



INTERNATIONAL SIKH CONFEDERATION

Head Office: Plot No. 1, Sector 28 – A, Chandigarh
Email: - iscchd2006@gmail.com Website: www.sikhconfed.org Ph: 0172-3811143
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MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10TH JULY 2021

1. Meeting of the Executive Committee of ISC was held on 10 July 2021 at Plot No. 1. Madhya Marg, Sector 28, Chandigarh, in the Library of Sri Kendri Singh Sabha. The meeting was attended by the following:

SN	Name	SN	Name
1	Dr. Sardara Singh Johl, Padma Bhushan	19	Brig GJ Singh, VSM
2	Col. Jagtar Singh Multani	20	Col AS Kandhari
3	Dr. Birendra Kaur	21	S. Navjit Singh
4	S. Gurpreet Singh, IOSS	22	S. Gurinder Singh Amrewala
5	S. Gurdial Singh Pandhar	23	S. Balbir Singh Sohi
6	Mrs. Kiranpreet Kaur Dhami	24	S. HMS Bedi
7	S. TS Ahluwalia, IRS	25	S. JS Ahluwalia
8	Col. Parminder Singh Randhawa	26	S. Chamkaur Singh Gholia
9	S. Gurdeep Singh Sahota, Dehra Dun	27	S. Brijinder Singh Randhawa
10	S. Balwinder Singh Multani	28	S. Gural Singh Sidhu
11	Mrs Sartaj Lamba	29	S. Satbir Singh, Akal Jot School
12	S. Inderjit Singh	30	S. Sarwan Singh
13	S.VMS Grover	31	S. Dileep Singh
14	S. Amrinder Singh	32	S. Gurmeet Singh Jaura
15	Insp Sukhjinder Singh	33	Ms. Neha Shera
16	S. Charanjeet Singh	34	Ms. Sangeeta Bedi
17	S. Jatinder Singh	35	S. NP Singh (on Zoom)
18	S. Harpal Singh	36	

2. Gen Secy Col AS Kandhari welcomed all members and commenced the meeting at 11:30 AM with reciting of the **Mool Mantra**. He thereafter requested Col JS Multani, Secy Gen for his opening remarks.

Opening Remarks by Col JS Multani, Secy Gen.

3. Col J S Multani, Secy Gen welcomed all the members who had come for the meeting as well as those who had joined virtually on Zoom. **Homage** was then paid to the following members of the Organization who left us in the recent past for their heavenly abode by standing up and observing a minute of silence.

- (a) Late S. Jugraj Singh Gill

- (b) Late S. Izzat Singh (Delhi)
- (c) Late S. Pritam Singh Sodhi (Karnal)

4. Col JS Multani then requested the Convenor, S. Sardara Singh Johl, Padma Bhushan to deliver his Opening Address.

Opening Address by S. Sardara Singh Johl, Padma Bhushan, Convenor ISC

5. S. Sardara Singh Johl welcomed all members and was happy that the Secy Gen Col JS Multani had been able to arrange a physical meeting despite the prevailing Covid environment, where everything was so uncertain and unpredictable. He urged all members to take maximum precautions so that we remain healthy and safe. Citing his own example where he lost his daughter-in-law he said that loss of life especially of the near and dear ones is very unfortunate and heartbreaking. The next wave is predicted to be more severe so do take all necessary precautions.

6. This organisation was started with a lot of enthusiasm by the efforts of Dr Kharak Singh Ji Maan who is also my mentor. I remember him in my heart at the beginning of each meeting. Our work today is confined to education only. We had the Religious Council, Law Council and a few others. I was given the responsibility of Education and I had prepared a roadmap for it. I always had it in my mind that we must have an Education Fund like the Jews. Today there is not a single Jew who is uneducated. Similarly with a fund of one billion dollars we can ensure that we get sufficient interest and no child remains uneducated. However we could not get Govt Approval for foreign funding despite our best efforts. Still Gen KS Gill, Col Multani and the entire team put in lot of effort and started the coaching centres. A lot of work was also done for the welfare of Sikligars and we are still continuing. He appealed to other councils to come forth and participate actively. There are a number of religious matters which require attention as political parties often ignore the main problems and concentrate only on a few sensational issues such as the Beadbi of Guru Granth Sahib ji. We are weak in the Religious aspect and have not contributed much in this field. Secondly he reminded members that we are a confederation, so we should collaborate and involve different organizations to make a common guidance program for the community for which it is important to revive the Advisory Councils.

6. In conclusion he requested the members to participate wholeheartedly and give their frank views and opinion so that the meeting is meaningful and fruitful.

7. Homage to the daughter-in-law of S. Sardara Singh Johl. The house was grieved to learn about the tragic loss of the sad demise of daughter-in-law of S. Sardara Singh Johl. To pray for the peace of the departed soul the Col AS Kandhari Gen Secy requested members to stand up and observe one minute silence.

8. **Minutes of the Last Executive Committee Meeting.** Col AS Kandhari, Gen Secy presented the minutes of the last Executive Committee Meeting which was held on 29 December 2020. He said that the minutes of meeting were circulated to all Executive Members. He asked if any member had any point or suggestion in this regards. There being no points the minutes were passed by the House.

9. **Statement of Accounts for the Period.** Col AS Kandhari, Gen Secy presented the statement of accounts by means of a presentation and explained the income and expenditure during the period. The major source of income during the period was by donations which were largely due to the personal liaison and initiative taken by the Secy Gen. On the expenditure side, apart from the routine expenses on salary of staff, building and office maintenance, during the period money was spent on Covid Care Centre, Education of children, Publication of Books and Hyderabad Sikligars. There being no points from the members, the accounts were passed by the house.

10. **Introduction of New Office Member.** Col AS Kandhari introduced Ms Neha Shera who had recently joined as a new office member to the other members. Ms Neha Shera has joined the organization as Mgt professional and her field of interest in Occult Science. He told about her contribution in the Organization as a Translator, Proof reader and Editor of Books.

Address by Secy Gen Col J S Multani

11. Col. J S Multani, Secretary Gen welcomed all members and appreciated efforts done by them. He introduced some of the members who came from out station/ distant places to the rest of members of the house. In his address to the members the important issues highlighted by him are given in succeeding paragraphs.

12. Col. J S Multani, informed that while no headway could be made in the case of FCRA due to revised policies of the Govt however, approval has been received from Government of India for execution of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) projects. ISC in the recent past has executed CSR projects with 4-5 companies and results were quite appreciable. He requested members that if any firm needs help on execution of CSR projects in the field of Education, Social or Religious issues then we can now undertake the same as we have both sanctions and infrastructure.

13. Two books were published by ISC namely "Bhule Visre Nanak Panthi" and "Homage to Guru Gobind Singh". Late S. Jugraj Singh Gill during his lifetime had donated Two Lakh Rupees for publication of the book "Yug Purush Guru Gobind Singh" written by S. Raghubir Singh as this book contains many important things about Guru Sahib which are not mentioned in any other book. This book has been edited and will be sent for printing shortly.

14. As all schools were closed due to Covid and Sikligar children could not afford smartphones therefore their studies had virtually come to a halt. To overcome this small Coaching Centres were opened in their respective Deras in Hyderabad where under the guidance of a teacher classes were held in batches of 10 -12 students. S Jatinder Singh has started a similar venture for Sikligar children in Jalandhar.

15. A 25 bedded Covid Care Center, a joint venture of International Sikh Confederation, Buddy Cabs and Aurobindo Society was established at Sri Aurobindo School of Integral Education, Plot No. 1/A, Sector 27/A, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh on 12-05-2021 with the permission of Chandigarh Administration. It was inaugurated by Shri Manoj Parida, (IAS) Adviser to the Administrator, Chandigarh. Whereas the building infrastructure was provided by Aurobindo Society, Buddy Cabs undertook the responsibility of providing "Oxygen on Wheels" for which they deployed eight vehicles with oxygen cylinders free of cost for patients, doctors and paramedical staff. It also assisted ailing senior citizens free of cost. ISC provided food, fruits and beverages to the patients and 10 Medical Staff members. Mrs Sartaj Lamba, who is our active member and is also the proprietor of "Buddy Cabs" took a lot of initiative and effort in the planning and execution of this work. The Covid centre was operative for 40 days and about 50 Covid patients were treated totally free of cost. They were provided free Food, Accommodation, Oxygen and Medicine. The patients admitted in Covid Care Center were very happy to go back home fully recovered.

16. In our effort to make a documentary on Guru Teg Bahadur Ji, ISC team had gone for shooting of the films to the historical Gurudwaras. They were not permitted to shoot the film and were told to get permission from SGPC. With lot of effort, President SGPC, Bibi Jagir Kaur was contacted and we finally got the permission. The shooting had to be suspended due to the increasing Corona cases in the region during the 2nd wave of Covid. Now as the Corona cases have subsided we will resume the shooting of the film shortly.

17. ISC team had visited Baba Aya Singh Riarki School and College in Tugalwal for employment training. The principal S. Swaran Singh provided a lot of assistance and about 150 graduate students are being trained for physical as well as written exams. An ex-fauji, S. Sukhjinder Singh has been contracted for the purpose. An additional instructor has also been hired for ITI Moga who is also being paid from ISC.

18. In collaboration with Sri Kendri Singh Sabha and Jugraj Singh Gill Charitable Trust, ISC is starting a new project of No Profit No Loss Chemist Shop. Space for the shop will be provided by Sri Kendri Singh Sabha. It will be financed by Jugraj Singh Gill Charitable Trust and ISC will look after its day-to-day running. The license for the shop has been applied for and we expect the approval soon.

19. ISC was conceived in 2005 and came into existence in 2006. In all these years the organisation has grown with minimum resources which have been possible by the contribution and efforts of all its members. Perhaps it is now time to expand the working by formulating the Governing Council as conceptualised in the constitution of ISC and proposed by Bibi Birendra Kaur. Some initial spade work has already been done and list of proposed members has been prepared. We also have a list of intellectuals and other prominent Sikh personalities who were invited for various seminars organised by IOSS. This process of formation of Governing Council, the Gen Secy proposed could be carried out in four steps. Firstly is the identification of suitable persons. Secondly we obtain the bio-data and obtain consent of the selection committee. Once approved the consent of the concerned person is taken and finally the selection is ratified. Therefore it is important to formulate a committee and amongst all the members present Bibi Birendra Kaur was chosen as the most qualified and suitable person to head and convene this committee. She was also given the freedom to choose members for the purpose. All office assistance required will be provided to her. He suggested that the committee undertake this task in a time bound manner and should try and complete it by December 2021.

20. Highlighting a few challenges being faced by the Secretariat in its functioning, the Secy Gen brought out how the frequent changes in the laws especially related to FCRA and more recently amendments in the rules related to 80G & 12 and Income Tax, which require fresh Govt sanction, make the working difficult. It takes time and lot of effort to understand these rules and then take fresh sanction as a result a valuable time is lost.

Recent Activities Undertaken by ISC

21. Brig GJ Singh, VSM said that since most events had been covered in detail by the Secy Gen he would not dwell on them to avoid repetition but would cover other aspects.

22. **Youth Empowerment.** He said that lot of activities of the school going children have been restricted due to Corona. However despite this where ever possible we have tried to empower children. We visited Baba Aya Singh School and College at Riarki where about 3500 children are studying. The girl students there are physically fit and have the potential to join the services. We are training about 350 girls for recruitment in Punjab Police. A suitable instructor has been detailed and we are hopeful that in the first attempt 30-40 will get selected. Similarly ISC team visited Khadoor Sahib and had a discussion with Baba Sewa Singh who expressed his requirement for trained instructors. Brig GJ Singh offered him his services for the purpose and it is hoped that they will also start the training soon. Otherwise the institute has produced children who have got selected as officers in the Army, Navy and Airforce. Their teaching standards

are of a very high standard and they do not believe in mere bookish knowledge but also concentrate on high moral values with the basic aim to empower youth and make them good human beings. While education is important for employment and empowerment but it has to be holistic. Our intake in IAS is less than 2%. Our quota of recruitment of Jawans is being given to Haryana. Similar is the state of sports in the state today.

23. **ISC Membership and Governing Council.** Brig GJ Singh deliberated on the issue of ISC Membership and Governing Council. We need 200 members under the six heads. He requested members to come forward voluntary to enroll more members. This feat cannot be achieved by one person alone and each one of us has to make an effort. He informed that although the present numbers of the members are 560 but only 30 are active. We need members who can give suggestions, advice, actively participate and devote some time here in our office. Adding members who have dedication and have constructive approach will make ISC more powerful and help achieve our theme and vision. Similarly we need to revive the Executive Committee and Advisory Councils as per Appendix "A" of the constitution. He assured Bibi Birendra Kaur of all assistance in the formation of the Governing Council and Advisory Councils.

24. **Documentary Project on Guru Teg Bahadur ji** He shared that the documentary project on Guru Teg Bahadur Ji was delayed due to the requirement to obtain permission from SGPC. Permission has just been obtained from SGPC president and with blessings of Waheguru it will be complete soon. Please share with us your knowledge of the Ninth Guru or if you know of any place connected with him. Our media team will go and shoot at the location.

25. **Suggestion for New Projects** During the pandemic ISC with Mrs Sartaj Lamba had run the Covid Care centre. ISC provided food and oxygen to the patients. The effort was much appreciated by the Chandigarh Administration. He asked members for their suggestions for any other project which they feel can be undertaken by ISC during the pandemic.

Open House Discussion

26. **Mrs Sartaj Kaur Lamba.** She gave a brief on the work done and appreciated the cooperation between the teams to open and run the Covid Relief Centre with free food & Medication. She also informed of the work done to provide 1500 vaccination in the villages. While appreciating the new chemist shop project she also proposed that we should also have a diagnostic centre.

27. **Col PS Randhawa (Sikhya Seekers).** Citing example of some international Sikh organisations he suggested that ISC should collaborate with all Sikh organisations and act as their ambassador at all national and international forums.

28. **S. Gurinder Singh Amrewala.** He highlighted the deplorable condition of villagers and the poor living in settlements around Chandigarh. Taking advantage of their plight others were carrying out religious conversions. We should on our part focus on Sikh education and social upliftment.
29. **S. Gurdial Singh Pandhar (DGP Retd).** He spoke of looking at everything positively and said that even Covid has brought about some positive changes in our lives such as developing humanity in the people, reduction of gatherings particularly in marriage reduces the burden of the girl's parents, kindness & humanity of Sikh Community has been highlighted and appreciated by the world. He suggested that a workshop of welding, plumber etc be set up in border areas with the assistance of government and Sikh Missionaries.
30. **S. Amninder Singh.** He focused the attention of all members on the need for FCRA for development of border areas and setting up workshops. He was not in favour of sending children to Armed Forces and said we should train them for better jobs.
31. **Gurdeep Singh Sahota (Dehradun).** He emphasized the need to spread awareness amongst the masses on the Central Government Funds on welfare of minorities as due to lack of awareness most of these funds are not utilized by us and majority of the share is used up by other communities. He also laid stress on the need for our youth to join civil services so that they take active part in the nation's policy making.
32. **S. Jatinder Singh.** He shared his experience of working with the Sikligars in Hyderabad as well as in Punjab. A lot of perseverance and patience is required to change the mindset and habits of these people who have drifted away from civilization over the last two centuries. As a fruit of our effort and endeavor a few children have done well in academics and are proving to be a good example and inspiration for others Sikligars.
33. **Mrs Kiranpreet Kaur Dhami.** Inspired by the working of ISC and after hearing other speakers she offered to take responsibility for conduct of Vocational courses on experimental basis in the CBSE schools (approx 80) in Hoshiarpur which she is governing. She also spoke on the modus operandi adopted by the Christian missionaries in the villages to carry out religious conversions. Using the network built during distribution of minority scholarships we could connect with the children and villagers to create awareness.
34. **S. Balbir Singh Sodhi (Coop Dept).** He narrated how he has donated his land in the village to set up a school based on the need of the locals. The school has now 476 students and has got CBSE recognition. He suggested that the members should also give solutions with the problems so that we can progress in our work.

35. **S. Jasjit Singh Ahluwalia**. He shared his experience of working with Gu Nanak Educational Trust which has adopted a Govt Primary School in Distt Hoshiarpur Village Ajjowal and provided assistance to Sikligar children and jobs for the women. He shared his experiences with organisations such as "Home For Homeless" and "Eco Sikh". These efforts to uplift the backward classes take time but will ultimately bear fruit. Secondly we have to work with other minorities for common good.

36. **S. Chamkaur Singh (Moga)**. He shared his views on problems faced by the farmers due to degrading soil and water conditions in the villages. Thus to save the farmlands he has started organic farming. We are blessed with this wonderful land Punjab so we have to work together to save our land.

37. **S. Prabhraj Singh, CA**. He said that as a community we should work as a close knit team and help each other. As a CA he offered his services to the organisation whenever required.

Closing Address by Convenor, S.Sardara Singh Johl, Padma Bhushan

38. Dr. Sardara Singh Johl, Padam Bhushan in his closing address said that while we have put in efforts in the field of education whether it is in case of Sikligars or Coaching Classes in schools but we can put across our views to the Government only if we become capable and occupy responsible government posts. This was my desire and since we are located in Chandigarh where all educational facilities exist, ISC is certainly capable of training and producing candidates who qualify for Civil Services. If we select 25-30 intelligent students annually and train them and even if a few of them qualify and get selected in Govt Services they will be able to understand our requirements and solve them. Citing his own example where he had prepared a report for diversification and got Rs 16 thousand crores approved from the Food Ministry. The case was also approved by the Finance Ministry and the money was released to the Agriculture Ministry for further processing. The IAS officer handling the case was from UP, who did not take interest in the case. Since no officer or minister followed it up the fund lapsed. Had someone from Punjab been in that position he would have realized the importance of this fund for the state and would have pursued it. We have to compete with others and get selected to reach those levels only then can we fight for our rights. If you are capable position and awards will automatically follow. We have the talent and the capability, what is required is to identify talent and then motivate the young minds and prepare them for competition. ISC have the space, it is ideally located and has the expertise to start this venture. Our process must be based purely on merit without any reservation for class, colour or creed. He also shared incident of his own life which highlighted how proper guidance of a teacher can make a Seventh class fail student rise in life to become a Padma Bhushan recipient.

39. He appreciated work to translate the books published by ISC into English and Punjabi. He however also emphasized that these books should also be translated into Hindi so that they have a wider audience. Citing example of how the Arabic translation of bani of Baba Farid ji was much appreciated in the Arab world.
40. Being an Agricultural Economist, he explained organic farming in easy and simple language. In case of organic farming nothing is sown in the land for three years and the crop has traceability. What we commonly refer to as organic produce is actually pesticide /chemical free product.
41. On opening of the Chemist Shop, he said that the name should be chosen after deliberations and should be appropriate.
42. He appreciated the step being taken to revive the Governing Council and desired that maximum organisations should be added and members of these organisations should be such that they willingly participate in the activities of ISC. He stressed on the fact that ISC is a Confederation of organisations and so we should work with others on a common programme so that there is a healthy exchange of ideas. As more and more organisations come together and coordinate and work towards a common programme the efforts get multiplied as a result of synergy amongst the organisations.
43. He reiterated that selection of teachers for various programmes should be purely on merit. The bond between a student and teacher is everlasting. Citing examples he said the teacher who infused the spirit in him to study and excel was a Muslim. So it is important that we employ good teachers and their religion or caste should not be selection criteria.
44. Appreciating the efforts on the making of documentary on Guru Teg Bahadur Ji he said that some guidance can also be taken from the Coffee Table book written by Advocate Harpreet Singh Sandhu of which he has a copy and was willing to share it with us.
45. He said that we have discussed a lot of problems and issues facing the society today but we have not talked of the solution. Often the person who knows the problem also has the solution. We should also share and discuss the solutions to our problems.
46. In the conclusion he narrated the sorry state of education in our state and the narrow and shallow aims of our politicians and officials. Therefore we must coordinate with likeminded organisations and work together to achieve our objectives.
47. **Vote of Thanks.** Col JS Multani proposed the motion for vote of thanks to the chair and requested all members to join for Guru ka Langar.