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The Sikh Review

Commemorating

**550th Birth Anniversary
GURU NANAK DEV JI**

Vol. 68: 03

1st MARCH 2020

No. 795



ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਬੇਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ, ਸੁਲਤਾਨਪੁਰ ਲੋਧੀ, ਪੰਜਾਬ (ਭਾਰਤ)
GURDWARA SRI BER SAHIB, SULTANPUR LODHI, PUNJAB (INDIA)

THE SIKH REVIEW

A theological, educational and socio-cultural Monthly founded in 1953

Vol. 68:03

MARCH 2020

No. : 795

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THE SIKH REVIEW, 116 Karnani Mansion, 25A Park Street, Kolkata 700 016

Ph 91-33-2229-9656 / 4604-6462 • Email: sikhreview@gmail.com,

INTERNET EDITION: <http://www.sikhreview.org>

For Subscription Rates, Please see Page No. 84

Price : ₹30.00

Kartarpur Corridor and its Significance

PROF. (DR.) HARPREET KAUR*

The opening up of the Kartarpur corridor that has put Kartarpur on the global map during 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in 2019 has a wider significance for the entire humanity. It connects two rival nations of the Indian sub-continent, India and Pakistan that have a long history of hostilities commencing after they were given status of two separate nations. The corridor has emerged as a buffer between two contending nations and has a message to convey to the whole world. Also, it is the only experiment of its kind when a religious place has been purposefully opened and dedicated one purpose – to bring two nations together who have historically been sworn enemies. The human mindset can change and evolve into a better peace process. The process had taken birth but it deserves and demands continuous nurturing. As a starter, the *Sangat, divided by history and cast as mortal enemies were able to come together to offer their obeisance in the Gurdwara.*

The proposal to build such a common corridor first came up in 1999 when Indian

Prime Minister was Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistani Prime Minister was Nawaz Sharif. However, the only progress was that Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara was renovated and could be viewed from the Indian border. Things had changed. On 26 November 2018, Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor in village Mann, Gurdaspur, Punjab on Indian side and Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan laid its foundation near Narowal district, Punjab, Pakistan on 28 November 2018. This was beginning of a new historical epoch wherein the cherished dream of the Sikh *Sangat* was set to come true. The grand opening of it was held on 9 November 2019 when dignitaries of both nations visited the Gurdwara on the historical day. Political distancers are not easily bridged; spanning this short distance of merely 3-4 kilometers had been waiting a long 70 years. This poignant message now awaits its eager dissemination across borders of human will and/or human hard-headedness.

Guru Nanak instilled pearls of wisdom

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