KPA

BIRADARI BUZZ

DECEMBER 2025

From the President's Desk

Namaskar Biradari,

It is with immense pleasure and profound honor that I commence my second term as President of the KPA.

Following the due processes outlined in our Memorandum of Association, we successfully concluded the elections for the new Committee under the stewardship of Vijay Vatal our election officer. I extend my sincere thanks and deepest gratitude to the outgoing committee, who served the KPA so graciously for the last many years. During their tenure, the association has truly transformed, evolving significantly from its foundational days at the Dayal Singh Library.

I would also like to offer my compliments to the new committee members, who have already hit the ground running by organizing two highly successful events:

- A compelling talk on Kashmir Shaivism by Dr Raj Nehru.
- A well-attended cricket match.

Both events saw wide and enthusiastic participation. I am personally thankful to Senior Member K. N. Baqaya who sponsored the talk; and to Dr Ameeta Wattal, Sanjay Kaul and Ratan Watal who equally shared the cricket match expenses and Varun Shungloo for his hard work and dedication in ensuring the success of the event.

I wish the editorial team, led by Ratan Bhai and Dr Charu WaliKhanna, all the very best in managing this digital newsletter - a vital tool for keeping our Biradari informed and connected.

The EC has also constituted following 4 Sub-Committees for which it invites and seeks volunteers among our members:

1. **Membership Committee** -
   Surabhi Sinha and Sanjay Kaul.
2. **Fund raising and Resources Committee**-
   Sanjay Kaul FCA, Rajiv Chandra, Uttam Tankha and Dalip Kaul FCA.
3. **Communication Committee**-
   Dr Charu WaliKhanna and Ratan Watal.
4. **Events and Gatherings Committee** (Pan India) - Dr Ameeta Mulla Watal, Dr Anish Madan and Vijay Wanchoo.

Our member's support and participation in Biradiri activities is actively solicited especially in connecting the younger generations to the Biradiri more strongly.

Any member who volunteers to assist the Sub- Committees is most welcome and should write to secretary@kpadelhi.org

Maj Gen R.N. Masaldan

President

Secretary's Report 2025

I have the pleasure to present the Secretary's Report before all esteemed members, reflecting our collective achievements and vision

CONTRIBUTIONS OF EC 2023-25

As the newly elected committee assumes its responsibilities, it is both appropriate and important to formally acknowledge and record the significant contributions and dedicated efforts of the outgoing committee, whose unwavering commitment has strengthened our association and positively guided its continued progress and growth.

(A) Administrative & Regulatory

- All documents and past records of the Association were collated into a centralised filing. IT returns were streamlined, ROS (Registrar of Societies) filing restored, Members data digitized and mass mailing platform established for important communication. Website Domain name was permanently secured and website template finalised.
- KPA's rules and Memorandum was evaluated to make it contemporary with the current times for the first time since 1940 through a process of debate, consultation and consensus building. It was adopted through a due process in the EC and by the General body.
- Several new initiatives were conceptualised and launched, including a pan-India outreach strategy, a collaborative approach for events and activities, and the development of a fully functional website offering membership services, news, and updates, along with engagement from high-value patrons.
- Sharper strategic focus areas were identified, particularly strengthening connections with the younger generation and establishing perpetual resources and endowments to ensure the long-term sustainability and vibrant growth of the Association..
- Full EC strength including co opted Members was reached and EC made active through new members and office bearers.
- As per the Adopted Memorandum and Rules due process of electing an EC was initiated and successfully concluded. Newly elected EC had their first meeting on 16th Nov 2025 and duly elected its office bearers for the next term.

(B) Fund raising and membership drive

- Sponsoring of activities and events were secured. GBM and EC meetings, Website development, KPA Secretariat and the Talk event were fully financially sponsored. Eleven (11) new members were enrolled.

(C) Communication and Biradiri activities

- Initiative to make a Documentary on the 'Biradiri' was conceived and mooted. A work group worked on the content and portrayal and agencies to produce it. Fund raising continues as the groundwork has been concluded.
- Regular Member communication was restored through all available means (Email & Whatsapp) including New Member introductions.

By
Sanjay Kaul
***Secretary* KPA**

BIRADARI CRICKET MATCH'25

What began as a simple idea for a community gathering turned into a thrilling cricket match between two spirited teams - Kofta and Kabargah - on a bright winter morning of 23rd November 2025.

KPA members of all ages arrived at the impressive grounds of Ridge Valley School, Gurugram. The energy was electric as captains **Vijay Wanchoo** (Team Black) and **Vidur Kunzroo** (Team White) selected their teams, followed by the toss conducted by umpires **Dharamveer Chauhan and Mansoor Ali Khan.** Team Black batted first, putting up a competitive 104 runs in 12 overs. After a lively tea break with cake, biscuits and *kadak chai,* Team White began their chase but faltered under strong bowling.

The prize ceremony honoured the best batter, best bowler, fighter of the match (awarded a Kashmiri willow bat), and all participants, with awards presented by Sanjay Kaul and Maj. Gen. Ravi Masaldan. Special thanks were extended to organisers, school staff and students assisting with scoring and commentary—and especially to Dr Ameeta Wattal and Ratan Watal, whose idea inspired the event. The day concluded with a school tour and a warm community lunch at Sangat—celebrating sport, togetherness, and Kashmiri Pandit pride.

AWARD WINNERS

Best Fighter
Varun Shungloo
Best Batsman
Aradhana Rew
Best Bowler
Aditya Lal

White — 87/6 (12.0 Ov)

Batters	R	B	4s	6s	SR	Min.
Akshar Bhan b Kunal Dar	0	1	0	0	0.00	1
Varun Shungloo retired hurt	25	15	4	1	166.67	21
Vidur Kunzroo (c) run out Amitabh Reu / Kunal Dar	6	10	1	0	60.00	8
Kartik c Kunal Dar b Vijay Wanchoo	3	9	0	0	33.33	16
Aditya Lal retired hurt	12	15	2	0	80.00	24
Shiv Kunzroo c Kunal Dar b Vijay Wanchoo	1	4	0	0	25.00	4
Karan Zutshi (wk) c Kunal Dar b Aaradhya Reu	8	11	1	0	72.73	9
Ratan Watal c †Karan Singh b Aaradhya Reu	0	2	0	0	0.00	1
Dhruv Keshav Kak* not out	5	6	0	0	83.33	8
Kartik Raina* not out	2	5	0	0	40.00	6

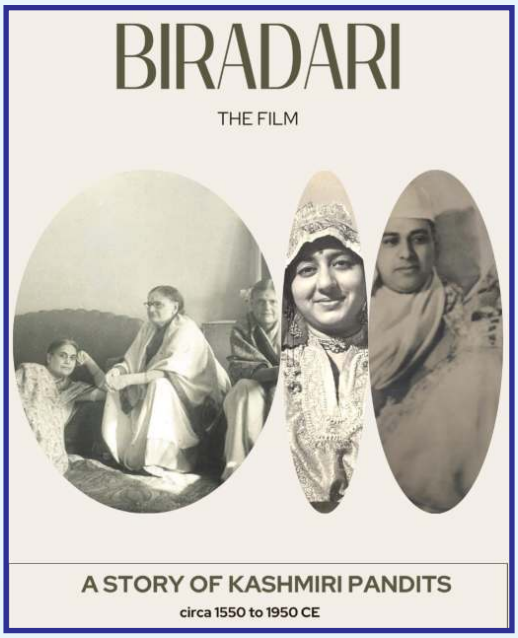
Black — 104/8 (12.0 Ov)

Batters	R	B	4s	6s	SR	Min.
Vijay Wanchoo (c) c †Karan Zutshi b Vidur Kunzroo	4	13	0	0	30.77	16
Kushagr b Vidur Kunzroo	0	2	0	0	0.00	6
Kunal Dar c Aditya Lal b Shiv Kunzroo	16	13	2	1	123.08	16
Aaradhya Reu* not out	30	17	3	2	176.47	24
Karan Singh (wk) b Kartik	6	8	0	0	75.00	22
Vinayak Kaul b Aditya Lal	0	5	0	0	0.00	3
Bhavya Tankha* not out	16	13	2	1	123.08	26
Amitabh Reu st †Karan Zutshi b Kartik	0	1	0	0	0.00	1
Ravinder Masaldan b Aditya Lal	1	4	0	0	25.00	11
Vijay Kaul b Aditya Lal	0	1	0	0	0.00	3

CULTURAL HERITAGE

Biradari: A Story of the Kashmiri Pandits (circa 1550-1950 CE) - A story to be told through a film documentary

Kashmiri Pandit Association, Delhi has authorised an ambitious documentary project titled ***'Biradari: A Story of Kashmiri Pandits'*** that uncovers a hidden chapter of South Asian history. The centuries-long migration of the Kashmiri Pandit community from the Valley of Kashmir to the Indo-Gangetic Plains between 1550 and 1950 CE. For nearly four centuries, Kashmiri Pandits, administrators, scholars, innovators, served as the connec tive tissue across empires: Mughal, Sikh, and British. Wherever they migrated, they adapted, mastered new languages, and shaped the intellectual and cultural life of India. Yet the story of the resilience and culture of this remarkable remains largely absent from mainstream history. Through rare archival material, oral histories, and cinematic storytelling, the film will bring alive the forces — political, economic, and spiritual — that drove their migration. The documentary will weave the story of adaptation and resilience of a community that thrived in the face of adversity change, relying on knowledge and integrity and the ability for cultural assimilation. The gentle narrative of confluence and community *(biradari)* will be told through the nostalgia that lingers in memories, food and marriage rituals and through an exploration of identity. This is not a story of displacement or migration, but of hope and resilience. The underlying message is of universal harmony. This 60-minute film is being designed for both academic value and wide cultural resonance. It will speak to audiences interested in migration, identity and resilience - themes as urgent today as they were 400 years ago. We envision screenings at leading universities, cultural institutions, film festivals, and digital platforms worldwide. To realize this vision, we also seek sponsorship and partnership support. Your contribution will directly fund research, filming, archival access, and post-production - ensuring this forgotten story is preserved and shared globally. Supporters will be acknowledged through credits, promotional material, co-hosted screenings and discussions, offering a meaningful association with a project that bridges history, heritage, and contemporary global conversations on migration and identity.



We seek funding amounting to Rupees 75 lakh for the completion of our collective project. The Core Committee looks forward to receiving your full support. Many have already committed to support the project. Let us try and make this dream a reality.

By

Vivek Kaul

Former KPA President : 2015-19 and

Former Vice President:2019-25

CULTURAL HERITAGE

In a world where wedding customs often revolve around the exchange of money and extravagant gifts, the Kashmiri community preserves a distinctive and meaningful tradition — honouring a matrimonial alliance through the exchange of jaiphal (nutmeg). This treasured ritual, known as "Jaiphal Badalna," signifies the formal and public acceptance of the relationship.

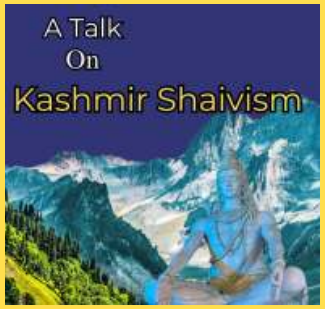
Suniti Wali recounts this unique ceremony performed at the marriage of their daughter Aditi to Vishal Kaul.

Sh H.N. Kak, the senior-most Chacha of her *samdhan*, Meera Kaul, carried the ceremonial *jaiphal* (nutmeg), while from her side, husband Sunil Wali, accompanied by father-in-law Asoka Dar, completed the symbolic exchange. A moment beautifully captured in the photo.

***Jaiphal Badalna* - Formal Acceptance of a Relationship.** Among Kashmiri Pandits, once the horoscopes (*Naqal*) are successfully matched, the families privately confirm their consent through a written note called *Zaabte ka Khat*. Traditionally, this was sent on a simple postcard, a charming contrast to today's ideas of privacy. Only after this ritual was the wedding formally announced.

The defining moment of public acceptance occured on the wedding day. After the arrival of the *baraat* the groom's father or senior-most elde,r presented a *jaiphal* to the bride's father, or representative. Its acceptance signified honour, joy, and the embracing of the matrimonial alliance, symbolising lifelong friendship and sacred bond between both families.

Ritual items embody sacred symbolism and healing qualities; and nutmeg is valued for its medicinal benefits of aiding digestion, sleep, pain relief, and brain & oral health. Wrapped in silver or gold foil, it marks auspicious beginnings. After the exchange, the *samdhis* embrace, and celebrations commence.



Dr RAJ NEHRU delivered a captivating 'Talk on Kashmir Shaivism' on 24.10.25, highlighting the depth of Kashmiri philosophical heritage. In his unique way, Dr Nehru explained the Trika philosophy, which fundamentally shapes Kashmiri identity, engaging an enthusiastic audience throughout the session. His recent book, Aham Shivam, has received widespread appreciation and critical acclaim.

For those interested the recording of the talk is available at our website **www.kpadelhi.org**