



THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER JULY 2025

HAPPY CA DAY

EMPOWERING PROGRESS

ONE BALANCE SHEET AT A TIME



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MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN



Dear Students,

The month of July has been full of pride, learning, and celebration for all of us in the CA community. We began with CA Day—a special reminder of the respect and responsibility that comes with being a Chartered Accountant. It's a day to honour the values our profession stands for and to feel proud of being part of this journey.

One of the biggest highlights of this month was the CA Students' National Conference – PRAGATI, hosted right here in Ahmedabad. It was a truly memorable event that brought together thousands of students from across the country. With technical presentations, inspiring sessions, and energetic cultural performances, it showed the strength, unity, and talent of our student community. It was not just a program—it was an unforgettable experience.





We also saw the CA exam results being declared this month. Congratulations to all who cleared your exams—your hard work has paid off! For those who didn't succeed this time, don't be disheartened. Every CA has faced challenges along the way. What matters is that you keep going. Remember—failing is not the end, it's just part of the process.

To the students who have just joined the CA course or started your Articleship, welcome to a new phase of your journey. This is your chance to grow, explore, and prepare for the future. Make the most of every opportunity, and don't hesitate to reach out to WICASA for support, guidance, and learning.

As the Chairman of the Ahmedabad Branch, it gives me great happiness to see the passion and potential among our student members. WICASA is your platform—to learn, to lead, and to grow. We are committed to organising more events that help you in every way—whether it's studies, career planning, or overall development.

Let's continue learning and growing—together. Warm regards,

CA. Neerav Agarwal

Chairman, Ahmedabad Branch of WIRC of ICAI





MESSAGE FROM CHAIRPERSON



Dear Students,

As July unfolds, we reflect with immense pride on the remarkable success of the National Conference of CA Students, held on 21st and 22nd June at Club O7, Ahmedabad. With over 2,900 students participating, the event was a grand celebration of talent, knowledge, and youthful enthusiasm. Be it the insightful paper presentations, sessions by expert speakers, or the cultural vibrance—we witnessed the incredible potential of our student community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making it an event to remember!

This month also marks a significant milestone for many of you. Congratulations to all who cleared the CA exams—your discipline and dedication have paid off. For those who didn't succeed this time, please remember: failure is not the opposite of success—it's a part of it. The Revision Test Papers (RTPs) for the next attempt are already available, and WICASA Ahmedabad will continue to stand by you through this phase with guidance, seminars, and study support.





We are also pleased to welcome new entrants to the CA Intermediate Course. By enrolling, you automatically become a part of the WICASA family. This is your first step into the professional world, and I encourage you to make the most of the opportunities that WICASA offers—be it academic, cultural, or career-oriented. Participate, connect, and discover your potential.

For those who've successfully cleared CA Intermediate, the journey of Articleship now begins. Choosing the right firm is a critical decision that will shape your learning, exposure, and future career path. Whether you aim for a mid-size firm with diversified experience or a larger one with structured training—make an informed choice aligned with your long-term goals. Don't hesitate to seek guidance from seniors, mentors, or WICASA programs—we are here to help.

At WICASA Ahmedabad, our vision is not just to support your studies but to shape you into confident professionals and future leaders. Keep the fire of curiosity alive, stay consistent, and never underestimate the power of small, daily progress.

Together, let's build a community of excellence, empathy, and empowerment.

With warm regards, **CA. Shikha Agarwal**Chairperson

WICASA – Ahmedabad Branch of WIRC of ICAI





MESSAGE FROM VICECHAIRMAN



Hey readers,

What a whirlwind July has been! A month packed with high energy, memorable experiences, and milestones that brought the student community closer than ever.

The National Conference of CA Students – PRAGATI, hosted right here in Ahmedabad, was nothing short of spectacular. With over 2,900 students participating, the atmosphere was buzzing with ideas, interactions, and enthusiasm. From technical sessions that sparked meaningful insights to the vibrant cultural showcase—we saw the best of what student potential looks like when given the right platform. It was truly a moment of pride to see Ahmedabad lead the way on such a national scale.

Adding to the celebrations, CA Day was marked with music, laughter, and connection. Whether it was Amit Mishra's electrifying concert or the sense of togetherness we felt as a fraternity—it reminded us all why this journey, though demanding, is so special.





MESSAGE FROM VICECHAIRMAN



As Vice Chairperson, it's a privilege to contribute to this platform that empowers, educates, and connects students. I encourage each one of you to make full use of what WICASA has to offer - be it technical seminars, cultural events, or peer networking. Your active involvement is what makes this community stronger.

Let's continue to grow together - with purpose, passion, and perseverance.

Warm regards, Mann Nareshbhai Soni Vice Chairperson WICASA Ahmedabad





MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY



Dear Readers,

This past month has been truly special for the CA fraternity. With the Foundation, Intermediate, and Final results being declared recently, I take this moment to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all who cleared their exams. Your discipline, focus, and efforts have brought you closer to your dream.

And for those still on the path — remember, every CA has faced failure, doubt, and pressure. But those who succeed are not the ones who never fall, but the ones who refuse to give up.

We also celebrated CA Day on July 1st, a day that reminds us how proud we are to be part of this legacy. But behind every CA tag lies a story — of sleepless nights, missed celebrations, and silent sacrifices. The journey tests your patience, strength, and willpower at every step.





MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY



And in the middle of it all, a few lines that echo every CA student's story:

"Kuchh raaste asaan nahi hote, Har mod pe imtihaan hote hain, Par jo girne ke baad bhi chalta hai, Aakhir wahi to 'Chartered Accountant' banata hai..."

So to every student reading this — hold on. Keep pushing. The result is always sweeter when the climb is hardest. And to every newly qualified CA — stand tall. You didn't just clear a course. You conquered a journey.

Warm Regards, Khushi Patel Secretary, WICASA Ahmedabad





MESSAGE FROM JOINT - SECRETARY



First of all, a big congratulations to all those who have successfully cleared their CA exams and achieved the proud title of Chartered Accountant! This milestone is not just a result of knowledge, but also of sleepless nights, sacrifices, and unshakable dedication. For those who couldn't make it this time – remember, this is just a delay, not a denial. The path may be tough, but your efforts are never wasted. Keep going, because success delayed is still success!

Looking back at the past month, it was nothing short of incredible! We had the honour of witnessing the CA Students' National Conference, where ideas, innovation, and interaction reached new heights. Adding to the celebrations of CA Day, we enjoyed a soulful musical concert by the one and only Amit Mishra, and were left laughing and inspired by the brilliant Daira of Shri Sairam Dave in Gandhinagar. These events weren't just entertainment – they were a celebration of the spirit and unity of our CA fraternity.





MESSAGE FROM JOINT - SECRETARY



Looking ahead, our journey doesn't stop here. We are determined to continue organizing such impactful seminars, fun-filled cultural evenings, and knowledge-driven conferences. Our mission remains strong – to empower, support, and uplift every CA student. Let's keep working together, learning together, and building a stronger, more vibrant student community.

Warm regards, **Furkan Bhohariya**Joint Secretary, WICASA Ahmedabad





MESSAGE FROM TREASURER



Dear Students,

As we step into the vibrant month of July, we carry forward the energy and pride from CA Day, a day that reminds us of the strength, commitment, and integrity that defines our profession. On this special occasion, WICASA Ahmedabad celebrated the spirit of Chartered Accountancy with great enthusiasm, recognizing the efforts and aspirations of our student fraternity.

We also take immense pride in successfully organizing the National Conference of CA Students on the theme "Pragati – The Path Towards Progress", held in Ahmedabad. The two-day mega event witnessed the participation of over 2900+ students from across the country. The conference served as a powerful platform for learning, collaboration, and inspiration through enriching technical sessions, thought-provoking discussions, and vibrant cultural expressions.





MESSAGE FROM TREASURER



We are deeply grateful to our CCMs, special guests, esteemed speakers, and paper presenters, along with our dedicated volunteers and committee members who made this event a memorable milestone.

As we continue our journey of learning and growth, WICASA Ahmedabad remains committed to providing more opportunities for holistic development. We look forward to your active participation in the upcoming initiatives planned for the month.

Warm Regards, **Kuldeep Nareshbhai Solanki**Treasurer ,WICASA Ahmedabad





MESSAGE FROM MANAGING COMMITEE MEMBER



Dear Students,

July has truly been a month to remember—a perfect blend of learning, celebration, and community spirit. We kicked things off with the National Conference for CA Students, and what a phenomenal success it was! From insightful sessions by industry leaders to engaging student participation, the energy throughout the event was unmatched. It was truly heartwarming to see such incredible enthusiasm and record-breaking attendance. A huge thank you to everyone who made it possible!

As if that wasn't enough, CA Day was celebrated with great zeal and joy. The evening came alive with a power-packed performance by none other than Amit Mishra, whose soulful voice and popular numbers had everyone swaying and singing along. It was a celebration that reminded us of the pride and passion that come with being part of this profession.





MESSAGE FROM MANAGING COMMITEE MEMBER



But this is just the beginning. WICASA is all set to bring you many more fun-filled and enriching activities in the coming weeks. So, stay tuned and stay connected—we can't wait to share what's coming next!

Warm regards, **Namrata Jadeja**Managing Committee Member, WICASA Ahmedabad





MESSAGE FROM MANAGING COMMITEE MEMBER



Dear Friends,

We all have our reasons for choosing CA, right? So today, I thought I'd share some cool and inspiring facts about this journey we're all on; these are the facts that always encourage me to keep going whenever I find myself wondering, "Yaar, CA kyun le liya?"

Over 35% of CFOs in India's top 500 companies are Chartered Accountants.

We, as CAs, don't just work behind the numbers but we lead the boardrooms. Many top CEOs and MDs of Fortune 500 and Nifty 50 companies in India are Chartered Accountants, including names like Keki Mistry (HDFC) and N. S. Kannan (ICICI Prudential Life).

And it doesn't stop at India's borders. Globally too, Indian CAs are making their mark. For instance, the CFO of General Motors was an Indian Chartered Accountant.





MESSAGE FROM MANAGING COMMITEE MEMBER



And he's just one of thousands CAs across the world are excelling not only in finance, but also in strategy, leadership, and policy-making, proving that our impact is truly global.

Interestingly, we're not just limited to audit or taxation anymore. CAs today work in equity research, financial strategy, forensic audits, international taxation, investment banking, consultancy, ESG reporting, and even running their own startups, so the possibilities are endless, my dear friends.

Now you must be thinking, why is Aneri suddenly becoming a Wikipedia of the CA course?

Well, two reasons. One, because 1st July marked our prestigious CA Day, and two, because our CA results were just declared a few days ago.

As you must be thinking but no, I'm not here to be another motivational quote.





MESSAGE FROM MANAGING COMMITEE MEMBER



We already know YouTube has hours of content with the right guidance for you, and ChatGPT is your personal success coach, and how can we go without having that one inspiring CA senior who always tells us "tu kar lega."

So my job is quite easy here. I know you already love CA and are already giving it your all, so I'm just making you aware of the heights you can aim for.

I've heard this quote that says:
"If you aim for nothing, you hit nothing."
So it's important to know that you always have to aim big.

And last but not least, here's a bonus mantra for you guys!! If you truly want to become a CA, then start: Feeling like a CA. Living like a CA. Thinking like a CA.





MESSAGE FROM MANAGING COMMITEE MEMBER



And above all, start believing that you are a successful Chartered Accountant already.

So keep working hard. Keep praying. Keep showing up. The world is waiting for you to fulfill your dreams, for you to make the best out of the possibilities.

Warm regards,

Aneri Gandhi

Managing Committee Member, WICASA Ahmedabad





MESSAGE FROM MANAGING COMMITEE MEMBER



Hey everyone!

July has been a month of celebration, connection, and momentum. We began with the spirited celebration of CA Day, honouring the legacy of our profession and the pride of being a part of this journey. But what truly defined this month was the National Conference PRAGATI—a landmark event that brought together students from across the nation. From insightful technical sessions to cultural brilliance, it reflected what WICASA stands for: unity, learning, and leadership.

Being on the managing committee is a responsibility we carry with dedication. Every event, every effort is aimed at creating meaningful value for our fellow students. And as we step into the second half of the year, let's carry forward the energy of July with renewed focus.





MESSAGE FROM MANAGING COMMITEE MEMBER



Whether you're an attendee, volunteer, or first-time participant, remember, WICASA is your stage. Engage, express, evolve. Growth begins when you choose to step in.

Let's rise together.

Warm regards, **Meet Kothari**

Managing Committee Member, WICASA Ahmedabad





EDITORIAL BOARD





Dear Readers,

It gives us immense joy to bring this edition of the WICASA Ahmedabad newsletter to all of you. Curating your stories, achievements, and updates from across our vibrant CA community has been a truly rewarding experience.

We are grateful for the constant encouragement from our mentors and the enthusiastic participation of our fellow students. This newsletter is not just a monthly update - it's a reflection of our shared journey, growth, and commitment to excellence.

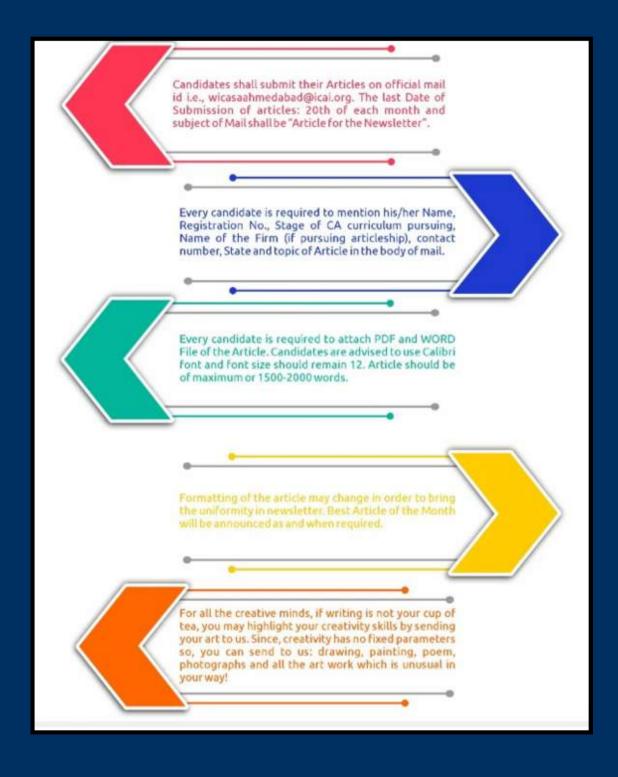
Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your CA journey. Keep reading, keep contributing, and stay inspired!

Warm regards, Mann Soni - Meet Kothari WICASA Ahmedabad





RULES TO SUBMIT







ALTERNATE INVESTMENT FUNDS (AIFS): A CONTEMPORARY GATEWAY TO ALTERNATIVE FINANCE

When we talk about investments during our CA studies, we often think of the basics—mutual funds, shares, fixed deposits, maybe a bit of government bonds if we're really into it. But as I was digging deeper into how high-net-worth individuals and big institutions invest, I stumbled upon something a little off the mainstream path: Alternative Investment Funds, or AIFs. I had heard the term before, but honestly, I never gave it much thought until I started connecting the dots between venture capital, private equity, and real-world funding. The more I read, the more curious I became.

So, I decided to pull everything together—what AIFs are, how they're formed, why they matter, and what role they can play in our careers as future Chartered Accountants. And trust me, it's more exciting than it sounds.

1.What Exactly Are AIFs?

To put it simply, AIFs are privately pooled investment vehicles. That means they collect funds from investors and invest them based on a specific strategy. Unlike mutual funds, which are tightly regulated and mostly open to retail investors, AIFs cater to institutional investors or HNIs who want to diversify into unlisted, high-growth, or high-risk investments.

SEBI regulates AIFs under the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012, and they fall into a distinct category





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separate from traditional mutual funds, insurance schemes, or portfolio management services. They're designed for investors who want more flexibility, more exposure, and in many cases—more risk and more potential return.

2.Categories of AIFs in India

Now, this is where it gets a bit technical—but I'll keep it simple. AIFs in India are classified into three categories, depending on their investment objectives.

Category I AIFs are considered socially or economically beneficial. These include Venture Capital Funds, SME Funds, Infrastructure Funds, and Social Venture Funds. For example, a fund that invests in clean energy startups in rural India would fall into this category.

Category II AIFs are those that don't use leverage (except for operational needs) and don't fit in Category I or III. Think Private Equity Funds or Debt Funds that back mid-sized companies ready to grow but not yet public.

Category III AIFs are the high-risk, high-reward category. These funds use complex strategies like derivatives, arbitrage, and short selling. Hedge funds fall here, and they're allowed to use leverage within regulatory limits.

Each category has its own restrictions, risk appetite, and investor base. The minimum investment for most investors is ₹1 crore, though there's a concession for employees and





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and directors of the fund, who can invest with ₹25 lakh.

3.AIFs vs Mutual Funds: Not Quite the Same Thing At first glance, AIFs might sound similar to mutual funds, but they're actually quite different in structure and purpose. While mutual funds are built for retail investors and regulated under the SEBI Mutual Fund Regulations, 1996, AIFs are governed by their own 2012 regulations. Mutual funds generally invest in listed securities and avoid leverage altogether. AIFs, especially Category III, can invest in unlisted assets and even use complex strategies involving leverage.

Also, mutual funds allow you to start with just ₹500, whereas AIFs demand a far higher commitment. But with that comes flexibility, diversification, and the chance to invest in assets that retail investors can't usually access.

4. How Do You Even Create an AIF?

This part really caught my attention because it's a great blend of law, finance, compliance, and strategy—everything we learn as CA students. Setting up an AIF in India isn't as simple as launching a startup; it's a regulated process.

First, the sponsor decides the category—whether it's going to be a Category I, II, or III fund. Then comes the legal structure.





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Most AIFs are formed as trusts, but they can also be registered as companies or LLPs. Once that's done, key stakeholders like the sponsor, manager, and trustee (in the case of a trust) must be appointed. SEBI requires that all key persons involved meet its "fit and proper" criteria.

The fund then applies to SEBI using Form A, submitting a detailed business plan, KYC documents, manager profiles, and a non-refundable application fee of ₹1,00,000. SEBI reviews the application, might ask for clarifications, and if everything checks out, it issues a Certificate of Registration. Only then can the fund begin raising money and investing.

Once operational, AIFs are expected to comply with SEBI's reporting and disclosure norms, maintain transparency, and regularly update investors about risks, portfolio performance, and valuations.

5.The AIF Industry Today: Bigger Than You Might Think
If you thought AIFs were niche or limited to a handful of
investors, think again. As of FY 2024–25, the total Assets Under
Management (AUM) in AIFs crossed ₹10 lakh crore. Over 1,200
AIFs have been registered with SEBI, and Category II AIFs—
especially private equity and credit funds—lead the pack in
terms of fund commitments.





ALTERNATE INVESTMENT FUNDS (AIFS): A CONTEMPORARY GATEWAY TO ALTERNATIVE FINANCE

These aren't just alternative options anymore. They're becoming central to how capital is being deployed in India, especially in sectors that traditional banks or mutual funds hesitate to enter.

6.A Few AIFs You Should Know About

To really understand how AIFs work in real life, I looked into some actual funds that are currently active. The diversity is fascinating.

ICICI Venture Funds is a Category II AIF that focuses on growth-stage companies across healthcare, tech, and consumer sectors. They've backed names like Star Health and Da Milano. It's a classic example of private equity in action—backing companies not yet listed but full of potential.

Kotak Infrastructure Fund, a Category I AIF, supports infrastructure projects across roads, logistics, and renewable energy. Its focus aligns with national development goals, making it both impactful and long-term in nature.

Then there's Avendus Absolute Return Fund, a Category III AIF, which uses long-short strategies to generate stable returns in both rising and falling markets. It's ideal for HNIs looking for market-neutral exposure.





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India Quotient Fund, a well-known Category I venture capital fund, has backed early-stage tech companies like ShareChat and Sugar Cosmetics. This fund is proof that AIFs are fuelling India's startup boom.

On the other end, Edelweiss Alternative Asset Advisors run Category II AIFs that focus on distressed assets and credit opportunities, often working with companies undergoing IBC restructuring. And let's not forget True North, one of India's oldest PE funds, which has created long-term value in companies like Aster DM Healthcare and Fincare Small Finance Bank.

7.What's New in the AIF World?

SEBI has been tightening its grip on transparency and disclosures. In 2024, new rules were announced requiring funds to disclose portfolio concentration, valuation methods, and side agreements with select investors. There's also talk of introducing Green AIFs, which would invest only in ESG-compliant or climate-conscious assets—a great move in the current global scenario.

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry is considering giving Category III AIFs pass-through tax status, which would eliminate double taxation.





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This has been a long-standing demand and could make hedge funds more attractive.

GIFT City is emerging as a hub for new AIFs due to its tax advantages and flexible regulations. More and more fund managers are launching schemes there, giving India a new global edge. And finally, Angel Funds, a sub-category of Category I AIFs, now allow investments starting at just ₹25 lakh. This is giving a big boost to early-stage funding for startups.

8.Why Should CA Students Care?

Honestly, this is where it gets really exciting. AIFs are not just theory for us—they're a gateway to high-impact roles in valuation, compliance, fund structuring, due diligence, taxation, audit, and financial advisory. Whether you want to work in private equity, become a CFO, or even start your own firm someday, understanding how AIFs operate will be a huge advantage.

As CAs, we're trained to manage risk, ensure compliance, and optimise structure—and that's exactly what AIFs need. With funds growing across sectors, the demand for finance professionals is only rising. It's a space where we don't just audit numbers—we help shape deals.





ALTERNATE INVESTMENT FUNDS (AIFS): A CONTEMPORARY GATEWAY TO ALTERNATIVE FINANCE

9.Wrapping Up

I didn't expect to get this deeply interested in AIFs when I first came across the term. But now, having explored how they work and the kind of impact they have, I truly believe they're one of the most exciting parts of India's financial evolution.

AIFs aren't just for the super-rich or elite fund managers. They're part of a growing system that funds innovation, builds infrastructure, and transforms distressed businesses. And as future CAs, we can play a big role in that journey—whether it's through auditing, advising, managing, or investing.

So, the next time you hear someone mention a ₹500 crore AIF being raised for clean energy or a ₹1,000 crore fund for distressed debt, don't just nod along. Dive in. Ask how it works. Because one day, you might be the one structuring it.

Yash H. Jiyani WRO0773209 CA Finalist







ART CORNER





Surbhi Chudasma WRO0605665 CA Finalist





GLIMPSES OF PAST EVENTS















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NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025















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WHY WICASA?

A platform given by ICAI for the students, by the students and of the students, is an association which provides students a platform to learn, share, participate and perform. It's a platform for a visionary to build its networking, its social circle and to sharpen its leadership skills by participating in the various activities held in WICASA. Being a part of this family helps a CA aspirant to shape and understand the CA profession.

Network Expansion

Whether it's through volunteering with a professional committee, helping to run a charity, or mentoring a youngster, you'll meet new and interesting people from a variety of backgrounds, areas of expertise and walks of life.

Self-confidence Booster

Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. And the better you feel about yourself, the more likely you are to have a positive view of your life and future goals.

Fun and Fulfilment to your Life

Doing volunteer work you find meaningful and interesting can be a relaxing, energizing escape from your day-to-day routine of work, college or family commitments. Volunteering also provides you with renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into your personal and professional life.







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