

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

(Setup by an Act of Parliament)



Visakhapatnam Branch e-Newsletter



FEBRUARY - 2026

CA. Sridhar Andhavarapu, Chairman, CA. Patnala Lokesh, Vice Chairman, CA. Ramu Naidu N, Secretary,
CA. Ujwala M L D, Treasurer, CA. D. Leela Vara Prasad, SICASA Chairman,
CA. Mogalapalli P GuruMurthy, Member & Editor, CA. K. Rambabu, Member, CA. Prasanna Kumar D, Ex-officio Member & Vice President, ICAI

Oath Taking Ceremony of ICAI Leadership

February
2:30 P.M. Onwards





From the Chairman's Desk

Dear Members,

Chairman's Communiqué: A Journey of Gratitude

उद्यमेन हि सिद्ध्यन्ति कार्याणि न मनोरथैः।

Telugu:

ఉద్యమేన హి సిద్ధ్యంతి కార్యాణి న మనోరథైః।

Meaning (English):

Goals are achieved through persistent effort, not merely by wishful thinking.

Dear Professional Colleagues and My ICAI Family,

As I pen my final message as the Chairman of this prestigious Visakhapatnam Branch of ICAI—our “Temple of Learning”— my heart is full of emotions that words can barely capture.

The Journey: From Hiramandalam to the Helm

Looking back, my journey feels like a testament to the inclusive spirit of our profession. In 2017, I arrived in Visakhapatnam from Abu Dhabi. I was, in every sense, a “non-local.” I grew up in **Hiramandalam**, a village in the Srikakulam District, and when I first stepped into this city, I did not have a single professional or social connection.

I was a stranger in a new land, yet I carried



with me the values of my roots and the global perspective of my travels. Today, as I stand here at the end of my term, I no longer feel like an outsider. You have replaced my anonymity with **unmatched love, unwavering support, and genuine affection. The Temple of Learning** Our branch has always been more than just an administrative body; it is a sanctuary for professional growth. Serving as your Chairman has been the greatest honor of my career. Together, we have upheld the integrity of the “CA” brand and ensured that our branch remains a beacon of knowledge for every member and student.

I would like to place on record my gratitude and deepest appreciation to the President (2025-26) CA Charanjot Singh Nanda, Vice President CA Prasanna Kumar D, the Members and Office Bearers of the Central Council, SIRC Chairperson CA Revathy Raghunathan and the Members and Office Bearers of the Southern Regional Council. I also thank the administrative staff of these council for their guidance and support in execution of our responsibilities and conduct of programs.

Over the past one year, we have successfully organized more than 200 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) conferences,

seminars, workshops, and certificate courses designed to enhance the technical knowledge and professional competencies of our members. Significantly the events like the National Conference, Diploma in Systems Audit (DISA), Forensic Accounting and Fraud Detection (FAFD) courses helped the members in enhancing capabilities and staying abreast of the latest developments.

These programs encompassed a wide spectrum of topics, including direct and indirect taxation, financial reporting standards, corporate law compliances, auditing techniques, Code of Ethics, digital transformation in finance, international taxation, FEMA, skill enhancement and emerging trends in sustainability and corporate governance. These sessions were turned into occasions of knowledge enrichment by the presence and deliberations of experts from the respective fields. I thank the speakers of the CPE & Other seminars for having accepted our invitations and sparing their precious time to share their wisdom and help expand our horizon.

As a part of the initiative to encourage more speakers to share their expertise we had introduced 16 new speakers during the past one year to the noble deed of knowledge sharing. The dedication and expertise of our young speakers and resource persons have made the programs more vibrant and enthralling. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all who contributed their time and knowledge, including CA. Malladi Muralidhar, CA Chalapathy Rao M, CA Aditya Amar, CA. Avinaash Gudivada, CA Nagaraju Munagapati H S, CA Sreekar Reddy Chinna Reddy, CA Shailesh Khandelwal, CA. Eswar Teja, CA Surendra Kalyan, CA Mani Kanta M, CA Kanakamahalakshmi Y, CA Niki Shah, CA

Bharani Kumar, CA R Sai Shiva Jayanth, CA. G N Ramaswami, CA Arpit Haldia, CA RS Balajee, CA Rashmi Ainapur, CA Moshin Mohammad, CA G Samba Siva Reddy who deliberated in these sessions.

Our branch newsletter has also seen remarkable contribution, s from several authors who have enriched its content with insightful articles and thought-provoking perspectives. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to, CA. Malladi Muralidhar, CA. Srinivas Sowrab, Adv. Anil Kumar Bezawada, CA. Smruthi Sree Sure, CA. Rama Krishna Besetty, CA Tanishq Datta Vobbilisetty, CA. Preeti Choudhary, CA. Sangu Ramakrishna, CA. Kiran Kumar, CA. Midhun Kumar P, CA. Venkatesh P, CA. Sai Hemanth Kolachana, CA. Leela Vara Prasad D, CA. Vemula Manohar, CA. Rajesh Mugada, CA. J kesava Rao, CA VSN Murthy, CA Krishna Mohan M for their valuable writings. Their contributions have greatly enhanced the quality and relevance of our publication.

I would also like to place on record my sincere thanks to the several institutions, dignitaries and their office bearers with whom we had collaborated this year to conduct various knowledge sharing sessions and social activities. I thank the Sri Pankaj Kumar, Deputy General Manager, State Bank of India, Sri. Chandra Mouli Jangam, Asst. Director, MSME DFO, Smt. Uma Gandhi P, CFO Dredging Corporation of India, Satish Kumar Arya, MD & CEO, Steel City Securities Ltd, Naresh Oruganti- CEO, Symbiosis Technologies, K. Vijay Mohan, MD, Holiday World for their kind association in conducting sessions.

I also thank our senior members CA Srinivas Jakkampudi, CA Anupindi Srinivas, CA Chandra Sekhar Akula, CA Rama Krishna P, CA Murali Krishna Sarparapu Garu, CA

Prasant Kumar Panda CA Sazzad Hussain, CA Anitha Gadde and other members for arranging sponsorships and all our sponsors for their generous sponsorship in conducting the Arthasamriddhi conference successfully.

It was not all study and knowledge sessions that transpired this year, the branch had also conducted other significant programs, celebrated important occasions and hosted events like Career Counselling, CA Day, Yoga Day, Woman's Day, Laughter Day, MSME Day, Blood Donations, Food & Books Distributions, Plantation and Sports & Cultural activities. I thank the all the members and specially the Woman Members & volunteers for their enthusiastic participation and contribution to these programs. A special thanks goes to CA A V S Lalitha Sundari, CA G Bharti Devi, CA G Lakshmikantha, CA Smriti Sree Chunduri, CA Swetha G, CA Aruna Priya R, CA Y Pavani, CA Sri Vallika, CA Krishna Manojna, CA K. Sashikala, CA Dharani and CA Ujwala M L D.

I take this opportunity to thank the Past Chairpersons and Senior members of this Branch including those from Anakapalle, Vizianagaram, Palasa & Srikakulam for their guidance and support to the committee at all times. A special thanks goes to CA P V S P Kumar, CA B Venkata Rao, CA K Ramachandra Rao, CA A Chandra Sekhar, CA Sisir Kumar, CA Swaroop Polimera, CA G Prasad Rao, CA Poosarla Ramakrishna, CA Gorti Subba Rao, CA C M Ravi Prasad, CA G Avinash, CA. I Jay Krishna, CA. B Sai Ganesh, CA. Ramu, CA. G Raghu Vamsi, CA. D Satya Gopala Krishna, CA. Rithik Agarwal, CA. V Ravi Kumar, CA D Teja Sagar, CA P Ramkrishna, CA N Maruthi, CA Teja SSR, CA P Kishore, CA B Vinay Gandhi, CA Ravindra Boina, CA Srinivas Potnuru, CA P V Satish,

CA Vaddi Rama Rao, CA Surendranath Andhavarapu, CA Surya Prakash Asu, CA Boina Ravindra, CA Srinivas Potnuru and others who volunteered in organising the Branch Events, their enthusiastic participation and contribution to these programs.

I place on record my deepest appreciation for the guidance and support extended by the Statutory Auditors M/s B V Rao & Co LLP, CA B Vinay Kumar, the Internal Auditors, M/s SMARK & Associates & CA I Jaya Krishna.

I sincerely thank CA D Prasanna Kumar Garu, Vice President, CCM and Ex-officio Member; I am deeply grateful for his unwavering support and invaluable guidance throughout my tenure in the committee. His mentorship has been instrumental in the growth and success of the Branch and its members.

I sincerely convey my gratitude to the members of my Managing Committee, Vice-Chairman CA Lokesh Patnala, Secretary CA Nemmadi Ramu Naidu, Treasurer CA Ujwala MLD, SICASA Chairman CA Leela Vara Prasad D, Editor CA Gurumurthy M and Member CA Konni Rambabu & GST Nodal Officer CA Prashant Kr. Panda for their everlasting support and encouragement. I thank the administrative staff of the Branch Sri S. Amarnath, Sri K. Raj Kumar, Smt. Madhuri and the Sub-staff Sri Naidu, Smt Lakhmi for their tireless efforts throughout the year in ensuring smooth conduct of the activities of the Branch.

I would also like to take a moment to thank each one of you—our members—for your unwavering support, active participation, and commitment to the profession. I also thank the members from Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Palasa and Anakapalle for their

enthusiastic support and participations. It is your enthusiasm and engagement that have made all our initiatives successful.

An End, But Not a Farewell

While I am demitting office, my commitment to you remains unchanged. Leadership is a title; service is a mindset.

My door, my phone, and my heart remain open to you. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you feel I can be of any assistance to your professional needs or personal growth. I am, and will always be, just a phone call away.

Final Reflections

I leave this office with a deep sense of fulfilment, carrying the blessings of my elders and the friendships of my peers. I seek your continued best wishes as I transition back to being a humble soldier of this profession.

Thank you for making a boy from Hiramandalam feel at home in Visakhapatnam.

With profound respect and heartfelt gratitude,

CA. Sridhar Andhavarapu

Chairman (2025-26) Visakhapatnam Branch of ICAI

Thank you once again for the privilege of serving as your Chairman.

Warm regards,

CA. Sridhar Andhavarapu

Chairman

Visakhapatnam Branch of ICAI (SIRC)

A Historic Milestone:

From the Shores of Visakhapatnam to the Helm of ICAI

“It is with profound joy and immense regional pride that we extend our heartiest congratulations to our beloved leader,

CA Prasanna Kumar D,

on his historic ascension as the

President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

This is not just a title; it is a dream realized through over 25 years of relentless grit, unwavering commitment, and selfless service to the profession. For us in Visakhapatnam and across the state of Andhra Pradesh, this moment is truly golden—as he becomes the **first-ever President of ICAI from our State.** Sir, your journey from our local corridors to the highest office of this premier institution is a testament to the power of dedication. You have brought unparalleled laurels to our soil, and we are certain that under your visionary leadership, the profession will reach zenith heights. We stand tall today, proud to call you our own.”

COMPLIANCE CALENDAR

Days to Remember February 2026

CA. P.S.V. Sai Kumar

Date	Department	Summary
01-Feb-26	Finance	Union Budget FY26-27
05-Feb-26	SEZ	Monthly Report of Investment & Employment
07-Feb-26	FEMA	ECB 2 Return
07-Feb-26	TDS/TCS	TDS/TCS Payment for Jan'2026
10-Feb-26	Professional Tax	PT on Salaries for Jan'2026 (Due date varies from State to State)
10-Feb-26	STPI/SEZ	STPI - SERF; SEZ - SERF
10-Feb-26	GST	GSTR - 7 (TDS) ; GSTR - 8 (TCS)
11-Feb-26	GST	Monthly Return of GSTR 1 - Jan'2026
13-Feb-26	GST	GSTR-1 IFF for QRMP - Jan'2026
13-Feb-26	GST	GSTR 5 - Non Resident Foreign Tax Payers; GSTR 6 - Input Service Distributor
14-Feb-26	TDS/TCS	Due date for issue of TDS Certificate for tax deducted under section 194 - IA,IB,M,S in the month of Dec'2025
14-Feb-26	SEBI	Financial Results along with Limited review report/Auditor's report as per Regulation 32/33 (3) (a) (Within 45 days/60 days from the end of the quarter except last quarter)
14-Feb-26	SEBI	Statement of deviations or variations as per Regulation 32 (1) (Within 45 days from the end of the quarter)
15-Feb-26	TDS/TCS	Quarterly TDS certificate - Form 16A (in respect of tax deducted for payments other than salary) for the quarter ending Dec'25
15-Feb-26	PF & ESI	Monthly Payment for Jan'2026
20-Feb-26	GST	Monthly GSTR 3B for Jan'2026
25-Feb-26	GST	GST Challan Payment - Jan 2026 (QRMP Scheme filers)

ARTICLES



CA. Rajesh Mugada

A Landmark Judgment on GST and Customs Jurisdiction in the case of M/s. National Association of Container Freight Stations_2025 MHC 2422 (WP Nos. 11222, 149 & 152 of 2022)

CA. Rajesh Mugada

The recent decision of the Madras High Court in the case of National Association of Container Freight Stations (NACFS) v. The Joint Commissioner of Customs marks a significant legal milestone in clarifying the distinct jurisdictions of Customs authorities and GST law enforcement, particularly around goods auctioned by Container Freight Stations (CFS). This article delves into the background, legal issues, and implications of the judgment for stakeholders in the customs and indirect tax ecosystem.

Background: The dispute arose from a Public Notice issued by the Chennai

Customs Commissioner on February 12, 2021. The Customs authorities directed Container Freight Stations not to collect Goods and Services Tax (GST) on unclaimed or uncleared cargo goods sold through auction. The rationale given was that the final bid amount included customs duty and Integrated GST (IGST), thus exempting the CFS operators from charging GST again on these sales.

This directive was challenged by the National Association of Container Freight Stations, which argued that the Public Notice was legally unsustainable. They contended that once customs duty and IGST were paid on import, the

subsequent sale of these goods through auction by CFS constituted a fresh supply under GST law on which GST was payable.

Legal Issues at the Core: The core legal issue revolved around whether Customs authorities had jurisdiction to direct CFS operators on GST matters, and whether auction sales conducted post-clearance fell within the scope of GST taxable supplies. The case scrutinized the overlap and boundaries between Customs law (Customs Act, 1962) and the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (CGST Act).

Madras High Court's Ruling: The Court decisively ruled in favour of the NACFS. It held that Customs authorities lack jurisdiction to issue directions regarding GST collections, which fall squarely within the GST authorities' domain under the CGST Act. The Public Notice issued by Customs was declared wholly without jurisdiction and inconsistent with legal provisions. Further 'disposal of the goods' is deemed to be supply under the provisions of the GST Act, 2017.

Importantly, the Court clarified the distinction between import taxation and domestic supply taxation. Customs duty and IGST paid on import pertain to the clearance of goods into the domestic market, whereas any subsequent auction sale by a CFS is a separate transaction subject to GST. Charging GST again on auctioned goods is not double taxation but taxation of a distinct supply.

The court further observed an inconsistent practice whereby Customs themselves

collect GST when conducting auctions, highlighting the correctness of requiring CFS operators to collect GST.

Implications for Stakeholders: This judgment brings critical clarity to the indirect tax and customs nexus. Container Freight Stations, customs authorities, and GST officials now have a judicial precedent to define their roles and responsibilities clearly.

For CFS operators, it confirms the legal obligation to charge and collect GST on auction sales of unclaimed or uncleared cargo, ensuring compliance with GST law and safeguarding tax revenues.

Customs authorities are reminded of their limited role in GST, restricted to regulating customs procedures and not extending into GST collection directives, thus maintaining regulatory boundaries.

Conclusion: The Madras High Court's verdict in National Association of Container Freight Stations v. The Joint Commissioner of Customs serves as a landmark ruling reaffirming the separate jurisdictions of Customs and GST authorities. It promotes legal certainty around tax treatment of auction sales under GST post-import clearance, preventing administrative overreach by Customs and protecting lawful GST collection by CFS operators. This case will likely serve as a key precedent in future disputes at the intersection of Customs and GST law in India. This ruling ultimately strengthens the framework of the indirect tax regime by reinforcing the principles of jurisdictional clarity and correct tax incidence under evolving Indian GST jurisprudence.

PROGRAM CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH

S.No	Date & Time	Topics
1	20/02/2026 (Friday)	Introduction of New Torch Bearers for the year 2027-27

“Snapshot of Memories: A Glimpse into Last Month’s Events”

WOFA



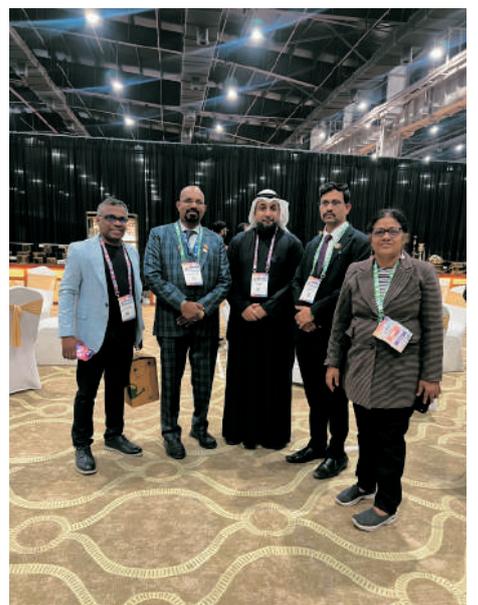
With Shri K Sanjay Murthy“Comptroller and Auditor General of India,



With office bearers from Kuwait, Pune and Jabalpur chapters



With SIRC Members







Glimpse of Campus Placement Program at our Branch on 12th January, 2026





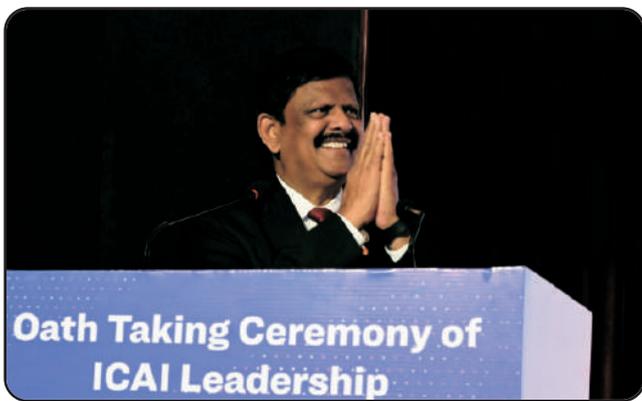
Republic Day Celebrations held on 26th January, 2026







Oath Taking ceremony of President of ICAI CA. Prasanna Kumar D Sir and Vice President CA. Mangesh P Kinare Sir

















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The Views expressed by contributors in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Branch or the Institute