



Hong Kong Bengali Association

under the Societies Ordinance: Ref: (2) in CP/LIC/SO/19/21460 dated 31.12.1998

Fax: +852 2739-9876 Email: mailhkba@gmail.com

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

06 June 2026

Date	06 June 2026
Time	3.30 pm to 5.15 pm
Venue	Indian Recreation Club, Hong Kong
Present	Quorum was achieved. The list of attending members is set out in Annexure A.
Chaired by	Dr. Pradip Putatunda, President
Minutes recorded by	Rudra Basu, Secretary

Summary of Proceedings

The Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong Bengali Association was held on 06 June 2026 at the Indian Recreation Club, Hong Kong. Quorum was confirmed, the previous AGM minutes were approved, the audited accounts for 2025-2026 were accepted, and members discussed operational, financial sustainability, membership and Puja protocol matters.

The attendance sheet is included as Annexure A.

Action and Decision Register

Item	Type	Decision / Action	Owner / Status
2	Resolution	Previous AGM minutes approved unanimously.	Meeting
4	Resolution	Audited accounts for 2025-2026 accepted unanimously; continuance of current auditors agreed.	Meeting
5	Action	Prepare options for addressing the recurring financial shortfall and consult members where necessary.	Executive Committee
6	Action	Circulate structured consultation paper on membership categories, lapsed membership, subscriptions and follow through with General Meeting for final decision.	Secretary / Executive Committee
8	Action	Puja protocols for 2026 to be set and communicated in advance.	Executive Committee



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Minutes

1. Confirmation of Quorum

The meeting was called to order by the Secretary, who confirmed that a quorum had been achieved.

2. Approval of Previous AGM Minutes

The Secretary presented the agenda and invited objections to the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting. No objections were raised.

Motion: Approval of the previous AGM minutes

Proposed by: Rudra Basu, General Secretary

Seconded by: Bhaskar Sengupta, Vice President

Resolution: Approved unanimously.

3. President's Address

The President welcomed all members, thanking them for their active participation and for making the Association's programmes vibrant and successful throughout the year. He briefly reviewed the key activities undertaken, including Durga Puja, Lakshmi Puja, Saraswati Puja, the Annual Picnic and the Rabindra–Nazrul Sandhya, noting the strong engagement across the community. He added that the Executive Committee would continue to build on this momentum by expanding the calendar of events and, subject to resources, working towards reinstating the Annual Function and other member-focused initiatives.

The President also presented an overview of Durga Puja operations during the year. He noted that HKBA continues to operate under a special arrangement with the club under which outside food cannot be brought in or prepared, and payments are made to the club based on plates served and coupons issued.

He further noted that Durga Puja attendance and food service were substantially higher than the membership base, with participation from students, non-members, workers, and invitees from other Indian associations. He reiterated that those attending in good faith for Puja or bhog were not turned away without food.

The President also briefed members on venue and safety constraints, including licence and safety requirements applicable to the Indian Recreation Club and an indicative maximum occupancy of 200 persons including staff at any one time. He confirmed that future Puja planning, including Sindoor Khela, would need to remain within those constraints and that Sindoor Khela would not be held inside the main hall going forward.

The President also noted operational improvements made during Puja, including dual buffet lines, sectorized queues, child-focused arrangements, and the contribution of volunteers and committee members. He requested that member feedback remain constructive and supportive of volunteers and the Executive Committee.



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4. Annual Report and Audited Accounts for 2025-2026

The Treasurer presented the financial overview for the year. Revenue comprised advertisements, sponsorships, member subscriptions, and donations, and total revenue was reported to be lower than in the previous year, largely due to reduced advertisement income.

Total expenses were reported to have reduced from approximately HKD 900,000 to approximately HKD 830,000 through cost-control measures – example: magazine printing costs could be reduced through rationalization of volume and quality. Despite this, expenditure remained higher than revenue, resulting in a net deficit, although the deficit was lower than in the previous year by approximately HKD 60,000 to HKD 70,000.

The President and Treasurer clarified that part of the reduction in expenditure reflected non-recurrence of certain events compared to previous year example – Annual Dinner; Rather than a structural reduction in underlying costs.

The President also confirmed that external independent audit had continued during the year and that the annual financial statements had been audited by a professional firm.

The meeting agreed to continue with the present auditors, noting the value of continuity and independent external review as an established good practice.

Resolution: The audited accounts for 2025-2026 were unanimously accepted, and the continuance of the current auditors for the next financial year was agreed.

Proposed by: Sujoy Das, Treasurer

Seconded by: Arindam Basu, Cultural Secretary.

5. Financial Sustainability and Revenue Options

Members discussed the continuing deficit and the need to protect the association's reserves. It was noted that, if current trends continue, reserves could be materially reduced over the medium term and that additional contributions, revised subscriptions, and new revenue sources may need to be considered.

The President also noted that food volumes during Puja had increased and that the association's financial position remains sensitive to attendance, sponsorship, and advertisement income. The Executive Committee agreed on a consultative approach to developing options for improving financial sustainability.

Questions from the floor: Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharya asked how the Association proposed to increase revenue. The President replied that the Executive Committee would examine additional contributions, sponsorship, advertising and other feasible measures to cover the shortfall. Dr. Subid Das asked how the surplus position would be managed. The President replied that the Association was already drawing on reserves and that, unless revenue increased meaningfully, the current surplus could be exhausted in about seven to eight years.

Action: The Executive Committee will prepare options for addressing the recurring shortfall and consult members where necessary.



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6. Membership Rules and Subscription Discussion

The Secretary and Executive Committee members introduced the proposed Membership Changed explaining the need for change as follows – (a) Members often renew only during Puja, support for year-round HKBA activities is not clearly explained and consistently understood (b) "Lapsed" status definitions are not broadly understood, causing confusion over arrears and requests for exceptions. (c) Grown children often remain covered under family categories past appropriate age limits, creating inconsistency. (d) The standard financial year (ending 31 March) has not historically anchored the renewal cycle; impediment for annual planning.

Dr. Subid Das stated that lapsed members needed to pay only the membership fee per Constitution to be readmitted. The office bearers reviewed the Constitution with Dr. Das during the meeting and clarified that a member who ceased to be a member due to default is eligible to be readmitted only upon payment of all outstanding dues for the period for which the membership had lapsed, and therefore readmission is not limited to the membership fee alone.

It was further noted that, under the Constitution, the annual membership fee and subscriptions are payable by 30 June of each financial year. Annual subscriptions must be paid in full by all members, regardless of whether they attend the Association's activities.

Members also discussed associate membership changes to a proposed seasonal membership, and a possible parental declaration for adult children above the age threshold who are not earning. The latter was a suggestion from Ms. Sonali Sanyal, which the Secretary recommended as an invaluable input.

The Secretary informed members that a structured consultation paper on membership categories, lapsed membership, subscriptions, and related implementation issues would be circulated after the AGM for written comments. A decision on the same will be taken as per governance stipulation of the constitution.

Action: Circulate a structured consultation paper on membership categories, lapsed membership and subscriptions for written comments; a decision will be taken in accordance with the governance requirements of the Constitution.

7. Executive Committee Changes

The meeting noted the resignation of Mr. Dipankar Mukutmoni from the Executive Committee. The meeting also noted the induction of Mr. Prosenjit Saha as an incoming Executive Committee member to fill the vacancy and support the continued functioning of the committee.

The revised composition of the Executive Committee was recorded in Annexure 1.

Proposed by: Bhaskar Sengupta, Vice President

Seconded by: Rudra Basu, General Secretary.

8. Member Feedback on Food Coupons, Students and Guests

Ms. Anisha Bhaduri raised concerns about the handling of meal coupons at the front desk concerning walk-in university students, takeaways requested by members, and Baran/Sindoor Khela. The Treasurer paraphrased and reconfirmed the understanding of the concerns. On the matter of food coupons for any walk-in individual or group during lunch, on all days except Dashami, the President and EC responded as follows: (a) reiterated that no person coming in good faith for Puja or bhog has ever been turned away without food; (b) emphasized that coupons are used for settlement with the club, that members last year



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were entitled to two guest coupons as previously communicated, and that the online booking was set up accordingly; and (c) clarified that coupons were not a barrier to meals and/or bhog for attending non-members, who were treated as guests of HKBA rather than guests of individual members. Members are not expected to accompany or represent any walk-in individual or group at the front desk for coupons during lunch.

Action: No further action. Puja protocols for 2026 will be communicated in advance.

9. Any Other Business

The floor was opened for additional matters. Members reiterated the earlier proposal for a film screening, which the President confirmed remained an objective for the coming year, resources permitting.

Members also expressed appreciation for the quality of recent cultural programmes and Puja stage design.

No further items were raised.

10. Closing Remarks

The President thanked all members for their participation, suggestions, and constructive criticism. He also acknowledged the efforts of volunteers and Executive Committee members and expressed optimism for the coming year.

Meeting adjourned at: 5.15 pm

Total meeting time: 1 hour 45 minutes.

Rudra Basu
Secretary, Hong Kong Bengali Association

Dr. Pradip Putatunda
President, Hong Kong Bengali Association



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Annexure A – Executive Committee & Attendance Sheet

The attendance sheet is reproduced below. Executive Committee – 2026 to 2027

1. Dr. Pradip Putatunda – President
2. Bhaskar Sengupta – Vice President
3. Sujoy Das – Treasurer
4. Arindam Basu – Cultural Secretary
5. Rudra Basu – Secretary
6. Rajdeep Mojumder
7. Dipankar Mukutmoni (resigned)
8. Sagnik Ganguly
9. Alok Roy
10. Tanushri Ghosh
11. Debdutta Barman
12. Debjyoti Sarkar (Coopted by the President)
13. Prosenjit Saha (incoming EC member replacing 7 of above)



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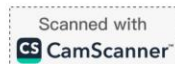
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The Hong Kong Bengali Association
AGM - 06 Jun 2026
Attendance Sheet

Serial No	Name	Signature
1.	B. Sengupta	B. Sengupta
2.	Pradip Pukaturde	Pradip Pukaturde
3.	RUDRA BASU	Rudra Basu
4.	SUJOY DAS	Sujoy Das
5.	Brajin Sanyal	Brajin Sanyal
6.	Debjani Sengupta	Debjani Sengupta
7.	ANJAN KUNDU	Anjan Kundu
8.	Meen Meen Basu	Meen Meen Basu
9.	Dipali Pukaturde	Dipali Pukaturde
10.	RAPTI DAS	Rapti Das
11.	Debayyoti Chowdhury	Debayyoti Chowdhury
12.	DEBKA SARKAR	Debika Sarkar
13.	ANISHA BHADURI	Anisha Bhaduri
14.	Anisha Ray Chowdhury	Anisha Ray Chowdhury
15.	PROSENITI SAHA	Proseniti Saha
16.	Subid Rayan Das	Subid Rayan Das
17.	Alor Roy	Alor Roy
18.	Basabi Roy	Basabi Roy
19.	TSinder Mehera	TSinder Mehera
20.	Sonali Sanyal	Sonali Sanyal
21.	Debdutta Bhattacharya	Debdutta Bhattacharya
22.	Koushik Rout	Koushik Rout
23.	Debjyoti Sarkar	Debjyoti Sarkar
24.	ARINDAM BASU	Arindam Basu
25.	SOHINI	Sohini

D.





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Annexure A - Attendance Sheet (Page 2)

