

AKF to host Kashmir Symposium on June 9th

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Indo-American Kashmir Forum (IAKF), the premier organization representing Kashmiri Hindus in the U.S., is pleased to announce a symposium, titled, "**From Paradise to Ideological Battleground: A Symposium on the Kashmir Conflict**", to be held in the Northern California Bay Area on June 9, 2001 at Newark-Fremont Hilton. The purpose of the symposium is to inform and educate the interested audience on the latest events in Jammu and Kashmir State of India, and discuss possible avenues of conflict resolution. Jammu and Kashmir became an international issue in 1947 when Pakistan sponsored an invasion of the state, and India took the case of Pakistani aggression to the United Nations. Since then Pakistan has made numerous attempts to force secession of the state from India. Overt and covert threats of nuclear action by Pakistan since 1991 to back its sponsorship of the violence have led many international observers to consider the state a nuclear flashpoint. During the past 12 years, the introduction of Islamic fundamentalism and Talibanism has further complicated the situation, with insurgents justifying their violent acts on the concept of Jihad and bringing extreme and widespread misery to the civilian population of the State. An endless stream of Pakistan-trained mercenaries and terrorists flood the state every year, with thousands of "madrassas" and terrorist training camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan acting as jihad factories for young Muslims from around the world. The ultimate target of this jihad enterprise is not just Kashmir, but the rest of India, and ultimately the entire world. The 1989 Kashmir insurgency began with ethnic cleansing of over 300,000 Kashmiri Pandits, the original inhabitants of the state. This minority is still unable to return to its homeland due to continued threats from Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. The Kashmiri Pandit community is now dispersed throughout India and the world and is struggling to keep its culture and identity alive while in exile. The panel of speakers who have accepted the invitation to address the symposium are well known Kashmir experts and policy makers. They include Congressman Jim McDermott, co-chair of the India Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassadors Teresita and Howard Schaffer, Director of Terrorism Task Force, Yossef Bodansky, Prof. SarDesai of UCLA and Prof. Raju Thomas of Marquette University.

The symposium has been endorsed by prominent leaders and many organizations like

National Federation of Indian-American Associations
(N.F.I.A)
Indo-American Community Federation,
Indian American Friendship Council,
Indo-American Political Foundation,
F.I.A of Bay Area (Ben Chowdhury),
F.I.A of Northern California (Anil Yadav),
Indo-American Society of Bay Area,
Hindu Temple, Sunnyvale
and many others.

The symposium is a full day affair on Saturday, June 9th from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Following the symposium, the cultural night will begin at 6:30 P.M. with a 30 minute presentation on preservation of Kashmiri language and music. This will be followed by a preview of a premier documentary "Sharnarhi Apne

Desh Mein"(Refugees in Their Own Land).

A program of melodious songs will be presented from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, including performances by a Kashmiri singer from Bombay who will mesmerize the participants with the finest Kashmiri and Hindi songs.

The symposium convener can be contacted at (510)589-3702 or by email at [jeevanzutshi@ aol.com](mailto:jeevanzutshi@aol.com) for further information.

AN INDO-AMERICAN KASHMIR FORUM PRESENTATION

From a Paradise to Ideological Battleground: A Symposium on the Kashmir Conflict

Saturday, June 9, 2001

Newark- Fremont Hilton, Grand Ball Room

Sponsored by

National Federation of Indo-American Associations
(N.F.I.A)

Indo-American Community Federation

Indian American Friendship Council

Indo-American Political Foundation

F.I.A of Bay Area

F.I.A of Northern California (Anil Yadav)

Indo-American Society of Bay Area

Hindu Temple, Sunnyvale

Program

9:30 - 10:00 Welcoming Remarks Moderator:Jeevan Zutshi, Convenor

Speakers:

Honorable Mayor of Fremont Gus Morrison,Assembly member John Dutra,Jeevan Zutshi

10:00 - 10:15 Break

Photographs/Artifacts from Kashmir will be on display in the lobby.

10:15 - 11:15 Session I: Historical Perspective

Moderator: Subash Razdan, N.F.I.A (Atlanta)

Speakers:

Prof. D.R. SarDesai, U.C.L.A

Yossef Bodansky, Director, Task Force On Terrorism
(D.C)

Dr. Hira L. Fotedar, IAKF (Michigan)

Q& A

11:15- 12:15 Session II: Impact of Insurgency

Moderator: Rajiv Pandit, M.D (Chicago)

Speakers:

Honorable Consul General R.M.Abhyankar

Mumtaz Wani, Attorney (D.C)

Captain S. K. Tikoo (India)

Q& A

12:15 - 2:00 luncheon Session
Moderator: Dr. Krishna Reddy

Keynote Speaker:

Congressman Jim McDermott, Co-Chair India Caucus

2:00 - 3:00 Session III: Restoring Normalcy
Moderator: Dr. Vijay K. Sazawal, IAKF

Speakers:

Ambassador Howard Schaffer
Prof. D. R. Sardesai, UCLA
Shri D.N.Munshi, New Delhi, India

Q& A

3:00 -4:00 Session IV: Framework for Peace
Moderator: Prof. D. R. Sardesai, Historian, UCLA

Speakers:

Ambassador Teresita Schaffer, Director South Asia
Program, Center for Strategic & International studies
Prof. Raju Thomas
Dr. Vijay K. Sazawal, IAKF

Q& A

4:00 - 4:15 Closing Remarks

7:00 PM to Midnight Cultural festival with Kashmiri Singer from Bombay

For further information contact:
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