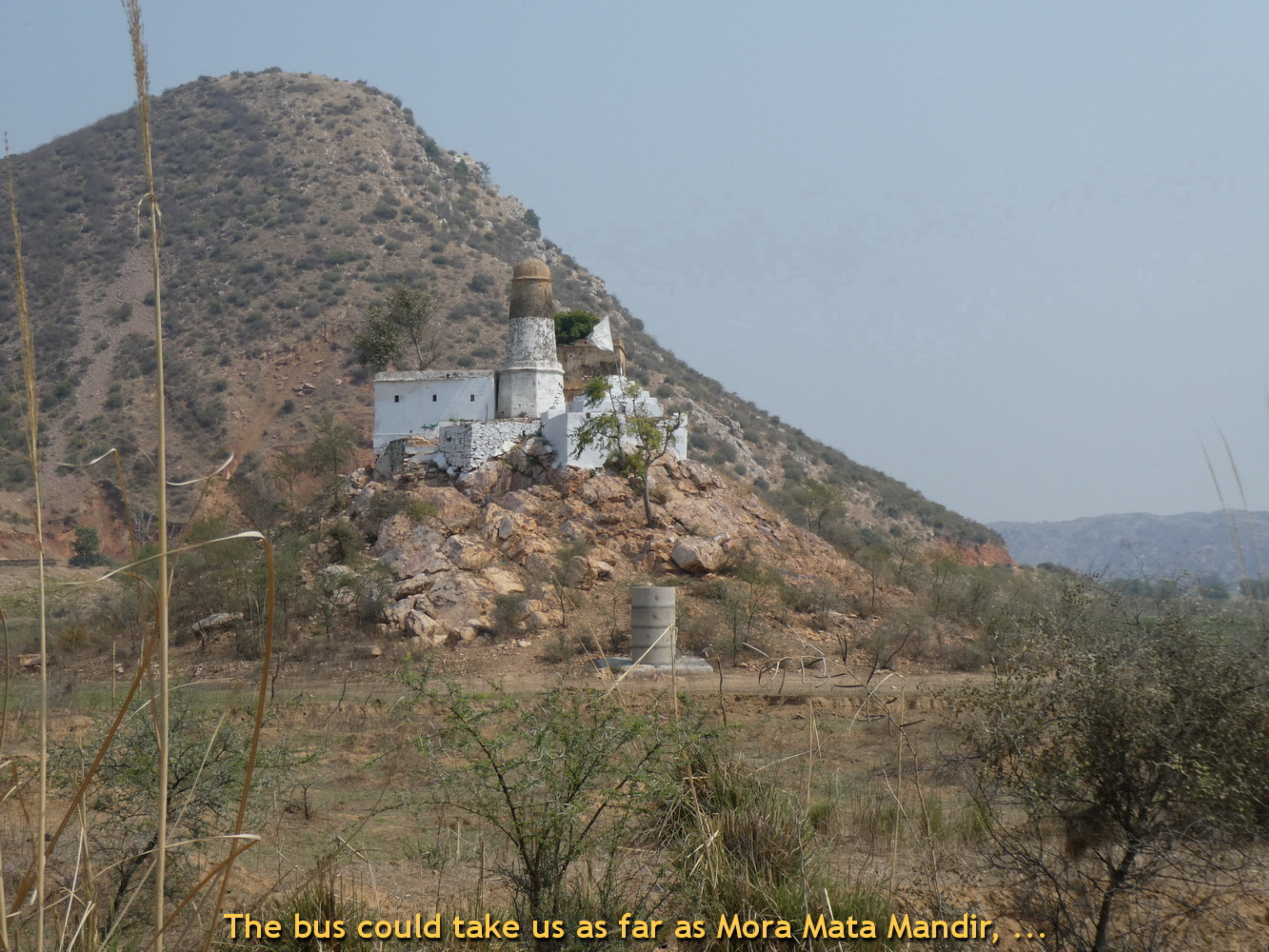


The women are working out in the fields, ...



... while the cattle roam the town.

ਸ਼ਬਦੀ



The bus could take us as far as Mora Mata Mandir, ...



... but after that, we had to go by Jeep.



Destination: The Clement Village Retreat,



... featuring private cabins ...



... and a cricket pitch.



We go on a camel-cart ride ...



... down sari-lined paths ...



... to a small tribal village near Gadoli,



... where, it seems, **we** are to be the entertainment.



(The cow, however, was not amused....).



A rooftop view of the village square.



The open-air kitchen.



Sweeping the courtyard floor, which had recently been treated with cow-dung.



Cow-dung is also shaped into loaves, then placed on walls and rooftops to dry, ...



... and then stacked up like firewood for fuel.



(Yet another reason for why the sun doesn't "set", but instead just fades away.)



**We all are to dress appropriately
for the evening's entertainment.**

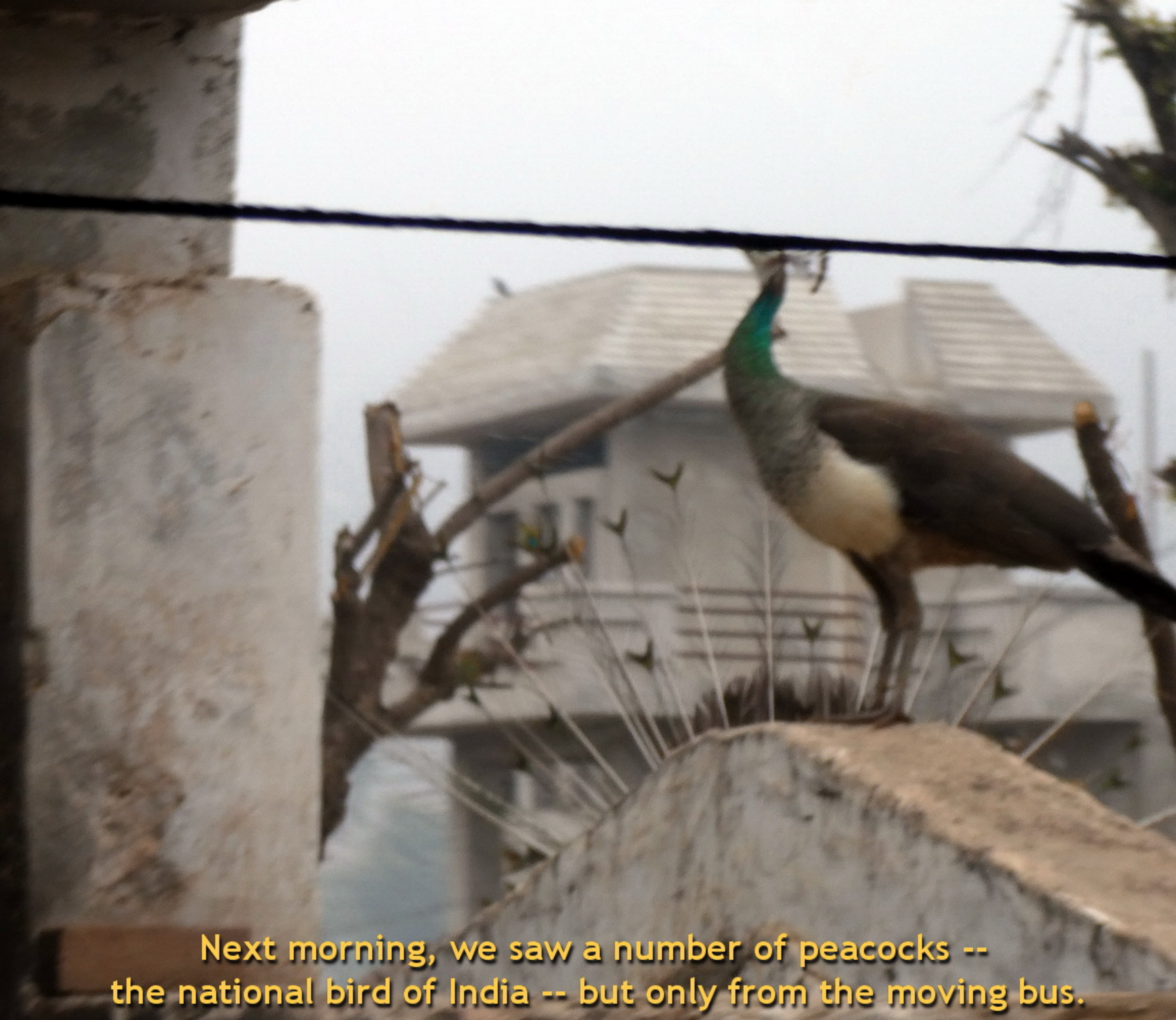




... a local folk-dance and musical performance on the lawn.



The trick is to dance with
a half-dozen bowls balanced on her head.



Next morning, we saw a number of peacocks --
the national bird of India -- but only from the moving bus.



We drove past another small town, Abhaneri, ...



... to visit the Chand Baori Step Well, ...



... built in the 8th century, and ~100' deep: a long walk for a drink of water!







Also visit the village potter,
who showed how to make earthenware.



The potter's home: a couple cots and a CNG-fueled cook-stove.



And we happened upon a festival at the village temple.



It's Mahashivaratri, celebrating the Great Night (wedding day) of Lord Shiva, and his dance of primordial creation, preservation and destruction.





Back at the retreat, Liv and Janet try out henna tattoos.



We also hike in the nearby hills...



.... to a small temple overlooking the region, ...



... and we stop at the village library to entertain the local schoolkids.

A decorative orange border frames the entire image. It consists of a double-line rectangular border. At each of the four corners, there are four small orange squares arranged in a 2x2 grid, partially overlapping the border lines.

jaipur



We hit the road again, passing numerous overloaded scooters, ...



... and overloaded trucks.



We pass many typical dwellings: cubic concrete boxes with flat roofs.



We also pass various temples, ...



... and manufacturers of temples for your own field or garden, ...



... and many suppliers of Jaipur marble.



The group visits a rug merchant for a demonstration and sales pitch.



(It was a very good sales pitch:
we ended up buying one in this style.)



We also wandered the town, visiting the local shops.



But please, no monkey business!



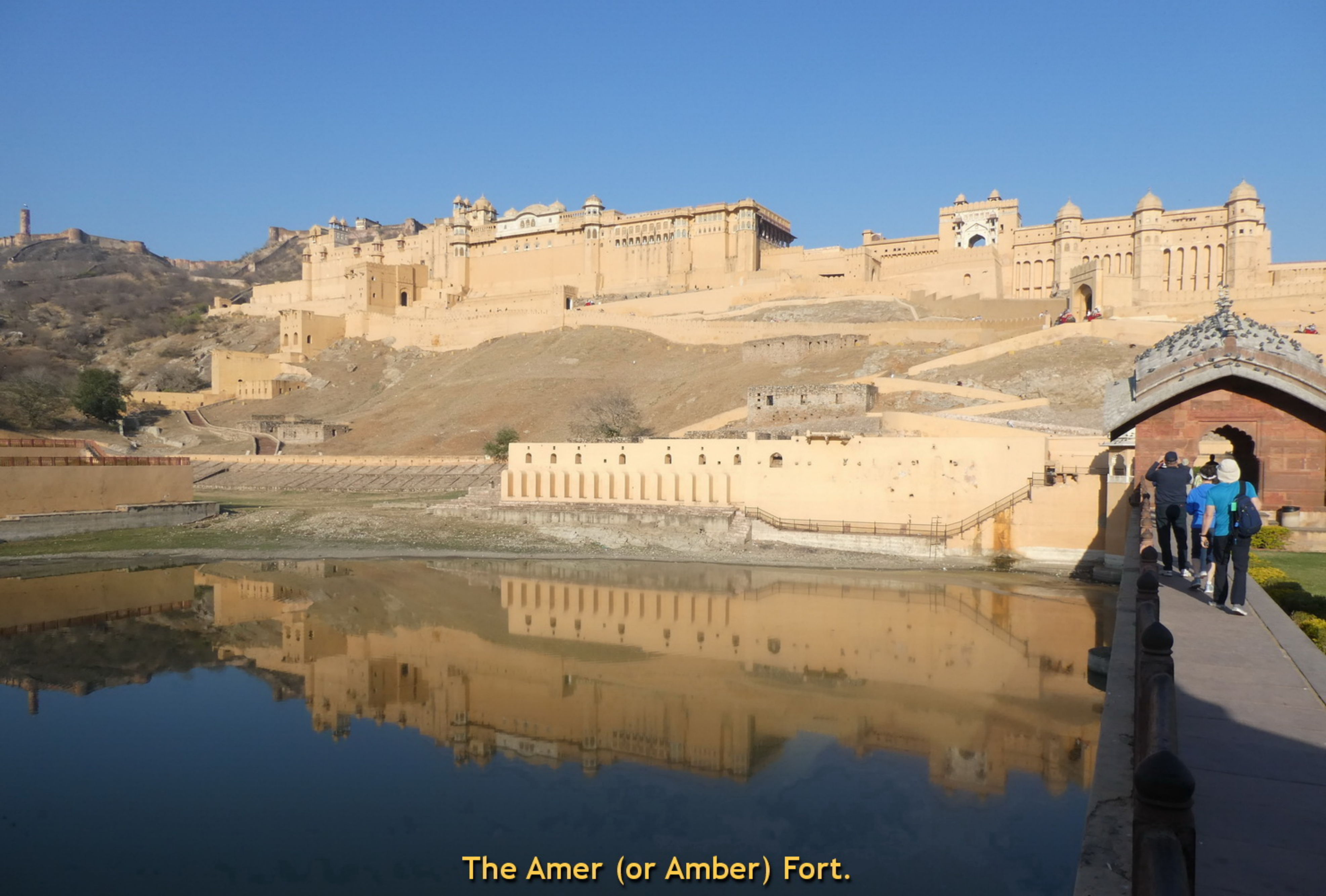
And here I am, trying my best to not look too out-of-place.



In the evening, we drive past the Albert Hall Museum ...



... for another in-home dinner:
this time, all of us are guests of a local government deputy.



The Amer (or Amber) Fort.



(We hiked in to avoid the traffic congestion on the elephant-way...!)





Amer Fort's Ganesh Pol Entrance





[Monkey #2: Common Langur.]





The hall of mirrors ...



... a great place for reflection (!)



A stained-glass window.



Keeping it clean.





View of other some of the other Hill Forts of Rajasthan.







Back in Jaipur: Hawa Mahal (1799).



Jantar Mantar, an Astronomical Observatory: basically some large sun-dials, ...



... including this 3-D version that precisely gives the time and also the date.
(Those are walkways between the panels for closer reading of the shadow:
there's a "mirror-image" nearby with panels where this one has walkways.)



Jaipur's "City Palace", ...



... with the "Sarvato Bhadra" -- an "open hall" used for official functions.



And "Jal Mahal", a palace built in a lake (Man Sagar Lake), ...



... which is also a great place for bird-watching, ...



... and watching birds riding wild pigs, ...



... and for watching local residents dress up for formal photos.



Enough of northern India! Time to catch a plane and fly south!



continued vs

part 2

Road Scholar:
Southern India