

Constitution

§ 1 NAME

The name of the organization shall be the INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

§ 2 EMBLEM

The emblem of the Association shall be the NATARAJA.

§ 3 MAGAZINE

The magazine of the Association is The SAMBAND. The magazine shall be sent by post to all the members and by E-mail to anyone who asks for it. The Association shall have a website www.iastockholm.org to keep the members updated with it's programmes .

§ 4 AIMS

The Association is a non-political, secular, non-profit cultural organization.

The aim of the Association is to promote cultural and social aspirations of the Indian community in Sweden and its integration into the Swedish society at large by organizing traditional Indian and Swedish festivals, social gatherings, films, Indian music and dance programmes , discussions, lectures, seminars, programmes for children to familiarize them with India and Indian culture, excursions in Sweden and other programmes coherent with the aims of the Association.

§ 5 MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association shall be open to the Indian community and to those who have associations with or interest in India or Indian culture.

Members together constitute the General Body of the Association and shall have voting rights in General Body meetings which have ultimate deciding power in the Association.

Membership of the Association is obtained by paying the annual membership fee decided by the General Body. Official representatives of India stationed temporarily in Sweden and the guests of the members on temporary visit to Stockholm shall be treated as honorary members and shall pay same fee as the members while attending the Association's programmes . Honorary members as well as children up to the age of 18 years shall not have any voting rights in General Body meetings.

The membership year is the calendar year, Jan-Dec

The membership register shall be the asset of the Association and shall be used only for the best interest of the Association and the individual members.

§ 6 MANAGEMENT

For the management of the Association, the General Body of the members shall every year elect following office-bearers :

1. A managing committee called the SAMITI consisting of six secretaries.
2. Two Auditors.
3. An Election Committee consisting of 2 members.
4. An Editorial Board consisting of Editor and Asst. Editor and/or Webmaster

§ 6:1 MANAGING SAMITI

The SAMITI consists of following Secretaries :

GENERAL Secretary is responsible for co-ordination of all the Association's programmes , calling Samiti meetings and General Body meetings and seeking financial grants for the Association from various authorities.

FINANCE Secretary is responsible for all the Association's day to day finances, keeping the accounts up to date and maintaining the records of the Association's assets.

INFORMATION Secretary is responsible for information of all the Association's programmes to members and information from all outside sources to the Samiti ; keeping the member's register up to date; is in charge of the inventories, post and the distribution of the magazine Samband .

CULTURAL Secretary organizes lectures, debates, Indian cultural programmes of music, dance, and film and also creates opportunities for members to familiarize themselves with the Swedish culture and for the Swedish society at large to appreciate Indian culture.

FESTIVAL Secretary organizes traditional Indian festivals, dinners and informal tea-gatherings and also creates opportunities for members to celebrate together Swedish festivals.

YOUTH and INTEGRATION Secretary organizes children's programmes to create opportunities for children to learn about India and Indian culture, organizes outdoor and indoor sports programmes and also programmes facilitating the integration of the Indian community into the Swedish society at large.

Secretaries, though elected individually to different offices, shall work in harmony with each other in the Samiti . Their services to the Association are purely voluntary.

Each Secretary shall maintain a file keeping records of useful information and in the annual General Body meeting shall hand it over, with all good will, to the new Secretary elected in the same office.

The General Secretary and the Finance Secretary are authorized to sign on behalf of the Association.

The Information Secretary shall be the contact link between the Samiti and the Editorial board for publication of the magazine Samband . The Samiti shall be responsible for the policy, finances and the Samiti news of the magazine and the Editorial board shall be responsible for other contents, lay out and day to day management of the magazine.

SAMITI MEETINGS:

Samiti meeting shall be called by the General Secretary who shall prepare the agenda for the meeting after consulting each Secretary.

Samiti shall jointly make a chart of programmes for the whole year.

The policy and finances for each programme shall be jointly decided by the Samiti , whereas other details can be decided by the Secretary responsible for carrying out the programme .

Decisions of a Samiti 's meeting are valid, only if at least 4 Secretaries are present. In case only 4 Secretaries are present then the decisions taken unanimously by all the 4 Secretaries are valid.

The Chairmanship of the Samiti meeting shall be rotating among all the Secretaries. If no Secretary is available for the Chairmanship, the General Secretary shall be the Chairman. Each Secretary shall be entitled to one vote. The Chairman shall remain neutral and not vote. Decisions shall be reached by a simple majority. In case of equal votes for and against any issue, the chairman shall have the casting vote.

The minutes of the Samiti meeting shall be recorded and maintained in the files.

Samiti meeting shall be open for all members. Members willing to be observers during the Samiti meetings shall call the General Secretary in advance to get the permission to do so. The observer may speak during the Samiti meeting only at the request of the Chairman of the meeting.

In case of wide disagreement within the Samiti on any issue, leading to impasse, principle of direct democracy may be applied. Three Samiti members shall be enough to request the General Secretary or, if necessary, the Auditor to call for a General Body meeting.

No money lending/borrowing can take place through any of the members of the Association, on behalf of the Association, without the written consent of the Samiti .

§ 6:2 AUDITORS

The Auditors shall examine the Association's financial affairs. The Association's accounts, closed on 31st December, as well as Samiti 's annual report shall be in the hands of the Auditors latest by 15th January. The Auditors report shall be submitted to the Samiti latest by 31st January and shall accompany the call for the annual General Body meeting.

In a specific situation, Auditors are also authorised to call for an extra General Body meeting.

§ 6:3 ELECTION COMMITTEE

The Election Committee shall be a neutral body and shall receive proposals from members for candidates to different offices.

In the annual General Body meeting, the Election Committee shall carry out elections by a secret ballot. Candidates for election must be present in the meeting. In case, the list of candidates does not cover all offices, new proposals of candidates to vacant offices shall be invited from all members present in the meeting. If no candidate is available for a particular office, the office shall be declared vacant in the General Body meeting. A vacant office can be filled during the year by any member after approval from the Samiti . All members shall be informed in writing about a new office-bearer.

§ 6:4 EDITORIAL BOARD

The Editorial Board shall manage the preparing, printing and publication of the Association's magazine Samband . The Webmaster shall be responsible for maintaining and for keeping the Association's website updated.

The board shall be independent of the Samiti , but shall work in harmony with it. The Samiti shall be responsible for the policy, finances, the Samiti news and the postal distribution of the magazine, whereas the Editorial Board shall be responsible for other contents, layout and day to day management and the electronic distribution of the magazine.

In case of disagreement between the Samiti and the Editorial Board on any issue, the decision of the Samiti shall be final.

§ 7 GENERAL BODY MEETING

A General Body meeting may be annual or extraordinary and has the ultimate deciding power in the Association.

Decisions of a General Body meeting are valid, only if at least one fourth of the number of members of the Association are present.

ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

The annual General Body meeting of the Association shall be called by the General Secretary in the month of February or March.

The call for the General Body meeting shall be in writing, shall reach members at least one week in advance and shall be accompanied by Samiti 's annual report, statement of Association's financial accounts and Auditor's report.

The Agenda of the Annual General Body meeting shall be as follows:

1. Election of a Chairman to conduct the meeting.
2. Election of two members to record the minutes of the meeting.
3. Deciding whether one fourth of the number of members are present.
4. Presentation of Samiti 's annual report.
5. Presentation of Auditor's report.
6. Deciding about the discharge from liability for the outgoing Samiti .

7. Deciding the amount of the membership fee for the next year.
8. Proposals submitted by the outgoing Samiti and members.
9. Election of Samiti : 3 Secretaries to be elected every year. General, information & festival secretaries to be elected every alternate year for 2 years; other three secretaries, Finance, cultural and Integration & Youth to be elected every alternate year for two years.
10. Election of Auditors : one for one year, the other for 2 years..
11. Election of the Editor and the Asst. Editor and/or Webmaster for the magazine Samband .
12. Election of two members of the Election Committee.

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE CANDIDATURE TO DIFFERENT OFFICES

A candidate for the Samiti and the Chairman of the General Body meeting must not hold office in any other social or cultural organisation competing with the Association.

A candidate for the Samiti must have been a member of the Association for a period of at least one year any time in past.

A candidate for the office of the General Secretary or the Finance Secretary must have served in any previous Samiti for a period of at least one year.

A candidate is not elected in the Samiti for more than 3 consecutive years unless no other candidate is available.

DECISION MAKING PROCEDURE IN GENERAL BODY MEETINGS

Each Member shall be entitled to one vote. The voting right cannot be exercised by post or by authorization.

The election shall be carried out by a secret ballot, whereas all other issues shall be decided by open voting unless a secret ballot is requested. A decision shall be reached by a simple majority unless requirement of two-thirds majority is specified. In case of equal votes for and against any issue, the Chairman of the General Body shall have the casting vote.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL BODY MEETING

An extraordinary General Body meeting may be held, if the Samiti finds it necessary or in case of impasse in the Samiti , if three Secretaries find it necessary or if at least one fourth of the number of members of the Association have requested for it in writing to the General Secretary or, if necessary, to the Auditor.

§ 8 NO -CONFIDENCE MOTION

Any specific charge against any member, with the purpose of removing a member from the Association or a Secretary from the Office, may be brought to the notice of the General Body, which shall take a decision on the motion by a secret ballot and a two-thirds majority.

§ 9 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendments to the constitution may be taken up at any General Body meeting. An amendment is adopted if at least two-thirds of the number of members present in the meeting vote for it.

Each member shall receive a copy of the constitution and of the amendments as and when they are adopted.

§ 10 DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

A proposal for the dissolution of the Association may be taken up at any General Body meeting. The proposal is accepted if at least two-thirds of the number of members present in the meeting vote for it. Any such decision shall come into force only if a similar decision is taken by the two-third majority in an extraordinary General Body meeting to be held within three months.

The decision to dissolve the Association shall specify how the assets of the Association are to be discharged.
