

INDEX

- Ahirs, 8, 10, 20, 22, 24, 58
Ahirvati (the Ahirs' habitation), 8
Ain-i-Akbari, 11
Akbar, Emperor, 11–12, 44
Allah, Shah Wali, 160n18
Alwar, 3, 8, 35n35, 41, 43, 120
 communal relations in, 86–93
- controversial *śuddhī* campaign, 88–91
 democratic reforms, 87–88
 disputes related to Laldas temples,
 79–86
 electoral processes, 88
 issue of religious processions during
 Holi and Muharram, 89
 under Jai Singh, 86–87
 Meo population in, 17
 Ramgarh *tehsil* of, 25
 riot, 1932, 89
 total population in, 15, 35n36
Alwar Muslim League, 83
Anjmun Hidayatul Islam, 91
antagonistic tolerance, 103n6, 228,
 230
anti-syncretism, 30n8
- appropriated space, 110
appropriation of space, 110, 131n1
ārtī song, 124–25
Arya *dharm* (doctrines), 139
Arya Samaj, 2, 88–89, 135–37, 140,
 216n41
 adherence to ritual texts, 141
 ideology of a non-idol, non-human
 worshiper, 181, 186n36
 participation in political matters,
 136–37
 religious conversion, 137, 141
 revival of Hindu culture and
 traditions, 137
 social issues and practices, 136
 śuddhī (purification/conversion)
 campaign, 88–91
asceticism, 93
Auliya, saint Nizamuddin, 91
Babri mosque, 78, 102n4
 demolition of, 207
Bahar, Dada, 11–14
Bajrang Dal, 84, 101, 136
Balban, ruler, 17
Baniya Laldasis, 67, 80, 84

- Baniyas, 1, 4–5, 7, 28, 29n1, 31n12, 38n62, 59, 79, 84, 89, 98–101, 116, 126–28, 140, 229–31
 commercial activities, 96–97
 construction of new temples, 101
 importance of family and community, 98–99
 Jain, 108n50
 middle-class, 96
 religious orientation of, 4–5, 113
 role in developing political power of Hindutva, 101, 111, 123–24, 129–30, 135–36
sagun mode of worship, 99, 112
 social and economic relations between Meos and, 99, 107n48, 108n48, 108n56
- Barani, 18
- bards, 187–98
 art and livelihood, 205
 critique of religious purity, 206
 Jogi and Mirasi, 193, 196, 208
 Mewati, 192, 195, 197–98, 204, 207
 Muslim, 192–96
 self-identification, 210
- Bauls of Bengal, 192, 213n15
 songs, 213n16
- begging, 95
- Bengali Muslims, 73n36
- Bhagirath of Saharanpur, 45
- bhaicārā* (brotherhood) settlements, 189
- Bhakta Prahalad, 118
- Bhakti movement, 2, 18–19, 36n40–41, 54, 69n13, 218
- bhakti* (devotion) path, 2
- Bhapang, 199–200
- Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP), 101, 207
- Bhogari, 56, 58
- bidāh/bidat*, 148–50
- Bisarani, Dadi, 12
- Brahminical, 22, 31n11
- Brahminical forms of worship, 99
- Brahminical hierarchies of society, 69n15
- Brahminical Hinduism, 53, 72n30, 96–97, 107n45, 112–14, 140, 231
murti/idol worship, 112–15
 Vaishnavite form of, 112, 131n4
- Brahminical style of life, 99
- Brahmins, 22, 29n1, 38n58, 59, 72n30, 73n35, 76, 88, 105n24, 112–14, 118, 131n4, 231
- Braj language and culture, 197–98
- Braj region, 20, 23, 198, 215n32, 221
- Buddhism, 226
- caste, 41–43, 58–59, 66, 81, 88, 92–93, 96, 99, 101, 104n22, 105n27
- chaddar* offering practice, 65–66
- Chiraklot clan, 12–13
- cillā*, 151
- collective Muslim self, 142
- communalism in India, 37n29
- communal relations in Alwar, 86–93
- competitive sharing, 79, 103n6, 230
- concealment and secrecy, ethnographic narratives of
 of Abid, 175–77
 of Ahmad, 164–71
 of Haruni, 177–79
 of Hazra, 179–80
 Rabiya and Fatima, religious dilemma of, 171–75
 of Shiv Shankar Singla, 180–83
 as a social phenomenon, 174–75, 182, 183n2, 184n9
- Constantinople conquest, 102n2
- cow veneration, 14–15, 55–61
- cultural-religious sharing of saintly figures and religious orders, 226–28
- Dada Bahar, 11–14
- Dadu, 66, 96
- Damrot Meos, 13

- dargāh*, 63–64, 83, 91, 106n37, 121, 135,
154–56, 161n26, 167–69, 229
- darśan* of a deity, 97, 100, 140
- devotional desires, 4, 7
- devotional differences, 93–101, 114, 158,
227–28, 230, 232
- act of *darśan*, 97
- asceticism, 94
- in Baniya and Meo religious cultures,
99–101
- bhajans* (religious songs), 97
- ‘Bhakti’ and ‘Sufi’ modes of piety, 93
- God’s service, 95
- between Hindu and Muslim, 142
- Kabir and Ravidas, 93–94, 96
- sectarian (*panth*) differences, 93–94
- transition from *nirgun* to a *sagun*, 99
- Vaishnava and Shaiva traditions, 94
- devotional ethos of north Indian
peasantry, 25
- devotional Hinduism, 2, 18, 70n24, 76
- devotional practices of Sufism, 224
- devotional sensibility, 18, 219
- devotional songs, 73n35, 127, 139
- dhikr/dhyān*, 147, 231
- Dholidoob shrine of Laldas, Alwar, 43, 80
- Dhyanpur temple, 45–46
- dohā-dhānī śāli* (*dohā dhānī* style), 197,
215n31
- dominated space, 110
- domination of space, 110, 131n1
- dual religious identity, 1
- Duhlot clan, 120
- Dungarisi Sadh, 39–40, 49, 67n1–2, 70n16,
125, 227
- Durga Mata temple, 137–38
- ethnic cleansing, 90
- false consciousness, 207
- Farookh, Umar, 205
- faujdar*, 41–42, 50
- female sexuality, 210
- folk poetry and folk musical styles,
196–202
- folk tales, 47, 196, 210
- Gadan of Tijara, Chishti, 51
- Ganga, the goddess and Ganges River,
44–45
- Gazi Miyan, 58
- genealogies
- of *itihās-purān*, 22
- Jaduvansi *pāls*, 20
- kinship conceptions, 23
- Meo community, 19–24
- Meo *pāl*, 96
- myth, memory and history, 37n54
- patterns of social interrelations and
socio-economic status, 23
- God concept, 41–42
- in *nirgun* form, 42
- Gujarvati, 8
- Gurgaon’s Muslim population, 15
- Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, 78
- Hajj pilgrimage, 52
- Hegelian treatment of power, 191–92
- Hegel’s philosophy, 186n30
- hidden transcripts, 190–91
- Hindi language, 48–49, 68n7, 70n18–19,
70n21, 86, 199, 204
- Hindu ascetics, 65
- Hindu caste, 1–3, 7–11, 14–17, 19–21, 29n3,
33n28, 36n49, 46, 51–52, 54–55,
58, 63
- Hindu *dharm sabhās* (Hindu religious
organisations), 87
- Hindu fundamentalism, 203
- Hinduisation, 85
- ‘Hinduised’ religious behaviour, 87
- Hinduism, 18, 23, 29n3, 53, 55, 67, 85, 87,
91–93, 104n22–23, 137, 162, 166, 200,
219, 231

- Hindu Laldasis, 1, 76, 80–81, 83–85
- Hindu lineage (*gotra*) system, 36n49
- Hindu–Muslim composite heritage,
202–11
- Nath, Sufi and Bhakti religious streams,
 204, 207
- notion of religious synthesis, 204
- songs for local consumption, 205
- Hindu–Muslim relations/dispute, 82, 89,
92, 101, 107n48, 130, 139, 141, 147,
166, 207–08, 210, 223
- riots in Tijara, 90
- Hindu nationalism, 86, 101
- Hindu Rashtra (nation), 137
- Hindu religioscape, 7
- Hindu Sabha of Alwar, 81–82
- Hindutva, 29n3
- Hodal, 26
- idol installation and vivification
 processes
- Laldas temples, 116, 231
- Punahana temple, 132n8
- Ilyas, Maulana, 91, 146
- Indianisation of services and posts, 88
- Indic eclecticism, 166
- Indic form of life, 55, 58–59, 63, 73n34,
74n38, 88, 225
- religiosities, 58
- Intekhab-e-Tehreek, 91
- inter-caste relations, 27
- inter-community alliances and conflicts,
13
- interreligious disputes at shared spaces,
78–86
- inter-religious relations, 10–11
- Islam, 29n3, 54–55, 67, 93, 219
- in India, 104n21
- prohibited practices in, 195, 214n22
- Islamic Deobandi school, 91
- Islamic reformism, 192–96
- Islamic Sufism, 147
- Islamuddin, 146
- itihās-purān*, 22, 37n52
- Jadu (Yadu) clan of Mathura, 20
- Jaduvansi Meos, 20
- Jaduvansi *pāls*, 20
- Jaggas, 46, 69n11, 118
- Jaharpir, 137–139, 159n7
- Jaharpir saint, 139
- Jaharpir temple, 137–38
- Jainism, 166
- ajmānī* (patron–client) system, 187–92,
195, 212n4
- caste and labour relations under, 192
- dissolution of, 189
- Jogis and Mirasis under, 190
- patronage towards folk artists, 190
- jalsā*, 152–54, 166, 168
- Jats, 8, 12–13, 18, 22, 24, 32n19, 58, 105n25,
115–16, 227
- migratory histories, 18
- peasants, 8
- Jattiyaat, 8
- jāgran*, 126, 195
- Jinnah, Muhammed Ali, 82
- jivdayā*, 42, 56
- Jogi/Yogi, 24, 27, 37n50, 69n15, 88, 105n28,
158, 159n2, 183, 187–93, 196,
198–202, 208, 210–11, 211n2, 213n15,
215n33–35, 216n41–42, 221
- jāti*, 33n28, 34
- Kabir, 66, 96
- kabīrpanth*, 29n4, 93
- Kabir, Guru, 1
- kaccā* houses, 122
- Kacchvaha Meos, 21
- Kamaal, Haji Shah, 68n10
- Kamakhya Devi, 201–02
- Kayath, 98
- Khan, Ghaus, 43
- Khan, Maqbul, 152, 154, 166–68

- Khan, Rammal, 194–95
 Khan, Sahab, 39–40, 43, 47
 Khan, Ustad, 193
 Khare, Narayan Bhaskar, 90
 kinship relations, 220
 Krishna, Lord, 19–20, 23–24, 31n11, 58,
 69n13, 74n39, 120, 164–65, 170,
 197–98, 211, 217n49, 227
 Krishnaite song of divine love, human
 feelings and universal values,
 192–93
kṣatriya (warriors), 19–24, 201
 Kshatriya (caste), 29n1, 38n58, 118
 Kurmi peasants, 22, 58
 Kurmis, 24
 Kutub, 120
- Laldas, 1, 29n4, 39–40
 adherence to strict vegetarianism, 40
 anecdotes of, 14
 ārtī song of, 124–25
 as Bhagirath of Saharanpur, 45, 68n9
 booklets and pamphlets about, 117
 confrontation between Naths and, 94
 conversation between Gadan and, 51
 Dungarisi Sadh, 39–40, 49, 67n1–2,
 70n16, 125, 227
 early years, 43
 encounters between state officials and,
 40–42
 equal proximity, 54
 family, 43, 120
 five rules, 1
 followers of, 1, 63, 66
 genealogy of, 116–23, 132n11
 God concept, 41–42
 graves of, 121
 hagiographical narratives, 47–55
 identity of, 46, 54, 68n6
 incarnation story, 117–18
 interactions with Mughal rulers and
 Mughal officials, 44, 50
 Meo genealogy of, 118–19
 message of religious indifference, 52
 miraculous events, 40–43, 49, 68n5,
 139–40
 names of, 43
 new form, 111
 path of *nirguṇ bhakti*, 50–51
 religiosity of, 2
 religious behaviour, 39–40
 religious diversity of, 225
 religious order of, 44
 sajrā (family lineage) of, 119–20
 sādh of, 62
 teachings and his *samprādāya*'s, 5
 traditional shrines of, 3–5
 Laldasi *panth* (religious path), 1–2, 30n5
 'Laldas Kirtan Mandali' (Laldas Music
 Society), 127
 Laldas Mandir Avam Vikas Samiti, 103n17
 Laldas religious order, 218–19
 Laldas temples, 112–16
 advertising processes, 126–28
 annual fairs and festivals, 123
 baithaks (resting place) of, 126, 133n22
 devotional styles, 93–101
 disputes related to, 79–86
 idol installation and vivification
 processes, 116, 231
 Laldas's *samādhī* status, 116, 132n7
 Meo *sādh*'s relationship with, 121–23,
 132n6
 money and resources, 128–31
 murti/idol worship, 112–15
 practice of *bhandārā* (ritual feast),
 127–28
 prayers and bhajans, 124–25
 role of Brahmin priest, 116
 shobhā yātrās (pageants), 124
 temple committees, 125–26, 132n9
 transformation by Baniya community,
 112–15, 123, 128–31
 yātrās (pilgrimages), 123–24

- liminality, 30n8, 53–54, 71n28, 72n29, 72n31–33, 86, 111, 131n3
- laldāsī samprādāy*, 43
- Machhendranath, Guru, 201
- madrasa*, 91, 143, 155–56, 166, 169
- Mahabharata, 20, 23, 37n55, 70n21, 116, 118, 196–97, 216n40
- mahāsabhās* (major associations), 24
- maktabs*, 86
- markaj*, 144, 171
- maulavis*, 35n31, 144, 153–54, 160n18, 168–69, 171, 178–79, 184n6
- Mecca mosque, abandoned, 53
- Meenavati, 8
- Meo, Lal Khan, 1. *See also* Laldas
- Meo Laldasis, 80
- Meo Muslim *sādhs*, 62–63
- Meo *pāls*, 20–21
- marriage, 21
- material and symbolic practices, 21
- Meos, 1, 8–9, 88
- description of, 9–10
- devotion of Bhakti and Sufi saints, 46
- genealogies of, 19–24
- Islamisation of, 14
- kinship conceptions, 23–24
- kṣatriya* (warrior) status, 20–22
- land-ownership, 188
- marriage ceremonies, 189
- Meo's self-perception, emotions and sensibilities, 24
- migratory histories, 18
- number of sacrifices by, 37n57
- origins, 18
- parallel marriage, 21
- population estimate, 15–17
- practice of endogamy, 21
- relationships between kinship, 19
- religious experiences, 147
- resistance to Mughal and British imperial rulers, 14
- social, religious and economic profile of, 15–25
- version of popular Islam, 54
- worship of 'Hindu' deities and goddesses, 16–17
- Meo villagers, 84–85
- Mewat, 27
- Mewat Development Agency, 177
- mewāti bāt*, 196–97, 214n28, 215n33
- Mewati Development Society (MDS), Punahana, 26
- Mewati dialect, 8, 49, 70n19
- Mewati, Hasan Khan, 14, 24, 35n32
- Mewati Muslim mythology, 211
- Mewati Muslims, 14, 46, 90–91, 150, 188, 211
- portrayal of, 17
- Mewat region, 8–15
- anti-national activities in, 9
- Aravalli mountains, 9
- binary of 'Hindu' and 'Muslim,' 9–11
- religious and social identities in, 11
- Mirasis, 24, 27, 37n50, 158, 187, 199, 202, 211n2
- murti*/idol worship, 112–15, 131n5
- Muslim ascetics, 159n2
- Muslim eclecticism, 166
- Muslim Laldasis, 1, 83, 96, 101
- Muslim League, 82, 91
- Muslimness, 47
- Muslim religiouscape, 7
- mustaqīm*, 50–51, 70n22, 224
- Naga/Nath Sadhu, 94
- namāz*, 40, 53, 77, 79–81, 91, 144, 151, 165, 179, 194–95
- Nath cult, 201
- Nath Yoga, 94
- Nath *yogī*, 201
- Nirban Chauhans, 20
- nirguṇ bhakti* (formless devotion), 1, 50–51, 53, 70n23–24, 93, 96–97, 147
- Islamic concept of Allah, 96

- nuktāvalī*, 47–48, 50, 67n2, 70n16–17, 70n19, 94, 124, 224
- oral histories, 47
- Pahara, 43
- pāls*, 12, 20–21, 34n30, 36n45, 39n49, 43, 62, 96, 120, 165
- pancāyats*, 12, 60, 66, 81, 169
- Partition violence, 83–84, 89, 92, 102n5
- passive resistance, 28, 159, 164, 183, 183n4, 184n6, 188, 191–92, 197, 202, 205, 208, 212n3, 215n38, 233
- patrons. See *ajmānī* (patron–client) system
- pilgrimages, 123–24
- pīr*, 1, 29n1, 39, 42, 46, 50, 54, 63, 74n38, 101, 140, 157, 159n7, 180, 185n12, 222
- polytropy, 140, 165
- Powlett, William Percy, 17, 35n37, 40, 43, 63, 68n5, 95, 97–98, 112, 120–21, 123, 125, 133n19
- Prajamandal, 87–88
- public transcript, 190–91, 213n12
- Punahana temple, 11, 38n62, 135–37, 140
idol vivification at, 132n8
religious beliefs and practices, 140–41
- Qasim, Maulana Muhammad, 91
- Quran, 50, 61, 66, 83–84, 91, 142, 144–45, 152–54, 156, 166–68, 206, 210, 223
- Raghuvansis, 21
- Rajni, legend of, 11–12
- Rajput martial tradition, 22
- Ram, Lord, 1, 14, 19–21, 24, 29n2, 29n4, 31n11, 43, 51, 53–54, 56, 60, 69n13, 87, 94, 99, 102n4, 114, 120, 211, 217n48–49, 224, 227, 230–31
- Ramayana, 21, 23
- Ramgarh, 26
- Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS), 84, 101, 104n19, 136, 142, 180, 216n41
- rasiyā*, 198
- Ravidas, 66, 96
- Rawat clan, 12–13
- Rawat Jats, 13
- reformist pressure, 2, 158, 179, 183
- religions and religious views in India, 30n6, 226
- religiocapes, 7, 83
- religious affiliations, 47
- religious ancestry, 20
- religious antagonism, 219
- religious consciousness, 11, 92–93
- religious conversion, 89
- religious identities, 1–2, 4, 10–12, 18, 28, 31n10, 33n28, 34n30, 47, 66–67, 81, 84–86, 92–93, 158, 166, 169, 195, 202, 207–08, 211, 218–20
- religious mixing and sharing, 221, 226–28
- religious notions and symbols, uses of, 180
- religious other, 49
- religious pluralism, 166
- religious purity, 2, 84
- religious self-identification, 210
- religious symbolism and practices in *panth*, 65
- religious syncretism, 221–26
- religious transformations, 4, 18, 83
- rojā*, 40, 53, 61
- sādh*, 39–40, 49, 61–67, 62, 74n14, 76, 84–85, 95, 114, 116, 120–23, 129–30, 132n6, 132n11, 133n20, 231
- sagun*, 96, 99, 229
- Saharanpur temple, 45–46
- Saiket, 166–68
- saint hagiographies, 47
- sajrā*, 119–20
- samprādāy* or *panth* (order/path/sect), 5, 31n11, 122, 219
- Sanatan Dharma Sabha, 87
- Sanga, Rana, 14
- Sanskrit *vrat kāthās* (fasting tales), 197

- Saraswati, Dayanand, 140
- Sarupa, 43
- sayyeds*, 64–65, 74n43, 75
- secrecy. *See* concealment and secrecy, ethnographic narratives of
- Shah, Kanifnath/Rahman, 18
- Shah, Modi, 97–98
- Shah Chokha tomb, 11–12, 27, 151, 154–56, 159n1, 163–64, 168–70, 173, 175, 179, 229
- Shaivite philosophy, 36n41, 69n15
- Shakti cult, 201
- shared/mixed shrines, 2, 8, 78, 86, 92, 101, 102n3, 102n5, 111, 130, 145, 157–58, 228, 230, 232
- shared religiosity, 2–3, 6
- shared sacred spaces, 78, 92, 101, 102n3, 111, 218
- disputes at, 228–33
- ‘mixing’ of diverse values and boundaries, 226–28
- opposing and appropriating, 228–33
- shared devotion of Laldas, 101
- Sherpur shrine of Laldas, 3–4, 27, 38n61, 163
- anthropomorphic form for *darśan*, 100
- civil suit, 80–81
- clashes, 81–83
- control of, 84
- devotional differences, 93–101
- dispute, 2012, 84
- Hinduisation of, 75–76, 85–86
- Hindu Laldas’ ownership of, 78
- Hindu symbols at, 75–76, 85
- interreligious disputes at, 78–86
- kabra*, 6
- matter of offering *namāz*, 80
- Muslim *sādh* performing *ārtī* at, 64
- non-operational mosques inside, 76–77
- srāddh* ceremony, 81
- structure, 75–76
- shirk*, 148–50
- shiv katha* (the story of Shiva), 198
- Shiv Sena, 84
- Shukoh, Dara, 44
- Sikand, 78
- Singh, Jai, 86–87
- Singh, Ram, 135, 139
- Singh, Shyam, 139
- Singh, Tej, 86
- social construction of space, 110–11, 131n2
- social production of space, 110–11, 131n2
- spiritual leadership, 73n35
- śuddhī* (purification/conversion) campaign, 88–89
- Sufi *darḡāh*, 135
- Sufism, 18–19, 36n40–41, 54, 69n13, 93–94, 146, 219
- Sufi spiritualism, 50
- Sunni Islam/Sunni Muslims, 14, 28, 33n20, 63, 78, 84, 101, 130, 146, 148, 152, 170–71, 195, 228–29
- syncretism, 30n8, 72n32, 85, 214n17, 221–26, 233n3–233n5
- Tablighi Jamaat, 2, 62, 91–92, 130, 141–42, 182–83, 187–88, 206–07, 211
- activities in Punahana, 144
- acts of *bidāh* (religious innovations), 150
- adoption of Sufi doctrines, 232
- cillā*, 151
- concept of *dāvāh*, 145
- connection between Sufism and, 146–47
- dhikr* (remembrance of God), 231
- doctrine of *shirk*, 149, 151
- form of religious piety, 231
- idea of ‘Muslimness’, 148, 158
- idea of ‘proper’ religious conduct, 154
- ideology, 164, 189
- ijtemā*, 153
- influence in aspects of life, 143
- influence on Meos, 156–57
- main spheres of Tablighi life, 144, 152, 156

- markaj*, 171
 mission of, 144
 mode of functioning of organisation, 145
 perspectives on saints and shrines, 154–55
 philosophy, 147–48
 principles (*chhe bātein*) of, 144–45
 prophetic mimesis, 150
 ‘radical’ religious politics of, 154
 reform movement, 142–43, 158
 religious congregations, or *jalsā*, 152–54
 religious duties of Tablighi Muslim, 171
 style of functioning, 144
tawhid (the unity of God), 149
 valid and invalid religious practices sanctioned by, 170–71
 view of Islam and Sufism, 148–49, 151–52, 163, 168–69, 231
 view of worship of Laldas and Shah Chokha saints, 168
 Tablighis, 84–85
tawhid, 144, 149, 160n16, 224
 Tijara, saint Gadan, 93
 tolerance, idea of, 102n5
 Turks, 41–42, 51, 185n10

ummāh, 12, 154, 158, 194
 Urdu, 49–50, 70n19, 70n21, 86, 143, 204, 214n19

 Vaishnava/Vaishnavite tradition, 4, 31n11
 form of worship, 112–15, 131n4–5
 Vaishnava sect in Dhyampur, 45
 Vishwa Hindu Parishad, 101, 216n41

waḥdat al-wujūd, 51–52, 71n25–26, 224
 Wahhabism, 149

 Yadav community, 10, 20, 22, 58