GLOSSARY

_Adi Granth:_ the Sikh scripture, compiled by Guru Arjan in 1604 (containing the compositions of the first five Gurus and a number of _bhaktas, sants_ and Sufis) and authenticated by Guru Gobind Singh with the compositions of Guru Tegh Bahadur. Now known as _Guru Granth Sahib._

_akhand path:_ 'unbroken reading'; an uninterrupted reading of the entire _Adi Granth_ performed by a team of readers.

_akhara:_ arena; a temple or monastery of the Udasis.

_Amir:_ a noble, a rich person.

_avidar:_ 'descent'; incarnation of a deity, usually Vishnu.

_bani:_ speech; the utterances of the Gurus and _bhaktas_ recorded in the _Adi Granth_; the amplified form _gurbani_ or _bhagat-bani_ is commonly used.

_bhang:_ hemp, cannabis, its leaves and pistils; hashish.

_charan pahul:_ nectar of the foot; the practice of drinking the water in which the toe of the _guru_ has been dipped, symbolizing humility and dedication on the part of the initiate; also called _charanamrit._

_chhimba:_ calico-printer.

_chhut:_ the practice of untouchability.

_Dasam Granth:_ the term used for the compilation earlier called the Book of the Tenth King (_dasven patshah ka granth_); its compilation is attributed to Bhai Mani Singh; the authorship of its contents (a number of independent compositions) and the date of its compilation have been the subject of debate.
dharmsal: the place for earning merit; Sikh sacred space or the Sikh place of worship in early Sikh history, now generally called Gurdwara.
gaddi: a throne; also used for the seat of the head of a religious fraternity.
Giani: one who has acquired knowledge or attained to divine knowledge; a learned Sikh.
gurbani: an utterance of the Guru; compositions of the Gurus included in Guru Granth Sahib.
gurbhai: a fellow disciple of the same guru, given great importance in the Sikh tradition.
gurblas: a poetical work written in praise of the Gurus, or one of the Gurus.
Gurmukhi: a script adopted by the first successor of Guru Nanak for recording his compositions and used subsequently for the Sikhs for writing Punjabi.
haumai: the psyche of self-centredness, arising out of attributing to oneself what actually is due to God’s will.
hukamnama: ‘a written order’; used generally for the letters of the Sikh Gurus to their followers.
jagir: an assignment of land revenue in lieu of salary for performing service for the state.
jamaat: a group of an uncertain number.
Janamsakhi: a collection of episodes associated with the life of Guru Nanak, meant primarily to depict his doctrines, ethics and his spiritual status; several traditions of this genre developed in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
**jatha**: a group, a band; used particularly for the fighting unit of the Khalsa in the eighteen century.

**jhatka**: the mode of slaughtering an animal for meat with one stroke of the sword or some other weapon; the traditional non-Muslim mode of slaughtering animals in India. Unlike halal, it did not carry any religious significance.

**jhiwar**: a water-carrier by caste.

**julaha**: a weaver by caste.

**kachh**: short drawers of a special kind meant to be worn by those Sikhs who have been initiated through baptism of the double-edged sword.

**kafir**: an infidel from the Muslim viewpoint; a non-Muslim who does not belong to the category of ‘the people of the book’ like the Christians and the Jews.

**kara**: an iron bracelet meant to be worn by the baptized Khalsa.

**karha parsad**: sacramental food distributed in Gurdwaras to all persons present, generally prepared with equal quantities of wheat flour, sugar and ghee.

**kes (kesh)**: hair of the head, uncut hair.

**keshdhar**: a baptized Singh who maintains long unshorn hair.

**kirpan**: a sword.

**Lambardar**: a village headman.

**langar**: the kitchen attached to a Gurdwara from which food is served to all regardless of caste or creed; a community meal; a kitchen.

**lathi**: a staff; a club, prop, support.
lohar: blacksmith.

mahal: a revenue sub-division usually corresponding with pargana also applied to a source of revenue.

mahant: the head of a religious establishment, generally celibate but not in all cases; therefore, succession in some cases could be hereditary; used for the custodians of Gurdwaras to whom recognition and support was given by the British administration.

Majha: the central portion of the Bari Doab, covering the region from Amritsar to Kasur and from Lahore to Bhairowal on the Beas.

Malwa: The region covered by the district of Ludhiana, a large part of the district of Ferozepore and parts of the former states of Patiala and Nabha.

mlechha: impure; a derogatory term used for an outcaste or a foreigners, both were regarded as outside the four-tier varna order.

nai: a barber by caste.

Nihang: The militant followers of Guru Gobind Singh who regarded themselves as the guardians of the faith.

Nirmalas: an order of ascetics in Sikhism.

pahul: water used for initiating a person as a Sikh (charan pahul) or a Singh (khande ki pahul).

Panth: literally a path; the people following a particular path; collectively the followers of the Gurus; the Sikh community.

parchar: propagation of ideas, particularly of one's faith.
pir: among Muslim mystics the guide who leads on the path of union with God; believed to be a bestower of blessings after his death.

qaum: a significant social group or a particular occupation; a nationality; a nation.

rahit: way of life, used especially for the Sikh way of life in accordance with the philosophic and ethical principles advanced by the Gurus.

Rahitnama: a written code of belief and conduct; norms laid down for the Sikh way of life in accordance with the principles of Sikhism, including 'punishment' for infringing those principles.

Sahajdhari: a Sikh who is not baptized as a Singh and does not observe the Khalsa code of discipline; a non-Singh Khalsa.

sangat: assembly, religious congregation; a congregation of Sikhs; the collective body of Sikhs at one place.

sanyasi: a renunciant, generally a Shaivite.

sarbrah: manager, head.

shabad: the word; a hymn; a verse of Guru Granth Sahib.

Shastra: a religious or secular treatise regarded as authoritative.

shraddh: the rite by which the dead ancestors are supposed to be fed through the mediacy of Brahmans.

siddh: a person who has attained to a high spiritual state so as to command supernatural powers.

Sufedposh: the middle category among the grantees of colony land, with 50-150 acres.

Tarkhan: a carpenter by caste.
tat khalsa: the staunch Khalsa; used for the Khalsa of Guru Gobind Singh who opposed Banda Bahadur and his followers in the early eighteenth century, and also for the Singh reformers of the early twentieth century.

thakardwaras: a temple dedicated to Vishnu or one of His incarnations.

tilak: the sacred mark on the forehead a Brahman, an upper caste Hindu, or the member of any religious sect; also used for the coronation of a ruler.

zaildar: The head of zail or a group of villages; placed above the village lambardar in the British Punjab; his earlier prototype was the Chaudhary who had more power having the support of his retainers.