

Minutes of IACTA Annual General Body Meeting (GBM) 2026

Date: 28 February 2026 (Saturday)

Time: 4:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Venue: Hall B, IACTACON 2026 Convention Centre, Visakhapatnam

Chairperson: Dr. Suresh G. Nair, President, IACTA

Meeting Conducted By: Dr. Kumar S, Honorary Secretary, IACTA

Office clerk: Mr. Manoj

The meeting was audio and video recorded. The agenda had been circulated to all members in advance via email.

The President, Dr. Suresh G. Nair, called the meeting to order and invited the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Kumar S, to commence the proceedings. Following a formal introduction, the Secretary requested non-members to leave the hall and invited the President to deliver the welcome address.

1. Welcome Address

Dr. Suresh G. Nair, President, IACTA, formally started the Annual General Body Meeting and welcomed all members. He expressed his gratitude for the support and cooperation extended by the membership during his tenure as President.

The President acknowledged the exemplary contributions of the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Kumar S, particularly in ensuring the timely conduct of Executive Committee meetings, regular publication of newsletters, and effective coordination among committee members. He emphasized the importance of maintaining structured discussions, adhering to allotted timelines, and ensuring completion of all agenda items within the scheduled meeting duration.

In response, Dr. Kumar S thanked the President for his leadership, guidance, and continued support, which significantly contributed to the efficient functioning of the Association. He then outlined the agenda and sequence of discussions for the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous GBM held at IACTACON 2025 Kochi

The corrected minutes of the Annual General Body Meeting held on **22 February 2025 during IACTACON 2025, Kochi**, had been circulated to members and uploaded on the Association website for review.

The General Body unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

Proposed by: Dr. Rajesh Chand

Seconded by: Dr. Anand Kumar

3. Elections for the various posts of IACTA Executive Council – 2026

The Secretary announced the Executive Council members elected unopposed for the 2026 term:

South Zone (3 Posts)

- Dr. Sujatha
- Dr. Parameswaran
- Dr. Divya Gopal

Central Zone (2 Posts)

- Dr. Srinivasulu Reddy
- Dr. Bhavya Reddy

West Zone (2 Posts)

- Dr. Yogesh Zanwar
- Dr. Varsha Kulkarni

The Secretary then announced the positions requiring elections:

Associate Vice President (1 Post)

Contestants:

- Dr. Naman Shastri
- Dr. Madhusoodana Bhovi

Executive Council Member – East Zone (1 Post)

Contestants:

- Dr. Soumi Das
- Dr. Arupratan Maiti

Dr. Srinivasulu Reddy was appointed as the Chief Election Officer, assisted by Dr. Vaishali Badge and Dr. Yogesh Zanwar. After presenting the election process and voting guidelines, voting commenced with the approval of President.

4. Update on IACA Membership

The Secretary informed the General Body that the proposal regarding membership with the International Academy of Cardiac Anesthesia (IACA) had been deliberated during the previous GBM held at Kochi and subsequently reviewed during the post-conference and mid-term Executive Committee meetings.

Based on the recommendations of the Executive Committee, IACTA had opted for a **Limited Free membership** with IACA, without any financial commitment.

The Secretary reported that IACTA had received confirmation of a two-year limited membership effective from **22 December 2025**. As no membership fee was paid, the Association would not be entitled to board representation or voting rights. IACTA has been

recorded as the fifth member organization under IACA. A decision regarding full membership will need to be taken within the two-year period.

The President invited brief discussion on the matter, limiting participation to three speakers in favour and three against, with a maximum speaking time of two minutes each.

Key Discussion Points

- **Dr. Prabhat Tiwari** recommended deferring full membership, citing IACTA's significant growth in membership, academics, and publications, along with current financial considerations.
- **Dr. P. K. Neema** supported the view that additional evaluation of IACA's activities would be beneficial before making a long-term commitment.
- **Dr. Uday Gandhe** presented details regarding recent member societies that had joined IACA and encouraged continued discussion before reaching a final decision.
- **Dr. Chirojit Mukherjee**, Secretary General of IACA, outlined the benefits of full membership, including board participation, voting rights, and founder-member status. He also noted that membership fees for India had been reduced.
- **Dr. Thomas Koshy** highlighted the importance of international collaboration and supported pursuing founder-member status to strengthen IACTA's global engagement.
- Although a vote, together with the general election votes, was conducted to decide whether to join the IACA, the final voting results were withheld. This was because the General Body did not approve proceeding with membership in the IACA. Additionally, members at the General Body Meeting (GBM) requested that the voting results not be released until all members had reviewed the IACA bylaws and provided their consent to join.

Following the discussion, the President informed the house that IACTA would continue under the existing Limited Free membership category and review IACA's activities over the coming year before considering full paid membership. The General Body unanimously endorsed this approach.

5. Secretary's Report

a) Progress Since the Previous GBM and Newsletter Publication

The Secretary presented an overview of activities undertaken since the previous GBM, including updates from:

- IACTA Bylaws Committee
- Women's Participation Committee
- IACTACON 2024 Nagpur Accounts Review Committee
- Selection Committee for Orations and Lifetime Achievement Award 2027
- ICCA Selection Committee for Vacant Posts

He also reported the successful publication of the IACTA Newsletter in **May 2025** and **October 2025**, highlighting major activities and achievements featured in both editions.

b) Report on National and International Travelling Fellowships (2025–2026)

The Honorary Secretary, **Dr. Kumar S**, informed the General Body that no National Travelling Fellowships were awarded during the 2025–2026 period. One candidate, **Dr. Shekar Suman Saxena (MMM, Chennai)**, had been approved for the International Travelling Fellowship; however, due to personal commitments, he was unable to commence the fellowship and has subsequently withdrawn. He may reapply in the future should he wish to pursue the opportunity.

Report on National and International Travelling Fellowships (2026–2027)

The Secretary further reported that one application for the **National Travelling Fellowship 2026–2027** had been approved for **Dr. Anmol Singh, Kolkata**. However, the applicant subsequently withdrew the application, having already completed the proposed training in June 2025, rendering retrospective funding ineligible.

One application for the **International Travelling Fellowship 2026–2027** was approved for **Dr. Anirudh Patel**, who is scheduled to undertake the fellowship in Leipzig in May 2026. The official IACTA approval letter was issued after fulfilment of all eligibility requirements.

Despite extending the application deadline until **30 November 2025**, no additional applications were received for either the National or International Travelling Fellowship programs. All the members felt that the applications for National and International Fellowship should remain open through the year rather than a fixed window period. Based on the general opinion of GBM, henceforth the Travelling Fellowship application and approval will remain open through the year.

Proposed by: Dr Murali Chakravarthy

Seconded by: Dr. Syama Sundar

c) Membership Approval (April 2025 – January 2026)

Dr. Kumar S presented the membership report for the period from **April 2025 to January 2026**. The Association's total membership stood at **2,324**, distributed across zones as follows:

- South Zone – 794
- West Zone – 558
- North Zone – 416
- Central Zone – 331
- East Zone – 174

During the reporting period, **122 new Life Members** were enrolled, with membership numbers ranging from **CLK2221 to CLP2343**. In addition, **seven Associate Members** were enrolled.

The membership report was approved by the General Body.

Proposed: Dr PSN Raju

Seconded by: Dr. P. K. Neema

d) Report on Women's Participation Committee

The Secretary informed that the **Women's Participation Committee** comprises **Dr. Gopinath R (Chairman)**, **Dr. Kumar S (Member Secretary)**, and members **Dr. Rajesh Chand**, **Dr. Vaishali Badge**, **Dr. Soumi Das**, and **Dr. Madhusoodan R. Bhovi**.

The Committee was constituted to promote and strengthen the participation of women within IACTA, including representation in the Executive Council, regional branches, scientific conferences, faculty positions, and chairperson roles.

The current Executive Council representation consists of:

- North Zone – 3 EC Members
- West Zone – 3 EC Members
- Central Zone – 2 EC Members
- East Zone – 1 EC Member
- South Zone – 4 EC Members

The Secretary noted that the Committee's draft recommendations had been presented and approved in principle during the Mid-Term Executive Committee Meeting. The recommendations focused on enhancing female representation within the Association and increasing participation at both regional and national levels.

Recommendations of the Women's Participation Committee

The Committee Chairman, **Dr. Gopinath R**, presented the following recommendations:

- Mandatory inclusion of at least one female representative in all regional branches to encourage greater participation of women in IACTA activities.
- Increased involvement of women, particularly younger members, as speakers and chairpersons at national conferences to foster leadership, inclusivity, and professional development.
- Introduction of reserved female Executive Council positions in the North, South, and West Zones upon completion of the tenure of currently elected members.
- Development of a rotational representation policy for the Central and East Zones, similar to established reservation models.
- Conduct of a survey among women delegates attending IACTACON 2026, Vizag, by **Dr. Soumi Das** and **Dr. Vaishali Badge**, with findings to be presented at the subsequent meeting.
- Formal communication to all regional branches encouraging women members to assume leadership positions, thereby creating a pathway for future representation at the national level.
- Clarification that the objective is to enhance participation and inclusivity rather than strictly limit representation to a fixed percentage.

The recommendations of the Women's Participation Committee were unanimously approved.

Proposed by: Dr Shapna Varma

Seconded by: Dr. Uday Gandhe

Relaxation of Eligibility Criteria for Women Candidates

The Committee further recommended relaxation of eligibility criteria for women contesting Executive Council positions for a period of five years (**2027–2031**), including:

- Women below 35 years of age may apply for Executive Council positions.
- Conference attendance eligibility to be revised from **5 out of 7 conferences** to **3 out of 5 conferences**.

The proposal was approved by the General Body. **Proposed by:** Dr Sangeeta Umbarkar
Seconded by: Dr. Rajesh Chand

Proposal for Formation of an Internal Compliance Committee

Dr. Kumar S presented a proposal to establish an **Internal Compliance Committee (Grievance and Disciplinary Committee)**.

The President, **Dr. Suresh G. Nair**, informed members that a complaint regarding alleged misconduct involving a senior member and a female member had been received through official communication. In view of the need for an appropriate mechanism to address such matters, the formation of an Internal Compliance Committee was proposed.

The Committee would:

- Provide a safe, confidential, and structured mechanism for members to raise concerns.
- Address professional, ethical, disciplinary, and other sensitive non-clinical issues.

The proposal was accepted in principle and will be developed further for formal approval.

Proposed by: Dr. Vaishali Badge
Seconded by: Dr. Shapna Varma

e) Selection of Chief Editor, Annals of Cardiac Anaesthesia (ACA) – One Year in Advance

The Secretary informed that, based on the recommendation of the current Chief Editor, **Dr. Mukul Kapoor**, the position of **Chief Editor, Annals of Cardiac Anaesthesia (ACA)** will henceforth be selected one year prior to the completion of the incumbent's tenure.

This approach will provide a one-year overlap period, allowing the incoming Chief Editor to gain experience and understand the journal's operational processes under the mentorship of the outgoing Chief Editor. Dr. Mukul Kapoor will complete his tenure during **IACTACON 2027, Kolkata**, following which the selected successor will assume charge.

The proposal had been approved during the Mid-Term Executive Committee Meeting and was endorsed by the General Body.

Proposed by: Dr PK Neema
Seconded by: Dr. Prabhat Tiwari

The Secretary further informed members that a notification inviting applications would be issued immediately, with a one-month application period. Following evaluation by the Selection Committee, the successful candidate will be designated as **Chief Editor (Select)** during the transition period.

f) Update on IEL Website Migration and Approval of Vendor Quote

Dr. Kumar S informed that the previous IEL website service provider, **Three Brackets**, had unexpectedly withdrawn support with only 15 days' notice. Consequently, the Association undertook an expedited migration to **A1 Logics**, whose appointment had previously been approved by the Executive Committee on **30 March 2025**.

The IEL team successfully secured and transferred the complete ten-year data archive from the previous platform. The new website was launched successfully on **27 January 2026**.

Members were informed that email notification functionality remains limited due to current **TRAI regulations**, a matter that would be further addressed by **Dr. Hemamalini**, Chief Editor, IEL, during her report. In the interim, a dedicated WhatsApp community has been established to facilitate member communications.

The President, **Dr. Suresh G. Nair**, and Secretary **Dr Kumar S** congratulated **A1 Logics**, the IEL team, **Dr. Hemamalini**, and **Dr. Kumar C** for their exceptional efforts in ensuring a seamless migration and successful launch of the new platform.

The negotiated project cost for establishing the new website was **Rs 6.09 lakhs**, which was approved by the General Body.

Proposed by: Dr. Uday Gandhe
Seconded by: Dr. Thomas Koshy

g) Revision of IEL Editorial Board Guidelines

Dr. Kumar S presented the proposal to review and update the **Indian Echo Library (IEL) Editorial Board Guidelines**, based on recommendations from the Bylaws Committee, with the objective of aligning IEL governance practices with those of the **Annals of Cardiac Anaesthesia (ACA)**.

The key revisions proposed were as follows:

1. Bank Account Provision

- The existing provision requiring a separate bank account in the name of IEL shall be removed.
- IEL will continue to function under the financial framework of IACTA.

2. Editorial Board Constitution

- The Editorial Board shall be constituted solely at the discretion of the Chief Editor, in accordance with standard international journal practices.
- There shall be no ex-officio, permanent, or advisory positions on the Editorial Board.

3. Chief Editor Selection and Succession Planning

- The Chief Editor shall be selected one year prior to completion of the incumbent's tenure.
- A Senior Associate Editor will be identified in advance to facilitate a smooth transition.
- These provisions will be incorporated into the IACTA Bylaws.

4. Tenure Standardization

- The tenure of the IEL Chief Editor will be extended from four years to five years to ensure parity with ACA.
- The revised tenure structure will be implemented prospectively following completion of the current Chief Editor's term.

5. Associate Editor Appointments

- Applications for Associate Editor positions will be invited and reviewed against predefined eligibility criteria.
- Editorial experience may be considered as a desirable qualification while maintaining a merit-based selection process.

6. Integration of IEL and ACA Publications

- Suitable manuscripts submitted to IEL may be considered for publication in ACA under categories such as *Short Communications* or *Echo Corner*, subject to editorial review and formatting requirements.
- Discussions with the ACA Editorial Team are ongoing to streamline this process.

The General Body approved the proposed revisions, which will subsequently be incorporated into the IACTA Bylaws.

Proposed by: Dr. Naman Shastri

Seconded by: Dr. Harish Ravulapalli

h) Revision of Ex-Officio Tenure

The Secretary, **Dr. Kumar S**, presented the agenda regarding the tenure of the Ex-Officio positions of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and ICCA Registrar, which was currently recorded as three years. He informed the General Body that differing interpretations existed regarding the tenure period, with some members indicating that it had historically been one year. However, no definitive documentation could be located to confirm the original provision.

Dr. Thomas Koshy clarified that the tenure of the ICCA Registrar as an Ex-Officio member had previously been established as one year. **Dr. Suresh G. Nair** also recalled serving as an Ex-Officio Secretary for only one year following completion of his elected term. Based on these discussions, it was proposed that the Ex-Officio tenure for the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and ICCA Registrar be standardized to **one year**.

The proposal was approved by the General Body.

Proposed by: Dr. P. S. N. Raju
Seconded by: Dr. Vaishali Badge

i) IACTA Executive Council Changeover Format

Dr. Kumar S presented a proposal originally suggested by **Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan** regarding the format of the Presidential and Executive Council changeover ceremony. It was noted that the current practice of conducting the handover immediately after the GBM was often informal and rushed, providing limited opportunity to appropriately recognize the contributions of the outgoing President and Executive Council members.

Various alternatives were discussed, including modifying the timing and format of the transition ceremony. Following deliberations, the General Body agreed to continue with the existing arrangement for the present year. The matter will be reviewed further, and a revised changeover format may be considered in future meetings.

j) Formation of Committee for National Conference Guidelines

The Secretary proposed the formation of a committee to develop comprehensive guidelines for the conduct of future IACTA National Conferences.

It was agreed that the committee composition would be finalized subsequently, drawing upon members with prior conference organization experience. The committee will be tasked with developing standardized guidelines covering:

- Infrastructure and venue requirements
- Sponsorship expectations
- Financial obligations towards IACTA
- Minimum requirements for conference-hosting cities and institutions
- Criteria for evaluation and approval of conference bids

The committee's role will be advisory and policy-oriented, focusing on establishing objective standards rather than managing individual conferences.

The proposal was approved.

Proposed by: Dr. Uday Gandhe
Seconded by: Dr. Vaishali Badge

k) Update on Correspondence with the National Medical Commission (NMC)

Dr. Kumar S informed that the proposal to engage with the **National Medical Commission (NMC)** regarding recognition of IACTA academic programs, including **FIACTA** and **FTEE**, had been under discussion for the past two years.

A formal letter, approved by the President and the IACTA Registrar, was submitted to the President of the NMC, **Dr. Abhijat Sheth**, on **28 November 2025**. Despite subsequent follow-up communications, including a reminder sent in January 2026, no response has been received to date.

Members recommended pursuing additional follow-up through personal meetings and professional contacts, particularly through members based in Delhi, in coordination with the Associate Vice President, **Dr. Rajesh Chand**. Dr Rajesh Chand was requested to have a meeting with NMC director in future and make a formal request

I) Selection Committee Report – Orations and Lifetime Achievement Award (IACTACON 2027, Kolkata)

The Secretary presented the report of the Selection Committee for the **Brig. P. N. Bhatt Oration**, **Dr. V. A. Punnoose Oration**, and the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for IACTACON 2027.

Nominations Received

Brig. P. N. Bhatt Oration

- Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan
- Dr. Srinivas Gadhinglajkar
- Dr. Vinayak Desurkar

Dr. V. A. Punnoose Oration

- Dr. Achal Dhir
- Dr. Uday Gandhe
- Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan

Subsequently, Dr. Uday Gandhe and Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan withdrew their nominations, leaving **Dr. Achal Dhir** as the sole nominee.

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Dr. A. M. Jagadeesh

The Selection Committee comprised the President, Associate Vice President, Secretary, and one Executive Council member from each zone, namely:

- Dr. Virendra Kumar (North Zone)
- Dr. C. Kumar (South Zone)
- Dr. Yogesh Zanwar (West Zone)
- Dr. Soumi Das (East and Central Zones)

Based on the committee's evaluation, the following selections were approved:

- **Brig. P. N. Bhatt Oration:** Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan
- **Dr. V. A. Punnoose Oration:** Dr. Achal Dhir
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Dr. A. M. Jagadeesh, Bengaluru

Proposed by: Dr. P. K. Neema

Seconded by: Dr. Thomas Koshy

m) Selection Committee Report – ICCA Vacant Positions

The Secretary presented the report of the Selection Committee regarding vacant positions within ICCA.

Nominations Received

ICCA Advisor

- Dr. Rajesh Arya
- Dr. Sandeep Mutha

As Dr. Sandeep Mutha declined the nomination, Dr. Rajesh Arya remained the sole nominee.

Dean Academics

- Dr. Sanjeeta Umbarkar

No nominations were received for the vacant Academic Council Member position.

Following evaluation, the Selection Committee recommended:

- **Dean Academics:** Dr. Sanjeeta Umbarkar – Selected
- **ICCA Advisor:** No appointment recommended, as the committee determined that the eligibility criteria and academic credentials were not adequately fulfilled.

The committee also recommended revisiting the ICCA Bylaws regarding the eligibility criteria and seniority requirements for the position of ICCA Advisor.

The report was approved.

Proposed by: Dr. Vaishali Badge

Seconded by: Dr. Naman Shastri

In addition, the Secretary informed the General Body that due to the untimely demise of **Dr. Vishwas Malik**, the tenure of the Dean Academics may be adjusted to **two years** (this period alone), instead of the standard three-year term, to facilitate synchronized elections for the entire ICCA Board in 2028.

Proposed by: Dr. Thomas Koshy

Seconded by: Dr. Shapna Varma

n) Renewal of Agreements with WIKIL and CA

The Secretary informed the members that the existing agreements with **WIKIL** and **Cardiology Annals (CA)** had been renewed.

- WIKIL Agreement – renewed for five years
- CA Agreement – renewed for three years

The WIKIL agreements were executed following consultation with and approval of the Chief Editor. This update was presented for information and record.

o) Update on IACTA Office Clerks and Salary Revision

Dr. Kumar S informed that **Mr. Satinder**, Office Clerk based in Ludhiana, had resigned from his position due to personal reasons and was relieved from service on **31 August 2025** after completing the required notice period.

The Secretary then highlighted the exemplary service rendered by **Mr. Manoj**, who has been providing administrative support to both IACTA and ICCA. Considering his dedication, years of service, and the prevailing cost of living, a proposal was placed before the General Body to revise his salary.

An initial proposal recommended increasing the monthly salary from **Rs 21,400 to Rs 25,000**, along with an annual increment of **7%** effective from April 2026.

During the discussion, **Dr. P. K. Neema** proposed a revised salary of **₹30,000 per month**. The members unanimously supported the recommendation and acknowledged Mr. Manoj's outstanding contributions with a round of applause.

Accordingly, it was resolved that:

- Mr. Manoj's salary be revised to **₹30,000 per month**
- An annual increment of **7%** be implemented effective from April 2026
- An additional office clerk may be recruited at the Kochi office to support administrative operations

Proposed by: Dr. P. K. Neema

Seconded by: Dr. Thomas Koshy

p) Institution of the Dr. I. S. Naidu Cash Prize Award

The Secretary informed about the proposal received from the IACTA Chennai to institute a new award in memory of **Dr. I. S. Naidu**, supported by a contribution of **Rs 15 lakhs** to IACTA.

Members unanimously acknowledged Dr. Naidu's role as a founder member and his invaluable contribution to the establishment and growth of IACTA. It was therefore agreed that the proposal should be taken forward.

A committee was constituted to formulate recommendations regarding the award structure and implementation:

- Dr. P. S. N. Raju – Chairman
- Dr. Mahesh Vakamudi
- Dr. Murali Chakravarthy
- Dr. Nedumaran K.
- Dr. Sanjeeta Umbarkar
- Dr. Harish Ravulapalli
- Dr. Kumar S – Member Secretary

Proposed by: Dr. Thomas Koshy

Seconded by: Dr. Vaishali Badge

q) Collaboration with ACTACC

Dr. Kumar S informed that the **Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia and Critical Care (ACTACC), United Kingdom**, had formally expressed interest in establishing an academic collaboration with IACTA. The request was conveyed by **Prof. Gudrun Kunst**, President of ACTACC.

Dr. Suresh G. Nair elaborated that ACTACC had shown considerable interest in strengthening ties with IACTA, particularly given the significant contribution of Indian cardiac anesthesiologists to the specialty in the United Kingdom.

The proposed collaboration would focus on academic and scientific exchange and would not involve any financial commitment. Areas of collaboration include:

- Representation at each other's annual conferences
- Participation in Board and Executive meetings
- Joint development of guidelines and consensus statements
- Collaboration in education, training, and research initiatives

The proposal was unanimously approved by the General Body.

Proposed by: Dr. Murali Chakravarthy

Seconded by: Dr. P. S. N. Raju

6. Conference Bidding Application for IACTACON 2029

The Secretary informed that only one bid had been received for hosting **IACTACON 2029**. The application was submitted by the **Society of Cardiac Anaesthesiologists, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, under the leadership of **Dr. Satyajeet Misra**.

As no other applications were received within the stipulated timeframe, the General Body unanimously approved the allotment of **IACTACON 2029** to the **Society of Cardiac Anaesthesiologists, Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

Proposed by: Dr. PSN Raju

Seconded by: Dr. Uday Gandhe

7. Report on IACTA Bylaws Committee

The Secretary presented the report of the **IACTA Bylaws Revision Committee**, comprising **Dr. Mukul Kapoor (Chairman)**, **Dr. Thomas Koshy (Co-Chairman)**, **Dr. S. Kumar**, **Dr. P. S. N. Raju**, **Dr. Kanagarajan**, and **Dr. Srinivasulu Reddy**.

The Committee undertook a comprehensive review of the IACTA Bylaws through five dedicated meetings and prepared a consolidated draft incorporating amendments and additions. The revised bylaws were presented by Dr. Mukul Kapoor and Dr. Thomas Koshy.

Key amendments included:

- Eligibility for the posts of Associate Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Editor (ACA), and Executive Council Members was restricted to members residing and practicing in India.
- Provision for replacement of elected office bearers by the Executive Council in the event of relocation outside India for more than one year or in the event of death during the tenure of office.
- Revision of eligibility criteria and nomination processes for the posts of Secretary and Treasurer.
- Removal of provisions related to annual membership, which is no longer in practice.
- Revision and clarification of membership fee structures.
- Provision for printed journal copies to be supplied only upon payment.
- Standardization of eligibility criteria and selection procedures for awards and orations.

The Committee reported that all previously approved amendments from General Body Meetings held between **2015 and 2025** had been incorporated into the revised draft. The final document, comprising **21 amendments** (7 revisions and 14 new additions), was circulated among Executive Council members and approved during the Pre-Conference Executive Committee Meeting.

The General Body unanimously approved the revised bylaws.

Proposed by: Dr. P. K. Neema

Seconded by: Dr. Murali Chakravarthy

The Secretary expressed his appreciation to all members of the Bylaws Committee for their extensive efforts and informed the General Body that, following approval, the revised bylaws would be submitted for legal review and subsequently forwarded to the Registrar of Societies for registration of the **IACTA Bylaws Amendments 2026**.

8. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Nedumaran K, Treasurer, presented the financial report of the Association, outlining the major sources of income, expenditure patterns, and overall financial status.

Sources of Income

The principal sources of revenue included:

- Interest from Fixed Deposits
- Conference-related income
- IACTA and IACA membership fees
- Journal-related income

Major Expenditure Heads

Key expenditure components included:

- Journal publication expenses (annual deficit of approximately ₹5 lakhs, offset through ICA-related income)
- Maintenance and development of the IACTA and IEL websites
- Academic grants to Bengaluru and Medanta (₹3 lakhs each)
- Conference and meeting expenses
- Office rent, staff salaries, and administrative expenses

It was noted that most expenditure heads remained relatively stable, with variations primarily attributable to ICA-related income.

Financial Status

Financial Year Income		Expenditure
FY 2023–24	Rs 20 Lakhs	Rs 11 Lakhs
FY 2024–25	Rs 11 Lakhs	Rs 12 Lakhs

For the period **April 2025– January 2026**, income exceeded expenditure by **Rs 5.13 lakhs**.

Additional financial highlights included:

- Net surplus reduced from **Rs 31.41 lakhs (FY 2023–24)** to **Rs 19.88 lakhs (FY 2024–25)**.
- Current year surplus (2025–26) stood at **Rs 9.16 lakhs**.
- Total Association corpus was approximately **Rs 4.47 crores**.

Membership Income

- Total membership income: **Rs 39.90 lakhs**
- Total expenditure: **Rs 28.82 lakhs**
- Net positive balance: approximately **Rs 11 lakhs**, subject to adjustment for advance tax and pending liabilities.

The Treasurer highlighted that future conference-related revenue may decline, while growth in examination-related student memberships has contributed positively to financial stability. He also noted the impact of declining fixed deposit interest rates and emphasized the need for alternative revenue-generation strategies and prudent cost-control measures to ensure long-term financial sustainability.

The financial implications of obtaining full membership in IACA were also discussed. Members were informed that approximately **Rs 25 lakhs** is paid annually as income tax on fixed deposit interest. The possibility of utilizing a portion of available funds towards IACA membership as a means of optimizing tax liability was deliberated. A final decision will be taken after obtaining clarification from the Association's Chartered Accountant regarding tax deductibility.

The Treasurer's Report and audited accounts were unanimously accepted by the General Body.

Proposed by: Dr. P. S. N. Raju

Seconded by: Dr. Thomas Koshy

9. Report of the IACTACON 2024 Nagpur Accounts Review Committee

The Secretary informed the General Body that the **IACTACON 2024 Nagpur Accounts Review Committee** consisted of:

- Dr. P. K. Neema (Chairman)
- Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan
- Dr. S. Kumar
- Dr. Nedumaran K.
- Dr. Vinayak Desurkar
- Mr. Ashish Gupta (Chartered Accountant)

The Committee met on **13 August 2025, 16 December 2025, 22 January 2026, and 21 February 2026** to review the available financial records, examine observations, and formulate recommendations.

Dr. Nedumaran K., along with Committee Chairman Dr. P. K. Neema, presented the findings of the review. Based on the audited accounts and supporting documentation, the Committee identified several deficiencies in financial governance, including:

- Inadequate financial controls and discipline
- Procurement of unnecessary loans
- Payments made to entities lacking adequate justification
- Instances of non-compliance with applicable tax regulations

The Committee concluded that these deficiencies had adversely affected the confidence of National IACTA in the financial management practices of the Nagpur Chapter.

Recommendations of the Committee

i. Reinstatement of Mandatory Pre-Conference Site Evaluation

- Future National Conferences shall undergo mandatory technical and financial evaluation through on-site visits by the Senior Vice President and Treasurer prior to the Mid-Term Executive Committee Meeting.
- A joint assessment report shall be submitted to the Executive Council by the visiting office bearers and the Organizing Secretary.
- This process is intended to facilitate realistic financial planning, venue assessment, and early identification of potential compliance concerns.

Dr. Kumar clarified that, unlike the pre-COVID practice of conducting Mid-Term Executive Committee Meetings at the conference venue, the proposed model would involve only the Senior Vice President and Treasurer undertaking the site visit, thereby ensuring oversight while minimizing expenditure.

ii. Restriction on Hosting Rights

- The Nagpur Chapter shall not be considered for hosting any National IACTA Conference for a period of ten years.

iii. Suspension of Sponsorship and Institutional Privileges

- For a period of three years, academic activities organized by the Nagpur Chapter shall not be eligible for IACTA sponsorship.
- The Chapter shall not be permitted to use the official IACTA logo, monogram, or branding during this period.
- Individuals who served as organizers of IACTACON 2024 Nagpur shall thereafter remain ineligible to organize future IACTA academic activities or conferences.

iv. Restriction on Eligibility for Elected and Nominated Positions

- Key office bearers of IACTACON 2024 Nagpur with financial signing authority, namely the Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer, shall be ineligible to contest or hold elected or nominated positions within IACTA or ICCA for a period of three years.

v. Accountability and Governance Measures

- Individuals should not be listed as Patrons, Advisors, or Honorary Members solely for prestige or ceremonial purposes.
- All members listed in the Organizing Committee, irrespective of designation, shall share collective responsibility for governance, financial management, and compliance-related outcomes.

Following the presentation, **Dr. S. K. Deshpande**, Organizing Chairman, and **Dr. Vinay Kulkarni**, Organizing Secretary of IACTACON 2024 Nagpur, requested that a personal review of the accounts be undertaken by the IACTA Chartered Accountant along with a representative of the Review Committee before a final decision is reached.

The General Body accepted the request.

The President, **Dr. Suresh G. Nair**, informed the members that the Association's Chartered Accountant and a designated committee representative would undertake a visit to Nagpur for an independent review of the records. He further stated that if the findings of the on-site review corroborate the observations already documented by the Committee, the recommended disciplinary and corrective measures would be implemented.

The General Body unanimously approved this course of action.

10. ICCA Registrar's Report – Prepared by Dr. Satyajeet Misra presented by the Secretary

Since the ICCA Registrar, Dr. Satyajeet Misra, was unwell and unable to present the report, the ICCA report, prepared by him, was presented by the Secretary, Dr. Kumar S

Examinations (2025–26):

- Fellowship in Transesophageal Echocardiography (FTEE): 31 candidates
- Fellowship in Cardiac Anaesthesia (FIATA): 35 candidates
- Fellowship in Cardiac Critical Care (Paediatric) [FIATC (Paed)]: 5 candidates
- **Total candidates : 71**

He informed the members that the convocation protocol, as approved during the GBM, had been shared with the IACTA Secretary. The protocol mandates formal attire and academic robes for all candidates and faculty participating in the convocation ceremony.

He further reported that the curriculum for the **Certificate Course in Echocardiography for Non-Cardiac Anaesthesiologists** had been finalized. The program will comprise:

- 24 online lectures per year
- Two hands-on workshops
- Maintenance of a logbook documenting 15 cases and submission of 5 video recordings
- An exit examination scheduled in June

The course will be launched online following GBM approval, with enrolments expected to commence during April–May 2026.

He also informed the house that the regulations governing the FTEE practical examination had been revised. Candidates will now be assessed based on aggregate marks rather than individual section-wise performance. Submission of a completed logbook has been made mandatory for examination eligibility.

Subsequently, He presented the approved guidelines, eligibility criteria, and faculty requirements for the Certificate Course in Echocardiography for Non-Cardiac Anaesthesiologists. He outlined the application review process, wherein applications will initially be scrutinized by the Dean (Echocardiography), followed by evaluation by the Core Committee comprising the Registrar and Deans. Final approval will be granted by the Vice-Chancellor and subsequently ratified by the Chancellor.

The course fee was approved at **Rs 50,000 per candidate**, and faculty remuneration was fixed at **Rs 5,000 per lecture**.

The proposal was unanimously approved.

Proposed by: Dr. Thomas Koshy

Seconded by: Dr. Naman Shastri

11. ACA Chief Editor's Report – Dr. Mukul Kapoor

Dr. Mukul Kapoor, Chief Editor of the *Annals of Cardiac Anaesthesia (ACA)*, presented the journal's progress report.

Key highlights included:

- Increase in the journal's impact factor from **0.9 to 1.1 and subsequently to 1.3**
- A **36% rise in manuscript submissions**, increasing from 273 to 383 submissions
- Significant growth in international submissions
- Expansion in journal size to address publication backlog, with an average manuscript waiting period of approximately six months
- Proposal to transition from a quarterly publication schedule to a **bi-monthly format (six issues annually)** from 2027, with estimated annual expenditure increasing from approximately **Rs 8 lakhs to Rs 12 lakhs**

Dr. Mukul Kapoor also presented the proposal regarding article processing charges, which had been previously approved by the Executive Committee during the Mid-Term and Preconference EC Meeting. The proposal included:

The General Body approved charging Rs 8000 (or USD 100) for Review Articles, Original Articles, and Case Reports, and Rs 4000 (or USD 50) for Letters to the Editor.

The charges will be taken on acceptance of the article only.

The charges will be effective for submissions wef. 01 July 2026.

The members unanimously appreciated the remarkable progress of ACA and commended Dr. Mukul Kapoor for his leadership and contributions. The GBM initially felt that charging would lead to a loss of submissions but the Chief Editor said that almost all journals are now recovering some amount from submission.

Proposed by: Dr. Prabhat Tiwari

Seconded by: Dr Murali Chakravarthy

12. Echo Library Chief Editor's Report – Dr. Hemamalini P.

Dr. Hemamalini P. presented the report of the IACTA Echo Library (IEL).

Key updates included:

- Successful completion of the website migration, with the new IEL website developed by A1 Logics going live on **27 January 2026**
- Secure backup and preservation of all data from the previous ten years
- Temporary use of WhatsApp for communication due to restrictions on bulk email services following new TRAI regulations
- Current manuscript submissions being received predominantly from Editorial Board members
- Anticipated increase in submissions following ACA recognition
- Clarification from ACA that all publications must undergo a formal peer-review process

Dr. Hemamalini expressed her sincere gratitude to IACTA, the IEL team, and A1 Logics for their invaluable support and efforts during the website transition.

President Dr. Suresh G. Nair and Secretary Dr. Kumar S. congratulated the IEL team, particularly Dr. Hemamalini and Dr. Kumar C., for their dedication and successful execution of the project.

13. IACTA Regional Branch Coordinator's Report – Dr. Srinivasulu Reddy

Dr. Srinivasulu Reddy announced the recipient of the **IACTA President's Trophy for the Best Regional Branch (2025–26)** based on the approved points-based evaluation system.

The **IACTA West Bengal Branch** was declared the winner of the award.

President Dr. Suresh G. Nair congratulated the West Bengal Branch and formally presented the President's Trophy to the West Bengal team.

14. Presentation of Janak Mehta Best Paper Award

President Dr. Suresh G. Nair distributed participation certificates to all six contestants who competed in the Janak Mehta Best Paper Award session.

The **Janak Mehta Best Paper Award** was jointly awarded to **Dr. Vartika Kanjani** and **Dr. Saranya N.** The winners received a shared trophy, winner's certificates, and a jointly awarded cash prize of **Rs 15,000**, sponsored by Dr. Yatin Mehta and Dr. Shilpa Bojaraj.

15. Report on IACTACON 2025 – Dr. Joel Devasia

Dr. Joel Devasia presented the conference report and audited accounts of **IACTACON 2025, Kochi**, and formally handed over a cheque of **Rs 11,60,717** to IACTA National. This amount was after deduction of 20% for the conducting society, the total profits from the conference being about 14,50,896.

He also provided an overview of conference registrations, scientific sessions, workshops, and other academic activities conducted during the conference.

The Secretary, Dr. Kumar S., along with the members, congratulated the organizing committee for the successful conduct of the conference and appreciated the exemplary teamwork demonstrated under the leadership of President Dr. Suresh G. Nair.

16. Presentation on IACTACON 2027, Kolkata – Dr. Dibyendu Khan

Dr. Dibyendu Khan, Organizing Secretary of IACTACON 2027, presented the proposed plans for the conference, including venue arrangements, scientific programme structure, registration tariffs, and other organizational aspects.

The Secretary, Dr. Kumar S., congratulated Dr. Dibyendu Khan and his team for their meticulous planning and preparations for the forthcoming conference.

17. Declaration of Election Results

The Secretary, Dr. Kumar S., congratulated the Election Committee comprising Dr. Srinivasulu Reddy, Dr. Vaishali Badge, and Dr. Yogesh Zanwar for the smooth and transparent conduct of the election process.

The Secretary then invited the Chief Election Officer, Dr. Srinivasulu Reddy, to announce the election results. Dr. Srinivasulu Reddy thanked the Election Committee members and volunteers for their support during the voting and counting processes.

The following candidates were declared elected:

- **Associate Vice-President:** Dr. Naman Shastri
- **Executive Committee Member (East Zone):** Dr. Soumi Das

18. Presidential Address and Closing Remarks – Dr. Suresh G. Nair

The President, Dr. Suresh G. Nair, thanked all members for their active participation and constructive contributions throughout the meeting.

He acknowledged the efforts and service of the outgoing Executive Committee members and expressed his appreciation for their commitment to the growth of the association.

Dr. Suresh G Nair reflected on his tenure as President with gratitude and satisfaction, stating that it had been a privilege to serve the association. He expressed confidence in the future leadership and formally conveyed his best wishes to Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan as he assumed the office of President.

19. Address by Incoming President – Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan

Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan felicitated the outgoing President, Dr. Suresh G. Nair, and Dr. Mohan Maharaj, Organizing Secretary of IACTACON 2026, Vizag, by presenting them with commemorative trophies and certificates.

He welcomed the newly elected Executive Committee members to the stage and thanked the membership for their confidence and support.

Dr. Ranjith B. Karthikeyan outlined his key priorities for the forthcoming term, emphasizing the development of a comprehensive **IACTA National Database** and further strengthening the association's academic initiatives.

He extended his best wishes to the newly elected office bearers and looked forward to a productive and successful tenure.

The Secretary, Dr. Kumar S., expressed his sincere appreciation to the outgoing President, Dr. Suresh G. Nair, for his guidance, leadership, and unwavering support throughout his tenure. He also thanked all members for their valuable contributions, cooperation, and active participation. The meeting was formally concluded with the National Anthem.