



ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Held on September 15, 2024, from 9.00 AM onwards at SVM Grand Nagole Hotel, Surya Nagar, Saraswathi Colony, Nagole, Hyderabad, Telangana 500039.



INDIAN COUNCIL OF ASTROLOGICAL SCIENCES (REGD.), CHENNAI

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"Shreyas", No. 1, Ground Floor, Francis Joseph St., George Town, Chennai 600001

(Regn. No.276/1984)

MINUTES OF THE 39th ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (AGM) OF ICAS

Date: 15th September 2024 (Sunday)

Time: From 9.00 AM onwards

Venue: SVM Grand Nagole Hotel, Surya Nagar, Saraswathi Colony, Nagole, Hyderabad, Telangana 500039

Chaired by: Hon. National President Prof. A. B. Shukla

1. PRAYER:

The meeting began with a prayer rendered by Hon. National Vice President, Dr. Soumya Kumar.

2. ROLL CALL OF THE MEMBERS OF ICAS:

The meeting commenced on time with a quorum, attended by 338 members. Hon. National Secretary Shri Pradeep Y Gowda informed the members that during the 132nd MCM, held on September 14, 2024, the MCM body unanimously selected Hon. Controller of Examinations Shri Navneet Kaushik as the Working President of ICAS, and Hon. National Vice President Dr. Soumya Kumar as the Working Controller of Examinations. He added that both will take on these additional responsibilities alongside their current roles. The announcements were warmly received with applause from the members.

3. WELCOME ADDRESS BY HON. NATIONAL PRESIDENT/CHAIRPERSON OF THE 39TH AGM OF ICAS:

3.1. SPIRITUAL ASTROLOGY: Hon. National President Prof. A. B. Shukla began by quoting a verse from the Katha Upanishad, where Yama tells Nachiketa:

**“sarve vedā yatpadam āmananti tapāṁsi sarvāṇi ca yadvadanti |
yadicchanto brahmacaryaṁ caranti tatte padaṁ saṁgrahaṇa bravīmyomityetat ||”**

This verse, he explained, symbolizes a message from the older generation (Yama) to the younger generation (Nachiketa) to continue progressing forward. Prof. A.B. Shukla emphasized that astrology is essentially about understanding, reflecting on, and resolving one's past rinanubandhana (karmic debts). He noted that the true purpose of astrology is to help individuals understand their present circumstances and the underlying reasons for them. However, Prof. A.B. Shukla expressed regret that astrology today is often limited to predicting mundane events such as job transfers, marriages, and ailments, rather than focusing on spiritual growth and self-realization. He shared that his journey into spiritual astrology began under the guidance of the late Dr. B. V. Raman, who introduced him to the Bhagavad Gita and the Purusha Suktam, and chose him to work in the area of spiritual astrology. Since then, Prof. A.B. Shukla has dedicated himself to this field and never looked back. He credited his research

on concepts such as *Paraspar Bhavat Bhavam*, *Ati Durgam Kaal*, *Vyakt-Avyakt*, *Anurakta Graha*, and *Ati-Varti Nakshatras* to his focus on spiritual astrology. He further recalled how, within a span of one month, both Dr. B. V. Raman and the Shankaracharya of Kanchi Mutt affirmed that his life's purpose was to work in the realm of spiritual astrology.

3.2 IDENTIFYING THE NEXT GENERATION: Prof. A. B. Shukla reflected on his contributions to ICAS by fostering future leaders within the organization. He acknowledged several key individuals, including Hon. National Vice President Dr. Soumya Kumar, Hon. Registrar of Examinations Shri Vishwanath Holla, Hon. Deputy Controller of Examinations Shri Manish Malhotra, Hon. Controller of Examinations Shri Navneet Kaushik, Hon. Additional Controller of Examinations Shri Pankaj Shiv Sood, Hon. National Treasurer Shri Hitesh Sharma, former Hon. National Vice President Shri Jeyaram, and Hon. National Secretary Shri Pradeep Y. Gowda. Prof. A.B. Shukla fondly recalled the circumstances in which he had met many of them and shared his reasons for recognizing their potential and suitability for greater responsibilities within ICAS. He urged the younger generation to continue the work of ICAS and to lead the organization forward. To emphasize the importance of this generational transition, he quoted a verse from the Katha Upanishad:

“Uttiṣṭhata jāgrata prāpya varānnibodhata, kṣurasya dhārā nīṣitā duratyayā durgam pathastatkavayo vadanti.”

This verse, he explained, serves as a reminder of the challenging yet vital path ahead and the need for the new generation to rise, awaken, and carry the torch of leadership.

4. TO READ AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 38th AGM OF ICAS HELD AT MYSURU ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2023:

4.1. Hon. National Secretary sought the members' approval of the Minutes of the 38th AGM.

4.2. The Minutes of the 38th MCM were read and adopted unanimously without any amendment.

Proposed by: Shri. K Rangachari

Seconded by: Dr. Revati Vee Kumar

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

5.1. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: Hon. National Secretary reported that during the year under review (September 2023 to September 2024), ICAS saw a steady increase in new admissions, with nearly 3,000 new Life Memberships issued representing a growth rate of approximately 20% per semester. He further acknowledged the efforts of all Chapter Chairpersons, Chairmen, and Coordinators who have been instrumental in driving this growth on the ground for ICAS.

5.2. NEW CHAPTERS: Hon. National Secretary announced the opening of six new Centres over the past year, in locations such as Haldwani, Patna, Gurgaon, Lucknow, and Ramanathapuram and mentioned about the additional Centres which are in pipeline. He further informed the members that ICAS now has over 60 Chapters/Centres across India, with 58 of them currently

fully operational. He also shared the progress on the Legal Registration of the Chapters, an initiative started by the previous Hon. National Secretaries that about 90% of the Chapters have completed the registration process as Societies or as Trusts. He further mentioned that the National Body is working on developing a standardized legal format to simplify this process for new Chapters, enabling them to fulfil this legal requirement efficiently during their formation.

5.3. DIGITIZATION EFFORTS: Hon. National Secretary informed members about the introduction of a new online MCM Attendance System over the past year. As ICAS returns to more offline MCMs in the post-COVID era, this system has significantly boosted participation, fostering greater debate and engagement. He was pleased to report that MCM attendance has now surpassed 80%. Additionally, he announced that a beta version of the digitized Astrological Magazine has been made available to all MCM members, with plans to expand access to all Life Members once further enhancements are made.

5.4. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: Hon. National Secretary announced that his Office is working on developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for various roles and responsibilities within ICAS. Once finalized, these SOPs will be circulated to MCM members for review and approval.

5.5 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Hon. National Secretary emphasized that greater focus is being placed on research activities. As part of this initiative, he shared that the Controller of Examinations (COE) is in the process of revamping and relaunching the Jyotish Bhushan guidelines to enhance the quality and scope of research within ICAS.

5.6. NEW COURSE LAUNCH: Hon. National Secretary announced the successful launch of a new course on Nakshatras, starting with Nakshatra Praveena and Nakshatra Visharada. Additionally, a new course, Jyotish Prabuddha, is under development, which will serve as the third-year course in the series following Jyotish Praveena and Jyotish Visharada. He further mentioned that the plans are also in progress to introduce specialized certificate courses, including one on Event-Time Prediction in Horary Astrology.

5.7. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: Hon. National Secretary addressed the opportunities and risks posed by the rise of artificial intelligence (AI). A dedicated team is currently exploring ways ICAS can leverage AI for the organization's benefit while mitigating potential risks, particularly concerning the misuse of AI in examinations. He assured members that AI will be a major focus in the coming year.

With these updates, the Hon. National Secretary concluded his report.

6. PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023-24:

Hon. National Treasurer Shri Hitesh Sharma presented the Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2023-2024 before the Annual General Body for their adoption and approval and the same were unanimously approved by the General Body.

Proposed by: Shri. S Tyagarajan

Seconded by: Shri. V E Rajendran

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25:

Auditing firm **A.N. Kapali and Co.**, Hitananda-II, 1st Floor, 48, Lavelle Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 56001, headed by Sri. Kapali was unanimously approved as Auditors for the Financial Year 2024-25. The General Body also unanimously approved increase in the audit fee paid to the Auditing Firm for the year Financial Year 2024-25.

Proposed by: Shri Narasimha Alse

Seconded by: Dr. Soumya Kumar

8. SPECIAL RESOLUTION FOR PROPOSAL/APPROVAL OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:

“It is resolved that the funds of Indian Council of Astrological Sciences (Regd), Chennai, shall be utilized for buying space for ICAS office. Further, priority is to be given for expenses towards the quality development of Faculty members, Conferences, Seminars, Workshops, Setting up of Library, Research work, Publication of Bulletin, Newsletter, Website, Purchase of Books and Address book of all the members with their particulars.”

The honourable members unanimously approved the same.

Proposed by: Shri Satish Sharma

Seconded by: Shri Paras Ram Vashisht

9. PLACING OF AMENDMENTS TO BYE-LAWS OF ICAS BEFORE THE AGM FOR ITS APPROVAL:

Hon. National Secretary informed the General Body the need to amend the Bye-Laws including the creation of new post of Associate National Vice Presidents, aimed at recognizing the loyalty and dedication of key individuals; and increase in the number of posts of Sr. National Vice Presidents and National Vice Presidents. These amendments were circulated along with the Notice of the 39th Annual General Body Meeting for suggestions from the members and bring out in a structured new format without basic change of the Memorandum. It was discussed, deliberated and unanimously decided in the 132nd MCM and to submit to the AGM for its approval, the proposed Amendments to Bye-Laws. The Hon. National Secretary presented the following three proposed amendments to the ICAS Bye-laws for approval by the General Body through a Special Resolution:

- **Amendment to Clause 4.3.2:** Replace the phrase “for the post of National Vice Presidents” with “for the post of National Vice Presidents and Associate National Vice Presidents.”
- **Amendment to Clause 5.3.2:**
 - Replace the term “FIFTEEN” with “TWENTY NINE.”
 - Replace the phrase “3 Senior National Vice Presidents” with “5 Senior National Vice Presidents.”
 - Replace the phrase “8 National Vice Presidents” with “10 National Vice Presidents, 10 Associate National Vice Presidents.”
- **Amendment to Clause 5.5.3:** Replace the short title “National Vice President” with “National Vice President and Associate National Vice President:”

The following Special Resolution was passed unanimously:

"It was unanimously resolved to amend the Bye-Laws as submitted and file the same before the Registrar of Societies, Chennai Central for its approval."

Proposed by: Dr. M Anjaneyulu

Seconded by: Dr. Revati Vee Kumar

10. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COE:

10.1. ENROLLMENT: Hon. Controller of Examinations (COE) Shri Navneet Kaushik presented a detailed report on the COE's activities, highlighting a significant increase in examination applications. For the year ending March 31, 2024, there were a total of 5,070 applications, reflecting a 20% growth over the previous year. He noted that examinations for the five courses offered by ICAS are conducted in 6 languages, generating 84 question papers in two modes, resulting in a total of 168 papers for each examination cycle. Shri Navneet Kaushik expressed his gratitude to the Chapter Chairpersons, Chapter Chairmen, Chapter Coordinators, Faculty Members, Question Paper Contributors, Reviewers, and Evaluators for their support in conducting ICAS examinations smoothly.

10.2. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: Hon. Controller of Examinations (COE) also provided an update on the Faculty Development Program (FDP) for the Nakshatra Praveena course, which was conducted over 8 weekends in the last financial year. He acknowledged the valuable contributions made by Dr. Soumya Kumar for delivering the program, Shri Hitesh Sharma for coordinating it, and Shri Ashish Sharma for his support in making the FDP a success.

10.3. PUBLICATIONS: Hon. Controller of Examinations (COE) also informed the General Body about the release of three significant books in the last year:

- "Dr. BV Raman: Jottings from His Astrological Diary... and More" by Smt. Gayatri Devi Vasudev.
- "Ashtakavarga Bhagya Bindu" by Shri Vinay Aditya.
- "Marriage: The Stars Speak" edited by Shri Vinay Aditya, which is a collection of articles by the late Justice S.N. Kapoor.

10.4. AYANAMSHA: Hon. National President Prof. A.B. Shukla used this opportunity to address the issue of Ayanamsha, clarifying that ICAS has not officially endorsed any specific Ayanamsha. While Lahiri Ayanamsha is used for consistency in teaching and examination purposes, Life Members and Students are free to use whichever Ayanamsha they prefer for their personal practice.

11. ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR:

11.1. APPOINTMENT OF WORKING PRESIDENT: Hon. National Secretary sought the approval of the General Body for the appointment of Shri Navneet Kaushik, Hon. Controller of Examinations, as the Working President of ICAS. This appointment was previously discussed, deliberated, and unanimously decided during the 132nd MCM held on Sep 14, 2024, with the

resolution to present it to the AGM for final approval. Upon submission to the General Body, the appointment of Shri Navneet Kaushik as Working President was unanimously approved.

Proposed by: Shri Anil Kaushal

Seconded by: Shri S Tyagarajan

11.2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND DONATIONS: Senior National Vice President Dr. M. Anjaneyulu took this opportunity to express his heartfelt gratitude to the organizing team for their hard work in making the event a resounding success. He especially recognized former National Vice President Shri Jeyaram and the team of volunteers from the Secunderabad Chapters for their diligence and commitment in ensuring the program ran smoothly. Dr. M Anjaneyulu also acknowledged the generous donations made by various Chapters and individuals, detailed as follows:

- Prayagraj Chapter: INR 11,000
- Vishakhapatnam Chapter: INR 20,000
- Delhi Chapter 1 (Karol Bagh): INR 20,000
- Delhi Chapter 4 (Kamakshi Mandir): INR 20,000
- Delhi Chapter 5 (East Delhi): INR 20,000
- Delhi Chapter 6 (Rohini): INR 20,000
- Ranchi Chapter: INR 11,000
- Jaipur Chapter 1: INR 10,000
- Jaipur Chapter 2: INR 10,000
- Alwar Chapter: INR 10,000
- Bengaluru Chapters (1, 2, 3, and 4): INR 50,000 collectively
- Mysuru Chapter: INR 25,000
- Chennai Chapter: INR 15,000
- Chandigarh Chapter: INR 25,000
- Pt. Satish Sharma (Senior National Vice President): INR 10,000
- Shri Gopalakrishna (Former National Secretary of ICAS): INR 25,000
- Shri Jeyaram (Former National Vice President of ICAS): INR 50,000

Additionally, the Honorable COE announced a donation of INR 100,000 from the COE office to support the event. Furthermore, Shri Sateesh Kumar, a student from the Secunderabad Chapter, generously pledged a donation of INR 300,000 to the ICAS Corpus Fund.

11.3. APPRECIATION BY FORMER NATIONAL SECRETARY: Former National Secretary and Vice President Shri Gopalakrishna addressed the gathering, recalling the first conference held in Secunderabad back in 1995 under the leadership of the (Late) Dr K.L. Manohar, which was attended by central ministers and the then president of the IBA. He reminisced about the 2007 conference in Secunderabad, where Shri Jeyaram contributed to a successful Souvenir. Shri Gopalakrishna expressed his happiness over the appointment of Shri Navneet Kaushik as Working President, praising the transition to younger leadership as a positive step. He also expressed confidence in Dr. Soumya Kumar's capabilities to elevate the COE office to new heights. Hon. National President Prof. A.B. Shukla and Hon. National Vice President Shri VE Rajendran presented a token of appreciation to Shri Gopalakrishna.

11.4. STUDENT SATISFACTION INDEX: A Life Member present inquired whether ICAS plans to measure student satisfaction through a Student Satisfaction Index. Both Hon. COE Shri

Navneet Kaushik and Hon. Secretary Shri Pradeep Y Gowda agreed that this is an excellent suggestion and committed to gathering feedback to develop such an index.

11.5. RELEASE OF SOUVENIR: Hon. National Secretary Shri Pradeep Y Gowda requested Hon. National President Prof. A.B. Shukla to release the Conference Souvenir, spearheaded by National Vice President Shri V E Rajendran, which includes a collection of over 30 articles. Prof. A.B. Shukla, along with other dignitaries present on stage, officially released the Souvenir.

11.6. AWARD OF TITLES: Titles recognizing the contributions of faculty members from the Secunderabad Chapters were awarded, including the title of Jyotish Kovid to the following individuals:

- Smt. Padmaja Prakash
- Shri P. S. Rama Rao
- Shri P. Venkatakishore
- Smt. P. Lalitha
- Shri V. Rajasekhar
- Shri Vignesh Nagarajan
- Shri Ramesh
- Smt. Sujatha.

12. VOTE OF THANKS: Hon. Joint Secretary Shri Muralidhar D presented the vote of thanks, beginning by expressing his heartfelt appreciation to the Hon. National President, the Hon. Senior National Vice Presidents, the Hon. National Vice Presidents, the Hon. COE and his team, the Hon. National Treasurer, the Hon. National Secretary, various Chapter Chairpersons, Chapter Chairmen, Chapter Coordinators—especially those from the Secunderabad Chapters—as well as the organizers, hotel staff, catering personnel, photographers, media representatives, and all attendees for their contributions to the event's success.



Hon. National President

Prof. AB Shukla



Hon. National Secretary

Shri. Pradeep Y Gowda