

MINUTES, MEETING OF GoAC (GROUP OF ADVISORY COUNCILS) HELD ON 16th APRIL 2022

1. Meeting of the Advisory Councils of ISC was held on 16th April 2022 at Plot No.1, Madhya Marg, Sector 28, Chandigarh in the Office of ISC. The following members, some in person and others through Zoom participated in the meeting:-

SN	Name (Attended on Zoom)	SN	Name (Attended in Person)
1	S. Mangat Rahi	8	Col Jagtar Singh Multani
2	Dr. Jaspal Kaur Kaang	9	Col Arvind Singh Kandhari
3	Mrs. Sartaj Kaur Lamba	10	Dr Birendra Kaur
4	S. Jaswant Singh	11	Brig G J Singh
5	Bibi Harjeet Kaur	12	S. Sarwan Singh
6	Davinder Singh		
7	Jatinder Singh, Amritsar		

2. The meeting commenced with the recitation of 'Mool Mantra' followed by confirmation of the minutes of previous Group of Advisory Councils (GoACs) meeting held on 15th March 2022.

3. Col Jagtar Singh Multani, highlighting the urgent need for freedom of the SGPC from the political clutches and independent functioning at Sri Akal Takht Sahib, stated that this duty was given to ISC in 2006, when it was just 1 year old, during an international-level Seminar organised by the Institute of Sikh Studies [IOSS]. He shared the 'Remedies' section of the Keynote Address presented by Dr Kharak Singh at the occasion. ISC, therefore, feels duty-bound to take up this cause in the interest of the Panth worldwide, by approaching all - organisations, panthic leaders, prominent personalities, and the like. Having recently visited Dubai and most states of S India, he informed the house that this move has the enthusiastic support of all.

4. Dr Birendra Kaur informed that the ISC and IOSS also organised 2 Conferences in 2014, wherein legal experts and scholars participated. And that the Report of these conferences, which highlights the legal position of the post of Jathedar of Sri Akal Takht Sahib as well as offers a list of options available to the Panth for securing independent, sovereign functioning of the same, will be shared with all. She felt that there is no system whatsoever to handle, discuss and/or resolve Sikh issues at the Panthic level. As followers of the most visionary Gurus, we should have been in a position to show the way to the world, but unfortunately we are deeply entangled and engrossed in our own local, petty affairs. Electoral politics has taken over, because the *panthdardis* have taken a back seat. They must play their role, and not be found wanting.

5. Dr Jaspal Kaur Kaang felt the issue deserves all seriousness, and offered full assistance. S Jaswant Singh and S Jatinder Singh too expressed all support. They would suggest names of subject experts to be contacted for the same.

6. Brig GJ Singh felt that we need to set our house in order. Prevailing scenario has deteriorated to such an extent that even Hukamnamas are not accepted by all. Such a state of disunity in the Panth shall impact the coming generations adversely.
7. Ms Sartaj Kaur Lamba stressed that a mass movement should be created by contacting more bodies from all countries. On the lines of travels of Guru Nanak, a group comprising of 3-5 members of ISC, should be formed to travel worldwide, and Centres established in all cities with a substantial Sikh population. Further, the ISC must go for branding - it's members and volunteers to wear, say, a common colour turban and/or wear a jacket with ISC logo on it.
8. Col Arvind Singh Kandhari pointed out that many Sikhs, especially from the cities, do not take interest nor participate in SGPC electons. And, the entire lot of most villages, which generally have a specific political leaning, vote en masse for the same - so that the results are there for all to see.
9. S Lakhwinder Singh from Mansa suggested that amendments should be introduced in statutes to ensure minimum levels of education and experience to qualify to contest for membership of SGPC. Rules should also be framed for their suspension/ disqualification, if need so be. President, SGPC, and especially Jathedar, Sri Akal Takht Sahib, must meet higher levels of educational qualifications, experience and achievements, etc., and could be chosen through a Direct election, to keep political interferences at bay.
10. Bibi Harjeet Kaur placed the issues she faces with her sewa of securing scholarships for the SC/ST students. Col Jagtar Singh informed that her work on the ground will also help ISC to connect with these classes of netizens for the current Project that we are working on. He also requested all members to give more inputs, suggest names of scholars, etc., through the coming month.
11. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.