



THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
(Setup by an Act of Parliament)

AHMEDABAD BRANCH (WIRC) E-NEWSLETTER





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AHMEDABAD BRANCH (WIRC)

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Chairman



DESIGNED BY
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Chairman's Message



CA. Rinkesh Shah
Chairman,
ICAI - Ahmedabad (WIRC)

Dear Esteemed Members,

Warm greetings to all of you.

As I share my second communication as Chairman of the ICAI Ahmedabad Branch (WIRC), I would like to sincerely express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for your continuous support, encouragement, and the overwhelming trust you have placed in me. Your active participation and encouragement inspire us to strive harder and deliver meaningful value to the fraternity.

The month of March 2026 has been exceptionally vibrant and enriching for our branch, marked by a series of impactful programs and enthusiastic member participation.

We began the month with an **Interactive Meet with Newly Qualified CAs on 2nd March**, marking a remarkable milestone as it was organized within **24 hours of the declaration of the CA Final results**, thereby providing immediate guidance and a warm welcome to the newest members of our profession.

On **7th March**, we successfully hosted a **One Day Women Conference** themed *WINGS – Women | Innovation | Network | Growth | Success*, celebrating leadership, innovation, and collaboration among women professionals. I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation for the efforts of **CA Purushottamlal Khandelwal, CCM from**

Ahmedabad and Chairman – Women & Young Members Excellence Committee of ICAI, and CA Shikha Agarawal, Chairperson – Women & Young Members Excellence Committee, ICAI Ahmedabad, for their invaluable contribution in making this conference a grand success.

The **National Conference on Statutory Bank Audit held on 10th & 11th March** witnessed insightful deliberations and knowledge sharing by eminent speakers, equipping members with practical insights in the banking audit domain.

We also successfully conducted **two batches of the Certificate Course on Artificial Intelligence for Chartered Accountants (AICA) – Level 1**, held during **9th–11th March** and **23rd–25th March 2026**, reflecting our commitment to equipping members with future-ready technological skills.

Continuing our focus on emerging trends, the **Two Days Seminar on Use of AI in Bank Audit (18th–19th March)** provided valuable perspectives on leveraging technology in audit practices. I would also like to place on record my appreciation for the dedicated efforts of **CA Fenil Shah, Chairman of the IT Committee of ICAI Ahmedabad**, for successfully organizing this insightful program.

On **20th March**, we conducted a **Conference on Co-operative Bank Audit**, addressing key practical and regulatory aspects in this sector. The **Changeover Ceremony of WICASA on**



23rd March was a proud moment, reflecting the enthusiasm and commitment of our student members and the new leadership team.

On **27th March**, a **Seminar on Ind AS** was organized, covering recent developments and practical insights. I would like to sincerely appreciate the efforts of **CA Jiten Trivedi, Chairman – IND AS, Accounting & Auditing Committee**, for successfully organizing this knowledge-driven session.

The **Pickleball Tournament (27th–28th March 2026)** witnessed enthusiastic participation from members, promoting fitness, networking, and camaraderie. I would like to place on record my appreciation for the commendable efforts of **CA Sahil Gala, Chairman – Sports & Cultural Committee, ICAI Ahmedabad**, for organizing this vibrant and engaging event.

We concluded the month with a highly relevant **Seminar on Audit, Income Tax & GST on 28th March**, themed *“Finish Strong, Start Smarter: Year-End Compliance & Future Planning”*, offering actionable guidance for professionals. I would like to place on record my appreciation for the efforts of **CA Samir Chaudhary, Chairman – CPE Committee, ICAI Ahmedabad**, for successfully organizing this insightful programme. Looking ahead, April 2026 promises to be equally dynamic and knowledge-driven.

Aligned with the theme of ICAI Ahmedabad for the year 2026–27, *“Unlocking Global Alpha for CAs,”* we commence with a Seminar on **“Unlocking & Scaling Opportunities in US Accounting, Taxation & Audit – Reality, Roadmaps & Insights” on 4th April**, aimed at enabling members to explore and capitalize on emerging global opportunities.

On **10th April**, a **One Day Training Programme for Peer Reviewers** will be conducted to enhance professional quality and uphold standards.

On **11th April 2026**, we will be organizing the **64th Campus Orientation Programme for newly qualified Chartered Accountants**, aimed at creating meaningful opportunities and

guiding young professionals as they embark on their careers.

On the same day, we will also host an insightful session on the **recent amendments in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**, notified on **30th March 2026**, to keep members updated with the latest regulatory developments.

We are also pleased to announce an upcoming batch of the **Certificate Course on Artificial Intelligence for Chartered Accountants (AICA) – Level 1 at Ahmedabad from 14th to 16th April 2026**. As Chairman, I remain committed to introducing more such batches in the future, in line with the growing demand and interest of members of ICAI Ahmedabad.

Further, from **16th to 30th April**, we are organizing a **detailed workshop series on FEMA**, designed to provide in-depth practical exposure and understanding of this important domain.

I am also pleased to share that we received an overwhelming response to our invitation for article contributions from members. The enthusiasm and knowledge-sharing spirit of our fraternity have resulted in this edition of the newsletter becoming one of the most comprehensive and content-rich publications, with the **highest number of pages in the history of ICAI Ahmedabad Branch**.

Dear Members, our constant endeavor is to empower, educate, and elevate our fraternity through relevant knowledge initiatives and professional opportunities.

I once again extend my sincere thanks for your continued trust and support. I encourage all members to actively participate in the upcoming programs and contribute towards strengthening our professional community.

Together, let us continue to learn, lead, and grow.

Warm regards,
CA Rinkesh Shah
Chairman
ICAI Ahmedabad Branch (WIRC)



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AHMEDABAD BRANCH (WIRC)

MEMBERS OF AHMEDABAD BRANCH

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES FOR THE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS

Suggested Topics for Contribution

Seasoned Practitioners & Young Professionals Welcome!

TAXATION



Direct Tax, Indirect Tax (GST), International Taxation, recent Judicial pronouncements

CORPORATE LAWS



Companies Act updates, SEBI regulations, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), RERA

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT



Companies Act updates, SEBI regulations, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), RERA

AUDIT & ASSURANCE



Statutory Audit, Internal Audit, Forensic Audit, Quality Review

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION



Artificial Intelligence in accounting, Data Analytics, Cybersecurity, ERP Implementations

EMERGING SECTORS



Startup ecosystem, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) reporting, personal finance

Submission Guidelines



WORD COUNT

Ideally between 1,000 to 1,500 words



FORMAT

Editable MS Word document (.doc or .docx)



ORIGINALITY

Original work, not published elsewhere. Cite references



AUTHOR PROFILE

Include high-resolution passport-size photograph

Email To: newsletterabadicai@gmail.com

Subject Line: Article Submission for E-Newsletter - [Your Name]

Last date: 25th of Every month

CA. Rinkesh Shah
Chairman

CA. (Dr.) Fenil Shah
Chairman - Newsletter Committee

CA. Chetan Jagetiya
Secretary



Editorial Message



CA. Dr. Fenil Shah

Editor and Chairman, Newsletter Committee
ICAI - Ahmedabad (WIRC)

“Where intelligence meets integrity, the future of the profession is not just managed—it is meaningfully shaped.”

As we present this edition of the E-Newsletter for April 2026, it gives me immense satisfaction to see how our collective efforts have once again transformed knowledge into a meaningful resource for the fraternity.

This edition subtly reflects a powerful and evolving theme — the convergence of intelligence, governance, and professional excellence. From discussions on Artificial Intelligence in taxation to governance reforms in NBFCs and practical insights into workplace efficiency, the content of this newsletter highlights one clear message: the profession is not just adapting to change, it is actively shaping it.

The theme, in essence, revolves around “intelligent transformation” — where technology, regulatory evolution, and human judgment come together. It reminds us that while tools and frameworks are advancing rapidly, the true differentiator continues to be the professional's ability to interpret, apply, and lead with clarity and integrity. Whether it is AI redefining the role of Chartered Accountants or governance becoming a strategic necessity rather than a compliance requirement, this edition captures the pulse of a profession in transition.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our contributors, whose insightful articles have added depth and diversity to this publication. Each write-up reflects not only technical expertise but also a commitment to knowledge

sharing, which remains the backbone of our professional community.

A special note of appreciation to our respected mentors, whose guidance and experience continue to inspire direction and discipline in our initiatives. Their perspective adds maturity and vision, ensuring that we remain grounded even as we move forward.

We invite members and professionals to contribute their insights, experiences, and technical knowledge for our upcoming editions. This newsletter is not just a publication, but a platform for sharing ideas that can guide, inspire, and add value to the entire fraternity. Whether it is on emerging areas like AI, evolving regulations, practical challenges, or innovative practices, your perspective matters. Let us come together to build a strong culture of knowledge sharing and collective growth.

Behind every edition is a dedicated team working with commitment and coordination. I take this opportunity to thank all members of the Newsletter Committee for their continuous efforts in curating, compiling, and presenting this knowledge platform with consistency and quality.

As we move ahead, let us continue to embrace change, contribute knowledge, and strengthen the profession with a spirit of collaboration and excellence.

Warm regards,
CA. Dr. Fenil Padmini Rajendra Shah
Editor & Chairman, Newsletter Committee
ICAI – Ahmedabad Branch (WIRC)



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Navigating the DPDP Act in CA Practice



Contributed by:
CA. Tarak A. Shah

The Government of India notified the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025 on 13 November 2025. This has started an 18-month countdown. All organisations, including CA firms, must fully comply by 13 May 2027.

For Chartered Accountants, the DPDP Act is not just another IT rule. It is a big change in our professional duties. We are no longer only guardians of financial records. We are now also responsible for protecting personal data.

This article explains two sides of the DPDP Act for our profession:

- What we must do inside our own CA firms (internal compliance)
- How we can help our clients (new advisory opportunities)

Part 1: Impact on Our CA Firms

The most important thing for a CA firm is to know its role under the new law. Since we decide the purpose and method of handling personal data (such as PAN numbers, Aadhaar details, bank statements, and salary records), our firms are called “Data Fiduciaries” under Section 2(i) of the DPDP Act, 2023.

This means the partners of the firm carry the final legal responsibility for data protection.

1. Consent versus Legitimate Use

Many people think it is enough to add a consent checkbox in client forms. But depending only on consent can create problems in professional work.

Under the DPDP Act, consent must be free, specific, informed, and easy to withdraw (Section 6). If a client withdraws consent in the middle of a statutory audit, we cannot finish our legal duty and we also cannot keep the data.

Better approach: For audit, tax filing, and other statutory work, we should rely on “Certain Legitimate Uses” instead of consent. These

include fulfilling legal obligations or contract requirements (Section 7). Our engagement letters should clearly mention that we process personal data to meet specific legal duties under the Income Tax Act, 2025 or the Companies Act, 2013.

2. Risk of Shadow IT and Human Mistakes

Security means building strong protection. Privacy means controlling who can access the data. Even with good firewalls, human errors remain the biggest risk.

Example: The “CC” Data Breach

Suppose a junior articled clerk has to send an advance tax reminder to 200 clients. In a hurry, the clerk puts all 200 email addresses in the “CC” field instead of “BCC”.

This mistake exposes clients' personal email addresses to others. It is now treated as a Personal Data Breach under Section 2(u) of the DPDP Act, 2023. The firm must report the breach to the Data Protection Board and inform every affected client immediately. A detailed report must be sent within 72 hours (Section 8(6) and Rule 7).

Failure to take reasonable security steps can attract a penalty of up to Rs. 250 crore (Schedule of the DPDP Act, 2023).

3. Data Retention:

CA firms often keep old client files, ITRs, and statements for many years as a safety measure. The DPDP Act introduces the rule of Storage Limitation (Section 8(7)).

Once the purpose for collecting the data is over, we must delete the data unless some other law requires us to keep it. Tax laws ask us to keep certain records for 8 to 10 years. For all other data, we need to create automatic deletion



policies. We must also give the client a 48-hour notice before deleting the data (Rule 8 of DPDP Rules, 2025).

Part 2: Helping Our Clients with DPDP Compliance

Just like GST created a new area of practice, the DPDP Act offers big opportunities for advisory and assurance services. Non-compliance can bring very high penalties that may harm a business badly.

1. Checking Financial Risk and Liabilities

Data privacy is now a board-level matter that affects the balance sheet. As statutory auditors, we need to update our audit approach.

We must check:

- Whether the client has a history of data leaks
- Whether they have made proper provisions for possible DPDP penalties
- Whether a large penalty can affect the company's ability to continue as a going concern

Auditors should review the client's data flow maps and IT security reports before issuing the audit opinion.

2. Opportunity with Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDF)

The government will classify some large organisations (such as big e-commerce companies, hospitals, and fintech firms) as Significant Data Fiduciaries based on the volume and sensitivity of data they handle (Section 10).

These SDFs must carry out Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) and get independent data audits (Rule 13). Chartered Accountants have strong skills in auditing processes and risk management. We are well placed to provide these independent data assurance services.

3. Purpose Limitation in Business

Many clients collect data for one purpose and later use it for something else. As business advisors, we must help them spot such gaps.

Example: A D2C Clothing Brand

A client collects customers' birthdates at the time of purchase to send a 10% birthday discount coupon. Later, the marketing team uses the same data to study age groups of high-spending customers for better advertising.

If the original privacy notice mentioned only birthday offers, using the data for demographic analysis breaks the Purpose Limitation rule (Sections 4 and 6). The new rules also require a clear, standalone privacy notice that lists every

piece of personal data and its exact purpose (Rule 3).

We must advise the client to correct this and update their consent and privacy practices.

Part 3: Stepwise Action Plan for CA Firms

To protect our firms and meet the May 2027 deadline, we should follow this simple plan:

1. **Map Our Data Flows:** List all personal data that comes into the firm, where it is stored (servers, cloud, or paper files), who can access it, and when it should be deleted.
2. **Update Engagement Letters:** Replace old confidentiality clauses with clear data processing addendums. State our role as Data Fiduciary, list the data we collect, and mention the legal reason for processing it.
3. **Stop Using WhatsApp for Client Work:** Sharing client documents on WhatsApp or personal email is risky. Move all client communication and document sharing to secure, encrypted, and access-controlled portals.
4. **Manage Vendor Risks:** Cloud accounting software or payroll tools act as our Data Processors (Section 8(3)). We remain responsible for their mistakes. Review all vendor agreements to make sure they follow DPDP security standards.
5. **Prepare a Breach Response Plan:** Create a clear incident response procedure. Everyone in the team must know what to do if a laptop is lost or a server is hacked, so that we can notify the Data Protection Board and clients within 72 hours.

Conclusion

The DPDP Act is changing the meaning of professional responsibility for Chartered Accountants. It is pushing us to move from simply storing data to actively managing and governing it.

By becoming compliant Data Fiduciaries, we can go beyond basic rules and strengthen our role as the most trusted advisors in India's growing digital economy.

Sources & Statutory References: 1. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (No. 22 of 2023), Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

2. The Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025 (G.S.R. 846(E)), notified by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on 13 November 2025.



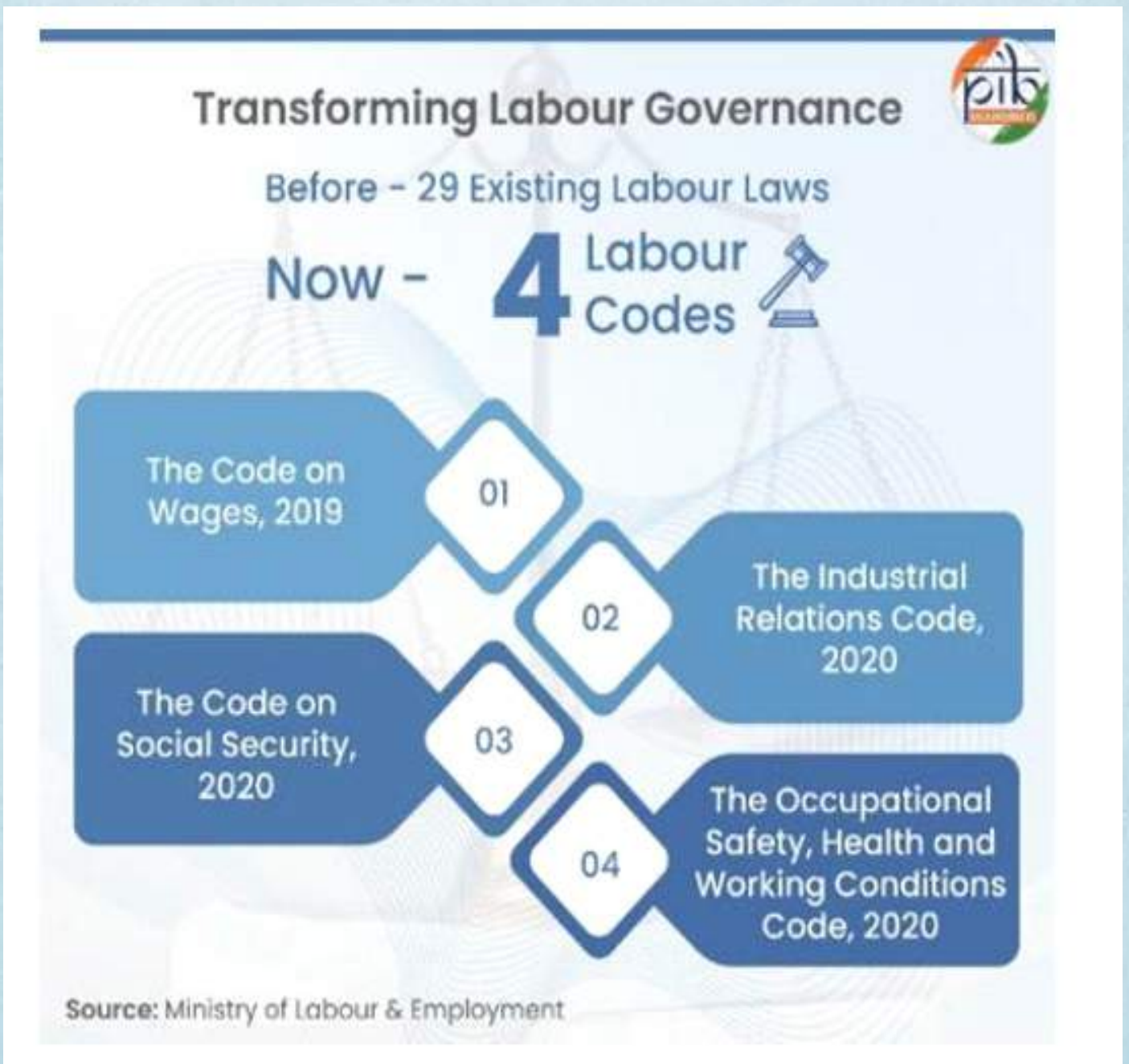
The New Indian Labour Codes: A Transformative Shift in Employment Law



Contributed by:
CA. Krishna Shah

Introduction: From Chaos to Codes

India's traditional labour laws consisted of a complex web of over 29 central statutes, leading to fragmentation, procedural confusion, and high compliance costs. The Government of India consolidated these into four comprehensive Labour Codes.





The reform is not merely legislative consolidation. It alters cost architecture, benefit design, documentation standards, inspection methodology and the nature of employer exposures. Consequently, our function expands from compliance verification to system redesign, provisioning analytics and risk anticipation.

The Government consolidated everything into **four Labour Codes**:

Code No.	Title	Principal Laws Replaced
I	Code on Wages, 2019 (Wage Code)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Minimum Wages Act, 19482. Payment of Wages Act, 19363. Payment of Bonus Act, 19654. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976
II	Industrial Relations Code, 2020 (IR Code)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Trade Unions Act, 19266. Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 19467. Industrial Disputes Act, 1947
III	Code on Social Security, 2020 (SS Code)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. EPF Act, 19529. ESI Act, 194810. Employees' Compensation Act, 192311. Payment of Gratuity Act, 197212. Employment Exchanges Act, 195913. Maternity Benefit Act, 196114. Cine-Workers Welfare Fund Act, 198115. Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 199616. Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008
IV	Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions Code, 2020 (OSH Code)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">17. Factories Act, 194818. Contract Labour Act, 197019. Mines Act, 195220. Plantations Labour Act, 195121. Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 195522. Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Act, 195823. Motor Transport Workers Act, 196124. Beedi and Cigar Workers Act, 196625. Sales Promotion Employees Act, 197626. Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 197927. Cine-Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers Act, 198128. Dock Workers Act, 198629. Building and Other Construction Workers Act, 1996



I. Code on Wages, 2019 – Unifying Compensation

The Code on Wages, 2019 is arguably the most fundamental reform among the four Labour Codes, as it standardizes the definition of “wages” across all central labour legislations. By replacing multiple inconsistent definitions under earlier laws, it introduces a single uniform wage framework for statutory purposes. In effect, this represents one of the most significant payroll compliance overhauls in recent decades, as it directly impacts how statutory contributions and benefits are calculated.

A key feature of the Code is the uniform definition of wages along with the 50% threshold rule. If excluded components such as allowances exceed 50% of total remuneration, the excess must be added back to wages for statutory purposes. As a result, Provident Fund contributions, gratuity and bonus are computed on a broader base than in many earlier compensation structures, requiring businesses to reconsider their CTC design and provisioning models.

The Code also introduces a national floor wage to be fixed by the Central Government. While States may prescribe higher minimum wages based on local conditions, they cannot go below the national floor, thereby ensuring a minimum wage standard across the country.

Further, the Code mandates timely and digital payment of wages. Salaries must be paid by the 7th of the following month, and final settlement upon separation must be completed within two working days. The requirement of digital payments enhances transparency and reduces wage-related disputes. Employers are also required to issue formal appointment letters clearly setting out terms of employment, strengthening documentation and reducing ambiguity in service conditions. In addition, the principle of equal pay for equal work is reinforced, ensuring non-discriminatory wage practices.

Under Section 2(k), the Code defines an “employee” as any person employed on wages in an establishment, directly or through a contractor, to perform skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled, manual, operational, supervisory, managerial, administrative, technical or clerical work, but excludes apprentices engaged under

the Apprentices Act. This broad definition expands coverage and ensures uniform application of wage-related protections across employment categories.

Key Takeaways & Conclusion: For finance professionals like us, this Code is a major payroll restructuring exercise. CTC (Cost to Company) structures require reconsideration and redesign to ensure alignment with the 50% wage definition threshold. This increases employer costs for PF, gratuity, and bonus. Consequently, the overall labour cost rises, and financial provisioning requirements must be recalculated and the increase must be recognized immediately in the P&L as past service cost. The national floor wage requires auditors to audit wage levels across states. Timely digital payments mean payroll systems must be automated and auditable, with penalties for delays. Overall, we, as auditors, must shift from just auditing payroll to actively designing compliant salary frameworks and monitoring risks of wage disputes.

II. Industrial Relations Code, 2020 – Balancing Flexibility & Rights

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 introduces significant changes aimed at increasing operational flexibility while retaining core worker protections. One of the most notable reforms is the enhancement of the threshold for lay-off, retrenchment and closure requiring prior government approval. Establishments employing up to 300 workers can now undertake such actions without seeking prior permission, compared to the earlier limit of 100 workers. While this provides mid-sized businesses with greater flexibility in workforce management, it also reduces a layer of protection previously available to workers in establishments falling within this expanded threshold.

The Code also formally legalizes fixed-term employment. Employers are permitted to engage workers on fixed-term contracts without the earlier ambiguity or structural restrictions. Importantly, fixed-term employees are entitled to the same statutory benefits as permanent employees, including Provident Fund, gratuity and bonus, calculated on a pro-rata basis. This ensures parity in benefits while allowing employers contractual flexibility in



staffing decisions.

To address delays in industrial dispute adjudication, the Code provides for faster resolution through Industrial Tribunals, typically consisting of two members, with an objective of resolving disputes within one year. This aims to reduce prolonged litigation and bring greater predictability to industrial relations.

Under Section 2(l), the Code defines an “employee” as any person employed by an industrial establishment, directly or through a contractor, to perform skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled, manual, operational, supervisory, managerial, administrative, technical or clerical work, excluding apprentices engaged under the Apprentices Act. Separately, Section 2(zr) defines a “worker” as a person employed in any industry to perform manual, unskilled, skilled, technical, operational or clerical work, but excludes those employed mainly in managerial or administrative capacities, as well as supervisors drawing wages above the notified limit or performing primarily managerial functions. This distinction between “employee” and “worker” remains significant for determining the applicability of specific industrial relations provisions under the Code.

Key Takeaways & Conclusion: For finance professionals like us, this Code changes how companies plan workforce costs. The higher layoff threshold reduces severance reserves for mid-sized firms and some mid-sized entities that earlier fell inside the restriction may now fall outside it. Fixed-term employment being legalized can attract assurance of pro-rata provisioning for PF, gratuity, and bonus even for short contracts, preventing under-reporting of liabilities. Faster dispute resolution means litigation reserves may shrink, but potential exposures still should be tracked. Overall, this Code requires professionals to act as risk managers for labour liabilities, ensuring companies do not under-provision or miscalculate obligations.

III. Code on Social Security, 2020 – Expanding the Safety Net

The Code on Social Security, 2020 consolidates nine social welfare laws into a single framework and expands coverage to new categories of workers. It not only simplifies the legal

structure but also widens the scope of statutory benefits.

A significant change is the extension of gratuity to fixed-term employees. While gratuity earlier required five years of continuous service, fixed-term employees are now eligible on a pro-rata basis. This ensures that short-term contractual workers also receive retirement benefits.

The Code also formally recognizes gig workers and platform workers within the statutory social security framework. A Social Security Fund is to be created for such workers, financed partly through aggregator contributions ranging from 1–2% of turnover, subject to a cap of 5% of payments made to these workers. The fund provides benefits such as insurance and accident cover. Gig and platform workers must register on the Government's e-Shram portal to access benefits under schemes framed pursuant to the Code. Although they are not traditional employees, the Code specifically extends social security protections to them.

Further, the Code expands the scope of Employees' State Insurance (ESI) coverage. Even hazardous establishments employing a single worker may be brought within the ambit of ESI, whereas earlier the general threshold for applicability was 10 employees. This marks a substantial broadening of the social insurance net, particularly in high-risk sectors.

Under Section 2(26), an “employee” is defined as a person employed on wages in an establishment, directly or through a contractor, to perform skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled, manual, operational, supervisory, managerial, administrative, technical or clerical work, excluding apprentices under the Apprentices Act. The Code separately defines “gig worker” and “platform worker” under Sections 2(35) and 2(60), thereby formally recognizing these new workforce categories.

Key Takeaways & Conclusion: For auditors, this Code creates new financial liabilities for employers that we must track carefully. Gratuity for fixed-term employees means actuarial valuations must include even short-term contracts, creating liabilities from day one. Gig and platform worker inclusion means we, as auditors, must audit revenues and ensure contributions to welfare funds are correctly calculated and reported. For us, this Code shifts their role toward strategic planning of benefit



costs, actuarial valuations, and compliance audits across diverse categories of workers.

IV. Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions (OSHWC) Code, 2020 – Safety & Equality at Work

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 standardizes key workplace norms across sectors. It prescribes maximum working hours of eight hours per day and forty-eight hours per week, with overtime payable at twice the ordinary rate of wages. However, overtime provisions do not apply to employees in managerial or administrative roles, supervisors exercising significant authority, or positions where working hours cannot be strictly measured. Clarifying a common misconception: Codes mandate a compulsory four-day work week. What it enables is flexibility in scheduling, provided the aggregate weekly hours are maintained. Accordingly, an establishment may design a compressed week (for instance, longer daily shifts with additional days off), but this is a choice that employer and employees can mutually agree upon.

The Code permits women to work night shifts subject to adequate safety measures, including secure transport and protection arrangements. Establishments employing fifty or more employees must provide crèche facilities as per prescribed standards. It also strengthens protections for inter-state migrant workers by requiring travel allowances and insurance or welfare measures, particularly in sectors like construction.

In establishments with five hundred or more workers, safety committees are mandatory, and employers must provide free personal protective equipment and periodic health check-ups where required. The Code further recognizes certain commuting accidents as employment-related hazards, enabling workers to claim insurance or compensation benefits.

Under Section 2(t), an “employee” is defined as a person employed on wages in an establishment, directly or through a contractor, to perform skilled, semi-skilled, unskilled, manual, operational, supervisory, managerial, administrative, technical or clerical work, excluding apprentices engaged under the Apprentices Act.

Inspection, Penalties & Compounding Framework: The Codes introduce the concept of an “Inspector-cum-Facilitator,” shifting the inspection mechanism from purely punitive to facilitative compliance oversight. Inspections are intended to be web-based and risk-driven, reducing arbitrariness while increasing transparency.

The penalty structure across the Codes has been rationalized. Certain offences are compoundable, and monetary penalties replace imprisonment in specified instances. However, repeat offences attract significantly enhanced penalties.

From a compliance governance perspective, this signals a transition toward data-driven enforcement. Non-compliance may become more easily traceable due to digitized filings and integrated databases, thereby increasing the importance of preventive internal audits.

Key Takeaways & Conclusion: This Code adds direct cost implications for employers which must be considered and accounted for. Standardized working hours and mandatory double overtime mean payroll costs will rise, requiring careful accruals for overtime and leave encashment. Women working night shifts and migrant worker protections introduce new compliance costs (transport, insurance, travel allowances) that must be tracked and budgeted. Safety committees and mandatory PPE/health checks create infrastructure and compliance expenses, which should be provided and disclosed. For us, this Code means expanding audit checklists to include safety and welfare expenditures, ensuring companies do not miss mandatory provisions that could lead to fines. It also requires advising clients on long-term budgeting for workplace safety and inclusivity measures.

Compliance Focus: State wise Applicability

➤ State-Wise Applicability: The Rollout Challenge

The four Codes are Central Acts, but their enforcement depends on the notification of Rules by the Central and respective State Governments.

- 1) Central vs State Rules:** The Central Government has notified the Rules, but each State must adopt and notify its own Rules for the Codes to be fully operational within that State's



jurisdiction.

2) Simultaneous Transition: Businesses with pan-India operations face the challenge of transitioning across multiple jurisdictions simultaneously, as the date of applicability varies from State to State.

3) Risk Area: Finance professionals and auditors should track these State notifications meticulously, as a client's payroll or compliance requirements might be governed by the Old Acts in one state and the New Codes in another, leading to dual compliance systems during the transition phase.

➤ Navigating Central and State jurisdiction

Although the four Labour Codes are Central enactments, their implementation depends upon rules framed by the "appropriate Government." Determining whether the Central Government or the State Government has jurisdiction is therefore fundamental, since compliance requirements, registers, forms and enforcement practices will flow from that authority.

1. Code on Wages

Private sector establishments ordinarily fall within the jurisdiction of the State Government where the establishment is situated. However, establishments in certain notified sectors—such as railways, mines, oil fields, major ports, air transport services, telecommunication, banking and insurance—fall under the Central Government.

2. Industrial Relations Code

Most private establishments will come under the State Government where the establishment is situated. The Central Government will be the appropriate authority for:

- establishments in specified industries such as railways, mines, oil fields, major ports, air transport services, telecommunication, banking and insurance; and
- companies in which the Central Government previously held shareholding of 51 percent or more.

3. Code on Social Security

Where an establishment operates in more than one State, the Central Government generally becomes the appropriate Government. Establishments operating within a single State will typically fall under that State's jurisdiction, except:

- entities in the specified industries noted above; and
- companies that earlier had Central Government shareholding of at least 51 percent.

4. Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code

Factories, motor transport undertakings, plantations and newspaper establishments are ordinarily regulated by the State Government. Other private establishments are also likely to fall under the State jurisdiction based on location, except:

- establishments in railways, mines, oil fields, major ports, air transport services, telecommunication, banking and insurance; and
- companies that previously had 51 percent or more Central Government shareholding.

➤ Effective Date, Transition & Applicability

Whilst the new Labour Codes are effective from 21 November 2025, the supporting Rules are yet to be notified. The Labour Codes will become operational only upon notification by the appropriate Government along with the corresponding Rules. Until then, the existing Acts continue to apply. Since States may notify Rules at different times, multi-state establishments may face staggered implementation.

For establishments operating across multiple States, this creates a transitional compliance risk. It is possible for one State to notify its Rules earlier than another, leading to a temporary dual compliance environment. Accordingly, notification dates to be tracked carefully and it is to be ensured that payroll systems, employment contracts and compliance registers are updated only upon the effective date applicable to the establishment.

Conclusion: From Consolidation to Compliance Architecture

The four Labour Codes mark a significant shift from a fragmented and overlapping regulatory regime to a unified and coherent compliance framework, bringing greater clarity and consistency to India's labour law architecture. By harmonizing definitions and consolidating multiple legislations, the Codes simplify compliance while simultaneously expanding the social security net, particularly through the formal inclusion of gig and platform workers. At



the same time, the balance between enhanced operational flexibility for industry and the preservation of worker safeguards remains a subject of ongoing debate. The expanded definition of “wages” fundamentally reshapes payroll structuring, statutory contribution calculations and long-term cost modelling, requiring organizations to reassess compensation design and provisioning strategies. Collectively, the reform elevates labour compliance from a routine statutory function to a strategic governance concern, redefining our, chartered accountants' role as proactive advisors and risk managers in the evolving regulatory landscape.

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Labour Code Readiness: A Final Checklist Before Implementation



Contributed by:
CA. Kankshil Parikh

With not much time to go for the proposed implementation of India's New Labour Codes, organizations should take a moment to review whether their HR structures, documentation and payroll frameworks are truly ready. One important shift that many organizations are overlooking is the expanded applicability of ESIC, which is now expected to cover a much wider set of establishments including sectors such as hospitals, educational institutions and other service organizations that were not always covered earlier.

A quick readiness check across the four labour codes can help identify gaps:

Code on Wages, 2019

Is your salary structure aligned with the new wage definition (including the 50% wage threshold)?

Have you reviewed how this may impact PF, gratuity and other statutory calculations?

Industrial Relations Code, 2020

Are your appointment letters and employment contracts clearly drafted?

Are you correctly classifying fixed-term employees, consultants or other categories of

workers, and have you evaluated the additional liabilities this may create?

Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020

Have you planned mandatory health check-ups for employees above 40 years of age, where applicable?

Are workplace safety and welfare provisions documented and implemented?

Code on Social Security, 2020

With the expanded ESIC coverage, have you evaluated whether your organization now falls within its scope?

Have you assessed additional compliance and contribution requirements for different categories of workers?

The new labour codes are not just a regulatory change - they require structural readiness across HR policies, payroll design, employment documentation and compliance frameworks.

This is a good time for organizations to run a quick internal review before the transition begins. Below are the major changes being incorporated as part of the new labour codes:

Sr. No.	Change	Explanation
1	ESIC Coverage	Expansion in coverage based on below – 1. Nature of operations of an organization 2. ESIC applicability calculation based on new wage definition
2	CTC Structuring	Minimum Floor - Basic Pay + Dearness Allowance (DA) should be at least 50%
3	Mandatory Appointment Letters	Must be issued to all workers
4	Minimum Wages for All Workers	Minimum wage now applies universally (not just to scheduled industries)



Sr. No.	Change	Explanation
5	Mandatory Timely Payment of Wages	Mandatory monthly salary release timelines (expansion in applicability)
6	Social Security Coverage for All	PF, ESIC, insurance benefits extended to all categories of workers
7	Free Annual Health Check-ups	All workers aged 40+ must get a free annual medical check up from their employer
8	Women Working at Night	Allowed with Conditions- Women can work night shifts across all sectors with consent and mandatory safety measures
9	Equal Pay & Non-Discrimination	Gender-neutral wages; no discrimination against women or transgender workers
10	Single Registration, Single License, Single Return	Huge simplification: replaces multiple registrations and returns
11	Fixed-Term Employees (FTE)	Major Benefits - All benefits equal to permanent workers (leave, medical, PF, ESIC). Gratuity after 1 year instead of 5
12	Gig & Platform Workers	New Obligations - Definitions formalized for the first time. Aggregators must contribute 1-2% of annual turnover (capped at 5% of payouts)
13	Contract Workers-	Principal employer responsible for health benefits, social security. Need to align vendor contracts & ensure compliance from contractors
14	Working Hours & Overtime	Standardized cap: 8-12 hours/day, 48 hours/week. Overtime must be consent-based and paid at double the wage rate (expansion in applicability)

Additionally, there are few others related to safety, environment and grievance mechanisms. A key to uncovering these codes will also be understanding of the definitions below:-

Sr. No.	Worker Type	Definition
1	Full-Time Employee	A permanent employee hired directly with no fixed end date, eligible for all statutory benefits like PF, ESIC, leave, and gratuity after 5 years.
2	Fixed-Term Employee (FTE)	A worker hired for a specific written period (any duration decided by employer). They get all benefits equal to permanent workers, including gratuity after 1 year.
3	Gig Worker	A worker who performs work outside a traditional employment relationship—usually task-based, flexible, and independent (e.g., freelancing, or on-demand work).
4	Platform Worker	A worker who provides services through a digital platform/app that connects them to customers (e.g., delivery, ridehailing). They are not employees but get certain social security benefits.
5	Contract Worker	A worker hired through a contractor (third party vendor) to work for a principal employer. The principal employer must ensure welfare and social security compliance.
6	Aggregator	A digital platform company that connects gig/platform workers with customers.

If you have not already reviewed your organization's readiness for the above, now is the time to think and act about it. We 'Parikh Assurance' is one such company that has been into that labour law space spanning decades and can help you get there if you want a review.



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A Year-End Compliance Overview from Income Tax & GST Perspective for FY 2025-26



Contributed by:
CA. Dainik Gohel

The financial year ending on March 31, 2026 is not just another year-end; it's a turning point in India's tax system. While every year-end usually involves closing books and ensuring compliance, this time things are different because the Income-tax Act, 1961 is being replaced by the new Income Tax Act, 2025.

Because of this shift, businesses can't just follow their usual routines. This is like a "fresh start" year, where everything needs to be clean, accurate and fully compliant. Any mistakes or gaps now could carry forward and create problems under the new law.

In simple terms, this year-end is about getting your house in perfect order for books, filings, reconciliations everything, because you are going to enter the new tax regime without any baggage.

This article try to covers all the key compliances, important reconciliations and audit checks from Income Tax and GST Perspective that businesses should focus on to smoothly transition into this new phase.

Direct Tax Compliance

The current tax system in India largely runs on AIS (Annual Information Statement) and Form 26AS, which capture almost all financial transactions reported by banks, mutual funds and other third parties. At the year end, it becomes very important to match your books with these statements. This exercise helps ensure that all TDS credits are properly reflected and any income such as interest or dividends is not missed in your books. If there are any mismatches, it is always better to resolve them before March 31 rather than dealing with them during assessments.

At the same time, businesses need to be very careful while claiming expenses, especially in light of Section 43B(h). Under this provision, payments made to Micro and Small Enterprises

(MSEs) must be cleared within specific timelines - 15 days if there is no agreement and up to 45 days if there is a written agreement. If these payments remain outstanding beyond these limits at the year-end, the expense will not be allowed as a deduction for that year. It can only be claimed when the payment is actually made.

Another critical area at year end is TDS and TCS compliance. Any failure in deducting or depositing TDS can result in disallowance of expenses - 30% in case of residents and 100% in case of non-residents. Therefore, businesses must ensure that all TDS obligations are properly met. TDS for the month of March should be deposited by April 7, 2026. Additionally, TDS should also be deducted on year end provisions such as audit fees, professional charges and interest, even if the invoice is received later. Delays in deduction or payment attract interest, so timely compliance is essential. It is also important to check whether vendors have valid lower deduction certificates under Section 197.

A major change coming into effect from April 1, 2026, is the shift from the Income-tax Act, 1961 to the new Income Tax Act, 2025. This is not just a routine amendment but a complete overhaul of the tax framework. **One of the biggest changes is the introduction of the "Tax Year" concept, which replaces the earlier terms "Previous Year" and "Assessment Year."** This simplifies understanding, as income will now be taxed in the same year it is earned, removing the earlier confusion around different year terminologies. However, this will require updates in accounting systems, payroll processes and internal documentation.

Along with this, several compliance forms are being replaced with new ones. Form 16 will be replaced by Form 130, Form 16A by Form 131,



Form 12BB by Form 124 and Form 26AS by Form 168. These changes aim to simplify reporting but also bring in stricter requirements.

The definition of metro cities for HRA purposes is being expanded to include cities like Ahmedabad, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, which will increase the HRA exemption for employees in these locations. The MAT rate is being reduced from 15% to 14%, but companies will not be able to carry forward new MAT credits after March 31, 2026. In addition, the deduction for interest expense on dividend income is being removed and buyback taxation will now be treated as capital gains instead of deemed dividend.

Overall, this year-end is not just about routine compliance. It is about ensuring that books are clean, reconciliations are complete and no loose ends are left. Since this is a transition phase into a new tax regime, any gaps or errors carried forward now could create complications in the future. Businesses should treat this as an opportunity to put everything in order and enter the new regime with clarity and confidence.

Indirect Tax Compliance

As the financial year 2025–26 draws to a close, GST compliance is no longer a routine checklist exercise, it has evolved into a strategic function that directly impacts cash flow, litigation exposure, and operational efficiency.

The first layer of compliance lies in ensuring that all critical filings and options on the GST portal are exercised within the prescribed timelines. This includes renewal of LUT for exports and SEZ supplies, opting in or out of schemes like composition and QRMP and completing declarations for specific sectors such as GTA and hospitality.

Additionally, businesses should not overlook procedural filings such as ITC-04 for job work and tracking appellate timelines, especially with GSTAT becoming operational. These actions, although procedural in nature, have significant downstream implications if missed.

A robust reconciliation exercise is the most critical component of year-end GST compliance. Businesses must ensure alignment between:

- Books of accounts and GST returns (GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B)
- E-invoices, tax invoices, and e-way bills
- ITC records vis-à-vis GSTR-2B and IMS data

This process helps identify gaps such as missed invoices, incorrect tax rates or excess/short ITC claims. With increasing reliance on system-generated data (like IMS), invoice-level tracking has become essential to avoid temporary reversals and future disputes.

Special attention should also be given to cash and credit ledger balances, as inconsistencies may indicate reporting errors or incorrect ITC utilisation.

Input Tax Credit (ITC) continues to be an area of intense scrutiny. Businesses should:

- Reconcile ITC as per books with GSTR-2B
- Track pending ITC and follow up with vendors for corrections
- Review reversals under Rule 37 (non-payment within 180 days) and Rule 42/43 (exempt supplies and capital goods)
- Ensure vendor compliance, particularly the filing of GSTR-3B

The introduction of IMS has added another layer of control, requiring businesses to actively accept, reject or defer invoices. Proper documentation and tracking mechanisms are now essential.

Further, special cases such as imports, capital goods classification and inter-unit credit transfers (ISD) must be evaluated carefully to avoid loss of eligible credits.

On the outward side, businesses must ensure that revenue recognition aligns with GST liability. Key focus areas include:

- Correct classification of supplies (B2B vs B2C, inter-state vs intra-state)
- Timely issuance of credit notes and debit notes
- Tax treatment of advances, exports and related party transactions
- Verification of place of supply rules, especially for services
- Mismatch between GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B is now closely monitored by the department, with strict timelines for responding to notices.

RCM continues to be a common area of oversight. Businesses should conduct a detailed review of expenses to identify RCM applicability, especially for:

- Freight and transport services
- Legal and professional fees
- Import of services
- Renting and sponsorship transactions

With new provisions such as time limits for self-invoicing and stricter system validations, delays or omissions can directly impact ITC eligibility.

Importantly, not all RCM payments automatically qualify for ITC, eligibility conditions must still be satisfied.

Beyond returns and reconciliations, certain broader aspects deserve equal attention:

- Monitoring departmental notices and maintaining proper documentation
- Ensuring Aadhaar authentication and updated contact details on the GST portal
- Reviewing job work timelines and related compliance
- Verifying GST implications on provisions, accruals, and related party transactions

It is also important to remember that corrections to GST returns for FY 2025–26 can only be made up to November 2026. Delayed action could result in permanent loss of credits or additional tax exposure.



GST Implications of Excess Stock Found During Survey or Inspection



Contributed by:
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1. Introduction

Survey and inspection actions under GST frequently throw up alleged discrepancies between physical stock and book stock at the premises of registered taxpayers. A recurring controversy is whether such “excess stock” can, by itself, justify direct invocation of confiscation proceedings under section 130, or whether the law mandates recourse to the normal demand provisions under sections 73 or 74 or 74A.

This article analyses the statutory framework, leading case law, and practical implications for taxpayers when excess stock is found during a survey or inspection.

2. Statutory framework

2.1 Section 67 - investigative, not adjudicatory

Section 67 of the CGST/State GST Acts empowers the proper officer to inspect, search and seize goods, documents or books where there is “reason to believe” that taxable supplies have been suppressed, excess ITC has been claimed, or provisions of the Act have otherwise been contravened. The provision is essentially investigative in character: it enables gathering of evidence, but does not itself quantify or determine tax liability.

Any discrepancy in stock noticed during such action is only a factual finding. It must thereafter be processed through the prescribed assessment and adjudication machinery; section 67 does not, by its own force, authorise levy of tax, interest or penalty.

2.2 Section 35(6) - express link to sections 73/74

Section 35(6) specifically deals with unaccounted goods or services. Where a registered person fails to account for goods or services in his records, the proper officer “shall determine the tax payable on the goods or services... in the manner specified in section 73

or section 74.” This is a crucial textual hook: the statute itself directs that the consequence of unexplained/excess stock is assessment under sections 73/74, not automatic confiscation.

Excess stock is therefore, by legislative design, an assessment issue, not per se a confiscation issue.

3. Leading precedent: Dayal Product and Supreme Court affirmation

3.1 Facts and decision of the Hon'ble Allahabad High Court

In *Dayal Product v. Additional Commissioner*¹, the business premises of a registered hosiery trader were surveyed by the Special Investigation Branch. The officers, relying largely on visual/eye estimation, alleged excess stock vis-à-vis books and, on that basis alone, initiated proceedings directly under section 130, culminating in orders imposing tax, penalty and confiscation.

The Allahabad High Court quashed the orders, holding that where excess stock is found at the premises of a registered dealer, the statutory mandate of section 35(6) requires tax liability to be determined in the manner specified in sections 73/74, not under section 130. Section 130, being penal and confiscatory, could not be invoked merely because a survey had yielded alleged surplus stock.

3.2 Dismissal of Revenue SLP by Supreme Court

The Revenue challenged the Allahabad High Court's decision in *Dayal Product* before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court dismissed the Special Leave Petition, holding that initiation of confiscation and penalty proceedings under section 130 solely on the basis of excess stock found during survey of a registered dealer is unsustainable, and that



such situations must be addressed through assessment and recovery under sections 73 or 74.

This dismissal of the SLP not only affirms the Allahabad High Court's view but also gives the principle pan-India persuasive weight.

4. Reinforcing line of Allahabad High Court decisions

4.1 *Dinesh Kumar Pradeep Kumar v. Additional Commissioner Grade-2*

In this case², the petitioner, a trader in cement and related goods, was subjected to survey, where alleged excess stock was recorded on the basis of eye measurement. Confiscation proceedings were initiated under section 130, resulting in tax, penalty and fine.

The Allahabad High Court reiterated that where excess stock is found during survey, the proper statutory recourse is to initiate proceedings under sections 73 or 74 for determination of tax, and that section 130 proceedings cannot be founded merely on such survey-based discrepancies in stock.

4.2 *Maa Mahamaya Alloys (P.) Ltd., Shree Om Steels and others*

A series of Allahabad High Court decisions - including *Maa Mahamaya Alloys (P.) Ltd.*³, *Shree Om Steels*⁴ and others - have consistently held that when excess stock is found during survey in the case of registered dealers, the appropriate statutory route is section 35(6) read with sections 73/74, and that section 130 cannot be mechanically invoked for such cases.

These judgments have been repeatedly relied upon in later decisions and have now been endorsed by the Supreme Court through dismissal of Revenue SLPs.

5. Key legal propositions emerging from jurisprudence

5.1 Excess stock, by itself, does not establish mens rea

The cumulative effect of these decisions is that a mere quantitative excess of stock, even if not reflected in the books, does not by itself establish the necessary mens rea or intent to evade tax that is a prerequisite for invoking section 130. Ordinary inventory discrepancies, clerical errors, valuation differences, or approximations taken during survey (especially where based on eye estimation rather than actual weighment) cannot automatically be equated with clandestine removals or fraudulent ITC claims.

5.2 Confiscation is not a substitute for assessment

Courts have emphatically held that confiscation powers under section 130 cannot be employed as a shortcut to bypass the detailed assessment mechanism under sections 73/74. Section 35(6) expressly provides that failure to account for goods in records must be dealt with by determining tax liability in the manner laid

down in sections 73/74 - reinforcing the idea that assessment, not confiscation, is the primary statutory remedy in excess-stock situations.

5.3 Evidentiary, not determinative, role of section 67 findings

Observations during inspection or survey under section 67 are evidentiary inputs: they can form the factual foundation for a demand notice under sections 73/74, but they do not, by themselves, determine tax dues or penalty. A survey report showing excess stock is therefore an investigative starting point, not a self-contained basis for direct confiscation under section 130.

6. Practical implications for taxpayers

6.1 Defence against direct section 130 action

Where officers initiate section 130 proceedings solely on the basis of excess stock found at the premises of a registered person, the taxpayer can rely on *Dayal Product*¹ and others supra to challenge such action, including through writ petitions where necessary. Writ jurisdiction has been successfully invoked particularly where appellate fora have not adequately addressed this jurisprudence.

6.2 Importance of robust stock records and reconciliations

Although the courts have shielded taxpayers from disproportionate use of section 130, this does not dilute the statutory obligation under section 35 to maintain proper accounts of stock and related documents. From a risk-management perspective, businesses should maintain granular purchase, sales and stock registers, carry out periodic physical verification and reconciliation with books, and preserve supporting documentation for stock transfers, job-work and branch movements.

7. Conclusion

The emerging jurisprudence on excess stock discovered during GST surveys and inspections draws a bright line between assessment and confiscation. Discovery of excess stock at the premises of a registered dealer is an evidentiary trigger that must be processed through reconciliation and adjudication under sections 35(6) and 73/74, and not a standalone ground for invoking the drastic confiscation machinery of section 130. With the Supreme Court's affirmation of this position in SLP arising from Allahabad High Court decision of *Dayal Product*, the legal position is now firmly settled and provides clear guidance to both taxpayers and the Department on the correct treatment of stock-variation cases.

Section 74A has been inserted by the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024, w.e.f. 1-11-2024 for adjudication for the Financial Year 2024-25 onwards and thus Section 73/74 to be read as 74A in the present context.



Interest Not Quantified in SCN Cannot Be Imposed: Hon'ble Allahabad High Court Reinforces Section 75(7) of CGST Act



Contributed by:
CA. Parth R. Joshi

1. Introduction:

In a significant ruling, the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad in *M/s. Sanjay Construction vs State of Uttar Pradesh* (Writ Tax No. 161 of 2026, order dated 17 February 2026) emphasized that tax authorities cannot confirm a demand exceeding what has been specified in the show cause notice (SCN). The Court held that interest liability cannot be imposed in an adjudication order when such interest was not quantified in the show cause notice, as this would violate the mandate of Section 75(7) of the CGST Act.

This decision reinforces the procedural safeguards embedded in the GST law and highlights the importance of ensuring that taxpayers are fully informed of the exact allegations and liabilities at the stage of the show cause notice.

2. Background of the Case:

The petitioner, *M/s Sanjay Construction*, challenged an adjudication order dated 14 February 2025 passed under Section 73(9) of the CGST Act, whereby a liability of ₹1,02,58,921.42 towards tax, interest, and penalty was imposed.

The petitioner contended that the show cause notice issued by the GST authorities did not quantify any interest for the period April 2020 to March 2021. However, the adjudication order subsequently included interest for the said period, thereby increasing the overall liability.

Aggrieved by the inclusion of interest not specified in the show cause notice, the petitioner approached the High Court under

Article 226 of the Constitution.

3. Legal Framework: Section 75 of the CGST Act:

Section 75(7) – Limitation on Demand in Adjudication Order:

The amount of tax, interest and penalty demanded in the order shall not be in excess of the amount specified in the notice and no demand shall be confirmed on the grounds other than the grounds specified in the notice.

Section 75(9) – Interest on Short-Paid Tax:

Section 75(9) states that interest on the tax short paid or not paid shall be payable whether or not specified in the order determining the tax liability.

The dispute in this case arose due to the interplay between these two provisions.

4. Core Legal Issue:

Whether interest liability can be imposed in an adjudication order under the CGST Act when such interest was not quantified in the Show Cause Notice (SCN), in view of the restriction contained in Section 75(7) of the CGST Act, 2017.

5. Petitioner's Arguments:

The petitioner argued that:

- The show cause notice did not quantify any interest liability for the relevant period.
- Under Section 75(7), the adjudication order cannot demand any amount beyond what is stated in the show cause notice.
- Therefore, inclusion of interest in the final order was contrary to the provisions of the CGST Act.

The petitioner also relied on a previous decision



of the High Court in *M/s. Vrinda Automation vs State of Uttar Pradesh*, where it was held that interest or penalty cannot be imposed if not specified in the show cause notice.

6. Department's Arguments: The GST authorities contended that:

- In view of Section 75(9), interest can be levied even if it is not specifically quantified in the order determining tax liability.

7. Observations of the Court and Interpretation of Sections 75(7) and 75(9):

The Court observed that the interest liability related to the period 2020–21, which was well within the knowledge of the tax authorities at the time of issuing the show cause notice dated 29 November 2024. Despite this, the authorities failed to quantify the interest component in the notice.

The Court emphasized that such omission directly violates Section 75(7) of the CGST Act, which clearly mandates that the demand confirmed in the adjudication order cannot exceed the amount specified in the show cause notice.

Interpretation of provisions of Sections 75(7) and 75(9) of the CGST Act:

- Section 75(7) restricts the scope of the adjudication order and ensures that the taxpayer is aware of the exact demand proposed in the show cause notice.
- Section 75(9) merely provides that interest on short-paid tax is payable even if not mentioned in the order; however, it does not override the mandate given under section 75(7), which requires that the demand confirmed in the order must not exceed or go beyond what is specified in the show cause notice.

Thus, Section 75(9) cannot be invoked to justify a demand that was not proposed in the show cause notice.

8. Decision of the Court:

Based on the above reasoning, the High Court held that the adjudication order imposing interest beyond the scope of the show cause notice was unsustainable in law.

Accordingly, the Court:

- Quashed and set aside the impugned adjudication order, and

- Also set aside the show cause notice. However, the Court granted liberty to the GST authorities to issue a fresh show cause notice in accordance with law and proceed with the matter following due process.

9. Key Legal Principles Emerging from the Judgment:

The ruling establishes several important principles:

- The scope of an adjudication order cannot exceed the scope of the show cause notice.
- Interest, tax, or penalty must be clearly specified in the show cause notice before being confirmed in the final order.
- Section 75(9) does not override the procedural safeguard provided under Section 75(7).
- Failure to specify interest in the show cause notice violates principles of natural justice.

10. Practical Implications for Taxpayers:

This judgment provides an important safeguard for taxpayers facing GST adjudication proceedings:

- Tax authorities must clearly quantify and specify the proposed liability in the show cause notice. Any attempt to introduce additional components of demand during adjudication can be challenged.
- The decision ensures that taxpayers receive adequate notice of the allegations and financial exposure before adjudication.
- If interest or penalty is imposed without being proposed in the show cause notice, the taxpayer may challenge such action before appellate forums or the High Court.

11. Before Parting:

The ruling of the Allahabad High Court in *M/s Sanjay Construction vs State of Uttar Pradesh* reinforces the principle that procedural compliance is fundamental in GST adjudication. By holding that interest cannot be demanded beyond what is specified in the show cause notice, the Court has reaffirmed the legislative intent behind Section 75(7) and strengthened taxpayer protections under the GST regime. The judgment serves as a reminder that tax authorities must strictly adhere to statutory requirements while initiating and concluding adjudication proceedings.



Handling GST Refund Rejection under Form RFD-08: Practical Insights with Special Reference to Inverted Duty Structure



Contributed by:
CA. Sagar Patel

Abstract

Refund applications under the inverted duty structure frequently attract scrutiny in the form of notices issued in Form GST RFD-08. This article examines the statutory framework governing such notices, identifies the most common grounds on which refund claims are challenged, and presents a structured, step-by-step practical approach for preparing an effective reply in Form RFD-09. A real-life case study involving a textile manufacturer is used to illustrate how proper ITC reconciliation, classification, and documentation can safeguard a legitimate refund claim. The article also highlights frequent professional errors and provides a ready-to-use checklist for practitioners.

1. Introduction

Refunds under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime play a pivotal role in releasing blocked working capital, particularly for businesses operating under the inverted duty structure where the rate of tax on inputs exceeds the rate on outward supplies. Section 54 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act) read with Rule 89 of the CGST Rules, 2017 provides the legal framework for filing refund applications.

Despite a well-established legal framework, refund claims routinely face scrutiny at the departmental level. Officers frequently issue a notice in Form GST RFD-08, proposing to reject the refund claim—either partially or in its entirety—on one or more grounds. How a taxpayer or their representative responds to this notice can determine whether a legitimate claim is sanctioned or permanently denied.

This article provides a practical, documentation-driven guide to handling RFD-08 notices, supported by a real-life case study from the textile sector.

2. Legal Framework

2.1 Statutory Provisions

The key statutory provisions governing the refund process and notices under RFD-08 are as follows:

Provision	Relevance
Section 54, CGST Act, 2017	Governing provision for GST refund claims
Rule 89(5), CGST Rules, 2017	Formula for computing refund under inverted duty structure
Rule 92(3), CGST Rules, 2017	Mandates issuance of Form RFD-08 before rejection
Form GST RFD-08	Show Cause Notice proposing rejection of refund
Form GST RFD-09	Taxpayer's reply to the SCN in RFD-08
Form GST RFD-06	Order rejecting refund (passed after RFD-09 process)
Form GST RFD-04 / RFD-05	Provisional and final refund sanction orders

2.2 Procedural Sequence

Understanding the procedural sequence is essential before examining how to respond to a rejection notice:

- The taxpayer files a refund application in Form GST RFD-01 on the common portal.
- An acknowledgement is generated in Form RFD-02 upon complete filing.
- The proper officer scrutinises the application. If deficiencies are found, a notice in Form RFD-03 may be issued.
- Where the officer proposes to reject the claim (wholly or partially), a Show



Cause Notice (SCN) in Form RFD-08 is issued under Rule 92(3).

- The taxpayer must file a reply in Form RFD-09 within 15 days of receiving the SCN.
- The officer then passes a final order — either sanctioning the refund via RFD-04/05/06, or confirming rejection via RFD-06.

Important: Non-response to RFD-08 within 15 days may result in an ex-parte order of rejection. Even a partial reply is better than silence.

2.3 Common Grounds for RFD-08 Notices

In practice, refund rejection notices under Form GST RFD-08 are commonly issued on the following grounds:

- Mismatch between ITC claimed and GSTR-2B
- Inclusion of input services or capital goods in refund computation
- Incorrect calculation under Rule 89(5)
- Inadequate or missing supporting documentation
- Classification disputes between inputs and capital goods

These issues are best understood through practical application, as illustrated below.

3. Case Study: Textile Manufacturer — Inverted Duty Refund

3.1 Background

Details of the case are as follows:

Business	Registered manufacturer of textile fabric
GST Registration	Regular taxpayer; GSTIN – Gujarat
Refund Period	April 2025 to September 2025 (6 months)
Basis of Refund	Inverted Duty Structure — Section 54(3)(ii) of CGST Act
Refund Claimed	Approx. Rs. 22.72 Lakhs (accumulated ITC on inputs)
Issue	Form RFD-08 received proposing complete rejection

3.2 Grounds of Rejection in the RFD-08 Notice

The department proposed rejection on five distinct grounds:

1. Inclusion of Input Services and Capital Goods in Annexure-B of the refund

application.

2. Mismatch between ITC claimed in the refund working and ITC reflected in Form GSTR-2B.
3. Invoice number discrepancies between the purchase register and GSTR-2B.
4. Inclusion of rent-related expenses (input services) in Annexure-B, which are not eligible for refund under the inverted duty structure.

3.3 Practical Challenges Encountered

The practical difficulties faced in handling this matter were distinct from the legal objections raised in the notice:

- Improper ITC segregation at the time of filing: The original Annexure-B had not been prepared with sufficient care, leading to inclusion of ineligible categories.
- Risk of full rejection: Given the volume of objections, there was a genuine risk that the entire claim — including the legitimately eligible portion — would be rejected en masse.
- Classification ambiguity: Certain items such as electrical components and machinery spares needed to be carefully classified as either consumable inputs or capital goods, a distinction with significant refund implications.

4. Step-by-Step Approach to Preparing the RFD-09 Reply

Step 1: Thorough Analysis of the RFD-08 Notice

Before preparing any response, the notice must be read carefully to identify each discrete objection. It is a common error to respond in general terms without addressing every ground specifically. The notice should be tabulated — each objection noted separately with a proposed response strategy.

Step 2: Detailed ITC Reconciliation

A three-way reconciliation was prepared covering: (i) Books of accounts / Purchase Register; (ii) Form GSTR-2B for the relevant months; and (iii) Refund working submitted with RFD-01. This reconciliation served to identify eligible ITC and ineligible ITC (services and capital goods).



Step 3: Correct Classification of ITC

ITC was categorised in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 of the CGST Act and Rule 89(5):

Category	Examples	Eligible for Refund?	Legal Basis & Justification
Inputs (Goods)	Yarn, dyes, chemicals, consumables	Yes — include in Annexure-B	- Section 2(59) CGST Act (Definition of "Input" – goods other than capital goods) - Explanation to Rule 89(5) CGST Rules: "Net ITC" means input tax credit availed on inputs during the relevant period (i.e., goods only) - Circular No. 135/05/2020-GST dated 31.03.2020, Para 6.2: Distinction is required because "refund of credit on Capital goods and/or services is not permissible in certain cases" (including inverted duty structure)
Input Services	Rent, professional fees, repairs	No — exclude from refund working	- Section 2(60) CGST Act (separate definition of "Input service") - Rule 89(5): Refund formula uses only "Net ITC" on inputs (goods). Input services are excluded. - Circular No. 135/05/2020-GST, Para 6.1 & 6.2 (explicitly requires separate classification in Annexure-B for this reason)
Capital Goods	Machinery, equipment, fixtures	No — exclude from refund working	- Section 2(19) CGST Act (Definition of "Capital Goods") - Circular No. 135/05/2020-GST, Para 6.2: Refund on capital goods is not permissible in certain refund cases (including inverted duty structure under Rule 89(5))

Step 4: Handling GSTR-2B Mismatches Due to Vendor Non-Compliance

This remains one of the most sensitive and practical challenges in inverted duty structure refund claims. Where ITC on genuine inward supplies does not reflect in FORM GSTR-2B due to supplier-side defaults (non-filing of GSTR-1 or GSTR-3B), the following conservative approach was adopted to minimise procedural delays and objections:

The mismatched ITC was excluded from the revised refund working and Net ITC computation under Rule 89(5).

A separate detailed note was annexed to the reply to the deficiency memo (FORM RFD-09), explaining the vendor default. The note was supported by:

- Copies of valid tax invoices,
- Proof of payment through banking channels,
- Relevant extracts from GSTR-2A (for reference), and
- Purchase register/ledger confirmation showing the transaction.

It was submitted that the applicant is a bona fide purchaser, has fulfilled all conditions under Section 16(2) of the CGST Act, and cannot be penalised for the supplier's non-compliance over which it had no control.

Legal Position

As per Circular No. 197/09/2023-GST (Para 1.3), refund of accumulated ITC under Section 54(3) is restricted to the ITC reflected in FORM GSTR-2B. However, several High Courts have held that



Input Tax Credit cannot be denied (or refund restricted) mechanically solely on account of supplier default where the purchaser demonstrates genuineness of the transaction and absence of fraud or collusion (e.g., recent rulings of Tripura HC and Gauhati HC). This position was cited in the reply as a protective defence, with the understanding that any relief on the excluded portion may require appellate or writ proceedings.

Step 5: Compilation of Documentation

The following documents were compiled and indexed as annexures to the RFD-09 reply:

- Tax invoices as specifically called for in Form GST RFD-08 notice
- Revised Annexure-B in Excel format with eligible ITC only
- Rent agreement evidencing the input service nature of rent — submitted to clarify why it was voluntarily excluded
- Copies of payment evidence (bank statements) for supplies where GSTR-2B mismatch existed
- GSTR-2A extracts showing partial vendor compliance

Step 6: Drafting the RFD-09 Reply

A structured, point-wise reply was prepared. Each ground in the RFD-08 notice was addressed sequentially. The reply adopted a clear and honest approach: where the original filing had included ineligible ITC, this was admitted, revised, and corrected — rather than defended aggressively. This approach does two things: (i) it builds credibility with the adjudicating officer, and (ii) it narrows the dispute to the genuinely eligible claim, reducing the risk of full rejection.

Key drafting principle: Strategically conceding what is indefensible strengthens the defence of what is legitimately eligible. Attempting to defend everything uniformly is a common error that undermines the entire claim.

5. Key Learnings for Practitioners

Based on this case and similar matters, the following professional learnings are highlighted:

5.1 Annexure-B should include only Inputs (Goods)

Rule 89(5) of the CGST Rules restricts refund under inverted duty structure to the Net ITC on 'inputs' — a term defined under Section 2(59) of

the CGST Act to mean goods other than capital goods. Input services are expressly excluded from the refund formula. Including them in Annexure-B will invariably attract an RFD-08 notice.

5.2 GSTR-2B Reconciliation is Non-Negotiable

The department cross-verifies Annexure-B against GSTR-2B automatically. Any mismatch triggers objection. Reconciliation before filing is far less costly than defending a mismatch after notice.

5.3 Classification of Capital vs. Consumable Items

Borderline items such as electrical fittings, machine spares, and repair materials require careful classification based on their nature and end-use. An item that is routinely consumed in the manufacturing process can qualify as an input; one that becomes part of the fixed asset base is a capital good. This distinction should be documented at the time of first receipt, not at the time of the notice.

5.4 Documentation Must Be Filed With the Application

Waiting until an RFD-08 notice is received to compile documentation is reactive and risky. Best practice is to maintain a refund file with indexed invoices, reconciliation, and classification details at the time of application itself.

6. Common Mistakes to Avoid

Common Error	Why It Matters
Including input services in Annexure B	Directly contradicts Rule 89(5); invites rejection of entire claim
Claiming ITC on capital goods in refund working	Capital goods expressly excluded from inverted duty refund
Filing without GSTRB reconciliation	Mismatches provide grounds for SCN under RFD-08
Generic or undifferentiated replies to notices	Failure to address each ground may result in ex-parte adverse order
Defending ineligible ITC instead of conceding it	Damages credibility; may lead to rejection of eligible ITC too
No documentation filed with the original application	Absence of records weakens the reply at the SCN stage



7. Practical Checklist Before Filing the Refund Application (RFD-01)

- Reconcile ITC with GSTR-2B for each tax period covered by the claim
- Segregate inputs, input services, and capital goods — include only inputs in Annexure-B
- Verify eligibility under Rule 89(5); apply the formula correctly
- Compile and index all supporting invoices prior to filing
- Classify borderline items (spares, consumables) with documented rationale

Upon Receiving Form RFD-08

- Note the date of receipt and compute the 15-day reply deadline immediately
- Read each objection carefully — tabulate them before drafting any response
- Prepare revised Annexure-B excluding ineligible ITC
- Prepare a fresh three-way reconciliation to support the revised claim
- Compile documentary evidence for each point of dispute

While Drafting the RFD-09 Reply

- Address each ground in the RFD-08 notice sequentially and specifically
- Cite relevant statutory provisions (Rule 89(5), Section 54, etc.)
- Where applicable, refer to relevant

judicial precedents on vendor non-compliance

- Attach all annexures with an index; number pages for ease of reference
- Maintain consistency between the reply, the revised working, and the supporting documents

8. Conclusion

A notice in Form GST RFD-08 is not a rejection order—it is an opportunity. The RFD-09 process exists precisely to allow a taxpayer to clarify, correct, and defend their claim before any adverse order is passed. Handled well, it can result in full or partial sanction of a claim that might otherwise have been lost.

The case study discussed in this article demonstrates that the combination of honest self-assessment, rigorous reconciliation, and proper documentation is more effective than aggressive defence. Practitioners who invest time in reconciliation at the filing stage, and who approach the reply stage with structured, evidence-led submissions, consistently achieve better outcomes for their clients.

As GST litigation continues to mature, the quality of representation at the notice stage — before any appeal is required — will increasingly define professional value. A well-prepared RFD-09 reply is as much a professional document as any court submission; it deserves the same level of care and precision.

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AI in Direct Tax Administration: Impact on Chartered Accountants



Contributed by:
CA. Bhumika Pandya

The adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India's direct tax administration represents a paradigm shift toward a data-driven and technology-centric compliance framework. From automated return processing to risk-based scrutiny, AI is significantly transforming how taxes are administered and enforced. While this enhances efficiency, transparency, and accountability, it also redefines the role of Chartered Accountants (CAs). This article examines the key applications of AI in direct taxation and analyses its practical impact, challenges, and opportunities for the profession.

1. Introduction

In recent years, India's tax administration has undergone rapid digitalization, marked by initiatives such as faceless assessments, centralized processing, and pre-filled income tax returns. Building on this foundation, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is now being integrated to improve efficiency, reduce tax evasion, and promote voluntary compliance.

AI enables the tax department to process vast amounts of financial data, identify anomalies, and take informed decisions with minimal human intervention. This technological evolution is reshaping the professional landscape for Chartered Accountants, requiring a shift from traditional compliance roles to more analytical and advisory functions.

2. Understanding AI in Tax Administration

Artificial Intelligence in taxation involves the use of:

- Machine Learning algorithms
- Data analytics and pattern recognition
- Predictive and risk-based modelling

These tools analyse data from multiple sources such as income tax returns, GST filings, banking

transactions, and third-party reports. The objective is to identify discrepancies, detect tax evasion, and enhance the overall efficiency of tax administration.

3. Key Applications of AI in Direct Tax

3.1 Risk-Based Scrutiny Selection

AI systems assess taxpayer profiles using historical data, income trends, and transaction patterns. Cases with higher risk indicators are automatically selected for scrutiny, replacing the earlier system of random selection. This leads to more focused and effective assessments.

3.2 Pre-Filled Income Tax Returns

AI integrates data from various sources including employers, banks, and financial institutions to generate pre-filled returns. This reduces manual effort, minimizes errors, and improves compliance accuracy.

3.3 Faceless Assessment Mechanism

AI supports the faceless assessment system by:

- Allocating cases dynamically
- Assisting in document verification
- Ensuring standardized processes

This reduces human bias and promotes transparency in tax administration.

3.4 Detection of Tax Evasion

Advanced analytics help identify:

- Unreported income
- Suspicious transactions
- Shell entities and bogus claims

AI significantly strengthens enforcement capabilities by enabling early detection and preventive action.

3.5 Litigation and Decision Support

AI tools can analyse past judicial decisions and assist in predicting outcomes of disputes. While still evolving, such tools can aid both tax



4. Impact on Chartered Accountants

4.1 Shift from Compliance to Advisory

Routine tasks such as return filing, data entry, and basic reconciliations are increasingly automated. As a result, the role of CAs is shifting toward:

- Strategic tax planning
- Advisory and consulting services
- Interpretation of complex legal provisions

This transition enhances the value proposition of the profession.

4.2 Increased Emphasis on Data Accuracy

AI systems rely heavily on data matching across multiple platforms. Even minor inconsistencies can trigger notices. Therefore, CAs must ensure:

- Accurate and consistent reporting
- Proper reconciliation of financial data
- Alignment between various filings (ITR, TDS, GST, etc.)

4.3 Enhanced Due Diligence

The integration of data across departments increases the need for thorough verification. CAs are required to:

- Maintain robust documentation
- Validate client data carefully
- Strengthen internal control mechanisms

4.4 Need for Technological Skills

The modern CA must go beyond traditional knowledge and develop:

- Basic understanding of data analytics
- Familiarity with tax technology platforms
- Ability to interpret AI-generated insights

This marks a shift toward a technology-enabled profession.

4.5 Increased Professional Responsibility

With greater transparency and traceability, professional accountability increases. Certifications, audit reports, and advisory opinions are subject to closer scrutiny, making diligence and ethical conduct more critical than ever.

5. Practical Challenges

5.1 Algorithmic Errors and False Positives

AI systems are not infallible. Genuine transactions may sometimes be flagged as suspicious, leading to unnecessary notices and increased compliance burden.

5.2 Lack of Transparency

AI decision-making processes are often complex and not easily explainable. This “black box” nature can make it difficult for taxpayers and professionals to challenge certain actions.

5.3 Data Privacy and Security Concerns

The extensive use of personal and financial data raises concerns about confidentiality and data protection. Ensuring secure handling of taxpayer information is crucial.

5.4 Adaptation Challenges for Professionals

Not all practitioners, especially small and medium firms, may have immediate access to advanced technology or training. This creates a gap in adoption and efficiency.

6. Opportunities for Chartered Accountants

Despite the challenges, AI presents significant opportunities:

6.1 Expansion of Advisory Services

CAs can focus on:

- Tax planning and structuring
- Risk assessment and compliance strategy
- Business advisory services authorities and professionals in formulating strategies.

6.2 Representation and Litigation Support

AI-driven notices require skilled interpretation and response. CAs can play a crucial role in handling faceless assessments and appeals.

6.3 Technology and Compliance Solutions

Firms can offer services related to:

- Automation of accounting and tax processes
- Implementation of compliance systems
- Data management and analytics

6.4 Emerging Specialized Areas

New practice areas are emerging, such as:

- Data analytics in taxation
- Forensic audits
- AI-assisted compliance and reporting

7. Way Forward for the Profession

To remain relevant and competitive, Chartered Accountants must:

- Embrace technological advancements
- Invest in continuous professional education
- Develop interdisciplinary skills combining law, finance, and technology
- Focus on delivering value-added services rather than routine compliance

Professional bodies and institutions should also play a proactive role by providing training, guidance, and resources to support this transition.

8. Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence is transforming direct tax administration by enhancing efficiency, transparency, and compliance. While it automates routine processes, it also elevates the role of Chartered Accountants to that of strategic advisors and problem-solvers.

The future of the profession lies in adaptability. Chartered Accountants who embrace technology, enhance their analytical capabilities, and focus on advisory services will not only remain relevant but thrive in this evolving landscape.

AI is not a replacement for professional expertise—it is a tool that, when effectively leveraged, can significantly enhance the value delivered by Chartered Accountants.



Beyond “AI vs Humans”: The Case for Cognitive Partnership



Contributed by:
Dr. Anurag Mehta

It is time that we stop considering Artificial Intelligence as a competitor to human intelligence or human existence per se. The world needs to look at the two as a synergy of co-existence. The new normal is about integration and collaboration, about 'and', about evolving together as superlative forms of intelligence.

How Intelligence works – The way intelligence should work is that it should learn through theory, testify its practical implication in real life, reflect on the experience and be able to solve a crisis at hand. In the human context, it should be a mix of *rancho* and *chatur*.

That is quite what Artificial Intelligence does. It learns through what we ask and feed it with the related data. It is an aggregation of the patterns of the human knowledge and intelligence spread over thousands of years in the way data was fed into it.

Ask AI about the interpretation of the teachings of Vedas and Bhagwad Gita or Quran or Bible or any other religious philosophy or about Plato and Aristotle or about Dhirubhai Ambani and Steve Jobs, it will have much to say about any of these at the theoretical and implementable level.

The human aspect – This throws the ball in our court and puts the human competency to test. The domain of introspection is – when AI provides something to us from its large knowledge bank what choose to do with it. Human intelligence is subjective; it varies contextually as well as from the individual's standpoint.

As the famous psychologist Kurt Lewin said – behaviour is a function of individual characteristic and the environment one has

been and is a part of. This environment is known as conditioning.

AI in the workplace – It is critical as corporate leaders that we understand where we can draw a clear line between both forms of intelligence in our personal area of decision making while leading human and AI teams.

- AI identifies patterns but humans have emotions and wisdom coupled with the contextual awareness
- AI doesn't have a moral compass but human decision making must be ethically justified
- AI is immune from legal scanner; humans must use AI data with sound judgment

For example, AI can suggest you the plan for market penetration within minutes with detailed reporting structure but humans will need to further add on the practical applicability in that.

AI can provide performance reviews based on the data fed into it but humans can add a dash of empathy and ground knowledge and make it more relevant.

Many examples like that exist in hiring, policy making, business growth strategy, crisis management, or even in as mundane things like writing emails.

But humans cannot let go of their most powerful cognitive abilities – critical and creative thinking.

AI can give ideas; interpretation is human domain

AI taking over humans – AI needs to be seen more as an asset or even an efficient, non-complaining employee. The question of takeover becomes relevant only when we are



okay with complacency. When discipline is not a priority, cognitive atrophy is inevitable.

AI is not replacing human intelligence, it is testing whether humans are using it still. It is almost as –

'either we know how to use AI or be ready to be used by AI'

Humans have discovered and invented everything within the scope of microscope to telescope and the internet because of their cognitive abilities like curiosity, imagination, introspection, comprehending, reasoning and the innate desire to improvise on the best that has been produced. An ability that needs a

special mention among others is instinct.

But laziness to apply our mind in the name of efficiency is foolish because efficiency is more about applicability and not just time and money saved. Having said that, to use an intelligence which goes beyond the individual ability is certainly a smart way.

When human intelligence meets AI precision and speed, the result is amplification ! AI is not a competition but an add on. Human intelligence is to facilitate a cognitive partnership between two superlative forms of intelligence.

To conclude – AI is Not the Threat. Complacency Is!





The Auditor of the Future: How AI-Driven Innovation Is Redefining Internal Audit



Contributed by:
CA. Manisha Ahra

A Professional Perspective for the Modern CA

Picture this: it is the final week of a year-end internal audit review. Your team has spent weeks manually combing through ledgers, selecting entries to test and hoping the exceptions fall within the records you happened to pick. Now imagine a different scenario: an intelligent system has already reviewed every single transaction overnight and placed a prioritised list of exceptions on your inbox or dashboard before your working day begins. This is not a distant possibility, it is happening now and it is redefining what good internal audit looks like. As Chartered Accountants, our value lies in exercising professional judgement, identifying risk early and providing assurance that stakeholders can genuinely rely upon. Artificial Intelligence does not diminish that role it makes it stronger. But only if we choose to lead this change rather than wait for it to overtake us.

"AI does not replace the auditor's judgement it frees it from the routine, so it can focus on what truly matters."

The Honest Challenge Facing Internal Audit Today

Traditional internal audit has always involved selecting a portion of transactions to examine rather than reviewing everything. This is understandable, the sheer volume of business activity in any growing organisation makes complete manual review impossible. However, it means our conclusions are drawn from an

incomplete picture and risk can hide in the spaces we did not look. Add to this that audit cycles are typically annual or quarterly and it becomes clear that conventional internal audit largely looks backward. By the time a finding is reported, the underlying issue may have been running for months.

The complexity of transactions today across multiple locations, entities and accounting systems has grown considerably. The profession must honestly ask: are our current methods keeping pace? Technology can help us do this far better.

What AI Actually Means for the Internal Auditor

When the term Artificial Intelligence is used, it can sound intimidating. For the practising CA, it helps to think of AI simply as a set of smart tools that can read data, learn patterns and flag what looks unusual, tasks that humans currently do manually, slowly and at limited scale. Internal auditors do not need to become software engineers. What matters is understanding what these tools can do and how to ask the right questions of their output. The professional judgement, the knowledge of business context and the ethical backbone remain entirely ours.

The following are practical applications that internal audit teams are beginning to adopt including those in mid-sized Indian organisations. None require the audit team to write code or manage technology. They require only a willingness to work with tools and more importantly to ask better questions.



1. Spotting Unusual Transactions Automatically

Instead of manually selecting transactions to review, AI based monitoring tools scan every entry in an accounting system and flag those that look out of place. An expense posted just below an approval threshold; a vendor whose invoice value suddenly differs from their usual pattern or a payment made outside normal business hours. The auditor investigates the flagged items rather than spending time searching for them. This shifts effort from sorting to analysing, which is a far better use of professional expertise.

Example: *A manufacturing company's AI monitoring tool notices a vendor has submitted three invoices in the same week, each just below the level requiring a second signatory's approval. No single invoice looks alarming, but the pattern prompts investigation and the invoices turn out to relate to a service never actually delivered. Without AI, this may have gone undetected until the next audit cycle.*

2. Reading and Reviewing Documents More Efficiently

A significant portion of audit time is spent reading contracts, agreements and correspondence to verify that terms are being followed and no unusual arrangements exist. AI tools can now read large volumes of documents, identify key clauses and highlight discrepancies between what a contract says and what the accounts reflect. Think of it as a thorough first read that surfaces the important points and brings the concerning ones to the auditor's attention and the auditor still exercises judgement; the tool simply does the initial sifting.

Example: *A real estate company with dozens of commercial lease agreements each with different rent escalation and termination clauses uses an AI document review tool to extract key financial terms and compare them against actual invoices raised. Discrepancies are flagged automatically and the auditor investigates only those, achieving*

far greater coverage in a fraction of the time a manual review would require.

3. Identifying Where Risk Is Likely to Be Before It Becomes a Problem

One of the most powerful shifts AI enables is the move from reactive to proactive auditing. By analysing historical patterns, past findings, financial trends and control failures, AI generates a risk score for different parts of the business and highlights areas warranting closer attention. Audit plans are then based on evidence rather than last year's template. Higher risk areas receive more attention; lower risk areas are monitored with lighter procedures.

Example: *A retail chain uses an AI risk model to score its outlets based on staff turnover, cash refund frequency, inventory shrinkage and previous audit findings. Three outlets score significantly higher than the rest. The audit team visits those three in depth and finds control weaknesses in two of them that had not been previously reported. Lower scoring branches are covered through lighter desk-based review, allowing the same team to cover more ground with greater impact.*

4. Automating Repetitive Audit Tasks

Every audit function has tasks that are important but repetitive e.g., comparing ledger balances, verifying vendor details match across systems, confirming payments were properly approved. These consume disproportionate time and are prone to human error over long periods. Automation tools can perform these checks continuously and consistently, freeing the team to focus on work requiring professional thinking. This is not about replacing people; it is about deploying them where they add the most value.

Example: *A logistics company's monthly audit involves verifying that every transporter payment matches an approved purchase order and a signed delivery confirmation. Previously a manual three-way match across separate registers, this process now runs automatically overnight. The*



auditor reviews only the flagged exceptions each month catching more discrepancies in far less time than the manual approach ever managed.

5. Presenting Findings More Clearly to Management

AI assisted reporting tools generate visual dashboards showing at a glance where exceptions are concentrated, how risk levels compare across business units and how the current period compares to previous ones. Rather than a dense written report delivered quarterly, management receives a clear, regularly updated picture of the control environment, improving the speed at which findings are understood and acted upon.

Example: *A diversified group previously presented its Audit Committee with a dense quarterly written report. After adopting an AI assisted dashboard, the Committee now sees a consolidated summary view of risk status across all business verticals at each meeting what has been tested, where issues need attention, and how the overall control environment has moved since last time. Discussions have become sharper, and management response times to findings have improved noticeably.*

"The audit committee does not need a longer report. It needs a clearer one. AI makes that possible."

A Word of Caution: Governance Must Keep Pace

It would be professionally incomplete to discuss AI in audit without acknowledging the responsibilities that accompany it. AI tools learn from historical data and if that data carries errors or gaps, the outputs will reflect those shortcomings. An AI generated flag is a starting point for professional investigation, never a conclusion. When a tool flags something, we must ask: why did it flag this? Is the data reliable? Does this make business sense? The machine identifies the pattern; only the CA determines whether it matters. Data privacy is equally important any AI tool accessing sensitive financial information must be governed by appropriate safeguards. The ICAI's emerging guidance on data analytics in audit is evolving to address these issues, and staying current with it is part of our professional responsibility.

A Practical Path Forward for Practitioners

For CAs considering where to begin, the following steps offer a sensible starting point:

- ▶ **Start with the data you already have:** Ensure your existing accounting data is well-organised and consistently maintained. Clean data is the foundation of any useful AI output.
- ▶ **Identify one repetitive task to automate first:** Choose a high volume, rule-based procedure that is time consuming and explore whether it can be automated. The time saving will build team confidence and demonstrate tangible value to management.
- ▶ **Pilot transaction monitoring in one area:** Select a high risk process e.g., accounts payable, payroll or expense claims and run AI assisted monitoring alongside your existing procedures. Comparing results is the best way to understand the tool's strengths and limits.
- ▶ **Build the team's comfort with data:** Encourage team members to develop basic skills in reading dashboards and interpreting flags. Peer learning and internal knowledge sharing can be as effective as formal training.
- ▶ **Communicate proactively with your Audit Committee:** Brief your Audit Committee on how technology is being incorporated into the audit function. Their support is essential, and their questions will sharpen your approach.

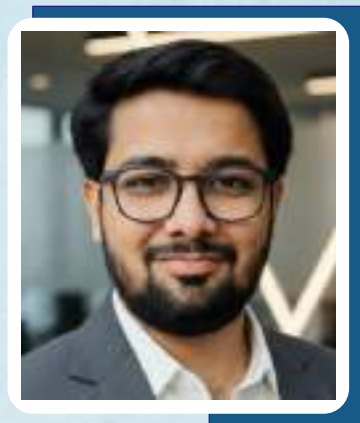
Our Moment to Lead

Internal audit has always evolved alongside the businesses it serves, from paper ledgers to computerised systems, from domestic operations to complex multi-entity structures. The emergence of AI is simply the next chapter in that story. The Chartered Accountant who engages thoughtfully with these tools will not find their role diminished; they will find it elevated. What remains most important is the professional's ability to interpret, question, challenge and advise.

The auditor of the future is not a machine. The auditor of the future is a Chartered Accountant who understands how to use one wisely.



The Tech-Enabled CA: Navigating the Future of Practice and Industry



Contributed by:
CA. Rathod Hiren

The professional landscape for Chartered Accountants (CAs) is undergoing a seismic shift. No longer just "number crunchers," the modern CA is a strategic advisor powered by a digital-first mindset. This month, we explore how Technology & Innovation are redefining our core competencies, especially in the context of the ICAI Ahmedabad Branch's mission to elevate professional standards.

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) in accounting

The integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) is not about the replacement of professionals; it's about their augmentation. AI now handles high-volume, repetitive tasks like data entry, categorization of expenses, and bank reconciliations with near-perfect accuracy and at speeds no human can match.

- **From Automation to Intelligence:** Traditional automation follows rules; AI learns from data. This means software can now flag anomalies in real-time, such as a duplicate invoice or a suspicious transaction that doesn't fit a vendor's historical profile.
- **Predictive Analytics:** Beyond historical reporting, AI tools help CAs forecast cash flow trends. By analyzing years of data, these systems can predict seasonal slumps or identify potential financial risks before they materialize, allowing a CA to provide proactive, rather than reactive, advice.

2. The Power of Data Analytics

Data is the "new oil," and Chartered Accountants are the refineries. In an era of Big Data, the ability to extract, clean, and interpret vast datasets is a core survival skill.

- **Uncovering Business Insights:** By

moving beyond the trial balance, CAs can help clients understand customer behavior, inventory turnover, and operational bottlenecks. This transforms the CA from a compliance officer to a business growth partner.

- **Audit Efficiency:** The shift from "sample-based" auditing to "population-based" testing is here. Instead of checking 5% of transactions, modern data analytics tools allow for 100% assurance coverage. This significantly reduces audit risk and enhances the quality of financial reporting.

3. Strengthening Cybersecurity & ERP Implementations

As businesses move their entire operations to the cloud, the CA's role in governance and risk management has never been more critical.

- **ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning):** Whether it is SAP, Oracle, or Microsoft Dynamics, a CA's involvement in ERP implementation ensures that robust internal controls and audit trails are "baked into" the system from day one. This prevents costly "patchwork" fixes later.
- **Cyber-Resilience:** A data breach is no longer just an IT issue; it is a financial and reputational catastrophe. CAs must understand cybersecurity frameworks to advise clients on risk mitigation, insurance coverage for cyber threats, and the financial impact of potential downtime.

Actionable Strategies for Your Career Path

Whether you are managing a practice or working in a corporate role, staying relevant requires continuous upskilling and a shift in



perspective.

I. For the Practitioner (Small & Medium Firms)

Practitioners in Ahmedabad and across India must modernize to compete with global standards.

- 1. Migrate to the Cloud:** If your firm is still using localized servers, you are limiting your scalability. Cloud-based practice management software allows for real-time collaboration with clients and team members, ensuring that work continues seamlessly regardless of location.
- 2. Invest in "Audit Tech":** Utilize specialized forensic software for automated reconciliations. This increases firm throughput, allowing you to handle more clients with the same number of staff while maintaining high accuracy.
- 3. Offer Value-Added Services:** Move your billing model from "compliance-based" (filing returns) to "value-based" (CFO services, strategic tax planning, and tech consultancy).

II. For the Professional (Industry & Jobs)

For CAs in corporate roles, technology is the key to the C-suite (CFO/CEO).

- 1. Master Visualization Tools:** While Excel remains a staple, it is no longer enough.

Learn tools like **Power BI or Tableau**. Presenting a dynamic financial dashboard that allows a CEO to "drill down" into data is far more impactful than a static spreadsheet.

- 2. Understand Blockchain and Smart Contracts:** While still emerging, blockchain will eventually simplify complex multi-party reconciliations and supply chain financing. Being early to understand this tech puts you ahead of the curve.
- 3. Soft Skills in a Hard Tech World:** As machines take over the technical work, your value lies in **interpretation**. The ability to explain *why* the data looks a certain way and what the business should do about it is a human-centric skill that no AI can replicate

Conclusion: Embracing the Digital Renaissance

Innovation is a journey, not a destination. For the Chartered accountants, this is an era of immense opportunity. By embracing these technological pillars—AI, Data Analytics, and Cybersecurity—we can lead the way in providing global-standard services. The future CA is not just a custodian of the past but an architect of the future.



THE DIGITAL RENAISSANCE: CA PROFESSION REIMAGINED

The professional landscape for Chartered Accountants (CAs) is undergoing a seismic shift. No longer just "number crunchers," the modern CA is a strategic adviser powered by a digital-first mindset. This month, we explore how Technology & Innovation are redefining our core competencies, especially in the context of the ICAI Ahmedabad Branch's mission to elevate professional standards.

1. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) IN ACCOUNTING

- From Automation to Intelligence: Traditional automation follows rules; AI learns from data. Software flags anomalies in real-time, such as duplicate invoices or suspicious transactions.
- Predictive Analytics: Beyond historical reporting, AI tools help CAs forecast cash flow trends by analyzing years of data to predict seasonal slumps and identify risks.

Augmentation, not Replacement: AI handles high-volume, repetitive tasks like data entry, categorization of expenses, and bank reconciliations with high accuracy.

2. THE POWER OF DATA ANALYTICS

Data is the "new oil," CAs are the refineries.

- Uncovering Business Insights: Moving beyond the trial balance to help clients understand customer behavior, inventory turnover, and operational bottlenecks. Transforms CA from compliance to growth partner.
- Audit Efficiency: Shift from "sample-based" to "population-based" testing. Data analytics tools allow for 100% assurance coverage, reducing audit risk and enhancing financial reporting.

3. STRENGTHENING CYBERSECURITY & ERP IMPLEMENTATIONS

As businesses move operations to the cloud, the CA's role in governance and risk management is critical.

- ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning): A CA's involvement in ERP implementation ensures robust internal controls and audit trails are "baked into" the system from day one, preventing costly fires.
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ACTIONABLE STRATEGIES FOR YOUR CAREER PATH

I. FOR THE PRACTITIONER (Small & Medium Firms)

- Migrate to the Cloud:** Modernize with cloud-based practice management for real-time collaboration and seamless work.
- Invest in "Audit Tech":** Utilize forensic software for automated reconciliations and higher firm throughput.
- Offer Value-Added Services:** Move from "compliance-based" to "value-based" billing (CFO services, strategic planning, tech consultancy).

II. FOR THE PROFESSIONAL (Industry & Jobs)

- Master Visualization Tools:** Learn Power BI or Tableau to present dynamic financial dashboards.
- Understand Blockchain and Smart Contracts:** Early understanding puts you ahead as it simplifies reconciliations and supply chain finance.
- Soft Skills in a Hard Tech World:** Machines take over technical work, your value is in interpretation and business advice.

CONCLUSION: EMBRACING THE DIGITAL RENAISSANCE.

Innovation is a journey, not a destination. For Chartered Accountants, this is an era of immense opportunity. By embracing these technological pillars—AI, Data Analytics, and Cybersecurity—we can lead the way in providing global-standard services. The future CA is not just a custodian of the past but an architect of the future.



Artificial Intelligence in the Era of the Modern Chartered Accountant: Opportunities, Risks, and the Path Forward



Contributed by:
CA. Preety Jain

ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is actively reshaping the accounting, auditing, and finance profession at unprecedented speed. This article examines AI's multidimensional impact on Chartered Accountants in India — covering automation of compliance, AI-assisted audit, ethical responsibilities, regulatory preparedness, and the emerging skill imperatives for ICAI members. The article argues that AI should be viewed not as a threat but as a strategic enabler, provided the CA community engages with it proactively and responsibly.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Chartered Accountancy, Audit Automation, Machine Learning, Generative AI, GST Compliance, ICAI, Digital Transformation, Professional Ethics

1. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence has crossed from promise to practice. Across India today, CA firms are deploying AI tools that automate GST reconciliations, detect anomalies in audit populations, draft tax opinions, and generate financial narratives — tasks that once consumed the bulk of a professional's working day. For ICAI members, this shift presents both an extraordinary opportunity and a serious responsibility.

The opportunity lies in leveraging AI to enhance service quality, expand client capacity, and deliver deeper advisory value. The responsibility is to do so without compromising the professional judgment, ethical standards, and public trust that define the CA designation. This article maps the terrain of AI in CA practice today and identifies what members must understand, adopt, and guard against as this transformation accelerates.

"AI does not replace the Chartered

Accountant. It replaces the version of the CA who spent most of their time on tasks machines can now do better."

2. What AI Means for CA in Practice: The Core Technologies

AI is not a single technology but a family of tools, each with distinct applications in professional practice. Four are most directly relevant to the work of a CA:

- **Machine Learning (ML):** Algorithms that learn from data to identify patterns and improve predictions — central to fraud detection, audit risk scoring, and GST mismatch analysis.
- **Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Generative AI:** Tools that understand and produce human language — powering AI systems that draft tax opinions, summarise judgments, prepare audit narratives, and respond to statutory notices.
- **Robotic Process Automation (RPA):** Software that mimics human actions on computer systems, automating repetitive compliance tasks such as data entry, bank reconciliation, invoice matching, and return filing.
- **Computer Vision and OCR:** AI that reads and extracts structured data from invoices, receipts, and financial documents — eliminating manual data entry at the bookkeeping layer.

Together, these technologies address the full spectrum of CA work: from the mechanical and transactional at the base, to the analytical and advisory at the apex. The more the base is automated, the more time and capacity is freed for the apex — which is where the CA's irreplaceable value lies.



3. AI Across Key CA Functions

In taxation, AI's impact is most immediately visible. The monthly GST cycle — historically one of the most labour-intensive recurring tasks — has been transformed. AI tools now automatically reconcile GSTR-2B against purchase registers, classify mismatches by type (timing differences, vendor non-filing, rate discrepancies), and generate exception reports for CA review. What previously required days of manual work can be completed in under an hour. On the direct tax side, AI cross-verifies AIS and 26AS data against client financials, identifies undisclosed income risks before filing, and assists in TDS compliance across Form 24Q, 26Q, and 27Q. It is worth noting that the Income Tax Department itself uses AI — through Project Insight — to select scrutiny cases and generate automated notices. A CA who understands how

the department's AI works is better placed to advise clients and respond to queries. In audit and assurance, AI has done something structurally significant: it has broken the sampling constraint. Traditional audit methodology requires selecting a sample because no human team can examine every transaction in a large client's books. AI-powered audit analytics platforms now test 100 percent of transactions for anomalies, unusual patterns, Benford's Law deviations, round-number clustering, and after-hours journal entries. The auditor reviews a risk-ranked list of flagged items drawn from the entire population — not a sample. This directly strengthens compliance with SA 315 (Risk Identification) and SA 520 (Analytical Procedures). A CA firm using AI analytics is not merely a faster firm; it is a fundamentally more thorough one.

CA Function	Traditional Method	AI-Enhanced Method
GST Reconciliation	Manual register matching	Automated GSTR2B matching, instant exceptions
Audit — Journal Entry	Sample-based vouching	100% population anomaly detection
Tax Research	Manual case law search	Generative AI summarises relevant rulings
Bookkeeping	Manual data entry	AI OCR extracts invoice data automatically
Financial Advisory	Periodic spreadsheet models	Real-time rolling forecasts and dashboards

Table 1: Traditional vs AI-Enhanced Methods Across CA Practice

In financial advisory, AI functions as a high-powered analytical engine. It processes financial and operational data to generate rolling forecasts, scenario models, and early-warning dashboards at a speed that makes real-time decision support practical for businesses of all sizes. For valuation and transfer pricing assignments, AI-powered databases enable rapid retrieval of comparable data, automated financial normalisation, and sensitivity analysis — compressing the research phase significantly.

4. Risks and Professional Responsibilities

The adoption of AI in CA practice carries professional risks that members must actively manage. The most significant is over-reliance: the uncritical acceptance of AI outputs without

the exercise of professional scepticism. An AI system that scores a transaction as high-risk is providing data, not a conclusion. A generative AI tool that drafts a tax opinion is producing a starting point for review, not a finished professional product. ICAI's Code of Ethics, aligned with the IESBA Code, requires members to apply professional judgment in all engagements. This obligation does not diminish in an AI-assisted environment — it becomes more demanding, as CAs must now evaluate both the substance of the matter and the reliability of the tool used to analyse it.

⚠ Data Privacy Alert: *Using cloud-based AI tools to process client financial data raises obligations under the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. ICAI members must review vendor agreements carefully and ensure*



appropriate data processing arrangements are in place before deploying any AI platform that handles client information.

Explainability is a related concern. If an AI system flags a transaction, the CA must be able to articulate the professional basis for the conclusion to clients, tax authorities, and courts. Algorithmic bias — where AI models trained on historical data perpetuate skewed patterns — is a risk in applications such as credit assessment and audit risk scoring, and requires active monitoring. Cybersecurity is also a growing concern: AI systems connected to live client data represent valuable targets, and firms must implement appropriate controls commensurate with the sensitivity of the data involved.

5. ICAI's Response and the Regulatory Landscape

ICAI has been proactive in preparing members for the AI era. The updated CA curriculum integrates data analytics, information systems, and AI literacy at all three levels — Foundation, Intermediate, and Final. The Institute's Centre of Excellence for Data Analytics and Digital Transformation provides continuing education for members already in practice. The DISA programme has been updated to include AI governance, and Technical Guides on Data Analytics in Audit and Cybersecurity provide practical standards for technology deployment in professional engagements.

At the regulatory level, SEBI has begun examining AI use by registered entities, the Reserve Bank of India has issued a discussion paper on responsible AI in financial services, and MeitY has published advisory frameworks on AI governance. India does not yet have comprehensive AI-specific legislation equivalent to the EU AI Act, but the direction of travel is clear: AI deployment in professional and financial services will increasingly be subject to regulatory scrutiny, and CAs will need to be prepared to advise clients navigating this landscape as well as govern their own use of AI tools.

6. The AI-Ready CA: Essential Competencies

The emergence of AI does not render the CA redundant — it redefines where expertise is most valuable. As AI absorbs the mechanical layer of compliance and data processing, the premium on distinctly human capabilities rises: judgment, communication, ethical reasoning, and the ability to ask the right questions of both clients and AI systems. At the same time, a baseline of AI literacy is now a professional

necessity. The following competencies define the AI-ready CA:

- **AI Literacy:** Understanding how core AI tools work, what they can and cannot do, and how to critically evaluate their outputs — without needing to be a programmer.
- **Data Analytics Proficiency:** Working competence in tools such as Excel Power Query, Power BI, IDEA, ACL, or Python for interrogating and visualising financial data.
- **Professional Scepticism in an AI Context:** The ability to question AI outputs, identify edge cases, and maintain the standard of professional judgment required by the SAs and ICAI's Code of Ethics.
- **Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Awareness:** Understanding DPDPA 2023 obligations, AI vendor risk, and basic cybersecurity governance for client data protection.
- **Client Advisory on AI:** The ability to guide clients through AI adoption in their own finance functions — a fast-growing and high-value advisory opportunity.

7. Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence is not the end of the Chartered Accountant. It is the beginning of a higher-value CA — one who spends less time processing data and more time interpreting it, less time completing compliance tasks and more time advising on their implications. The profession has adapted to every technology that has come before, and it will adapt to AI — provided members engage with it seriously, deploy it responsibly, and maintain the ethical standards and professional scepticism that have always been the foundation of public trust in the CA designation.

"The question is not whether AI will change accounting. It already has. The question is whether Chartered Accountants will lead that change — or simply be carried by it."

The time to engage is now. The tools are available. The regulatory environment is taking shape. And the profession has everything it needs — rigorous analytical training, deep domain expertise, and an unwavering ethical framework — to ensure that AI serves its highest purpose: the public interest.



From Spreadsheets to Smart Assistants: A Practical Step-by-Step Guide to Integrating AI into Your CA Practice



Contributed by:
CA. Hetul Bagaria

Not long ago, preparing an audit checklist meant hours of manual work. A GST reconciliation could eat up an entire afternoon. Today, a growing number of Chartered Accountants across India are quietly transforming these workflows—using Artificial Intelligence tools to do in minutes what once took hours.

The good news: you do not need a technology background to get started. You need curiosity, a few free tools, and a systematic approach. This article gives you exactly that—a practical, step-by-step guide to bringing AI into your CA practice, responsibly and effectively.

Why AI Is No Longer Optional for CAs

The Indian accounting profession is at an inflection point. With GST filing volumes, ITR complexity, and MCA compliance timelines increasing every year, the manual workload on practitioners has grown substantially. Meanwhile, clients expect faster turnarounds, error-free filings, and proactive advice.

AI does not replace the CA—it amplifies the CA. It handles the repetitive and pattern-driven work so that you can focus on judgment, advisory, and relationships. Here is a snapshot of what AI can realistically do for a CA practice today:

- Draft client communications, engagement letters, and legal notices in seconds
- Summarise lengthy CBIC circulars, MCA notifications, and SEBI guidelines
- Reconcile GST data, flag mismatches, and draft explanation notes
- Prepare audit checklists tailored to specific industries
- Analyse financial statements and identify ratio anomalies
- Research case laws and generate preliminary opinion notes
- Convert complex tax provisions into simple client explainers

A 7-Step Guide to Getting Started

Step
1

Start with One Problem, Not the Whole Practice

The biggest mistake practitioners make is trying to 'AI-ify' everything at once. Instead, identify one specific, recurring pain point. Examples: 'I spend 45 minutes every month drafting GST demand reply letters' or 'Creating audit programmes for new clients takes too long.' Pick that one thing. Solve it with AI first. Then expand.

Step
2

Choose the Right AI Tool for CA Work

Several AI assistants are well-suited for professional accounting work. ChatGPT (OpenAI), Claude (Anthropic), and Google Gemini are the most widely used. For Indian compliance-heavy work, these tools work best when you give them detailed context—the section numbers, the specific facts, the relevant AY or GST period. Do not expect the AI to 'know' your client's situation without telling it.



Step 3

Learn the Art of Prompting

AI output quality is directly proportional to prompt quality. A vague question yields a vague answer. For professional work, structure your prompts as follows: (a) State your role — 'I am a Chartered Accountant in India'; (b) Provide context — the relevant section, period, or facts; (c) Specify the output format — 'Draft a reply letter', 'Prepare a numbered checklist', 'Summarise in 5 bullet points'; (d) Set the tone — 'formal', 'client-friendly', 'technical'. Practice prompting as a skill. It is as learnable as Excel formula writing.

Step 4

Apply AI to GST Practice — Practical Examples

GST is one of the highest-ROI areas for AI in CA practice. You can use AI to: draft replies to scrutiny notices under Section 61, prepare reconciliation analysis summaries between GSTR-2B and books, summarise recent AAR (Advance Authority Rulings) to advise clients on specific transactions, generate FAQ documents for clients facing annual GST audits, and draft written submissions for appellate proceedings. Always verify the legal citations and circular references independently — AI can miss recent amendments or misquote notification numbers.

Step 5

Use AI for Audit Efficiency

Statutory auditors can significantly improve efficiency using AI. Before fieldwork, use AI to generate industry-specific audit checklists (AI can tailor questions for a manufacturing firm versus a trading company versus an NBFC). During the audit, paste anonymised financial data and ask AI to identify unusual ratios, flag items needing closer scrutiny, or compare against industry norms. After the audit, use AI to draft management representation letters, internal control observations, and Board/Audit Committee presentation summaries. One important principle: AI assists in identification and drafting — the professional judgment remains yours and yours alone.

Step 6

Establish a Client Data Confidentiality Protocol

This is the most critical step, and the one most practitioners skip. Before using any AI tool with client information, your practice must establish a clear protocol. Anonymise data — replace actual client names, PAN numbers, and account numbers with generic placeholders before pasting into AI tools. Check data retention policies — most leading AI tools offer options to disable training on your inputs (look for settings like 'Improve the model for everyone' and turn it off). Consider on-premise or enterprise AI solutions for larger practices where full data control is required. Brief your team — every staff member using AI tools should understand these boundaries. Compliance with client confidentiality is a professional obligation under the ICAI Code of Ethics.

Step 7

Build an AI Habit — Daily Micro-Applications

The fastest way to integrate AI is through daily micro-habits. Spend 10 minutes each morning asking AI to summarise any new tax notification or GST circular issued the previous day. Use AI to draft the first version of every client email — then personalise it. Before every client meeting, ask AI to prepare 5 smart questions you should ask based on their industry and the purpose of the meeting. Over 90 days, these small habits compound into genuine efficiency gains.



The Guardrails: Where AI Must Not Replace Judgment

AI is a powerful assistant, not a qualified professional. There are areas where its output must always be treated as a starting point, never a final answer:

- Interpretation of case law — always verify citations independently
- Tax planning advice — AI may miss jurisdiction-specific nuances or recent amendments
- Audit opinions and signing responsibilities — these are non-delegable
- Representations to income tax or GST authorities — all factual claims must be verified
- Client-specific advice — AI does not know your client's full picture the way you do

The professional value of a CA lies in judgment, accountability, and trust. AI enhances your capacity to serve clients — it does not substitute for your professional standing.

Your 30-Day AI Starter Plan

Here is a simple plan to begin without overwhelm:

- Week 1: Open a free account on ChatGPT or Claude. Ask it to summarise the latest GST circular. Ask it to draft one client reply.
- Week 2: Use AI to create an audit checklist for one of your current engagements. Compare with your existing checklist. Note the gaps.
- Week 3: Identify your single most time-consuming recurring task. Design a repeatable AI prompt for it. Test and refine.
- Week 4: Set your data confidentiality protocol in writing. Share it with your team. Make AI use a structured part of your workflow.

Conclusion

The question for CAs today is not whether to adopt AI, but how quickly and how responsibly. The practitioners who will lead the next decade are those who pair their professional expertise with the leverage of intelligent tools.

AI does not make you redundant — it makes you formidable. A CA who uses AI is not competing with AI. They are competing with every CA who does not.

Start with one step. Start this week.





AI in CA Practice: Transforming Accounting Through Technology & Innovation



Contributed by:
CA. Shridhar Appa

Introduction

The Chartered Accountancy profession is evolving rapidly with the integration of advanced technologies. Among these, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** has emerged as a powerful tool that is reshaping accounting, auditing, taxation, and advisory services. AI is no longer just a concept for the future—it is actively influencing how professionals deliver services with greater efficiency and accuracy. This article explores the practical role of AI in CA practice, its applications, benefits, and the way forward for professionals who wish to stay relevant in an increasingly technology-driven environment.

Understanding AI in Accounting

Artificial Intelligence refers to systems capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, such as analyzing data, identifying patterns, and making decisions. In the accounting domain, AI works alongside technologies like Machine Learning (ML), Robotic Process Automation (RPA), and advanced data analytics to automate routine processes and generate actionable insights. Rather than replacing Chartered Accountants, AI enhances their capabilities by allowing them to focus on higher-value functions like advisory, planning, and strategic decision-making.

Key Applications of AI in CA Practice

1. Automated Bookkeeping AI-powered tools can extract data from invoices, bank statements, and financial records, automatically classify transactions, and reconcile accounts. This reduces manual effort and improves accuracy.

2. Audit & Risk Assessment AI enables auditors to analyze entire datasets instead of relying on sample-based audits. It helps identify anomalies, unusual trends, and high-risk transactions, resulting in more efficient and reliable audits.

3. Tax Compliance & Planning AI assists in automating tax computations, identifying eligible deductions, and keeping track of regulatory changes. This ensures timely compliance and reduces the risk of errors.

4. Financial Forecasting Using predictive analytics, AI can forecast revenues, expenses, and cash flows. This enables professionals to provide valuable insights and strategic guidance to clients.

5. Fraud Detection AI systems can detect suspicious transactions, duplicate entries, and irregular financial patterns, making them highly useful in internal audits and risk management.

6. Client Support & Reporting AI tools can generate reports, summaries, and even respond to routine client queries, improving turnaround time and overall client experience.

Benefits of AI in CA Practice

1. Increased Efficiency Automation of repetitive tasks allows professionals to focus more on analytical and advisory roles.

2. Improved Accuracy AI reduces human errors in data processing, reconciliation, and reporting.

3. Cost Optimization Lower dependency on manual work helps in reducing operational costs.



and improving scalability.

4. Real-Time Insights AI provides quick access to financial data and analytics, enabling faster and informed decision-making.

5. Enhanced Client Value Professionals can shift from compliance-driven services to proactive advisory, thereby delivering greater value.

Challenges in AI Adoption

Despite its advantages, the adoption of AI comes with certain challenges:

- **Initial Investment:** Implementation requires investment in technology and infrastructure.
- **Data Security:** Financial data must be protected through strong cybersecurity measures.
- **Skill Gap:** Professionals need to upskill to effectively use AI tools.
- **Integration Issues:** Existing systems may need modifications to integrate with AI platforms.

A structured approach can help overcome these challenges and ensure smooth adoption.

AI in Global & Outsourcing Practice

AI plays a significant role in firms handling international clients or outsourcing assignments. It helps in managing large volumes of data, maintaining consistency across processes, and ensuring faster turnaround times. This is particularly beneficial during peak periods when efficiency and accuracy are

critical.

Future of the CA Profession

AI is transforming the role of Chartered Accountants from traditional compliance-focused professionals to strategic advisors. The profession is shifting towards:

- Automated bookkeeping and data processing
- Risk-based and data-driven audits
- Predictive and forward-looking financial analysis
- Enhanced advisory and consulting services

The future Chartered Accountant will be a **technology-enabled professional** who combines domain expertise with analytical and digital skills.

Conclusion

Artificial Intelligence is redefining the Chartered Accountancy profession by enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and the scope of services. Professionals who embrace AI will be better positioned to deliver value-added services and remain competitive in a dynamic business environment.

The integration of **human expertise with intelligent technology** represents the future of the profession. By adopting AI thoughtfully and strategically, Chartered Accountants can unlock new opportunities and elevate their role in the financial ecosystem.

AI in CA PRACTICE: TRANSFORMING ACCOUNTING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
By CA Shridhar Appa

KEY APPLICATIONS	BENEFITS OF AI	CHALLENGES & MITIGATION
AUTOMATED BOOKKEEPING	INCREASED EFFICIENCY	INITIAL INVESTMENT
AUDIT & RISK ASSESSMENT	IMPROVED ACCURACY	DATA SECURITY
TAX COMPLIANCE & PLANNING	BUDGET BALANCE	DATA SECURITY
FINANCIAL FORECASTING	LIVE DEALS	SKILL GAP
FRAUD DETECTION	COST OPTIMIZATION	SKILL GAP
CLIENT SUPPORT & REPORTING	REAL-TIME INSIGHTS	INTEGRATION ISSUES
	REAL-TIME INSIGHTS	
	ENHANCED CLIENT VALUE	

THE JOURNEY OF CAs: FROM COMPLIANCE TO STRATEGIC ADVISORS. EMBRACE THE FUTURE. LEVERAGE AI. EXCEL IN CA PRACTICE. INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA



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NBFC Corporate Governance 2025: Redefining Risk, Responsibility, and Regulation



Contributed by:
CA. Swati Panchal

Most NBFC promoters spend enormous time and capital securing a licence. Very few invest the same discipline in what comes next-governance. That gap is no longer invisible.

On **28 November 2025**, the Reserve Bank of India introduced the **Non-Banking Financial Companies – Governance Directions, 2025**, marking the first time governance has been codified as a **standalone regulatory framework** rather than being scattered across multiple circulars and master directions.

This is not just a regulatory update-it is a structural shift. Governance is no longer a “best practice.” It is now a **supervisory mandate with enforcement teeth**. The RBI's first governance-specific penalty in **March 2026**-for improper structuring of senior management compensation-clearly establishes one fact: **Boardroom decisions are now regulatory risks**.

The Context: Why Governance Matters Now More Than Ever?

India's NBFC sector has crossed **₹55 lakh crore plus asset size**, playing a critical role in financial inclusion, MSME funding, and last-mile credit delivery. With this scale comes systemic risk. Under the **Scale-Based Regulation (SBR) framework**, NBFCs are categorized into **Base Layer, Middle Layer, and Upper Layer**, with governance obligations intensifying at each level.

The RBI's objective is clear:

1. Strengthen **financial stability**
2. Improve **transparency and accountability**

3. Prevent **risk misalignment and governance failures**

This is not just compliance-it is about **institutional trust**.

What Has Fundamentally Changed in 2025?

Key changes include:

- Mandatory **fit and proper verification** of directors on an ongoing basis
- Restriction on independent directors serving on multiple NBFC boards
- Separation of **Chairperson and CEO roles** in larger NBFCs
- Mandatory **RBI approval for board changes exceeding 30%**

This transition signals one clear reality: governance **is now measurable, enforceable, and non-negotiable**. The Board is no longer symbolic; it is the first line of regulatory scrutiny. The RBI has shifted focus from *who sits on the board* to *whether the board can truly manage risk*. Mandatory experience, continuous fit-and-proper assessments, structured reporting, and strict due diligence have made board strength a regulatory priority-because today, a weak board is not just a gap, it is a red flag.

Compensation structures are under sharp scrutiny. Variable pay must align with long-term risk, with mandatory deferral, and enforceable malus and clawback provisions embedded in contracts, not just policies.

Things to Consider: Governance Strategy Across Base, Middle & Upper Layer NBFCs

For **Base Layer NBFCs**, the immediate focus



should be on building early governance discipline. Even with lighter regulations, expectations around **fit & proper directors, basic board oversight, and internal governance policies** are non-negotiable. In today's environment, where co-lending and fintech partnerships are expanding rapidly, even smaller NBFCs are being evaluated on governance readiness before funding or tie-ups. The reality is simple-**weak governance today will block scale tomorrow.**

Regulatory Expectations:

- * Basic board competency (NBFC/banking experience)
- * Risk Management Committee (RMC)
- * RBI approval for major management changes

Practical Challenges:

- * Promoter-driven decision making
- * Lack of formal documentation
- * Weak governance structures

For **Middle Layer NBFCs**, governance directly impacts **cost of capital and funding access**. This segment must prioritise **functional board committees, independent CRO (for ₹5,000 Cr+ NBFCs), strong CCO oversight, and risk-aligned compensation structures**. Data already shows that better-governed NBFCs enjoy up to **0.50%–1% lower borrowing costs**, while weaker ones face higher spreads and restricted institutional funding. This is the layer where most regulatory observations are currently concentrated.

Regulatory Expectations:

- * Board-approved policies (fit & proper, CCO, compensation)
- * Mandatory committees (Audit, NRC, Risk)
- * Appointment of CRO (₹5,000 Cr+) and CCO
- * Restrictions on KMP roles and independence requirements

Key Gaps Observed:

- * CRO/CCO lacking independence
- * Non-functional committees
- * Weak board documentation
- * Misaligned compensation structures

For **Upper Layer NBFCs**, governance becomes a **market-facing differentiator**. With systemic importance and scale, expectations include **separation of Chairperson and CEO roles, enhanced disclosures, advanced risk frameworks, and strict compensation**

governance. Governance here directly influences **valuation, investor confidence, and IPO readiness**. Institutions like **Bajaj Finance** and **Tata Capital** demonstrate how strong governance translates into sustained market credibility and funding strength.

Regulatory Expectations:

- * Strong board composition and expertise
- * Listing readiness and enhanced disclosures
- * Reporting of independent director changes
- * Advanced governance frameworks

Strategic Focus Areas:

- * Separation of Chairperson & CEO roles
- * Investor-grade governance
- * Enterprise risk integration

Across all layers, the immediate priority is **clear-conduct governance gap analysis, strengthen board quality, ensure independence of risk and compliance functions, and align compensation with long-term risk outcomes**. In a tightening liquidity environment, governance is no longer a regulatory checkbox-it is a **financial advantage that determines which NBFCs scale and which struggle to sustain**.

Key Cross-Layer Insights (What Most NBFCs Are Missing)

The RBI's Governance Directions 2025 are not just tightening rules-they are changing how NBFCs are evaluated in real time. Across Base, Middle, and Upper Layers, the biggest gap is not compliance, but **practical understanding of how governance now impacts funding, survival, and scale**.

- **Independence of CRO & CCO is still misunderstood**

One of the most common gaps is **risk and compliance functions operating under business influence**. RBI's intent is clear-these roles must act as independent checks. In recent inspections, NBFCs where CRO reports indirectly to credit or business teams have been flagged. This is no longer a structural issue-it is a **core governance failure**.

- **Governance is now directly linked to funding access** In today's market, banks and mutual funds are increasingly selective in lending to NBFCs. Entities



with strong governance frameworks are able to raise funds at tighter spreads, while others face liquidity constraints.

- **RBI supervision has shifted from numbers to behaviour** Earlier focus was on NPAs and capital adequacy. Now inspections evaluate **how decisions are taken-board discussions, committee effectiveness, risk evaluation, and compensation structures**. The **March 2026 penalty on variable compensation payout** is a live example-internal HR decisions are now regulatory risks. Many NBFCs are still preparing for inspections with financial data, while RBI is reviewing **governance intent and execution**.
- **Middle Layer NBFCs are the most exposed today** This segment is scaling fast but often lacks fully institutionalised governance. Common issues include **non-functional committees, informal reporting lines, and weak documentation of decisions**. This is where most supervisory observations are currently concentrated, making governance readiness critical for survival and growth.
- **Base Layer NBFCs are underestimating future scrutiny** Smaller NBFCs often defer governance, assuming regulatory pressure is lower. However, with increasing **co-lending, fintech partnerships, and investor participation**, even small NBFCs are being evaluated for governance. Several fintech-NBFC collaborations are now being delayed or rejected due to weak governance frameworks rather than business viability.
- **Compensation structures are the biggest hidden risk** Many NBFCs continue to follow upfront incentive models without deferral or enforceable malus and clawback provisions. The RBI has already taken action in 2026, making it clear that **misaligned incentives = governance failure**. This is one area where even financially strong NBFCs are exposed.
- **Board quality is now more important than board size** Having directors is not enough. RBI is assessing **experience,**

independence, and active participation. Boards lacking NBFC or banking expertise, or functioning as approval bodies, are being viewed as weak governance structures. This directly impacts regulatory perception and creditworthiness.

- **Governance is now a valuation driver** NBFCs planning expansion, private equity funding, or IPO are facing governance scrutiny at due diligence stage. **Tata Capital's governance alignment** ahead of market expansion and **Shriram Finance's structured risk integration post-merger** are clear examples where governance is driving investor confidence.
- **Liquidity stress will expose governance gaps first** In tightening credit cycles, NBFCs with weak governance are the first to face funding issues. Strong governance acts as a cushion, enabling institutions to retain lender trust even during volatility. This was evident post-IL&FS and is becoming more pronounced now.

Final Insight:

From a professional standpoint, the role of Chartered Accountants is no longer limited to compliance but extends to building the very foundation of governance and institutional credibility within NBFCs. They can add value in many ways.

This includes designing robust governance frameworks, strengthening board and committee effectiveness, and ensuring fit and proper evaluation of directors. At the same time, CAs play a critical role in structuring independent risk and compliance functions, developing risk-aligned compensation frameworks with deferral, malus and clawback mechanisms, and enhancing documentation, audit trails, and internal control systems.

As NBFCs scale, their involvement becomes even more strategic supporting governance due diligence for investors, IPO readiness, fintech partnerships, and funding access. Ultimately, strong governance today is not just a regulatory requirement, but a key enabler of capital access, investor confidence, and sustainable growth and this is where professional expertise creates measurable value.



Rupee Nearing 95: RBI Faces Stark Choices Defend, Delay, or Let Drift?



Contributed by:
CA. Aksh Y. Jain

India's rupee is tumbling faster than policymakers expected, sliding nearly 11% in two years and now racing toward the ₹95 per dollar mark. Foreign investors have already pulled out close to Rs. 1.66 lakh crores or \$18.9 billion in 2025, draining liquidity and testing the Reserve Bank of India's resolve. The central bank must decide: intervene with open market operations and dollar sales, or let the currency weaken further to preserve reserves and export competitiveness. The stakes are high — inflation, investor confidence, and India's credibility in global markets hang in the balance.

From ₹82-83/\$ in January 2024 to nearly ₹92/\$ now, the rupee has become one of Asia's worst performers. The pace of decline — five rupees in under a year — is the fastest in recent memory. Heavy FII outflows, driven by U.S. rate hikes, a stronger dollar, and global risk aversion, have drained liquidity and accelerated the fall. India's import-heavy energy sector has felt the pinch, with rising costs feeding into inflationary pressures. A breach of ₹95 now looks imminent, raising fears of inflationary shocks and a loss of investor confidence at a time when India is positioning itself as a global growth engine.

The RBI has not stood idle. It has sold dollars from reserves, conducted OMOs, and eased export rules to stabilize flows. India's forex reserves stood at about \$709.41 billion as of January 30, 2026, but had slipped to the \$690 billion mark in late 2025, underscoring the cost of repeated interventions. These steps have smoothed volatility but failed to reverse the trend, as global dollar strength and capital flight

continue to overwhelm domestic measures. The central bank's strategy has been to tolerate gradual weakness while intervening to prevent disorderly moves, but with the rupee hurtling toward ₹95, that middle path may no longer hold.

The dilemma is familiar to emerging markets. Defending the rupee too aggressively risks burning reserves and hurting exports; letting it slide risks inflation and panic. India's policymakers have so far chosen a middle path, but the speed of depreciation is testing its limits. The rupee's weakness is not just about currency mechanics — it reflects broader questions of policy credibility, investor trust, and India's ability to manage external shocks.

Other nations have offered valuable lessons in the past. Turkey's unchecked LIRA collapse triggered runaway inflation and a collapse in investor confidence. Japan, facing YEN weakness in 2022–23, intervened selectively but leaned on policy alignment with the U.S. Federal Reserve. China manages its YUAN through a controlled float, using state intervention to prevent disorderly depreciation. Brazil allowed its BRAZILIAN REAL to weaken during commodity downturns but paired depreciation with fiscal tightening to restore credibility.

India must avoid Turkey's chaos while learning from Japan's restraint and China's control. The comparison underscores that currencies are as much about confidence as they are about



economics. The inflationary risks are clear. Energy imports, which account for a significant share of India's surging trade deficit, become costlier as the currency falls, feeding into consumer prices and complicating inflation management. Crossing ₹95 would dent investor confidence further, especially among FII already wary of regulatory uncertainty and governance concerns. Symbolic thresholds matter — markets often react disproportionately when round numbers are breached, and ₹95 could become a trigger point for panic selling. India's options are narrowing. The RBI should continue to use reserves to smooth volatility but avoid defending arbitrary levels. Sterilized OMOs can balance liquidity without fuelling inflation. Restoring FII trust through clearer tax and regulatory frameworks and stronger governance is critical. India should also leverage the weaker rupee to boost export competitiveness, incentivizing IT, pharma, and textiles while further expanding trade agreements to diversify markets. Fiscal discipline must remain a priority to avoid twin deficit pressures, while monetary policy stays

aligned with inflation management. The government's ability to communicate a coherent strategy will be as important as the measures themselves.

The rupee's trajectory reflects more than currency mechanics; it is a test of India's economic credibility. A disorderly slide past ₹95 risks inflationary shocks and investor flight, while over-defending risks reserves and competitiveness. The balance lies in calibrated intervention, structural reforms, and clear communication. India must show that it can manage volatility without succumbing to panic, and that it can leverage depreciation to strengthen its export position. The coming months will test the RBI's resolve and India's policy credibility. Whether the currency stabilizes or drifts past ₹95 will depend not just on interventions, but on the broader narrative India presents to global investors. In the end, currencies are as much about confidence as they are about economics — and confidence is what India must urgently restore.





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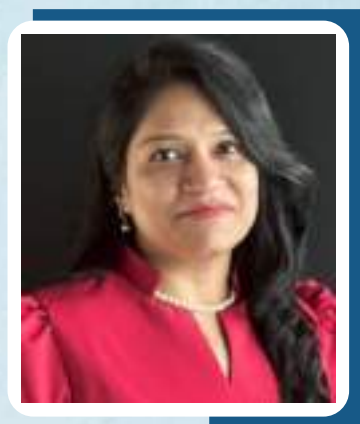
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Your Team Is Working Late. Why Does Work Still Feel Slow?



Contributed by:
CA. Pooja Thakkar

A team becomes efficient when effort no longer has to compensate for poor design.

In many CA firms, inefficiency does not look like laziness. It looks like sincere people carrying avoidable confusion on their backs.

Every Indian CA has seen this scene. It is late in the evening during a busy month. The team is still at their desks. One person is reworking a schedule because the format has changed. Another is waiting for partner review. A manager is chasing a missing client sheet on email, then on WhatsApp, then by phone. A junior has completed the task but is still unsure whether the output is actually what the reviewer wanted. Everybody is working. Yet work is not really moving.

That is why team efficiency is such an interesting subject. The issue is rarely effort. In most firms, effort is abundant. The real question is this: why does a hardworking team still feel slow, tired, and stretched? Why do capable people spend so much of their day clarifying, rechecking, waiting, following up, and repairing?

The answer is usually uncomfortable but useful. Many teams are not underperforming because people lack intent. They are underperforming because the design around the work is weak. When priorities are unclear, review windows are unpredictable, templates vary by person, and decisions keep moving upward, effort becomes a substitute for system quality. The team is not just doing the work. The team is also compensating for the design flaws around the

work.

What poor design really looks like

Poor design is not always dramatic. It hides in ordinary firm habits. A file waits because only one person can approve the next step. A staff member asks the same question in three different jobs because there is no agreed standard. A manager spends valuable time correcting avoidable first-draft errors because the team was never shown what “good” looks like. A partner becomes the final answer for matters that should already be clear at the manager level.

In practice, poor design creates what may be called a hidden tax. The tax is paid in rework, waiting, repeated checking, duplicated communication, and decision bottlenecks. It is paid in evenings that become longer than they need to be. It is paid in morale as well, because nothing is more draining than working hard and still feeling behind.

If this feels familiar, the issue may be design, not drive:

- the same client data is asked for more than once
- review comments come late and cluster at the end
- juniors spend too much time guessing priorities
- managers keep becoming the answer desk
- deadlines are met mainly through last-minute heroics



The Efficiency Equation

A team becomes efficient when effort is directed toward value creation, not toward compensating for design flaws.



Figure 1. When design improves, effort returns to value creation instead of repairing confusion.

Why this matters so much in CA firms

Professional firms run on judgement, sequencing, and trust. That means small design flaws quickly become expensive. One unclear instruction can travel through an entire engagement. One delayed review can hold up three people. One inconsistent template can create hours of avoidable clean-up before finalization. Because the work is deadline-driven and accuracy-sensitive, friction multiplies fast.

This is especially true in the Indian context, where teams often handle multiple client expectations at once—statutory timelines, tax season pressure, audit documentation, closing schedules, and urgent calls that land without warning. In such an environment, even a good team can look inefficient if the operating rhythm is unclear. The answer is not to squeeze more energy out of people. The answer is to remove the tax that is consuming that energy.

Five shifts that make a hardworking team feel lighter and faster

1. Define “what good looks like” before the rush begins

The first gift a leader can give a team is clarity. What is the exact output? What are the non-negotiables? What does a good first draft contain? What needs to be escalated and what can be closed at staff or manager level? Many teams look slow simply because they start work

with partial clarity and complete the rest through follow-ups. Clear output examples, checklists, and review standards reduce that leakage immediately.

2. Build review rhythm instead of review surprise

In many firms, the biggest delay is not preparation but review. People finish their work, then wait. Or worse, they receive late comments in a bundle, when there is very little time left. Efficient teams create predictable review windows. They decide which matters need early partner visibility, which ones can be closed by managers, and when feedback will be given. Review then becomes a process, not a lottery.

3. Standardise the first mile, not only the last mile

Leaders often focus on final quality but ignore the conditions that create it. Standard folders, common naming rules, template libraries, sample workings, and standard note formats sound basic, but they save enormous energy. Standardisation does not kill professional judgement. It protects professional judgement by reducing avoidable variation in routine work.

4. Reduce dependence by coaching for judgment

A team becomes faster when people do not need permission for every next step. That does not mean throwing juniors into the deep end. It



means teaching decision boundaries. What can they conclude on their own? What should they flag? What deserves consultation? A team that is trained to think will always scale better than a team that is trained only to ask.

5. Measure friction, not only output

Most leaders track deadlines, billable time, and completion. Fewer track friction. Where are jobs repeatedly getting stuck? Which comments recur across files? Which tasks generate the most back-and-forth? Which client requests repeatedly create last-minute pressure? Once friction is visible, design can improve. Until then, the firm keeps treating exhaustion as proof of commitment.

What the employer sees and what the employee feels

From the employer's chair	From the employee's chair
"Why is work taking so long?"	"I am working hard, but I keep waiting for clarity or review."
"Why does the same mistake keep recurring?"	"I was corrected, but not really enabled."
"Why am I still the bottleneck?"	"I still do not know where I can decide confidently."
"Why does the team need so much pushing?"	"The system still depends too much on reminders and heroics."

The leadership question that changes everything

A useful question for every partner, director, or manager is this: where is my team spending energy on confusion, waiting, repair, or repeated checking—and what one design decision would remove that tax? That question changes the conversation from blame to architecture. It turns leadership into system design.

Once that shift happens, team productivity becomes a healthier subject. You are no longer asking, "How do I make my people push harder?" You are asking, "How do I make good work easier to produce?" That is a far more powerful question. It protects dignity. It improves quality. And it creates the kind of team that grows stronger even under pressure.

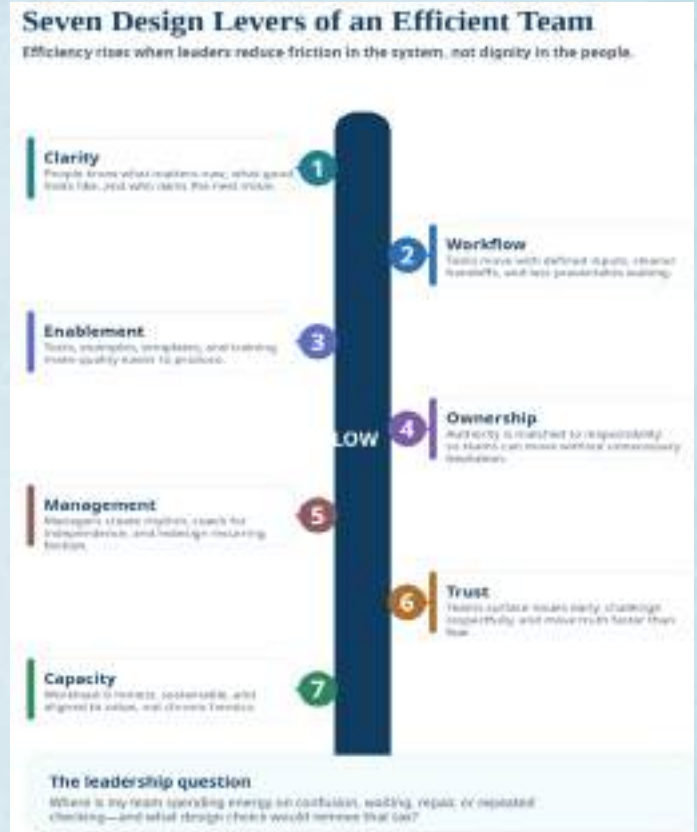


Figure 2. Efficiency rises when leaders reduce friction in the system, not dignity in the people.

The strongest teams are not the ones that keep rescuing weak systems. They are the ones led so well that effort can stay where it belongs: on client value, professional judgment, and meaningful growth.





India's Fossil Fuel Dependence and the Economic Price We Are Paying



Contributed by:
CA. Aksh Yogendra Jain

Pick up your morning newspaper, switch on the light, commute to work, eat a meal — each of these ordinary acts is invisibly powered by fossil fuels. Coal generates nearly 70-75% of India's electricity. Petroleum products move 90% of our goods by road. Natural gas fertilises the fields that feed 1.4 billion people. Fossil fuels are not merely an energy source in India; they are the invisible scaffolding on which modern Indian life is constructed.

India is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and the fourth-largest importer of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). According to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India's crude oil import dependence touched a record 88.6% in current fiscal year — one of the highest in recent history. Domestic production, at roughly 28.6 million tonnes (MT) annually, covers barely 11.4% of national petroleum needs. The gap between what we produce and what we consume grows wider every year, as ageing oil fields, under-investment in upstream exploration, and surging demand conspire against energy self-sufficiency.

India's total primary energy demand stood at approximately 22 million barrels of oil equivalent per day in 2024, according to the International Energy Agency's World Energy Outlook 2025. That figure is projected to nearly double to 43.6 million barrels of oil equivalent per day by 2050 — the fastest growth rate among any major economy in the world. Against this backdrop of exploding demand, the country's fossil fuel dependency is not a static problem; it is a dynamic and deepening risk.

Strategic Pillars Built on Fossil Fuel

India's most critical strategic sectors — the very systems that define national security, industrial output, and human welfare — are each deeply tied to fossil fuels. Understanding where these dependencies lie is the first step toward

addressing them.

Power Generation: Coal's Iron Grip

Approximately 80% of India's electricity has historically been generated from fossil fuels, with coal alone accounting for roughly 70-75% of thermal power generation. India crossed a historic milestone in FY 2024–25 by producing more than one billion tonnes of coal — yet still imported over 243.62 MT of additional coal to meet demand. The country's peak power demand had hit 223 GW in June 2023, a figure that continues to climb and has exceeded 260 GW this year as well. Despite record renewable energy installations — India's solar capacity has reached 132.85 GW and wind at 53.99 GW as of 30th November, 2025 — the intermittent nature of these sources means the national grid cannot yet function without the steady baseload provided by coal and gas-fired plants. Until adequate storage and grid infrastructure is in place, coal is, effectively, non-negotiable for grid stability.

Nuclear Energy: Strategic Complement, Not Substitute

India currently has eight nuclear reactors under construction, and in addition to that, build 10 additional reactors. Nuclear power contributes around 8880 MW to the national grid today, a figure the government aims to scale up dramatically. While nuclear is not a fossil fuel, it is strategically significant as India's primary non-fossil baseload option. However, nuclear energy currently contributes less than 3% of total electricity generation, and its expansion faces long lead times of 8–12 years per plant. In the interim, coal and gas must bridge the gap. Furthermore, nuclear fuel (uranium) imports add another layer of strategic import dependency, underscoring that India's energy sovereignty challenge extends beyond petroleum.



Critical Manufacturing: The Petrochemical Backbone

Manufacturing in India is inseparable from petroleum. Steel, cement, chemicals, fertilisers, plastics, pharmaceuticals, textiles — all rely on fossil fuels as either energy inputs or feedstock. Natural gas is the primary raw material for urea fertiliser, making it a direct driver of food security. Any spike in natural gas prices triggers immediate pressure on India's fertiliser subsidy bill, which crossed Rs 1.9 lakh crore in FY 2022–23 during the post-Ukraine global price surge. India's refinery capacity utilisation reached 103% of nameplate capacity in FY 2024–25, reflecting the enormous manufacturing throughput dependent on crude inputs. With the government's flagship PLI (Production Linked Incentive) schemes targeting sectors like specialty chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and electronics — all of which are petroleum-linked — the Make in India ambition rests, paradoxically, on a foundation of imported crude.

Transportation: The Petrol-Diesel Lifeline

Transportation accounts for a significant driver

of India's petroleum product consumption, according to EIA data, making it the single largest driver of oil demand. Auto-fuel alone — petrol and diesel — constitutes more than 50% of total national fuel consumption. Diesel powers the trucks, tractors, trains, and fishing boats that form the circulatory system of the Indian economy. Petrol consumption reached approximately 40 MT in FY 2024–25, growing at a CAGR of 9%, driven by rising personal vehicle and two-wheeler ownership. Diesel demand is projected to reach 110–120 MT by 2030–31. With over 5.7 million EVs on the road today, electrification has begun — but against a fleet of over 300 million registered vehicles, the transition will take decades. Air travel, entirely dependent on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), has more than doubled its production since 2020–21, reflecting India's emerging middle class and aviation boom.

Demand vs. Supply: The Widening Chasm

The numbers tell a story of structural vulnerability. India's energy demand and domestic supply are moving in opposite directions:

Energy Category	Annual Requirement / Demand	Domestic Production / Supply
Crude Oil	~271 MT (FY 2024 –25)	~28.7 MT (only 11.8% met)
Natural Gas (LNG)	~75 BCM+	~50% from imports
Coal	1 billion+ tonnes produced; additional 243 MT imported	Domestic output declining in quality
Petroleum Products	~223 MT consumed (FY23)	Refineries at 109% capacity; feedstock still imported
Oil Demand (2024)	5–5.5 million barrels per day	~0.5 mbpd domestic crude output

Source: Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, EIA, IEA World Energy Outlook 2024

Crisis Points: How Global Turbulence Hits the Indian Economy

The global energy landscape in early 2026 is uniquely turbulent. The Iran conflict, which escalated in late February 2026, has sent shockwaves through oil markets. Approximately 20% of the world's oil and LNG flows through the Strait of Hormuz. Four Asian economies — China, India, Japan, and South Korea — account for 75% of oil and 59% of LNG flows through this critical chokepoint. A full blockade could push oil prices to \$130 per

barrel, and worst-case war scenarios have drawn projections as high as \$300 per barrel.

India spent USD 137 billion on crude oil imports in FY 2024–25. Every \$10 per barrel increase in the average crude price raises India's net oil import bill by USD 14–16 billion, widens the current account deficit (CAD) by 30–40 basis points, and pushes WPI inflation up by 80–100 basis points. If crude sustains at \$110–115 per barrel through FY 2026–27, India's import bill could balloon by USD 56–64 billion over the current baseline — a shock that would



simultaneously weaken the rupee, strain foreign exchange reserves, and reignite inflationary pressures across the economy.

The cascading macroeconomic effects are multi-dimensional:

- **Trade Deficit & Current Account Pressure:** Crude oil imports constitute approximately 25% of all merchandise imports. A sustained price spike rapidly widens India's trade deficit. The rupee faces downward pressure as demand for dollars surges to finance oil purchases, feeding imported inflation and eroding household purchasing power.
- **Fiscal Strain & Subsidy Burden:** The government controls retail petrol and diesel prices, creating a transmission buffer for consumers — but one that comes at a significant fiscal cost. Even in the current year it is expected that the fertiliser subsidy bill alone shall exceed Rs 1.91 lakh crore due to elevated natural gas prices. Fossil fuels contributed nearly INR 9 lakh crore (USD 108 billion) in government revenues in FY 2024 — a revenue stream that simultaneously funds the state and exposes public finances to volatile global commodity cycles.
- **Inflation Cascade:** Higher fuel costs are not contained to petrol pumps. They propagate through transportation, logistics, manufacturing, and food supply chains, ultimately showing up in every Indian household's grocery bill. Every \$10/barrel increase in crude raises WPI by nearly 100 basis points.
- **Strategic & Diplomatic Risk:** India's dependence on Middle Eastern crude — the Gulf accounts for 63-66% of imports — means geopolitical disruptions in the region directly threaten India's energy security. Shipping insurance premiums in the Persian Gulf have already jumped by up to 50% amid heightened war risk in early 2026.

The Path Forward: What India Has Done — and Must Do

India is not standing still. A suite of policies and investments signals the government's recognition of the challenge — but ambition must translate into structural transformation at speed.

What India Has Already Done

- **Renewable Energy Scale-Up:** India's installed renewable energy capacity reached 253.96 GW as of Nov-2025, with solar at 132.85 GW and wind at 53.99 GW as of 30th November 2025. The government has set a 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030 under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement.
- **Ethanol Blending Programme:** The ethanol blending programme has been a standout success — blending reached 20% in July 2025, significantly reducing petrol demand. This reduces crude import volumes and supports domestic sugarcane farmers simultaneously.
- **Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR):** India has established underground strategic petroleum reserves at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore, and Padur, providing buffer stocks against sudden supply disruptions.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission:** In January 2023, the government approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an outlay of approximately USD 2.4 billion, aiming to make India a global hub for green hydrogen production and export.
- **EV Promotion (FAME Scheme):** The FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles) scheme has helped put 5.7 million EVs on Indian roads, with CNG networks expanding from 8,609 stations by the end of December 2025 to a target of 18,336 by 2034.
- **Gas Grid Expansion:** With ever expanding India's city gas distribution network, i.e. spread for more than 3.03 lac kms of pipelines already laid and with increasing LNG terminal infrastructure, aiming to raise natural gas's share of the energy mix from 6% to 15% by 2030.
- **Diversification of Oil Sources:** Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, India strategically leveraged discounted Russian crude, reducing per-barrel import costs substantially — a pragmatic, if diplomatically sensitive, energy security manoeuvre.



What India Must Urgently Do

- **Accelerate Domestic Exploration:** India's ageing oil fields and declining domestic output demand urgent upstream investment. Policy must incentivise private and foreign capital into domestic oil and gas exploration, cutting through the procedural barriers that have historically stalled new field development.
- **Fast-Track Grid-Scale Storage:** Renewable energy's Achilles heel is intermittency. Massive investment in battery storage, pumped hydro, and green hydrogen as storage media is essential to enable coal plants to be retired without destabilising the grid.
- **Introduce Carbon Pricing Signals:** Fossil fuel consumption taxes currently contribute nearly 79% of India's fossil fuel revenues. A graduated, transparent carbon pricing mechanism — potentially a carbon tax or cap-and-trade pilot — would improve economic signalling, nudge industry toward clean energy faster, and generate revenues for green transition financing.
- **Rupee-Denominated Oil Trade:** India must accelerate efforts to settle crude oil transactions in Indian rupees, reducing the dollar demand pressure on the currency during periods of price spikes. While early progress has been made, significant bottlenecks remain in repatriation mechanisms.
- **Diversify the Supply Chain:** Over-reliance on Middle Eastern crude — at 63-66% of imports — is a strategic vulnerability. India must deepen oil partnerships with African, South American, and Central Asian producers, building geopolitically resilient supply corridors.
- **Reform SOE Capital Allocation:** Nearly 83% of central State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) capital expenditure went to fossil fuel assets in FY 2024. Redirecting a

meaningful share of SOE capex toward clean infrastructure would send a powerful market signal and accelerate India's long-term energy independence goals.

- **Skill the Green Transition Workforce:** The shift away from coal will displace millions of workers in mining, thermal power, and related industries. A national just-transition programme — combining retraining, social protection, and new green industry creation in coal-dependent regions — is not optional; it is essential for political and social sustainability.

Conclusion: The Accountant's Lens on Energy Risk

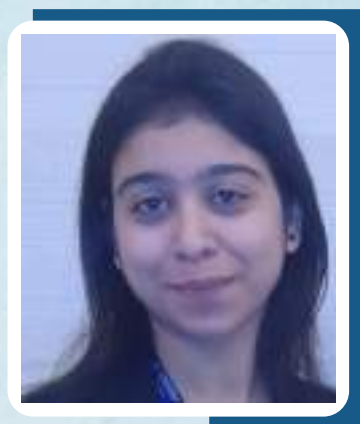
For the community of finance and accounting professionals, India's fossil fuel dependency is not an abstract environmental concern — it is a balance sheet risk of the first order. It is embedded in the cost of goods, the viability of transport, the stability of the rupee, the size of the fiscal deficit, and the inflation numbers that drive interest rate policy. Every oil price shock that moves markets abroad reverberates through Indian earnings reports, freight costs, fertiliser bills, and household budgets.

India has pledged net-zero by 2070 and energy independence by 2047 under Viksit Bharat. These are not merely aspirational declarations — they are strategic imperatives. The good news is that India's renewable energy trajectory, its ethanol success, its hydrogen ambitions, and its vast solar potential suggest the tools for transformation are available. What is now required is the political will, institutional speed, and capital mobilisation to deploy them at the scale the crisis demands.

The Strait of Hormuz should never again hold Indian growth hostage. The path from vulnerability to Ultimately Viksit Bharat — from fossil-fuel fragility to self-reliant energy — will be long. But the first step is naming the dependence for exactly what it is: **A Systemic National Risk that Requires a Systemic National Response.**



Clear now, Pay later: The Evolution of Deferred Customs Duty Payment



Contributed by:
CA. Amrin Alwani

The levy and collection of customs duty in India has traditionally been based on the principle that duty must be paid before imported goods are cleared for home consumption. While this ensures timely revenue for the Government, it also creates a significant working capital burden for importers, especially in sectors such as manufacturing, infrastructure, and capital goods where import values are high.

To address this issue, the Government of India introduced the concept of deferred payment of customs duty. The objective was to ease cash flow pressures, improve trade facilitation, and bring Indian practices closer to global standards. Over time, this system has developed from a limited benefit available only to a small group of compliant importers into a broader policy tool that supports manufacturing and enhances ease of doing business.

The changes introduced in 2026 represent a major step forward, expanding both the coverage of the scheme and the flexibility in its operation. These developments make it important to understand the legal framework, evolution, and practical impact of deferred duty payment in detail.

Concept and Legal Framework of Deferred Duty Payment

Deferred payment of customs duty refers to a system under which an importer is permitted to clear goods without immediate payment of applicable customs duties, with such duty being payable at a later prescribed date. This represents a departure from the conventional requirement under customs law, where duty payment is a pre-condition for clearance.

The statutory foundation for this mechanism lies in the **proviso to Section 47 of the Customs Act, 1962**, which empowers the Government to allow importers to defer payment of duty subject to prescribed conditions and safeguards. Pursuant to this enabling provision, the **Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules, 2016** were notified, laying down the procedural and eligibility framework for availing this benefit.

In essence, the scheme operates on a **“clear now, pay later”** principle, whereby the importer is granted immediate clearance of goods upon filing the bill of entry, while the duty liability is aggregated and discharged at a later date in accordance with the prescribed cycle. This mechanism effectively converts customs duty into a short-term, interest-free credit facility extended by the Government to eligible importers.

Historical Evolution of the Scheme

Prior to 2016, the customs clearance framework in India was largely rigid in terms of duty payment timelines. Importers were required to discharge duty liabilities upfront, resulting in significant cash flow constraints, particularly in cases involving continuous or bulk imports. Although certain facilitation measures existed under programmes such as the Accredited Client Programme (ACP), these did not provide for true deferment of duty payment.

A paradigm shift occurred with the Union Budget of 2016, wherein the Government introduced amendments to Sections 47 and 51 of the Customs Act, 1962, thereby creating a legal basis for deferred payment of duty. This reform was accompanied by the introduction of the **Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules**,



2016, which operationalised the scheme.

Initially, the benefit of deferred duty payment was restricted to entities recognised under the **Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programme**, specifically AEO Tier 2 and Tier 3 entities. These entities were considered highly compliant and low-risk, thereby justifying the extension of such a facilitation measure. The payment cycle under the original framework was structured on a **fortnightly basis**, requiring importers to discharge duty within a specified period following clearance.

Over time, the AEO programme itself expanded, and with it, the scope and utilisation of deferred duty payment increased. However, the benefit continued to remain confined to a relatively small segment of importers, limiting its broader economic impact.

Evolution of Eligibility and Coverage

The eligibility framework for deferred duty payment has undergone significant transformation, particularly with the recent reforms introduced in 2026. Under the original scheme, eligibility was primarily linked to AEO status, with Tier 2 and Tier 3 entities enjoying full access to the facility. AEO Tier 1 entities had limited access, while non-AEO importers were generally excluded.

This position has been materially altered with the introduction of a new category of eligible entities, namely **Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMI)**. This category has been introduced through recent policy measures to extend the benefit of deferred duty payment beyond the AEO framework to a wider class of manufacturing entities that demonstrate strong compliance credentials.

The EMI scheme is designed as a **time-bound facilitation measure**, applicable from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028. It seeks to provide liquidity support to domestic manufacturers by allowing them to defer payment of customs duties on imported inputs and capital goods. The eligibility conditions under this scheme are structured around parameters such as GST compliance history, customs track record, financial solvency, and turnover thresholds, thereby ensuring that only credible and compliant entities are permitted to avail the benefit.

This expansion represents a deliberate policy shift towards a **trust-based compliance framework**, wherein facilitation is extended to

a broader set of taxpayers based on demonstrated compliance behaviour rather than formal certification alone.

Recent Developments and Amendments (2026)

The reforms introduced in 2026 represent a significant milestone in the evolution of deferred duty payment in India. One of the most notable developments is the introduction of the EMI scheme, which extends the benefit of duty deferment to manufacturer importers beyond the AEO framework.

Brief on the scheme:

- Applications can be submitted online from 1 March 2026 on the AEO India portal (aeoindia.gov.in) under the EMI tab.
- **The facility becomes available to approved EMIs from 1 April 2026.**
 - For Bills of Entry returned for payment during any month other than March, duty is payable by the 1st day of the following month. For March imports, duty is payable by 31 March.
 - A nodal officer must authenticate deferred Bills of Entry on ICEGATE using OTP. Clearance is provided only after authentication.
 - Strong compliance is essential. Delays can trigger interest liability and may lead to withdrawal of the facility or suspension/revocation of EMI approval.

Who can use the EMI facility?

An applicant can qualify through one of the following routes:

Route A: Manufacturer Importer

- The applicant is an importer and a manufacturer, and has at least one active GSTIN where the nature of business activity is declared as factory or manufacturing in GST REG-01.
- The relevant GST registration is at least two financial years old as on the application date.

Route B: Importer using job work (Section 143 of CGST Act)

- If the applicant is not a manufacturer, it can still qualify if it sends inputs or capital goods to a job worker for job work under Section 143 of the CGST Act.
- The relevant GSTIN should have filed the last two half-yearly ITC-04 returns.
- The job worker must have an active GSTIN and declare factory or manufacturing in GST REG-01.



Note: MSME applicants have a relaxed minimum requirement for EXIM filings. Existing AEO-T1 entities that meet the EMI eligibility conditions can also apply.

Key eligibility conditions:

CBIC has prescribed detailed conditions. The most practical conditions for self-check are below:

Area	What CBIC expects
Importer credentials	Valid IEC issued by DGFT as importer status under Customs Act.
Customs footprint	At least 25 EXIM documents filed in the previous financial year (relaxed to 10 for MSMEs)
GST registration	At least one active GST registration under CGST/SGST
Manufacturing declaration / job work	Manufacturer must declare factory/manufacturing in RTO-01, or job work route require ITC-04 and job work manufacturing declaration.
Turnover threshold	Aggregate turnover across GSTINs under the same PAN exceeds Rs. 5 crore in the financial year.
Business continuity	Business activities for at least two financial years precede the application.
GST compliance	All pending GST returns filed as on application date.
No tax collected but not deposited	No instances under GST, and legacy excise/service collected but not deposited.
Financial solvency	CA certificate in prescribed format (with UDIN) and audited financial statements for last two years.
Legal integrity	No arrests, convictions, pending prosecutions under relevant laws; not insolvent, liquidation, or bankrupt.

How it works after approval (operations)

- While filing the Bill of Entry, select payment method as 'D' (Deferred) in the payment method column.
- The nodal officer logs into ICEGATE and authenticates the deferred Bills of Entry using OTP sent to the registered email or mobile. Multiple Bills of Entry can be authenticated in one go.
- After authentication, Customs clearance is granted for the consignment under the Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules.
- The importer pays the duty for the deferred period on or before the due date. Payment can also be made earlier if desired.

Due dates for duty payment

Bills of Entry returned for payment	Duty payable due date
1st day to last day of month other than March	1st day of following month
1st day to 31st day of March	31st March

Controls, defaults, and risk management

Deferred payment is a facilitation measure. It works best when importers maintain disciplined controls for authentication and payment. If duty is not paid by the due date, interest becomes payable. Repeated defaults can lead to loss of the deferred payment facility and a shift back to transaction-wise duty payment. For EMIs, CBIC may also suspend or revoke EMI approval if the importer becomes ineligible or non-compliant.

- Assign clear ownership: a nodal officer for ICEGATE authentication and a finance owner for duty payment.
- Implement a daily tracker of Bills of Entry filed with payment flag D and their deferred challans.
- Maintain a payment calendar and pay ahead of time during month-end congestion.
- Review GST compliance status and ensure no pending GSTR-3B returns at the time of application and thereafter.
- Audit access to ICEGATE OTP channels (email and mobile) and maintain segregation of duties.

Author's comments:

Deferred payment of customs duty has evolved into a critical component of India's trade facilitation framework. From its origins as a limited benefit for AEO-certified entities, it has now been expanded to include a broader class of manufacturer importers, reflecting a clear policy intent to support domestic industry and enhance ease of doing business.

The recent reforms, particularly the extension of the payment cycle and the introduction of the EMI scheme, significantly enhance the practical utility of the scheme. For industry, this represents not merely a procedural convenience but a strategic opportunity to improve liquidity, streamline operations, and enhance competitiveness.

As India continues to integrate with global supply chains and strengthen its manufacturing base, such facilitation measures will play an increasingly important role. Businesses that proactively align themselves with the requirements of the scheme and integrate it into their operational and financial strategies are likely to derive substantial long-term benefits.



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Recent Amendments under FEMA: A Comprehensive Analysis of Borrowing, Reporting, and FDI Reforms (2026)



Contributed by:
CA. Jay Joshi

Introduction

The regulatory landscape governing foreign exchange transactions in India has undergone significant transformation in 2026. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), along with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), has introduced a series of amendments through notifications, circulars, and press notes aimed at rationalising and liberalising the framework under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).

These changes primarily focus on:

- Overhauling borrowing and lending provisions,
- Streamlining the External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) framework,
- Simplifying reporting mechanisms, and
- Liberalising the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) regime in the insurance sector.

This article provides a detailed analysis of these amendments and their implications for businesses and professionals.

A. Overhaul of Borrowing and Lending Framework under FEMA

1. Background and Regulatory Changes

The RBI, through the Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing and Lending) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2026 (dated 9th February 2026 and published on 16th February 2026), has introduced sweeping reforms to the borrowing framework.

A key structural change includes:

- Deletion of significant portions of existing Master Directions and FAQs relating to ECB and INR borrowing,
- Consolidation of provisions directly into FEMA regulations, thereby enhancing clarity and enforceability.

These reforms aim to simplify compliance, expand access to global capital, and remove redundant restrictions.

2. Borrowing in INR from NRIs/OCIs – A Practical Framework

One of the notable amendments is the modification of Regulation 6(B)(vi) of FEMA 3(R)/2018.

Previously, although borrowing from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) or Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) was permitted, the absence of prescribed conditions rendered the provision impractical.

The revised regulation now:

- Explicitly permits individuals resident in India to borrow in INR from NRIs/OCI relatives,
- Mandates that funds must be received via:
 - Inward remittance, or
 - Debit to NRE/NRO/FCNR(B)/SNRR accounts,
- Requires borrowing to be on a **non-repatriation basis**, with repayment restricted to the lender's NRO account.

Implication: This change brings long-awaited clarity and enables legitimate family-based funding arrangements without regulatory ambiguity.

3. Introduction of Uniform End-Use Restrictions (Regulation 3A)

A new Regulation 3A has been inserted, prescribing **uniform end-use restrictions applicable across all borrowings under FEMA**, not just ECB.

Restricted activities include:

- Chit funds and Nidhi companies,
- Investment in securities (except strategic acquisitions),
- Real estate business (with specified exceptions),
- Agricultural activities (subject to limited carve-outs),
- On-lending for prohibited purposes,
- Repayment of NPA loans or loans used



for restricted activities.

Key Liberalisations:

- Strategic acquisitions, mergers, demergers, and distressed asset purchases are now permitted,
- Real estate usage expanded to include own-use property acquisition,
- Focus shifted from blanket prohibition to **intent-based regulation**.

B. Revamped External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Framework

1. Expansion of Eligible Borrowers and Lenders

The amended framework significantly broadens participation:

Eligible Borrowers now include:

- All entities incorporated under Indian law,
- LLPs (new inclusion),
- Entities under CIRP (subject to resolution plan).

Recognised Lenders expanded to include:

- All persons resident outside India,
- NRIs (without equity holding requirement),
- Overseas branches/subsidiaries,
- IFSC-based financial institutions.

Implication: This removes earlier restrictions such as FATF/Iosco jurisdiction requirements and equity linkage, thereby widening funding sources.

2. Redefinition of ECB and Forms of Borrowing

ECB now covers:

- All commercial borrowings involving interest and principal repayment,
- Instruments such as FCCBs and FCEBs,
- Non-convertible preference shares and debentures.

Exclusions clarified:

- Trade credits (up to 3 years),
- Export advances,
- Convertible notes,
- Investments under debt instruments rules.

3. Enhanced Borrowing Limits

The borrowing threshold has been significantly increased to:

- **USD 1 billion**, or
- **300% of net worth (including domestic + external borrowings)**

This marks a substantial liberalisation compared to the earlier USD 750 million cap.

4. Rationalised Minimum Average Maturity Period (MAMP)

A uniform **3-year MAMP** has been introduced across categories, with:

- Relaxation to **1–3 years** for manufacturing entities (subject to exposure limits),
- Exemptions in cases like:
 - Debt-equity conversion,
 - Refinancing,
 - Corporate restructuring.

Implication: Simplifies structuring and reduces compliance complexity.

5. Currency Flexibility and Conversion

Borrowers can now:

- Raise ECB in any foreign currency or INR,
- Freely convert between:
 - INR ↔ Foreign currency,
 - One foreign currency to another.

This removes earlier prohibitions and enhances treasury flexibility.

6. Removal of All-in-Cost Ceiling

The earlier cap on borrowing cost (linked to benchmark rates) has been replaced with:

- **Market-determined pricing**, subject to AD Bank satisfaction,
- Arm's length requirement for related party transactions.

Implication: Aligns ECB pricing with global market practices and improves competitiveness.

7. Parking and Utilisation of ECB Proceeds

The framework now clearly distinguishes between:

- **INR expenditure:** Funds to be parked in INR accounts,
- **Foreign currency expenditure:** Funds may be held domestically or overseas.

Short-term parking allowed in:

- Fixed deposits,
- Debt instruments with maturity up to one year.

C. Revised Reporting Framework under FEMA

1. Simplification of Reporting Forms

Key changes include:

- Form ECB renamed to **Form ECB 1**,
- Introduction of **event-based reporting**,
- Removal of mandatory certification by CA/CS in certain cases.

Reporting timelines:

- **ECB 1:** For LRN and changes in parameters,
- **ECB 2:** Monthly reporting within 7 days of month-end.

2. Concept of "Untraceable Borrower"

A borrower is classified as untraceable if:

- No reporting is filed for **4 consecutive quarters**, and
- The entity is non-responsive and non-operational.

In such cases:



- AD Bank must report to RBI and Enforcement Directorate.

Implication: Strengthens monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

Amendment to Foreign Exchange (Export and Import of Currency) Regulations

The 2026 amendment introduces a formal **Currency Declaration Form (CDF)**.

Key provisions:

- No declaration required up to:
 - USD 10,000 (total forex),
 - USD 5,000 (currency notes),
- Mandatory declaration beyond limits.

Practical relevance:

- Essential for reconversion and repatriation of unused foreign exchange,
- Important for inbound travellers and compliance tracking.

FDI Policy Reform in Insurance Sector (Press Note 1 of 2026)

1. Key Amendments

- FDI limit increased from **74% to 100%**,
- Expanded definition of insurance intermediaries,
- Relaxation in management requirements:
 - Only one key managerial person (Chairman/MD/CEO) needs to be a resident Indian.

2. Removal of Restrictions

- No prior approval required for dividend repatriation,

- Relaxation on payments to foreign group entities.

3. Implications

- Expected surge in foreign capital inflow,
- Enhanced ease of doing business,
- Greater operational flexibility for insurance entities.

However, alignment with FEMA (NDI Rules) is still awaited for full implementation.

Conclusion

The 2026 amendments under FEMA mark a decisive shift towards **liberalisation, simplification, and global integration** of India's foreign exchange framework.

Key takeaways include:

- Expansion of borrowing avenues and participants,
- Removal of restrictive cost and structural constraints,
- Introduction of uniform and principle-based regulations,
- Strengthened yet simplified reporting systems,
- Significant boost to foreign investment in the insurance sector.

These reforms collectively enhance India's attractiveness as a global investment destination while maintaining regulatory oversight. Professionals, corporates, and financial institutions must carefully evaluate these changes to optimise structuring, ensure compliance, and leverage emerging opportunities.





RERA Updates



Contributed by:
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Secretary GujRERA Vs Shree Kuberji Builder (Suo Motu Case No. SMC/NCAR/Surat/31122025/00717)

The core issue in the present case was whether the promoter had violated the provisions of Section 4(2)(l)(D) of the RERA Act by failing to deposit 70% of the amounts realized from allottees into the separate RERA bank account, and whether such financial non-compliance warranted imposition of penalty under Sections 60 and 63 of the Act.

The case primarily deals with Section 4(2)(l)(D) mandating deposit of 70% of the amounts realized from allottees in a separate account, along with Rule 5 of the Gujarat RERA Rules, 2017 governing withdrawal of such funds. Further, Sections 60 and 63 of the RERA Act were invoked for imposing penalty for contravention of statutory provisions.

The present proceedings arose from a suo motu complaint initiated by the Gujarat RERA Authority against the promoter, Shree Kuberji Builders, in respect of the project "Shree Kuberji Crown Textile Market" situated in Surat. Upon scrutiny of Form-5 (Annual Report on Statement of Accounts) submitted by the promoter, the Authority observed discrepancies relating to non-deposition of substantial amounts in the designated RERA bank account over multiple financial years. Specifically, amounts aggregating to several crores were not deposited during the periods 2021–2022, 2022–2023, 2023–2024, and 2024–2025, as

reflected in the financial disclosures.

The Authority found that despite statutory mandate, the promoter failed to maintain financial discipline by not depositing the required funds in the separate account, thereby violating the core objective of fund ring-fencing under RERA.

The complaint was initiated suo motu by the Authority on the basis of discrepancies found in Form-5 filings, indicating violation of financial compliance under RERA. The Authority, after examining the records and submissions, concluded that the promoter had indeed contravened Section 4(2)(l)(D) by not depositing the requisite amounts in the RERA account and that such non-compliance was substantial and continuous in nature.

The promoter, in defence, contended that the non-deposition was not intentional and occurred due to lack of awareness of RERA guidelines by the accountant and due to negligence of a staff member who had left service without proper handover. It was further submitted that the amounts received from allottees were utilized solely for completion of the project and there was no diversion of funds. The promoter also requested that only a nominal penalty be imposed and assured that such lapses would not occur in future.

The Authority rejected the promoter's defence and held that the non-deposition could not be treated as unintentional, as the Form-5 itself was uploaded through the promoter's own login, indicating knowledge of such non-



compliance. It was observed that no prior intimation or approval was sought from the Authority, and the amount involved was substantial, continuing over several years. The justification of lack of awareness or staff negligence was held to be unacceptable.

The Authority further relied on the principle laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in *Bikram Chatterji & Ors. v. Union of India* (2019) 19 SCC 161, emphasizing that financial indiscipline in real estate projects cannot be treated lightly and must be dealt with strictly.

Considering the seriousness of the breach, duration of default, and magnitude of non-deposited amounts, the Authority imposed a penalty of Rs. 25,00,000/- on the promoter under Sections 60 and 63 of the RERA Act. The

Authority further directed that the penalty shall not be recovered from the allottees nor withdrawn from the RERA project account and must be paid within 30 days.

Conclusion

The judgment reinforces the strict compliance requirement of financial discipline under RERA, particularly the mandatory obligation to deposit 70% of project funds in a separate account. It clarifies that excuses such as lack of knowledge or internal negligence are not valid defences and that continuous and substantial violations will attract penal consequences. The ruling underscores that RERA Authorities will adopt a strict approach in cases of financial irregularities to protect the interests of allottees and ensure transparency in project execution.

GUJRERA UPDATES

'SECRETARY GUJRERA VS SHREE KUBERJI BUILDER'

(Suo Motu Case No. SMC/NCAR/Surat/31122025/00717)

**GUJARAT
ROJAKU'UI BUILDER**

THE CORRE ISSUE: VIOLATION OF SECTION 4(2)(I)(D)

FAILURE TO DEPOSIT 70% OF AMOUNTS

realized from allottees into the separate RERA bank account.

WHETHER FINANCIAL NON-COMPLIANCE

warranted penalty under Sections 60 and 63 of the Act.

CASE OVERVIEW: Suo Motu complaint initiated against promoter for project "Shree Kuberji Crown Textile Market" in Surat. Scrutiny of Form-5 (Annual Report) revealed discrepancies.

SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS (aggregated to crores) were not deposited over multiple years (2021-2022 to 2024-2025). Authority found failure in maintaining financial discipline & core objective of fund ring-fencing.

PROMOTER'S DEFENCE (REJECTED): Not intentional, occurred due to lack of awareness of RERA guidelines by accountant and negligence of former staff member.

AUTHORITY'S FINDING: Non-deposition cannot be treated as unintentional. Form-5 uploaded through



Understanding RERA: A Complete Guide for Homebuyers and Real Estate Stakeholders



Contributed by:
CA. Jay Desai

Introduction

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, commonly known as RERA, has transformed India's real estate landscape. This landmark legislation aims to protect homebuyers, promote transparency, and establish accountability in the real estate sector. Whether you're a first-time homebuyer, investor, developer, or real estate professional, understanding RERA is crucial for navigating today's property market.

A. What is RERA?

RERA is a regulatory framework enacted by the Indian Parliament in 2016 and implemented across states from 1st May 2017. The Act establishes Real Estate Regulatory Authorities in each state to oversee the real estate sector and ensure fair practices.

B. The Genesis of RERA: Why Was It Needed?

RERA (Real Estate Regulation Act) was introduced in India in 2016 to address widespread issues in the real estate sector such as project delays, lack of transparency, and unfair practices by developers. Before RERA, homebuyers had limited protection and often faced stalled projects or misleading information. RERA mandates registration of real estate projects, enforces timely delivery, and promotes transparency by requiring developers to share project details and fund usage. It protects buyers' interests, builds trust, and brings accountability to developers, making real estate transactions safer and more reliable.

C. Major Provisions of RERA

RERA is built on several key principles that have become the new industry standard.

Foundation 1: Mandatory Project Registration & Transparency :- Every real estate project with a plot area exceeding 500 square meters or more than eight apartments must be registered with the state's RERA authority before any advertising or selling can begin. Developers must upload all project details to the RERA website, including:

- Sanctioned plans, layout plans, and specifications.
- The proposed timeline for completion, with quarterly progress updates.
- Approvals and commencement certificates from local authorities.
- The proforma of the allotment letter, agreement for sale, and conveyance deed.
- Number and type of apartments or plots, and the status of bookings.

This creates a single source of truth, allowing buyers to make informed decisions based on verified data.

Foundation 2: Financial Discipline & The 70% Rule :- This is perhaps the most transformative provision. RERA mandates that 70% of the funds collected from homebuyers for a specific project must be deposited in a separate escrow account. These funds can only be withdrawn to cover the cost of construction and land for that specific project, and withdrawals must be certified by an engineer, an architect, and a chartered accountant. This curb on fund diversion ensures that buyer's money is used for its intended purpose, significantly reducing project delays.

Foundation 3: Accountability & Timely Delivery :- RERA places a clear obligation on the



developer to complete the project by the date declared during registration. If the developer fails to do so, they are liable to compensate the homebuyer. The law stipulates that the rate of interest payable by the promoter to the allottee is the same as the rate of interest the allottee is liable to pay the promoter in case of default. This creates a level playing field.

Foundation 4: Standardisation & Quality Assurance:-

- **Standard Carpet Area:** RERA provides a clear and uniform definition of 'carpet area' (the net usable floor area within the walls of an apartment). Properties must now be sold based on this metric, not the ambiguous 'super built-up' area.

- **Defect Liability:** A developer is responsible for rectifying any structural defects or defects in workmanship and quality for a period of five years after handing over possession, at no extra cost to the buyer.

Foundation 5: Robust Grievance Redressal :-

Each state has a Real Estate Regulatory Authority and an Appellate Tribunal. A homebuyer or developer aggrieved by a violation of RERA can file a complaint with the Authority. The system is designed for speedy disposal of cases, providing a faster and more accessible alternative to traditional courts.

D. Benefits for Different Stakeholders

For Homebuyers:

- **Greater Transparency:** Access to complete project information before purchase
- **Financial Protection:** Funds secured in escrow accounts
- **Timely Delivery:** Penalties for project delays
- **Quality Assurance:** Five-year defect liability
- **Fair Pricing:** Carpet area-based pricing
- **Quick Grievance Redressal:** Dedicated appellate tribunals

For Developers:

- **Level Playing Field:** Standardized practices across the industry
- **Enhanced Credibility:** RERA registration builds trust
- **Reduced Litigation:** Clear guidelines minimize disputes

- **Market Confidence:** Transparent practices attract more buyers

For Real Estate Agents:

- **Professional Recognition:** Mandatory registration legitimizes the profession
- **Clear Guidelines:** Defined roles and responsibilities
- **Reduced Malpractices:** Accountability measures protect reputation

E. State-wise Implementation Status

While RERA is a central Act, states implement it with some modifications:

Well-Implemented States:

- **Maharashtra:** MahaRERA is considered the most effective implementation
- **Karnataka:** Strong online presence and regular monitoring
- **Uttar Pradesh:** Active grievance redressal system
- **Gujarat:** Comprehensive project database

States with Diluted Rules:

Some states have diluted provisions, reducing buyer protection. It's essential to understand your state's specific RERA rules.

F. Common Challenges and Solutions

Challenge 1: Ongoing Projects

Many projects started before RERA faced registration challenges. **Solution:** Most states allowed ongoing projects to register with adjusted timelines.

Challenge 2: Increased Costs

Compliance requirements increased project costs initially. **Solution:** Long-term benefits of transparency outweigh short-term costs.

Challenge 3: Small Developer Impact

Smaller developers struggled with compliance requirements. **Solution:** Industry consolidation and professional support services emerged.

G. Recent Developments & Judicial Stance

The judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, has consistently played a crucial role in strengthening RERA's teeth.

- **Retrospective Application:** In a landmark judgment (*Newtech Promoters and Developers*), the Supreme Court held that RERA's provisions apply to all "ongoing projects" for which a completion certificate had not been issued at the time the Act came into



force. This brought a vast number of delayed projects under RERA's protection.

- **Upholding Buyer Rights:** Courts have repeatedly upheld a homebuyer's right to exit a delayed project and receive a full refund with interest.
- **Stricter Enforcement:** State RERA authorities are becoming increasingly proactive, imposing penalties, and even ordering the deregistration of non-compliant projects. They are actively monitoring the quarterly updates and conducting site inspections.

H. A Practical Checklist for Homebuyers

When considering a property purchase, use this RERA checklist:

1. **Verify RERA Registration:** Never book a property in a project that is not registered with the state RERA. Verify the registration number on the official RERA website.
2. **Scrutinise Online Data:** Carefully review all the project documents uploaded by the developer on the RERA portal. Cross-check the promised amenities and completion date.
3. **Read the Agreement for Sale:** RERA

prescribes a model sale agreement. Ensure the developer's agreement does not deviate unfairly from this model and that all clauses are clear.

4. **Track Project Progress:** Once you've invested, regularly monitor the quarterly progress updates on the RERA website.
5. **Know Your Rights:** Be aware of your rights regarding delays, changes in plans, and the five-year defect liability period. Do not hesitate to approach the RERA authority if your rights are infringed.

I. Conclusion: The Future of Real Estate is Regulated

RERA has been more than just a piece of legislation; it has been a catalyst for a cultural shift in Indian real estate. It has moved the industry towards a new paradigm of trust, professionalism, and customer-centricity. While challenges in implementation persist, the Act has irrevocably empowered homebuyers and laid the foundation for a more mature and organized real estate market.

For both buyers and developers, understanding and adhering to the framework of RERA is no longer optional—it is essential for a secure and successful transaction.

A RERA GUIDE FOR HOMEBUYERS





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Compliance Calendar - April 2026



Contributed by:
CA. Bhavin soni

Date	Period	Income Tax	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
7	Mar '26	TCS Payment				1	2	3	4
14	Feb'26	TDS certificate u/s 194-IA/ IB/ M/ S							
15	Jan-Mar'26	Form 15CC for foreign remittances							
15	Mar'26	Form no. 3BB by a stock exchange	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
30	Mar'26	Form 24G			IT			GST	GST
30	Mar'26	TDS Payment u/s 194-IA/ IB/ M/ S							
30	Mar'26	TDS Payment	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				GST	IT	IT			GST
30	Jan-Mar'26	Quarterly TDS Payment u/s 192, 194A, 194D or 194H (If permitted by AO)				PF/ES IC ROC			
Date	Period	GST	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10	Mar'26	GSTR-7 (TDS) & GSTR-8 (TCS)		GST		GST		GST	
11	Mar'26	GSTR-1 (Monthly)							
13	Jan-Mar'26	GSTR-1 (QRMP)	26	27	28	29	30		
13	Mar'26	GSTR-5 (NRTP) & GSTR-6 (ISD)					IT		
18	Jan-Mar'26	CMP-08 (Composition Dealer)					GST		
20	Mar'26	GSTR-3B (Monthly) & GSTR-5A (OIDAR)							
22	Jan-Mar'26	GSTR-3B (QRMP List-1 Taxpayers)							
24	Jan-Mar'26	GSTR-3B (QRMP List-2 Taxpayers)							
30	Apr- Jun'26	Opt in/out from QRMP scheme							
Date	Period	PF/ESIC							
15	Mar'26	PF/ESIC Deposit & Return							
Date	Period	ROC							
15	-	Start of CCFS 2026 Scheme for Pvt Ltd & OPC							





Creators, Compliance & Code: The New Rulebook of India's Influencer Economy



Contributed by:
CA. Shad Ali Saiyed

Abstract:

India's rapidly growing influencer ecosystem has transformed content creators into digital entrepreneurs handling significant volumes of personal data and diverse income streams. With the enactment of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act), such activities now fall within a structured regulatory framework. This article explores the intersection of the creator economy with data protection laws, taxation and cross-border regulations, while highlighting emerging monetisation models such as super chats, subscriptions and platform incentives. It further examines the evolving role of Chartered Accountants and the need for institutional support to strengthen this emerging domain.

1) Introduction:

India's digital transformation has accelerated the rise of the **Orange Economy**, where creativity, content and intellectual capital drive economic value. Influencers and content creators today operate as micro-enterprises, generating income through brand collaborations, digital products and platform-based monetisation.

Beyond traditional revenue streams, creators now earn through:

- Super Chats and live stream monetisation
- Channel memberships and subscriber-based income
- Platform ad revenue sharing
- Recognition incentives such as YouTube Silver, Gold and Diamond Play Buttons

These mechanisms reflect how digital engagement is converted into measurable economic output, contributing to India's evolving creative economy.

However, with monetisation comes responsibility particularly in handling **personal data**. The enactment of the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act)** marks a shift toward a **regulated and trust-based digital ecosystem**, requiring creators to adopt structured compliance practices.

2) Policy Landscape: Budgetary Push for Digital Ecosystem:

The Government of India has laid a strong foundation for digital growth, indirectly strengthening the creator economy through key budgetary initiatives:

- **₹ 10,371 crore** allocated for the IndiaAI Mission to build AI infrastructure (Source: PIB, 2024)
- **₹ 500 crore** for AI Centers of Excellence in Education (Source: Union Budget 2025-26)
- **₹ 20,000 crore R&D and Innovation Fund** for deep-tech development (Source: Budget Announcements)
- **₹ 14,903 crore outlay** under the Digital India Programme (Source: MeitY / PIB)
- **₹ 1 lakh crore financing pool** for private sector innovation (Source: Budget 2024-25 Speech)

Additionally, initiatives such as Startup India, AI skilling programs and digital infrastructure expansion have enabled:

- Scalable content creation platforms
- Global monetisation opportunities
- Employment generation within the creative ecosystem

These developments demonstrate how **content creation is not merely entertainment but a contributor to GDP under the Orange Economy**.

This transition mirrors trends seen in ESG



frameworks, where informal practices evolved into structured compliance systems.

3) **DPDP Act: Relevance for the Creator Economy:**

The DPDP Act is particularly relevant to influencers due to the nature of their day-to-day activities. Creators frequently:

- Collect email IDs for newsletters or courses
- Conduct contests and giveaways
- Manage paid communities
- Analysing audience behaviour

In such cases, influencers determine the purpose and means of processing personal data, effectively functioning as **Data Fiduciaries**.

The key shift is: **User data → from a marketing tool → to a regulated responsibility**

Accordingly, creators must adopt structured practices relating to consent, transparency and data protection.

4) **Key Compliance Requirements:**

a. **Consent & Transparency:**

Personal data must be collected only after obtaining clear and informed consent, with proper disclosure of usage.

b. **Purpose Limitation:** Data must be used strictly for the purpose for which it was collected.

c. **Data Minimization:** Only relevant and necessary data should be collected.

d. **Data Security:** Reasonable safeguards must be implemented to prevent un-authorized access or breaches.

e. **Rights of Users:** Users have the right to:

- i. Access their data
- ii. Request correction or deletion
- iii. Withdraw consent

f. **Breach Reporting:** In case of a data breach, reporting obligations arise under the Act.

5) **Implementation Challenges:** Despite clear provisions, influencers face practical challenges:

- ❖ Limited awareness of legal obligations
- ❖ Fragmented use of digital tools
- ❖ Cost constraints, especially for

small creators

- ❖ Dependence on third-party platforms

These factors contribute to a significant compliance gap in the creator economy.

6) **Implications of Non-Compliance: A Multi-Regulatory Perspective:** While the DPDP Act prescribes penalties up to ₹ **250 crore**, influencers are also exposed to other regulatory frame-works:

a) **Income Tax Compliance:**

- ✓ Income taxable under business / professional income which includes Ad revenue, Superchat income and Subscription earnings
- ✓ Applicability of TDS provisions (e.g., Section 194R, 194J)
- ✓ Risks of reassessment and penalties

b) **GST Compliance:**

- ✓ Influencer activities qualify as **taxable supply of services**
- ✓ GST applicable on:
 - Brand promotions
 - Affiliate income
 - Subscription-based content
 - Barter transactions (free products/services) are also taxable

For foreign clients / platforms:

- ✓ May qualify as **export of services**
- ✓ Option to file **LUT (Letter of Undertaking)** for export without IGST
- ✓ Alternatively, IGST payment with refund mechanism

c) **FEMA & RBI Compliance:**

- ✓ Foreign receipts treated as export of services
- ✓ Compliance under FEMA required
- ✓ Proper documentation (banking records/FIRC) necessary

d) **MCA & Business Structuring:**

- ✓ Scaling creators may adopt formal structures:
 - ✓ LLP / Company
 - ✓ Compliance under Companies Act, 2013 becomes relevant

e) **Additional Considerations:** Platform rewards (e.g., YouTube Play Buttons) may raise valuation or disclosure considerations in specific contexts.



- a) **Overall Risk Exposure:** Non-compliance may lead to:
- ❖ Multi-regulatory penalties
 - ❖ Financial and reputational damage
 - ❖ Loss of business opportunities

Thus, influencer compliance requires a holistic regulatory approach.

1) **Emerging Opportunities for Chartered Accountants:** The creator economy presents a new-age professional opportunity.

Key Areas:

- ✓ Including superchat, subscriptions and platform income (Revenue Structuring & Advisory)
- ✓ Proper classification and reporting of diverse income streams (Income tax planning and compliance)
- ✓ Data compliance advisory (privacy policies, consent frameworks)
- ✓ GST and export advisory
- ✓ FEMA advisory for foreign receipts
- ✓ Business structuring and scalability planning
- ✓ Valuation of Digital Assets (Brand Value, Subscriber base, Platform Recognition)

Chartered Accountants can evolve from traditional roles to become **strategic advisors in the Orange Economy**, similar to their expanding role in ESG domains.

2) **Role of ICAI in Developing This Domain:** ICAI can play a pivotal role in strengthening this practice area:

- a. Certification programs on DPDP

- Act and digital compliance
- b. Model privacy policies and compliance frameworks
- c. Workshops for influencers and startups
- d. Promote thought leadership on **Orange Economy**
- e. Integration with legal and technology professionals

These initiatives can position ICAI members as **trusted advisors in the digital economy.**

3) **Best Practices for Influencers:** To ensure compliance:

- ✓ Maintain a clear privacy policy
- ✓ Use explicit consent mechanisms
- ✓ Limit unnecessary data collection
- ✓ Ensure secure storage of data
- ✓ Maintain transparency with users

4) Conclusion:

India is transitioning toward a regulated and trust-driven digital economy, supported by strong policy initiatives and evolving legal frameworks. The influencer ecosystem, as a key pillar of the **Orange Economy**, must align with these changes to ensure sustainable growth. For Chartered Accountants, this represents an opportunity to evolve into multi-disciplinary advisors, contributing to governance and growth in the **Orange Economy.**

"In the new digital economy, it's not just about going viral; it's about staying compliant. Because today, the real flex isn't just influence... it's responsible influence"





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Practice Management: Networking



Contributed by:
CA. Devangi R. Saravaiya

Practice management is an essential aspect of the professional life of a Chartered Accountant, and networking plays a vital role in developing and sustaining a successful practice. Networking in the field of Chartered Accountancy refers to the process of establishing and maintaining professional relationships with clients, fellow professionals, business organizations, financial institutions, and regulatory authorities.

In today's competitive and dynamic business environment, technical knowledge alone is not sufficient for professional growth; Chartered Accountants must also build **strong professional networks** that help them expand their client base, enhance professional opportunities, and stay updated with the latest developments in the financial and regulatory landscape. Effective networking enables Chartered Accountants to build trust and credibility among clients and professionals, which ultimately contributes to the growth and sustainability of their practice.

One of the most important benefits of networking in Chartered Accountancy practice is **client acquisition and retention**. Many professional assignments are obtained through referrals, recommendations, and professional contacts rather than direct advertising or marketing. When a Chartered Accountant maintains good relationships with existing clients, they are more likely to recommend the professional to other individuals or organizations in need of accounting, taxation, or auditing services. In this way, networking becomes an important tool for expanding the client base and creating long-term professional relationships. Furthermore, maintaining regular communication with clients helps Chartered Accountants understand their **business needs** and provide timely financial advice, which

strengthens professional trust and satisfaction.

Networking also plays a significant role in collaboration with other professionals such as lawyers, company secretaries, cost accountants, bankers, financial consultants, and management advisors. Modern business operations are complex and often require multidisciplinary expertise. For instance, a business client may require assistance with company incorporation, legal documentation, tax planning, financial restructuring, and compliance with regulatory authorities. Through professional networking, a Chartered Accountant can **collaborate with experts from different fields** and provide comprehensive services to clients. Such collaborations enhance the overall quality of professional services and improve the efficiency of problem solving for clients.

Professional networking is also encouraged through **participation in seminars, workshops, conferences, and continuing professional education programs organized by professional bodies such as the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**. These events provide opportunities for Chartered Accountants to interact with fellow professionals, exchange knowledge, discuss practical challenges, and learn about recent amendments in taxation laws, accounting standards, and regulatory requirements. Such interactions help professionals remain updated with changes in the profession and develop a broader understanding of industry practices. In addition, these platforms allow professionals to build valuable contacts that may lead to joint assignments, partnerships, or consultancy opportunities.

Another important aspect of networking in practice management is the development of relationships with financial institutions and



business organizations. Chartered Accountants often assist clients in preparing financial statements, project reports, loan proposals, and investment plans. By maintaining good relationships with bankers and financial institutions, Chartered Accountants can facilitate smoother financial transactions for their clients and provide guidance regarding financing options. Banks and financial institutions also rely on the professional opinions of Chartered Accountants when evaluating financial statements or assessing the viability of business projects. Therefore, a strong professional relationship with such institutions enhances the effectiveness of the services provided by Chartered Accountants.

In recent years, digital technology has significantly expanded the scope of networking in the accounting profession. Online professional platforms, webinars, virtual conferences, and social media networks provide Chartered Accountants with opportunities to connect with professionals and entrepreneurs across different regions and industries. By sharing professional insights, articles, and updates related to taxation, auditing, and financial management, Chartered Accountants can build their professional reputation and establish themselves as knowledgeable experts in their field. Digital networking also helps professionals stay informed about emerging trends such as financial technology, data analytics, artificial intelligence in accounting, and global regulatory developments.

Networking is also beneficial for young and newly qualified Chartered Accountants who are starting their professional practice. By interacting with experienced professionals, they can receive mentorship, practical guidance, and career advice that help them navigate the challenges of establishing a practice. Experienced professionals often share insights regarding client management, practice administration, regulatory compliance, and professional ethics, which are valuable for the professional development of new practitioners. Such mentoring relationships contribute to the overall growth and professionalism of the accounting community.

However, while networking offers numerous benefits, Chartered Accountants must always adhere to ethical standards and professional conduct while building professional relationships. Networking should not involve unethical solicitation of clients or violation of professional guidelines. Professional conduct

rules emphasize integrity, confidentiality, and independence in all professional interactions. Chartered Accountants must ensure that their networking activities maintain the dignity and reputation of the profession. Ethical networking focuses on sharing knowledge, building trust, and demonstrating professional competence rather than aggressive marketing or unfair competition.

Effective networking requires good communication and interpersonal skills. Chartered Accountants must be able to communicate clearly, listen actively, and build rapport with clients and professionals. Attending professional events, joining business associations, participating in industry forums, and maintaining regular contact with professional acquaintances are some of the ways through which networking can be strengthened. Maintaining a systematic database of professional contacts and keeping them updated about professional developments can also help in sustaining long-term professional relationships.

In addition, networking can help Chartered Accountants identify new areas of professional practice such as forensic auditing, risk management, financial advisory services, business valuation, corporate restructuring, and international taxation. As businesses become more complex and globalized, the demand for specialized professional services continues to grow. Through networking, Chartered Accountants can collaborate with experts from different disciplines and explore new opportunities for professional growth and service diversification.

In conclusion, networking is an indispensable component of practice management for Chartered Accountants. It helps professionals build strong relationships with clients, collaborate with other experts, stay updated with industry developments, and enhance their professional reputation. By participating in professional events, engaging with professional bodies, maintaining ethical standards, and utilizing digital networking platforms, Chartered Accountants can create a strong professional network that supports long-term career growth and successful practice management. A well-developed network not only contributes to business development but also strengthens the professional community by promoting knowledge sharing, collaboration, and ethical conduct within the profession.



Navigating Interest under Section 234A in Reassessment Cases: The Principle of Impossibility



Contributed by:
CA. Parth Patel

1. Introduction

The framework of the Income-tax Act, 1961, is built upon the twin pillars of tax liability and the procedural machinery to ensure its timely collection. A critical component of this machinery is the **levy of interest**, which serves as a compensatory mechanism for the exchequer for any delay in the receipt of taxes. The provisions for levying interest, particularly Sections 234A, 234B, and 234C, are often viewed as mandatory and automatic. However, their application is not always a straightforward mechanical exercise. Complex legal questions arise when these provisions intersect with other procedural aspects of the Act, such as reassessment proceedings under Section 147. Among these, Section 234A, which deals with interest for default in furnishing the return of income, presents a particularly contentious issue in scenarios where an assessee has not filed an original return and is subsequently subjected to reassessment.

A common practice observed is that Assessing Officers (AOs), upon initiating reassessment, levy interest under Section 234A for the entire period, commencing from the original due date for filing the return until the date of completion of the reassessment. This approach, while seemingly aligned with a strict interpretation of the statute, has been challenged on the fundamental grounds of natural justice and the well-established legal principle of impossibility. This practice effectively penalizes an assessee for a period during which the law itself precluded them from filing a return. This article delves deep into the statutory nuances of Section 234A and analyzes the authoritative judicial precedents that have provided a more equitable and just interpretation, offering significant relief to assesseees caught in this procedural quandary.

2. Deconstructing the Mandate of

Section 234A

To appreciate the controversy, a granular understanding of the statutory language of Section 234A is essential. This section imposes a liability to pay simple interest on an assessee who defaults in their obligation to furnish a return of income within the prescribed timelines.

The key components of the section are as follows:

Triggering Event: The liability under Section 234A is triggered by one of two conditions: (i) the return of income is furnished after the due date specified under Section 139(1), or (ii) the return of income is not furnished at all.

Period of Interest Calculation: The section meticulously defines the start and end points for the calculation of interest. The period commences on the date immediately following the due date. The end date, however, depends on the specific circumstances:

Section 234A(1)(a): In cases where the return is eventually furnished after the due date, the period for interest calculation ends on the date the return is actually furnished.

Section 234A(1)(b): In cases where no return has been furnished whatsoever, the period ends on the date of completion of the assessment under Section 144, which pertains to a best judgment assessment.

Basis for Calculation: The interest is computed on the amount of tax determined on the total income in a 'regular assessment', after reducing any advance tax paid and any tax deducted or collected at source (TDS/TCS).

The Role of Explanation 3: This explanation is pivotal in the context of reassessments. It introduces a legal fiction by stating: "Where, in relation to an assessment year, an assessment is made for the first time under section 147, the assessment so made shall be regarded as a regular assessment for the purpose of this



section." This means that for calculating the base amount of tax on which interest is to be levied, the assessment completed under Section 147 is treated as the 'regular assessment'.

3. The Practical Conundrum in Reassessment Proceedings

The interpretational challenge emerges from a specific sequence of events. Let us consider a practical example for the Assessment Year (AY) 2016-17:

Original Due Date (u/s 139(1)): An assessee was required to file their return by 31.07.2016. The assessee fails to do so.

Belated Return Deadline (u/s 139(4)): The assessee also fails to file a belated return by the last permissible date, which for AY 2016-17 was 31.03.2018 (one year from the end of the relevant assessment year).

The 'Impossible Period' Commences: From 01.04.2018 onwards, the assessee is legally barred from voluntarily filing a return for AY 2016-17. The income tax portal would not accept such a filing, and there is no provision in the Act that allows for it.

Initiation of Reassessment: Years later, on 28.03.2020, the Assessing Officer, having reason to believe that income has escaped assessment, issues a notice under Section 148, thereby reopening the assessment for AY 2016-17.

Filing of Return: The assessee files a return in response to the notice u/s 148.

In this scenario, the department's typical stance is to invoke Explanation 3 to Section 234A. The argument is that since the assessment under Section 147 is deemed a 'regular assessment', the default of not filing the return, which began on 01.08.2016, continues uninterrupted until the assessment is completed. This results in the levy of interest for the entire period from 01.08.2016 to the date of the reassessment order, including the 'impossible period' from 01.04.2018 to 28.03.2020. This raises a profound question of legal fairness: Can an assessee be held in default and be charged compensatory interest for a period when the law itself made compliance an impossibility?

4. Judicial Interpretation: Invoking 'Lex Non Cogit Ad Impossibilia'

The judiciary has consistently stepped in to resolve this issue by applying the foundational legal maxim, "Lex non cogit ad impossibilia," which translates to "the law does not compel a man to do that which he cannot possibly perform." The courts have held that a default cannot be attributed to an assessee for a period during which they were legally disabled from performing the required act. Two landmark judgments from the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) are central to this jurisprudence.

4.1 Ms. Priti Pithawala v. Income-Tax Officer 129 Taxman 79 (Mumbai)

This case is a cornerstone ruling on the subject. The assessee had not filed returns and, while conceding the levy of interest under Section 234A, contested the period for which it was charged. The core contention was that interest could not be levied for the period after the expiry of the time limit for filing a belated return and before the issuance of the notice under Section 148.

The Mumbai Tribunal conducted a meticulous analysis of Section 234A. It astutely pointed out that Explanation 3 was inserted for a specific purpose. The Tribunal held that the explanation is relatable to the computation part of the interest, meaning it clarifies that the tax determined in the Section 147 assessment should be used as the base for calculating the interest amount. It does not, however, have any bearing on the computation of the period for which the interest is to be charged. The Tribunal reasoned that the period of default cannot be artificially extended to cover a timeframe where the assessee was legally barred from filing a return. It found sufficient force in the assessee's contention that they should not be made liable to pay interest for the period during which it was not possible on their part to file the returns. Consequently, the Tribunal set aside the AO's order on this matter and directed a re-computation of interest, effectively excluding the 'impossible period' from the calculation.

4.2 . Income-tax Officer v. Amar Chand Board 33 taxmann.com 683 (Jodhpur - Trib.)

This subsequent decision by the Jodhpur Tribunal further cemented the principle laid down in Priti Pithawala. In this case, the assessee filed a return for the first time only after receiving a notice under Section 148. The AO had charged interest for a total of 57 months, covering the entire duration from the original due date. The Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals) [CIT(A)], relying on the Priti Pithawala decision, had already granted relief to the assessee.

When the department appealed to the Tribunal, the Jodhpur Bench upheld the CIT(A)'s order. **It explicitly endorsed the reasoning that an assessee cannot be held liable for interest during a period of legal impossibility.** The Tribunal provided a clear and unambiguous formula for identifying this period, stating that the assessee cannot be made liable to pay interest for the period

Author's Note:

The principles discussed in this article highlight a common error in practice. Professionals are strongly advised to meticulously scrutinize the tax computation sheet accompanying any assessment order, especially in reassessment cases. An incorrect levy of interest under Section 234A is often overlooked but can be a strong ground for appeal.



RBI Updates



Contributed by:
CA. Mayur Modha

As we step into the month of April, many of us in the profession will be gearing up for statutory branch bank audits an important and demanding phase of our professional calendar. To support our preparedness and ensure a smooth audit process, I am sharing a concise compilation of key Master Directions and Master Circulars issued by the Reserve Bank of India during the financial year 2025-2026. This summary aims to provide a quick reference and practical insight into the most relevant regulatory updates that may have a bearing on our audit approach and reporting. Wishing everyone a productive and insightful bank audit season.

Date of issue: 16-06-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/2025-26/56 FIDD.CO.GSSD.BC.No.07/09.09.001/2025-26

Subject: Credit facilities to Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (Sts)

Brief understanding: Guidelines on extending and monitoring credit support to SC/ST communities

Date of issue: 01-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/2025-26/02 FIDD.GSSD.CO.BC.No.01/09.01.003/2025-26

Subject: Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)

Brief understanding: Framework for bank linkage and financing under DAY-NRLM

Date of issue: 01-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/2025-26/06 CO.DGGBA.GBD.No.S2/31-12-010/2025-2026

Subject: Conduct of Government Business by Agency Banks - Payment of Agency Commission

Brief understanding: Norms for agency banks

on handling government transactions and commission payment

Date of issue: 01-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/2025-26/04 FIDD.CO.LBS.BC.No.03/02.01.001/2025-26

Subject: Lead Bank Scheme

Brief understanding: Updated operational guidelines for Lead Bank Scheme implementation

Date of issue: 01-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/2025-26/01 FIDD.CO.FID.BC.No.4/12.01.033/2025-26

Subject: SHG-Bank Linkage Programme

Brief understanding: Directions on financing and linkage of Self-Help Groups with banks

Date of issue: 01-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/2025-26/05 CO.DGGBA.GBD.No.S1/31.02.007/2025-26

Subject: Disbursement of Government Pension by Agency Banks

Brief understanding: Procedures for pension disbursement through agency banks

Date of issue: 16-06-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/FMRD/2025-26/137

Subject: Master Direction -Electronic Trading Platforms Directions, 2025

Brief understanding: Regulates electronic trading platforms, ensuring transparency, access control, and risk management in financial markets.

Date of issue: 01-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/2025-26/133



Subject: Master Direction -Facility for Exchange of Notes and Coins

Brief understanding: Standardizes procedures for exchange of notes and coins to improve public access and service efficiency.

Date of issue: 01-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/2025-26/132

Subject: Master Direction on Counterfeit Notes, 2025 -Detection, Reporting and Monitoring

Brief understanding: Establishes framework for detection, reporting, and monitoring of counterfeit currency to safeguard the financial system.

Date of issue: 01-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/DCM/2025-26/131

Subject: Master Direction - Scheme of Penalties for bank branches and currency chests

Brief understanding: Prescribes penalties for deficiencies in customer service by bank branches and currency chests.

Date of issue: 01-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/DCM/2025-26/130

Subject: Master Direction on Penal Provisions in reporting of transactions / balances at Currency Chests

Brief understanding: Defines penal provisions

for incorrect or delayed reporting of currency chest transactions and balances.

Date of issue: 24-04-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/DCM/2025-26/136

Subject: Master Direction on Framework of incentives for Currency Distribution & Exchange Scheme

Brief understanding: Provides incentive framework to improve performance of banks in currency distribution and exchange services.

Date of issue: 15-09-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/DPSS/2025-26/141

Subject: Master Direction on Regulation of Payment Aggregator (PA)

Brief understanding: Lays down regulatory norms for payment aggregators covering authorization, governance, and risk management.

Date of issue: 16-06-2025

Master directions/ Master circulars: RBI/FMRD/2025-26/137

Subject: Master Direction - Electronic Trading Platforms Directions, 2025

Brief understanding: Regulates electronic trading platforms, ensuring transparency, access control, and risk management in financial markets.



RBI
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA



Few changes brought in by Finance Bill, 2026



Contributed by:
CA. Parag Raval

(1) Income-tax Act, 2025: Overview and Professional Imperative

The Income-tax Act, 2025 ushers in from April 1, 2026, replacing the century-old framework of the 1961 Act and symbolizing India's push toward a streamlined direct tax system. As trusted advisors in tax compliance and strategy, Tax Professionals must master its nuances to guide clients effectively through this transition.

Legislative Journey

Introduced as the Income-tax Bill, 2025, it navigated parliamentary approval and received Presidential assent on August 21, 2025, emerging as Act No. 22 of 2025 in the Official Gazette. Effective broadly from April 1, 2026, it applies to FY 2026-27 assessments onward (with select provisions possibly earlier).

Core Objectives

This reform tackles the 1961 Act's accumulated complexities by:

- Simplifying structure into 536 concise sections with logical flow.
- Eliminating outdated clauses and enhancing drafting precision.
- Minimizing disputes via unambiguous language.
- Adapting to digital economies, crypto assets, and global standards.
- Easing filing, TDS, and audits for taxpayers and officials alike.

Notably, tax computations remain identical – same inputs yield the same taxable income, just rephrased and reorganized for clarity.

Implications for Professionals

Tax experts face a recalibration: conduct side-by-side analyses of old vs. new provisions, update software/tools, refine client advisories, and strategize litigation under clearer rules. This is not substantive change but a user-friendly rewrite, demanding proactive upskilling via rules, notifications, and case precedents.

Path Forward

Embrace this overhaul as an opportunity for precision and efficiency. Tax Professionals should prioritize structured training, comparative charts, and scenario-based simulations to ensure seamless FY 2026-27 compliance. Your expertise will prove invaluable in this evolved landscape.

(2) Budget Rationalisation: Aligning Income-tax Act, 2025 with 1961 Act

The Union Budget introduces targeted amendments to harmonise select provisions of the Income-tax Act, 2025 with established interpretations under the Income-tax Act, 1961, enhancing clarity and consistency for taxpayers and professionals.

Stock-in-Trade Property Valuation (Section 21(5))

A refining amendment to Section 21(5) mirrors the 1961 Act by deeming the annual value of property held as stock-in-trade as nil for two years post the financial year of obtaining the completion certificate from authorities. This correction prevents unintended taxation during typical holding periods, easing real estate business compliance.

Self-Occupied Property Interest Deduction (Section 22)

Section 22(2), akin to erstwhile Section 24, caps interest deduction on borrowed capital for self-occupied properties at ₹2 lakh. The amendment explicitly includes prior-period interest within this limit, aligning with 1961 Act precedents and closing ambiguity to ensure predictable house property income computations for homeowners.

Expanded PAN Quoting Authority (Section 262(10)(c))

Section 262(10)(c) now broadens CBDT's power—matching Section 139A(5)(c) of the 1961 Act—to mandate PAN disclosure not just



for business/profession documents but also for revenue-interest transactions beyond these scopes. This empowers wider oversight, streamlining verification and curbing evasion in diverse dealings.

These tweaks underscore a commitment to interpretive continuity, reducing litigation risks and simplifying advisory practice amid the 2025 Act's rollout. Professionals should update client guidance and systems accordingly for FY 2026-27 filings.

(3) Budget Amendment: Taxation of Sovereign Gold Bonds (Section 70(1)(x))

The Finance Bill, 2026 refines Section 70(1)(x) of the Income-tax Act, 2025, narrowing the capital gains exemption on Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) redemptions to curb unintended benefits for secondary market investors.

Pre-Amendment Exemption

Previously, any holder enjoyed full exemption on capital gains arising from SGB redemption under the RBI's 2015 Scheme (or successors), boosting secondary market premiums as buyers factored in the tax-free maturity payout.

Revised Conditions for Exemption

The updated clause restricts relief to:

- Original individual subscribers who acquire bonds directly at issuance.
- Continuous holding until maturity (typically 8 years from original issue date).

Secondary transfers no longer qualify, subjecting gains to standard long-term capital gains tax (now at 12.5%).

Market and Investment Impacts

- **Secondary Market Discounts:** Expect price corrections as buyers price in future tax exposure, eroding premiums previously sustained by the broad exemption.
- **ETF Preference Shift:** Tax-inefficient secondary SGBs may cede ground to Gold ETFs, which provide superior liquidity without lock-ins – making them compelling for non-original holders facing equivalent tax burdens.

This targeted tweak promotes the SGB Scheme's core intent of long-term retail gold investment while aligning tax incentives with original subscribers. Professionals should advise clients on portfolio rebalancing ahead of FY 2026-27.

(4) Defective Returns Codification: Rule 166 under Section 263(7)

The Draft Income-tax Rules, 2026 introduce Rule 166, pioneering a codified framework for deeming returns defective under Section 263(7) of the Income-tax Act, 2025 – shifting from the 1961 Act's judicial discretion to explicit, executive-defined criteria.

Key Triggers for Defective Status

A return qualifies as defective if:

- Mandatory fields, schedules, or computations remain unfilled or incomplete.
- Audit reports (for applicable cases) precede return filing.
- Tax payment details are omitted in returns under Section 263(6).
- MAT/AMT credit claims mismatch the latest allowed credits.

Shift in Approach

This rule-based system replaces prior reliance on case law and Assessing Officer subjectivity, promoting uniformity, predictability, and reduced litigation. Professionals gain clarity for compliance checklists, ensuring robust filings from FY 2026-27 onward.

This reform enhances administrative efficiency while empowering taxpayers with precise guidelines – vital for seamless transitions under the new Act.

(5) FAST-DS 2026: Foreign Assets Disclosure Scheme for Small Taxpayers

The FAST-DS (Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers – Disclosure Scheme), 2026 offers a one-time voluntary window, announced in Union Budget 2026 via Finance Bill, 2026, enabling eligible small taxpayers to regularize unreported or partially reported foreign income and assets without severe penalties.

Eligible Participants

- Resident individuals (at time of earning/acquisition).
- Returning NRIs/RNORs who held residency during the undisclosed event.
- Small taxpayers with foreign income/assets up to specified limits, previously undisclosed or incompletely reported (e.g., tax paid but asset omitted).

Disclosure Categories and Costs

Category	Limit (as on 31-3 2026)	Payment	Key Benefit
Undisclosed Income/Assets	Up to ₹1 crore	30% tax + 30% levy (60% total)	Immunity from Black Money Act penalties/prosecution
Tax Paid, Asset Unreported	Up to ₹5 crore	Flat ₹1 lakh	Immunity from reporting default penalties/prosecution



Essential Conditions

- Declarations must be accurate, complete, and filed truthfully.
- Payments due within timelines post-authority determination.
- Final acceptance immunizes from Black Money Act proceedings for disclosed items.

This scheme fosters compliance among small taxpayers, aligning foreign holdings with Indian tax records ahead of stricter FY 2026-27 scrutiny – professionals should guide clients on eligibility and timelines promptly.

(6) Defining 'Income' under Income-tax Act, 2025 (Section 2(49))

Section 2(49) adopts an inclusive definition of "income," encompassing all real accretions to wealth—monetary or otherwise – previously under Section 2(24) of the 1961 Act, ensuring comprehensive taxation of diverse gains.

Thematic Inclusions

1. Commercial Profits

- Profits/gains of business/trade.
- Dividends and capital gains (per Section 67).
- Insurance and co-operative banking profits.

2. Employment-Related

- Salaries, perquisites, profits in lieu.
- Duty/special allowances; cost-of-living aid.
- Employee contributions to employer-held welfare funds.

3. Voluntary Contributions

- Receipts by registered non-profits, scheduled universities/hospitals, associations, and electoral trusts.

4. Anti-Avoidance Measures

- Director/substantial interest benefits/perquisites.
- Receipts via representatives; non-monetary business benefits.
- Fair market value of inventory in key scenarios.

5. Windfall Gains

- Lottery, betting, gambling, races, card games winnings.

6. Deemed Provisions

- Amounts from specific charging sections (e.g., business receipts, transfer pricing).

Judicial Guardrail: Real Income Principle

Per Supreme Court in *CIT v. Shoorji Vallabhdas & Co.*, taxation targets actual income, not hypothetical – statutory deeming overrides notwithstanding. Receipts enter as income; exemptions/deductions follow separately.

This robust framework minimizes leakages while respecting judicial precedents, guiding professionals in holistic assessments for FY 2026-27.

(7) Draft Income-tax Rules, 2026: PAN, HRA, Perquisites & Allowances Rationalisation

The Draft Rules introduce inflation-adjusted thresholds, broader HRA relief, precise perquisite computations, and boosted salary exemptions under the old regime, easing salaried compliance from FY 2026-27.

Expanded PAN Reporting Thresholds

PAN mandatory for high-value transactions:

- Cash withdrawals/deposits: Over ₹10 lakh annually.
- Vehicle purchases: Above ₹5 lakh.
- Hotel/events: Exceeding ₹1 lakh.
- Insurance accounts and property deals: ₹20 lakh threshold.

HRA Exemption: Metro Expansion

- **50% of salary:** Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, plus Hyderabad, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru.
- **40% elsewhere:** Reflects Tier-1 rent pressures beyond traditional metros.

Accommodation Perquisite Valuation

Employer-owned (non-govt):

- 10% salary (cities >40 lakh pop.); 7.5% (15-40 lakh); 5% (others).

Leased: Lower of actual rent paid or 10% salary.

Hotel stays: Lower of 24% salary or bill (15-day transfer grace).

Furnished add-on: 10% p.a. of furniture cost/hire.

Enhanced Old Regime Allowances

Allowance	New Limit (per month/child, max 2)	Prior Limit
Children Education	₹3,000	₹100
Hostel Expenditure	₹9,000	₹300
Other Boosts	Annual/Monthly	Prior
Free Meals	₹200/meal	₹50
Employer Gifts	₹15,000/year	₹5,000
Transport (Divyang)	₹15,000 (metro)/₹8,000	₹3,200

These pragmatic updates – correcting decades of stagnant exemptions – bolster the old regime's appeal for families and urban employees without framework overhaul. Professionals should recalibrate payroll advisories accordingly.

(8) Draft Income-tax Rules, 2026:



Statutory Form Renumbering

The Draft Rules streamline compliance under the Income-tax Act, 2025 by renumbering key forms, consolidating some, and simplifying regime switches – easing transitions for FY 2026-27 filings.

Key Renumbering Summary

Category	Existing Form(s)	New Form
Tax Statement	26AS	168
TDS/TCS Certificates	16 16A 27D	130 131 133
Quarterly TDS/TCS Returns	24Q 26Q 27Q 27EQ	138 140 144 143
Challan TDS (Property/Rent etc.)	26QB/26QC/ 26QD/26QE	141 (consolidated)
Tax Audit Reports	3CA/3CB/3CD	26 (consolidated)
International Tax	15CA 15CB 10F 10FA	145 146 41 42
Exempt Entities (Reg/Audit)	10A 10AB 10B/10BB	104 105 112

Tax Regime Switching Simplified

- **Form 10-IEA eliminated** for business income filers.
- Direct opt-in/out within ITR during filing – no separate form needed.

These changes promote efficiency through consolidation (e.g., challans, audits) and reduced paperwork, minimizing errors for taxpayers, deductors, and professionals. Update templates and software promptly for seamless compliance.

(9) Draft IT Rules, 2026: CA Verification for Foreign Tax Credit (Rule 76 & Form 44)

Draft Rule 76 mandates CA certification for Foreign Tax Credit (FTC) claims via new Form 44 (replacing Form 67), enabling residents to offset foreign taxes against Indian liability and avert double taxation on overseas earnings.

Who Needs CA Verification

Mandatory for:

- All companies claiming FTC.
- Other taxpayers where foreign tax paid \geq ₹1 lakh.

Verification Requirements

The CA must certify:

- Accuracy of reported foreign income via books/documents.
- Proof of foreign tax payments/withholdings.
- FTC computation aligns with DTAA provisions and Income-tax Act, 2025.

Disputed foreign taxes remain ineligible until resolved with settlement evidence (via separate Form

45, also CA-certified).

Compliance Implications

This scrutiny layer ensures claim integrity for unverifiable foreign payments, though it raises costs/timelines for NRIs, freelancers, and ESOP holders. File Form 44 within 12 months post-tax year end, alongside timely ITRs, to secure credits for FY 2026-27. Professionals : Gear up for heightened documentation demands.

(10) TCS Changes: Finance Bill 2026

The Finance Bill 2026, alongside updates to the Income-tax Act 2025 and Income Tax Rules 2026, introduces key rationalizations to Tax Collected at Source (TCS) provisions under Section 394. These aim to reduce compliance complexity, improve cash flow for taxpayers, and align rates with economic realities.

Key TCS Rate Rationalizations

- **Overseas Tour Packages:** TCS simplified to a uniform 2% on the entire amount, eliminating the prior tiered structure (5% up to ₹10 lakh; 20% thereafter) and threshold – now applicable from the first rupee for easier administration.
- **LRS for Education/Medical:** Reduced to 2% on remittances exceeding ₹10 lakh (previously 5%), easing burden on essential outflows while retaining the threshold for monitoring.
- **Other LRS Remittances:** Unchanged at 20% beyond ₹10 lakh, preserving higher collections for non-essential purposes.
- **Tendu Leaves:** Standardized to 2%, matching rates for other specified goods and promoting uniformity in agricultural TCS.

Compliance Enhancements via Income Tax Rules 2026

- **TCS Certificate (Rule 215):** Collectors must issue Form 133 to collectees within 15 days post-quarterly filing deadline under Rule 219, ensuring timely credit claims and reducing disputes.
- **Quarterly Statements (Rule 219):** Electronic filing due quarterly (e.g., 31st July for Q1), mirroring prior timelines for seamless transition.
- **Correction Statements (Sec 397(3)(f)):** Rectification allowed within 2 years from the relevant tax year's end, providing flexibility for errors without excessive penalties.

Effective Date

All changes apply from 1 April 2026, aligning with the new tax year under the Income-tax Act 2025.

Added Insights for GST/Tax Professionals

These reforms reflect a broader push towards simplification post-2025 tax overhaul, potentially lowering litigation on rate disputes. For clients in travel/export sectors, advise pre-April audits to leverage reduced rates; monitor CBDT circulars for transitional guidance. This structure enhances readability with tables for quick reference if needed in reports.



Upcoming Events



THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

AHMEDABAD BRANCH (WIRC)



Seminar on Unlocking & Scalling Opportunities in **US Accounting, Taxation & Audit** Reality, Roadmaps & Insights



04th April 2026
Saturday



09.00 AM to 12:30 PM



ICAI Bhawan
Ghatloda, Ahmedabad

(Followed by Lunch)



09.00 AM to 09.30 AM : **Networking & Registration**

09.30 AM to 12.30 PM

Unlocking Opportunities in US Bookkeeping & Accounting

Explore the growing demand, service scope, tools, & client expectations in book keeping & accounting outsourcing

Eminent Faculty

Building a Practice in US Taxation (1040, 1065, 1120 & More)

Gain insights into compliance, seasonal opportunities & scaling US tax return services

CA. Shivangi Tankshali (US CPA Licensed)

Entering the US Audit & Assurance Space – Scope for Indian CAs

Understand regulatory aspects, collaboration models & opportunities in audit assignments

CA. Ahuti Talesra, CA, CS, CPA

Panel Discussion:

USA Opportunities – Still a Goldmine or Just a Myth?

Industry experts will share real experiences, challenges, and future outlook to help you take informed decisions

Eminent Panellists



CPE Hours



₹ 500 +GST per Member
till 31.03.2026 Later
₹ 700 +GST per Member



<http://tiny.cc/UATA>

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THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
(Set up by an Act of Parliament)



One Day Training Programme for **PEER REVIEWERS AT AHMEDABAD**

Organized by: **Peer Review Board of ICAI** & Hosted by: **ICAI-Ahmedabad Branch (WIRC)**



10th April 2025
Friday



09.00 AM to 05:00 PM



ICAI Bhawan
Ghatlodia, Ahmedabad

09:00 am – 09:30 am	Registration / Tea & Breakfast	
Session – I 09:30 am to 10:00 am	Welcome Address & Importance of Peer Review	CA. Vishnu Kumar Agarwal Chairman, Peer Review Board
Session – II 10:00 am to 11:00 am	Rationale & Significance of Peer Review	CA. Anil Yadav Jaipur
Session – III 11:00 am to 12:00 pm	Compliance with Framework of Quality Control General & Specific Controls	
Session – IV 12:00 pm to 01:00 pm	Review Procedures and Reporting by Peer Reviewer and Importance of AQMM in Peer Review	CA. Harshvadhan Dossa Mumbai
Session – V 01:00 pm to 02:00 pm	Compliance with Technical and Professional Standards	



₹ 500

+GST per Member till 31.03.2025 thereafter

₹ 750

+GST per Member



<http://tiny.cc/ODPR>

02:00 pm to 02:30 pm – Lunch Break

Session – VI 02:30 pm to 03:30 pm	Compliance with Ethical Standards	CA. Khushroo Panthkey Mumbai
Session – VII 03:30 pm to 04:30 pm	Compliance with Audit Documentation	
04:30 pm to 04:45 pm	Vote of Thanks	
04:45 pm to 05:00 pm	Tea & Cookies	



CPE Hours



CA. Vishnu Kumar Agarwal
Chairman, Peer Review Board of ICAI



CA. Dayaniwas Sharma
Vice-Chairman, Peer Review Board of ICAI



CA. Purushottam Khandelwal
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
Central Council Member, ICAI



CA. Rinkesh Shah
PROGRAMME CONVENOR
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RCM, WIRC



સીએફાઈનલની પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર

અમદાવાદ, તા. ૨૬ ઈન્સ્ટિટ્યુટ ઓફ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા દ્વારા જાન્યુ. ૨૦૨૨માં લેવામાં આવેલી સીએફાઈનલ પરીક્ષાનું



પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. આ પરિણામમાં વડોદરાના પાંચ અને અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ શાપ્ટીય સ્તરે તમામ કક્ષા પ્રદર્શન કર્યું છે. અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરના બે તેજસ્વી વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા વડોદરાના પાંચ અને અમદાવાદના બે વિદ્યાર્થીઓને ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા રેન્કમાં સ્થાન

સહયુક્તપૂર્વક ઈતિહાસ રચ્યું છે. જેની ટકાવારી ૧૭.૮૬ ટકા નોંધાઈ છે. સુપ-૨ ૭૦૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા જેમાં ૧૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉત્તીર્ણ થયા હતા, જેની ટકાવારી ૪.૩૬ ટકા વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે. સપ્ટે. ૨૦૨૨માં અમદાવાદનું પરિણામ ૨૭.૧૪ ટકા અને મે. ૨૦૨૨માં ૧૯.૩૫ ટકા રહ્યું હતું.

આરતમાથી બંને સુધમાં કુલ ૨૨૨૯૩ વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ પરીક્ષા આપી હતી. જેમાંથી ૨૪૪૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે. જેની કુલ ટકાવારી ૧૦.૯૭ ટકા પાપ છે. જાન્યુ. ૨૦૨૨ની આ પરીક્ષાના પરિણામ સાથે દેશને નવા ઉપલબ્ધ કરોલિસાઈટ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ પ્રાપ્ત થયા છે.

Consistent study, revision: City CA topper's success mantra

Marsh Sonara and Namish Shah secure AIR 9 and 27 respectively in CA Final exams

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Marsh Sonara (AIR-9) and **Namish Shah** (AIR-27) are the toppers of the CA Final exams. They secured their positions through consistent study and revision.

Marsh Sonara (AIR-9) is a student of the City CA Institute. He has secured the top position in the CA Final exams. He attributes his success to consistent study and revision.

Namish Shah (AIR-27) is also a student of the City CA Institute. He has secured the 27th position in the CA Final exams. He also attributes his success to consistent study and revision.

સીએ ટોપરે કહ્યું, લક્ષ્ય સ્પષ્ટ અને પ્રયત્ન અવિરત રાખો

ઈન્સ્ટિટ્યુટ ઓફ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા (આઈઆઈસીઆઈ) દ્વારા લેવાયેલી સીએ ફાઈનલ પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર કર્યું છે. આ રીતે પરીક્ષા અતીત થઈ હતી. સીએ ફાઈનલની પરીક્ષામાં કુલ ૨૪૪૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા. જેમાંથી ૨૪૪૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે. જેની કુલ ટકાવારી ૧૦.૯૭ ટકા પાપ છે. જાન્યુ. ૨૦૨૨ની આ પરીક્ષાના પરિણામ સાથે દેશને નવા ઉપલબ્ધ કરોલિસાઈટ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ પ્રાપ્ત થયા છે.

<p>વર્ગ સેલ્સ: AIR-૧ (1448)</p> <p>વિદ્યાર્થી: વર્ધ ૧ શર્મા, રેવની ઈલાજ ફૂટી ડ્રગ્સ આ કિલિયામાં જોડાયે</p> <p>વર્ધ ૧ શર્મા એ આઈઆઈસીઆઈના સીએ ફાઈનલ પરીક્ષામાં AIR-૧ નો સ્થાન જીત્યું છે. તેમણે આ પરીક્ષામાં ૧૦૦% માર્ક્સ મેળવ્યા છે. તેમણે આ પરીક્ષામાં સુપર સ્ટાર તરીકે ઓળખાઈ છે.</p>	<p>વર્ગ સેલ્સ: AIR-૨૭ (1418)</p> <p>વિદ્યાર્થી: અમરજીવ અને દેવેશવર વિશ્વ નમલ ડોંગાવી સી.એ.ની પાસની રીટીરની</p> <p>અમરજીવ અને દેવેશવર વિશ્વ નમલ ડોંગાવી સી.એ.ની પાસની રીટીરની છે. તેમણે આ પરીક્ષામાં ૯૭% માર્ક્સ મેળવ્યા છે. તેમણે આ પરીક્ષામાં સુપર સ્ટાર તરીકે ઓળખાઈ છે.</p>	<p>વર્ગ સેલ્સ: 1328 (188)</p> <p>વિદ્યાર્થી: રાહુલ ભટ્ટારની પાસ અને ભેમલ કામ કાન્ટિનાનો રીટીરની સી.એ.નો વર્ધ</p> <p>રાહુલ ભટ્ટારની પાસ અને ભેમલ કામ કાન્ટિનાનો રીટીરની સી.એ.નો વર્ધ છે. તેમણે આ પરીક્ષામાં ૯૫% માર્ક્સ મેળવ્યા છે. તેમણે આ પરીક્ષામાં સુપર સ્ટાર તરીકે ઓળખાઈ છે.</p>
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CAનું પેપર ખૂબ લેલ્લી અને ટફ હતું, પણ કોલ્સેટ કિલર હતો એટલે સ્કોર કરી શક્યા : ટોપર્સ

અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરના બે વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા રેન્કમાં સ્થાન

મારા પિતૃશ્રુ તાણુ મે પુટા કર્યું, પરિવારમાં પહેલો સી.એ. બનીશ

સોહાગમ પહેલવા છ મહિલામાં તેજવી ૧૬ 5૯૬૬ મહેલત કરી હતી

વર્ધ ૧ શર્મા, રેવની ઈલાજ ફૂટી ડ્રગ્સ આ કિલિયામાં જોડાયે

અમરજીવ અને દેવેશવર વિશ્વ નમલ ડોંગાવી સી.એ.ની પાસની રીટીરની

રાહુલ ભટ્ટારની પાસ અને ભેમલ કામ કાન્ટિનાનો રીટીરની સી.એ.નો વર્ધ

CA-AIR ટોપ ૫૦માં વડોદરા-સુરતના ૫ અને અમદાવાદના ૨ વિદ્યાર્થી

વર્ધ ૧ શર્મા, રેવની ઈલાજ ફૂટી ડ્રગ્સ આ કિલિયામાં જોડાયે

અમરજીવ અને દેવેશવર વિશ્વ નમલ ડોંગાવી સી.એ.ની પાસની રીટીરની

રાહુલ ભટ્ટારની પાસ અને ભેમલ કામ કાન્ટિનાનો રીટીરની સી.એ.નો વર્ધ

ઈન્સ્ટિટ્યુટ ઓફ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા (આઈઆઈસીઆઈ) દ્વારા લેવાયેલી સીએ ફાઈનલ પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર કર્યું હતું. આ પરીક્ષામાં કુલ ૨૪૪૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા. જેમાંથી ૨૪૪૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે. જેની કુલ ટકાવારી ૧૦.૯૭ ટકા પાપ છે. જાન્યુ. ૨૦૨૨ની આ પરીક્ષાના પરિણામ સાથે દેશને નવા ઉપલબ્ધ કરોલિસાઈટ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ પ્રાપ્ત થયા છે.

અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરનું પરિણામ ૧૩.૮૬ ટકા રહ્યું

૯.૩૬ ટકાનો મોટો ઘટાડો: ૮૮ વિદ્યાર્થી પાસ

ઈન્સ્ટિટ્યુટ ઓફ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા દ્વારા હવે વર્ષમાં ત્રણ વખત સીએની પરીક્ષાઓ લેવામાં આવે છે. જેમાં જાન્યુઆરી, મે અને સપ્ટેમ્બર એમ ત્રણ વખત કાઉન્ટેશન, ઈન્ટર અને ફાઈનલની પરીક્ષા લેવામાં આવે છે. ગત જાન્યુઆરીમાં લેવાયેલી સીએ ફાઈનલની પરીક્ષામાં ઓલ ઈન્ડિયાનું શ્રેષ્ઠ સુધનું પરિણામ ૧૦.૯૭ ટકા નોંધાયું છે અને જે ગત સપ્ટેમ્બરમાં ૧૬.૨૩ ટકા હતું. સુપ-૧નું પરિણામ ૨૬.૦૩ ટકા નોંધાયું છે અને જે ગત સપ્ટેમ્બરમાં ૨૪.૬૬ ટકા હતું. જ્યારે સુપ-૨નું પરિણામ ૯.૩૬ ટકા છે તે ગત સપ્ટેમ્બરમાં ૨૫.૨૬ ટકા હતું. આમ ઓલ ઈન્ડિયાનું પરિણામ ઘટ્યું છે.



સીએ ફાઇનલમાં અમદાવાદના હર્ષ સોનારાનો દેશમાં 9મો ક્રમ



અમદાવાદ, તા.ર: આઈસીએઆઈ દ્વારા જાન્યુઆરી ૨૦૨૬માં લેવાયેલી સીએ ફાઇનલની પરીક્ષામાં સમગ્ર દેશનું પરિણામ ૧૦.૯૭ ટકા રહ્યું છે, જોકે રાષ્ટ્રીય સ્તરે ક્રમિક્રમ અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રનું પરિણામ ૧૩.૮૬ ટકા રહ્યું છે જેમાં અમદાવાદના હર્ષ સોનારાએ સમગ્ર દેશમાં ૯મો રેન્ક મેળવી અમદાવાદનું નામ રોશન કર્યું છે. નમિશ શાહે ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા લેવેલ પર ૨૭મો રેન્ક પ્રાપ્ત કર્યો છે. આઈસીએઆઈએ આપેલી માહિતી અનુસાર અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરમાં શુપ ૧માં ૮૭૨ વિદ્યાર્થીઓમાંથી ૧૭૮ પાસ થયા છે અને શુપ ૨માં ૪૦૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓમાંથી ૧૮ પાસ થયા છે. આ ઉપરાંત, જે ૬૩૭ વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ બંને શુપની પરીક્ષા સાથે આપી હતી, તેમાંથી ૮૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ સફળતાપૂર્વક પાસ થયા છે.

CA ફાઇનલ : જાન્યુઆરી-૨૦૨૬ પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર



૨૪મી જાન્યુઆરી ૨૦૨૬ ની આ પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ સાથે દેશને નવા ઓપલો ક્વોલિફાઇડ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ પ્રાપ્ત થયું છે. અમદાવાદના રેન્કની આ સિદ્ધિ બદલ શ્રેયણિક જગતામાં ખુશીનો આદોલ જોવા મળી રહ્યો છે.

અમદાવાદ ઈન્સ્ટિટ્યૂટ ઓફ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા દ્વારા જાન્યુઆરી ૨૦૨૬માં લેવાયેલી આરેલી સીએ ફાઇનલ પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. આ પરિણામમાં અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ રાષ્ટ્રીય સ્તરે સુપ્રમ પ્રદાન કર્યું છે. અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરના મે નેજરવી વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા રેન્કમાં સિદ્ધિ મેળવી જેમાં ૨૭મો રેન્ક પ્રાપ્ત કર્યો છે. તેમાં હર્ષ સોનારાએ સમગ્ર દેશમાં ૯મો રેન્ક અને નમિશ શાહે ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા ૨૭મો રેન્ક પ્રાપ્ત કર્યો છે.

અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના પરીણામની વિગતો જોઈએ તો, બંને શુપની પરીક્ષામાં કુલ ૬૩૭ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા, જેમાંથી ૮૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ સફળતાપૂર્વક પરીક્ષા પાસ થયા છે, જેની કુલ ટકાવારી ૧૩.૮૬% છે. આ ઉપરાંત, જે ૬૩૭ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા અને તેમાંથી ૧૭૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે, તેની ટકાવારી ૨૭.૪૧% છે. શુપ-૨ ૪૦૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા જેમાં ૧૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે, જેની ટકાવારી ૪.૪૩% છે. આ ઉપરાંત, જે ૬૩૭ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે, તેની કુલ ટકાવારી ૧૩.૮૬% છે.

સીએ ફાઇનલ મેં ચમકે અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના બે છાત્ર, ટોપ 50 મેં બનાઈ જગહ

દેશની સર્વોચ્ચ કોલેજીએટ ટોપ 50 ટોપ મેં બનાઈ

સીએ ફાઇનલ મેં ચમકે અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના બે છાત્ર, ટોપ 50 મેં બનાઈ જગહ

અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના પરીણામની વિગતો જોઈએ તો, બંને શુપની પરીક્ષામાં કુલ ૬૩૭ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા, જેમાંથી ૮૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ સફળતાપૂર્વક પરીક્ષા પાસ થયા છે, જેની કુલ ટકાવારી ૧૩.૮૬% છે.

સીએ ફાઇનલ મેં ચમકે અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના બે છાત્ર, ટોપ 50 મેં બનાઈ જગહ

અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના પરીણામની વિગતો જોઈએ તો, બંને શુપની પરીક્ષામાં કુલ ૬૩૭ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા, જેમાંથી ૮૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ સફળતાપૂર્વક પરીક્ષા પાસ થયા છે, જેની કુલ ટકાવારી ૧૩.૮૬% છે.

Ahmedabad students shine in CA Final Exam; two secure top 50 rankings

By Staff Reporter

Ahmedabad, At the Ahmedabad centre, 635 students appeared for both groups of the exam, out of which 88 cleared the examination, resulting in a pass percentage of 13.86 per cent compared to the national average of 10.97 pass percentage. Two candidates from Ahmedabad city secured positions in the top 50 All India Rank (AIR) list- Harsh Himanshubhai Sonara (21) secured AIR 9, while Namish Gautam Shah (22) secured AIR 27- at the CA Final examination-conducted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on January 2026.

Speaking about his preparation strategy, Harsh Sonara, a commerce graduate who is

to leave around 6:30 in the morning for classes, which were for three hours. I've been doing it for the last two years. In the last six months, I was studying around 12 to 13 hours daily," he said.

He added that during the one-day gap between examinations, he would study for nearly 17 hours. "My main focus was on understanding the concepts and improving my writing. I solved question papers, attended all the classes, and had constant guidance and motivation from my parents and friends," said Soanara. Namish Gautam Shah, who secured AIR 27, said his journey was driven by a desire to improve upon his earlier performance at the Intermediate level. "It all started from Intermediate where

CA ફાઇનલ જાન્યુઆરી-૨૦૨૬ પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર

ઈન્સ્ટિટ્યૂટ ઓફ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા (ICAI) દ્વારા જાન્યુઆરી-૨૦૨૬માં લેવામાં આવેલી આઈસીએઆઈ ફાઇનલ પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. આ પરિણામમાં અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ રાષ્ટ્રીય સ્તરે સુપ્રમ પ્રદર્શન કર્યું છે. અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરના બે તેજસ્વી વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા રેકર્ડ્સ લિસ્ટમાં સ્થાન મેળવી શહેરનું ગૌરવ વધાર્યું છે. જેમાં હર્ષ સોનારાએ ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા ૯ મો રેન્ક અને નમિશ ગૌતમ શાહે ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા ૨૭મો રેન્ક પ્રાપ્ત કર્યો છે.

વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા અને એમાંથી ૧૭૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉત્તીર્ણ થયા છે, જેની ટકાવારી ૨૭.૪૧% છે. શુપ-૨ ૪૦૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યાં હતા જેમાં ૧૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉત્તીર્ણ થયા હતા, જેની ટકાવારી ૪.૪૩% વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે. સપ્ટેમ્બર-૨૦૨૫ માં અમદાવાદનું પરિણામ ૨૩.૧૮% અને મે-૨૦૨૫માં ૧૯.૩૫% રહ્યું હતું. રાષ્ટ્રીય સ્તરની વાત કરીએ તો, સમગ્ર ભારતમાંથી બંને શુપમાં કુલ ૨૨૨૮૩ વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ પરીક્ષા આપી હતી, જેમાંથી ૨૪૪૬ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે, જેની કુલ ટકાવારી ૧૦.૯૭% થાય છે. જાન્યુઆરી-૨૦૨૬ ની આ પરીક્ષાના પરિણામ સાથે દેશને નવા ઓપલો ક્વોલિફાઇડ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ પ્રાપ્ત થયા છે. અમદાવાદના રેકર્ડ્સની આ સિદ્ધિ બદલ શ્રેયણિક જગતામાં ખુશીનો માહોલ જોવા મળી રહ્યો છે.

અમદાવાદ કેન્દ્રના પરિણામની વિગતો જોઈએ તો, બંને શુપની પરીક્ષામાં કુલ ૬૩૭ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ ઉપસ્થિત રહ્યા હતા, જેમાંથી ૮૮ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ સફળતાપૂર્વક ઉત્તીર્ણ થયા છે, જેની ટકાવારી ૧૩.૮૬% નોંધાઈ છે. આ ઉપરાંત, શુપ-૧ માં ૮૭૨



અમદાવાદમાં વધુ, બંને ગ્રુપનું ૧૩.૧૯% પરિણામ સી.એ. ઈન્ટર મિડિયેટ રિઝલ્ટમાં અમદાવાદના ૭ વિદ્યાર્થી ટોપ-૫૦માં

■ દેશભરમાં પરિણામ ૧૦.૬% થી ઘટીને ૯.૩૯% થયું, સાટેમ્બરની પરીક્ષામાં ૧૨.૩૫% તૌંધાસું હતું

1 GENERAL 1

ઈન્ટરિન્ટર ઓફ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા (ICAI) દ્વારા જાન્યુઆરીમાં લેવાયેલી CA ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટ પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ આજે જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. આ પરિણામમાં અમદાવાદના વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ જળહણતી સફળતા પ્રાપ્ત કરી છે. શહેરના ૭ તેજસ્વી વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા લેવેલ ટોપ-૫૦ રેન્કમાં સ્થાન મેળવીને અમદાવાદનું નામ રોશન કર્યું છે.

અમદાવાદ ખાન્યનું બંને ગ્રુપનું પરિણામ ૧૩.૧૯% તૌંધાસું છે, જે માત્ર સાટેમ્બર મહિનાના ૧૨.૩૫% પરિણામની સરખામણીએ સામાન્ય વધારો દર્શાવે છે. અમદાવાદમાંથી બંને ગ્રુપમાં કુલ ૧,૪૩૩

વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ પરીક્ષા આપી હતી, જેમાંથી ૧૮૯ વિદ્યાર્થીઓ સફળ રહ્યા છે. અલગ-અલગ ગ્રુપની વાત કરીએ તો, અમદાવાદમાં ગ્રુપ-૧નું પરિણામ ૧૬.૫૪% અને ગ્રુપ-૨નું પરિણામ ૨૦.૮૩% આવ્યું છે.

બીજા તરફ, ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા લેવેલ પરિણામમાં આંશિક થટાકો જોવા મળ્યો છે. દેશભરમાં બંને ગ્રુપનું સંયુક્ત પરિણામ ૯.૩૯% આવ્યું છે, જે અગાઉ સાટેમ્બર મહિનામાં ૧૦.૬% હતું. રાષ્ટ્રીય સરેરાશ ગ્રુપ-૧ માં ૧૩.૯૬% અને ગ્રુપ-૨ માં ૧૫.૫૪% વિદ્યાર્થીઓ પાસ થયા છે. અમદાવાદ ખાન્યનું પરિણામ રાષ્ટ્રીય સરેરાશ કરતા ઊંચું રહેતા વિદ્યાર્થીઓમાં ખુશીનો આકોલ જોવા મળી રહ્યો છે.

પરીક્ષાના આંકડા પર એક નજર

વિગ્રહ	ગ્રુપ-૧ (અમદાવાદ)	ગ્રુપ-૨ (અમદાવાદ)	બંને ગ્રુપ (અમદાવાદ)	બંને ગ્રુપ (ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા)
કુલ પરીક્ષાર્થી	૧,૪૮૯	૭૦૧	૧,૪૩૩	૪૧,૭૯૮
પાસ વિદ્યાર્થી	૨૪૬	૧૪૬	૧૮૯	૩,૯૨૪
પરિણામ (%)	૧૬.૫૪	૨૦.૮૩	૧૩.૧૯	૯.૩૯

સીએ ફાઇનલમાં બંને ગ્રુપનું ૨૦.૬૬ ટકા, ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટનું ૧૩.૧૯ ટકા પરિણામ જાહેર સાટેમ્બર કરતાં જાન્યુઆરીમાં સીએ ફાઇનલમાં ૧.૬૫%, ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટનું ૦.૮૪% પરિણામ વધુ ઈન્ટરમાં ઓલ ઈન્ડિયા લેવેલ ટોપ-૬૦માં અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરના ૭ વિદ્યાર્થીએ સ્થાન મેળવ્યું

અમદાવાદના સેન્ટરના પરિણામની વિગતો

ગ્રુપ	કુલ પરીક્ષાર્થી	પાસ વિદ્યાર્થી	પરિણામ (%)
ગ્રુપ-૧	૧,૪૮૯	૨૪૬	૧૬.૫૪
ગ્રુપ-૨	૭૦૧	૧૪૬	૨૦.૮૩
બંને ગ્રુપ	૧,૪૩૩	૧૮૯	૧૩.૧૯

પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવી રહ્યું છે. આજે રવિવારે ૧૩.૧૯% પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે.

CA ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટ: અમદાવાદના ૭ વિદ્યાર્થી દેશના ટોપ ૬૦માં

અમદાવાદના ૭ વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટ પરીક્ષામાં ટોપ ૬૦માં સ્થાન મેળવ્યું છે. આજે રવિવારે ૧૩.૧૯% પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે.

રેન્ક	વિદ્યાર્થીનું નામ
૧	Barun Agrawal
૨	Gaurav Prajapati
૩	Karan Harwani
૪	Neha Gupta
૫	Kanishka Shah
૬	Rishabh Mehta
૭	Vaibhav Sakhavala

ICAI દ્વારા જાન્યુ.માં લેવાયેલી પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર CA ઈન્ટરમાં અમદાવાદના ૭ વિદ્યાર્થી દેશના ટોપ-૫૦માં: ૯.૩૯ ટકા રિઝલ્ટ

અમદાવાદ, રવિવાર: આઈસીએઆઈ દ્વારા ૧૩ જાન્યુઆરીમાં લેવાયેલી સીએ ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટની પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ આજે જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. જે સમગ્ર દેશનું બંને ગ્રુપનું ૯.૩૯ ટકા રિઝલ્ટ આપ્યું છે.

ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટનું અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરનું ૧૩.૧૯ ટકા રિઝલ્ટ ફાઇનલમાં ૨૧ હજારથી વધુ પાસ, ૧૯.૨૩ ટકા રિઝલ્ટ

ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટ પરીક્ષામાં અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરના ૭ વિદ્યાર્થીઓએ ટોપ ૫૦ રેન્કમાં સ્થાન મેળવ્યું છે. આજે રવિવારે ૧૩.૧૯% પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. આજે રવિવારે ૧૩.૧૯% પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. આજે રવિવારે ૧૩.૧૯% પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે.

CA Inter results out: 7

from Ahmedabad, Barun Agrawal got all-India rank (AIR) 17, followed by Gaurav Prajapati (AIR 29), Karan Harwani (AIR 34), Neha Gupta (AIR 42), Kanishka Shah and Rishabh Mehta (both with AIR 46), and Vaibhav Sakhavala (AIR 50).

The exams were conducted in Jan. Office-bearers of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's (ICAI) Ahmedabad chapter on Sunday said that the centre's overall result was 13.19%, with 189 out of 1433 candidates from both groups passing the exam. The success ratio was 15.54% for Group 1 and 20.83% for Group 2.



Top ranking students with ICAI officials in Ahmedabad on Sunday

7 from city secure AIR in CA Inter

Barun Agrawal secures 17th rank in country, followed by Gaurav Prajapati who bagged the 29th rank. Ahmedabad centre records 13.19% pass rate in both groups while 689 students clear CA Foundation exam



A group of students and officials at the Ahmedabad center.



મોક ટેસ્ટ અને પેપર સોલ્વ કરવાની પ્રોક્ટિસ સારો રેન્ક અપાવી શકે

CA ઈન્ટર મીડિયેટ-ફાઈનલ્સનું રિઝલ્ટ

આઈસીએઆઈ દ્વારા યોજાયેલી સી.એ. ઈન્ટર મીડિયેટ અને ફાઈનલ્સનું પરિણામ જાહેર થયું હતું, જેમાં અમદાવાદ સેન્ટરના સારા સુદાનરમે પ્રથમ પ્રથમ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયાના ૫૦ રેન્કમાં સ્થાન મેળવ્યું છે. સફળ થયેલા સુદાનરમે કહ્યું કે, આ વર્ષે પરીક્ષામાં થોડા પેપર અચરો અને સરખ રજા હતા. સારો રેન્ક મેળવવા માટે મોક ટેસ્ટ, નિયમિત વાંચન, પેપર વાચવાની પ્રેક્ટિસ ખૂબ મહત્વપૂર્ણ બને છે. આ સફળતા અચરો માટે અભ્યાસીઓનું પ્રથમ પગથિયું બન્યું છે. સી.એ. ઈન્ટરના આરોરે ન મેળવવાના કારણ સમને મહેનત થઈ હતી છે.

પ્રથમ પ્રથમને પાસ થયો હું જેથી હવે ફાઈનલ માટે ઈન્ડિયા વખતો



પરિણામ જાણ્યા પછી સી.એ. ઈન્ટરને આ ઈન્ડિયાના વિદ્યાર્થીઓમાં સુદાનરમે ઈન્કાર કરી હતી. નિયમિત વાંચનથી સુદાનરમે પેપર અચરો અને સરખ રજા કર્યાં હતાં. તેથી તેને સુધારવા માટે તેણે મોક ટેસ્ટ અને નિયમિત વાંચન કરવાનું શરૂ કર્યું. તેણે કહ્યું કે, મોક ટેસ્ટ અને નિયમિત વાંચનથી જ તેણે આ સફળતા મેળવી છે. તેણે કહ્યું કે, આ સફળતા અચરો માટે અભ્યાસીઓનું પ્રથમ પગથિયું બન્યું છે. સી.એ. ઈન્ટરના આરોરે ન મેળવવાના કારણ સમને મહેનત થઈ હતી છે.

ટેક્સનું પેપર અવલંબીત પરીણા ન આપવાનો વિચાર કર્યો હતો



અમદાવાદના સી.એ. ઈન્ટરના વિજેતા કારન હારવાની તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેમણે પેપર અવલંબીત પરીણા ન આપવાનો વિચાર કર્યો હતો. તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેમણે પેપર અવલંબીત પરીણા ન આપવાનો વિચાર કર્યો હતો. તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેમણે પેપર અવલંબીત પરીણા ન આપવાનો વિચાર કર્યો હતો. તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેમણે પેપર અવલંબીત પરીણા ન આપવાનો વિચાર કર્યો હતો.

મોક ટેસ્ટ, પેપર સોલ્વ અને નિયમિત વાંચનથી સફળ થયો



સી.એ. ઈન્ટરના વિજેતા બરુન અગ્રવાલ તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેમણે મોક ટેસ્ટ, પેપર સોલ્વ અને નિયમિત વાંચનથી સફળ થયો. તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેમણે મોક ટેસ્ટ, પેપર સોલ્વ અને નિયમિત વાંચનથી સફળ થયો. તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેમણે મોક ટેસ્ટ, પેપર સોલ્વ અને નિયમિત વાંચનથી સફળ થયો.

CA પાછી IIM-અમદાવાદમાંથી MBA કરવું છે



સુદાનરમે કહ્યું કે, તેણે IIM-અમદાવાદમાંથી MBA કરવું છે. તેણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે IIM-અમદાવાદમાંથી MBA કરવું છે. તેણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે IIM-અમદાવાદમાંથી MBA કરવું છે.

પિતાનું સીએ થવાનું સ્વપ્ન પૂરું કરવાનો મારો ચોલ



કાનિશ્કા શાહ તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે પિતાનું સીએ થવાનું સ્વપ્ન પૂરું કરવાનો મારો ચોલ. તેણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે પિતાનું સીએ થવાનું સ્વપ્ન પૂરું કરવાનો મારો ચોલ. તેણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે પિતાનું સીએ થવાનું સ્વપ્ન પૂરું કરવાનો મારો ચોલ.

વિઝનેસને આજીવ લઈ જવા CAમાં જોડાયો



ગૌરવ પ્રજાપતી તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે વિઝનેસને આજીવ લઈ જવા CAમાં જોડાયો. તેણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે વિઝનેસને આજીવ લઈ જવા CAમાં જોડાયો. તેણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે વિઝનેસને આજીવ લઈ જવા CAમાં જોડાયો.

હીરાયસુ પિતાના દીકરાની તેજસ્વી સફળતા



વાઈબહવ સાકાવાલા તેમણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે હીરાયસુ પિતાના દીકરાની તેજસ્વી સફળતા. તેણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે હીરાયસુ પિતાના દીકરાની તેજસ્વી સફળતા. તેણે કહ્યું કે, તેણે હીરાયસુ પિતાના દીકરાની તેજસ્વી સફળતા.

સીએ ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટ જાન્યુઆરી-૨૦૨૬ ની પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર

ઈન્ડિયન ઇન્સ્ટિટ્યુટ ઓફ ચાર્ટર્ડ એકાઉન્ટન્ટ્સ ઓફ ઈન્ડિયા દ્વારા જાન્યુઆરીમાં યોજાયેલી ઈન્ટરમીડિયેટ પરીક્ષાનું પરિણામ જાહેર કરી દેવામાં આવ્યું છે. અમદાવાદ પ્રાંતનું અને સુપ્રમું પરિણામ ૧૩.૧૯% રજા સમાવે છે. અમદાવાદ જાન્યુઆરી-૨૦૨૬ પરીક્ષામાં સી.એ. ઈન્ટર મીડિયેટ અને ફાઈનલ્સનું પરિણામ જાહેર કરવામાં આવ્યું છે. આ વર્ષે પરીક્ષામાં થોડા પેપર અચરો અને સરખ રજા હતા. સારો રેન્ક મેળવવા માટે મોક ટેસ્ટ, નિયમિત વાંચન, પેપર વાચવાની પ્રેક્ટિસ ખૂબ મહત્વપૂર્ણ બને છે. આ સફળતા અચરો માટે અભ્યાસીઓનું પ્રથમ પગથિયું બન્યું છે. સી.એ. ઈન્ટરના આરોરે ન મેળવવાના કારણ સમને મહેનત થઈ હતી છે.



અમદાવાદના વિદ્યાર્થીઓને સુપ્રમું સરે પાસ પોતાની પ્રથમ સફળતા આપી છે. અમદાવાદના વિદ્યાર્થીઓને સુપ્રમું સરે પાસ પોતાની પ્રથમ સફળતા આપી છે. અમદાવાદના વિદ્યાર્થીઓને સુપ્રમું સરે પાસ પોતાની પ્રથમ સફળતા આપી છે. અમદાવાદના વિદ્યાર્થીઓને સુપ્રમું સરે પાસ પોતાની પ્રથમ સફળતા આપી છે.

CA Inter results out: 7 from Ahmedabad among India Top 50

Ahmedabad: Seven candidates from Ahmedabad have made it to the Top 50 rank of the chartered accountant (CA) Intermediate course exams, results of which were announced on Sunday.

The exams were conducted in Jan. Office-bearers of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's (ICAI) Ahmedabad chapter on Sunday said that the centre's overall result was 13.19%, with 189 out of 1,433 candidates from both groups passing the exam. The success ratio was 16.54% for Group 1 and 20.83% for Group 2.

Among the toppers from Ahmedabad, Barun Agrawal got all-India rank (AIR) 17, followed by Gaurav Prajapati (AIR 29), Karan Harwani (AIR 34), Neha Gupta (AIR 42), Kanishka Shah and Rishabh Mehta (both with AIR 46), and Vaibhav Sakhavala (AIR 50).

In an interaction with the media, the toppers said that they devotedly put the planned hours into their preparation. They have now set their sights on the Finals. Nationwide, the overall passing percentage for both groups was 9.39%, whereas the percentages for Group 1 and Group 2 were 13.96% and 15.54% respectively.



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April- 2026



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