

NAD's ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Indian Social Institute, 10 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi on 26th February, 2017

We organised the NAD's Annual General Body Meeting at the Auditorium of Indian Social Institute on Sunday, 26th February 2017. We saw a gathering of around 375 NAD members. The meeting started with the welcome note by Mr. Saju Stephen, Joint Secretary of National Association of the Deaf.

It followed with Mr. Shilendra Pahi, Returning Officer of National Association of the Deaf sharing his memories with NAD since its inception.

Mr. Shilendra Pahi then introduced all the newly elected board members: -

President: - A. S. Narayanan, Delhi

Vice President: - Mr. T. K. M. Sandeep, Hyderabad

Vice President:- Mr. Aqil Chinoy, Mumbai

General Secretary: - Mr. Zorin Singha, Noida

Joint Secretary: - Mr. Anuj Jain, Delhi

Joint Secretary: - Mr. Saju Stephen, Bhopal

Women Secretary: - Mrs. Geeta Sharma, Gurgaon

Treasurer: - Mr. Vishal Arora, Delhi

Executive Member:- Mr. Dilip Kumar Jangir, Punjab

Executive Member:- Mr. Nagendra Tiwari, Varanasi

Executive Member:- Mr. Sarvesh Jain, Ahmedabad

Executive Member:- Mr. Islam Ul Haque, Indore

Executive Member:- Ms. Rupmani Chhetri, Darjeeling

Executive Member:- Mrs. Priti Shah Soni, Bhopal

He then announced that there is one vacancy available and NAD will decide later on for the fulfilment it. A candidate from the south of India will be preferable.

All the ex-board members of NAD were invited to the stage and some shared their experience.

- **Mr. Umesh Grover**, Dehradun: - I am happy and I shall still support NAD as a member.
- **Mr. Ravi Shekhar**, Patna:- I am very thankful for NAD's help that I have a lot of experience and I am with NAD forever.
- **Mr. G.V. Reddy**, Gurgaon:- Been a board member since Nad's inception. Happy that we now have included the Indian deaf youth and new members. The past year has been very eventful and I can see a bright future for the deaf as the RPWD bill has been passed.

Other ex-board members: -

Mr. Saju Stephen applied for two positions so he opted out.

Mr. Anuj Jain applied for two positions so he opted out.

Mr. Vikas Swami left because of his own personal reasons.

Mr. Arun Swami left because of his own personal reasons.

Mr. Anil Jain left because of his own personal reasons.

Ms. Sonia Bhatia left because of her own personal reasons.

Mrs. Ritu Panda also left because of her own personal reasons.

Mrs. Reena Jain also left because of her own family reasons.

Mr. Zorin Singha, General Secretary: - It's been long since I have been elected for a post like this. I never really wanted to be a formal part of the NAD as I did not wish to be part of the politics and the other things that comes with it. Something changed when Ian was imprisoned and I felt the urgent need to do something about it. I went to meet him in the jail after the incident and loss of the happiness on his face urged me to do something substantial about it. Mr. Arun Rao took over the responsibility of the presidency but eventually there was a time when he could not be there and I had to take over. It took a lot out of me to learn, moderate and understand the work. Since I did the job well Narayanan told me to take over the general secretary's work of NAD. Over the years, I would say that the stronghold of NAD'S work and achievements has been more of Narayanan's. Since most of our activities is based in Delhi, we wished to keep the candidates at least in the 3 high posts from Delhi.

I support all the organisations in India who are growing and contributing to the overall development of the deaf sector.

I pray that we still stay united and remain like one body.

A formal gesture of Mr. A. S. Narayanan taking over presidency from Mr. Zorin Singha.

Mr. A. S. Narayanan, President: - On 23rd February 2017, a meeting regarding RPWD Act 2016 happened where I found too many issues in the formulation of our laws. One of the issues I found was if a deaf person is accused of a crime he will not be granted an interpreter right then and there. Only if it becomes a court case he will be granted an interpreter. This will lead to great problems in the future.

Our deaf sector demands that ISL becomes one of the nationally recognized language as this will diffuse many problems faced by us Cochlear implants has reached 10,000 deaf babies in just a year's' time. The parents of the deaf babies were not given an informed choice as they were not aware of sign language.

We need numbers when we will be formally invited by the government as we need to show how much this RPWD Act 2016 is integral to us. The more people that show up from our sector, the more the government will feel pressurized to do well.

Question from audience: What is the progress Driving Licence?

Mr. A. S. Narayanan, President: - Yes, we have received a formal letter from the Ministry of Transport that Deaf people can drive. Some states have started issuing license to the deaf while some states mandates the percentage of hearing loss on the certificate to be 60% or less than 60%. We will try to look at this issue after March with our newly elected NAD team and try to resolve as soon as possible.

Mr. Vishal Arora, Treasurer: - We are still debating over whether we want our accounts to be transparent to the viewers or not. But still I will give a brief detail of all of our expenditures in the past few years:-

- Budget for UNCRPD in Punjab 2014 for 6 states
- PRWD Protests during 2014: - Expenditure on the banners, ids,
- 2015 National Deaf Women Empowerment Seminar in Kerala 17th- 19th April 2015: - Expenses on the travelling for some candidates, hall booking, banners etc.
- Expenses for UNCRPD Convention in Punjab: - Muktar and Abhor.
- Protests For ISLRTC to be an autonomous body 2016
- RPWD Bill 2016 protests
- World Disability Day 3rd Dec 2016
- Banks, PSU, govt, companies give donations, sponsorship or pay for advertisements.
- ISL Seminars for Delhi Police from 2013-2017(15 times approx.)

Question: - Can I get detailed information on the expenses of NAD from our membership fund, sponsorship fund and other donations.

Yes, Akhil Chinoy shall give a little more detail on this.

Question: - Yogesh Hadre, Nagpur: From 2012-2016 how many members have joined?

I need a detailed information of all members who have joined in the past few years. I submitted a form for the year 2011 but got a membership for 2012.

These issues have indeed happened any times. In the past but we promise to try and make our accounting easy and manageable.

We would like to learn from the website process of membership to make it easy and cost effective.

Question: - I would like to see all the NAD Rules and regulations for conducting such elections that have happened for the first time.

Mr. Saju Stephen, Executive Member: - I have been with NAD for a long long time and I understand there have been many unaccountability issues but you must question what is our goal? Is it all of the intricate systems and rules or what we are fighting for?

Mr. Aqil Chinoy, Vice President:- We have created very easy processes for better user interface on our website. We have created an individual user id.

Mrs. Nirupama Kaul, NAD Member: - I would like to know if the no. of users of Nad list will be known to us or not.

Mr. Aqil Chinoy, Vice President:- Nad team shall discuss on this matter and let everyone know of the final decision.

7 Deaf people from Kerala came to the stage and talked about their relationship with NAD. They appreciated Mr. A.S. Narayanan, President of NAD for his hard work and his new position at NAD. They also gave a token of their appreciation to the team of NAD.

THE PLAN FOR 2017-2018

Past achievements of NAD: -

- Driving License
- ISLRTC
- RPWD
- Republic Day Sign Language
- Association with the WFD
- ISL Interpreter on DD Channels
- ISLRTC made autonomous

What is the positive change happening in NAD?

- **NAD Election:-** This means there is more involvement of NAD members.

- **INCLUSION:** - During the decision making of ISLRTC to become an autonomous body NAD included everyone in this decision.
- **Transparency:** - We do not wish to hide anything but tell everything in public. As one seed of doubt can dismantle our strong united sector.
- **Building the strength of NAD:** - By making sure the old generation and the young generation work together and learn from each other.

6 months plan of NAD: -

- Budget:- This will create an easy pathway for us to achieve our goals
- Branding: - All over india we need to create more awareness of our organisation.
- Team building
- Use of technology: Making our lives easier by fully utilising technology.
- Storage:- Using Google Drive, Cloud etc.

Are the new members of NAD ready?

Are the members ready to support NAD?

“Let us come together, know our rights and claim them”

To be united, understand the benefits of our rights and work for it.

A token of appreciation for all the newly elected board members from Mr. Aqil Chinoy, Vice President.

Mr. Zorin Singha, General Secretary: As a general secretary I would like a lot of you to know that I may be harsh at times but I need all of you to understand that we are not at a well to do stage in this organisation. I am grateful for all the work that Mr. Anuj Jain, Project Director cum Joint Secretary has done so far. He has been collecting funds for our organisation to run ever since its inception. Also, Friends of National Association of the Deaf (FON) who have greatly supported us to keep this organisation going on. We do not feel the need to justify ourselves with everyone's petty issues or problems that cannot be resolved because of the politics. We need to ensure that awareness of our sector is throughout India. Pls be hopeful and encourage the change in our system and support it. I also would like us to stop spreading negative things about NAD which creates only more issues for our organisation. I really wish we stand united and rise above all of our personal issues and stand together as one body.

Mr. Anuj Jain, Joint Secretary:- I explained to NAD Members last time on 4th December 2016 that those who applied for Life Membership and 25 deaf people have Life Membership. I saw many deaf people have applied for Life Membership. There are about 85 deaf people applied for Life Membership till now. I invited them to the stage. All of them were on the stage for group photo. I told them that we are very thankful for their life support to NAD. Without them we are nothing. I respect their help for supporting NAD.

Closing Remarks: - There will definitely be a positive change April 1st 2017 onwards and all of us will definitely witness it. Mr, Vivek Kothari, Jaipur and Mr. Alok Kejriwal, Mumbai sponsoring for the all the newly updates and user interface that we have developed for our website. Requested more members to join and sponsor and support the hard work NAD. A photo of all the people who were present was taken.