



ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING

Held on September 28, 2025, from 11.00 AM onwards at Best Western Plus
Chandigarh Mohali, Plot No. D257, Industrial Area Sector 75, Sahibzada Ajit
Singh Nagar, Punjab 160055.



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 40th ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (AGM) OF ICAS

Date: 28th September 2025 (Sunday)

Time: From 11.00 AM onwards

Venue: Best Western Plus Chandigarh Mohali, Plot No. D257, Industrial Area Sector 75, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Punjab 160055.

Chaired by: Hon. National Working President Shri Navneet Kaushik

1. PRAYER:

Meeting started with the prayer rendered by Shri Mantu Sharma, faculty member of ICAS Chandigarh Chapter.

2. ROLL CALL OF THE MEMBERS OF ICAS:

The meeting commenced at the scheduled time with required quorum. Over 157 members were present in the meeting.

3. WELCOME ADDRESS BY HON. NATIONAL WORKING PRESIDENT/CHAIRPERSON OF THE 40TH AGM OF ICAS:

3.1. WISHES FROM HON. NATIONAL PRESIDENT: Hon. National Working President, Shri Navneet Kaushik, informed the members that the Hon. National President, Prof. A. B. Shukla, was unable to attend the Annual General Meeting due to health reasons. Shri Kaushik conveyed Prof. Shukla's best wishes for the successful conduct of the meeting and his confidence in the steadfast commitment of ICAS members to furthering the mission and objectives of the organization.

3.2. DEVELOPMENT IN ICAS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS: Hon. National Working President, Shri Navneet Kaushik, apprised the members of the significant developments that have taken place in ICAS over recent years. He noted that, owing to the exigencies of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization had adopted Online Teaching and Examination Systems on a wide scale. In the past year, however, there has been a gradual return to traditional modes, with the majority of examinations now being conducted Offline.

He further observed that the number of ICAS Chapters and students has increased considerably, which has necessitated a corresponding enhancement in the organization's

teaching and academic capacities. He expressed satisfaction that ICAS has been able to successfully strengthen these resources, thereby expanding its reach across the country. Shri Kaushik expressed his confidence that this progressive trajectory would continue and that the vision of the Founder President, Late Dr. B. V. Raman, would be progressively realised through the collective efforts of ICAS members.

3.3. UPHOLDING THE ETHOS OF ICAS: Hon. National Working President, Shri Navneet Kaushik, observed with satisfaction that the majority of Life Members of ICAS continue to view Jyotisha not merely as a profession or means of livelihood, but as a sacred pursuit; a passion, a path of service to humanity, and a means for continuous intellectual and spiritual enrichment. He urged all members to uphold and strengthen this noble ethos, which forms the cornerstone of ICAS' identity and enduring legacy.

4. TO READ AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE 39th AGM OF ICAS HELD AT HYDERABAD ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2024:

4.1. Hon. National Secretary sought the members' approval of the Minutes of 39th AGM.

4.2. Minutes of the 39th MCM were read and adopted unanimously without any amendment.

Proposed by: Shri. Revathi Vee Kumar

Seconded by: Shri. Subramanya Tantri

5. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

5.1. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES: Hon. National Secretary, Shri Pradeep Y. Gowda, reported that the year under review was marked by steady growth in membership, the strengthening of chapters and centres, the introduction of improved governance measures, academic initiatives, decisive organizational actions, and a landmark collaboration in the field of Vaastu Shastra education with a premier institution in Bengaluru.

He informed the members that the Life Membership of ICAS has grown substantially, reflecting the continued trust and confidence reposed by seekers of astrological knowledge in the institution. Between 11 September 2023 and December 2024, a total of 2,895 life memberships were allotted. During 2025 alone, ICAS surpassed this figure with 2,560 new members, representing a growth rate of approximately 13%, with consistent progress recorded across all semesters. He further noted that this remarkable growth has been achieved without aggressive marketing efforts, but rather by maintaining ICAS's traditional methods of structured teaching, rigorous courses, and long-term student engagement.

5.2. NEW CHAPTERS: Hon. National Secretary apprised the gathering that the organizational network of ICAS has expanded further during the year. As of date, ICAS operates through 59 active Chapters and 3 Centres across the country. In 2025, two new Centres were inaugurated, one at Madurai and another in Bengaluru. These additions, he noted, strengthen ICAS's institutional foundation and provide students with greater access to structured learning and research opportunities, while also ensuring uniformity and administrative efficiency across the organization.

5.3. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: Hon. National Secretary informed the members that Standard Operating Procedures are being progressively rolled out across multiple functional areas. Each SOP, upon implementation, will establish clear and consistent guidelines governing ICAS's academic, administrative, and research activities, thereby enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accountability at all levels. He also reported that firm disciplinary action has been taken against individuals found to be in violation of the conflict-of-interest clause, reiterating that integrity remains the cornerstone of ICAS's institutional ethos, and that no compromise will be tolerated on matters of ethics and organizational discipline.

5.4. DIGITIZATION EFFORTS: Hon. National Secretary informed the members of a major initiative undertaken during the year, digitization of The Astrological Magazine, which will soon be made accessible to members. Through this project, members will be able to browse and study over five decades (50–60 years) of archival issues, representing a valuable repository of research and astrological literature available for study at their convenience.

5.5. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Hon. National Secretary reported that the Jyotish Bhushan guidelines were relaunched by the COE team with a renewed emphasis on research-oriented study. A revised list of approved guides has been circulated and information will soon be shared regarding student enrolment procedures for the Jyotish Bhushan program. He also noted that Chapter Chairpersons would serve as the primary point of contact for guiding students on this process.

5.6. NEW COURSE DEVELOPMENT: Hon. National Secretary informed the members that a new advanced course titled Jyotish Prabhuddha is currently under conceptual development. Implementation will commence once operational aspects are finalized. A dedicated committee will be constituted to evaluate its structure, scope, and target student groups, ensuring that the course meets contemporary educational needs while maintaining the traditional depth and rigor of ICAS teaching.

5.7. ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION: Hon. National Secretary was pleased to announce a historic milestone in the history of ICAS, achieved on 25 July 2025, with the inauguration of Bengaluru ICAS Chapter V, established in academic collaboration with BMS School of Architecture, one of Karnataka's premier architecture institutions. This event marks the beginning of a path-breaking academic association between ICAS and mainstream technical institutions. It fulfils the long-cherished vision of the Founder President, Late Dr. B. V. Raman, who envisioned the integration of traditional knowledge systems like Jyotisha and Vaastu Shastra into formal academic education. Through this collaboration, Vaastu Shastra has, for the first time, been introduced as an additional academic offering in a mainstream technical curriculum. The association also includes the conduct of Jyotisha classes at the BMS campus. This initiative represents a significant step in bridging traditional wisdom with contemporary education.

Hon. National Secretary acknowledged that this achievement was made possible under the leadership of Hon. National President Prof. A. B. Shukla, who entrusted the National Secretary's Office and the National Vice President Dr. Revathi Vee Kumar from the same region with the responsibility of spearheading the project. Given the importance of this new Centre, its progress will be closely monitored by the National Body. Shri Pradeep Gowda also shared photographs of the inauguration ceremony and the dedicated classroom facilities at the BMS College of Architecture campus.

6. PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024-25:

Hon. National Treasurer Shri Hitesh Sharma shared the audited accounts for the Financial Year 2024-2025. He informed the members that for the financial year ending on March 31, 2025, overall ICAS accounts had ₹1,63,98,252 whereas it was ₹1,35,75,896 in the prior year. Income across all the accounts of ICAS was ₹29,72,188 for the financial year ending on March 31, 2025, compared to ₹24,13,794 in the prior year. Excess of income over expenditure for the same year was ₹18,04,431 whereas it was ₹13,83,752 in the prior year. Hon. National Treasurer Shri Hitesh Sharma also made an appeal to the chapter representatives and life members present to donate generously to the ICAS corpus fund. Hon. National Secretary Shri Pradeep Y Gowda then requested the body to adopt and approve the financials presented which was consented by the body.

Proposed by: Shri. S Tyagarajan

Seconded by: Shri. Anil Kaushal

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 2025-26.

Proposed by: Dr. Anjaneyulu

Seconded by: Dr. Revati Vee 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 honorable members unanimously approved the same.

Proposed by: Shri. Satish Sharma

Seconded by: Shri. Parasram Vashishth

9. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COE:

9.1. EXAM APPLICATIONS: Hon. Working Controller of Examinations (COE), Dr. Soumya Kumar, presented the Annual Report of the Controller of Examinations of ICAS. He informed the members that in April 2021, the number of examination applications received stood at 407. By December 2024, this number had increased more than eightfold, reaching 3,382 applications, a remarkable indicator of the growing academic engagement across ICAS. Dr. Kumar further noted that during the June 2024 examination cycle, 70% of students appeared for online examinations, with an attendance rate of 81% (i.e., 19% absenteeism). As of the most recent examination session, the trend has shifted significantly, with 62% of students now opting for offline (physical) examinations and absenteeism reduced to just 18%. He expressed satisfaction that this data clearly demonstrates a smooth and successful

transition back to offline examinations, reflecting both administrative preparedness and student adaptability.

9.2. PUBLICATIONS: Working COE, Dr. Soumya Kumar, shared that in the forthcoming months, the Council of Examinations (COE) will be releasing two significant publications: “How to Read Bhāvas and Navāmsas” by Late Dr. T. S. Vasan, and The Second Enlarged Edition of “Splendour of Vargas”, which now includes four new articles and an expanded content volume of nearly 100 additional pages. These releases represent ICAS’s continuing commitment to high-quality scholarly resources and academic excellence in Jyotisha education.

9.3. FINANCIALS: Hon. Registrar of Examinations, Shri Vishwanath Holla (in his capacity as the Treasurer of COE), presented the financial report of the COE for the year 2024–2025. He reported that the total income for the year stood at approximately ₹54 lakhs, with a surplus of ₹16 lakhs. The bank balance of the COE is currently ₹51 lakhs, and the stock of ICAS publications is valued at approximately ₹14 lakhs, bringing the total assets of the COE to ₹65 lakhs. He further informed the members that the audited balance sheets of both ICAS and COE are available for reference on the ICAS website, under the ‘Resources’ section in the Member Zone, ensuring full transparency and ease of access for members.

9.4 ENHANCEMENTS IN THE ICAS WEBSITE: Hon. Registrar of Examinations, Shri Vishwanath Holla, briefed the members on the recent technological enhancements made to the ICAS website and academic portal. He shared that the entire user interface has been comprehensively revamped to improve functionality and user experience. The redesigned student dashboard, chapter chairman dashboard, and MCM dashboards have been made more intuitive, responsive, and visually engaging. The website now also enables life members to directly update and upload documents related to changes in address, mobile number, or email ID, eliminating the need to route such updates through the National Secretary or the Registrar of Examinations.

Further, from 1 November 2025, two major digital initiatives will be launched:

1. WhatsApp API Integration – Members will start receiving communications such as exam registration confirmations, OTPs, and notifications directly via WhatsApp for quicker and more reliable communication.
2. AI-Based Interactive Agent – A real-time AI assistant will be deployed on both the public website and the academic portal, capable of responding to visitor queries instantly and assisting members with relevant information.

In addition, the COE will provide dedicated chapter websites under the ICAS umbrella domain, granting each Chapter a unique subdomain (e.g., chaptername.icasindia.org). Chapters will have direct access to upload and manage their own information, announcements, and activities furthering ICAS’s mission of standardization, visibility, and digital empowerment across all Chapters.

10. Any other item with the permission of the Chair Election:

10.1. DROPOUT RATES: Hon. Senior National Vice President, Dr. Anjaneyulu, expressed concern over the high dropout rate of 58% observed during the transition of students from Praveena to Visharada levels. He urged all the members especially the office bearers to reflect upon and analyse the underlying causes whether they stem from inadequate communication, lack of course relevance, issues in teaching methodology, or any other factor. Identifying these root causes, he emphasized, will enable the organization to take

corrective measures to enhance student retention. Dr. Anjaneyulu also commended the Controller of Examinations (COE) for the consistent and timely conduct of examinations and prompt declaration of results. He further shared that a music school in Secunderabad has graciously offered its entire infrastructure for ICAS to conduct its courses, an encouraging development for the institution's academic initiatives.

10.2. AWARD OF TITLES: The following honorary titles were conferred upon distinguished life members of ICAS in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the field of Astrology and to the organization:

- **Jyotish Pradipta:** Shri Anil Kaushal, Shri S. Tyagarajan, and Shri Rohit Vedi.
- **Jyotish Kalamani:** Shri Vijay Kumar Narula, Dr. Gulzar Singh Sandhu, and Smt. Kiranjit Kaur.
- **Jyotish Vachaspati:** Shri Vinod Kumar Vyas and Smt. Jyoti Mehra.
- **Jyotish Kovid:** Smt. Sukhdeep Kaur Ghotra, Smt. Karuna Sharma, Smt. Mamta Sharma, Smt. Priti Singh, Shri Manmohan Parashar, and Shri Siddharth Seth.

10.3. HONOURING OF NATIONAL TEAM: Hon. National Vice President, Shri Anil Kaushal, invited the Working COE, Dr. Soumya Kumar, and the Chapter Chairman of the Chandigarh Chapter, Shri Harsh Kumar Lakhanpal, to jointly honour the Hon. National Secretary, Hon. Registrar of Examinations, and Hon. National Treasurer for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the successful conduct of the 40th Annual General Meeting (AGM). He further requested the Hon. National Working President and the two Senior National Vice Presidents present to extend special recognition to Dr. Soumya Kumar for his contribution to the proceedings.

10.4. CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHANDIGARH CHAPTERS: Hon. National Treasurer, Shri Hitesh Sharma, acknowledged and expressed gratitude for the monetary contributions made towards the Chandigarh Chapter by the following Dignitaries and Chapters:

- Hon. Senior National Vice President Pt. Satish Sharma, Alwar, Jaipur-II, Udaipur, Delhi-VI, Delhi-VII, and Mysuru Chapters: **Rs. 10,000 each.**
- Delhi-I, Delhi-II, Delhi-IV, and Ranchi Chapters: **Rs. 11,000 each.**
- Chennai Chapter: **Rs. 15,000.**
- Secunderabad Chapters: **Rs. 30,000 collectively.**
- Bengaluru Chapters: **Rs. 50,000 collectively.**
- COE: **Rs. 100,000.**

He appreciated their generosity and commitment to supporting the ongoing activities and development initiatives of the organization.

11. Vote of Thanks: Hon. National Treasurer Shri Hitesh Sharma rose to present the vote of thanks. He began by expressing his heartfelt thanks to Hon. National President for his blessings, Hon. National Working President, Hon. Senior National Vice Presidents, Hon. National Vice Presidents, Hon. Associate National Vice Presidents, Hon. Working COE, Hon. National Secretary, various Chapter Chairpersons especially those of the host Chapters, the life members and all attendees.



Hon. National President

Prof. AB Shukla



Hon. National Secretary

Shri. Pradeep Y Gowda