

**The Federation of
Publishers' & Booksellers'
Associations in India**



84, Second Floor, Daryaganj,
New Delhi – 110 002
Phone : 011 - 23272845, 23281227
E-mail : fpbaindia@gmail.com
Website : www.fpbai.org

Fed./EGM 2023-24/01

August 05, 2023

To, All FPBAI Members,

Minutes of the FPBAI Extraordinary General Meeting held on 1st August, 2023 (Tuesday), at MGM Club (Party Hall), 19, Darya Ganj, New Delhi, at 3:30 pm.

Dear Members,

The President welcomed the members to the Federation's Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss the GOC issue. He specifically welcomed the outstation members who had specially come to Delhi to attend this meeting. He informed that During the 5th ECM, held on 21st July, 2023, it had been resolved by the House that no GOC rates will be announced or published and the GOC has been disbanded w.e.f. 21st July, 2023. Following the said decision, quite many members started sending collective e-mails, and telephonic calls from all over India, expressing the need for further deliberation on the decision. Most of the members asked us to fix a Meeting and open up this issue for broader discussion, to find a solution that preserves the interests of all stakeholders in the larger interest of book trade. President informed that Keeping this in view and to honour the sentiments of the Hon'ble members, this Extraordinary General Meeting is arranged.

The President brought to the notice about the cases filed against the Federation in Competition Commission of India, for violation of Competition Act, 2002, on the issues of discount, prescribing conversion rates, terms of supply, declaring list of approved venders in GOC Circulars etc.

First, Case No. 33 of 2019, International Subscription Agency, Lucknow vs. Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association (this was regarding discount). The case was filed against FPBAI, and the individuals Mr. S.C. Sethi, President Federation and Mr. Sunil Sachdev, Chairman Journals & Periodicals Subscription Committee. M/s. Chandhiok & Mahajan, Advocates and Solicitors represented Federation in this case. The fees and penalties were paid by the Federation. The discount clause in terms of supply in GOC Circular was removed, and all the conversion rates and other terms of supply were made suggestive and not mandatory. Even then M/s. International Subscription Agency, Lucknow, was not satisfied, and appealed in the Company Law Appellate Tribunal against CCI's Order, to increase the penalty amount, also filed another case of compensation. The President informed that Federation has engaged a leading law firm M/s. Khaitan & Co., New Delhi, to represent the Federation on this matter.

The next Case is No. 38 of 2021, Shri Pranav Gupta Vs. Federation of Publishers and Booksellers Association. The complaint is regarding conversion rates, terms of supply, and declaring the list of approved venders in GOC Circulars. Many of Federation members and the affiliated associations all over India were summoned for investigation by the CCI. He informed that the case is against the FPBAI, and the individuals, Mr. Pradeep Arora, President, FPBAI, Shri S.C. Sethi, Chairman of the GOC, and Shri Prashant Jain, Hony. Secretary, FPBAI (for the years 2020-21 and 2021-22). The President informed that we have engaged a leading law firm M/s. Chandhiok & Mahajan, Advocates and Solicitors, to represent the Federation.

Patron : S.C. Sethi

President : Pradeep Arora • Imm. Past President : S.C. Sethi

Vice Presidents : (North) S. K. Ghai • (East) Pankaj Bhagawati • (West) Arjun Sachdev • (South) Dr. M. S. Venkatesh

Hony. Secretary : Arunjit Singh Gujral • Hony. Joint Secretary : Kalpana Shukla

Hony. Treasurer : Ravi Sethi

The House suggested that the Federation should hire the best possible Advocates to fight all these cases in the best possible manner. The Federation as usual will bear the fees of advocates and penalties, and the members present also assured for the fullest co-operation to FPBAI office bearers in this regard, and also mentioned that, if need be, the members will help to create a fund to combat these legal battles.

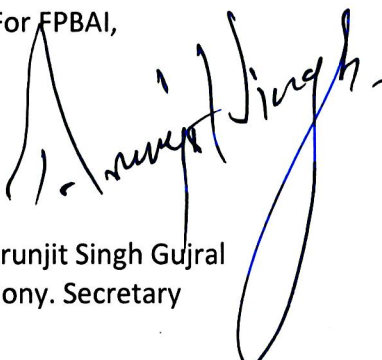
The main issue of the disbandment of GOC was discussed at length. A good number of stakeholders were present, and it was unanimously passed in one voice by the House, that the decision taken on 21st July, 2023, during the 5th Executive Meeting to be reversed, and cancel the decision of disbandment of GOC Committee in the larger interest of the book trade. The House also passed that GOC Committee should announce and print the GOC conversion rates of foreign currency (effective 1st August, 2023), as usual, in order to bring the uniformity and standardization of conversion rates for the convenience of libraries/institutions and the book trade as a whole. As was the case, the rates will be suggestive and not mandatory. The House also agreed that the GOC Circular will only contain the GOC conversion rates of foreign currency.

In addition, the House also suggested that to have a wider perspective of all the members of FPBAI all over India, whether the members want Federation to continue with GOC conversion rates or not. As such, a letter along with a Survey Form, will be circulated to all the members all over India and to all the Affiliated Associations, by e-mail as well as by Regd./Speed Post, with a request to inform their preference to the Federation, by mentioning (Yes or No), to enable the Federation taking final decision, in the best interest of the book trade at large. The President welcomed the stand and informed that this exercise will start soon.

The President thanked all the members for attending the Extraordinary General meeting and invited members for high tea.

Thanking you,

For FPBAI,



Arunjit Singh Gujral
Hony. Secretary

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Fed./2025-26/611

July 2, 2025

To, All FPBAI Members,

Subject: Withdrawal of GOC Circular dated 01 July 2025

Dear Members,

We wish to inform you that the Competition Commission of India (CCI) issued an order dated 01 July 2025, which was brought to the Federation's attention after the GOC Circular dated 01 July, 2025 was issued.

In light of the aforementioned CCI order, we hereby formally withdraw the GOC circular dated 01 July 2025 with immediate effect.

A detailed communication outlining the necessary measures and guidelines will follow in strict accordance with the directives issued by the Competition Commission of India as per the order dated 01 July, 2025.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work to align our communications with the regulatory requirements.

Regards,

For, FPBAI

S.K. Ghai
President

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