

WZCC – 19th INDIA REGION AGM

WZCC India Regions 19th AGM was held at a glitzy function in the Banquet Hall , West End Hotel, Mumbai on Saturday, 24th September 2022. The hall was full with the senior officials and members of WZCC, their guests and other dignitaries,

The AGM was conducted by Mr Adi Siganporia , he brought the Meeting to order and invited Ms Behroze Daruwalla President, India Region to welcome the guests and present her India Region Report. She mentioned that WZCC believes in turning very challenge into an opportunity, during Covid19 it was decided to hold meetings via Zoom and now we have learned and decided to have Hi-brid meetings. We are now with greater participation and greater inclusiveness not only from Chapters in India but also Globally.

She gave a report on WZCC's various activities – she mentioned that WZCC has come a long way, India Region initially started with networking, lectures and meet & greet which of course included good food. Now as of today WZCC India can boast of completing the full circle of providing not only just commercial/professional expertise but Social, Educational and hardcore financial assistance. WZCC can boast of various initiatives which started in India and then spread across the Globe thanks to the dynamic Global Presidents and members of various Global Regions, including India. India region has now become very active and truly focused on the next generation – our Youth. WZCC has started being proactive with youngsters as young as 10/12 years old. In order to achieve this we are focused on

Social Media. Youth seem to get their information and knowledge from media, as they prefer to go to “Guru Google”, so WZCC is focusing on Social media from all angles.

WZCC focuses on Entrepreneurs as well as Professionals and provides knowledge & information to all. She then spoke in detail about WZCC different Wings – ‘WE’ Women entrepreneurs Wing, Youth Wing, Business Advisory Board, Zoroastrian Faculty Network helping Members to upgrade & uplift themselves thus enrich the members.

Chapter Chairs of Mumbai & Pune Mr Xerxes Dastur and Mr Tehmasp Bharucha presented the detailed activities of their Chapters for the year under review. The report of Bangalore Chapter was presented by their Hon. Secretary Dr Sanaya Patell via Zoom by a PP presentation.

Mr Jimmy Khan Hon Treasurer India Region presented the Financial Report of India Region for the year ended March 31st, 2022. This was followed by the Hon. Secretary’s report for the year which was well received.

This was followed by the Youth Wing Report, presented by the Youth Director, India Region Ms Rashna Sanjana-Aga. She mentioned that this year the Youth Wing has concentrated on their Project of providing Jobs for Zoroastrian Youth and gave a detailed report on the number of youth who have benefitted from this project.

Following that a report on Business Advisory Committee was presented by Mr Adi Sigantoria enumerating how many WZCC Members benefitted from the interest free funding provided by WZCC

This was followed by a report on ZFN (Zoroastrian Faculty Network), a WZCC project, which assists Zoroastrian students from India to gain admission into foreign Universities and address related questions.

Ms Percis Dubash of 'WE' Wing, then narrated several interesting Webinars organized by the 'WE' Wing. She mentioned that "WE" Wing did not see Covid 19 as a challenge but took it as an opportunity to include "WE" entrepreneurs not only from all Chapters in India but also Globally.

Then came the Highlight of the evening, audience was enlightened by the Chief Guest of the evening, Justice (Retd) Shahrukh Kathawalla. His topic was "Parsi Entrepreneurship – A Legacy of Courage, Leadership & Philanthropy". It was a very informative talk covering the immense contribution of Parsis in India. He mentioned that although small in number, the Parsi community's entrepreneurial and business contribution to the country has been enormous. The history of Parsis can be traced back to the 8th century when they migrated from Persia (Iran) to the Indian shores to avoid persecution from Arab conquests in their homeland. Parsis have been at the forefront of many social and economic reforms in India. Parsis were agriculturists in the initial phases in India after which was followed by the cotton boom largely fueled by Parsi entrepreneurs. This was followed by many flourishing business houses – the Petits, Wadias, Tatas, Godrej, Pallonji. Mr Jamshedji Tata who founded the Tata group was a pioneer and was called the "Father of Indian Industries".

The contribution of Parsis to India has been immense, from entrepreneurs and legal luminaries to army veterans. He urged the Parsi Zoroastrian Youth to join WZCC in large numbers & avail its platform in networking & various programs which WZCC offers. The younger generation should take forward the legacy of Trade, Commerce & philanthropy.

Later Members were entertained by the trio Arun Doshi, Rajiv Raj and Nazneen Gamadia by recitals on the harmonica of old English & Hindi songs - the audience also participated and each & everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mr Adi Siganporia proposed the Vote of Thanks and made special mention of all those present, guests, well-wishers, auditors, various Committee Members and Central Administrative Office staff under the leadership of the CEO Mr Aspi Antia.

This was followed with networking amongst all who attended and ended with a sumptuous buffet dinner specially catered for WZCC by West End Hotel.
