



# 10

## **CULTURE AND HERITAGE IN INDIA–II: SIKHISM, ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY**

In India there is a great diversity in religions: Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, and Christianity. People follow their religion, culture and worship their gods in their own ways.

This wealth of religion and spirituality can be seen and felt throughout the country. Thus, there is so much of travelling connected with religion. This is because people in India are engaged in interaction with the divine for the betterment in this life as well as in the next.

Hence it is not surprising to find innumerable temples, gurudwaras, churches, mosques, shrines etc. which are visited by the people on important occasions. This is because religion has a universal and natural appeal for human being and they remain specially attached to their religion. In this lesson, we shall try and make you aware about how religious places are used as pilgrim destinations in the tourism industry.



### **OBJECTIVES**

After studying this lesson, you will be able to:

- explain the Sikhism and its basic teachings;
- list the major Sikh pilgrimage centres;
- discuss about Islam and its basic teachings;
- list the major Muslim religious tourist destinations e.g. Sufi dargahs;
- describe Christianity and its basic teachings and
- list the major Christian Churches as tourist attractions.

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### 10.1 SIKH RELIGION AND ITS BASIC TEACHINGS

Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh faith, was born in Talwandi, near Lahore in Pakistan in 1469. He was one of the greatest saints of the Bhakti movement. The word ‘Sikh’ is derived from the Sanskrit word Shishya, meaning a disciple.

Sikhs are disciples of their ten gurus. Guru Nanak (1469–1539) was the first Guru and Guru Gobind Singh (1666–1708), the last. Guru Nanak received his early education in Sanskrit and Persian.

In 1496, he had an extraordinary spiritual experience (enlightenment), after which he travelled extensively to spread the message of love and brotherhood. He was accompanied by a Muslim musician Mardanaji and a Hindu peasant Bhai Bala. The three went from one village to another for preaching. Guru Nanak preached through *kirtans*, *bhajans* and *ragas* and people flocked to listen to him. He spent the last years of his life with his family in the village of Kartarpur. His hymns and songs were compiled in a book called the *Adi Granth*. He established *sangats* (people sitting together to listen to the Guru) and *pangats* (people eating together in *langar* or free kitchen).



#### Do you know

Nankana Sahib is the popular name for the birth place of Guru Nanak. It was renamed Nankana after the Guru. There are several shrines dedicated to the memory of Guru Nanak’s childhood and early youth here. A few days before his death, he called a congregation of his followers and chose his disciple Angad as successor. Guru Angad compiled the *Adi Granth*. The other gurus in order were Guru Amardas, Guru Ramdas, Guru Arjan Dev, Guru Hargobind, Guru Har Rai, Guru Harkishan, Guru Teg Bahadur and Guru Gobind Singh. The last Guru organized the Sikhs into a disciplined, military order of Sikh-saints called *Khalsa* (the pure). He established the five symbols of Sikhism: *kangha* (comb), *kesh* (long hair), *kada* (iron bracelet), *kachcha* (underwear) and *kirpan* (sword or dagger).

Teachings of Guru Nanak

- There is one God
- God is formless, Hari and Govind
- Caste system and idolatry should be rejected.
- Superstitions should be condemned

- The virtues of humility, charity, forgiveness and truthfulness should be inculcate.



**Do you know**

Gurdwara Damdama Sahib, the ‘Seat of Temporal Authority’, is indeed one of the revered ‘*takhts*’ of the Sikhs. This was the place where Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth guru of the Sikhs, took repose from the raging political upheaval and spent time in serenity adding valuable verses to Sri Guru Granth Sahib.



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## 10.2 THE MOST SACRED SIKH SHRINES AND HERITAGES

### 10.2.1 Takhts

The worship places of Sikhs are known as the Takhts which literally means ‘the seat of the divine power’ and Gurudwara stands for ‘the doorway to the master’ in India, there are several Gurudwaras but only five Takhts. Some of the most prominent Gurudwaras and Takhts include the Golden Temple, Gurudwara Rakab Ganj and Sri Akal Takht, Sri Patna Sahib, Sri Hazur Sahib, etc. The disciples of Sikhism come to the sacred places to take the blessings of Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book and eternal Guru of Sikhs.

It is said that ‘Takhts’ are places where various social and political settlements were done by the Gurus. The five ‘Takhts’ include

- (i) Sri Akal Takht founded by Guru Hargobind Singh
- (ii) Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib where Khalsa panth originated
- (iii) Takht Sri Damdama Sahib where the complete version of Guru Granth Sahib was written by Guru Gobind Singh
- (iv) Takht Sri Hazur Sahib, where Guru Gobind Singh his last breathed
- (v) Takht Sri Patna Sahib is situated on the banks of the River Ganga

Takht Sachkhand Shri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib, one of the five takhts of Sikhs, is located on the bank of River Godavari in the ‘Sanctified City’ of Nanded in Maharashtra.

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### 10.2.2 Gurudwaras

Apart from the Takhts, there are various Gurudwaras also in India which are historically related to Sikh pilgrimage. Thus these are significant from pilgrimage point of view. Lakhs of people a particularly the Sikhs visit the Gurudwaras to commemorate the Gurus. Among the most popular edifices, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Punjab and the Bangla Sahib in Delhi are the two most prominent ones. It is called the Golden Temple owing to the gilded dome that adorns the crown of the Gurudwara. The Bangla Sahib Gurudwara in Delhi is also amongst the most impressive and fascinating edifices in India and is intricately linked with the history of Sikhism. Over here we shall read about some other Sikh shrines in India about which you should know. It will increase your knowledge.

**Gurudwara Paonta Sahib** dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh Ji, is located in Paonta Sahib City in Sirmour, Himachal Pradesh. This revered site draws devotees in huge flocks. The name ‘Paonta’ meaning ‘feet’ best justifies the importance of this place.

**Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib**, one of the most revered Sikh shrines, stands as a homage to the ninth guru of the Sikhs, Guru Tegh Bahadur.

**Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib** was built at the site in the Chandni Chowk area of Old Delhi. Here the martyrdom of the ninth Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur took place on Wednesday, November 24, 1675 on the orders of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. In the memory of this martyrdom Gurudwara was built and is known by the name Sis Ganj Sahib.

**Hemkund Sahib** is one of the most important Sikh shrines in the world. This majestic shrine is situated at an altitude of 15,200 feet above the sea level and so is accessible on foot from Gobind ghat in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, India. It is a major religious tourist site in Uttarakhand where people brave the high and lofty Himalayas to reach this highly inaccessible place.

**Patna Saheb Gurudwara** is dedicated to the 10th Sikh Guru, Govind Singh. It is situated on the river Ganga and during the Holi festival in March the Gurudwara overflows with pilgrims who come in large numbers to visit this place.

**The golden temple at Amritsar** is the most sacred for the Sikhs. The town was founded by Guru Ram Das, the fourth Sikhsguru in 1577 on the land gifted by Akbar. The fifth Guru Arjun Dev completed the temple. When Maharaja Ranjit Singh covered the upper half of the temple first with copper and then with pure gold leaf it came to be known as the Swarna Mandir.



**Figure 10.1: The golden temple at Amritsar**

Anandpur Sahib is another Gurudwara of importance. Sikhs from all parts of the country visit this Gurudwara. Holla Mohalla fair is held here every year during Holi. Other important gurudwaras are Kiratpur sahib, Dera Baba Nanak, Patna Sahib, Darbar Sahib at Taran Taran etc.



### **INTEXT QUESTIONS 10.1**

1. Name the ten Sikhs Gurus.
2. How is Guru Granth Sahib associated with Sikhism?
3. What are Takhts?
4. Describe the "5K's that Sikh men are required to possess.
5. Describe the concept of langar.



### **ACTIVITY 10.1**

On the map of India identify Sikh Heritage sites.

Visit any Gurudwara and observe religious activities of the Sikhs.

## **10.3 ISLAM AND ITS BASIC TEACHING**

Islam is a monotheistic religion. The literal meaning of Islam is 'Peace and Submission'. Islam as a religion was established by Hazrat Mohammad in Mecca in 570 CE.



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In 610 AD, at the age of forty Mohammad got Prophet hood (Prophet of God). When Prophet Mohammad living in an age where there was idol worship in Arabia all over the place. He tried to oppose the idol worship, he was persecuted by the people of Arabia. The conflict between Mohammad and his opponents on idol worshipping continued for 13 years. It is marked by his first divine revelation. Revelation means guidance by God for mankind. But circumstances forced him to migrate from Mecca to Medina in 622 AD. His migration is called *hijrat*. The hijri era begins after this incident. Prophet Mohammad died in 632 AD.

The Prophet was succeeded by four most prominent companions in the following successive order:

- Hazrat Abu Bakr
- Hazrat Umar
- Hazrat Usman
- Hazrat Ali

Muslims pray five times each day, always facing toward Mecca. A muezzin or person calls the people to pray in the mosque. An imam leads the people in prayer. Every person who is financially sound as prescribed in the Islamic law must give alms (money) to the poor. During the holy month of Ramadan, adult Muslims must fast (go without food or drink) between sunrise and sunset. Once during his lifetime, every Muslim is supposed to make a Hajj, or visit, to the holy city, Mecca. Muslims are not supposed to take intoxicants, eat pork, and gamble.

Islam was brought to India by the Arab merchants. They were followed by the Turks who established their Sultanate (State) in India. In 1526, the Mughals established their rule in India. Thus in brief this political establishment opened a new vista for the spread of Islam and Indo Islamic culture in the Indian subcontinent.

A significant aspect of Indo Islamic culture and heritage is the role of sufis in India. Sufis believed in universal peace and brotherhood. Their residences are known as *dargahs* and *khanqahs*. Different kind of travellers used to stay in their khanqahs. The khanqah people took care of their comfort and hospitality. Even today thousands of people visit these khanqahs particularly on the occasion of *Urs* (death anniversary) of the Sufi Sheikhs. This comprises an important part of domestic pilgrimage tourism.

**Dargah-Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki (Delhi)** is situated in the village Mehrauli in Delhi. It is crowded throughout the year with devotees of different religions. Some devotees tie a thread near the grave of the saint and untie it once their



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wish is fulfilled. The shrine of Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki has also been the venue of the annual *Phoolwalon-ki-sair* (a festival of flower-sellers) in autumn, which has now become an important inter-faith festival and also a symbol of National movement against the British in Delhi. The festival has its origin in 1812, when Queen Mumtaz Mahal, wife of the Mughal Emperor, Akbar-II (1808-1837) made a vow to offer a chadar (sheet) and flower pankha at the Dargah and the Yogmaya Mandir, Mehrauli, if her son Mirza Jahangir, who had been exiled to Allahabad by the British, returned safely. It is believed that the people of Delhi irrespective of caste and community used to participate in the fair. Seeing the Hindu Muslim unity, the British Government banned the festival in 1942. But it was revived by Prime Minister late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in 1961.

**Hazratbal (Kashmir)** is the most important religious monument for the religious as well as secular tourists, who wish to see the beautiful architecture of the building. It's situation on the bank of the Dal Lake in Srinagar enhances its beauty. It is the only bulbous domed mosque in Kashmir. For the Muslims it is significant because it has the sacred hair of Prophet Mohammed. The shrine is known by several names including Hazratbal, Asar-e Sharif, Madinat-Us Sani and Dargah Sharif. It is a very big tourist site of Kashmir.

**Charar i Sharif (Kashmir)** is the tomb of Shaikh Nuruddin Rishi (14th century), situated in Charar, 32 km from Srinagar. Rishi is a Sanskrit word meaning an ascetic. To suffix Rishi after Nuruddin suggests the syncretism of Hindu-Muslim culture. Nuruddin Rishi, along with Lalla or Lal Ded, a Shaivite saint were free from the bonds of narrow Hindu-Muslim traditions and customs and believed in planting trees to benefit the people. They considered this as their religion. These people became so popular among the masses that the heritage of Kashmir is depicted in the verses of Shaikh Nuruddin and Lal Ded as

We are the progeny of the same parents,  
Then why should we differ,  
Let Hindus and Muslims (together) adore God alone,  
We come to this world like partners,  
We ought to share our joys and sorrows together,

Shaikh Gesu Daraz was a Chishti saint who founded Khanqah at Gulbarga in Mysore in the early 13th century. Gesu Daraz is also known by the name of 'Khawaja Banda Nawaz'. The title 'Banda Nawaz' is similar to Shaikh Moinuddin Chishti's title 'Garib Nawaz'. His dargah is a famous place of pilgrimage and is styled in Indo-saracenic architecture. It has also paintings in Iranian and Turkish styles, on the walls and domes.



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### INTEXT QUESTIONS 10.2

1. How did Islam come to India?
2. What are the five pillars of Islam?
3. List major festivals of Muslims.



### ACTIVITY 10.2

Visit any Islamic Heritage site and based on your observations write a report on how prayers are conducted in the mosque.

## 10.4 DARGAHS-TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

A Dargah is a Sufi shrine built over the grave of a revered religious figure, often a Sufi saint or dervish. Muslims may visit a shrine as a form of pilgrimage known as *ziyarat*. *Dargahs* are often associated with Sufi meeting rooms and hostels, called *khanqah* or hospices. These may include a mosque, meeting rooms, Islamic religious schools (*madrassas*), residences for a teacher or caretaker.

The term *dargah* is derived from a Persian word which can mean, among other uses, “portal” or “threshold”. Some Sufis and other Muslims believe that *dargahs* are portals by which they can invoke the deceased saint’s intercession and blessing (*tasawwuf*). Still others hold a less supernatural view of *dargahs*, and simply visit it for a paying their respects to the pious individual or to pray at the site for perceived spiritual benefits.

Musical offerings to dervishes and sheikhs in the presence of the devout at these shrines, usually on the occasion of *Urs*, gave rise to musical genres like *Qawwali* and *Kafi*, wherein Sufi poetry is accompanied by music and sung as an offering to a *murshid*, a type of Sufi spiritual instructor.

This makes *Darghas* a natural choice as tourist attraction irrespective of religion and cultural differences.

People from all parts of the world irrespective of caste, creed and religion visit the *Dargah* and pray for the fulfillment of their wishes by the blessings of the Saint. India is a home of thousands of *Darghas*. In this lesson, *Darghas* of international repute have been described.



### 10.4.1 The Most Popular Darghas in India

**Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari, Mumbai:** Haji Ali Dargah is one of Mumbai’s most famous and prestigious landmarks situated in the middle of the Arabian Sea.



**Figure 10.2 : Dargah Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari**

The **Urs** (Death Anniversary) of Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari is on the 16th of Rabi-ul-aakhir / Rabi-al-thaany (17th Shab). As per its objectives all necessary rituals are performed as per Islamic traditions, and Niyaz (Food / Sweets) is distributed to all devotees, visitors and fakirs.

A special programme of Milad and prayers is held on the 16th of every Islamic Month after Namaaz-e-Isha (17th Shab) in remembrance of the Urs of Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari. The Trust distributes Niyaz to all present.

**The Dargah of Hazrat Sheikh Alauddin Ali Ahmed, is known as Sabir Dargah, Kaliyar Roorkee (Uttarakhand):** The Dargah of Hazrat Shaikh Alauddin Sabir Kaliyari is in Roorkee, in the Haridwar district. He was a Sufi revered by both Hindus and Muslims. The Dargah has been in existence for about 800 years where his Urs are celebrated by millions of people every year in Kaliyar.

**Khwaja Moin-ud-din Chisti’s Ajmer:** The Dargah Sharif is situated in the heart of the city of Ajmer and is easily accessible from all parts of the country. The best time to pay a visit to the Dargah is between the months of October to March when the weather is cool in Rajasthan. The annual Urs fair in the Dargah is the most celebrated occasion of the city that attracts thousands of pilgrims from all over the world. It is the occasion when the Dargah is decorated at its best and the whole environment turns festive.



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**Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia Dargah at Delhi** has the annual Urs which is held every year to celebrate the memory of one whose mysticism was not mysterious. This is the reason why the common masses then and now call him the beloved of God. Other tombs include the grave of Jahanara, the daughter of Shan Jahan, Amir Khusrau, a renowned poet, Ziauddin Barani, a famous historian (14<sup>th</sup> century) and the tomb of the noble Inayat Khan, a favourite of Emperor Humayun and his son, Emperor Akbar.



Figure 10.3: Nizamuddin dargah

Nizamuddin dargah is the most visited destination during evening prayers held every day, especially on Thursdays. Music lovers gather here for *qawwalis* and festivals like Eid and the ‘Urs’ of Hazrat Nizamuddin.

**Dargah of Hazrat Syed Hameed Qadir Vali at Nagore in Tamil Nadu** is a world famous muslim plarimage centre.



Figure 10.4: Dargah of Hazrat Syed Hameed Qadir Vali

It is more than 500 years old and is topped by a golden dome and flanked by 5 minarets. A prominent five-acre dargah, a Muslim shrine dedicated to the 16th century saint Nagore Andavar serves as a pilgrim center. The 14-day Kandhuri Urs also spelled Kandoori or Kandhoori festival, dedicated to the saint, is held here annually.

### Popular Darghas in India

Here we have listed some popular Dargahs. You can also locate some other dargahs.

1. Qutbuddin Bakhtiar Kaki's Dargah
2. Tomb of Salim Chisti
3. Erwadi
4. Shaikh Chirag Delhi's Daragah
5. Karseri
6. Kattupalli
7. Kazimar Big Mosque
8. Madurai Maqbara
9. Manamadurai Maqbara
10. Meesal Kilavaneri
11. Meher Ali Shah
12. Melakkal Kanavai
13. Muthupet Dargah
14. Nagore Dargah
15. Pallichandai Silaiman
16. Peer Mohammed Dargah
17. Piran Kaliyar Sharif
18. Sundaramudayan
19. Thachuoorani
20. Thiruparankundram
21. Thiruvedagam
22. Vaippar
23. Valinokkam
24. Charar-e Shareef

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### 10.5 CHRISTIANITY AND ITS BASIC TEACHINGS

One of the great religions of the world is Christianity. It is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus lived almost 2,000 years ago in the region of Palestine (now part of Jordan and Israel) on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. He lived a life of poverty and humility. Traveling on foot and preaching to the people, Jesus taught that men should love God and one another. Many people began to believe his teachings, but others misunderstood him.

From his followers, Jesus had chosen twelve men to be his Apostles. According to them, Jesus appeared again, alive three days after his death. He then stayed on earth for 40 days before going to heaven. His Apostles set out to spread his teachings. The most famous of the Apostles were Saint Peter and Saint Paul, who founded many Christian churches. Their stories about the life of Jesus are written in the New Testament of the Bible. The early Christians were Jews but Christianity and Judaism separated in 381 A.D.

The disciples of Jesus travelled to different parts of the Greco-Roman world and established many Christian churches. It is believed that Saint Thomas, one of the disciples of Jesus travelled to India and reached Muziris (western coast). He established churches and his followers are known as Saint Thomas Christians in India.

The coming of the Portuguese in India during the 14<sup>th</sup> century opened a new vista in the history of Christianity. Consequently, they established churches on the western coast of India. It was at this time when Portuguese Christian mission under Francis Xavier (1506-52), a Jesuit priest was sent to India. He became successful in converting a large number of people into Christianity, on the western coast. Emperor Akbar gave freedom to Christian missions to establish their Church, propagate their religion and to celebrate their religious festivals.

#### 10.5.1 Christian Culture in India

The Christian place of worship is called a church. They are often built in the shape of a cross with the altar facing east towards the rising sun. The Christian spiritual leaders are called priests or ministers. The Christians believe priests have a special relationship with God. The Bible is the Christian holy book.

Christian Traditions and Ceremonies

“The Christian preachers emphasis that the essence of man’s soul is love, and the source of love is God.”

## 10.6 CHRISTIAN HERITAGE SITES IN INDIA

The total numbers of Christian Heritage sites in India are many but here you will read about some well known ones.

**St. Thomas Mount**, is about five kilometres southwest of Chennai where St. Thomas was buried. The mount is known after his name. Rising 100 meters above the surrounding plain it is a lone hill where Thomas is believed to have been killed. Built by the Portuguese in 1547 it replaced an ancient Nestorian church while the foundation was being laid for the church of Mylapore Cathedral. The stone cross, believed to have been carved by St Thomas and similar to those found in Kerala where his seven shrines were built, is now part of the ornate. Tradition has that the cross first publicly bled on August 18, 1558 during Mass and that it bled periodically ever after till 1704. It is a very important religious tourist site for the Christians.

**Basilica of Bom Jesus, Old Goa** is a very important and popular place for the tourists from India and abroad who visit Goa. It was built in 1605 and now declared a World Heritage Monument. The church houses the sacred relics of St. Francis Xavier, patron saint of Goa who died while on a sea voyage to China on December 2, 1552. The following year while transferring his remains to Goa in accordance with his wishes it was found that the saint's body was as fresh as on the day it was buried. This miraculous phenomenon continues to attract the devout of all lands and an exposition or public viewing of his body every ten years, attracts lakhs of pilgrims from across the World.

**St Cathedral, Goa** is another important and popular place for religious as well as secular tourists. Believers are awe-struck to hear of the cross of miracles which is placed in the cathedral. People have had a vision of Christ on this Cross and the rock on which it was found.

This beautiful whitewashed Church of St. Francis of Assisi, today houses part of the archaeological museum. Exhibits include prehistoric items from a distant tribal past. It is also known as the 'Pearl of the Orient' or 'Rome of the East' during its prime days. It was the concentration of magnificent churches, symbol of a powerful conquering presence which justified this last title. In fact, the Church of St. Cajatan, built by an Italian architect in 1651, was modeled in miniature on St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Today a theological college is housed here.

**The Presbyterian Church at Ross Island, Andaman And Nicobar Islands** is a Protestant church built of stone and the window frames made of Burma



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teak. The glass panes behind the altar are made of beautifully etched stained glass from Italy. The quality of the wood is so good that it has survived the vagaries of weather for over a hundred years. A small structure south of the church was built to accommodate the parsonage.

**Thomas Church** is the first Catholic Indian church located in Kodungaloor, Kerala. This is one among the famous seven Churches built by St. Thomas and the most famous church in South India.

**San Thomas Basilica** is a 16th century church located in Santhome, Chennai. This Indian Church has beautiful stained glass depictions around it showing various stages of the life of St. Thomas in glory and splendour, and also contains a statue of Virgin Mary as its masterpiece. The Velankanni church is the most famous church in Tamilnadu. The Pope himself has described the church as a holy city. This is the most visited pilgrimage center for Christians across the world.

**The Holy Christ Church** among the most notable Churches of North India, the most popular is the Holy Christ Church. This yellow colored church is on the Ridge ground, Shimla. This is also a famous shooting spot for Bollywood films.

**St. John's Church** is the oldest cathedral church of North India. It is five kms away from the popular 'peace of mind spot' in McLeod Ganj. It was built around 1852. There is an absolute purity associated with this Church. It is completely surrounded by deodar trees and is in a natural atmosphere.

**St. James Church or Skinner's Church, Delhi** is one of the oldest Churches of Delhi, built by Colonel James Skinner in 1836 near Kashmiri Gate. James Skinner's father Hercules was in the Indian British army. He married a Rajput woman. Skinner was injured severely in a battle but survived. He is known to have vowed to build a Church. The basic design of the Church is related to Renaissance style with three porches, elaborate stained glass windows and a central octagonal dome.

**Sardhana Church** is situated 19 km. away from Meerut. It is famous because of the Church constructed by Begum Samru. Samru was a German, who served under the Nawab of Bengal Sirajuddaula and Najaf Khan of Rohilkhand. He married an Indian lady Zebunnisa popularly known as Begum Samru. She was converted to Roman Catholic faith. After his death, she commanded her husband's European mercenary force efficiently. Subsequently, she allied with the Britishers. The present Lala Lajpat Rai market in Chandni Chowk was her residence. She is also known to have constructed a beautiful church in Sardhana. Its architectural beauty and maintenance has earned recognition of heritage site



from UNESCO. Twice a year in March and November, thousands of religious tourists come to the Sardhana Church in reverence to Virgin Mary and Begum Samru.

**Kohhran Thianghlim, Aizawl, Mizoram** A group calling themselves “Kohhran Thianghlim” which literally means “The Holy Church” built a magnificent structure called “Solomon’s Temple” in Aizawl, the capital of the state of Mizoram, in North East India. It is believed that Dr L.B. Salio received a word from the Holy Spirit to construct this shrine exactly as he was told i.e. in the structural design, size, height, shape, number of doors and windows, etc. It covers an area of 32400 Sqft. It is designed to be safe from wind force, earthquake, etc. and appear like a Cross from the sky.



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### Other Christian Heritage Sites in India

An 1870 Anglican Cathedral with white and red stone exterior and marble altar at Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh) is another visual and spiritual feast. In Delhi, the Churches worth seeing include the Church of the Sacred Heart and the Cathedral Church of the Redemption. Mumbai’s first Anglican Church -Cathedral of St. Thomas is also an important site for religious tourists. Tourists visiting Himachal Pradesh will find important Churches worth visiting, like Christ Church and St Michael’s Cathedral, the Catholic Church of St. Francis, St. John’s Church-In-Wilderness and the Christ Church.



### INTEXT QUESTIONS 10.3

1. How did Christianity come to India?
2. Name any two famous Churches in India.



### ACTIVITY 10.3

- Visit any Christian Heritage site and observe the significant Heritage value of that church and make a report on it.
- On the map of India identify the Christian Heritage sites.
- Meet any Christian family and discuss their culture and write a report on it.



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### WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

- Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh faith, was born in Talwandi, near Lahore in Pakistan in 1469. He was one of the greatest saints of the Bhakti movement. The word ‘Sikh’ is derived from the Sanskrit word Shishya, meaning a disciple.
- The worship places of Sikhs are known as the Takhts which literally means ‘the seat of the divine power’ and Gurudwara stands for ‘the doorway to the master’ in India, there are several Gurudwaras but only five Takhts.
- Islam is a monotheistic religion. The literal meaning of Islam is ‘Peace and Submission’. Islam as a religion was established by Hazrat Mohammad in Mecca in 570 CE.
- A Dargah is a Sufi shrine built over the grave of a revered religious figure, often a Sufi saint or dervish.
- One of the great religions of the world is Christianity. It is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.



### TERMINAL EXERCISE

1. Describe the teachings of Sikhism.
2. Give a brief account of Sikh Heritages.
3. Discuss the main features of Islamic Culture.
4. Describe the most popular Islamic Heritage sites available to Tourists in India.
5. Discuss the main features of the Christian Culture and Traditions in India.
6. Describe any five most popular and significant Christian Heritage sites in India.



### ANSWER TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

#### 10.1

1. Guru Nanak Dev, Guru Angad, Guru Ramdas, Guru Arjun Dev, Guru Hargobind, Guru Har Rai, Guru Harkishan, Guru Tegh Bahadur, Guru Gobind Singh.

2. Guru Grantha Sahib is the holy book of the Sikhs.
3. Takhts are placed where various social and political settlements were done by the Gurus.
4. Kangha, Kesha, Kara, Kachcha, Kirpan.
5. Langars are free kitchens.

### 10.2

1. Islam came to India through traders from the Arab peninsula.
2. (i) Five time prayers (ii) Zakat i.e giving alms to the poor (iii) Keeping fast in the month of Ramzan (iv) Pilgrimage to Mecca (v) Belief in one formless God i.e. Allah.
3. Eid-ul Fitr, Eid-ul Zuha, Moharram, Eid Milad un-nabi.

### 10.3

1. Through traders.
2. (i) Basilica of Born Jesus in old Goa.  
(ii) St. Thomas Mount at Chennai.

## MODULE – 3

Cultural and Heritage  
Aspects of Tourism  
in India



Notes