

6 NOV 2024

# GRAND LODGE OF INDIA



RW Bro. AJAY BHARGAVA  
Grand Secretary



Freemasons Hall, Janpath New Delhi 110001  
(M) +91-7827000157; 7827008300  
Email: office@grandlodgeofindia.in  
Web: www.grandlodgeofindia.in

No.530(477)

04<sup>th</sup> November 2024

The Regional Grand Secretary  
Regional Grand Lodge of SI  
Chennai.

Dear Sir and RW Brother,

With reference to your letter No.L.477/2024 dated 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024, I return herewith two copies of bye-laws of Lodge Wisdom No.477 duly approved by MW the Grand Master.

With best wishes

Yours fraternally

AJAY BHARGAVA  
Grand Secretary

# LODGE WISDOM №. 477

## BYLAWS

### PREAMBLE

It is necessary for good governance and well being of every institution and lawfully organized society that a set of Rules and Regulations be framed to guide its members on that, which is acceptable, and, equally, on the ones that are to be eschewed. Accordingly, the Master, the Wardens and the Brethren of LODGE WISDOM NO. 477, for the purpose of preserving that harmony which should always distinguish Freemasons, do hereby establish and agree to the following Bylaws under Rule 111 of the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge of India, which are consistent with and conform to the Laws contained in the Book of Constitutions of Grand Lodge of India.

LODGE WISDOM has been founded in Chennai under the Warrant dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 from the Grand Lodge of India and the Lodge was consecrated and constituted into a Regular Lodge, by M.W. Bro. Anish Kumar Sharma, OSM, M.W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of India, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Vaisakha in the Saka era of 1946, corresponding to the Gregorian calendar of Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 and is assigned the No. 477 on the roll of the Grand Lodge of India.

### MEMBERS

1. The Members of the Lodge shall comprise three classes, namely Subscribing Members and Honorary Members.
  - a) **Subscribing Members:** All the Founder Members and those members ordinarily residing within the limits of District of Chennai and elsewhere in India but initiated into or joined or rejoined the Lodge as per the provisions of Book of Constitution.
  - b) **Honorary Members:** Any Brother of good standing and worthy of such distinction by reason of his service to the Craft or to the particular Lodge, who is or within the previous year has been a subscribing member of a Regular Daughter Lodge, may be elected as such by the Lodge in accordance with Rule 142 of the Book of Constitutions.

### MEETINGS

2. The Regular Meetings of the Lodge shall be held at Satsang Freemasons' Hall, Mambakkam Chennai on the Third Saturday of every month.

### EMERGENCY MEETING

3. An Emergency Meeting of the Lodge may be held for the purposes mentioned in the Book of Constitutions and in accordance with the provisions thereof.

### ELECTION AND INSTALLATION MEETING

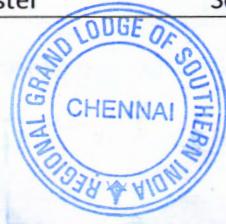
4. The Master of the Lodge shall be elected annually by ballot in Open Lodge at the Regular Election Meeting in the month of January and shall be installed at the next Regular Meeting in the month of February.
5. The Treasurer of the Lodge shall be elected annually by ballot in Open Lodge at the Regular Election Meeting in the month of January.

*Jesu*  
W.Bro. J Arasu Shankher  
W. Master

*Rajesh R*  
W.Bro. R Rajesh  
Senior Warden

*Shamugam*  
W.Bro. Shamugam RK Sundaram  
Junior Warden

*Vasudevan*  
W.Bro. R Vasudevan  
Secretary



Page 1 of 8  
For Grand Lodge of India

*Grand Secretary*  
Grand Secretary

- The Tyler shall be chosen annually by show of hands at the Regular Election Meeting in the month of January. The Tyler may be a serving brother.

## OFFICERS

- The Regular Officers of the Lodge shall comprise the Master, the Immediate Past Master, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Director of Ceremonies, the Senior Deacon, the Junior Deacon, the Inner Guard, and the Tyler.
- The Master may appoint as additional officers a Chaplain, an Assistant Director of Ceremonies, an Almoner, up to five Bearers of Volume(s) of Sacred Law, a Sword Bearer, an Organist, and a Assistant Secretary and up to five Stewards and such other officers as directed by the Grand Lodge of India.

## ADMISSION OF MEMBERS

- No person shall be considered for being admitted as a Member of the Lodge unless and until the Membership Committee of the Lodge considers and reports favourably to the Lodge upon the character, qualifications and general desirability of the candidates proposed for Membership.
- Applications for Initiation, Joining or Rejoining shall be deposited with the Secretary before the Meeting at which the Candidate is to be proposed and seconded.
- No Candidate for Initiation or Joining shall be initiated or balloted for until he has signed a declaration as set forth under rules 137 and 138 of the Book of Constitutions and he has been duly proposed and seconded and all fees therefor have been paid. However, a candidate desirous of becoming a Joining Member from a Lodge under the Grand Lodge of India need not sign the declaration under rule 138 of the Book of Constitutions.
- A Candidate for initiation or a Brother desirous of joining or rejoining the Lodge shall not be accepted if on the ballot, less than simple majority of the total number of votes polled by those present at the Meeting disapprove of the same. The Secretary shall communicate the result of the ballot to the candidate. In case of unfavorable ballot, the Fees shall be returned at the time when the information is furnished.
- A candidate or a Brother rejected on ballot for initiation or membership shall not be eligible to be proposed again until after the expiry of One Year from the date of such rejection.

## FEES

- The scale of Fees payable by a Candidate for Initiation, Joining or Rejoining shall be as follow:

### A. FEE STRUCTURE:

#### i. Initiation:

- Initiation Fee payable to the Lodge Rs.6,000/-

Additionally, the following fees are payable:

- Annual Subscription and Stewards' Fund payable to the Lodge (as in Bylaw 14(B))
- Contribution to Development Fund of Rs.6,000/-

  
W.Bro. J Arasu Shankher

W. Master

  
W.Bro. R Rajesh

Senior Warden

  
W.Bro. Shanmuga RK Sundaram

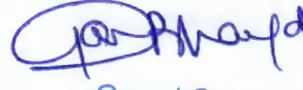
Junior Warden

  
W.Bro. R Vasudevan

Secretary



For Grand Lodge of India

  
Grand Secretary

Page 2 of 8

4. Initiation Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.

ii. Joining From Indian Constitution:

1. Joining Fee payable to the Lodge Rs.6,000/-

Additionally, the following fees are payable:

2. Annual Subscription and Stewards' Fund payable to the Lodge (as in Bylaw 14(B))
3. Contribution to Development Fund of Rs.6,000/-
4. Joining Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.

iii. Joining From Other Constitutions:

1. Joining Fee payable to the Lodge Rs.6,000/-

Additionally, the following fees are payable:

2. Annual Subscription and Stewards' Fund payable to the Lodge (as in Bylaw 14 (B))
3. Contribution to Development Fund of Rs.6,000/-
4. Joining Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.

iv. Re-Joining:

1. Re-joining Fee payable to the Lodge Rs. 5,000/-

Additionally, the following fees are payable:

2. Annual Subscription and Stewards' Fund payable to the Lodge (as in Bylaw 14 (B))
3. Re-joining Fees payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.
4. The above Fees are payable in advance before Initiation or Joining or Rejoining.
5. A candidate for Initiation, Joining or Re-Joining at any part of the year shall pay the full annual subscription.

**B. MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTION:**

The Annual Membership fees payable to the Lodge shall consist of:

1. Annual Subscription payable to the Lodge Rs. 5,000/-

Additionally, the following fees are payable:

*Jesu*  
W.Bro. J Arasu Shanker  
W. Master

*Rajesh*  
W.Bro. R Rajesh  
Senior Warden

*Shanmuga*  
W.Bro. Shanmuga RK Sundaram  
Junior Warden

*Bandar*  
W.Bro. P. V. Subdevan  
Secretary



Page 3 of 8  
For Grand Lodge of India

*Open*  
Grand Secretary

2. Annual dues payable to the Grand Lodge of India and to the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India as applicable from time to time.
3. All ruling Wardens, Master and Past Masters of the Lodge shall pay such additional sum in accordance with Rule 182 of the Book of Constitutions.

The above subscriptions shall be payable in advance each year and the official year shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> of February of every calendar year.

Honorary Members are not liable to pay any subscription fees.

15. Any candidate at whose request, an Emergency Meeting is convened shall pay a fee of Rs. 1,000/- and also such other expenses which are incurred on account of holding such Emergency Meeting.

#### **EXCLUSION**

16. Any Member, whose subscription remains unpaid for one year after it becomes due, shall be liable for exclusion in accordance with the provisions contained in Rule 124 of the Book of the Constitution.
17. Any Member, who has been excluded under Bye-Law No 16 may be permitted to rejoin, provided he pays all arrears due of him and the prescribed Fees for Rejoining and he is regularly proposed and balloted for favourably in accordance with Rule 138 of the Book of Constitutions.

#### **RESIGNATION**

18. Any Member of the Lodge may resign his membership by notifying such Resignation by a written notice to the Secretary or by a declaration in open Lodge. The resignation takes effect in accordance with Rule 158 of the Book of Constitutions. Any Member who has resigned his Membership, will be permitted to rejoin on payment of Rejoining Fee and any arrears due, but shall be subject to a fresh ballot.

#### **DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY**

19. i) The Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence, record the Minutes of the proceedings, issue Summonses for all Meetings, keep the Membership Register and the Declaration Book and prepare and submit all returns due to Grand Lodge and Regional Grand Lodge. He shall also be the Ex-officio Secretary of the Standing Committee.
- ii) The Secretary along with the outgoing incumbent in the said office, shall every year, soon after taking charge of his office but not later than the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge, prepare an inventory of all articles, books, and records of the Lodge and sign the same, countersigned by the Master and the Immediate Past Master and place the same before the Standing Committee for its inspection and information.
- iii) He shall also keep in safe custody all records and take charge of the Lodge seal.

#### **DUTIES OF THE TREASURER**

20. i) The Treasurer shall collect all fees and monies due to or held for the Lodge and shall issue official receipts for the same. He shall without undue delay deposit them in an appropriate account in the name of the Lodge at a Scheduled Bank approved by a resolution of the Lodge.
- iv) The Treasurer shall keep accounts of the General Fund, the Benevolent / Charity Fund and other Funds of the Lodge.

W.Bro. J Arasu Shankher  
W. Master

W.Bro. R Rajesh  
Senior Warden

W.Bro. Shanmuga RK Sundaram  
Junior Warden

W.Bro. R Vasudevan  
Secretary



For Grand Lodge of India

Grand Secretary

- v) The Treasurer, the Master and the Secretary shall carry out all financial transactions of Lodge. The Treasurer and any one of the other two officers, namely the Master or the Secretary shall be the joint signatories to the operation of the bank accounts and all financial transactions of the Lodge.
- vi) The Treasurer shall regularly enter a complete record of all transactions and monies passing through his hands in the proper books of accounts.
- vii) The Treasurer shall prepare a Statement of Accounts annually made up as on 31st January of each year showing the exact financial position of the Lodge and submit the same to the Audit Committee. The Treasurer shall at every Regular Meeting submit and read in open Lodge, a monthly Statement of Accounts.
- viii) The Lodge, by a resolution, may also invest its funds in approved Fixed Deposits or bonds in banks and Government institutions.

#### **DUTIES OF TYLER**

- 21. i) The Tyler shall prepare the Lodge for the meetings and see that every Brother, whether a Member or a Visitor is properly clothed, prior to admission into the Lodge. The Tyler shall also be in charge of the Collars, Aprons, etc., belonging to the Lodge.
- ii) In case the Tyler is a serving brother, he shall receive for the proper discharge of his duties, a fee as decided by the Standing Committee from time to time, for every meeting attended by him.

#### **PROPOSITIONS**

- 22. i) No motion unless it is purely formal or technical shall be raised in the Lodge at any Meeting for which Notice has not been given in the previous Regular Meeting or by a Communication addressed to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the meeting at which meeting such proposition is to be considered. The said motion shall be included in the Summons.
- ix) In the case of a tie on any vote arising out of consideration of such proposition(s), the Master shall have the right of a casting vote, which shall decide the ballot.
- x) No question once decided shall be raised again without the permission of the Master or until three months have elapsed after its last decision.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE**

- 23. i. The Master, incumbent Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary all Past Masters of and in the Lodge, and Two Master Masons elected at the Installation Meeting shall constitute the Standing Committee.
- ii) It shall be the duty of this Committee to check the accounts, make arrangements for the meetings and consider all the matter connected with the working of the Lodge, to inspect and check all the properties of the Lodge, and report upon general questions affecting the Lodge. The Master, if present shall preside and in his absence, the Immediate Past Master or in his absence, the senior-most Brother present shall preside. The role of the Standing Committee is to assist the Master and his officers in the well ruling of the Lodge; whereas the Standing Committee may make recommendations on financial matters of the Lodge such matters shall however have to be deliberated, voted and decided upon only in Open Lodge. The Standing Committee shall meet on such date and time as the Master may order once before each Regular Meeting. A quorum of the Standing Committee is deemed to have been met if minimum of Three members of the Committee assemble to transact any business pertaining to the

*Jesu*  
W.Bro. J Arasu Shankher

W. Master

*Rajesh*  
W.Bro. R Rajesh  
Senior Warden

*Shanmuga*  
W.Bro. Shanmuga RK Sundaram  
Junior Warden

*Vasudevan*  
W.Bro. R Vasudevan  
Secretary



Page 5 of 8  
For Grand Lodge of India

*Prashant*  
Grand Secretary

Lodge, and the result of its proceedings shall be reported at the following Regular meeting of the Lodge. Worshipful Master or the Secretary shall mandatorily attend all the standing committee meetings.

- iii) It shall be the duty of the Committee to submit at the Installation Meeting an Annual Report containing the details of the workings, events and status of the Lodge for the year and its recommendations for the consideration of the Lodge.
- iv) The Standing committee meeting to be held in the month of December of every month shall be conducted as Past Masters' Standing Committee meeting wherein all Past masters of and in the lodge shall be invited.

#### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

24. The Lodge shall elect at the Regular Installation meeting, a Membership Committee consisting of three members for the purpose considering and reporting to the Lodge upon the character, qualifications and the general desirability of the candidates proposed for membership of the Lodge.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

25. At the Regular Installation Meeting of the Lodge in January, every year, the Lodge shall elect two members to the Audit Committee, consisting of two members, not being any of the regular officers, to verify and audit the Annual Statement of Accounts prepared by the Treasurer under rule 129 of the Book of Constitutions. It shall be the duty of the Committee to submit at the Installation Meeting an Audited Statement of Accounts of the previous year for the adoption by the Lodge.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEE

26. The Worshipful Master may, at his discretion, appoint a Special Committee for the consideration of any special subject or matter as may be assigned by him. Such a Committee shall comprise four members of whom two shall be Past Masters of or in the Lodge besides the Secretary who will be the Ex-officio Secretary of the Special Committee. Three members shall constitute a quorum of any such committee.

#### SUMMONS AND NOTICE

- 27. i. Summons or notice which is to be sent to any member shall be deemed sufficiently served, if sent through Electronic Mail to the address stated in the Membership Register. Every notice of exclusion or intended exclusion shall be sent through registered post with acknowledgment due to the Last known address of the member.
- ii. All changes of addresses shall be invariably notified to the Secretary in writing by members immediately when they occur.

#### CONSTITUTIONS

28. In respect of matter not specifically and expressly provided for in the Bylaw, the Law and Regulations of the Grand Lodge of India as embodied in the Book of Constitutions and Bylaws of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India shall apply.

#### LODGE COLOURS AND DRESS REGULATIONS

29. The Colours of the Regalia shall be Sky Blue. The members of the Lodge will attend the meetings of the Lodge in White Shirt, Tie, Black Suit, Black Socks and Black Shoes.

  
W. Bro. J Arasu Shankher  
W. Master

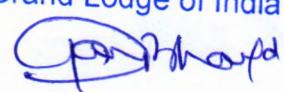
  
W. Bro. R Rajesh  
Senior Warden

  
W. Bro. Shannuga RK Sundaram  
Junior Warden

  
W. Bro. R Vasudevan  
Secretary



For Grand Lodge of India

  
Grand Secretary

## CEREMONIES

30. At every meeting, there shall be Masonic Education immediately after the ritual of the day.
31. At every meeting, there will be a "Moment of Contemplation" in the form of few minutes silence immediately after the Masonic Education.

## RELIEF

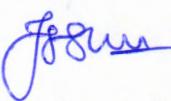
32. All applications for relief shall be made to the Lodge in writing setting forth the name, place of residence and present circumstances of the petitioner.

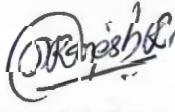
## ALMS (CHARITY FUNDS)

33. a. Immediately before the closing of the Lodge, regular or emergency, the charity box shall be taken round as directed by the Master in which the Brethren may deposit their freewill offerings.
- b. The amount thus collected shall be kept separate from the Lodge funds and appropriated to only such charitable purposes as the Brethren in Open Lodge may direct.

## BYLAWS

34. i) It shall not be competent for the brethren to abrogate, amend, add to or alter these Bylaws, unless the abrogation, amendment, addition or alteration, shall have been approved of at one regular Meeting and confirmed at the next Regular Meeting of the Lodge and approved by the R. W. the Regional Grand Master of Southern India and the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India.
- ii) In the event of any abrogation, amendment or revision of any Bylaw or Bylaws, the Secretary shall provide each Member with a copy thereof, after approval by the R. W. the Regional Grand Master of Southern India and the M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India.
- iii) Every Member of the Lodge on his Initiation or Joining shall be presented with a copy of these Bylaws and his acceptance thereof shall be deemed a pledge of his strict adherence and submission to the rules contained herein.

  
W.Bro. J Arasu Shankher  
W. Master

  
W.Bro. R Rajesh  
Senior Warden

W.Bro. Sharmuga, RK Sundaram  
Junior Warden

  
W.Bro. R Vasudevan  
Secretary



For Grand Lodge of India

  
Grand Secretary

Adopted unanimously at the consecration and constitution of the Lodge on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Chennai.

W.Bro.Jeyaprakash Arasu Shanker

Worshipful Master

W.Bro.Raman Rajesh

Senior Warden

W.Bro.Shanmuga RK Sundaram

Junior Warden

Secretary

18.10.2024

Approved by R. W. the Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Southern India, Chennai



Approved by M. W. the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of India, New Delhi

Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of India, New Delhi.....30.10.2024

  
For Grand Secretary  
Grand Lodge of India

Grand Secretary

W. Master

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Secretary