

CANTONMENTS

A transition from heritage to modernity

Directorate General Defence Estates

CANTONMENTS



A transition from heritage to modernity



रक्षा सम्पदा संगठन
Defence Estates Organization

DIRECTORATE GENERAL DEFENCE ESTATES

C A N T O N M E N T S

A transition from heritage to modernity

We express our gratitude to all the officers of Indian Defence Estates Service for their contribution through photographs and other relevant material without which this publication would not have been possible.

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Cantonments in India





रक्षा मंत्री
भारत
MINISTER OF DEFENCE
INDIA



Message

It is heartening to learn that Defence Estates Department is bringing out a Coffee Table to reflect on the origin of Cantonments, their British Legacy, Historical Monuments in the Cantonments and their present day activities. The Cantonments are indeed abound with greenery and clean urban spaces providing a healthy and secure environment to our Defence Forces and their families. In many stations a Cantonment provides a clean environment making it an attractive and safe areas for walkers of all age. The Cantonments are evolving into vibrant civic bodies with provision of services of smart cities.

I wish the Cantonments a glorious future in the service of our Armed Forces and people living in the Cantonments and convey my best wishes for the publication of Coffee Table Book on Cantonments.

'Jai Hind'

(Nirmala Sitharaman)

New Delhi
02nd Nov, 2017



रक्षा राज्य मंत्री
भारत
MINISTER OF
STATE FOR DEFENCE
INDIA



Message

It is heartening to know that Defence Estates Department is compiling a Coffee Table Book touching upon history of our Cantonments, the heritage structures therein and significant features of these local bodies created for stationing of the Armed Forces personnel and their families besides civilians. The Cantonments have evolved into modern day civic areas with vast open areas and abundant greenery. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Cantonments are leading in undertaking several activities to improve the quality of life of residents.

My best wishes to DGDE, his officers and staff for bringing out a Coffee Table Book on the Cantonments.

10th Nov, 2017
New Delhi

(Dr. Subhash Bhamre)



एडमिरल सुनील लान्बा

पी वी एस एम, ए वी एस एम, ए डी सी

नौसेनाध्यक्ष

Admiral Sunil Lanba

PVSM, AVSM, ADC

Chief of the Naval Staff



Message

1. I am pleased to learn that the Directorate General of Defence Estates is bringing out a Coffee Table Book on the history of Cantonments. As the earliest urban bodies in India, the Cantonments served the administrative purpose to cater to the Municipal requirements of permanent military camps that were generally set up away from civil population zones. Socio-economic factors resulted in civilian population settling around such permanent camps and the administrative requirement of such unique Civil-Military setup was met through formation of Cantonments, governed by special laws and regulations.
2. Cantonments have continued to provide a secure and healthy environment to its uniformed and civilian population for over two centuries in India. They have a typical geo-socio pattern with well laid out lines, training areas, playgrounds, bazaars and clean surroundings which symbolise the very essence of a disciplined life befitting the Armed forces.
3. My compliments to the DGDE for bringing out this Coffee Table Book that captures the historical evolution of Cantonments and its rich and vibrant past.

14th Nov, 2017

(Sunil Lanba)
Admiral
Chief of the Naval Staff



सेनाध्यक्ष
भारत
CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF
INDIA



Message

I am pleased to learn that the Directorate General Defence Estates is publishing an informative Coffee Table Book encapsulating history and activities in Cantonments over the years.

Cantonments were established since the 18th Century during the British era as a place to house troops in a healthy and safe environment. Most of the Cantonments were established adjacent to the towns with limited civic facilities. These have come a long way and evolved with the passage of time as excellent example of modern urban habitat in terms of governance, urban planning, cleanliness, civic amenities and law and order.

Civilian population residing in Cantonments has played a significant role in providing ancillary support to troops, both during peace and war. Army has extended full support to Cantonment Boards to discharge their statutory duties. Military officers as President Cantonment Board in coordination with Chief Executive Officers have played a stellar role in shaping the modern Cantonments.

I appreciate the efforts of DGDE and its editorial team in publishing this quality publication.

JAI HIND!

(Bipin Rawat)
General



★ ★ ★ ★

एयर चीफ मार्शल बी एस धनोआ

प वि से मे अ वि से मे यु से मे वा मे ए डी सी

Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa

PVSM AVSM YSM VM ADC



Message

I am happy to learn that the Directorate General Defence Estates is bringing out a Coffee Table Book on the occasion of Defence Estates Day on 16 December 2017.

Most of the Defence Estates comprise of Cantonments inherited from the British rule in India. Some of the Cantonments were established nearly two centuries ago for the purpose of housing British garrison. The Cantonment areas were planned with magnificent buildings, monuments, forts, wide roads and abundant greenery. The layout and construction in Cantonments reflects our rich history and may be preserved as heritage sites. Post-Independence sixty-two cantonments in the country continue to provide congenial atmosphere to our Defence Forces and the civil population living therein. My felicitations to the Defence Estates in developing Cantonments into modern civic establishments under various initiatives of the Government.

I compliment the editorial team for their commendable effort and convey my best wishes to all personnel of the Directorate General Defence Estates.

Jai Hind!

12 Nov, 2017

(BS Dhanoa)

Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Air Staff



रक्षा सचिव
भारत सरकार
DEFENCE SECRETARY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



Message

The cantonments are an inalienable part of our rich colonial heritage. Though created initially by an occupying force for its own convenience, they have evolved over time into well-ordered urban agglomerations serving alike our armed forces and the common citizenry. Blessed with abundant greenery, open spaces, high quality civic amenities and good governance, a cantonment in many ways epitomises the ideal of a modern and sustainable urban environment.

The cantonments have also now emerged as the foci for several national initiatives such as 'Swachha Bharat'. Under the leadership of the Directorate General, Defence Estates, the cantonments have moved forward on other fronts like 'Divyang' access and digital India.

I am happy to know that DGDE is publishing a volume narrating the glorious history of these unique areas and their evolution into modern civic bodies.

New Delhi
October 25, 2017

(Sanjay Mitra)

Director General Defence Estates





Director General



रक्षा सम्पदा संगठन
Defence Estates Organization

Foreword

Defence Estate Department is mandated with the task of Cantonment Administration and Land Management of all the defence land in the country. Present day municipal Administration is laden with multifarious problems and Cantonments are not immune to them. The organisation strived for nearly a century to preserve the unique administrative model of cantonments where the civil as well as the defence services have a mandated role in running the administration. As a result Cantonments remain as clean and green areas of our Urban landscape distinct from their neighbouring municipal bodies.

These centrally administered areas have a unique character which is clearly evident to any discerning viewer. A distinct civil area with bulk of the population and a military area with green and open spaces makes the cantonments distinct. Defence Estates Organisation as an inter-services organisation has always been conscious of this fact and strived hard to preserve it.

Cantonments apart from being clean and green urban spaces have also been areas which had a lot of heritage and history attached to them. Though most of the cantonments in the country were established in the 19th century by the Britishers, the history attached with these places has always been untold and many heritage

sites present in these areas are not recognised as being part of cantonments. The civilian life which consists of people living for generations in these areas is not represented as such in most of the discourses on cantonments.

Many great personalities like Dr. BR Ambedkar and Hockey wizard Dhyan Chand were associated with these cantonments who went on to influence India in a big way. Institutions of great repute are also established here. During the First War of Independence most of the action took place in these places which stand a silent witness to those events. Lastly, all the major hill stations in the country have a cantonment adjoining them or are cantonment stations themselves. The flora, fauna and ecosystem of these places are conserved to this day properly which in a large measure is due to those places being part of a cantonment.

An endeavour in the form of this book is made by us to showcase some of the untold facts about cantonments, the heritage we inherited and the importance of these places in shaping the history of India. Certain modern facets of life in Cantonments are also incorporated in the book.

Jojneswar Sharma





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Evolution of Cantonments

Cantonments in India started as British Military Settlements wherein the colonial government quartered the Armed Forces. As the might of the British rule increased the number of Cantonments also began to increase. Subsequently though they continued as military bases for the British troops, they also began to house Indian troops and civilians who were associated with providing services to the Military and in the process evolved in to full-fledged townships in their own right. This transformation of Cantonments in to townships with varied populace was complete by the second half of the 19th century. Most of the Cantonments established during this period had similar layouts with a simple grid pattern with rows of avenues lined with imposing Bungalows and consisted of Public Officers, Churches, Parks, Shops and Schools. Teeming Bazars manned by civilians with intervening civil enclaves also became a characteristic feature of these towns.

As the arrangement became successful the concept of Cantonment was taken by the British to their other colonies as well. Thus Cantonments were established in other nations like Afghanistan, Singapore, Malaysia, Ghana and Srilanka. However with passage of time Cantonments at present are predominantly found in the Indian subcontinent.

The first attempt to establish a Cantonment was done by the British after their victory in the Battle of Plassey. However none of these had been used as Permanent Military Stations. Later the first Cantonments were established in 1765 at Barrackpore and Danapur. In the year 1774 another Cantonment was established in St. Thomas Mount in the Madras Presidency. Later many Cantonments were established by early 19th Century. The General Order of Commander-in-chief dated 30 April 1806 issued directions to all concerned to establish Cantonments at several stations. Subsequently vide regulation III of 1809 and regulation XX of 1810 directions were issued to demarcate the Cantonments established

based on the 1806 order. The first list of Cantonments so established and demarcated was published vide Commander-in-chief order dated 31 July 1811 for 18 Cantonments. By the year 1814 another 29 Cantonments were established. A total of 87 Cantonments were established in undivided India by 01 Sept 1835.

After becoming separate townships housing European and Indian troops together with Indian civilian enclaves, Cantonments experienced a major political upheaval in the form of the rebellion of 1857 also known as the First war of Indian independence, due to the political, cultural, religious and racial differences between the rulers and the ruled. The 1857 upheaval which started with the revolt of Mangal Pandey in Barrackpore Cantonment spread to places far and wide. It was in Meerut Cantonment that the mutineers took oath to liberate the country from the British rule at the 'Kali Paltan' temple in Meerut Cantonment and marched on to Delhi to pledge their loyalty to the Mughal Emperor. Thus the revolt that shook the roots of the British Empire originated and was mostly fought in Cantonments like Meerut, Kanpur, Lucknow and Jhansi as they were the main stay of British power in India. However the revolt was suppressed with a firm hand.

After the Queen Victoria's Proclamation and subsequent takeover by the Crown, the British tried to streamline their administration. Cantonments were not immune to these efforts. A separate administrative structure for the Cantonments was envisaged as their rule in India hinged on their control over the Military. As most of the officers were English they preferred to stay in the Cantonments and therefore separate Administration unrelated to the civil Administration was developed.

The Commander-in-Chief's General Order, dated 31.07.1856 states that no persons except military officers, soldiers and their followers belonging to a force at a station can, of right, occupy houses

in a Cantonment but every desire is to be shown to accommodate officers in public service whose duty requires them to live in or near a Cantonment and other persons of irreproachable character and conduct.

The Regulations and Orders for the Army of Madras Presidency, 1876 echoes the same in stating “a military Cantonment is as its definition implies a locality set apart primarily for military and medical officers, chaplains, soldiers, European and East Indian subordinates and their families for whom houses situated are by priority of right available. This, however, is not to interfere with gentlemen of the covenanted civil service as regards houses usually occupied by them in military Cantonments”. In 1880, civil and police officers and PWD and Railway officers were permitted to reside in Cantonments as a matter of “indulgence” in public interest subject of course to the priority rights of the Army.

Considering the need to regulate the activities in the Cantonments, the Britishers took steps to enact Act XXII of 1864 of Bengal. The other two presidencies followed by enacting Madras Act I of 1866 and Bombay Act II of 1867 wherein a post of Cantonment Magistrate independent of the District Magistrate was created. The Cantonment Authority was given power of taxation. Thereafter, consolidated Cantonments Act of 1889 was passed for the whole of India to streamline Cantonment Administration. This was repealed by the Cantonments Act of 1910 where in the Cantonment committees for the first time had Indian Civilian nominated Members.

In January 1919, a conference of civilian residents of Cantonments met at Ambala under the chairmanship of one late Divan Lakshmi Narain of Kamptee which gave birth to the All India Cantonments Association. This new association submitted a memorandum of reforms to the Government of India and the Commander-in-Chief. As a result of the popular demand by the representatives of the Cantonment population, a departmental committee was appointed in October, 1920 which submitted its report in December, 1920. On their recommendation, a regular Cantonment reforms committee was constituted in January, 1921 with 4 official and 4 non-official nominees from the association. This committee submitted its report in October, 1921. On the basis of the recommendation, the

Cantonment House Accommodation Act dealing with the subject of accommodation of military officers was first enacted as Act IV of 1923.

The second and most important Bill, namely, the Cantonment Bill, to introduce local self-government in the Cantonments which contained substantial civil population, was placed before the legislature and the Cantonment Act, 1924 (2 of 1924) was enacted.

Under this Act Cantonment Boards were constituted in all Cantonments. India inherited 56 Boards from undivided British India and 6 more Boards were constituted later. There are at present 62 Cantonment Boards in this Country. Every Cantonment has a Cantonment Board and a Chief Executive Officer from the Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES) who is also the secretary of the Board. It is an autonomous body under the control of the Ministry of Defence. The number of the elected and nominated members of the Cantonment Board is kept equal.

The administrative control of these Boards is done by the Ministry of Defence through the Director General Defence Estates. The Indian Defence Estates Service is a class one Civil Service and has at present 189 officers. These officers not only do the municipal administration of Cantonments but also ensure proper management of the vast stretches of defence land across the various parts of the country.

The Cantonments Act 1924 continued till Government of India passed a new Act in 2006 which is governing the Cantonment Administration today. This Act tried to impart greater democratisation, improvement of the financial base of the Boards to make provision for development activities. For the first time reservation of seats for Women was allowed in this Act.

Thus Cantonments which were devised as separate administrative entities by the British have remained well managed enclaves among the various urban townships across India. The town planning structures, layout and design followed here is the precursor to many modern townships across former British colonies and this enduring contribution of the Indian Cantonments cannot be disputed.

**Auguharnath Temple, Meerut
Cantonment**

It is the place where mutiniers
took their oath before the first
war of independence in 1857.





Mutiny Memorial Jhansi Cantonment

Established by the erstwhile British Government to commemorate the death of Britishers during the 1857 mutiny

24 अप्रैल 1857 को तीसरी भारतीय घुड़सवार सेना का प्रयोग करने हेतु परेड का आह्वान किया जिनमें से 85 आदेश का उल्लंघन करने वालों का कोर्ट मार्शल सैनिकों को समस्त गैरिसन के सामने बर्ती उतार कर को अपमानित किया गया। इसके फलस्वरूप क्रान्ति को प्रस्फुटित किया।

कें कर्नल सिमथने 90 सैनिकों को नये कारतूसों सैनिकों ने कारतूसों का प्रयोग करने से इन्कार कर दिया। कर कारावास की सजा दी गई। 9 मई 1857 को इन बंदियों पहनाई गई तथा समस्त भारतीय सिपाहियों भड़की सिपाहियों की क्रोधाग्नि ने 1857 की

Cantonment Board Meerut

Here was the Parade Ground of the Native Infantry Regiments. On the eve of 10th May 1857 troops of the Regiment revolted and marched off to Delhi.

Commemorative Plaques at 1857 mutiny sites in Meerut Cantonment

SITES OF BUNGALOWS ATTACKED ON 10th MAY 1857 - 1857. THE NATIVE INFANTRY PARADE GROUND, WHERE LATER THE PRESENT RACE COURSE WAS CONSTRUCTED, HAD THE LINES OF THE SEPOYS OF THE THREE NATIVE REGIMENTS ON ITS NORTHERN, EASTERN AND SOUTHERN SIDES. BETWEEN THESE LINES AND THE SADAR BAZAR WERE ROWS OF BUNGALOWS FOR BRITISH OFFICERS ALONG THE RACE COURSE ROAD, SOUTH END ROAD AND WEST END ROAD. ALL THESE BUNGALOWS WERE ATTACKED AND BURNED BY THE SEPOYS ON THE EVE OF THE REVOLT ON THE EVENING OF 10th MAY 1857.

परेड स्थल
नेटिव इन्फैंट्री रेजीमेन्ट्स
10 मई 1857 को सायंकाल इस रेजीमेन्ट के सैनिकों ने विद्रोह कर दिल्ली की ओर मार्च किया।

Cantonment Board Meerut

Here lived Captain H. C. Craigie and his wife. Here they and Lieutenant A. R. D. Mackenzie with his sister, both of the 3rd Regiment Light Cavalry, and a soldier of the 6th Dragoon Guards took refuge on the eve of 10th May 1857.

Important Witnesses to the outbreak
निवास
कैप्टन एच. सी. क्रेगी
तथा उनकी पत्नी की 10 मई 1857 की शरणस्थली जहाँ इन्होंने तीसरी रेजिमेंट लाइट कैवलरी के ले. से. आर. डी. मैकेंजी तथा उनकी बहन के साथ छठी ड्रैगून गार्ड्स के सैनिक के साथ शरण ली। ये सभी 10 मई के घटनाक्रम के महत्वपूर्ण साक्षी थे।

1857 की क्रान्ति का उदय भारतीय इतिहास में एक ऐसी नींव रखी। 10 मई 1857 को मेरठ में सिपाहियों द्वारा की गई इसने बंगाल आर्मी की सीमाओं से बाहर निकल एक महान ने अपने जाति-धर्म के विभाजनों को भुला बड़े जांशो-खरोश से जब भारतीय मूल के सिपाहियों ने अंग्रेजी अफसरों पर घुड़सवार सेना के सिपाहियों ने जेल तोड़ कर अपने साथियों इस घटना से फौज में अपने सम्मान के प्रति जागरूकता विरुद्ध लोकप्रिय जनसंघर्ष का रूप धारण कर लिया। यद्यपि उद्देश्यों में विफल रहा, किन्तु अगले 90 वर्षों तक लगातार रहा। 1857 के ज्ञात एवं अज्ञात शहीदों का तह न्यर्थ नहीं बहा।

धुगान्तरकारी घटना है जिसने वस्तुतः स्वतन्त्रता के लिए हिंसक शुरुआत एक अलग-थलग घटना नहीं क्रान्ति का रूप धारण कर लिया। हिन्दुस्तान के जन इसमें हिस्सा लिया और ब्रिटिश साम्राज्य की नींव हिला कर रा गोलियाँ चलाई, उनके बंगलों में आग लगाई तथा ती को छुड़वाया, तो उस शाम पूरी छावनी तकते में आ आई जिसने फौज के बाहर तक फैल। ब्रिटिश साम भारत के स्वतन्त्रा संग्राम का यह पहला आ चलने वाली आजादी की लड़ाई का यह मूलभूत

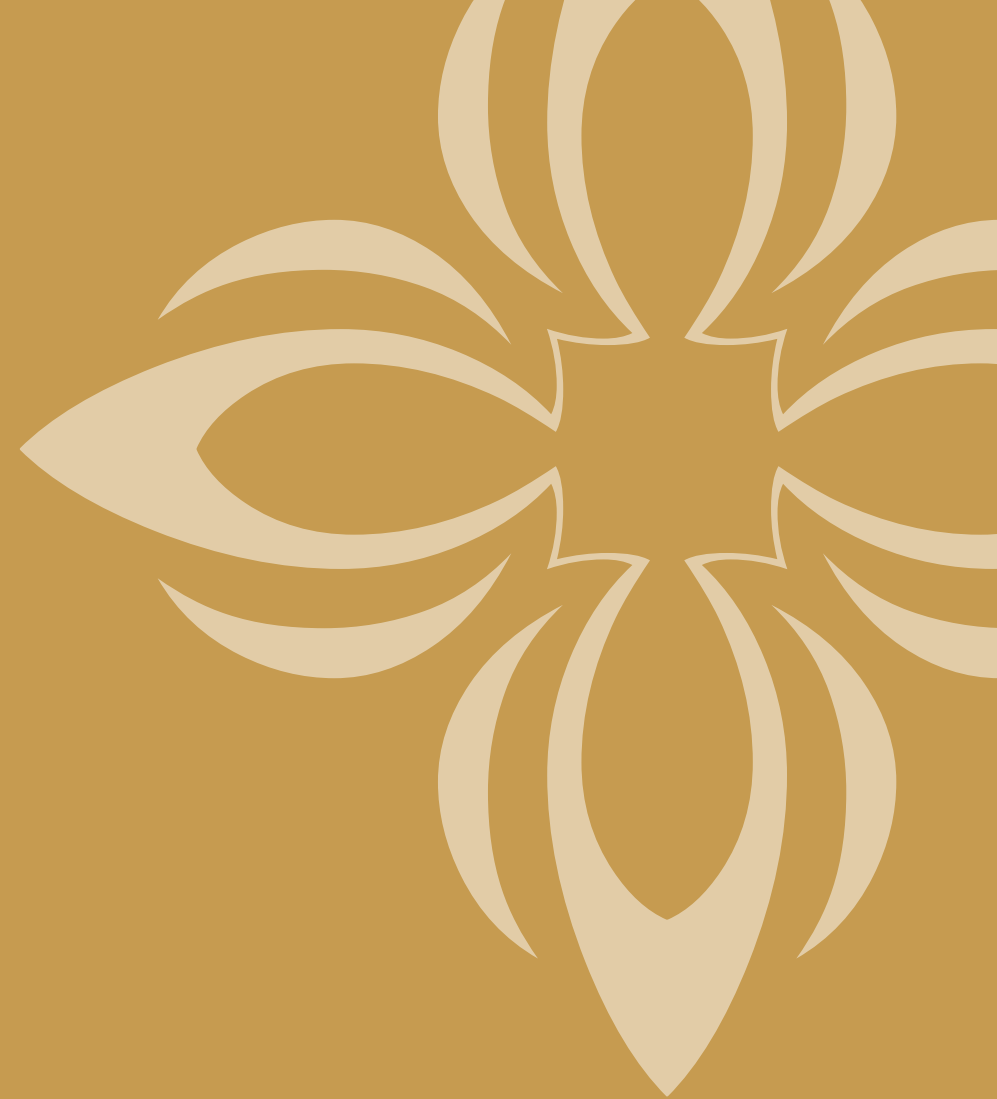


Martyrdom Site of Mangal Pandey

Mangal Pandey was hanged at this site in Barrackpore Cantonment on 18th April, 1857. At present, this site is just outside the limits of the Cantonment.

Cantonment Magistrate's Office, Mhow - 1940's





HERITAGE

Preserved Over Centuries



The Confluence of great rivers Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati in Allahabad known as Sangam is located within the Fort Cantonment of Allahabad. Lakhs of pilgrims visit this holy site for snan throughout the year for which Cantonment Board makes arrangements. During the Magh and Kumbh Melas the State government makes arrangements.

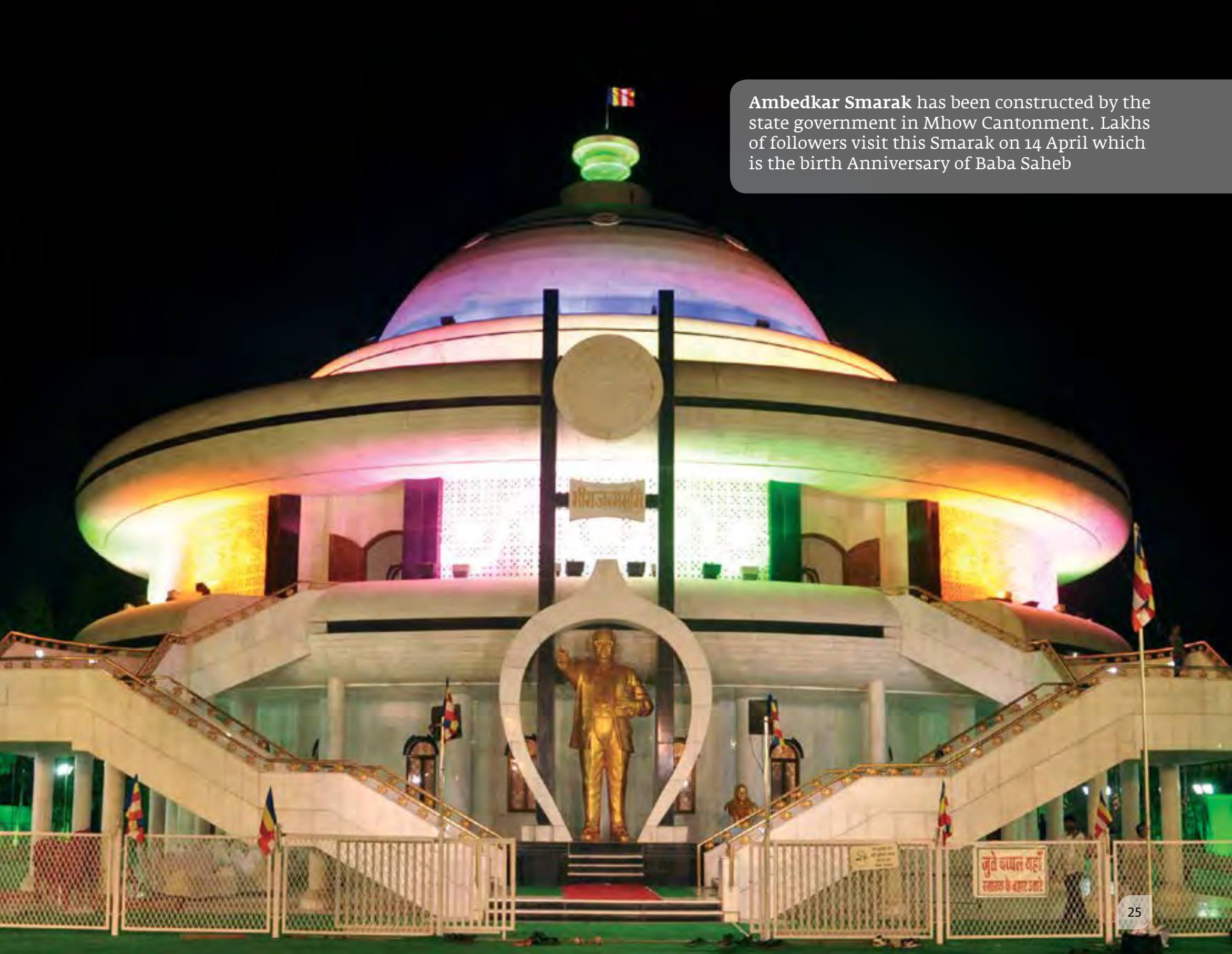
Jama Masjid in Agra was part of Agra Cantonment till excision in 1957. Though this heritage site falls within the municipal area now, the land still remains under the management of Cantonment Board Agra.



Shahjahan's view of Taj

Shahjahan was imprisoned in Agra fort by Aurangjeb. The legend goes that Shahjahan viewed Taj from this porch in Agra Fort till his death. The fort now in Agra Cantonment remains a permanent spot from which tourists view the Taj.





Ambedkar Smarak has been constructed by the state government in Mhow Cantonment. Lakhs of followers visit this Smarak on 14 April which is the birth Anniversary of Baba Saheb

Dagshai Jail



In Dagshai a jail was constructed in 1849 known as Central Jail. This jail came into limelight when a number of Irish freedom fighters were executed here, prompting Mahatma Gandhi to rush to assess the situation. Four revolutionaries of Kamagata Maru were also executed at Dagshai. The Dagshai Central Jail is now a museum.

Inset – Room where Gandhiji stayed during his visit

Allahabad Prashasti

Prashastis are special kind of inscriptions issued in glowing praise of kings and rulers, and were written by their court poets. Though the Allahabad Prashasti is originally an Ashokan Pillar it got its name from the inscription put up on it by a minister in praise of the greatest of the Gupta Emperors SamudraGupta

The Allahabad pillar is one of the many pillars put up by Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, who reigned in the 3rd century BCE. While it is one of the few extant pillars that carry his edicts, it is particularly notable for containing later inscriptions attributed to the Gupta emperor, Samudragupta (4th century CE). Also engraved on the stone are inscriptions by the Mughal emperor, Jahangir, from the 17th century.

Many historians opine that the pillar was moved from its original location and installed within Akbar's Fort in Allahabad, during the Mughal period. This is at present within the Fort Cantonment of Allahabad Cantonment.

It is felt that that the pillar was first erected at Kaushambi, an ancient town some 30 kilometres west of Allahabad from where it was shifted to its present location.

The Ashokan inscriptions on the Allahabad Pillar (along with inscriptions elsewhere) was instrumental in the decipherment of the Brahmi script by James Prinsep which facilitated the rediscovery of the Mauryan emperor and the unearthing of the full extent of his empire.

On the same pillar is found another inscription, attributed to the 4th century AD, Gupta Emperor Samudragupta, which follows immediately below the edicts of Ashoka. It is considered "the most important historical document of the classical Gupta age" It is written in excellent Sanskrit by the minister, Harishena.

A later day inscription in Persian is also found on this Pillar which traces the ancestry of the Mughal emperor Jahangir.



Dilkusha Kothi in Luknow Cantonment is located on the banks of Gomti. It was constructed around 1800 by the British resident Major Gore Ouseley, a friend of the Ruler of Oudh, Nawab Saadat Ali Khan. It was initially intended as a hunting lodge for the Nawabs of Oudh, although it was later used as a summer resort too. It was surrounded by a huge Garden on all sides.



The Cantonment Board Almora Office Building was initially called St. Mark's House. Rabindra Nath Tagore visited this place and stayed in the building. During his stay here, he had written many books and also made certain paintings in local colours. The Board resolved to rename St. Mark's House as "Tagore House" in memory of the late poet on October 13, 1961.



Cantonment Board Office, St Thomas Mount, Chennai locally known as Clive House

A Heritage Building which is more than 300 years old. It was used as a court house during the British India by Robert Clive himself, and the adjoining building was a Prison with Horse Stables. Robert Clive had worked as lower ministerial staff (clerk) in the East India Company in Chennai during the Madras Presidency and rose to the level of Governor General.



Flag Staff House was built in 1828 on Riverside Road for the Military Secretary of the Governor General, located on the banks of the Hooghly River. The building is now Barrackpore Home of the Governor of West Bengal.

Rashtrapati Nilayam, Secunderabad Cantonment





Ghasiram Kotwali

Ghasiram Kotwal was Incharge of the Police Force of the Peshwas. Ghasiram built a Temple, residence and a garden adjoining a tank in Pune Cantonment. It was here that Telugu Brahmins were murdered in a brutal manner in a room which came to be known as “BLACK HOLE OF POONA”.



Fountain in Memory of Cantonment Magistrate H Minchin

The fountain was erected by civil population of the Cantonment in the memory of Cantonment Magistrate H Minchin, who died at Pune on 16.07.1904. The same can be prominently seen at the entrance of Rani Laxmibai Garden.

Glimpses of Cantonments of Pune and Mhow through old photographs



Bus service the first of its kind in Pune Cantonment



Sanghi Street, Mhow Cantonment in the early 1900s

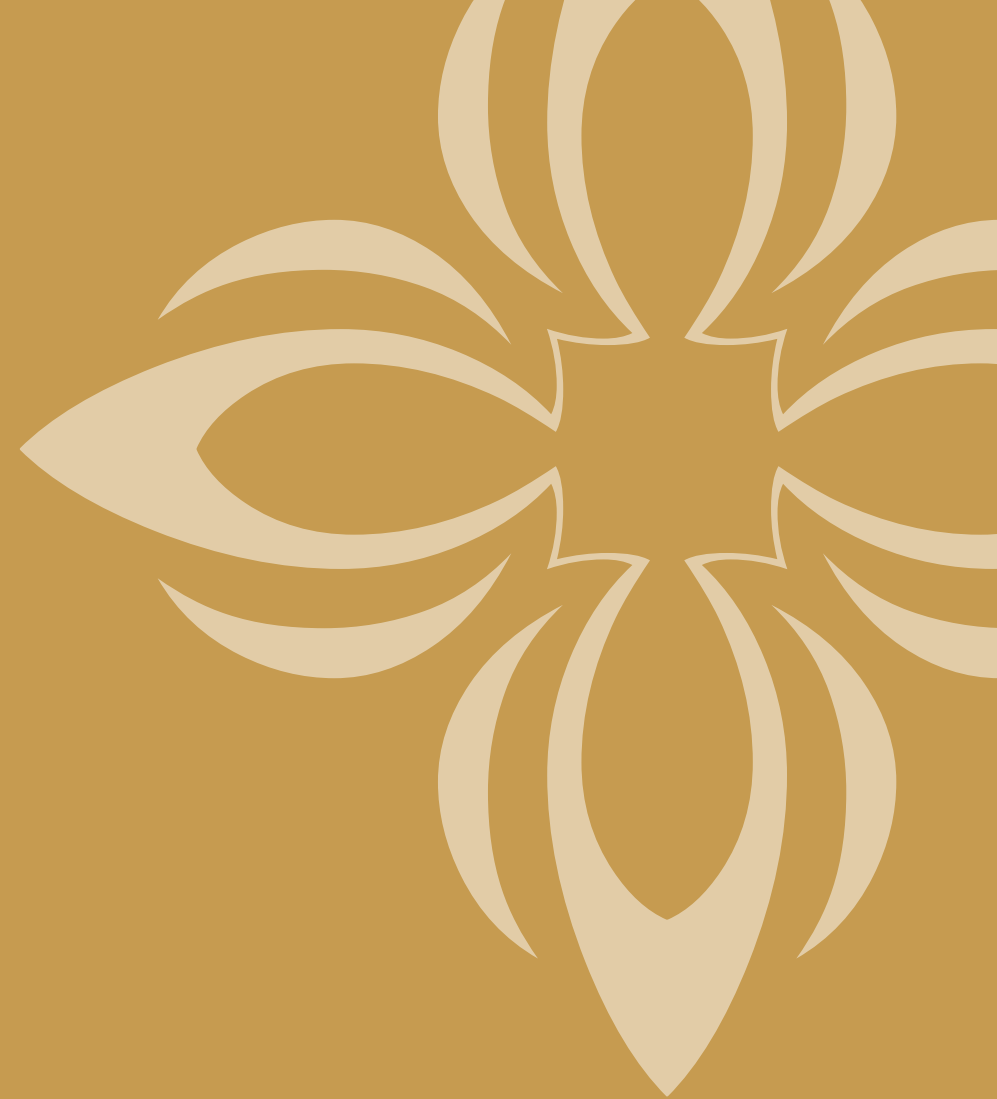
Ganpati procession on the streets of Pune Cantonment during pre-Independence period



Post Office Street, Mhow Cantonment

St Mary's Catholic Church, Lansdowne





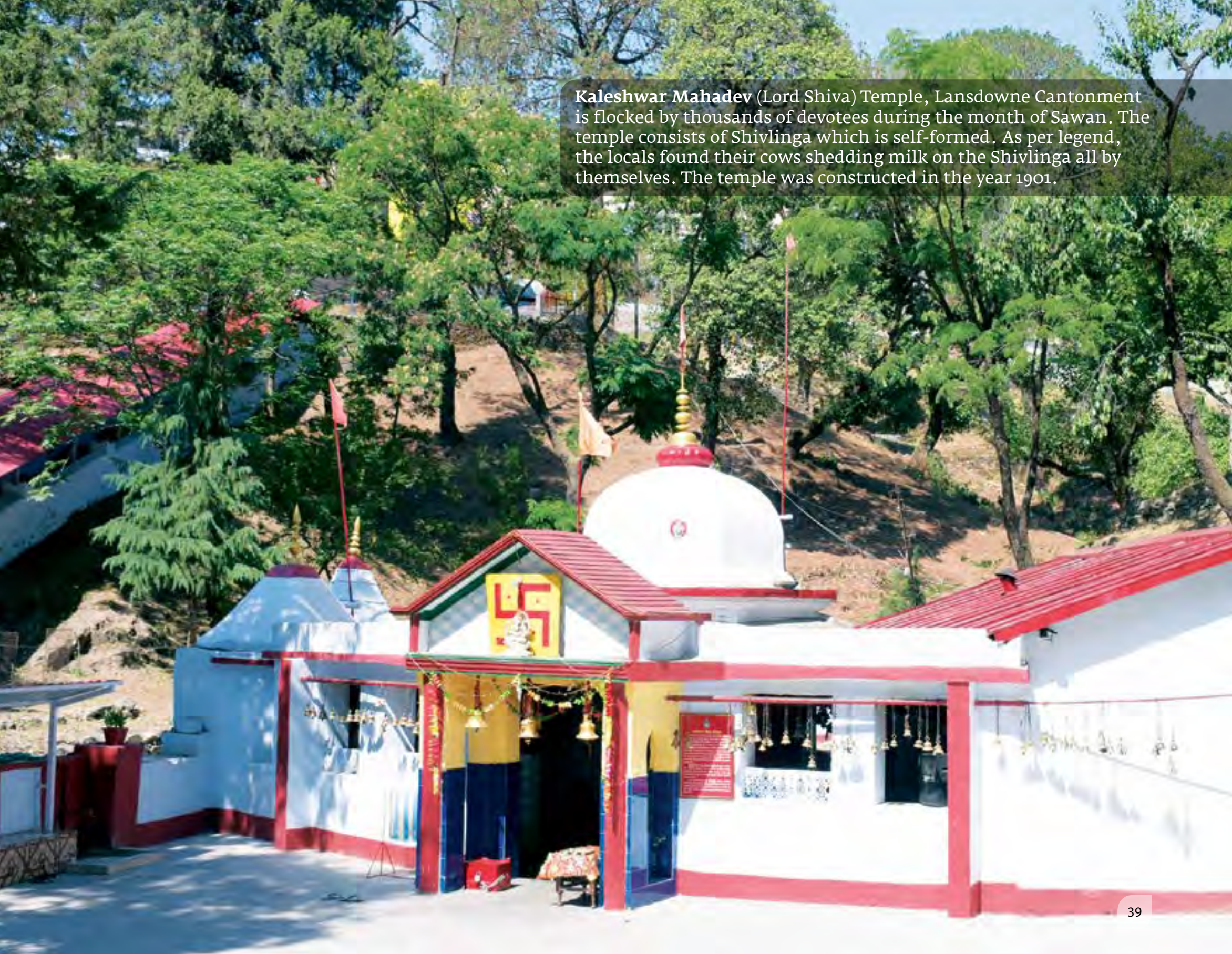
PLACES OF WORSHIP

Religious Harmony



All Saints' Church, Lucknow was built in 1860 which was tiny compared to its present architecture. This was the first church to be built for the Anglican Church. It was redesigned in 1908 by a British Engineer named Jones Ransom and converted into a bigger and imposing structure inspired by Magdalene College, Oxford. Above the main door of the church, situated in the west, is a tall tower which houses the church bell. The quadrangle of the church is also quite large and has seating areas.

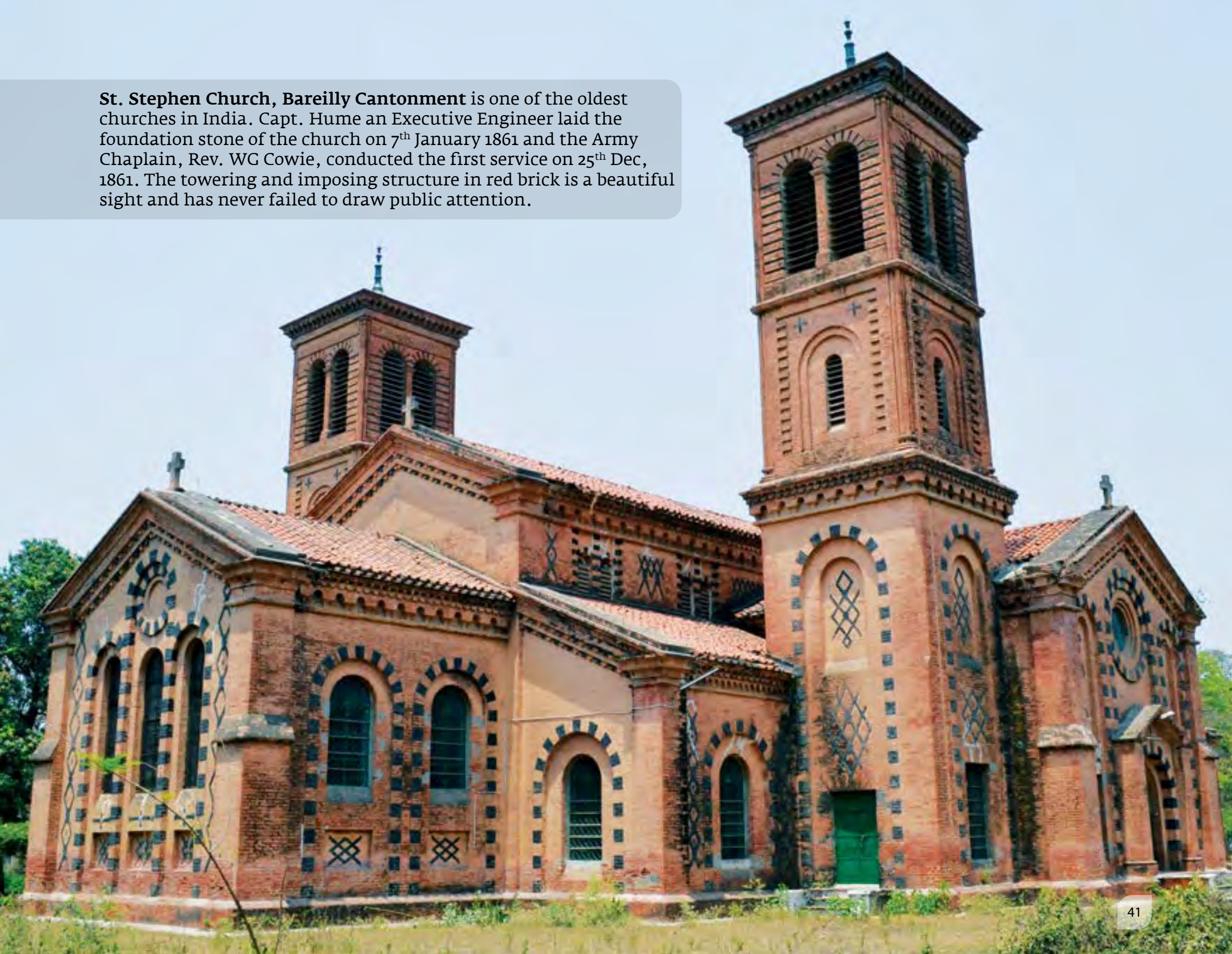
Kaleshwar Mahadev (Lord Shiva) Temple, Lansdowne Cantonment is flocked by thousands of devotees during the month of Sawan. The temple consists of Shivlinga which is self-formed. As per legend, the locals found their cows shedding milk on the Shivlinga all by themselves. The temple was constructed in the year 1901.





Pani Mandir, Badamibagh Cantonment
Srinagar is one of the oldest surviving
temples in Kashmir.

St. Stephen Church, Bareilly Cantonment is one of the oldest churches in India. Capt. Hume an Executive Engineer laid the foundation stone of the church on 7th January 1861 and the Army Chaplain, Rev. WG Cowie, conducted the first service on 25th Dec, 1861. The towering and imposing structure in red brick is a beautiful sight and has never failed to draw public attention.



St. Thomas Mount Shrine, Chennai





St. Thomas Mount Shrine

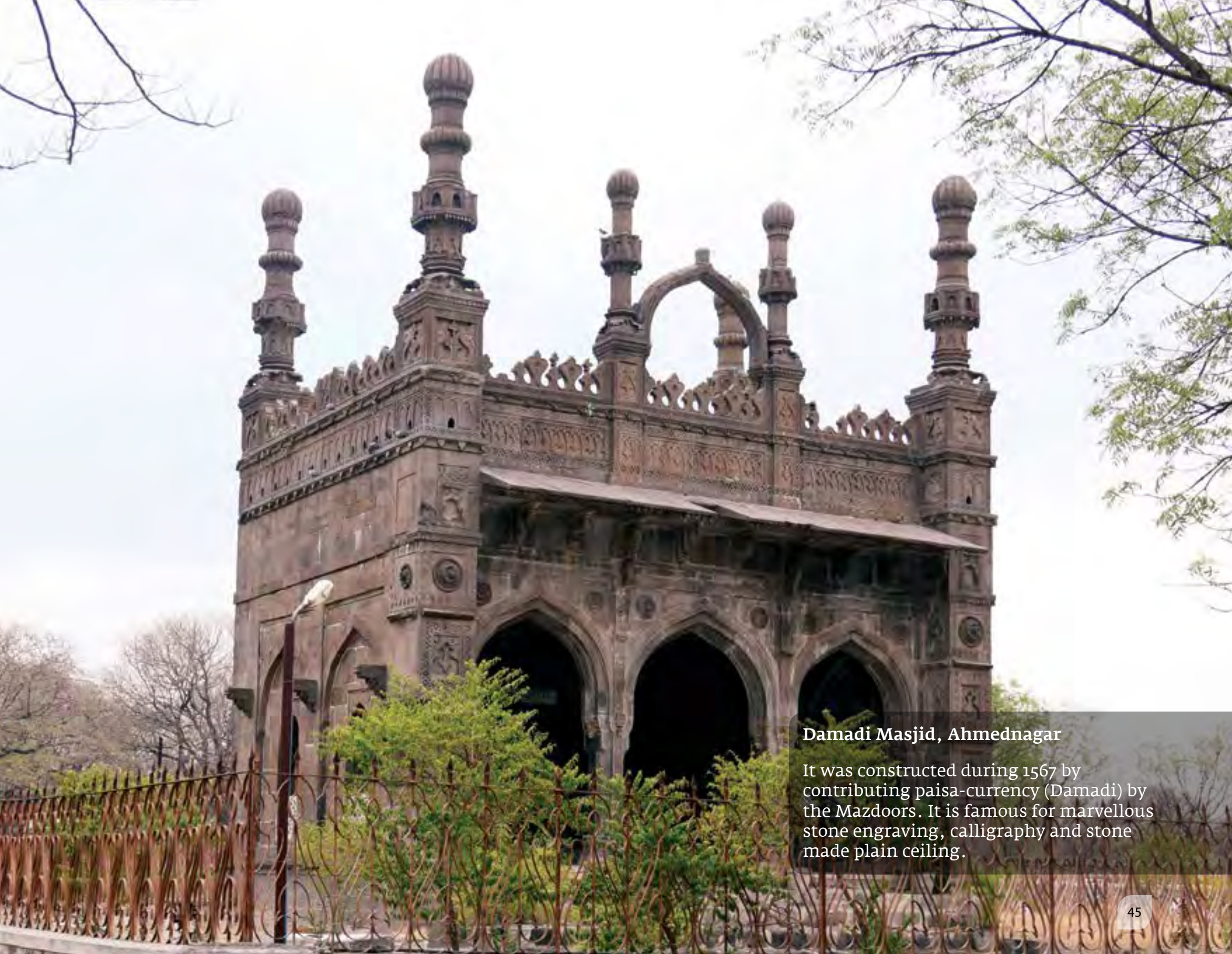
St. Thomas is one of 12 Apostles of Jesus Christ. He enriched the southern part of India with the seeds of the Gospel. When at last he reached the Parangi Malai (present St Thomas Mount), he found the place ideal for his life of solitude and prayer.

According to tradition, the Cross found on this hill was chiselled by St Thomas himself and used by him for his personal prayer. It is widely believed that this cross is stained by the blood of St Thomas himself as he was stabbed to death at this place. This Cross was accidentally discovered later by the Portuguese when they dug the foundations for the new Church in 1547. Fr. Gaspar Coelho, Vicar of the Church in Mylapore records in 1545 AD that one Diego Fernandes, a Portuguese, built a small oratory on top of the hill over the foundation of a very ancient church in 1523 AD

Mount Calvary:- The enchanting atmosphere on the hill top is further enhanced by the imposing Calvary depicting in life size images the scene of Calvary, with a huge Crucifix and a tall black and white obelisk in the background. This monumental piece overlooking the city of Chennai is a striking landmark.



This **Shiva temple, Belgaum Cantonment** was built in 12th century. It is believed that there were 108 Jain temples and 101 Shiva temples in the fort and the fort was built after demolishing many of these temples. At present very few temples are surviving, the Shiva temple being one of them. ASI has taken over this temple in 2007-08



Damadi Masjid, Ahmednagar

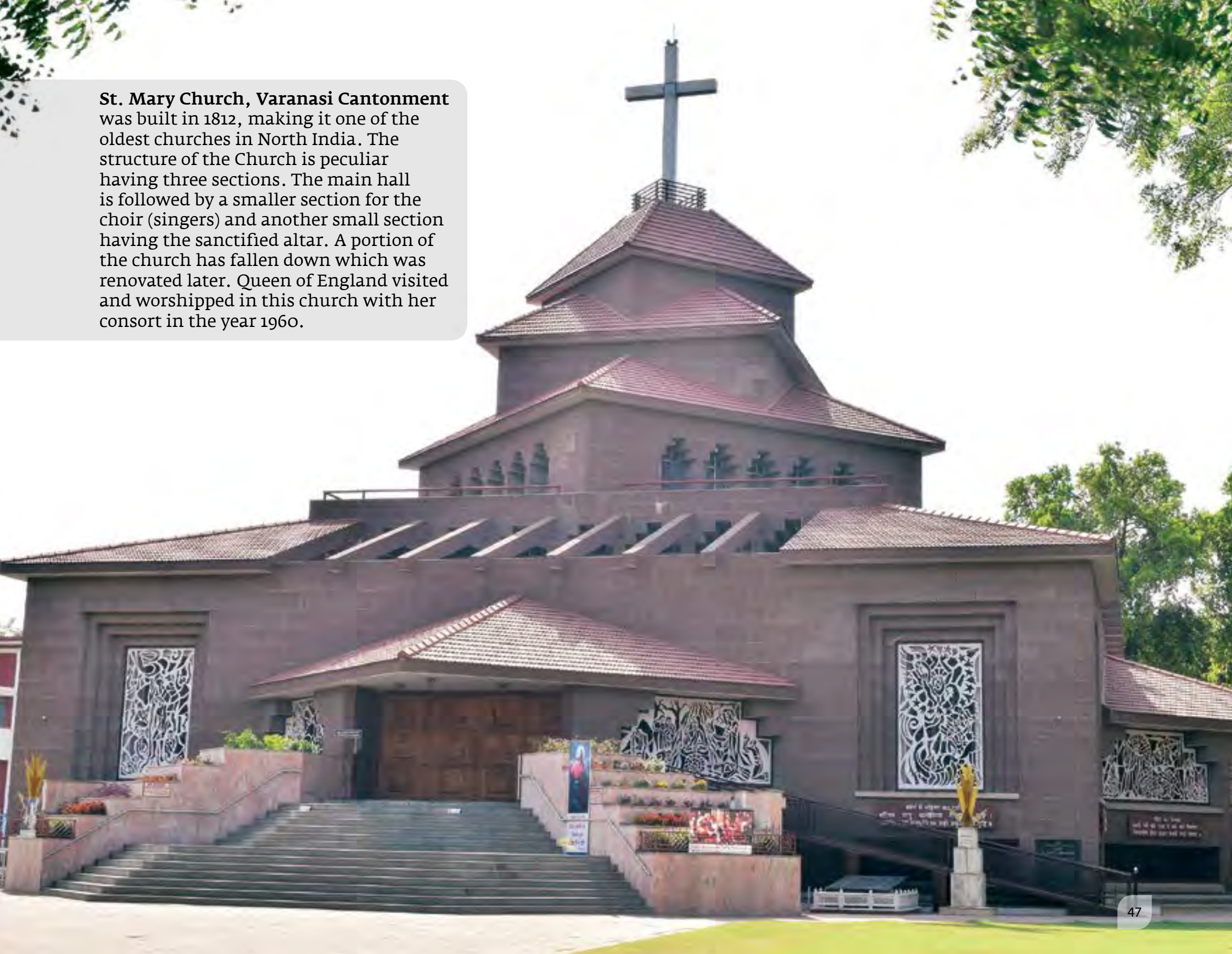
It was constructed during 1567 by contributing paisa-currency (Damadi) by the Mazdoors. It is famous for marvellous stone engraving, calligraphy and stone made plain ceiling.

Kamal Basadi, Belgaum Cantonment

This famous Jain temple was constructed during the Ratta Kingdom by King Kartavirya IV in the year 1254. Rare idols of Navgraha, Thirthankara Neminath installed in the temple are built in Granite stone. The front verandah of the temple is given the shape of Lotus flower and over that 1008 Jain idols were installed. Two inscriptions composed by Balachandradeva(Kavi Kandarpa) related to this temple are presently in the British Museum, London(U.K.)



St. Mary Church, Varanasi Cantonment was built in 1812, making it one of the oldest churches in North India. The structure of the Church is peculiar having three sections. The main hall is followed by a smaller section for the choir (singers) and another small section having the sanctified altar. A portion of the church has fallen down which was renovated later. Queen of England visited and worshipped in this church with her consort in the year 1960.



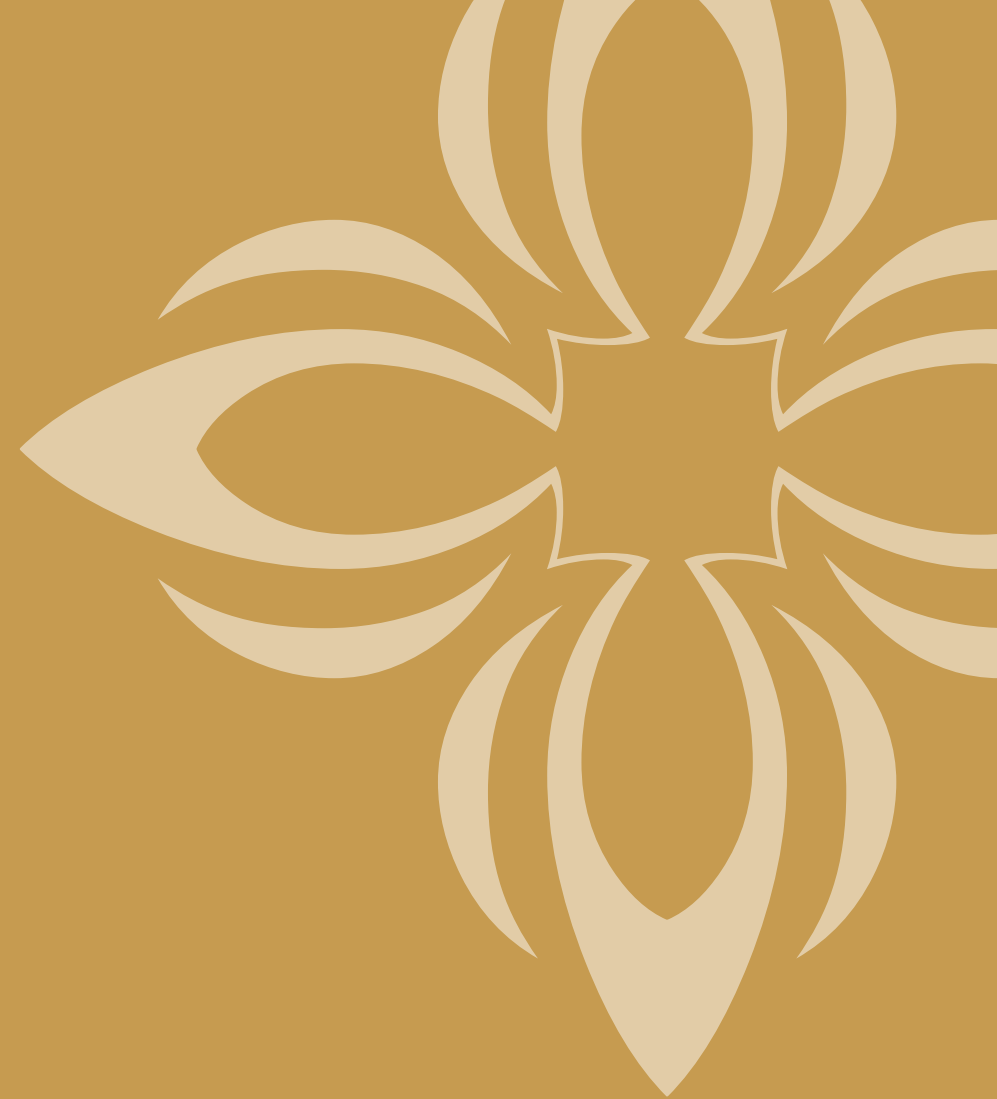
Guptar Ghat in Faizabad Cantonment is the place where it is believed that Lord Rama submerged in the Saryu river as per prevailing legend.





Fort at Fatehgarh Cantonment



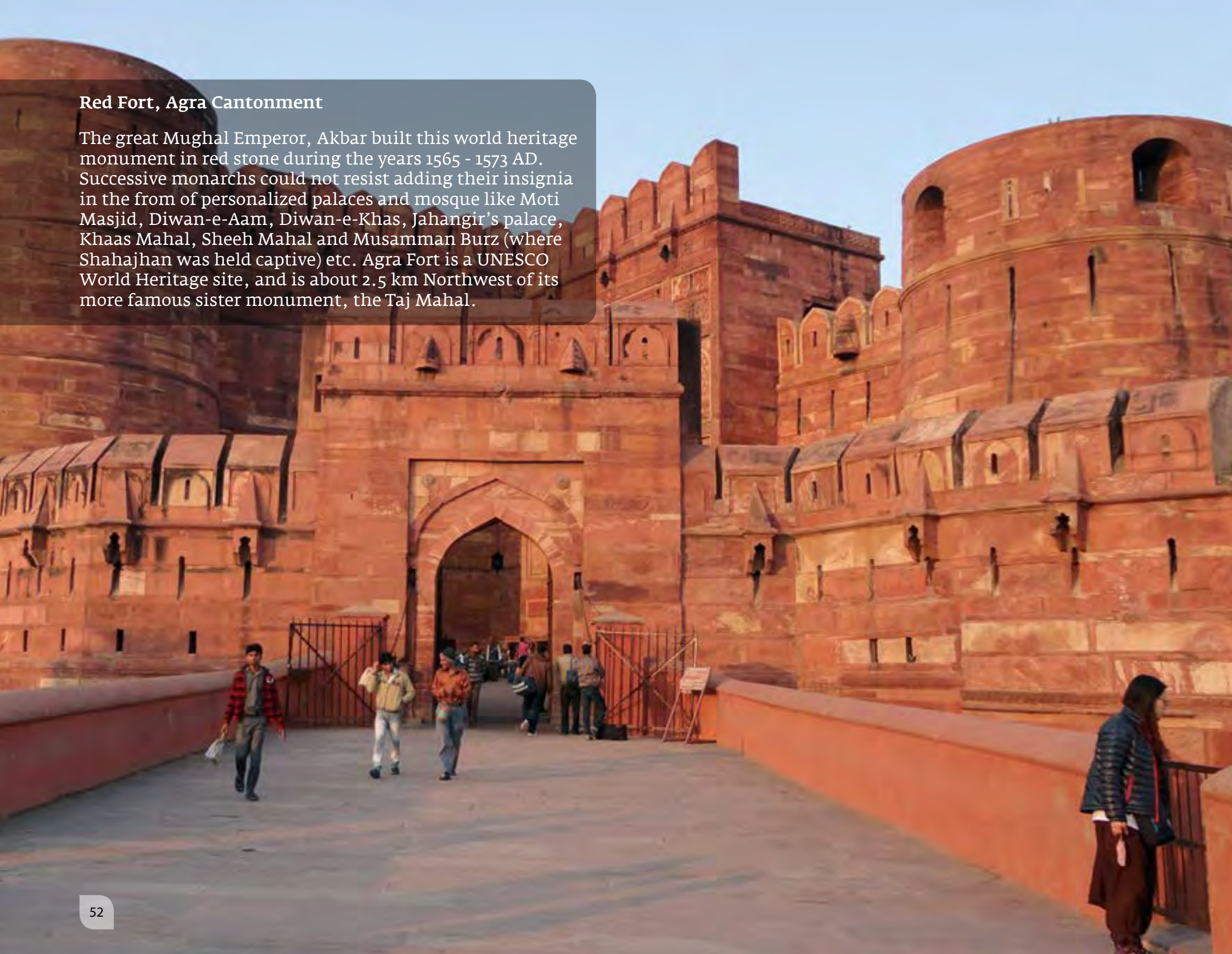


FORTS

Relics of the Past

Red Fort, Agra Cantonment

The great Mughal Emperor, Akbar built this world heritage monument in red stone during the years 1565 - 1573 AD. Successive monarchs could not resist adding their insignia in the form of personalized palaces and mosque like Moti Masjid, Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Jahangir's palace, Khaas Mahal, Sheeh Mahal and Musamman Burz (where Shahajhan was held captive) etc. Agra Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and is about 2.5 km Northwest of its more famous sister monument, the Taj Mahal.





Akbar Fort, Allahabad Cantonment

Mughal Emperor Akbar constructed a fort at the confluence of the two great rivers at Allahabad. This Fort came to be known after him. The Hathi Darwaja is clearly visible in this picture.

Ahmednagar Fort





This fort situated in Ahmednagar cantonment was built by Ahmed Nizam Shah in 1490. This is one of the best-designed and most impregnable forts in India. It is oval in shape, with 18-metre-high walls and 24 citadels, its defence system includes a moat 30 metres wide and 4 to 6 metres deep. The two entrances to the fort are accessed by drawbridges. A target of countless invasions, the Ahmednagar Fort has taken many blows and came out relatively unscathed. It has changed hands many times over starting with the Mughal rule, and was used as a royal prison a number of times.

Nehru's Room in
Ahmednagar Fort

The entire Congress Working Committee was detained here during the Quit India Movement of 1942 and placed in Leaders Block of Ahmednagar. Jawaharlal Nehru, later to be India's first Prime Minister, wrote his book *The Discovery of India* during his imprisonment from 1942-1945 here.





Belgaum Fort situated in the Cantonment was originally built by the Ratta Dynasty in 13th Century. It was later fortified by Yakub Ali Khan of the Bijapur Sultanate and is well known for its unique building structure and its huge moat surrounding the fort, which made it inaccessible to the enemies. In the year 1778 it was under Tipu Sultan kingdom. In 1818, Gen. Munro British Officer took over the fort and built houses inside the fort for residence of Army Officers.

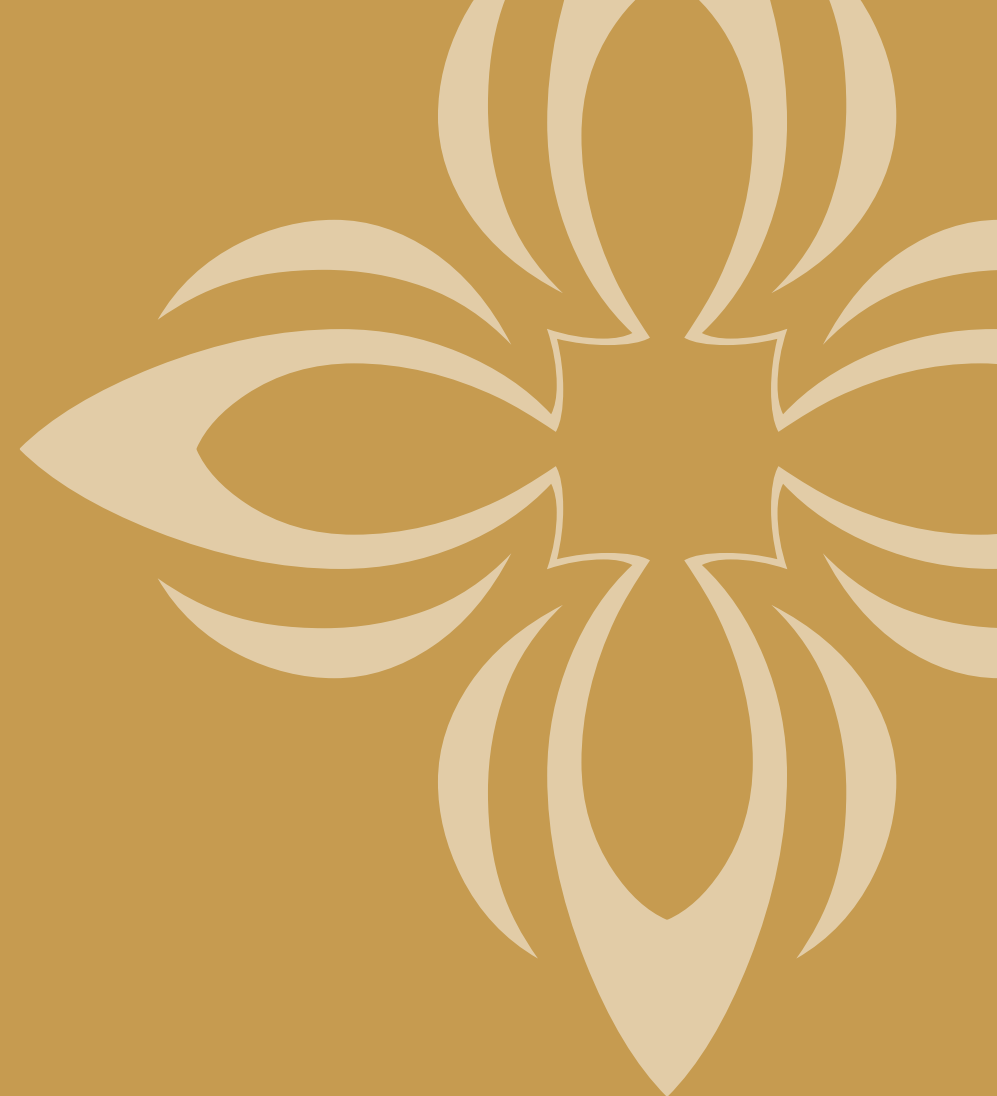
Jhansi Fort

Bundele har bolo ke muh humne suni kahani thi,
Khoob ladi mardani woh to Jhansi wali rani thi.

Jhansi was besieged by the company forces of General Hugh Rose in March and April 1858 and was captured on 4 April 1858. Rani Lakshmi Bai was able to make a daring escape on horseback from the fort before the city was pillaged by Rose's troops. The Jhansi fort is located in the middle of the Jhansi city. The land was previously managed by Jhansi Cantonment Board but has now been transferred to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

Maratha Memorial at Pune Cantonment





WAR CEMETERIES AND MEMORIALS

Remembering Them

Kirkee War Cemetery was created to receive 2297 graves of soldiers who laid their lives in the Second World War, from the western and central parts of India where their permanent maintenance could not be assured.





The Madras War Cemetery is a war cemetery and a memorial in Nandambakkam (St. Thomas Mount), Chennai created to receive Second World War graves from many civil and cantonment cemeteries in the south and east of India where their permanent maintenance could not be assured. It was established in 1952 by the Imperial War Graves Commission. It is currently maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) in partnership with Government of India.

MADRAS WAR
CEMETERY

1939-1945

Delhi War Cemetery was created in 1951 when graves from many cemeteries in northern India were moved into the site to ensure their permanent maintenance. Among them are graves from cantonment cemeteries in Allahabad, Kanpur, Dehra Dun and Lucknow.







Life in Cantonments

Cantonments across India evolved as enduring symbols of British imperial power. Away from the hustle and bustle of Cities, they were conceived as insulated communes identified by regimental barracks, colonial bungalows with vast open spaces, Churches, race and golf courses and clubs.

In urban areas, large tracts of land adjacent to the cities were reserved by the British for these Cantonments. These areas evolved a lifestyle of their own which is typical to them in more ways than one. It was commented that life in cantonments during the British time was typical of people who indulged in heavy drinking, racing, gambling, hunting etc. This notion changed after independence and Cantonments symbolised clean and green urban spaces. However, the life remains an enchanting mix of the old and new worlds which cannot be found any where in the country. Being well laid out townships, Cantonments contributed no less in modernising Civil society in India apart from being models for the new urban settlements that came up in the later half of the Nineteenth century. On a more humorous note it is mentioned by some military historians that Cantonments are the result of European search for cooler locales in India and their dislike for Mosquitoes.

A British Cantonment is typically a place which is generally laid out in a simple grid pattern of avenues with central thoroughfares (called the famous Mall Roads) with tree lined streets, regularly divided building plots and bungalows, churches and cemeteries, clubs, golf courses and other related structures. Broadly speaking a Cantonment can be divided into three main areas around which the life of all

the people Military as well as civilian revolves:

1. Purely Military area where unit lines and residential area of the defence forces exist.
2. The civil or the Bazar areas which are residential areas of the civilians living in cantonments and where essential services for the troops are available. These are the areas where many major markets like Sadar Bazars exist.
3. The bungalow area which is completely residential area where Army officers and civilian gentry reside. This also happens to be the area where maximum vacant land exists.

The civil areas had sizeable population right from inception and therefore the density of population remained high. With lapse of time more number of people started settling in Cantonments. Infact the British encouraged civilians to settle here to provide the necessary ancillary services at a very low cost to the Army. Therefore, civil areas are thickly populated compared to the sparsely populated Bungalow Area and Defence Enclaves.

In the earlier days the Britishers set aside Sadar Bazars which are part of these civil areas for the Indian traders. They preferred Sadar Bazars as areas where Indian merchants can sell goods for British consumption without them entering enclaves inhabited by the Indian communities. Thus Sadar Bazars created an adhoc synthesis between the colonial Britishers and the wealthy among the Indian trading communities.

Independent India witnessed these markets turning into important trading centres of not only the cantonments but even the neighbouring municipalities and urban areas. These markets have now assumed the shape of wholesale markets in many cantonments where bulk purchases and sales take place. Sadar Bazars have thus transformed themselves from being markets that catered to the needs of niche clientele to markets that are frequented by the general public both from cantonment and neighbouring areas.

The bungalow area of a cantonment gives it the identity of a clean and green township. Rows of such bungalows with typical architecture adorn many cantonments. It is mentioned in some texts of that era that the classical British Bungalow had a dual origin originating as an amalgam of the detached rural house with a big compound in Bengal and a British Suburban villa.

Though such Bungalows were constructed by the British in civil lines, for the managers of various kind of plantations or factories or railway companies also very few such Bungalows have survived in independent India except in cantonments. The Old Grant Bungalows in the cantonments are now occupied by Army officers, civilian gentry etc. The claims of residents of these Bungalows of supernatural presence and hearing mysterious sounds of dripping water etc. are not uncommon. Though no scientific or rigorous proof of such supernatural presence could be detected these stories go unchallenged to the present day. The life in these bungalows is majestic though it is very expensive to maintain these bungalows.

All roads in most cantonments lead to the central thoroughfares called Mall Roads which are practically the arterial roads. There is a divided opinion among historians and town planners about the nomenclature of these roads. It is opined that these roads lead to shopping areas which are also referred as Malls and hence the name. The other opinion

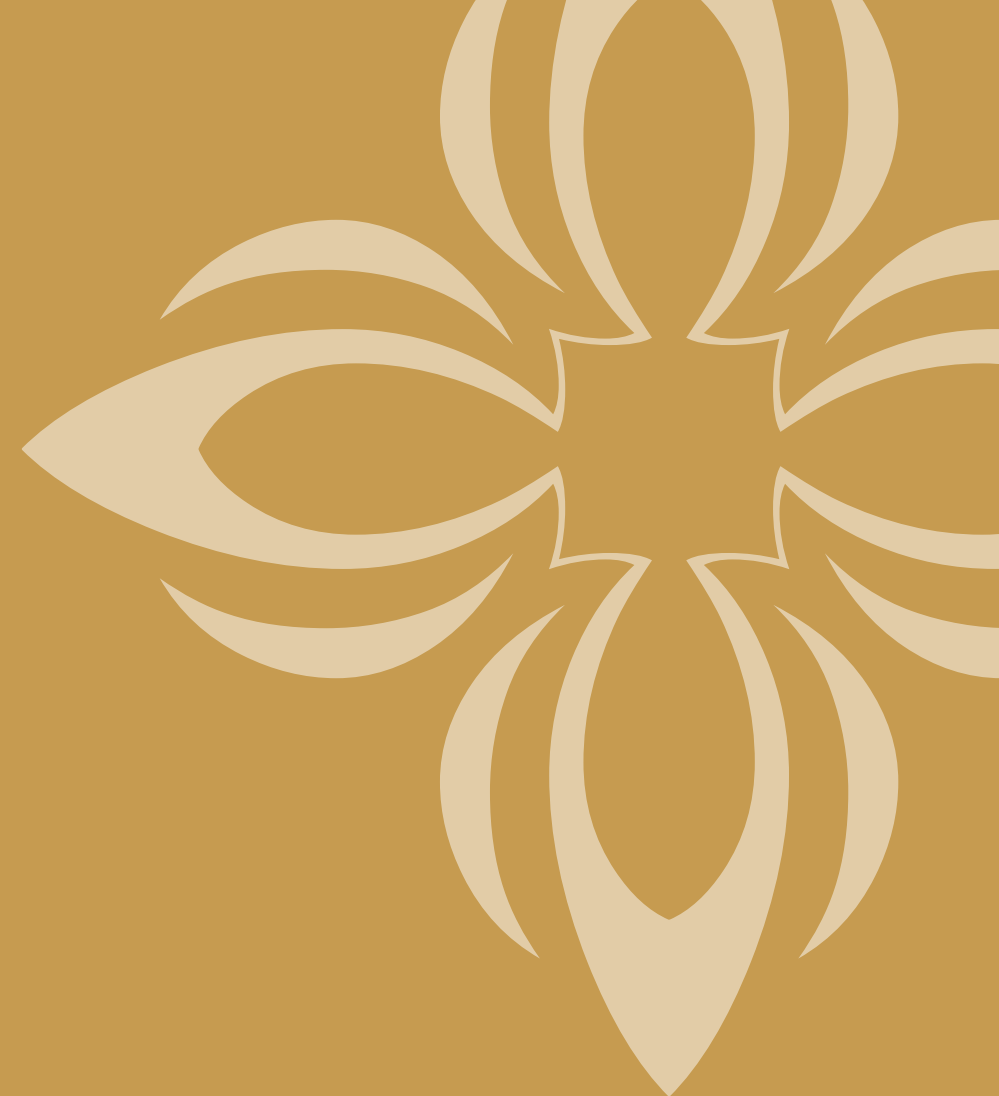
expressed predominantly is that Mall Road is an acronym for **Married Accommodation and Living Lines** as on one side of these roads used to be unit areas with their living lines and the other side is populated by the married accommodation for British officers or troops. The Mall Roads were laden with bungalows and messes on one side and unit lines on the other, thus bringing them the name.

The club culture was brought into India by the British. Some of the most important clubs in the country were of British origin and were in variably started in cantonments. Reportedly these clubs were at one time all-whites clubs which later turned into officers clubs and most of them have now become open to all their members. It is mentioned that the game of snooker originated in the Narbudda Club of Jabalpur cantonment.

It is for the general public to decide whether life in Cantonments is in anyway better than life in any other urban agglomeration in this country. The description generally given that cantonments are clean and green spaces is more true due to the quality of life being better than elsewhere. The tradition passed on from the times of the British Raj of townships which have large open spaces with healthy environment and good gentry living in complete harmony is still being maintained by the Cantonments. It is precisely for this reason that many people yearn to live here. To conclude let us recall what **Mahatma Gandhi** said in his speech on 4 February 1916 at the Banaras Hindu University. On the occasion of inauguration of the university the Mahatma among other things said “ in every city there are two divisions, the Cantonment and the City proper. The City mostly is a stinking den. ---- ”. The Life in cantonments have remained till date enriching, enchanting and healthy.

Religious procession in Kirkee Cantonment





CIVIL AND BAZAR AREAS

Retaining British Era Pre-eminence

Lal Kurti, Meerut Cantonment






Civil Area of Shillong Cantonment consists of two pockets namely Jhalupara Bazar and Cantonment Bazar and is located in the heart of the Shillong City. Jhalupara Bazar is mostly occupied by civilians and one of the biggest wholesale market in Shillong lies in the Cantonment Bazar area.



MG Road Pune Cantonment pre-Independence





MG Road is the most famous road in Pune Cantonment right from 1850. Saturday evenings are very busy and you can find well-off young people in their best clothes thronging the place. Many old and well-known shops, restaurants, bakeries and other commercial establishments adorn this street.

Sadar bazar in Agra Cantonment is the main market place of Agra Town. Many tourists visiting Taj Mahal do visit Sadar Bazar Market including foreigners for purchase of souvenirs etc.





Abu lane situated in Meerut Cantonment can be compared with Cannaught Place, New Delhi or Hazaratganj of Lucknow as it is the market where all branded products to jewellery are available. The place also has many eating points which serve all kinds of cuisines. This lane also connects other important shopping places in Meerut like Begumpul and Sadar Bazar.

Chath Puja Danapur Cantonment

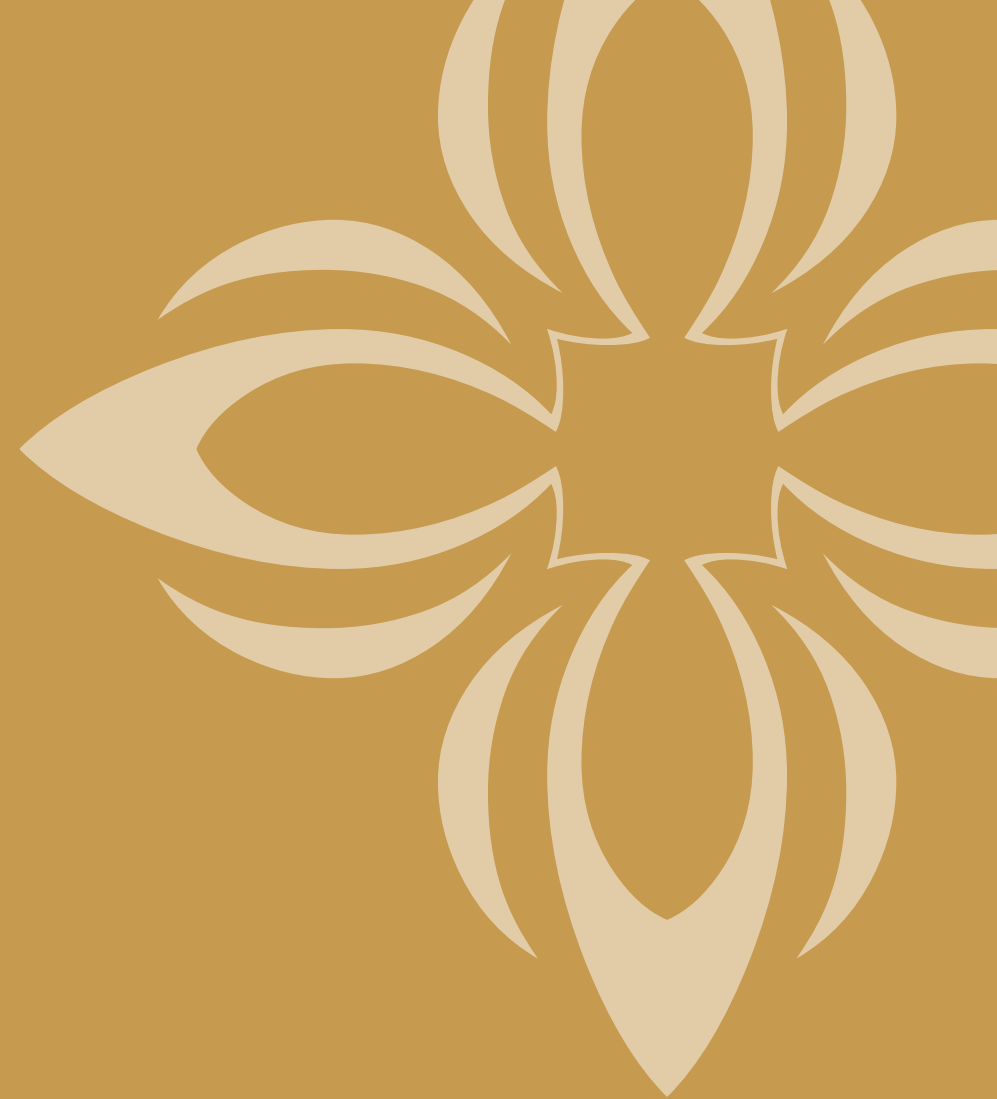
Chath Puja is celebrated in Danapur Cantonment with fervour and Cantonment Board makes all necessary arrangements. The devotees maintain 'nirjal vrat' on the third day. It mainly consist of going on river bank and offering 'argha' and surya namaskar to the setting sun followed by the next day (exactly 7th day from Diwali) event of offering argha and surya namaskar to the rising sun on the fourth or last day of chhath. The fast then comes to an end after offering argha to the rising sun.





Ramleela is celebrated in many Cantonments. Ramleela grounds are earmarked for this purpose. Ravan Dahan as part of **Ramleela in Ranikhet Cantonment** is shown here.





CLUBS

Genesis of Club Culture in India



Kasauli Club was established in the year 1880. In 2001, due to the malfunctioning of an electric component, there was fire, which burnt the entire club. Advanced wooden structures have replaced the old one, with beautiful finish. Old furniture, elegant cushioned sofas and a beautifully crafted Roman table with chairs are the highlights of the club. Since its establishment, the club celebrates 'Kasauli Night' in the months of May and June.



Mahomed Bagh Club, Lucknow Cantonment was established in 1899. Located in the greenest belt of the city, with abundance of natural beauty and wide open areas, the club has maintained its old world dignified charm, while adopting modern facilities over the years. Originally the membership of Mahomed Bagh Club was open only to Defence Services Officers. In 1947 the club started accepting Civil services officers.



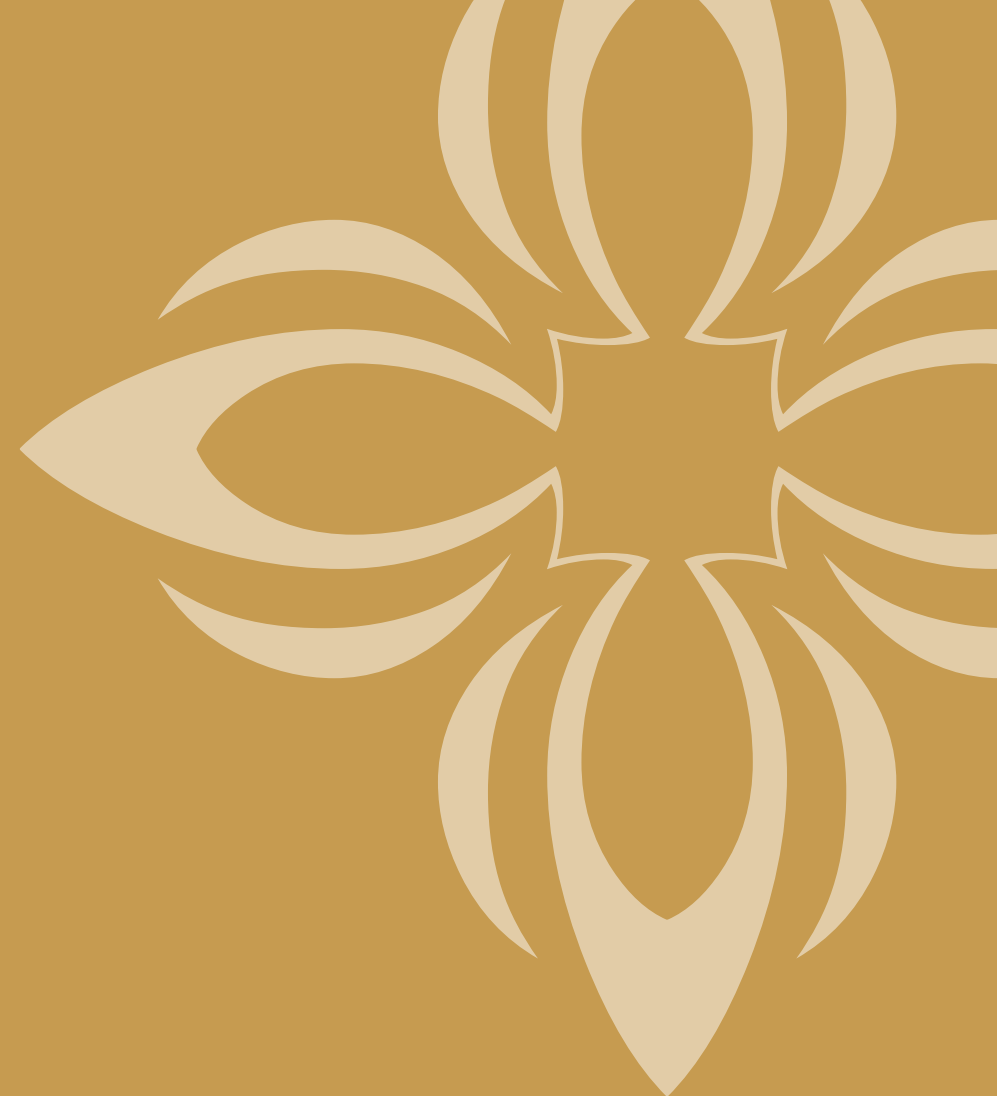
Narbudda Club, Jabalpur Cantonment. Established in 1889.

The game of Snooker originated in Jabalpur when Neville Chamberlain, then a subaltern in the Devonshire Regiment put another coloured ball on the billiard table in order to provide a variation to the game then known as Black Pool. Though the game really made progress only after it was played by the members of the elite Ootacamund Club, it is correct to claim that the game was invented in Jabalpur Cantonment.









MALL ROADS

Arterial Roads of Cantonments

Aerial view of Mall Road Meerut Cantonment at night





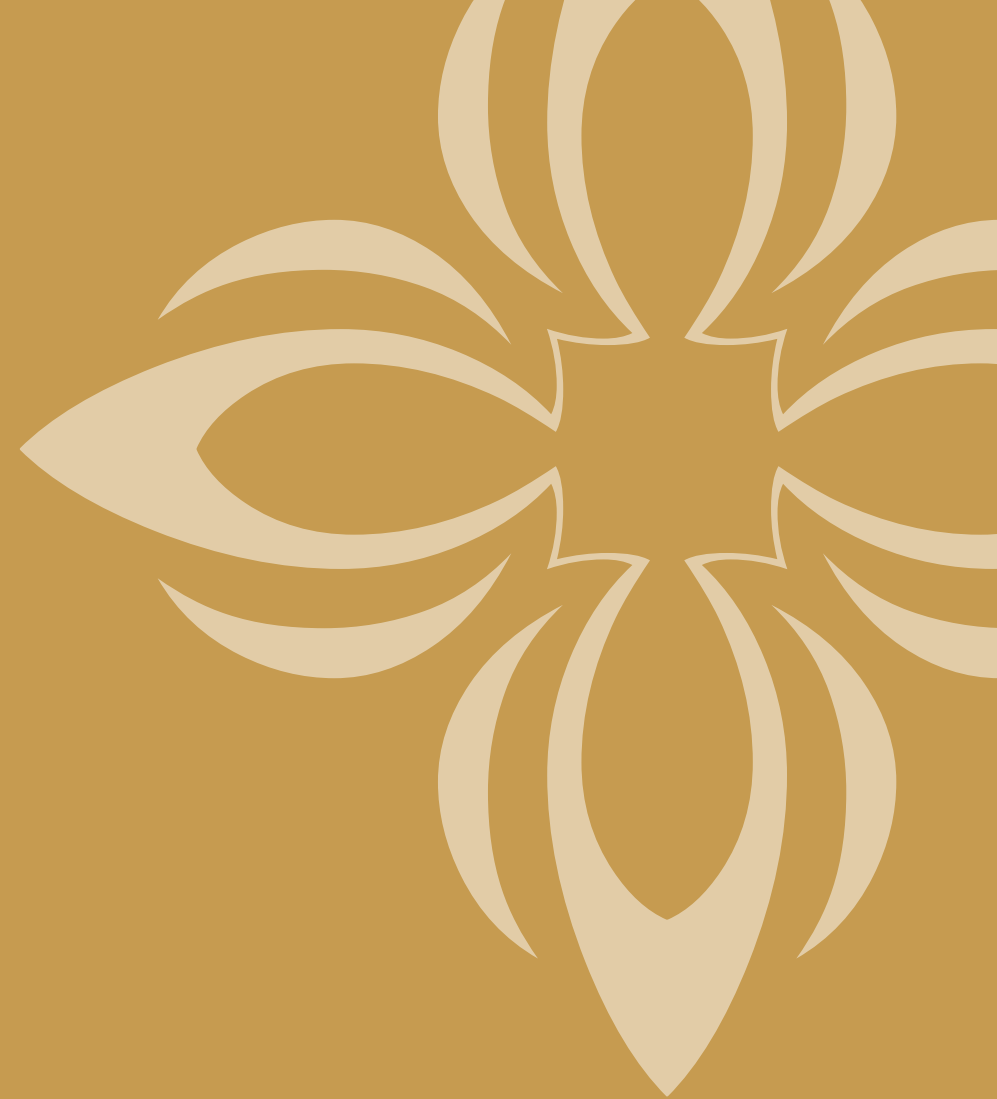


DSOI square is the center point between the Mhow civil Area and the Army area. It is like a bridge which Connects Mhow civil area and the Army area.



Old Grant Bungalow, Pune Cantonment






BUNGALOWS IN CANTONMENTS

Memories of a Bygone Era

The Bungalow, Fair View Cottage was the residence of Late Sh. B.K.Nehru and is situated on the Lower Mall, Kasauli. Late B K Nehru a former ICS officer worked as Governor of J&K and represented India at the UN.





Bungalow No. 114 is situated at post office Road in the centre of the Mhow Cantonment. It is a beautiful and well maintained bungalow in its grandeur from British times

Bungalow, Allahabad Cantonment

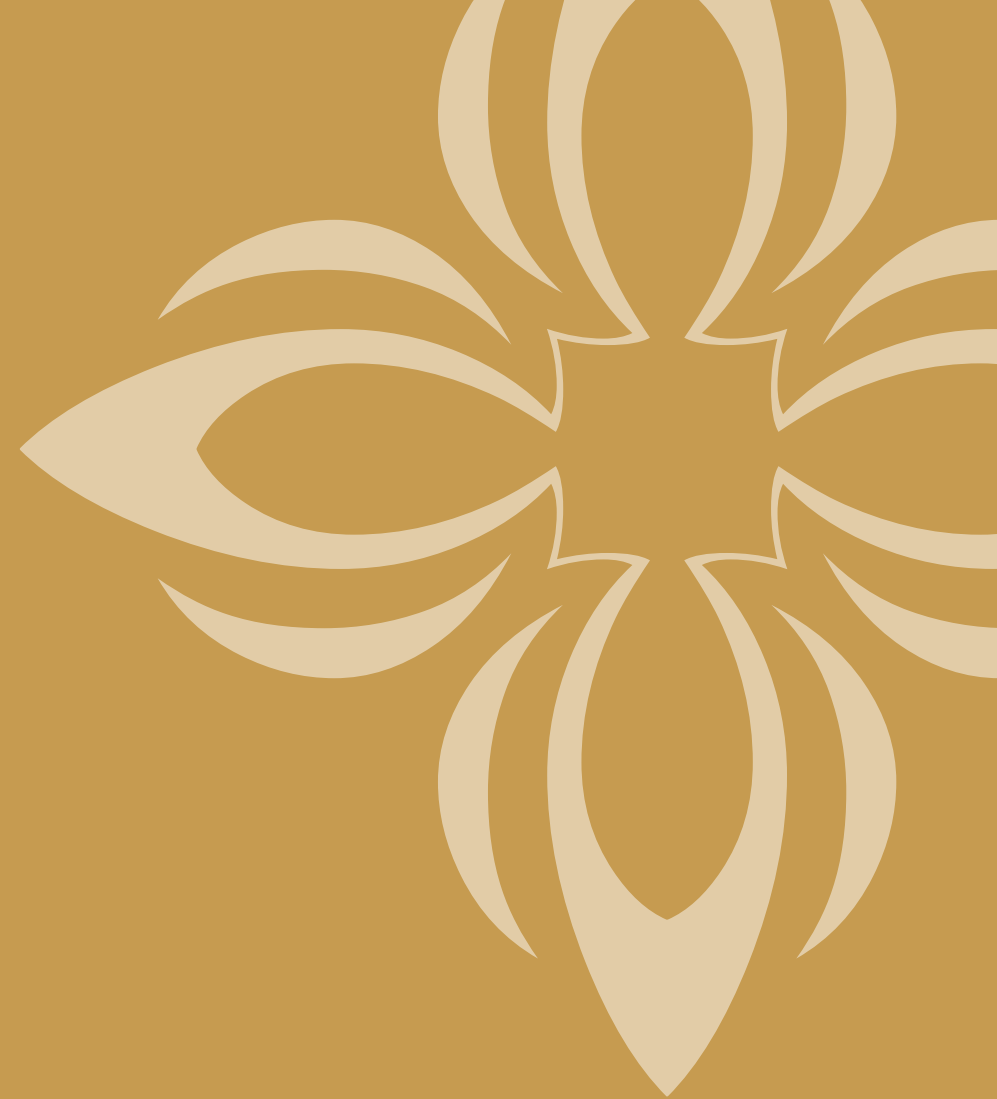


Bungalow, Pune Cantonment



Snow clad Hills of Dagshai Cantonment





HILL CANTONMENTS

Varied Flora and Fauna



Jalapahar Cantonment - Aerial View



Mountain View from Shillong Cantonment





Peach Flowers Ranikhet Cantonment





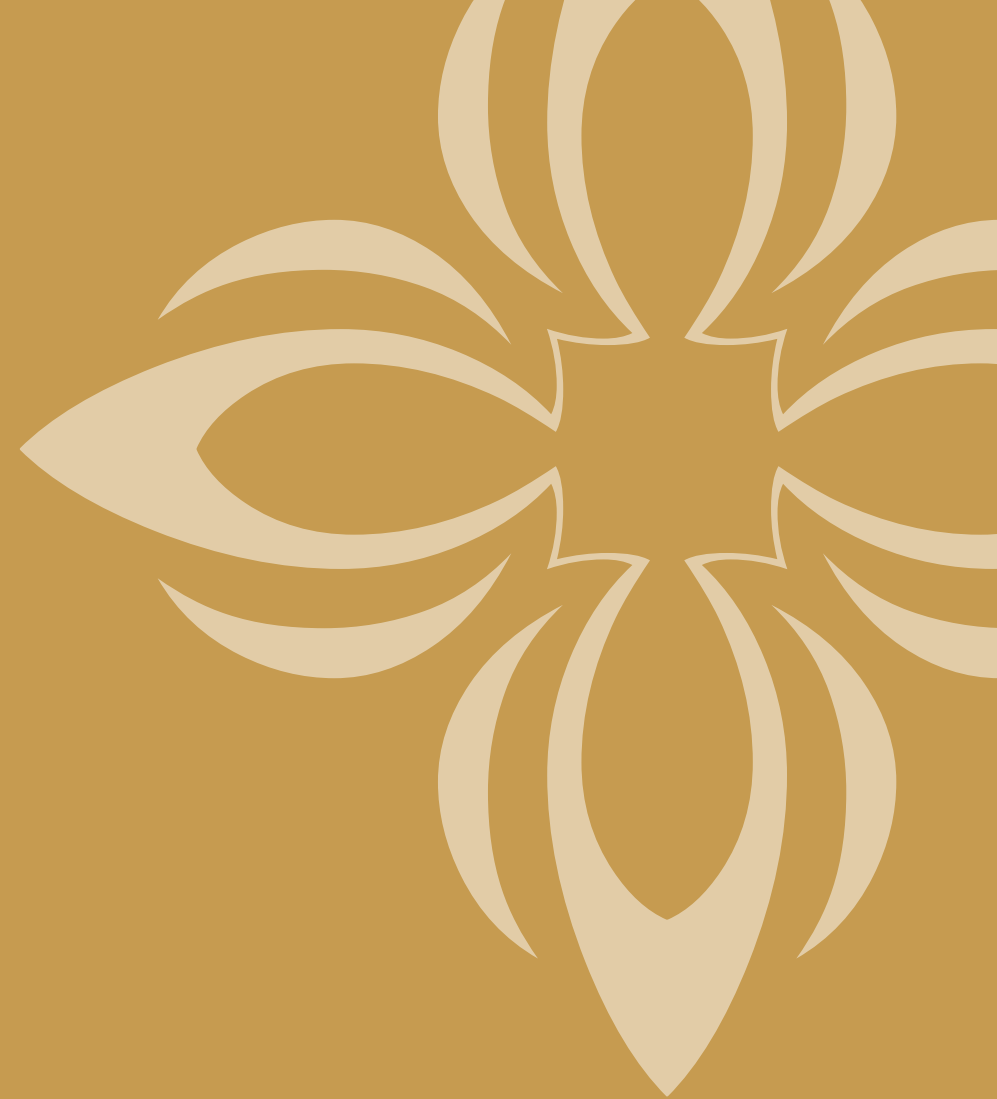
Danapur Cranes

Every year a number of rare migratory birds visit Danapur Cantonment, Bihar. Thousands of 'Open Billed White Storks' stay here between June and December for nesting and breeding. Several measures are taken by the Cantonment Board to protect these valued guests.









INSTITUTIS MAGNA

Important Institutions

Forest Research Institute, Dehradun Cantonment

The institute was initially known as Imperial Forest College. Indian Forest Service Officers are also trained here. The Forest Research Institute (FRI) is an institute of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and is a premier institution in the field of forestry research in India.



Indian Military Academy, Dehradun Cantonment

Indian Military Academy (IMA) was established in the Chetwode Building in 1932 in Dehradun Cantonment. IMA, Dehradun is the officer training Academy of the Indian Army.



Central Research Institute (CRI) was established during colonial rule of British, in the year 1905. The institute used to formulate vaccines for treatment of several diseases like smallpox, typhoid, cholera and snakebite. Under the reigns of British director Sir David Semple, the institute worked in the sphere of immunology and virological research for formulation of inoculations for snakebite and rabies. At present, the institute is managed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A collaborating centre, the institute is currently working with 'World Health Organization' for measles, polio and the DTP group of vaccines.



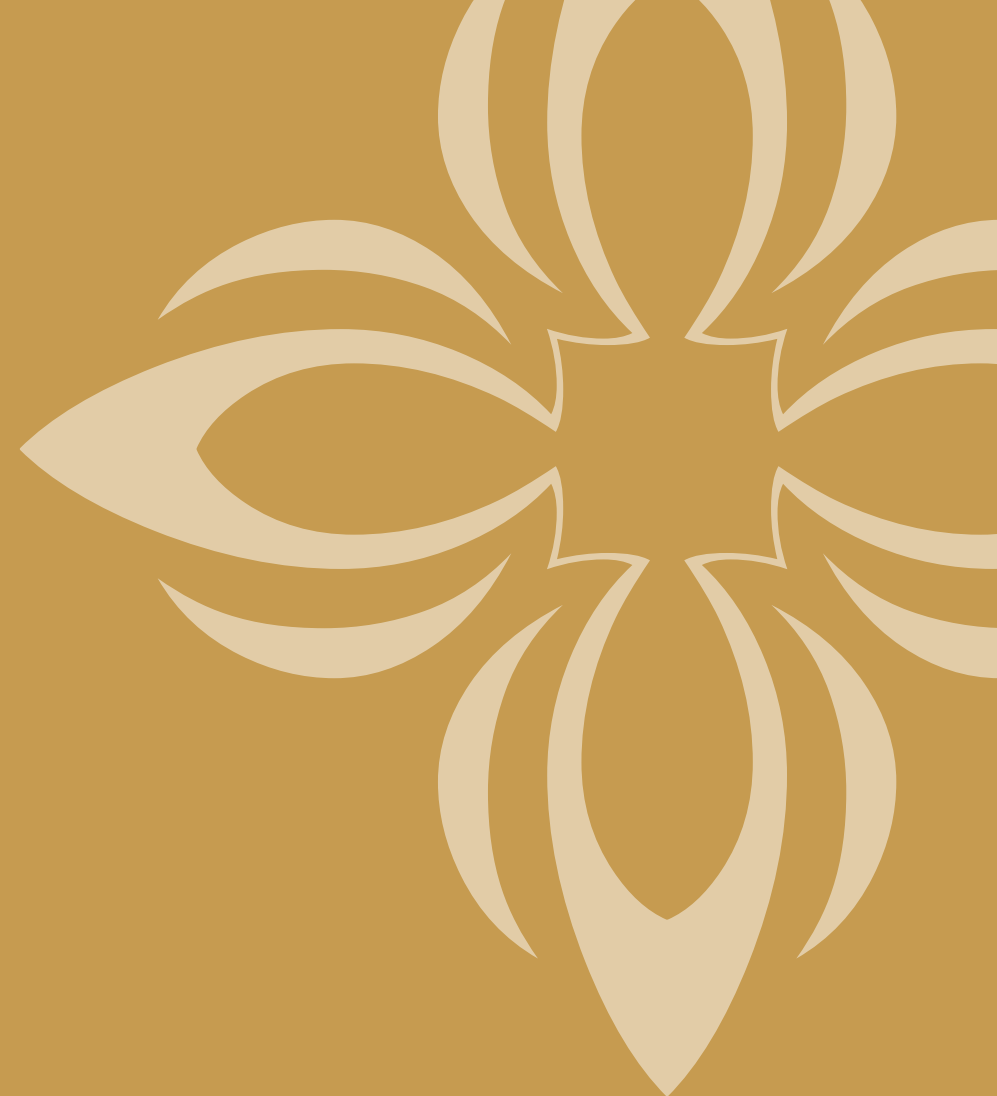
Race Course, Pune Cantonment

One of the premier race courses in the country where races are held every year.



Rain Water Harvesting at Kripa Special School, Delhi Cantonment





DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

in Cantonments



Development Initiatives

Cantonments are notified under Article 246 in the entry 3 of seventh schedule in the Central list of the Constitution. As per section 10(2) of the Cantonment Act 2006, Cantonments are designated as separate municipalities under the aegis of Central Government. Cantonment Boards constituted under the Cantonment Act are the municipal bodies empowered to regulate the municipal administration of Cantonment Areas.

There are 62 notified Cantonments across the country located in various states. A population of approximately 20 Lakh lives in these Cantonments.

The Cantonment Boards provide civic amenities like water supply, sewerage/drainage, roads, parks, street lights etc and also manage schools and hospitals which cater to not only the residents of Cantonments but also to public from the nearby municipal areas and villages.

Cantonments Boards across the Country manage 120, primary schools, 38, middle schools, 32, secondary and senior secondary schools along with 21 Inter Colleges. Approximately 52,269 students have been educated in these schools in year 2015-16.

Most of the Boards maintain General Hospitals or Dispensaries. Nearly 41 such Hospitals and 47 Dispensaries are presently being maintained by the Boards across the country and 11 lakh outpatients and 22,000 inpatients were treated in the year 2015-16.

A number of new initiatives have been taken up by

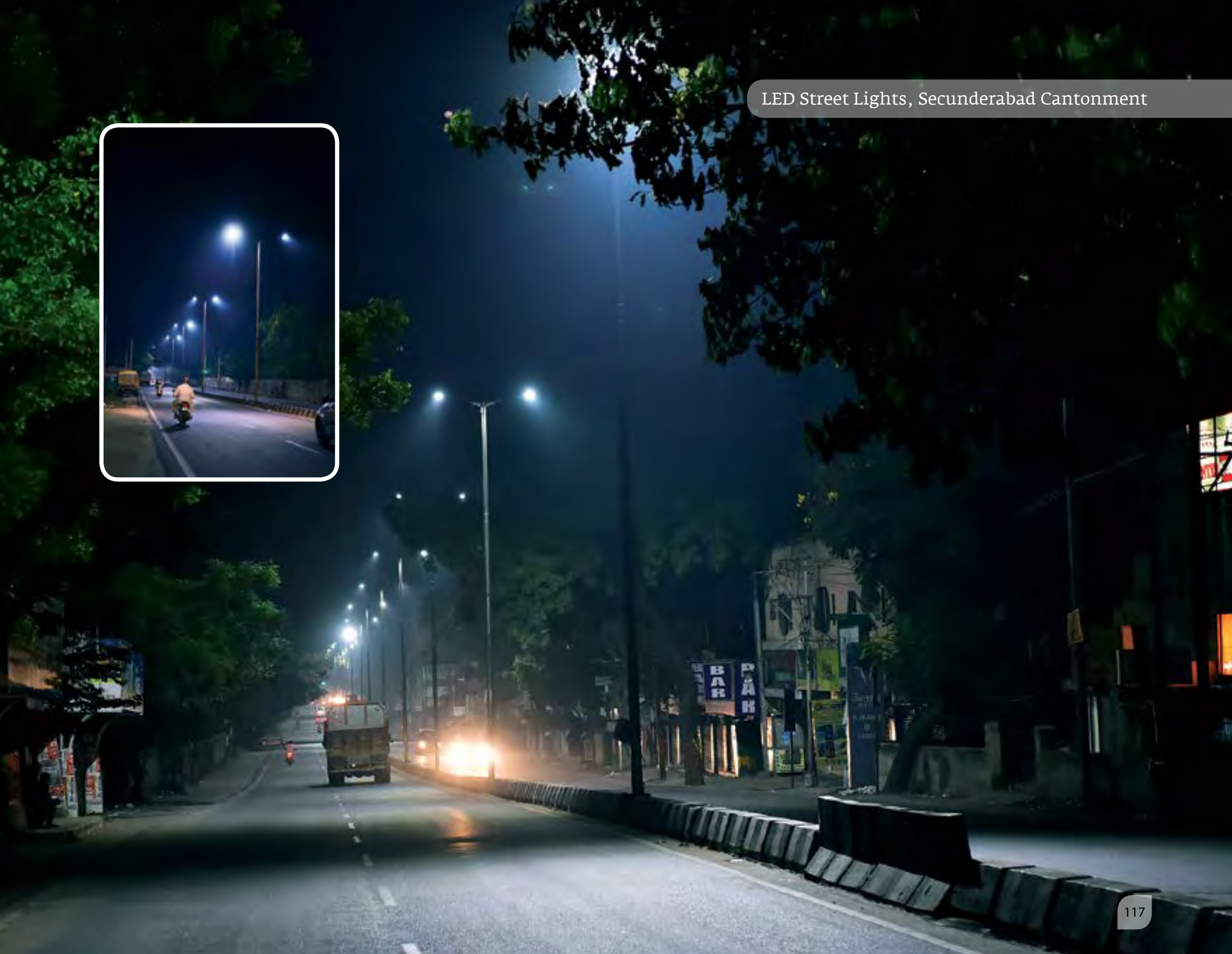
the Cantonment Boards to make the administration more responsive and people oriented. Initiatives like opening of schools for special children have been taken up by the Boards in a big way. Realizing that these kind of schools are required to cater to the specific requirements of children coming from poorer strata of the society, these schools impart free education/training to them. At present 36 special schools are being run by 36 Boards in which 3248 special children are being educated/ trained.

With the objective to provide alternate means of employment the Cantonment Boards are at present running 46 vocational training centres in which 16289 persons have been trained. As per available reports, 2227 persons have already obtained gainful employment after completing these courses.

Digital India initiatives of Government of India have also been implemented by Cantonments Boards. Payment of taxes and other dues online through digital payment gateways have commenced.

In addition to the above, many Cantonment Boards have also started Child Care Centres, Old Age Homes, Working Women's Hostel etc.

In keeping with the initiative of Central Government to develop smart cities across the country, 7 Cantonments are being developed as smart Cantonments. Apart from these, all the boards have also been advised to start implementing smart solutions in all areas of municipal administration.



Archival Unit & Resource Centre, Delhi Cantonment

Defence Estates Organization is one of the few Central Govt Departments which completed digitisation of nearly one crore Land and other records. AU&RC Delhi and Kirkee Cantonments have been established as central repositories of digitized data. These Centres also restore old records of various offices of DE organisation.









Prerna School for Special Children, Kanpur Cantonment





Cantonment Board School, Shillong



Cantonment Board Girls Inter College, Dehradun



An aerial photograph showing a large, multi-story building with a flat roof. The roof is covered with a dense array of blue solar panels. The building is surrounded by green trees and a paved area with some vehicles. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the top left of the image.

Solar Panels on the Cantonment
General Hospital, Delhi Cantonment

As part of Smart Cantonment initiative solar panels have been installed to enhance the renewable energy sources in many Cantonments.

A close-up photograph of a roof covered with blue solar panels. The panels are arranged in neat rows. In the background, there is a tall, thin antenna tower and a large, white, rectangular structure, possibly a water tank or a ventilation unit. The sky is clear and blue.

Roof Top Solar Panels, Secunderabad Cantonment

Cantonment General Hospital, Delhi Cantonment





Cantonment Boards maintain hospitals and dispensaries for providing health care to the residents of Cantonments as well as to nearby areas. Across the country 41 Hospitals and 47 dispensaries are being maintained by Boards. Nearly 11 lakhs Out Patients and 21,000 In Patients were treated in 2015-16.



Dialysis Unit in Kirkee Cantonment General Hospital being inaugurated by the then GoC-in-C, SC (now COAS) and PDDE (now DGDE)



NICU Unit, CGH Pune



Dialysis Unit, CGH Kirkee

International Yoga Day,
21st June, 2017
at Delhi Cantonment



Trenching ground, Pune Cantonment

After

Before



Distribution of Bicycles for students of Kirkee Cantonment Board Schools



खडकी छावनी परिषद
स्वातंत्रता विश्व



Mini Stadium, Delhi Cantonment





रक्षा सम्पदा संगठन
Defence Estates Organisation

Directorate General Defence Estates