

**MINUTES OF THE 57TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP**

Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Indian Parliamentary Group presided over the 57th Annual General Meeting of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) held on Friday, the 13th August, 2021 from 1330 hours to 1530 hours in the Main Committee Room, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi. One hundred and ten (110) Members and Associate Members of the Indian Parliamentary Group participated in the Meeting.

At the outset, the President welcomed the Members to the Annual General Meeting. Thereafter, the President moved a resolution condoling the death of the Members of the Indian Parliamentary Group who passed away since the last Annual General Meeting held on 7 January, 2019. The Members observed silence for a minute as a mark of respect to the memory of departed souls.

The President of the Group informed that this is the first meeting after constitution of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha since the meeting could not be held in 2020 due to COVID-19 Pandemic.

Thereupon, the Annual Reports of the Indian Parliamentary Group for the years 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 were considered. The Reports were adopted without any amendment.

On the issue of election of Treasurer and members of the Executive Committee, Shri N.K. Premachandran, MP moved a motion that the President be authorized to nominate the Treasurer as well as Members to the Executive Committee of the Indian Parliamentary Group. The motion was seconded by other Members of the Indian Parliamentary Group. The motion was adopted by voice-vote.

The Annual General Meeting also decided to appoint M/s S.S. Kothari, Mehta & Company, Chartered Accountants to audit the accounts of the Indian Parliamentary Group for the year 2021-2022.

On the issue related to Amendment of Rule 6 of IPG Rules relating to the subscription for Life Members/Associate Members of the IPG from Rs.500/- to Rs.1000/-, the General Body adopted the amended Rules of Indian Parliamentary Group after brief deliberation **(Annexure-I)**.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Group conveyed the following information to the members:

- (i) The Associate Members of IPG may also be nominated for study visits both within India and abroad;
- (ii) A function to confer 'Outstanding Parliamentarian Award may now be held every two years;
- (iii) To utilize vast Parliamentary experience of the Associate Life Members, sub groups of IPG may be constituted on various topics;
- (iv) A "Formal Reception" alongwith Group Photograph for Members of Parliament may be organized at the time of constitution of new Lok Sabha;
- (v) A function may also be organized under the auspices of Indian Parliamentary Group during the 75th year of India Independence and the Members / Associate Members of IPG who have completed 75 year of age may be felicitated during the occasion;
- (vi) The strength of Parliamentary Friendship Group may be increased from 09 members to 12 members in order to accommodate maximum Members of Parliament on the Groups;
- (vii) The number of Associate Members in the Executive Committee may be increased to 50% of the total numbers;
- (viii) A comprehensive directory containing brief bio-profile, photograph and contact details of the IPG members may also be created on the IPG website;
- (ix) A publication may also be brought out under the auspices of IPG;
- (x) Ex-MPs will be provided accommodation facility at Western Court on presentation of ID and after completing requisite formalities; and
- (xi) A separate office exclusively dealing with the Indian Parliamentary Group shall be constituted for providing assistance to Members of IPG.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and the President of the Group also informed the members that in view of the significant increase proposed in the activities of the Group, the Corpus Fund of the Group needed to be augmented substantially. For this purpose, he proposed that to begin with the members of the Group, both sitting and Associate may contribute a nominal sum of Rs.500/- per month. The contribution will be voluntary. In the case of the sitting Members the sum will be deducted from their salary once their concurrence is received. In the case of Associate Members they may contribute the sum directly into the IPG Account.

During the discussion, Members of the Group raised a number of issues related to review of pension, redefining pension in view of judicial pronouncements, greater association of former MPs in the activities of the Group and in the Executive Committee, access to Government Offices, accommodation facilities, medical facilities, exemption from paying toll taxes etc. These issues have been compiled and enumerated in **Annexure-II**.

The issues raised by Members in the previous meeting held on 7 January, 2019 were taken up with the concerned Ministries and Departments of Government of India. The Action Taken Report on the same was circulated to the Members during the meeting.

After the discussion, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Indian Parliamentary Group thanked the Members and assured that the issues raised by the Members would be examined and taken to their logical conclusion.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

RULES OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP
(Amendment in Rule 6 of IPG Rules adopted by AGM on 13 August, 2021)

Sl.No.	RULES
1.	Title. – There shall be an “Indian Parliamentary Group” of the Parliament of India hereinafter referred to as the “The Group”.
2.	<p>Aims and Objects – The aims and objects of the Group are:-</p> <p>(a) to promote personal contacts between Members of Parliament;</p> <p>(b) to study questions of public importance that are likely to come up before Parliament and arrange seminars and discussions and study courses and bring out publications for dissemination of information to the members of the Indian Parliamentary Group;</p> <p>(c) to arrange lectures on political, defence, economic, social and educational problems by Members of Parliament and distinguished persons;</p> <p>(d) to arrange visits to foreign countries with a view to develop contacts with Members of other Parliaments; and</p> <p>(e) to function as the National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and also as the India Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in conformity with the aims and objects of these two organizations.</p>
3	Life Members: – Any sitting Member of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha may become a life member of the Group on payment of the subscription prescribed in Rule 6.
4.	<p>Associate Life Members: (1) On ceasing to be a Member of Parliament, a life member of the Group shall be designated as ‘Associate Life Member’ and shall be entitled to such facilities only as are available to associate life members under Rule 7.</p> <p>Provided the cessation of the Parliamentary membership is on account of expiry of the term, premature dissolution of the House etc. The question of Members expelled by the House being designated as Associate Life Members will be subject to a decision by the Executive Committee.</p> <p>(2) Any Ex-Member of Parliament may be elected by the Executive Committee of the Group as an associate life Member of the Group on payment of the subscription prescribed in Rule 6.</p>
5.	Assent to Aims and Objects: Every Life member or Associate Life Member shall be taken to have given his assent to the aims and objects of the Group as set out in Rule 2.

6.	<p>Subscription: The subscription for a Life Member of the Group or a person who is elected by the Executive Committee as an Associate Life Member under Rule 5 shall be <u>one thousand Rupees</u> payable in advance before enrolment as Life Member / Associate Life Member.</p>
7.	<p>Facilities for Life Members and Associate Life Members:-</p> <p><u>For Life Members:</u></p> <p>Letters of Introduction are issued, on request, by the Lok Sabha Secretariat to our Missions in various Countries to receive/see off of Indian Parliamentary Group Members at airports and to extend due courtesies and necessary assistance.</p> <p><u>For Life Members and Associate Life Members:</u></p> <p>(a) Letters of introduction are issued on request to Parliaments of countries concerned for assistance and preferential treatment in matters such as show round of Parliament Building, access to galleries and lobbies to witness proceedings and for arranging meetings with fellow Parliamentarians.</p> <p>(b) Free supply of periodicals: The Parliamentarian, which is a periodical published by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, London, is supplied free to the Members of the Indian Parliamentary Group on request made in the prescribed form.</p>
8.	<p>Management and control. – The management and control of all affairs of the Group shall vest in the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the two Vice-Presidents, the Treasurer, and not more than 20 Members. The Secretary-General of Lok Sabha shall act as the ex-officio Secretary-General of the Executive Committee.</p>
9.	<p>(i) Office Bearers – The Speaker of Lok Sabha shall be ex-officio President of the Group and the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha and Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha shall be ex-officio Vice-Presidents of the Group.</p> <p>(ii) The following shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting from amongst the life members of the Group and shall continue to hold office till the next election take place:</p> <p>(a) Treasurer</p> <p>(b) Not more than 20 Members.</p> <p>(iii) The Secretary General of Lok Sabha shall act as ex-officio Secretary-General of the Group.</p>
10.	<p>Meetings – (1) The Annual General Meeting shall ordinarily be held on such date and time, as the President may fix.</p> <p>(2) The President may, having regard to the business to be brought forward call general meetings of the Group from time to time as may be necessary.</p>

	<p>(3) The President may call meetings of the Executive Committee from time to time as may be necessary.</p> <p>(4) On a requisition in writing of not less than twenty members of the Group, the President shall summon a Special General Meeting.</p>
11.	Quorum – The quorum at the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be five and at general meetings shall be ten.
12.	Voting - Every member other than associate life member shall have one vote. Questions shall be determined by a majority of members present and voting. In case of an equality of votes the person presiding shall have a second or casting vote.
13.	<p>Business to be placed before the Annual General Meeting – The following business shall be placed before the Annual General Meeting:</p> <p>(i) Report of work done in the year with a statement of accounts; (ii) Election of Treasurer and the Executive Committee; and (iii) Appointment of an Auditor.</p>
14.	<p>Duties of the Secretary-General. – It shall be the duty of the Secretary-General:-</p> <p>(i) to keep record of all meetings of the group as also of the Executive Committee; (ii) to keep in custody all record of the Group; (iii) to keep true and correct account of the receipts and disbursements and to get the same audited; (iv) to submit draft of the annual report before the Executive Committee; (v) to convene meetings as directed by the President; and (vi) to carry out such other directions as the Group Executive Committee or the President may give.</p>
15	Arrangement of Affairs in the event of General Election to the Lok Sabha – In the event of a general election to the Lok Sabha, the Office-bearers and the Executive Committee shall carry on the affairs of the Group until the election of the new Speaker, the new office-bearers and the members of the Executive Committee.
16.	Amendments to Rules – Any amendments to these Rules shall be proposed at the Annual General Meetings of the Group. Notice of the proposed amendments should be given in writing to the Secretary – General seven days before the date of the meeting.

ANNEXURE-II**ACTION TAKEN REPORT ON THE ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS / ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF INDIAN PARLIAMENT GROUP DURING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF IPG ON 13 AUGUST, 2021**

Sl. No.	Issues	Remarks
<u>CONFERENCE BRANCH</u>		
1.	Speedy disposal of the queries/complaints of the ex-MPs in a comprehensive manner.	JS in-charge of GW Branch and AN-I Branch has been requested to provide a suitable room to set up a Control Room to exclusively handle the work of IPG. He has also been requested to post commensurate number of officer/staff to man the control room.
2.	Members have suggested that composite sub-groups on various issues may be constituted within the IPG and members may be asked to participate and deliberate on these sub-groups, from time to time based on their interest, orientation and expertise.	<p>The proposal to constitute the sub-groups on the following subjects has been put up for approval of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the IPG:</p> <p>(i) Environment & Sustainable Development (ii) Education (iii) Gender Equity (iv) Agriculture & Rural Development (v) Youth & Skills Development.</p> <p>After approval, the willingness of the IPG members to associate themselves with the aforementioned sub-groups may be obtained.</p>
<u>SECURITY SERVICE</u>		
3.	Permission to entry in Central Hall to Ex-MPs.	Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, entry is restricted in Central Hall by order of Competent authority.
4.	ID Card and Parking Label issued by Lok Sabha Secretariat did not facilitate entry in several Ministry and Installation.	It is not feasible to take up matter in absence of exact Name of Ministry and Installation.
5.	Attendants to be allowed along with Ex-MP to the Parliament House Complex.	Due to COVID-19 Pandemic entry is restricted to Parliament House by Competent Authority.

GENERAL WORKS BRANCH

6.	Installation of statue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh in Parliament House Estate.	An 18 feet statue of Shaheed Bhagat Singh is already installed in the Courtyard No.5, PH and a joint photograph of Shaheed Bhagat and B.K. Dutt is installed in Committee Room, 63, PH.
7.	Non availability of Napkins in the Canteen.	ITDC has been directed to sensitize the catering staff to provide paper napkins while providing catering services to MPs and Ex-MPs.

PARLIAMENT MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

8.	The portraits of the Freedom Fighters should be displayed in the Parliament premises.	The matter has been referred to Parliament Museum by GW Branch, as depiction of our history including Indian freedom struggle comes under the purview of Parliament Museum.
9.	Photogallery of freedom fighters in Parliament House Complex to pay respect to the martyrs of our freedom movement.	Parliament Museum has been requested to explore the possibility for display of such photographs / creation of a photogallery.

MS BRANCH

10.	Doctors in Govt. Hospitals refuse to issue/prescribe medicines on the ground of its high in cost and not permissible by Government.	The matter is being taken up with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare / CGHS.
11.	The treatment in Government Hospitals should be made cashless on production of CGHS Card.	The matter is being taken up with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare / CGHS.
12.	Many hospitals demand prior permission from ex-MPs for extending the treatment facility which cause hardships to the ailing ex-MPs or their family members.	The matter is being taken up with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare / CGHS.
13.	A small CGHS office can be set up in PHA to facilitate Ex-MPs for reimbursement and other purposes.	The matter is being taken up with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare / CGHS.

14.	No CGHS Centre in Andhra Pradesh.	The matter is being taken up with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare / CGHS.
15.	Toll Tax exemption to Ex-MPs should be provided.	The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on several occasions in the past where the Ministry expressed their inability to accept to extend the facility stating that “any such exemption will not only dampen the future investment climate in the roads sectors but will also increase the burden on actual users of National Highways who pay user fee. Therefore, it is not feasible to include the vehicles of ex-MPs in the exempt list. However, the matter is once against being taken up with the Ministry concerned.
16.	Problem in booking Railway Tickets by Ex-MPs.	A software has been developed by Ministry of Railways through which the members will have the facility to book railway ticket online.
17.	Ex-MPs travel in AC-I while spouse of Ex-MP is allowed to travel in AC-II only. Both should be allowed to travel in AC-I.	The issue has been taken up in Joint Committee on MSA meetings on various occasions. The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs have stated that for achieving this objective, an amendment in MSA Act would be required and it has not been considered appropriate by the Ministry in the present circumstances to concur with this proposal.
18.	Minimum 5-6 air journeys should be allowed to ex-MPs	-do-
19.	The pension of Ex-MPs should be increased	As per Gazette of India Notification dated 29 March, 2018, amendment to Section 8-A of the Members Salaries and Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act 1954, Section 1 A is introduced which states that the pension and additional pension of any person shall be increased after every 5 years commencing from 1 April, 2023 on the basis of Cost Inflation Index provided under Section 5 of the Explanation to Section 48 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.