

The All-India Anglo-Indian Association

Lucknow Branch

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Today is *World Anglo-Indian Day!*

Dear Members,

The challenges of the pandemic COVID-19 are being strongly felt within the Community as by other people across the world. We can play the game of *passing the buck* OR *rise to the challenges* of COVID-19 being faced by the Community with which we are directly associated.

On my part I have risen to the challenges being faced by members of the Branch who have approached me for assistance ranging from food, employment and rent. This will not sustain as I too have limited contacts, associates and funds of the Association at my disposal.

A very sad case came to my knowledge a few days back wherein an Anglo-Indian lady (not a member of our Branch) was living on the streets and sleeping on the pavement outside the NCC Directorate canteen for the past few months. The establishments (religious and others) that help such destitutes could not take her in due to the Corona virus risk the other inmates could have been exposed to. As soon as I was informed I went looking for her only to be informed that some kind soul had managed to arrange a train ticket for her to travel back to her hometown.

Sadly a large number of our members are now facing hefty salary cuts and several other members have been laid-off from their regular employments. It seems that every passing day is going to get tougher. We as a Community need to rally around each other to survive the financial repercussions of this pandemic.

The immediate solution for those members already affected would be to avail / enlist for eligibility of schemes which the Government is running for people who are unemployed due to the pandemic. Ration Card holders are provided free rice and wheat every month equal to their monthly quota (A family of four will receive 20 Kgs rice and wheat FREE every month upto November 2020), ESIC card holders are provided free medical assistance and wage compensation for period of illness, enrolment with the employment exchange is also a good idea. There would be many more such good schemes the government is running which we are not aware of and could be explored by you. To enrol for these schemes contact your local corporator (*Sabhasad*) or your area *e-suvidha* Kendra.

We are awaiting guidelines from Head Office with regards to the AGM 2019-2020 which was initially scheduled for **19 April 2020** and was postponed due to the lockdown and H.O. clearance thereafter. A letter was sent to the President-in-Chief on 25 July 2020 in keeping with the relevant articles listed in *The Memorandum of Associations* of the AIAIA regarding the timely conduct of the Branch AGM. The Governing Body held a meeting in this regard on 30 July 2020. An official communication in this regard is expected soon.

Finally we pray for the safety and good health of all our members and others around us. May God continue to look after us and protect us from this raging pandemic. Stay Safe! Stay healthy! Move out only if you must!

With all good wishes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Michael', with a horizontal line underneath.

(Adrian Michael)
President

DML/July/2020

Date: 02 August 2020