



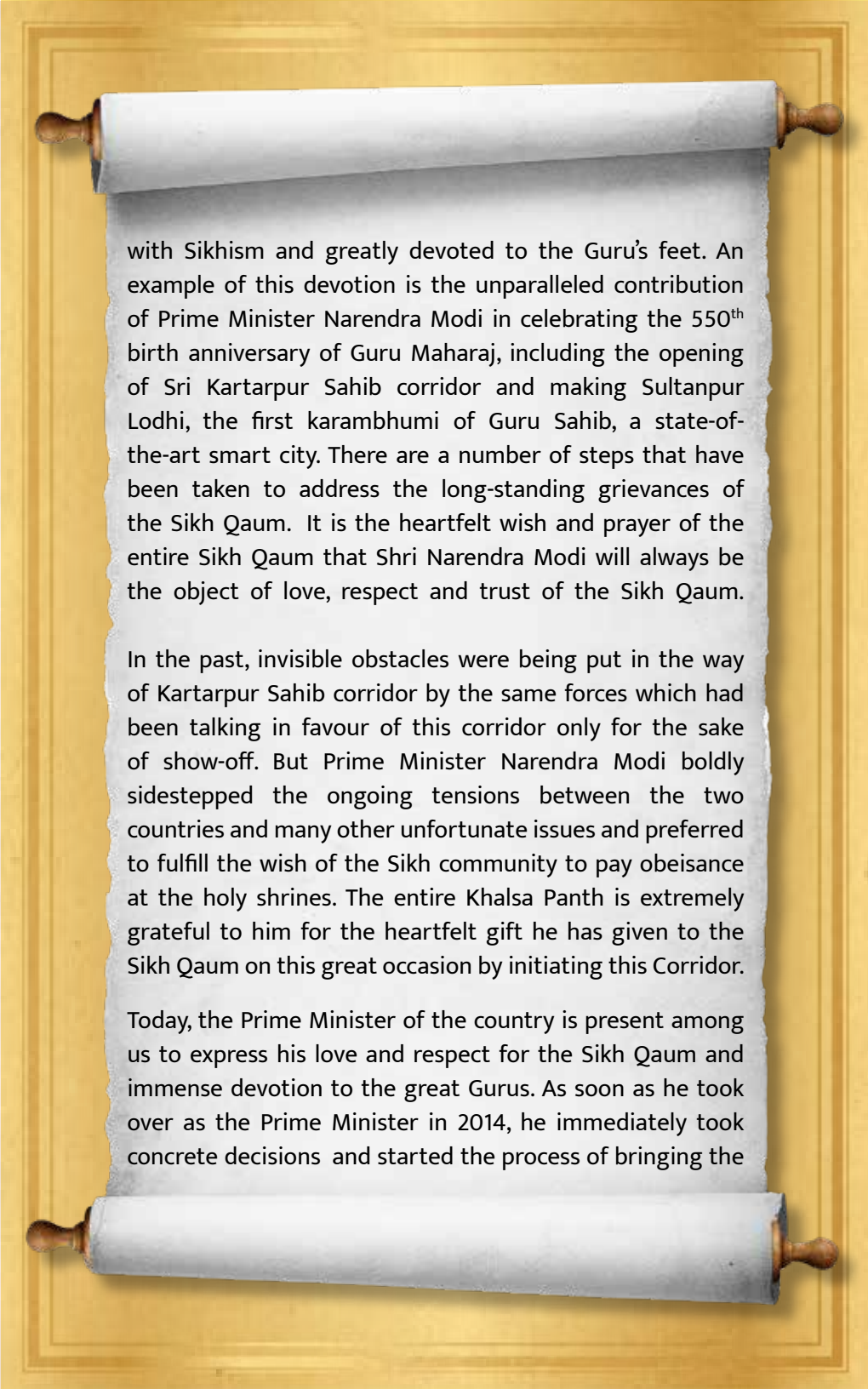
**PM MODI AND HIS
GOVERNMENT'S
SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH SIKHS**

**Citation of Qaumi Seva Award presented to
PM 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 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 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 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 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 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.



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 PM at the helm, no wonder that the government also has taken many institutional measures for the welfare of the Sikhs.



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, PM 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.



With members of the Sikh community

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Golden Temple is a sacred place as it embodies peace and humanism.



FCRA REGISTRATION GRANTED TO SRI HARMANDIR SAHIB, ALLOWING GLOBAL SANGAT PARTICIPATION

Modi government ensured registration of the Sachkhand Sri Harmandir Sahib, Sri Darbar Sahib, Punjab in September 2020

Sri Harmandir Sahib now enabled to receive foreign contribution and utilize it in compliance with provisions of FCRA, 2010

Creates opportunity for global Sikh Sangat to partake in sewa, fulfill their spiritual needs

It is important for the Modi government that the spiritual needs of the global Sikh Sangat be fulfilled without hassles



At the langar, Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar

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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.



2

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, NO TAXES OF ANY KIND ON LANGAR

Sikh community's sense of service is well known and greatly appreciated. The practice of Langar, following the footsteps of the great Sikh Gurus, takes care of the hungry and the needy

Providing financial assistance under 'Seva Bhoj Yojana', Modi government waived GST on Langar items

Annual outlay of ₹325 crore to reimburse central GST and IGST on food items used in Langars

Immense benefit to Gurdwaras serving free food to about 1 crore people daily



At the inauguration of Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor

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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.



3

KARTARPUR SAHIB CORRIDOR: SEAMLESS ACCESS TO BLESSINGS OF SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI

Modi government worked on the development of Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur, Punjab, and also allocated ₹120 crore funding for it

Helps pilgrims to cross over into Pakistan from the Indian side to visit Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib ji in Pakistan through out the year

Integrated development project to provide smooth and easy passage, with all the modern amenities

It has state-of-the art infrastructure, including passenger terminal built to take care of over 15,000 pilgrims per day

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



Inspecting the passenger terminal
at Sri Kartarpur Sahib corridor

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



BOWING TO SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI, DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PILGRIMS AND TOURISTS

Sultanpur Lodhi, where Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji spent much of his life, developed as a heritage city to celebrate his 550th birth anniversary

Modernization of Sultanpur Lodhi Railway station

Special train passing through places associated with Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji five days a week

High-powered telescope for devotees to view Sri Kartarpur Sahib (located in Pakistan) and seek blessings



Receiving a memento from Governing Council members of Khalsa College, Amritsar

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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.



5

PROMOTING RESEARCH ON TEACHINGS OF SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI

National Institute of Inter-Faith Studies being set up at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar to promote brotherhood and diversity; ₹67 crore sanctioned for the same

A chair on Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji set up at a university in UK; another chair in Canada under discussion

Educational activities such as seminars, workshops, lectures organized throughout the country



At the historic Gurdwara Khalsa Diwan in Vancouver, Canada

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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.



6

SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF SRI GURU NANAK DEV JI ACROSS THE WORLD

International seminar on the life and teachings of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji held by ICCR in New Delhi

Publication of Gurbani in different Indian languages being undertaken to make Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji's teachings accessible to all

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

Indian missions overseas organized special events for 550th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji

Kirtan, katha, prabhat pheri, langar, etc. organised throughout the year both at national and international level



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

Being presented with Siropa and Kirpan at
Bhai Ganga Singh Sabha Gurdwara, Tehran in 2016





At the 350th birth anniversary celebrations of
Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji, Curdware Patna Sahib

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



GRAND PRAKASH PARV OF SRI GURU GOBIND SINGH JI ON HIS 350TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

₹100 crore allocated for the celebrations

₹40 crore budget by Railways for providing several facilities

Commemorative coin of ₹350 to mark the occasion

Commemorative postage stamp released in Patna

Steps to improve connectivity between Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Sri Damdama Sahib, Sri Keshgarh Sahib, Sri Patna Sahib and Sri Hazur Sahib

PM Modi inaugurated a 750-bed hospital in memory of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji at Jamnagar

Special flight for pilgrims from Amritsar to Nanded



On the sidelines of 'Howdy, Modi!' event, Houston

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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.



8

SLASHING THE 'BLACKLIST', REACHING OUT WITH A SHOULDER OF SUPPORT

A number of foreign national Sikhs residing in the US, UK, Canada and other countries used to be on the 'blacklist' or the Central Adverse List

This list has been massively reduced by the Modi government - from 314 people to just 2 people

Slashing the blacklist helps them meet their families, get Indian visa and OCI card, and reconnect with their roots



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

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The life & ideals of Sri Guru Gobind Singh ji inspire eternally. He epitomised ultimate courage & a spirit of sacrifice.



9

FULFILLING LONG PENDING DEMANDS OF SIKHS THROUGH VARIOUS MEASURES

Citizenship Amendment Act grants citizenship to Sikh refugees from Afghanistan and Pakistan who suffered forceful religious conversions, terrorism, etc.

Revocation of Article 370 has given equal rights to Sikh minority in Jammu and Kashmir; domicile certificates being issued for 1947 West Pakistan Sikh refugees as well

Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Act 2016 amended, addressing long-standing demand regarding participation in Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee 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

A New Year gift to nation, says Phoolka, as Sajjan goes to jail

Aamir Khan2@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Former Congress leader Sajjan Kumar, a three-time MP, walked in and walked out of the courtroom amid tight security on Monday even as some of the victim families remained outside the main gate of the court complex. After surrendering, he just was accosted on the ground floor and put in a police van, along with a couple of police cars, which left for the jail.

Though Kumar's plea to be lodged in the high-security Tihar Jail was rejected, the court allowed his plea for security. Media persons were not allowed inside the courtroom when proceedings were on. A source, privy to the legal developments, said the court took into consideration the threat for his arraignment in another anti-Sikh riots case.

Senior advocate H S Phoolka, who appeared for the victim families, told TOI, "This is a new year gift to the nation. We have shown that no one is



Congress leader shifted to Mandoli

Convicted Congress leader Sajjan Kumar has been lodged in Mandoli campus of Tihar Jail in east Delhi. His plea to be lodged by late

Govt to pay Rs 5 lakh relief for each killed in '84 riots

ANTI-SIKH RIOTS | Rs 166 cr to be given to kin of 3,325 victims

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 15

THE NDA government has decided to give Rs 5 lakh as relief to the kin of those killed in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has taken a decision to disburse around Rs 166 crore to the kin of 3,325 victims killed in the riots.



1984 Janki Devi, who lost eight members of her family in the riots, at her home in New Delhi.

The Indian EXPRESS

Wednesday, October 15, 2018

1984 anti-Sikh riots: Delhi court awards death penalty to convict, life term to another

Updated: November 20, 2018 8

INDIA TODAY

Centre to act on Justice Dhingra report on 1984 Sikh riots that said police assisted rioters

January 15, 2020 UPDATED: January 15, 2020 13:36 IST

DH DECCAN HERALD

1984 riots: justice finally done

DEC 19 2018, 00:01 IST | UPDATED: DEC 19 2018, 01:56 IST



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.



10

WIPING TEARS OF RIOT VICTIMS: JUSTICE DELIVERED AFTER DENIAL OF 3 DECADES

Modi 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 80 cases for further investigation

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



PM Modi meeting
1984 riot victims

While others deprived the Sikh community of justice, the Modi government worked to ensure that victims and their affected families can get justice

Compensation Provided to Victims Pan-India:

Additional amount of ₹5 lakh to the kin of the 1984 riot victims

1,020 riot-hit families who had migrated to Punjab from different parts of India due to the violence given ₹2 lakh each as part of centrally-sponsored rehabilitation scheme





With Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani at Sri Harmandir Sahib, Amritsar

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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.



11

SHOWCASING SIKH HERITAGE TO THE WORLD

Ministry of Tourism sanctioned development of Anandpur Sahib - Fatehgarh Sahib - Chamkaur Sahib - Ferozpur - Amritsar - Khatkar Kalan - Kalanour - Patiala Heritage circuit under Swadesh Darshan scheme

'Multimedia Exhibition' organized on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji at Sultanpur Lodhi and 12 other places

Air Connectivity between Amritsar and Nanded via special flight initiated

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani taken on a visit to Sri Harmandir Sahib in Amritsar as part of official visit



At Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar

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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.



12

JALLIANWALA BAGH MEMORIAL - SALUTING SACRIFICES, HONOURING MEMORIES

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



With a Sikh artisan at Hunar Haat, New Delhi

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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.



13

EMPOWERING SIKH YOUTH WITH OPPORTUNITIES

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 PM 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

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, US met PM 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



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



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



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