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Pashupatinath Mandir London, UK

Constitution Nepali Mandir and Community Centre, London, UK Constitution 2003 (Amended and Ratified Constitution 2023)

Preamble:

Since ancient times, our glorious Sanatan-Vedic Hindu religion, culture, philosophy, and identity have made significant contributions to human civilization. To preserve and promote these, the "Nepali Mandir and Community Centre, London, UK" was established through the united efforts of Nepali residents in Britain.

Section 1:

- Name:** The name of this institution in Nepali is "नेपाली मन्दिर तथा कम्युनिटी सेन्टर, लण्डन युके" and in English, it is "Nepali Temple Cum Community Centre, London, UK." From now on, it will be referred to as "Nepali Pashupatinath Mandir and Community Centre, London, UK" and briefly as "Pashupatinath Mandir London."
- Seal and Flag of the Institution:** The seal and flag of the institution will be as used since the establishment of the mandir. Additionally, membership, cooperation receipts, application forms, and letterheads will be used as per the practices from the time of establishment.
- Office of the Institution:** The office of the institution will be located within the premises of the "Pashupatinath Mandir" or any other place arranged by the Board of Trustees as needed.
- Definitions:** Unless the context or subject implies otherwise, the following terms are defined as:
 - "Constitution"** refer to the "Pashupatinath Mandir, London, UK (2003)" and subsequently amended and ratified Constitution by the Board of Trustees.
 - "Institution"** refers to "Pashupatinath Mandir, London, UK."
 - "Hindu"** refers to those who believe in Sanatan-Vedic religion, culture, and philosophy, and belong to the Sanatan-Vedic "Omkar" family, including Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Naga, Kirat, Bon sects, and various other Hindu cultural sects.
 - "Rules" or "Regulations"** refer to the rules and regulations created by the Board of Trustees as necessary within these Constitution.
 - "Department"** refers to various departments such as Satsang Department, Study-Research Department, etc., established by the Mandir Management Committee with the approval of the Board of Trustees to facilitate the daily operations of the mandir.

(f) "**Committee**" refers to the Mandir Management Committee of this institution.

Section 2:

Main Objectives and Functions of the Institution: Preserving and promoting Sanatan-Vedic Hindu religion, culture, philosophy, literature, and the associated identity; engaging in dialogue and collaboration with other spiritual and religious organizations and personalities; working for the welfare of humanity and the entire creation by fostering brotherhood, unity, peace, and prosperity through various activities, including:

- (a) Promoting Sanatan-Vedic Hindu philosophy to strengthen unity among those who believe in Sanatan-Vedic Hindu religion and the Omkar family, including Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, Nagas, Bons, Kirats, etc., by organizing mutual interactions, seminars, and conferences.
- (b) Embracing the belief "Service is Dharma – Dharma is Service" by assisting the weak, elderly, poor, helpless, and children in society as much as possible. Especially by fostering a sense of community within the Nepali society and providing economic, social, and psychological support to individuals from any community.
- (c) Organizing spiritual and religious programs such as bhajan, kirtan, sermons, meditation, pranayama-yoga, etc., to educate the younger generation about the global relevance and importance of Sanatan-Vedic Hindu philosophy and culture.
- (d) Organizing spiritual and religious programs for motivating youth, women, and children for the development of the institution, and conducting worship and pujas during various Hindu festivals.
- (e) Preventing superstition and malpractices and ensuring no discrimination based on religion, community, gender, caste, age, etc.
- (f) Seeking and obtaining financial, material, and other support from individuals and institutions without any obligation for the greater good of the institution.
- (g) Promoting the importance of our Sanatan-Vedic Hindu religion, culture, literature, and philosophy.
- (h) Attempting to maintain active connections with Sanatan-Vedic Hindus and all religions and sects within the Omkar family worldwide, including the UK and Nepal, and maintaining cordial relationships with other religious sects.
- (i) Conducting daily worship, marriages, vows, Gunyas-Cholos, aartis, sermons, and other spiritual and religious activities and rituals in the mandir.
- (j) Organizing health camps considering the interests of local residents around the mandir and distributing fruits and food as free prasada whenever necessary.
- (k) Striving to conduct various other programs for the greater good of the "Pashupatinath Mandir."

Section 3:

Membership and Types of Membership

- (a) **Trustee Members:** Individuals who contribute a lump sum of £5,000 or more, dedicating their time, mind, and wealth for the establishment of the mandir, will serve

as Trustees. To alter the qualifications and scope of Trustees, two-thirds majority of Trustees can make changes. From among the Trustees, a "Board of Trustees" will be selected as the "Governing Body" for the greater good of the institution. The names of Board of Trustees members will also be registered with the Charity Commission. Trustees who are not part of the Board of Trustees can still remain Trustees and participate in Board meetings and discussions but cannot vote on decisions. Even if not on the Board, Trustees can be appointed as chairpersons of the Mandir Management Committee by the general majority of the Board of Trustees, but they cannot act as a coordinator of the Board. Legally, all members of the Board of Trustees will be accountable on behalf of the mandir.

(b) After 2021, any individual who donates any amount to the institution as a contribution and is committed to the mandir's welfare will be considered as a donor and will not be counted as a Trustee.

(c) Honorary Members: Intellectual and distinguished personalities who have made significant contributions in religious, spiritual, or any societal field can be honored as Special Honorary Members of the institution with the general approval of the Board of Trustees.

(d) Lifetime Members: By accepting the declared Constitution, duly filling out the membership form, and paying a lump sum of £750 as a membership fee, an individual can become a lifetime member after approval by the Board of Trustees. From the time of the ordinary meeting in 2023, this amendment allows individuals to become lifetime members by paying the specified fee. We do not consider any organizations as membership in this institution.

(e) Additionally, everyone who provides financial, material, or moral support to the mandir will be recognized as supporters or devotees of the mandir.

Termination of Membership:

(a) If any member resigns in writing and the resignation is accepted by the Board of Trustees.

(b) If any member is proven to be physically or mentally incapacitated.

(c) Upon the death of a member.

(d) If any member works against the institution's primary objectives, the Board of Trustees can terminate their membership based on recommendations from the Mandir Management Committee or through a general majority decision of the Board of Trustees. Before termination, the member will be warned and given an opportunity to clarify.

(e) If a Trustee member acts against the institution's interests, the Board of Trustees can suspend their membership for a certain period or terminate it with a two-thirds majority, after giving warnings and an opportunity for the member to defend themselves.

Section 4:

Formation and Operational Scope of the Institution:

(a) Board of Trustees:

- Formed as described in Section 3.
- A coordinator will be appointed from among the Trustees to lead the Board meetings.
- The coordinator's term is generally two years but can be extended or shortened by the Board's majority.
- The Mandir Management Committee must present progress reports to the Board upon request, which the Board will approve with necessary amendments.
- The coordinator must call at least one meeting every six months, chair meetings and maintain records.

(b) For daily management operations, the Board of Trustees will appoint a chairman and a Mandir Management Committee on recommendation of the chairman, approved by the Board.

(c) The Mandir Management Committee will handle daily management and operations, remaining accountable to the Board of Trustees.

(d) The Board of Trustees will serve as the main policy-making body for long-term planning and implementation to achieve the institution's objectives. They will be legally responsible to the Charity Commission and other governmental bodies.

(e) In exceptional circumstances, the Board of Trustees can call a religious/general assembly, leading to the dissolution of the Mandir Management Committee. In such cases, the Trustee Coordinator will manage the mandir operations.

(f) With the Board of Trustees' approval, the Mandir Management Committee can form various sub-committees or departments as needed, such as Women's Department, Cultural Department, Publication Department, Financial Department, etc.

(g) The Mandir Management Committee will consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, assistant secretary, treasurer, and eight other members, totaling 13 members. The term is generally two years, but the Board can adjust the number of members as needed.

(h) To amend the institution's constitution, feedback and suggestions will be sought from special religious/general assemblies and knowledgeable individuals. Any changes to the constitution require a two-thirds majority decision of the Board of Trustees.

Roles and Responsibilities within the Mandir Management Committee:

1. Chairman:

- Preside over Mandir Management Committee meetings and religious/general assemblies.
- Implement decisions made by the Board of Trustees and suggestions collected during assemblies.
- Direct the secretary to call meetings.
- Cast decisive votes in case of ties.

- Assist the secretary in proposals, reports, discussions, and guidance during assemblies.
- Ensure the Board of Trustees' advice and directives are implemented through the management committee and present progress reports to the Board.

2. Vice-Chairman:

- Preside over meetings in the chairman's absence.
- Continuously support and advise the chairman for effective leadership.

3. Secretary:

- Call meetings for religious/general assemblies and committees as per the chairman's instructions.
- Prepare proposals and reports for discussions and decisions during meetings.
- Maintain accurate minutes and records of meetings.
- Securely store all documents as per the chairman's guidance.
- Communicate and correspond with various individuals and institutions on behalf of the institution.
- Manage the conduct of committee meetings.

4. Assistant Secretary:

- Assume the secretary's responsibilities in their absence.
- Assist in the overall management of the institution.

5. Treasurer:

- Propose and implement financial plans in consultation with the chairman and secretary.
- Maintain accurate records of the institution's income and expenses.
- Prepare financial documents for accounting and auditing as advised by the chairman.
- Inform about financial details during religious/general assemblies and maintain records of all cash and material assets.

6. Members:

- Implement decisions made during assemblies and contribute creatively for the institution's greater good.

Section 5:

Meetings and Assemblies of the Institution:

1. (a) Mandir Management Committee Meetings:

- Held as needed.

- Except in special circumstances, the secretary must inform about the date, place, and time of the meeting two weeks in advance in writing.

2. Religious/General Assemblies:

- **(a)** Typically held every two years.
- **(b)** All members can attend. Progress and financial reports approved by the Board of Trustees can be presented or explained during the general assembly.
- **(c)** The Mandir Management Committee will announce the time, place, and date for the religious/general assembly with the Board's approval every two years.
- **(d)** The secretary must inform the public about the date, place, and time of the general assembly at least 15 days in advance.

Roles and Responsibilities of Religious/General Assemblies:

1. The Mandir Management Committee presents progress and financial reports and collects suggestions for the mandir's overall development.
2. To further refine the institution's Constitution, feedback and suggestions will be sought exclusively from these assemblies.
3. Any changes to the main subjects of the institution require a two-thirds majority decision from the Board of Trustees.
4. During assemblies, the committee will declare and record the Mandir Management Committee for the upcoming two-year term.
5. Records of passed decisions and individual feedback will be maintained.

Roles and Responsibilities of Special Religious/General Assemblies:

1. The Mandir Management Committee can propose calling a special assembly to the Board of Trustees, who can approve it if deemed necessary due to special circumstances. The Board can call the assembly by notifying the members 15 days in advance or directly.
2. Public announcements about the reasons, location, time, and date for special assemblies must be made at least 15 days in advance.

Procedure for Special Religious/General Assemblies:

1. The Mandir Management Committee, with the Board's approval, will create the agenda for general or special assemblies. If the management committee is not present, the Board of Trustees will create the agenda.
2. **Presidency of the Assembly:** The chairman of the Mandir Management Committee will preside over the general or special assembly. In the chairman's absence, the vice-chairman or Trustee Coordinator can preside.
3. **Decisions and Records:**
 - Maintain records of member attendance, opinions, and suggestions during assemblies.

Miscellaneous:

Section 6:

1. The chairman of the Mandir Management Committee cannot serve more than two consecutive terms and must be a Trustee member, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.
2. Other office bearers of the Mandir Management Committee must be lifetime members and have served at least one term, except for Trustee members.
3. All financial transactions, including income and expenditure, must be managed by the Mandir Management Committee with the Board of Trustees' approval. Checks and signatures will be held jointly by the chairman and treasurer or Trustee Coordinator, and a designated Trustee member, approved by the Board of Trustees.
 - Any expenses beyond the necessary operational costs must be approved by the Board of Trustees.
4. Annual financial statements must be prepared on time.
5. All funds will be kept in the mandir's bank account.
6. The institution is registered under UK law, and the amended Constitution and Board of Trustees' member list will be updated with the Charity Commission as needed.
7. If any supporter or devotee is found to act against the mandir, the Board of Trustees, upon recommendation from the Mandir Management Committee or by a general majority decision, can issue verbal or written warnings and, if necessary, prohibit entry or participation in any mandir activities. The individual will have one opportunity to defend themselves.
8. The Board of Trustees can form an Honorary Patron Council for a two-year term as needed.
9. The Trustee Coordinator will serve as the official contact between the Mandir Management Committee and the Board of Trustees. Instead of consulting all Board members directly, the Management Committee will communicate through the Trustee Coordinator.
10. Any rules, decisions, or Constitution made by this institution that conflict with UK laws will be automatically void.

End of Constitution.....