

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

THE MINUTES OF THE 220TH AGM HELD ON SATURDAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2024

A] The Two Hundred and Twentieth (220th) Annual General Body Meeting of the Society (for the period 2024-2025) was held on Saturday, 28th September 2024, at 3.30 p.m. in the Durbar Hall of the Society. **Prof. Vispi Balaporia**, President of the Society, presided at the meeting.

A1 The following members were present:

1	Mr. Sachin Agrawal	34	Mr. Abhijit B. Ghorpade
2	Mr. Joseph St. Anne	35	Ms. Meena Gokhale
3	Ms. Urvashi Ashta	36	Mr. A. V. Gapalkrishnan
4	Mr. Ramesh Bandre	37	Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta
5	Mr. Pramod V. Bapat	38	Mr. Cyrus Guzder
4	Mr. Biplov Belel	39	Mr. Neel Helekar
5	Mr. Hemangi Bhagwat	40	Mr. Amol Ashok Jadhav
6	Ms. Nilofer Bhagwat	41	Mr. Rajan Jaykar
7	Mr. Mandar Bharde	42	Mr. Aziz Javeri
8	Mr. Chaitanya Bhide	43	Dr. Leela Jois
9	Mr. Sanjay Bhide	44	Mr. Umang Kale
10	Mr. Deelip Bhone	45	Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat
11	Mr. Ashutosh Bishnoi	46	Mr. Digamber L. Kamble
12	Ms. Rama Bishnoi	47	Mr. Y. H. Kamble
13	Mr. Hitesh Brahmabhatt	48	Mr. Vishu Kanhere
14	Ms. Mandira Chakraborty	49	Dr. Kumud Kanitkar
15	Ms. V. M. Chakravarthy	50	Mr. Dilip Karambelkar
16	Ms. Prachi Chaudhari	51	Mr. Umesh Kashikar
17	Ms. Sushrut Chitale	52	Mr. Ashutosh Kashyap
18	Mr. Francis X. Correia	53	Ms. Meher Kelawala
19	Ms. Sushama V. Dabak	54	Mr. Kapil Kelkar
20	Mr. Sandeep Dahisarkar	55	Ms. Madhu Kelkar
21	Mr. Mahendra Damle	56	Ms. Kumar Ketkar
22	Mr. S. G. Dani	57	Mr. Sanjay Kher
23	Ms. Rajani R. Desai	58	Mrs. Sanjeevani Kher
24	Ms. L. E. Dhariwala	59	Ms. Neeta Kolhatkar
25	Mr. Vilas Dhavale	60	Dr. Anita Rane-Kothare
26	Mr. Sunil Dighe	61	Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar
27	Mr. Jitendra Dixit	62	Mr. Dhaval kulkarni
28	Mr. Rafeeq Elias	63	Mr. Manoj Kulkarni
29	Dr. Nasareen Fazalbhoy	64	Mr. Nachiket Kulkarni
30	Dr. Kamala Ganesh	65	Mr. Surendra Kulkarni
31	Mr. V. V. Ganpule	66	Mr. Ajay kumar
32	Mr. Yogesh Ghaisas	67	Ms. Sifra Lentin
33	Dr. T. R. Ghoble	68	Ms. Tulsi Lingareddy

69	Dr. Yameen Lukmani	100	Dr. Anuradha K. Ranade
70	Ms. Pooja Gupta Maurkar	101	Mr. Prakash Reddy
71	Ms. Anuradha Malshe	102	Mr. Jayant Sagade
72	Mr. Devdatta Malshe	103	Mr. Rajesh Prabhu Salgoankar
73	Ms. Anjali Masarguppi	104	Mr. Pulind Sawant
74	Ms. Santoshee Mishra	105	Mr. Pankaj V. Samel
75	Dr. Prachi Moghe	106	Mr. Anil W. Sawant
76	Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee	107	Mr. Yogesh Shah
77	Mr. Abhijit Mulye	108	Mr. G. S. Shahani
78	Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar	109	Mr. S. Arun
79	Mr. Vithal Nadkarni	110	Ms. Prakriti Sharan
80	Ms. D. Nagamani	111	Mr. B.S. Shashidar
81	Ms. Sneha Nagarkar	112	Mr. Kiran Shelar
82	Mr. Ajith G. Nair	113	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande
83	Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla	114	Mr. N. Sreejith
84	Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat	115	Mr. Girish Srinivasan
85	Dr. Kunda P. N.	116	Ms. Savitha Suri
86	Ms. Prajakti Pai	117	Mrs. Anahita Tarapore
87	Mr. Amit Pai	118	Mr. Yogesh C. Thakker
88	Prof. Suraj A. Pandit	119	Mr. Vijay Vaidya
89	Mr. Vinayak Parab	120	Dr. Meena Vaishampayan
90	Ms. Chitra Paranjpe	121	Mr. R. Venkatesh
91	Mr. Vikas Paranjape	122	Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi
92	Ms. Renu Parekh	123	Mr. Milind Vora
93	Mr. Nobby Pariyaram	124	Mr. Dhairya Vyas
94	Mr. Jawant Patil	125	Mr. R. Wadia
95	Mr. Omkar Patil	126	Mr. Hrishikesh Wagh
96	Mr. C. M. Paulsil	127	Mr. Sunil Bhirud
97	Mr. Deepak Pawar		(ASM Staff Representative)
98	Mr. Vilas J. Pawal		
99	Ms. Akshatha Y. Prabhu		

- A2 At the outset, the President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, welcomed all the Members to the 220th AGM. She asked the House to authorize her to invite two persons, Mr. Atul Shahade, Internal Auditor and Ms. Payal Mazumdar, C.A., who were doing an excellent job attending to the accounts of the Society. Later she added that the Returning Officer, Mr. Giridhar Shetty, and the Assistant Returning Officer – Mr. B.S. Shashidar and Mr. S. Arun, wished to make an announcement. Mr. Shetty pointed out that there were 7 posts in the Scrutinizing Committee and that as only 7 persons had filed their nominations, they were elected unopposed. As regards the Managing Committee he stated that there were 5 vacancies, and 12 persons had filed their nominations. Hence, elections would be held for these vacancies. He also asked for volunteers to help during the elections and for the counting of votes later on.
- A3 At this point, Mr. Surendra Kulkarni made a statement that people who paid their dues before the elections should be allowed to vote and attend the AGM. This practice was going on for 40 years. The Hon. Secretary, Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande, also said that if at the time of the AGM, a member is not a defaulter, then he/she should be permitted to attend the AGM.
- A4 At this point Mr. Pulind Samant raised a question. He wanted to know if this AGM meeting was valid. He explained that the Annual Report had only been sent yesterday. To this the Hon. Secretary explained that the Annual Report had actually been sent 14 days in advance and only certain changes and clarifications had been made in the Annual Report which was sent yesterday. It was not an entirely new report. The House in its wisdom should accept this. However, Mr. Pulind Samant insisted that members had not been given enough time to note these changes and omissions.
- A5 At this point, Adv. Sanjay Kher pointed out that the House must be told all the facts. He was of the opinion that the statement of facts made by him and others had not been included in the Annual Report. He also

made an announcement that during the Managing Committee meeting held on 6th September 2024, the unaudited accounts were shown as though they have been audited.

- A6 After a detailed discussion on this point, it was agreed that the word “Audited” was wrongly used. He also pointed out other errors and lapses. He added that the Accounts, the Annual Report and the Financial Review should have been sent together according to Rule 8(a) of the ASM Rules and Regulations. He also stated that the Annual Report had been sent to the General Body without being passed by the Managing Committee.
- A7 The Hon. Secretary explained to the House that at the end of the meeting of the Managing Committee held on 10th September 2024 there was so much of argument and confusion that she forgot to ask a simple question: “I take it that this Annual Report, which was sent to the Managing Committee members, is passed by all of you since there is no criticism or suggestion that we have received.” This was a mistake. It was not as if the Annual Report was not given to the Managing Committee. It had been sent 14 days earlier.
- A8 A long and detailed discussion followed and Adv. Sanjay Kher pointed out that the Annual Report and the Financial Review of the Society as presented did not reveal what had actually transpired.
- A9 There was a discrepancy between the Annual Report that was sent to the Members yesterday, the 27th September 2024, and that which had been passed at the day long Online meeting of the Managing Committee held on 26th September 2024.
- A10 Adv. Kher further stated that the Resolution at the beginning of the Annual Report had been changed and wrongly attributed to Vice Presidents – Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar and Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi.
- A11 At this point, Ms. Savitha Suri asked whether this AGM is going to continue. Adv. A.V. Gopalakrishnan stated that unfortunately there was no agreement between the Managing Committee members.
- A12 At this point, the Chairperson of the Trustees, Prof. Bhalchandra Munekar, intervened and he asked whether the statements made by Adv. Sanjay Kher regarding various lapses in the functioning of the Managing Committee were substantially true. He added that even if they were they should be condoned and the AGM should take place. Today, the 28th September was perhaps the last date for having the AGM and if for any reason, Prof. Munekar said, this meeting did not take place, the Asiatic Society would not get the Grant. It was also pointed out that whatever mistakes had taken place were the collective responsibility of the Managing Committee. He admitted that there were obviously many gaps and lacuna in the functioning of the Managing Committee. However, he sincerely appealed to the House to carry forward with this meeting.
- A13 Ms. Renu Parekh stated that the Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) Project had not been properly represented. She had raised objections and concerns with the MoU signed with the MGL. She was sorry that no cognizance was taken of this fact although she was a lawyer.
- A14 At this point, Mr. Surendra Kulkarni had a query, which he addressed to the many lawyers that were present. He asked whether the elections would be valid in case today's meeting was cancelled.
- A15 Prof. Munekar again pointed out that this discussion had gone on for more than an hour and that we could not wait indefinitely to decide whether we are holding the Meeting or not. At this point, the Vice President, Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar, informed the House that as a matter of fact, she had not proposed the resolution which appeared at the beginning of the Annual Report, it had been erroneously attributed to her. However, she informed the House that she was at the Asiatic throughout that evening along with Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi, Vice President. Their names had been added after they had left. Prof. Vijailakshmi said that she had not seconded the said resolution either. She had noted down the changes suggested in the Online meeting of the Managing Committee held on 26th September in a ‘doc / word file’ and passed it to the Office for incorporating in the Annual Accounts file. She later checked with the office whether they had incorporated the said changes. The office confirmed that they had. She requested the House to condone the error and let the proceedings continue as not holding the AGM before 30th September may lead to the Grants being stopped.

- A16 Mr. Yogiraj Sapre also appealed to the House to consider the fact that we had received Rs.75 Lakhs from the BMC and requested that the meeting should continue.
- A17 The Chairperson of the Trustees, Prof. Mungekar, once again cautioned the House of the precarious financial condition of the House and reiterated that if the meeting did not take place, it would jeopardize our Grants.
- A18 Adv. Sanjay Kher brought to the attention of the General Body that the Annual Report was not passed by the Managing Committee, and hence, it cannot be passed by the General Body. It led to a lengthy discussion. Mr. Pulind Samant and Mr. C.M. Paulsil had specifically warned the members present that going ahead with the proceedings would lead to a creation of historically wrong precedent if the General Body passed the Annual Report in spite of the facts discussed before it. Mr. Samant and Mr. Paulsil added that passing the Annual Report by the General Body would itself be illegal in view of the fact that it was not passed by the Managing Committee in the first instance.
- A19 The General Body assisted by Adv. Kher and Prof. Mungekar concluded that the Annual Accounts was duly passed, the meeting could continue with the rest of the agenda, and the Annual Report and the Financial Review be sent back to the Managing Committee for approval. However, as the term of incumbent Managing Committee had expired the General Body needed to extend the term of the Managing Committee to complete the unfinished task.
- A20 The General Body also discussed and passed the following resolutions and it requested the Hon. Secretary to preface the resolutions with a brief background note.

A21 Note of the Resolutions passed at the Annual General Body (AGM) meeting of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (Society), held on 28th September 2024:

A21-1 A broad background leading up to the said resolutions:

1. On commencement of the 220th AGM, a member of the Society raised a point of order, wanting to know why the Annual Report of the Society was re-circulated the night before the commencement of the AGM; and since this was not in order, whether the AGM could be said to be validly constituted?
2. The President, through a member of the Managing Committee (MC), submitted the following facts leading up to the AGM.
3. As regards the Annual Accounts of the Society, Members were informed that there were certain discrepancies in the passing of the Audited Annual Accounts of the Society. Upon becoming aware, the Managing Committee met the internal auditors, and following thorough discussions, which also involved the Finance Secretary, accepted submissions made, and the MC concluded that the Annual Accounts *prima facie* appear to be audited, and thus defects in the calling for MC meetings could be condoned.
4. As regards the Annual Report (AR) and the Financial Review (FR) documents, members were informed unbeknownst to members of the Managing Committee, the AR and FR circulated to the GB on 13/09/24, which documents were also not reviewed and passed by the MC.
5. Members were then informed that with a view to rectifying this anomaly, the MC met on the 25th and 26th of September 2024 and reviewed the AR and FR, and after all suggested changes were discussed and incorporated, the two documents were passed by the MC, and approved for circulating to Society's members.
6. However, the AR and FR which came to be circulated to our members, on the night of 27th September 2024, did not include all changes as approved by the MC. In other words, the AR and FR, circulated on the night before the AGM, were not as passed by the MC.

7. In view of the above, the 220th AGM of the Society was now faced with the following issues:
 - (a) whether the AGM could continue its business when provisions of Rule 8(b) of ASM Rules and Regulations, relating to time period for circulating all related documents, had not been adhered to; and
 - (b) whether the AGM could continue its business in view of the fact that the Annual Report and the Financial Review were both not as passed by the MC at its meeting held on 26th September 2024, and thus there was no compliance of Rule 8(A) of ASM Rules and Regulations.
8. Against the background of facts as mentioned above, members of the Society have, after extensive exchange of views, passed the following resolutions.

A21-2 The special Resolutions unanimously passed by members of the Society at their 220th AGM held on 28th September 2024:

- A. **RESOLVED** that the 220th Annual General Meeting of the members of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (Society) shall, subject to such exceptions and prescriptions as appearing hereinbelow, continue attending to the business as listed in the Society's circular dated 23rd August 2024.

Proposed by: Surendra Kulkarni

Seconded by: Vilas Pawar

B. Further Resolved:

- (i) the Annual Report and the Financial Review statement of the Asiatic Society shall not be included in the business of the AGM and the same is sent back to the Managing Committee for incorporating such necessary changes as the Managing Committee shall decide at its meeting to be convened not later than the 15th of October 2024;
- (ii) the said Annual Report and the Financial Review statement, after being passed by the Managing Committee as above, shall thereafter be placed before the General Body Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai at a Special General Body Meeting to be held not later than 3 (three) weeks from the date of the afore stated meeting of the Managing Committee.
- (iii) that upon the Annual Report and the Financial Review statement receiving assent of the General Body of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai at the afore stated Special General Body Meeting, the Managing Committee shall thereafter compile, print and appropriately circulate without delay the **REPORT OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI AND THE LIBRARY OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024**, which shall include the said Annual Report, the said Financial Review, both as passed at the said SGM; and the said compilation shall also include the Audited Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account, all schedules etc., including the Audit Report, all as approved by the 220th Annual General Body Meeting, and shall also include any other relevant document / information as required by law and also by rules of the Society;

Resolution B (i), (ii) and (iii) Proposed by: Savita Suri

Resolution B (i), (ii) and (iii) Seconded by: Vilas Dhavale

(C) FURTHER RESOLVED:

- (i) that in view of the afore stated facts and resolutions, the term of all current members of the Managing Committee shall stand extended until conclusion of Special General Meeting (SGM) stated in the resolution herein above stated.

- (ii) that all members elected at the 220th Annual Meeting of the Members shall commence their term after the Special General Body Meeting stated hereinabove; however, it is clarified for abundant caution, that there shall not be any extension in the tenure of these elected representatives, and all subsequent elections shall be held as and when they are due in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai;

Resolution C (i) and (ii) Proposed by: Sachin Agrawal

Resolution C (i) and (ii) Seconded by: Vinayak Parab

- (D) **Further Resolved** that the Managing Committee of the Society shall comply with all statutory requirements consequent to Resolutions A, B and C hereinabove stated, including but not limited to full disclosure and information to (a) the Trustees of the Society, and (b) the office of the Charity Commissioner, Mumbai.

Resolution D Proposed by: Yogiraj Sapre

Resolution D Seconded by: Suraj Pandit

A21.3 Thereafter, it was decided to continue with the proceedings of the House.

- A22 The Hon. Secretary, Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande, requested the members to observe one minute silence in memory of the following members who had passed away since the last AGM held on 30th September 2023, in which there was the Chairman, Board of Trustees and also former Vice President of the Society; one former Trustee, Honorary Fellow and Society's Silver Medal Winner:

1. Eknath A Kshirsagar, Chairman, Board of Trustees & former Vice President of the Society;
2. Prof. Suma Chitnis, former Board of Trustees;
3. Prof. B.N. Goswami, Honorary Fellow, 2010;
4. Virchand Dharamsey, former Vice President and Society's Silver Medal Winner;
5. Dr. Uma Sheth, former Managing Committee Member;
6. Dr. Vijaya Gupchup;
7. Dr. Geeta Ramana;
8. Mr. Dharmesh Bhatt;
9. Mr. Vijaysinh L. Bhimani; &
10. Ms. Mumtaz A. Currim

- A23 Thereafter, the Hon. Secretary took up Agenda Item No. 1.

B] Item No. 1:

To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Annual General Body held on Saturday, 30th September 2023 and the Special General Body Meeting held on Saturday, 3rd February 2024

- B1 The President placed before the House the minutes of the 219th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 30th September 2024 and the minutes of the Special General Body Meeting held on Saturday, 3rd February 2024 for confirmation.

- B2** The minutes of the 219th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 30th September 2024 and the minutes of the Special General Body Meeting held on Saturday, 3rd February 2024 were approved and confirmed unanimously.

Proposed: Dr Shehernaz Nalwalla

Seconded: Ms Meenal Kshirsagar

C] Item No. 2:

To elect vote counters and scrutineers for the elections

- C1 As per Item No. 2 of the AGM Agenda, the Returning Officer, Mr. Giridhar Shetty, requested from amongst the members who had come for the AGM and Election to volunteer and to act as Vote Counters and Scrutineers / Observers. Thus, the following were chosen as Vote Counters and Observers:

Vote Counters:

- (i) Ms. Rama Bishnoi (ii) Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee
(iii) Ms. Urvashi Ashta (iv) Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat
(v) Mr. Umang Kale

Observer:

- (vi) Mr. Yogesh Ghaisas

- C2 Thereafter, the Returning Officer, Mr. Giridhar Shetty, announced that Agenda Items 3 and 4, pertaining to the elections to the various posts. (Item Nos. 3 and 4 taken together).

- D] **Item No. 3:**
To elect 5 members of the Managing Committee for a period of three years (2024-2027 term)

Item No. 4:

To elect a Scrutinizing Committee consisting of seven members for the year 2024-2025

- D1 The Returning Officer, Mr. Giridhar Shetty, announced the details relating to the Nomination Process, Scrutiny of Nomination Forms and Final List of Nominations (whereby there were no withdrawals by candidates) and the list was displayed on the Society's Notice Board vide the Reports of the Returning Officer dated 13th September, 2024 and 19th September 2024.

- D2 The Returning Officer then announced the results of election to the Scrutinizing Committee as under:

D2.1 SCRUTINIZING COMMITTEE (2024-2025) – 7 Posts:

The Returning Officer said that at the time of Scrutiny on 13th September 2024, only 07 Nomination forms were received for the 7 posts of the Scrutinizing Committee, which were found to be in order and valid. Thus, these 07 candidates were declared as ELECTED UNOPPOSED as Members of the Scrutinizing Committee for the period 2024-2025. Their names are as under:

S.No.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Abhijit Mulye
2.	Anahita Tarapore
3.	Anil Sawant
4.	Devdatta Malshe
5.	Dhairya Vyas
6.	Pankaj Samel
7.	Vaijyanthi Chakravarthy

- D2.2 Thereafter, the Returning Officer announced about the election to the posts of Managing Committee.

D3 MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 5 POSTS [for the period 2024-2027]

The Returning Officer said that for the 5 posts of the Managing Committee (2024-2027), 20 nomination forms were received from 12 candidates. On scrutiny, the 12 nominations were found to be in order and valid. **On the day of Withdrawal of Nomination forms i.e. 19th September 2024**, there was no withdrawal from any of the 12 candidates. As the number of Nomination forms filed are more than vacant posts, election will be held today, the 28th September 2024, the day of the 220th AGM. The final list of 12 candidates, who have filed Nominations and will be contesting the election to the 5 posts of Managing Committee, for the period of 2024-2027 are as under:-

No.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Kiran Shelar
2.	Kumar Ketkar
3.	Mandar Bharde
4.	Mayur Mehta
5.	Nasreen Fazalbhoj
6.	Prakriti Sharan
7.	Pulind Samant
8.	Renu Parekh
9.	Suraj Pandit
10.	Surendra Kulkarni
11.	Vivek Ganpule
12.	Yasmeen Lukmani

D3.1 On 28th September 2024, the day of election at 3.25 p.m. the empty Ballot Box was sealed in the presence of:

Mr. Surendra Kulkarni (Membership No. K-211)

Prof. Suraj Pandit (Membership No. P-189)

Thereafter, the voting commenced at 3.45 p.m. and ended at 6.00 p.m. The ballot box was opened at 6.45 p.m. and vote counting and scrutiny of ballot papers commenced thereafter immediately.

The Results of Elections to the post of Managing Committee (5 posts) for the period 2024-2027 will be declared at the end of the AGM.

F] **Item No. 5:**

To receive and adopt the Annual Report, the Audited Statement of Accounts of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for the year 2023-2024 and to note the Action Taken Report

F1 The Audited Statement of Accounts of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for the year 2023-2024 was unanimously approved by the House.

F2 The Annual Report of the Society for the year 2023-2024 along with the Financial Review of the Society for the year 2023-2024 were deferred by the House. The Annual Report and the Financial Review of the Society for the year 2023-2024 will first be passed by the Managing Committee and later by the General Body in the Special General Body meeting to be held shortly. The term of the incumbent Managing Committee was extended to complete the abovementioned tasks. Four resolutions were passed on the floor by the House to this effect (Ref. Point A-21).

G] **Item No. 6:**

To ratify the names of the two Trustees recommended by the Managing Committee

G1 The President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, announced that the two names of the Trustees had been accepted and approved by the Managing Committee. Mr. Prakash Reddy pointed out that in a democratic process, the entire AGM should be allowed to suggest names of Trustees and elect them unanimously. He also added that their bio-data and commitment should be given to the House. Adv. Sanjay Kher cautioned that this would lead to further problems.

G2 Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar, Chairman, Board of Trustees, pointed out that it had always been the practice that the Managing Committee would suggest the name of the Trustees which is later ratified by the General Body. This was the protocol and procedure followed for many years. He further clarified and explained to the House that this could not be like other elections. No Trustee would accept to contest an election.

G3 Mr. Reddy then asked why the names of the Trustees were not given. The President explained that if the names are revealed in advance then some members have the habit of going to the press and announcing this in the Press which would lead to complications. She then gave the names of the two Trustees that have been chosen –

1. Prof. Dilip Nachane, an eminent academician; and
2. Mr. Akil Kureshi, who had a sound legal background, a retired Chief Judge, High Courts of Rajasthan & Tripura.

G4 Prof. Suraj Pandit, along with a few other members, voiced their concern as to the manner in which the names of the Trustees were placed before the House. Prof. Pandit clarified that his concern was regarding the manner in which it was presented, and not the names of the persons concerned.

G5 Thereafter, the following resolution was placed before the General Body and it was unanimously passed to ratify these appointments:

Resolved that Prof. Dilip Nachane and Mr. Akil Kureshi be appointed as the Trustees of the Society.

Proposed by: Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande

Seconded by: Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar

G6 Thus, the General Body ratified the appointments of both the Trustees - Prof. Dilip Nachane and Mr. Akil Kureshi.

H] **Item No. 7:**

To consider the resolutions.

H-7A Proposed resolutions (from the Managing Committee):

The Managing Committee unanimously recommends the following resolution, which were passed at its meeting held on 14th August 2024, to the General Body for approval:

H-7A-1 The following resolution, unanimously passed by the Managing Committee at its meeting held on 14th August 2024, to confer the Honorary Fellowship of the Society on the following **seven** distinguished persons, was placed before the House. *A brief introduction of the distinguished persons was circulated at the AGM.*

“Resolution that the Managing Committee recommends that the AGM may elect as Honorary Fellows of the Society the following **seven distinguished persons:**

1. Dr. Amitav Ghosh
2. Dr. Arvind Jamkhedkar
3. Dr. Kumud Kanitkar
4. Anand Mahindra
5. Shashi Tharoor
6. Dr. Maneesha Tikekar
7. Pandit Arvind Parikh

Proposed by: Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande

Seconded by: Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar

H-7A-1.1 The President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, informed the House that the following names were recommended by the Managing Committee for their contributions in different fields as the Honorary Fellows of the Society.

1. Amitav Ghosh (*For contribution to the field of Literature*);
2. Dr. Arvind P. Jamkhedkar (*For contribution to the field of Archaeology, Art History, Sanskrit and Tribal History*);
3. Dr. Kumud Kanitkar (*For contribution to the field of Art History*);
4. Anand Mahindra (*For contribution to the field of Industry and Art*);

5. Dr. Shashi Tharoor (For contribution to the field of Literature and Politics); &
6. Prof. Maneesha Tikekar (For contribution to the field of Political Science and Asia Studies)
7. Pandit Arvind Parikh (For contribution to the field of Hindustani Music)

H-7A-1.2 The above resolution for Conferment of Honorary Fellowships of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai on seven renowned scholars was passed by majority of persons present, although some reservations regarding the choice of Dr. Shashi Tharoor were expressed.

H-7B Proposed resolutions (from Members):

The following resolutions submitted by the members before the General Body Meeting for consideration. The comments of the Managing Committee on the resolutions are given at appropriate places below:

H-7B.1 In view of the current precarious financial condition of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (ASM) as well as in view of the lack of suitable options, and also with a view to secure the future of (ASM) for future generations, the Managing Committee of ASM must approach the Government of India, through the Governor of Maharashtra, who is a Patron of ASM by virtue of the position, for securing the status of 'Institute of National Importance' for ASM, at the earliest.

Explanatory note:

It is a known fact that ASM is caught in a critical condition of dire financial difficulties for a few years, which is not showing any sign of ebbing. No actions for lifting ASM out of that state seem to have been taken by the people, who are supposed to have taken them by virtue of the positions of responsibility they have been holding for a good number of years. There is not even a single proposal of that kind on hand, as on date. Recently, on the occasion of a book-launch event on 23/08/24 at ASM, President Mrs. Balaporia confirmed it in front of a gathering of around hundred people, including both members and non-members, saying that ASM would have to be closed down in near future if it did not receive enough grants. Hence this resolution!

Proposed by: Mr. Pulind Samant

Seconded by: Mr. Manoj V. Kulkarni

Managing Committee's Comments:

This suggestion has been communicated to the Government authorities in the past. In spite of reminders, no response was received.

H-7B.1.1 Mr. Pulind Samant was distressed that from 2006 to 2024, no effort was made in this direction by the Managing Committee. Prof. Usha R. Vijailakshmi, Vice President of the Society, said that this was not true. She had written several letters to consider the Asiatic Society of Mumbai as an "Institution of National Importance", but had received no answers. It was also pointed out by Mr. Pulind Samant that the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, which had received the Status of an "Institution of National Importance" was getting substantial funding. This status would solve all the financial problems faced by the Asiatic Society of Mumbai. Mr. Samant pointed out that the proposal had not been sent through the official channel of the Governor of Maharashtra (being the Chief Patron as well as the official representative of the Government of India in the State, which was an essential prerequisite in the manner.

H-7B.1.2 At this point, Mr. Sunil Bhirud, ASM Staff Representative, also said that this was the only means of saving the Society in its precarious financial position. He said that from 1994 till date, serious efforts had not been made to get the position of an "Institution of National Importance" to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai. We have had enormous difficulties in paying the staff salary and have not yet initiated the implementation of 7th Pay Commission. He also said that the Management was perhaps afraid of losing its autonomy as stated in a newspaper article. The argument that the Asiatic Society, Kolkata was not working efficiently, was not a valid argument for not asking for the status of an "Institution of National Importance" for the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

- H-7B.1.3 Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar, Vice President of the Society, assured the House that the Managing Committee would fully support the demand for getting this Status.
- H-7B.1.4 Mr. Anil Sawant said that taking care of the rich heritage of the Society was actually the responsibility of the Government. He had recently visited the Asiatic Society, Kolkata and personally seen that things were functioning very well. They had got this Status through a ruling in Parliament as early as 1984.
- H-7B.1.5 The President also said that this status of an 'Institution of National Importance' could be acquired only through an Act of the Parliament. Prof. Usha R. Vijailakshmi, Vice President of the Society, said that she gives her full support for this initiative. According to her, 'the Society must keep trying in spite of the fact that we have received no response and must try and get this Status for the Asiatic Society of Mumbai'.
- H-7B.1.6 **The above resolution was accepted by the General Body.**

- H-7B.2 ***Resolved that the members be given an option to borrow books through courier service on payment basis.***

Explanatory note:

ASM has a good collection of books of Literary and Scholastic value. Most of its members are not in a position to visit ASM to obtain books in person as many stay in distant suburbs. Hence the average number of members visiting ASM Library is between 5 to 10 a day. Thus, if we look into the figures of those who regularly come and take books it is not more than 30 in number in a year. This low rate of usage of Library's lending facility is due to distant travel which consumes more time and money. In order to ease the difficulty of those members desirous of reading books, ASM should provide them an option to have these books through courier on payment basis.

This will be a great feat in serving the members of ASM. Initially this could be for members residing in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai. Later this could be spread to more areas. Only those books which could be lent are only to be considered as reference books which shall not go out of Library under any circumstances. Other modalities can be worked out by the Library Committee.

Proposed by: A V Gopalakrishnan

Seconded by: Chirag Dighe

Managing Committee's Comments:

This is a good suggestion. However, care should be taken to use a well-established and reliable courier service.

- H-7B.2.1 Adv. Gopalakrishnan said that many members could not come to the Asiatic Society to take books. A Courier Service would help them to get the reading material they desired and they will bear the cost of sending the books to them by Courier. Mrs. Anahita Tarapore felt that books could be lost in transition and who will pay for that, she asked. The Hon. Secretary also said that 35 years ago, this scheme was started but books got lost since members were not at home and our precious books were left with the watchmen. Mr. Gopalakrishnan said that this may be true but even in the present system the books are lost and are missing. He added that only a reliable courier service should be chosen for this task.
- H-7B.2.2 Mr. Rajesh Salgaonkar made a proposal that books should be sent by Speed-Post which is reliable and would cost much less. Regarding the Courier Service, Dr. Prachi Moghe, wondered who would take decision in this matter. Whether it will be the Books Selection Committee or the Managing Committee or the Director of Libraries, Shri Ashok Gadekar.
- H-7B.2.3 Mr. Sunil Bhirud, ASM Employees' Representative, who is in charge of Conservation, also cautioned that we would have to consider the condition of books when they were sent out and after they were returned. He

wondered who would take the responsibility for this. It was suggested that the Library Administration Committee could see to this matter.

H-7B.2.4 The above resolution was accepted by the General Body.

=====

I-7C. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

I-7C.1 Mr. Surendra Kulkarni asked what had transpired in the Chairty Commissioner's Office regarding the appointment of the Returning Officer, Mr. Arun S. The President explained that she and the Hon. Secretary had gone to the Charity Commissioner's Office several times. However, no decision was given. The matter was further complicated because 4 of our members had also complained. Our Advocate, Mr. Hemant Gandhi, liaises between the Asiatic Society and the Charity Commissioner's Office. The next hearing was scheduled to be on 10th October 2024.

I-7C.2 Mr. Kulkarni further inquired why no decision was taken on the Electoral Reforms meticulously prepared by Adv. Gopalakrishnan and his team. 20 months have elapsed and no headway had been made in this matter. The President agreed that a lot of work had been put in by the Committee. But unfortunately this matter had not been discussed in detailed. Adv. Goplalesihnan explained how this Committee was formed and also pointed out that there were many discrepancies in our Rule Book. For e.g. any member could walk in and occupy the seat of the Hon. Secretary who is the CEO of the ASM. Discussing the Electoral Reforms should be the priority of the next Managing Committee.

I-7C.3 Mr. Vilas Dhavale and Prof. Suraj Pandit also suggested that we should hold the Special AGM (SGM) to regularize and pass these matters and that there should be a deadline and a timebound action plan. They suggested that in the coming weeks, the Managing Committee should look at the Electoral Reforms and place them before the SGM for its approval.

I-7C.4 Mr. Surendra Kulkarni suggested that we should use the help of google and people should convey their suggestions and preferences with regard to the various points suggested in the electoral reforms.

H I-C.5 The question of making SOPs for the various Sub-Committees was discussed. Mr. Anil Sawant, said that it was decided to make the SOPs at the last AGM. He regretted that nothing had been done in this matter till date. Prof. Usha R. Vijailakshmi, Vice President, suggested that preparing the SOPs for the various Sub-Committees should be the priority for the Managing Committee.

J **Declaration of Election Results:**
The voting ended at 6.00 p.m. The ballot box was opened at 6.45 p.m. and vote counting and scrutiny of ballot papers commenced thereafter immediately.

J-1 The meeting concluded with the Returning Officer, Mr. Giridhar S. Shetty, declaring the results to the post of Managing Committee.

J-2 The Returning Officer announced the election results and the fall of votes for various posts as under:

J-3 **MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the period of 3 years - 2024-2027 - 5 Seats**
The fall of the votes per candidate for post of **MANAGING COMMITTEE** is listed herein under as per their appearance in the Ballot Papers:

Sr. No.	Name	No. of votes	Result	Position (Ranking)
---------	------	--------------	--------	--------------------

1.	Kiran Shelar	40	Not Elected	8
2.	Kumar Ketkar	85	Elected	1
3.	Mandar Bharde	59	Elected	5
4.	Mayur Mehta	31	Not Elected	9
5.	Nasreen Fazalbhoy	41	Not Elected	7
6.	Prakriti Sharan	18	Not Elected	11
7.	Pulind Samant	25	Not Elected	10
8.	Renu Parekh	41	Not Elected	7
9.	Suraj Pandit	68	Elected	2
10.	Surendra Kulkarni	63	Elected	3
11.	Vivek Ganpule	61	Elected	4
12.	Yasmeen Lukmani	54	Not Elected	6

J.4

Consequently, the following shall serve as **Managing Committee Member of the Society for the period 2024-2027 – 5 post)**

MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the period of 3 years - 2024-2027 - 5 Seats

Sr. No.	Name
1.	Kumar Ketkar
2.	Suraj Pandit
3.	Surendra Kulkarni
4.	Vivek Ganpule
5.	Mandar Bharde

Prof. Vispi R. Balaporia
President

Prof. Mangala R. Sirdeshpande
Hon. Secretary

Note: The following is given as an annexure to these minutes:

The Result of the election to the seven (7) posts of Scrutinizing Committee for the year 2024-2025, and to elect 5 Members of the Managing Committee for a period of three years (2024-2027). (Annexure - I)

(Annexure - I)

Ref. No.: ASM/219thAGM/2024-25/418

28th September, 2024

The President
Asiatic Society of Mumbai
Town Hall, Mumbai 400 001

Dear Madam,

**Re: THE FINAL REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER – ASM Elections
ELECTION TO THE POST OF THE SCRUTINIZING COMMITTEE (2024-2025),
AND THE MANAGING COMMITTEE (2024-2027)**

Mr. Giridhar S. Shetty was appointed as the Returning Officer whereas Mr. B.S. Shashidar and Mr. S. Arun were appointed as the Assistant Returning Officers for the conduct of ASM Elections 2024.

- 1) The Notice dated 23rd August 2024, were issued to the members informing about the 220th Annual General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai to be held on 28th September 2024 and that Nominations were invited from members to fill-in the following posts:
 - i) Scrutinizing Committee (7 posts) for one year (2024-2025); &
 - ii) Managing Committee (5 posts) for the period (2024-2027)
- 2) Details relating to the Nomination Process, Scrutiny of Nomination Forms and Final List Nominations (there were no withdrawals by candidates) have already been displayed on the Society's Notice Board vide the Reports of the Returning Officer dated 13th September, 2024 and 19th September 2024.
- 3) The KYC submitted by candidates were circulated to all members of the Society by email on 25th September 2024.
- 4) The Results of the Election Process are as under:
 - 4A.1) **SCRUTINIZING COMMITTEE (2024-2025) – 7 Posts:**
09 nomination forms were issued by the Society's Office. At the time of Scrutiny on 13th September 2024, only 07 Nomination forms were received and they were found to be in order and valid. The name of the candidate are as under:

S.No.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Abhijit Mulye
2.	Anahita Tarapore
3.	Anil Sawant
4.	Devdatta Malshe
5.	Dhairya Vyas
6.	Pankaj Samel
7.	Vaijyanthi Chakravarthy

Contd. p/2...

: 2 :

- 4A.2) *The nominations of the above 07 candidates of the Scrutinizing Committee for were found to be valid. Thus, the following 07 are declared as **ELECTED UNOPPOSED** as Members of the Scrutinizing Committee for the period 2024-2025:*

S.No.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Abhijit Mulye
2.	Anahita Tarapore
3.	Anil Sawant
4.	Devdatta Malshe
5.	Dhairya Vyas
6.	Pankaj Samel
7.	Vaijayanthi Chakravarthy

5) **MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS – 5 POSTS [for the period (2024-2027) – 5 posts]**

For the 5 posts of the Managing Committee (2024-2027), 20 nomination forms were received from 12 candidates. On scrutiny, the 12 nominations were found to be in order and valid.

- 5.1) **On the day of Withdrawal of Nomination forms i.e. 19th September 2024**, there was no withdrawal from any of the 12 candidates. As the number of Nomination forms filed are more than vacant posts, election was held on 28th September 2024, the day of the 220th AGM.
- 5.2) The final list of 12 candidates, who have filed Nominations and will be contesting the election to the 5 posts of Managing Committee, for the period of 2024-2027 are as under:-

No.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Kiran Shelar
2.	Kumar Ketkar
3.	Mandar Bharde
4.	Mayur Mehta
5.	Nasreen Fazalbhoy
6.	Prakriti Sharan
7.	Pulind Samant
8.	Renu Parekh
9.	Suraj Pandit
10.	Surendra Kulkarni
11.	Vivek Ganpule
12.	Yasmeen Lukmani

- 6) On 28th September 2024, the day of election at 3.25 p.m. the empty Ballot Box was sealed in the presence of:

Mr. Surendra Kulkarni (Membership No. K-211)
Prof. Suraj Pandit (Membership No. P-189)

After completion of the voting process at 6.00 P.M., the ballot box was opened at 6.45 p.m. and vote counting and scrutiny of ballot papers commenced thereafter immediately.

Contd. p/3

: 3 :

- 7) As per Item No. 2 of the AGM Agenda, the Returning Officer **chose amongst the members who had come for the ASM Election and volunteered to act as Vote Counters and Observers** and the counting was held in the presence of all these Five (5) Vote Counters and **Observers**:

Vote Counters:

- (i) Ms. Rama Bishnoi (ii) Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee
 (iii) Ms. Urvashi Ashta (iv) Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat
 (v) Mr. Umang Kale (vi) Mr. Yogesh Ghaisas (Observer)

8) **MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBER (5 posts) for the period 2024-2027**8.1) **FOR POST OF MANAGING COMMITTEE (PINK):**

Ballot Papers provided by the Society	001	to	150	Total	150
Ballot papers signed and used	001	to	129	Total	129
Ballot papers voted and invalid	002				002
Ballot papers voted and valid	127				
Ballot papers un-issued and unused	130	to	150	Total	021

8.2) **Thus, all the Ballot Papers were accounted for.**8.3) The fall of the votes per candidate for post of **MANAGING COMMITTEE** is listed herein under as per their appearance in the Ballot Papers:**MANAGING COMMITTEE for the period 2024-2027 – 05 Posts**

Sr. No.	Name	No. of votes	Result	Position (Ranking)
1.	Kiran Shelar	40	Not Elected	8
2.	Kumar Ketkar	85	Elected	1
3.	Mandar Bharde	59	Elected	5
4.	Mayur Mehta	31	Not Elected	9
5.	Nasreen Fazalbhoy	41	Not Elected	7
6.	Prakriti Sharan	18	Not Elected	11
7.	Pulind Samant	25	Not Elected	10
8.	Renu Parekh	41	Not Elected	7
9.	Suraj Pandit	68	Elected	2
10.	Surendra Kulkarni	63	Elected	3
11.	Vivek Ganpule	61	Elected	4
12.	Yasmeen Lukmani	54	Not Elected	6

8.4) Consequently, the following shall serve as **Managing Committee Member of the Society for the period 2024-2027 – 5 post)****MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the period of 3 years - 2024-2027 - 5 Seats**

Sr. No.	Name
1.	Kumar Ketkar
2.	Suraj Pandit
3.	Surendra Kulkarni
4.	Vivek Ganpule
5.	Mandar Bharde

Contd. p/4

: 4 :

- 9) All the Ballot Papers, issued coupons, and other election materials are placed in the Collection Box and sealed. Thereafter, it is handed over to the Society's office for safekeeping and destruction, as per the Rules.
- 10) We thank all the ASM Staff of the Society and volunteers for extending their wholehearted support and help in making these Elections 2024 at the 220th AGM a success.
- 11) This Report may be placed on the Notice Board of the Society.

Place: Town Hall, Mumbai
Dated: 28th September, 2024

Dr. Giridhar Shetty
(Returning Officer)

Mr. B.S. Shashidar Mr. S. Arun
(Asst. Returning Officers)

Vote Counters & Scrutineers

Ms. Rama Bishnoi	:	-----
Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee	:	-----
Ms. Urvashi Ashta	:	-----
Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat	:	-----
Mr. Umang Kale	:	-----

Dated at Mumbai, this 28th September, 2024.

ms-vb-urv - 25-10-2024