

## **Executive Committee Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### **General Secretaries Report:-**

It is my proud privilege to present the General Secretary's report before the distinguished members of the AIKS executive committee. I express my gratitude to the team AIKS under the dynamic leadership of our bellowed President, Dr. Ramesh Raina for giving me an opportunity to present this report. As is known to everybody that the life had come to a grinding halt during Covid times and AIKS being no exception, therefore organizational take over at such a crucial juncture was faced with many unforeseen challenges. Consequently to meet the challenges the team AIKS ably led by the President Dr. Ramesh Raina rose to the occasion and started working out a roadmap and in order to make it more responsive to the needs and demands of the community, the whole organizational structure had to be rebuild to reclaim the lost space. During this short span AIKS regained its lost ground considerably.

**The previous Executive Committee meeting was held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and the brief details of the activities of AIKS from 28/05/2022 onwards are as under:**

**Hunger strike at Jantar Mantar:** The unfortunate killing of Martyr Rahul Bhat, Rajni Bala and Vijay Kumar in Kashmir necessitated a strong community reaction. On June 4, 2022, AIKS along with JKVM sat on hunger strike dharna at Capital's iconic dharna sthal, Jantar Mantar. The dharna was held to register community protest at the lax security situation for our community Youth working under P M Package Employment scheme in the valley who are becoming sitting ducks for the mad skull jihadi terrorists in Kashmir. It was also to express larger community solidarity with our brethren in the valley who find themselves in head-on collision with the administration over their security and safety issues. The event attracted a huge media attention and coverage.

**KP Gurgaon Civil Society Interaction with AIKS President:** The KP civil society of Gurgaon held an interactive session with AIKS President Dr Ramesh Raina on June 5, 2022 at Florence Club, Sector-57 Gurgaon. The meeting was attended by eminent community stalwarts, illustrious speakers and young members of our community living in Gurgaon. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the security lapses which led to several targeted killings recently in Kashmir Valley, role of KP organisations for building collective consciousness and finally a consensus was built to support AIKS as an apex KP organisation to demonstrate protest over the pressing issue for providing security by the government to PM Package employees in Kashmir, along with its close affiliates across India and overseas. We express our gratitude to Sh. Vijay Aima and Sh. Rohit Dhar for organising this important and overdue meeting in Gurgaon.

**Dr Raina Attends Global Summit:** AIKS President Dr Ramesh Raina was invited to participate in Think Fest Global Summit on June 17, 2022 organized by TV-9 on **"What India Thinks Today"** at Hotel Taj Palace in New Delhi.

**KOA Felicitates AIKS President:** On July 3rd, 2022 at the Annual KOA camp held in Connecticut USA, KOA Executive team and the Board led by its dynamic President Dr Archana Kokroo felicitated AIKS through its President Dr Ramesh Raina for **'outstanding dedication and contribution in service towards our community.'** "AIKS team under the leadership of Dr Ramesh Raina has been at the forefront of community service and activism. **"We thank you for your service"** was the message read by Dr Archana Kokroo via Zoom interface meeting. The citation reads, "In appreciation of helping run KOA programmes in India." A moment of pride for AIKS and the community, indeed.

**AIKS President felicitated by Bhagwan Gopinath Ashram Bangalore:** President Dr. Ramesh Raina was felicitated by Bhagwan Gopinath Ashram in Bangalore. The devotees of Bhagwanji presented him with a sacred shawl and showered him with blessings.

**AIKS President meets Kashmir Hindu Sabha Bangalore:** In continuation of its Affiliate Connect Programme, AIKS held a meeting with Kashmir Hindu Sabha, Karnataka (KHS) in Bangalore on July 9, 2022. The meeting was presided over by AIKS President Dr

Ramesh Raina and attended by AIKS Senior Vice President Shri M.L. Malla and Naad Editor-in-Chief Shri Uma Kant Kachroo and a galaxy of representatives from Kashmir Hindu Sabha Bangalore including S/Shri Rajinder Kaul (GS), S.K.Tiku, R.K.Gadroo, O.N.Bali, Dilip Kachroo, B.L.Saproo, Ashok Koul, Anish Bhat, CL Bhat, PL Koul, Sunil Handoo, Kuldip Pandit, K L Kachroo, Ashish Gadroo, Rajinder Bhat, and C.N.Saproo (Special Invitee). The meeting began with a customary introduction of the members and GS Shri Rajinder Kaul giving an overview of the activities of the KHS, followed by an extensive interchange of thoughts between the representatives of the two organizations. President Dr Raina stressed on the need for better communication between the two bodies. Dr Raina also suggested to the KHS to have a drive of outreach to the community brethren in other cities and districts of Karnataka and organise a state level meet and look at addressing their issues.

**AIKS Holds Kath-Bath:** AIKS Kath-Bath programmes have been a runaway hit with our community members and attracts a large viewer-ship. The Kath-Bath platform also constitutes part of our ambitious Affiliate Connect programme and most of our guest speakers are our affiliate heads. The ever affable, articulate and charming anchors like AIKS VP Ms Manorama Bakshi and our media and communication incharge, Vinod K Pandita have not only been able to carve a niche in holding on-line zoom interface with community leaders but keeping the tempo on till end and capture the interest of both viewers and guest speakers. The ace anchors have held many Kath-Baths so far beginning with Shri Sunil Koul, President Kolkatta Sabha; Smt Krishna Bhan, President Indo-European Kashmir Forum (IEKF); Dr Archana Kokroo, President Kashmir Overseas Association (KOA) and Shri Krishan Kemmu, President Kashmiri Pandit Association Mumbai, Shri Ashok K Wattal, President Kashir Sabha Ambala and ever suave Shri Ravi Mawa, President Kashmir Sabha, Baroda.

**Civil Writ Petition:** Other Writ Petition (OWP) There has been something to cheer about regarding the CWP filed by AIKS in 2006 in SC which was shifted to J&K High Court and admitted there as OWP NO 477/2016. A battery of lawyers and advocates led by Sr Advocate Shri P.N Raina, Shri Virender Bhat, Shri P N Goja and Shri Kashmiri Lal Bhat are pleading the case, pro-bono, on behalf of the community in the Honourable High Court. AIKS VP Shri A K Raina and Secretary (Jammu) Shri Aryan Ramesh are coordinating with the lawyers in Jammu and providing them logistic organisational support. In the latest order dated 31.05.2023, Honourable High Court has asked the respondent (Union of India and Govt of UT) to ascertain details from Financial Commissioner (Agrarian Reforms Commissioner) and submit in detail the record wherein the changes have been made and mutations done in the revenue record regarding the migrant land after coming into force the two Acts '**The Jammu and Kashmir Migrant Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint on Distress Sales) Act 1997 and 'Migrant (Stay and Proceedings) Act 1997**, without informing the original owners of the land. The court has given them six months to file the report. The legal team in Jammu have been able to seek some concessions from the honourable J&K High Court--such as fine of Rupees 20,000 on state government for not filing Action Taken Report (ATR). On the appointed date of hearing (July 10th) the respondents (Government of India and UT of J&K) have asked for more time. The two judge bench judge while expressing displeasure, however, have granted them some time 'as last and final opportunity to do the needful in terms of order dated 31-05-2023 failing which appropriate orders would be passed. Hon'ble Justice Tashi Rabstan and Hon'ble Justice Wasim Sadiq were hearing the case and pleaders were Mr Vishal Sharma DSGI for Respondent-1 and Mrs Monica Kohli senior AAG for Respondent-2. AIKS on behalf of the community extends its profound gratitude to these community legal wizards who are our pride.

**AIKS Attends Jantar Mantar Protest:** AIKS extended its full support to PM Package Employees at Jantar Mantar Protest and their demand for relocation in view of threat perceptions still persisting in the valley. AIKS was represented by its General Secretary Shri Puran Patwari and Vice President Dr Manorama Bakshi at the demonstration site on 10th July, 2022 at Jantar Mantar. On behalf of the apex organization Dr Manorama Bakshi lent her voice of support to the protesting employees.

**Webinar to mark 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of Abrogation of Article 370, 35A:** On August 5th, 2022 the occasion of completion of three years of **Abrogation of Article 370, 35A**, the Kath-Bath team held a Webinar to commemorate the historical event. The guest speakers, chosen very carefully, were former DG of Police (J&K) S.P Vaid and senior journalist, IANS in Kashmir, Sheikh Qayoom, besides AIKS President Dr Ramesh Raina, who held forth on the topic—**What has Changed in Kashmir post Abrogation of Article 35A**. President Dr Raina set the ball rolling on the subject through his erudite presentation, which was further added on and reinforced by equally qualified guests. It was streamed live on social media platform Facebook. Needless to say, that the topic so close to the hearts of Kashmir watchers and the community, has registered very good number of viewer-ship, a great number from the valley too.

**AIKS Team Visits Shuhul-Taaph :** AIKS team led by our dynamic President Dr Ramesh Raina visited KECSS premises at Pamposh Enclave to be part of its iconic annual cultural event Shuhul-Taaph (Chapter-1) held on July 30, 2022. KECSS's flagship programme Shuhul- Taaph, a huge draw with the community, was held after a gap of three years due to Covid pandemic. It was mesmerizing and heart-warming to see the kids and children along with their parents and community members again assembled and watching children perform various cultural acts on stage.

**Shakti Nagar Project:** In view of the hurdles and obstructions posed by our partner organization with respect to formulation of a Joint Management Committee (JMC) envisaged in the MoU and the resultant spate of registered agreement between the two organizations Koshur Samchar and AIKS for the construction of a building on twin plots of land owned by the community, AIKS has decided to once again impress upon Koshur Samchar to relent their rigid attitude and go ahead with the task of creating a land mark community asset in the shape of a girl's hostel on the twin plots at Shakti Nagar.

**AIKS and JKVM Media Presser:** In the light of national outrage and debate created by the recurrent target killings of residual Kashmiri Pandits and PM package employees, AIKS and JKVM held a Press Meet and conference on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at Indian Women's Press Corps, 5 Windsor Place to share the pain and anguish of the beleaguered Kashmiri Pandit Community with the media and the country and to demand a time bound exemplary punitive action against the perpetrators of the heinous crime against the humanity. The meeting was addressed by AIKS President Dr Ramesh Raina and Shri. Dileep Mattoo, President JKVM and attended by a large number of community members, thinkers and members from all walks of life from Delhi NCR.

**AIKS Team Meets Minister PMO Dr Jitender Singh:** AIKS team comprising of its President Dr Ramesh Raina, Senior Vice President Padmashree Prof Sudhir Sopory, VPs Smt Alka Lahori and Dr Manorama Bakshi and General Secretary Puran Patwari met with Dr Jitender Singh on 19th August, 2022 in connection with the issue of cancellation of AIKS office allotment at 244, sector 3, RK Puram. The Minister who heard the delegation for 45 minutes was considerate enough to extend us all help in finding out the reason for cancellation and further follow up on the matter. The meeting ended on a very positive and cordial note.

**AIKS delegation calls on Minister for Housing and Urban Development:** AIKS delegation comprising President Dr Ramesh Raina, Senior Vice President Padmashree Prof Sudhir Sopory, VPs Smt Alka Lahori and Dr Manorama Bakshi and General Secretary Puran Patwari called on Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Cabinet Minister for Housing and Urban Development on 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 in connection with the issue of cancellation of AIKS office allotment at 244, sector 3, RK Puram. Minister was forthright in acknowledging that the cancellation had been done by Cabinet Committee on Accommodation, highest authority and as minister he had no power to reverse it, though, he added, that he, as Housing Minister, had extended its date till 2024 as goodwill gesture to the beleaguered community. Still, the Minister said, that as a well-wisher of the community he would try to find out on what grounds the cancellation had been done and what could be done to salvage the situation for the exiled community.

**AIKS gets New Address:** We are very happy to announce that AIKS office has been shifted to Faridabad. It was previously housed at 244, R K Puram, Sector-3, in a government allotted accommodation. The new swanky office, complete with all amenities like a conference room, President's Office space, Front Office, a library and a kitchenette is located on the Mathura Road highway and is easily approachable through all modes of public transport—Metro train or DTC bus. The new AIKS Office address is—House No. 308 (LGF), Ashoka Enclave—III, Sector 35, Faridabad – 121003. Pertinent to note here, the office is Vastu friendly and South facing and has a new land line number. We have also appointed an office manager Sh. Rahul.

**AIKS Jammu Connect Meet:** During the maiden visit of its new team, AIKS was able to strike an instant chord with the members of the community in Jammu when a delegation led by its President, Dr Ramesh Raina accompanied by senior VPs descended on the city, the de-facto capital of exiled community, to have an interface with the community. The three-day visit (16-18 September, 2022) actually came after a long time gap caused partly due to pandemic restrictions. AIKS team led by President Dr Ramesh Raina visited **Mata Saraswati Pustakalaya - Library Cum Book Bank**, a community project of Helpline Humanity. The team also had a meeting with **Rising Athletes of Jammu & Kashmir, Jagti**, a youth organisation helping the young boys and girls to get productively engaged in activities to channel their minds and bodies into positive actions. The team also called on the protesting **PM Package Employees** on the 17th September, 2022, led by President Dr Ramesh Raina, at the office of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, as a show of solidarity with them. On the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022, in his keynote address, AIKS President Dr Ramesh Raina, who was in the chair, focused mainly on Healing Touch policy and Legitimate Minority Space for the exiled community. Concluding the visit, AIKS held a very largely attended **Press Conference on September 18, 2022** at Press Club Jammu to share with the media the discussions and deliberations arrived at the Community Meet held on the previous day. Representatives from the print and electronic media and social media channels had come to cover the event in large numbers and the event was carried with banner headlines in print media the following day, 19th September, 2022. The event even got a wide coverage on e-media and vernacular press, besides leading national news channels.

**AIKS Team visits Vadodara:** As part of President, Dr Ramesh Raina's ambitious Affiliate Connect Programme, AIKS delegation visited Vadodara at the invitation of its KSB (Kashmir Sabha Baroda) Executive team led by its dynamic President Shri Ravi Mawa, to be guests of honour at their Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) and cultural evening. The delegation comprised of President Dr Ramesh Raina, Senior VP Shri M.L.Malla, VPs Shri S.K.Bhan and Ms Alka Lahori landed in the beautiful city of Vad Trees (Vadodara) early morning on 8th October, 2022. The two-day visit on 8-9 October, 2022 was very engaging and fruitful with respect to the interaction with the community members who have chosen Vadodara as their home in the aftermath of our unfortunate exodus. The AIKS delegation was received well and accorded great honour at the event. The President, Shri Mawa, in his welcome address, dwelt at great length on the privilege and significance of being part/ affiliate of an umbrella organization called AIKS which has so many branches and roots in the country and abroad, which in effect makes KSB part of a huge family. Entire AIKS delegation was called on the dais and honoured with trophies and bouquets. A long introductory piece was read about AIKS President, Dr Ramesh Raina's qualifications and services to the community before his address to the august gathering of the community members. In his address, Dr Raina spoke about the importance of cohesiveness of the community across the length and breadth of the country and abroad, especially in the face of vilification campaign against us by our enemies in the valley and detractors in the government system to deprive us of our due share in Kashmir. He also said that a genuine and legitimate minority space was prerequisite and should be precursor to our return to the valley – all our rights and properties should be safeguarded through constitutional guarantees, we should be treated as reverse minorities in the valley and at par with minorities of India, he said.

**Digitization of NAAD:-** The consultative committee of AIKS held a Zoom meeting on 11-11-2022 to discuss the critical cost issues of NAAD. The meeting was presided over



by the President, Dr Ramesh Raina and attended by S/Shri Puran Patwari, Bansi Razdan, Vinod K Pandita, Uma Kant Kachru, Dr Manorama Bakshi and Smt. Bharti Kaul. It was observed that monthly revenues generated by NAAD are approximately Rs 30K as against the expenses on printing and despatch which is close to Rs 50K. The overall financial condition at AIKS being critical at this stage, the deficit of Rs 20K every month in its expenses is extremely difficult to handle. After due deliberations, it was decided to, temporarily, release the magazine in its digital form only and circulate it electronically to its readers/ subscribers.

**Annual General Council Meeting :-** AIKS held its Annual General Council Meeting (AGM) on 10th December, 2022 at YMCA, New Delhi. The much awaited event was attended by most of its Institutional, Patron and Life members, and also some distinguished guests/members like its former President, Shri Moti Koul. Notable among the Affiliates were Padmashree Prof Sudhir Sopory, President Kashmiri Sewak Samaj, Faridabad; Shri Ravi Mawa President Kashmir Sabha Vadodara; Shri Rajinder Koul, General Secretary Kashmir Hindu Sabha Karnataka; Shri A.K. Wattal President Kashir Sabha Ambala; Shri Kamal Hak President KMWA-Noida; Shri A.K Raina VP AIKS \_Jammu, and Patron member Padamshri Prof Rameshwar and Smt Gita Bamzai, Editorin- Chief of Naad Shri Umakant Kachroo, and Vaakh Editor, Dr. Roop Krishen Bhat. There were other distinguished patron and life members, also in attendance was Shri Ashutosh Taploo of Tikka Lal Taploo Foundation.

**AIKS observed Chetna Diwas:-** On 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (three days before 27<sup>th</sup> December), AIKS observed Chetna Diwas to commemorate the Martyrdom of one of the grass root and passionate Community activists/ leaders, a journalist and Advocate **Pt Prem Nath Bhat** who was assassinated on 27th December, 1989. It was a watershed incident which touched off first wave of community flight and exodus from Anantnag district. This annual big event held in Jammu by Pt Prem Nath Bhat Memorial Trust (PNBMT) a venerable organization also spearheading the movement for passage of ambitious Temples and Shrines Bill, drafted and moved into erstwhile State Legislative Assembly by AIKS. The demand for the passage of the Bill, along with other issues confronting the community, constitutes the core of its agenda of demands on the mega annual event. AIKS in its meeting called upon its affiliate organizations to adopt a resolution on this Chetna Diwas urging the government for early passage of the Bill.

**Meeting with GKPD and JKVM:** On January 07, 2023 a mega brain storming meeting was held between AIKS Core Consultative Group Members and prominent leadership of GKPD and JKVM at AIKS HQ 308 (LG) – Ashoka Enclave-III. The attendees included Pt Utpal Koul and Shri Praytosh Wali from GKPD, Shri Dileep Mattoo and Shri Sanjay Ganjoo from JKVM, while AIKS was led by its dynamic President Dr Ramesh Raina and his General Secretary Puran Patwari followed by his team-- Senior VP Shri Moti Lal Malla, VP Dr Manorama Bakshi, VP Alka Lahori, Editor-in-Chief Naad Shri Uma Kant Kachru, Secretary (Publication) Shri Bansi Razdan. Apart from discussing more topical community issues like PM Package employees and government lacklustre response to their genuine threat perceptions and the resultant stalemate and deadlock situation, terrorism in a new hybrid avatar resorting to selective target killings of mostly KPs and flight/exodus of remnant KPs who had stayed put in deadliest phases of militancy, to broader contours. However, the high point of the meeting was that both sides stressed on intra-organizational cooperation and bonhomie in the face of community's trust deficit in community organizations where many prestigious bodies of yesteryears have gone dysfunctional or languishing in a moribund state.

**Exodus Day:** This year AIKS decided to observe the Day in a new way and administer a shock therapy to both government and our detractors. It was also to express an intent to take the struggle forward and not let it get stagnated in a rut and die a slow death. The intent was to infuse a new life to the struggle and give it a new direction and then work on that. So, the AIKS coincided the Day with The Affiliate Meet in Ambala and day was observed in Ambala with almost all affiliate members in attendance.

**Ambala Meet:** So, for the two-day event (21- 22 January), Ambala was the most appropriate venue where delegates from all over India converged to debate and deliberate on Return Module and launch a final Pen offensive by way of **Ambala Declaration**. The delegates/affiliate heads and representatives had come from as far places as Vadodara, Jodhpur, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Panchkula, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Dilshad Garden, Shalimar Garden, Gurugram, Yamuna Nagar, Karnal, Kurukshetra, Bahadurgarh, Jammu and Delhi, and independent members from USA and UK. Kashir Sabha, Ambala played a gracious host. With this historic event the Kashir Sabha, Ambala also inaugurated their new huge building consisting of a spacious Hall and side rooms built with the help of generous donations from community members.

**Ambala Declaration:** It was a momentous event when, in presence of almost entire affiliate heads and AIKS Executive members, senior members of the community and a large gathering of community members, AIKS president unveiled the **Ambala Declaration**. The document, calling for Legitimate Minority status for Kashmiri Pandits in the valley, was passed with a unanimous vote.

**International Mother Tongue Day:** As we all know that AIKS celebrates **International Mother Language Day** every year on 21st February. After a Covid gap of two years we were able to pick up the threads last year on this day when community poets presented their latest compositions via Zoom. Our own language and literature czar, Dr Roop Krishen Bhat is on the vanguard of language protection and preservation job. After giving it a miss for almost three years owing to Covid pandemic, International mother tongue day was celebrated by Centre for Kashmiri Language Literature and Culture (CKLLC) of All India Kashmiri Samaj on 4th March, 2023 at the Kashyap Rishi Bhawan, Noida. Dr Ramesh Raina, President AIKS, while welcoming all the guests and participants who gathered from entire NCR region and even from Jammu, said that due to Shivratri the day could not be celebrated on its designated date of 21st February. He said this day is an important event for us at AIKS and we shall keep on our efforts to preserve and promote our mother tongue. He added that Vaakh, an AIKS publication in Kashmiri has turned out to be an important vehicle for the language promotion and that it gets readership from the traditional Kashmiri women folk because of whom its readership base has increased considerably. He said we are pleased to designate the award being given to eminent personalities in the field of language and literature as **Prof. Omkar Koul award**. Prof. Koul was an eminent Linguist of the community and country whose contribution to the subject and to Kashmiri language and linguistics is phenomenal and well acclaimed. Dr. Roop Krishen Bhat, Chairman CKLLC spoke in detail about the origin and importance of International mother tongue day. He said that CKLLC was established within the All India Kashmiri Samaj to work for preservation and promotion of Kashmiri language and culture and to make available the Kashmiri learning and reading materials in Devanagiri script. On this occasion an audio course in Kashmiri conceived, written and developed by Dr. Roop Krishen Bhat was also formally launched on YouTube. **Sh. Omkar Nath Shabnam** was presented the Prof Omkar Koul award by Prof. Sudhir K sopory, an eminent scientist, former VC JNU and vice President of AIKS.

**AIKS Team meets Chairman National Commission for Minorities (NCM):** Team AIKS led by its president Dr Ramesh Raina met with the NCM Chairman, Shri Iqbal Singh Lalpura. Besides the President the team included Senior VP, Padma Shri Prof Sudhir Sopory, VPs Dr Manorama Bakshi, Ms Alka Lahori and Shri Anoop Koul, Chairman Sampooran Kashmir. The agenda of the meeting was to apprise the Commission Chairman about the recent AIKS Ambala Declaration demanding for the creation of a legitimate minority space for the displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir. The President Dr Raina said that Kashmir today has been reduced to a monolithic society in the absence of minorities and a legitimate minority space for Kashmiri Pandits consistent with secular and multi-cultural ethos of the rest of the country---'By minority space, we mean that as the **Aborigines**, Kashmiri Pandits constitute a factorial importance in the socio-cultural construct of Kashmir. Therefore, the need for recognizing Kashmiri Pandits as a minority in Kashmir becomes all the more important'. Shri Anoop Koul, Chairman Sampooran Kashmir, said that, in the light of target killings and those people opting to stay and serve in Kashmir had become more vulnerable and there was no institutional mechanism like

State Minority Commission on the lines of NCM to protect them. Prof Sudhir Sopory, Senior-VP – AIKS, described the situation in Kashmir as grave for non-Muslim minorities in general and PM Package Employees in particular and urged the Government to take strong and effective measures to grant minority status to contest such inimical forces and prevent another displacement from happening.

**AIKS team attends GKPD-JKVM global conclave:** Team AIKS led by President Dr Ramesh Raina and General Secretary Puran Patwari attended two-day GKPD--JKVM global conclave at Sai Sadan Auditorium, Lodhi Road, New Delhi. Others who attended included Senior VPs Padma Shri Sudhir Sopory, Shri S.K Bhan, Ms Alka Lahori and Dr Manorama Bakshi and others. President Dr Ramesh Raina also participated in a panel discussion on 26th February, 2023 in the morning session. He reiterated the AIKS demand for the creation of a legitimate Minority space for displaced KPs in Kashmir, as enunciated recently in Ambala Declaration by AIKS and its affiliates at Ambala, and also called for the passage of Temples and Shrines bills.

**AIKS Team attends Shuhul-Taaph:** AIKS team led by Dr Ramesh Raina attended the two day annual cultural programme of KECSS (Kashmir Education, Culture and Science Society) Shuhul-Taaph at Lal Ded Memorial Hall in Pamposh Enclave on 11th and 12th of February.

**AIKS Condemns killing of Shri Sanjay Sharma at Achhan:** In an emergency meeting held by AIKS in the aftermath of the killing of Shri Sanjay Sharma at Achhan, Pulwama, AIKS demanded the immediate constitution of a separate department within J&K administration to address the grievances and security issues of KPs living in the valley. It also called upon the government to create a minority friendly environment by addressing the insecurity and threat perception unleashed on social media campaigns by the terrorist organizations like TRF and their ilk.

**AIKS Team at Teetwal :** Maa Sharda and Teetwal temple were the flavor of the season and with all roads leading to Teetwal for installation of the idol of Mata Sharda on 1st day of Navratra, after making an arduous journey from Sringeri Mutt in Karnataka in south India to final destination of Teetwal in the northernmost tip in Kashmir. Using all modes of transport, pilgrims and devotees mostly Kashmiri Pandits made their way to Teetwal to be part of a historic event and be by the side of Man of the Moment Shri Ravinder Pandita whose passion bordering on janoon or madness and single minded devotion to his Guru Swami Nanadlalji an ardent devotee of Maa Sharda made this historic event happen in KP contemporary history. So on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 when it is first day of Hindu saka calendar when Mata had to be seated in her throne at the sanctum sanctorum of the newly constructed temple and with Home Minister Shri Amit Shah himself making the honours of raising the curtains of the temple and dedicating it to her devotees all over the world, the event made its way into the annals of the history. AIKS team led by its Vice President Shri Rohit Dhar was there at Teetwal representing the AIKS at the historic event.

**AIKS Team Visits KWA Karnal :** As part of its Affiliate Connect programme, AIKS team visited Kashmiri Welfare Association Karnal on Sunday 26 March 2023 to be part of their Bhawan inauguration event and for an interactive session with the KP baradari in yet another NCR region of Karnal. The team led by President Dr Ramesh Raina also included VP Alka Lahori, Secretary Bansri Razdan, President of Ambala Koshur Association Shri A.K Wattal and his General Secretary, Mrs Nancy and Dr Ashok Ganjoo from Panchkula Chandigarh. The KWA team led by its VP Dr Gautam Koul and his Secretary Shri Virender Dhar extended all protocols to the AIKS team and had a fruitful interactive session in new plus Bhawan, gifted by Haryana CM to the community for carrying out their socio/cultural activities. Karnal boasts of around 30 odd KP families who are very cohesive and well knit. The day also happens to be the Navreh when women folk visit their parents house for a feast and are given plenty of goodies as a symbol of blessings from parents. KWA had arranged the fruits and salt packs and symbolic cash to be given to women folk as parting gifts.



**AIKS Felicitates Save Sharda Man Shri Ravinder Pandita:** It was time to raise toast to Man of the Moment Shri Ravinder Pandita who is flavour of the season. Man of Action and firm resolve, Shri Pandita brought laurels to the community by literally performing an engineering feat, construction of Sharda Temple at Teetwal, very close to LoC. The temple which was built in record time was inaugurated by Home Minister Shri Amit Shah through virtual mode. HM in his e-address lauded all the efforts of Ravinder Pandita Ji and promised that next step would be to work towards opening of Sharda pilgrimage Corridor on the lines of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, as envisaged by Pandita ji in his Save Sharda manifesto. AIKS felicitated Shri Ravinder Pandita on April 1st, 2023 at YMCA in presence of a host of community members and AIKS executive and affiliate members. He was presented with a traditional shawl and a memento.

**AIKS visits Kashmiri Pandit Welfare Association, Dilshad Garden :** On April 23, 2023 All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS) led by its dynamic and visionary President Dr Ramesh Raina touched its first milestone in Delhi NCR region with its meeting with Kashmiri Pandit Welfare Association (KPWA) Dilshad Garden. The team AIKS which was led by its President Dr Ramesh Raina included VPs Shri S.K Bhan and Ms Alka Lahori, General Secretary Shri Puran Patwari and Secretary Shri Bansi Razdan. The KPWA was led by its President Shri Romesh Ji Zadoo, VP Shri Anil Tikoo, Treasurer Shri Virender Razdan and Secretary Shri Sanjay Kichloo and member Shri Neeraj Koul. Just a goodwill visit, with no specific agenda, the two sides discussed a wide range of issues confronting the community in exile and ways how the two organizations together, one at the macro and another at micro and local level can help mitigate the sufferings of beleaguered community. There was a lot of bonhomie at display and both sides had a frank exchange of views and opinions on how best the two can work in tandem for the betterment of the society.

**AIKS-KSS Faridabad Meet:-** AIKS had a crucial meeting with the esteemed members of Kashmiri Sewak Samaj, Faridabad (KSS) in their office at Sharika Bhawan, Sector 17, Faridabad, AIKS, under the dynamic leadership of our visionary President Dr Ramesh Raina, along with General Secretary Shri Puran Patwari and Vice President Dr Manorama Bakshi, spoke about the key intercepts of the Ambala declaration. Padmashri Prof Sopory, President KSS Faridabad, gave a walk-through to the AIKS team about the flagship programmes and activities being carried out by their organisation. Members of both the organisations discussed the painful issue of the residual community members suffering in Kashmir and the challenges they face. Both sides were of the view that a common strategy be worked out to mitigate the sufferings of these brethren. The members also felt that cultural rituals, traditions and language are fading out of the diaspora and impressed upon the need for a concerted effort to preserve the rich heritage. Both AIKS and KSS acknowledged the importance of collaborative work and stressed the need for furthering the initiative of affiliate connect that will bring cohesiveness in the community across the globe. KSS was appreciative of AIKS taking this initiative as its flagship programme which will help in knowing the sufferings of the beleaguered community and work collectively to mitigate them. KSS, as always, acted as an excellent host extending warmth to the visiting members from AIKS.

**AIKS Political Connect:** In its Political outreach programme, AIKS is reaching out to the mainstream political parties of the Country with its much acclaimed Ambala Declaration that seeks for the creation of a Legitimate Minority Space for KP's in Kashmir. In this regard AIKS is receiving healthy responses though short of our expectations.

**AIKS Files IA supporting Abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A:-** Acting upon the advice of AIKS legal team in Jammu High Court and Delhi and conscientious community members calling upon the Apex body of KP organizations as one of the key stake holders in political future of Kashmir, AIKS on 21st July 2023 filed an IA (Intervening Application) with Affidavit in Supreme Court of India in support of the abrogation of controversial Article 370 and 35- A and bringing the state into constitutional mainstream of India. Last day for filing the petition was set on 27th July, 2023, before CJI would start hearing on daily basis the petitions seeking its nullification from August 2nd 2023. Earlier AIKS had



impleaded itself as part of caveat filed by a group of lawyers in the Writ Petition filed in 2019 after the abrogation of Article 370 and 35A by Parliament on August 5, 2019.

The Intervention Application (IA) petition filed by AIKS' legal team came up for hearing in the Supreme Court of India on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Senior Advocate of SC Shri V. Giri appeared for AIKS and argued on merits of the abrogation of the controversial article. The SC bench headed by Chief Justice of India Justice D.Y Chandrachud heard it with all seriousness that it deserved and asked the legal Counsel for AIKS to continue his contention and arguments again on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 being court holidays. AIKS team led by its President Dr Ramesh Raina attended the court proceedings on both the days. AIKS team feels obliged to place on record with a deep sense of gratitude the services rendered by SC Advocate Shri Anupam Raina with respect to logistic support in filing the IA petition by providing generous use of his chamber, his subordinate staff and other miscellaneous paraphernalia, all came pro-bono for community cause. His contribution has been immense and praiseworthy, all in the interest of the community. AIKS also places on record with gratitude the help and legal aid extended by Senior Advocate (J&K HC) Shri P N Raina and our entire Jammu legal team including Senior Advocates-- Shri P N Goja, Shri Kashmiri Lal and Shri Virender Bhat in filing the IA in SC. Upon their advice AIKS had on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 filed an IA (Intervening Application) with Affidavit in Supreme Court of India in support of the abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A and bringing the state into the constitutional mainstream of India. It is very well recorded that since the controversial Article's abrogation the pace of development in the state has increased and the graph of terrorism gone down and social life has come back on rails.

**13 July Batta-Loot Day :-** To mark the Day, JKVM had organized a seminar 'Batta-Loot Day' at Kashyap Rishi Bhawan, Sector-34 Noida and AIKS President Dr Ramesh Raina was one of the prominent speakers. In his address Dr Raina said, "Like 20<sup>th</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> July also has a special significance for the KP community and both days are marked as Black Days in the community calendar. It was on this day in 1931 that an organized violence including large-scale arson and loot was unleashed against Kashmiri Pandits by extremist and fundamentalist forces across the valley. However, some places became flagship mementoes of that mayhem like Kanikoot in Badgam, Maharajgunj and Vicharnag by sheer magnitude of horror created by looting and plundering. He said we can safely say that the day 13 July, 1931 marks the beginning of the campaign of massacre and genocide of KPs which reached its culmination point on 19-20 January 1990, interspersed with orchestrated precursor events like Parmeshwari Agitation and 1986 Anantnag riots. He said it was very important that we keep memories fresh by holding mega seminars so that the pain enters race memory, and promised that AIKS will take a lead in such activities. The event was attended by prominent activists of Jammu and Delhi NCR region.

**AIKS-KHST Conclave in Hyderabad:-** A five-member team from AIKS, led by its President Dr Ramesh Raina, visited Hyderabad to attend the AIKS-KHST Conclave on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023. He was accompanied by AIKS'VP's Padamshri Prof Sudhir Sopory, VPs Mrs Alka Lahori and Dr Manorama Bakshi and Dr Gautam Koul, President Kashmiri Pandit Sabha Karnal. KHST was represented by its President Shri Vikram Thaploo and General Secretary IK Pandit along with other members of their young and effervescent team. The day-long event began with pre-lunch session seminar on - **Genocide of Kashmiri Hindus and Impact of Prolonged State of Exile on the Community.** All, young and old, spoke about their perspective of the issue and discernible was a deep sense of anguish, angst and longing for home as underlying theme of all accounts. Post lunch session saw a huge gathering of civil society members including dignitaries who had come from all walks of life including politics and cultural bodies. There was also floor participation and question answer session between audiences and AIKS team. The House adopted the AIKS's Ambala Resolution calling creation of Legitimate Minority Space for Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmir under Minority Act of Indian Parliament. A conspicuous sight from Hyderabad conclave has been that Apex body has been successful in attracting a young band of our youth into the body that has strengthened its base. They are proactive and rise to the occasion fast in responding to situations that demands their

involvement for the solution. Their hospitality to the visiting AIKS delegates was top class which will be remembered by the team for a long time.

**Major KP Organizations Hold a Meet:-** In view of fast pacing developments taking place with respect to daily SC hearing of Art 370 and 35A, nomination of two seats for 'KP migrant community' in state legislative body and some other major announcement regarding reopening cases of assassinations of KPs by Islamist Jehadisi, AIKS-JKVM-GKPD held a meeting on July 30 at Padamshri JN Koul memorial conference room in Pamposh Enclave and discussed the issues pertaining to united community response to situations emanating from the valley. Apart from the top leaders of these three organizations there were some eminent community personalities who attended and participated in the deliberations. AIKS was represented by its President Dr Ramesh Raina and his two VPs, Mrs Alka Lahori and Dr Manorama Bakshi. GKPD was represented by Dr Utpal Koul, Pt Kashi Akhoo and Shri Virender Koul. JKVM was represented by its President Dileep Kumar Mattoo, Pt Sanjay Ganjoo and Shri Kuldeep Pandita. KMWA Noida was represented by its President Shri Kamal Hak. Others present were Prof B B Dhar, Shri Arun Shali, Shri Ashok Manwati, Shri Rohit and many more social activists from Delhi NCR. It was decided to hold such meetings every alternate Sunday in order to work out a unified community response to situations arising from Kashmir. After holding first round at J N Koul Memorial Hall in Pamposh Colony, New Delhi and second at Kashmiri Bhawan Noida, AIKS-JKVM-GKPD held third round of meeting in important KP bastion, Gurgaon. The meeting on Sunday, 3rd September was held at Palam Vihar, the land which has been allotted to KKS Gurgaon for constructing a cultural centre. The fourth meeting was held in Shalimar Garden, Sahibabad U.P on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Tulllamulla Temple complex. The AIKS was represented by its Vice President Dr Manorama Bakshi. Dilip Mattoo, President JKVM attended the meet and GKPD was represented by one of its members in Delhi. Koshur Samut of Shalimar Garden was in full attendance at the meeting and a whole lot of deliberations took place at the meeting regarding community issues. The series of meetings aimed at forging a consensus on non-controversial issues on which there are no differences between various KP organizations. The exercise is aimed at working out a unified community response to situations arising from Kashmir and soon the team will come out with that unified response document.

**Court decision on AIKS Trust Matter :-** Honourable Court has given a verdict which eventually holds the sanctity of the elections as per the standard procedures and norms followed by the venerable elders of the community so far. On 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the honourable Court has ordered that the elections to be held under the supervision of the court appointed Observer. The Court has appointed Justice (Rtd) O.P Saini as the Court Commissioner to supervise the conduct of elections of AIKS Trust which had been under litigation for nearly two years. The Petitioners had gone to the court seeking legal sanctity/ acknowledgement of the elections held through virtual mode among members of a social media WhatsApp group. All this, when the election process was under-way for the AIKS TRUST and voting just a few days away in April 2022 where all protocols had been followed as laid down in the constitution of the Trust Deed, like intimation letters to voters about date and venue and also Governing Council meeting to be held simultaneously. This (litigation) was as much part of the efforts to bring a stay on the whole process as to seek legal sanctity to the 'elections held through virtual mode' throwing norms to wind. Among many others, AIKS Trust Chairman and AIKS President were also served the notices through the court who were forced to appear as defendants in the court. The plea 'for legal acknowledgement' of the Petitioners, however, was rejected by the court on its very first hearing. The stand of the defendants—AIKS and AIKS Trust was elections be allowed as per the set norms and standard procedure. Honourable Court eventually has also agreed to their contention and appointed a Court Commissioner as Observer, to be paid fee by both the parties. The Honourable Court has directed elections to be completed within three months, after issuance of the order on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**AIKS at Shakti Pradarshan by Saraswat Brahmins Saraswat Kashmiri Pandits Vikas Parishad (SKPVP) in association with Adarsh Brahmin Foundation;Saraswat Council League Foundation;Vishwa Saraswath Federation held a SHAKTI PRADARSHAN (Show of Strength) on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at iconic protest site of Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.**

While AIKS led by its President Dr Ramesh Raina and Vice President Dr Manorama Bakshi were part of the rally, it's another dynamic Vice President Pt Jitender Kaw was on the fore front of SKPVP as its advisor bringing on board many stake holders in the campaign to bring all Brahmins on one platform and stand in solidarity with Kashmiri Pandits and their cause. The rally had an impressive attendance from the community members and support from organizations and leaders across board. Other notable KPs associated with the organization are Pt Ajay Koul, Pt Amit Bhat, Ms Monika Pandita, Col Ashok Kini, Pt Sampat Saraswat and Pt Ashutosh Upadhya.

**Other News:-Policy Consultative Group Meeting:** AIKS holds its Policy Consultative Group meeting on almost every Saturday at its Hqr. wherein all the office bearers residing in NCR participate.

**Affiliation fee:-** Letters have been sent to the Affiliates for sending due affiliation fee.

**Audited Accounts statement** and balance Sheet for the year 2022-23 have been timely submitted to the Income Tax department.

**AIKS Website** is fully operational and updated. Thanks to Sh. Vinay Bhat for taking this responsibility.

AIKS has a **twitter account:** All India Kashmiri Samaj @ allindiakashmi1. All are requested to follow the account.

**Naad and Vaakh :** We are pleased to inform our community members that Naad and Vaakh, the two iconic journals are keeping a date with their respective readers. Both the journals are getting unflinching support from readers and are critically acclaimed by commentators. We value all suggestions.

During this period, the following members applied for seeking Patron and life membership of AIKS (list attached). We may approve their application and add in the list of Patrons and the life members accordingly.