

Mosques of India

Khanqah -e- Moula, Srinagar



Introduction

The city of Srinagar was founded by Emperor Ashok, who called it Puranadhisthan, every since then the city of Srinagar has been an important part of Indian socio – cultural history, surrounded by lakes and tall Chinar trees, the city encapsulates in itself breath taking scenery. One of the most iconic landmarks of this city is this mosque.

History

The Khanqah-e- Moulah or the Shah Hamdan Mosque is also located in the old city of Srinagar. It is one of the oldest and most revered shrines of the city, alongside River Jhelum. The mosque was built in the year 1395 and over the past 700 years of its

existence the mosque has been rebuilt time and again. The mosque was commissioned by Sultan Sikander in the memory of Sufi Saint Mir Sayyed Ali Hamdan who had come from Persia and settled in Kashmir, Hamdan is said to have played a key role in the spread of Islam in Kashmir.

Architecture

The mosque is an apt example of the traditional wooden architecture of the region, this two storied structure is made of wood with pyramidal roofs that separate the two tiers of this mosque, and the roofs also showcase some heavy woodwork which adorn its cornices. The mosque is also decorated with papier-mâché, the traditional craft of Kashmir.

The architecture style of this mosque is a composite one, drawing from Hindu, Islamic and Buddhist architectural styles. It follows a square plan erected on a irregular wall base.



The mosque was destroyed by fire in 1480 and in 1731 and once again in 2017. Each of these times the mosque was damaged and rebuilt. In 2017 a fire damaged the spire of the mosque which was then reconstructed

In the North West corner of this shrine is a gate that is dedicated to Shah Hamdan and memorializes his death.

ACTIVITY

1. Match the following

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| a. Qutub Minar | Hyderabad |
| b. Gol Gumbaz | New Delhi |
| c. Brihadeshwara Temple | Agra |
| d. Taj Mahal | Bijapur |
| e. Charminar | Thanjavur |

2. Which Indian ruler laid the foundation of Purnadhisthan?

3. Fill in the missing letters

1. S _ _ H _ _ _ DA _
2. _ H _ NQ _ _
3. _ _ _ I _ A _
4. _ A _ IE _ _ A _ H _
5. _ _ _ E _ _ M

References

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