

**All India Khadi and Village Industries Commission
Pensioners' Welfare Association**

Background:

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body created by an Act of parliament (No. 61 of 1956 and as amended by Act No. 12 of 1987 and Act No. 10 of 2006). Established in April 1957, it took over the work of All India Khadi and Village Industries Board. The KVIC started functioning in the year 1957 with its head quarter at Mumbai. The functioning of KVIC is spread all over the country through its State/Divisional/Sub Offices. Further to support various KVI programmes, KVIC set up Training/R&D/Marketing/Production Centers in different parts of the country.

Adoption of Pension Scheme in KVIC:

In the initial years, for its man-power requirement, KVIC adopted the pay structure and recruitment process aligned with norms of Govt. of India. Requisite staffing was done in-house as per the strength sanctioned by Govt. of India. The KVIC employees were covered under the provisions of Contributory Provident Fund. As the KVIC was following all the norms and rules prescribed by Govt. of India and also since KVIC was functioning within the ambit of different Ministries (from time to time) under Govt. of India, KVIC took up the matter with Govt. of India for adoption of Pension Scheme for employees of KVIC, on the lines of Govt. of India employees. Due to vigorous persuasion during the period 1980-1984 from the then Chairman of KVIC (Shri A.M. Thomas) and Office bearers of KVIC Officers Association and

Karmachari Unions and with the favourable consideration of the Industry Ministry and Hon'ble Minister of Industry (under which KVIC was functioning at that time), Pension Scheme was extended for KVIC employees in the year 1984.

Formation of All India KVIC Pensioners' Welfare Association:

Initially, the Pension Scheme was implemented and made applicable to regular employees of KVIC from prospective date (27th September 1984) leaving aside the employees who retired from the services of KVIC prior to 1984. The aggrieved retired employees, led by Shri C.L. Sharma and assisted by Kumari Vimal Mehta, who had retired prior to 1984, approached the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai with suitable writ petition. After 4 years of legal battle (1984-88), the Hon'ble High Court ruled in favour of petitioners and granted pension to about 220 retirees, who retired during the period 30th October 1980 and 27th Spet. 1984. Further, for getting the pension for about 400 employees who had retired prior to 1980, Hon'ble Supreme Court was approached which ordered for extending pension to all the retired employees of KVIC.

During this period, the formation of KVIC Pensioners Association took shape and the All India KVIC Pensioners' Welfare Association (AIKPWA) came into being in the year 1988. AIKPWA was duly registered in the year 1991. (Regd. No. MAH-BOM-296/1991 GBBSD dated 18-04.1991 under Societies Registration Act 1860 and No. F. 14772 (Bombay) dated 24-7.1991 under B.P.T. Act 1950). The AIKPWA is affiliated to All India Federation of Pensioners' Association (No. 392-1991) and recognized by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (in it's 432nd meeting held from 19th to 21st April 1993).

Objects of the Association:

1. To provide emotional and social security to the members and to consider and adopt ways and means for the overall welfare and service of the Pensioner community of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, irrespective of caste, creed, religion or sex when and where needed for education, health and financial help to the poor and needy pensioners;
2. To foster a sense of kinship and to include an awareness amongst the members that they are socially useful and responsible senior citizens of the country;
3. To take such measures as may be necessary to enable the members to maintain physical and mental well-being;
4. To advocate and take such measures for harmonious and homogenous National Pension Structure for all with Parity, irrespective of the date of retirement;
5. To organize and conduct 'Pension Adalats', as and when so required.
6. To liaise with appropriate authorities for seeking redressal of the problems and grievances of the pensioners individually and/or collectively;
7. To function as a catalytic agent and render such advice and service for the benefit of the country as a whole, when called upon to do so for utilizing the faculties and expertise of the members;

8. To arrange and hold seminars, workshops and projects on matters of public importance and give considered opinion as senior citizens;
9. To do or undertake all such other acts and measures purported to promote the welfare of the members in general, individually or jointly with sister Association or which are conducive to the attainment of these objects or any of them;
10. To render medical aid or relief for the purpose aforesaid, to open, establish, maintain, manage, control and conduct dispensaries, hospitals, nursing homes and medical aid and First Aid Centres and such other beneficial activities;
11. In furtherance of its objects, the Association may co-operate with other associations and organizations with similar aims and objects;
12. It may also amalgamate or affiliate with other institution, federation, society, association or body having objects altogether or in part similar to those of this Association;