

HIMACHAL PRADESH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Registered under the H.P. Societies Registration Act 2006 (Act No. 25 of 2006)

December 1, 2022

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNING BODY AND GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE HIMACHAL PRADESH LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (HPLA) HELD ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2022

The second meeting of the First Governing Body and General Body of HPLA held at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies on 27th November 2021 (Sunday) at 11.30AM. The following members were present.

1. Prof. A S Chandel (In the Chair)
2. Mr. Prem Chand (President)
3. Mr. T R Sharma (Vice President)
4. Mrs. Arun Bala (Treasurer)
5. Dr. Vipin K Sharma
6. Dr. Anil K Tomar
7. Mr. Ashok Bhatt
8. Mr. Lambodara Parabhoi
9. Mrs. Neelam Thakur
10. Mrs. Meenu
11. Ms. Pooja Thakur
12. Ms. Vanshika guleria
13. Ms. Kritika Sharma
14. Ms. Yamini Sharma
15. Dr. Suresh K Chauhan (General Secretary)

Mrs. Poonam Sharma, Mrs. Yoshodha Negi, Shri Sudhir Gupta, Shri B S Atwal, Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Shri Arun Kumar, Shri Shail Deen and Mrs. Sonali Malhotra could not attend the meeting due to their other prior commitments.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING:

The president formally welcomed all members present in the meeting. He requested Prof. A S Chandel to Chair the proceedings of the meeting. Shri Prem chand further informed the members that the COVID-19 pandemic affected everything across the globe and HPLA activities were also greatly affected by its impact. On his approval, the General Secretary proceeded with the agenda of the meeting.

AGENDA NO. 1

HPLA ANNUAL REPORTS:

The General Secretary informed the members that HPLA has to come out with the Annual Report of the Association every year but because of COVID Pandemic and nationwide lockdown, no meeting was taken place after 19th January 2020. Hence, there is a delay in compilation of Annual Reports of the Association for the financial year 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22. He shared the draft of Annual Reports for 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 with the members. He further stated that it is high time to revive the activities of HPLA so that the objectives of the HPLA can be met systematically. Therefore, he urged to have an active participation from all members of the HPLA.

AGENDA NO. 2

Activities of the HPLA:

The General Secretary updated that a few activities of the HPLA were conducted because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. A few meetings and an online webinar were conducted. He also informed the progress being made on compiling a draft of the Himachal Pradesh Public Library Act. The HPLA has also raised its voice against the introduction of a new degraded position, i.e. Junior Office Assistant (Library) replacing the position of librarian in the schools. A LIS department has already started on the Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla at the request of HPLA. A representation about streamlining different cadres in college, school and public libraries was also made.

AGENDA NO. 3:

HPLA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

The General Secretary and Treasurer informed the members about the income and expenditure of the Association. They highlighted that the membership fee is the only source of income for the association as of now and there is a dire need to explore other avenues to strengthen HPLA income.

Prof. A S Chandel has advised the members to contribute something in the form of a donation to HPLA. It would help in meeting the recurring expenditure like renewal of website domain name, website hosting, stationary and other. He further advised floating the information about voluntary contribution (donation) among all members of the HPLA.

AGENDA NO. 4:

APPOINTMENT OF CHARTED ACCOUNTANT:

The Rule No. 21 of the HPLA bye-laws specified that the accounts of the Association shall be audited by the Chartered Accountant (CA) and the CA to audit the accounts shall be appointed by the Governing Body of the Association. A discussion on appointment of CA was also taken place. The President opined that the CA would charge a professional fee for auditing the financials of the association that may affect the budget of the association. However, he has agreed to look for a CA who could help the association voluntarily or in minimal fee.

AGENDA NO. 5:

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:

It was informed that the HPLA has only 80 members under the category of 'Life membership' and maximum registrations were taken place within six months of Registration of the Association. All present members unanimously agreed to bring more professionals into the ambit of HPLA. The President highlighted and urged all LIS professionals of the state to come forward and be together by becoming a member of the HPLA. He also appealed all the members to do their efforts to enhance the HPLA membership numbers.

AGENDA NO. 6:

EXTENDED MEMBERSHIP OF STUDENT AND ORDINARY MEMBERS:

During the COVID 19 pandemic when almost all the activities of HPLA were in standstill mode. On the recommendation of the General Secretary the President extended membership duration of all the members till March 31, 2022. The committee again decided to extend membership of students and ordinary members till December 31, 2022. The members of such categories whose membership is expired or expiring by December 31, 2022 have to renew their membership. The President further requested student and ordinary members to convert their memberships to 'Life' membership. It would give impetus to needed activities of the HPLA.

AGENDA NO. 7:

ANOMALIES IN VARIOUS LIS CADRES IN THE STATE:

The issue of cadre related anomalies in the State was discussed in detail. The house decided that Shri T R Sharma (Vice President of HPLA) would come up with a draft indicating all incidents in chronicle order which might have brought such anomalies in the past. The compiled draft of this representation shall be discussed in the meeting before submitting it to the Government.

AGENDA NO. 8:

UNEMPLOYMENT AND VACANT POSITIONS:

A detailed discussion over vacant LIS positions was held. Shri T R Sharma informed that over 100 college libraries are running without librarians and only 25 to 30 colleges have librarians. It shows a huge gap in the education system of the state. The members also pointed out that the State has two universities that are producing LIS professionals on regular basis but their fate in the current scenario is completely in dark. The house decided to submit a representation to the Government for filling up these vacant positions at the earliest. However, it was also advised to find out the total number of LIS positions (filled or vacant) available in the state so that a constructive roadmap can be chalked out.

AGENDA NO. 9:

STATUS OF LIBRARIES AND LIS PROFESSIONALS IN PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS:

The General Secretary also highlighted the pathetic condition of libraries and library professionals in private universities and institutions. The state has 17 private universities but the working hours, service conditions and salary structure of LIS professionals working in many of these and other private academic institutions are not progressive. The house believed the Association should work for it and compile a representation for submitting to the 'Himachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions Regulatory Commission' (HPPER) which is responsible for developing standard rules and regulations for quality education and also keep a check on the activities of these institutions. The library is the domain that HPPER has yet to standardize in the institutions coming under its purview. Professor A S Chandel

advised to conduct a survey for assessing the status of libraries in these institutions before drafting a representation to the HPPER and Government.

AGENDA NO. 10:

GENERAL BODY ELECTION:

The General Secretary informed the chair that the current Governing Body has already completed three years on the board. As per the Rule number 10 of HPLA Bye-Laws, the Governing Body election needs to be conducted once in every three years. The members unanimously suggested the existing Governing Body may continue for the next six months and a decision on the same will be taken in the next General Body meeting.

AGENDA NO. 11:

ANY OTHER MATTER WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR:

11.1: IMAGE OF LIS PROFESSIONALS IN THE STATE:

The house believed that the image of library professionals in the State has been diminished. The President informed that State Government has been finding various court cases of librarians as a burden on the working as well as on its exchequer. Overall, the State Government may not be keeping a positive image of LIS professionals. Prof. A S Chandel advised all LIS professionals of the state to come up with different projects which are useful for the state. He urged the HPLA to start working on Union Catalogue, creating a digital library for information resources on or about the state, and many other useful projects.

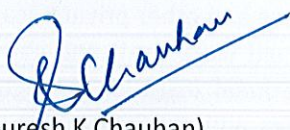
11.2: TRAINING AND EXPERT LECTURES:

The president stated that HPLA will soon be starting some expert lectures and training programmes to develop the professional proficiency of the LIS professionals in the state. Prof. A S Chandel emphasized on conducting training workshops on relevant areas.

11.3: ABOUT HPLA WEBSITE DOMAIN NAME AND HOSTING:

The General Secretary informed that the HPLA website's domain name is being provided by IT Nucleus Solution, a New Delhi based company. The existing website provider has been charging nearly Rs.3500/- for the domain name as well as server space (1GB) for hosting the website for one year. The renewal of which is taking place in December month of the year. He suggested that the availability of a new website (domain name and host) provider may be explored. The President advised to negotiate with the existing company for three years in a stretch so that some discount can be availed. However, Shri Lambodara Prabhoi is also requested to explore a new website provider.

The meeting ended at 1.30PM with thanks to the Chair.



(Dr. Suresh K Chauhan)
General Secretary