

# PM MODI AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S

# SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH SIKHS





## ਕੌਮੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਅਵਾਰਡ

ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਸਾਚੇ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ ਪੁਰਖ ਦੇ 550ਵੇਂ ਜਨਮਦਿਨ ਦੇ ਮੌਕੇ 'ਤੇ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਮਹਾਰਾਜ ਜੀ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਦੇ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵ ਅਧੀਨ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਅਵਾਰਡ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਮੌਕਾ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਅਵਾਰਡ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਮੌਕਾ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਮੌਕਾ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਅਵਾਰਡ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਮੌਕਾ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪ੍ਰਦਾਨ ਕਰਨ ਦਾ ਮੌਕਾ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਹੈ।

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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 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2019

## QAUMI SEVA AWARD

On the auspicious occasion of 550<sup>th</sup> Prakash Purab of Sachey Patshah Satguru (True Emperor True Teacher) Nanak Dev Ji Maharaj, the Sikh Qaum (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 550<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

An example of this devotion is the unparalleled contribution of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in celebrating the 550<sup>th</sup> 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 and most required initiatives taken by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi 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, Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (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



PM Modi paying respects to Sri Guru Granth Sahib, at 350<sup>th</sup> Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji

*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.*

*Whether it is about celebration of holy occasions such as Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji's 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary or Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji's 350<sup>th</sup> 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



PM Modi with members of the Sikh community



## FCRA REGISTRATION FOR SRI DARBAR SAHIB

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 occupies a central place in the life of every Sikh. Giving back to the Sri Darbar Sahib 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 despite a strong demand by Sikhs globally. This was causing immense despair among the Sangat

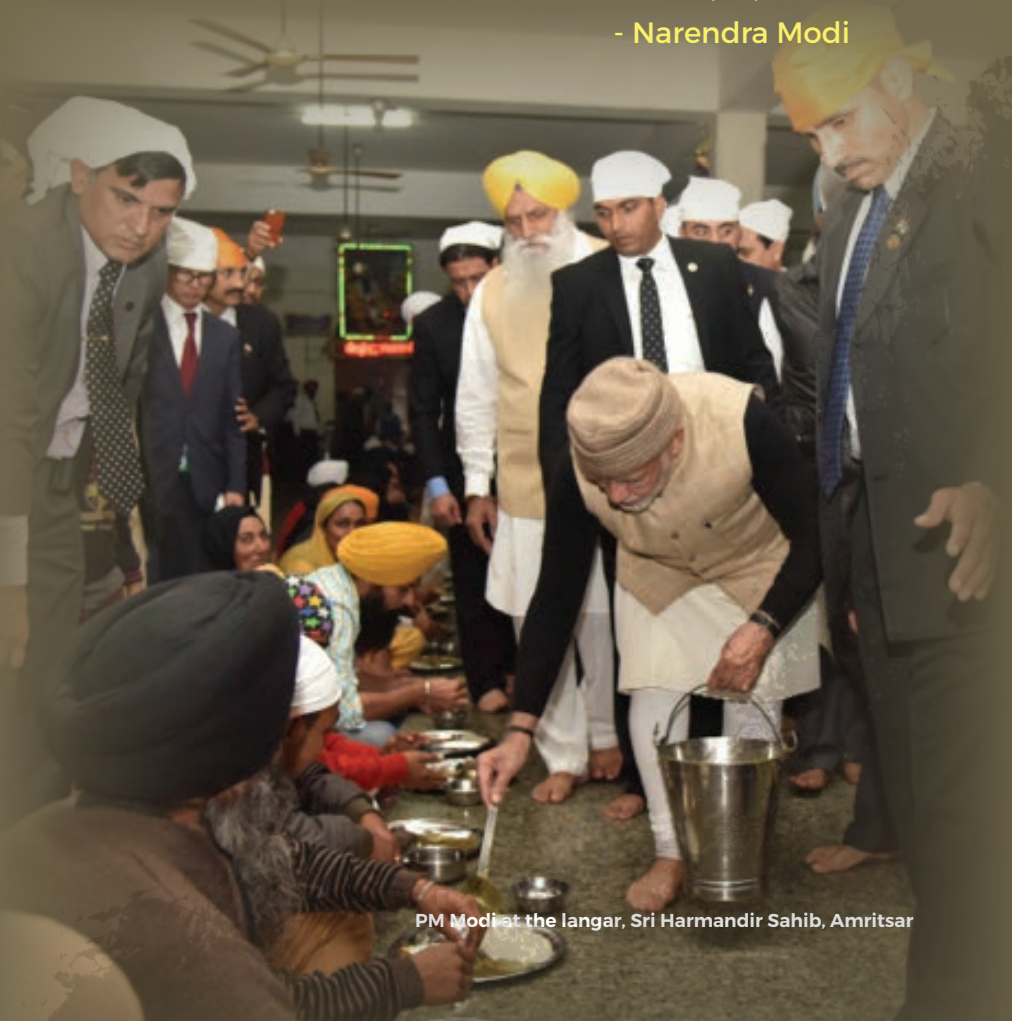
Prime Minister Narendra Modi was determined to solve this problem. In September 2020, it was announced that FCRA registration has been granted to Darbar Sahib

Now, the Sangat worldwide can deepen their connect with to Sri Darbar Sahib. 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



PM Modi at the langar, Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar



## 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



PM Modi at the inauguration of Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor

3

## KARTARPUR SAHIB CORRIDOR

Kartarpur Sahib 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 Kartarpur Sahib through binoculars!

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

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

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

PM Modi at Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor





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



PM Modi partaking the langar prasad with 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



PM Modi inspecting the passenger terminal at Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor



## SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI'S 550<sup>TH</sup> 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

PM 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 15 other Indian languages

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

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“

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



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



## 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

PM Modi at the historic Gurdwara Khalsa Diwan in Vancouver, Canada



## 550<sup>TH</sup> PRAKASH PARV ACROSS THE WORLD

550th Prakash Parv of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji became a global occasion. There were a 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.

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

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

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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

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

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

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PM Modi releasing commemorative coin for 550th anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji





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



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

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

- Narendra Modi

PM Modi at the 350<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary celebrations of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji, Gurdwara Patna Sahib



## SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI'S 350<sup>TH</sup> PRAKASH PARV

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

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



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

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





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



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



PM 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 400<sup>th</sup> 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 400<sup>TH</sup> 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 was 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



Prime Minister Modi praying on 20th December 2020, at the Gurudwara Rakab Ganj Sahib where the pious body of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji was cremated

“ No period in the last four centuries can be imagined without the influence of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. As the Ninth Guru, we all get inspiration from him. We all are familiar with the stages of his life, but it is equally important for the new generation of the country to know and understand him. ”

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi



PM Modi prepares to offer prayers at the Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib, Delhi, May 1, 2021



PM Modi prepares to offer prayers at the Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib, Delhi, May 1, 2021

“ We will be able to inspire humanity greatly if we can take the message to the whole world regarding how the Sikh community and millions of followers of our Gurus are following in their footsteps, how Sikhs are performing great social service and how our gurudwaras are the conscious centres of human service. ”

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

“

“Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji said:  
"सुखु दुखु दोनो सम करि जानै अउरू मानु अपमाना"  
i.e., we must live our lives in the same way  
in happiness and sorrow and in honour  
and humiliation. He has also shown the  
purpose of life. He has shown us the path  
of service to the nation as well as to the  
service of society.” ”

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi



PM Modi offers prayers at the Gurudw ara Sis Ganj Sahib, Delhi, May 1, 2021



PM Modi addresses the gathering virtually during Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's 400th Prakash Parv, April 8, 2021



“

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 US, 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



## 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.

In Union Budget-2021-22, a provision of ₹ 4.5 crore was made for payment of enhanced compensation to the next of kin of deceased of 1984 Anti-Sikh Riots





PM Modi meeting  
1984 riot victims

## **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

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 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 Narendra Modi released a commemorative coin marking the 550th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji at the 'Sawasdee PM Modi' community event in Bangkok (November 2019)



## 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



PM 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 birth anniversary 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



PM Modi at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar

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## 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



PM Modi dedicating the renovated Jallianwala Bagh Memorial to the nation, Amritsar, August 28, 2021

Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi dedicated the renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak to the nation on 28th August, 2021. He also inaugurated museum galleries developed at the Smarak.

Jallianwala Bagh Smarak has been provided with several new and modern amenities, including illumination of strategic spots; and installation of audio nodes throughout the garden. Also, newer areas have been developed for housing the Salvation Ground, Amar Jyot and Flag Mast.



Renovated complex of Jallianwala Bagh Smarak, Amritsar

“

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

## SUPPORT TO AFGHAN SIKHS IN TIMES OF DISTRESS

No matter where Sikhs live in the World, the Modi Government always looks out for their interests, safety and security.

When members of Sikh community and Gurudwaras were targeted in Afghanistan by terrorists, India strongly condemned such cowardly violence. However, the Modi Government did not stop merely at the condemnation of terrorist activities and demonstrated its commitments for the safety and security of minority Sikh community through actions.

The Government of India's Citizenship Amendment Act brought a new hope for the members of the minority community facing persecution abroad and presented them with an opportunity to live a dignified life in India. Following that, India opened its doors with warm hearts for Afghan Sikhs who were facing threats to their lives.





Copies of the holy Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji being received at New Delhi airport



After the turn of events in Afghanistan in August 2021, under operation Devi Shakti, 155 Afghan Sikh and Hindu minority community members were safely brought to India from Afghanistan.

The Ministry of External Affairs set up a Special Afghanistan Cell to coordinate repatriation and other requests from Afghanistan. For a very complex evacuation operation extraordinary measures were taken and some community members were allowed even without passport and visas.

Five copies of Guru Granth Sahib were also brought safely from Kabul to New Delhi by two special flights.

Prior to that, in a targeted terrorist attack on Gurudwara Har Rai Sahib in Kabul on 25 March 2020, lives of more than 25 community members were lost. After the incident, India extended all assistance and granted necessary visas for the Afghan Sikhs to return to India despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions.

The Indian Embassy facilitated their repatriation. First batch of 11 members belonging to Afghan Sikh and Hindu minority community members arrived in India on 26 July 2020. Subsequently, more than 363 minority community members arrived in India during that period. They were received very warmly at the New Delhi airport.



Ensuring good quality education for the children of families of Sikhs from Afghanistan would help securing their future. Hence, the Modi government is providing special scholarships to the children of Afghan Sikhs to study in India.

India continues to be in touch with remaining members of Sikh community in Afghanistan and committed to ensure their safety and security. The Government of India also actively pursues the issue of those Afghan Sikhs who desire to come to India.



Operation Devi Shakti to bring back Afghan Sikhs and stranded Indians safely to India

“

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



## SOLIDARITY WITH SIKHS OF PAKISTAN

People from the Sikh community living in Pakistan are 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

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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

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

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### 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

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

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

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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

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India also raised its voice on the vandalization of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's statue in Lahore

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“

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, Valmiki and Gorkhas 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.

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## 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

PM 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

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

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## REFORMS AND SGPC ELECTIONS

Sikh philosophy inspires people to the highest ideals. It is obvious that only those who are in line with Sangat 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 Sangat maryada, people who trim or shave their beard (keshas), smoke or consume alcohol cannot be considered electors in SGPC elections

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

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



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## 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

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

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

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



PM 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

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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

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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

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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

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A special cross-country Gurudwara Circuit Train journey will be launched that begins and ends in Amritsar will cover at least four prominent Gurudwaras including Sri Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar, Patna Sahib in Bihar's capital city Patna, Hazoor Nanded Saheb in Nanded, Maharashtra and Damdama Sahib in Bathinda

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“ 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



PM Modi with a Sikh artisan at Hunar Haat, New Delhi



## 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	6 Navodaya Vidyalayas	1,734 Health Projects
646 Hostels	403 Multipurpose Community Centre	6 Hospitals
163 Residential Schools	598 Market Sheds	8 Hunar Hub
8,820 Smart Class Rooms	5,299 Toilet and Water Facilities	14 Various Sports Facilities
32 Colleges	143 Common Service Centres	6,014 Anganwadi Centres
94 ITIs	22 Working Women Hostels	23,233 Additional Class Rooms
13 Polytechnics		

“

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

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



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## 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

PM 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

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

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## 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

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Nearly 40 lakh families of Punjab are covered by Ayushman Bharat, which enables them to avail top quality health services for free at even private hospitals

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

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

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

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Satellite Centre of PGI Chandigarh at Firozpur 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

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(ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ ਸਿਹਤ ਸੁਰੱਖਿਆ ਯੋਜਨਾ ਅਧੀਨ)

ਦਾ ਨੀਂਹ ਪੱਥਰ

ਸ਼੍ਰੀ ਨਰਿੰਦਰ ਮੋਦੀ

ਪ੍ਰਧਾਨ ਮੰਤਰੀ

ਸਿੰਘ ਬਾਦਲ

ਮੰਤਰੀ, ਪੰਜਾਬ

PM Modi addressing the gathering at the foundation stone laying ceremony for AIIMS in Bathinda, 25 November 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 impact 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. Subsequently, many of these MSMEs have been supported under the next versions of the ECLGS too

Punjab's street vendors are getting loans to restart their business. Loans were sanctioned to 39,331 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, 3.76 crore mandays of work generated under MNREGA in financial year 2020-21, with 65.09% 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)
- Modi government is spending ₹7,205 crore to remove traffic bottlenecks by realigning key highways in Punjab under the National Highway Development Project (NHDP) projects

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 November 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



PM 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 to benefit Punjab's textile industry massively

## Working for welfare of Punjab's women

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

3.53 lakh women receive more than ₹159 crore under PM Matru Vandana Yojana

About 23.75 lakh borrowers received entrepreneur loans under MUDRA Scheme in Punjab in FY 2019-20 and FY 2020-21. It is well known that typically about 70% of beneficiaries of this scheme are women



PM Modi at the Takht  
Sri Keshgarh Sahib

## Ensuring Ease of Living for All Punjabis

13.88 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

Nearly 75 lakh Jan Dhan Accounts opened in Punjab

Over 1.3 lakh houses sanctioned in urban and rural areas through Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

8,282 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 accepting a memento from Sikh community representatives as Chief Minister of Gujarat during a Gujarati New Year function



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 PM Modi and expressed solidarity with him, September 28, 2014



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







Three copies of the holy Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji at Kabul airport on their way to be airlifted safely to New Delhi



Iron Sword with the inscription in Persian mentioning the name of the Sixth Sikh Guru Shri Hargobind Das (Origin - Punjab; 18th CE).The sword was brought back to India during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US in September 2021.



सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
**INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

Dec 2021