



Indian Association, Geneva

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Indian Association Geneva (IAG)**  
**Held on 25 January 2020 at Quakers Hall, Geneva**

The 2020 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 17 members who were present.

The IAG President Dr. Maneesh Wadhwa welcomed the participants and requested a member to chair the AGM meeting, as required by the Constitution rules of procedure for the meetings of the AGM. 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 02 February 2019](#)
2. [Consider and adopt the annual report for 2019](#)
3. [Consider and adopt the audited statement of accounts for 2019](#)
4. Nomination of Auditor
5. Fix annual membership fee
6. Any other business

**1. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 4 February 2019**

The Chairperson asked if there were any suggestions or comments with regard to the minutes of the AGM held on 4 February 2019, as there were no comments/suggestions the minutes of AGM were adopted.

**2. Consider and adopt the annual report for 2019**

The Chairperson invited the President Dr Wadhwa to present the 2019 annual report. The President briefly mentioned the activities organized by the IAG during 2019.

During 2019, IAG had over 600-member family units. IAG organized in total 18 events. In 2019, IAG not just organized the events but also supported events promoting Indian heritage and cultural tradition by Indian artists living in and around Geneva. The highlights of the year were the following:

- Talk by Ms. Radhika Santhanakrishnan to bring awareness on "Breast Cancer Prevention",
- Live Concert by Maestro Anup Jalota,
- Laal Batti, a play showcasing girls from Mumbai Red Light area to become agents of social change
- Masala Coffee Live Music Band and
- Namaste Geneva event organized in collaboration with Permanent Mission of India in Geneva.

Dr. Wadhwa thanked H.E. Rajiv Kumar Chander, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN and the Counsel General Mr. Shaibal Roy Chowdhury for their continued support to the IAG. He also thanked them for the financial contribution to the IAG from the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in Geneva and said that a grant from the Indian Embassy in Bern was expected.

In order to enhance the events experience and communication with its members the Executive Committee carried out an online survey so that the members could give their feedback/suggestion on the activities organised by IAG. We received response from 73 members. The suggestions and feedback received from the members through the survey have been well noted by the Executive Committee.

With this Dr. Wadhwa concluded the report.

The Chairperson invited comments and questions on the Annual Report.

Mrs. Maria Helena Essenberg Van der Sterren asked why IAG circulates the hard copy of the membership directory as other organisations do not do it for privacy reasons. The treasurer, Mr. Pujari responded that IAG members have always expressed interest in receiving a hard copy of the membership directory. Placing the directory online raises the privacy issue as the website is open to everyone. The Chairperson suggested that it is better to have a hard copy as it is easy to refer. More importantly it is also a way of thanking the sponsors for their advertisements.

The Chairperson commended Dr. Wadhwa for preparing a comprehensive and excellent report both in terms of its content and in terms of what it conveys.

The Chairperson was glad to note that there was an excess of income over expenditure last year. He added that this is also in line with the constitutional regulation that the Committee is

not allowed to spend more than what they earn in a particular year. He thanked the Executive Committee for the excellent work that they had done. The Chairperson proposed that the Annual report be adopted. Mr. Khosla seconded it. The report was adopted.

### ***3. Consider and adopt the audited statement of accounts for 2019***

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

Mr. Pujari said that every effort was made to organize each event so that the expenditures did not exceed the income. He added that compared to the previous year the online transactions have doubled. It is encouraging to see that members are now opting for online transactions as it makes it easier for us to report and there is more transparency.

To ensure transparency, we have added an annex in the statements of accounts detailing expenditures for the special events organised by IAG in 2019. Based on the last audit report and the AGM recommendation it was suggested that we look at investment options for the savings. The money is still in the current account where we are getting some minimum interest while the treasurer and the auditor continue to look for a better investment opportunity. We did not draw from the reserves and the reserves continue to grow. There is a bond instrument at the UBS of CHF 25,000. Regarding IAG's investments, Mr. Pachauri added that right now having liquid cash is the best deal.

Mr. Pachauri suggested that the AGM, each year, must approve organisation of special events because under the Constitution of the Association there is clear clause which gives the responsibility of approving the activities implemented on the AGM and he could not find such references in the last minutes of the AGM.

The Chairperson responded to Mr. Pachauri's suggestion that the AGM has already given instructions to the Executive Committee that the expenditures should be within the income for the year. Many times, it is not easy for the Executive Committee to foresee what the special events could be organised. He added that the AGM could make suggestions regarding the special events but should not bind the Executive Committee to the type of special events to be organised.

Mr. Pachauri responded that as per the Constitution all activities organised by the IAG have to be approved by the AGM therefore every year a decision must be taken regarding special events at the AGM for that following year. In every AGM minutes, it should be recorded so that the Executive Committee will have a free hand to organise special events.

The Chairperson agreed to the recommendations suggested by Mr. Pachauri and said that we can include it in our resolution that the Executive Committee is authorised to organise activities including any special events as long as the expenditures remain within the income for the year.

The Chairperson drew attention to the need to discuss the following points left unsolved last year.

What happens to the excess of income over expenditure? Should it remain dormant in the account preventing the next Executive Committee to make use of the amount available?

The Chairperson suggested that any decision will depend on the amount of excess of income over expenditure. If the amount is sizeable, let us say of several thousand Swiss Francs, CHF 1,000 must be deposited in the bank account and balance can be used by the next Executive Committee for organising activities.

Dr. Wadhwa suggested that to enable the new Executive Committee to organise activities in the first few months of the year such as the Holi programme, it will be a great help if up to CHF 5,000 could be made available from the excess of income over expenditure from the previous year.

Another proposal from the floor was to make available 50% of the excess of income over expenditure to the new Executive Committee.

The AGM agreed that the new Executive Committee could utilise up to CH 5,000 from the previous year's excess of income over expenditure.

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

The committee thanked Mr Pachauri for doing an excellent job as an Auditor since 2018. The Chairperson called for nominations and since there were no other nominations presented, proposed the appointment of Mr. Nakshatra Pachauri as the new auditor for IAG. This proposal was approved unanimously by the AGM.

### ***7. Fix annual membership fee***

The membership fees remain unchanged. It was agreed that the last date of payment of annual membership fees will be 31 March and thereafter a penalty of CHF 10 will be charged. The Committee would send a reminder by 1 March to remind the Members of the last date for the payment of annual membership fees. Defaulting member's name will be removed from the following Membership Directory.

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

Mr. Manoj Gupta appreciated the support he received from IAG when he sent email asking for help on his move to Geneva. He also mentioned that the process took a couple of attempts and

asked if there was a way to expedite response to external communication. In response Mr Khosla offered to help in the future.


Mrs. Maria Helena Essenberg Van der Sterren, who has been a long-standing member of IAG, appreciated the effort of the association and mentioned the association has grown substantially in terms of the diversity and quality of the association's programs and coordination. Dr. Maneesh Wadhwa thanked Mrs. Maria for her support and acknowledged the support and committed feedback from Mrs. Maria on every communication but also her very motivating messages which she shared with the group which set an exemplar for all of us.

On behalf of the IAG the Chairperson expressed his deepest condolences to Mr. Narasimhan's family. Mr. Narasimhan was a long-time member of the Indian Association and served as the president of the Association for many years bringing the Indian diaspora together. He will always be remembered for his great contribution and support to the IAG.

The meeting was adjourned.



Mr. Rajagopalan Sampatkumar  
*AGM Chairperson*



Mrs. Sadaf Shamie  
*IAG Secretary, IAG*