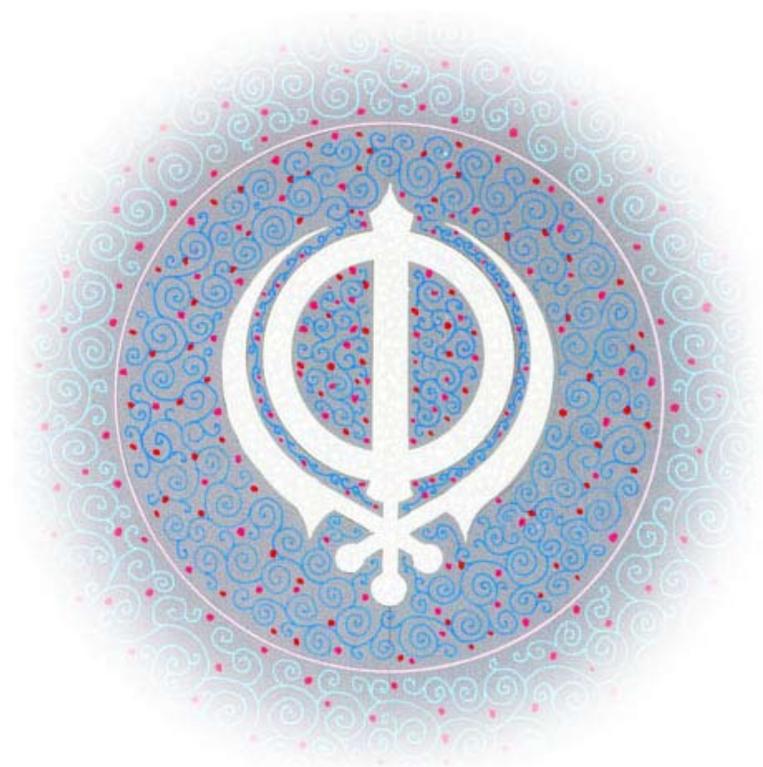


Annual Report 2007



www. **SikhNet** .com



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## A Letter from our Executive Director

While 2007 has been a year of turmoil around the world. It has also been a big year for Sikh rights and awareness about Sikhs. There is much to appreciate about 2007. Here at SikhNet thousands of people have been emailing us to express their gratitude for the inspiration that SikhNet provides to them every day. 2007 has been a year marked by SikhNet's entry into new media outlets. In addition to our Web site, SikhNet now has over ten channels of Internet radio and SikhNet content is also being broadcast on television in India and around the world.

Our philosophy and our practice at SikhNet is that we each have the power to choose those things upon which we wish to focus our mind, and what we focus on is what grows and prospers, both in the world and in our own lives as well, for that is the Divine law of manifestation. We each have the power to literally create our own reality through our thoughts, words and actions.

At SikhNet we consciously choose to focus on the positive - to spread good news and to create good will towards all. SikhNet provides a safe, neutral place on the Internet where anyone can come and not be judged in any way; a place where each person is sovereign and free to explore his or her own relationship with our Gurus and our lifestyle; a place where Sikh Youth can find support and inspiration, and can access resources to understand the technology of the lifestyle with which our Gurus have blessed us.

For SikhNet, 2007 was a year of exploring new opportunities and forging new relationships, while continuing to deliver the high quality resources and services that our Cyber-sangat expects from us.

In 2008, SikhNet will work not only to raise awareness about Sikh issues but will continue to combat discrimination and abuse by educating and inspiring people to deeper understanding of Sikh identity and the technology of Sikh Dharma as given to us by our Gurus. In 2008 we will build on our accomplishments and continue to work closely with SikhNet sponsors, supporters and sevadars to build a better world for our children and our children's children by using every media channel available to us.



I, for one, am blessed and extremely grateful every day to have been chosen by my Guru to participate in this seva.

Guruka Singh Khalsa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guruka Singh Khalsa', written over a horizontal line.

Executive Director  
SikhNet, LLC

# Jaap Sahib Course

## Song of the Warrior Saint



In August, 2007, over 100 people attended the Jaap Sahib Course sponsored by SikhNet. We hosted about 30 Indian Sikh guests - many of whom were visiting Española, NM for the first time. We held Bowing Jaap Sahib in the Langar Hall starting with Japji Sahib at 3:45 AM followed by workshops and classes led by Shanti Kaur Khalsa, the Chardi Kala Jatha and others.

Some quotes from attendees:

*"Was it because this was my first visit to 3HO and the Ashram, or the beauty of New Mexico that created the overwhelming sense of bliss I experienced during the week of the Jaap Sahib? While they certainly added to the richness of the visit, in retrospect it was the experience of the Jaap Sahib itself that created this bliss."*

*"Waking at 3:00 a.m. was challenging, but the majesty of those early morning hours combined with the power of the Bowing Jaap Sahib propelled me to unknown levels of consciousness. After both a physical and conscious awakening, we sauntered off into the morning darkness and over into the Gurdwara. The communal feeling wrapped you up in its warm arms with one big swoop. It was like we were all sharing one huge blanket. My body, mind and spirit were in union with the infinite."*

*"Jaap Sahib Course was a whole new experience for me. I learnt so many things. I was like a blank person when I came to the course, but by the end of course I was like a pot full of information and confidence. The main thing that I learnt from the course was that, you can live a very good life without having a lot of money but with enough of spirituality which comes at no cost at all but with some personal effort and dedication. Other thing that I felt was the power of Jaap Sahib, reciting Jaap Sahib in the sangat gave some kind of confidence and power to me, and I could really feel it. I really felt close to Guru Gobind Singh Ji."*

*"I felt like I was back in Punjab. There were Aunties in the kitchen making me eat pakoras. There were my Khalsa brothers that I could connect to so fast because of our common view on Sikhism. This event was a big highlight of my year."*



# SikhMatrimonials.com



Many Sikhs are looking for a spouse, and the traditions behind marriage within the Sikh community are changing. Some people are looking to arrange a match for their son or daughter. Others are assisted by family and friends in meeting someone. And still others are trying the modern Western way of meeting and choosing a spouse for themselves. Sikh Matrimonials.com continues to assist the Sikh community worldwide in helping Singhs and Kauras to find their match. What is different about Sikh Matrimonials is that the values of Sikhi come first and foremost. Our job is to provide a graceful and easy-to-use on-line communication forum where Sikhs can begin the delicate process of getting to know someone else within a totally secure and supportive environment.

By the grace of Wahe Guru, over 4,500 Sikhs have found their match through SikhMatrimonials.com

Here is just a little of the grateful feedback we have received:

*"Thank-you Sikh Matrimonials for having an easy-to-use website like this available. I really enjoyed my time on the site and met some wonderful people along my journey! Thanks to this website I have met my other half and am going to be married in May! I always recommend this site to all my single family and friends! Thanks for making my dreams come true!"*

*" Thank you Sikhnet for bring my husband and I together. We've been happily married for 3 wonderful years. He's not only my husband, but my best friend. Sikhnet made it very easy for us to find each other, and we deeply thankful for this. We wouldn't be where we are now if it wasn't for SikhMatrimonial. "*  
- Rani Ghandi

*"I found my match first on sikhnet.com but he was not responsive after just one email back and forth because he was busy in his job... I realized who he was and that our families have known one another for 15 years! We have not seen one another much over the years, both of us were busy with other relationships and living 200 miles apart so I did not immediately recognize his picture from your website. When I wrote to him again I told him who I was because he knows my aunts, uncles, and cousins very well and we have been inseparable ever since!"* - Rav Gill

## About SikhMatrimonials.com

- World's Largest Sikh Matrimony site
- Thousands of Successes - Over 4,500 Sikhs Married
- First matrimonial site just for Sikhs
- In operation since 1996
- Free registration and profile creation
- Emails answered within 24 hours (on weekdays)
- \*All revenue goes towards SikhNet LLC non-profit

## Security Features

- Email confirmation before profile creation
- Your contact information will not be visible to members you don't give it to
- Each profile is manually screened
- Option to hide your profile
- Option to hide your photo
- Report user abuse



*"Dear Sikhmatrimonials, Although we were both reluctant to join a matrimonials website, we found the Gursikh spouse we were looking for thanks to your service. It's good to have a website that can help you find someone you share the same values and beliefs with. We were engaged in May 2007, and married in December 2007. Thanks for everything :) "* - Jagdeep & Preeti



*"sat shri akal ji, i appreciate the the efforts of sikhmatrimonials.com..... and i got my partner through this website..... gur fateh..... chardi kalan..... regards....." - Harjeet Singh*

# SikhNet Inspirations DVD Set

Here at SikhNet, we've had many requests to make our online "Inspirations" series of videos on Sikhi available on DVD. Although a lot of work is involved in editing and production, we have finally gone ahead and done the work required to make them available to you. During 2007 we produced the first five volumes of our "Inspirations" DVD set which is now available to SikhNet donors and will be made available for sale during 2008.

## **Volume 1 - Lifestyle**

The basis of the Sikh Lifestyle explained clearly and lovingly. Everything we do as Sikhs has both a Divine purpose and a practical purpose. We are very practical people by nature, but also very elevated and expansive in our awareness and understanding. These talks are both simple and deep at the same time. The essence of Sikhi as a Dharma.

## **Volume 2 - Philosophy**

Sikh thought and philosophy through personal experience leads to understanding. We understand by standing under. That is, it is our humility at every moment before the wonder of God's creation that allows us to live in joy and with an attitude of gratitude. These talks discuss some of the challenges that come our way when we live as Sikhs of the Guru, along with how to surmount them.

## **Volume 3 - Life, Family, Relationships**

We are ourselves in relation to others. Understanding the sacred space and grace of human relationships. We all live in relationship to each other. Son, daughter, mother, father, sister, brother, husband and wife and on and on. We have close relationships, work relationships, school relationships and even mates that stick with us through our entire lifetime. But our deepest relationship is our relationship with our own self and with our Guru. That relationship is the basis of all other successful relationships. In these talks we delve into all of these relationships to gain understanding and insight.

## **Volume 4 - Meditation**

In life, meditation is essential. Without it our mind becomes our master and we live miserably. Just as we wash our body and brush our teeth so we can be clean and sweet-smelling, just so, our mind must also be cleaned. When the mind is dirty - filled with negative thoughts and fantasies, then we live in a constant state of unhappiness and people do not want to be near us. These talks give a basic set of simple tools based on Gurbani so that we can clean our minds daily to live happily, positively and carefree.

## **Volume 5 - Videos for Kids**

Children are our future. Do we want them to be just like us? No! We want them to be ten times greater than we. These sahkis are told with wonderful energy and imagination. Every child will love to watch them. They establish the foundation of our lifestyle as Sikhs of the Guru and give shining examples that inspire and uplift children. Watch them with your children and then talk about them together afterwards.

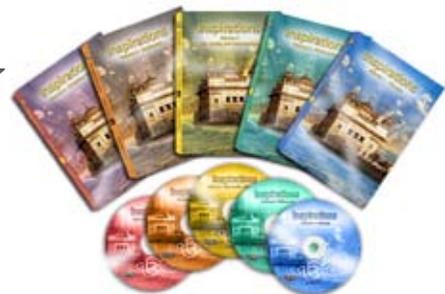
Here are somments from SikhNet viewers regarding these videos:

*"(The) Sikhnet videos... are really amazing. As a sikh from the UK my grasp of Punjabi is not very good and have struggled to understand some bhachans i have heard before in punjabi. By posting these videos in english you have made my religion more accessible to me and these videos are truly a gift. I really do wish to thank you for your seva and may you and everybody at Sikhnet be bestowed with all of God's graces." - Singh from U.K.*

*"I like your videos very much. These are very inspiring to me. I was a person who always saw God's love very closely. However, in the last 6-7 years I lost myself in Maya and suffered a lot. With Guru's grace, I'm back on the right path. I always take out some time daily to listen to your any video. I don't feel alone anymore. I really appreciate the way in which you are serving to humanity. It's like online satsangat." - Kaur from Australia*

**DVD's now available for purchase!**

[www.SikhNet.com/DVD](http://www.SikhNet.com/DVD)



# SikhNet Radio and Television

2007 saw the beginning of wider distribution of SikhNet multimedia content through Internet radio and satellite and cable television.



The SikhNet Radio service now has over a dozen channels broadcasting live every day. Gurdwaras around the world can now broadcast their daily Kirtan program live on the internet. We have added live broadcast streams from six Gurdwaras in India, Canada, and the USA. So any time of the day or night anyone can tune into Kirtan that is happening live somewhere in the world!

In addition to the live Gurdwara broadcasts we have also just added two additional new SikhNet Radio channels: "Western/Non-Traditional" and "Classical Raag." These new channels are now broadcasting alongside the original SikhNet Radio "channel".

We have created a network where anyone can watch or listen to Gurbani Kirtan live, in real-time around the clock. Each Gurdwara that comes online becomes its own channel on the SikhNet Radio Network, and is featured on SikhNet.com.

Many of the SikhNet Radio channels, including live kirtan from the Golden Temple, are also now available through the Nokia Internet Radio service for mobile phone users.

[www.SikhNet.com/s/sikhnetradio](http://www.SikhNet.com/s/sikhnetradio)

Current SikhNet Radio channels include:

- Channel 1 All Gurbani Styles
- Channel 2 Western / Non Traditional
- Channel 3 Classical Raag
- Channel 4 Continuous Simran
- Channel 5 Sri Akhand Paath Sahib

Live Channels

- Channel 9 Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple, Amritsar, India)
- Channel 10 Dukh Niwaran Sahib (Ludhiana, Punjab, India)
- Channel 11 Sukh Sagar (New Westminster, BC, Canada)
- Channel 12 Hacienda De Guru Ram Das (Española, New Mexico, USA)
- Channel 13 Gurdwara Sahib Fremont (Fremont, California, USA)
- Channel 14 Sikh Center of the San Francisco Bay Area (El Sobrante, California, USA)
- Channel 16 Gurdwara Sahib Western Singh Sabha (Williams Lake, BC, Canada)
- Channel 17 Gurdwara Sahib Dashmesh Culture Center (Calgary, Alberta, Canada)

## Television



Both SikhNet's "Inspiration" series videos and the 2007 SikhNet Youth Film Festival winning videos reached television audiences for the first time this year via the Time TV network and Channel One. Time TV is being telecast in more than 50 countries by satellite. In 2008 SikhNet is planning to reach the television audience in the U.K. via LoveDesi TV which is broadcast on the SKY TV platform to an audience of 15 million people in the U.K.

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SikhNet Youth Online Film Festival



After its debut in 2006, 2007 saw the Second Annual SikhNet Youth Film Festival. The competition was successful even beyond our expectations with the submission of over forty entries, almost twice what we saw last year! The Festival is designed to encourage and inspire our youth to get involved in media and film and use their creativity to produce interesting and educational pieces designed to spread the spirit of Sikhi. Contestants did not need a big budget or a lot of equipment to make a short video; just some creativity and a willingness to learn. Our hope was that youth all over would take this opportunity to try something new and to use their creativity to communicate a personal message related to being a Sikh. We featured all of the video submissions on SikhNet so that everyone could watch them as the entries came in and then in October we announced the competition winners (cash prizes). Some of the winning videos were also shown at the Spinning Wheel Film Festivals in Toronto, Canada and California.

Our panel of six professional judges watched all the qualifying films and submitted their results.

<http://www.SikhNet.com/FilmFestival>

### JUNIOR DIVISION (11 – 17 years old)

- First Place (\$500 US Dollars) - "One Light" by Angad Singh, from Roswell, GA - United States
- Second Place (\$250 US Dollars) - "Farz" by Lovejot & Sehebir Singh, from New Delhi - India.
- Third Place (\$125 US Dollars) - "The Martyrdom of Hakikat Singhi" by Satprit Kaur, Seattle Washington - United States

### INTERMEDIATE DIVISION (18 – 25 years old)

- First Place (\$1000 US Dollars) - "Gurmukh Singh" by Jasmeet & Baljeet Singh Bansal, from Easton, Pennsylvania - United States
- Second Place (\$500 US Dollars) - "Bhooley Marg Jinhe Bataya" by Bhupinder Batth, from Chandigarh, Union Territory - India
- Third Place (\$250 US Dollars) - "Jaswant Singh Khalra: A Martyr of Human Rights" by Raj Singh, from San Antonio, Texas - United States

### SENIOR DIVISION (26 or older)

- First Place - "Teen Puncture" by Ashish Bhatia, from Mumbai, Maharashtra - India
- Second Place - "Pingalwara - Home for the Homeless" by Pingalwara Sangat, Amritsar, Punjabi - India
- Third Place - "Gurus Pride" by Sukhvinder Pal Singh, Hyderabad, AP - India



## MrSikhNet.com - Webmaster's Blog

2007 saw the increasing popularity of the Webmaster's Blog with hundreds of new posts, over 2,000 participant comments and an ever-increasing number of Blog visitors and participants. Part of the popularity of the Blog is its interactivity as participants and fellow bloggers post 10-20 comments a day and interact with each other. The power of the Blog and how it serves our worldwide cyber-sangat can be best felt through the comments of our participants. Here are a few of those comments:

*"I recently discovered your site and absolutely fell in love with it. I find your website to be utterly inspirational. Through all of you I have seen the true roop of Khalsa and what it means to be a Sikh. I realized that Sikhi does not come by being born into a Sikh family, instead one has to work hard in order to earn it. After visiting SikhNet I feel like I have found direction in life and the change that I have been waiting for to occur in my life has finally happened."*

- Kiranjeet Kaur, New York City

*"I want to express my gratitude for the work that you do at Sikhnet. I especially appreciate the positive light you consistently project through the website. I live in East Tennessee and do not have a sangat readily available to me. Your broadcast of weekly Gurdwara is my main method to connect to a wider sangat. and I particularly enjoy listening to the variety of kirtan played in the weekly Espanola service. It is always a special treat for me when some of that kirtan is posted as well. Were it not for Sikhnet, the gift of Guru's kirtan would not be present in my life."*

- Gurusahai Kaur, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

*"I have watched Guruka Singh's videos over and over again, and each and every time I watch them, I have tears in my eyes. You have no clue how much you are impacting People all over the globe with such amazing sewal! Sikhnet.com, the MrSikhnet blog, and each and everything you do, just inspires me to the max!"*

- Harinderpal Singh, Calgary, Canada

*"I read your blog regularly to try to learn more about our religion. Lately, I had been very down about certain circumstances in my life. At a time when I needed encouragement, I watched the video by Guruka ji on "God's Gift to Me". His words moved me so deeply and reminded me that my gift cannot be overlooked even when life is challenging. I held onto these words, Ek Ong Kar Sat Gurprasad, and have seen profound changes in my life since I've started to think more deeply about it. I am so moved. And now I have one more affirmation of my faith. I am a student. Thank you for helping me learn."*

- R. Kaur

*"When I first, found your videos it was a whole new beginning to me. Watching your videos keeps me close to Guru's charan and hope that I never depart within. I used to watch some Sikh saints' Gurbani with Shabads and stories about our Gurus in Punjabi and Gurmukhi. I never watched any videos in English, so when I first saw your videos on YouTube. I understood more in English than in Punjabi. It was amazing how you explained everything about Sikhism not as a religion but a life style. Your accent and words touched my heart every time I watched your videos. Thank you so very much. I'll repeat ever so often that they're awesome. And I'm looking forward to hearing and watching some more of your videos directed by Gurumustuk Veer Ji."*

- Pardip Kaur, Hong Kong

*"I like your videos very much. These are very inspiring to me. I was a person who always saw God's love very closely. However, in the last 6-7 years I lost myself in Maya and suffered a lot. With Guru's grace, I'm back on the right path. In last month only I discovered this SikhNet website. It's really great. Since then, I always take out some time daily to listen to your videos. I don't feel alone anymore. I really appreciate the way in which you are serving humanity. Its like online satsangat."*

- Navdeep Kaur, Sydney, Australia

[www.MrSikhNet.com](http://www.MrSikhNet.com)



# Financial Summary

This summary shows SikhNet's financial status and activity for the year ending 2007

Note: Sikhnet is a limited liability company, whose sole member is Sikh Dharma International. As such, SikhNet LLC does not receive any funding from any other entity or organization. SikhNet is wholly funded by its own activities and the generous support of the SikhNet global community. As a 501.3c entity, contributions to SikhNet are deductible charitable contributions for residents in the USA.



# SikhNet Sevadars

SikhNet is supported and maintained by sevadars other than the employed staff. These sevadars play a vital role in SikhNet's success at education and inspiration of spiritual and Sikh values.

## English Hukamnama

One feature that SikhNet introduced this year is the English Audio translation of the daily Hukamnama (From Sri Harimandir Sahib, Amritsar). This project was started as a way to give our world-wide Sangat the Siri Guru Granth Sahib in a more understandable way. It is translated into common English. This seva is done by Sukha Singh Akali, our inspirational Nihang brother from London. Many people log in each day to hear (and read) Sukha Singh's word-for-word translation of the Hukamnama. His translations are very inspirational and easy to understand the message of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib. We feel this is a great thing especially for the youth to understand more about the Bani. The audio translation is posted every day, and then five sevadars from around the world take the time to transcribe each lecture. This is a very time-consuming and committed seva done by sevadars who wanted to remain anonymous, but their contribution cannot be overlooked!

<http://hukam.SikhNet.com>



Sukha Singh

## SikhiWiki

Have you ever visited Wikipedia.org? Well, we've created a "wiki" just for Sikhism. This is a web based encyclopedia written collaboratively by many of its readers. There are lots of readers who have contributed making and editing articles and in essence creating all of the content of Sikhiwiki.org. Sikhiwiki has in a short time become a huge resource for all subjects relating to Sikhism – bio graphical, historical, stories, beliefs etc. Hari Singh from England has championed this endeavor by creating a sizable amount of content, being very active in moderating the site, and featuring articles to keep the site new and fresh.

[www.SikhiWiki.org](http://www.SikhiWiki.org)

## SikhNet Discussion and Chat Moderators

The SikhNet Youth Forum, live Chat and Discussion forums are the most popular on the internet. These serve as ways that Sikhs from all around the world can interact with each other in an educational and inspiring way. For many people the internet is their only sangat. Sevadars on these forums make sure no one is posting anything inappropriate or slanderous or material that is too controversial or provocative. Some of these sevadars have been serving diligently for over ten years, to keep our online interactions graceful and inspiring!

[www.SikhNet.com/Discussion](http://www.SikhNet.com/Discussion)

[www.sikhnet.com/s/YouthForum](http://www.sikhnet.com/s/YouthForum)

[www.SikhNet.com/Chat](http://www.SikhNet.com/Chat)

## SikhNet Donors

In 2006 donations accounted for 38% of our income. In 2007 our donation income accounted for 55% of our total income. More and more, SikhNet is being supported by users like you to keep up everything that SikhNet is doing, and can do in the future. Without our donors there would be no SikhNet, so our donors are our biggest support.

[www.SikhNet.com/Donation](http://www.SikhNet.com/Donation)



## SikhNet Staff



**Gurumustuk Singh Khalsa - Webmaster**

Gurumustuk Singh made SikhNet from a hobby into a non-profit organization in December 1995. He lives with his wife, daughter, and son in Espanola, New Mexico and continues to develop the SikhNet website with the rest of the SikhNet team. You can read his daily Weblog ([www.MrSikhNet.com](http://www.MrSikhNet.com)) which chronicles his life. Gurumustuk Singh's tasks include system administration, video creation, fundraising concepts, business networking, programming and application development, project management, and the creative direction of SikhNet.



**Guruka Singh Khalsa - Executive Director/News Director**

Guruka Singh founded SikhNet in 1984 as a computer bulletin board system before the internet as we know it was implemented. Guruka Singh has been with SikhNet.com since 2004. He does management, administration, business networking, fundraising concepts and creative direction. After we lost our previous news director Joginder Singh, Guruka Singh has taken on the duty of posting the daily SikhNet News. He is a teacher, writer and inveterate punster. He is a source of inspiration to SikhNet staff as well as the entire "cybersangat."



**Gurujot Singh Khalsa - Customer Service/Graphics/Video Editing**

Gurujot Singh is a certified Kundalini yoga teacher, a cofounder of the Sikh Espanola Volunteer Association (SEVA), and a Kirtan and Bana enthusiast. He is a former staff member started working at SikhNet in April 2005. He edits our SikhNet videos, produces much of the graphic art you see on the Web site and helps with customer service.



**Guru Prakash Kaur Khalsa - Chief Financial Officer**

In 2007 Guru Prakash Kaur took over for Guru Nam Kaur, who we affectionately called "Auntie". Gur Prakash handles the accounting, payroll etc. and she also brings her enthusiasm and up-beat attitude to our SikhNet team meetings.