

## **Unofficial English Translation of the Constitution**

Disclaimer: This translation is provided for informational purposes only. In case of any discrepancies or legal questions, the original German version shall prevail.

### **§1 Name and Seat of the Association, Fiscal Year**

1. The association is named 'Indian Association Hannover'. It shall be registered in the association register and then bear the suffix 'e.V.'.
2. The registered office of the association is in the city of Hannover, Lower Saxony.
3. The fiscal year is the calendar year.

### **§2 Purpose, Tasks, and Non-Profit Status of the Association**

1. The Indian Association Hannover exclusively and directly pursues charitable purposes within the meaning of the section 'Tax-Privileged Purposes' of the German Fiscal Code.
2. The association's purposes include promoting international understanding, tolerance, and intercultural exchange, especially between India and Germany. This is implemented through events, meetings, and the raising and managing of financial resources to support these goals.
3. The association operates selflessly and does not primarily pursue economic self-interest.
4. Association funds may only be used for the purposes defined in the statute. Members shall not receive benefits from association funds. No person may benefit from disproportionately high compensation or from expenses not related to the purpose of the association.

### **§3 Acquisition of Membership**

1. Any legal adult or legal entity may become a member.
2. Applications for membership must be submitted in writing to the Board. The Board decides on the application. If rejected, the General Assembly will decide.
3. The General Assembly may, upon the Board's recommendation, admit distinguished supporters or former members as honorary lifetime members.

### **§4 Termination of Membership**

1. Membership ends by death, resignation, or expulsion.

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2. Resignation must be submitted in writing to the Board and may only take effect at the end of the fiscal year with two months' notice.
3. A member may be expelled by resolution of the General Assembly for seriously harming the association or failing to meet obligations, or for being more than three months in arrears despite a written warning. The member must be given an opportunity to respond two weeks in advance.

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### **§5 Rights and Duties of Members**

1. Every member has the right to actively support the Indian Association Hannover and to participate in joint events. Each member has equal voting and election rights at the General Assembly.
2. Every member is obligated to promote the interests of the Indian Association Hannover, especially to regularly pay their membership dues and, as far as possible, support events through their participation.
3. Proxy voting is allowed. A member may authorize another IASH member to vote on their behalf at the General Assembly.

### **§6 Membership Fees**

1. Every member must pay a monthly membership fee in advance.
2. The amount is determined by the General Assembly and should reflect the association's openness to the public.
3. Honorary members are exempt from fees.
4. Account audits are conducted by a member not part of the Board.
5. Upon election of a new treasurer, all financial documents including taxes, grants, etc., are to be handed over.

### **§7 Organs of the Association**

The organs of the association are the Board and the General Assembly.

### **§8 The Board**

1. The Board represents the association (§ 26 BGB) and manages its business. Responsibilities include:
  - a) Calling and preparing General Assemblies, including setting agendas,
  - b) Implementing decisions of the General Assembly,
  - c) Managing assets and preparing the annual report,
  - d) Admitting new members.
2. The Board consists of the Chairperson, First and Second Deputy Chairpersons, three other members, and the Treasurer. The Advisory Board should also be represented.

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3. Only one representative (Chairperson, Deputy, or Treasurer) may represent the association publicly.
4. Board members are elected individually for two years. Only members of the association can be Board members. They remain in office until a successor is elected. The Board may fill vacancies until the next election.
5. The Board meets as needed. Meetings are called by the Chairperson or their deputy with a one-week notice. A quorum exists with two members. Decisions require a majority. The Chairperson's vote breaks ties.
6. Decisions must be recorded and signed by the minute taker and Chairperson or their deputy.
7. The Board is authorized to make necessary changes to the statutes for registration or recognition of non-profit status, with such authority expiring upon registration.

### **§9 Advisory Board and Special Committees**

1. An Advisory Board is formed to support the association's mission.
2. It advises on cultural, scientific, economic, and organizational matters and develops long-term concepts.
3. It consists of 5 to 25 members. The Chair is appointed by the General Assembly; other members by the Board. Meetings are held at least annually.
4. The term is two years, aligned with the Board. Reappointment is allowed.
5. The Board may establish special committees.

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### **§10 General Assembly**

1. The General Assembly is responsible for decisions on:
  - a) Amendments to the constitution,
  - b) Dissolution of the association,
  - c) Admission of new members under §3(2), appointment of honorary members, and expulsion of members,
  - d) Election and dismissal of Board members,
  - e) Acceptance of the annual report and discharge of the Board,
  - f) Setting the membership fees.
2. The Board must convene a General Assembly at least once a year, preferably in the first quarter, with two weeks' written notice and the agenda.
3. The Board sets the agenda. Members may propose additions up to one week before the meeting. The Board decides on them. New proposals during the meeting require a majority vote to be added, unless they concern amendments, dissolution, or fees.
4. An extraordinary General Assembly must be called if it serves the association's interests or if one-quarter of members request it in writing, stating purpose and reasons.
5. The Chairperson presides over the Assembly; in their absence, the deputy, or someone elected by the Assembly.
6. A quorum exists if at least one-third of all members are present. If not, a second meeting must be called within four weeks, which is quorate regardless of attendance. This must be stated in the invitation.
7. Resolutions are passed by open vote with a majority of members present. If no candidate receives a majority, the one with the most valid votes is elected. Run-offs may be needed. Abstentions count as invalid. Amendments require three-quarters; dissolution requires nine-tenths approval.
8. Minutes must be recorded and signed by the secretary and chair of the Assembly.

### **§11 Dissolution of the Association, Termination for Other Reasons, Loss of Non-Profit Status**

1. In case of dissolution, the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson act jointly as authorized liquidators unless others are appointed.
2. Upon dissolution, annulment, or loss of non-profit status, remaining assets shall be distributed equally among regular

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members who have fulfilled their dues obligations.

3. The same applies if the association is dissolved for any other reason or loses its legal status.