

Over 500 pilgrims visit Kartarpur as Modi inaugurates corridor, Sidhu sends PM hug from Pakistan

From the inauguration of Kartarpur Corridor to over 500 visits on first day, here are the day's developments.

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Corridor links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Indian Punjab | PTI photo

P rime Minister Narendra Modi thanked his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan for understanding India's sentiment on the issue of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor.

The Kartarpur Corridor links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in this Punjab district.

"It will be easy to pay obeisance at the Darbar Sahib Gurdwara after the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor," PM Modi said at a gathering in Dera Baba Nanak.

Asserting that he is fortunate to be able to dedicate the Kartarpur corridor to the country, he said that the opening of the corridor and the integrated check post will bring double happiness to the people.

"We have become irresponsible about the environment," the prime minister said.

#WATCH Punjab: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the Integrated Check Post of the #KartarpurCorridor at Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur.



1,242 1:31 PM - Nov 9, 2019



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PM INAUGURATES KARTARPUR CORRIDOR, FLAGS OFF FIRST JATHA OF PILGRIMS

[Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the Kartarpur Corridor](#) at Dera Baba Nanak, Gurdaspur and flagged off the first batch of over 500 Indian pilgrims.

Modi flagged off the first batch of over 500 Indian pilgrims led by Akal Takhat Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib through the corridor, which was thrown open to public on the occasion of the 550th birth anniversary of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev.

The prime minister inaugurated the passenger terminal building of the corridor on the Indian side, also known as Integrated Check Post (ICP), where pilgrims will get clearance to travel through the newly-built 4.5 km-long corridor.



The first batch of pilgrims included Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, former chief minister Parkash Singh Badal, Sukhbir Singh Badal and Navjot Singh Sidhu.

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee members and all the 117 MLAs and MPs from Punjab were also part of the jatha (delegation).

At the time of flagging off the jatha, Modi met Manmohan Singh, who was accompanied by his wife Gursharan Kaur, and had a brief chat with him.



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#WATCH Punjab: Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Former PM Dr.Manmohan Singh at inauguration of the Integrated Check Post of the #KartarpurCorridor at Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur, earlier today



6,810 6:58 PM - Nov 9, 2019



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KARTARPUR CORRIDOR: MODI THANKS IMRAN KHAN FOR UNDERSTANDING INDIA'S SENTIMENT

Saying that he felt blessed to be on holy land, [Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday thanked his Pakistan counterpart Imran Khan for understanding and respecting India's sentiments](#) on the issue of the Kartarpur Sahib corridor.

Dedicating the corridor to the nation, Narendra Modi also thanked Pakistan's workers who worked to help build their portion of the corridor.

"I thank Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan miaji. He understood India's feelings on the Kartarpur corridor issue, gave respect and, keeping in view those feelings, worked accordingly," Modi told a gathering at the Border Security Force (BSF) camp in Shikhaar Masiahan, about eight kilometre from the Dera Baba Nanak Gurdwara.



Modi meets with NRI delegation which will use Kartarpur Corridor to reach Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan | Photo from PTI

"I also want to thank the workers of Pakistan who worked at a fast pace to help in building the corridor on their side," PM Modi added.

Narendra Modi also congratulated everybody in the crowd, the country and Sikhs the world over on the occasion.

562 PILGRIMS VISIT KARTARPUR GURDWARA IN PAKISTAN ON FIRST DAY

On the inaugural day, [562 pilgrims crossed over to Pakistan to offer prayers at the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib](#) in Kartarpur after the much-awaited corridor was opened, officials said on Saturday.

A total of 562 pilgrims were part of the first 'jatha' who visited Gurdwara Darbar Sahib on the first day of the pilgrimage, a Home Ministry official said.

As per the agreement between India and Pakistan, all the pilgrims have returned to India after visiting the gurdwara located in Pakistan's Narowal district.

It was an emotional and spiritual moment for the devotees who paid obeisance at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur on the inaugural day of the cross-border passage, and they hoped it will become a **"peace corridor"** in future.