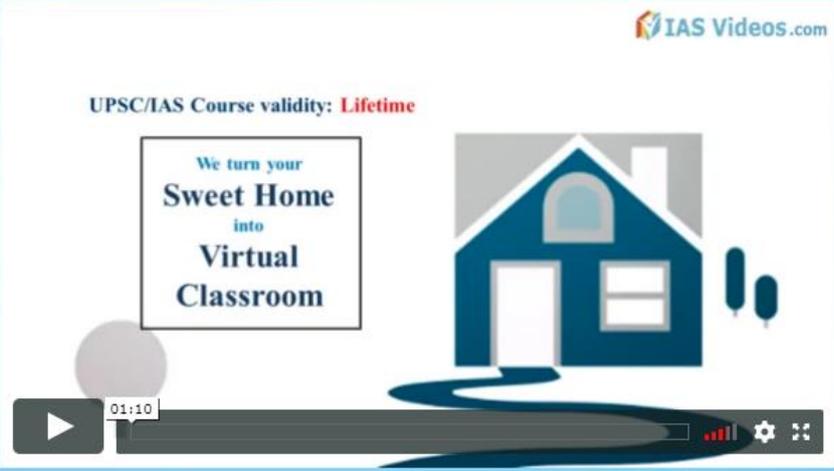


November 24th, 2018 Sample Current Affairs

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1. Kartarpur corridor: India approves development of corridor, Pakistan responds that it has already decided to open it.

- Why both India and Pakistan are actively, and competitively, claiming ownership of Kartarpur corridor move?
- Why Gurdwara in Kartarpur is a holy shrine for Indian Sikhs?
- Why India is anxious about the corridor?
- Which treaty is governing the pilgrimage between India and Pakistan?

GS paper 2 (India and its neighbourhood relations)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

Nirupama Subramanian . (2018, November , 24). Kartarpur corridor: How India and Pakistan came on board. Indian Express. Retrieved from <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/kartarpur-corridor-open-sikh-pilgrim-india-pakistan-guru-nanak-jayanti-5460145/>

What is the context about?

- The Union Cabinet approved development of the Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak village in

Gurdaspur to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan.

- ❑ The visa-free corridor for Sikhs from India to Pakistan's Kartarpur Sahib, seems to have become possible not through an agreement between India and Pakistan, but with one side deciding not to oppose what the other had decided.
- ❑ **Note:** Pakistan's Kartarpur Sahib is referred as the place where Guru Nanak is said to have spent his final days and where he breathed his last.

Why both India and Pakistan are actively, and competitively, claiming ownership of Kartarpur corridor move?

- ❑ With Pakistan moving ahead on its plan, it appears that India had no choice but to get into the act, despite misgivings in the security establishment that the Kartarpur corridor, may be another attempt by Pakistan to woo the Sikh community, aimed eventually at creating unrest in Punjab.
- ❑ Whether the announcements were a coordinated two-step by the two countries, despite the big chill in their relationship, is unclear.
- ❑ But what is apparent is that India decided to get on board the initiative because it did not want to be upstaged by Pakistan, which proposed it first. India could not be seen

denying its Sikh community what Pakistan was ready to roll out for it.



Why gurdwara in Kartarpur is a holy shrine for Indian sikhs?

- The gurdwara in Kartarpur stands on the bank of the Ravi, about 120 km northeast of Lahore.
- It was here that Guru Nanak assembled a Sikh community and lived for 18 years until his death in 1539.
- The shrine is visible from the Indian side, as Pakistani authorities generally trim the elephant grass that would otherwise obstruct the view.
- Indian Sikhs gather in large numbers for darshan from the Indian side, and binoculars are installed at Gurdwara Dera Baba Nanak.

Why India is anxious about the corridor?

- ❑ The “corridor” would bring Pak infrastructure right up to the Indian border. Over the past year, gurdwaras in Pakistan have been used for a pro-Khalistan campaign.
- ❑ Earlier this year, a gurdwara displayed posters and distributed pamphlets for the so-called “Sikh Referendum 2020”, and Pakistan denied permission to the Indian envoy and diplomats to visit it.
- ❑ Pakistan’s intent also remains suspect, and Indian officials are wary of the corridor being misused by both state and non-state actors in that country.

Which treaty is governing the pilgrimage between India and Pakistan?

- ❑ Pilgrimages between India and Pakistan are governed by the 1974 Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines, which includes a list of shrines in Pakistan and India open for visitors from the other country, and for which visas are required.
- ❑ The Kartarpur Corridor, which will provide visa-free access from India to the shrine located 2 km inside Pakistan in Narowal when it becomes ready on both sides within a few months, may need a separate treaty.