

MANDI GOBINDGARH HISTORY IMPORTANCE & HERITAGE

THE SIXTH SIKH GURU, GURU HARGOBIND, STAYED ALONG THE BANK OF LAKE BARHI DHAB FOR 40 DAYS IN 1646. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS FOLLOWERS AND WARRIORS. A SKIRMISH DEVELOPED BETWEEN HIS MEN AND A CONTINGENT OF MUGHAL FORCES. THEIR WEAPONS SUSTAINED DAMAGE. THE GURU'S MEN PLEADED BEFORE HIM THAT THEY COULD NOT CONTINUE TO FIGHT, AS THERE WAS NO AVAILABLE STEEL IN THE AREA TO REPAIR THEIR WEAPONS. GURU HARGOBIND REPLIED,

"SOMEDAY THIS PLACE WILL BE A LARGE STEEL-PRODUCING CENTER IN THE COUNTRY. WHY DO YOU SAY NO STEEL IS AVAILABLE TO REPAIR YOUR WEAPONS?"

HENCEFORTH, BARHI DHAB WAS KNOWN AS "GOBINDGARH" AS NAMED AFTER GURU HARGOBIND JI. TO DATE, A GURUDWARA REMAINS SITUATED NEAR THE TOWN'S RAILWAY STATION TO COMMEMORATE GURU HARGOBIND IN HIS HOLY MEMORY.

INDUSTRIALIZATION IN MANDI GOBINDGARH BEGAN AT THE START OF THE 20TH CENTURY. IN 1902, THE MAHARAJA HIRA SINGH OF NABHA, WHERE GOBINDGARH THEN LAY, ORDERED THE BUILDING OF INDUSTRIAL UNITS IN THE TOWN. MAHARAJA PARTAP SINGH CONDUCTED FURTHER INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

IN 1928, GOBINDGARH BECAME A FREE TRADE ZONE FOR STEEL. AS A CENTER FOR STEEL, THE TOWN EXPERIENCED GROWTH. THE LAND WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL BLACKSMITHS AT NOMINAL RATES IN EARLY 1940, LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE G.T. ROAD AT GOBINDGARH.

MANDI GOBINDGARH BEGAN AS A WALLED TOWN WITH FOUR GATES, WHICH NEIGHORED MODI MILLS, MUNILAL OM PRAKASH, THE MAIN POST OFFICE (PRESENT TO THIS DAY), AND KRISHNA MANDIR. ALL THE GATES WERE CLOSED BY SUNSET. IN 1950, THE GATES WERE DEMOLISHED.



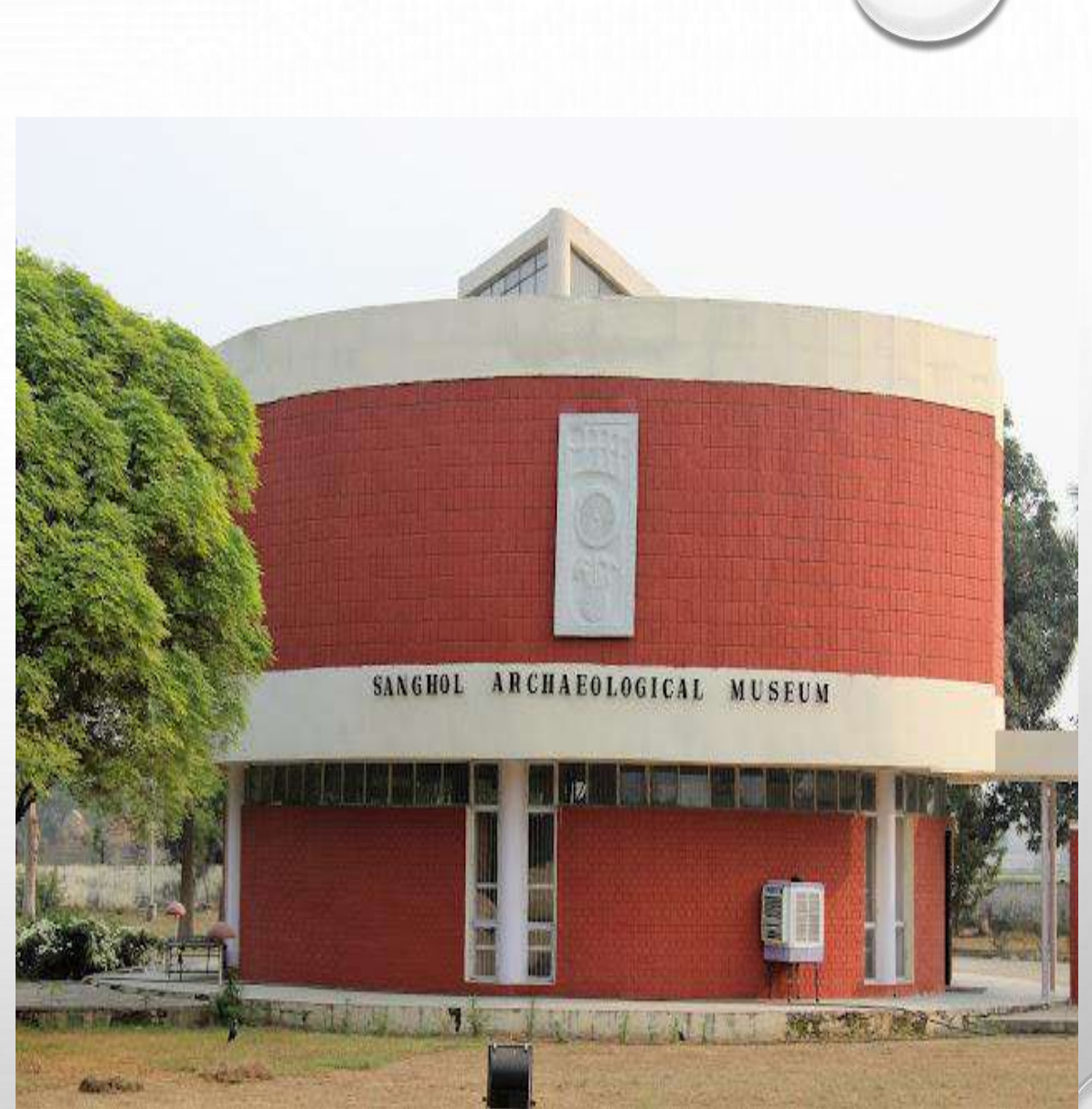
MANDI GOBINDGARH IS ALSO FAMOUS FOR TOURISM

- 1. SANGHOL MUSEUM**
- 2. FLOATING RESTAURANT, GT ROAD SIRHIND.**
- 3. AAM KHAS BAGH SIRHIND**
- 4. GURUDWARA SRI FATEHGARH SAHIB**
- 5. RAUZA SHARIF FATEHGARH SAHIB**
- 6. GURUDWARA SRI JYOTI SAROOP SAHIB**
- 7. MATA CHAKRESHWARI TEMPLE**

SANGHOL MUSEUM

THIS IS AN ANCIENT SITE OF HARAPPAN CULTURE AND IS BEING MAINTAINED BY THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA. THIS SITE IS LOCATED ON LUDHIANA-CHANDIGARH ROAD AND IS IN KHAMANO BLOCK OF THE DISTRICT.

THE PRESENT BUILDING OF THE SANGHOL MUSEUM WAS INAUGURATED ON APRIL 10, 1990 AS A UNIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS, ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB. EXCAVATIONS AT SANGHOL YIELDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE INDICATING A LONG HISTORY OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF PUNJAB



FLOATING RESTAURANT

FLOATING RESTAURANT CONSTRUCTED OVER THE SIRHIND CANAL IS AN IMPORTANT TOURIST SPOT RUN BY THE PUNJAB TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. IT IS AT A DISTANCE OF 5 KM. FROM SIRHIND ON THE SHER SHAH SURI MARG (GT ROAD). IT ATTRACTS A LARGE NUMBER OF TOURISTS, ESPECIALLY DURING SUMMER. THERE IS ALSO A PROVISION FOR OVERNIGHT STAY. IT HAS EIGHT (8) SUITES. IT IS A UNIQUE TYPE OF RESTAURANT IN WHOLE OF THE PUNJAB. BUILT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CANAL, IT PRESENTS A PICTURESQUE VIEW TO THE VISITORS.

THE CHANNEL ON WHICH THE FLOATING RESTAURANT IS BUILT SUPPLIES WATER TO THE STATES OF HARYANA AND RAJASTHAN. THIS CHANNEL ALWAYS CARRIES 8000 CUSECS OF WATER AND THE GIANT VESSELS ON WHICH THIS RESTAURANT RESTS ARE MADE IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY CAN WITHSTAND THIS PRESSURE. IN THE PEAK SEASON, THE WATER REACHES 10,000 CUSECS BUT THAT RAISES THE WATER LEVEL BY 6 TO 8 INCHES ONLY AND THUS THE STRUCTURE DOES NOT COME UNDER ANY UNDUE PRESSURE.



AAM KHAS BAGH

THE AAM KHAS BAGH WAS BUILT FOR THE PUBLIC AND ALSO FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE EMPEROR SHAH JAHAN. THE ROYAL COUPLE USED TO STAY HERE WHILE GOING TO AND COMING BACK FROM LAHORE. THERE WERE ADEQUATE NUMBER OF PALACES FOR THE COMFORTABLE STAY OF THE MUGHAL EMPERORS. A CLOSE SCRUTINY OF THE REMNANTS OF THE PALACES CLEARLY INDICATE THAT THERE WAS A PERFECT SYSTEM OF AIR-CONDITIONING IN THE PALACES AND THE MONUMENT IS CALLED 'SARAD KHANA'.

THE OTHER MONUMENTS INCLUDE 'SHEESH MAHAL' (DAULAT-KHANA-E-KHAS), HAMAM AND THE TANK WHERE UNIQUE METHODS OF HEATING WATER WERE ADOPTED.

AT PRESENT, A TOURIST COMPLEX KNOWN AS 'MAULASARI' IS BEING RUN IN THE AAM KHAS BAGH. A BEAUTIFUL GARDEN AND THE NURSERY IS ALSO BEING MAINTAINED.

DURING THE FAMOUS JORH MEL AT FATEHGARH SAHIB, THE LIGHT AND SOUND PROGRAMME REGARDING THE HISTORY OF SIRHIND AND THE MARTYRDOM OF YOUNGER SONS OF GURU GOBIND SINGH IS SHOWN TO THE VISITORS AT NIGHT IN THE AAM KHAS BAGH.



GURUDWARA SRI FATEHGARH SAHIB

THE GURUDWARA SRI FATEHGARH SAHIB IS DEDICATED TO THE GREAT MARTYRDOM OF YOUNGER SONS OF GURU GOBIND SINGH WHO WERE BRICKED ALIVE IN 1704 BY WAZIR KHAN, THE THEN FAUZDAR OF SIRHIND.

AFTER VACATING QILA SHRI ANANDGARH SAHIB UPON WAR WITH AURANGZEB, SHRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI WHEN CROSSING THE SWELLED SIRSA RIVER, MATA GUJRI AND TWO YOUNGER SAHIBZAADAS GOT SEPARATED AND THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY GURU SAHIB'S COOK GANGU A TRUSTED SERVANT WHO BETRAYED THE FAMILY AND HANDED OVER THE MATA GUJRI JI AND TWO YOUNGER SAHIBZADAS TO THE WAZIR KHAN, WHERE THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO TORTURE TO EMBRACE ISLAM. WHEN THEY REFUSED TO DO SO MATA GUJRI JI AND HER GRANDSONS WERE CONFINED AT WAZIR KHAN'S THANDA BURJ (COLD TOWER) AND LATER WERE BRICKED ALIVE IN A WALL. WHEN MATA GUJRI JI CAME TO KNOW ABOUT THIS SHE ALSO COLLAPSED ON THIS PLACE. THE HISTORICAL WALL WHERE THE YOUNGER SONS OF GURU GOBIND SINGH WERE BRICKED HAS BEEN PRESERVED IN THIS GURUDWARA. THE SANCTUARY CONTAINING THE HISTORIC WALL IS KNOWN AS GURUDWARA BHORA SAHIB. GURUDWARA BURJ MATA GUJRI, GURUDWARA SHAHID GANJ AND MANY OTHER HISTORICAL GURUDWARAS ARE ALSO LOCATED NEAR GURUDWARA FATEHGARH SAHIB.

THE ANNUAL SAHIHID JOR MEL IS ORGANIZED IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER (11-12-13 POH) TO COMMEMORATE THE GREAT MARTYRDOM OF YOUNGER SAHIBZADAS AND MATA GURJI JI IN WHICH THOUSANDS OF PILGRIMS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE PAY THEIR RESPECT TO THE GREAT MARTYRS.



SRI RAUZA SHARIF FATEHGARH SAHIB

ON THE SIRHIND-BASSI PATHANA ROAD, NEAR GURUDWARA FATEHGARH SAHIB IS THE MAGNIFICENT RAUZA OR DARGAH OF SHAIKH AHMAD FARUQI SIRHINDI, POPULARLY KNOWN AS MUJADDID, ALF-ISFANI WHO LIVED IN THE TIMES OF AKBAR AND JAHANGIR FROM 1563 TO 1624. THE SHAIKH IS HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM AND IS CONSIDERED BY SUNNI MUSLIMS TO BE SECOND TO PROPHET MOHAMMED. FOR THIS REASON, THIS MAUSOLEUM IS REGARDED AS A SECOND MACCA BY THE SUNNI MUSLIMS. EVERY YEAR, THOUSANDS OF PILGRIMS FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF WORLD VISIT THIS PLACE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CELEBRATIONS, KNOWN AS URS OF SHAIKH AHMAD SIRHINDI. THE DATE OF ANNUAL CELEBRATIONS VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR. EVERY YEAR, THESE CELEBRATIONS PRECEDE BY TEN DAYS THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR.



GURUDWARA JYOTI SARUP

THIS GURUDWARA IS SITUATED AT A PLACE WHERE THE MORTAL REMAINS OF MATA GUJRI, THE MOTHER OF GURU GOBIND AND HIS TWO YOUNGER SONS, FATEH SINGH AND ZORAWAR SINGH WERE CREMATED. IT IS BELIEVED THAT WAZIR KHAN, THE THEN FAUJDAR OF SIRHIND REFUSED TO ALLOW THE CREMATION OF THE BODIES UNLESS THE LAND FOR THE CREMATION WAS PURCHASED BY LAYING GOLD COINS ON IT. SETH TODAR MAL WHO WAS AN ARDENT DEVOTEE OF GURU GOBIND SINGH, PURCHASED THIS PLACE OF LAND BY OFFERING GOLD COINS AS DEMANDED.



MATA CHAKRESHWARI TEMPLE

THIS ANCIENT TEMPLE IS BELIEVED TO BE 1000 YEARS OLD AND IS SITUATED IN VILLAGE ATTEWALI ON SIRHIND-CHANDIGARH ROAD . THE LEGEND HAS THAT DURING THE TIMES OF RAJA PRITHVI RAJ CHAUHAN, A LARGE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS FROM RAJASTHAN WERE GOING IN BULLOCK CARTS TO THE ANCIENT JAIN TEMPLE OF KANGRA (SITUATED STILL IN KANGRA FORT) TO HAVE THE BLESSINGS OF LORD ADI NATH. THE PILGRIMS HAD ALSO BROUGHT AN IDOL OF MATA CHAKRESHWARI DEVI, AN ARDENT WORSHIPPER (KNOWN AS RAKSHAK DEVI OR LORD ADINATH) OF LORD ADINATH. ON THEIR WAY , THE CARVAN HALTED FOR THE NIGHT AT THE PRESENT SITE. NEXT MORNING WHEN THE CARAVAN WAS ALL SET TO MOVE , THE RATH (CHARIOT) CARRYING THE IDOL OF MATA SHRI CHAKRESHWARI DEVI DID NOT MOVE INSPITE OF THE BEST EFFORTS OF THE PILGRIMS. THE DEVOTEES WERE AT A LOSS TO KNOW THE REASON AND WERE PERPLEXED. THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, THERE WAS FLOOD OF LIGHT INSIDE THE PALKI CARRYING THE IDOL AND THERE WAS AN AKASHWANI `LET THIS BE MY PLACE OF ABODE'. THE PILGRIMS SAID `MOTHER, THIS IS ALL SANDY AREA, THERE IS NO WATER, AROUND HERE, WE HAD A MISERABLE NIGHT YESTERDAY'. THE VOICE REPLIED, A FEW YARDS TOWARDS NORTH OF THIS PLACE DIG THE LAND AND YOU WILL GET WATER'. TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF PILGRIMS, THEY JUST DUG A FEW FEET AND A FOUNTAIN OF WATER STARTED FLOWING. THE FOUNTAIN OF WATER HAS BEEN CONVERTED INTO A SMALL WELL EVEN TODAY, THE WATER OF THIS TANK IS HELD SACRED BY THE DEVOTEES AND THEY CARRY HOME TO PRESERVE THE SAME CONSIDERING IT AS SACRED AS WATER OF GANGA. THE PILGRIMS WERE VERY MUCH PLEASED AND THEY INSTALLED THE IDOL OF MATA CHAKRESHWARI DEVI AT THIS PLACE AND BUILT A BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE THERE. EVERY YEAR AN ANNUAL FUNCTION IS ORGANISED HERE AFTER FOUR DAYS OF DUSHERA IN WHICH HUNDERED OF PILGRIMS VISIT.

