



## Indian Association Geneva

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Indian Association Geneva (IAG) Held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at via zoom (Virtual meeting)**

The 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Indian Association Geneva was opened at 5:30 pm. Since the quorum of 30 members was not present, as per the Constitution the AGM was reconvened after a lapse of 10 minutes with the 15 members who were present.

The IAG President Dr. Maneesh Wadhwa welcomed the participants and requested a member to chair the AGM, as required under the Constitution. Dr. Maneesh Wadhwa proposed Mr. Rajagopalan Sampatkumar to chair the AGM. This was seconded by all the members attending the General Assembly. Mr. Rajagopalan Sampatkumar kindly agreed to chair (referred as Chairperson in the minutes) the meeting.

Following his welcoming remarks, the below-mentioned agenda as proposed in the invitation letter was adopted:

1. [Approval of minutes of AGM held on 6 February 2021](#)
2. [Consider and adopt the annual report for 2021](#)
3. [Consider and adopt the audited statement of accounts for 2021](#)
4. Nomination of Auditor
5. Fix annual membership fees
6. Any other business

#### ***1. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 6th February 2021***

The Chair asked if there are any suggestions or comments with regards to the minutes of the AGM held on 6th February 2021. As there were no comments/suggestions and remarks the minutes of AGM were adopted.

#### ***2. Consider and adopt the annual report for 2021***

The Chair invited the President, Dr Wadhwa, to present the annual report. The President briefly talked about the activities organized by the IAG during 2021 and the challenges faced due to Covid-19 situation.

The President explained that last year was very challenging during the Covid and thanked all the members who supported IAG and engaged with the association during these difficult times. In 2020 the IAG saw a dip in the membership (10-20%), however this was changed in 2021 where the association was able to match the year 2019 numbers.

The President briefly explained about the contributions (7610 Swiss Francs) which were made by the members and transferred to the PM care fund. In 2020 IAG was able to double the contribution amount, however this was not the case in 2021 as during the beginning the balance sheet was not in a good position to do it.

Dealing with Covid-19 wave 3 and 4, the Executive Committee was able to organize 21 events, 8 of which were in person, 11 were done virtually and 2 events were either postponed or cancelled. The President thanked the

PMI and CGI Mr. Sunil Achaya and the Indian embassy in Bern. IAG collaborated and supported CGI during the celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, which aims to bring the diaspora closer and celebrate the achievement of the people whether for science, culture, literature, art and wellbeing. In addition to this CGI contributed 4000 Swiss Francs to promote culture of India and bringing the diaspora together. Furthermore, the Indian embassy in Bern approved the grant in aid of INR 2.2 lakhs. These are not included in the audited statement of accounts, as they were received only this year. The President once again thanked the PMI, CGI and the Indian embassy in Bern for their continuous support to strengthen the link between the Indian diaspora and the IAG

The President encouraged the members to use the mobile application which also includes the membership directory.

The highlights of the year were the following:

- **Membership increased by 30%** and reached the **same level** as in the **year 2019**
- **CHF 7610** collected for **COVID-19** contribution and sent to **PM CARES** – Prime Minister Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations
- **Events** – Limited interaction with members & diaspora, **19 events were conducted in 2021.** 8 physical events and 11 virtual
- **Continuous Support** of **Permanent Mission of India, Consul-General Office in Geneva and Embassy of India** in Bern
- **Sponsorship** – no cash contribution collected in 2020 due to COVID
- **Member Mobile App** – increased number of online payments
- **Financial Report – Excess of income over expenditure** of CHF 587

The Chair congratulated the President as well as the Executive Committee for being able to organise so many events despite Covid-19 situation. The Chair also appreciated the support and contributions of CGI and the Indian embassy in Bern.

The Chairperson asked for comments and questions on the Annual Report; no comments were made and the annual report for the year 2021 was adopted.

### ***3. Consider and adopt the audited statement of accounts for 2021***

The Chairperson invited the treasurer, Mr. Pujari to present the report.

Mr. Pujari stated that this year as also the IAG was not in negative, thanking the support of the PMI and contributions made from CGI and Indian embassy in Bern. Due to this the committee was able to organise the Namaste Geneva which was originally established by the PMI with the objective that IAG will continue to organise it.

IAG was able to successfully organise Namaste Geneva which will soon be covering not just Diwali but other festivals and cultural events. Mr. Pujari was happy to report that even after all the functions, the numbers are still in positive. However, one can see that major challenge of the income is due to the lack of sponsorships during the unpredictable covid-19 year leading to financial gaps, despite this IAG have had steady performance reporting in expenditures. The statements have been matched by the auditors, and as mentioned by the President this does not include the contributions made by the CGI and Indian embassy in Bern.

In view of full transparency, an annex to the statement of accounts detailing expenditures for the special events organised by IAG in 2021 is attached. In addition, reflecting IAG's vision to go cashless, Mr. Pujari was happy to mention that there were just two cash transactions, primarily for local help. This also contributes towards making the transactions more transparent.

The Chair inquired about the expenditure on the Diwali function last year, which was 17,063 francs as expenses, to which Mr. Pujari explained that this was due to the combination of two functions into one under the title of Namaste Geneva which included three groups performing and local talents for which IAG provided for costumes etc. this led to increase in cost. This in the future will become one of the main events of IAG. It was proposed by the Chair that the amounts of contribution of CGI and the Indian Embassy, Bern be specifically mentioned in the statement of accounts. This was noted by the Mr. Pujari.

There was a brief discussion concerning the deposit in the postal account, prospect of investing the deposit and using any interest that might be gained from the investment. The President requested the members to express their views on the amount they would wish to invest. The Chair suggested that at least an amount equal to the average income of 2-3 preceding years should be left in the deposit account. Mr. Nakshatra agreed that it might be good idea to transfer excess money to be invested, however currently there is negative interest on income, though keeping in mind that the federal reserve has starting to raise rates in US, therefore there might be a possibility to earn interest from investment during the year 2022 and hence a decision from the AGM on this will be useful.

With no further comments the statement of the accounts was adopted.

The auditor, Mr Nakshatra then presented the audited report. It was year as normal as it could be under Covid circumstances, there has been significant revenue as compared to last year and this was due to the support coming back to the IAG. The committee has kept the balances in control which is a very important aspect for a small organization. Overall, there is no problem in the transactions or accounting, the observations are more structured around the processes. The Diwali Namaste Geneva event took 52% of the total event expenditure which was paid from the membership payment. Mr. Nakshatra suggested that effort should be made to have risk assessment and better advance planning of the events. He also recommended that a threshold amount must be decided upon, in excess of which approval will have to be obtained by email and not via WhatsApp as presently done.

In addition to the above and considering that certain documentation which could not be received from the bank due to technical issues and the fact that there was no interest gain, it could be rightly said that the financial statements do provide a true and fair view of the financial position of the IAG in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. Mr. Nakshatra asked the AGM to adopt the financial statement for the year ending 2021.

The Chair highlighted that it is difficult to perceive what events can be planned but this must be based on the principle that the expenditure should not exceed the income for that year. It is also important to see how far recommendations can be integrated into the constitution or in the financial byelaws to be framed by the Executive Committee where thresholds can be included as well. The Chair was of the opinion that there is no need for the AGM be involved in the individual income matters.

To complement this Mr. Pujari added that all decision made are official through legal contracts with other parties and in certain situations it can be more practical to use WhatsApp. The recommendations were noted. The President appreciated the recommendations and suggested to implement them where possible.

The audit report was adopted

## ***6. Nomination of Auditor***

The committee thanked Mr Nakshatra for doing an excellent job as an Auditor since 2018. The Chair proposed to have another person to support the work of the auditor to prepare him or her for a transition of a new auditor. The Chairperson then called on other nominations and since there were no other nominations

presented, asked for any objections/support to the appointment of Mr. Nakshatra Pachauri for the new auditor for IAG, however, for a procedural point of view Mr. Nakshatra suggested to appoint another auditor. It was then decided that in the interest of the IAG and for a successful transition, Mr. Nakshatra will be appointed as an auditor until the IAG Executive Committee can find a new Auditor and facilitate a smooth handover. The AGM authorised the Executive committee to work with Mr. Nakshatra this year for the smooth transition next year, with this provision Mr. Nakshatra was declared the auditor for this year.

### ***7. Fix annual membership fees***

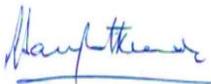
Considering the situation, we are in and with the modifications being done, the President proposed that the membership fees remain unchanged. Mr. Vinay Khosla appreciated the work done by the IAG and agreed with the President's proposal not to change the fees. There being no further comments or objections, it was decided to retain the annual membership fees without modification.

### ***8. Any Other Business***

The President briefed the members of the changes in the Executive Committee. Firstly, due to personal reasons Mrs. Sadaf Shamsie will step down as the Secretary. The President as well as the Chair appreciated all the work and support Mrs. Sadaf has contributed towards the functioning of Executive Committee; she will continue to remain as a Member of the Executive Committee. The President informed the AGM that Ms. Aushee M Gupta who was part of the committee will now be holding the position of the Secretary in the IAG Executive Committee. Also Mr. Sunil Achaya Consular General in Geneva who joined us in March 2021 will be the new nominated member. The President thanked Sumeeth Sharma for his contributions as member of the ad hoc committee for his work, he will be joining us again after a year. Lastly, the President thanked Mr. Sunil Achaya who is bringing new energy and sprit into the association. The Chair also thanked Sadaf and Mr. Sunil Achaya.

Mr. Sunil Achaya thanked the IAG members and Chair and expressed his appreciation to be a part of the IAG. He reassured that the PMI and CGI office in Geneva is always ready to offer any help, support, assistance, or guidance. He further added that since past one year we (CGI and IAG) have been inundated with the activities particularly on the celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav which will go on till 2023, however this year is even more special which will be followed by a very iconic week during August and the IAG will be the integral part. CGI Geneva is looking for venue for the special event and requested members to assist.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



Mr. Rajagopalan Sampatkumar  
*AGM Chairperson*



Ms. Aushee M Gupta  
*IAG Secretary, IAG*