



(Established in 1804)

REPORT
OF
THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI
AND
THE LIBRARY OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI
FOR THE YEAR 2025 - 2026
(1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026)

TOWN HALL
MUMBAI 400 001

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

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

Town Hall, Mumbai 400 001

Tel: (Off) 022-22660956 / Library: 022-22660062 / Hon. Secretary: 022-22665560

Website: www.asiaticsociety.org.in E-mail: (Off) asiaticsociety1804@gmail.com; (Lib) asiatic.townhall@gmail.com

CHIEF PATRON		H.E. The Governor of Maharashtra
TRUSTEES	2019-2025	Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar - Chairperson, Board of Trustees Mr. Cyrus Guzder
	2021-2027	Adv. Navroz Seervai Mr. Akil Kureshi (<i>Appointed for the vacant residual period 2024-2027 w.e.f. 28-09-2024</i>)
	2023-2029	Prof. Dilip Nachane (<i>Appointed for the vacant residual period 2024-2029 w.e.f. 28-09-2024</i>)

Managing Committee for the year 2025 - 2026 (w.e.f. 1st April 2025 till 12th March 2026)

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 (<i>Resigned w.e.f. 10/11/2025 due to ill-health</i>)

MEMBERS

<u>2022 - 2025</u>	<u>2023 - 2026</u>	<u>2024 - 2027</u>
Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat - Hon. Jt. Secretary (w.e.f. 14-11-2024 till the AGM of 2025) ASM Nominee on the BOT of CSMVS from December 2024-2027 Adv. Rajan M. Jayakar - Hon. Jt. Fin. Secretary (w.e.f. 14-11-2024 till the AGM of 2025) <i>* Following elected at the 219th 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:</i> <i>* Mr. Biplov Belel</i> <i>* Mr. Digamber Kamble</i> <i>* Dr. Kunda P.N.</i>	Ms. Sushama V Dabak Adv. Sanjay Kher Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee Mr. Vithal Nadkarni Mr. Nobby Pariyaram	Mr. Mandar Bharde Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule (<i>Resigned w.e.f. 24/10/2025</i>) Mr. Kumar Ketkar Mr. Surendra Kulkarni Prof. Suraj Pandit

Hon. Director, MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute	Dr. Suraj Pandit (<i>Appointed as I/C Director w.e.f. 01/06/2023</i>)
Employees' Representative	Mr. Sunil Bhirud
Central Government Nominee	The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, New Delhi
State Government Nominee	Shri Ashok M. Gadekar, Director (I/C) w.e.f. 20-12-2023) Directorate of Libraries, Maharashtra State, Mumbai
Auditors	Bhogilal C. Shah & Co. A.D. Bhorkar & Co.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

Town Hall, Mumbai 400 001

Tel: (Off) 022-22660956 / Library: 022-22660062 / Hon. Secretary: 022-22665560

Website: www.asiaticsociety.org.in E-mail: (Off) asiaticsociety1804@gmail.com; (Lib) asiatic.townhall@gmail.com

CHIEF PATRON		H.E. The Governor of Maharashtra
TRUSTEES	2021-2027	Adv. Navroz Seervai Mr. Akil Kureshi (<i>Appointed for the vacant residual period 2024-2027 w.e.f. 28-09-2024</i>)
	2023-2029	Prof. Dilip Nachane (<i>Appointed for the vacant residual period 2024-2029 w.e.f. 28-09-2024</i>)
	2025-2031	Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar - Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Interim Managing Committee (w.e.f. 13-03-2026)

Appointment of an Interim Managing Committee, to look into the matters related to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai with immediate effect from 13-03-2026 till the constitution of duly Elected Managing Committee

[Order in Misc. Case No. 32/2026 dated 13-03-2026

(instituted on the basis of the Report in Inspector Inquiry No. 03/2026) issued by Mr. Amogh S. Kaloti, Hon'ble Charity Commissioner, Maharashtra State, Mumbai]

Interim Managing Committee :	1. Mr. K.D. Talokar <i>Fit Person & Inspector, Office of the Jt. Charity Commissioner</i>
	2. Mr. Mandar Bharde
	3. Mr. Vivek Ganpule
	4. Mr. Kumar Ketkar
	5. Mr. Surendra Kulkarni
	6. Prof. Suraj Pandit
Sub-Committee : <i>(to prepare a list of valid and eligible voters for the purpose of ASM Elections 2025)</i>	1. Mr. K.D. Talokar <i>Fit Person & Inspector, Office of the Jt. Charity Commissioner</i>
	2. Mr. Mandar Bharde
	3. Mr. Surendra Kulkarni
	4. Prof. Suraj Pandit
Auditors	Bhogilal C. Shah & Co. A.D. Bhorkar & Co.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

Town Hall, Mumbai 400 001

Tel: (Off) 022-22660956 / Library: 022-22660062 / Hon. Secretary: 022-22665560

Website: www.asiaticsociety.org.in E-mail: (Off) asiaticsociety1804@gmail.com; (Lib) asiatic.townhall@gmail.com

CHIEF PATRON

H.E. The Governor of Maharashtra

TRUSTEES

2021-2027

Adv. Navroz Seervai

Mr. Akil Kureshi (*Appointed for the vacant residual period 2024-2027 w.e.f. 28-09-2024*)

2023-2029

Prof. Dilip Nachane (*Appointed for the vacant residual period 2024-2029 w.e.f. 28-09-2024*)

2025-2031

Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar - **Chairperson, Board of Trustees**

Managing Committee for the year 2025 – 2026

(w.e.f. 5th July 2026 till 26th September 2026)

OFFICE BEARERS (2025 - 2027)

PRESIDENT

Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Dr. Nitish Bharadwaj

Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh

Mr. Chandraprakash Dwivedi

Mr. Ramesh Patange

HON. SECRETARY

Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule

MEMBERS

2023 - 2026

(The Managing Committee members elected for the tenure of 2023-26 could not continue as the Change Report of the elections held for the same were rejected by the ACC in August 2025. The office bearers' term ended with the AGM of September 2025 and hence they too ceased to be part of the Committee.)

2024 - 2027

Mr. Mandar Bharde

* Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule

(Resigned w.e.f. 24/10/2025)

Mr. Kumar Ketkar

Mr. Surendra Kulkarni

Prof. Suraj Pandit

* Adv. Rajesh Behere

(Elected in place of Mr. Ganpule for the period 2025-2027 on 4th July 2026 under Rule 15 for the residual period of the term 2024-2027)

2025-2028

Mr. Pramod Bapat

Mr. Madhav Bhandari

Ms. Vijayanthi M. Chakravarthy –
(Hon. Jt. Secretary w.e.f. 31-07-2026
till the election of 2027)

Dr. Malhar Kulkarni

Dr. Prachi Moghe

**Hon. Finance Secretary
(Ex-Officio Member)**

Mr. Neelakantan K. Aiyar

[w.e.f. 07-07-2026 till the election of 2027) 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 Ashok M. Gadekar, Director (I/C)
Directorate of Libraries, Maharashtra State, Mumbai

Auditors

Bhogilal C. Shah & Co.
A.D. Bhorkar & Co.

CONTENTS

Action Taken Report / Compliance with Resolutions of 221 th AGM held on 27 th September 2025	—
Outgoing President's Message	—
Annual Report:	
1. Update on Chairty Commissioner	
2. Activities of the Society - Book Launch Joint Collaborative Programmes	
3. In Memorium (sad demise)	
4. Projects undertaken by the Society – On-going projects through Grant - Critical Edition & Translation of MSS / Handbook of Coins	—
5. Reports – Sub-Committees:	—
Library Administration Committee, Staff Welfare Committee, Publications Committee, MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute Committee, Resource Mobilisation Committee, Staff Matters, Placement Committee, Library Digitization Project Phase II, Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre, Endowment Lectures, ASM LitClub, Mumbai Research Centre, Events & Souvenir Committee, ASM Journal Committee, Research, Scholarships and Medals Committee Report	
6. Tagore Fellowship / Scholarship	—
7. Membership Report & Scrutinizing Committee Meetings	—
8. Managing Committee Meetings	—
9. Committee Meetings	—
10. Library Services – Book Selection Committee / Periodicals Department.....	—
11. Preservation and Conservation	—
12. Bindery Section	—
13. Finances	—
14. Acknowledgements	—
15. Statement & Accounts:	
Financial Review	—
Balance Sheet	—
Income and Expenditure Statements	—
Schedules to Balance Sheet	—
Investment Summary (Details of Schedule 16)	—
Donations / Grants	—
Growth Record	—
Auditors' Report	—
Budget Estimates 2026-27	—
Certificate for the Movables	29
16. Committee Members List	30
17. ASM Staff List	35

**Action taken report with reference to the Annual Report and the Resolutions
placed at the 221st AGM held on Saturday, 27th September 2025**

I. ACTION TAKEN REPORT

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

II. COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS PLACED AT THE PREVIOUS 221st AGM HELD ON 27th SEPTEMBER 2025, WHICH WERE PLACED UNDER AGENDA ITEM NO.7

A. Proposed Resolution (From the Managing Committee):

The following are the compliances with reference to the Resolutions from the Managing Committee (which were placed under AGM Item Nos. 3, 4 and 6):

- A1 Agenda Item No. 3. The name of Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar was ratified by the AGM as Trustee of the Society, upon his acceptance, for six years (2025-2031) from the end of the AGM 2025 to the end of AGM 2031.

The second name proposed, Mr. Cyrus Guzder as per the AGM notice was not taken up, since the candidate declined the offer to continue as trustee for another term due to other commitments. Hence that seat remains vacant.

A2 Agenda Item No. 4:

Regarding the resolution No.4, to appoint the Statutory Auditors for two years 2025-26 and 2026-27, the House decided to appoint the Statutory Auditors for one year (instead of two years as per the rule books of the Society since the prevalent accounting norms prescribes one year term). Accordingly, the two auditors – Shri Suril Shah, Bhogilal C. Shah & Co., and A. D. Bhorkar, A.D. Bhorkar & Co, Chartered Accountants, have been appointed as Auditors for one year (2025-26) from the conclusion of the 221st AGM to the 222nd AGM of 2026.

- B. The following are the compliances with reference to the Resolutions from the Managing Committee (which were placed under AGM Item No. 6): Proposed resolutions (From Managing Committee):

B.1 Resolution No.6.A.1:

The resolution No. 6.A.1 moved in the 221st AGM *for enhancement of scholarships amount by combining the years of certain Research Scholarships as this will encourage more researchers to apply for the scholarships and that researchers will get between Rs.32,000/- to Rs.48,000/- as scholarship amount to be effective from April 2024.*

Members raised objections that the resolution was not shared with the members two weeks prior to the AGM and hence it should not be taken up and can be taken up separately at a SGM. Therefore, no decision was taken on the said resolution.

B.2 Resolution No.6.A.2:

The resolution No. 6.A.2 moved in the 221st AGM *that the Director of the MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute for Post-Graduate Studies and Research be invited to attend the Managing Committee meeting when matters pertaining to the Kane Institute are on the Agenda.*

Members raised objections that the resolution was shared a day prior with the GB and as per rules of the ASM the resolution should have been shared two weeks prior to the AGM, since this

was not done, the resolution should not be taken up and a separate SGM should be called to discuss the and pass the same. Hence the resolution was not passed.

B.3 Resolution No.6.A.4:

The resolution No. 6.A.3 moved in the 221st AGM empowering the Managing Committee to initiate proceedings to terminate membership of any member resorting to such antisocial behaviour, after conducting an inquiry by the members of a Special Committee as constituted by the Managing Committee for this purpose. Further, carrying firearms, carrying or imbibing alcohol and smoking are strictly prohibited within the premises of the Society.

This resolution was withdrawn by the Chair after several objections were raised regarding the wording of said resolution and members also felt that further thought needed to be given to said resolution since the ASM does not have any rules with regards to termination of membership.

C. Proposed Resolution (From Members):

The following resolutions submitted by the members before the General Body Meeting for

C.1 Resolution No.6B.1:

The resolution No.6.B.1, proposed by Mr. Pulind Samant and Mr. Malhar Krishna Gokhale, moved in the 221st AGM was in regard to non-action on the part of the office bearers of the Managing Committee to pursue with the Government of India (GOI), through the Governor of Maharashtra to secure the status of "Institute of National Importance" for the Society. As the *member resolution proposed by the undersigned was not pursued, it was proposed to condemn the said inaction and the resulting failure to execute the task assigned to them by ASM's general body a year back.*

This matter was discussed in detail and the current and past office bearers explained the earlier efforts that bore no results and the timeline of events over the past several years. It was agreed that this would require serious efforts and a special committee would be required for the same. Some of the names that were proposed were Dr. Kunda P.N., Dr. Mungekar, Prof. Aravind Ganachari and Mr Kumar Ketkar for such a committee.

*** *** ***

Outgoing President's Message

It is unfortunate that the final year of my tenure as the President of the Asiatic Society should have ended on a low key, despite the constant efforts of and support from a few members of the Managing Committee and some Office Bearers. A severe blow was struck when the Honorary Secretary's health deteriorated, resulting in her inability to continue with her responsibilities and her cheerful support. Nonetheless, we put up a brave front and carried on.

The challenges this year came from various quarters. A negative report from the Charity Commissioner's office made it necessary for us to file an appeal, which entailed making endless trips to the Office of the Charity Commissioner. This ended with the appointment of Shri K D Talokar as Fit Person from the Office of the Charity Commissioner, to whom we handed over charge on 18 March 2026.

Sadly, I need to point out that most of the complainants were members who held positions of authority in the Managing Committee, as well as in the Scrutinizing Committee. Another matter of concern was an unprecedented number of individuals applying for membership. Generally, we would welcome individuals who wanted to enrol as members to benefit from our wide library collection and resources. But their responses when asked for their reason to enrol as members did not indicate any scholarly interest, and often displayed a lack of understanding of the organisation itself.

However, my colleagues and I have tried to continue with the scholarly inputs we have been providing, particularly from the sub-committees like the Mumbai Research Centre, the Endowments Committee, and the LitClub. Some of these activities have received a good response from the public, who have shown up in good numbers for the talks.

I am pleased to convey that we had a series of interested visitors and dignitaries who continued to show interest in the affairs of the Asiatic Society. It is important to mention that on April 17, 2025 the newly appointed Secretary to the Governor asked for a meeting with the Office Bearers of the Society to better understand the functioning of the Society. On 29th September, 2025 Shri Anant Sinha, Director of the Asiatic Society of Kolkotta paid a visit and on seeing the way we were functioning stated that the Society in Kolkotta could learn much from us. On November 06, 2025 we were privileged to welcome the members of the Asiatic Society of Great Britain, a first of its kind in recent times I dare say. We were also pleased to welcome members from the Consulate of Vietnam and receive one of their publications for our Library.

We have seen members raise a hue and cry over missing books and artefacts. A case in point was the seals of the Peshwas. It is true that references had been made about these seals. The matter was even reported to the Chief Minister we were told. However, after strenuous efforts the seals were located in a museum in Sholapur. No one could throw further light in this matter, as these had been transferred well before the current office bearers had taken charge.

Another matter of much concern was the fact that we did not have a qualified Librarian for quite a while, mainly because our finances did not allow for such an appointment.

Thanks to the efforts of one of our Trustees, the Tatas were approached, and funds were made available to appoint a qualified Librarian. We followed the correct procedure, and I am pleased to convey that we now have a qualified and competent Librarian in place.

Thanks to the huge influx of new members, the elections had to be postponed more than once. Finally, an external agency was appointed to draw up a voters list which would not be challenged.

I believe I have said enough to convey the difficulties and challenges I and my colleagues had to face. Finally, let me end by wishing the current President and his colleagues success in carrying forward the good work that we have been doing, so that the Asiatic Society of Mumbai can continue to hold its head high and remain a significant institute in the city of Mumbai.

Prof. Vispi Balaporia
Outgoing President - Asiatic Society of Mumbai

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025-2026

1. UPDATE ON CHARITY COMMISSIONER:

- i. The Assistant Charity Commissioner order dated 7th August 2025 rejected the Change Report of 2023 of the elections held at the 219th AGM. The joint meeting of the Board of Trustees and the Managing Committee of the Society at their meeting on August 25, 2025 deliberated on the order, and decided to go for an appeal against the Assistant Charity Commissioner's order. Due to the said decision the Managing Committee decided to hold election only for 5 seats of the Managing Committee and for the 6 office bearers whose terms were coming to an end with the September 2025 AGM. The appeal is pending before the Charity Commissioner.
- ii. As per Order in Misc. Case No. 32/2026 dated 13-03-2026 (instituted on the basis of the Report in Inspector Inquiry No. 03/2026) issued by Mr. Amogh S. Kaloti, Hon'ble Charity Commissioner, Maharashtra State, Mumbai] an Interim Managing Committee was appointed, to look into the matters related to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai with immediate effect from 13-03-2026 till the constitution of duly Elected Managing Committee

The following were the members of the Interim Managing Committee:-

- 1) Mr. K.D. Talokar - Fit Person & Inspector, Office of the Jt. Charity Commissioner
- 2) Mr. Mandar Bharde - Interim MC Member
- 3) Mr. Vivek Ganpule - Interim MC Member
- 4) Mr. Kumar Ketkar - Interim MC Member
- 5) Mr. Surendra Kulkarni - Interim MC Member
- 6) Prof. Suraj Pandit - Interim MC Member

The responsibility of the Committee was as under: -

1. Overseeing day-to-day Administration.
2. To prepare a list of valid and eligible voters for the purpose of ASM Elections 2025.
3. Reporting the Charity Commissioner

(The Managing Committee members elected for the tenure of 2023-26 could not continue as the Change Report of the elections held for the same were rejected by the ACC in August 2025. The office bearers' term ended with the AGM of September 2025 and hence they too ceased to be part of the Committee.)

2. ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY:

Book launch:

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai launched the book "*The Forgotten Indian Prisoners of World War*" by Gautam Hazarika, on 11th November, 2025. The launch programme was followed by a conversation between the author and Mannat Gumman Faruqi and Shaad Ali Sahgal.

JOINT / COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMMES:

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai and The Marg Foundation held a talk on 23rd April, 2025 on Marg's recently published volume "*The Third Side of the Coin*" edited by Joe Cribb, (*Former Keeper, Coins*

and Medals, British Museum) with Dr. Shailendra Bhandare (*Senior Assistant Keeper, South Asian and Far-Eastern Numismatics, Ashmolean Museum*) and Dr. Sanjay Garg (*Former Deputy Director, National Archives of India*).

The **Yashwantrao Chavan Centre and The Asiatic Society of Mumbai** held a collaborative Shri Sharad Kale Memorial Lecture by Shri Girish Kuber, Veteran Journalist and Editor, Loksatta, on "Bureaucracy, Media & Politics: The New Nexus," on 17th October 2025 at Rangaswar, Yashwantrao Chavan Centre.

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai and AVID organised a programme to launch the book "Mumbai: a Million Islands" by Sidharth Bhatia, author and Founder Editor - The Wire, on 2nd December 2025. The launch featured a conversation between Sidharth Bhatia and Naresh Fernandes, Editor, Scroll.in999999. Together, they reflected on how Mumbai's changing landscape tells a deeper story of power, identity, and memory, and what it means to imagine a shared future in a city of so many divides.

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai and Infosys Science Foundation held a Conversation on "The Ocean as Archive: The Indian Ocean in History and Fiction" on 7th January 2026. The conversation was lead by Amitav Ghosh, author, whose writing often has the ocean as a central setting and Infosys Prize laureate Mahmood Kooria whose pioneering work looks at the political and cultural transformations on the Indian Ocean littoral. The session was chaired by Akeel Bilgrami, Professor of Philosophy at Columbia University and jury chair for the Infosys Prize in Humanities. This conversation centred on the Indian Ocean as the cradle of globalization, a monsoon-driven world of commerce, culture, and exchange that has long fascinated scholars and writers.

3. THE SOCIETY REGRETS THE SAD DEMISE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Dr. Madhusudan R. Kolhatkar who passed away on 02-07-2025 was a Life Member of the Society and also been the Vice President of the Society and also on the MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute.

Mr. Yogesh C. Thakkar who passed away on 22nd May 2026 was a long time member of the Society who had served on the various sub-Committees of the Society especially Book Selection Committee.

Prof. Shereen Ratnagar who passed away on 25th May 2026 marks the loss of an important voice in the study of ancient India. She was a Life Member of the Society. Born in 1944, she was among those scholars who helped shape archaeology in India with clarity and courage. Her work changed how many of us understood the Indus Valley Civilization, and her book *Understanding Harappa* was read closely by generations of students. She studied at Deccan College in Pune and later trained in Mesopotamian archaeology at University College London. She went on to teach at the Centre for Historical Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University, where she became a respected teacher and scholar. Many remember her writing for its clarity and simplicity. She had the rare ability to make complex ideas easy to understand. Her work focused on the Indus Valley Civilization, especially questions about its society, economy and decline. She explored themes such as trade, urban life, pastoralism and early technology. Shereen Ratnagar's work reminds us that history is not about simple pride or fixed answers. It is about asking questions and looking closely at evidence. She leaves behind a body of work that will continue to guide students, teachers and readers for years to come. She had delivered lectures and also chaired the lectures organised by the Asiatic Society of Mumbai

4 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, 2008.**

Report not received

ii) **Handbook of Coins in the holdings of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (2009-2010):**

Report not received

5. REPORTS

5.1 Reports from the following Sub-Committees have not been received:

i. **Library Administration Committee**

Chairman: Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly

Convenor: Ms. Renu D Parekh

ii. **Staff Welfare Committee Report**

Chairperson: Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly

iii. **Publications Committee Report**

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

v. **Resource Mobilisation Committee**

Chairman: Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly

vi. **Staff Matters Committee**

vii. **Placement Committee**

Chairperson: Prof. (Dr.) Usha R Vijailakshmi

The Committee was appointed by the Managing Committee to address service-related grievances and any anomalies in the payment of pay scales. The committee reviewed and revised the retirement age of the staff in accordance with the rules of the Government of Maharashtra, which are now being followed by the Society.

The Chairperson submitted a set of recommendations for the consideration of the Managing Committee. The incumbent Managing Committee may review these recommendations and take appropriate action as deemed necessary.

5.2 **Library Digitization Project - Phase II:**
Microfilming / Digitization, Manuscripts, Rare Books and Maps Section:

During the year, 2,645 books were checked for quality under the Library Digitization Project. Further, 2594 microfilm rolls out of 4566 that were microfilmed earlier have also been cleaned and quality

checked. Additionally, 90 hard disks (8TB) have also been quality checked with the help of Cloudmojo.tech.

87 Researchers/Scholars referred to the digitized/microfilmed material from the Special Collection Room for their research purpose. The Microfilming / Digitization Department has provided 644 microfilm printouts/soft copies to researchers (members / non-members) on payment.

5.3 **Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies:**

Chairperson: Mr. Vilas Dhavale

Convenor: Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat

In the 10th year of the formation of the Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies (henceforth Tikekar Centre), the activities of the Centre were carried out as has been the norm so far.

The annual function of the Tikekar Centre was held in the Durbar Hall on 2 February 2026, instead of 1 February as it is usually done, as the date fell on a Sunday. The Chief Guest and keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Sharad Baviskar, Assistant Professor, French and Francophone Studies, JNU, and an author. Dr Baviskar's lecture was titled "Philosophy of Non-philosophers" and touched upon various aspects of a subject rarely heard these days.

The audience for the annual lecture was large and comprised an encouraging mix of all generations. Dr. Baviskar's lecture was followed by a Question-and-Answer session. Both generated a huge debate with some veterans of the Asiatic Society engaging with the speaker. The programme, it can be said, was a success.

The annual Tikekar Memorial Fellowship 2025-26 process was conducted in a fair and methodical way that has been established but the selected applicant had to unfortunately give up on the research study due to his personal circumstances. As a result, the presentation of the research could not be held.

The Tikekar Centre committee held a total of 6 meetings during FY2025-26. The members of the committee unanimously felt the need to once again review the Fellowship format and amount offered in a bid to enhance the quality of research study and address the tardy response to the call for applications over the past two years. The in-depth review and analysis, spread over several meetings, led to two decisions:

(i) To augment the Fellowship amount from Rs.2 Lakhs to Rs.5 Lakhs and allow a longer period of about 18 months to complete the research study. We are happy to report that the quality of proposals has certainly improved this year, raising hope in the improved quality of research.

(ii) The committee discussed the feasibility of initiating a substantive and long-term project of commissioning translations of old classics and scholarly work done in Marathi over the two centuries into English. The translation work from English and other foreign languages to Marathi has been increasingly happening; the need was felt to do the reverse. This project carries the possibility of taking the stupendous books and classics in Marathi to a wider readership across India, even globally. The plan is to implement it during the forthcoming year.

The Tikekar Centre decided to pause the Tikekar Lecture Series in colleges across Mumbai and Mumbai Metropolitan Region. The series was received well every year but the committee

felt the need to review and revise the themes/resource persons and so on. We hope to resume the series next year with renewed vigour.

All the members of the Dr Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies value the cooperation extended by The Asiatic Society staff and members, and hope to continue and improve the work of research and knowledge dissemination in the coming years.

5.4 Endowment Lectures:

Chairperson: Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar

Convenor: Ms Prakriti Sharan

During the year, the Society held the following endowment lectures which were delivered by renowned speakers, specialised in their own subjects and were highly appreciated by the audience. The details of the Endowment Lectures held during the year are given below:

A) The following lectures for the previous year 2024-2025 were held as under:

24 th April 2025	The Fifth Dr Meera Kosambi Endowment Lecture Topic: "Historicising the Archeology of South Indian Megalithic Burials"	Professor Rajan Gurukkal , <i>Historian, Founder Professor & Director, Interdisciplinary School of Social Sciences Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala</i> <u>Presided by:</u> Professor Shereen Ratnagar , <i>Former Professor of Archaeology and Ancient History, Jawaharlal Nehru University</i>
30 th April 2025	The 31st Smt. Bansari Sheth Memorial Lecture Topic: "The Law of Law-Making in the Regulatory State"	Mr Justice Somasekhar Sundaresan , <i>Additional Judge, Bombay High Court</i> <u>Presided by:</u> Mr. Justice Gautam S. Patel , <i>Former Judge Bombay High Court</i>

B) The following lectures were held as under:

Date	Name of the Endowment and the Topic	Speaker & the Chair
3 rd April, 2025	The Centre for Labour Studies Lecture: Topic: "Demystifying Labour Structures and Labour Rights"	Dr. Ritu Dewan , <i>Former Director & Professor, Department of Economics, University of Mumbai</i> <u>Presided by:</u> R. Ramakumar , <i>Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai</i>
30 th July 2025	The Thirteenth Professor Dhirendra Narain Endowment Lecture	Prof. Pratap Bhanu Mehta

	Topic: "Does Free Speech have a Future?"	<i>Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research & Visiting Professor, Princeton University</i> <u>Presided by:</u> Adv. Navroz Seervai , <i>Senior Counsel, Bombay High Court & Trustee of the Society</i>
--	--	--

The following lectures / seminar could not be held during the year.

1. The 27th Gulestan and Rustom Billimoria Endowment Lecture
2. The Thirteenth Durga Bhagwat Endowment Lecture
3. The 28th Gulestan and Rustom Billimoria Endowment Lecture
4. The 32nd Justice K.T. Telang Memorial Lecture
5. The 16th B. G. Deshmukh Endowment Lecture
6. The 36th Smt. Nabadurga Banerji Endowment Lecture
7. The 20th Dr Mani Kamerkar Endowment Lecture
8. The 14th Durga Bhagwat Endowment Lecture
9. Youth Seminar: The Gulestan and Rustom Billimoria Youth Seminar (held once in two years)

5.5 ASM Literary Club (LitClub) Programmes:

Chairperson: Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar

Convenor: Mr. Shridhar Naik

During the period, the Literary Club of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai held many interesting programmes in the Durbar Hall of the Society. These programmes were well attended by members as well as general public. The details of the programmes held are given below:

Date	Topic	Speaker
28th April 2025	Book Presentation: Presentation of Neeta Kolhatkar's "The Feared"	Neeta Kolhatkar , <i>author and independent journalist</i> Session moderated by: Mr. Kumar Ketkar , <i>renowned journalist and a former Member of Parliament</i>
17 th June, 2025	In Conversation on the novel: "Rescuing a River Breeze"	Mrinalini Harchandrai , <i>author, poet and writer, and former Deputy Editor at Poetry at Sangam,</i> In conversation with: Sharon Irani , <i>writer, researcher, editor and poet</i>
9 th July 2025	Book Presentation: "Siachen, 1987: Battle for the Frozen Frontier"	Lt. Gen. Ramesh Kulkarni , <i>author</i> In conversation with: Anjali Karpe , <i>daughter of Lt. Gen. Kulkarni's</i>
13 th August, 2025	Presentation on the book:	Ms. Mallika Ravikumar ,

	"565: The Dramatic Story of Unifying India"	<i>lawyer-turned-writer</i>
8 th October, 2025	Presentation on the book: "Twin Tales from Kutch"	Saeed Ibrahim, author
10 th September 2025	Discussion on the Book: "The Books that have influenced and shaped me over the last many years."	

5.6 The Mumbai Research Centre

Chairperson: Dr Shehernaz Nalwalla

Convenor: Mr. Nobby Pariyaram

During the year, the Mumbai Research Centre held 3 meetings for the financial year 2025-26 and organised the following programmes:

Ticketed Programmes

The Mumbai Research Centre organised a range of ticketed programmes during the year, including lecture series, workshops and immersive heritage experiences designed to encourage deeper engagement with Mumbai's history, culture and built heritage.

The Geography of Belief- The program combines lectures with field visits to reveal how Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam, Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity, Indigenous traditions, and Urban Street Spirituality each contribute to Mumbai's religious landscape.

Module No.	Theme	Speaker(s)	Online Lecture	Date of visit/walk & Location
	The Geography of Belief - An Introductory Lecture	Dr Kurush Dalal	1 st August	N.A
1	Jaina Sacred Spaces	Monish Shah	05 August	09 August 2025 Jain Derasar, Fort
2	Indigenous Sacred Spaces	Vinayak Parab	06 August	10 th August 2025 Aarey Colony
3	Hindu Sacred Spaces	Riddhi Joshi	14 August	16 th August 2025 Bhuleshwar
4	Buddhist Sacred Spaces	Dr. Suraj Pandit	15 August	17 th August 2025 Mahakali Caves
5	Zoroastrian Sacred Spaces	Ramiyar Karanjia	21 August	24 th August 2025 Dadar Athornan Madrasa
6	Islamic Sacred Spaces	Irfan Engineer	22 August	23 rd August 2025 Haji Ali Dargah
7	Street as Sacred Space	Raamesh GR	28 August	30 th August 2025 Parel
8	Christian Sacred Spaces	Dr. Fleur D'Souza, Joynel Fernandes	29 August	31 st August 2025 Archdiocesan Heritage Museum
9	Sikh Sacred Spaces	Dr. Davinder Bhasin	04 Sept	6 th Sept. 2025 Dadar Gurudwara
10	Jewish Sacred Spaces	Sifra Lentin	05 Sept	7 th Sept. 2025 Shaar Haraamim Synagogue

Online Lecture Series

1.	7 th – 12 th April 2025	Six-lecture series on THE LOGY OF MUMBAI Topics 1. The Geology and Geography of Mumbai 2. The Zoology and Botany of Mumbai 3. The Archaeology of Mumbai 4. The Anthropology of Mumbai 5. The History of Mumbai 6. The Foodology of Mumbai	Dr. Kurush Dalal- Archelogeist/Food Anthropologist
2.	12 th , 13 th and 14 th June, 2025	A three-part lecture series on “Opium, Empire & The City”	Amar Farooqui, Professor of History (Retired), University of Delhi
3.	17 th , 18 th and 19 th July 2025	An lecture series - “Society and the Season”- multi-part online lecture series to explore the rise of Bombay's social scene and the clubs, hotels and gymkhanas that catered to the bon-vivant of yore.	Sharon Irani writer, researcher, editor and poet
4.	11 th , 12 th , 13 th September 2025	Bombay, the West Coast and the Portuguese	Amar Farooqui, Professor of History (Retired), University of Delhi

In-Person Learning Programme at the Durbar Hall

1.	2nd June 2025 4 th June 2025 6 th June 2025 7 th June 2025	Cuneiform Script Workshop-From Behistun to Bombay – A Journey through the world of Cuneiform (A comprehensive course introducing the fascinating world of Cuneiform script, beginning with theoretical foundations in Ancient Mesopotamian civilization and focusing specifically on Old Persian Cuneiform from the Achaemenid period (5th Century BCE)]	Shailesh Kshirsagar, Durbar Hall and a visit to the Bazaar Gate inscription
----	--	---	---

Walks and Visits

1	4 th April 2025	Special Exhibition Walkthrough - “In the Dappled Light”	Led by Paul Abraham, Founder, Sarmaya Arts Foundation
2	13 th July 2025	Walking the Bazaar Series - Walking the Chor Bazaar	Rajan Jayakar-Lawyer and Collector
3	20 th July 2025	Walking the Bazaar Series – Bhaji Galli, Grant Road.	The Mumbai Research Centre & The Locavore with Chef Thomas Zacharias (ChefTZac), former Chef Partner at The Bombay Canteen and founder of The Locavore

Non-Ticketed Events

Walks

1	3 rd May 6 th May and 7 th May 2025	Guided tour of the F.D. Alpaiwala Museum (housed in the Khareghat Memorial Building, Mumbai, showcases the rich heritage of the Parsis of India and Iranian Zoroastrians, preserving rare artifacts and historical treasures)	Conducted by Kerman Fatakia & Firoza Mistree
2	3 rd May 2025	MRC guided tour: Acworth Leprosy Museum	Conducted by Museum Personnel
3	3 rd May 2025	Guided tour of the BEST Transport Museum	Conducted by Yatin Pimple
4	4 th May 2025	Guided tour of St. Thomas Cathedral	R. Venkatesh
5	4 th May 2025	Nature Walk at The Nest (Urban Forest) , <u>Shimla House, Malabar Hill</u>	Katie Bagli

Art Musings

1	29 th May 2025	Shape of Silences Exhibition- by acclaimed photographer Sanjay Das curated by Ina Puri – Eminent Curator & Author, followed by a walkthrough and panel discussion	Speakers: Ina Puri, Sanjay Das, Aarti Naik, Siddharth Naik, and Renu Parekh.
2	5 th July 2025	A walkthrough and discussion of Ink and Kin, an art exhibition by Sushma Kothari	Renu Parekh was in conversation with the artist held at Hijri Hall, Jehangir Art Gallery

Programmes at the Durbar Hall

Talks and Panel Discussions

1.	25 th April 2025	'Chimaji Appa: The Story of Vasai and Salsette'	Dr Uday S Kulkarni, author Session moderated by: Dr. Gaurav Gadgil, Associate Professor in the School of Civilisation at Somaiya Vidyavihar University
2	5 th May, 2025	Film screening followed by Panel Discussion on 'The Modern in Print', a film by Mala Sinha and Suchitra Balasubrahmanyam. <u>Moderated by:</u> Tinaz Nooshian.	. <u>Panellists:</u> Dinaz Kalwachwala - <i>Documentary Filmmaker</i> Amit Bhavsar - <i>Executive</i> Producer, Music Director and Co- director Mala Pradeep Sinha - <i>Textile</i> designer and Co-founder of Bodhi

			Suchitra Balasubrahmanyam – Design Historian, Independent scholar and visiting Professor Savitha Suri - Textile Researcher & Curator
2.	7 th August 2025	Panel Conversation: FOY's GAZE: How He Saw Bombay, How We See Him A conversation honouring the invaluable contributions of Foy Nissen in deepening public understanding of Bombay's rich history and vibrant heritage.	Panelists: Justice Gautam Patel Dr. Jehangir Sorabjee & Arch Vikas Dilawari Moderated by: Fiona Fernandez
6.	12 th August 2025	'Gujarati Muslim Communities in Colonial Bombay.'	The author, Danish Khan, (Journalist, Historian; DPhil, Oxford) in conversation with Murali Ranganathan, Historian and translator specializes in 19th-century Mumbai

Collaborative Programmes

22nd April 2025	Book launch, presentation and Group Discussions: Four-volumes of 'The Heritage Handbook' published by <i>The People's Project</i>	Launch of the four-volumes held in collaboration with MRC and-The MMR Heritage Conservation Society
9 th May 2025	Panel discussion: "Mumbai Matters - A Conversation on Reimagining the City's Future"	The Mumbai Research Centre and the Art Deco Mumbai Trust With Vikas Dilawari, Dr. Jehangir Sorabjee, Mustansir Dalvi and Atul Kumar
16 th July 2025	A tribute to Jim Masselos (1940-2025)	The Mumbai Research Centre & Australian Consulate-General in Mumbai <u>Guest of honour</u> - Mr. Paul Murphy Australian Consul General for Western India <u>Speakers</u> - Dr Ramdas Bhatkal Dr. Manjiri Kamat

		Aneesh Pradhan (<i>in place of Dr. Simin Patel</i>) Chirodeep Chaudhuri
--	--	--

Bombay Booked

1.	20 th June 2025	Bombay Booked 13: A Marine Life Edition (The session featured A Climate Action Series Book - Coastal Life of Mumbai, by SPROUTS and also Super Powers on the Shore - a book that shines a spotlight on the creatures that live on our coasts.)	Anand Pendharkar, author & CEO - SPROUTS Along with Sejal Mehta , author of Super Powers on the Shore <u>In conversation with:</u> Kartik Chandramouli, Senior Digital Editor at Mongabay-India, an environmental news platform
2.	11 th July 2025	Bombay Booked 14: Featured the book "Ramblings of a Bandra Boy" by Joy Bimal Roy	The author, Joy Bimal Roy, in conversation with: Shireen Gandhi, gallerist Chemould Prescott Road, and Denzil Smith, film and stage actor and producer, read excerpts from the book
3.	2nd August 2025	Bombay Booked 15: Session spotlighted the recently published four-volume series of The Heritage Handbook.	The Mumbai Research Centre in collaboration with The People Place Project and the MMR Heritage Conservation Society Authors presented insights into their respective contributions followed by a group discussion: Minaz Ansari, Pascal Lopes, Het Shah, Shwetal Patil, Manasi Chokshi, and Esa Shaikh
4.	11th August 2025	Bombay Booked 16: SUHANA SAFAR: The Journey of Bimal Roy's Madhumati Rinki Roy Bhattacharya in conversation with Sanjit Narwekar	Rinki Roy Bhattacharya, acclaimed writer, journalist, and documentary filmmaker — daughter of legendary Director Bimal Roy; in conversation with Sanjit Narwekar and cinema historian and award-winning documentary maker

Exhibition

2 nd May 2025	A special Walkthrough - "Bombay Railways: Origins" (Viewing and Walkthrough)	Curated by Mrinal Kapadia,
--------------------------	--	----------------------------

Musical Event

1	23 rd August 2025	Echoes of Salil da! Remembering Salil Chowdhury on his Birth Centenary	An audio-visual presentation by Dr. Prakash Joshi, a columnist and music connoisseur, leading tribute in honor of Salil Chowdhury's birth centenary.
---	------------------------------	---	--

Online Lecture

1	9 th September 2025	Blazing Inferno, Raging Conflagration - The Bombay Dock Explosion of 1944	An Online talk on Zoom by Captain Mohan Narayan, IN (Retd.)
---	--------------------------------	---	---

5.7 Events and Souvenir Committee Chairperson & Convenor: Ranjan Jayakar

Report not received

5.8 ASM JOURNAL Chairperson: Prof. (Dr.) Usha R Vijailakshmi Convenor: Prof. (Dr.) Madhavi Narsalay

The Volume 92 of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai was published in November 2024. The Committee revised the rules of submission enlisted in the Journal. The Committee prepared and secured approval for a comprehensive journal stylesheet to ensure the systematic and accurate citation of contemporary research sources. The Committee reviewed, revised, and updated the diacritical marks used for the accurate citation of vernacular sources. The Committee decided to have a special portal for the submission of article for publication in the journal.

The Committee decided on the SOP to be followed by the Committee for the publication of the journal. The SOP for the forthcoming issues was minuted in the minutes of 28th December 2025

The Committee decided to bring out both a regular volume and a special volume on Indian Knowledge System to cover the backlog of publication.

The Committee secured the approval for the proposals that Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi and Prof. Madhavi Narsalay will be the editors of volume no. 93 which will be a regular volume and Dr. Namrata Ganneri and Prof. Madhu Kelkar will be the editors of the special volume on Indian Knowledge System which will be volume no. 94. Both the issues would be published in November 2026.

5.9 RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP & MEDALS COMMITTEE: Chairperson: Prof. (Dr.) Usha R Vijailakshmi Convener – Prof (Dr.) Varsha Shirgaonkar

The Committee advertised the research scholarships for the year 2024-25 at its official website. The scholarship amounts for certain scholarships were revised after securing the approval of the Managing

Committee. An interview of the scholars was held, and they were given suggestions to revise their proposals. Results were announced after scrutinising the revised proposals.

A total of seven scholars were selected for scholarships for the year. Their six-monthly viva voce examinations were conducted, during which suggestions were provided to help them improve their dissertations. Subsequently, the scholars submitted their draft project reports, which were reviewed by subject experts. Based on the reviewers' recommendations, six of the research proposals were approved, and the scholars were asked to revise their reports accordingly.

The scholars have since submitted their final research project reports. The incoming committee should scrutinise the reports to ensure that the reviewers' suggestions have been duly incorporated. Upon satisfactory completion of this process, the scholars may be issued completion certificates and paid the balance of their scholarship amounts.

The two scholars of 2023-24 who submitted their final research project reports in 2025 also await scrutiny of their report by the incoming Committee.

During the year, the Committee had conducted online/live interviews and chosen fellowship candidates for the year 2025-2026:

S.N.	Name of the Fellowship	Candidate
1.	Vimal Shah Pali and Buddhist Studies	Karuna Jadhav Mohite
2.	K.T. Telang Indology Fellowship	Ramakrishnan Panchapakesan
3.	Asiatic Society Social Science award	Ashish Chavda

6. TAGORE FELLOWSHIP / SCHOLARSHIP:

No applications were received for the Tagore Fellowship during the year 2025-2026.

The Society had gone through the second and third six-monthly reports of her research "A Religio-Cultural Study of a Manuscript of the Mathura Mahatmya affiliated to the Adi Varaha Purana" (19th July 2023 - 19th January 2024 & 19th January 2024 - 19th July 2024) submitted by Ms. Sneha Nagarkar, Tagore Scholar, under the scheme of the Tagore National Scholarship (2019-2020) awarded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Based on her report and the viva, the Committee decided to recommend her reports along with the Institutional Level Search and Scrutiny Committee (ILSSC) be forwarded to the National Selection Committee (NSC).

7. MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01-04-2025 TO 31-03-2026:

The Scrutiny Committee held seven meetings during the period to consider and approved the membership applications received. The details of the number of membership applications approved by the Scrutiny Committee are given below.

7.1 MEMBERSHIP:

During the year under review, 2 members resigned, 3 expired while 1479 new Members, Reader and Indian Student Members were enrolled. The total number of members as on 31st March, 2026, is 5,112. The details are shown in the table below: -

Category	As on 01/04/25	New Members	Resign-action	Death	Transfer of Status	Members deleted under Rule 5 (C)	Total Members as on 31/03/26
Resident-Life (RL)	2,108	236	-	3	-	-	2,341

Resident (R)	825	1177	2	-	-	-	2000
Indian Student Members	219	1	-	-	-	-	220
Reader Membership	279	5	-	-	-	-	284
Non-Resident (NR)	37	53	-	-	-	-	90
Non-Resident-Life (NRL)	139	7	-	-	-	-	146
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	-	-	-	-	-	0
Consulate Members	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Donor Members	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diplomat Members	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	3,638	1,479	2	3			5,112

7.2 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. Dr. Madhusudan R. Kolhatkar 2) Mr. Yogesh C. Thakkar
3) Prof. Ms. Shereen Ratnagar

7.3 The Members of the Committee in the meeting held on 03/10/2025 unanimously decide that as the Scrutinizing Committee is elected separately by the AGM; so, till next Committee is elected the present Committee will function.

7.4 The following indicates the attendance of the Members of the Scrutinizing Committee for the meetings held on 03/10/2025 during the period from April-2025 to March 2026 - 7 meetings were held.

SCRUTINIZING COMMITTEE MEMBERS (April 2025 – March 2026)

S.No.	Names of Members	Attendance	Leave of Absence	Absent	Total
1.	Ms. Anahita Tarapore – Chairperson	6	1	-	7
2.	Adv. Devdatta Malshe - Convenor	7	-	-	7
3.	Mr. Pankaj V. Samel	4	2	1	7
4.	Mr. Anil W. Sawant	5	2	-	7
5.	Ms. Vijayanthi M. Chakravarthy	6	1	-	7
6.	Mr. Abhijit A. Mulye	6	1	-	7
7.	Mr. Dhairya K. Vyas	1	2	4	7

8. MANAGING COMMITTEE

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

The following indicates the attendance of the members at the Managing Committee meetings during the period from 1st April 2025 to 12th March 2026.

As per Order in Misc. Case No. 32/2026 dated 13-03-2026 (instituted on the basis of the Report in Inspector Inquiry No. 03/2026) issued by Mr. Amogh S. Kaloti, Hon'ble Charity Commissioner, Maharashtra State, Mumbai] an Interim Managing Committee was appointed, to look into the matters related to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai with immediate effect from 13-03-2026 till the constitution of duly Elected Managing Committee.

**8.1 1st April 2025 to 12th March 2026:
18 Meetings were held including Adjourned & online meetings.**

Sr. No.	Names of Members	Attendance	Leave of Absence	Absent
1.	Prof. Vispi Balaporia (President)	17	1	-
2.	Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar (Vice-President)	18	-	-
3.	Mr. Joy Thomas Kuriappilly (Vice-President)	07	09	02
4.	Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla (Vice-President)	18	-	-
5.	Prof Usha R Vijailakshmi (Vice-President)	10	08	-
6.	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary) (Resigned w.e.f. 10/11/2025 due to ill-health)	10	08	-
7.	Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat (Hon. Jt. Secretary) w.e.f 14-11-2024	14	03	01
8.	Mr. Rajan Jayakar (Hon. Jt. Finance Secretary) w.e.f 14-11-2024	08	08	02
9.	Mr. Biplov Belel	09	07	02
10.	Mr. Mandar Bharde	06	03	09
11.	Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak	09	09	-
12.	Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule (Resigned w.e.f. 24-10-2025)	07	01	-
13.	Mr. Digambar Kamble	13	-	05
14.	Mr. Kumar Ketkar	13	04	01
15.	Adv. Sanjay Kher	09	07	02
16.	Mr. Surendra Kulkarni	11	02	05
17.	Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee	07	08	01
18.	Dr. Kunda P.N.	12	03	02
19.	Mr. Vithal Nadkarni	06	06	06
20.	Prof. Suraj Pandit	08	06	04
21.	Mr. Nobby Pariyaram	09	05	03
22.	ASM – Employees' Representative - Mr. Sunil Bhirud	14	-	01 B1
23.	Central Government Nominee: <i>The Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India</i>	-	-	-
24.	State Government Nominee: - Shri Ashok M. Gadekar, <i>Director (I/C)- (w.e.f. 20/12/2023)</i> <i>Director, Directorate of Libraries, Govt. of Maharashtra</i>	-	-	-

9. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Managing Committee has constituted Sub-Committees 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 (2025-2026) under review:

(From 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026):

Sr. No.	Committee Meetings	No. of meetings held
1.	Managing Committee	18
2.	Finance and Investment Committee	03
3.	Book Selection Committee	02 + 01 (Small Committee for donated books)
4.	Periodicals Committee meeting	02
5.	Endowment Lectures Committee	02 (till 22 nd September 2025)
6.	MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute for Post-Graduate Studies and Research Committee	No meetings were held
7.	Research Fellowships & Medals Committee	04 (till 1 st September 2025)
8.	Journal Committee	02 (till 14 th August 2025)
9.	ASM Literary Club	02 (till 13 th August 2025)
10.	Mumbai Research Centre	04 (till 5 th August 2025)
11.	Staff Welfare Committee	No meetings were held
12.	Publications Committee	No meetings were held
13.	Dr Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies	06
14.	Library Administration Committee	No meetings were held
15.	Library Digitisation Project Committee (Phase II)	No meetings were held
16.	Events Organisation & Souvenir Committee	02

10. LIBRARY SERVICES & BOOK SELECTION:

Chairperson: Dr Shehernaz Nalwalla

Convenor : Ms. Renu Parekh

- 10.1 Regular updates were sent to Members by e-mail including Thursday Books Display Lists and list of issuable periodicals.

A. During the year, 149 books + 54 bound volumes were added to the library. The details are given below:

Thus, the total number of books and bound volumes of periodicals as on **31st March, 2026** is **2,66,085**

C/F : Total number of books and periodicals as on 31 st March, 2025		2,64,193
Total number of books + bound volumes of periodicals added as on 31 st March, 2026	203	
Total number of books + bound volumes of periodicals as on 31st March, 2026		2,66,085

10.2 List of book donors:

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

Sr. No.	Individual	Sr. No.	Individual
1	A. Sarathi	30	Mr. Satyajit Baliyarsingh
2	Ms. Daphne Pillai	31	Mr. Shaul Sapir
3	Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla	32	Mr. Tilak Devasher
4	G.S. Ramanathan	33	Mr. Udai P. Singh
5	Mr. Amal Rambha	34	Mr. Vasant Kujj
6	Mr. Athar Ahmed	35	Mr. Vipul Mudgal
7	Mr. B.V. Kumar	36	Mr. Vivek Purandare
8	Mr. Cyrus Guzder	37	Mr. Yashwant Vyas
9	Mr. G.K. Pai	38	Mr. Yogesh Thakker
10	Mr. Hemant Patil	39	Ms. Amrita Shah
11	Mr. Hresh R. Metha	40	Ms. Anita Patel
12	Mr. Hrishu Bhattacharyya	41	Ms. Cashmera Percy Bhaya
13	Mr. Jerroo Bharucha	42	Ms. Dendukuri Nagamani
14	Mr. Joe Alvares	43	Ms. Dharshani Bajaj
15	Mr. Jor Bimal Roy	44	Ms. Hemali Sanghavi
16	Mr. Karthikeya Sivasenapathy	45	Ms. Kavita S. Salunkhe
17	Mr. Kishore Kumar Theckedath	46	Ms. Lata Pujari
18	Mr. Neel Helekar	47	Dr. Mariam Dossal
19	Mr. P.V. Sankarankutty	48	Ms. Meera Iyer
20	Mr. Pranay Jain	49	Ms. Namrata Shah
21	Mr. Probhal Dasgupta	50	Ms. Renuka Bokhare
22	Mr. Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju	51	Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee
23	Mr. R. Gopalkrishnan	52	Ms. Urmila Deshpande
24	Mr. Ramkrishna Das	53	Dr. Yasmeen Lukmani
25	Mr. S. Saren	54	N. Divya
26	Mr. Salil Tripathi	55	Prof. Meenal Kshirsagar
27	Mr. Sandeep Dahisarkar	56	Prof. Vispi Balaporia
28	Mr. Sanjay Kale	57	Thiago Pinto Barbosa
29	Mr. Santosh Chavan		

Institution

Sr. No.	Name
1	C.C.M. Publications
2	Estate of Foy Nissen
3	HarperCollins Publishers
4	Heirloom
5	Kersi Commissariat
6	Khareghat Kersi Colony
7	Mahanagarपालिका Ayukta Karyalay
8	Maritime Mumbai Museum Society
9	The Sakshi Trust

10.3 Periodicals Department:

Chairperson: Prof. (Dr.) Usha R Vijailakshmi

Convenor: Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar

- The Committee prepared and secured approval for the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) governing the functioning of the committee.
- With the approval of the Management Committee (MC), the committee sold the old newspapers and magazines in accordance with the established practice. The proceeds from the sale were subsequently handed over to the office.
- Members were provided with suggestion slips on which they could indicate their preferred journals for subscription. Following discussion and consideration, the suggested journals were approved by the committee.
- The Committee approved the annual subscriptions for journals, newspapers, and magazines, and the subscriptions were renewed accordingly. The committee also prepared a list of journals that were discontinued for various reasons.
- The Committee recommended that the library be registered under the Central Government's **One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)** initiative.
- The committee approved the binding of a total of 154 bound volumes of periodicals. It recommended that the list of these volumes be made available on the website.
- Committee members conducted a trial of **J-Gate**, an online digital library and research platform. However, owing to the high cost of access, the committee decided not to proceed with the subscription.
- The Committee also conducted a trial of the **Adam Matthew Collection** from SAGE Publications, a digital archive relating to the colonial world. Although the committee was impressed by the breadth and quality of the collection, it decided not to proceed with the subscription owing to cost constraints.

10.3-1 During the year, **54** 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.

10.3-2 **Purchased daily newspapers:**

Combined offer of Times of India with Economic Times, (Mumbai Mirror only on Sunday) started from 27th December 2020 continues for 2024 till July 2025. From August 2025 onwards the combine offer is of Times of India with Mumbai Mirror daily.

The Society subscribes to 12 Daily Newspapers. The language wise break-up is as follows:-

<u>English</u>	:	Times of India, Business Standard, Economic Times, Hindu, Hindustan Times, Indian Express are received in the Library.
<u>Hindi/Marathi</u>	:	Hindi: Navbharat Times / Marathi: Loksatta, Maharashtra Times, Samana and Pudhari
<u>Gujarati</u>	:	Divya Bhaskar

10.3-3 **Periodicals:**

- A. The number of subscribed periodicals during the year was 45. 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 2025-2026		Exchange and Gratis	
Subscribed Directly from Sage and other publishers	27 titles	Gratis (Periodicals and newsletters)	16 titles

Subscribed through Allied publishers and Subscription Agency	10 titles	Exchange (in lieu of Society's Journal)	30 titles
Subscribed through Apex Subscription Pvt. Ltd	8 titles	Total:	46 titles
Total approved for purchase	45 titles		

The number of bound volumes of periodicals accessioned is 54.

B. Periodicals received gratis:

The following periodicals were received gratis by the Society:

S.N.	Titles
1	Prabuddha Bharata or Awakened India.
2	CSVM Research Journal

C. List of donors of periodicals:

Individual donors (Members and Non-members):

S.No	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.	CSMVS	CSMVS Research Journal 2023

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 2025 is 1,196 downloads.

10.4 Book Lending (Issue) Section:

During the year, 7,317 books (6,242 old and 1,075 new) and 976 periodicals (magazines) were issued to the members.

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

11. PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION

A. Conservation Section:

Following are the details of work done in the Conservation Laboratory from April 2025 to March 2026: -

Months	Fumigation (Books)	Deacidification (Pages)	Lining (Pages)	Book Conservation
April to June	245 Books	5,644	5,598	18
July to September	382 Books	2,957 + Book Binding Work	2,254	06
October to December	290 Books	7,564	7,874	23
January to March	192 Books	7,846	7,780	18
Total	1,109 Books	24,011	23,506	65

		Pages	Pages	Books Conserved
--	--	-------	-------	--------------------

60 conserved books were bound. The Department also conserved the Textile Journals.

12. BINDERY SECTION

During the year under review, a total of 843 books were completely bound in the Book Binding Department. This was apart from the routine work of stitching and pinning newspapers, repairing books and files, pasting, packing and parcelling.

13. FINANCES

Attached separately

14. 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.

We are thankful to the Government of Maharashtra for the Recurring Annual Grant of Rs.One Crore to the Society.

We are deeply obliged to the BMC for acceding to our request and sanctioning a regular grant of Rs.75 Lakhs.

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

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe
President

Vivek V. Ganpule
Hon. Secretary

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Financial Review of the Society is attached separately

On behalf of the Managing Committee

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe
President

Vivek V. Ganpule
Hon. Secretary

Neelakantan K. Aiyyar
Hon. Finance Secretary

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

Date: 08/09/2026

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).

A full verification of coins was carried out as of 31st March 2022 by the noted numismatist, the late Mr. Mahesh Kalra. The total number coins present in the custody of the Society is 12,330.

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangralaya (formerly the Prince of Wales Museum) has sent a letter dated 25th June, 2026 stating that the artefacts given on loan to the Museum and the antiquities mentioned in the lists previously sent are in order.

(Vivek V. Ganpule)
Hon. Secretary

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

Scrutinizing Committee To scrutinize Applications for Membership (Elected by the AGM 2024 till 12th March 2026)

Ms. Anahita Tarapore - Chairperson
Adv. Devdatta Malshe - Convenor
Mr. Pankaj V. Samel
Mr. Anil W. Sawant
Mr. Vijayanthi M. Chakravarthy
Mr. Abhijit A. Mulye
Mr. Dhairya K. Vyas

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS SUB-COMMITTEES

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:

Prof. Vispi Balaporia – **President - Chairperson**
Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande – **Hon. Secretary**
Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat – **Hon. Jt. Secretary**
Mr. Rajan Jayakar – **Hon. Jt. Finance Secretary**
Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla
Mr. Joy Thomas
Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi

Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak
Adv. Sanjay Kher
Mr. Surendra Kulkarni
Dr. Kunda P.N.
Mr. Vithal Nadkarni
Mr. Nobby Pariyaram

BOOK-SELECTION COMMITTEE:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar
Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla - **Chairperson**
Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak
Mr. Vithal Nadkarni
Mr. Chaitanya Bhide
Mrs. Vijayanthi Chakravarthy
Mr. Kapil Chandni
Dr. Ashok Kothari
Mr. Ajay Kumar
Dr. Yasmeen Lukmani

Adv. Hriday Narain
Ms. Renu Parekh - **Convenor**
Mr. Pulind Samant
Mr. Pankaj Samel
Mr. Yogesh Shah
Ms. Prakriti Sharan
Ms. Shweta Shetty
Mr. Yogesh Thakker
Mr. Dhairya Vyas

PERIODICALS COMMITTEE:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar
Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi - **Chairperson**
Ms. Prakriti Sharan - **Convenor**

ENDOWMENT LECTURES COMMITTEE:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar - **Chairperson**
Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi
Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak
Dr. Kumar Ketkar

Mr. Umang Kale
Ms. Renu Parekh
Ms. Prakriti Sharan - **Convenor**
Prof. Trimbak Ghobale
Mr. Rusheed Wadia

MM DR.P.V. KANE INSTITUTE FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi
Mr. V.V. Ganpule
Prof. Suraj Pandit
Ms. Chinmayi Deodhar
Ms. Anjali Masarguppi
Dr. Rupali Mokashi
Dr. Madhavi Narsalay

Ms. Renu Parekh
Dr. Renuka Porwal
Mr. Pankaj Samel
Mr. Yogesh Shah
Prof. Varsha Shirgaonkar

RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIPS & MEDALS COMMITTEE:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi - **Chairperson**
Dr. Kunda P.N.
Dr Ravinder Kaur Cheema
Prof. Varsha Shirgaonkar - **Convenor**

JOURNAL COMMITTEE:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi - **Chairperson**
Adv. Sanjay Kher
Prof. Suraj Pandit
Dr. Madhumita Bandyopadhyay
Mr. Sandeep Dahisarkar
Ms. Chinmayi Deodhar
Dr. Namrata Ganneri
Dr. Madhu Kelkar

Dr. Madhavi Narsalay - **Convenor**
Ms. Renu Parekh
Dr. Renuka Porwal
Mr. Anil Sawant
Mr. Yogesh Shah
Ms. Prakriti Sharan
Ms. Shweta Shetty
Prof. Varsha Shirgaonkar

ASM LITERARY CLUB:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar - **Chairperson**
Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak
Mr. Vithal Nadkarni
Mrs. Vijayanthi Chakravarthy

Mr. Umang Kale
Mr. Shridhar Naik - **Convenor**
Dr. Renuka Porwal
Mr. Yogesh Shah

MUMBAI RESEARCH CENTRE:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)

Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla - **Chairperson**

Mr. Biplov Belel

Mr. Surendra Kulkarni

Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee

Prof. Suraj Pandit

Mr. Nobby Pariyaram - **Convenor**

Mr. Vilas Dhavale (***Ex-Officio - Chairperson,
Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre***)

Dr. Madhu Kelkar

Ms. Urvashi Ashta

Ms. Rama Bishnoi

Dr. Kurush Dalal

Dr. Tulsi Lingareddy

Ms. Anjali Masarguppi

Mr. Vivek Matthai

Ms. Renu Parekh

Mr. Arun S.

Mr. Omkar Salunke

Mr. Yogesh Shah

Ms. Yaduvendra Singh

Ms. Jolly Sonkar

Ms. Savitha Suri

Mrs. Anahita Tarapore

Mr. R. Venkatesh

Mr. Dhairya Vyas

STAFF WELFARE COMMITTEE:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)

Mr. Joy Thomas - **Chairman**

Adv. Sanjay Kher

Mr. Vithal Nadkarni

Mr. Ajay Kumar

Mr. Pulind Samant

Ms. Prakriti Sharan

ASM Staff Members:

Mr. Sunil Bhirud

Mr. Sunil Khemkar

Mr. Shankar Paste

Mr. Sameer Salvi

Mrs. Kavita Manjrekar

Mr. Prakash Reddy (President, ASMEU) – Invitee

Other Sub-Committees**A. Publications Committee**

1. Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)

2. Mrs. Meenal Kshrisagar

3. Adv. Sanjay Kher

4. Dr. Namrata Ganneri

5. Ms. Prakriti Sharan

B. Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)

Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla

Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat

Adv. Sanjay Kher

Dr. Kunda P.N.

Mr. Pradeep Champanerkar

Mr. Vilas Dhavale - **Chairperson**

Ms. Smruti Koppikar - **Convenor**

Mr. Anand Limaye

Mr. Nitin Rindhe

C. Library Administration Committee:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla
Mr. Joy Thomas - **Chairman**
Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak
Mr. V.V. Ganpule
Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat
Adv. Sanjay Kher
Mr. Surendra Kulkarni

Mr. Vithal Nadkarni
Ms. Renu Parekh - **Convenor**
Mr. Ajay Kumar
Mr. Arun S.

D. Library Digitization Project Committee:

Prof. Vispi Balaporia (President)
Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla
Mr. Joy Thomas
Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak
Mr. V.V. Ganpule
Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat
Adv. Sanjay Kher

Mr. Surendra Kulkarni
Dr. Kunda P.N.
Ms. Renu Parekh
Mr. Prashant Patil
Prof. Varsha Shirgaonkar
Mr. A.J. Victor - Supervisor, Rare Book
Mr. Kishor Gulgule – To be invited whenever required
Mr. Parvez Banatwala – To be invited whenever required

E. Resource Mobilisation Committee:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Mr. Joy Thomas - **Chairman**
Adv. Sanjay Kher
Mr. Vithal Nadkarni
Ms. Renu Parekh

F. Events and Souvenir Sub-Committee:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar
Mr. Rajan Jayakar - **Chairman**
Mr. Umang Kale
Ms. Renu Parekh
Mr. Arun S.
Ms. Pooja Gupta

G. Staff Matters Committee:

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar
Mr. Rajan Jayakar
Mr. Umang Kale
Ms. Renu Parekh
Mr. Arun S.
Mr. Prakash Reddy (President ASMEU) - (Invitee)

H. Staff Placement Committee

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Adv. Sanjay Kher
Mr. Pulind Samant
Mr. Sameer Savli (Staff Representative)
Mr. Madhav More (Staff Representative)
Mrs. Priyanka Mestry (Staff Representative)

I. Legal Committee

Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande (Hon. Secretary)
Adv. Sanjay Kher
Mr. V.V. Ganpule
Ms. Renu Parekh
Mr. Arun S.

=====

Right to Information (RTI)

Mr. Ronald Deniz, Senior Clark	-	Chief Information Officer
Mr. Nitin Patil, Admin Officer	-	Appellate Officer (To answer the RTI queries)

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

Scrutinizing Committee

To scrutinize Applications for Membership

(Elected at the ASM Elections 2025 (of AGM 2025) held on 4th July 2026)

Mr. Dattatray D. Panchwagh - **Chairman**

Mr. Malhar K. Gokhale

Mr. Amol A. Jadhav

Mr Umang A. Kale

Mr. Abhijit A. Mulye - **Convenor**

Ms. Sneha Nagarkar

Dr. Madhavi R. Narsalay

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE VARIOUS SUB-COMMITTEES (Ad hoc Committee) (w.e.f. 10th July 2026 till September 2026)

- A) **Finance and Investment Committee:**
Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe (President) - Chairman
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary
Mr. Neelakantan Aiyar - Hon. Finance Secretary
Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh - Member
- B) **Book Selection Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary – **Chairman**
Mr. Pramod Bapat - Member
Mr. Rajesh Behere - Member
Mr. Malhar Gokhale - Member
Mr. Vinod Pawar - Member
- C) **Periodicals Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Chairman**
Mrs. Vijayanthi Chakravarthy - Member
Mr. Dattatray Panchwagh - Member
- D) **Endowment Lectures Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary
Dr. Prachi Moghe - Member
- E) **MM Dr. P.V. Kane Institute for Post-Graduate Studies and Research Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Chairman**
Prof. Suraj Pandit - **Director, Kane Institute**
Dr. Malhar Kulkarni - Member
Dr. Madhavi Narsalay - Member

F) **Research, Scholarships and Medals Committee:**

Mrs. Vijayanthi Chakravarthy – Member
Dr. Prachi Moghe – Member
Mr. Surendra Kulkarni – Member
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary

G) **Journal Committee:**

Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Chairman**
Dr. Malhar Kulkarni - Member
Prof. Suraj Pandit - Member
Dr. Madhavi Narsalay - Member

H) **ASM Literary Club:**

Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Convenor**
Mr. Ramesh Patange (VP) - **Chairman**
Mr. Pramod Bapat - Member
Mr. Rajesh Behere - Member
Mr. Amol Jadhav - Member
Mr. Vinod Pawar - Member

I) **Mumbai Research Centre:**

Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Convenor**
Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh (VP) - **Chairman**
Mr. Malhar Gokhale - Member
Dr. Prachi Moghe - Member
Prof. Suraj Pandit - Member

J) **Staff Welfare Committee:**

Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary
Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh (VP)
Mr. Neelakantan Aiyar - Hon. Finance Secretary
Mr. Amol Jadhav - Member
ASM Staff Representatives

Other Sub-Committees:

I. **Publications Committee:**

Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Chairman**
Dr. Malhar Kulkarni - Member
Ms. Sneha Nagarkar - Member
Dr. Madhavi Narsalay - Member

- II. **Dr. Aroon Tikekar Centre for Advanced Studies:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - Member
Dr. Prachi Moghe - Member
Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh - **Ex-Officio Member – MRC Chairman**
Mr. Vilas Dhavale - **Chairperson**
Ms. Madhavi G. Kamat - **Convenor**
Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla - Member
Prof Mangala Sirdeshpande - Member
Mr. Pradeep Champanerkar - Member
Adv. Sanjay Kher - Member
Ms. Smruti Koppikar - Member
Mr. Anand Limaye - Member
Dr. Kunda P.N. - Member
Dr Nitin Rindhe - Member
- III. **Library Administration Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Convenor**
Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh (VP) - **Chairman**
Mrs. Vaijayanthi M. Chakravarthy - Member
- IV. **Library Digitization Project Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Convenor**
Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh (VP) - **Chairman**
Mr. Surendra Kulkarni - Member
Mr. Abhijit Mulye - Member
- V. **Resource Mobilization Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - Member
Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh (VP) - **Convenor**
Mr. Chandraprakash Dwivedi (VP) - **Chairman**
Mr. Neelakantan Aiyyar (HFS) - Member
- VI. **Events & Souvenir Sub-Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary
Mr. Pramod Bapat - **Chairman**
- VII. **Staff Matters Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Convenor**
Mr. Rajesh Behere - **Chairman**
Mr. Amol Jadhav - Member
- VIII. **Staff Placement Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Convenor**
Mr. Rajesh Behere - **Chairman**
Mr. Amol Jadhav - Member

- IX. **Legal Committee:**
Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule - Hon. Secretary - **Convenor**
Mr. Rajesh Behere - **Chairman**
Mr. Surendra Kulkarni - Member
- X. **Right to Information (RTI):**
Mr. Ronald Deniz, Senior Clerk - Chief Information Officer
Mr. Nitin Patil, Admin Officer - Appellate Officer (To answer the RTI queries)

=====

Other Committees :

A. **Institutional Level Search Cum Screening Committee**
(ILSSC) for Tagore Fellowship / Scholarship batch 2026-2027:

Dr. Malhar Kulkarni - Chairperson
Dr. Prachi Moghe - Member
Prof. Suraj Pandit - Member
Dr. Madhavi Narsalay - Member

B. **Review Committee for the Sahyadhrikhanda Project:**

- i) Dr. Sanjay Deshmukh - Vice President
- ii) Mr. Ramesh Patange - Vice President
- iii) Mr. Amol Jadhav - Member

Note:

The Ad hoc Committees were formed as against the normal practise of inviting members to be part of the Sub-Committees due to constraint of time since the elections were held only in July 2026 and the period before the impending AGM of 2026 was short.

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI
2025-2026

OFFICE

Accounts & Administration Section

Mr. Nitin N. Patil (On Contract) - Admin. Officer (*Retired on 31st January 2026*)
Mr. Denzil X. Pontes - Stenographer (P.A. to the Hon. Secretary)

Membership, Staff Records &

Despatch Section:

Mr. Ronald A. Deniz - Sr. Clerk

MM Dr. P.V. Kane Research Institute, Journal,

Medals, Fellowships and Research Project Section:

Post Vacant

LIBRARY

Mrs. Jayashri Pazare	- Librarian (On Contract) <i>w.e.f. 02-02-2026</i>
Mrs. Priyanka P. Mestry	- Technical Assistant
Mrs. Kavita V. Manjrekar	- Technical Assistant
Mrs. Sanyogita P. Manerikar	- Technical Assistant
Mr. Bhalchandra V. Patil	- Jr. Clerk
Mr. Shankar S. Paste	- Jr. Clerk (<i>w.e.f. 01-11-2025</i>)
Mr. Madhav D. More	- Sr. Sorter
Mr. Vilas K. Palavkar	- Sr. Sorter
Mr. Govind S. Bhagte	- Sorter
Mr. Kailas K. Gaikwad	- Sorter
Mr. Sunil S. Khemkar	- Sorter (<i>w.e.f. 01-11-2025</i>)
Mr. Pradeep H. Ghevade	- Sorter (<i>w.e.f. 01-11-2025</i>)

Conservation Section:

Mr. Sunil M. Bhirud - Lab Supervisor

Conservation Assistants (on Contract):

Mr. Sharad D. Jadhav
(*w.e.f. 02-05-2025 to 30-04-2027*)

Mr. Ramchandra K. Jadhav
(*w.e.f. 04-07-2025 to 03-07-2027*)

Microfilming / Digitization, Manuscripts,

Rare Books and Maps Section:

Mr. A. Joseph Victor - Supervisor - Rare Books

Bindery Section:

Mr. Deepak L. Nandivadekar - Sr. Binder (*w.e.f. 01-11-2025*)

Mr. Sameer P. Salvi - Jr. Binder

Mr. Mahesh Y. Bhatade - Jt. Binder (*w.e.f. 01-11-2025*)

Havaldar & Peons:

Mr. Kiran B. Kharat - Havildar

Mr. Vijay M. Londhe - Havildar

Mr. Pandurang S. Nadankar - Peon

Mr. Prashant R. Pol - Peon

Watchmen:

Mr. Dinkar S. Gaikwad

Mr. Krishna G. Chikane (*Retired on 30-06-2025*)

'ADOPT A BOOK' SCHEME

You can help the Society in conserving the precious books in its possession by contributing towards 'ADOPT A BOOK' SCHEME. Under this scheme, you can adopt a book of your choice for restoration and digitisation/microfilming of books, by donating Rs.10,000/- thus helping to preserve and conserve old and rare books, and other valuable literature.

You may adopt a book on your birthday, birthday of any member of your family, wedding anniversary, or any other occasion. Each such book, thus preserved, will carry a label with the donor's name in acknowledgement of the donation.

All donations are entitled for tax benefits under section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act.

Cheques/Demand Drafts should be drawn in favour of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai or money can be paid through digital payment

AN APPEAL FOR DONATION TO THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

For an institution like the Asiatic Society, money is a means and not an end, a means for accomplishing noble aims in the service of knowledge and culture. By means of your donations, you can become a partner in the accomplishment of such noble aims. Your donations can be for the purchase of books or periodicals, for modernization of the library facilities, for preservation of books, for cultural programmes, for publications, for projects of the Society, towards staff welfare, or for the Society's Corpus Fund.

Be it big or small, make your generous donations through digital payment / crossed cheques / demand draft in favour of 'The Asiatic Society of Mumbai.'

SOCIETY'S PUBLICATION

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF SANSKRIT AND PRAKRIT MANUSCRIPTS IN THE COLLECTION OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

The Asiatic Society of Mumbai has in its collection handwritten Sanskrit and Prakrit *pothis* or manuscripts. A Descriptive Catalogue of these manuscripts compiled by Prof. H.D. Velankar, renowned Sanskrit scholar (2nd Edition, 1998), is classified under four parts:

1. Technical Literature – Linguistic Science, Literary Science (Prosody, Rhetoric), Medicine, Astronomy and Astrology, Architecture.
2. Hindu (Brahmanical) Literature - Veda, Vedic Dharmashastra, Tantra, Purana, Philosophy, Kavya, Stotra;
3. Jain Literature – Agama, Philosophy, Legends and Poems, Stotra;
4. Vernacular Literature – Gujarati and Hindi literature (Jain and Non-Jain), Marathi and an Appendix on Buddhist Manuscripts.

This Edition, with an introduction by Dr V.M. Kulkarni and Dr (Mrs.) Devangana Desai, contains some beautiful colour illustrations from some selected manuscripts in the collection of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

Pages xvi + 500, 18 colour photographs.

Rs. 1,200/- / US \$ 70 inclusive of postage.

MONOGRAPHS OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Buddhaghosa</i> (2nd Edition) by Dr. B.C. Law, 2020
- Rs.250.00 | 4. <i>Kavindra-Kalpadruma</i> of Kavindracharya
<i>Sarasvati</i> , ed. by Prof. R.B. Athavale, 1981 - Rs.200 |
| 2. <i>Some Jain Canonical Sutras</i> ,
by Dr. B.C. Law, 1999 - Rs.150.00 | 5. James Darmesteter Remembered, Editors Prof. G. L.
Dr. D.R. SarDesai, 1994 - Rs.300.00 |
| 3. <i>An Illustrated Aranyaka Parvan in the Asiatic Society of Bombay</i> ,
by Shri Karl Khandalavala and Dr. Moti Chandra, 1974 -
Rs.300.00 | 6. <i>On the Meaning of Mahabharata</i> ,
by Dr. V.S. Sukthankar, Reprint 2016 - Rs.345.00 |

MONOGRAPHS ON THE FOUNDERS AND GUARDIANS OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI (Rs.125/-)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <u>Published in 2014</u> | |
| 1. Edward Moor by Dr. Mrudula Ramanna | 4. Alexander Kinloch Forbes by Dr. Deepak Mehta |
| 2. John Faithfull Fleet by Dr. Leela B. Jois and Dr. Purnima Srikrishna | 5. The Jervis Brothers - George Risto Jervis & Thomas Jervis, by Prof. J. V. Naik & Dr. Prabha Ravi Shankar |
| 3. Sir George Birdwood by Dr. Vijaya Gupchup | |
| <u>Published in 2015</u> | |
| 6. Sir James Mackintosh (1765-1832) Founder of the Literary Society of Bombay (1804) by Ms. Mrinal Kulkarni | 9. W.E. Frere (1811-1880), President of both the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (BBRAS) as well as the Bombay Geographical Society by Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi |
| 7. William Erskine (1773-1852), Secretary of Bombay Literary Society by Dr. Usha Thakkar | 10. Dr. George Buehler (1837-1898): Philologist & Epigraphist by Ms. Vaishali Karmarkar |
| 8. Rev. P. Anderson (1816-1857); the author of <i>The English in Western India</i> by Dr. Louiza Rodrigues | |
| <u>Published in 2016</u> | |
| 11. Dr. George Buist (1805-1860) by Dr. Aroon Tikekar | 13. Peter Peterson (1847-1899) by Dr. Namrata Ganneri |
| 12. William Henry Sykes (1790-1872) by Dr. Sonali Pednekar | |
| <u>Published in 2017</u> | |
| 14. Henry John Carter (1813-1895) by Ravinder Kaur Cheema | 15. John Briggs (1785-1875) by Prabha Ravi Shankar |
| <u>Published in 2018</u> | |
| 16. Major General Vans Kennedy (1783-1846) by Madhavi G.R. Kamat | 18. Arthur Bedford Orlebar (1810-1866) by Vrunda Pathare |
| 17. Captain James Macmurdo (1785-1820) by Kunjlata Shah | |

PUBLICATIONS OF THE SOCIETY FOR SALE

- 'Re-visioning Mumbai, conceiving a Manifesto for Sustainable Development' – *A collection of papers / presentations of Mumbai Conference edited by Vimal Shah and Pankaj Joshi, published in 2010, is priced at Rs.750/-.*
- A 'Catalogue of the Manuscripts and Printed Pothis at the Asiatic Society of Mumbai' (updated till 2012) *compiled by Dr. Meena Vaishampayan, published in 2012, is priced at Rs.300/-.*
- Sanskrit and its Relations with Indian Languages (Proceedings of the Kane Seminar held in April, 2007, edited by Dr. M. R. Kolhatkar, published in 2012, is priced at Rs.300/-.*
The above two publications are available for sale to the Members of the Society and research institutions at 20% discount (i.e. Rs.240/-)
- Travails of 1857, a translation of Vishnubhatji Godse's MAJHA PRAVAS, translated and edited by Sukhmani Roy, published in 2012, is priced at Rs.495/-.*
- Sir George Birdwood, The Promoter of Goodwill Between the East and the West, by Dr. Vijaya Gupchup, published in 2014, is priced at Rs.750/-.*
- Mahikavatichi Bakhar: A History of Mumbai-Sashti-Thane during the Medieval Period, by Ashok Parashuram Save, published in 2014, is priced at Rs.550/-.*
- Colloquies on the Simples & Drugs of India' by Garcia Da Orta (re-print edition), published in 2015, is priced at Rs.500/-.*

8. The Collected Works of J.V. Naik, edited with an introduction by Murali Ranganathan, *published in 2016*, is priced at Rs.750/-.
9. A Comparative Critical Study of Mahavastu Avadana & Pali Jatakas by Dr. Meena V. Talim, *published in 2018*, is priced at Rs.550/-.
10. J R B Jeejeebhoy's Bombay Vignettes: Explorations in the History of Bombay, *Edited with an introduction by Murali Ranganathan, published in 2018*, is priced at Rs.950/-.
11. Ghusumesakhyana or Verulamahatmya, edited with Annotated Translation by Arvind P. Jamkhedkar and Anuradha Jamkhedkar, published in 2018, is priced at Rs.125/-.
12. Prarthana Samajacha Itihas (rev. ed.) *Editor - Dr. Raja Dikshit, published in 2019*, is priced at Rs.950/-.
13. Collected Works of A K Priolkar, Volumes I and II, edited by Dr Nitin Rindhe, published in 2023, is priced at Rs.1,700/- per volume.
14. AVANAV - A Collection of Virchand Dharamsey's essays in Gujarati Edited by Dr. Hemant Dave, published in 2023, is priced at Rs.1,400/-.
15. Amaligramamahatmya, published in 2024.

Current Issue of the Journal of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai

The Society's Journal Vol. 92 for 2019 (New Series) a Special Volume on Water Management in The Bombay Presidency edited by Prof. Madhu Kelkar, Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi, Dr. Prabodh Shirwalkar and Prof. Suraj Pandit, published on 26th November 2024, is priced at Rs.500/-. For foreign buyers the price is US \$ 55 inclusive of postage. 30% discount available for Members of the Society.

The Cheque / Demand Draft should be payable to The Asiatic Society of Mumbai or can be paid through digital payment.