



## ***CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY INDIA SOCIETY CONSTITUTION***

### **1. Object and Name**

1. The Society shall be called the "Cambridge University India Society."
2. The object of the Society shall be to promote knowledge of India and its culture among students at Cambridge by:
  - a) Talks, to be given by well known people in their respective fields,
  - b) Films, about India or by Indian directors,
  - c) Concerts, of classical Indian music and dancing,
  - d) Organisation of social events for the promotion of the Society.

### **2. Membership**

3. Membership of the Society shall:
  - a) be open to all members of the University
  - b) be open to non-members of the University at the discretion of the committee.
4. Membership shall be obtained for:
  - a) one year by payment of the annual subscription;
  - b) life by payment of the life subscription or two consecutive annual subscriptions.
5. Proof of membership depends on the possession of a membership card. If it is lost it must be replaced by requesting the committee to issue a new one.
6. The subscriptions shall be such sum as the committee may decide.

### **3. Officers**

7. A resident Master of Arts of the University shall be elected Senior Treasurer of the Society. The Senior Treasurer shall be elected for a period of one year, and shall be eligible for re-election.
8. The Society shall have a President, Secretary, Treasurer and five other committee members all of whom shall be elected annually from members of the Society in statu pupillari.
9. The Committee shall consist of the Senior Treasurer and the student officers. The elected committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members onto the committee at any time during the year as required by the business of the Society. These co-opted members shall serve only until the next election.
10. Co-opted members shall have the same rights as the five other elected committee members.



11. The total number of the committee shall not exceed 10 at any time excluding the Senior Treasurer.
12. No member shall stand for election or vote in the election unless he/she has been a member of the Society for one month immediately before the elections were announced.
13. The Returning officer shall be decided by the Committee before the elections are announced on the condition that he/she shall not propose or second any candidate for election. The Senior Treasurer shall be the observer of the election.
14. Members of the Committee shall be elected annually at a general meeting of the Society to be held in the Lent Term. Nominations for members of the Committee shall be given in writing to the President before the start of the election. The nominations shall bear the names and signatures of the candidate, proposer and seconder.
15. Voting for Office Bearers shall be by a single transferable vote system wherever applicable. Voting for non-officer posts shall be on a first past the post basis: in the event of a tie, the position shall be decided on the basis of preference order.
16. The newly elected committee will not take office until the new academic year.

#### **4. Business**

17. The business of the society shall be conducted by the committee. At a committee meeting, a quorum shall consist of:
  - a) the President or Secretary
  - b) at least half the remaining members of the committee.
18. Decisions taken at committee meeting shall be subject to a vote of those present
19. If a committee member is absent from two consecutive committee meetings or three consecutive Society events, without providing a satisfactory explanation to the Committee he/she shall cease to be a member of the Committee
20. There shall be at least one general meeting of the Society each year, which shall be held in the Lent Term. At the request of not less than twenty-five members of the Society, the President shall call a special general meeting. Notice of any general meeting shall be advertised to all members at least seven days in advance; these seven days shall fall within Full Term.
21. At the annual general meeting in the Lent Term, the President shall present an annual report and the Treasurer shall present an annual statement of accounts.
22. If requested to do so, committee members shall account for their actions at a general meeting.



## **5. Programme**

23. News of forthcoming events will be provided by the committee to all members at the appropriate time.

## **6. Constitution**

24. The interpretation and implementation of this Constitution shall be the responsibility of the Committee.

25. This Constitution shall not be altered except by a two-thirds of members present at a general meeting of the Society.

October 1985



## RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - 1986

(...) = deletion  
... = insertion

3. Membership of the society shall:

- a) be open to all members of the University and Anglia Polytechnic University.
- b) be open to non-members of the University at the discretion of the committee.

4. Membership shall be obtained for:

- a) One year by payment of the annual subscription;
- b) Life by payment of the life subscription or two consecutive annual subscriptions. Life membership for non-University members shall be for four years, after which membership is renewable.

5. Proof of membership depends on the possession of a membership card. If it is lost it must be replaced by requesting the committee to issue a new one, which the committee will do providing they are in possession of evidence proving the membership.

8. The society shall have a President, Secretary, Treasurer and five committee members all of whom shall be elected annually from members of the society (in statu pupillari). These together with the Senior Treasurer shall form the committee. All members of the committee must be members of the University or the Anglia Polytechnic University and must be resident in Cambridge.

9. (The committee shall consist of the Senior Treasurer and the student officers.) The elected committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members onto the committee at any time during the year as required by the business of the society. These co-opted members shall serve until the next election.

13. The Returning Officer shall be decided by the committee before the elections are announced on the condition that he/she shall not propose or second any candidate, nor stand for election. The Senior Treasurer shall be the observer of the election.

14. (Members of the committee shall be elected annually at the general meeting of the society to be held at in the Lent Term). Nominations for members of the committee shall be given to the (President) Returning Officer before the start of the election. The nomination shall bear the names and signatures of the candidate, proposer and seconder.

15. Voting will take place by postal ballot and at the annual general meeting in the Lent Term. Only members of the University and Anglia Polytechnic University resident in Cambridge are allowed to vote. Each member has one vote.

Voting for Office Bearers shall be by single transferable vote system wherever applicable. Voting for non-officer posts shall be on a first past the post basis: in the event of a tie, the position shall be decided on the basis of preference order.



19. If a committee member, except the Senior Treasurer, is absent from two consecutive committee meetings or three consecutive society events, without providing a satisfactory explanation to the committee he/she shall cease to be a member of the committee.

In the event of the President, Secretary or Treasurer of the society vacating their position, the committee shall decide whether the post shall be filled by another committee member or decided by an election.

26. The committee may make working rules as and when necessary. These rules may not be contrary to the constitution without written permission of the Senior Treasurer. Such rules shall be put to the members at the next general meeting.

## **RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - 1997**

(...) = deletion  
... = insertion

8. The society shall have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five committee members all of whom shall be elected annually from members of the society. These together with the Senior treasurer shall form the committee. All members of the committee must be members of the University or Anglia Polytechnic University and must be resident in Cambridge.

17. The business of the society shall be conducted by the committee. At a committee meeting, a quorum shall consist of:

- a) The President or (Secretary) Vice President
- b) At least half the remaining members of the committee.

19. If a committee member, except the Senior Treasurer, is absent from two consecutive committee meetings or three consecutive society events, without providing a satisfactory explanation to the committee, he/she shall cease to be a member of the committee.

In the event of the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer of the society vacating their position, the committee shall decide whether the post shall be filled by another committee member or decided by election.



## RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION - 1999

(...) = deletion  
... = insertion

8. The society shall have a President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Publicity Officer and five committee members all of whom shall be elected annually from members of the society. These together with the Senior Treasurer shall form the committee. All members of the committee must be members of the University or Anglia Polytechnic University and must be resident in Cambridge.

14. Nominations for members of the committee shall be given in writing to the Returning Officer (before the start of the election.) at least three full days before the day of the election. The nomination shall bear the names and signatures of the candidate, proposer, and seconder. Election candidates will also be invited to hand the Returning Officer a written manifesto at least three full days before the day of the election. The manifesto should be no longer than 200 words for candidates standing for a committee position, and 400 words for candidates standing for an executive position. The Returning Officer will distribute these manifestos to the Society via electronic mail soon after the nomination deadline.

15. Voting will take place (by postal ballot and) at the annual general meeting in the Lent Term and at times specified by the Returning Officer between the time of advertising the election manifestos and the annual general meeting. Only members of the University and Anglia Polytechnic University resident in Cambridge are allowed to vote. Each member has one vote. Voting for Office Bearers shall be by single transferable vote system wherever applicable. Voting for non-officer posts shall be on a first past the post basis: in the event of a tie, the position shall be decided on the basis of preference order.

19. If a committee member, except the Senior Treasurer, is absent from two consecutive committee meetings or three consecutive society events, without providing a satisfactory explanation to the committee, he/she shall cease to be a member of the committee.

In the event of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Publicity Officer of the society vacating their position, the committee shall decide whether the post shall be filled by another committee member or decided by election.



## RECOMMENDED AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION – 2020

(...) = deletion  
... = insertion

2. The object of the Society shall be to promote knowledge of India and its culture among students at Cambridge by:

- a) Talks to be given by well known people in their respective fields,
- b) Films, about India or by Indian directors,
- c) Concerts, of all genres of (classical) Indian music and dancing,
- d) Organisation of social events for the promotion of the Society.

5. Proof of membership depends on the possession of a membership card if distributed at purchase or receipt of purchase. If it is lost it must be replaced by requesting the committee to issue a new one, which the committee will do providing they are in possession of evidence proving the membership.

8. The society shall have a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and a maximum of 10 additional committee members, (Publicity Officer and five committee members) all of whom shall be elected annually from members of the society. Total number of committee members can be decided at the discretion of the previous committee. These together with the Senior Treasurer shall form the committee. All members of the committee must be members of the University or Anglia Polytechnic University and must be resident in Cambridge.

11. The total number of the committee shall not exceed 14 (10) at any time excluding the Senior Treasurer and the exact number is at the discretion of the previous committee.

13. The Returning officer shall be decided by the Committee before the elections are announced on the condition that he/she shall not propose or second any candidate, nor stand for election. This may be President and/or Vice-President on the condition they do not propose or second any candidate nor stand for election. The Senior Treasurer need not (shall) be the observer of the election as long as the majority of the committee is present.

14. Nominations for members of the committee shall be given in writing to the Returning Officer at least (three full days) a full day before the day of the election. The nomination shall bear the names (and signatures) of the candidate, proposer, and seconder. Election candidates will also be invited to hand the Returning Officer a written manifesto at least (three full days) one full day before the day of the election. The manifesto should be no longer than 200 words for candidates standing for a committee position, and 400 words for candidates standing for an executive position. The Returning Officer will distribute these manifestos to the Society via electronic mail soon after the nomination deadline.

16. The newly elected committee will not take office until the new academic (year) term, usually taking office in Easter term.

19. If a committee member is absent from two consecutive committee meetings or three consecutive Society events, without providing a satisfactory explanation to the Committee he/she may (shall) cease to be a member of the Committee based on the majority discretion of the executive committee.

In the event of a committee member (the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Publicity Officer) of the society vacating their position, the committee shall decide whether the post shall be filled by another committee member or decided by election.