Association of Retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts of India

(A Society registered under Societies registration Act 1860), vide Registration No. S. 38785 of 2001 of the Registrar of Societies Govt. of NCT, DELHI Camp Office: 2/45, VipulKhand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the General Body of the Association held on 6.4.2024 at 3 pm in Mini Conference Hall, Delhi High Court, New Delhi

The Hon'ble Members who were present in the meeting physically appended their signatures on a separate sheet which forms part of these minutes.

The quorum of the meeting was not complete. It was therefore adjourned for half an hour. At 3.30 pm the meeting was resumed but the attendance did not improve.

Agenda No. 1 – Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29.4.2023 in Central Academy for Police Training, Bhopal.

Resolved that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29.4.2023 at Bhopal be and are hereby confirmed.

Agenda No. 2 – <u>Information about the new members of the Association enrolled during the year 2023-24.</u>

The Secretary General informed the house that since the last Annual General Meeting held on 29.4.2023 at Bhopal, 28 new members joined the Association whose names were read out by the Secretary General.

Agenda No. 3- Consideration of the report of the Secretary General for the year 2023-24.

The Secretary General read out the annual report and informed the house that after the last AGM held at Bhopal on 29.4.2023, the meeting of the Executive Committee was held in Delhi on 7th October 2023 in which not only the office bearers but also the former Judges of the Supreme Court, Delhi High Court, Punjab and Haryana High Court and Allahabad High Court,

were invited as special guests and most of them attended the meeting and shared the views and also gave their valuable suggestions. The President Justice K.L. Sharma and the Secretary General met Hon'ble Union Law Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal in the evening on that day and apprised the Hon'ble Minister the problems faced by the retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts. A representations was given to the Hon'ble Minister who assured to take action on the representations, but so far no action. The Secretary General further informed that when no positive response was received, the Executive Committee took a decision to file in October 2023 two writ petitions against the Union of India in the Supreme Court, one for adopting the same formula to calculate the pension of the retired High Court Judges irrespective of their source of elevation and the other about the grant of post retiral benefits and allowances to the retired Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts so that uniformity and parity can be ensured throughout India. It was further informed to the house that upon hearing the Supreme Court issued notices to the Union Government in both the writ petitions and sought response. In the meantime, the Association received a letter in November 2023 from the department of Law and Justice that no proposal for amendment of Rules was pending with the Ministry. The Union of India has filed its counter affidavits in both the writ petitions only in April 2024 raising absolutely baseless grounds to which rejoinder affidavits are under preparation by the President and will be filed in the Supreme Court before the end of April 2024. It is also proposed to move an application in both the writ petitions for expediting the hearing and disposal of the writ petitions considering the aged judges and spouses.

The Secretary General refreshed the house about the website of the Association namely "www.arjschc.com" and requested the members to make full use of it for up to date complete information about developments, the notices and agenda and minutes of the meetings, the details of the office bearers, rules and byelaws and the list of members State Chapter wise of the Association.

The Secretary General apprised the house about the recent judgment delivered by the Supreme Court in the case of Justice Raj Rahul Garg, Chairperson of Punjab State Chapter in which the Supreme Court laid down a very important principle about the pension of the retired High Court Judges who were elevated to the High Court from District Judiciary after superannuation, by directing the Government to add the length of service in the State Judiciary to the service rendered as High Court Judge. It was held that there cannot be two principles for calculation of pension in respect of the judges elevated from service and the judges elevated directly from the bar. The Association forwarded a copy of the judgment to the Comptroller Auditor General of India for circulation to all the Accountant Generals of India for compliance by 31st March 2024.

Agenda No. 4.-Consideration of the audit report for the financial year 2022-23

The Secretary General placed the balance sheet and the audit report before the house. Justice J.K. Ranka desired to know as to why the depreciation was calculated on the movables. The President pointed out that the Association is possessed of one laptop, a movable but it depreciates according to the formula devised by the Income Tax Department. However, the President assured the Hon'ble Member that necessary clarification will also be obtained from the auditor. The balance sheet and the audit report may be approved so that the copy thereof be sent to the Registrar of Societies Government of NCT Delhi in compliance of the Statutory provision under Societies Registration Act.

It was then resolved that the balance sheet and the report of the auditor be and are hereby approved.

Agenda No.5- Consideration of the financial statement for the year 2023-24.

The Secretary General read out the financial report and informed the house that the income of the Association from the membership fee was Rs. 2,80,000/- and the income from bank interest was 1,03,681/- thus the total income of the Association during the last financial year was 3,93,766/- as against the estimated income of 4,30,000/-. The total expenditure was Rs. 3,52,550/- as against the estimated expenditure of Rs. 4,29,000/-.

It was also informed by the Secretary General that remuneration of Rs. 1,20,000/- was paid to the office assistant @10,000/- per month. The audit fee of Rs. 20,650/- was paid to the chartered accountant for preparing balance sheet and filing the income tax return. The Association spent Rs. 94,701/- in holding the AGM in April last year at Bhopal. Apart from this Rs. 22,725/- was spent in Executive Committee meeting held on 22nd July 2023 at Kochi. The dinning charges of Rs. 6017/- were paid to the Judges canteen of Delhi High Court where the meeting of the executive committee was held on 7th October 2023. For the meeting of the executive Committee held on 20th January 2024 at Chandigarh, the chairperson of Punjab and Haryana Justice Raj Rahul Garg and the members of Punjab and Haryana State Chapter made all the arrangements of stay, food etc. without any charge from the Association. The Executive Committee expresses thanks and conveys the appreciation to the chairperson and the members of the State Chapter Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The association spent only Rs. 3307.06/- towards stationary and postage while Rs. 3500/- was paid towards the annual maintenance fee of the website. The association spent Rs. 87000/- towards part payment of fee and expenses to the Advocate on Record Mr. Arjun Garg and Justice S.N. Agnihotri Secretary In charge Litigation.

Agenda No. 6- Proposal for approval of the additional estimated demand under the head litigation during the year 2023-24 as recommended by the Executive Committee in its meeting dated 7.10.2023.

The Secretary General informed the house that in the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 7.10.2023, a proposal was placed for approval of additional estimated demand of Rs. 2,00,000/- under the head litigation keeping in view the expected expenditure in filing the two writ petitions in the Hon'ble Supreme Court, subject to the approval of the General Body. The Executive Committee recommended the estimated additional grant under litigation head for approval of the General Body. Therefore, the recommendation of the Executive Committee is placed for the approval of the General Body. It was resolved that the estimated additional grant of Rs. 2,00,000/- under the head litigation for the financial year 2023-24 be and is hereby approved.

Agenda No. 7- Consideration for the budget estimates for the year 2024-25 as recommended by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee recommended the estimated budget for the financial year 2024-25 for approval of the General Body, according to the following table:-

Budget Proposal for the financial Year 2024-25

The following is the estimated budget for the financial year 2024-25:

Items of Expenditure		Estimated Amount	Estimated Income	Amount
1.	Remuneration and wages of the staff	1,50,000/-	30 Membership	3,00,000/-
2.	Printing and Stationary	10,000/-	Bank Interest	1,20,000/-
3.	Audit Fee	30,000/-	Income Tax Refund	Nil
4.	Litigation Expenses	1,25,000/-	Tax Acture	IVII
5.	Meetings of the Executive Committee and General Assembly	2,00,000/-		
6.	Miscellaneous Expenses	15,000/-		
	Total	5,30,000/-	Total	4,20,000/-

It was resolved that the estimated budget for the financial year 2024-25 as recommended by the Executive Committee be and is hereby approved.

Agenda No. 8 consideration of the audit report for the year 2022-23, submitted by M/s Shailja Agarwal Associates.



This agenda item no.8 has been inadvertently repeated, as the deliberations and the proposal under agenda item no.4 have already been discussed and the audit report for the year 2022-23 prepared by the auditor M/s Shailja Agarwal and Associates has already been approved.

Agenda No. 9 - Appointment of the auditor for the financial year 2024-25.

The house accepted the recommendation of the executive committee and unanimously resolved that M/s Shailja Agarwal and Associates be appointed auditor for the current financial year 2024-25.

Agenda No.10 - Consideration of the annual report of Justice J.K. Ranka Secretary in charge of State Chapters.

Justice J.K. Ranka Secretary in charge of State Chapters, informed the house that he is continuously in touch with the chairpersons of different State Chapters for persuading more and more retired Judges to join our association, but regretted that the chairpersons of the state chapters are not responding to his calls.

Justice R. Basant and Justice I.S. Srivastava enquired about the exact number of members of the association on date. The Secretary General informed him that since no information is received from the state chapters or otherwise of the leaving former Judges, it is not possible to mention the exact number of the members living on date.

It was resolved that the Secretary in charge State Chapter be requested to write letters to all the chairpersons of the state chapters to know the names and whatsapp number of the living members, so that the website of the Association be updated. The Secretary General was also desired to write letters to the Secretary General of the Supreme Court of India and the Registrar Generals of the High Courts of India to get the information about the names and whatsapp numbers of living former Judges of the High Court settled there, so that cross checking of the names may ensure the accuracy.

Agenda No.11 - Consideration of the annual report of Justice S.N. Agnihotri Secretary in charge Litigation.

Justice S.N. Agnihotri, Secretary in charge Litigation, informed that in both the writ petitions filed by the association, counter affidavits have been received and now rejoinder affidavits are under preparation by the President. It is hoped that the rejoinder affidavits will be filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court before the end of counter of the state of the stat

Agenda No. 12.- Consideration of the proposal for prescribing formalities and conditions of affiliation of local Associations of former Judges of Supreme Court and High Court as recommended by the Executive Committee in its meeting held on 20.1.2024.

The Secretary General pointed out that Rule 14 of the Association Rules 2022, reads as follows:

- a) "The General Body may affiliate with the Association any association or institution of retired Judges of a High Court or Supreme Court on such terms and conditions as it may deem fit.
- b) Upon such affiliation, one representative of such affiliated association/institution will be invitee to the Executive Committee and The General Assembly and such association or institution shall be deemed to be Associate Chapter attached with the State Chapter of the Supreme Court and High Court concerned, as the case may be".

But so far the terms and conditions of affiliation could not be settled. The President felt sorry when the Secretary of Hyderabad former Judges Association (local unregistered body) enquired from him about the terms and conditions of affiliation of the local Association of Retired Judges with the All India Association of Retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts of India. At many places, former Judges of the High Courts have formed local associations who do not want to become the members of the All India Association. If the terms and conditions of affiliation are settled and circulated, it is quite possible that such local associations may seek affiliation. Therefore the President considered the necessity and placed the following proposal before the Executive Committee in its meeting held on 20.1.2024 at Chandigarh, which was recommended by the Executive Committee for consideration and approval of the General Body in its ensuing meeting at Delhi on 6th April 2024:

"Agenda No.6: Consideration of formalities and conditions of affiliation of local unregistered/registered Association of former Judges of the Supreme Court and High Court

On the suggestion of the President, the views of the members present in the meeting were invited and discussion took place. After due deliberations it was resolved that the following formalities and conditions be prescribed for affiliation of the unregistered local Associations of former Judges of the High Courts and Supreme Court:-

- The majority of members of the local unregistered association send a letter duly signed by each member to the Secretary General requesting for affiliation to the 'Association of Retired Judges of Supreme Court and High Courts of India', on such terms and conditions as are specified by the Association;
- 2) Every member of the local Association should submit prescribed membership application form adding a request to get affiliation with the Association;
- 3) Such willing member must deposit a token fee of Rs.2000/- for affiliation, in the Bank Account of the Association mentioned in the membership application;
- 4) After the completion of the above noted two formalities, the Secretary General with the approval of the President will issue a letter to each and every affiliated member informing that henceforth the local Association will be designated as Associate Chapter



of the State Chapter if already existing and if not, the State Chapter and the Association Rules 2022, the Association Bye-laws 2022, the Resolutions passed by the General Assembly and the Executive Committee of the Association shall be binding on and followed by each and every affiliated member either of the Associate Chapter or the State Chapter as may be the situation;

5) Consequent upon affiliation of the local unregistered Association, the chairperson, secretary and the executive member of the associate chapter or the state chapter shall be first nominated for a term of two years by the President on the basis of the recommendation of the secretary in charge of State chapters who will take into account the consensus of the members:

6) The affiliated members may use logo of the Association on their visiting cards and letter head pad and may get photo ID card on providing all necessary details of Aadhaar, Mobile Number, Photograph, Blood Group and Emergency Contact Number.

This resolution will be placed for approval in the meeting of the General Assembly to be held in April 2024".

The hon'ble Members present in the house considered the recommendation of the Executive Committee for deciding terms and conditions of affiliation. It was then resolved that the aforesaid recommendations of the Executive Committee be and are hereby approved. It was further resolved that these terms and conditions of affiliation be incorporated as a sub-rule (c) to rule 14 of the Association Rules 2022 and be uploaded on website of the Association for general information and be also circulated by the Registrar General to the Secretaries of such local Associations through the Registrar Generals of the concerned High Courts and its benches for spreading awareness.

Agenda No. 13 - Consideration of post retiral benefits given to the District Judiciary under the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed in the case of All India Judges Association.

After deliberations it was resolved that the judgment of the Supreme Court in the case of All India Judges association is for the benefit of the district judiciary and the Association highly appreciates the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court being in the interest of the Judicial fraternity.

Agenda No. 14 - Election of office bearers of the next Executive Committee by the returning officer Justice Rajesh Tandon appointed by the Executive Committee in its last meeting held on 20.1.2024.

The returning officer Justice Rajesh Tandon conducted the elections of the office bearers by secret ballot papers, in accordance with Association Rules 2022 and the Association Bye-laws 2022.

Agenda No. 15 - Declaration of results of elections of the office bearers of the Executive Committee by the Returning Officer.

The Returning Officer Justice Rajesh Tandon after counting the votes of each candidate, prepared the result of elections, with the assistance of Justice Bhanwar Singh, within one and half hour only and declared the following result of the successful candidates who were elected on the basis of majority of the number of votes:

Results of Elected Office Bearers

For the President:-

Justice K.L. Sharma

For the Vice- Presidents :- (i) Justice D.K. Trivedi (ii) Justice OP. Srivastava

(iii) Justice J.K. Ranka

For the Secretaries:- (i) Justice Subhash Samvatsar (ii) Justice I.S. Srivastava

(iii) Justice Mahendra Dayal

For the Executive Members:- (i) Justice Shailendra Saxena (ii) Justice Y.C. Gupta

(iii) Justice Anurag Kumar (iv) Justice U.C. Maheshwari

(v) Justice Sudhir Kumar Saxena (vi) Justice Raghvendra Kumar

The house expressed thanks to the returning officer Justice Rajesh Tandon as well as Justice Bhanwar Singh who assisted the returning officer on his request in preparing the result within short time.

Agenda No. 16 - Any other matter with the permission of the President.

During the course of meeting, some members gave suggestions that in order to increase the income of the association, donations be taken from the members who donate voluntarily on yearly basis. This was welcomed by all except Justice S.N. Agnihotri who raised objection that our association cannot accept donations.

The President referred to Rule 20(a) of the Association Rules 2022, which reads as follows:

"20 Fund Account and its operations:

a) Fund of the Association will consist of membership fees, contributes, special donations by the members; welfare grants/assistances from the government and other legal collections just as publication of journals, advertisements, articles, conferences etc."

The President further informed that several hon'ble members particularly Justice V.S. Dave, Justice P.C. Jain, Justice Shobha Dixit etc. had donated Rs. one Lacks to Rs. Fifty 538785 one thousand as donation to the fund of the Association, when they got the arrears

of revised pension necessitated under the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, by addition of ten years practice at the bar before elevation to the qualifying service as a Judge of the High Court.

As many as 23 members present in the house immediately donated Rs. one thousand each and handed over the sum to the Secretary General who has deposited in the bank account of the Association and entered the names and amount in the cash book.

The committee acknowledges and conveys thanks to the Chief Justice and Hon'ble Judges of Retired Judges Cell Delhi High Court for permitting the association to hold its meeting in the conference hall and have lunch in the Judges dinning hall. The committee also conveys thanks to the Registrar General Shri Kanwal Jeet Arora, Registrar Protocol Smt. Anju Chhabra, OSD protocol Shri Virendra Singh and the entire staff of the protocol department Delhi High Court for providing protocol facilities and other assistance.

The Secretary General is requested to convey individually letter of thanks and appreciation to all the dignitaries of Delhi High Court.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.

These minutes are being issued with the prior approval of the President.

Enl:- Attendance Sheet.

Justice Mahendra Dayal Secretary General Assn of Retd Judges of S.C. & H.C.'s of India

[Justice Mahendra Dayal] Secretary General

The minutes of the meeting be uploaded on the website of the Association www.arjschc.com and be also circulated to the members through email and whatsapp group of the Association.

[Justice Mahendra Dayal] Secretary General

> Justice Mahendra Dayal Secretary General Assn of Retd Judges of S.C. & H.C.'s of India



MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2024, IN DELHI HIGH COURT

1. Justice V.D. Gyani 2. Justice K.L. Sharma 3. Justice. P.S. Gopinathan 4. Justice D.K. Trivedi 5. Justice N.K. Mody 6. Justice Mahendra Daya! 7. Justice Anurag Kumar 8. Justice J.K. Ranka 9. Justice I.S. Srivastava 10. Justice Anirudh Singh 11. Justice Sudhir Kumar Saxena 12. Justice Vijay Kumar Vyas 13. Justice Rajesh Tandon 14. Justice Alok Verma 15. Justice Shobha Dixit/Dieshit 16. Justice Vijav Kumar Vvas 17. Justice S.N. Agnihotri & 18. Justice V.C. Gupta 19. Justice Y.C. Gunta Cost 20. Justice Subhash Samvatsar

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