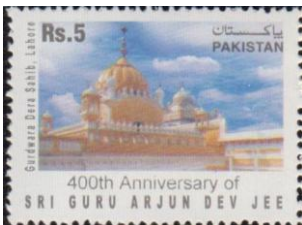


GURDWARA – “Gateway to the Guru”



All religions have temples where people can gather together to contemplate on God and pray. The Sikh temple is called a Gurdwara. The word '**Gurdwara**' means '**Gateway to the Guru**'. In Sikhism one's personal dedication to living a good life is important but another important aspect of Sikhism is the Sangat (congregation). Not only should one meditate on God on their individual level but also on a corporate level. There are thousands of Gurdwaras throughout Punjab, India. They serve as community centers for the Sikh's. There are no restrictions on who may enter a Gurdwara for prayer. People of all religions are welcome to attend.



The first Gurdwara was built in Kartarpur, Pakistan on the banks of Ravi River in the Punjab region by the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak Dev Ji in the year 1521. Sikh Empire was spread across the nowadays borders. Many Gurdwaras are in Pakistan too. Other than the, then Sikh Empire (which was spread across India & Pakistan), Now Sikhism is popular across the world and many gurdwaras are found in many parts of the world. Uganda and Malaysia have stamps on the gurdwaras.



Apart from Gurdwaras, many countries like Canada, Singapore have issued stamps on Sikhism or depicting Sikh people. Sikhism is the fifth largest organized religion and is found across the globe.