

Kartarpur corridor: A step towards regional cooperation in South Asia

Aminah Gilani

Lecturer, Department of Political Science
Kinnaird College for Women Lahore, Pakistan

Aliya Talib

Lecturer, Department of Political Science
Kinnaird College for Women Lahore, Pakistan

Abstract

The South Asia is known for the tensions and perpetual tussles between the two nuclear armed neighbors, India and Pakistan. However, the opening of Kartarpur Corridor on the 9th November 2019, the Kartarpur *Gurdwara* inside Pakistan's Narowal district has emerged as a symbol of *love-in-the-time-of-choleera*, especially at the time when both archrivals are militarily, diplomatically and politically at loggerheads over the Kashmir conflict. Kartarpur Corridor is an initiative that has the potential to change the long-standing political dynamics of the region. The people from India can travel visa-free to Pakistan through scenic Kartarpur Corridor to visit and pray at the Kartarpur Gurdwara. Secretary General of United Nations Mr. Antonio Guterres while on his three days' visit to Pakistan paid a special tribute to Kartarpur Corridor on February 18th, 2020 terming it as the "Corridor of Hope". This research seeks to acknowledge and analyze the prospects of this initiative in achieving its full potential of changing bitter realities between the South Asian neighbors and paving way for cordiality to replace hatred. The researchers have had the chance to participate in the inauguration ceremony for the Kartarpur Corridor held on November 9th, 2019; therefore, this research is based on direct and indirect observational method, with qualitative research analysis. The hypothesis is based on the understanding that 'Kartarpur Corridor is a possible breakthrough towards long term regional cooperation in Indo-Pakistan Subcontinent'.

Keywords: South Asia, Subcontinent, Pakistan, India, Peace, Kartarpur Corridor

Introduction

The 21st century is marked as an era of greater connectivity and interdependence where no one can live in isolation. State as an international entity is imagined to be losing its unlimited authority to the strides of globalization. Globalization has paved way for countries to cooperate and communicate despite long standing animosities. Such is the case with North and South Korea, Europeans states and many other states that have lived through the history of conflict, wars and opposition. Globalization is a process which nourishes flows and connections from nation-states to transnational territorial boundaries and global regions, and civilizations. Globalization is viewed as a 'historical process,' which stimulates

a significant shift from local networks and social relations to transcontinental or interregional patterns of human interaction and mutual reliance (Rodhan, 1996).

Regional cooperation is subliminal expression of globalization; or a more primary level implementation of the good practices related to globalization therefore, global cooperation is inter-connected with the regional associations. It could be said that without regionalism, globalization is not as profound as it is desired. Regional inter-connectedness and the cooperation within regionalism define the contours of global inter-connectedness.

Regionalism is as such an expression of fastidious regional arrangements in various socio-economic and politico cultural groupings to instill regional cooperation. These regional associations are becoming effective and imperative to create swift political and economic interactions across the world especially after Cold War. Regional integration lays down foundation of integration and assimilation in a well-defined geographic region and encourages the possibility of perpetuation of common foreign policy objectives emanated from the desire of peace and prosperity of regional communities and nations of a particular region. Economic aspect of integration seeks prominence in interdependence of the member countries in any regional groupings (Mohanani, 1992).

In South Asian context process of regional integration observed a laid-back approach owing to the aggressive nature of relations between two key states of the region, i.e., India and Pakistan.

In South Asia, SAARC embraced a functionalist approach to participate in socio cultural areas and other non-contentious ranges. The level of regionalism in South Asia under the banner of SAARC is often criticized for its ineffective performance. The major obstruction within the advance of regionalism in South Asia is interstate clashes among the constituent states. Existing Indo-centric discernment within the South Asian locale, conflictual Indo-Pak relationship marred with suspicion and mistrust make this region volatile and yearning for peace and economic development since a long ago (Arshad, 2017).

Through this research an attempt is made to acknowledge and analyze the prospects of Kartarpur border initiative in achieving its full potential in challenging the current bitter state of affairs between two hostile states India and Pakistan and paving way for cordiality and mutuality in pursuance of peace and development in South Asian region at large.

The idea of SAARC was mainly promoted by the President of Bangladesh Zia-Ur-Rahman in 1980. The main objective was to take South Asian states on board to develop cooperation for the welfare and economic uplift of their people in the region. His contention was to reduce political differences by increasing economic cooperation. South Asian leaders were determined to institutionalize

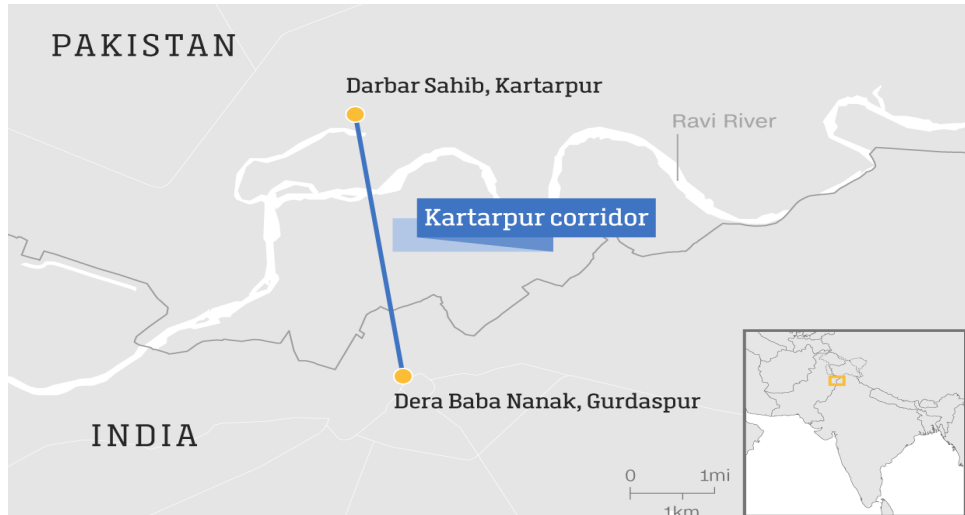
the SAARC to promote collective cooperation to resolve the long-standing problems of the region (Ganguly,2003).

It is not appropriate to expect from SAARC a major breakthrough in regional cooperation without minimizing the bilateral differences among member states. Developing desire for peace and strong will to resolve political differences seems a prerequisite to achieve socio economic growth in the region. In the backdrop of stressed bilateral relations of India and Pakistan, opening of Kartarpur corridor makes it a milestone and a great leap to the future of this region by increasing people to people contact.

Regional organizations strive for the welfare and betterment for their member states. The success story of EU (European Union) paved way for the prospective regional organizations to promote interactions between and among member states in their regions and provide platform to solve conflicts in a peaceful manner to promote political and economic cooperation.

Pakistan opened the Kartarpur Corridor on 9th November 2019 in a grand ceremony at Narowal district of Pakistan. Highlighting the Pakistan's potential for religious tourism Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan narrated regarding the sleeping Buddha, the Katas Raj temples, Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur as some of the several religious sites that could be of significance to the ones belonging to Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh religions. Many steps are being taken to facilitate religious tourism by promoting inter faith harmony. Announcement of setting up of the Gandhara Research Centre to promote religious tourism in the province by provincial government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is one of the examples in this direction. It is stated that the province possesses some 2,000 sites of historical and religious significance, and the government has planned to preserve all such sites with the cooperation of South Korean government (Kartarpur Corridor, 2019).

The Kartarpur Corridor is a 4.1 kilometer (2.5 mile) above ground route that connects the Dera Baba Nana shrine in northwest India's Gurdaspur with the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan (Regan, 2019).



Source: <https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/india-pakistan-kartarpur-corridor-opens-intl-hnk/index.html>

The researchers have had the chance to participate in the inauguration ceremony for the held on November 9th' 2019; therefore, this research is based on direct and indirect observational method, with qualitative research analysis. The hypothesis is based on the understanding that 'Kartarpur Corridor is a possible breakthrough towards long term regional cooperation in South Asia'. By planting the seed of tolerance and inter faith harmony, peace can be given a chance in the most populous region of the world.

Kartarpur corridor does not only inter-links India and Pakistan, but its canvas is also much greater than just one community acquiring access to its religious heritage. Kartarpur inter-links multitude of communities, including Hindus, Christians, Muslims and more as to many in India Sikh heritage is beyond religious affinities. Pakistan's immigration policy has not placed a restriction either, which makes Kartarpur a mini melting pot for regional identities.

Regional integration complements the process of globalization. The connectivity at the regional level transcends at the global crossroads of human socio-economic interactions. Religious tourism can be imperative to bring people closer to each other in South Asian region. Kartarpur Corridor opening is a marvelous opportunity to put differences aside and give peace a chance.

Significance and Background of the Study

The Kartarpur Corridor initiative is commonly viewed from the perspective of its religious significance for the Sikh community worldwide and in India specifically. Despite the fact that the Kartarpur Gurdwara has utmost religious

significance for the Sikh community, the establishment of a Corridor connecting the two neighboring countries has provided a larger canvas for the two traditional rivals to develop multi-level cooperation in various fields. The deteriorating bilateral relations between the two arch-rivals can find solace in this unexpected, but highly commendable initiative during the time of unprecedented tensions. This paper seeks to develop an insight into prospective and possible fields of engagement between the two countries and its trickle-down influence of larger opportunities of cooperation in the wake of the establishment of historical Kartarpur Corridor. In specific three dimensions of cooperation is taken as core study in this paper, which is likely to encourage regional cooperation. This study is likely to encourage futuristic approach towards regional peace and stability.

Common regional trajectory of socio-political issues, specifically those which are bound with traditionalism and have deep-rooted cultural symmetry spread across geographical boundaries of states sharing regional identity, it comes as no surprise that regional cooperation is the most thoughtful way around and reasonably result-oriented strategy in resolving the issues as a collective determinant for progress. Issues shared by states within regional geography usually fall under category of natural threats, climatic and environmental degradation, failure and deterioration of social systems, cross-border terrorism infiltration, human and financial trafficking, conservation of natural resources like depletion of water and energy reservoirs, so on and so forth. Foundation of cooperation becomes further magnified in a scenario where states are landlocked and immediately find solace in cooperation with neighboring states as the most practical option for access to trade routes and passageways which are unavailable due to territorial limitations.

When states commit to resolve common issues, the mutual cooperation ends up reducing the costs for each of them and increases the benefit. Regional integration faces some significant issues in shape of trade and transit restrictions, complex visa policies, unrecognized academic diplomas and degrees, limitations to easy movement, absence of connections and network between professionals, and other constraint in the way of any form of regional integration. A more harmonious and mutually beneficial environment could emanate from development of a regional economy, where investment climate is easier and flexible, regional approach towards developing energy resources, a cooperation and collective responsibility towards regional environmental assets and risks, and more far sighted than perhaps all the above is the regional educational and knowledge sharing approach, which is likely to have long-term influence on the phenomenon of regional cooperation.

What is Neo-functionalism and why is it relevant?

The query that remains relevant throughout decades is that why regional integration and cooperation, despite its obvious benefits is less visible as a practical and functioning example? Why is there unwillingness on part of the regional states to develop such an environment that facilitates regional growth and prosperity?

Apparently, there are two basic causes as to why Neo-Functionalism is and should be preferred over inter- governmentalism and liberal inter-governmentalize. It gives a practical and three-dimensional framework to regional cooperation that could answer the very question posed above. On one hand, the neo-functionalism is replicated on the foundations of pre-Soviet European integration system, which is a successful example, on the other hand, the neo-functionalism is not simply restricted to the geographical boundaries of European continent, or it is best explained as that it was always meant to develop a regional integration template beyond Europe, its aim is to develop a framework that can give a guideline for a worldwide regional integration. It churned out some strategic and workable system for regional cooperation that could be implemented outside Europe to develop regional integration and to determine the failure and success factors in achieving it (Obydenkova, 2008).

Neo-Functionalism focuses on explaining that the benefits of supra-nationalism are embedded in reformation. In the pre-Soviet Europe, profiteering functions of supra-nationalism were visibly existent, specifically in terms of deliverance of goods and services. However, it was not a long term or sustainable enough to demonstrate a successful functioning of cooperation and integration among states within region and beyond, as could be witnessed over time. Neo-Functionalism listed several conditions absence of which paved way for decline and gradual degradation of successful regional integration in Europe specifically in relation to political process that challenged the equation between functionality and structure of authority.

Spill-over: a central function for regional cooperation

The central idea to Neo- Functionalism is that collective reforms initiate development and that progress in one jurisdiction would have a ripple effect and would work as motivator for progress in other jurisdictions is a natural and self-refining phenomenon. This particular phenomenon is termed as “spillover”, as this is a central idea around which neo-functionalism revolves, garnering progress through a gradual but organic spill-over from development in one area to another one. The progress is motivated from integrated policies or decisions. The elements of neo-functionalism could be divided into three different aspects 1. Functional Spillover 2. Political Spillover 3. The formation of supra-national organizations. The most appropriate example for functional spillover would be the European model, where regional cooperation initiated with cooperation in

coal sector and gradually lead towards cooperation in other sectors, specifically in energy sector. Political spillover has its own step-by-step system of developing a cooperation framework, starting from Political will to formation of public opinion and new political avenues that are instrumental in further promoting the regional integration towards desired development goals. Trust and formation of supra-national organization is another significant aspect of a sustainable regional integration framework (Obydenkova, 2008). In current and modern political scenario, European Union is a reasonable example to quote.

Haas has identified geographical spill-over, in the analysis on neo-functionalism. In his work on regional integration, he classifies three conditions for the success of neo-functionalism in achieving regional integration 1. Social structures 2. Economic and Industrial development 3. Ideological arrangements. Taking the examples of European states, it can be said that these states were identical based on these lines. Therefore, it is difficult for diverse and heterogeneous states to develop successful regional integration (Haas, 1961) (Obydenkova, 2008).

Situational analysis

Keeping in view neofunctionalism India and Pakistan's cooperation with reference to Kartarpur corridor is indeed a milestone. However, the main aspects to be considered while overviewing the characteristics of regional cooperation in this scenario come from the assessment that cooperation in the realm of religious tourism may have a "spill-over" to other areas of cooperation between the two nations.

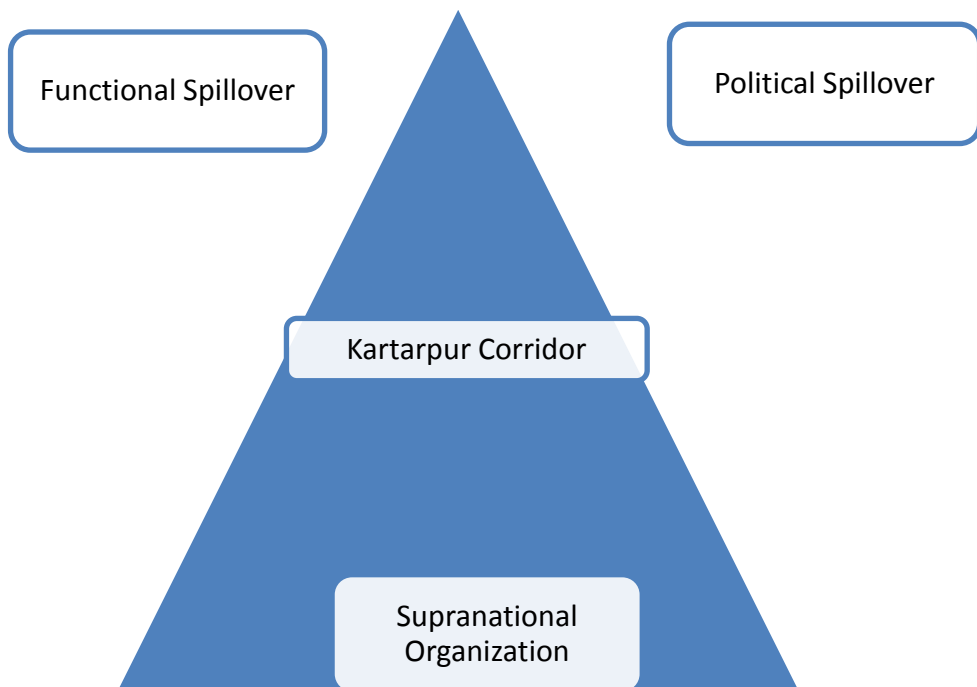


Figure 1: Neo-functionalism vis-à-vis Kartarpur Corridor

Important officials signified the importance of opening of Kartarpur, Indian Punjab Cabinet Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu termed Kartarpur as a "corridor of infinite possibilities", that such plan would encourage peace and expunge "enmity" between India and Pakistan (Business Standard,2018).

The idea can also be taken from the political activity that surrounded the historic opening of the corridor. The Prime Minister of Pakistan in his speech during the opening ceremony emphasized on the notion that this is "only the beginning" for further cooperation between two South Asian nations. "The first thing I did after becoming the prime minister was to tell [Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi that poverty is our mutual problem, and the way to deal with it is to open our borders to people and trade" (Siddiqui, 2019).

Pakistan's PM responded to the Indian Politician's request for opening trade routes between the Western Punjab in Pakistan and Eastern Punjab in India, who was representing the Sikh community on the event, he reinstated Navjot Sidhu's request and expressed his intentions on the matter by saying that it was his government's utmost interest to mend ties with India and commence trade and economic bridges for progress of the entire region.

"Imagine the happiness that will spread and how we will be able to pull people out of poverty"

"I have a hope that this is the beginning. One day our relations with India will be such that would have been had the issue of Kashmir been resolved in the beginning (at Partition)" (Siddiqui, 2019).

"I also foresee a day when the hatred that has spread in the sub-continent over the past 70 years due to this dispute [will be no more]" (Siddiqui, 2019).

"When this problem is solved and Kashmiris get their rights, the sub-continent will see prosperity and our entire region will rise in the world, and I pray that day is not far," he concluded" (Siddiqui, 2019).

Furthermore, the response from International community was extremely encouraging, keeping in view that India and Pakistan seemed to be at the verge of a conventional war since mid-2018 after the swearing in of Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan. February 2019 was specifically the lowest ebb of the bilateral relationship between two archrivals, when Modi-led BJP government declared an unequivocal aggressive offensive against Pakistan alleging it for stirring instability in Indian-occupied Kashmir. India bombed Pakistan's Balakot district, claiming to have killed 350 terrorists in a terrorist training camp.

Following is the assessment on the basis of neo-functionalism on the prospects of Kartarpur paving way for a future regional cooperation vis-à-vis widening range of Indo-Pakistan relations:

Table 1: Indo-Pakistan Determinants of Cooperation

Sr. #	Determinants	Cooperative measures (vis-à-vis India & Pakistan)
i.	Functional Spillover	Economic openness to minimize political deadlock
ii.	Political Spillover	Political dialogue and willingness
iii.	Supranational organization	Dialogue at the organizational level of SAARC

The edifice and installation of the Kartarpur Corridor in the face of existing tensions and the determination of both sides to collaborate should be seen as an optimistic development and a beam of hope (South Asian Voices, 2019).

Functional Spillover

Trade between India and Pakistan remained victim of unstable political relationship that these neighbors inherited during their birth as independent nations. However, trade through land borders and sea routes remained opened during times of stability and friction, seen as a more sensible way of dealing with the differences. Functional Spillover as mentioned in the context of neo-functionalism proposes the idea that cooperation in one area of interest within a region is likely to influence cooperation in other areas paving way for larger regional cooperation to take place. From the point of view of India-Pakistan relations given the crucial circumstances, the economic and trade ties have remained hostage. The ties improved between the two during early 2000s which increased emphasis on to the issue of granting the Most Favored Nation (MFN) status to India. Pakistan and India are among the 25 founding members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade GATT signed in 1947. One of the fundamental principles of GATT is the MFN clause according to which any trade concession granted to one member of GATT must be extended to all members. India granted MFN status to Pakistan in 1996, Pakistan later reciprocated in the same manner. As India has been urging Pakistan to grant MFN treatment to India as well because such a status will ease qualitative and quantitative restrictions on the flow of goods between the two countries (Basharat, 2012).

In the modifications and evolution that took place in dynamics and implications of the neofunctionalism, it has become imperative to understand that economic relations or integration leads to strengthening of political dynamics. Economic stakes are likely to bind countries and nations in an unbreakable bond which makes it compulsion for political leaderships to associate their political goals with economic goals. Therefore, the question regarding what are the futures prospects of regional cooperation in South Asia with reference to Kartarpur Corridor? Find its answer here. The collective economic progress binds regions

and cultures together and makes their linkages indispensable for the progress of each; it is almost like a symbiotic relationship¹.

However, the volatility of relations in South Asian neighbors, trade and economic integration is difficult to reach its full fruition. Nevertheless, Kartarpur Corridor has opened a door on the grounds of religious cooperation.

Political Spillover

For a relationship to develop, there is a need for an icebreaker, or in other words an initiative is required for a project to be built. Similarly, in the context of India-Pakistan relationship which has remained cold and unstable for most part of post-independence history, the relationship between the two archrivals witnessed unprecedented low when Narendra Modi led BJP took over the government in 2014. It is noteworthy, that during hostile times and bitter bilateral terms, India and Pakistan have remained committed to continue maintaining back-door diplomacy. This term was much debated and reined the news bulletins during the 1990s and early 2000s when governments on both sides-initiated confidence building measure, specifically after Pakistan tested its nuclear arsenal. Keeping in view the commonly posed question that what is the significance of Kartarpur Corridor with reference to regional cooperation in South Asia?

It is imperative to understand that opening of Kartarpur itself has resulted from political dialogue, how reluctant it may have been on the part of Indian government, which remained immovable for the first few months at the initiation of the political debate regarding Kartarpur corridor. Yet, it reinstates the fact that regional cooperation cannot move forward without political will and cooperation, and a mutual interest of people among nations are instrumental in paving way for political cooperation.

Political Spillover is based upon political initiatives and public response and willingness towards them. Economic initiatives or so to say functional spillover is dependent upon Political initiatives, therefore political will is highly significant. Nevertheless, many at times political initiatives are the result of an undesired compulsion on the part of political decision makers. In South Asian countries where Human Development Index is disappointing by international standards, it is likely that such political initiatives lead to economic cooperation and functional spillover and further develop into supranational cooperation.

¹ Symbiotic relationships are a special type of interaction between species. Sometimes beneficial, sometimes harmful, these relationships are essential to many organisms and ecosystems, and they provide a balance that can only be achieved by working together ("Symbiotic Relationship: Definition & Examples," n.d.).

Supranational organization

Supranational Organization is seen here as the administrative structure that transcends beyond the boundaries of the states allowing member states to have more influence and power away from their national boundaries (Matignon, 2019). The question about how does Kartarpur Corridor initiative play an instrumental role in minimizing the political grievances between India and Pakistan? May seem overly ambitious at this stage, nonetheless a visa-free cross border initiative is a new precedent set for the possible development of cooperative environment from this very initiative.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation SAARC has remained hostage to India-Pakistan hostility. Kartarpur Corridor is likely to pave way for resumption of stalled cooperation between the two archrivals and the region. South Asian region has a wide spectrum of regional issues which are similar among nations that can be addressed by utilizing the platform of SAARC, however, since almost a decade it seems to have come to a stall, not just that, in fact it has become a point of further conflict between the India and Pakistan, where both try to struggle against each other's dominance in the region. Opening of Kartarpur Corridor paved for a future cooperation to get instigated and has encouraged people to people contact regardless of friction among governments. This step is likely to have long term implications for the region. In this particular classification, CPEC China Pakistan Economic Corridor, and OBOR One Belt and One Road project depicts relevance, as a symbol of regional cooperation and prospects of economic progress of one not just one, but the region. The idea that one progresses when all progress is something that falls under this category.

Final reflections

Regional integration strengthened the hope of economic prosperity of the people of different regions by minimizing their political differences and promoting peace and cordiality. States have become the global actors and cannot afford to live in isolation. The emergence of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation has helped the member countries to adhere to the idea of mutual reliance and inter dependence to promote economic growth. But the regional cooperation has remained so far at low pace due to many inter states conflicts in the region and primarily bedeviling relations between India and Pakistan. This research study highlighted the significance of Kartarpur corridor in prospective regional cooperation emanating from two key countries i.e. India and Pakistan. The political future of the world revolves around globalization and globalization travels through the crossroads of regionalization. Peace and prosperity of the regions would ensure the global peace and security. Possibility of the future regional cooperation in South Asia is analyzed through this study with spectrum of neo functionalist approach. Opening of Kartarpur Corridor is one of the milestones that are viewed as rare in the conflictual landscape of Indo-Pak

relations. This peace initiative has opened the way for resurrecting the India Pakistan relations by bringing people closer to each other and by prompting religious tourism via improving cultural relations of different communities. Political and functional spillover is expected to take place between the two countries which may be translucent for restructuring the SAARC and integrate the region more profoundly than in the past as Ernest Haas has rightly identified the three pre-conditions for regional integration including social structure; economic and industrial development; and ideological patterns. Opening of the religious sites via developing social contact of divergent people may pave way for economic links and peaceful coexistence. Economic uplift may ease the political differences and strengthen the hope for peace in the most populous region of the world. Hence by giving a contemplation to prevail peace between two counties; the possibilities of minimization of political grievances had been evaluated by promoting Kartarpur corridor's utility amid long standing political hostility between two nations. Set of recommendations had been given to improve the current trajectory of affairs between two countries.

Recommendations

Expand local knowledge

The government affiliated research centers and the government agencies [from both India & Pakistan] may consider the development of new databases with improved literature in which lessons of peace and harmony should be highlighted. In this context, it is imperative to target Hindutva-ization of Indian polity and education system, which poses a grave threat to the future prospects of peace between India and Pakistan. Thus, Indian authorities, especially those in India state of Punjab must adhere to the policy of intellectual and academic reconciliation possibilities. This step will help in raising public awareness and opinion about the co-existence and significance of regional identity and cooperation. Common historical affinities and events that promote the ideas of traditional regional cooperation may be promoted by utilizing platforms like Kartarpur, which could become mini melting pot for regional cooperation on various levels.

Use diplomatic offices

Foreign offices can utilize its possible working environments to push for broader importance of psychological repression on global dialogues. Visa policies of both the countries, especially on the Indian side are stringent enough to discourage common tourism-related activities, which are crucial for strengthening of people-to-people contact. It has been witnessed during the process of deliberation for the opening of Kartarpur Corridor that the Indian response remained consistently evasive and unnecessarily critical towards the peace initiatives by Pakistan. Whether it is religious tourism, participation at an academic conference or sports events, visa politics has played a negative role,

and has ended into cancellation of participations. Therefore, visa policies should be made more flexible to encourage tourism in neighboring countries.

Issues included on the agenda of regional forums

It might be termed as hasty optimistic fervor expecting a lot of from Kartarpur Corridor and drawing conclusion, but the sensitization of people about the disasters of war instead of warmongering could play a positive role in promotion of peace and harmony. Alternative options and possibilities should be highlighted using channels of academia and mass communication.

Conduct regular meetings

It will be reasonable for the specialists of the governments to regularly meet, analyze advantages and discover the differences and addresses them which will develop a cordial approach for people from both countries.

The US, Russia, China influence

Pakistan simply needs not to look towards India only, in the event that India shows reluctance to associate itself with bilateral meetings. Pakistan administration should strongly use an option with the US, China, and Russia to present its perspective of peaceful relations and settling of all concerns through dialogue.

Address less contentious issues for dialogue first

It would be sensible that Pakistan and India pick commonly less contentious issues for discussion, such as Siachen and Sir Creek disputes. These disputes viewed as settled and simply their execution remained absent around at that point. In the spirit of Indus water and Rann of Kutch, these issues can also be resolved by employing that spirit again. And then put all efforts on the Kashmir issue; introduce a conflict resolution framework to address the conflict properly and peacefully.

Revitalization of SAARC

Any action to normalize relations between the two neighbors would be fragmented devoid of revitalizing SAARC. Despite SAARC's absence in conflict prevention mechanism or dispute resolution, the SAARC Summit gatherings have helped empower the heads of state and administration of member states, and their foreign ministers to meet respectively as afterthought lines.

Improving bilateral ties

Sikh community has garnered reasonable cordiality and acceptance in Pakistan while most of the Sikh population resides in India. This position of neutrality could be exploited to broker peace between the two archrivals in times of escalated tensions and heightened political disputes. Media and Journalists, especially the Indian electronic media led by well-composed and educated

people, could assume a significant part in affecting popular feeling in the two nations.

Cultural exchanges

Shared characteristic of culture, language, films, TV, theaters, shows, and narratives and visits of entertainers, these are amazing assets of passing on messages. Celebrities should use their soft power to diffuse tensions and promote such confidence building measures. It has been witnesses repeatedly that celebrities especially those of Bollywood industry have played pawn in the hands of media and political narrative spewing hateful remarks and promoting jingoism rather than using their position for the purpose of promoting harmony and peace.

Utilize trade as a vehicle of peace, security, and stability

Mutual trade has the possibility of assuming a critical part in making harmony and dependability among Pakistan and India. The exchange between India-Pakistan is nearly nothing and the open door for improvements from the expanded exchange is similarly enormous. It promises well for the nations to grasp speculation and career expos abroad. For both governments, cost adequacy and comparative options ought to be the needs when conferring choices on trade matters.

Promote sport activities

India-Pakistan shares a typical colonial past, particularly, in the domain of sports such as hockey, cricket, football, tennis, polo, kabaddi, squash, snooker, and volleyball connects both countries' players and spectators. Athletics of both sides love to contend with one another for quite a long time and get full help. Fundamentally, India-Pakistan attempts to augment areas of uniting interests. History of nations reveals that contentions among families, clans, people, groups, and countries (such as Soviet Union, East Germany, Abyssinia, Ottoman Empire, Mughal Empire, etc.) can be wiped out by making shared traits of interest.

References

- Basharat, S. (2012, October 26). On the Effectiveness of Granting the Most Favored Nation Status to India. *E-International Relations*. Retrieved October 7, 2020, from <https://www.e-ir.info/2012/10/25/on-the-effectiveness-of-granting-the-most-favored-nation-status-to-india/>
- Business Standard. (2018, November 27). Kartarpur corridor to foster peace, erase enmity between India, Pak: Sidhu. https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/kartarpur-corridor-to-foster-peace-erase-enmity-between-india-pak-sidhu-118112700587_1.html
- Bailes, A., Gooneratne, J., Inayat, M., Khan, J., & Singh, S. (2007). (Rep.). Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Retrieved January 31, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep19209>
- Bhatnagar, A., & Mohan, C. R. (2018, August 12). *India-Pakistan relations and regional stability*. The National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR). <https://www.nbr.org/publication/india-pakistan-relations-and-regional-stability/>
- Feyyaz, M. (2019). Contextualizing the Pulwama Attack in Kashmir—A Perspective from Pakistan. *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 13(2), 69-74. Retrieved January 31, 2021, from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26626867>
- Haas, E. (1961). International Integration: The European and the Universal Process. *International Organization*, 15(3), 366-392. doi:10.1017/S0020818300002198
- Hasan, M. A. (2019, July 26). *Does globalization accelerate economic growth? South Asian experience using panel data*. *Journal of Economic Structures*. <https://journalofeconomicstructures.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40008-019-0159-x#citeas>
- Jaishankar, D. (2018, August 10). *India's bid for "regionalism" in South Asia and what it means vis-à-vis Pakistan*. Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/indias-bid-for-regionalism-in-south-asia-and-what-it-means-vis-a-vis-pakistan/>
- Matignon, L. G. (2019, July 17). *THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL AND SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS*. <https://www.spacelegalissues.com/the-differences-between-international-and-supranational-organizations/>
- Obydenkova, A. (2008). *Reintegration vs. Regional Cooperation? Some Puzzles in Post-Soviet Eurasia, in the context of Comparative Regionalism*. Jerusalem: The Hebrew University.
- Siddiqui, N. (2019, November 09). 'This is the beginning': PM Imran inaugurates Kartarpur Corridor on historic day. Retrieved March 16, 2020, from Dawn News: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1515830>
- United Nations. (2020, February 18). Pakistan-India crossing is a 'Corridor of Hope', UN chief says, wraps up visit with call for interfaith dialogue.

- Retrieved March 16, 2020, from UN News: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1057621>
- Dr. Nayef R.F. Al-Rodhan, "Definitions of Globalization: A Comprehensive Overview and a Proposed Definition." Discussion Paper 113 (Geneva: UNCTAD, March 1996), p. 7.
- B. Mohanan, *The Politics of Regionalism in South Asia* (New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers, 1992), 27. https://books.google.com.pk/books?id=m_PiL-vylFUC&pg=PA115&source=gbs_selected_pages&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false
- Arshad, F. (2017). Regionalism in South Asia and Role of SAARC .Pakistan Journal of History and Culture, Vol.XXXVIII, No.1, 2017. Retrieved May 9, 2020, from http://www.nihcr.edu.pk/Latest_English_Journal/pjhc%2038-1,2017/7.%20Regionalism%20in%20South%20Asia,%20%20Farooq,%20Lubnaa.pdf
- KHAN, J., Bailes, A., Gooneratne, J., Inayat, M., Khan, J., & Singh, S. (2007). *Regionalism in South Asian Diplomacy* (pp. 39-53, Rep.). Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Retrieved January 31, 2021, from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep19209.9>
- Kartarpur Corridor, (2019, December, 19), Dawn Newspaper. Retrieved May 10th, 2020 from <https://www.dawn.com/news/1521210/religious-tourism>
- Regan, H. (2019, November 8). *India-Pakistan "peace corridor" opens Sikh temple to tourists*. [https://Edition.Cnn.Com/Travel/Article/India-Pakistan-Kartarpur-Corridor-Opens-Intl-Hnk/Index.Html](https://edition.cnn.com/Travel/Article/India-Pakistan-Kartarpur-Corridor-Opens-Intl-Hnk/Index.Html). <https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/india-pakistan-kartarpur-corridor-opens-intl-hnk/index.html>
- Saha, R. (2019). *THE KARTARPUR CORRIDOR AND ITS IMPACT ON INDO-PAK RELATIONS*. Sothasianvoices.Org. <https://sothasianvoices.org/kartarpur-corridor-impact-on-indo-pak-relations/>
- SamitGanguly, *India as an Emerging Power* (London: Frank Cass Publishers, 2003), 205.
- Symbiotic Relationship: Definition & Examples*. (n.d.). Study.com. <https://study.com/academy/lesson/symbiotic-relationship-definition-examples-quiz.html>
- The World Bank. (2017, April 16). *South Asia could potentially benefit from globalization backlash*. World Bank. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/04/16/south-asia-could-potentially-benefit-from-globalization-backlash>
- Yaseen, Z., Jathol, I., & Muzaffar, M. (2016). *Pakistan and India Relations: A Political Analysis of Conflicts and Regional Security in South Asia*. <https://www.gprjournal.com/jadmin/Auther/31rvIolA2LALJouq9hkR/d3IKiqgiZH.pdf>