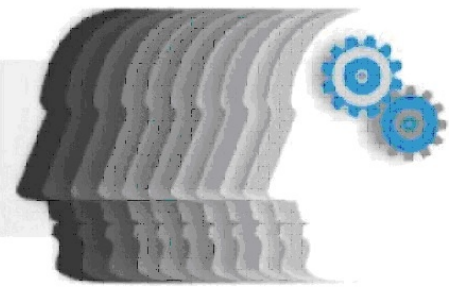


# MIInd





**MInd**  
THE MENSA INDIA MAGAZINE



**mensa**

**INDIA**



THE MENSA INDIA MAGAZINE

Mar-Apr 2022

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Hello Mensans!

Mensa India last year volunteered to support an initiative called 'Anukarniya', details of which can be found on page 5.

Featured on the cover is a photograph by Dipen Mehta, Mensa Mumbai.

Coming to the international section, poets and photographers among us might want to participate in the international contests. Details of the contests are on pages 8 and 11 respectively.

Also, positions are open for volunteers for Mensa International. Go to page 8 for more details.

Send in your articles and contributions in plain text format and pictures in high resolution .jpg format to: [editor@mensaindia.org](mailto:editor@mensaindia.org)

Krishnan V. Iyer  
Editor-in-chief, MInd

On the cover:

'Solar hues'

by Dipen Mehta, Mensa Mumbai

Disclaimer:

All contents in this magazine are opinions of the individual authors and contributors. Neither Mensa India, the society, its office bearers nor the editors are responsible for any content or views expressed.

## Art & Photography



Victorian Gothic architecture inside the iconic BMC HQ Mumbai

-Imtiyaz Siagara, Mensa Mumbai

## Writings & Meanderings

### Need

don't take what you want  
only what you need  
might need  
could need  
will need  
plan to need  
have-no-idea-  
you-should-need  
might have needed  
had you heeded  
the gospel  
of the seed —  
“save gather breed”

the time will be right  
will be ripe  
and all that you have saved  
all that you have hoarded  
will feed  
the greed  
of growth

only then —  
in that moment,  
we will call it need

for which seed  
thinks of another  
in a garden full of  
weeds?

-Ruchita Madhok, Mensa Mumbai

# Mensa India Initiatives



## Anukarniya: The Role Models

### Podcast series

At some point in time, we have all asked ourselves, "what if I knew it before? Things would have been so different today!" at crucial junctures of our career. Many of us get the needed exposure and guidance at later stages of our lives resulting in much more struggle to achieve our dreams, and in the worst cases, losing the will to continue pursuing our dreams. There are millions of young minds asking the same question we once asked ourselves and are fighting the same battles that we once did. History doesn't have to repeat itself, and the cycle needs to break.

'Anukarniya' is a Sanskrit word that means an exemplary one. Your failures, achievements, and mistakes shape your career and make you the person you are today; an Anukarniya, a fighter and a dreamer. Anukarniya is one such initiative that aims to guide the struggling youth through the story of failure and success of those who are now living their dreams, and bring awareness about the opportunities available to help them rise towards their goals.

Two international organizations viz. 1MWIS (1 Million Women in STEM) and MENSA India support the initiative to make our mission possible. 1MWIS is a vital initiative that brings various experts on a single platform for youth to get inspired and follow, and MENSA India has numerous initiatives which facilitate tribal and rural youth in acquiring education. Hence, with such exemplary members, we aim to reach out and bring forth inspiring personalities with stories of their incredible journey from failure to success.

If you think you are an Anukarniya or know someone who is, you can reach us at [anukarniya@gmail.com](mailto:anukarniya@gmail.com). Our initiative has been featured in "Yuva Ranabhoomi," a monthly magazine of India, to support and guide the youth.

# Pages From Mensa World Journal

## From The ExComm

### Pandemic Challenges

After two years the coronavirus caught up with me as well. Even with two vaccine shots, COVID packed quite a punch, and hit just as I was getting ready for the third booster inoculation. The fever and sore throat were bad, but most annoying right now is the signature disappearance of all smell and flavour. Admittedly Swedish food is not known for its pungency but coffee has been reduced to nothing but hot black water. Even chocolate is no longer chocolate, but at least it tastes sweet.

Of course, none of this is unusual in any way. With a disease that has killed well over five million people, one should be lucky if these relatively mild discomforts are the worst that happens. By some

estimates the Omicron variant is so contagious it will soon find a home in just about everyone's nostrils. And maybe this is how it ends - and it will not be too soon!

When I wrote this column back in 2020, I described how we had to cancel our ExComm spring meeting due to Covid. Now in 2022 it's the exact same story. How little has changed in two years! But also how much! And just like many shops and restaurants used the pandemic to renovate and rebuild while the customers were gone, Mensa International has focused inwards on our internal processes and services. So I like to think 2022 is the year we go back to normal, with more strength and preparation as an organisation.

### The 2021 IBD Meeting

The main yearly event for Mensa International is the meeting of the International Board of Directors (IBD), with representatives from each Full National Mensa. Last year it was held on two Saturdays in November as an online Zoom conference live streamed to members on our Workplace community. You can actually still watch it there. More importantly, if you are curious about the governance and politics of the Mensa organisation, the IBD meeting should be your focal point.

The Agenda alone is 179 pages. Fewer than 20 of those pages deal with the actual meeting. The rest is a compact set of reports from each national Mensa in the world, as well as all international volunteers. Lots of fascinating data in there. You can find all historic agendas, and minutes on mensa.org. You can read what is going on in every national group, what has changed since last year, projects relating to PR, giftedness, testing and so on. A table of the membership number by country counts our worldwide membership to be 143,666. Comparing with the 2019 numbers, it means the pandemic has only caused a 1 per cent drop in members. This bodes well for the continuation.

### Motions passed

Most motions passed were minor updates to the Bylaws, but some more substantial decisions were also made.

## Pages From Mensa World Journal

- The IBD voted to sponsor the European Mensa Juniors Camp in Germany this summer, with £4000.
- A donation of £16 000 to the Mensa Education and Research Foundation, for the purpose of funding international scholarships.
- The updated strategic plan for Mensa International was approved, replacing the older document from 2012.
- An update to the Special Interest Group policy. It makes clearer the distinction between National SIGs and International SIGs. N-SIGs are the responsibility of national Mensas, but they may still accept foreign members if they want. I-SIGs are the responsibility of Mensa International and have by definition members from more than one country from the start.
- A Task Group was set up to gather data and propose actions needed to reduce harassment and other inappropriate behaviours within Mensa.
- The 2024 IBD meeting will be held in the Asia-Pacific region. Host country to be decided in October. By earlier decisions the 2022 meeting is in Montenegro and 2023 in Texas, USA.
- An international member directory is to be set up, to serve as the master source of membership status information internationally.

This will require both the acquisition of an appropriate software platform (a CRM system) and coordination with each single national Mensa to ensure that updated member data can be shared with Mensa International routinely, securely and in line with data privacy regulations. An international member directory would be used to verify membership outside of one's home group and would allow for easier access to FB groups, SIGs, the website, the Workplace community and whatever other services Mensa will offer in the future. A lot of work remains, but a policy foundation has now been laid in our Bylaws that will guide this work going forward.

### **A note on Workplace**

Our sprawling community on Workplace from Meta is alive and well. Last year we managed to secure free access under the "Workplace for Good" programme open to eligible non-profit organisations. All Mensa members are welcome to sign up. This is both a volunteer community where the IBD and ExComm are doing business, and a place for members to hang out with seventy active groups on many topics. See <https://www.mensa.org/members/connections/workplace> for information on how to log in. If you cannot access mensa.org, please contact your national Mensa member support. Floreat Mensa!

Björn Liljeqvist  
Chairman, Mensa International

## Pages From Mensa World Journal

### MWJ International Poetry Competition 2022

Members are invited to submit their original poems to the editor, [mwjeditor@mensa.org](mailto:mwjeditor@mensa.org), by August 1, 2022.

Poems are to be previously unpublished and no longer than 30 lines in length.

The theme for the competition is Nature. All entries must be in English and following the judges' decision, no correspondence will be entered into.

By submitting an entry (maximum of one entry) into the competition, members understand that their poem may be published in the Mensa World Journal or in any other National Mensa journal at the editors' discretion. The author will, of course, be acknowledged.

Please include your National Mensa and membership number with your entry.

### What's in the MWJ this month?

- our Chairman Björn Liljeqvist reports on the 2021 IBD meeting on pp 3 and 4.
- there's an extra page this month to accommodate the financial reports. Thank you to our Treasurer, Jacek Cywinski, for four pages of these statements on pp 4, 5, 6 and 7.
- meet Hana Dojcanova, President of Mensa Slovakia, on p8.
- if you've been feeling guilty about that 'must-have' morning coffee, there's good news for you on p9!
- ever wondered what happens in the brain when you switch from simply hearing, to actively listening? p10 has the latest research.
- a big thank you to John Blinke, our Science guru, who never fails to provide timely and interesting science snippets! Read his latest Supplementally... column on p11.
- and on p13, internationally-renowned 'puzzlist' and Mensa's own Therese Moodie-Bloom confounds us again with her logic puzzles.

Download/read the full-colour MWJ at [www.mensa.org](http://www.mensa.org)

Kate Nacard, Editor, MWJ

# Pages From Mensa World Journal

## From The ExComm

*From the Director of Administration*



Dear all,

By the time you read this, we will - hopefully - have our first on-site ExComm meeting in the spring, our first opportunity to meet face to face since 2019, and the first get-together of the current ExComm. While writing this there is still a little anxious voice in my head worrying that this announcement might be overtaken by reality once again, probably the next COVID-19 variant or other complications that might force us to cancel again or prevent us from having the required quorum to make decisions. But fingers crossed for all events and meetings scheduled for 2022.

I wanted to say thank you to all the teams who volunteer(ed) to organise local, national and international, both virtual and on-site, events during the last two challenging years! A very special thanks to those teams who had (or still have) to cancel their events - sometimes even more than once, sometimes at the very last minute. I guess most of us know the feeling when your boss cancels a project in which you have invested quite a lot of time and passion. I really hope you can attend and enjoy some of the upcoming gatherings this year!

Last week at work, I sent a virtual goodbye to the third colleague leaving my team before we had a chance to meet in person. Working in international teams we are no strangers to virtual cooperation but it really makes a difference when you meet at least once or twice a year. After several attempts to arrange an ExComm meeting and two virtual IBD meetings I am really looking forward to being in the same room together to discuss and implement our plans for 2022 and beyond.

Take a look at our Business Plan (<https://bit.ly/MIPlan22>) to get an overview of the projects we'll be working on! As our international membership polls have shown expectations to be more than a social club, fulfil the goals of our constitution and make a difference, I am very excited to launch our own charity this year, complementing existing charitable work by national Mensas with projects to identify and foster intelligence among mainly young people in parts of the world where opportunities may be scarce. If you want to stay up to date with the progress of our various projects, register on [www.mensa.org](http://www.mensa.org) to subscribe to our monthly international newsletter. Join our Workplace community (<https://bit.ly/MIworkplace>) to follow IBD discussions, join groups that catch your interest and meet other members online.

Isabella Holz

## Pages From Mensa World Journal

### Join Our Volunteer Team!

If you are interested in volunteering for Mensa International, take the chance to become part of a great international team. The following international positions and committees are due to be appointed in 2022 with the term commencing after the IBD meeting in October:

Editor Mensa World Journal  
International Archivist  
International Communications Officer  
International Events Coordinator  
International SIGHT Coordinator  
International SIGs Coordinator  
International Standards Committee  
Gifted Youth Committee  
Governance Papers Advisory Committee  
Name, Logo, and Licensing Committee  
International Volunteers Network Committee

In addition to these formal appointments, we will add project-related tasks in the course of the year.

Job descriptions for each role, deadlines and the application form are available on <https://bit.ly/Mlvolunteers22> (you must be logged on to view the page). These positions are open to all members worldwide.

Looking forward to your application!

Regards,  
Isabella

## Pages From Mensa World Journal

### What's in the MWJ this month?

- Have a look at p2 for information about the 2022 Mensa International Photographer of the Year competition! Also on p2 is news of Mensa South Africa's Annual Gathering in September.
- on p3, our Director of Administration, Isabella Holz, thanks worldwide volunteers, and informs us about the current Mensa International's (MI) Business Plan outlining an overview of MI's future projects.
- on p4 Isabella lists the Volunteer Positions open to applicants this year.
- also on p4, there's notice of the 2022 Poetry Competition and a wonderful poem by Canadian member, Arthur J. L. Salvat.
- The Australian Mensa Team has won the top spot in the 2021 CyberTaipan Competition - read about it on p5!
- on p6, we delve into the '60's when Direct International Mensan, Gopalan Kutty, reminisces about his Autograph book...
- meet Mensan David Zapatka on p7.
- learn more about SIGHT and how you can help on p8.
- what's the best way to fix a sad mood? Check out the latest research on p9.
- science news guru John Blinke is back on p10, and, Therese's brain teasers are teasing our brains again on p12!

Download/read the full-colour MWJ at [www.mensa.org](http://www.mensa.org)

Kate Nacard, Editor, MWJ

### Mensa International Photographer of the Year 2022

The search for Mensa International's Photographer of the Year 2022 is on! Our global membership includes Mensans from over fifty countries with different languages, customs and traditions. This competition forms a platform where you can converge with a single, visual language!

This year we have collaborated with the Mensa World's Journal's Editor, organiser of the Mensa International Poetry Competition, to find a common theme for both the Poetry Competition and the PhotoCup competition, and we have alighted upon Nature – a broad theme for both poets and photographers!

Nature – Mother Nature? The environment? Flora or fauna? The power of natural phenomena? The essential core or character of an entity? The personality, disposition, psyche, constitution of a person? Use your creativity, skills, and technical expertise to produce your entry in this year's Photocup competition.

If your Mensa chapter is holding a national competition to select entries for the International phase, a set of the rules and closing dates will be available from your national office or board.

## Pages From Mensa World Journal

NB: DIRECT INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS and members from countries NOT holding national contests are eligible to enter the International competition by sending two entries only to [milphotocup2022@gmail.com](mailto:milphotocup2022@gmail.com) by July 31.

The Mensa International Photographer of the Year 2022 could be you!

### **SIGHT - Services for Information, Guidance and Hospitality to Travellers**

#### **SIGHT travelling and map help needed**

At the time of writing, expectations are that travelling will be slowly getting back to normal when you read this. Hopefully, also, our SIGHT hosts are willing to provide services again, ranging from general information about a town/city to perhaps just a place to sleep. The last two years' activities included getting members stranded in a country to reach their homes again and members travelling because of study asking for assistance.

When travelling to another country, please visit the page <https://www.mensa.org/members/sight>. There is a list of all SIGHT national coordinators, plus some extras in countries without a national Mensa, with their contact details. Also, more information about SIGHT is located there. So please feel free to have a look. And if you spot old information, please let us know!

The map with locations of SIGHT hosts is currently using Google maps. BUT, we would like to move away from Google. In order to do this, we are looking for someone with experience and knowledge of solutions that would be much better than the current solution. So, do you know how we can avoid setting up a tile server ourselves and also how to have custom icons on a map? If so, please contact us at [sight@mensa.org](mailto:sight@mensa.org). The map can be found at <https://www.mensa.org/members/sight/faq>.

#### **Twin Towns & SIGHT**

One of the fairly new activities is Twin Towns, created from an idea of a group of SIGHT-involved people. The goal is to have a group of Mensans from a certain area (city, town, region...) meet with another group elsewhere in the world, for exchange of ideas and thoughts, knowledge and information about the various interesting aspects that may differ from the other location. These could range from food and habits, to living there to being a tourist. This will create insights and improve mutual understanding by learning from cultural differences. This will be executed by holding sessions (currently through the internet but soon hopefully also through travelling) covering various subjects of life.

If you think this could be something for you, see if you can gather a small group (3-10 people, or more) and contact [twintowns@mensa.fi](mailto:twintowns@mensa.fi). The results of 2021 were very promising and fruitful!

Henkhenk Broekhuizen  
[sight@mensa.org](mailto:sight@mensa.org)



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