The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

Kumbakonam Branch (SICASA)



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

From The Chairman's Desk

Dear Studetns



Warm greetings to all the budding Chartered Accountants.

It gives me immense pleasure to connect with you through this edition of the SICASA Journal. As we progress through the academic year, we find ourselves at a crucial juncture where preparation meets opportunity. The months ahead are significant for many of you who are gearing up to appear for the forthcoming examinations, and I extend my best wishes to each one of you.

The journey of Chartered Accountancy is not merely about academic excellence; it is a process that shapes your discipline, resilience, and professional character. Every hour you invest in your preparation today is a step closer to achieving your long-term aspirations. I encourage you to approach this phase with clarity, consistency, and confidence.

In today's rapidly evolving economic and regulatory landscape, the role of a Chartered Accountant is more dynamic than ever. Continuous changes in taxation, corporate laws, auditing standards, and technological integration demand that we, as professionals, remain adaptive and forward-thinking. As students, it is essential for you to cultivate not only conceptual knowledge but also analytical and practical skills that will help you excel in the profession.

SICASA, as a vibrant platform for students, plays a pivotal role in nurturing these qualities. At the Kumbakonam Branch, we are committed to providing you with opportunities that go beyond textbooks. Through initiatives such as seminars, workshops, mock tests, study circles, and interactive sessions, we aim to create an environment that fosters learning, discussion, and professional growth. I urge all of you to actively participate in these programs and make the most of the resources available to you.

At the same time, it is equally important to maintain a balanced approach during your preparation. Take care of your physical and mental well-being, manage your time effectively, and stay focused on your goals. Remember, success in CA examinations is not achieved overnight—it is the result of sustained effort, patience, and perseverance.

I would also like to emphasize the importance of upholding the core values of our profession—integrity, ethics, and commitment to excellence. These principles define the true essence of a Chartered Accountant and will guide you throughout your professional journey.

As Chairman of SICASA, I assure you that our team will continue to work diligently to support and guide you in every possible way. Together, let us strive to build a strong community of competent and ethical professionals.

On behalf of the Kumbakonam Branch of SIRC of ICAI, I wish you all success in your examinations and future endeavors. Stay motivated, believe in yourself, and keep moving forward with determination.

With warm regards,
CA Vivek Manohar
SICASA Chairman, Kumbakonam Branch (SIRC)

ARTICLE 1

THE INCOME TAX ACT, 2025

Contributed by: Ms. Akshaya, Vice Chairman, SICASA Kumbakonam



INTRODUCTION

The Income Tax Act, 2025 is a major reform introduced by the Government of India to simplify the taxation system. It replaces the old Income Tax Act, 1961 and aims to make tax laws easier, more transparent, and digital-friendly. The new system will be effective from April 2026. The reform focuses on reducing complexity, improving compliance, and providing relief to taxpayers, especially the middle class

Major Changes in Income Tax 2025

1.Simplified Tax Structure

- The number of sections has been reduced.
- Laws are rewritten in simple language.
- Easier understanding for students and taxpayers.

2.New Tax Slabs (New Regime)

Income Range	Tax Rate
Up to ₹4 lakh	0%
₹4–8 lakh	5%
₹8–12 lakh	10%
₹12–16 lakh	15%
₹16–20 lakh	20%
₹20–24 lakh	25%
Above ₹24 lakh	30%

Individuals earning up to ₹12 lakh may pay zero tax due to rebate.

- 0% | (0–4L)
- 5% | (4–8L)
- 10% | (8–12L)
- 15% | (12–16L)
- 20% | (16–20L)
- 25% | (20–24L)
- 30% | (24L+)

3.Single "Tax Year" Concept

- Old system: Previous Year + Assessment Year
- New system: Only one Tax Year

4. ITR Deadlines are Shifting

ITR Type	Old Deadline	New Deadline
ITR-1	31 July	31 July (No Change)
ITR-2	31 July	31 July (No Change)
ITR-3 (No Audit)	31 July	31 August
ITR-4 (No Audit)	31 July	31 August

5.salaried class benefit

- Standard Deduction: Increased to ₹75,000 for salaried employees and pensioners.
- Tax Rebate (u/s 87A): The rebate in the New Regime was increased from ₹25,000 to ₹60,000, making income up to ₹12 lakh tax-free
- Default Regime Status: The New Tax Regime is now the default regime, though the Old Regime remains an option for those with heavy investments in 80C and 80D.

6. Procedural & Compliance Rationalization

- TDS & TCS Simplification: Thresholds for TDS were doubled in many categories. For instance, the rent threshold for TDS increased from ₹2.4 lakh to ₹6 lakh per year.
- Updated Returns (ITR-U): The time limit to file an updated return was extended to 48 months to encourage voluntary disclosure.
- Digital Integration: The act introduces digitally integrated Form 130 to replace the traditional Form 16, enhancing transparency.
- Startup Incentives: Tax holidays for eligible startups incorporated before April 2030 are allowed for three consecutive years.

7. OLD SYSTEM (1961) VS NEW SYSTEM (2025)

Complex Laws	Simplified Laws
Many Sections	Reduced Sections
Two Year System	Single Tax Year
Manual + Digital	Fully Digital
Confusing Deductions	Organized Deductions

Conclusion

The Income Tax Act 2025 is a major step toward modernization of India's taxation system. It simplifies rules, reduces confusion, and provides relief to taxpayers. With better digital integration and transparency, it is expected to improve compliance and economic growth.

ARTICLE 2

BALANCING ARTICLESHIP AND CA FINAL PREPARATION: A REALISTIC APPROACH



Contributed by: Ms. Rani, Treasurer, SICASA Kumbakonam

Pursuing Chartered Accountancy is often described as a test of knowledge, but in reality, it is equally a test of endurance, discipline, and balance. For students undergoing articleship while preparing for CA Final, managing time effectively becomes one of the biggest challenges.

This article aims to provide a practical and realistic approach to balancing professional responsibilities with academic preparation.

The Reality of Articleship

Articleship is not just a training period; it is a phase where students gain exposure to real-world assignments, tight deadlines, and professional expectations. With long working hours, commuting, and personal responsibilities, it often feels like there is little time or energy left for studies.

However, the key lies not in finding extra time, but in managing the limited time available more effectively.

Rethinking Productivity

One common misconception among students is that long study hours equate to effective preparation. In reality, consistency matters more than intensity.

Even 1–2 hours of focused study on weekdays, when done regularly, can create a strong foundation over time. Weekend sessions can then be used for deeper learning and revision.

The goal should be sustainable progress rather than short bursts of overexertion.

Practical Strategies That Work

1. Set Realistic Daily Targets
Instead of planning to complete large portions, focus on small, achievable goals. This reduces stress and improves consistency.

2. Prioritize High-Value Topics
Not all topics carry equal weight. Identifying and focusing on important areas ensures better returns on limited time.

3. Use Office Exposure as an Advantage
Practical work in areas such as audit, taxation, and compliance can reinforce theoretical concepts. Relating studies to real-life work improves understanding and retention.

4.Plan Weekly, Not Just Daily
A flexible weekly plan helps accommodate unpredictable office schedules while still maintaining progress.

Avoiding Burnout

Continuous pressure from both office and studies can lead to burnout if not managed carefully.

- Ensure adequate sleep to maintain focus and health
- Take short breaks to reset mentally
- Avoid comparing your preparation with others

Remember, this is a long journey, and sustainability is more important than speed.

Common Mistakes Students Make

* Setting unrealistic study schedules and feeling discouraged
* Ignoring revision due to lack of time
* Sacrificing sleep, leading to reduced productivity
* Waiting for “free time” instead of creating study time

A Balanced Perspective

It is important to accept that perfection is not always possible during articleship. There will be days when studies take a back seat, and that is completely normal.

What matters is returning to the routine without guilt and continuing the effort.

Conclusion

Balancing articleship and CA Final preparation is undoubtedly challenging, but it is achievable with the right mindset and approach. Consistency, realistic planning, and self-discipline play a crucial role in navigating this phase successfully.

Every small step taken consistently contributes to long-term success.

In the journey of Chartered Accountancy, it is not about doing everything perfectly, but about showing up consistently despite the challenges.

AGAINST ALL ODDS: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF RAJANI GOPAL



Rajani Gopal is India's first visually impaired woman to become a Chartered Accountant. Currently working with India's leading software companies, it has taken Rajani immense grit, perseverance, and patience to reach where she stands.

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Rajani Gopal has come a long way after losing her eye sight. She treads on paths that make even sighted people think twice before taking up. Behind this chartered accountant, Veena player and social worker, lies a determined woman who has defied all logic when it comes to success. Let's talk to Rajani Gopal and find out more about her.

Inerview:

Question:
You work with a reputed IT company. Tell us about your job profile.

Answer:
I work in the Finance Department. My profile is to work on Indian & U.S.A. Generally Accepted Accounting Practices.

Question:
Where were you working before your current assignment? How did you get this break?

Answer:

I was working for Indian Group of Hotels as Community co-ordinator. I had sent my bio-data to the placement cell of I.C.A.I. and that is how I got this break.

Question:

How have you adjusted to your work environment and how have your colleagues responded.

Answer:

It has been comfortable to adjust to work environment as I am quite versatile on computers. Moreover my work to a large extent is on those applications that extensively support screen reading software. My colleagues respond very sensibly. There is no discrimination of any sort. Now they know when I need assistance and come forward to give the same. The work atmosphere is very comfortable and friendly.

Question:

Becoming a C.A. is a tough task even for sighted people. As a blind person what motivated you to take up this subject and how did you manage?

Answer:

That is what many told me when I thought of taking up C.A. as a career. But let me tell you, determination and commitment can help you achieve those milestones which seem difficult otherwise.

I lost vision in my right eye by the time I completed my graduation. I faced few interviews where my candidature was not considered because of my vision problem. I realised that I should have a better education to get a decent and dignified job. At this juncture I came to know about Chartered Accountancy. By this time I had learnt to pursue my studies on my own. I thought if I can pursue B.Com on my own then why not C.A.?

Of course, pursuing the course was not easy. It would be difficult for me to read for long time. I had to read keeping the book close to my eyes. Commuting was also quite difficult. For a moment my spirits would be shattered. But I would realise that this is not the way to tackle a problem. I will have to find out ways and means of solving this. I would read for sometime and then close my eyes and try to recollect whatever I would have studied. This way I was not wasting my time and was also giving rest to my eyes, which I needed the most. As far as commuting was concerned, I would prefer to walk short distances, as catching the public transport was difficult. For long distances, invariably I would take the public transport. It was quite risky but I had to take the calculated risk.

After I lost vision in my left eye too, I had to look for means to continue my studies and clear my examinations. But the important hurdle was to accept that I am visually challenged. This did take some time as I would relate myself with my friends who either had a good job or were happily married. I realised that I should come out of this trauma. Sahaja Yoga meditation came to my rescue. The meditation gave the overall balance which I needed the most. I realised that I should accept the situation and go ahead, instead of brooding. I came to know about the screen reading software and learnt how to use computers. My urge to pursue the course was rekindled. I got all the materials converted to soft copy and started studying. For few subjects I took the assistance of volunteers. I also had to learn how to communicate with the scribe, as I was availing scribe facility for the first time.

Question:

What are the special assistive tools you use for help at work? Especially when tackling numbers.

Answer:

As I have already mentioned, I extensively use computers with screen reading software. My assignment does not include going through any written documents. By using Excel and other M.S. Office applications, I am able to manage my job quite comfortably.

Question:

How did you develop your eye problem?

Answer:

I was prescribed penicillin tablets for common cold. This was given without test dosage and resulted in an allergic reaction which in medical terminology is known as “Steven Johnson Syndrome”. My vision started deteriorating gradually. This was coupled with growth of eye lashes inside the eyes which would constantly itch. I had to visit the doctor almost twice a week to get the lashes plucked. But the damage to the cornea was done and doctors were helpless.

Question:

Tell us a bit about your school and college days.

Answer:

Early school days were as any other normal child. After the allergy, things changed. Because of redness in the eyes, quite a few classmates would avoid me. I had to hear to lot of sympathies from relatives and friends. It would be very difficult to listen. I would try to be all alone by myself. I developed the habit of reading to overcome my loneliness. Initially I would cry and weep. As I grew up I didn’t feel like doing that, for I knew that my parents would be disturbed. I learnt to keep all my emotions to myself. I had very few friends.

At my college things were little different. I was matured enough to handle the situation. I did have friends who were sensible enough. Infact in the final year of my graduation, my friends would write the notes for me, get the books from library, for I couldn't attend the college due to surgery on my right eye.

Question:

What kind of support did you get from family and friends?

Answer:

There was complete support from my immediate family members. Neither my parents nor my brothers made me to feel at any point of time that I had vision problem. My parents would encourage me in all my ventures as they would encourage my brothers. Even after I lost my vision completely, they would behave as if nothing had happened and gave me all the emotional support.

Though I had very few friends, they were quite sensible and helped me whenever I needed them most. Moreover they would boost my confidence and behave as they would with other "normal" friends.

Question:

What are your interests and hobbies?

Answer:

As already mentioned, I practice meditation-Sahaja Yoga. I enjoy cooking. I play chess. I have learnt to play Veena. I listen to lot of music. I volunteer my services to physically, visually and economically challenged students by providing assistance in their studies.

Question:

Tell us any interesting experience you'd like to share.

Answer:

There have been quite a lot of experiences which have moulded my personality.

As my vision deteriorated gradually, I could see the helplessness of doctors and my parents. At such heart breaking moments, each mile stone in my education would motivate me to go further.

But if you want to know of any particular incident that changes the course of my life, I feel this is it.

Around the time when I lost vision in both my eyes, my father was diagnosed with Leukaemia. It was the prime age of my life and with all confusion I was totally lost and mentally upset. One evening when I just couldn't control my emotions, my brother recommended me meditation. He advised that I should do it with open mind and take as hypothesis. I could see within a week that my overall personality was in complete balance and I obtained the necessary confidence and inner strength which I needed the most and which any amount of external counselling wouldn't have done.

Now I feel, everything that happened was with some purpose and has helped me become a better person move ahead in life with greater strength and confidence.

Important Announcements

Upcoming ICITSS-IT & Orientation Batches

Course NAme	Batch Number	Starting Date	Ending Date
ICITSS-Orientation	ICITSSOC_KUMBAKONAM_10	18-05-2026	05-06-2026
ICITSS-IT	ICITSSITT_KUMBAKONAM_17	25-05-2026	12-06-2026

Registration is going on! Booking your slots in your nearest location! Avoid the last minute rush!

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

6th April, 2026

Important Announcement

RE-SCHEDULING OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION, SCHEDULED FROM 3RD MAY 2026 ACROSS INDIA AND ABROAD.

In partial modification of the Institute's Important Announcement No. 13-CA (EXAM)/MAY/2026 dated 12th December 2025, it is announced for general information that due to certain unavoidable reasons the Chartered Accountant Intermediate Examination stands re-scheduled across India and abroad and the examination in the said papers shall now commence from 5th May 2026 [Tuesday] instead of 3rd May 2026 [Sunday] at the same timing(s) i.e. 2 PM to 5 PM [IST].

The revised schedule may be noted:

INTERMEDIATE COURSE EXAMINATION
[As per syllabus contained in the scheme notified by the Council under Regulation 28 F of the Chartered Accountants Regulations, 1988.]

Group -I: 5th, 7th & 9th May 2026
Group -II: 11th, 13th & 15th May 2026

However, it is clarified that the schedule of other examinations i.e. Foundation, Final and PQC [INTT – AT] notified vide Important Announcement No. 13-CA (EXAM)/MAY/2026 dated 12th December 2025, shall remain unchanged. In other words, there will be no change in the schedule of other examinations i.e, Foundation, Final and PQC (INTT-AT).

The candidates are advised to stay in touch with the website of the Institute, www.icai.org.

(Anand Kumar Chaturvedi)
Joint Secretary (Examinations)

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Board of Studies (Academic)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

22nd January,2026

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mock Test Papers Series – I & II for Students appearing in CA Foundation May 2026 Examination.

The Board of Studies (Academic) is commencing **Mock Test Papers Series – I** from **13th April 2026 & Series II from 23rd April 2026, for Students appearing in CA Foundation Course for May 2026 Examination.**

The Mock Test Paper Series – I & Series II will be conducted in physical/virtual mode(s). Students interested in physical mode may approach the respective branches in their area.

The schedule for the same is as follows:

Series I

Date	CA. Foundation	Time
13.04.2026	Paper-1: Accounting	2 PM – 5 PM
16.04.2026	Paper-2: Business Laws	
18.04.2026	Paper-3: Quantitative Aptitude	2 PM – 4 PM
20.04.2026	Paper-4: Business Economics	

Series II

Date	CA. Foundation	Time
23.04.2026	Paper-1: Accounting	2 PM – 5 PM
25.04.2026	Paper-2: Business Laws	
27.04.2026	Paper-3: Quantitative Aptitude	2 PM – 4 PM
29.04.2026	Paper-4: Business Economics	

Download Question Papers & Answers at BoS Knowledge Portal and ICAI BoS Mobile App	Login BOS Knowledge Portal at https://boslive.icai.org/ Login ICAI BOS App (Android/iOS)
• **Download Question Papers & Answers** • **Register at ICAI Branches/Regional Offices to appear for Physical Mock Tests across India.**	Register & Login BoS MTP Registration Portal: https://bosmtp.icai.org/ **Steps to Register / Login:** **Step 1:** Click on **Student Login** **Step 2:** If you are a first-time user, click on **Register Now** **Step 3:** Enter your **Registration Number** and **Date of Birth** **Step 4:** After successful registration, enter your **registered Email ID (as per SSP)** **Step 5:** Enter the **OTP** received on your email to log in

Students interested/appearing in person are advised to contact their nearest Regional Councils/Branch offices of ICAI. The Question Papers for each subject will be uploaded at **BoS Knowledge Portal** on **www.icai.org** as per the schedule by 1:30 PM during this period. Students are advised to download and attempt these papers in the stipulated time limit designated for the papers. The Answer Key to these papers will be uploaded within 48 hours from the date and time of commencement of the respective paper, as per the schedule. Students can examine their answers with respect to the Answer Keys and self-assess their performance.

Joint Director & Secretary BOS(A)

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

6th April , 2026

Important Announcement

Chartered Accountants Final Examination to be held twice a year from May 2026 Examination onwards

Presently, Chartered Accountants Final Examinations are being conducted thrice a year i.e, in the months of January, May and September. However, in view of the feedback from the stakeholders, the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has decided that CA Final Examinations shall be conducted twice a year in the months of May and November with effect from May 2026 Chartered Accountants Examination and onwards.

(Anand Kumar Chaturvedi)
Joint Secretary (Examinations)

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