

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

THE MINUTES OF THE 219th ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

(for the period 2022-2023) HELD ON SATURDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

- A1 The Two Hundred and Nineteenth (219th) Annual General Meeting of the Society (for the period 2023-2024) was held on Saturday, 30th September, 2023, at 3.30 p.m. in the Durbar Hall. **Prof. Vispi Balaporia, President**, presided at the meeting.
- A2 Vide the Notice for Postponement of 219th AGM dated 24th August 2023, members were informed that the Two Hundred and Nineteenth (219th) Annual General Meeting of the Society, scheduled to be held on Saturday, 26th August, 2023 at 3.30 p.m. in the Durbar Hall of the Society (as per our Notice dated 25th July 2023) has been postponed to Saturday, 30th September, 2023, at 3.30 p.m. in order to give members sufficient time to peruse the Annual Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2022- 2023. Further, as the entire Agenda of the AGM is **postponed to 30th September 2023, Items 2, 3 and 4 pertaining to the Elections** will also be taken up at this postponed Annual General Meeting scheduled on 30th September 2023.
- A2 The following members were present:

1	Mr. Ajay Agarwal	33	Dr. Vishnu K. Kanhere
2	Mr. Joseph St. Anne	34	Dr. Kumud D. Kanitkar
3	Mr. S. Arun	35	Dr. Madhu Kelkar
4	Mr. Sachin Agrawal	36	Mr. Tanaji R. Kharat
5	Ms. Urvashi Ashta	37	Adv. Sanjay Kher
6	Prof. Vispi Balaporia	38	Mrs. Sanjeevani Kher
7	Mr. Ramesh Bandre	39	Dr. Mangesh Kulkarni
8	Mr. Biplov Belel	40	Mr. Ajay Kumar
9	Mr. Ashutosh Bishnoi	41	Mr. Joy T. Kuriappilly
10	Mrs. Rama Bishnoi	42	Ms. Tulsi Lingareddy
11	Mr. Hitesh Brahmabhatt	43	Dr. Yasmeen Lukmani
12	Ms. Mandira Chakraborty	44	Dr. Anjali Masarguppi
13	Ms. V. M. Chakravarthy	45	Mr. Neelkanth D. Mehta
14	Ms. Sushama V. Dabak	46	Dr. Prachi A. Moghe
15	Adv. Sunil Dighe	47	Ms. Shormishtha Mukherjee
16	Dr. Nasreen Fazalbhoy	48	Mr. Abhijit A. Mulye
17	Mr. C.B. Gagrani	49	Mr. Vithal C. Nadkarni
18	Dr. Arvind Ganachari	50	Ms. Sneha M. Nagarkar
19	Dr. Kamala Ganesh	51	Dr. Shehernaz R. Nalwalla
20	Mr. Amrit Gangar	52	Mr. Hriday Narain
21	Mr. Suhas Gangurde	53	Mr. Gautam S. Nikam
22	Mr. V. V. Ganpule	54	Prof. Suraj A. Pandit
23	Prof. T. R. Ghoble	55	Adv. Renu D. Parekh
24	Ms. Meena Gokhale	56	Mr. Nobby Sunny Pariyaram
25	Mr. Cyrus Guzder	57	Mr. Jaywant Patil
26	Adv. Rajan Jaykar	58	Mr. C. M. Paulsil
27	Mr. Chetan Jhaveri	59	Ms. Teresa T. Pereira
28	Dr. Leela Jois	60	Dr. Kunda P.N.
29	Mr. Sunil Kadam	61	Ms. Radika Radia
30	Ms. Madhavi Kamat	62	Ms. Keipa J. Raman
31	Mr. Digamber L. Kamble	63	Prof. Alak Ray
32	Mr. Y. H. Kamble	64	Mr. Prakash Reddy

65	Mr. Richard G. Remedios	77	Prof. Mangala R. Sirdeshpande
66	Mrs. Mashanta Romani	78	Mr. A. P. Shridhar
67	Mr. Omkar V. Salunke	79	Ms. Jolly Sonkar
68	Mr. Pulind C. Samant	80	Ms. Savitha R. Suri
69	Mr. Pankaj Samel	81	Ms. Anahita Tarapore
70	Mr. Yogiraj K. Sapre	82	Mr. Mandar R. Thakur
71	Mr. Anil W. Sawant	83	Mr. Baulal B. Todi
72	Prof. Arun D. Sawant	84	Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi
73	Mr. Kiran D. Sawant	85	Mr. Vyas Dhairya
74	Ms. Krishma R. Shah	86	Mr. Ramkumar Warriar
75	Mr. Ashok R. Shinde	87	Mr. Sunil Bhirud (Staff Representative)
76	Dr. Varsha Shirgaonkar		

A3 At the outset, the President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, welcomed the members to the 219th AGM.

A4 The President then requested the members to observe one minute silence in memory of the following members who had passed away since the last AGM, in which there were one former President who was also a Trustee, 8 members, two staff members of the Society and former Honorary Curator of the Society:

Resident Life:

- 1) Mr. Sharad G. Kale, former President and Trustee of the Society.
- 2) Mr Chandu V. Rele
- 3) Mr. Gratian Napoleon B.D'souza
- 4) Mr. Shankar N. Kamble
- 5) Mr. Veerkumar K. Doshi
- 6) Mr. Ramchandra C. Tewari
- 7) Mr. Prabhakar D. Chakradeo
- 8) Ms. Vibha Hosali
- 9) Prof Vasanti Damle

Staff Members:

Mr. Chandrakant G. Mane (Accounts Officer and Administrative Officer) Mr. Vijay Rikame, (Junior Clerk) Dr. Mahesh A. Kalra (appointed as Honorary Curator – Numismatics & other Artefacts, to prepare a project on the coins project as suggested by Dr. Shailendra Bhandare.)

A5 Thereafter, the President took up Item No. 1 of the Agenda.

B. Item No. 1:

To confirm the minutes of the 218th Annual General Body Meeting held on Saturday, 27th August 2022 and the Adjourned Meeting held on Saturday, 24th September 2022:

B1 The President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, requested the House to confirm the minutes of the 218th AGM held on 27th August 2022 and the Adjourned minutes held on 24th September 2022. She said that these minutes were circulated to the members to give their comments within the stipulated time. However, no suggestions were received from members. She then asked the House if she could confirm these minutes as passed.

B2 Proposed by Mr. Cyrus Guzder and seconded by Rajan Jayakar, the minutes of the 214th Annual General Body Meeting held on Saturday, 27th August 2022 and the Adjourned AGM held on Saturday, 24th September 2022 were confirmed unanimously.

B3 **The President informed the House that the Society had sent letters to Adv. Gopalakrishna and Mr. Chirag Dighe to act as the Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer, However, they had declined. She then said that in spite of requesting several members to act as the Returning Officer, nobody had agreed to take up this responsibility. Finally, Mr. S. Arun was asked to be the Returning Officer to which he readily agreed and Mrs. Mashanta Romani as the \Assistant Returning Officer.**

B4 She then called the Returning Officer Mr. S. Arun and the Assistant Returning Officer, Mrs. Mashanta Romani, to take up item Nos. 2, 3 and 4 pertaining to ASM elections

C] Item No. 2:

To elect vote counters and scrutinizers for the elections.

C1 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. Anahita Tarapore

(ii) Mr. Pankaj Samel

(iii) Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat

(iv) Ms. Jolly Sonkar

(v) Mr. Dhairya Vyas

C2 Thereafter, the Returning Officer announced the Agenda Items 3 and 4, pertaining to elections to the various posts.

D] Item No. 3:

(I) To elect the office bearers for two years (2023-2025) – President, 4 Vice-Presidents, and Hon. Secretary.

(ii) To elect 5 members of the Managing Committee for three years (2023-2026).

(iii) Also to fill three posts of the Managing Committee which have fallen vacant (as per Rule No.16) for a period of one year 2023-24 (being the residual period of the term 2021-2024).

(iv) And to fill two posts of the Managing Committee which have fallen vacant (as per Rule No.16), for a period of two years 2023-25 (being the residual period of the term 2022-2025)

(v) As well as one post of the Managing Committee which has fallen vacant (as per Rule No.15), for a period of two years 2023-25 (being the residual period of the term 2022-2025)

Item No. 4:

To elect a Scrutinizing Committee consisting of seven members for the year 2023-2024.

D1 The Returning Officer, Mr. S. Arun, informed the House about the details relating to the Scrutiny of Nomination process and Withdrawal of Nominations which were displayed on the Society's Notice Board vide the Report of the Returning Officer dated 14th August and 18th August 2023.

D2 He then informed the House about the results of election to the Scrutinizing Committee as under:

D2.A SCRUTINIZING COMMITTEE (2023-2024):

D2.A1 At the time of scrutiny on 14th August 2023, only 02 Nomination forms were found to be in order and valid. The names of the candidates are furnished below:

S. N.	Name of the Candidate
1.	Anil Sawant
2.	Devdatta Malshe

D2.A2 However, 05 posts were still vacant. Since only 02 nominations were found valid for the 07 vacant posts of the Members of Scrutinizing Committee for the period 2023-2024, 05 posts are still vacant which may be filled in by selection from the floor of the House on the day of the 219th AGM.

2.A3 As per Item No. 4 of the Agenda, Notice dated 25th July 2023, the Returning Officer called for Selection from the members at the postponed meeting held on 30th September, 2023 to fill in the 5 vacant posts of the Scrutinizing Committee.

D2.A4 Ms. Anahita Tarapore, Mr. Pankaj Samel, Mr. Ashutosh Bishnoi, Mr. Sachin Agrawal and Mr. Pulind Samant, who volunteered to be Members of the Scrutinizing Committee, were nominated by the General Body for the five vacant posts of the Scrutinizing Committee.

D2.A5 **Thus, the following 07 are declared as ELECTED as Members of the Scrutinizing Committee for the period 2023-2024:**

S. N.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Anil Sawant
2.	Devdatta Malshe
3.	Anahita Tarapore
4.	Pankaj Samel
5.	Ashutosh Bishnoi
6.	Sachin Agrawal
7.	Pulind Samant

D3 OFFICE BEARER (2023-2025)

D3.B PRESIDENT (ONE POST):

Only 01 candidate had filed Nomination Form for one vacant post of the President. The name of the candidate is as under:

S. N.	Name of the Candidate
1.	Vispi Balaporia

Hence, there was no voting to the post of President for the period 2023-2025.

D3.C VICE-PRESIDENT (FOUR POSTS):

Only 04 candidates had filed Nomination Forms for the 4 posts of the Vice-Presidents. The name of the candidates are as under:

S. N.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Meenal Kshirsagar
2.	Nalwalla Shehernaz
3.	Joy Thomas
4.	Usha Vijailakshmi

Hence, there was no voting to the 4 posts of Vice Presidents for the period 2023-2025.

D3.D HON. SECRETARY (ONE POST)

Only 01 candidate had filed Nomination Form for **one vacant post of Hon. Secretary**. The name of the candidate is as under:

S. N.	Name of the Candidate
1.	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande

Hence, there was no voting to the post of Hon. Secretary for the period 2023-2025.

D3.E MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBER–11 POSTS [For one year term (2023-2024)–3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) – 3 posts; and for three years term (2023-2026) – 5 posts]

There were 15 candidates at the time of scrutiny of Nomination Forms on 14th August 2023 for 11 posts of Members of Managing Committee for the above three block-periods [For one year term (2023- 2024) – 3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) -3 posts; and for three years term (2023-2026) -5 posts]

D3.E1 As there was no withdrawal from any of these members, the final list of 15 candidates, who have filed Nominations, will be contesting the election to the 11 posts of Managing Committee, whose names are as under:-

No.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Ajay Kumar
2.	Babulal B. Todi
3.	Biplov Belel
4.	C.M. Paulsil
5.	Digamber Kamble
6.	Kunda P.N.
7.	Nasreen Fazalbhoy
8.	Nobby Pariyaram
9.	Sanjay Kher
10.	Shormistha Mukherjee
11.	Sitaram Kapse
12.	Sushama V Dabak
13.	Teresa Pereira
14.	Vithal Nadkarni
15.	Yasmeen Lukmani

D3.E2 On 30th September 2023, the day of election (at the postponed AGM), at 3.30 p.m. the empty Ballot Box was sealed in the presence of:

Ms. Savitha Suri (Membership No. S-306)

Mr. Pulind Samant (Membership No. S-299);

D3.E3 At this point, the President announced a break for 15 minutes to allow people to go and vote. The voting would thus be from 4.00 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.

D3.E4 The members reassembled after voting and the remaining items of the Agenda were taken up.

However, the voting process continued up to 6.45 p.m.

E] Item No. 5:

To receive and adopt the Annual Report, the Audited Statement of Accounts of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for the year 2022-2023 and to note the Action Taken Report.

E1 At the outset, the President stated that the Hon. Finance Secretary, Mr. Vishnu Kanhere, would now take up all financial queries.

- E2 The Hon. Finance Secretary answered the queries of two members – 1. Mr. Vivek Ganpule and 2. Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak.
- E3 With reference to the queries of Mr. Vivek Ganpule and Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak, the following clarifications were provided by Mr. Kanhere, Hon. Finance Secretary:
1. ASM duly applied for renewal of exemption electronically as per the new requirements under relevant sections which have been duly granted. The correct section as mentioned by you is 80G.
 2. As per notification issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs dated 22/01/2021 it is mandatory for all NGOs which want to raise CSR funding to enrol with MCA w.e.f.01/04/2021. We have obtained the registration and have received registration number for the same. The ASM is now eligible to receive funds for CSR projects from interested donor Companies.
 3. The depreciation is provided from year to year as per accounting policy, it represents the wear and tear, obsolescence and deterioration of assets due to efflux of time.
 4. There is typographic error as per Growth Statement. Income for year ending 31.3.2022 is Rs. 2,69,23,075 and expenses is Rs.2,79,70,592. Against the net balance, the words should read –Excess of Expenditure over Income (deficit) (Rs.10,47,517).
 5. Donation of Rs. 3 Lakhs appears as a liability
 6. The investments have been made from time to time as per best available rates. The rate on investment in government bonds was 8 % which matured during 2021, whereas the new rates of interest are now between 4.5 % to 6 % leading to fall in income. Hence the reduction in income on investment in corpus is due to substantial fall in interest rates in the Indian Economy. The position has improved now with some rise in interest rates up to 7 % plus.
 7. Interest on Book Fund is credited to Book Fund only.
 8. No donation has been received for Lit Club in FY 2021-22. However, in FY 2022-23 donation received is credited to Lit fund.
 9. The process of reviewing the balances of all funds and corresponding investments is ongoing.
 10. The Gratuity dues of Late Shri CG Mane & Shri Rikame totalling to Rs.12,31,070/- have been paid in the year 2022-23. The Leave encashment of Rs.11,83,770/- is duly provided. During June 2023 Rs.7,00,000/- has been paid as on account as MC approval is in process. The amounts paid have been provided out of the general fund and have been expensed in current financial year. Both the staff members died in the FY 2022-23.
- E4 Dr. Varsha Shirgaonkar had certain queries regarding the Mumbai Research Centre. Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla, Chairperson the Mumbai Research Centre, gave clarifications about the Mumbai Research Centre and its activities.
- E5 Thereafter, the Annual Report, the Audited Statement of Accounts of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for the year 2022-2023 and the Action Taken Report were placed before the House.
- E6 The General Body adopted the Annual Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts subject to certain amendments and clarifications. Whereas, the Action Taken Report was passed by the House.

Proposed by Mr. Anil Sawant and Seconded by _____

(Note: Name of the seconder not clear in the recording)

F] **Item No. 6:**

To appoint the Statutory Auditors for two years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

The following resolution, which was unanimously passed by the Managing Committee at its meeting held on 14th August 2023, was recommended to the General Body for approval:

“Resolved that Sarvashri Virendra B. Shah, Bhogilal C. Shah & Co., and A. D. Bhorkar, A.D. Bhorkar & Co, Chartered Accountants are hereby appointed Joint Auditors of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (ASM) for two years (2023-24 and 2024-25) from the conclusion of this Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of 2025 of the ASM on such honorarium as may be fixed by the Managing Committee.”

Proposed by: Mangala Sirdeshpande

Seconded by: Vishnu Kanhere

F1 The President informed the House that the appointment of the Auditors for a period of two years has been done as per Rule 8(a) and Rule 18 of the Society.

F2 **The resolution was passed unanimously by the General Body.** Thus, the two auditors, Sarvashri Virendra B. Shah, Bhogilal C. Shah & Co., and A. D. Bhorkar, A.D. Bhorkar & Co, Chartered Accountants, will be continued from the conclusion of this AGM 2023 until the conclusion of the AGM of 2025 on such honorarium as fixed by the Managing Committee.

G] **Item No. 7:**

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

G1 The President informed the House that several names were suggested for being appointed as Trustees. However, after much discussion, it was decided that none of the names suggested were suitable for the needs of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai. Hence, this matter was held in abeyance.

H] **Item No. 8:**

To consider the resolutions

H8.A Proposed Resolutions (From the Managing Committee):

The Managing Committee unanimously recommends the following resolutions, which were passed in its meetings held on 25th July and 14th August 2023, to the General Body for approval:

H8.A.1 The following resolution, unanimously passed by the Managing Committee in its meeting held on 25th July 2023, to confer the Honorary Fellowship of the Society on five distinguished persons, along with their brief introduction:

“Resolved that the Managing Committee recommends that the AGM may elect as Honorary Fellows of the Society the following five distinguished persons:

1. Dr Saryu Doshi
2. Dr Upinder Singh
3. Mr Zubin Mehta
4. Prof. Anura Manatunga
5. Prof. Nabuyoshi Yamabe”

Proposed by: Shehernaz Nalwalla

Seconded by: Meenal Kshirsagar

The above resolution for Conferment of Honorary Fellowships of the Asiatic Society on five renowned scholars was unanimously passed by the General Body. The Honorary Fellowships will be awarded at the Foundation Day celebration in November 2023.

H 8.A.2 Amendment to Rule 16(a) pertaining to the attendance of the Members so as to make this Rule applicable to the Sub-Committee members also:

In Rule 16(a):

replace the words in line 7 “**to the end of the next AGM.**” with the words “**to the date of the Notice of the next AGM.**”

Also, add at the end, of Rule 16(a), the following:

“The above attendance rules will also be applicable to the Sub-Committee members.”

Further Resolved to modify this Rule 16(a) by splitting it into 3 parts as under:

- (i) A Member of the Managing Committee who absents himself/herself for three consecutive meetings of the Managing Committee without leave of absence from the Committee shall automatically cease to be a member of the Managing Committee.
- (ii) All Office bearers and members of the Managing Committee and other office bearers should at least attend 60% of the total meetings held from the end of the AGM to the date of the Notice of the next AGM. If any office bearer or member of the Managing Committee fails to attend 60% of the total meetings he/she forfeits his right to remain in that post.
- (iii) The above attendance rules [16(a)(i)&(ii)] will also be applicable to the Sub-Committee members.”

Explanatory note:

For greater clarity.

Proposed by: Prof. Suraj Pandit

Seconded by: Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar

The above resolution to amend Rule 16(a) pertaining to the attendance of the Members as under was passed by the House.

The resolution to further modify this Rule 16(a) by splitting it into 3 parts was also passed by the House.

Thus, the modified Rule 16(a), would read as under:

Rule 16(a)

- (i) A Member of the Managing Committee who absents himself/herself for three consecutive meetings of the Managing Committee without leave of absence from the Committee shall automatically cease to be a member of the Managing Committee.
 - (ii) All Office bearers and members of the Managing Committee and other office bearers should at least attend 60% of the total meetings held from the end of the AGM to the date of the Notice of the next AGM. If any office bearer or member of the Managing Committee fails to attend 60% of the total meetings he/she forfeits his right to remain in that post.
 - (iii) The above attendance rules [16(a)(i)&(ii)] will also be applicable to the Sub-Committee members.”
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H 8.A.3 Resolved that the opening sentence of Rule 8(a) be amended (by replacing 31st August with 30th September) to read as follows:

Rule 8(a)

On a day not later than 30th September every year, to be fixed by the Managing Committee, there shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for elections as provided in article 14(a) and for the adoption of the Annual Report of the Managing Committee, which shall contain a statement as provided under Rule 18, for the next two years.

Explanatory note:

To align the date of the AGM with the due date for adoption of audited accounts stipulated under the Maharashtra Public Trust Act and the Income Tax Act 1961.

Proposed by : Dr Shehernaz Nalwalla

Seconded by: Dr Vishnu Kanhere

The President informed the House that several new rules, as well as modifications to existing rules under the Maharashtra Public Trust Act and the Income Tax Act 1961 had been introduced, resulting in delays in completing the accounts and the related audit.

Thereafter, the above resolution for holding the AGM on 30th September every year instead of 31st August was passed.

Thus, the modified Rule 16(a), would read as under:

Rule 8(a)

On a day not later than 30th September every year, to be fixed by the Managing Committee, there shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) for elections as provided in article 14(a) and for the adoption of the Annual Report of the Managing Committee, which shall contain a statement showing the financial position of the Society, as well as the accounts for the year ended 31st March of the year under audit and the Auditors Report as required by Rule 18, and for the transaction of any other business which the Managing Committee may consider expedient to bring to the notice of the Society. The AGM shall, in alternate years appoint two Statutory Auditors as provided under Rule 18, for the next two years.

H8.A.4 Resolved that charges for the following be modified as under:

S.No.	Particulars	Rate
I.	High Resolution images of artefacts viz. Sopara Relics, Coins and Maps <i>(per item)</i>	₹3,000/- per image
ii.	Handling charges for Manuscript <i>(viewing per manuscript)</i>	₹ 500/-
iii.	Rare Manuscript <i>(viewing per manuscript)</i>	₹ 5,000/-
iv.	Rare Books in fragile condition <i>(viewing per book)</i>	₹10,000/-
v.	Photos of portraits <i>(per portrait)</i>	₹ 5,000/-
vi.	Photograph of Statue <i>(per statue)</i>	₹ 2,000/-

Proposed by: Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat

Seconded by: Mrs. Renu Parekh

The above resolution regarding the modified charges pertaining to reference material / photographs was passed by the House.

H8.A.5 Resolved that the charges for school / college students and for Guided Tours visits be charged as under:

I.	School / College Students – For a group up to 20 participants	₹ 1,000/-
ii.	Guided Tours per person	₹ 250/-

Proposed by: Meenal Kshirsagar

Seconded by: ShehernazNalwalla

The above resolution for charging school/college students as well as for guided tour visits was passed by the House.

H8.A.6 Resolved that the charges for the use of the Durbar Hall be as under:

Time	Revised charges
Half Day use of Durbar Hall: From 10.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. or From 2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	Rs.25,000/-
Full Day use of Durbar Hall: From 10.30 a.m. – 6.30 p.m.	Rs.45,000/-
<i>A Security Deposit (Refundable) of Rs.10,000/- has to be paid in advance (to be adjusted against damages, if any).</i>	
<i>Beyond 6.30 p.m., Rs.5,000/- will be charged extra towards overtime charges.</i>	

Explanatory note:

To generate revenue and also to cover the charges of lighting, sound system and staff overtime charges.

Proposed by: Mangala Sirdeshpande

Seconded by: Nobby Pariyaram

The above resolution for charging for the use of the Durbar Hall, to cover the cost of lighting, sound system and staff overtime, was passed by the House.

H8.B Proposed Resolution (From Members):

The President informed the General Body that no resolutions were received from the Members of the Society

F] Item No. 9:

Any other business that may be brought forward with the permission of the Chair.

F1 INTERVENTIONS OF VARIOUS MEMBERS:

F.1 Adv. Renu Parekh referred to the MoU signed with the Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), she stated that certain clauses must be revisited, especially the Indemnity Clause that continues even after the termination of the project. The President clarified that one of our Trustees, Adv. Navroz Seervai had carefully looked through the MoU and made the necessary suggestions and changes.

F.2 The President apprised the AGM about the refurbishment of the ASM that would be done by Ms. Sheetal Gandhi through the CSR Funds received from the MGL. The entire reading hall, where we have the issue counter, would be refurbished. She added that the Trustees who are the custodians of our property had been informed about this project. She further informed the House that this refurbishment would require the shifting of 1000's of books. Since we have a paucity of space, some would have to be sent to godowns in the city and its outskirts. The Hon. Secretary, the President added, was very concerned about the shifting of books. However, she assured the House that all precautions would be taken to see that the books were safely stored.

- F.3 Mr. Pulind Samant wished to know details about how mobile racks worth Rs.9 Lakh were bought by the Asiatic Society of Mumbai. He further said that so many racks were not required and remained unutilised.
- F.4 The President pointed out that the Sorters had said that these racks were required to store additional books. She accepted that there had been some miscalculations. Some years ago racks had been bought from M/s. Compact Mobile Shelving Systems. These racks were no longer available in the dimensions required by us, and M/s. Compact Mobile Shelving System agreed to make them especially for us.
- F.5 The President agreed that the racks purchased were far beyond what we required. However, she informed the House that she along with the Hon. Secretary had identified various areas in the ASM where these racks could be put to good use within the next few months.
- F.6 Mr. Prakash Reddy, President, ASM Employees' Union, said that the important role played by the Union in organizing a meeting with the then Dy. Chief Minister, Shri Ajit Pawar, through Shri. Uday Samant, Honorable Minister for Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra, had been overlooked by the Managing Committee. He said that this should figure in the Annual Report. He then accused the Managing Committee for having made no efforts to see that the Annual Recurring Grant of Rs.1 Crore granted by the Government of Maharashtra was actually received. The President said that this was very unfair statement and also untrue. Constant follow up letters were being sent to Mantralaya by the Hon. Secretary, Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande. She had also been contacting and speaking to various persons regarding this matter, and Dr Shehernaz Nalwalla had personally met Mr. Vikas Rastogi, IAS, Principal Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra, several times regarding this Grant.
- F.7 It was also pointed out to Mr. Prakash Reddy that when negative publicity appears in the papers against the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, the public form a very bad impression of the Asiatic Society. It was felt that this negative image of the ASM was created by the staff. Mrs Meenal Kshrisagar, Vice President, pointed out that the result is that nobody wishes to give us donations anymore. Members also said that Mr. Reddy had used the expression "fraud Management" while referring to the Managing Committee of the ASM on Facebook. Mr. Reddy protested by saying "that what he had written originally in Marathi was badly translated in to English. He had never used the words like fraud Management. To this the Hon. Secretary protested by saying that the original version in Marathi was also very derogatory.
- F.8 One of the members who did not identify himself said that it was very wrong to tarnish the image of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai in such a manner, and as a member he strongly objected to this.
- F.9 After completion of the voting process at 6.45 P.M., the ballot box was opened at 7.15 p.m. and vote counting and scrutiny of ballot papers commenced thereafter immediately.
- F.10 The meeting concluded with the Returning Officer. Mr. S. Arun, declaring the results.

G. The Returning Officer announced the election results and the fall of votes for various posts as under:

G.1 OFFICE BEARER (2023-2025)

G.1.1 PRESIDENT (ONE POST):

Prof. Vispi Balaporia was declared as elected UNOPPOSED for the one post of President (2023- 2025). Consequently, Prof. Vispi Balaporia shall serve as the PRESIDENT of the Society for the period of 2023-2025.

G.1.2 VICE-PRESIDENT (FOUR POSTS):

The following 4 candidates were declared as elected UNOPPOSED for the four posts of Vice Presidents (2023-2025) and consequently, they shall serve as the VICEPRESIDENTS of the Society for the period of 2023-2025:

S. N.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Meenal Kshirsagar
2.	Nalwalla Shehernaz
3.	Joy Thomas
4.	Usha Vijailakshmi

G.1.3 HON. SECRETARY (ONE POST)

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande was declared as elected UNOPPOSED for the post of Hon. Secretary (2023-2025). Consequently, Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande shall serve as HON. SECRETARY of the Society for the period of the term 2023-2025.

G.1.4 The Returning Officer then announced the fall of votes for the post of Managing Committee as under:

G.2 MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBER - 11 POSTS

[For one year term (2023-2024) - 3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) - 3 posts; and for three years term (2023-2026) - 5 posts]

There were 15 candidates at the time of scrutiny of Nomination Forms on 14th August 2023 for 11 posts of Members of Managing Committee for the above three block-period.

G.2-1 The fall of the votes per candidate for post of **MANAGING COMMITTEE** is listed herein under as per their appearance in the Ballot Papers:

S.No.	Name of the Candidate	No. of Votes	Result	Position (Ranking)
1.	Ajay Kumar	34	Not Elected	12
2.	Babulal B. Todi	15	Not Elected	15
3.	Biplov Belel	44	Elected	06
4.	C.M. Paulsil	39	Elected	09
5.	Digamber Kamble	43	Elected	07
6.	Kunda P.N.	43	Elected	07
7.	Nasreen Fazalbhoy	35	Elected	10
8.	Nobby Pariyaram	52	Elected	02
9.	Sanjay Kher	45	Elected	05
10.	Shormistha Mukherjee	53	Elected	01
11.	Sitaram Kapse	20	Not Elected	14
12.	Sushama V Dabak	46	Elected	04
13.	Teresa Pereira	29	Not Elected	13
14.	Vithal Nadkarni	50	Elected	03
15.	Yasmeen Lukmani	35	Elected	10

G.2-3 Thus, all the Ballot Papers were accounted for.

G.2-4 The Returning Officer then considered the periods of serving of each candidate as Managing Committee member on the basis of ranking obtained by the candidate on the number of votes polled by them during the election.

F.11-3 Consequently, the following shall serve as Managing Committee Member of the Society for one year term (2023-2024) – 3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) – 3 posts; and for three years term (2023-2026) – 5)

A. MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the period of one year - 2023-2024 (being the residual period of term 2021-2024) – 3 Seats.

Sr. No.	Name
1.	C.M. Paulsil
2.	Nasreen Fazalbhoy
3.	Yasmeen Lukmani

B. MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the period of two years - 2023-2025 (being the residual period of term 2022-2025) - 3 Seats.

Sr. No.	Name
1.	Biplov Belel
2.	Digamber Kamble
3.	Kunda P.N.

C. MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the period of 3 years - 2023-2026 - 5 Seats

Sr. No.	Name
1.	Shormistha Mukherjee
2.	Nobby Pariyaram
3.	Vithal Nadkarni
4.	Sushama V Dabak
5.	Sanjay Kher

Sd/-
President

Sd/-
Hon. Secretary

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

1. The result of the election to the seven (7) posts of Scrutinizing Committee for the year 2023-2024, and to elect the Office Bearers for two years (2023 - 2025) - President, 4 Vice Presidents and Hon. Secretary, and to elect 5 Members of the Managing Committee for a period of three years (2023-2026), 3 Members of the Managing Committee for one year 2023-2024 and 3 Members for the Managing Committee for two years 2023-2025. (Annexure – I)
2. ASM elections Administrative Report 2023 (Annexure – II)

**** ** ***

Ref. No.: ASM/219thAGM/2023-2024/475

30th September, 2023

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 (2023-2024),
THE PRESIDENT (2023-2025), VICE-PRESIDENT (2023-2025)
HON. SECRETARY (2023-2025) AND THE MANAGING COMMITTEE
(2023-2024, 2023-2025 and 2023-2026)**

Mr. S. Arun and Mrs. Mashanta Romani, were appointed as Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer by the Managing Committee.

- 1) The Notice of the 219th Annual General Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai dated 25th July 2023, was issued to the members. However, as per the Notice dated 24th August 2023, members were informed that the AGM has been postponed to Saturday, 30th September, 2023, at 3.30 p.m. in order to give members sufficient time to peruse the Annual Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2022-2023. Further, as the entire Agenda of the AGM is postponed to 30th September 2023, Items 2, 3 and 4 pertaining to the Elections will also be taken up at this postponed Annual General Meeting scheduled on 30th September 2023.
- 2) Nominations were invited from members to fill-in the following posts as per schedule given in the 219thAGM Election Notice dated 25th July 2023:
 - i) Scrutinizing Committee (7 posts) for one year (2023-2024);
 - ii) Office Bearers (President, 4 Vice-Presidents and Hon. Secretary) for two year term (2023-2025); and
 - iii) Managing Committee (11 posts each) for three years block - (For one year term (2023-2024) – 3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) – 3 posts; and for three years term (2023-2026) – 5)
- 3) Details relating to the Nomination Process, Scrutiny of Nomination Forms and Final Withdrawal of Nominations by candidates have already been displayed on the Society's Notice Board vide the Reports of the Returning Officer dated 14th August, 2023 and 18th August 2023.
- 4) However, vide the Notice for Postponement of 219th AGM dated 24th August 2023, members were informed that the Two Hundred and Nineteenth (219th) Annual General Meeting of the Society, scheduled to be held on Saturday, 26th August, 2023 at 3.30 p.m. in the Durbar Hall of the Society (as per our Notice dated 25th July 2023) has been postponed to Saturday, 30th September, 2023, at 3.30 p.m. in order to give members sufficient time to peruse the Annual Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts for the year 2022-2023. Further, as the entire Agenda of the AGM is postponed to 30th September 2023, Items 2, 3 and 4 pertaining to the Elections will also be taken up at this postponed Annual General Meeting scheduled on 30th September 2023

- 5) Further since 29th September 2023 was a public holiday declared by the Government of Maharashtra vide GR No. GAD-49011/2/2023/GAD/DESK-29 dated 27th September 23;and as per Notice of the AGM dated 25th July 2023 regarding payment of subscription / dues, the cut-off date for eligibility to attend the AGM was extended till 30th September 2023 till 3.30 p.m. This decision was taken jointly by the Returning Officer, the President and the Hon. Secretary, vide letter dated No. ASM/Notice/2023-2024/474 dated 30th September 2023.
- 6) This year, for the first time the system of Know Your Candidates (KYC) was introduced by the Returning Officer. The KYC submitted by candidates was circulated to all members of the Society by email dated 23rd August 2023 and resent on 27th September 2023. The candidates were satisfied with this system and most of them requested it to be continued in subsequent years.
- 7) The Results of the Election Process are as under:

7A.1) SCRUTINIZING COMMITTEE (2023-2024):

At the time of scrutiny on 14th August 2023, only 02 Nomination forms were found to be in order and valid. The name of the candidate is furnished below:

S.No.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Anil Sawant
2.	Devdatta Malshe

7A.2) However, **05** posts were still vacant.

Since only 02 nominations were found valid for the 07 vacant posts of the Members of Scrutinizing Committee for the period 2023-2024, 05 posts are still vacant which may be filled in by selection from the floor of the House on the day of the 219th AGM.

7A.3) As per Item No. 4 of the Agenda, Notice dated 25th July 2023, the Returning Officer called for Selection from the members at the postponed meeting held on 30th September, 2023 to fill in the 5 vacant posts of the Scrutinizing Committee. Ms. Anahita Tarapore, Mr. Pankaj Samel, Mr. Ashutosh Bishnoi, Mr. Sachin Agrawal and Pulind Samant, who volunteered to be Members of the Scrutinizing Committee, were nominated by the General Body for the five vacant posts of the Scrutinizing Committee.

7A.4) Thus, the following 07 are declared as ELECTED as Members of the Scrutinizing Committee for the period 2023-2024:

No.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Anil Sawant
2.	Devdatta Malshe
3.	Anahita Tarapore
4.	Pankaj Samel
5.	Ashutosh Bishnoi
6.	Sachin Agrawal
7.	Pulind Samant

8) OFFICE BEARER (2023-2025)

8.A1) PRESIDENT (ONE POST):

Only 01 candidate had filed Nomination Form for one vacant post of the President. The name of the candidate is as under:

S. N.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Vispi Balaporia

Hence, there was no election to the post of President for the period 2023-2025.

8.A2) **Thus, Prof. Vispi Balaporia is declared as elected UNOPPOSED for the one post of President (2023-2025).** Consequently **Prof. Vispi Balaporia** shall serve as the **PRESIDENT of the Society for the period of 2023-2025.**

8.B1) **VICE-PRESIDENT (FOUR POSTS):**

Only 04 candidates had filed Nomination Forms for the 4 posts of the Vice-Presidents. The name of the candidates are as under:

S. N.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Meenal Kshirsagar
2.	Nalwalla Shehernaz
3.	Joy Thomas
4.	Usha Vijailakshmi

Hence, there was no election to the 4 posts of Vice Presidents for the period 2023-2025.

8.B2) **Thus, the above 4 candidates were declared as elected UNOPPOSED for the four post of Vice Presidents (2023-2025).** Consequently **they** shall serve as the **VICEPRESIDENTS of the Society for the period of 2023-2025.**

8.C1) **HON. SECRETARY (ONE POST)**

Only 01 candidate had filed Nomination Form for one vacant post of Hon. Secretary. The name of the candidate is as under:

S. N.	Name of the Candidates
1.	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande

Hence, there was no election to the post of Hon. Secretary for period 2023-2025.

8.C2) **Thus, Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande is declared as elected UNOPPOSED for the post of Hon. Secretary (2023-2025).** Consequently **Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande** shall serve as **HON. SECRETARY of the Society for the period of the term 2023-2025.**

8.D) **MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBER – 11 POSTS [For one year term (2023-2024) – 3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) – 3 posts; and for three years term (2023-2026) – 5 posts]**

There were 15 candidates at the time of scrutiny of Nomination Forms on 14th August 2023 for 11 posts of Members of Managing Committee for the above three block-periods [For one year term (2023-2024) - 3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) – 3 posts; and for three years term (2023- 2026) – 5 posts]

8.D1) As there was no withdrawal from any of these members, the final list of 15 candidates, who have filed Nominations, will be contesting the election to the 11 posts of Managing Committee, whose names are as under:-

Sr. No	Name of the Candidate
1.	Ajay Kumar
2.	Babulal B. Todi
3.	Biplov Belel
4.	C.M. Paulsil
5.	Digamber Kamble
6.	Kunda P.N.
7.	Nasreen Fazalbhoj
8.	Nobby Pariyaram
9.	Sanjay Kher
10.	Shormistha Mukherjee
11.	Sitaram Kapse
12.	Sushama V Dabak
13.	Teresa Pereira
14.	Vithal Nadkarni
15.	Yasmeen Lukmani

- 9) On 30th September 2023, the day of election (at the postponed AGM), at 3.30 p.m. the empty Ballot Box was sealed in the presence of:

Ms. Savitha Suri (Membership No. S-306)

Mr. Pulind Samant (Membership No. S-299);

After completion of the voting process at 6.45 P.M., the ballot box was opened at 7.15 p.m. and vote counting and scrutiny of ballot papers commenced thereafter immediately.

- 10) 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. Anahita Tarapore

(ii) Mr. Pankaj Samel

(iii) Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat

(iv) Ms. Jolly Sonkar

(v) Mr. Dhairya Vyas

- 11) **MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBER** (11 posts each) for three years block -
(For one year term (2023-2024) – 3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) – 3 posts; and for three years term (2023-2026) – 5)

11.1) FOR POST OF MANAGING COMMITTEE (PINK):

Ballot Papers provided by the Society	001	to	200	Total	200
Ballot papers signed and used	001	to	085	Total	085
Ballot papers voted and invalid	001				
Ballot papers voted and valid	084				
Ballot papers un-issued and unused	086	to	200	Total	115

- 11.2) Thus, all the Ballot Papers were accounted for.

- 11.3) 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 (2022-2023 and 2022-2025) – 11 Posts

[For one year term (2023-2024) – 3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) – 3 posts; and for three years term (2023-2026) – 5 posts]

S.No.	Name of the Candidate	No. of Votes	Result	Position (Ranking)
1.	Ajay Kumar	34	Not Elected	12
2.	Babulal B. Todi	15	Not Elected	15
3.	Biplov Belel	44	Elected	06
4.	C.M. Paulsil	39	Elected	09
5.	Digamber Kamble	43	Elected	07
6.	Kunda P.N.	43	Elected	07
7.	Nasreen Fazalbhoy	35	Elected	10
8.	Nobby Pariyaram	52	Elected	02
9.	Sanjay Kher	45	Elected	05
10.	Shormistha Mukherjee	53	Elected	01
11.	Sitaram Kapse	20	Not Elected	14
12.	Sushama V Dabak	46	Elected	04
13.	Teresa Pereira	29	Not Elected	13
14.	Vithal Nadkarni	50	Elected	03
15.	Yasmeen Lukmani	35	Elected	10

The Returning Officer then considered the periods of serving of each candidate as Managing Committee member on the basis of ranking obtained by the candidate on the number of votes polled by them during the election.

- 11.4) Consequently, the following shall serve as **Managing Committee Member of the Society for one year term (2023-2024) – 3 posts; for two years term (2023-2025) – 3 posts; and for three years term (2023-2026) – 5**

A. MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the period of one year - 2023-2024 (being the residual period of term 2021-2024) – 3 Seats

Sr. No.	Name
1.	C.M. Paulsil
2.	Nasreen Fazalbhoy
3.	Yasmeen Lukmani

- B. MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the period of two years - 2023-2025 (being the residual period of term 2022-2025) - 3 Seats.**

Sr. No.	Name
1.	Biplov Belel
2.	Digamber Kamble
3.	Kunda P.N.

- C. MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the period of 3 years - 2023-2026 - 5 Seats**

Sr. No.	Name
1.	Shormistha Mukherjee
2.	Nobby Pariyaram
3.	Vithal Nadkarni
4.	Sushama V Dabak
5.	Sanjay Kher

- 12) 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.
- 13) We thank all the ASM Staff of the Society and volunteers for extending their wholehearted support and help in making these Elections 2023 a success.
- 14) This Report may be placed on the Notice Board of the Society.

Place: Town Hall, Mumbai
Dated: 30th September, 2023

Mr. S. Arun / Mrs. Mashanta Romani
(Returning Officer / Asst. Returning Officer)

Vote Counters & Scrutineers

Mr. Dhairya Vyas : Sd/-

Mr. Pankaj Samel : Sd/-

Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat : Sd/-

Ms. Anahita Tarapore : Sd/-

Ms. Jolly Sonkar : Sd/-

Dated at Mumbai, this 30th September, 2023.

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ASM ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2023

By Returning Officer – ASM Elections 2023

(Addendum to the Elections Results Report

New Initiatives

(Suggested that this be improved upon and continued in the future elections)

1. Know Your Candidate process

Know Your Candidate (KYC) process was started this year as an initiative to provide all members the basic info about the candidates in a standard format. This was welcomed by most members and candidates. In Future, improvements can be made to this process which will allow for members to make a more informed decision in ASM elections.

2. Election Feedback form sought from all attendees and candidates

Feedback form was circulated to all members and candidates to seek inputs for further improvement –A brief of the feedback received is given in the later part of this report.

3. Non numbering of the counter foil of Ballot paper

This Elections - the serial numbers on counter slip of Ballot papers were removed – The same be incorporated as a standard practice in future, to ensure better secrecy of ballot.

4. Irremovable Colour hand band for Attendees

As an experiment, to make it easy to identify members eligible to attend AGM and Vote, coloured non-removable wrist band was used as a access control procedure. This was in addition to the coupon system – This also allowed for a visual control of presence of only those eligible and special invitees.

5. Pre-Printed Counting Chart

The vote counting chart was printed out digitally instead of the existing practice of being made manually. The printed counting chart followed the same pattern/size of the earlier hand made one This saved man hours of staff that was making them by hand earlier.

Recommendations

1. Appointment of Returning officer must be done at least 15-20 days before the Notice of AGM and Elections is to be sent to members . This will allow the Returning Officers team to get sufficient time to know about the rules & regulations governing the whole election process and then accordingly draft the rules of Elections that will go along with the Notice for AGM. If needed, it will also provide time to co-ordinate with the earlier RO before commencing the process.
2. Once, the Returning Officer team is appointed, one office admin staff be assigned to the Returning officer team, whose priority job is the election work amongst all other Admin work. On important dates of the Election process namely day of scrutiny of nomination forms, eve of elections etc., Preferably, No other events are to be held or even if held, the staff assigned for election work not be disturbed for any other work.
3. The last day for reporting defaulters / paying membership dues etc. should be brought forward to at least one week before elections so as to enable office and library staff to get enough time to make one comprehensive and detailed list of those who are eligible to vote.
4. MC Needs to look at the possibility of keeping Voting and counting on 2 separate days so as to avoid long hours and late waiting for Counters and Scrutinizers. Alternatively, The voting can be held earlier in the day and AGM at a later time – So as to enable those members involved in Election work also to attend AGM.

Points from the Feedback forms received

1. Separate queue be assigned for senior citizens for voting
2. KYC info should be published even for those candidates of the posts for which elections are not being held
3. Candidates list and info can be sent a little earlier
4. Tracking serial number was scratched out – which is an improvement
5. Overall the KYC initiative was welcomed with some improvements

Thanking all the Office Bearers, Managing Committee, Office Staff, Library staff, Security personnel, Vote counters and Scrutinizers for their assistance and co-operation in smooth and successful completion of the ASMElections 2023

Sd/-
S.Arun

Returning Officer team (ASM Elections 2023)

Sd/-
Mashanta Romani

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (SGM)

HELD ON SATURDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY 2024

A Special General Body Meeting (SGM) of the members of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai was held on Saturday 3rd February 2024, at 3.00 p.m. in the Town Hall of the Asiatic Society.

The following members were present for the Special General Body Meeting:

1	Mr. Joseph St. Anne	34	Adv. Devdatta Malshe
2	Mr. Shankar Arun	35	Dr. Prachi Moghe
3	Prof. VispiBalaporla	36	Mr. Abhijith Mulye
4	Mr. Zubin Balaporla	37	Mr. Vithal C. Nadkarni
5	Ms. Tejashree C. Balwir	38	Mr. Ajith Nair
6	Mr. R. S. Bandre	39	Dr. Shehernaz R. Nalwalla
7	Mr. Biplov Belel	40	Dr. Kunda P.N.
8	Mr. Tara S. Bhattacharya	41	Prof. Suraj A. Pandit
9	Ms. R. Bishnoi	42	Ms. Renu D. Parekh
10	Mr. Hitesh Brahmabhadd	43	Mr. Nobby Sunny Pariyaram
11	Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak	44	Mr. Jaywant Patil
12	Mr. Sandeep Dahisarkar	45	Mr. C.M. Paulsil
13	Ms. Ann Dias	46	Ms. Radika Radia
14	Ms. Yasmin K. Divecha	47	Mr. M. P. Rege
15	Dr. Nasreen Fazalbhoy	48	Mr. M. A. N. Saiyad
16	Mr. KooverjiGamadia	49	Mr. Omkar Salunke
17	Mr. V. V. Ganpule	50	Mr. Pulind Samant
18	Mr. T. R. Ghoble	51	Mr. Pankaj Samel
19	Mr. Cyrus Guzder	52	Mr. Yogiraj K. Sapre
20	Ms. Sharon Irani	53	Mr. Anil W. Sawant
21	Adv. Rajan Jaykar	54	Mr. Yogesh K. Shah
22	Dr. Leela Jois	55	Mr. Govind Shahani
23	Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat	56	Ms. Prakruti Sharan
24	Mr. Digamber L. Kamble	57	Ms. B.S. Shashidar
25	Dr. Gita Kasturi	58	Dr. Varsha Shirgaonkar
26	Mr. Tanaji Kharat	59	Prof. Mangala R. Sirdeshpande
27	Adv. Sanjay Kher	60	Ms. Anahita Tarapore
28	Mrs. Sanjeevani Kher	61	Mr. R. Venkatesh
29	Prof. Meenal Kshirsagar	62	Prof. Usha R. Vijailakshmi
30	Mr. Surendra N. Kulkarni	63	Mr. Dhairya Vyas
31	Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappily	64	Mr. Sunil M. Bhirud
32	Dr. Yasmeen Lukmani		- ASM Staff Representative
33	Ms. Anuradha Malshe		

The President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, called the meeting to order. She then welcomed the members and explained in detail the various factors relating to the recent Managing Committee elections held on 30th September 2023. She explained the circumstances that had led to the appointment of the Returning Officer in conducting the elections. She then informed the House that many members had been contacted to accept the task of Returning Officer for conducting the ASM elections. However, all of them had refused.

Since time was running out, the President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, the Hon. Secretary, Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande, and the Vice President, Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla, along with other Office Bearers suggested the name of Mr. S. Arun as Returning Officer, and Mrs. Mashanta Romani as Assistant Returning Officer. However, nobody realized that Mr. S. Arun's membership of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai was less than 5 continuous years as required under Rule 14b in order to be eligible for being the Returning Officer.

The President then introduced Mr. Rajan Jayakar, Member of the Managing Committee, and explained that she had asked him to be present on the dais as he had all the related papers ready as well as a legal background. She said that the Agenda for the Special Meeting was in two parts to transact the following business:

- 1) To inform members of various factors relating to the recent Managing Committee elections held on 30th September 2023; and more particularly of the appointment of the Returning Officer in conducting the elections to the Managing Committee.
- 2) After a discussion in the General Body, the Managing Committee seeks the guidance of the General Body as to the form and nature of the appropriate steps to be taken next under these unusual circumstances.

The President then placed the following resolution before the House:

Resolution:

"It is recorded that the election of members of the Managing Committee held on 30-09-2023 hereby be declared as valid by condoning the technical lapse in the appointment of Mr. S. Arun as Returning Officer for the said election although he did not fulfill the condition of being a member of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for a period of 5 years as specified in Rule 14(b) of the Rules and Regulations of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, since Mr. S. Arun is not a member of the Managing Committee and was not a contesting candidate at the election and on his holding the election process in a transparent and satisfactory manner as found by the members of the Society."

At this point several members intervened to give their reactions to what the President had said and to the abovementioned resolution.

Mr. Pulind Samant said that the appointment of Mr. S. Arun as Returning Officer was not a Managing Committee decision. He also said that his record should have been checked. He further added that such matters cannot be condoned. Mr. Pulind Samant also said that the Administration of the Society was very poor.

He added that the Change Report had not been sent to the Charity Commissioner as yet and so no decision can be taken. He also pointed out that the Returning Officer's appointment was not done in the Managing Committee but only by certain individuals. He clarified that only those who committed this mistake should take the entire responsibility for Mr. S. Arun's appointment.

Mr. C.M. Paulsil also said that this matter cannot be condoned since it violates the Rules and Regulations of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai. He also said that the Returning Officer should satisfy all three conditions laid down in the Rules. He added that we should rectify what had happened even if that meant holding the elections once again. Dr. Gita Kasturi agreed with the views that had been expressed and felt that we should go in gracefully for fresh elections in order to safeguard the reputation of this Institution.

Adv. Sanjay Kher, Managing Committee Member, pointed out that there were 11 members elected during the elections held on 30th September 2023. He had the following query:

He wondered if only those 11 members were to be re-elected if re-elections were to be held or whether the entire Committee should be re-elected.

Mr. Surendra Kulkarni who had been the Hon. Secretary from August 2019 to 2020 said that if the appointment of the Returning Officer is not legal then everything regarding the elections becomes null and void. He pointed out and stressed the fact that the final decision in this matter rests with the Charity Commissioner. He further added that the Electoral Reforms had not been discussed and that within a month or two a meeting should be held in order to adopt them. He also stressed the need to have a re-election.

At this point, Ms. Renu Parekh, Member of Managing Committee, said that she had asked in the Managing Committee whether Mr. S. Arun had the right to ask for the KYC of the candidates standing for the elections. She felt that even at this point the Managing Committee could have ascertained whether Mr. Arun is eligible to be the Returning Officer. She said that the Resolution referred to at the beginning of the meeting had not been shared with the Managing Committee. Adv. Sanjay Kher then said that such a violation of the Rule might be condoned by the Courts. As a matter of fact, only the Court or the Charity Commissioner had the right to decide regarding this issue. The House was not authorized to cancel this election or hold a re-election.

To Adv. Sanjay Kher's remark, Mr. Pulind Samant pointed that if the House did not have the power to declare the elections null and void, it did not have the power to condone the elections either. Prof. Usha R. Vijailakshmi, Vice President, added that Adv. Sanjay Kher had stated right at the start when it was realized that Mr. S. Arun was not eligible that we should admit the lapse to all the members and also write to the Charity Commissioner informing him about this.

Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar, Vice President, stated that nobody stood to gain in any way by appointing Mr. S. Arun as a Returning Officer because he was known to them. There was no rigging of the election. The House would do well to keep this in mind.

Mr. Ganpule felt that since the AGM was the appointing authority of the Managing Committee, it had the right to call for a re-election.

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande, Hon. Secretary, said that several lapses had occurred in the past right from the days when Mr. Soli Sorabjee was the President of the Society in 1970s. However, these had been condoned. Mr. Sorabjee in his wisdom had always advised us to settle such issues and condone mistakes which are inevitable so that we can move forward.

She admitted that Mr. Arun's name as Returning Officer was not selected by the Managing Committee but by Prof. Vispi Balaporia, President, Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande, Hon. Secretary, and Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla, Vice President. Some other Managing Committee members were also present. Since time was running out and nobody had accepted to be the Returning Officer, the decision had to be taken. She further admitted that as the Hon. Secretary she should have in the fitness of things sent an email to the rest of the Managing Committee members asking them for their permission to appoint Mr. S Arun as the Returning Officer and Mrs. Mashanta Romani as the Assistant Returning Officer. However, the appointment of Mr S Arun as Returning Officer and Mrs Mashanta Romani as Assistant Returning Officer had been conveyed to the Managing Committee in the Action Taken report.

The Hon. Secretary also asked the House to take into consideration all that has been achieved by the present and the past Managing Committee. With great efforts and tenacity, they had managed to get a Rs.1 Crore Annual Recurring Grant from the Government of Maharashtra. Such an Annual Recurring Grant had never been sanctioned in the past. She also pointed out that the Hon Secretary, the Vice President, Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla, and Mr Sunil Bhirud, ASM Staff Representative and Mr. Prakash Reddy, President, ASM Employees' Union, had spent their own money and had gone to

Delhi in June 2022 to meet Mr. Govind Mohan, the Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in an endeavour to get increased grants. The Members should not lose sight of these positive actions done by the Managing Committee.

Mr. Yogiraj Sapre said that we should take into consideration the fact that the Election had been conducted smoothly and a lot of good work has been done such as getting the one Crore Annual Recurring State Government Grant.

Mr. Vithal Nadkarni, Managing Committee Member, said that a member of the staff had informed Mr. Arun about the Rules. He had also added that Mr. Denzil Pontes was asked about this.

At this point, Mr. Joy Thomas, Vice President, also said that the Returning Officer should have been aware of the Rules. He suggested that an inquiry could be held in this matter.

The President strongly refuted this statement. The Hon. Secretary then gave her clarifications that when asked about this matter Mr. Denzil had said that Mr. Arun was given a copy of the Society's Rule book. That is precisely what he meant by saying that Mr. S. Arun had been "informed." The Hon. Secretary reiterated that first and foremost the appointment of Mr. S. Arun was the decision of the 3 Office Bearers and not of the Managing Committee. The Managing Committee was informed only by way of an Action Taken Report, but added that he should have also cared to look into the Rules to see whether he was eligible.

To this statement Mr. S. Arun protested that he came into the picture only when he was appointed and he was not expected to check according to the Rules whether he was eligible to be the Returning Officer.

However, Mr. S. Arun suggested that the Managing Committee should consider modifying Rule 14(b) in case in the future the Managing Committee is not able to find a member with 5 years continuous membership to be the Returning Officer, and get the change ratified in the next AGM. In spite of the negative views expressed by the members mentioned above with regard to the lapse concerning the appointment of the RO, Mr. Yogiraj Sapre, Mr. C.M. Paulsil and Mr. Surendra Kulkarni spoke of the excellent manner in which the RO and Asst. RO had conducted the elections, and that there were no grounds of complaint regarding the conduct of the elections. Mr. Arun had also introduced feedback forms, in order to get the views of the voters regarding the conduct of the elections. It is worth noting that the responses of the voters were positive and clearly commended the efforts of the Returning Officer in the conduct of the elections.

Finally, after lengthy discussions, the President decided to withdraw the Resolution that she had initially placed before the House for its consideration and ended the meeting.

Sd/-
President

Sd/-
Hon. Secretary

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