THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

THE MINUTES OF THE 216th ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (VIRTUAL)

(for the period 2019-2020) HELD ON TUESDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2021

The Two Hundred and Sixteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society (for the period 2019-2020) was held Online on Tuesday, 30th March, 2021, at 5.00 p.m. on a Zoom Platform. Prof. Vispi Balaporia, President, presided over the meeting.

A1 The following members were present:

1.	Ms. Humera Ahmed	25.	Mr. Surendra Kulkarni
2.	Dr. Olav Albuquerque	26.	Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar
3.	Mr. Joseph St. Anne	27.	Ms. Yasmeen Lukmani
4.	Dr. Manisha Anwekar	28.	Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar
5.	Mr. S. Arun	29.	Mr. Vithal Nadkarni
6.	Mr. Deelip Bhone	30.	Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla
7.	Mr. Cyrus Cuzder	31.	Dr. Suraj Pandit
8.	Dr. Kurush Dalal	32.	Mr. Vinayak Parab
9.	Mr. Prabhakar Deodhar	33.	Ms. Kunda Pramilanilakanth
10.	Ms. Supriya Deshmukh	34.	Dr. Mridula Ramanna
11.	Dr. Parineeta Deshpande	35.	Mr. Raamesh Gowri Raghavan
12.	Prof. Arvind Ganachari	36.	Mr. Anil Sawant
13.	Mr. Suhas Gangurde	37.	Dr. Rupa B. Shah
14.	Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule	38.	Mr. B.S. Shashidar
15.	Adv. A.V. Gopalakrishnan	39.	Mr. Anant K. Shinde
16.	Dr. Vijaya Gupchup	40.	Dr. Varsha Shirgaonkar
17.	Mr. Rajiv Laud	41.	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande
18.	Mr. S.G. Kale	42.	Mr. Arvind Sonawale
19.	Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat	43.	Dr. Purnima Srikrishna
20.	Mr. Yogesh Kamdar	44.	Dr. Usha Thakkar
21.	Dr. Gita Kasturi	45.	Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly
22.	Dr. Madhu Kelkar	46.	Dr. Maneesha Tikekar
23.	Mr. Deepak Kulkarni	47	Dr. Meena Vaishampayan
24.	Mr. Mangesh Kulkarni	48.	Mr. R. Venkatesh
		49.	Dr. Usha R. Vijailakshmi

A2 At the outset, the Officiating Hon. Secretary, Dr. Usha R. Vijailakshmi, welcomed the members to the Society's 216th AGM. She then requested the President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, to take over the proceedings of the meeting. \

A3 Thereafter, Prof. Vispi Balaporia delivered the following Presidential address.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

A3.1 Respected Trustees, office bearers, members of the Managing Committee and honourable members of the Society, I welcome you all to the 216th Annual General Meeting of our historic Society.

A3.2 I would like to take you back to 31 August 2019 when members voted me in, with an overwhelming majority, as the first woman President of this 216-year-old institution. It mademewonder how Sir James Mackintosh and his group of seven likeminded gentlemen, who had met so many long years ago to form the Literary Society, would have reacted to a woman heading the institution. But when the euphoria of this landmark achievement had subsided, the enormity of the task brought me down to more solid ground. It was necessary to take stock of the challenges to be faced, to prioritise the needs of the Society, and to judicially allocate the funds required to carry the Society forward. If the members who had cast their vote in my favour had placed their faith in me, I was answerable to them with my actions.

A3.3 The first step in this direction was to have a cohesive team to plan and realise those plans. The Managing Committee that had also been elected afresh had many known faces and a few new ones. These members were also anxious to plan on how to take this venerable institution forward. Sub-committees were formed, earlier decisions were reviewed, and new plans put forward. All in all, a fresh impetus was being given to earlier actions. But, whatever the enthusiasm, one cannot sweep aside the decisions taken by earlier committees that had kept this institution alive and thriving. Perhaps, too much was attempted to be achieved immediately.

A3.4 And, while attempts were being made to rein in the overenthusiastic, an event occurred of unprecedented significance, which was impossible to ignore. The pandemic took over, and we remained passive bystanders.

A3.5 From 22 March 2020, the country went into lockdown mode. No action at the Asiatic Society could be implemented. The world was at a standstill.

A3.6 So, I leave you with this rather unfortunate account of how the affairs of the ASM have unfolded for the period 2019-2020. Some events that did take place from September 2019 to February 2020 are listed below. Since these activities came to a halt in March 2020, this presents us with an opportunity to coincide the Annual Report with the Financial Year. The next Annual Report will cover the period from April 2020 to March 2021.

N.B.: In the normal course of events this AGM would have been held in the month of August 2020. This was not possible owing to the COVID-19 lockdown in force. Hence, a decision was taken in consultation with the Trustees to postpone the elections to the various posts of the office bearers and Managing Committee till the date of the next AGM. Consequently, the term of the current office bearers, members of the Managing Committee, members of the Scrutinizing Committee, and members of all the sub-committees stood extended till the next election could be held.

A3.7 The members were requested to observe two-minutes silence in memory of the members who have passed away:

Homage

1. Mr. Niranjan S. Mehta 2. Mr. Deepak Y. Bhandekar 3. Mr. Kirti Kumar L. Shah

A3.8 Thereafter, the Hon. Secretary took up Agenda Item No. 1 of the Notice.

B] Item No. 1: To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 31st August, 2019:

B1 The Hon. Secretary informed the House that the draft minutes of the 215th AGM held on Saturday, 31st August 2019, were made available in the Society's office for the members.

The draft minutes were also sent by e-mail to those members who were present for the AGM of 2019 and they were requested to send their suggestions / corrections within 30 days. However, no suggestions / corrections were received. Thereafter, the minutes were finalised. She then put the minutes for confirmation.

B2 The minutes of the 215th Annual General Meeting held on 31st August 2019 were put to vote.
Proposed by: Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla
Seconded by: Mr. Dr. Suraj Pandit

B3 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 31st August 2019 were approved and were unanimously confirmed.

C] <u>Item No. 2:</u>
To receive and adopt the Annual Report, the Audited Statement of Accounts of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for the year 2019-2020 and also to note the Action Taken Report

C1 <u>Matters arising out of the Annual Report:</u>

C1.1 There was no Action to be taken on the previous Report 2018-2019. Further, the compliance with the Resolution of AGM 2019 was noted.

C1.2 The Hon. Secretary then put the Annual Report of the Society for the year 2019-2020 to vote and the Annual Report was adopted unanimously. The Audited Statement of Accounts of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for the year 2019-2020 was duly approved by the House.

Proposed by: Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar

Seconded by: Dr. Kurush Dalal

C1.3 The Hon. Secretary then took up Item No.3.

D] Item No. 3: To ratify the names of two Trustees recommended by the Managing Committee.

D1 The Officiating Hon. Secretary, Dr. Usha R. Vijailakshmi, informed the House that two Trustees, Dr. Anil Kakodkar and Dr. Suma Chitnis, whose term was from 2017-2023, had resigned. The Managing Committee at its meeting held on 18th March 2021 had recommended to appoint two Trustees for the unexpired period of the term 2017-2023, in their place. The Officiating Hon. Secretary explained that although after bifurcation, the appointment of 6 trustees was the convention, the Trust Deed of the Society states "not less than 3 and not more than 5 Trustees." Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak had pointed out that if the Managing Committee wants to appoint 6 trustees, then such an amendment will have to be submitted to the Charity Commissioner for his approval. The Managing Committee had also opined that it is preferable to have an odd number of Trustees on the Board of Trustees. Hence, in place of Dr. Anil Kakodkar and Dr. Suma Chitnis, the name of Mr. S.G. Kale was proposed and accepted unanimously for the residual period 2020-2023 by the Managing Committee and forwarded for ratification in the General Body.

D2 Thereafter, the following resolution was passed unanimously by the General Body:
Resolved that Mr. S.G. Kale be appointed as the Trustee of the Society for the unexpired portion of the six years tenure of Dr. Anil Kakodkar / Dr. Suma Chitnis (i.e. residual period 2020 - 2023 till the end of the AGM of 2023)

Proposed by – Prof. Vispi Balaporia
Seconded by – Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande

E] Item No. 4: To consider the resolutions.

E-A Proposed resolutions (From Managing Committee):

The Managing Committee unanimously recommends the following resolution, which was passed in its meeting held on 18th March 2021, to the General Body for approval:

E-A1 4A.1 The Managing Committee decided to place before the forthcoming AGM, the following Resolution pertaining to hike in the membership charges for certain categories:

The rates for the below categories will be applicable from 1st April 2022.

a. Non-Resident Annual from Rs 500/- to Rs. 1,000/-;
b. Non-Resident Life from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs.10,000/-
c. Reader from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1,000/-
d. Student from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/- (for U.G. students);
from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 1,000/- (for PG / Ph.D students)
d. Visiting Scholar from Rs. 1,000/- to Rs.1,500/- weekly;
from Rs.3,000/- to Rs.5,000/- monthly
e. Diplomat from Rs.10,000/- to Rs.20,000/-.

The rates for Granth Sanjeevani and 'Adopt a Book' scheme will be applicable from 1st April 2021.

f. Granth Sanjeevani from Rs.2,400/- to Rs.3,000/- per annum for non-members.

Discounts available to the members of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (Resident Life – Rs.750/- and Resident Member – Rs.1,500/-)

g. 'Adopt a Book' Scheme from Rs.7,500/- to Rs.10,000/-.

Proposed by: Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak
Seconded by: Dr. Varsha Shirgaonkar

Explanatory note:
To compensate for the overall rising costs which affect the running of the Society.

E-A1.1 The Officiating Hon. Secretary explained the need for an increase in the Membership charges. The resolution was put to vote and it was passed unanimously in the AGM.

E-B Proposed resolutions (From Members):

The resolution sent by Mr. Joy Thomas was not accepted by the Managing Committee as the proposal was not in the form of a resolution, and the names of the persons proposing and seconding the resolution were missing.

F] <u>Item No. 5:</u>
Any other business that may be brought forward with the permission of the Chair

F.1 The Officiating Hon. Secretary, Dr. Usha R. Vijailakshmi, thanked the members for their presence Online and participation in the Annual General Meeting.

F.2 As there was no other matter for discussion, the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Prof. Vispi R. Balaporia
President

Dr. Usha R. Vijailakshmi
Officiating Hon. Secretary

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