

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAI

THE MINUTES OF THE 221ST AGM HELD ON SATURDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025

A] The Two Hundred and Twenty-First (221st) Annual General Body Meeting of the Society (for the period 2025-2026) was held on Saturday, 27th September 2025, at 3.30 p.m. in the Durbar Hall of the Society. **Prof. Vispi Balaporia, President of the Society, presided at the meeting.**

A1 The following members were present:

1	Mr. Joseph St. Anne	33	Mr. Digamber Kamble
2	Mr. S. Arun	34	Ms. Madhavi Kamat
3	Ms. Urvashi Ashta	35	Mr. Samir Koppikar
4	Mr. Mukul Aavhad	36	Ms. Amla Kanvinde
5	Mr. Biplov Belel	37	Dr. Ravindra Kamble
6	Ms. Rama Bishnoi	38	Mr. Rajesh Kapse
7	Mr. Mandar Bharde	39	Mr. Kumar Ketkar
8	Mr. Suhas Bane	40	Mr. Sanjay Malkar
9	Mr. Nishith Bhandarkar	41	Ms. Anjali Masarguppi
10	Ms. Sanam Chaturvedi	42	Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar
11	Mr. A.V. Dike	43	Ms. Shormistha Mukherjee
12	Ms. Sushama V. Dabak	44	Dr. Shehernaz Nalwalla
13	Dr. Leela D. D'souza	45	Dr. Kunda P.N.
14	Mr. Ramesh Deole	46	Ms. Chitra Paranjpe
15	Ms. Sheetal Deogirkar	47	Mr. Prabhakar Paranjape
16	Dr. Nasreen Fazalbloy	48	Mr. Nobby Pariyaram
17	Prof. Aravind G. Ganachari	49	Mr. Nishit Patadia
18	Mr. Kevin Gosar	50	Mr. Jaywant Patil
19	Mr. Zubin Gosar	51	Mr. Mangesh Pawar
20	Mr. Sanket Godbole	52	Mr. Rishikenh J. Rawal
21	Mr. Sorab D. Gandhi	53	Prof. Mangala Sirdeshpande
22	Mr. Vivek V. Ganpule	54	Mr. Anil W. Sawant
23	Ms. Sushama Ghumare	55	Mr. Pulind Samant
24	Mr. Milind Ghumare	56	Mr. Yaduvendra Singh
25	Mr. Nilesh Jadhav	57	Mr. Uday Shevde
26	Mr. Satish Kulkarni	58	Mr. Birendra Nath Upadhyay
27	Mr. Krishna Kanakgiri	59	Prof. Usha R Vijailakshmi
28	Mr. Shrikant Kesnur	60	Mr. R. Venkatesh
29	Mrs. Meenal Kshirsagar	61	Mr. Dhairya Vyas
30	Mr. Surendra Kulkarni	62	Mr. Rusheed Wadia
31	Dr. Yasmeen Lukmani	63	Mr. Rajeev Zankar
32	Mr. Umang A. Kale	64	Mr. Sunil Bhirud
			(ASM Staff Representative)

At the outset, the President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, welcomed all the members to the 221st AGM.

Before proceeding, she sought the permission of the House to invite the Internal Auditor, Mr. Atul Shahade and Ms. Payal Mazumdar, C.A., who has been doing

an excellent job looking after our accounts. If any queries on the accounts are raised, then they will be able to respond.

- A4 The President requested the members to observe one minute silence in memory of the following members who had passed away since the last AGM held on 28th September 2024:

Life Members:

Mr. Kishore V. Mariwala, Mr. Shirish B. Patel, Mr. Papagudi S. Sankaranarayan, Ms. Neela V. Upadhye, Mr. Sanjay Singvi, Mr. Iqbal M. Chagla and Dr. Sujata Kanhere

Honorary Fellow: Mr. Shyam Benegal

- A5 Thereafter, Item No. 1 was taken up i.e. to confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th September 2024 and the Special General Meeting held on 9th November 2024.

- B] **Item No. 1:**
To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 28th September 2024 and the Special General Meeting held on Saturday, 9th November 2024

- B1 The President placed before the House the minutes of the 220th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 28th September 2024 and the minutes of the Special General Meeting held on Saturday, 9th November 2024 for confirmation.

- B2 The minutes of the 220th Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 28th September 2024 and the minutes of the Special General Body Meeting held on Saturday, 9th November 2024 were approved and confirmed unanimously.

- B3 Thereafter, Item No. 2 was taken up.

- C] **Item No. 2:**
To receive and adopt the Annual Report, the Audited Statement of Accounts of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for the year 2024-2025 and to note the Action Taken Report

- C1 Mr. Pulind Samant stated that certain objections are being raised as far as the accounts are concerned and these need to be discussed.

At this point, Mrs. Sushama V. Dabak suggested passing a resolution that the Managing Committee and the Office Bearers review all the fund balances in our balance sheet and then to take action on it. If some funds do not exist then we must close them. Otherwise, it doesn't give a correct picture of our accounts. This would mean that our assets will be reduced because of this.

Mr. Atul Shahade the internal auditor pointed out that the difference in investment and actual fund balances was first seen in the year 2008-09. He stated that not passing the accounts would lead to compliance failure as per both the Income Tax Act and the Maharashtra Public Trust Act

Prof. Usha R Vijayalakshmi pointed out that this is not a recently problem and had been discussed in the Managing Committee and even in earlier AGM and it had been resolved not to touch these earmarked funds. She agreed that the accounts must be passed as suggested Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar (Chairman, Board of Trustees, that this had to be done so that the Society can continue to receive the funds.

The President requested that the accounts be passed on the assurance that the MC would review the actual position of the earmarked funds. The general body agreed to pass the following resolution

The House hereby resolved to to receive and adopt the Annual Report, the Audited Statement of Accounts of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai for the year 2024-2025 and to note the Action Taken Report on the condition that a comprehensive review of the actual position of the fund balances would be done.

Proposed by : Mr R Venkatesh
Seconded by: Dr Yasmin Lukmani

Item No. 3:

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

The President, Prof. Vispi Balaporia, announced that the two names of the Trustees were Mr Cyrus Guzder and Prof Bhalchandra Mungekar who were existing trustees whose terms had come to an end and had been proposed by the Managing Committee for a second term but Mr Cyrus Guzder owing to other commitments declined to take up a second term. The President requested the general body to ratify the name only of Prof Balchandra Mungekar. Thereafter, the following resolution was placed before the General Body and it was unanimously passed to ratify these appointments:

“Resolved that Prof. Bhalchandra Mungekar be appointed as the Trustees of the Society for the period 2025-2031.”

Proposed by: Mr Mandar Bharde
Seconded by: Prof Usha R Vijailakshmi

E]

Item No. 4:

To appoint the Statutory Auditors for two years 2025-26 and 2026-27

The proposed resolution was tabled in front of the general body to appoint said auditors for a period of two years as per the rule book, several members had

reservations that since a comprehensive review is required for the earmarked funds/investments it would be better that the auditor is appointed for 1 year only ,also members felt that since the usual practice is to appoint an auditor for 1 year we should follow the same and the rule book should be amended at future date accordingly .Hence the below resolution was passed

“Resolved that **Bhogilal C. Shah & Co., and A.D. Bhorkar & Co**, Chartered Accountants are hereby appointed Joint Auditors of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai (ASM) for 1 years (2025-26 and from the conclusion of this Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of 2026 of the ASM on such honorarium as may be fixed by the Managing Committee.”

Proposed by: Mangala Sirdeshpande

Seconded by: Nobby Pariyaram

F] Item No. 5:

To note the contents of the Charity Commissioner’s verdicts dated 6th and 7th August 2025 and to inform the General Body that the Managing Committee is going to file an Appeal with the Asst. Charity Commissioner

The Charity commissioners order dated 6th and 7th August 2025 was already with the general body via mail prior to the AGM. The President informed the house that the Assistant Charity Commissioner order rejected our change report for the year 2023-24 and the society has gone in appeal to the Charity Commissioner on the matter and have appointed a lawyer for the same.

Members raised questions about holding of the elections and the number of seats which are vacant for election considering the change report has not been accepted .It was agreed that since the charity commissioner order said that the day to day functions should continue and that we have gone in appeal on the matter of change report ,we should hold elections on the earliest possible date while adhering to time schedules prescribed in the Election Rules and the earliest possible date was 8th November 2025.

It was further decided that election would be held for only 5 seats of the Managing committee and for the 6 office bearers whose terms are coming to an end with this AGM

G] Item No. 6:

To consider the resolutions.

G-6A Proposed resolutions (from the Managing Committee):

The Managing Committee unanimously recommends the following resolutions, which were passed in its meetings held on 19th September 2025 and 24th September 2025, to the General Body for approval:

- G-6A.1** The Managing Committee places before the forthcoming AGM a resolution pertaining to enhancement of scholarships amount by combining the years of certain scholarships of the Research, Scholarships and Medals Committee.

(This resolution was passed by the Research, Scholarships and Medals Committee at its meeting held on 25-08-2025)

“Resolved that the following Research Scholarships for the years are combined so that the researchers may get between Rs. 32,000 to Rs. 48,000/- as scholarship amount. This will be with effect from April 2024.”

Resolution on enhancement of scholarship amount by combining the years of certain scholarships of the Research Scholarships and Medals Committee.

The duration of each scholarship is one year

S. No.	Name of the scholarship	Amount	Details of Duration	Recommendation	Value of the scholarship
01.	Justice K.T. Telang Scholarship in “Indology”	Rs.12,000/-	Annual	Made once in 4 years	Rs.48,000/-
02.	INDAL Scholarship in “Social Science”	Rs.12,000/-	Annual	Made once in 4 years	Rs.48,000/-
03	Asiatic Society's Scholarships in “Social Science”	Rs.25,000/-	Annual	Made once in two years	Rs.50,000/- alternate year
04	Asiatic Society's Scholarships in “Social Science”	Rs.25,000/-	Annual	Made once in two years	Rs.50,000/- alternate year
05	Asiatic Society's Scholarship in “Labour Studies”	Rs.12,000/-	Annual	Made once in 3 years	Rs.36,000/-
06	Gulestan Billimoria Scholarship in the subject relating to the study of Mumbai / Maharashtra	Rs.12,000/-	Annual	Made once in 3 years	Rs.36,000/-
07	Dr. (Smt.) Sheela Raj Memorial Scholarship in “History”	Rs.16,000/-	Annual	Made once in 2 years	Rs.32,000/-
08	Smt. Rajani Dandekar Scholarship in ‘History of Art: Bombay School’	Rs.30,000/-	Once in two years	Made once in 3 years	Rs.45,000/-

*** Scholarship numbers 3 and 4 will not be given in the same year.**

Explanatory Note:

This will encourage more researchers to apply for these scholarships.

Proposed by: Shehernaz Nalwalla

Seconded by: Mangala Sirdeshpande

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. No decision was taken on the matter.

- G-6A.2 “It is resolved 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.”

Proposed by : Kunda P.N.

Seconded by: Shormistha Mukherjee

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.

- G-6A.3 “It was brought to the notice of the Managing Committee that some members resort to using unparliamentary and threatening language against staff and /or other members in the premises of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

Resolved that the Managing Committee be empowered 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.

It is further resolved that carrying firearms, carrying or imbibing alcohol and smoking are strictly prohibited within the premises of the Society.”

Proposed by : Shormistha Mukherjee

Seconded by: Kunda P.N.

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

G-6B Proposed resolutions (from Members):

The following resolution submitted by the member before the General Body Meeting for consideration. The comments of the Managing Committee on the resolution is given at an appropriate place below:

- G-6B.1 In view of the inaction throughout a year, on the part of the office-bearers of the ASM with regard to the necessary effort expected from them to pursue with the Government of India (GOI), through the Governor of Maharashtra, the goal of securing the status of ‘Institute of National Importance’ for ASM, and thereby secure ASM’s financial stability, further to the member resolution proposed by the

undersigned proposer for presenting before the 220th AGM on 28/09/24, which was presented and passed by ASM's general body in the said AGM, it is proposed to condemn the said inaction and the resulting failure on the part of the office bearers of the Managing Committee of the ASM to execute the task assigned to them by ASM's General Body a year back.

Explanatory Note:

After passage of the above-referred member resolution, in the 220th AGM, the office-bearers were duty-bound to pursue the matter as expected, which they have failed to do, which became evident through their reply dated 05/09/25 to an RTI application dated 12/08/25, filed by the undersigned proposer. Hence this resolution!

Proposed by: Pulind Samant

Seconded by: Malhar Krishna Gokhale

Managing Committee's Comments:

The issue of granting the status of National Importance to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai has not been pursued with the Government of India, Ministry of Culture, in the course of the year, post the last AGM. In light of the past experience of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai not getting any response to their requests sent over several years, the Managing Committee did not follow up this matter with the Ministry of Culture.

This matter was discussed in detailed, it was explained by current and past office bearers about the efforts made to secure status of National Importance 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.

H-7. **Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.**

H-7. Since there was no other matter to be discussed, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair by Prof Usha Vijailakshmi on behalf of the General Body

Prof. Vispi R. Balaporia
President

Prof. Mangala R. Sirdeshpande
Hon. Secretary