

Punjab: India Begins Here



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PUNJAB HERITAGE & TOURISM PROMOTION BOARD
PUNJAB GOVERNMENT



Introduction

Punjab is the land of Gurus, saints, soldiers, poets and musicians. It has had a glorious and eventful history, replete with stories of valour and sacrifice. The rapid strides made by the state in the agricultural, industrial and commercial spheres since Independence make for a warm and welcoming ambiance that embraces the visitor in a unique spirit of joie de vivre.

This book presents the vibrant spirit of Punjab in all its historical and artistic splendour. It is rich in visuals that capture the ethos of Punjab.

Photography: Surkhab Shaukin

These photographs have been captured by Surkhab Shaukin, 'Punjab State Award' winner of the year 2002, in the field of 'PHOTOGRAPHY' wherein he was honored with cash prize of Rs. one lakh.

Right from his childhood Surkhab displayed keen interest in photography and won 'Chandigarh Society of Photographers' annual competition at the age of 13. Thereafter, he held 15 of his 'SOLO PHOTO EXHIBITIONS' at Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, New Delhi, Toronto (Canada) and Rochester New York alongside pursuing Honors in Geography.

It was his talent, creativity and blessed eye that Prof. Bill Dubois, Chairman of College of Imaging Arts and Sciences (CIAS) at RIT (ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, USA) personally picked up Surkhab Shaukin from Brooks Institute of Photography, Santa Barbara, USA and offered him a scholarship to study at RIT. This is the oldest university in PHOTOGRAPHY, established in 1829 and presently rated among the best in the world of Photography.

Surkhab Shaukin did four year degree course in Commercial Photography from RIT and worked in Manhattan for three years with renowned photographers like Eric Piasecki, Chris Collins, Sharon Schuster and then moved back to India as he was invited to do a book on the Western Command of the Indian Army on its 60th Anniversary. His work has grown in to Travel, People, Still Life and Fine Art. He has photographed for brands like United Colors of Benetton, Sisley, Kings XI Punjab etc..

Meanwhile Surkhab Shaukin has been honored four times by IPA (International Photographic Awards).

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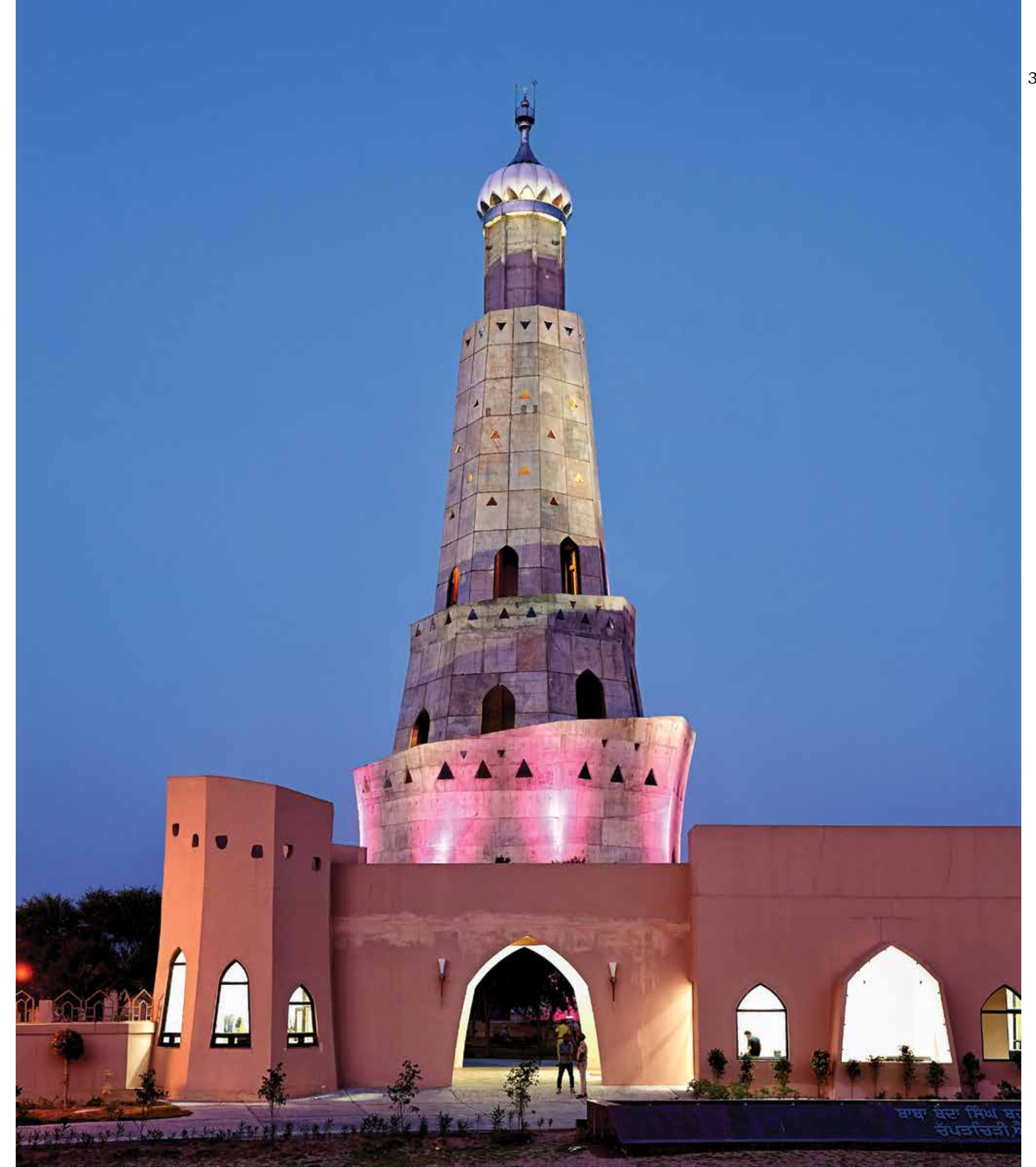
The Golden Temple, Amritsar

Harmandir Sahib literally means "The Temple of God". The fourth guru, Guru Ram Das, excavated a tank in 1577 CE which subsequently became known as 'Amritsar' (meaning "Pool of the Nectar of Immortality"), giving its name to the city that grew around it.



Fateh Burj at Chappar Chiri, S.A.S. Nagar

At 328-ft tall, it is taller than the Qutub Minar. The Fateh Burj is the tallest victory tower in the country, commemorating the victory of the Sikh warrior Baba Banda Singh Bahadur over the Mughal Governor Wazir Khan. The 328-ft tower is dedicated to Baba Banda Singh Bahadur who established the Sikh rule in 1711.





Anandpur Sahib, Rupnagar

Anandpur Sahib is a city in Rupnagar district in the state of Punjab. Known as “the Holy City of Bliss,” it is one of the most important and sacred places of the Sikh faith, closely linked with Sikhism’s religious traditions and history. It is located at the lower spurs of the Himalayas surrounded by picturesque natural scenery, with the river Sutlej forming a shimmering and shiny blue border on the south-west, barely four miles away.



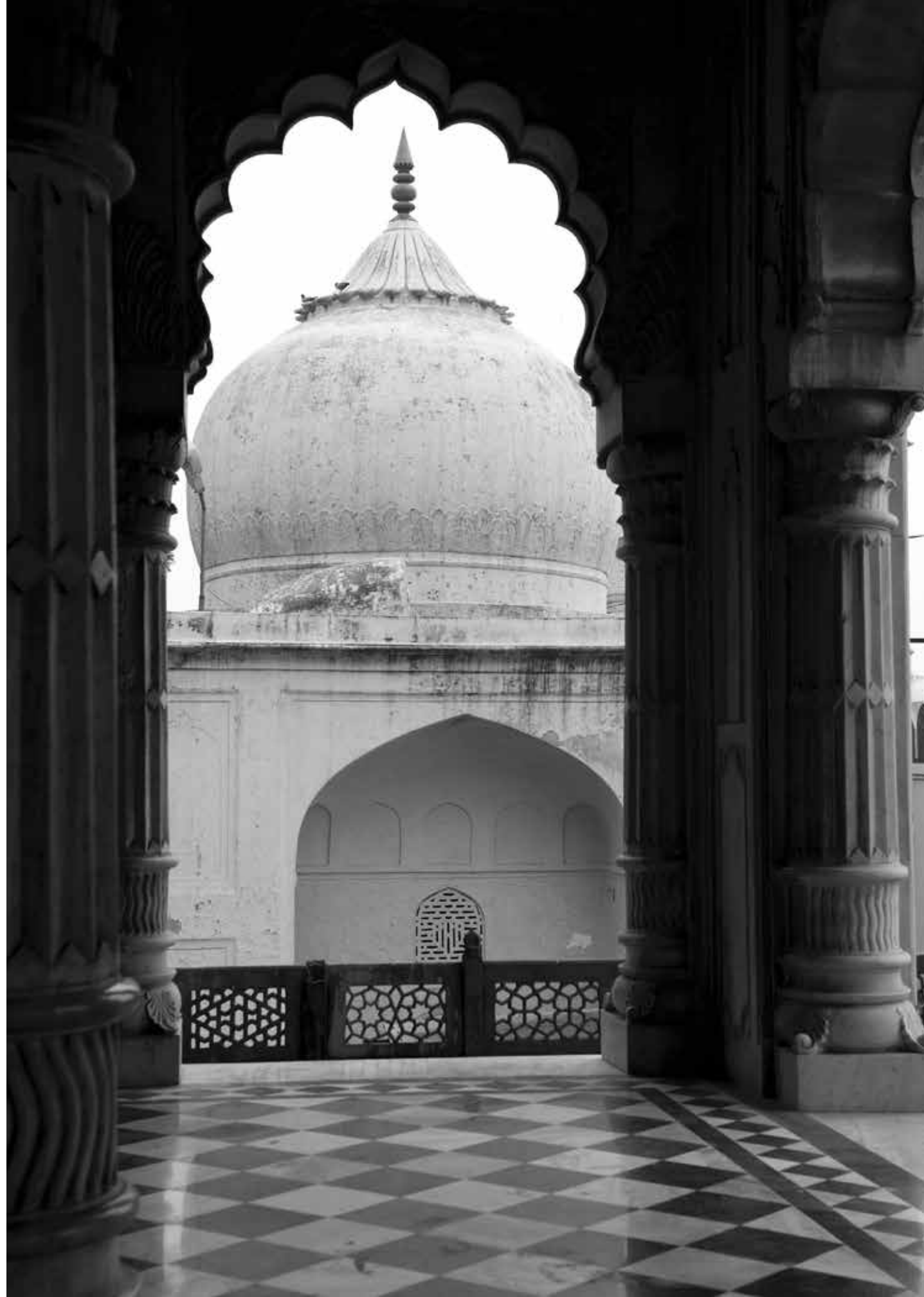
Dukhniwaran Sahib, Patiala

Dukhniwaran Sahib was the name given to the place where Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji sat. It literally means ‘the eradicator of suffering’. The pond here became famous for its healing powers.



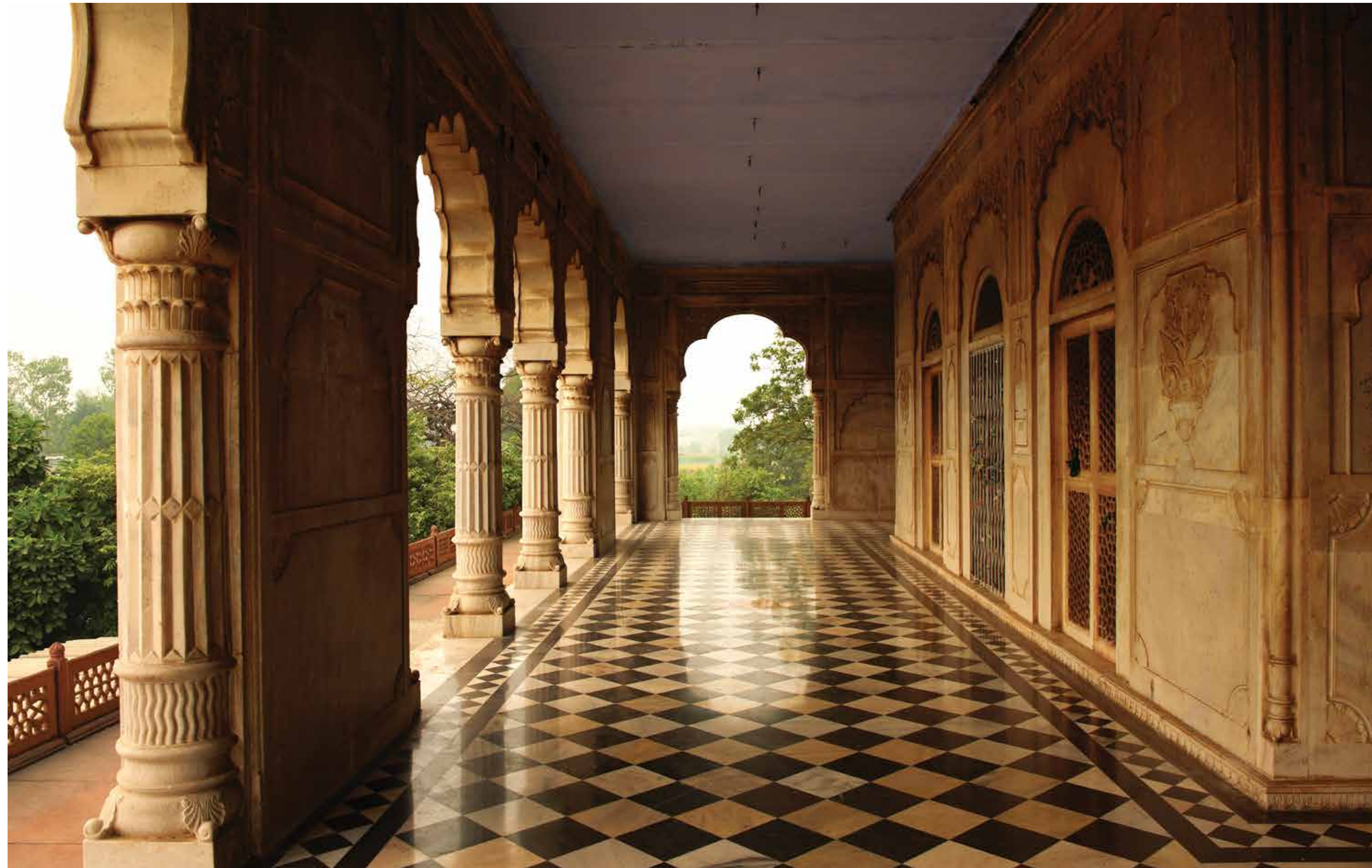
Durgiana Temple, Amritsar

Durgiana Temple is an important Hindu temple of Punjab (India) situated in the city of Amritsar. This temple derives its name from the Goddess Durga and it is also known as the Lakshmi Narayan Temple.



Rauza Sharif, Fatehgarh Sahib

The Dargah of Shaikh Ahmad Faruqi Sirhindi (popularly known as Mujaddid, Alf-Isfani) is situated on the Sirhind-Bassi Pathana Road at a small distance to the north of Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib. Sheikh Ahmed Farooqi lived here during the times of Akbar and Jahangir from 1563 to 1624.



Corridor at Rauza Sharif



A holy dip at the Golden Temple, Amritsar



Festival 'ardaas' (prayers) at the Golden Temple, Amritsar



Hola Mohalla Festival,
Anandpur Sahib, Rupnagar
A demonstration of Gatka,
a Sikh martial art.



Demonstration of Equestrian Skills at the Hola Mohalla Festival, Anandpur Sahib, Rupnagar





Playing with
colours at the
Hola Mohalla
Festival,
Anandpur Sahib,
Rupnagar



Unique turbans supported by Nihang Singhs at the Hola Mohalla Festival, Anandpur Sahib, Rupnagar



Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib - beautifully illuminated during the Hola Mohalla Festival, Anandpur Sahib, Rupnagar



Panch Mandir, Kapurthala

Panch Mandir of Kapurthala is a place of reverence for all faiths. The temple complex has a spectacular design and is home to five small temples. Built during the reign of Sardar Fateh Singh, an extraordinary feature of this temple is that from the entrance, one can view and pay obeisance to all the five idols.



Bhagwati Mandir, Maisar Khana, District Bathinda



Attari Samadh, Amritsar



Marble Baradari, Sangrur

The Baradari was constructed by rulers of the erstwhile Jind estate in the nineteenth century and resembles the famous baradari in Lahore constructed by Maharaja Ranjit Singh. It has twelve doors on all sides and four marble domes.

**Sheesh Mahal, Patiala**

Maharaja Narendra Singh built the Sheesh Mahal (Palace of Glass) in 1847 at a cost of Rs. 5 lacs. It is situated in old Moti Bagh at a distance of 5 kms from the Patiala railway station and bus stand. It is designed on the pattern of the Shalimar Garden of Lahore, with terraces, fountains, channels and flowerbeds.



Qilla Mubarak, Patiala

A 300-year-old royal residential palace, the Qilla Mubarak at Patiala is a rare and outstanding example of Sikh palace architecture in India.



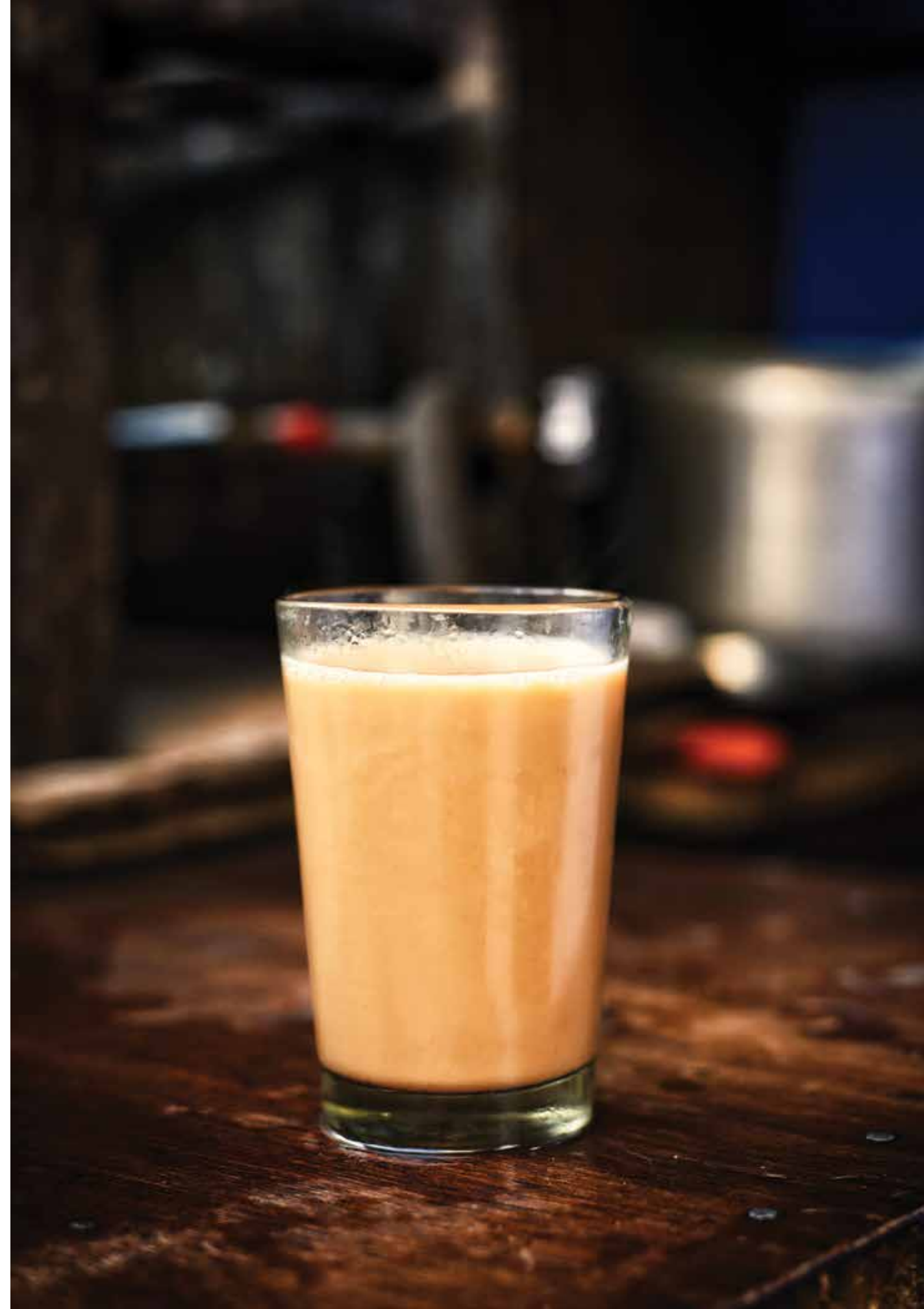
Arms and Chandeliers Gallery, Qilla Mubarak, Patiala

The Durbar Hall in Patiala's Qila Mubarak houses the Armour and Chandeliers Museum. There are dazzling Bohemian cut-glass chandeliers, two of which are floor standing, bought by Maharaja Mohinder Singh. Maharaja Bhupinder Singh's four-wheeled silver alloy chariot is also on display here. Built in Kolkata in 1909, it was drawn by six horses and used on ceremonial occasions.



Chah (Tea)

'Chah' in Punjab is a spiced tea that contains black tea and milk. A combination of various spices like cardamom, fennel, cinnamon, ginger, mint, tulsi etc are also added depending upon preferences. It produces a warming, soothing effect, acts as a natural digestive aid and gives one a wonderful sense of well-being. It's difficult to resist a second cup.



Punjabi Lassi

Traditional Lassi is a cool summer drink. Salted Lassi is flavoured with ground and roasted cumin. Sweet Lassi, however, contains sugar and 'malai' (cream), instead of spices.





Atta Chicken, Kotkapura, District Faridkot

The marinated Chicken is wrapped in atta (Kneaded Dough) and baked, later it is unwrapped and served as shown in the image on the right.



The inside seving of the Atta Chicken



Virasat-e-Khalsa

This is a unique heritage museum located in Anandpur Sahib. The Museum gives an insight into the events that took place in Punjab five hundred years ago, including the birth of Sikhism and the Khalsa Panth. Moshe Safdie and Associates designed the building.



Aam Khas Bagh, Sirhind

The Aam Khas Bagh today, is actually the remains of a highway-inn constructed for the use of royalty as well as common people (as its name suggests). This royal inn was initially built by Babur, extended and almost rebuilt by Shah Jahan along the Mughal military road between Delhi and Lahore. The royal couple used to stay here while travelling to and from Lahore.



Moorish Mosque, Kapurthala

A famous replica of the Grand Mosque of Marrakesh, Morocco, it was built by a French architect, Monsier M. Manteaux. It was commissioned by the last ruler of Kapurthala, Maharaja Jagatjit Singh and took 13 years to finish (1917-1930).





Qila Mubarak, Bhatinda

Qila Mubarak has been in existence from 90-110 AD in its current place. It was here that Razia Sultan, the first woman ruler to sit on the throne of Delhi was incarcerated on her defeat. The bricks of the fort date back to the Kushan period when Emperor Kanishka ruled over Northern India.

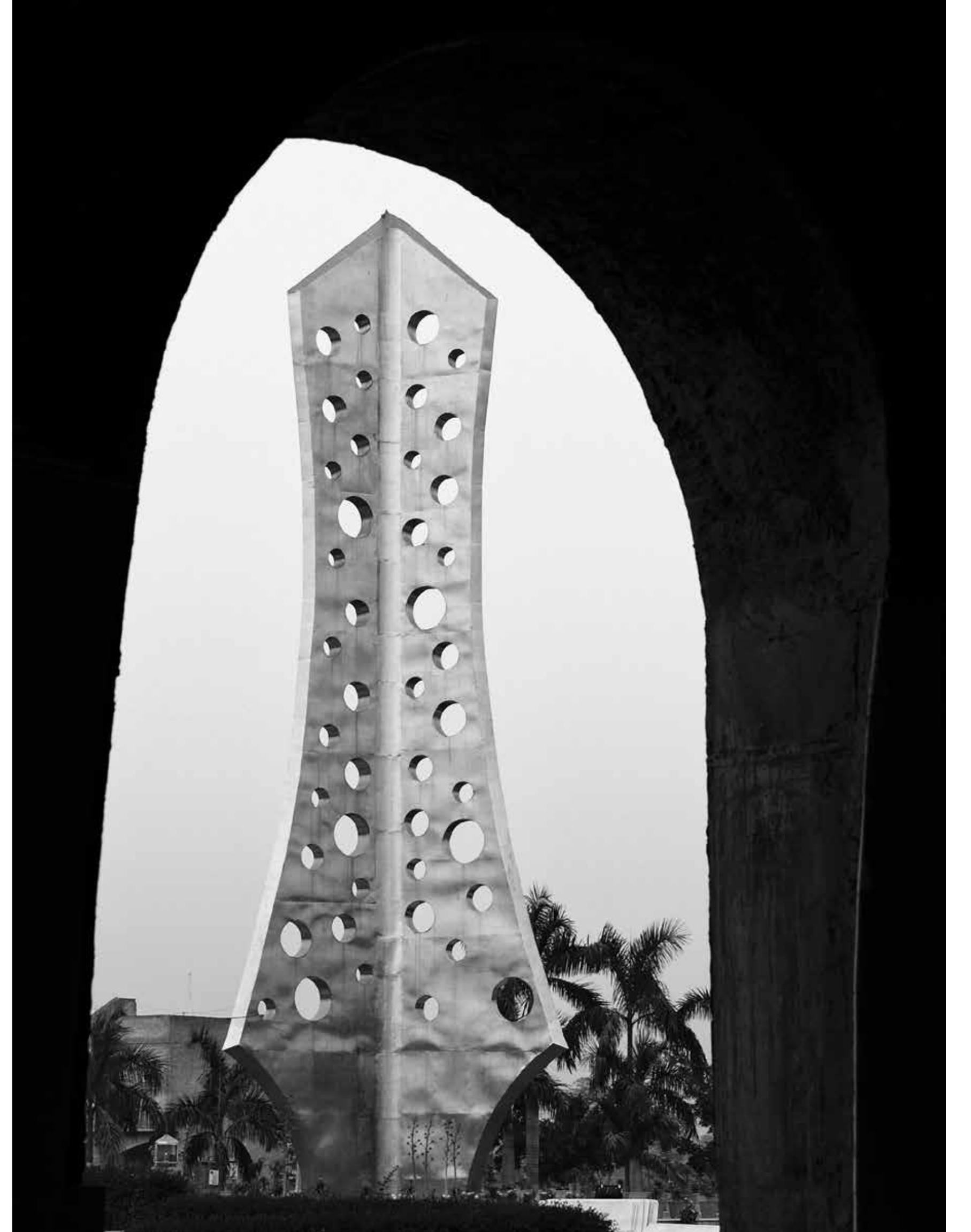


Inside the Qila Mubarak, Bathinda



National Institute of Sports (NIS), Patiala

Founded in 1961, Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports or NIS, is Asia's largest sports institute and is located in the princely city of Patiala.



Namdhari Shaheedi Samarak, Malerkotla



Inside a village kitchen (Rasoi)





Kaleeran (Metal Trinkets) and prayer beads in the bazaars of Amritsar



Gur Mandi, Jalandhar

Mounds of jaggery in Gur Mandi, a traditional jaggery market in the heart of Jalandhar.



Bajwara Fort, Hoshiarpur

Located at a distance of 3 km from the district headquarters, this fort is known as the Gateway to the Kangra Region and was built in the 12th century. It remained invincible for centuries. The Sikh ruler Ranjit Singh conquered it and thereafter it was occupied by the British Army.





Imam Nasir Mausoleum, Jalandhar

The 600- year old beautifully designed mausoleum of Imam Nasir is located in the heart of Jalandhar City.



**Baba Atal Sahib,
Amritsar**

Gurdwara Baba Atal Sahib is situated to the south of the Golden Temple, about 185 metres from Sarai Guru Ram Das. The nine-storey octagonal tower, standing 40 metres high, is the tallest building in Amritsar.

Originally a Samadhi, or cenotaph, enshrining the remains of Baba Atal Rai, a son of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru of the Sikhs, it was transformed, with the passage of time into a Gurdwara.



CNI Church



Dakhni Sarai, Jalandhar



Sarai Amanat Khan, Amritsar

Dakhni Sarai, Jalandhar

Dakhni Sarai is one of the finest and best- preserved specimens of Mughal caravan sarais built along the old highway. It stands in the village Dakhni (31.10' N; 75.25'E) on the Nakodar-Kapurthala road, about 12 km from Nakodar. The sarai is said to have been built around 1640 AD by the well known Mughal noble, Ali Mardan Khan during the reign of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.

Sarai Amanat Khan, Amritsar

Sarai Amanat Khan was built by Amanat Khan in 1640, and is the place where he lived a reclusive life following the death of his elder brother Afzal Khan, the prime minister of Shah Jahan. But here too, Khan who came to India from Iran in 1609 and whose real name was Abdul Haq before being conferred the title of "Amanat Khan" by Shah Jahan for his impressive calligraphy, has left the imprint of his craft for, the sarai has beautiful Islamic calligraphy inscribed on its fading blue and yellow tiles.

Shambu Mughal Sarai, Patiala

Shambhu Mughal Sarai, Patiala is a caravan sarai initially constructed by Sher Shah Suri on the Grand Trunk Road connecting Peshawar to Dhaka (now in Bangladesh). It has two majestic gates with a mosque in the centre and rooms on all sides for travellers. A deep well and a baradari- a building with 12 gates, are located on the outer side.



Shambu Mughal Sarai, Patiala



Sangrur Museum

A king's palace in Banasar Bagh which has been converted into a museum, it hosts pictures of old Sangrur buildings, weapons and clothes of the king and the queen.





Dholbaha Site, Hoshiarpur

The excavations at this place have revealed that this area was inhabited from very early times, antiquities recovered from here relate to the Pleistocene Period. Fossils and beautiful stone sculptures of medieval period are found here. The excavations have revealed that this area was the centre of religious, cultural and commercial activity. Buried walls, temples, statues, chopping tools and hand axes have been found here.



Dakhni Sarai, Jalandhar

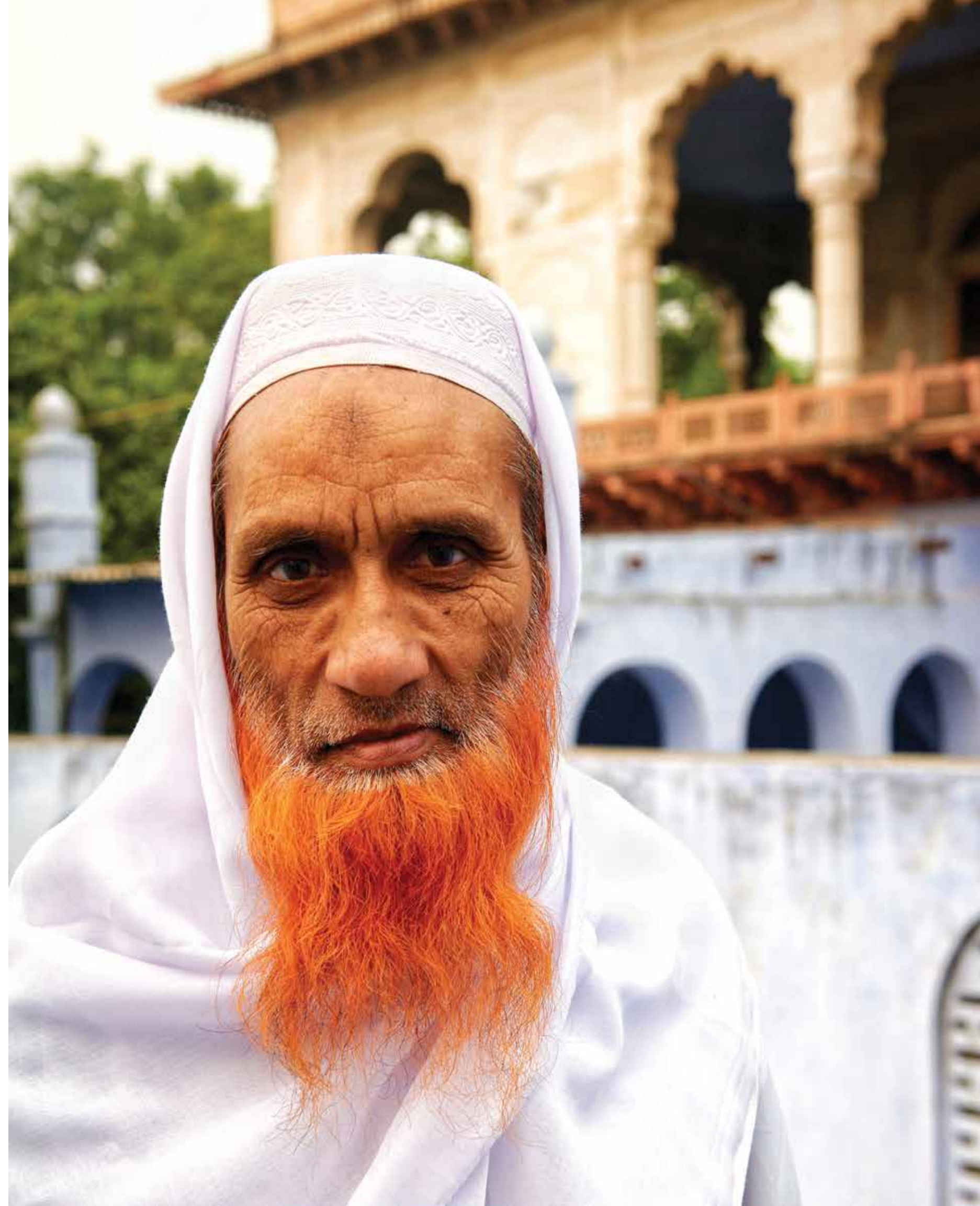
Dakhni sarai, on the Nakodar-Kapurthala Road (12 km from Nakodar) near Village Mahlian Kalan. It is a fine example of the Indo- Persian style perfected during the Mughal period. Constructed during the reign of Shah Jahan (1627-58) by the Mughal Mansabdar, Ali Mardan Khan, the huge serai has 124 rooms all around its fortified rectangular enclosure.



Punjabi Jutti

The Punjabi Jutti is a kind of footwear of Punjabi origin that is common in North India and Pakistan. These are traditionally made of leather with extensive embroidery, which used to be done using real gold and silver thread in the olden days.





Outside the Rauza Shari, Fatehgarh Sahib



Inside Qila Mubarak, Patiala



Devi Talab Mandir, Jalandhar

This is an old temple of Goddess Kali and is considered very sacred. The temple is visited by large number of devotees each year. One of the main attractions of the temple is an old tank, considered holy by the Hindus and believed to be constructed over 200 years ago.



Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib

Gurdwara Fatehgarh Sahib marks the site of the execution of the two younger sons of Shri Guru Gobind Singh Ji at the behest of Wazir Khan of Kunjpura, the faujdar of Sirhind.



Langar Preparations at The Golden Temple, Amritsar

The philosophy behind the Langar (Guru's Kitchen-cum-eating-house) started by Guru Nanak Dev Ji is two-fold: first, to provide training to the Sikhs in voluntary service and second, to banish all distinctions of high and low from the minds of the Sikhs. All human beings may sit and eat in the Langar regardless of country of origin, colour, caste, religion or other barriers.





Punjabi Thali, dhaba-style



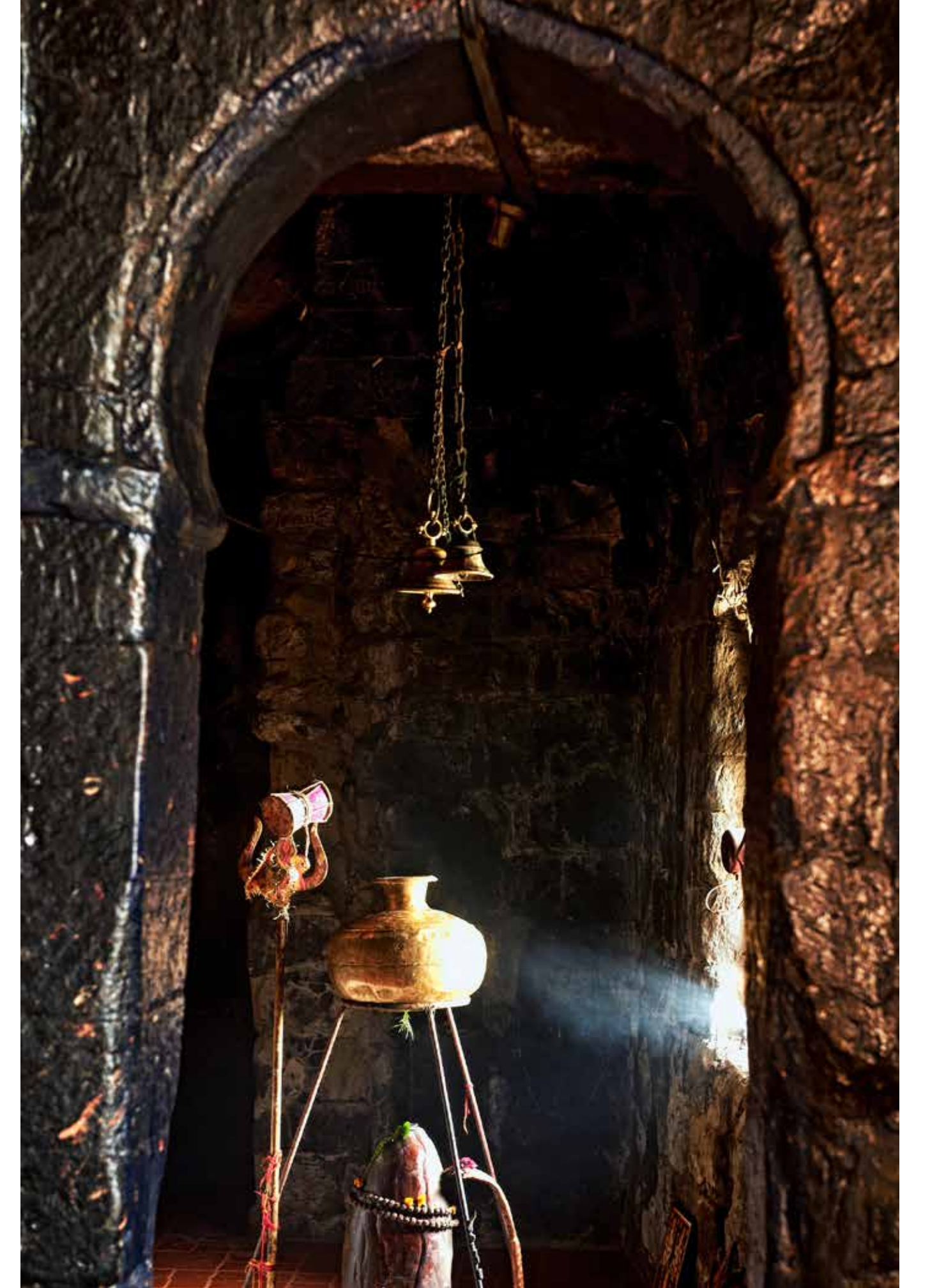
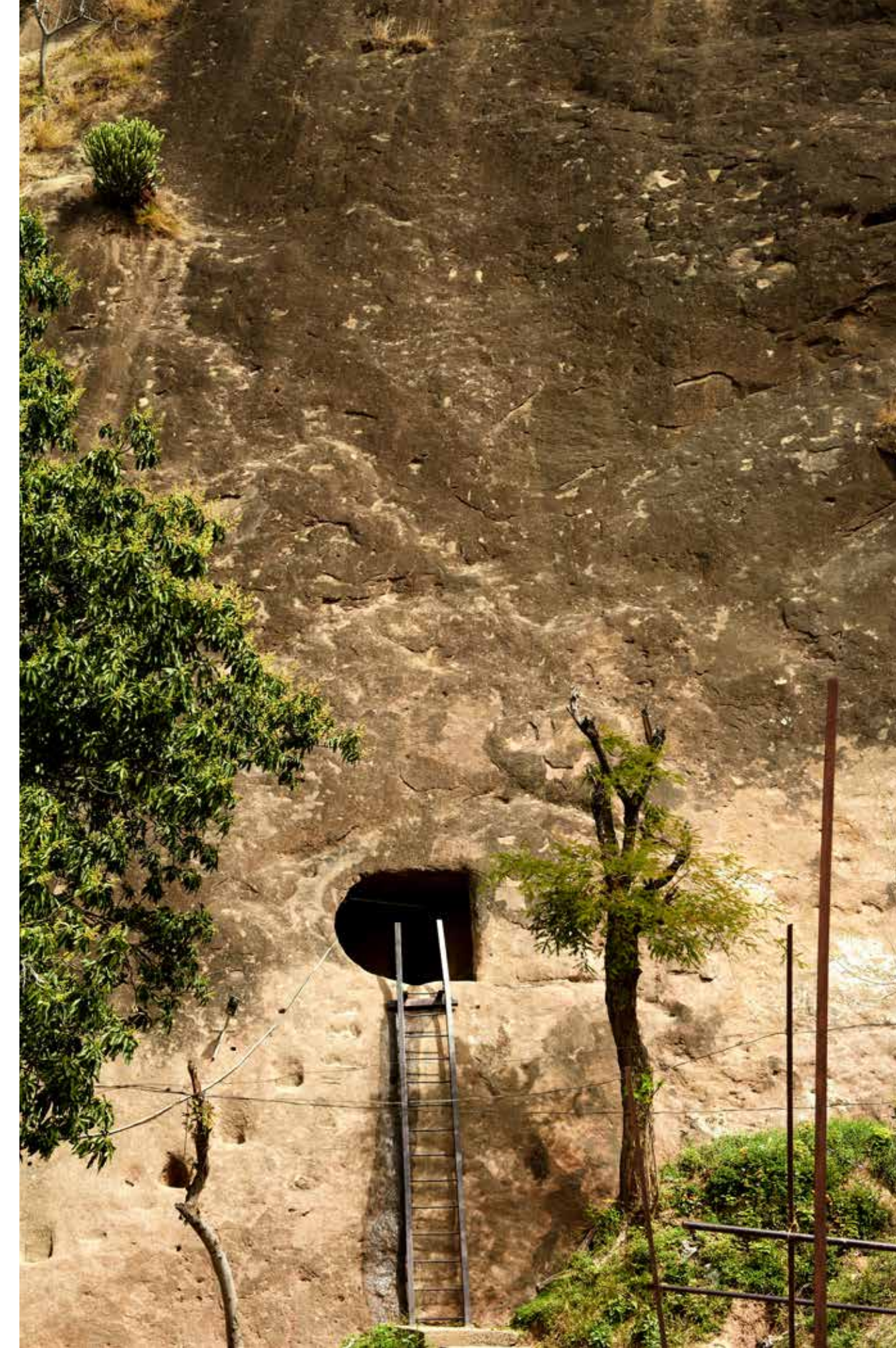
Dhaba

It is said that “The Dhaba moves wherever a Punjabi goes.” Dhabas or roadside eateries are a common feature on Punjab’s highways where fresh home-made food is cooked and served 24/7. Earlier, frequented mainly by truck drivers, today, Dhabas are the go-to places for the foodie.



Cave Temples, Doong, Pathankot

Situated midway between ShahpurKandi and Dhar, these ancient caves are dug into the rock face that flanks the Ravi River near Doong. An unpaved path from the village leads to stone cut steps that go down to the cave entrance. These rock cut temples are said to be very ancient and are associated with the Pandavas; a long cleft in the rock a little way up the river is known as Arjun's Chula.



Shiv temple inside the cave at Doong, Pathankot



Pul Kanjri

Pul Kanjri village is located at about 35 km both from Amritsar and Lahore near Wagah Border. Maharaja Ranjit Singh built a Baradari here and used to stay here while passing by along with his royal troop. A young Muslim dancer Moran, hailing from Lahore, was on her way to dance at the Maharaja's Baradari, where her shoes fell into the water channel on the way. The piqued dancer refused to dance until a pul (bridge) was built, hence the place became popular as Pul Kanjri.



Tombs of Haji Jamal and Mohd. Momin, Nakodar: Tomb of Haji Jamal as raised over the mortal remains of Haji Jamal, a pupil of Ustad Muhammed Husseini, the tambura player, towards the close of Emperor Shah Jahan's reign. The two - lined inscription engraved on the entrance gate of the tomb refers to its being the tomb of Haji Jamal and bears a date AH 1067 (AD 1657). The Tomb of Mohammed Momin was erected over the mortal remains of Ustad Muhammed Momin also known as Ustad Ustad Muhammed Husseini alias Hafizak, a tambura player in the service of Khan-i-Khanan, one of the Navratnas (nine gems) in the court of Emperor Akbar in AD 1021 (AD 1612).



Locally made vehicles for farm jobs



A day out at the farm



Dressed up as the
Monkey God, Hanuman,
for a street procession



Dressing up for the
'Gatka' performance at
the Hola Mohalla festival,
Anandpur Sahib



Anglo-Sikh War Memorial, Ferozepur

The Anglo-Sikh War Memorial was built by the Punjab Government to honour the soldiers who died fighting against the British army at Mudki, Ferozeshah Sabhraon and Chellianwala.



District Courts, Kapurthala: The stately Durbar Hall stands at the very centre of the city. It was, at one time the court of Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, its creator. It was in this majestic building that the Maharaja received the people of his kingdom, listened to their woes and rendered justice. The Maharaja's annual birthday celebrations and other state rituals and ceremonies were also held here. The Durbar Hall was completed in 1889. Facing the massive wooden door to the main entrance is a splendid bronze equestrian statue of Raja Randhir Singh. The cannon used by Maharaja Nihal Singh's Kapurthala forces in the First Sikh War also stands here.



Khalsa College, Amritsar

The Khalsa College main building is considered a gem of the Indo-Saracenic style, which is strongly influenced by traditional Indian and Mughal Schools of architecture. The foundation stone was laid on March 5, 1892, with the first classes starting in 1893.



Khalsa College, Amritsar

Medal Gallery, Patiala

The Medal Gallery in the Sheesh Mahal contains probably the largest single and most valuable collection of medals and decorations in the world. The collection of over 3200 medals and decorations was acquired by Maharaja Bhupinder Singh and dedicated to the people of Punjab by his son, Maharaja Yadavindra Singh.



A corridor in the Medal Gallery, Patiala



Amritsari Kulcha

Amritsari Kulcha is a type of leavened Indian bread made from maida (wheat flour) which is stuffed with potato masala and baked in, a tandoor (earthen clay oven) until golden brown. When baked, it is usually rubbed with butter, and then eaten with spicy 'chhole' (chickpea curry).



Jalebi

Jalebi is a sweet delicacy and is made by deep-frying wheat flour (maida flour) batter in circular shapes, which are then soaked in sugar syrup. They have a somewhat chewy texture with a crystallized sugary exterior coating. Lime juice is sometimes added to the syrup, as well as rose water or other flavours, such as kewra water. In Amritsar there are shops famous for making these in desi ghee (clarified butter).



Punjab Agricultural University, Museum, Ludhiana - The Punjab Agricultural University was set up in 1962 and plays a pivotal role in agricultural education and research. A museum at this university also displays local arts and crafts.

Phulkaris (on right) - The word phul means flower and kari means craft, thus its name, literally means floral work or floral craft. It was an embroidery technique from the Punjab region and these were worn by women all over Punjab during marriage festivals and other joyous occasions.





Punjab Agricultural University Museum, Ludhiana

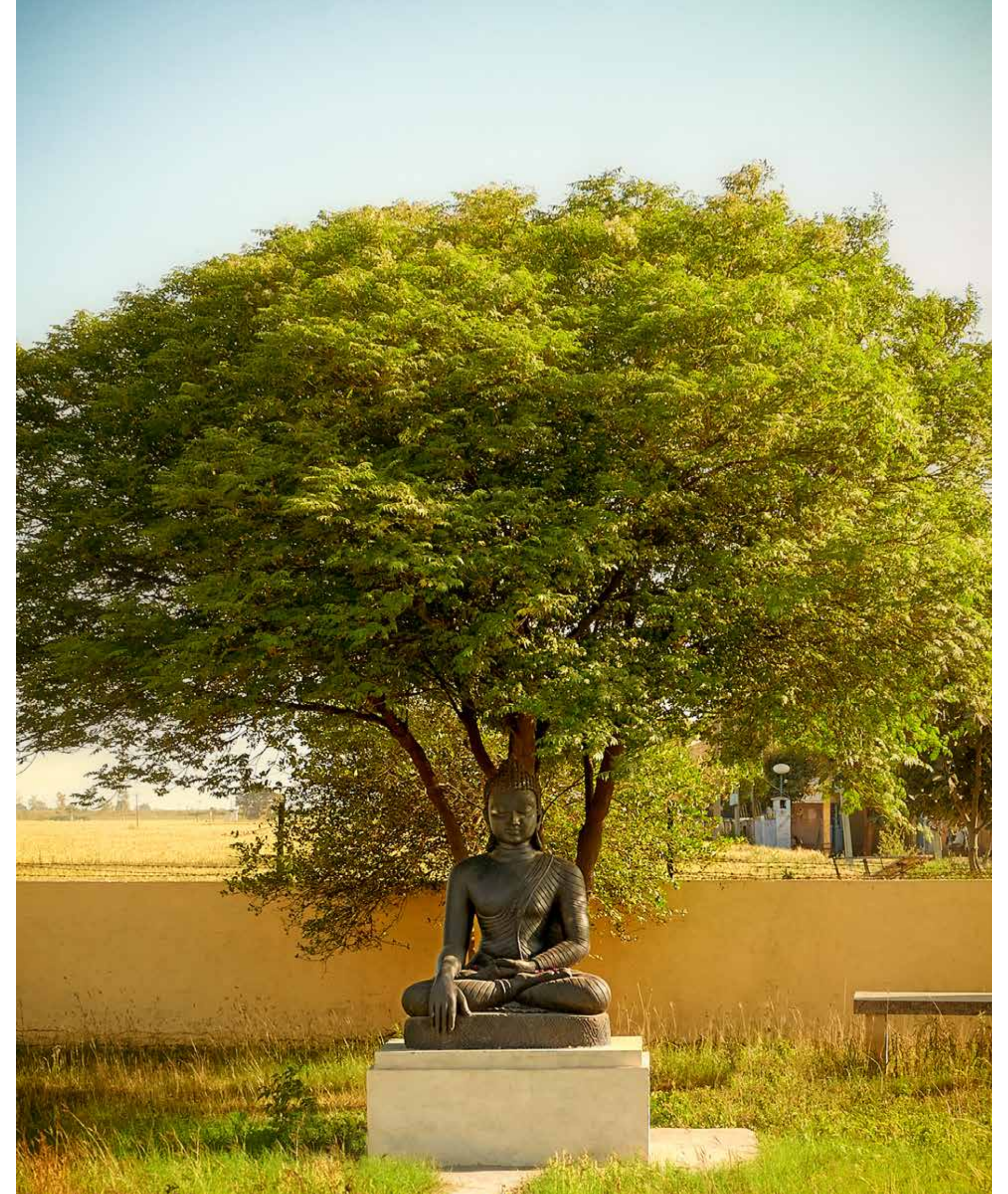


Punjab Agricultural University Museum, Ludhiana



Sanghol Archeological Museum

This archaeological site museum was established in 1990 to display the many ancient treasures that were discovered in 1984 during excavations. The museum, located in Sanghol village displays a vast range of heritage, from Harappan pottery and jewellery to artefacts from the Maurya, Sunga and Gupta dynasties.



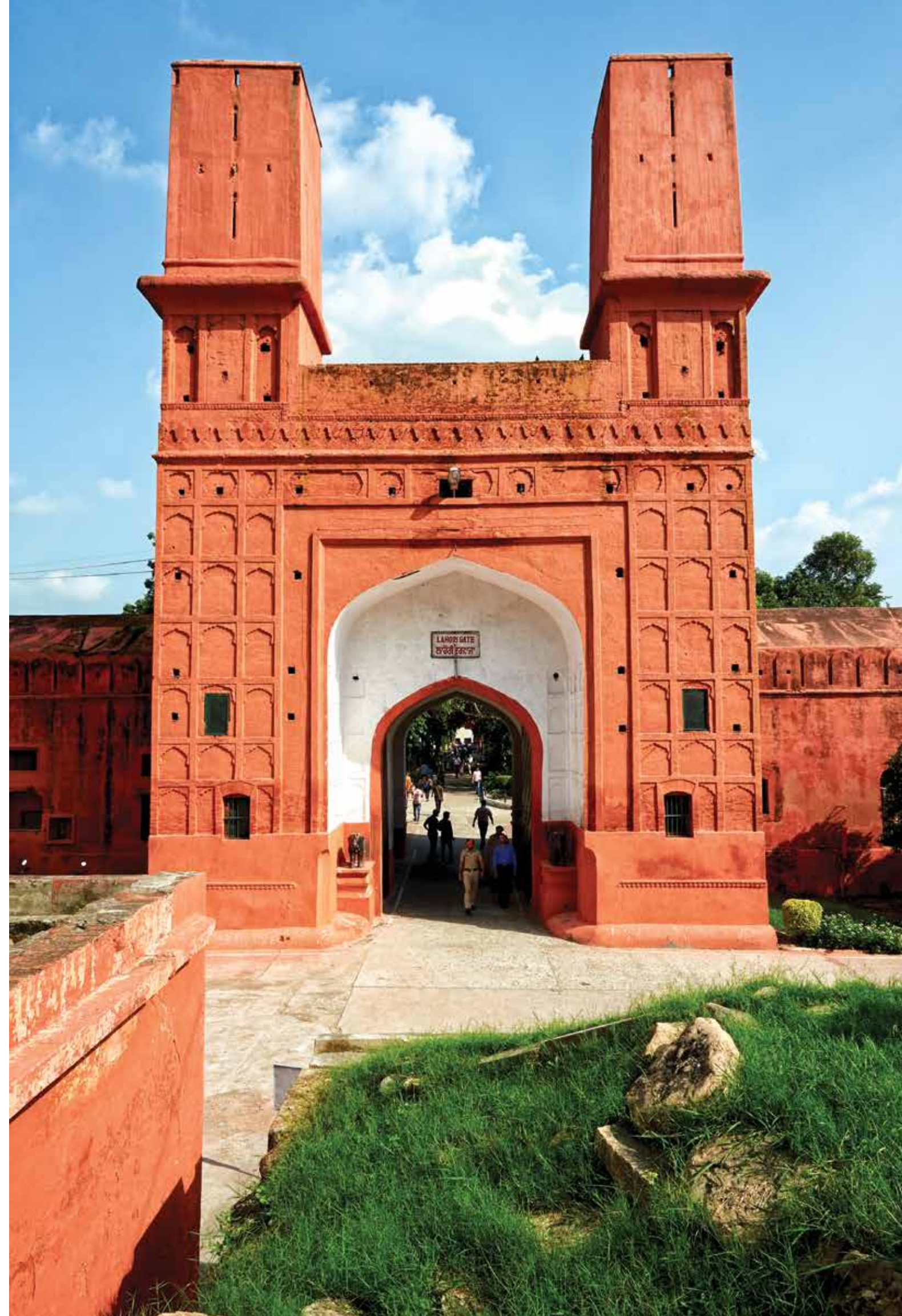


Takht-i-Akbari, Gurdaspur

This renowned place is linked with the coronation ceremony of Akbar the Great, who was crowned as the Emperor of India in 1556 here.



Old Kacheri, Nabha



Phillaur Fort, Ludhiana

Designed by Dewan Mohkam Chand, the brave general of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, it houses a police training centre today.





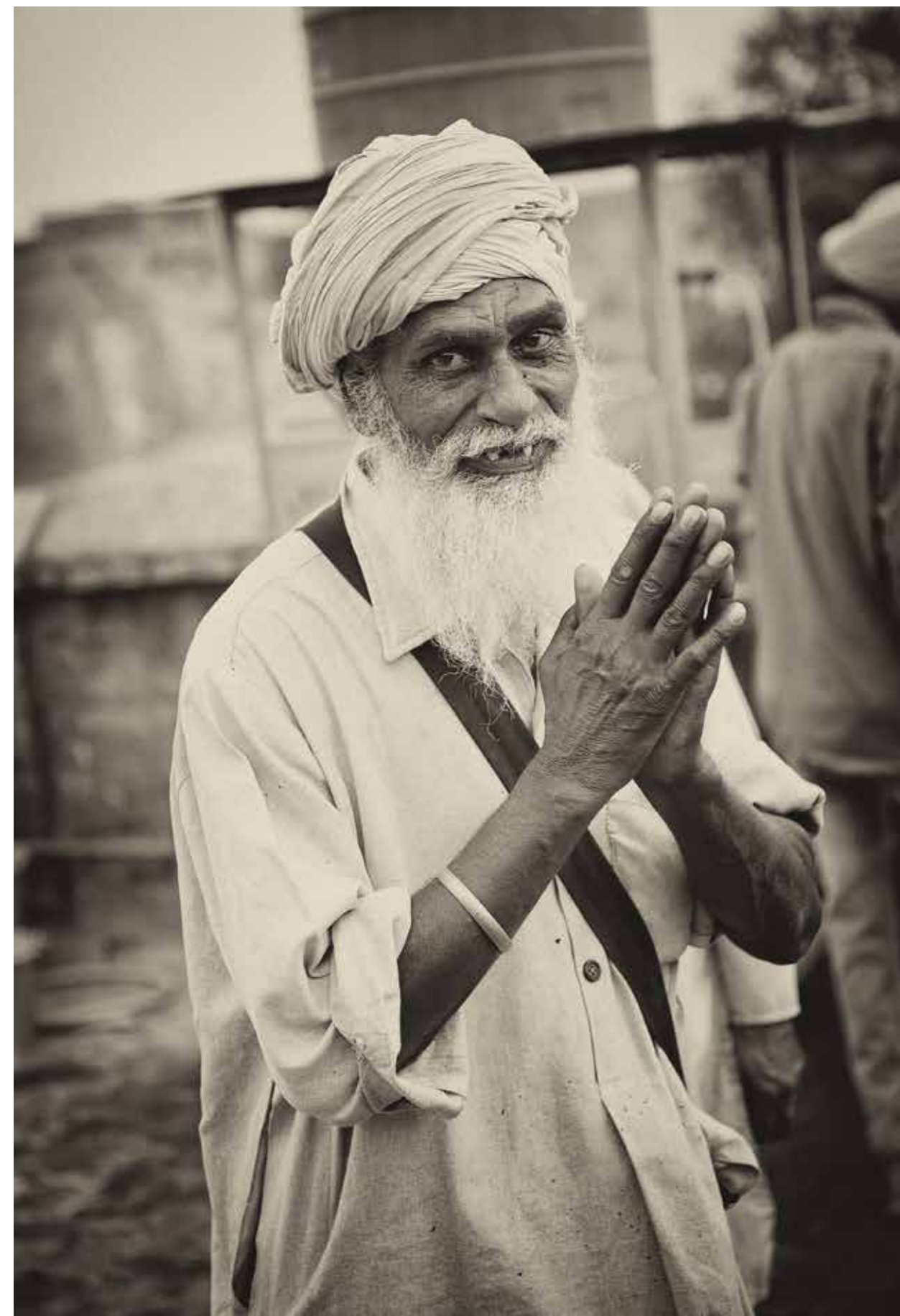
The special wadiyan of Amritsar

‘Wadi’, sometime spelt as ‘barhi’, is derived from the Sanskrit ‘vatika’ or ‘small tablet’. It is a mini ‘vada’, a delicious dumpling, prepared with spicy lentil dough and added to Indian sabzi (Vegetables) at the time of cooking. ‘Papad’ too can be traced to another Sanskrit word, ‘parpat’, a thin, crusty layer. It is a ubiquitous accompaniment and is also lentil based, through papad made with potatoes and sago is also common.



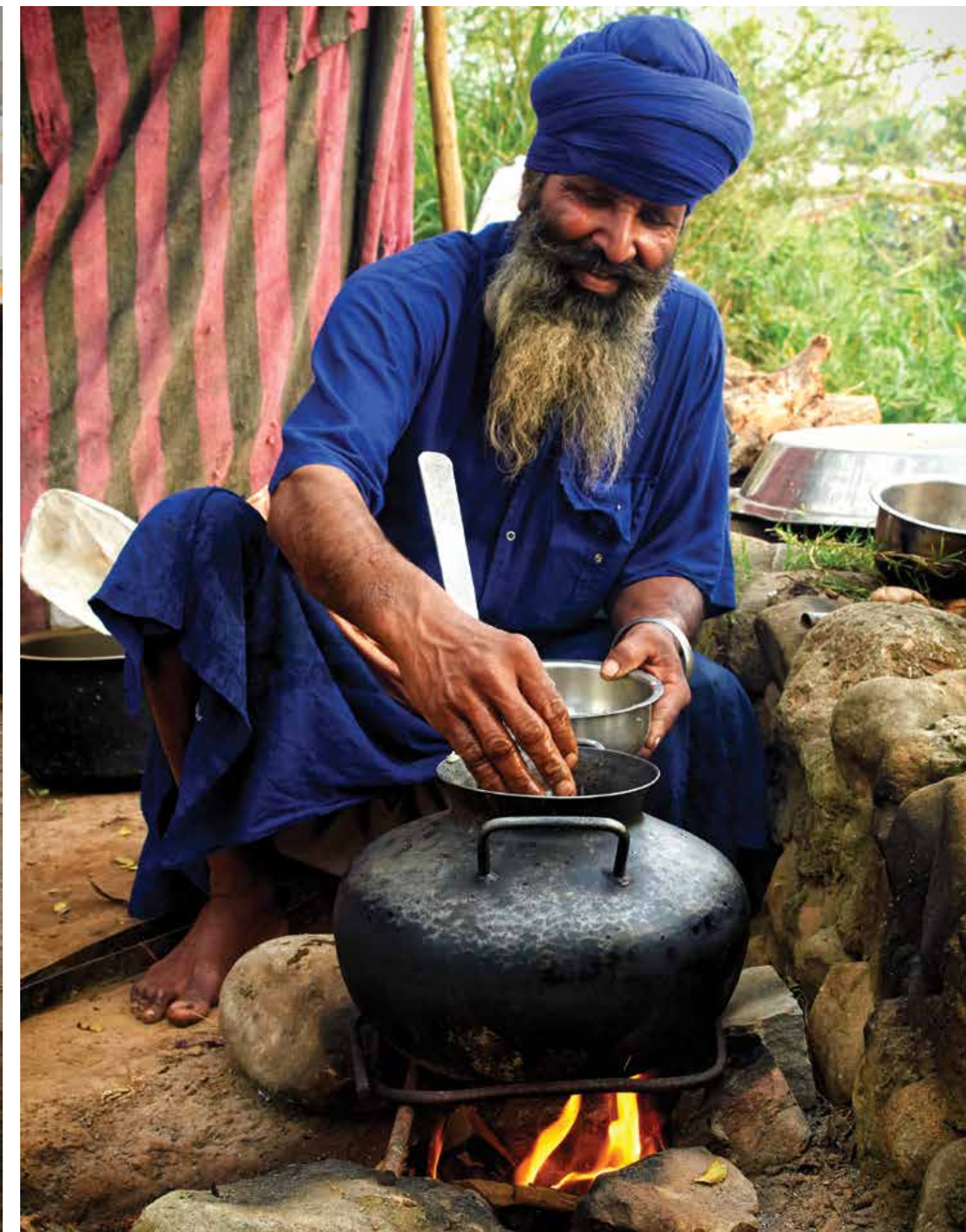
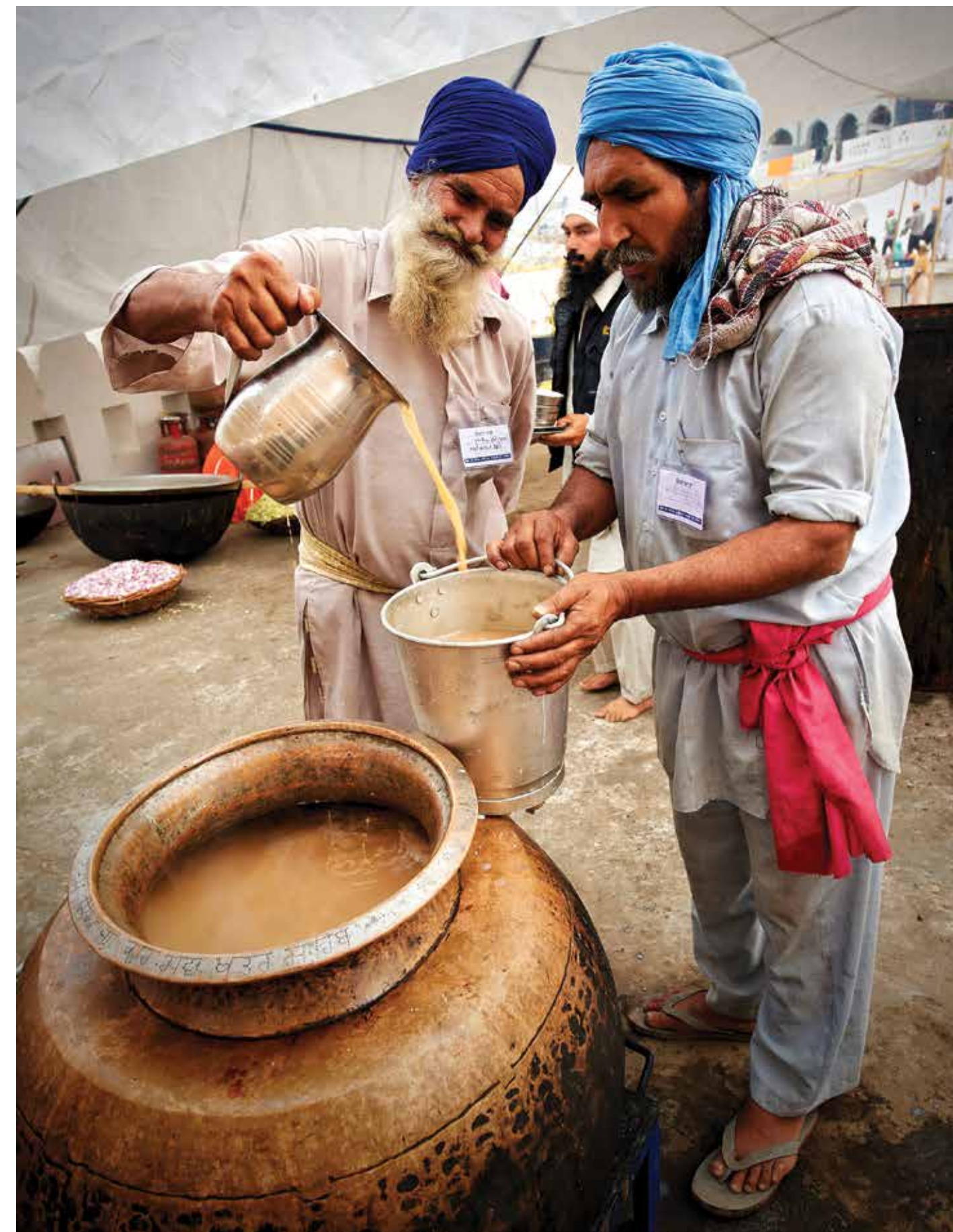
Amritsar Bazaar

A shop selling traditional delicacies in the bazaars of Amritsar.





Langar preparations



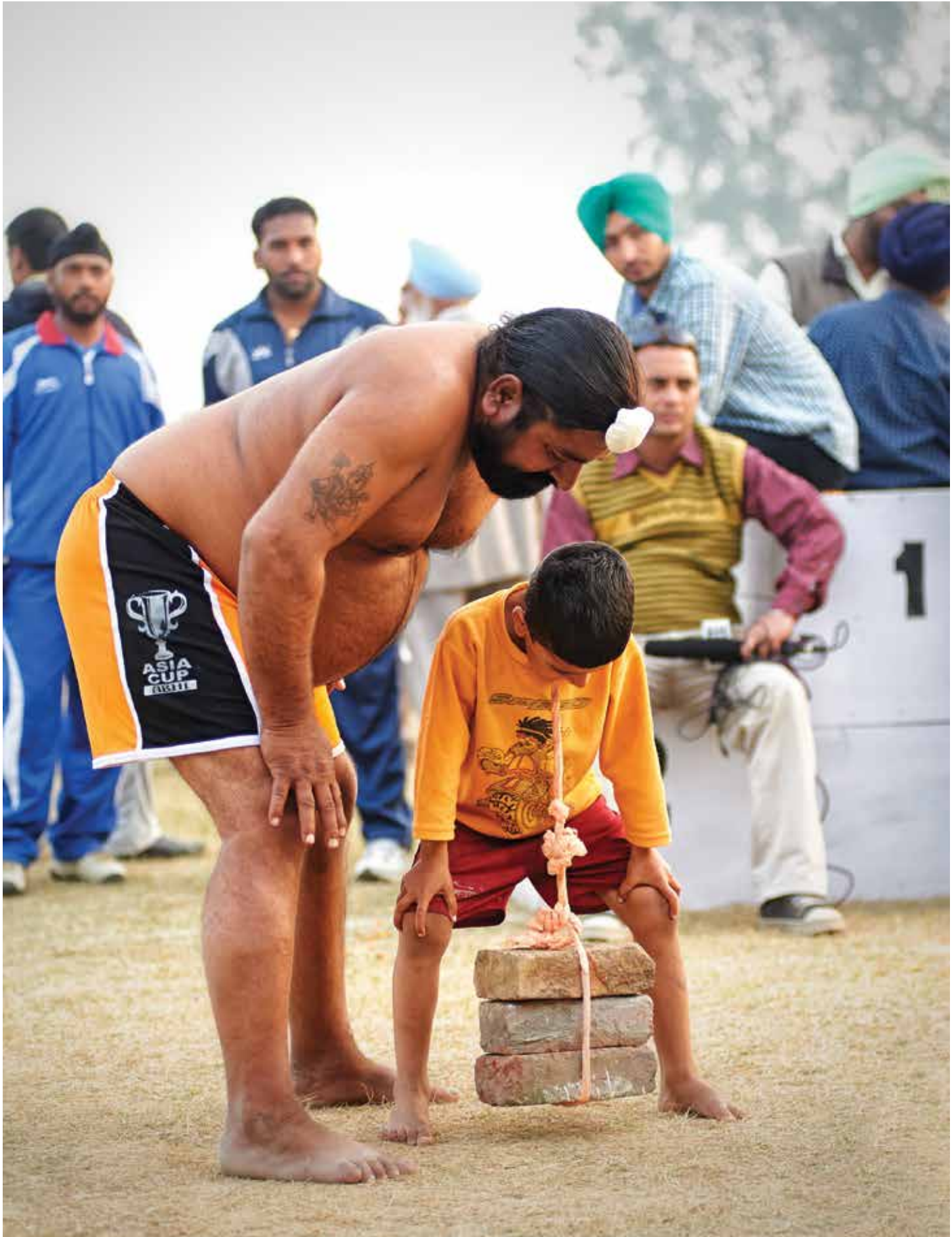
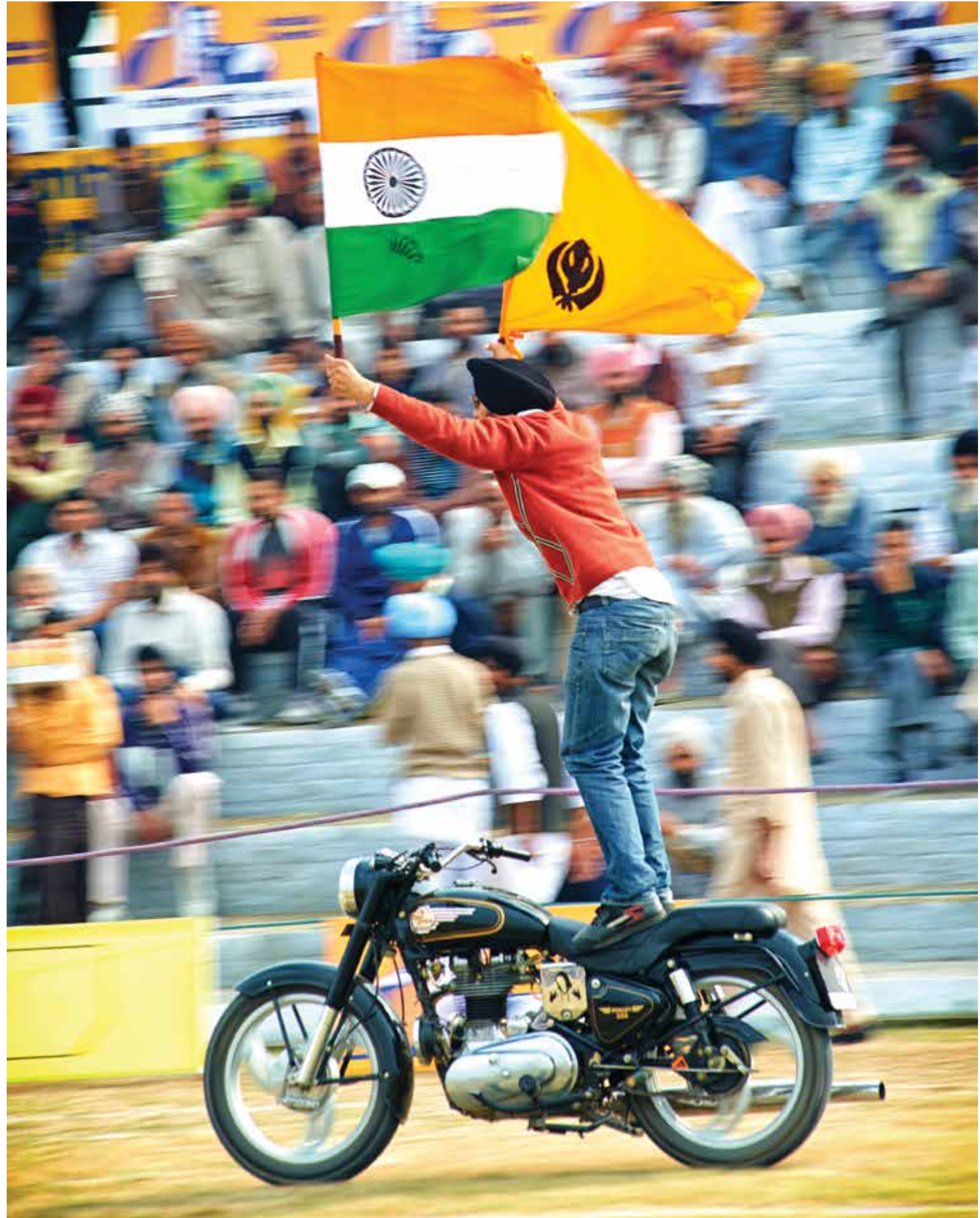


Qilla Raipur Games, Ludhiana

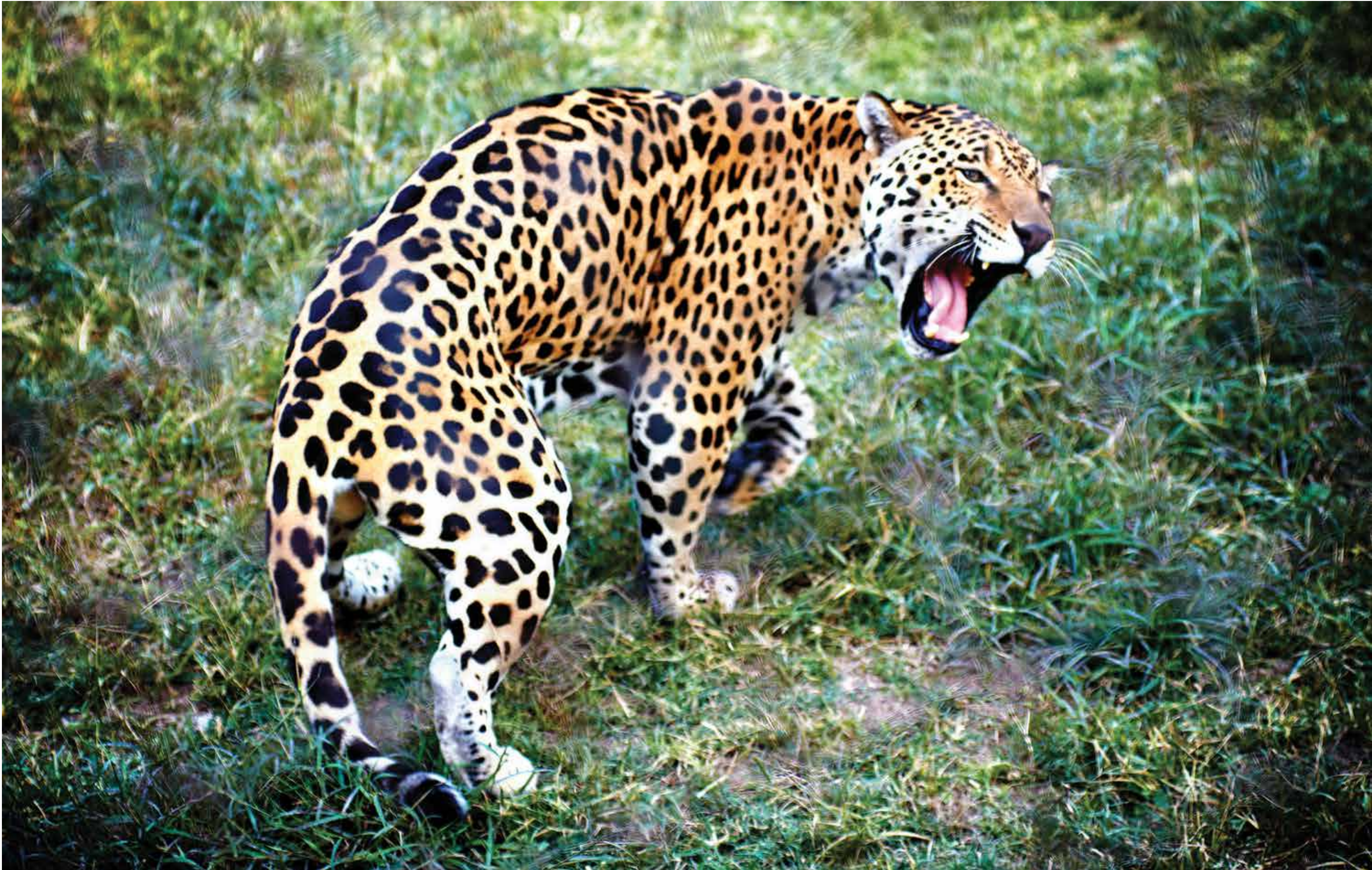
In February each year, Ludhiana becomes the destination for hundreds of sports enthusiasts, including foreign visitors. They come to Qilla Raipur to view the performance of bullocks, camels, dogs, mules and other animals participating in competitive events.



Qilla Raipur Games, Ludhiana



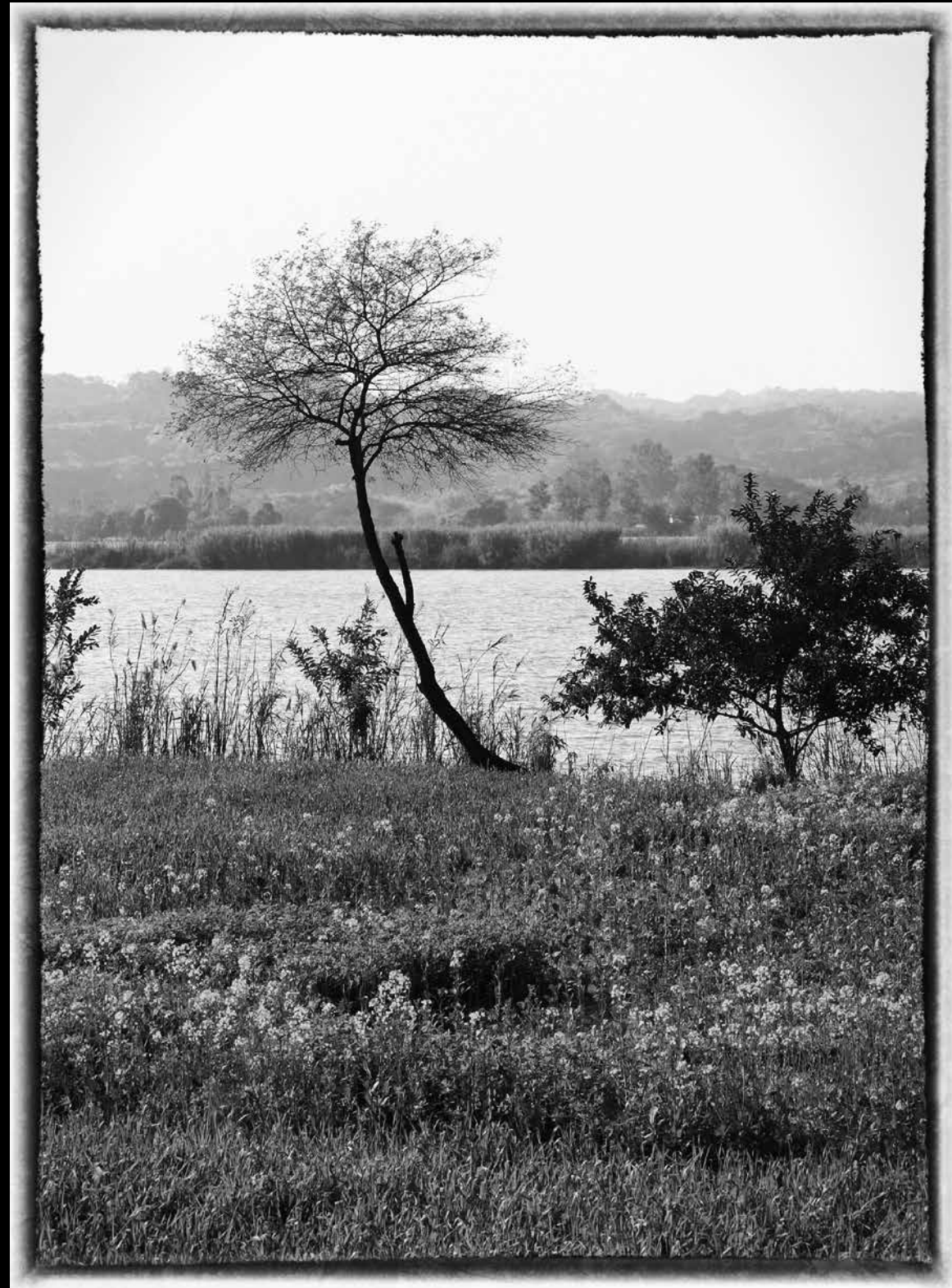
Qilla Raipur Games, Ludhiana



Chhat Bir Zoo, Zirakhpur, District Mohali

Chhat Bir Zoo (formally Mahendra Chaudhary Zoological Park), is a zoological park located near Zirakpur, India that houses hundreds of different mammals, birds and reptiles. One of the major attractions of this zoo is the Lion Safari.







A 'tanga' (horse cart) ride at a farm-stay in Punjab.



Entrance to a farm-stay in Abohar, Ferozpur.



Farm stay scenes



Farm stay scenes



Water Tank Art: an innovative feature of many rural houses in Punjab.



Hussainiwala Border, Ferozepur

The sun begins to set, and the silence on the Hussainiwala border, 11 km away from Ferozepur, is broken by the clattering of heavy boots of the khakhi-clad BSF jawans from India and the sound of Peshawari chappals of the salwar-kurta-clad Pakistani Rangers. Both match their steps under the loud commands of their picket commanders for the 40-minute retreat ceremony held here every evening.





Saragarhi Memorial, Ferozepur

Saragarhi Memorial Gurdwara has been built in the memory of 21 Sikh soldiers of the 36 Sikh Regiment who fell in heroic defence of Fort Saragarhi in Waziristan on September, 12 1897 while defending the fort against an attack by ten thousand Pathans.



Inside the Saragarhi Memorial



Ber Sahib, Sultanpur Lodhi, Kapurthala

Gurdwara Sri Ber Sahib is situated in the Sultanpur Lodhi town of Kapurthala district. Guru Nanak Dev Ji used to bathe in the Bein river prior to meditation.

The present building of the Gurdwara Ber Sahib was raised by Maharaja Jagatjit Singh of Kapurthala. The cornerstone was laid by Bhai Arjan Singh of Bagarian on 25 February 1937, and the Gurdwara was dedicated by Maharaja Yadavindra Singh of Patiala on 26 January, 1941. Standing on a high plinth and entered through a portico, supported by octagonal columns and a small entrance gallery is the high ceilinged, marble-floored hall.



Dera Baba Murad Shah Ji, Nakodar



Harike Wetland, Tarn Taran

The Wetland and the lake is formed by the confluence of Beas and Sutlej rivers. During winter thousands of migratory birds arrive from the Himalayas, Europe and Siberia. Some of the regular visitors sighted in the sanctuary include the large cormorant, purple moorhen, bar-headed goose, white-winged tern, tufted duck and the white-eyed pochard. The wetlands are also home to several species of turtles, snakes and fish. The Indus River Dolphin also makes a rare appearance to the delight of patient enthusiasts.



Keshopur Wetland, Gurdaspur

The only major natural wetland in the Punjab. The reserve is spread over 850 acres of marshy land near Gurdaspur. It was designated as India's first community reserve under the Wildlife Protection Act and attracts hundreds of thousands of migratory birds from Central Asia and Siberia in the winters.



Shahi Mulakat, Rupnagar

Maharaja Ranjit Singh and Lord William Bentinck, had a memorable meeting (Shahi Mulakat) here on 26th October, 1831 under a Peepal tree.



National Martyrs Memorial, Hussainiwala, District Ferozpur

National Martyrs Memorial Hussainiwala depicts the revolutionary spirit of three national martyrs namely, Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev who smilingly embraced martyrdom for the sake of motherland.

**Jallianwala Bagh,
Amritsar**

This is the site of the
Jallianwala Bagh
Massacre at Amritsar.
Bullet-Holes on the
walls bear mute
testimony to the
carnage of 1919.





Entrance to the Anandpur Sahib Fort.



Visitors throng the Anandpur Sahib Fort.



