Dear Respected Members and the American-Pakistan community at large,

**Assalam o Alaykum**

We hope and pray that you are navigating well in these times of continued anxiety. We have spent the last two years (almost) craving for the small joys, the ones we took for granted before the global pandemic turned our lives upside down, and inside out. Hugging our loved ones, friends and neighbors and seeing their unmasked faces. chatting with co-workers and classmates, for those going to school. In-person meetings, when they take place, are still few and rare. Our gratitude for all these little pleasures, albeit in uncertain conditions, cannot be overstated.

Any semblance of normalcy has been hard-won. Our conversations have mainly concentrated on COVID-19 mitigation efforts, getting vaccinations and widespread testing efforts have kept us on our toes. However, whatever little normalcy we have recently experienced, is also abnormal. In New England, we have been fortunate to have relatively lower positivity rates compared to many other States. The pandemic clearly is by no means over and there are many places where the pandemic (specially Delta and Omicron) remains widespread, with hospitals finding themselves overwhelmed with the new surge.

As we look back at the year gone past, it is also worth reflecting on the long journey we took to get here. Navigating through uncertainty and anxiety was very stressful, and yet I cannot thank God enough to be in a position to even write this message and for you to be in a position to read it. So many of our loved ones are not among us. That being said, I also believe in the power of celebration, reflection and optimism. Hope is always in season.

Let us be grateful to the Almighty and look ahead and pray that the next year turns out to be better than the past two years.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all the very best of 2022 and beyond.

**Siraj Khan**

President, PAGB