

Kartarpur Corridor: A Gate Way to Peace in South Asia (Evolution, Development, Prospects & Implications)

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ABSTRACT

The opening of kartarpur corridor project between India and Pakistan on Nov 9,2019 provides a rational and peace-loving response from the either side despite a complicated situation of trust deficit, antagonism and unsolved conflicts exist in the region. It becomes a passage of greater social and economic connectivity between the South Asian arch rival Nuclear States. It teaches the lesson for promulgation of secular ideas and tolerance towards minorities with in the religious democracy like Pakistan. How political and economic empowerment of the people in South Asia can be materialized without any religious discrimination by a courageous leadership? The kartarpur corridor has provided visa free access to the Sikh pilgrims from India and across the World to worship at their holiest shrine. The practical working of the corridor since its construction with certain modalities has proved as a remarkable foot in the context of people to people and bilateral relations between India and Pakistan. The qualitative, descriptive and comparative approaches have applied to examine, that the project can produce further opportunity to get forward for more peace in the region. There are other options of dialogue diplomacy, conflict resolution and bilateral trade to combat the evils of poverty, hunger and ignorance in South Asia.

Keywords: *kartarpur Corridor, Hug Diplomacy, Bilateral Modalities, Muscular Nationalism, Diaspora*

Introduction

The two nuclear armed neighbors India and Pakistan have laid the foundation stone of Kartarpur peace corridor in November 2018. Both the Nations are facing a critical time of mistrust and confrontation in South Asia due to the presence of various historical and contemporary disputes i.e. Kashmir conflict, Siachen, Indus Basin treaty related water dispute, Sir creek border conflict, State terrorism and cross border terrorism. Thus, the presence of various historical, geo-strategic, political and territorial conflict has ever infuriated the situation and generated reciprocal aggravation and antagonism which has brought the region at nuclear flash point & a dangerous deterrence particularly in the post nuclear detonation environment. The opening of Kartarpur corridor in the midst of the versioning situation and standoff between India and Pakistan has been a remarkable feat. The opening of the corridor even during the time of extreme tension can be quite

helpful to melt the ice. It allows India and Pakistan to come forward and settle their bi-lateral disputes through religious tourism and peace diplomacy. The Kartarpur shrine is close to Indo-Pakistan Border within the diameter of 3-kilometer distance. The white dome of Baba Guru Nanak the founder of Sikh religion can be seen from across the India-Pakistan border of Gurdaspur and Narowal Punjab on the western bank of Ravi river. The opening time and venue of Kartarpur corridor was selected on the eve of the 550 anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji the first and a founder saint of Sikhism. Prime Minister Khan's Kartarpur initiative called for peace and cross border trade between India and Pakistan allowing 5000 pilgrims to visit holy shrines during a day has appreciated and acknowledged by the global community as a step forward for peace and stability in the region. The United States, European Union, Canada and millions of Sikhs across the world describe it as one of the biggest birthday celebrations in the world (Hussain Zahid, 2019). Prime Minister Imran Khan inaugurated the peace corridor on November 9, 2019 despite Prime Minister Modi's Kashmir lock down and the suppression of over 8 million Kashmiri people who have been striving for their right of self-determination for last 72 years. Yet India did not show any change or flexibility towards the Kashmir cage despite of a country wide protest in India and growing international outrage. The Modi administration continued to adhere with its muscular nationalism policy under a Hindu majoritarian regime to annex the occupied territory by changing the nature of article 35A and 370 of the Indian constitution. Prime Minister Khan revealed to global political community that the Kartarpur corridor can bring hostile neighbors on the table of talks for peace and religious tolerance toward minority rather than to convert a religious community to a minority through territorial occupation. Military suppression and the act of racial genocide. Unlike the global appreciation of Pakistan's Kartarpur peace diplomacy the selected Indian media, statesmen, ruling class claimed it as Khalistani Terrorism. It was poisonously perceived and propagated that Pakistan strengthens Khalistan movement in the Indian Punjab through the exploitation of religious shrine and emotions of Sikh pilgrims. (Ajai Sahni, 2018). Whereas Pakistan following the rational approach intends to promote religious tourism and people to people contacts to reduce hostilities between New Delhi and Islamabad. However, the major irritants in the relationship particularly the Kashmir issue did not lose the site of Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan who said on the eve of Kartarpur event that "A just solution to the Kashmir question could help bring peace to the Subcontinent. Unfortunately, India's rulers have failed to grasp the basic fact for over 7 decades. India is serious about the pursuit of peace, a good first Step would be to lift the siege of occupied Kashmir and led the people of region to live in peace. It is possible only if the constructive dialogue on Kashmir may be proceeded together with confidence building measure to break the dead lock in the region of South Asia." (Dawn 2019, Nov 12)

Geographical Outlook of Kartarpur

The historic Kartarpur Gurdwara (A holy worship place in Sikh religion) had been constructed on the lower bank of the Ravi river linking Indian Punjab from district Gurdaspur to Pakistani territory of Narowal district located in the west Punjab. Guru Nanak Dev the founder of Sikhism spent last eighteen years of his life at Kartarpur by cultivation of a huge land following the principles of charity for every one especially the poor people. The Kartarpur corridor connects holy shrines

Kartarpur Corridor: A Gate Way to Peace in South Asia (Evolution, Development, Prospects & Implications)

of Dera Baba Nanak Sahib in Gurdaspur district of East Punjab in India with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur Narowal Pakistan. The total length and distance between Dera Baba Nanak & Gurdwara Darbar Sahib comprise almost 4 kilometers equally possessed 2 kilometer either side of the international border between India and Pakistan. The government of Pakistan has allocated 408 acers of land to construct Gurdwara kartarpur complex. Furthermore, the kartarpur Gurdwara temple has been extended into 42 acres rather than its original size of 4 acres. According to an estimate almost Rupee 13 billion has been cost to construct the 1st phase of the Kartarpur complex including border terminal buildings, langer Khana, Gurdwara complex and a bridge over the Ravi River (Yousafzai ,2019).

The Temple Complex Construction

The kartarpur temple complex was constructed by the federal works organization (FWO) of Pakistan within an amazing time span of 11 months during December 2018 to October 2019. It is the most beautiful white colored project with an admirable marble works. The local administration, Punjab government and FWO has acquired 408 acres land for the construction of the largest Gurdwara in the World. The holy kartarpur complex includes the renovated and polished shrines temples in the center of 10 acres white marbled yard along with a historic Khuu Sahib.

(Water Well) where Baba Gur Nanak Dev was used to cultivate the crops and to quench the thirst of humanity. The compound contains a fabulous Baradari, Diwan Isthana, Angetha Sahib with a large langer hall for thousands of the pilgrims. A wonderful Sarovar exists as an important part of the Gurdwara Sahib. The sacred Granthi house and accommodation of 700 Yatrees in the residential block along with administration offices indicates the worth of the complex. The main complex surrounded by parking areas & community washrooms. The construction of 5- and 7-star hotels, accommodation of 10,000 Yatrees, shopping malls and marked would be completed under phase 2 by 2022. (ETPB, 2020). The kartarpur gurdwara corridor project aims to build 5 more residential blocks for Yatrees. It is 6.8-kilometer inward Shakargarh-Narowal road and 4.5 kilometer away from Zero-point Indian border at Dera Baba Nanak Gurdaspur. Furthermore 36 acres land has been allocated for vegetation and plantation just beside the Gurdwara complex. Then project has been attributed and connected with emigration border terminal, registration center, Medical facilities, visa free entry and a bus Shuttle service for Yatrees. The first phase of kartarpur corridor project costs rupees 13 billion by October 2019. (The Nation, 2019, June 15). The FWO and Punjab government has planned to acquired 871 acres more land to extend the project in future.

The initiative and Evolution

The great leadership finds opportunity and space for secular voices even within a religious democracy like Pakistan where the secular motivations exists as the inheritance of British rule. Prime minister Imran Khan founded prospect of tolerance, respect and regard for the religious minorities despite a sever opposition from different domestic quarters of Pakistan. The construction of kartarpur corridor to connect and combine two holy shrines of Sikh religion across the Ravi River in Indian and Pakistani Punjab depicts the wisdom and rational of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The motivations reveal the significance of secular identity

even in religious culture of Pakistan. The bilateral indo- Pakistan relationship has been attributed through conflicting nature of mistrust, unresolved issues, broken promises and unending disputes. (Shukla, 2019). Thus, Pakistan's policy perspective can be cited as the valid example of religious identity for its minorities other than the Muslims majority. Pakistan gives importance to Sikh community even the linkages between India and Pakistan are precedented hostile to each other through out their diplomatic history (Mamoon & Murshad, 2010).The democracy model of governance which empowers the people and enforces the ideals of socio-economic justice, prosperity, provision of opportunity, freedom of monetary choice, religious orientation, domestic and national integration in the context of the promotion of common interest and harmony among different section of the society(Gutmann,2009). The modern democracy ensures harmonized environment of religious freedom without any discrimination of ethnic and religious polarization (Dawood, 2018). Does India carry such a model of secular democracy in practice rather than to be declared in the documents of the Constitution. The dismantling of articles 35A & 370 of the Indian Constitution by the hardliner Modi regime intends to change the territorial status of Jammu and Kashmir through the violation of Indian independence act of 1947 which sheerly goes against the model of liberal democracy, secularism and the concept of global citizenship. The modern democracies are supposed to ensure the recognition of tangible and intangible efforts for the innovation of process culture through the application of modern technology and ideas to compensate every individual in social and anthropological environment. (Mittinen, 2013). Contrary to Indian practice of religion freedom Pakistan has demonstrated Islamic democracy while hosting of different religious shrines of non-Muslim minorities particularly Sikhs have been facilitated reside in India. (Dalal,2010). The Sikh community has ever been facilitated by Pakistan to visit the holiest shrines of Baba Guru Nanak by giving easy access visa formalities and eased the Sikh pilgrims to visit the religious site without visa through the construction of Kartarpur Corridor within indo-Pakistan borders in Punjab.

The Post Partition Religious Protocol 1974

A great number of Hindu, Muslim and Sikh pilgrims deprived of their revered and holy shrines which were cut off due to the partition of India in 1947. A number of Muslim religious sites vested to India a few Hindu temples fell in Pakistan and the major holy worship places of Sikh religion including Nankana Sahib, kartarpur, Rori Sahib and Panja Sahib are situated in Punjab, Pakistan. therefore, India and Pakistan have regulated religious visits and travel under the bilateral protocol of 1974.Both the states agreed to allow the pilgrims to travel each another country under certain settled conditions. Pakistan was entitled to issue 7500 visas to Sikh Yatrees to visit their shrine not more than four times in a year. The 800 Hindu pilgrimages were allowed to visit Pakistan during a year. Where India was to guaranteed visa to 1350 Muslim pilgrims to visit to visit five holy places per year. The agreement allowed to issue visa of specific places for a limited time span. The religious worshipers from both sides whoever have been victimized due to changing geostrategic environment of the region and emerging constraints between India and Pakistan. On the whole 15 locations for religious worship in Pakistan and 5 places in India for Pakistani pilgrims were covered under the bilateral protocol of 1974. (Zahid Hussain 2019)

Kartarpur Corridor: A Gate Way to Peace in South Asia (Evolution, Development, Prospects & Implications)

Long-standing claim for Kartarpur Corridor

Almost 2.7 Crores followers of Sikhism have ever demanded the opening of Kartarpur border to get access to the revered shrine of the Baba Guru Nanak across the Indo-Pakistan border where he spent last 18 years of his life. The Sikh pilgrims were used to see the holy Gurdwara Kartar Sahib by a telescope from nearly four km distance which was a difficult worship for the children and old aged people. The several attempts have been made by different political regime in India and Pakistan to create people to people contacts on economic and social grounds especially between the border provinces. The foundational idea of Kartarpur corridor was discussed and purposed for the first time when Atal Bihari Vajpai the Indian Prime Minister visited Lahore in 1999. Dr. Manmohan Singh then the Prime Minister also revealed his consent to Captain Amrinder Singh the Chief Minister of Punjab to take the Kartarpur issue up with Pakistan during the next bilateral talks (The Tribune 2004, Sep. 1). General Pervaiz Musharraf then the chief executive of Pakistan gave a positive sign to facilitate the Sikh devotees visit to Kartarpur Gurdwara. The Musharraf government was willing to construct a corridor across the Ravi river from Dera Baba Guru Nanak to Gurdwara Kartarpur (The Tribune 2000, Nov 16). The composite dialogue process was initiated between India and Pakistan during 2004-05 including the launching of Khokhra Par- Munabao railway line and the restoration of Amritsar -Lahore Kartarpur road service. The efforts and initiatives could not be materialized due to occurrence of new strains in the bilateral Indo-Pak relations as Natwar Singh the Former Indian Foreign Secretary viewed it a “chronically accident prone”. (Natwar Singh, 2011). Different Steps were taken to normalize economic and political relations between India and Pakistan during 2009-20. The People party government in Pakistan Supported the Idea of peace building and composite dialogue process between both the nuclear neighboring states. Similarly the PML-N administration led by Nawaz Shareef made several efforts for direct access of the Sikh Pilgrims to the holy Shrines of Kartarpur but nothing was acquired in practice due to lack of any positive sign or green signal from New Delhi. Even Prime Minister Narendra Modi surprise visit to Lahore returning from Russia on December 25th 2015 could not melt the ice of antagonism, distrust, suspect and strained relationship. The ties between New Delhi and Islamabad tightened upward due to the occurrence of Uri terror attacks in Pathankot Indian Punjab which charged 18 Indian soldiers life. Pakistan perceived Indian initiatives as the welcome gesture to normalize their bilateral relations and peace building process in south Asia. The Islamabad administration decided to acknowledge to the rights to Sikh followers to find easy access to their holy places inside Pakistan.

The Bajwa-Sidhu Hug Diplomacy

After winning majority in general election in Pakistan Imran Khan the leader of Pakistan Tahreek- Insaaf (PTI) invited Navjot Singh Sidhu a former cricketer and currently politician in the legislative assembly in Indian Punjab to attend his inaugural and oath taking ceremony at Islamabad in August 2018. It was an occasion of a big breakthrough when General Qamar Javid Bajwa the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) in Pakistan embraced Navjot Sidhu and implied to open the Kartarpur corridor for Sikh Yatrees across the Indo-Pakistan border. A country wide controversy in Indian media was started against General Bajwa's Hug

diplomacy which was perceived as exploitation of religious Shrines and pilgrims by Pakistan. Sidhu later on revealed that General Bajwa walked up to him and told that “Navjot we want peace...Islamabad would open the corridor to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur on the eve of 550 anniversary of Baba Guru Nanak Sahib in November 2019”. (NDTV, 2018).

Ground Breaking Ceremony in Pakistan

The prime minister of Pakistan Imran Khan laid the foundation stone for the construction of kartarpur corridor on November 28, 2018 at Kartarpur Sahib Narowal district of Panjab. The corridor project was designed for border crossing of the Indian Sikh pilgrims that will connect Dear Baba Nanak Sahib in India and Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan. The two Sacred places for Sikh religion. The corridor provides an easy visa free access to Sikh community from Indian Punjab to Pakistani Punjab just traveling after 4.5 km distance. Prime Minister Khan called for a forward-looking approach to resolve all the bilateral issues between India and Pakistan during the ground breaking ceremony of Kartarpur corridor. The construction of Kartarpur Corridor project will support to start a new era of Indo-Pakistan relations with a firm believe that corridor will promote people to people contact, good will gesture and the better diplomatic linkages in the fourth coming future. Prime Minister Khan emphasized on fighting against the disease of ignorance, poverty and hunger in South Asia and committed to get forward two steps if India takes One for a forward-looking model. (Sevea, 2018). Navjot Singh Sidhu the member of India Punjab legislature heartily welcomed the construction of corridor and stated it will build bridges and burn animosity and will act like a soothing balm for two neighbor countries. (Navjot, 2018). Harsimrat Kaur Badal the federal minister of food processing in India and Hardeep Singh Puri the minister of state with independent charge attended the Kartarpur inaugural ceremony and expressed that the corridor ushered in a new approach towards religious harmony and travel between India and Pakistan. Prime Minister Khan recommended that the kartarpur project will be a first step towards the cultivation of greater economic relations between India and Pakistan. (Khan, 2018). The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed kartarpur corridor initiative taken by Pakistan reportedly speaking at a birth anniversary function of Baba Guru Nanak. “He Said the Kartarpur corridor will act as the bridge between the people to two countries with the blessing of Guru Nanak Dev G. Then people to people contacts have tremendous potential and power. Prime Minister Modi further said it then right time to fight together against the disease of poverty, hunger and illiteracy. (Ashraf, 2018). Yet the question arises Does Modi mean it? Has He done anything during the last five years to prove his credentials as the peace promoter in the region? Nothing has been done to start meaningful dialogue for the amicable solution of core issues of Kashmir as a bone of contention between nuclear neighbors of South Asia. The answer comes out unfortunately in the negative narration. The Modi administration has been striving to alienating Pakistan in the region by using all the available forum to portray Pakistan as a terror sponsoring country notwithstanding the fact that India has itself committed State terrorism through provoking insurgency in Baluchistan and fueling the acts of terrorism in Pakistan substantiated by Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav an Indian Navy Commander in his confessional statements (Dawn 2016, March 30).

India laid the Foundation Stone

Mr. Venkaiah Naidu the vice president of India along with Captain Amrinder Singh the Chief Minister of Indian Punjab laid the foundation stone of kartarpur corridor project on November 26, 2018 at then Indian side. Naidu expressed during the ground breaking ceremony Dera Baba Nanak Gurdaspur “I am happy that Pakistan has accepted the long-pending demand of Kartarpur corridor fulfilling the demands of the Sikh community. Now the People of India nit have to take a long-distance route through the Attari border. The Corridor will become a symbol of love and peace between India and Pakistan” (The Express Tribune, 2018). The Indian leadership believed to expedite the Kartarpur corridor construction process due to the height pitch intensity and religious sentiments of the people in the province of Punjab. India did not consider to acquire Pakistan, consent for its request to open the corridor for Sikh community. The Nov 2018 initiative has been observed as the sudden change of behaviour and a surprised act on the part of the Pakistan Sushma Swaraj Then the Foreign minister of India de-linked Kartarpur Negotiations from the resumption of bi-lateral talks related to all the existing conflicts between the India and Pakistan. Swaraj started bilateral dialogues and Kartarpur corridor are two different things. I am happy on Pakistan positive response towards the construction and opening of an old Indian demand. The bilateral talks can be associated with terror (Sushma Swaraj 2018). Pakistan continued to generate positive and rational approach to promote to goodwill harmony and peace building to actualize the democratic culture of mutual co-existence in the region. Perhaps both India and Pakistan accepted the symbolic importance of Kartarpur corridor even in the presence of unending and unresolved issues as the Kashmir conflict, state terrorism, cross border terrorism and the water disputes. The credit of building Kartarpur project has claimed by both sides in India and Pakistan as a great movement and activities has been observed during the month of Nov 2018, particularly the commencement of ground breaking ceremonies in India and Pakistan. The major political parties in India i.e. BJP Akali Dal and aimed to earn the maximum created in the forthcoming elections of India. The equal participation in ground breaking function in Nov 2018 and the inaugural of opening the corridor on Nov 2019 by all the three major parties of India was an attempt to win the mind of Sikh Community. (Sevea 2018,4)

The Bilateral Talks and Modalities

The leadership from both countries talked on different occasions to open the corridor for Yatrees without the visa permission, different rules and regulation, diplomatic norms, immigration values, security measures for travelers were to be settled by the diplomatic and responsible authorities of India and Pakistan. The Indian side ever exposed its concern of political threat of terror infiltration. India put the question to get the consular access to the pilgrims, (MOFA 2019). whereas Pakistan has been occasionally alleged to support Khalistan issue in the Indian Punjab. The series of bilateral talks continued between India and Pakistan despite the occurrence of unwanted events of terrorist attack in Amritsar grenade attack on Nov 18,2018, Pulwama terrorist attack in the Indian occupied Kashmir ,Indian military claimed strike in Balakot KPK Pakistan and Indo Pakistan air fight which destroyed two India air jets with live capturing of Abi Nandan an Indian polit on Feb 27,2019. The meeting of Indo Pak representatives for the settlement of code of

conduct to travel across the Indo Pakistan border at Attari on March 14,2019.The conclusive and constructive debates and discussions carried on the related and purposed issues of the Kartarpur corridor on March 19,2019.The technical experts of both countries once again discussed certain matters at Attari like finished road level, high flood level at Ravi river bridge, road construction immigration terminal and Bus service facilities to the visitors (Shukla 2019). Afterward the final round technical dialogue was conducted on April 2, 2019 at Wahga to conclude the operational service of the Kartarpur corridor for Indian pilgrims. The temporary constraints disturbed the momentum of bilateral talks but the temporary hiccups were healed soon and both the countries decided to facilitate the completion and working of historic Kartarpur corridor project.

The Dream Comes True

At the time of a great trust deficit and confrontation in the subcontinent due to the presence of certain definite and unsolved conflict between India and Pakistan, prime minister Imran Khan took a bold and courageous step to fulfil the 72 years demand of Sikh community living in India and around the world. Imran Khan formally announced to open the corridor on Nov 9,2019 in the presence of hundreds of people come from India and Pakistan including Manmohan Sing the former Indian prime minister, Navjot Sidhu the former cricketer and currently politician Indian Punjab represent the Congress party. Mr. Sunny Deol a film celebrity turned politician belongs to BJP the ruling party also attended the ceremony. The rational leadership always take bold steps and adopts the varied analytic approaches and assumptions to get rid of the prevailing crises. The political communication model provides support to change the perception from negative to positive, because political communication needs to accommodate the diverse situation. (Franklin, J.H.1995) Thus prime minster Khan communicated his peace-loving intention to the world while addressing at Kartarpur event that Pakistan wants peace and trade with India despite a grim situation in Indian occupied Kashmir created by Modi administration since 5th August 2019. Through the corridor 5000 pilgrims will be able to visit the holy shrine of Kartarpur Narowal Pakistan through Dera Baba Nanak Gurdaspur India without visa during a day. PM Khan welcomed and congratulate the Sikh community on the world's largest 550th birthday anniversary celebrations of Baba Guru Nanak. He further said "I tribute to those who made this dream possible. I only got to know a year ago about the importance of Kartarpur sahib. This is the Medina for the Sikhs of the world. The messengers of all regions have taught justice and love to humanity. A true leader always brings people closer not divide them. A leader does not spread hatter and canvass votes on the name of religion. I told Prime minster Modi that our biggest issue is poverty and our tread will eliminate poverty from the region. The sub-continent would only be prosperous when the conflict of Kashmir was resolved and God willing that day is not for. Imran Khan hoped the opening of the historic Kartarpur corridor will begin and era where Pakistan and India would no longer be enemies". (The express Tribune 2019, Nov 10). The former Indian prime minster expressed "I hope India and Pakistan improve as a result of this beginning. Captain Amrinder Sing the Chief Minister of India Punjab said the entire Sikh community feels happy as their 70 years old wish to visit the religious shrine comes true, I hope this is a beginning and many more Gurdwara are going to be allowed for worship. Sunny Deol the BJP peace in South Asia. It was really a

Kartarpur Corridor: A Gate Way to Peace in South Asia (Evolution, Development, Prospects & Implications)

nice visit, it is our beginning towards peace ; (ANI 2019, Nov 10) Surrender Sing Khanduri the head of Sikh Gurdwara in Dubai stated on the occasion “The historic opening of the corridor offered a great opportunity for the Sikh community to bring India and Pakistan together in these testing times; Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi the foreign minister of Pakistan categorically tribute to the teaching of Baba Guru Nanak who gave universal message of peace and love. It is the seeds of love planted by him have blossomed today: (Iqtidar Gillani,2019) Sardar Charon Sing on eminent Sikh leader said “Prime minster Imran Khan should give a Nobel prize over his initiatives for the pilgrims; Navjot Sing Sidhu heaped lavish praises of prime minister Khan for opening the Kartarpur corridor he said “Imran Khan has won the hearts of 140 million Sikh of the world. He has made the dream of millions of Sikhs comes true. He has created history which no political leader could do in 72 years” (Daily Times 2019, Nov 10)

Continuity of Jinnah’s Democratic Legacy

Prime minster Imran Khan continued to demonstrate M.A Jinnah legacy of religious tolerance towards all the minorities and religions in Pakistan as the father of the Nation expressed in his famous statement in the first week of Aug 1947. Our objective should be peace within and peace without. We want to live peacefully and have cordial and friendly relations with our immediate neighbors and the world at large. We have no aggressive designs against anyone. We stand by the united Nation charter” (Amin 2014). Prime minster Khan said “That the inauguration of Kartarpur corridor is a manifestation of the fact that our hearts are always open for the believes of different religious as enjoyed by our great religion and envisioned by our farther of the Nation. He claimed that interfaith harmony and peaceful co-existence would provide an opportunity to work for larger interests of the people of subcontinent. This unprecedented gesture of goodwill from the Pakistan government is a reflection of our deep respect for Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the religious sentiments of Sikh community”. Prime minster Khan believed that the notion of bilateral religious tourism can become an effective element to reduce hostilities between Islamabad and New Delhi. Un fortunately Prime minster Khan’s rational approach for peace and looking forward the economic development in the region has been attributed and associated with Sikh diaspora, Indian alleged support to Khalistan movement through the exploitation of religious places situated in Pakistan and the sentiments of the Sikh pilgrims (Daily Times 2018, Dec 15).

The Indian Muscular Nationalism

India remains adhered to its Kashmir cage policy changing the demographic reality of Jammu and Kashmir through the violation of Articles 35 A and 370 of the Indian Constitution since Aug 5,2019. The enactment of citizenship by Indian legislature has resulted the countrywide demonstration of all Indian minorities fully supported by opposition political parties and moderated media channels. The ongoing protest took more than 50 lives with hundreds of houses, shops, Mosques burnt only in the Indian capital. The denial of UN security council resolutions of Aug 13, 1948 and Jan 5, 1949 deems to defuse the right of self-determination of Kashmiri people. The Kashmir lockdown and its territorial annexation espouses Hindutva ideology of Hindu majoritarian Regime by P.M Modi under BJP

hardliner religious political party. The BJP's politics has promoted Machiavellian muscular nationalism rather than Imran Khan's moderated religious democracy with legal constitutional and proportional compensation of minorities. The escalation of Hindutva ideology has affected the external secular image of India and victimized the working of its institutions (Hussain 2019). The verdict of India supreme court has allowed the constitution of a temple at the place of the demolished historical Babri Mosque has come on the eve of Kartarpur corridor Saturday Nov 9, 2019. (Dawn 2019, Nov 10). If the democratic government model of secular India given by Ghandi the father of Nation applied through the violent mindset of suppression and anomic culture of Rashtriya Sewak miswak Sang (RSS) inspired by the fascist Adolf Hitler and Machiavelli's Prince, how peace, normalization development and stability can be persistent in the region?

Regional and Global Significance of Kartarpur Corridor

The Holy temple of Kartarpur located in district Narowal Punjab Pakistan was constructed by the followers of Baba Guru Nanak Dev Ji on the site where he was passed away on September 22, 1539. It is a great and significant shrine among all the three major religions of subcontinent i.e. Sikhism, Hinduism and Islam as the claimants of Baba Nanak's mortal remains (Narayanan 2015) Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus performed the last site and funeral and non-controversial practice advised by himself according to their faiths. Thus, the Kartarpur Gurdwara complex possess a historic temple and grave in the center covered by a glowing white marbled yard, presents the philosophy of interfaith harmony expounded by Baba Guru Nanak the founder of Sikh religion. The Kartarpur corridor connects two Holy shrine of Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur an Indian Punjab city with Gurdwara Kartarpur situated at Narowal city in Punjab Pakistan. The corridor has provided opportunity to pilgrimages with visa free visit during a day by paying just 500fee. The corridor project has introduced tourism, marketing, hoteling and a great economic boost in lieu of Pakistan's mega investment over billion 15 rupees by the end of 2019. It has filled the gap and distance between the East and West Punjab that was created through the division process of India in 1947. The Kartarpur corridor project has built a hope and hypothesis to open other corridors like Amritsar-Lahore and Sharda Peeth temple in Jamu and Kashmir. Consequently, such people to people contacts and visits will play instrumental role to bring peace and harmony between two hostile and Nuclear neighboring states of South Asia (Sevea 2018). Through the Kartarpur corridor thousands of the Sikh Yatrees from India and all around the world have visited the Holy shrine to fulfill their 72 years old dream of worship. The visitors around the globe have expressed their excitement, enthusiasms and pleasure with a great satisfaction of religious zeal. The corridor project has strengthened the probability of consensus development among the masses and authorities of India and Pakistan to break the deadlock in bilateral talks for the solution of their core conflicts. A large number of Yatrees from Canada, Australia, England and the United states have appreciated and welcomed the opening of Kartar as a gateway to peace in South Asia (Sevea 2018).

Implications of the Project

The Kartarpur corridor development project imprinted certain economic, social, political, regional and global implications for both India and Pakistan. Although

Kartarpur Corridor: A Gate Way to Peace in South Asia (Evolution, Development, Prospects & Implications)

leadership and media in India has apparently encouraged the corridor as an act to bridge the gap and distance between the people of two countries but Sushma Swaraj the former foreign minister of India categorically alienated the Kartarpur factor from the resumption of bilateral talks as she said “terror and talks can’t go together”(Shukla 2019). The extremist and rightist wing of Indian politics and intelligencia considers the opening of corridor as a ploy by Pakistan to manifest its links with Sikh community to combat Indian policies towards Pakistan. A few analysts in India have viewed the future role of both Punjab’s in the socio - economic politics of South Asia. Indian political and establishment intelligence occasionally alleged Pakistan to support the Sikh separatist movements to establish an independent state of Khalistan. Pakistan’s top intelligence agency ISI has been oftenly accused of supporting Khalistani militants like wadhawa Singh of Babar Khalsa international, Paramjit Singh panjwara, Ranjeet Singh netta of Khalistan of commando force and Gajinder Singh of the dal Khalsa. India has repeatedly alleged Pakistan’s role in the mobilization of London declaration for Khalistan referendum 2020.thus opening of Project will be a definite concern for India in the context of Sikh diaspora and Khalistan. The officials in India have expressed their reservations over what they believe about Pakistani support for Khalistan movement in Punjab through the kartarpur corridor.(MEA 2018).Furthermore Pakistan has been allegedly by the hard liner mindset in India that Islamabad continued to exploit the sentiments and religious shrines of the Sikh pilgrims to facilitate the recruitment and radicalization of Khalistani separatists across the world (Ajai Sahani 2018).Whereas Pakistan has concentrated on Indo-Pakistan linkages as kartarpur corridor can lead to the greater connectivity between India and Pakistan, as if the east and west Germany, south and north Korea can reach to acquire their determined socio-economic and political goals through diplomatic connections. The south Asian region do possess ability and identical culture to melt the ice with a great commitment, sincerity and scarifies, while pushing behind the violent, extremist and hard liner variables. Since the corridor has opened it ever worked as a great source of people to people contacts between the masses of India and Pakistan alive on the white floor of the holy temple. The social media plays a vital role both in India and Pakistan through the religious diplomacy and tourism. Liberal quarters from both sides have fervently appreciated the initiative and want to reach its logical conclusion in practice.

Conclusion

The nuclear India and Pakistan have taken step of opening the long demanded kartarpur corridor in the right direction on November 9th ,2019.A number of similar attempts and efforts have been adopted in the past by the governments of India and Pakistan i.e. the bus diplomacy ,train service and cricket diplomacy with the similar hopes and objectives as the kartarpur corridor. The domestic political discontent in India and Pakistan ever jeopardized the situation in the subcontinent. Prime minister Imran Khan stated on the eve of the opening of the ceremony of kartarpur corridor that “Pakistan’s military and government are on the page. Pakistan open its border and hurt for Sikh community” as he inaugurated the corridor ready to operate and function for the pilgrimages from India and around the world. The entire political elites of both countries acknowledge the significance of the event for the people of south Asia. The Enmity would be no

longer in the region afterword. initiative has encouraged to open further corridors like Lahore-Amritsar, Sharda Peeth temple in Kashmir and Munabao-khokhrapar to enhance trade volume and people to people contacts between India and Pakistan. Unlike the past a gesture of mixed response has been evoked from India to rather than to welcome the kartarpur developments under a traditional reciprocated bilateral gesture. There is a dire need to deal the contemporary domestic and regional issues with the understanding of existing anthropological trends of different religious groups. International liberal democracy and conception of the global citizenship guarantees the protection of all the fundamental rights of the people either belong to a minority or majority. India Pakistan need to bring certain more things out of the box. A great commitment requires to take risks for peace even at the time of a less hope, conflict and contention. The region faces several common threats like climate catastrophe, the conflict resolution as an ever-daunting challenge dangerous for two countries and rest of the world. India Pakistan need to combat and eliminate all forms of terrorism from the region to move forward for the acceptable solution of Kashmir issue under the principled settlement theory of conflict resolution. The elimination of negative propaganda towards each another can perish the hateful narratives revival of confidence building measures (CBMs) related to line of control (LOC) and Kashmir can reduce tension and provocations between India and Pakistan. The commencement of bilateral exchanges in trade, business, investment, research education, conferences and seminars on a range of the relevant issues must be arranged under a comprehensive plan. India and Pakistan will have to develop a national consensus in their respective countries in support to apply the above-mentioned measures. the kartarpur initiative and likewise can be triumphed by giving up all the socio-religious extremities without being feared of rejection from fanatics, voters and the lobbyists wings. Apart from the governments of India and Pakistan, media, political leadership, intelligentsia, a fluent people to people contacts and the overwhelming constructive role of social media can continue the philosophy of love and peace of baba guru nanak dev. It is an obligation of entire Punjabi diaspora to convey and preach everywhere the message of compassion given by baba guru nanak to reduce tension, hate and distrust between India and Pakistan with fulfilling the long desires of Sikh pilgrims to pay obeisance at the holy shrine of kartarpur.

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Kartarpur Corridor: A Gate Way to Peace in South Asia (Evolution, Development, Prospects & Implications)

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