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BAMBOO SOCIETY OF INDIA™

Vanavikas Building, North Wing, Ground Floor, 18th Cross, Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560003.
Phone: 080-23469153, Email:bamboosocietyofindia@gmail.com
Web: bamboosocietyofindia.com

BSI Members whose membership was terminated:

1.	I.L.M.No.118/2002 Individual Life Member	Dr. N. Barathi, Director, Growmore Biotech Ltd. 41-B, SIPCOT, Phase-II, Hosur-635109 Ph: 09443351957 growmore@vsnl.com
2.	I.L.M- 404/2014 Individual Life Member	Mr. Bedekar Hemant Shantaram 3, Shri. Sai Samarth, Yeshwant Nagar, Plot No. 257, Telegaon Dabhade Mawal, District Pune - 410507, Maharashtra hsbede@gmail.com 9767200905
3.	I.L.M/1296/2021 Individual Life Member	Mr. Ulhas Ambegaonkar At po Ambegaon, Tq. Nilanga, Maharashtra -413530 picaulhas@gmail.com 9822478083



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No. BSI/Preamble & Order/823/2024-25

Date 04.09.2024

Office Order

Sub: Termination of BSI Membership (No. I.L.M.No.118/2002) of Dr. N. Barathi.

1. BSI Letter to Dr. Barathi No. BSI/Bheema Bamboo/776/2023-24 dated 22-01-2024.
2. BSI Reminder Letter to Dr. N. Barathi No. BSI/Bheema Bamboo/784/2024-25 dated 03-05-2024.
3. Response from Dr. Barathi via email dated 11-05-2024.
4. BSI GC Meeting Proceedings No. BSI/GCM-Minutes/ 777 /2024-25 Date: 10.06.2024 of meeting held on dt 24-05-2024.
5. BSI Chairman's Letter to GC Members No. BSI/BSI GC/796/2024-25 dated 10-06-2024.
6. BSI Chairman's Reminder to GC Members dated 18-06-2024

Preamble

On 22-01-2024, BSI issued a letter (No. BSI/Bheema Bamboo/776/2023-24) to Dr. N. Barathi, holder of BSI membership No. I.L.M.No.118/2002, requesting clarification on his claims regarding the Bheema bamboo clone. Dr. Barathi had asserted that this sterile plant yields 40 tonnes of biomass annually from the third year and lives indefinitely. The letter proposed a webinar for Dr. Barathi to address BSI members' concerns and provide evidence supporting his claims, including testimonials from ten successful farmers and video evidence.

Despite multiple requests and reminders, including a follow-up letter dated 03-05-2024, Dr. Barathi failed to provide a satisfactory response. On 11-05-2024, he indicated he would address the concerns at the upcoming BSI Governing Council (GC) meeting.

At the GC meeting on 24-05-2024, Dr. Barathi was asked to explain the premature flowering of Bheema tissue culture plants and the poor performance of his high-density planting model. Farmers reported significant issues, including premature flowering, low biomass yields, and lack of market demand for the biomass, leading to severe financial losses. Dr. Barathi's assurances of high yields and profitability were contradicted by the experiences of these farmers.

Dr. Barathi's claims about his seedlings being certified and sporadic flowering were not corroborated by farmers. He failed to provide successful case studies or address economic concerns related to his high-density planting model. Consequently, the GC advised Dr. Barathi to step down from the GC. When he did not respond, a proposal for his removal from BSI membership was circulated to GC members.

An email dated 10-06-2024 proposed Dr. Barathi's removal, and a reminder on 18-06-2024 confirmed majority support for this decision. Given the serious complaints, including a recent report of 100% flowering in Bheema plants from Ananthapur, and Dr. Barathi's failure to address these issues or step down voluntarily, the GC has decided to terminate his membership.

Order

In light of the above, the membership (No. I.L.M.No.118/2002) of Dr. N. Barathi is hereby terminated effective immediately under BSI Bye-Law Clause No. 6.2.3. Dr. Barathi is also barred from reapplying for BSI membership in the future.



Chairman
Bamboo Society of
India

Copy communicated to Dr. N. Barathi, Director, Growmore Biotech, Pvt, Ltd, Hosur for information.

Copy communicated to Governing Council Members, BSI for information.

Copy communicated to all BSI members for information.



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No. BSI/ BSI membership -Termination /828/2024-25

Date: 03.10.2024

OFFICICE ORDER

Sub: Termination of the BSI membership of Dr. Hemanth S. Bedekar for various serious irregularities committed by him as Director, Maharashtra Chapter (MC) Management Committee (MaC).

- Ref:**
1. Letter from Dr. Hemanth S Bedekar dated 6th March 2023.
 2. Response Letter from BSI HO No. BSI/email-response/767/2022-23 dated 01.12.2023.
 3. BSI Reminder Letter issued to Maharashtra Chapter No. BSI/BSI-MC/799/2024-25 dated 10.06.2024.
 4. Response from Dr. Bedekar via email dated 19.06.2024.
 5. No. BSI/GCM-Minutes/777/2024-25 25 Date:07.06.2024, Agenda 3(C)i of Proceedings of the Governing Council Meeting of Bamboo Society of India held on 24th May' 2024 at 11. 00 A M in hybrid mode.
 6. BSI Letter No.BSI/ Notice /812/2024-25 date 16.07.2024 issued to Dr. Medha Joshi, Secretary MC, and Mrs. Prarthana Mahakal, Treasurer BSI MC.
 7. Response from Dr. Medha Joshi email dated 16th July 2024.
 8. Response from Mrs. Prarthana Mahakal dated 23rd July 2024.
 9. Letter from BSI HO No. BSI/BSI-MC/800/2024-25 dated 10.06.2024 issued to Dr Bedekar to dissolve Vidharba centre.
 10. Letter No. BSI/816/Vidarbha Center/2024-25 dated 18.07.2024 issued to Shri Ajay Patil, Shri Ashish Nagpurkar, and Shri Ashish Kaswa, self-appointed Executives of Vidarbha Centre seeking their explanation.
 11. BSI Guidelines No. BSI/Guideline/SC-670/2021-22 dated 13.12.2021.
 12. BSI/Barring members-OM/824/2024-25 Date 10.09.2024.

PREAMBLE

BSI as per its letter No 767/2023-24 Date: 01.12.2023 has responded to Dr Hemanth Bedekar Director, Maharashtra Chapter letter dated 6th March 2023 and among others, the following critical issues were sought to be replied to:

- 1) Maharashtra Chapter has been behaving like a rebel/ independent organization violating the BSI bye laws.
- 2) Despite NGC decision way back 13-12-2021 to change the designation of State Chapter Head from 'Chairman' to 'Director' Dr Bedekar openly defied the NGC decision and continue to use the designation 'Chairman'.
- 3) The MC MaC have gone ahead and unauthorisedly created Vidharba Center even after they were dissuaded from creating it as there is no provision the Bye laws. Dr Bedekar termed the decision of NGC as ill fated.
- 4) Even the head of the Vidharba Centre is unauthorisedly and against the Bye Laws designated as 'Chairman' by MaC.
- 5) Despite repeated reminders and phone calls MaC did not submit MC accounts. Hence it was decided by the NGC not to release the funds unless the accounts are submitted.
- 6) The accounts and expenditures were not placed before the MC.

Management Committee and the Maharashtra Chapter General Meeting at all. Dr Bedekar was directed to immediately obtain approval which they did not comply with till date. Dr Bedekar and MaC had unnecessarily and unauthorisedly spent Rs 1,05,175/- on travelling (details of which not submitted) , 74,062/- for food (details not submitted) , Rs 76,648/- for conference hall, Rs 49,932/- for advertising expenses, Rs 23,000 for photography and Rs 20,000 for May June Newsletter.

- 7) Oral complaints were received that Mr Bedekar illegally paid remuneration @ Rs Ten thousands per Newsletter from BSI funds to his daughter, when actually a team of members toiled and worked hard for it. Consequently the newsletter publication came to a halt.
- 8) Violating BSI bye laws Dr Bedekar and his team have sourced funds of Rs 4,48,838/- directly to MC bank account and spent and NGC is not even aware of it till BSI Head Office (HO) saw the bank statements, when actually the amount should have been credited to the Bank account of HO which would have released based on schedule of approved action plan.
- 9) Dr Bedekar and his MaC have deliberately violated hierarchy Rule 16 of bye laws. The use of words by Dr Bedekar such as 'prejudice', 'attitude' , 'one up man ship', 'displeasure', in his email were questioned.

When no response came for several months from Dr Bedekar, Director, Maharashtra Chapter, letter No. BSI/BSI - MC/799/2024-25 dt 10-6-2024 was issued to Dr Bedekar, Dr Medha Joshi and Mrs Prarthana Mahakal giving 10 days' time to respond to the serious irregularities committed by MaC.

In response, Dr Bedekar vide his Email dated 19th June 2024 sent the expenditure statement and annual activities statement but did not responded to any of the serious charges made by BSI HO in its letter dated 1-12-2023 . Therefore it's clear that he has no answers to the said serious procedural and financial irregularities committed by him as Director, BSI Maharashtra

Chapter Management Committee.

Further thereafter Dr Bedekar stopped communicating with HO and in his place Dr Medha Joshinhas has been communicating.

By letter No BSI/Notice/812/2024-25 dt 16-7-2024 addressed to Dr Medha Joshi and Mrs Prarthana Mahakal, they were asked to inform if they concur with the replies given by Dr Bedekar with regards to the irregularities committed by MC.

Dr. Medha Joshi responded vide email dated 20 July 2024 and said she will concur with the replies given by Dr. Bedekar and conveyed that she would like to remain a sincere member of The Bamboo Society of India and would sincerely abide by all the Rules and Regulations mentioned in the Bye-Laws. That they, as a Team honestly feel that they have not created any problems to the Bamboo Society of India and they solemnly swear that they will not create any problems further. That they will step down from their positions, dissolve the SGC and give way to the New Committee. However no reply to the irregularities raised by HO have been answered.

Mrs Prarthana Mahakal responded vide email dt 23rd July 2024 and informed that she had resigned as Treasurer in Dec 2023 and Regarding the said communicated irregularities, they have tried their best to perform the role for the betterment of this sector under the guidance of the Director and Associate Director of BSI-MC and she Wishes to continue working with BSI in the favour of the community in the future. However no reply to the serious irregularities raised by HO have been answered.

Further it has come to our notice from the Emil dated 16th July 2024 of Mrs Medha Joshi that MoU was signed with BAIF without the knowledge of BSI HO though in the bye laws it's clear that only Chairman BSI can sign such MoUs. On this count also Dr Bedekar and his team blatantly violated byelaws. The copy of the MoU was not shared until Chairman requested to share.

By email dated 3rd August 2024 of BSI HO addressed to Dr. Medha Joshi, the displeasure of BSI that Maharashtra Chapter did not have the courtesy to inform about signing the MoUs with BAIF and obtain prior approval from the BSI head office was conveyed. That Vidarbha

Centre was set up without the permission of head office when there was/is no provision for the same in the Byelaws. It was set up on the lines of a State Chapter. That they opened a bank account, collected money and expended it. There is no provision in the bylaws for all this. That this kind of conduct is highly objectionable and responsibility has to be fixed on the person(s) who took such initiatives.

In response Dr Medha Joshi responded stating that in future they will take prior approval of HO for entering into MoUs and that Emil has been sent regarding dissolution of Vidharba Centre.

Several irregularities were identified in the functioning of the Maharashtra Chapter, leading to the issuance of the above notices beginning on 1-12-2023. Despite ample time being given, we received a response from Dr. Bedekar only on 19.06.2024, which did not address the irregularities raised.

In light of the serious financial irregularities and the defiance to the BSI State chapter guidelines dated 12-12-2021, the revised BSI bye laws 2024, defiance to the BSI Governing Council directives to abide by the guidelines/byelaws, particularly the continued use of the title 'Chairman' despite the NGC's directive (Guideline No. BSI/Guideline/SC-670/2021-22 dated 13.12.2021) to change this designation to 'Director', misuse of funds, sourcing of funds directly without knowledge of BSI GC/HO, spending of funds without any approved action plan from BSI GC and without GCs/HO's knowledge and also without approval of

Management Committee / Maharashtra Chapter General Meeting , entering in to MoU with other organisations like BAIF in violation of bye laws even without knowledge of BSI GC/HO, let alone obtaining its approval, especially when the bye laws provide for only the Chairman to sign any MoUs with other organisations, clear insubordination by Dr Bedekar and executive members of MaC and keeping GC/HO in the dark about their activities, formation of Vidharba Centre without knowledge of BSI GC/ HO though there are no provisions for creation of such centres and failure to dissolve the Center despite repeated decisions and directions given by NGC/GC/HO to dissolve and instead supported the center in sourcing funds and carrying out their programs in utter defiance of the direction of GC/ HO, etc , it has been decided to terminate the BSI Life Membership of Dr Bedekar, Dr Medha Joshi and Smt Mrs.

Prarthana Mahakal, Shri Ajay Patil, Shri Ashish Nagpurkar and Shri Ashish Kaswa from contesting any elections of BSI or its State Chapters with immediate effect as per Office Order No.BSI/Barring members-OM/824/2024-25 Date 10.09.2024.

However, the serious irregularities committed by Dr Bedekar as the head of Management Committee are unpardonable necessitating exemplary disciplinary action so that no other BSI members resorts to such misconduct in future and hence under Bylaw No 6.2.3 it was proposed to terminate the BSI membership No. I.L.M-404/2014 of Dr. Bedekar Hemant Shantaram and approval of the

GC members was obtained and hence the following order.

ORDER

In light of the above, the BSI membership No. I.L.M-404/2014 of Dr. Bedekar Hemant Shantaram is hereby terminated effective immediately under BSI Bye-Law Clause No. 6.2.3. Dr. Bedekar Hemant Shantaram is also barred from reapplying for BSI membership in the future.

Chairman Bamboo Society of India

Copy communicated to all GC Members and all BSI members for information .



[Punati Sridhar]
Chairman
Bamboo Society of India

Copy communicated to all Governing Council Members and all BSI members for information



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No.BSI/WAG /786/2024-25

Date: 26.11.2024

Office Order

Sub: Termination of BSI Membership of Mr. Ullhas Ambegaonkar-I.L.M/1296/2021.

Ref: 1. Letter issued to Mr. Ullhas Ambegaonkar by Chairman, BSI (No. BSI/WAG/786/2024-25 dated 03.05.2024).

2. Proceedings of the Governing Council Meeting of Bamboo Society of India held on 24.05.2024 (No. BSI/GCM-Minutes/777/2024-25 dated 10.06.2024, Agenda Item No. 3(d)).

3. Letter issued to 7 Governing Council members absent from the GC meeting on 24.05.2024 (No. BSI/GCM/798/2024-25 dated 10.06.2024).

As per the letter cited at Ref. 1. Mr. Ullhas Ambegaonkar was issued a Show Cause Notice regarding the following irregularities:

- Criticism and Disruption:** Mr. Ambegaonkar was found bitterly criticizing the Chairman, BSI and the Governing Council members in the BSI WhatsApp group. This behavior caused unnecessary confusion and disruption among group members.
- Removal from WhatsApp Group:** Due to the above actions, the Chairman, BSI was compelled to remove him from the WhatsApp group.
- Habitual Criticism:** Mr. Ambegaonkar has repeatedly been critical of BSI's functioning, and he was asked to explain why his membership should not be terminated.

- **No contribution:** this kind of misconduct even when his contribution to BSI has been nil.

During the Governing Council (GC) meeting held on 24.05.2024, the members present unanimously decided to terminate the Individual Life Membership of Mr. Ullhas Ambegaonkar from BSI.

As per the Bye-laws of BSI, the opinion of all GC members is required for such decisions. Consequently, a letter (Ref. 3) was sent to the 7 GC members who were absent from the meeting, providing them with the relevant agenda para and requested their approval or disapproval via email by 15.06.2024. However, no responses have been received to date.

Decision: In light of the above, it is hereby ordered that:

1. The Life Membership of Mr. Ullhas Ambegaonkar is terminated with immediate effect.
2. Mr. Ambegaonkar shall not be eligible to apply for or rejoin as a member of BSI in the future.



Chairman
Bamboo Society of India

Copy communicated to Mr. Ulhas Ambegaonkar, At po Ambegaon, Tq. Nilanga, Maharashtra -413530 for information.

Copy communicated to Governing Council Members, BSI for information.

Copy communicated to all Maharashtra Chapter members for information.