



## From the President's Desk



### Namaskar Biradari

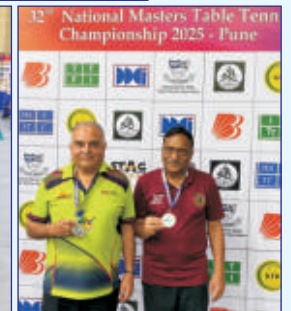
We are pleased to present the third edition of our newsletter. My compliments to the team that organized the Nauroz dinner for raising the standard of the event so impressively. I once again congratulate the Lifetime Achievement Award winners. My special thanks to **Vivek Tankha** for sponsoring the cocktails, **Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul** for the LED screen, and **Uttam Bhai** for the table décor. The second KPA Public Affairs Lecture was very well attended. I sincerely thank Ratan Bhai for the effort invested in conceiving and conducting the event, and for sponsoring it together with Sanjay Bhai.

To encourage our senior Biradari members, I want to say **Age is not just a number** and sports keeps us fit, resilient, and engaged. I represented the Delhi State team as its No. 1 player in the 70+ category at the recently concluded 32nd Masters Table Tennis National Championship in Pune. Delhi finished runners-up, going down to Maharashtra in a closely contested final. Adding to the team's silver, secured was a hard-fought bronze medal in the men's doubles event, while the mixed doubles campaign concluded at the quarterfinal stage. This marked my fifth appearance at the Nationals and first medal haul at the event—an achievement that reaffirms the enduring truth that consistent effort and perseverance

eventually yield results. The photos below capture some of these memorable moments.

*Wishing you all happy reading and enjoyable summer holidays ahead.*

**Maj Gen R.N. Masaldan**  
*President*



### Community Achievers

**Rajiv Chandra** CMD of Biocell Medicare awarded by Min. of Health & Family Welfare, for his outstanding contribution to the SNSP (Swasthya Nari Swasthya Parivaar) Project.



**Mrs Ameeta Wattal** received the Sarika Award for her outstanding contribution to Education by the KSS Faridabad.

# Secretary's Report

*I have the pleasure to present the  
Secretary's Report upto April 2026 before  
all esteemed members*

April 2026 April 2026 was marked by constructive engagement and forward-looking initiatives at the Kashmiri Pandit Association (KPA), reflecting steady progress across organisational priorities.

The Executive Committee held its first quarterly meeting, deliberating on a comprehensive agenda and finalising action plans for the months ahead.

**Key areas of focus included:**

- **Planning Biradiri events for 2026–27**
- **Expanding membership outreach**
- **Fund raising and Sponsorship initiatives,**
- **Enhancing Member Communication and Services.**
- **Proposed modifications to the KPA Memorandum of Association**

**i. Events** - A key highlight was the second lecture in the KPA Annual Talk Series, held on 25 April at the India International Centre, which is covered in detail separately in the *EVENTS* section.. The event contributed to the Association's ongoing efforts to promote informed dialogue and intellectual engagement within the community.

**ii. Digital Initiatives** - Work on KPA's digital initiatives progressed with the commencement of its new interactive website. After finalising the structure, features, and design inputs, an agency has been appointed, and the platform is expected to be operational by the end of July, offering improved accessibility and member services.

**iii. Sponsors & Membership**- The Association acknowledges with gratitude the sponsorship support received during the month from Ajay Baqay. A special mention to Ratan Watal for the sponsoring the 2nd lecture in the KPA Annual Talk Series and Charu WaliKhanna for sponsoring the Newsletter.

Membership continued to grow with the addition of two new life members, while outreach efforts were strengthened as the Broadcast Biradiri Group crossed 200 members, supported by regular email communication.

**iv. Awards** - To broaden recognition of community achievements, two new

awards—the **"Rising Star"** for members under 40 years and the **"Distinguished Contribution"** award for those under 60 years—will be introduced alongside the existing **Lifetime Achievement Award**.

**v. Financial health** - Financially, the year 2025–26 reflected healthy growth, with increased membership enrolment at the revised life membership rate of Rs 10,500 and sponsorship inflows of approximately Rs 7.5 lakhs, accompanied by higher programme-related expenditure.

**vi. Reviewing and updating the Articles of Association and Rules** - To ensure alignment with current and future requirements, while maintaining compliance with statutory obligations. Ms. Surabhi Sinha led this exercise, incorporating inputs from Mr. Dalip Kaul and Mr. Vijay Vatal, while Mr. Ambarish Baqaya is examining these recommendations for adoption and further approval.

**vii. Compliances** - All Registrar of Companies compliances for the year have been completed.

It is my pleasure to state that overall, the month of April was a month of consolidation and momentum, laying a strong foundation for the year ahead.

By

**Sanjay Kaul**  
**Secretary KPA**

## **We Welcome Biradiri Financial Sponsorships**

- Event sponsorships Talks, cricket, book launches, cooking, counselling - Rs. 25,000 per event
- Biradiri Get-together- Bar - Rs. 30,000 per event
- Biradiri Content curation support - Rs. 1 lakh
- EC, GBM meetings & venues - Rs. 15 000 per meet
- Biennial pan India gathering - Rs. 25 Lakh
- 10 National Chapter support - Rs. 50 Lakh
- Biradiri ' Patron' (3 nos) support for recurring expenditure for compliances, secretariat, member communication, accounts and Audit - Per Patron - Rs. 1 Crore (only Annuity income shall be used).
- Permanent Office support - Rs. 2 Crore capital investment (Rs. 5 lakh initial support per Chapter)

# Events

## KPA Annual Public Affairs Lecture Series - 2nd Lecture

The Kashmiri Pandit Association (KPA) hosted the 2nd lecture in its Annual Public Affairs Lecture Series on 25.04.2026 at the India International Centre. The theme, **“World in Disorder – Navigating India-US Relations,”** brought together distinguished speakers and an engaged audience.

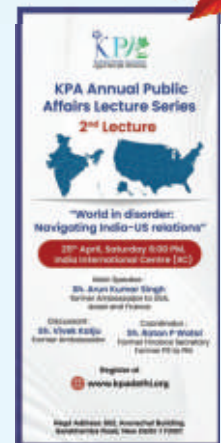
KPA was honoured to host **Shri Arun Kumar Singh (IFS Retd.)**, former Ambassador of India to the United States, Israel, and France, as the main speaker. The discussant was **Shri Vivek Katju (IFS Retd.)**, former Secretary (West) and former Ambassador to Myanmar, Afghanistan, and Thailand. **Shri Ratan Watal, Vice President**, KPA, opened the session by outlining the context and introducing the speakers.

Shri Arun Singh provided a broad historical perspective, tracing key geopolitical developments from 1979 through the post-Cold War period to the present. He referred to events in Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and the emergence of a new global order. He also examined current geopolitical tensions, developments in the Middle East, and evolving

US political dynamics, including the phases of the Trump presidency. His remarks highlighted strategic considerations for India, particularly in relation to trade, global positioning, and the Indian diaspora in the United States.

Shri Vivek Katju focused on emerging technologies, the countries leading in this domain, and the importance of India strengthening its capabilities. He also shared perspectives on India’s West Asia strategy.

The lecture concluded with reflections from Shri Arun Singh on global supply chains, the need for greater investment in research and development, and the importance of a coherent West Asia approach. The audience was encouraged to ask questions, leading to an engaging discussion on India-US cooperation in technology, defence, and evolving geopolitical alignments.



# CULTURAL HERITAGE

## The Magical Weave of Pashmina

The story of Pashmina is not merely one of textiles; it is a tapestry of history, resilience, and unparalleled artistry. It is a profound, centuries-old “magical weave.” Derived from the Persian word ‘Pashm’, meaning “soft gold,” the magic lies in the transformation of this raw fibre into a masterpiece that is remarkably fine, light, yet warm.

### From Mountain to Loom

Authentic Pashmina cannot be machine-made. The *Changpa* tribe collects the shed wool by hand, ensuring that the *Changthangi* goat (*Capra hircus*)—which thrives at altitudes of 14,000 feet in the sub-zero temperatures of Ladakh; remains unharmed. This raw wool is cleaned and separated; from 100 grams of wool, only about 35 grams of high-quality fibre is obtained. It is then hand-combed, hand-spun, and handwoven into yarn using a *yinder* (spinning wheel) by Kashmiri artisans. Finer than human hair, it is a material that requires immense patience and skill to weave.

### Heritage

Once woven, Pashmina becomes a canvas for Kashmiri artistry. Techniques such as *Aari* hand embroidery, *Kani* (weaving with small sticks), *Tilla* (gold/silver thread work), and *Sozni* (fine needlework) enhance its beauty by incorporating traditional motifs like Paisley and maple - like leaf of chinar trees being the most iconic. The *Dorukha* style allows mirror-image embroidery, making the Pashmina shawl reversible (as seen in the picture of Mrs. Dipa Pandit above).

### Legacy

Historically known as the “Fabric of Kings,” Pashmina has long been treasured by royalty. A

genuine Pashmina is an investment piece that requires proper care. Owning a Pashmina shawl is akin to possessing a masterpiece.

### Final Touch

Pashmina is often called “magic”—a testament to the skill of Kashmiri artisans, who weave a piece of heritage and luxury into every thread.

**To conclude Pashmina is truly an heirloom piece.**



By  
Pooja Pandit

## SNIPPETS

### We are Kashmiri Pandit Association of Europe (KPAE)



We are a community-based organisation, running events and get-togethers for Kashmiris in the UK since 1972!

A social media post brought to our attention by EC Member Ms. Surabhi Sinha from our community association in the UK. Members may share it with family or friends residing in the UK, or anyone who may be interested. It reflects how our Biradari has spread across the world, while its network and bonds remain strong.

*Well Attended*

*KPA Nauroz Dinner on 08.03.26 (Women's Day)*

