# Minutes of Sixth Annual General Meeting,

# RAHARA EIGHTY-EIGHT DEGREE EAST FOUNDATION,

# 189, Ramkrishna Nagar, P.O. Natagarh, P.S.- Ghola, North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700113, W.B., India

## Date: 31st May 2065, Time: 5:00pm onwards,

## Venue: Virtual meeting (Google Meet)

Dr. Manabendra Ray, president of the Governing Body, acted as the Chairman of the Meeting.

### Welcome address by the President and brief regarding foundation projects

President, Dr. Manabendra Ray, welcomed members, and briefed members regarding the foundation's activities in recent times. Members were informed that the Foundation continues to support the three learning centers – Adibasipara SSK, Bhuipara Pandua, & Eklashpur Malda in association with our partner organization "Be and Make", under the Sopan-Uttoron initiative. He mentioned that recently, a fourth learning center, a tribal school in Bersa village Purulia, has been added to the initiative. Dr Ray expressed concern that without continued support and active participation from members, it is becoming increasingly difficult to support and scale up the foundation activities in a meaningful way.

Members present in the meeting participated in the discussion actively. Possible options such as partnering with other organizations and employing more staff who can work on the ground were proposed. Some of the members suggested involving retired volunteers with prior exposure in these areas, who can be enrolled as members, and can play an active role. Members also discussed possibilities of engaging parents of the students in adult learning activities. It was suggested that in most cases, parents show interest if the courses are relevant - e.g. related to self help, financial management, agriculture etc. - they are likely to get involved. However, even for such courses, a good amount of effort and possibly funding may be required.

On a related note, the question of whether the annual membership amount can be increased (it has been Rs 1500 since inception) was discussed. Some members also commented that instead of (or along with) increasing subscription amount, we should try to increase membership count. Many members have turned dormant (not in touch, or not sending subscriptions for a long time), who can also be contacted.

### Minutes of last AGM: readout by Secretary.

Secretary, Mr Arindam Dhar, read out the last AGM's meeting minutes.

## Updates on Financials of 2024-25 and compliance status by Treasurer.

The Treasurer, Mr Tirtha Sadhu, presented details regarding financials, membership, and walked the members through the audited financial statements. He commented that based on FY 2024-25 statements, we just about managed to raise enough funds needed for the ongoing projects (a small surplus of about Rs 20,000 was all that was left). Of course in the same financial year, some expenses had to be budgeted towards the office lease (this resulted in subsequent savings on monthly rents). In specific queries from members, the treasurer stated that about 50% of office administrative expenses were covered from subscriptions, and the rest from donations. In general, more than 80% of donations are spent on project specific expenses. In this context, members expressed their views regarding possible increase in membership amount (Rs 1500 per year since inception), possibility of increasing our reach (as of FY24-25, only about 35 members paid subscription even though actual number was 70+, and in our WA group, there are about 88 members at present).

## Review and approve the Audited statements of Receipts and Payments, Income and Expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March 2024 and the Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2024, together with the Auditor's Report

Based on votes cast by members through the e-voting portal (30 in favor, 0 against), the AGM "RESOLVED": that the Audited statements of Receipt and Payments, Income and Expenditure for the year ended on 31st March 2025 and the Balance sheet as on the date, together with Auditor's Report thereon, be and are hereby APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

## Proposal to appoint Auditor, for the period from the conclusion of this meeting to the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting

Through one of our members, the Governing body had used the services of M/s Rahul Bansal and Associates, Kolkata, to act as our Auditor for the financial year 2024-25. Name of the same auditor was proposed for continuation for the next financial year also.

Based on votes cast by members through the e-voting portal (30 in favor, 0 against), the AGM "RESOLVED", that M/s Rahul Bansal and Associates, Kolkata, being eligible, be and are hereby appointed as Auditors of the Association to hold office unit the next Annual General Meeting, on an annual remuneration not exceeding Rs. 6500/- exclusive of taxes.

## Consider and adopt the report of the Returning Officer on the election of the new members of the Governing Body 2025-2026, at the expiry of the term of the current Governing Body.

Based on votes cast by members through the e-voting portal (30 in favor, 0 against), the AGM adopted the report of the Returning Officer Mr Dipam Banerjee on the election of the new members of the Governing Body 2025-2026.

Members also felt that going forward, we may not need to ratify the returning officer report in AGM. This practice of AGM ratification will be discontinued, starting from next AGM.

## Vote of Thanks.

The assistant secretary, Mr. Abhirup Mukherjee, proposed a vote of thanks for members with major contributions towards the foundation projects, patrons, donors and partners.

Since there was no other matter to discuss, the meeting was declared closed.