



(Established in 1804)

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**REPORT**  
**OF**  
**THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI**  
  
**FOR THE YEAR 2023 - 2024**  
**(1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024)**

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**TOWN HALL**  
**MUMBAI 400 001**

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**Regd. under Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950. PTR No. E-1020 (BOM)**

# THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

Town Hall, Mumbai 400 001

Tel: (Off) 22660956 / Library: 22660062 / Hon. Secretary: 22665560 / Fax: 22665139

Website: [www.asiaticsociety.org.in](http://www.asiaticsociety.org.in) E-mail: [asiaticsociety1804@gmail.com](mailto:asiaticsociety1804@gmail.com); (Lib) [asiatic.townhall@gmail.com](mailto:asiatic.townhall@gmail.com)

<b>CHIEF PATRON</b>		H.E. The Governor of Maharashtra
<b>TRUSTEES</b>	2021-2027	Mr. Eknath A. Kshirsagar - <b>Chairperson, Board of Trustees</b> Adv. Navroz Seervai
	2019-2025	Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar Mr. Cyrus Guzder
	2017-2023	Mr. S.G. Kale (IAS Retd.) - Expired on 31-03-2023 (Appointed for the residual period in place of Dr. Anil Kakodkar w.e.f. 30-03-2021)

## Managing Committee for the year 2023 – 2024 (till 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023)

### OFFICE BEARERS (2021- 2023)

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Prof. Vispi Balaporia
<b>VICE-PRESIDENTS</b>	Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar      Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly      Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi
<b>HON. SECRETARY</b>	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (w.e.f. 24-09-2022)

### **MEMBERS**

#### 2020 – 2023

Mr. Digamber L. Kamble  
Dr. Madhu Kelkar  
Mr. Kiran D. Sawant  
\* Adv. Sanjay Kher  
\* Mr. Nobby Pariyaram

#### 2021 - 2024

Mr. Sunil P. Kadam  
Ms. Renu Parekh  
Mr. Jaywant K. Patil  
Mr. Chittilari M. Paulsil  
Mr. Raamesh G. Raghavan

#### 2022 - 2025

Mr. Vilas Dhavale  
Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat – Hon. Jt. Secretary  
(w.e.f. 10-10-2022)  
Adv. Rajan Jayakar – Hon. Jt. Fin. Secretary  
(w.e.f. 10-10-2022)  
Mr. Vithal Nadkarni  
Prof. Suraj Pandit

\* *Elected at the 218<sup>th</sup> AGM held  
on 27-08-2022 (2022-2023)*

<b>Ex-Officio Member</b>	Dr. Vishnu Kanhere - <b>Hon. Finance Secretary</b> <b>[w.e.f. 10-10-2022 till the next election of 2024 under Clause No.14(c)(i)]</b>
<b>Hon. Director, MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute</b>	Dr. Suraj Pandit ( <i>Appointed as I/C Director w.e.f. 01/06/2023</i> )
<b>Employees' Representative</b>	Mr. Sunil Bhirud
<b>Central Government Nominee</b>	The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi
<b>State Government Nominee</b>	Shri D.A. Kshirsagar, Director of Libraries Directorate of Libraries, Maharashtra State, Mumbai
<b>Auditors</b>	Mr. Suril Shah      Mr. A.D. Bhorkar

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CHIEF PATRON		H.E. The Governor of Maharashtra
TRUSTEES	2021-2027	Mr. Eknath A. Kshirsagar - <b>Chairperson, Board of Trustees</b> (Expired on 11/11/2023) Adv. Navroz Seervai
	2019-2025	Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar Mr. Cyrus Guzder
	2017-2023	-

## Managing Committee for the year 2023 – 2024 (w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023)

### OFFICE BEARERS (2023 - 2025)

PRESIDENT	Prof. Vispi Balaporia
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar      Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly      Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi
HON. SECRETARY	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande

## MEMBERS

### 2021 - 2024

Ms. Renu Parekh  
Mr. Jaywant K. Patil  
\* Mr. Sunil P. Kadam  
\* Mr. Chittilrilly M. Paulsil  
\* Mr. Raamesh G. Raghavan  
[\*Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 as per Rule 16(a)]:

Elected at the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 30-09-2024 as per Rule 16 for one year 2023-2024 being the residual period of the term 2021-2024:

Mr. C. M. Paulsil  
Dr. Nasreen Fazalbhoy  
Dr. Yasmeen Lukmani

### 2022 - 2025

Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat - **Hon. Jt. Secretary**  
(w.e.f. 10-10-2022)  
Adv. Rajan M. Jayakar - **Hon. Jt. Fin. Secretary** (w.e.f. 10-10-2022)  
# Mr. Vilas Dhavale  
(# Resigned w.e.f. 24/07/2023)  
\*Mr. Vithal C. Nadkarni  
\*Prof. Suraj Pandit  
[\*Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 as per Rule 16(a)]

Elected at the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 30-09-2023 for two (2) years 2023-2025 as per Rule 15 (one post) and Rule 16 (two posts) being the residual period of the term 2022-2025:

Mr. Biplov Belel  
Mr. Digamber Kamble  
Dr. Kunda P.N.

### 2023 - 2026

Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee  
Ms. Sushama V Dabak  
Mr. Nobby Pariyaram  
\*\*Mr. Vithal Nadkarni  
\*\*Adv. Sanjay Kher  
[Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 as per Rule 16(a)]

Re-elected at the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 30-09-2023 for three (3) years 2023-2026:

Mr. Vithal Nadkarni  
Adv. Sanjay Kher

Ex-Officio Member	Dr. Vishnu Kanhere - <b>Hon. Finance Secretary</b> [w.e.f. 10-10-2022 till the next election of 2024 under Clause No. 14 (c)(i)]
Hon. Director, MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute	Dr. Suraj Pandit (Appointed as I/C Director w.e.f. 01/06/2023)
Employees' Representative	Mr. Sunil Bhirud
Central Government Nominee	The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi
State Government Nominee	Shri D.A. Kshirsagar, Director of Libraries (up to 19-12-2023) Shri Ashok M. Gadekar, Director (I/C) (w.e.f. 20-12-2023) Directorate of Libraries, Maharashtra State, Mumbai
Auditors	Mr. Suril Shah      Mr. A.D. Bhorkar

**Action taken report with reference to the Annual Report and the Resolutions placed at the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM held on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**I. ACTION TAKEN REPORT**

There is no action to be taken on the Annual Report.

**II. COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS PLACED AT THE PREVIOUS 219<sup>TH</sup> AGM HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024, WHICH WERE PLACED UNDER AGENDA ITEM NO. 8**

**Proposed Resolutions (From the Managing Committee):**

**A.1 Resolution No.8.A.1**

The resolution No. 8.A.1 moved in the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM, for confirming the Honorary Fellowships of the Society on 5 distinguished persons, was unanimously passed by the General Body. The function to confer the Society's Honorary Fellowships on them was held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Society's 219<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day. The names of the Honorary Fellows are given below:

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

**A.2 Resolution No.8.A.2**

As per resolution No.8.A.2 of the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM, pertaining to amendments to Rule 16(a) relating to total meetings attended, and also splitting the said Rule into 3 parts, was passed by the AGM. **The amended Rule 16(a) is given below:**

**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."**

**A.3 Resolution No.8.A.3**

As per resolution No.8.A.2 of the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM, pertaining to amendment to the opening sentence of Rule 8(a) for replacing 31<sup>st</sup> August with 30<sup>th</sup> September, was passed by the AGM. **The amended Rule 8(a) is given below:**

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**A.4 Resolution No.8.A.4**

As per resolution No.8.A.4 of the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM, pertaining to modified charges for reference material / photographs was passed by the House. **The revised charges for reference material / photographs are 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/-

**A.5 Resolution No.8.A.5**

As per resolution No.8.A.5 of the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM, the introduction of charges for school / college students and for Guided Tours was passed by the House. **These charges are as under:**

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

**A.6 Resolution No.8.A.6**

As per resolution No.8.A.6 of the 219<sup>th</sup> AGM, the charges for the use of the Durbar Hall to cover the cost of lighting, sound system and staff overtime, was passed by the House. The charges for the use of the Durbar Hall are as under:

Time	Revised charges
<b>Half Day use of Durbar Hall:</b> From 10.30 a.m. – 2.30 p.m. or From 2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	<b>Rs.25,000/-</b>
<b>Full Day use of Durbar Hall:</b> From 10.30 a.m. – 6.30 p.m.	<b>Rs.45,000/-</b>
<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>	

**B. Members Resolution (Item 8.B)**

No resolutions were received from the Members of the Society.

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## President's Message

A year has gone by, and once again I have this opportunity to communicate with the members, both old and new. I am pleased to report that your President, the Office Bearers, and the Managing Committee have been working hard through the year, so that this 220-year-old Society can continue to prosper. How many institutions in this city can claim to have survived for such a length of time? And we should consider ourselves fortunate to be at the helm of affairs to make this a memorable year. But we cannot do this alone; so here and now I throw the gauntlet to all of you to come forward with ideas so that this becomes truly a year to remember. It is only if we work together and stand firm that goals can be reached. A quote from Mr David Anthony Fernandes, who has played a significant role in the Dahi Handi festival, will reinforce this. "Only when everyone is aligned on the same energy level and there is mutual trust can we succeed in forming the pyramid. Even if one person is negative, the pyramid collapses."

Needless to say, great ideas need great financial backing; and this could become a stumbling block. Because, as you may well know, we continue to face a financial crunch. I appeal to all of you to come forward in enabling us to raise funds for this endeavour. Expenses keep mounting, and monetary returns cannot keep pace with these increases. We need to reach out to philanthropists, organisations, and the public at large who care for books, research, libraries, all to be found in a culture-specific organisation like ours.

We are indeed grateful to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, who have continued to give us an annual grant. Unfortunately, the grant has not been increased for several years, and it has been our constant endeavour to raise this issue with the Ministry. In this context I had mentioned last year of the personal interest that the Jt. Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Mrs Mugdha Sinha, has taken in the Asiatic Society. She has made it a point to visit the Society whenever she is in Mumbai, and has initiated interaction with the Society. We are hopeful that her continued interest may result in getting an enhanced grant. I hope to make this happy announcement soon.

We are also grateful to the Government of Maharashtra for sanctioning an annual recurring grant of one Crore, which has enabled us to purchase a substantial number of excellent books which have enhanced our already rich collection. We hope that this amount will be released soon. I must state that these positive developments are the outcome of the continuous efforts made by our Hon. Secretary, Dr Mangala Sirdeshpande, and our Vice-President, Dr Shehernaz Nalwalla, who have untiringly maintained contact with the officials who implement the orders issued by the relevant departments.

We have also been interacting ceaselessly with the Municipal Corporation who have been generous in giving their support towards our activities and maintenance.

And now a sad note. The Society suffered a tragic loss when the Chairman of our Board of Trustees, Mr Eknath Kshirsagar, passed away after several months of ill health. He had been a member of the Asiatic Society for many years, and had guided the Society through years of both celebration and tribulation. As a Trustee he provided sound advice on matters of finance and other important issues, while his firm and no-nonsense approach kept us on our toes. The Asiatic Society will miss his clarity of thought and integrity of purpose.

The pages that follow will update you with more details of the year covered in this report.

**Prof. Vispi R. Balaporia**  
**President**  
**Asiatic Society of Mumbai**

# THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023-2024

### 1. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The efforts made by the Society as noted in the report of 2022-23 bore fruit. A Government of Maharashtra Resolution (GR) dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 was received stating that Rs.1 Crore Recurring Grant was sanctioned to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, to be utilized under stipulated heads. While this was welcome news, it was disappointing that the money could not be utilized for the salary of our staff. Unfortunately, the amount was received in our account as late as 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

It should be noted that 2023-2024 marks the beginning of the 220 years celebrations of the ASM.

A Pictorial History of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai is planned and Ms. Shabnam Minwalla has been commissioned to write the book which will be a MARG Publication.

Three talks organized by the Mumbai Research Centre were held in the Durbar Hall as part of the 220 years celebrations, as they celebrated the lives of 3 eminent members of the Society - Bhau Daji Lad, Bhagwanlal Indraj, and Alexander Burnes:

1. Prof. Dr. Rupali Mokashi delivered a talk on "Bhagwanlal Indraj: Doyen of Indian Epigraphy" on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The talk was chaired by Prof. Suraj Pandit. This talk was in collaboration with the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums (Government of Maharashtra)
2. Dr Arvind Jamkhedkar delivered a talk on Bhau Daji Lad titled "A Multifaceted Personality: A Surgeon and an Indologist" on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The talk was chaired by Dr. Pheroza Godrej. This talk was held in collaboration with the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums (Government of Maharashtra)
3. Prof. Mariam Dossal delivered a talk on "Navigating Rivers, Bridging Cultures: The Extraordinary Life of Sir Alexander Burnes (1805-1841)" on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The talk was chaired by Dr. Manjiri Kamat.

The Society congratulates Dr A.P. Jamkhedkar, Life Member and former Vice President of the Society, on his appointment as the first Chancellor of Sir J J School of Architecture, a Deemed University.

The Society congratulates Mr Bhushan Gagrani, member of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, on his appointment as the Municipal Commissioner of BMC.

#### **Non-Cooperation and agitation by the staff**

A three-day non-cooperation agitation was held by the employees of the Society from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023. It should be noted that, despite the financial constraints faced by the Society, the monthly salaries of the staff are being paid along with the enhanced D.A.

#### **SOCIETY'S FOUNDATION DAY**

The 219<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day was held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in the Durbar Hall of the Society. The Chief Guest, H.E. Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, and Chief Patron of



the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, conferred the Society's Honorary Fellowships on five Renowned Scholars. Mr. Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Director General, CSMVS, delivered the Keynote address.

The Hon'ble Governor also released the latest issue of the ASM Journal Volume 91/2018 of the Society.

The details of Honorary Fellows and Medal Winners are given below:

**Honorary Fellows (2023):**

1. Dr Saryu Doshi
- 2 Prof. Anura Kumara Manatunga
3. Prof. Upinder Singh (Awarded in absentia)
4. Mr. Zubin Mehta. (Awarded in absentia)
5. Prof. Nabuyoshi Yamabe (Awarded in absentia)

Thereafter, the three prestigious medals of the Society were awarded to the following eminent scholars:

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Medals</b>	<b>Awardees</b>
1.	The Campbell Memorial Gold Medal	Prof. Subhas Chandra Mallik (Awarded in absentia)
2.	The Society's Silver Medal	Prof. Gopal K. Kanhere
3.	MM Dr. P.V. Kane Gold Medal	Prof. Brajakishore Swain

The programme was well attended.

## **2. ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY**

It is also heartening that several schools and colleges are arranging visits for their students to visit the Society's premises to view the library and understand the conservation process.

The CAG audit team visited the Asiatic Society of Mumbai from 07-11-2023 to 20-11-2023. The audit team comprised two Asst. Audit Officers - Shri Prashant Kumar Singh and Shri Kumar Gaurav; and Asstt Supervisor, Shri S.J. Naik. However, the Compliance / Transaction Audit was extended for 10 working days from 21-11-2023 to 05-12-2023.

A special meeting of the Managing Committee was held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 to discuss the HR policy. The HR expert, Mr. Patwardhan was invited to give his advice. He made many useful suggestions.

Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla, Vice President, was deputed to attend a brain-storming session on "Art Conservation" held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS, Mumbai)

Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla, Vice President of the Society, was nominated to attend the meeting of the National Selection Committee (NSC) of the Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research (TNFCR) held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in the Seminar Room of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library, New Delhi, Chaired by Shri Govind Mohan, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

Thereafter, Dr. Nalwalla spoke to Shri Govind Mohan and others in the Ministry, to press for pending demands for financial assistance and to enhance the Annual Grant of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

In May 2023 Prof. Miles Taylor of Großbritannien-Zentrum Centre for British Studies wrote to the Asiatic Society inviting it to join a project titled "Learned Societies in Colonial India". As part of the project, the organisers had initiated a three-day International Conference on the topic "*In the Cause of Literature and Science: Learned Societies of Modern India*" from 03-05 November 2023 at the IAS Campus, Shimla. The Society nominated Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi to represent the Asiatic Society at the Shimla Conference. She presented a research paper titled "Legacy of the Asiatic Society: Its Relevance as a Preeminent learned Institution of Mumbai", in which she traced the history of the Society and its holdings since its inception. The paper evinced much interest, and the conference organisers have decided to include the paper in the published research volume they intend to bring out.

Mrs. Kalindi and Mr. Jagdish Matani have donated a valuable book "Golden Book of Tagore" published in 1931 to commemorate Gurudev's Seventieth birthday. The book is priceless as Tagore's handwritten letter dated 29th December 1931 is also attached as a forerunner to this collection.

The Mumbai Port Authorities celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary by holding their Special Board Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 in the Durbar Hall of the Society, to repeat what had been done 150 years ago. On this occasion, the Mumbai Port Authority gave a general donation of Rs.10 Lakh to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai. The Society is thankful to the Chairman, Shri Rajiv Jalota (IAS) for this generous donation given at a time when the Society is facing financial difficulties.

Dr. Parineeta Deshpande resigned as the Hon. Director of the Kane Institute and Prof. Suraj Pandit was appointed as the In-charge Director of the Kane Institute.

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai received a donation from the Indian Heritage Society for the restoration of four portraits – Alexander Burnes, Daniel Ross, W.E. Frere and Charles Malcolm, which were displayed in the Research room of the Society.

Ronald Deniz has been appointed as the Chief Information Officer and Mr. Nitin Patil as the Appellate Officer to answer the Right to Information (RTI) queries.

The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, organized a three-day International Museum Expo 2023 which was held from 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the flagship programme to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of India's Independence. Additionally, this year's International Museum Day (IMD) theme according to the International Council of Museums (ICOM) was "Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing" and this initiative was designed to Institute a holistic conservation around museums. Mr. Sunil Bhirud, Lab Supervisor, was invited by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, to participate in the International Museum Expo – 2023 in Delhi and he conducted a session on "Preventive Conservation of Rare Books" on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, and Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla, Vice President, were invited for a one-day blended National Conference on "New Perspective of the History of India: Socio-Cultural, Geo Political & Economic Aspects on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the B.K. Birla College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Kalyan. At the same conference, Mr. Sunil Bhirud, Lab Supervisor, made a presentation on Paper Conservation during a session on The Importance and Need to Preserve the Heritage of India. His focus was on the conservation efforts at the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

The Mumbai Research Centre of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (MRC, ASM) was invited by the Indian Navy to be a partner for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Indian Navy Mumbai Heritage Run 2023.

The aim of this 5 KM and 10 KM run open to the public is to promote heritage awareness of the City. The Society's Logo was displayed on their award ceremony podium.

The Society commissioned Past Perfect to prepare an Annotated and Descriptive Catalogue of Maps in the Society's Collection. The catalogue is in progress as the team identified of folded maps hitherto classified as books, which need to be incorporated in the catalogue.

Two lectures on "Thinking Civilisation" by Dr. Ganesh Devi, Honorary Fellow of the Society, were held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in the Durbar Hall of the Society. The lectures were held to revisit the idea of civilisation as it emerged when the Asiatic Societies were founded and presented new perspectives available to us towards re-conceptualising the idea of civilization.

### **'MAPPED! – SURVEYS THAT LEFT BEHIND A LEGACY', an Exhibition Showcasing a Selection of Rare Maps Curated from the Special Collections at the Asiatic Society of Mumbai**

'Mapped! - Surveys that left behind a legacy' was the second exhibition of rare maps organized by the Rotary Club of Bombay and the Asiatic Society of Mumbai from 7th May to 4th June, 2023. The exhibition received a generous support of the Tata Group. Heritage Management Agency, Past Perfect, was appointed to research and curate the exhibition.

The maps chosen for display served as a testament to a revolution in 19th century India which saw one of the most advanced mapping exercises ever to take place in the history of the world – the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India. The selection process was defined by two priorities – one was the need to succinctly communicate the method, story and scale of the GTS. The second was the inclusion of maps belonging to the Second Revenue Survey of Bombay, which was an extension of the GTS – which was imagined to serve as an anchor for locals to reorient themselves after processing the overwhelming created scale and complexity of the GTS.

#### List of Maps displayed:

- Rennell's Map of Hindoostan (1788) - the first-ever accurate map of India to be made
- Two Marine Surveys that illustrate the strategic harbours developed by the British to secure transportation, trade, defence, and entry into the subcontinent: Bay of Bengal (Marine Survey, 1878) & Gulf of Kutch (Marine Survey, 1821)
- Maps published as a result of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India:
  - Mysore (GTS, 1828)
  - Cape Comorin (GTS, 1829)
  - Preliminary Chart of Triangulation in the Northern Portions of the Bombay Presidency (1852-55, 1859-61, 1863-64)
  - Dominions of Nepal (GTS, 1857)
  - Meghalaya, showing a passage regularly used by Lamas to reach Lhasa (GTS, 1830)
  - UP & Bihar (1857)
  - West Coast of India (GTS, 1857)
- Maps of Bombay
  - Bombay Mercator (Marine Survey, 1852)
  - Chowpaty & Girgaum (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1869-70)
  - Girgaum (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1869-70)
  - Tardeo (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1869-70)
  - Tardeo (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1869-70)
  - Cammattee Poora & Byculla (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1868-69)
  - Cammattee Poora (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1868-69)
  - Tarwaree (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1868-69)
  - Tarwaree (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1868-69)

- Khara Tullao & Omerkharee (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1869-70)
- Mazagon (Bombay Revenue Survey, 1869-70)

#### **Additional Elements that enhanced the exhibition:**

- **A Restored Portrait of Alexander Burnes**
- **A Photo Carousel** with Prints of 20 Archival Photographs and Objects that gave visitors a visual peek into the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India
- **Anecdote Cards**, placed in small, black acrylic boxes mounted on the sides of the map stands. These cards carried anecdotes and quotes from primary accounts that the curators came across during their research. Through this, the exhibition achieved its objective of foregrounding the lived experiences of surveyors and natives throughout the mammoth mapping exercise.
- **A Digital Stopover:** An interactive, 65-inch digital screen most definitely enhanced visitor accessibility to maps that were otherwise not displayed at the exhibition and provided visitors of all ages with an elevated experience via this medium. Additionally, it also allowed the audience to engage deeply with the digital versions of the maps on display.
- **Reading Corner:** A reading corner stationed in the centre of the exhibition hall, envisioned to be a space for visitors to unwind, reflect and learn more about the subject, before, during or after going through the display of maps. The collection, borrowed from the Asiatic Library for the duration of the exhibition, consisted of 22 books predominantly written in English which were related to mapping, the GTS and the city of Mumbai and were available for all visitors to browse through.
- **Selection of 7 Rare Books from the collection of the Asiatic Library:** Alexander Burnes' *Travels into Bokhara, Vol. I* was displayed beside his restored portrait, while James Rennell's *Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan* accompanied his 1788 *Map of Hindoostan or the Mogul Empire*, offering insights into the map's creation. Additionally, five books related to the Great Trigonometrical Survey (GTS), showcasing formulae, calculations, trig station records, and surveyor notes, were displayed in acrylic cases. These provided a glimpse into the meticulous work behind the detailed maps produced during the GTS.
- **Model of "The Great Theodolite" and a Mini Theodolite:** A replica of the theodolite used by William Lambton and a mini theodolite dating back to the period of the British East India Company were loaned by the Department of Geology at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai for the duration of the exhibition. These instruments were placed on the table with the rare books and were highly appreciated by visitors as they provided a tangible reference to the GTS.
- **A Short, 2.5. minute video of the Great Trigonometrical Survey**, meant to be an introductory audio-visual experience for all visitors in the exhibition hall, was played on loop throughout the exhibition.
- **Souvenirs:** A variety of souvenirs, including map postcards, mugs, etched glasses, diaries, tote bags, jigsaw puzzles, and prints of old Bombay maps were available for purchase. These items sold out quickly due to the high demand and quality. A small red letterbox allowed guests to write and send postcards to loved ones, with weekly collections sent to the GPO for mailing.

#### **Several talks were held to add value to the exhibition:**

- **5<sup>th</sup> May 2023** – Inaugural Event: Special talk by Riaz Dean, author of 'Mapping the Great Game' and 'The Stone Tower'.
- **9<sup>th</sup> May 2023** – Story of Mumbai Through Maps: Putting 'ART' in Cartography: A Panel Discussion curated by Avid Learning for 'Mapped!' The speakers were Mrinal Kapadia, Film Producer and Founder of India Visual Art Archive; Zeenat Kulavoor, Typographer and Design Director, Bombay Duck Designs; Ruchita Madhok, Founder, Kahani Designworks and Publisher, Storycity; & Ruta Waghmare Baptista, Curator (Collections Education & Outreach), Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum.

- **13<sup>th</sup> May 2023** – Mapping India: Then & Now: A Public lecture by Dr. Manosi Lahiri, a professional geographer, IT entrepreneur, published author and founder of India's first GIS company
- **16<sup>th</sup> May 2023** – Survey of India and the Pundits: A Public talk by Riaz Dean, author of two non-fiction books - 'Mapping the Great Game' and 'The Stone Tower'.
- **20<sup>th</sup> May 2023** – 'GTS Keeda': A Storytelling Session with Atlaskeeda
- **21<sup>st</sup> May 2023** – Treasure Island: A Treasure Hunt Walk conducted by Yooti Bhansali around Tardeo
- **25<sup>th</sup> May 2023** – Archaeology & Maps: Best Friends Forever: A Public Talk by Dr. Kurush Dalal, an archaeologist, historian, culinary anthropologist and the Director of the School of Archaeology at INSTUCEN Trust
- **27<sup>th</sup> May 2023 & 4<sup>th</sup> June 2023** – Kamathipura: Beyond the Brothel: A heritage walk led by Zoya Kathawala within the bylanes of Kamathipura
- **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023** – Decoding the Second Revenue Survey of Bombay: A Special Walkthrough by Mrinal Kapadia of the Bombay maps in the exhibition
- **3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023** - A Survey that Transformed Bombay (1811-1827): An Insightful Talk by Dr. Mariam Dossal, former Head of the Department of History at the University of Mumbai and an urban & maritime historian of modern India
- **Recurring Events:** Children's Activities on Sunday, Curatorial Tours of the Exhibition

Response: With an average footfall of close to 100 visitors a day, the exhibition attracted people from all over the country. The last week in fact saw close to 300 visitors a day with the last day touching the 1000 mark - a true achievement for an exhibition designed around a historical subject! The exhibition was frequented by architects, entrepreneurs, engineers, designers, historians, creative and cultural heritage professionals, journalists, map collectors, photographers, surveyors, geologists, enthusiasts of history, maps and geography, professors and students of geography, history, and architecture. This was accompanied by numerous mentions in the press and on social media.

Additionally, the Urban Heritage Committee of the The Rotary Club Bombay Charities Trust No.3, adopted 9 books of the Great Trigonometric Survey for Rs.2 Lakh.

### **THE FESTIVAL OF LIBRARIES, PRAGATI MAIDAN, NEW DELHI**

Impressed by the 'Mapped!' exhibition at The Asiatic Society of Mumbai in May 2023, Ms. Mugdha Sinha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, India, requested its inclusion in the Festival of Libraries, 2023. Recognizing its historical and cultural significance, her goal was to make the Society's exceptional collection of maps accessible to a broader public.

The 'Festival of Libraries 2023' was a two-day event held on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2023. The festival highlighted iconic libraries from India and across the world to initiate a conversation on globally renowned best practices in libraries and the modernization and digitization of libraries in India. The pavilion allotted to The Asiatic Society of Mumbai was one of 10 captivating exhibitions showcasing the evolution of cartography, private and public archives, calligraphy, and cursive writing styles in 22 vernacular languages from across India as well as tribal fonts through theme-based exhibitions.

The event was inaugurated and visited by esteemed dignitaries ranging from the President of India to various ministers from the Ministry of Culture and witnessed a large turnout of scholars, writers, librarians, private collectors, map enthusiasts, students, and the public.

The 'Mapped!' pavilion exhibited a curated selection of 10 maps, ranging from the early cartographic endeavours of European explorers, notably Italian, Dutch, and German in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, to the

colonial-era maps produced by The Great Trigonometrical Survey of India in the 19th century. The arrangement of these maps followed a chronological sequence and the display was a fusion of two previous rare map exhibitions, held at The Asiatic Society of Mumbai in April 2022 and May 2023, with a few new additions that would make the display relatable for audiences in Delhi.

In addition to offering high-resolution reprints of the above-mentioned maps and carefully curated labels, the exhibition introduced a people-centred touch through anecdote cards, a captivating carousel of photo prints from The Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, and reprints of two rare volumes from The Asiatic Society of Mumbai's collection tied to the history of the GTS. The inclusion of an interactive digital screen, showcasing maps charting the Pundits' explorations, and a looping video narrating the exhibition's storyline, added a multimedia layer to the visitor experience.

The Delhi edition of 'Mapped!' also received overwhelming praise from general visitors, and scholars alike. As one of the only exhibitions that stood out in its design and storyline, 'Mapped!' was lauded as a unique and well-curated initiative that enriched public understanding of how cartographic knowledge of India evolved over time. Many enquired about the collections at the Asiatic Society of Mumbai and enthusiastically picked up brochures that gave them details about ASM, its collections and details about Granth Sanjeevani. Guests of honour, members of the Ministry of Culture and other exhibitors also greatly appreciated the display and admired the gems that were part of the Asiatic Society's collection.

### **Textile Manufacturers of India:**

An exhibition on "The Textile Manufacturers of India" curated by Savitha Suri, Life Member of the Society, was held from 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023 in the Durbar Hall of the Society.

The Textile Manufactures of India by John Forbes Watson is a landmark piece of literature and textile history that changed the course of India's handcrafted textiles.

Compiled in 20 sets of 18 volumes each, the work contains an exhaustive collection of Indian handcrafted textiles that were traded and/or produced for domestic consumption.

ASM is in possession of all 18 volumes (across the 2 editions) as part of the Rare Archives and these were brought out for display in July 2023 for the first time ever.

The display had 2 objectives:

1. To put the spotlight on ASM's collection; the preservation and conservation of rare books and the 'Adopt a book' program
2. To shed light on the historical narrative that led to the decline of the Indian handloom sector.

The event included a curated display of the volumes and guided walk throughs. Vintage and contemporary textiles were on display to help visitors compare and understand the extent of loss of textile skill & heritage.

The event also focused on the need for updated, comprehensive research and documentation on India's textiles as well as enabling a better appreciation of its textile heritage among laypersons. The event had a very heavy footfall with visitors from different parts of the country that included textile experts, practitioners, artisans, researchers, academia, media and laypersons.

Some of the notable visitors included Shilpa Shah (TAPI), IMC-Ladies' Wing, Pradeep & Mala Sinha (Bodhi), Manish Saxena (Lead Advisor- Aadyam Handwoven by Aditya Birla, Curators from CSMVS and Sarmaya, members of the Crafts Council of Gujarat, Tinaz Nooshian (Chief Editor, Mid-day),

Namrata Zakaria (Freelance Fashion Journalist) and educational institutions like NIFT, Whistling Woods, Wilson College and Xavier's College.

Peepul Tree did a short video on the event (available on their YouTube channel) and the collection, and it also received print media coverage in leading national dailies. The event led to other curations of the volumes for prestigious organisations like Sutr Santati, Selvdege (UK) and Tvam Foundation - all of whom are at the forefront of textile advocacy, research and documentation.

The curations have helped monetise - in a careful & responsible manner- the compendium and have increased awareness among researchers on resources that were not available until now. It has helped add new information that furthers research into certain textiles while opening new avenues in others. The event helped highlight the role of institutions like ASM in conserving knowledge and preserving rare & precious literary resources.

### **Architects and Firms That Built Modern Bombay:**

The "Architects and Firms That Built Modern Bombay" was a collaborative exhibition between Art Deco Trust, Mumbai, and the Mumbai Research Centre. The exhibition was supported by the Rotary Club of Bombay and was held in the Durbar Hall of the Society from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 10 March 2024.

The exhibition honoured the architects and firms who built Bombay through the 1930s-50s, with a progressive vision for a modern way of life. Several of them were first generation of Indian architects, graduating from homegrown schools like Sir J. J. School of Art. Much of the built form of the city they designed and envisioned still stands tall, and have provided Mumbaikars with a quality of life they have enjoyed for decades. Yet, they have never been identified or acknowledged for their singular contribution in shaping modern Bombay. This exhibition is a tribute to them. The exhibition gave a chance to see the material contributed by family members of these architects, like plaques, rare original drawings, photographs and personal memorabilia hitherto unseen. Books relevant to the subject from the ASM collection were on display.

### **Participation of Asiatic Society of Mumbai in Tata Mumbai Marathon (TMM) 2024:**

Tata Mumbai Marathon (TMM) has been a powerful platform for philanthropy. It brings together companies, NGOs and individuals who leverage this platform to spread awareness and raise funds. The Asiatic Society of Mumbai for the first time participated in the Tata Mumbai Marathon held on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2024.

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Rajan Jayakar, Chairperson, Events & Souvenir Committee; Ms. Pooja Mahurkar, Convenor, Events & Souvenir Committee; and office staff a long process of online form filling, the Asiatic Society page came alive on the Website of United Ways, Mumbai.

The Event & Souvenir Committee has successfully raised One lac forty eight thousand and one hundred rupees through this route. The names of each donor is also displayed on our webpage <https://www.unitedwaymumbai.org/ngo-1569>. The sum was directly transferred to the Society's account without any deductions.

1. Pooja Gupta Mahurkar
2. Shehernaz Nalwalla
3. Rajan Jayakar
4. Meenal Kshirsagar
5. Sanjiv Mehta
6. Firdaus Mistry
7. Ajay Nayar
8. Usha Vijailakshmi
9. Parizad Zarthoshtimanesh
10. Ami Jain
11. Mangala Sirdeshpande
12. Shridhar Naik
13. Nargis B Kharas
14. Bellur Srikrishna
15. Yasmeen Lukmani
16. Nasreen Fazalbhoy

17. Zubin Balaporia
18. Bharat Davda
19. Jeffery Campus
20. Siddharth Amin
21. Anjali Masarguppi
22. Paulsil Mathai

23. Adi Pocha
24. Zarine Balaporia
25. Namrata Bangera
26. Saroosh Dinshaw
27. Vispi Balaporia

Physical participation:

On special request, we were given two senior citizen bibs. These were subscribed by

1. Mr Rajan Jayakar
2. Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi

Additionally, Ms Pooja Mahurkar (Dream run), Ramprasad Mahurkar and his attendant (Champion with disability) had their pre-reserved bibs. They also formed a part of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai's TMM running team. Prof. Vispi Balaporia, Dr Shehernaz Nalwalla, Mrs Meenal Kshirsagar and Mr. Dhairya Vyas enthusiastically cheered the runners.

Other Efforts:

The Running team and the cheering team were dressed in specially designed T-shirts to exemplify the presence of Asiatic Society of Mumbai at the Tata Mumbai Marathon 2024 Race. The cost of this was borne by the individuals. A retractable banner was also designed and printed for this purpose. This is a universal banner of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai and can be used as and when required.

Path for the future:

This was our first year of participation and we faced many hurdles. We carry many learnings for the next year. We hope that we can capitalise on all the routes for fundraising to raise a big corpus and large numbers in terms of 'on ground participants,' in various categories.

### **Mapping Color in History**

The pigment analysis of 5 of the manuscripts in the possession of the Asiatic society of Mumbai was carried out by Ms. Anjali Jain. MCH India Coordinator and Conservationist on behalf of the Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute at Harvard.

The five manuscripts analyzed were: Aranyakaparva, Prajnaparamita, Kalpasutra 63-4, Kalpasutra 205-1, Gandavyuha, Karandavyuha.

The analysis was carried out at the premises of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai using the MCH mobile heritage lab equipment which was temporarily housed at the CSMVS.

An additional manuscript of the Shahnama was also analyzed at the Society's request.

A detailed report was submitted and corrective and conservation measures were suggested. The 5 manuscripts were further rehoused in acid free boxes made on the premises and Sameer Salvi, Binder was trained to carry out the housing of more manuscripts as and when required.

The Society was presented with a set of digital imaging data that was procured in the process of documenting the manuscripts.

Jinnah Kim, the Director and Principal Investigator visited the ASM on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and presented the Society with a copy of her book Garland of Visions: Color, Tantra and a Material History of Indian Painting



**Collaborative talks:**

The following two collaborative programmes were held with the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Mumbai in the Durbar Hall of the Society:

- i. A collaborative talk was organised by the Asiatic Society of Mumbai and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Mumbai on "Buddhist Art in Maharashtra and its maritime connections" by Dr. Pia Brancaccio. The talk was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2023. The talk chaired by Prof. Suraj Pandit was well attended.
- ii. The Asiatic Society of Mumbai and the Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Mumbai held a collaborative book presentation and lecture titled "Tibet and the Indian Subcontinent in the Eyes of a 20th-century Italian Scholar" by Prof. Giacolella Orofino, University of Naples "L'Orientale" on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 in the Durbar Hall of the Society. On this occasion, a book "Giuseppe Tucci: A biography" by Alice Crisanti, was presented.

**Joint Condolence meeting for late Mr. S.G. Kale at Y B Chavan Centre**

Several organisations and institutions with which late Mr. S.G. Kale was associated were represented at the condolence meeting held at the Y B Chavan Centre. The President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, spoke on behalf of the Society, highlighting Mr. Kale's positive contributions during his long association with the Society, adhering to his high standards of dedication and integrity. The Society had also held a Condolence meeting at the Durbar Hall of the Society on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

**Joint condolence meeting at the Museum:**

The Society suffered an irreparable loss with the passing of Mr. Ekanath Kshirsagar, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, after several months of ill-health. The Society held a condolence meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2023 in its Durbar Hall. Since Mr. Kshirsagar was also the Chairman of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS, Mumbai), a joint condolence meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023 on the Heritage Lawns of the Museum. The President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, gave a condolence speech on behalf of the Asiatic Society.

**Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) project:**

This was the first CSR Project offered to the Society. The period of negotiations covered several months, and the Trustees were kept updated. Eventually, an MoU was signed to refurbish the main Library Hall and the Research Room at a cost of Rs.1 Crore 62 thousand. The restoration architect, Ms. Sheetal Gandhi, was appointed on the basis of plans that she had already been asked to draw up for each room of the Society, in the hope of attracting a donor. The final Contract and Letter of Intent had been prepared, and the project was in readiness to be launched with the full approval of the MGL representatives, when a new Managing Committee was elected. Some of the new members found serious fault with the MoU, and formed itself into 'Kick Start' Committee in order to renegotiate. They held several meetings with the MGL representatives, and presented an entirely different plan. Eventually, after several months, the MGL formally informed the Society that, as time was running out, the Society should revert to the earlier plan. However, since the project had to be completed by the end of the financial year, the time had truly run out, and sadly the project was lost.

We would like to place on record our appreciation of the Public Works Department (PWD) Officials who have helped us throughout the year. The Officials of the PWD have given us their full support for the repairs and maintenance of the Society. The PWD has helped us to organise the function held to celebrate our Foundation Day on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023, when the Chief Guest, His

Excellency, Shri Ramesh Bais, Chief Patron of the Society and Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra. They cleared the entire premises and also did a wonderful decoration to welcome the Governor. Special mention can be made of the PWD authorities - Shri P.A. Gaikwad, Dy. Engineer; Shri Vishwanath Kamlapure, Section Engineer, and Shri Santosh S. Devare, Assistant to Section Engineer.

### 3 VISITS OF SOME NOTABLE INDIVIDUALS DURING THE YEAR

Ms. Mugdha Sinha, Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Culture, visited the Society on 31st May 2023 to see the exhibition 'MAPPED! – SURVEYS THAT LEFT BEHIND A LEGACY', an Exhibition Showcasing a Selection of Rare Maps Curated from the Special Collections at the Asiatic Society of Mumbai." Ms. Sinha was pleased and impressed with the entire display of maps.

### 4. THE SOCIETY REGRETS THE SAD DEMISE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS / STAFF:

#### **Ek Nath A Kshirsagar:**

It is with deep regret that we announce the sad demise of our Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Ek Nath Atmaram Kshirsagar, who passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Mr. Kshirsagar made a long and productive set of contributions to the Asiatic Society for over two decades. He was Vice President for many years, working with the President, Mr. B G Deshmukh. In particular he took charge of the Bi Centennial celebrations which were highly successful. He cared deeply about building the institutional strength of the Asiatic Society, including through engaging with professionals to help in modernising our accounting systems and management processes. He was an engaged participant in our various lectures and activities. He was also a thoughtful and wise Chairman, guiding us through challenging times during Covid and beyond. We sincerely appreciate his commitment and service and are grateful for his leadership. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife and family.

#### **Virchand Dharamsey:**

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai condoles the death of Mr. Virchand Dharamsey, noted film studies scholar and historian. Mr Dharamsey, who passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023, was a member of the Society from 1966. He was a constant presence in the library of the Society for many decades, and could be spotted poring over voluminous files of old newspapers or identifying rare manuscripts and printed books. In 2012, the Asiatic Society awarded Mr Dharamsey its Silver Medal for his book, *Bhagwanlal Indraji, the First Indian Archaeologist: Multidisciplinary Approaches to the Study of the Past*. Mr. Dharamsey was considered the leading authority on the silent era of Indian films; not only did he publish extensively on this subject, but he advised two generations of researchers on the arcane aspects of Indian films. He was deeply interested in a wide variety of subjects besides film history and archaeology. In 2023, the Society had published "AVANAV – A Collection of Virchand Dharamsey's essays in Gujarati, edited by Dr. Hemant Dave. Mr. Dharamsey was also concerned about the administration of the Society's affairs and was a member of its Managing Committee from 2005–2008. He was the Joint Honorary Secretary of the Society for two years (2006–2008) and briefly officiated as its Honorary Secretary. He was also elected as a Vice-President of the Society from 2009–2011. His quiet presence is deeply missed.

#### **Dr Vijaya Gupchup**

Dr. Vijaya Gupchup passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023. She was an active member of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for several years. Vijaya Gupchup was an educator and historian, associated with premier institutions in Mumbai. Her interests primarily lay in research and she has written books for children and also authored many books on the history of Mumbai. Special mention may be made of her book

“Dr. George Birdwood – The Promoter of Goodwill Between the East and West” and her well researched and insightful book “Arthur Travers Crawford: A Riddle Wrapped Up in an Enigma.” Vijaya Gupchup was a member of the Modern Book Selection Committee for several years. She has made a rich contribution to the Society. We will miss her deeply.

### **Dr. Geeta Ramana**

Dr. Geeta Ramana was a Life Member of the Society from 01-04-1989 and after a long illness fought bravely, she passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023. She was a Professor of Philosophy at the Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai and at the Asiatic Society of Mumbai she served as a member of the Modern Book Selection Committee of the Society for many years.

### **Uma Sheth:**

Dr. Uma Sheth passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Dr. Uma Sheth had a very long association with the Asiatic Society of Mumbai and participated enthusiastically in many of its activities. She was on the Managing Committee of the Society for some years. She unfailingly accompanied her husband, Dr. Kirti Sheth, every year to the Bansari Sheth Memorial Lecture.

### **Prof. B.N. Goswami:**

Prof. B.N. Goswami, who passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023, was conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the Society in 2010. Prof Goswami was a national icon, a scholar par excellence, and an inspiration for young generations of art lovers, students, and museum professionals. His passing is a shared loss for the country.

### **Suma Chitnis:**

Prof Suma Chitnis, who passed away in February 2024, was a pillar of strength to this Institution, of which she was a member of the Society for many years, and later a Trustee from 2011-2020. Her erudition, her understanding of issues associated with learned institutions and people was immense; her advice and guidance were always highly appreciated. The Society will miss her deeply.

## **5 PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN THROUGH THE GRANT**

The Society has undertaken projects from the Planned Grant-in-aid received from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi. The details of the on-going projects which are in the process of completion are given below:

### **On-going projects undertaken from the Planned Grant-in-aid of the Ministry of Culture**

#### **i) Critical Edition and Translation of Manuscripts in the Holdings of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai:**

Study of Manuscripts on the possession of Asiatic Society of Mumbai The project funded by the Ministry of Culture was initiated to study various manuscripts in the possession of Asiatic Society of Mumbai, under the leadership of Dr. A. P. Jamkhedkar. Following titles are taken up for the study:

1. Sahyadrikhanda of Skandapurana
  - a. Amaligrama Mahatmya
  - b. Renuka Mahatmya
  - c. Purvardha
  - d. Uttarardha
2. Sukruta Sagara

3. Swayambhu Purana
4. Velur Mahatmya

Velur Mahatmya has been published. The final report on the Sukruta Sagara and Swayambhu Purana was submitted to Asiatic Society of Mumbai. Amaligrama Mahatmya has been completed and will be published shortly. Critical text of Purvardha and Uttarardha are being prepared.

ii) **Handbook of Coins in the holdings of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai:**

As required by Dr. Shailendra Bhandare, the Society assigned the task of photographing the coins to Mr. Soumitra Pendse, a professional photographer. He took high resolution photographs of the Gold Coins which have been forwarded to Dr. Bhandare, who is in the process of completing the Handbook.

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 Library Administration Committee:**

Chairman: Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly  
 Convenor: Ms. Renu D Parekh

The stock-taking of books and periodicals could not be carried out during the financial year 2023-24 due to the staff being deployed in the Book Selection Committee and Periodical Committee to complete the processing of newly purchased books. The sterling achievement is that deep cleaning has been completed in May 2023 which started in the last financial year 2022-23 from 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023. This involved cleaning of the Library area and the upper basements.

**Stock-taking:**

In accordance with the Resolution No.4 (IV) of the Managing Committee meeting dated 11/7/1963, the Stock of the Society's Library has been verified physically. The Stock-taking work was undertaken from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 29<sup>th</sup> February, 2024. The stock-taking process is ongoing and will be completed shortly.

**6.2 Staff Welfare Committee Report**

**Chairperson: Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly**  
**Convenor: Ms. Priyanka Mestry**

The Society has a total strength of 28 staff members.

The Staff Welfare Fund, established in 1996 with the aim of providing immediate monetary assistance to meet the financial need of the employees, has disbursed an amount to the tune of Rs. 2.20,000/- towards educational loan and house repairs.

**Dr. B.R. Rairikar Scholarship (2023-2024):**

During the year, the Dr. B.R. Rairikar Scholarship was awarded to the ward/s of the staff members as under:

<b>Scholarships awarded</b>				
<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Name of the Wards</b>	<b>Standard</b>	<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Scholarship Amount</b>
i.	Kum. Pranali Madhav More	VII	2022-23	Rs.750/-

In order to strengthen the Staff Welfare Fund, members are requested to donate towards this fund. The donation is entitled for tax benefit under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.

### 6..3 **Library Digitization Project - Phase II:**

**Chairperson: Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla**

**Convenor: Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat**

The Library Digitization Project – Phase II is being carried out at the Asiatic Society of Mumbai through a generous grant of Rs.5 Crore from the Higher & Technical Education Department, Government of Maharashtra.

The Library Digitization Project is an ongoing project, in its third year of the Phase II now. Rare books, manuscripts, newspapers, maps, journals, and government publications are duly digitized and uploaded on the ASM Web Portal.

Plans are underway to add the postcards collections donated by Mr. Mukund Nawathe on the Web Portal.

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai has received Rs.1 Crore from the Government of Maharashtra for the Project's Phase II.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 the work completed is as under:

#### **Digitization of Resources:**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Total Books</b>	<b>Total pages</b>
Books	9,401	71,53,552

#### **Uploaded on Granth Sanjeevani:**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>ASM Coin Collection</b>
Total PDFs uploaded	1,444

During this period at total of 304 people (including 2 institutions) subscribed to our Web Portal Granth Sanjeevani. The Government of Maharashtra aided public libraries were given free access to Granth Sanjeevani.

#### **Microfilming / Digitization, Manuscripts, Rare Books and Maps Section:**

During the year 9,401 books were digitized and 29 microfilm rolls of Indian Spectator (1883 to 1901) and 18 rolls of Native Opinion (1867 to 1889) were scanned under the Library Digitization Project. Further 7,050 books were checked for quality.

4,7725 Microfilm rolls were rechecked and cleaned.

121 Researchers / Scholars referred to the digitized / microfilmed material from the Special Collection Room for their research purpose. The Microfilming / Digitization Department had given 2,114 printouts / microfilm printouts / soft copies to researchers (Members / Non-Members) on payment.

6.4 **Publications Committee Report:**  
**Chairperson: Dr. Meena Vaishampayan**  
**Convenor: Mr. Pradeep Champanerkar**

The Publication Committee of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai completed a long-awaited project this year. Some years ago, a project of the compilation of some important articles of Mr. Virchand Dharamsey was undertaken. This project was delayed due to unavailability of the material and copyright of some rare photos. Finally after completion of all the formalities, the book- 'Avanav'— was released on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The book release function was well attended. Mr. Atul Dodiya, the renowned artist released the book 'Avanav'. Dr. Hemant Dave, the editor of the book, was interviewed by Mr. Murali R.

Sadly, the release function, in a way, became a condolence meeting as just a week before the release function, unexpectedly, Virchand Dharamasey passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The Asiatic Society paid a befitting tribute to the Hon. Fellow of the ASM, an archaeologist, a film Historian and a film critic by releasing his book.

Rare memories of him were shared by his friends like Amrit Ganger-the film historian, Mr Prabodh Parikh the renowned poet, and family members of the late Mr. Dharamasey.

The Publications Committee held 1 meeting during the year.

6.5 **Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies:**  
**Chairperson: Mr. Vilas Dhavale**  
**Convenor: Ms. Smruti Koppikar**

This Centre was set up in 2016-17 and has the following to its credit so far:

- a) the annual fellowship has yielded research work of six Tikekar Fellows, while the dissertation of the seventh candidate is expected by August 2024,
- b) noteworthy scholars and professionals have delivered the annual Tikekar Lecture on Feb 1st every year,
- c) a continuing series of lectures in nearly a dozen colleges in Mumbai and the larger Mumbai Metropolitan Region on history, environment, food have been held to engage the younger generation.

The Tikekar Fellowship for 2023-24 was awarded, with Rs.1.25 lakhs each, by consensus of the sub-committee, to two researchers Mr Pankaj Bhosale and Dr Himanshu Smart, to explore issues related to language and literature in the Marathi literary and theatre world. Mr. Smart submitted his dissertation titled "Metropolitan, half-metropolitan and new metropolitan sensibilities reflected in Marathi dramas of the last three decades". Mr. Bhosale has sought an extension till August 2024 for submission of his work due to his illness; the committee granted him the extension after due deliberations and after seeking a joint review with his mentor and a jury member.

The annual function of the Tikekar Centre was held in the Durbar Hall on 1 February 2024. Reputed writer, translator, chronicler of theatre and an engaged observer of the arts and culture, Ms. Shanta Gokhale was the chief guest. She spoke on "The Great Language Divide" across the demographics and politics of language in plays and literature in Mumbai. Its success and appreciation was reflected in the numerous questions asked by the audience.

On the day, as has become the tradition now, the current Fellow Dr. Himanshu Smart presented a synopsis of his completed Fellowship work and Mr. Aslam Saiyad was announced as the selected candidate to pursue the Tikekar Fellowship for 2024-25. He presented the plan for carrying out the work for his subject titled “Cultural & Religious Festivals of Adivasis of Palghar District through sociological and economic lenses”.

The Centre launched the new Tikekar Memorial Lecture series in 2023-24 to deliberate about Mumbai and its future. The second in this series was held on December 1, 2023, at the Durbar Hall and was delivered by the noted Economist, and the Vice Chancellor of The Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, Dr. Ajit Ranade spoke on the topic “Who moved Mumbai’s Economy? Its dynamic evolution and prospects.” Prof Abhay Pethe, Advisor to The Gokhale Institute of Politics & Economics, responded to the lecture.

The purpose of this series is to bring ideas from professionals and others in housing, transport, economy, ecology, employment-jobs, culture and more to the table and have other eminent people in the field respond to those ideas, all of which we hope to bring together in a volume that will provide a way forward for the city/region from the crossroads it is at.

The college lecture series held in colleges across Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan Region continued this year too. This year’s series continued with the same subject as the last year, titled “The Logy of Mumbai” which took the young audiences across history, archaeology, biology, culinary arts and more, developed and ably delivered by Dr Kurush Dalal. All the lectures were well received. The four colleges covered were Sophia College (Bhulabhai Desai Road), Wilson College (Chowpatty), Patkar College (Goregaon) and Birla College (Kalyan).

Dr Aron Tikekar Centre hopes to continue the research and knowledge dissemination work it has done so far and augment it in other ways in the coming years.

## 7. EVENTS

### 7.1 Endowment Lectures:

**Chairperson: Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar**

**Convenor: Ms. Prakriti Sharan**

During the year, the Society held Endowment Lectures in the Durbar Hall of the Society, except the Prof. L.B. Kenny Endowment Lecture and the Centre for Labour Studies Lecture, which is held every alternate year. These lectures were delivered by renowned Speakers, each of them specialists in their own subject and were highly appreciated. However, some Endowment Lectures of the financial year 2023-2024 were held after March 2024.

The details of the Endowment Lectures held are given below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of the Endowment and the Topic</b>	<b>Speaker &amp; the Chair</b>
05-04-2023	The 13 <sup>th</sup> B.G. Deshmukh Endowment Lecture:  “Is Democracy inconsistent with Good Governance?”	Ambassador Shyam Saran <i>President, India International Centre and Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India</i>  <b>Presided by:</b> Inakshi Sobti <i>Chief Executive Officer, Asia Society India</i>
17-06-2023	The 29 <sup>th</sup> Smt. Bansari Sheth Memorial Lecture:	Dr. Abhinav Chandrachud <i>Advocate, Bombay High Court</i>

	“A History of the Bombay High Court During the British Raj 1862-1947”	<b>Presided by:</b> Dr Birendra Saraf <i>Advocate General of the Maharashtra Government</i>
08-12-2023	The 18 <sup>th</sup> Dr Mani Kamerkar Endowment Lecture:  “Rebels against the Raj: Western Fighters for India’s Freedom”	Dr. Ramachandra Guha <i>Historian &amp; Author</i>  <b>Presided by:</b> Dr. Dinyar Patel <i>Assistant Professor, History S. P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (SPJIMR),</i>
15-12-2023	The 30 <sup>th</sup> Smt. Bansari Sheth Memorial Lecture:  “The Constitution of India: Checks and Balances”	Mr. Justice Rohinton Nariman <i>Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India and former Solicitor General of India</i>  <b>Presided by:</b> Mr. Justice B.N. Srikrishna <i>Former Judge, Supreme Court of India and Former Chairperson, Board of Trustees of the Society</i>
11-01-2024	The 30 <sup>th</sup> Justice K.T. Telang Memorial Lecture:  “Lords of the Deccan: Coinage and History of the Satavahanas”	Dr. Shailendra Bhandare <i>Senior Assistant Keeper (South Asian and Far-eastern Numismatics), and Paper Money Collections, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, U K</i>  <b>Presided by:</b> Dr A P Jamkhedkar <i>Director (Retd.), Department of Archaeology and Museums, Maharashtra State</i>
21-02-2024	The 14 <sup>th</sup> Professor L. B. Kenny Endowment Lecture  “Building Storeys: An Architect’s Journey through the Indian Landscape”	<b>Brinda Somaya</b> <i>Architect and Urban Conservationist</i>  <b>Presided by:</b> Dr Pheroza Godrej <i>Chairperson, Godrej Archives Council and Advisor, Godrej Mangroves Cell</i>
12-03-2024	The Fourth Dr Meera Kosambi Endowment Lecture:  “The Urban Shift: From Patriarchy to Masculinity”	Prof. Dipankar Gupta <i>Retired Professor of Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University</i>  <b>Presided by:</b> Prof. Kamala Ganesh <i>Former Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai</i>



## 7.2 The Gulestan and Rustom Billimoria Youth Seminar:

During the year, the Endowment Lectures Committee organized the 21st edition of the Gulestan and Rustom Billimoria Youth Seminar. The details are given below:

Date	Topic	Speaker
5th August 2023	Wellbeing among the Youth: Relationships and Self-Preservation	Moderator and Speaker: Dr Aparna Joshi Assistant Professor School of Human Ecology, (TISS)

**Crux of the seminar:** Being happy in any relationship is important for human development. Providing confidence and security in the formative years is imperative for the development of a healthy society where young people form relationships based on respect and consent. The instinct for self-preservation, though considered innate, is most often cultivated. Postponing the instinct for immediate gratification, respecting contrary views and acceptance of rejection are some of the attitudes that need to be inculcated in childhood. If physical, emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing is not nurtured among the youth, it leads to conflict which then escalates into violence, harming both the aggressor and the victim.

Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi was the Convener of the seminar. It was Moderated by Dr Aparna Joshi, Assistant Professor, School of Human Ecology, (TISS). In all a total of 75 students from 16 colleges attended the seminar. The session was very lively and the question answer session went on for over 2 hours. The participants gave a positive review about the seminar and requested that such programmes be held every year. The committee organised a working lunch for the students which was also much appreciated. The seminar concluded with certificates being given to the participants.

## 7.3 ASM Literary Club (LitClub) Programmes:

**Chairperson:** Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar

**Convenor:** Mr. Shridhar Naik

This has been a successful year for the ASM LitClub. Many interesting programmes were held in the Durbar Hall of the Society, which were well attended by ASM members, as well as members of the public.

Date	Topic	Speaker
11-04-2023	The Education of Yuri	Jerry Pinto
30-06-2023	A Performance in Marathi titled 'Abhaya'	Meena Naik
30-08-2023	Women in State Politics in India Missing in the Corridors of Power	Prof. Pam Rajput & Dr. Usha Thakkar
25-09-2023	Critical Social Science Perspectives on Indian Cinema  Introduction of book and panelists: Dr Anagha Kamble, <i>Editor of the book</i> Book Launch followed by Book Review: Sucharita Sarkar, <i>In-charge Principal and Associate Professor, D.T.S.S. College of Commerce, Mumbai</i>  Chairperson: Dr Ruby Maloni, <i>Former Head and Professor, Department of History, University of</i>	Book Launch and Panel Discussion. (Book edited by Anirudh Deshpande & Anagha Kamble)

	<p><i>Mumbai</i></p> <p><b>Panel Discussions</b>  Dr Moon Moon Jetley, <i>Senior Researcher, KOKO Fuel, Kenya</i>  Dr Paromita Chakrabarti, <i>Professor, Department of English, H.R. College, Mumbai</i>  Dr Sachin Labade, <i>Professor, Department of English, University of Mumbai</i>  Ms. Hemadri Ludbe, <i>Assistant Professor, Department of History, Ramnarain Ruia College, Mumbai</i></p>	
04-10-2023	Talk on "Two Cultures, One Language: Four 19th Century Gujarati Texts"	Tulsi Vatsal & Aban Mukherji
27-10-2023	In conversation with "Shridhar Naik on Novel; 'Tryst with Koki'	Dr. Subhadra Anand
28-11-2023	Programme held in collaboration with Literature Live! In Conversation on the novel "The Hills are Burning"	Anirban Bhattacharyya with Jane Borges
12-12-2023	A Discussion on the 'Genre of Historical Fiction'	
17-01-2024	<p>Book Launch &amp; Discussion on "Women &amp; Social Laws in 19th Century India: Bengal and Maharashtra"</p> <p>Introduction of the Speakers: Sneha Nagarkar, Tagore National Scholar (ASM)  Introduction of the book: Dr.Swapna Samel  Historian &amp; Principal, SICES College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Ambarnath</p> <p><b>Discussants:</b>  - Dr Varsha Shirgaonkar, Professor &amp;Head, Department of History, SNDT Women's University (Retd)  - Dr Putul Sathe, Associate Professor, Research Centre for Women's Studies, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai  - Shalaka Torane, Assistant Professor, Department of History, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai</p>	Dr. Varsha S. Shirgaonkar
07-02-2024	Felicitation for the award-winning journalist, Sanjeevani Kher. "In Conversation" with Sanjeevani Kher and Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande, Hon. Secretary, Asiatic Society, formerly Professor of French, University of Mumbai.	
26-02-2024	Talk "Kundalini Yoga in Narsinh Mehta's Poems"	Dr. Jawahar Bakshi
15-03-2024	Talk "The Weapons of our Gods"	Sumathi Sridhar
27-03-2024	<p>Book Launch &amp; Discussion on 'Women &amp; Political Power in Maharashtra'</p> <p>Introduction of the book by the author Neelima Bhave  - Dr. Putul Sathe, Associate Professor, Research Centre for Women's Studies, SNDT Women's University;  - Dr. Deepak Pawar, Head, Dept of Political Science, University of Mumbai</p>	Neelima Bhave

#### 7.4 Programmes organised by the Mumbai Research Centre

Chairperson: Dr Shehernaz Nalwalla

Convenor: Mr. Nobby Pariyaram

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, the Mumbai Research Centre held 08 meetings in the Online and Off-line mode. The Mumbai Research Centre organized the following programmes:

##### **PROGRAMMES AT THE DURBAR HALL**

Sr No	Date	Title of the talk	Resource Person
1.	14-04-2023	A book release of Becoming Baba Saheb: Birth to Mahad	Dr Aakash Singh Rathore in conversation with Dr Shashi Tharoor and Consul General of Germany, Mr. Achim Iabig
2.	18-08-2023	Book discussion and play enactment of 'Mumbai Traps' Collected Plays	Author-Anju Makhija, in conversation with Uma Narain, Rochelle Potkar, Omkar Bhatkar
3.	08-09-2023 & 15-09-2023	Sun Pictures; The Advent of Photography in Bombay, 1840s-1870s Part-1 & Part 2	Mr Murali Ranganathan
4.	02-12-2023	Main Aashiq Hoon Baharon Ka! (Love songs of Shailendra)	Conceptualised and presented by Manek Premchand
5.	08-02-2024	Navigating Rivers, Bridging Cultures: The Extraordinary Life of Sir Alexander Burnes (1805-1841) <i>This lecture was part of the 220 years celebrations of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.</i>	Prof. Mariam Dossal Chair: Prof. Manjiri Kamat
6.	14-03-2024	O.P Nayyar —A melodious musical audio-visual Journey	Dr Prakash Joshi

##### **Walks/Visits (Ticketed Events)**

Sr No	Date	Title of the talk	Resource Person
1.	01-04-2023	A Textile Walk around Fashion Street	Savitha Suri
2.	23-04-2023	Navigating Neighbourhoods - A summer morning walk in Khotachiwadi	Dr Andre Baptista
3.	23-04-2023	Many Stories to Multi Storeys Khotachiwadi in time and space - An evening walk in Khotachiwadi with local snacks	Dr Andre Baptista
4.	29-05-2023	Mango Musings- A talk on Mangoes at Soam Restaurant, Babulnath, by two fabulous culinary experts, authors and storytellers followed by a tasting session	Rushina Munshaw Ghildiyal; Saeed Koranne and Pinky Dixit
5.	10-04-2024 13-04-2024	4 Ramadan Iftaar Walks - These included a guided tour of the	Antoine Lewis and Parvez Divan

	14-04-2024 17-04-2024	eateries and a curated Iftaar food tasting	
6.	18-04-2023	University of Mumbai Fort Campus visit - held on the occasion of World Heritage Day	Dr Manjiri Kamath
7.	15-05-2023	Jewish Oval Heritage Walk - It included a visit to the David Sassoon Library, the Synagogue and a specially created Kosher meal and more at the Keneseth Eliyahu Synagogue.	Prof Saul Sapir
8.	15-05-2023	Little Sindh - Chembur Food Walk	Riddhi Joshi
9.	10-06-2023	Paved Legacies-Guided visit to the showroom of the Bharat Floorings Group, a leader in quality cement floorings with a reputation held for over 90 years. Bharat pioneered the cement tiles industry in India as part of the Swadeshi movement to make India economically independent by producing tiles of international quality to replace imports	In-house personnel of the Bharat Flooring Group
10.	08-07-2023	Afghan Church Restoration visit-The walk covered elements of restoration and conservation related to its internal and external aspects	Ms Kirtida Unwalla (Chief Conservation Architect of the project)
11.	06-08-2023	Mumbai a Microcosm of Global Maritime History for the Navy Officers and their families.	R. Venkatesh
12.	19-08-2023	Standard Chartered Bank - A Heritage Walk	R Venkatesh
13.	02-09-2023	Kya Surat Hai: Little Gujarat of Mumbai - Charni Road Food Walk	Riddhi Joshi
14.	17-11-2023	Heritage Bus Tour for G20 finalists of Indian School students organised by the Western Naval Command, Indian Navy.	R. Venkatesh & Riddhi Joshi
15.	26-12-2023	Meandering through an Old Bandra Neighbourhood Christmas Lights, small stories and the winds of change with Shormistha Mukherjee	Ms Shormistha Mukherjee
16.	27-12-2023	Time and Good Tidings: A Christmas evening in Khotachiwadi	Dr. Andre Baptista
17.	06-01-2024	A Swadeshi Pioneer in URBS Prima in Indis – Sir Sorabji Pochkanwala & the Central Bank of India- A Special visit to the Central Bank of India's heritage Museum	Mr R Venkatesh
18.	19-01-2024	Sun Pictures: The Advent of Photography in Bombay – Part III. This lecture was delivered at the Vakils Printing Press, Prabhadevi and included a walkthrough of the	Mr Murali Ranganathan

		press	
19.	04-02-2024	Story of a Tree-A Tree Walk to the Baptista Gardens at Mazgaon	Renee Vyas
20.	24-02-2024	Visit to Vikhroli Mangroves and Godrej Archives	
21.	02-02-2024	Mumbai - A Microcosm of Global Maritime Histories - A special walk for Navy Personnel and their families	Mr R Venkatesh
22.	14-03-2024	Ek Shaam Bohri Mohalla ke Naam – A Ramzaan Food Walk	Dr Kurush Dalal
23.	17-03-2024	Forts of Mumbai -Day long visit to the various Forts of the island city including the Heritage Bunker at the Raj Bhavan.	Dr Kurush Dalal

### **BOMBAY BOOKED - A book discussion series with the authors of books about Mumbai**

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title of the talk</b>	<b>Resource Person</b>
1.	13-12-2023	Of Cotton Green, Shipwrecks and Tragic Romances: A Peep into Colaba's Colourful Past. (insightful discussion on the colourful history of Colaba, and the many tales of its inhabitants and visitors, reminiscences of views, nooks and structures)	- Author Shabnam Minwala in conversation with Ms Shormistha Mukherjee
2.	10-01-2024	Mumbai Fables– Author Gyan Prakash in conversation with Dr Simin Patel & Anurag Kashyap on Mumbai Fables. Collaboration: The Princeton Club of India	Gyan Prakash in conversation with Dr Simin Patel and Anurag Kashyap
3.	28-03-2024	Angria-A Historical Odyssey	Author Suhail Rekhy in conversation with Dr Kurush Dalal

### **Collaboration programmes:**

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title of the talk</b>	<b>Resource Person</b>
1.	24-04-2023	Many Stories to Multi Storeys - Mumbai's Urban Development and threats to culture and heritage Collaboration: Centre for Heritage Management, Ahmedabad University	Dr Andre Baptista, Ar Kirtida Unwalla and Dr Kaiwan Mehta in conversation with Dr Neel Kamel Chapagan
2.	25-08-2023	Private viewing and walk through of the 2 exhibitions of artists Altaf (Early Drawings) and Prabhakar Barwe (between object and space) Collaboration-DAG	Curators at DAG
3.	18-12-2023	Bhagwanlal Indraji: Doyen of Indian Epigraphy.	Prof. Dr. Rupali Mokashi Chaired by Prof. Suraj Pandit

		Collaboration: Directorate of Archaeology and Museums (Maharashtra) <i>This lecture was part of the 220 years celebrations of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.</i>	
4.	03-10-2023	Climate Resilience in Mumbai: People Must Lead the Change Collaboration: Avid Learning and Mumbai First	Meghana AT, PK Das, Kunal Khanna, Lubaina Rangwala, Vaishnavi Chandrashekhar
5.	08-01-2024	Bhau Daji Lad "A Multifaceted Personality: A Surgeon and an Indologist" Collaboration: The Directorate of Archaeology and Museums (Maharashtra) <i>This lecture was part of the 220 years celebrations of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.</i>	Dr Arvind Jamkhedkar Chair: Dr. Pheroza Godrej
6.	13-01-2024	Inside the Future Indian Textile Museum A guided visit to the India United Mills No 2 & 3 Collaboration: BMC Heritage Conservation Cell	Shekhar Krishnan

#### **Online Lectures**

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title of the talk</b>	<b>Resource Person</b>
1	5 <sup>th</sup> July to 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Online lecture series on The Nizam Shahi Kingdom of Ahmednagar	Dr Kenneth Robbins, Omar Ali and Pushkar Sohoni

#### **Exhibitions/Conclaves**

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Resource Person</b>
1.	11-02-2024	Urban Oasis Engaging with Mumbai's Historic Neighbourhoods through Khotachiwadi. A one day onsite academic conclave and Photography and History Exhibition organized under the aegis of the State Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Maharashtra State	
2.	2 <sup>nd</sup> March to 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Exhibition on Architects and Firms who built Modern Bombay in collaboration with Art Deco Mumbai	

**8. MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute for Post-Graduate Studies and Research  
I/C Director & Convenor: Prof. Suraj Pandit**

Prof. Dr. Suraj A. Pandit was appointed the In-charge Director of the MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute for Post-Graduate Studies and Research after Dr. Parineeta Deshpande's resignation. Mr. Sudhir Dongare and Mr. Pravin Garud are two prospective PhD students in the subject of History under the able guidance of Dr. Abhidha Dhumatkar. They submitted their proposal for topic approval to the University of Mumbai this year and are enrolled for the PhD degree with the Institute. Another candidate Mr. Prashant Gharat has enrolled himself at the Kane Institute in the subject of Ancient Indian Culture. His research proposal is under preparation under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Suraj A. Pandit. Dr. Rupali Mokashi had asked for a No Objection Certificate to enrol students in the Subject of Ancient Indian Culture, if the University grants her recognition to guide students for the PhD degree. This has been issued in consultation with the office bearers of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

**9. ASM JOURNAL  
Chairperson: Professor Usha R Vijailakshmi  
Convenor: Dr. Madhavi Narsaley**

The Journal Committee released the volume 91/2018 recently and is planning to bring out Volume 92 which is a Special Volume on Water Management in the Bombay Presidency. The Journal is Indexed in UGC Care List. Volume 91 was uploaded on the UGC Journal Volume Website. The details of which are given below:

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Volume No. &amp; Year</b>	<b>Theme of the Special issues</b>	<b>Editors</b>	<b>Status</b>
01	Vol. 91 (2017-18)	Special Volume on Archaeology	Dr. Prabodh Shirwalkar Professor Suraj Pandit	The journal was released on 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2023, at the 219 <sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the Society. It was released by His Excellency, Sri Ramesh Bais, the Governor of Maharashtra.
02	Vol. 92 (2018-19)	Special volume on Water Management in Bombay Presidency	Dr. Madhu Kelkar Professor Usha R Vijailakshmi	Review of the articles is completed. The authors of the articles have been asked to revise their respective articles as per the suggestions given by the reviewers. The editors held meetings with the authors to address their queries regarding citation of primary and secondary sources. Accordingly, after thorough discussion, the stylesheet was revised to accommodate the citation of online, and certain archival sources. The editors are currently editing the volume.

## 10. RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & MEDALS COMMITTEE:

**Chairperson: Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi**

**Convenor: Dr. Kunda Pramila Nilakanth**

From April 2023 to March 2024 a total of 9 meetings were held. Five out of seven members regularly attended the meetings.

### **Important steps taken by the committee to improve quality of research:**

1. The Committee felt the need to introduce guidelines to researchers and the reviewers to maintain research standards, to follow research ethics and to observe uniformity in submissions. After detailed discussions in the subsequent meetings Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi drafted the Guidelines for researchers, the reviewers, and the format of self-declaration to be provided by the researchers during the final submission.
2. Dr. Kunda P.N. drafted the submission guidelines for the researchers. After extensive discussions these were approved by the Committee and the Managing Committee.
3. The Committee made it mandatory for the researchers to complete a two-day research methodology course once selected for the scholarship.
4. The eligibility criteria for research scholars were revised.
  - (a) Qualification for the scholars should be minimum post-graduation and candidate should have registered for Ph.D.
  - (b) For two scholarships related to professional fields the candidate should have either a PhD registration or have acquired a minimum of five years' experience in the related field.
  - (c) The candidate should not have received any other scholarship from ASM in the previous 5 years.
5. To increase the grant amounts, which are meagre, the Committee decided to combine the years of some of the scholarships. This was to be implemented by the Committee from 2024-25.
6. Interviews were held for selection of candidates for various scholarships for the year 2023-24. The applicants were given suggestions and were asked to revise their proposal. Based on the final proposal three candidates were selected for various scholarship programmes.
7. The Committee conducted a six-monthly viva voce for the recipients of the 2022-23 scholarships. The Convener compiled the suggestions given by the members and sent those to the recipients for incorporation.
8. The Committee asked the Convener to write to the candidates who had not submitted their dissertations due to covid pandemic. Individually, the members called up the scholarship awardees asking them to complete the projects.
9. Due to collective efforts, not only the candidates of 2022-23, but those who were awarded scholarships previously submitted their dissertations. These were sent to reviewers and their suggestions were mailed to the recipients for appropriate revision. Once the changes were made, they were asked to submit a hard copy and thereafter the final installment of the grant was dispersed to them. Similarly, an honorarium of Rs.1,000/- was paid and thank you letters were sent to the reviewers for their work.

### **Completed Research projects and Final payment dispersed in 2023- 2024**

<b>Sr No</b>	<b>Name of Scholar</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>Name of the Scholarship</b>
1	Amruta Agarwal	Socio-Economic and Environmental Status of Newly Urbanized Talukas of Mumbai Metropolitan Region: Case of Southern Thane District'	Gulestan Billimoria Scholarship in a subject relating to the study of Mumbai/Maharashtra 2019-2020
2	Ashutosh Bapat	A Study of the Undocumented Archaeological remains on and around Fort Chavand, Tal.	K.T. Telang Scholarship in Indology for the period 2019-20



		Junnar, Dist. Pune”	
3	Vinod Yadav	‘महाराष्ट्र राज्य पुराभिलेखागारमे आखबारोंमे म न पा प्राथमिक विद्यालयोन्की खबरे’	Sheela Raj Memorial Research scholarship for the period 2018-2019
4	Pranav Patil	पुणे परिसरातील वीरगळांचा चिकित्सक अभ्यास	Sheela Raj Memorial Scholarship for the period 2019-2020
5	Rahul Bachate	सम्राट अशोकाचे अभिलेख आणि शिल्पकला यातून दृष्टीक्षेपात येणारा बौद्ध धम्म : एक ऐतिहासिक अध्ययन’	(Smt.) Sheela Raj Memorial Scholarship in “History” for the period of 2020-21
6	Sanjay Chandekar	‘Community Radio – still a long path to go’	Asiatic Society Scholarship in Social Science for the period 2017-18
7	Kavita Pande/Mishra	A Study of the Acworth Leprosy Museum, Mumbai and an Archetypal Social and Medical Scourge of India	Asiatic Society’s Scholarship in Social Science for the period 2019-20
8	Pankaj Ghate	वसाहत शासन काळातील दक्षिण कोकणातील समाज जीवन 1857 ते 1900	Dr. (Smt.) Sheela Raj Memorial Junior Research Scholarship for the period 2022-23

#### 11. **AWARD OF MEDALS:**

On the occasion of 219<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of the Society held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the three prestigious medals of the Society were awarded by the Chief Guest, H.E. Shri Ramesh Bais, Hon’ble Governor of Maharashtra, and Chief Patron of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, to the three Eminent Scholars.

The three Medals for the calendar year 2019-2021 were awarded to the following Eminent Scholars:

S. No.	Name of the Medals	Awardees
1.	The Campbell Memorial Gold Medal	Prof. Subhas Chandra Mallik (Awarded in absentia)
2.	The Society’s Silver Medal	Prof. Gopal K. Kanhere
3.	MM Dr. P.V. Kane Gold Medal	Prof. Brajakishore Swain

#### 12. **TAGORE FELLOWSHIP / SCHOLARSHIP:**

Under the Scheme for Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research (TNFCR) for the batch 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, the Society had received 5 applications. In keeping with the rules pertaining to the award of the Tagore Fellowship / Scholarship, the Institutional Search-cum-Screening Committee (ILSSC) comprising of Vice Presidents of the Society, Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla and Prof. Usha R. Vijailakshmi, met on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to scrutinize the applications received and to decide on the merit of each for forwarding to the Ministry of Culture, New Delhi. After carefully scrutinizing the 5 applications (3 applications for Tagore National Fellowship and 2 applications for Tagore Research Scholarship) received, the ILSSC Committee members came to the unanimous decision that the Committee did not approve the 5 proposals as they did not fit into the criteria of Clause No. 5, Guidelines of the Tagore National Fellowship Scheme.

A meeting of the National Selection Committee of the Tagore National Fellowship for Cultural Research, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, was held at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024. This meeting was attended by Dr Shehernaz Nalwalla, Vice President of the Society.

**13. MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01-04-2023 TO 31-03-2024:**

**13.1 MEMBERSHIP:**

During the year under review, 1 members resigned, 7 expired while 84 new Members, Reader and Indian Student Members were enrolled. The total number of members as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024, is 3,557. The details are shown in the table given below:

Category	As on 31/03/23	New Members	Resig-nation	Death	Transfer of Status	Members deleted under Rule 5 (C)	Members as on 31/3/24
Resident-Life (RL)	2,044	29		6	+6		2,073
Resident (R)	763	36	1	1	-6		791
Indian Student Members	213	3					216
Reader Membership	272	6			-2		276
Non-Resident (NR)	31	4					35
Non-Resident-Life (NRL)	130	6					136
Non-Resident-Non-Borrowing (NRNB)	0						0
Non-Resident-Life-Non-Borrowing (NRLNB)	5						5
Institutional Members	14						14
Patron Members	8						8
Foreign Student Members	0						0
Corporate Long Term Membership	-						0
Consulate Members	2						2
Diplomat Members	1						1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,483</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>			<b>3,557</b>

13.2 The Society regrets to record the death of the following members at the time of this report and conveys its sincere sympathy and sense of loss to the bereaved families:

- A. **Resident – Life:** 1) Mr. Vijaysinh L Bhimani      2) Mr. Virchand K. Dharmsey  
3) Mr. Nitin C. Desai      4) Dr. Uma Sheth  
5) Mr. Eknath A. Kshirsagar      6) Dr. Geeta Ramana  
7) Mr. Dharmesh Bhatt      8) Dr. Vijaya Gupchup
- B. **Resident**      1) Ms. Mumtaz A.Currim

- 13.3 The following indicates the attendance of the Members of the Scrutinizing Committee for the meetings held:

During the period from August 2023 to March 2024 - 5 meetings were held.

**SCRUTINIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (April 2023 – August 2024):**

Sr. No.	Names of Members	Attendance	Leave of Absence	Absent	Total
1.	Dr. Prasad P. Akolkar	2	-	-	2
2.	Adv. Devdatta Malshe	2	-	-	2
3.	Ms. Mashanta Romani	2	-	-	2
4.	Ms. Anahita Tarapore	1	-	-	2
5.	Mr. Sridhar Naik		1	1	2
6.	Mr. S. Arun	2	-	-	2

**SCRUTINIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (September 2023 – March 2024)**

Sr. No.	Names of Members	Attendance	Leave of Absence	Absent	Total
1.	Ms. Anahita Tarapore	3	-	-	3
2.	Adv. Devdatta Malshe	3	-	-	3
3.	Mr. Pulind Samant	3	-	-	3
4.	Mr. Ashutosh Bishnoi	2	1	-	3
5.	Mr. Pankaj V. Samel	2	-	1	3
6.	Mr. Anil W. Sawant	3	-	-	3
7.	Mr. Sachin Agarwal	1	-	2	3

**14. MANAGING COMMITTEE**

The Managing Committee of the Society consists of 21 members headed by a Chairperson. In addition to the above, besides the Staff Representative, and one Nominee each from the Government of India (Ministry of Culture) and the Government of Maharashtra (Directorate of Libraries), there is 1 ex-officio member.

- 14.1 The following indicates the attendance of the members at the Managing Committee meetings during the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024: (22 meetings held – including Adjourned, Special and Online Meetings):

**1st April 2023 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (07 Meetings held)**

Sr. No.	Names of Members	Attendance	Leave of Absence	Absent
1.	Prof. Vispi Balaporia (President)	06	01	-
2.	Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar (Vice-President)	07	-	-
3.	Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly (Vice-President)	05	02	-
4.	Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla (Vice-President)	07	-	-
5.	Prof Usha R Vijailakshmi (Vice-President)	05	01	01
6.	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary - w.e.f. 24-09-2022)	07	-	-
7.	Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat - (Hon. Jt. Secretary) w.e.f 10-10-2022	06	01	-

8.	Dr. Vishnu Kanhere - Hon. Finance Secretary (Ex-Officio) Appointed w.e.f 10-10-2022	03	04	-
9.	Mr. Rajan Jayakar - Hon. Jt. Finance Secretary w.e.f. 10-10-2022	03	04	-
10.	Mr. Vilas Dhavale (Resigned on 24-07-2024 and accepted on 25-07-2023)	-	02	01
11.	Mr. Vithal Nadkarni [Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 under Rule 16(a)]	-	03	-
12.	Mr. Sunil P. Kadam [Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 under Rule 16(a)]	-	03	-
13.	Ms. Renu Parekh	05	02	-
14.	Mr. Jaywant K. Patil	02	03	02
15.	Mr. C. M. Paulsil [Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 under Rule 16(a)]	02	01	-
16.	Mr. Raamesh G. Raghavan [Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 under Rule 16(a)]	-	-	03
17.	Mr. Digambar Kamble	03	03	01
18.	Dr. Madhu Kelkar [Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 under Rule 16(a)]	---	03	-
19.	Mr. Kiran Sawant [Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 under Rule 16(a)]	02	01	-
20.	Adv. Sanjay Kher [Elected at the 218 <sup>th</sup> AGM held on 27-08-2023 – (Residual period 2022-23)] [Disqualified w.e.f. 25-07-2023 under Rule 16(a)]	01	02	-
21.	Mr. Nobby Pariyaram (Elected at the 218 <sup>th</sup> AGM held on 27-08-2023)	07	-	-
22.	<b>ASM – Employees’ Representative</b> - Mr. Sunil Bhirud	06	01	-
23.	<b>Central Government Nominee:</b> The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India	-	07	-
24.	<b>State Government Nominee:</b> Director, Director of Libraries, Govt. of Maharashtra Shri Dattatray Aabaji Kshirsagar - (w.e.f. 14/10/2022 till 19-12-2023) Shri Ashok M. Gadekar, Director (I/C)- (w.e.f. 20/12/2023)	01	06	-

**1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 (15 Meeting held including 5 Adjourned meetings, 3 Special meetings and Online meeting)**

Sr. No.	Names of Members	Attendan	Leave of Absence	Absent
1.	Prof. Vispi Balaporia (President)	15	-	-
2.	Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar (Vice-President)	13	02	-
3.	Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly (Vice-President)	13	02	-
4.	Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla (Vice-President)	14	01	-
5.	Prof Usha R Vijailakshmi (Vice-President)	12	03	-
6.	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary - w.e.f 24-09-2022)			-
7.	Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat - (Hon. Jt. Secretary) w.e.f 10-10-2022	15	-	-
8.	Dr. Vishnu Kanhere - Hon. Finance Secretary (Ex-Officio) Appointed w.e.f 10-10-2022	05	10	-
9.	Mr. Rajan Jayakar - Hon. Jt. Finance Secretary w.e.f 10-10-2022	04	09	02
10.	Mr. Biplov Belel	10	05	-
11.	Mr. Digambar Kamble	08	03	04
12.	Dr. Kunda P.N.	11	04	-
13.	Dr. Nasreen Fazalbhoy	11	04	-
14.	Dr. Yasmeen Lukmani	13	02	-
15.	Ms. Renu Parekh	13	02	-

16.	Mr. Jaywant K. Patil	07	06	02
17.	Mr. C. M. Paulsil	09	01	05
18.	Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak	13	02	-
19.	Adv. Sanjay Kher	10	05	01
20.	Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee	09	06	-
21.	Mr. Vithal Nadkarni	09	03	03
22.	Mr. Nobby Pariyaram	09	06	-
23.	<b>ASM – Employees’ Representative</b> - Mr. Sunil Bhirud ( <i>Excluding 1 Special Meeting</i> )	14	-	-
24.	<b>Central Government Nominee:</b> <i>The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India</i>	-	--	-
25.	<b>State Government Nominee:</b> Shri Dattatray Aabaji Kshirsagar - (w.e.f. 14/10/2022 till 19-12-2023) Shri Ashok M. Gadekar, <i>Director (I/C)- (w.e.f. 20/12/2023)</i> <i>Director, Director of Libraries, Govt. of Maharashtra</i>	-	--	-

## 15. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There are several Sub-Committees constituted by the Managing Committee to organise various activities of the Society. The following meetings were held by the Managing Committee and the Sub-Committees of the Society during the year under review:

**(From 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024):**

Sr. No.	Committee Meetings	No. of meetings held
1.	Managing Committee	22
2.	Finance and Investment Committee	10
3.	Book Selection Committee ( <i>including 1 meeting of Special Committee for donated books</i> )	10
4.	Periodicals Committee meeting	04
5.	Endowment Lectures Committee	04
6.	MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute for Post-Graduate Studies and Research Committee	03
7.	Research Fellowships & Medals Committee	09
8.	Journal Committee	02
9.	ASM Literary Club	05
10.	Mumbai Research Centre	08
11.	Staff Welfare Committee	03
12.	Publications Committee	01
13.	Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies	10
14.	Library Administration Committee	04
15.	Library Digitisation Project Committee (Phase II)	02
16.	Events Organisation & Souvenir Committee	07

## 16. LIBRARY SERVICES

16.1 Regular updates were sent to members by e-mail including Thursday books display lists and list of issuable periodicals.

A. During the year, **652** books + **173** bound volumes were added to the Library. The details are given below:

**570** books have been purchased and **82** books were received gratis .and **173** bound volumes of periodicals were added to the collection.

Thus, the total number of books and bound volumes of periodicals as on **31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024** is **2,64,193**

<b>C/F: Total number of books and periodicals as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023</b>	<b>2,63,368</b>
Total number of books + bound volumes of periodicals added as on 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2024	<b>825</b>
<b>Total number of books + bound volumes of periodicals as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2024</b>	<b>2,64,193</b>

## 16.2 List of book donors:

The Society expresses its grateful appreciation to the following donors for presenting books to the Library:

### A) Individuals:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Presented by</b>
1	Dr. Aashna Gupta
2	Dr. Akhila Srinivasan
3	Dr. Choodamani Nandagopal
4	Dr. Leela B. Jois
5	Mr. Atul Kumar
6	Mr. B. Preedip Balaji
7	Mr. Dhairya Vyas
8	Mr. Dilip Parameshwar Gaonkar
9	Mr. Gulzar
10	Mr. Nitin A. Salunke
11	Mr. Sandip Dahisarkar
12	Ms. Lisa Trivedi
13	Ms. Namita Bansal
14	Ms. Shakuntala and Indru Bharvani
15	Ms. Siddika Chinwala
16	Prof. S.G. Dani
17	Prof. Smita Dalvi

### B) Institutions:

1	Brihanmumbai Mahanagarpalika Aayukt Karyalay
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## 16.3 Periodicals Department:

**Chairperson: Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi**

**Convenor: Dr. Varsha Shirgaonkar**

16.3-1 During the year, **173** bound volumes were added to the Library. Regular updates were sent to Members by e-mail including Thursday Books Display Lists and list of issuable periodicals.

### 16.3-2 Purchased daily newspapers:

Combined offer of Times of India with Economic Times, (Mumbai Mirror only on Sunday) started from 27<sup>th</sup> December 2020 continues for 2023 - 2024.

The Society subscribed to 4 newspapers (Times of India, Economic Times, Loksatta and Nav Bharat Times) from March to May 2023. Three newspapers Maharashtra Times, Indian Express and Divya Bhaskar were added in June 2023. The committee further approved subscribing to four more titles viz. Business Standard, The Hindu, Samana and Pudhari. Currently Society subscribes to 12 Daily Newspapers. The language wise break-up is as follows:-

<b>English</b>	:	Times of India, Business Standard, Economic Times, Hindu, Hindustan Times and Indian Express
<b>Hindi/Marathi</b>	:	<b>Hindi:</b> Navbharat Times <b>Marathi:</b> Loksatta, Maharashtra Times, Samana and Pudhari.
<b>Gujarati</b>	:	Divya Bhaskar was Started from June 2023 and is continued for 2024

### 16.3-3 Periodicals

- A. The number of subscribed periodicals during the year was 39. 11 more titles were approved out of which no invoices received for 9 and 2 are unpaid. In addition, 30 periodicals were received in exchange of the Society's Journal and 16 periodicals were received as gratis. The details are given below:

Periodicals approved for subscription 2023- 2024		Exchange and Gratis	
Subscribed Directly from Sage and other publishers	30 titles	Gratis (Periodicals and newsletters)	16 titles
Subscribed through Allied publishers and Subscription Agency	11 titles	Exchange (in lieu of Society's Journal)	30 titles
Subscribed through SBP Infobytes Pvt. Limited	7 titles	<b>Total:</b>	<b>46 titles</b>
<b>Total approved for purchase</b>	<b>49 titles</b>		

The number of bound volumes of periodicals accessioned is 173.

- B. **Periodicals received gratis:**

The following periodicals were received gratis by the Society:

S.N.	Titles
1	Prabuddha Bharata or Awakened India.
2	PAHAR: People's Association for Himalaya Area Research No. 12 and 19
3	Nofet
4	Inside Outside

- C. **List of donors of periodicals:**

**Individual donors (Members and Non-members):**

S.N.	Name of the donor	Name of the periodical/s
1	Dr. T.A. Srikanth	Prabuddha Bharata or Awakened India- (for the period May 2009 - April 2029)
2	Nina Haeems	Nofet

3	Mr. Yogesh Thakkar	PAHAR: People's Association for Himalaya Area Research No. 12 and 19
4	Mr. Sean Mahoney	Inside Outside (13 Issues)

#### D. JSTOR

The Asiatic Society started subscribing to JSTOR - full text online archives of journals from 2010 and it is becoming popular among the members. The total number of full-text journal articles requested for the period January – December 2023 is 856.

#### 16.4 Book Lending (Issue) Section:

During the year, 6,242 books (5,179 old and 1,063 new) and 564 periodicals (magazines) were issued to the members.

196 visitors under Daily Membership category were given reference facility on the premises. 06 foreign scholars visited the Library under the Daily Membership Category.

### 17. PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION

#### A. Conservation Section:

Following are the details of work done in the Conservation Laboratory from April 2023 to March 2024:

Month	Fumigation	Deacidification	Lining	Total Books Conserved
April and May 2023	158 books	10,426 pages	10,121 pages	29 books
June 2023	139 books	6,890 pages	6,751 pages	22 books
July 2023	122 books	6,918 pages	6,647 pages	13 books
August to October 2023	138 books + 141 books	4,598 pages	4,242 pages	09 books
November 2023	128 books	4,943 pages	4,748 pages	15 books
December 2023	120 books	4,670 pages	4,389 pages	13 books
January 2024	128 books	6,548 pages	6,406 pages	18 books
February and March 2024	110 books	2,558 pages + 142 maps	2,379 pages + 142 maps	03 books (General Report on the Operations of the Great Trigonometric Survey of India during 1871-72)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1184 books fumigated</b>	<b>47551 pages + 142 maps de-acidified</b>	<b>45683 pages + 142 maps lined</b>	<b>122 books + 142 maps conserved</b>

### 18. BINDERY SECTION

During the year under review, 1,761 books were fully bound in this section. This was apart from the routine work of stitching and pinning 3,982 newspapers, made 45 boxes, repairing books and files, pasting, packing, and parcelling.

The department also made storage Archival boxes for storing the valuable manuscripts under the guidance of Ms. Anjali Jain.



## 19. FINANCES

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai was established on 26th November 1804, by Sir James Mackintosh for the promotion of higher education and research. The Society has been partly funded by the Government of India, Ministry of Culture, Government of Maharashtra, Department of Higher and Technical Education, and Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai. The Society's own sources of income are interest and dividends from Corpus and Reserve Fund investments, general donations, earmarked donations, membership subscriptions, fines on books and periodicals, income from miscellaneous items like sale of publications, journals, souvenirs, etc. However, the financial position of the Society is quite precarious due to limited sources of income, decline in interest rates, and increasing recurring expenditure.

The Society has approached Government of India, Ministry of Culture for a one-time Corpus Grant of Rs.30 Crore (out of which we have received Rs.5 Crore) and Government of Maharashtra, Department of Higher and Technical Education for a one-time Corpus grant of Rs.20 Crore, as recommended by the Review Committee, appointed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. However, a positive response is awaited.

During the year, the Society succeeded in getting sanctioned an annual recurring grant of Rs.1 Crore from Government of Maharashtra, Department of Higher and Technical Education on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The Society has also requested both the Central and the State Government to increase its Grant by Rs.1 Crore to run the Society efficiently.

The BMC has also been requested to enhance its maintenance Grant to Rs.2 Crore.

The Review Committee appointed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has noted the historic significance of the Society and stated that the Asiatic Society of Mumbai deserves to be designated as an "Institutional of National Importance", while ensuring its autonomy over planning and financing of expenditure and management. The Society is following this issue with the Ministry of Culture.

The Society is intensifying its efforts for donations from philanthropists, corporate houses, endowments, CSR funds, etc. for overall maintenance and development of the Society.

## 20. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We appreciate the financial assistance received from the Ministry of Culture, New Delhi, in the form of an annual grant of Rs one crore. Moreover, we are grateful to Ms Mughda Sinha, Jt. Secretary, for the interest she has shown in the Asiatic Society, and for her visits whenever she is in Mumbai.

We thank Mr. Govind Mohan, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, for his continuing interest in the welfare of the Society.

The Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra and Chief Patron of the Society, Shri Bhagat Singh Koshiyari and Shri Ramesh Bais, for support and financial assistance to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

We are thankful to the Government of Maharashtra for acceding to our appeal for financial aid in managing the affairs of the Society, and for agreeing to a recurring annual grant of Rupees One crore from the financial year 2023-2024.

We are deeply obliged to the BMC for acceding to our request and sanctioning a grant of Rupees 50 lakh to the Society.

The Rotary Club of Bombay for assisting the Society in various activities and, more specifically, for initiating the Maps exhibition and continued support.

We are thankful to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya for inviting us to participate in their events and programmes.

We thank our statutory auditors as well as our staff members for their continuous hard work for the Society.

Finally, we are thankful to our members for their regular participation in the events and programmes of the Society.

On behalf of the Managing Committee

**Prof. Vispi R. Balaporia**  
**President**

**Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande**  
**Hon. Secretary**

**CERTIFICATE FOR THE MOVABLES OF  
THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI**

Date: 06/09/2024

The total number of manuscripts is 2,847 and printed 'pothis' are 293. A detailed catalogue of all the manuscripts and printed 'pothis' is available in "A Catalogue of the Manuscripts and Printed Pothis at the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (updated till 2012)."

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (*formerly The Prince of Wales Museum*) has sent a letter dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 stating that the artefacts given on loan to the Museum and the antiquities mentioned in the lists previously sent are in order.

**Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande  
Hon. Secretary**

# THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

## Scrutinizing Committee To scrutinize Applications for Membership (Elected by the AGM)

(w.e.f. 01-04-2023 to 31-08-2023)	(w.e.f. 01-09-2023 to 31-03-2024)
1. Mr. Prasad Akolkar - Chairperson 2. Adv. Devdatta Malshe 3. Mrs. Mashanta Romani 4. Mrs. Anahita Tarapore 5. Mr. Sridhar Naik 6. Mr. S. Arun	1. Mrs. Anahita Tarapore - <b>Chairperson</b> 2. Adv. Devdatta Malshe - <b>Convener</b> 3. Mr. Pulind Samant 4. Mr. Ashutosh Bishnoi 5. Mr. Pankaj V. Samel 6. Mr. Anil W. Sawant 7. Mr. Sachin Agarwal

### LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS SUB-COMMITTEES (2023 - 2024)

#### I. FINANCE AND PROJECTS COMMITTEE:

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Prof. Vispi R Balaporia - President - <b>Chairperson</b> | 10. Mr. Nobby Pariyaram   |
| 2. Dr. Vishnu Kanhere - Hon. Finance Secretary              | 11. Mr. Mayur Mehta       |
| 3. Mr. Rajan Jayakar - Hon. Jt. Finance Secretary           | 12. Mr. Tara Bhattacharya |
| 4. Dr. Shehernza Nalwalla                                   |                           |
| 5. Adv. Sanjay Kher   |                           |
| 6. Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly                               |                           |
| 7. Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi                                |                           |
| 8. Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)              |                           |
| 9. Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat (HJS) - <b>Convener</b>             |                           |

#### Invitees:

1. Mr. Nitin Patil, A.O.
2. Mr. Atul Shahade, Internal Auditor
3. Ms. Payal Muzumdar, C.A.

#### BOOK-SELECTION COMMITTEE:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar                                      | 13. Dr. B. Leela Jois              |
| 2. Dr. Shehernza Nalwalla                                      | 14. Ms. Shubha Khandekar           |
| 3. Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak                                       | 15. Mrs. Sanjeevani Kher           |
| 4. Dr. Nasreen Fazalbhoy                                       | 16. Mr. Akash Menon                |
| 5. Dr. Yasmeen Lukmani   | 17. Mr. Hriday Narain              |
| 6. Mr. Vithal Nadkarni   | 18. Prof. Bhavana Patole           |
| 7. Ms. Renu Parekh   | 19. Mr. Pulind Samant              |
| 8. Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary) -<br>Ex-Officio | 20. Mr. Yogesh Shah                |
| 9. Mr. Rafique Bagdhadi  | 21. Ms. Prakriti Sharan            |
| 10. Mr. Chaitanya Bhide  | 22. Ms. M. Chakravarthy Vijayanthi |
| 11. Dr. Abhidha Dhumatkar                                      | 23. Mr. V.V. Ganpule               |
| 12. Ms. Sharon Irani   |                                    |

#### PERIODICALS COMMITTEE:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
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