

**PM MODI
AND HIS
GOVERNMENT'S**

**SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP
WITH
SIKHS**





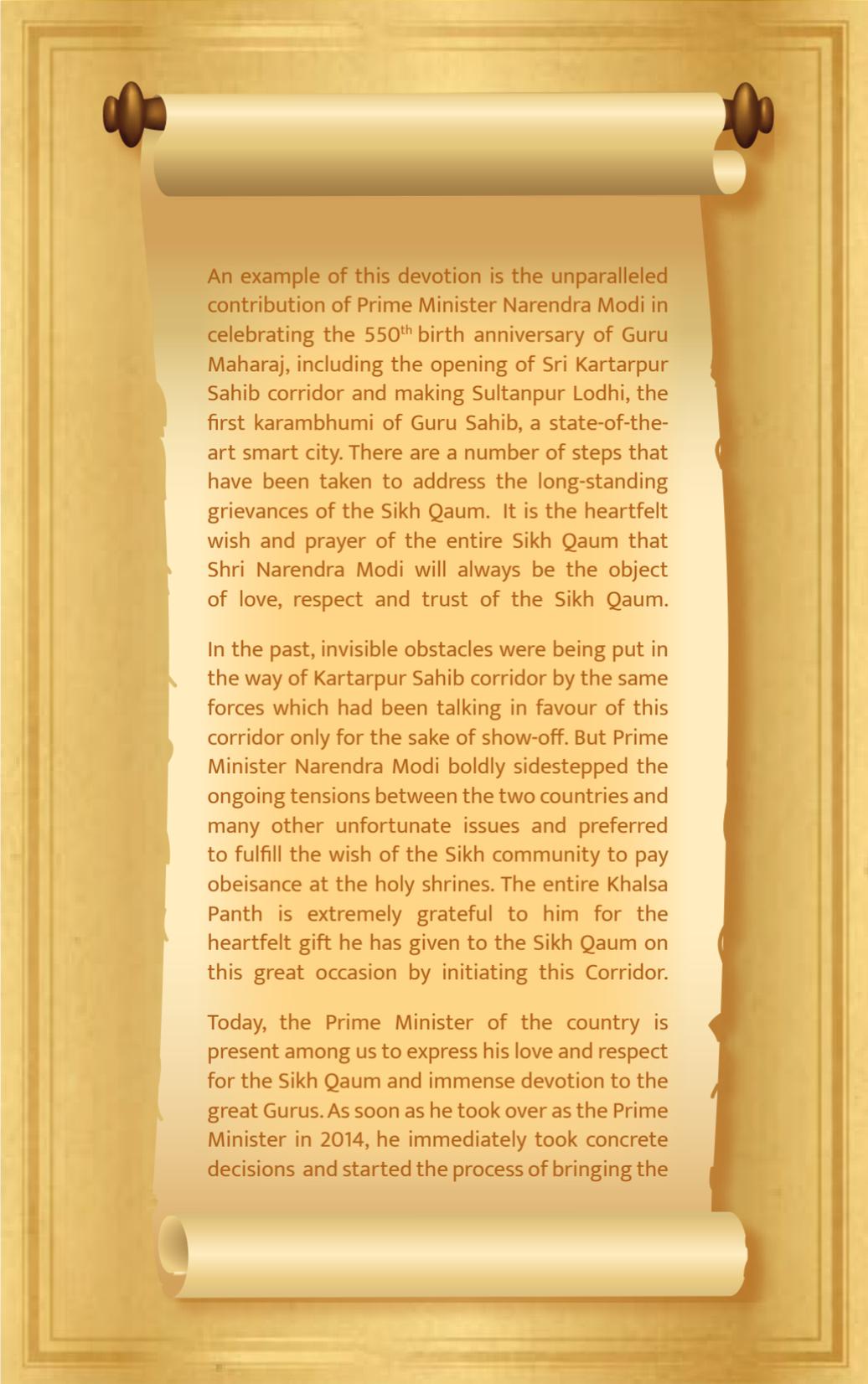


**Citation of Qaumi Seva Award presented to
Prime Minister Narendra Modi by SGPC on the
historic occasion of the inauguration of Sri
Kartarpur Sahib corridor on 9th November, 2019**

QAUMI SEVA AWARD

On the auspicious occasion of 550th Prakash Purab of Sachey Patshah Satguru (True Emperor True Teacher) Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj, the Sikh Qaumi (community) has been blessed by Akal Purakh (Eternal Entity) and the great Guru Sahibs on this historic occasion; the daily prayers of all the sangat (Congregation), belonging to every nook and corner of the world for decades are being accepted in the Dargah of Akal Purakh (The Almighty God's Court). As a result and as a first step, a corridor connecting Dera Baba Nanak Sahib and the shrines of Guru Nanak Patshah's life at Kartarpur Sahib (Pakistan) has been opened for the sangat.

On the 550th birth anniversary of Satguru Sachey Patshah Ji, what greater divine gift could the Sikh Sangat have received than for a head of the country to become the Messiah and show political, administrative and diplomatic courage for fulfilling this wish of the Sikh community. It is only by the grace of the Guru that the joy of opening of this corridor of faith, belief and love for humanity has been bestowed upon the person, who himself is deeply in love with Sikhism and greatly devoted to the Guru's feet.

A scroll with text on a parchment background. The scroll is unrolled, showing the text. The background is a light brown, textured parchment with a decorative border. The scroll is held by two wooden rollers at the top and bottom.

An example of this devotion is the unparalleled contribution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in celebrating the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Maharaj, including the opening of Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor and making Sultanpur Lodhi, the first karambhumi of Guru Sahib, a state-of-the-art smart city. There are a number of steps that have been taken to address the long-standing grievances of the Sikh Qaum. It is the heartfelt wish and prayer of the entire Sikh Qaum that Shri Narendra Modi will always be the object of love, respect and trust of the Sikh Qaum.

In the past, invisible obstacles were being put in the way of Kartarpur Sahib corridor by the same forces which had been talking in favour of this corridor only for the sake of show-off. But Prime Minister Narendra Modi boldly sidestepped the ongoing tensions between the two countries and many other unfortunate issues and preferred to fulfill the wish of the Sikh community to pay obeisance at the holy shrines. The entire Khalsa Panth is extremely grateful to him for the heartfelt gift he has given to the Sikh Qaum on this great occasion by initiating this Corridor.

Today, the Prime Minister of the country is present among us to express his love and respect for the Sikh Qaum and immense devotion to the great Gurus. As soon as he took over as the Prime Minister in 2014, he immediately took concrete decisions and started the process of bringing the

perpetrators of the extremely sad and shameful tragedy of 1984 to justice and punishing them. Many murderers, including politically-sponsored assassins, have been thrown behind bars and many more are coming under the purview of the law. In addition, the Modi government has provided relief of Rs 5 lakh to each victim family, numbering about three and a half thousand.

In the earlier regime, thousands of Sikh expatriates and their families were harassed by blacklisting them under the guise of Punjab's black days. Mr. Modi issued orders to slash the blacklists and also decided to issue Indian visas to the families of Sikh brethren, who were living as refugees in foreign countries due to government persecution during the black days in Punjab.

Keeping in view this historic occasion Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) pays tribute to Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi for the required initiatives taken from 2014 to date to keep the sacred nishan of Panth Maharaj unfurling forever and his constructive and warm friendly thought & attitude towards the Qaum, the supreme representative religious parliament of Khalsa Panth.

SGPC is feeling proud and happy while presenting the prestigious "Qaumi Seva Award" to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in recognition of his significant efforts made for the honour, dignity and respect of the Sikh Qaum.



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Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji illuminates the entire world with its pure teachings. Inspired by it, Sikhs globally have done pioneering service in several spheres. Their courage and kindness are remarkable. May Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji keep guiding humanity forever.”

- Narendra Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special relationship with Sikhs has been seen in his personal gestures to the community and to the holy Gurus, as well as in his government's work empowering the Sikh community. He has paid great respect to the Sikh Gurus while he has always lauded the bravery, courage and spirit of enterprise of the Sikhs. With such a Prime Minister at the helm, no wonder that the government also has taken many institutional measures for the welfare of the Sikhs.

Prime Minister Modi paying respects to Sri Guru Granth Sahib, at 350th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji



Whether it is about celebration of holy occasions such as Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji's 550th birth anniversary or Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji's 350th birth anniversary, whether it is about justice for victims of 1984 riots or about construction of Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, Prime Minister Modi has taken personal interest and led the way in working for the Sikh community.

Let us look at the steps taken by the Modi government for the welfare of Sikhs.

“

Sri Harmandir Sahib,
Amritsar is a sacred place
as it embodies peace and
humanism. ”

- Narendra Modi



Prime Minister Modi with members of the Sikh community



1

FCRA REGISTRATION FOR SRI DARBAR SAHIB, AMRITSAR

Sikhs are among the most globalised community, whose presence and influence spreads across continents. At the same time, they remain deeply connected to their roots and to India. Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar occupies a central place in the life of every Sikh. Giving back to the Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar is among the purest Sevas the Guru Sahibs can seek from any Sikh

For decades, there was no FCRA registration granted to Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar despite a strong demand by Sikhs globally. This was causing immense despair among the Sangat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was determined to solve this problem. In September 2020, it was announced that FCRA registration has been granted to Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar

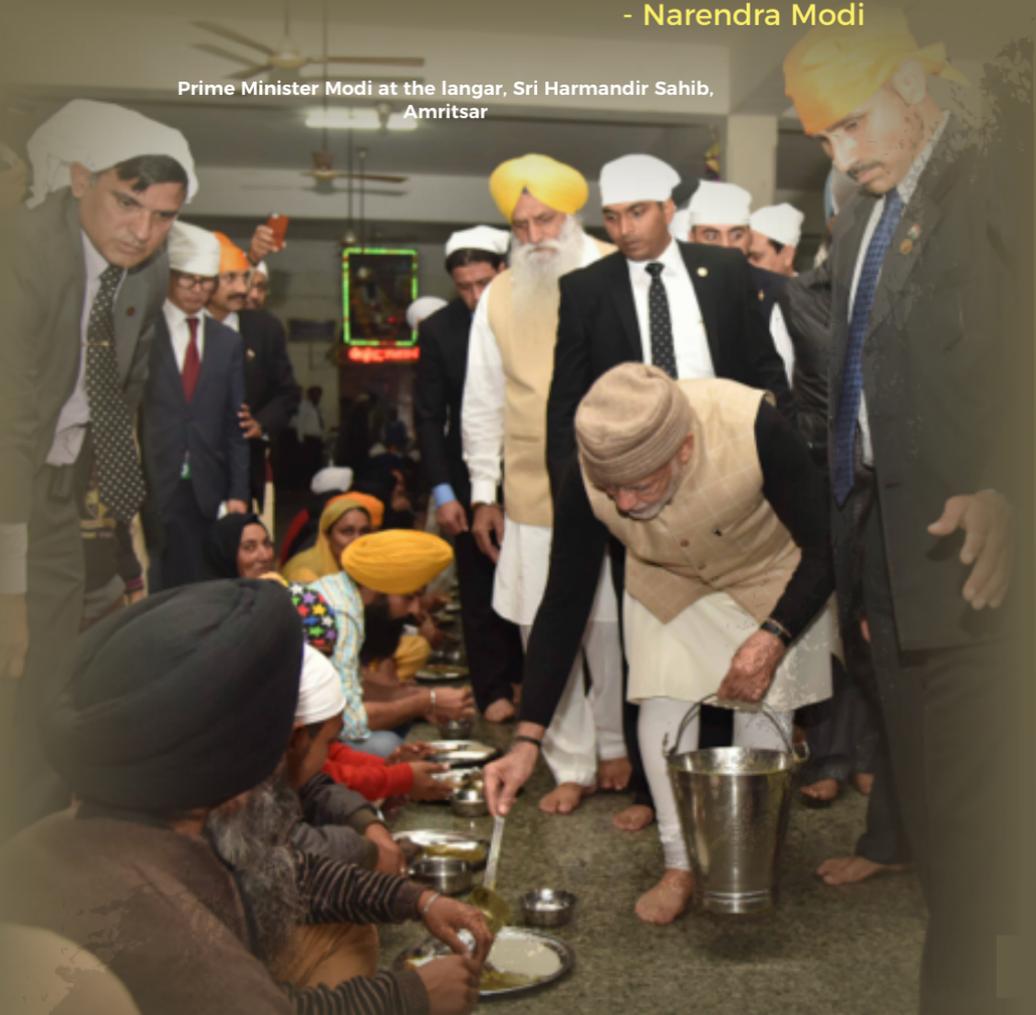
Now, the Sangat worldwide can deepen their connect with Sri Darbar Sahib, Amritsar. They can partake in Seva sitting thousands of miles away

“

On the one hand, Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji showed the path of unity, brotherhood and harmony to society through social philosophy; on the other hand, he presented to the society an economic system which is based on truth, honesty and self-respect. He has taught us that the development achieved through truth and honesty, always leads to the path of progress and prosperity.”

- Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Modi at the langar, Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar





2

TAX-FREE LANGAR

The idea of Langar dates back to the times of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It is a noble form of helping others. Today, many individuals and communities support Langar Seva across India

It was noted that there was GST on many Langar items. Prominent Gurudwara Committees, Sikh delegations, Sikh leaders and Sikhs from across the world had made fervent requests to undo that

PM Modi took a decision that benefitted many. By providing financial assistance under 'Seva Bhoj Yojana', the Government of India also waived GST on Langar items

Annual outlay of ₹325 crore was provided to reimburse central GST and IGST on food items used in Langars. This gesture will immensely benefit the Gurdwaras that serve free food to more than 1 crore people daily

This decision was hailed globally. After all, there must be no limitations to kindness, there must be no hurdles to compassionate gestures

“

Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor
will deepen the connect
between lakhs of pilgrims
and Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji.

It is my honour to have
inaugurated the corridor.”

- Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Modi at the inauguration of Sri Kartarpur Sahib
corridor





3

SRI KARTARPUR SAHIB CORRIDOR

Sri Kartarpur Sahib Ji is among the holiest pilgrim places for Sikhs. For many decades, Sikhs from India could not go to Pakistan and offer prayers there. This was one wound from Partition that persisted endlessly. Pilgrims had to stand on the Indian side of the border and get a glimpse of Sri Kartarpur Sahib Ji through binoculars!

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi a historic step was taken that ensured Sikhs could easily pray at Sri Kartarpur Sahib Ji

The Modi government worked on the development of Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur, Punjab, and also allocated ₹120 crore for this project

State of the art infrastructure, including passenger terminal has been built to handle over 15,000 pilgrims per day

In November 2019, PM Modi personally went there and inaugurated the corridor as well as flagged off the first batch of pilgrims going to Sri Kartarpur Sahib Ji

Prime Minister Modi paying obeisance at Sri Ber Sahib Gurdwara in Sultanpur Lodhi, Punjab before inauguration of Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor



Prime Minister Modi
at Sri Kartarpur Sahib
Corridor





Prime Minister Modi viewing the exhibition on Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's life and teachings at Kartarpur Sahib Corridor on the occasion of its inauguration





Prime Minister Modi partaking the langar prasad on the occasion of the inauguration of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor

“

Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji taught us the path of truth, righteousness and compassion. He was committed towards eradicating injustice and inequality from society.”

- Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Modi inspecting the passenger terminal at Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor





SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI'S 550TH PRAKASH PARV

550th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was marked with great enthusiasm in India. Indian Missions overseas also mobilised the Sikh diaspora to mark this momentous occasion in a grand manner

Various infrastructure upgradations and cultural programmes were held

Sultanpur Lodhi, where Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent much of his life, is being developed as a heritage city. This would draw Sikhs from all over the world. The Railway station there is also being modernised

Special train passing through places associated with Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji for five days a week is being initiated

The Finance Ministry released Gold and Silver coins to mark this auspicious occasion

National Book Trust released three texts- Guru Nanak Bani, Nanak Bani, and Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev to spread the message of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in Punjabi

Prime Minister Modi at Sri Ber Sahib Gurdwara in Sultanpur Lodhi



Furthermore, the Guru Nanak Bani was published and released in Urdu, Odia, Marathi, Hindi and Gujarati. Work is underway to publish the same in 15 other Indian languages

These steps will deepen the connect between youngsters and the noble tenets of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji



“

Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji teaches us service, compassion and furthers harmony. It lays out the path towards a just and equal society. It also teaches us never to bow to injustice.”

- Narendra Modi



Prime Minister Modi receiving a memento from Governing Council members of Khalsa College, Amritsar



5

PROMOTING TEACHINGS OF SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI

It is important that the noble thoughts of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji are spread far and wide. Following his noble path will certainly create a better planet

As a part of this endeavour, a National Institute of Inter-Faith Studies is being set up at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. This will further the message of inter-faith harmony. It will also give an impetus to scholarship related to Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Likewise, a chair on Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji will be set up at a university in U.K.

There are discussions to set-up a similar chair in Canada. The Indian diaspora, especially their next generation will gain from this

“

From Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji to Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji, every Guru Sahib has made relentless efforts, made many sacrifices for the unity, protection and security of India. This tradition has been played by the Sikh Sathis with full vigour in the freedom struggle and the defence of independent India.”

- Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Modi at the historic Gurdwara Khalsa Diwan in Vancouver, Canada





550TH PRAKASH PARV ACROSS THE WORLD

550th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji became a global occasion. There were wide range of programmes not only across the length and breadth of India but also in USA, Canada, Britain, Germany and other nations

An international seminar on the life and teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was held by ICCR in New Delhi

In order to make Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings accessible to all, the Gurbani is being published in different Indian languages

On appeal of the Indian government, UNESCO is taking steps to publish his writings even in foreign languages

In the U.K., there were seminars, exhibitions, distribution of commemorative stamps, setting up of Chairs in various universities like the University of Wolverhampton and University of Birmingham

A grand concluding event took place at the iconic Town Hall of Birmingham. A special Speaker Series on Sikhism and Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was organised at the London School of Economics (LSE) with the South Asia Centre.

In USA, there were Shabad Kirtans, Gurbani Sangeets organised extensively

There was a seminar on the life of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji at Capitol Hill

Exhibition on Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and Sikh artifacts was organized in association with Smithsonian Museum, Guru Angad Institute of Sikh Studies and Sikh Gurudwaras/organizations

The programmes in Canada were equally large-scale and diverse. A World Punjabi Conference was also organised

What was noteworthy was that youngsters took part in these programmes in large numbers



Prime Minister Modi releasing commemorative coin for 550th Prakash Parv

of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji





Prime Minister Modi honoured by the Sikh community in Houston during the 'Howdy Modi' event, September 21, 2019

Prime Minister Modi being presented with Siropa and Kirpan at Bhai Ganga Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Tehran in 2016



“

Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji's entire life was devoted to serving people and fighting for values of truth, justice and compassion.”

- Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Modi at the 350th birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji, Gurdwara Patna Sahib





7

SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S 350TH PRAKASH PARV

India marked the 350th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji with immense fervour in 2016-2017. Prime Minister Modi went to Patna, where Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born, to take part in the celebrations

A Commemorative coin of ₹350 to mark the occasion and commemorative postage stamps were also released as a tribute to Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji

This occasion was also used to spruce up infrastructure relating to key Sikh holy places

Connectivity was improved between Sri Akal Takht, Sri Damdama Sahib, Sri Keshgarh Sahib, Sri Patna Sahib and Sri Hazur Sahib

A special flight was initiated for pilgrims from Amritsar to Nanded

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 750 bed hospital in memory of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji at Jamnagar

Prime Minister Modi inaugurating the Sri Guru Gobind Singh Hospital in Jamnagar, Gujarat



સરકાર ગાંધી ૧૪૫

પંચમહાલ

ગુજરાત રાજ્ય

આરોગ્ય અને પરિવાર કલ્યાણ વિભાગ

શ્રી ગોબિંદસિંહ સરકારી હોસ્પિટલ, જામનગર ખાતે નિર્મિત
હોસ્પિટલ બિલ્ડીંગ નું લોકાર્પણ

શ્રી નરેન્દ્રભાઈ મોદી
માનનીય વડાપ્રધાનશ્રી, ના વચ્ચે ઉરતે

શ્રી વિજયભાઈ રૂપાણી
માનનીય મુખ્યમંત્રીશ્રી, ગુજરાત રાજ્ય

શ્રી નીતિનભાઈ પટેલ
માનનીય નાયબ મુખ્યમંત્રીશ્રી, ગુજરાત રાજ્ય

અને

શ્રી કિશોર કાનાણી (સુમાર)
માનનીય સ.ક.મંત્રીશ્રી, આરોગ્ય અને પરિવાર કલ્યાણ, તપીબંધી વિભાગ
ની ઉપસ્થિતિમાં સંબંધ કાર્યાલય ધરાવે.

વિકાસ સંપત્તિ કમિશન સહાય પદ તેરસ

સોમનાથ, તા. ૧-૩-૨૦૧૯

The Indian Railways spent almost ₹50 crore to improve facilities for pilgrims and travellers in key places associated with Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji

These steps went a long way in further popularising the ideals of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji and also deepening the bond between the vision of the Gurus and the Sangat





Prime Minister Modi releasing the commemorative postage stamp on 350th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji, in Patna, Bihar on January 05, 2017.



Prime Minister Modi releasing commemorative coin to mark the 350th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji

Prime Minister Modi
addresses a gathering on
the 350th Prakash Parv of
Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji





Narendra Modi ✓
@narendramodi

We bow to Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji on the day of his martyrdom. Inspired by the noble thoughts of the venerable Sikh Gurus, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji remained committed to harmony and peace. He was at the forefront of fighting injustice and never compromised on core values.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(Internal Security – I Division)
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 24th October, 2020

F. No. 17014/13/2020-IS-VII .—To commemorate the 400th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji in a befitting manner, a High Level Committee (HLC) is constituted by the Government of India as under:

Chairman

1.	Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister of India
Members		
2.	Shri Om Birla	Speaker of Lok Sabha
3.	Dr. Manmohan Singh	Former Prime Minister
4.	Shri Rajnath Singh	Minister of Defence
5.	Shri Amit Shah	Minister of Home Affairs
6.	Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari	Minister of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
7.	Shri D.V. Sadananda Gowda	Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers
8.	Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman	Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs



SRI GURU TEGH BAHADUR JI'S 400TH PRAKASH PARV

Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji is a symbol of compassion and bravery. He stood up for what he believed, no matter what the cost

His thoughts and ideals are at the centre of the Modi government's vision of justice and development for all

The 400th Prakash Parv is being celebrated on grand scale from April 2020 to April 2021 in India and abroad

A 70-member committee under the supervision of PM Modi reviewing its implementation. This includes Chief Ministers of 11 states, MPs and eminent Sikh personalities

“

For many years, some people used to face problems when they came to India. With this step of removal of names from the blacklist, many families will now be able to apply for visas and OCI cards. They will be able to easily meet their relatives here in India and will also be able to do Ardaas by visiting places of the Gurus here. ”

- Narendra Modi



Sikh Delegation involving the Sikh Council, Nishkam Sewak Jatha, U.K.'s leading Gurdwara representatives, Councillors, Community, Charity, Voluntary Group representatives and Business Leaders met with PM Modi in 2015 during his London visit during which the issue of removing people from the 'blacklist', among others was raised. Modi government promptly got this done



SLASHING THE BLACKLIST

For decades, some Sikhs who lived abroad used to find it difficult to get visas to travel home to India

This was because they were part of the 'blacklist' or the Central Adverse List which included Sikhs residing in the USA, UK, Canada and other countries

Some of these people were very old and wanted to visit their home and relatives in India but could not do so for many years

However, in a touching gesture, the Modi government removed 312 people from the blacklist of 314 people

Slashing the blacklist helps all these people meet their families, get Indian visas and OCI cards, and reconnect with their roots

They can also visit their holy places in India and seek blessings, something that they could not do for all these years



Thousands of people were killed and burnt alive, families were destroyed and yet some are talking flippantly about it. Whatever happened in 1984 has shamed humanity. This chowkidar of yours had promised you justice. I had promised you that I will fight for your justice. Today, I can say with satisfaction that one offender has been awarded death sentence and the rest have been given life imprisonment, and those who are left will not be able to stay out for long.



- Narendra Modi





10

JUSTICE AFTER 3 DECADES

A heinous blot in political violence was unleashed against Sikhs in 1984. However, shockingly, the perpetrators evaded justice for three decades due to their proximity to political elements while victims suffered

Modi government reversed this. It made the perpetrators of the violence suffer while the victims were compensated and given support

The government has worked on ensuring justice for Sikhs. It expanded ambit of probe into 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases by enabling Special Investigation Team (SIT) to reopen investigations in all the cases in which trial had been completed and the accused were discharged

Bringing Culprits to Justice

For almost 30 years, the perpetrators of 1984 anti-Sikh riots were protected by certain vested interests

Fresh probe was done through SIT constituted by Modi Government; it re-opened around 300 cases and filed charge sheets in many of them



Prime Minister Modi meeting
1984 riot victims

Convictions of political personalities who evaded justice happened within just 3 years of SIT formation. Before 2014, nobody thought such politicians would ever get convicted

SIT secured two convictions leading to capital punishment to Yashpal Singh and life imprisonment to Naresh Sehrawat

CBI in 2018 got former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar convicted and he was sentenced to life imprisonment and is currently in jail

Compensation Provided to Victims Pan-India

Additional compensation of ₹5 lakh each was given to the kin of 3,328 victims of 1984 riots cases in Delhi, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra and Jammu and Kashmir.

In Delhi alone, additional compensation was given to 1,320 families worth ₹125.52 crore.

1,020 riot-hit families who migrated to Punjab from other states were given ₹2 lakh each as part of a rehabilitation scheme

“

Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji is not only the heritage of Sikhism and India, but also an inspiration for the entire humanity. Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji is an idea and the basis of life besides being a teacher.

”

- Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Modi with
Afghanistan President Ashraf
Ghani at Sri Harmandir Sahib,
Amritsar





11

PROUD OF SIKH HERITAGE

PM Modi is immensely proud of the rich heritage of Sikhs and Punjab. He and his government always go out of the way to promote the beauty of this culture in India and abroad

In certain countries, Sikhs need exemptions to continue wearing turbans or beards. In such cases, Indian Missions have often issued letters to Indian Sikhs certifying that wearing of turban and growing beard are religious mandates for Sikhs. This helps in seeking exemption in certain countries where wearing turbans or growing beard is not allowed by some employers

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani was taken on a visit to Sri Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar as part of official visit. This was not only a gesture of friendship but also significant given that there are many Sikhs who live in Afghanistan

The government is extending financial assistance for renovation and repair of some old Gurudwaras abroad

Prime Minister Modi interacting with Sikh community members after releasing coin commemorating 550th Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji



Further, the Modi government is leaving no stone unturned in promoting tourism to bring Sikh heritage live in front of people. For example, development of Anandpur Sahib - Fatehgarh Sahib - Chamkaur Sahib - Ferozpur - Amritsar - Khatkar Kalan - Kalanour - Patiala Heritage circuit under Swadesh Darshan scheme

A 'Multimedia Exhibition" organized on the occasion of the 550th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji in Nanded, Maharashtra, that was highly appreciated



“

When we observe 100 years of the horrific Jallianwala Bagh massacre, India pays tributes to all those martyred on that fateful day. Their valour and sacrifice will never be forgotten. Their memory inspires us to work even harder to build an India they would be proud of. ”

- Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Modi at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar





12

JALLIANWALA BAGH MEMORIAL

One of the most unforgettable national memories of India is the Jallianwala Bagh massacre

Punjab was one of the hubs of the freedom struggle and this incident especially shook the nation and brought everyone's attention towards colonial brutality

To pay a fitting tribute to those who made great sacrifices, Modi government brought Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to construct the national memorial

The bill was passed in the Lok Sabha in the centenary year of this event as a salute to the sacrifices of martyrs

It reforms the trust associated with the memorial and makes it apolitical

“

Sikh brothers and sisters will also get a huge benefit from the Citizenship Amendment Act. They will be able to get citizenship of India easily.

”

- Narendra Modi



Sikhs from Afghanistan return to India, facilitated by Modi government



13

SHOULDER OF SUPPORT IN TIMES OF DISTRESS

No matter where Sikhs live in the world, the Modi government always looks out for their interests, safety and security

Many a time, when Sikhs were targeted in Afghanistan by terrorists, India strongly condemned such cowardly violence targeted at a minority community

However, the Modi government does not stop at condemnations but is committed to action. Under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), persecuted Sikhs from neighbouring countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan can seek refuge and citizenship in India

The government ensured the return of 230 families of Sikhs from Afghanistan between July and September 2020

Families of such people coming to India are being dealt sensitively and supportively by the Modi government. Special discounted air fare was arranged for the returnees for flights on the Kabul-Delhi-Kabul route during the COVID pandemic



Sikhs from Afghanistan return to India, facilitated by Modi government

All of these families will get full rights as Indian citizens thanks to CAA. But the needs do not end at just citizenship

Ensuring good quality education for the children of families of Sikhs from Afghanistan would help secure their future. The Modi government is also making scholarships available to their children to study in India

Monetary assistance is also being extended to Gurdwaras in Kabul to ensure that even those who are staying back in Afghanistan are taken care of



“

Under the Indus Water Treaty, India has the rights on the waters of the Sutlej, Beas and Ravi. This right actually belongs to my farmer brothers. That water is not coming to your farm, but flows into the sea after passing through Pakistan. Neither does Pakistan use it, nor does it benefit India's farmers. I have created a task force to ensure that the water share as per the Indus Water Treaty, which otherwise was flowing into Pakistan, is utilized to the fullest. I am determined to ensure that these waters reach the farmers of Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir.”

- Narendra Modi



THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

India has asked Pakistan to ensure minority communities' security: MEA on Sikh girl's abduction

Published: 25th September 2020 12:02 AM

FINANCIAL EXPRESS
Read to Lead

India lodges protest with Pakistan over abduction of Sikh girl

By: PTI | September 21, 2020 11:31 PM



14

SOLIDARITY WITH SIKHS OF PAKISTAN

People from the Sikh community living in Pakistan are also brave and devoted to the memory of the great Gurus

Despite facing threats, violence and oppression, they hold onto their ideals tenaciously and live with their head held high

PM Modi believes in strengthening the Sikhs living in Pakistan in various ways, including raising India's voice for their safety and security, as well as protecting the sacred places of Sikhism situated in Pakistan

Safety and Security of Sikhs in Pakistan

Bhai Taru Singh Ji is an inspirational figure. His devotion to the values that the Gurus preached and his ultimate sacrifice are deeply moving

The place of his martyrdom in Lahore, Gurudwara 'Shahidi Asthan', was sought to be changed. India objected to this. India has also raised its voice against the destruction of Sikh heritage sites and places of worship in Pakistan



Not only are Sikh sites in Pakistan a target of aggression, but people from the Sikh community are also often troubled in many ways

Abduction and forced marriage of minor Sikh girls, forcible conversions of Sikhs, targeted killings and violent attacks have regularly been heard of. India has raised such issues internationally

India has already passed the Citizenship Amendment Act to give citizenship to persecuted Sikhs from neighbouring countries

Protecting Sikh Heritage in Pakistan

Pakistan was pushed to accept a long pending demand of India and an agreement for the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor was signed in October 2019

PM Modi inaugurated Kartarpur Sahib Corridor in November 2019 on the occasion of the 550th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, fulfilling the dreams of lakhs of Sikhs from India who were keen on visiting Kartarpur Sahib

Several Sikh shrines and pilgrimage sites in Pakistan have been included in the bilateral protocol signed with Pakistan in 1974. This ensures that their upkeep is monitored

Despite COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, Modi government has facilitated visit of Sikh Jatha to Gurudwara Nankana Sahib on the occasion of 551st birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji

“

With the removal of article 370, Sikh families in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh will now get the same rights that they get in the rest of India. Till now there were thousands of families who were deprived of many rights.

”

- Narendra Modi

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DDC polls: West Pakistan refugees outside booths in Jammu say justice done after 70 years of struggle

Synopsis

With the abrogation of Article 370, several communities like West Pakistan refugees, Vilmikis and Gurkhas are now eligible to vote in local elections, purchase land and apply for jobs in Jammu and Kashmir, and besides these, they can also contest elections.

15

RIGHTS ENSURED FOR SIKHS IN J&K

There were many long pending demands of the Sikh community such as equal rights in Jammu and Kashmir

Sikhs who came into Jammu and Kashmir as refugees after Partition were denied many rights due to Article 370. Although everyone knew they were denied their rights, none was willing to change the situation

Prime Minister Modi has taken personal interest in ensuring that many such longstanding issues are resolved

Modi government's bold and decisive action against Article 370 has given equal rights to the Sikh minority in Jammu and Kashmir

1.16 lakh Sikh refugees who migrated from Pakistan (after partition) to J&K will now get domicile and voting rights just like every other citizen of India, something that was denied to them for decades

Earlier, Sikhs of Jammu and Kashmir who married Sikhs outside used to fear that they would lose property rights due to the anomalies arising out of the discriminatory regime of Article 370. Now, they no longer need to fear this and can strengthen their relationship with Sikhs in other parts of the country

“

A proud Punjab makes India proud. There is no one in India who would not have eaten wheat that was grown in Punjab. This land is a land of givers, and has stood up firmly whenever the need arose to serve India. Punjab has left no opportunity to showcase successful examples for the country whenever needed. ”

- Narendra Modi

A photograph showing Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the center, wearing a white shirt and a brown vest with an orange shawl, interacting with a group of men. Several men are wearing traditional Sikh turbans in various colors (orange, blue, red, yellow). They appear to be in an outdoor setting, possibly during a public event. The background is slightly blurred, showing a white building and some greenery.

Prime Minister Modi interacting with the Sikh community after releasing commemorative coin to mark 550th Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji

16

REFORMS AND SGPC ELECTIONS

Sikh philosophy inspires people to the highest ideals. It is obvious that only those who are in line with Sikh Rehat Maryada must be allowed to become electors in SGPC elections

There was a call to ensure that this is enshrined in the law. Modi government responded to this call promptly

Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Act 2016 was amended by the government, addressing the demand regarding participation in SGPC elections

In line with the Sikh Rehat Maryada, people who trim or shave their beard (kesha), smoke or consume alcohol cannot be considered electors in SGPC elections

Recently, the Modi government appointed Justice (Retd) S S Saron as Chief Commissioner of Gurudwara Elections to pave the way for elections to the new SGPC

“

You will find a number of stories of sacrifices made by the Sikhs. They have sacrificed their lives for the protection of our nation. They kept shedding their blood to protect India, and post-freedom they have toiled to ensure that no Indian remains hungry.

”

- Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Modi during a meeting
with a Sikh community delegation in
San Jose, USA September 2015



CONNECTIVITY AND CONNECTION

PM Modi has a strong connection with the Sikh community. This is seen in many of his actions, including the way he has taken steps to boost connectivity as well as strengthen connections with Sikh diaspora across the world

Modi government has enabled Air India's direct flight from Amritsar to London and from Amritsar to Delhi to Birmingham. Direct flights from Amritsar to Toronto have also been enabled

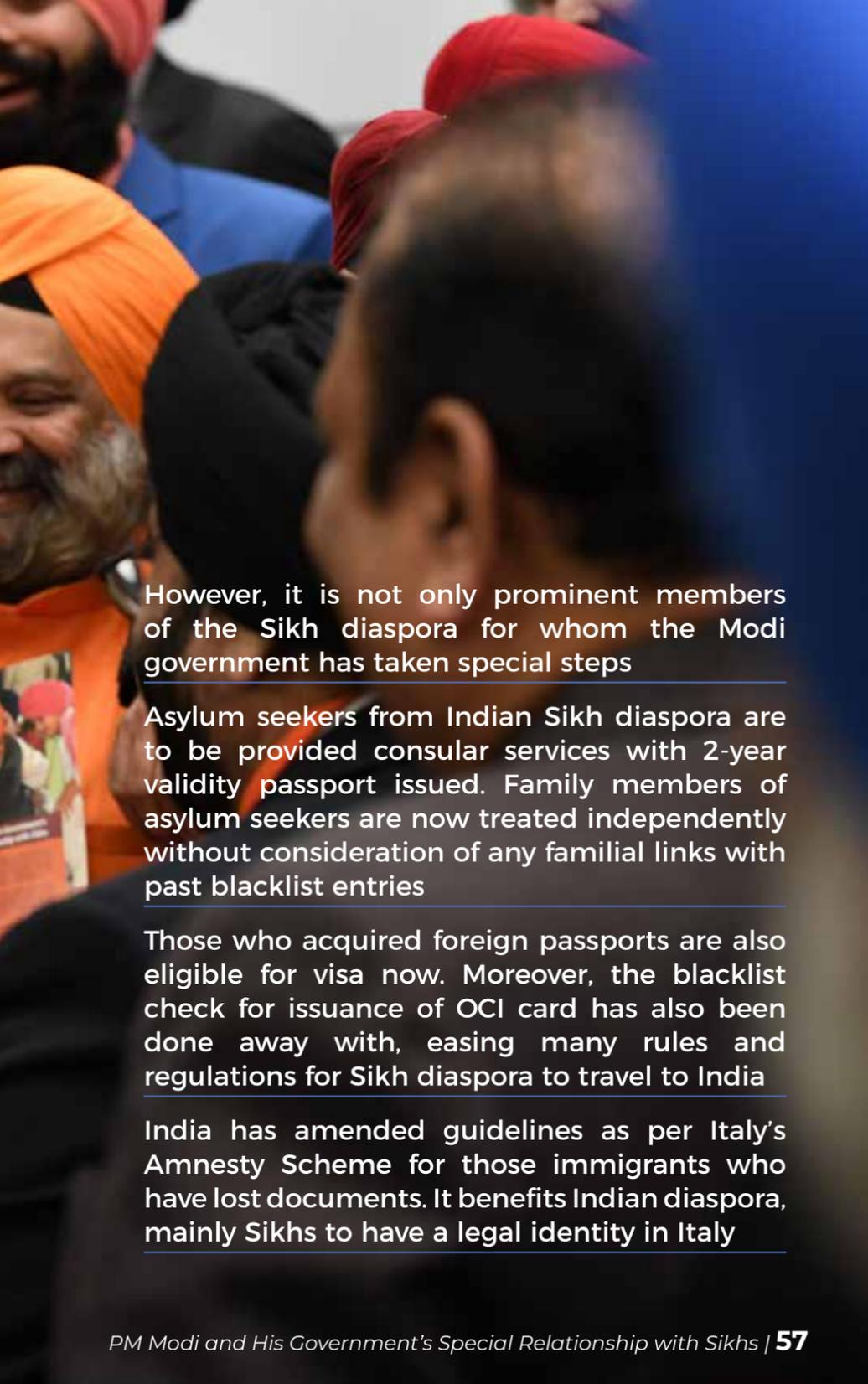
It is well known that these routes benefit Sikh diaspora a lot and will help them meet their near and dear ones at home more frequently and faster

Further, internal connectivity has also been enhanced for Sikh pilgrims. Air connectivity between Amritsar and Nanded via special flight has been initiated. Recently, during the COVID pandemic, Sikhs stuck in Nanded were brought back home during Corona pandemic by arranging transport

Prominent Sikh diaspora members have been awarded at Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas and invited to Independence Day. A unique NRI Sikh Sammelan was also held in Amritsar in 2019



Prime Minister Modi interacting with Sikh diaspora members in Houston, Texas in 2019



However, it is not only prominent members of the Sikh diaspora for whom the Modi government has taken special steps

Asylum seekers from Indian Sikh diaspora are to be provided consular services with 2-year validity passport issued. Family members of asylum seekers are now treated independently without consideration of any familial links with past blacklist entries

Those who acquired foreign passports are also eligible for visa now. Moreover, the blacklist check for issuance of OCI card has also been done away with, easing many rules and regulations for Sikh diaspora to travel to India

India has amended guidelines as per Italy's Amnesty Scheme for those immigrants who have lost documents. It benefits Indian diaspora, mainly Sikhs to have a legal identity in Italy

“

Let us take a pledge on this important and sacred platform that we will make Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji's words a part of our lives. We will make every effort to create harmony within the society.

”

- Narendra Modi



Prime Minister Modi with a Sikh artisan at
Hunar Haat, New Delhi



18

EMPOWERING SIKH YOUTH

Before 2014, just 18 lakh students from the Sikh community had been given scholarships. But the Modi government ensured that 31 lakh Sikh students were given pre/postmatric and merit-cum-means scholarships

Sikh youth form a significant share of 10 lakh beneficiaries under self-reliance schemes such as Hunar Haat, Garib Nawaz Employment Scheme, Seekho Aur Kamao, Nai Manzil, gaining employment opportunities

More than 24% of the below social infrastructure built under Prime Minister Jan Vikas Karyakram for backward areas developed in Sikh concentrated areas.

1,517 New School Buildings

646 Hostels

163 Residential Schools

8,820 Smart Class Rooms

32 Colleges

94 ITIs

13 Polytechnics

6 Navodaya Vidyalayas

403 Multipurpose Community Centre

598 Market Sheds

5,299 Toilet and Water Facilities

143 Common Service Centres

22 Working Women Hostels

1,734 Health Projects

6 Hospitals

8 Hunar Hub

14 Various Sports Facilities

6,014 Anganwadi Centres

23,233 Additional Class Rooms

“

We need to work on manufacturing and skill development & ensure cities like Ludhiana grow. I want Ludhiana to become the pride of India. We will focus on Zero Defect manufacturing so that 'Made in India' brand shines.”

- Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Modi interacts with women while distributing Charkhas to them, before the National MSME Awards, in Ludhiana on October 18, 2016





19

POWERING PUNJAB'S PROGRESS

Punjab has a special place in PM Modi's heart, having had a long relationship with the state's politics and people. He has seen closely the challenges faced by the people of the state and has always accorded top priority to the development of the state. PM Modi has worked with attention to detail to address various long-standing issues of the state

Strengthening Irrigation with Shahpurkandi Dam

Punjab is the golden state of Indian agriculture. To boost its irrigation potential and to support Punjab's farmers, Modi government approved implementation of Shahpurkandi Dam Project on river Ravi with central assistance of ₹485.38 crore for irrigation component over five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23

On completion of the project, an Irrigation Potential of 5,000 ha in Punjab would be created, which will directly benefit the hardworking farmers of the state

Prime Minister Modi accepting a kirpan at the foundation stone laying ceremony for AIIMS in Bathinda, 25 November 2016



This is also generating numerous jobs for skilled and semi-skilled workers

The dam will also help with the development of tourism, recreational facilities and fisheries, and contribute to overall socio-economic development of area

Healthy Punjab, Happy Punjab

Taking healthcare to the people, especially the poorest of the poor, has been a matter of priority for the Modi government

Over 45 lakh families of Punjab are covered by Ayushman Bharat, which enables them to avail top quality health services for free at 785 hospitals, including private hospitals

PM Modi's vision for healthcare is that everyone should be able to avail superior and specialised healthcare services affordably

In line with PM Modi's vision, in 2016, the foundation stone for AIIMS at Bathinda was laid

Within 3 years, in a boost to medical care and medical education, AIIMS Bathinda was set up and operationalized in December 2019

Satellite Centre of PGI Chandigarh at Ferozpur was also approved at a cost of ₹450 crore, to be operational by 2022, building a new hub for medical education and research that benefits people

(ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਸਿਰ)

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ਨੀਂਹ ਪੱਥਰ

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ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ

ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਦਰ

ਰੀ, ਪੰਜਾਬ

Prime Minister Modi addressing the gathering at the foundation stone laying ceremony for AIIMS in Bathinda, 25 November 2016

25 ਨਵੰਬਰ 2016

Helping Punjab recover from COVID induced disruption

From MSMEs to street vendors, from farmers to the poor, the economic disruption of COVID pandemic has impacted many. However, the Modi government has been working to prevent the disruption from becoming distress

To revitalise Punjab's industrious MSMEs, ₹2,529 crore of loans were sanctioned under Emergency Credit Loan Guarantee Scheme to over 1.15 lakh MSMEs as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

Punjab's street vendors are getting loans to restart their business. Loans were sanctioned to 6,521 street vendors under PM-SVANidhi scheme

The farmers of Punjab have been receiving direct income support under PM-KISAN scheme as part of PM Modi's attempts to provide an income safety net to farmers. 23.73 lakh farmers of Punjab received financial support under PM Garib Kalyan Package

12.24 lakh beneficiary families registered with PM Ujjwala Yojana received 24 lakh free gas cylinders during April-August 2020

Supplementing rural poor with income for work, 2.4 crore mandays of work generated under MNREGA, with 66.08% of mandays generated for SC workers

Infrastructure development for Punjab

Punjab, being among the economically better off states, needs its infrastructure to be well maintained. Over 115 projects were sanctioned to improve the conditions of National Highways between 2014-2018

To boost connectivity even further, Modi government approved construction of 18 road projects comprising 1,000 kilometre of roads in Punjab in September 2020, including projects related to these road stretches:

- Delhi - Amritsar - Katra four lane expressway
- Amritsar-Ghoman
- Ghoman-Tanda
- Amritsar - Ramdas
- Hoshiarpur - Una
- Hoshiarpur - Phagwara
- Sunam - Moonak
- Moonak - Uklana
- Tanda - Hoshiarpur

Punjab is the land of rivers and hence, using waterways is a crucial way of boosting the state's economy. Four inter-state National Waterways go through Punjab

- National Waterways 17 and 98 (Himachal Pradesh and Punjab)
- National Waterway 45 (Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan)
- National Waterway 84 (Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab)

Taking air connectivity in Punjab to the common man, four airports in Bathinda, Ludhiana, Pathankot and Adampur have been connected by the UDAN Scheme

Diversifying and strengthening Punjab's industrial footprint

Work on Ludhiana Mega Food Park is ongoing while a Mega Food Park at Phagwara was inaugurated in November 2020

Amritsar-Jamnagar, Chandigarh-Rajpura-Patiala-Sangrur-Bhatinda inter-corridor roads, Sangrur-Bathinda feeder roads, Bathinda-Mandi Dabwali Economic Corridors are proposed under Bharatmala

Modi government is setting up North India's first compressed biogas plant in Lehragaga of Sangrur. It is to be commissioned in March 2021

4 CNG stations approved for Punjab commissioned in October 2020 will help provide clean fuel for transport and cooking and reduce pollution

Tractor and harvester manufacturing hubs of Mohali, Jalandhar and Sirhind will get major boost with farm law amendments freeing the agriculture sector for investments

India's first Technology and Innovation Support Centre is set up in the state of Punjab by the Modi government



Prime Minister Modi addressing the people at Anandpur Sahib Gurdwara

Reviving Punjab's textile manufacturing legacy

Separate scheme has been launched to boost production in knitting and knitwear clusters with Ludhiana chosen as one of them

3 Integrated Textile Parks launched in Punjab with parks in Nawanshahr and Ludhiana operational, while park in Barnala is to start operations soon

National Technical Textiles Mission with four-year implementation period from 2020-21 to 2023-24 at an estimated outlay of ₹1,480 crore will benefit Ludhiana, given the city's vibrant textile industry

Phagwara and Ludhiana emerged as the pride of India as PPE Kit manufacturing hubs with support from the Modi Government, creating a new export-oriented industry within six months

Anti-dumping duty on PTA abolished to benefit the textile sector is going to benefit Punjab's textile industry massively

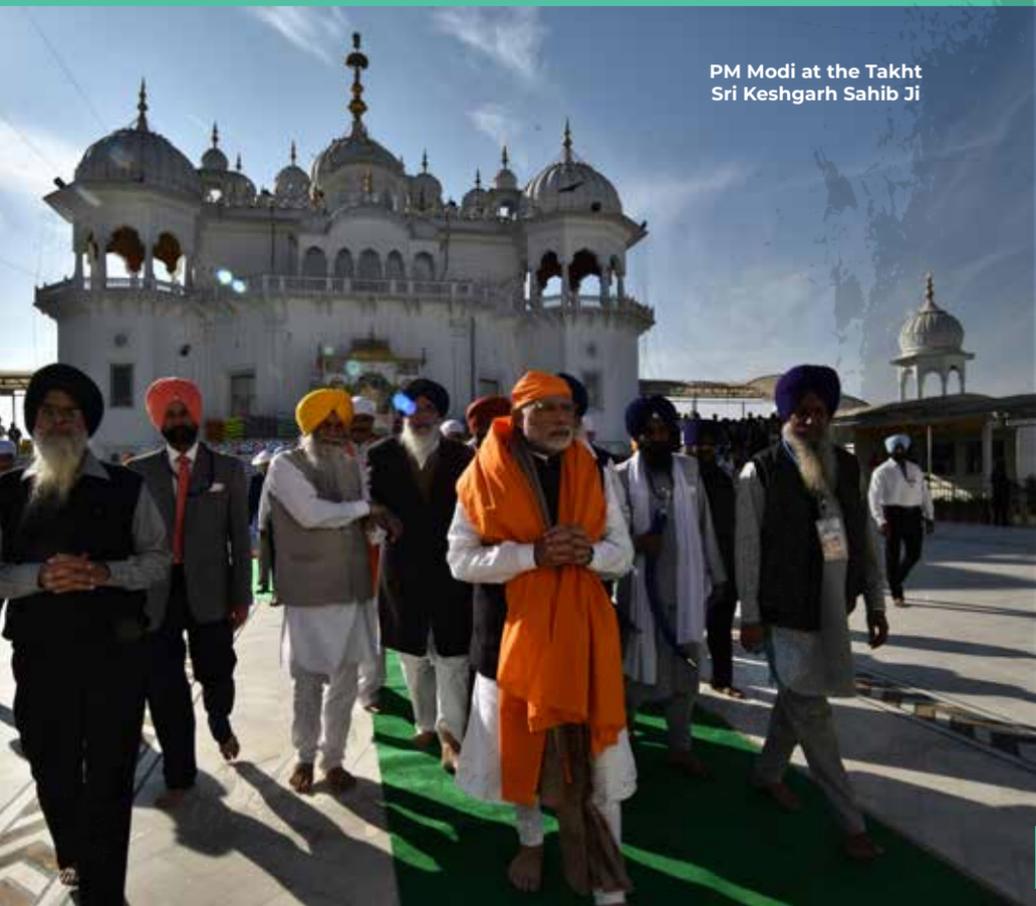
Working for welfare of Punjab's women

41.5 lakh beneficiaries under the Supplementary Nutrition and preschool education under ICDS scheme

3.25 lakh women receive more than ₹144 crore under PM Matru Vandana Yojana

3.66 lakh girls benefited under Scheme for Adolescent Girls up to March 2020

More than 23.75 lakh women borrowers benefited in Punjab till January 2020 out of the 40 lakh beneficiaries of MUDRA Scheme



PM Modi at the Takht
Sri Keshgarh Sahib Ji

Ensuring Ease of Living for All Punjabis

22.29 lakh households in Punjab provided with tap water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission

3.84 lakh household toilets built under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) to ensure over 99.8% coverage

More than 73 lakh Jan Dhan Accounts opened in Punjab

Over a lakh houses sanctioned in urban and rural areas through Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

8,243 km of road works completed under PM Gramin Sadak Yojana to connect rural areas of Punjab

Piped city gas distribution network for Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Bathinda to be operational soon; Mansa, Ferozepur, Faridkot, Muktsar, Hoshiarpur, Mohali and Gurdaspur awarded

STANDING GUARD THROUGH THICK AND THIN

Narendra Modi
being honoured
by the Sikh
community with
a siropa at a
community event
during his tenure
as Chief Minister
of Gujarat



Narendra Modi on a visit to
a gurdwara for a community
event during his tenure as
Chief Minister of Gujarat

A group of
Sikhs in New
York, USA met
Prime Minister
Modi and
expressed
solidarity with
him, September
28, 2014





Narendra Modi accepting a memento from Sikh community representatives as Chief Minister of Gujarat during a Gujarati New Year function



Prime Minister Modi being honoured at the Gurdwara Khalsa Diwan at Ross Street in Vancouver, Canada
April 16, 2015







सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

सत्यमेव जयते