

INTERNATIONAL SIKH CONFEDERATION

KENDRI SRI GURU SINGH SABHA, PLOT NO.1

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MINUTES OF THE AGM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2015 AT HEADQUARTER LOCATION OF ISC

General

1. The AGM was held in the main hall of the Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan at plot No.1 Sector 28, Madya Marg, Chandigarh from 1030Hrs to 1430 Hrs. The attendance was generally good as some members were accompanied by their wives. Invitees from co-operating organizations were present and lent strength to our proceedings. The weather was excellent and this helped us in having many senior members in attendance. We were lucky to have Bibi Mejinder Pal Kaur Ji of the United Sikhs amongst us as guests who wished to attend.

2. The greatest regret was to miss having our very highly respected Convenor, Dr. Sardara Singh Johl, Padma Bhushan, Presiding over the function. This was due to unavoidable circumstances. We were however lucky in having our Deputy Convenor S. Gurdev Singh, IAS(Retd.) with us.

3. After shabad by boys and girls from Kendri Sri Guru Singh Sabha and Ardas by S. Gurpreet Singh, Lt.Gen.Kartar Singh Gill, PVSM(Retd.), the Secretary General, welcomed the members and assured them about the Charh Di Kala of the ISC on various fronts. He then called upon the Secretary Col. Jagtar Singh Multani to read out the Minutes of the last AGM.

Minutes of the AGM held on 17 March 2015

4. These were read out in detail and thrown open to the house. There being no questions these were proposed to be passed by Sardar J S Ahluwalia and seconded by Dr.Tej Pal Singh Chawla and unanimously passed by the house.

Highlight of Activities and Achievements

5. The Secretary General assured members that the ISC has achieved success in various new ventures undertaken on the Education front, panthic issues including cooperative work with many likeminded Sikh organizations and Gurdwaras and also on the internal administration and accounts of the ISC. Our headquarters has shifted into our new accommodation on the First Floor of Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan.

The Education Front

6. Our Coaching Centre at Mukandpur and Moga are doing well. Another coaching centre has been selected at Hoshiarpur and the Principal Mrs. Kiranpreet Kaur Dhani is here in attendance. She will address the audience about the future plans of the Guru Har Krishan Public School located of Pandori Khajur, Hoshiarpur and sponsored by the Chief Khalsa Diwan.

7. The Guru Nanak Coaching Centre at Mukandpur has touched brilliant heights in last year results as given below:-

I.S.C.Student, 10+2 Non Medical
Session 2013-14

Roll No	Name	Result /Percentage Marks
601	Gurdeep Singh	90.2
604	Jatinder Kaur	73.3
605	Sukhjeet Kaur	88.6
606	Satinder Kaur	91.5
611	Mohammad Arif	83.3
612	Harwinder Kaur	92
613	Dilpreet Kaur	86.8
614	Sunaina	72.4
615	Sonam Rai	72.4
616	Parwinder Kaur	82.2
617	Bhawana	71.7
618	Gurpreet Singh	86
620	Jaskaran Kumar	90
624	Sushil Kumar	70.2
627	Prabhjot Kaur	80.8
628	Manpreet Kaur	73.3
631	Priyanka	80
633	Gagandep Singh	78
638	Harpreet Kaur	80
643	Sarabjit Kaur	86

I.S.C.Student, 10+2 Medical
Session 2013-14

Roll No	Name	Result /Percentage Marks
501	Harwinder Singh	82.6
502	Pawanjot Kaur	91.5
503	Gurpreet Kaur	83.7
504	Daljinder Kaur	91.1
511	Bhupinderjeet Kaur	81.7
512	Jasmeen Kaur	80.8
513	Sukhjot Kaur	82
515	Simran Kaur	80.8
518	Manpeet Bansal	83.1
519	Jaskarandeep Kaur	82.6
520	Jaswant Singh	78.2

Total Students –31
90% and above -06
80-90% --17
70-80% 08

We wish that students succeed in their future career which looks bright.

8. **PM's 15 Point Programme.** The ISC has ensured that more rural area Schools and Colleges are applying for these very attractive Scholarships each year increased applications have been submitted on easy to fill modified forms with least no. of affidavits. Close liason with the Minority Cell in Chandigarh by ISC has ensured increased allotment of total money for Sikh Students in Punjab from Rs.6 crores in 2008 to Rs. 220 cores last year. It is a record that money due to students, started being distributed in Feb 2015 itself. This is indeed a boon to poor parents.

9. We have our young devoted representative workers members in every district who monitor, help distribute forms, update teachers and Students and report to headquarter ISC regularly by e-mails and tele calls. They arrange audiences from the Colleges/Schools of their area for visits by our motivating /advisory team i.e. the Secretary, Secretary General and interested members regularly. These are indeed very popular, vital and educative. Results are beyond belief. More on this subject by Col. J.S.Multani, who is an expert in this field and has worked tirelessly to achieve progressive targets.

10. **Religious and Social Fronts.** Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan has become a Centre for unified action in this sphere. Kendri Sri Guru Singh Sabha, The ISC and Institute of Sikh Studies work in unison with all local Sansthas, Gurdwaras, many prominent Sikh scholars and Global Sikh Organisations. Many a burning Sikh issue has been discussed and appropriate action initiated with the press in attendance. Examples are the NanakShahi Calendar issue, formation of the Haryana SGPC, the sacking of the Jathedar Dam Dama Sahib etc have been discussed and our collective views were aired freely and conveyed to the concerned Sikh authorities.

Summary of Address by Col. J.S.Multani, Secretary ISC

11. The year 2014-15 proved to be meaningful and brought laurels to the ISC. A few important events are given below:-

In July-August 2014, a group of a round 200 South Indian Sikhs comprising of Students, Girls, Boys and parents visited ISC Headquarters and were felicitated at Baba Makhn Shah Lobana Bhawan. Religious competitions and prizes were distributed by the ISC. Lobana, Vanjara and Sikligar NGO's, Gurdwara Singh Sabha and many other organizations welcomed them followed by Guru Ka Langar.

This year Guru Nanak Multiversity's members arranged 22 meeting in different districts of Punjab to spread awareness about the Minority Scholarship and we could add more than one lakh students in various categories totaling 5 lakh and 86 thousand for Pre-Matric, Post Matric and Merit Cum Means Scholarships. In addition our present field workers were also very active. On 2 Oct 2014 a students' function was held by Guru Nanak Multiversity at Gurdwara Manji Sahib Hall in Amritsar for spreading information regarding Education and Scholarships. ISC played an important role for its success in addressing the gathering by Col. Multani.

Col. Multani and our Education team visited a number of Schools and Colleges and motivated our young students and made them aware as to what fields of education are available with or without the help of Govt. schemes. To mention just a few Institutions that ISC team visited were Coaching Centre Mukandpur, Baba Aya Singh Riarki College, Nishane-Sikhi Kadur Sahib, Guru Harkrishan Public School Pandori khajur Hoshiarpur, Govt. high School Chand Purana Moga, Guru Nanak School and College Moga, Govt. School Shatrana Patran Distt. Patiala, Panjabi University Patiala, a Seminar on Minority Scholarships by Sarbat Da Bhalla at Patiala and many more.

On the religious activities Col. J S Multani, the ISC representative, helped establishing a Gurdwara Sahib in Distt. Jalna at Jhirpi Tanda for using this complex as social and educational centre for sikligar, vanjara and lobana villages numbering more than fifty. He also interacted with an organisation named by 'SOCH' which is helping 250 poor Sikh students to continue their studies. He visited Vijawara in Andhra Pardesh where Bibi Kuldeep Kaur is running a hostel for 40 students studying in classes 1st to 10th single handed.

ISC is very active in technically assisting Kendri Sri Guru Singh Sabha in constructions and adding central services at HQ buildings. ISC representatives have played a big part in rendering active technical assistance in construction, as well as in adding essential central services in the new HQ building.

12. As staff and students of Coaching Centre at MUKANPUR could not attend due to Final examinations at this stage, it was decided to allow our members attending from outstations, and also invited guests, to have the honour of addressing our members.

(a) **Bibi Mejinder Pal Kaur.** Being an active lawyer member of the United Sikhs organizations, USA she strongly supported the move by Sardar Satnam Singh Sirsa, who has moved a case in the High Court in Chandigarh. She stressed the need to trace the essential historical documents taken away by the Govt. from the SGPC Library during 'Blur Star' operation. No serious effort has yet been made by the SGPC in this regard as results are negative. S Satnam Singh endorsed the views expressed above and requested the audience to lend maximum support to him and his associates.

(b) Sardar J S Ahluwalia, retired Chief Comissioner, Income Tax spoke about how to spread the message of 'Shabad Guru' in the age of Multi-media in the 21st century. We need to teach our children in the language and idiom they understand and also reflect and act to save children from drugs.

(c) Bhai Jaswinder Singh Ji, Chairman Guru Nanak Multiversity, Ludhiana, is at present, an essential component of 'Mission Education' being launched by the ISC on Rural Areas of Punjab. He himself was a successful business man in the UK and has now renounced that to help lift Sikh Society in Rural Areas of Punjab with stress on education. This was indeed a great sacrifice and the ISC highly appreciates this dedicated and successful campaign. He was honoured with a Saropa and a Momento by co-convenor S. Gurdev Singh IAS, (Retd.)

13. Our honoured Delhi member S. Charanjit Singh, who has joined the ISC in our vigorous campaign on education and distribution of scholarships made the following suggestions:-

- (a) ISC should now aim at forming a corpus of Rs.1000 crore for bigger education projects in the Rural Areas of Punjab.
- (b) ISC must now set a target of obtaining near 400 crores from the PM's 15 Point Programme for Minorities as there are still many Districts of Punjab which are still NOT aware about this programme.
- (c) We need to set up much more Skill Development Centres.
- (d) There is also need to replicate the good work being done for education by the Gurdwara Sahib in Sector 20, of Chandigarh.
- (e) The facilities made available by the Central Govt. for loans to students for higher studies need more advertisement.
- (f) Last but NOT least we are all very thankful to Sardar Jatinder Singh Uppal Ji from Australia who has rendered immense help and finance through "Sikhs Helping Sikhs" for printing and distribution of Lakhs worth of applications.

14. Lastly our member S Jagdev Singh Sodhi spoke about the need for the ISC and IOSS to somehow try to reform our marriage system which has turned profligate and lost Sikh values. Too much expenditure is made on marriage ceremony, especially through Marriage Palaces. Thus leading to farmers indebtedness and subsequent suicides. The pious and dignified marriage ceremony of old has been to fully discarded. We should take steps to educate village and city Sikhs to arrange marriage ceremonies as per maryada and reduce it to a simple and dignified affair.

Presentation By Ludhiana and Jalandhar Chapters

15. S Gurcharan Singh Bhatia, President BHSL revealed that our very good magazine 'Sewa Lehar', being edited ably by Sardar Karamjit Singh Aujla, is NOT in a very healthy financial position. He felt that all of us, including the ISC, should help financially in keeping this magazine being published regularly. S Mohan Singh Sehgal announced the good news about the establishment of new chapters of the ISC at Kapurthala. Here Col. JS Multani also added that the chapter at Dehradun has also now been estabilised. DELHI and PATIALA are having at least ten active members enrolled and more the pipeline and will soon be chapters. This is indeed a forward step by the ISC and was applauded by the audience.

Address by S.Gurpreet Singh

16. S. Gurpreet Singh is a member of the Governing Body of the Kendri Singh Sabha, Executive Committee Member of the ISC and Treasurer of the Institute of Sikh Studies. He quickly listed the achievements of the trio in social and religious affairs. He described our active participation on current Sikh issues such as the need to improve the role of the Jathedar Akal Takht Sahib and other ongoing Sikh issues, such as forming of Haryana SGPC, Nanak Shahi Calendar and many other Sikh issues. He also spoke about the close liason that we maintain with S. Gulbarg Singh Bassi, President Global Sikh Organisation and the World Sikh Council USA, United Sikhs and various Sikh organizations in Australia, UK, Canada and Malaysia.

17. He also spoke about the multifarious activities now being held in the Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan, which is gradually gaining strength as a hub to discuss critical Sikh issues. Facilities to increase coverage in all types of media such as Radio, Internet and Live Press coverage are indeed progressing satisfactorily.

Selection and Approval of the New ISC Executive Committee Members

18. Lt.Gen.Kartar Singh Gill explained that with the vast experience of Dr. S S Johl, our convenor in the Chair, Bibi Baljit Kaur a very senior experienced member and Lt.Gen.Kartar Singh Gill, a selection Committee was organized. Our experience with the working and output produced at our quarterly meetings, the main factors of experience, regularity of attendance and the will to actually participate and produce results, was the main criteria for selection.

19. He then read out the names recommended to be members of the new ISC Executive Committee. The list was put to vote after inviting suggestions. S. Jagdev Singh Sodhi proposed that the list of new ISC EC members be passed and Bibi Birendra Kaur seconded the proposal. The list was passed unanimously.

Budget

20. The Budget for year 2013-14 was presented by Col. J S Multani, the summary had also been published on the invitation card sent to each member of the ISC. Many important items were explained by the Secretary. The budget had been duly audited by an authorised Auditor.

21. It was then proposed to be passed by S. Sukhdev Singh Laaj and seconded by S. Izzat Singh.

Closing Address by Co-Convenor

22. S. Gurdev Singh IAS,(Retd.), also President "Sikh Education Society" then rose to conclude the very interesting and well attended AGM. He first thanked the visitors from outstations for promptly reaching our location and actively contributing to the professional advancement of the ISC. He felt very proud of the progress that the ISC has made in many diverse directions with stress on vastly improving uplift of education in rural areas and spreading information on very effective and attractive schemes especially for minorities. He also thanked all members and organizations especially the Kendri Sri Guru Singh Sabha were profusely thanked for helping accommodate comfortably so many members. He also amused the audience with very interesting episodes from his life experience.

23. The Secretary General then announced the happy termination of the Annual General Meeting 2013-14 with a vote of thanks to the chair. All members were requested to partake of lunch which had been laid out.

**Lt.Gen.Kartar Singh Gill, PVSM(Retd.)
Secretary General**