

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

(Setup by an Act of Parliament)



Visakhapatnam Branch e-Newsletter JANUARY - 2026



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From the Chairman's Desk

Dear Esteemed Members,

As we welcome the dawn of 2026, we find ourselves at a historic juncture in our nation's economic journey. With the vision of **Vikasit Bharat** gaining momentum and our state's ambitious roadmap for **Swarna Andhra Pradesh @2047** taking flight, the role of Chartered Accountants has evolved from financial auditors to strategic architects of the nation's wealth.

धर्मैणार्थः समाहार्यः धर्मेण परिपाल्यते ।

धर्मेण लभते सुखं धर्मेण विजयते जगत् ॥

*Dharmenārthaḥ samāhāryaḥ dharmeṇa paripālyate |
Dharmeṇa labhate sukhaṁ dharmeṇa vijayate jagat ||*

(Wealth should be earned through righteousness and protected through integrity. Through such 'Dharma,' one attains true prosperity and conquers the world.)

As we wrap up an eventful 2025 and celebrate the successful completion of the December GSTR filings, let us carry this spirit of integrity into the new year.

Pioneering the "Swarna Andhra" Vision

As the state government gears up for the **2026-27 State Budget**, our role in supporting the "**Swarna Andhra**" vision is paramount. With the state targeting massive investments in **Green Energy (the Nellore 10GW Solar hub)** and the expansion of **Global Capability Centers (GCCs)** in Visakhapatnam, CAs are the essential link between policy and performance. Whether it is facilitating Ease of Doing Business or conducting regular **Water and Energy Audits** as suggested by the state's new mission-mode framework, our profession is central to this "Speed of Governance."

My sincere gratitude to our learned speakers—**CA Ramanathan Bupathy, CA T G Suresh, CA T. Bhanu Prudhviraj, CA D Priyanaka Mehta, CA Avinash Gudivada and CA M. Eswara**



Manikanta, CA PVSS Prasad, CA Billapati Vinay Gandhi, CA M Chalapathy—for their invaluable insights during our CPE programs on New Income Tax Act 2025, Ethics, GST, and Ind AS.

Upcoming Programs:

To organise awareness programs, on the new Income Tax Act under Direct Taxes Committee of ICAI in association with Income Tax Department, for various trade associations, business groups etc.

To conduct career orientation programs for students studying in High Schools and Colleges.

Training Program for members to become peer reviewers.

Mega Conference of Chartered Accountants "**विकास्य**" (Vikasya) — meaning "**destined for development**" - Role Of Chartered Accountants in Vikasit Bharat and Swarna Andhra Pradesh on 6th and 7th Feb 2026

Sankranti Greetings

As we celebrate the harvest festival, let us pledge to harvest new opportunities for our nation. By ensuring financial transparency, we are not just auditing accounts; we are auditing the progress of a Vikasit Bharat.

Wishing you and your families a joyous New Year and a very Happy Sankranti festive season!

Warm regards,

CA. Sridhar Andhavarapu

Chairman

Visakhapatnam Branch of ICAI (SIRC)

ICAI UPDATES



THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA
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COMPLIANCE CALENDAR

Days to Remember January 2026

CA. P.S.V. Sai Kumar

Date	Department	Summary
05-Jan-26	SEZ	Monthly Report of Investment & Employment
07-Jan-26	FEMA	ECB 2 Return
07-Jan-26	TDS/TCS	TDS/TCS Payment for Dec'2025
07-Jan-26	STPI/SEZ	STPI - SERF; SEZ - SERF
10-Jan-26	Professional Tax	PT on Salaries for Dec'2025(Due date varies from State to State)
10-Jan-26	STPI/SEZ	STPI - SERF; SEZ - SERF
10-Jan-26	GST	GSTR - 7 (TDS) ; GSTR - 8 (TCS)
11-Jan-26	GST	Monthly Return of GSTR 1 for Dec'2025
13-Jan-26	GST	GSTR-1 (Oct-Dec'25) for QRMP
13-Jan-26	GST	GSTR - 5 (NRTP) ; GSTR 6 - Input Service Distributor
14-Jan-26	TDS/TCS	Due date for furnishing of challan-cum-statement (Form 16B,C,D,E in respect of tax deducted under section 194-IA,IB,IM,S in the month of November, 2025
15-Jan-26	TDS/TCS	Form 26EQ - Quarterly statement of TCS for the quarter ending Dec'25
15-Jan-26	Income Tax	Due date for furnishing of Form 15G/15H declarations received during the quarter ending Dec'25
15-Jan-26	PF & ESI	Monthly Payment for Dec'2025
15-Jan-26	NBFCs-D	NBS1/NBS2/NBS3/Branch Information Return
15-Jan-26	NBFC-ND-SI	NBS7,NBFCs-ND-SI 500cr,ALM-1,Branch Info return
15-Jan-26	NBFC-ARC	Form ARC
15-Jan-26	RNBCs	Form NBS-3A
15-Jan-26	Other NBFC's	Overseas Investments
18-Jan-26	GST	Form CMP 08 for Oct to Dec'25(Composition)

Date	Department	Summary
20-Jan-26	GST	Monthly GSTR 3B for Dec'2025
21-Jan-26	NBFCs-D & NBFC-ND-SI	Reporting to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC)
21-Jan-26	SEBI	Disclosure of Shareholding (As per Regulation 31 (1) (b) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015)
21-Jan-26	SEBI	Corporate Governance Report (As per 27(2)(a) of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015)
22-Jan-26	GST	GSTR 3B (Oct-Dec'25) QRMP for Category-I States*
24-Jan-26	GST	GSTR 3B (Oct-Dec'25) QRMP for for Category-II States*
30-Jan-26	STPI/SEZ	STPI/SEZ - SOFTEX
30-Jan-26	NBFCs-D	ALM (NBFCs-D having public deposit of > 1 20 crore Or asset size of> Rs. 100 crore)
30-Jan-26	NBFC-ND-SI	ALM-2 & 3
30-Jan-26	Other NBFC's	Return on FDI
30-Jan-26	STPI/SEZ	STPI - QPR
30-Jan-26	TDS/TCS	Form 27D - Quarterly statement of TCS for the quarter ending Dec'25
30-Jan-26	TDS/TCS	Due date for furnishing of challan-cum-statement (Form 26QB, QC, QD, QE) in respect of tax deducted under section 194-IA , IB, IM, S in the month of Dec'25
30-Jan-26 of	SEBI	Reconciliation of share capital audit report (As per Regulation 76 (1) SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015)
31-Jan-26	MCA	AOC 4; MGT 7/7A Filing for Companies for FY 2024-25
31-Jan-26	TDS/TCS	Form 24Q/26Q/27Q - Quarterly statement of TDS for the quarter ending Dec'25
31-Jan-26	Income Tax	TP intimation(Intimation under section 286(1) in Form 3CEAC
<p>*Category I : States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, the Union territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands or Lakshadweep.</p> <p>**Category II : States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand or Odisha, the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Chandigarh or Delhi</p>		

ARTICLES



CA. Leela Vara Prasad D

Payment of Terminal Handling charges and other charges directly to terminal operations instead of the shipping line - Kerala High Court quashed directions issued by the Ministry of Commerce

CA Leela Vara Prasad D

Section 151A of the Customs Act gives power to board to issue orders, instructions and directions to officers of customs to implement provisions of the Customs Act. These instructions or circulars are clarificatory in nature, and they are binding on the officers only.

It is a settled principle that “A circular cannot override or detract from the provisions of the statute or notifications issued thereunder”. The Hon’ble Apex Court has been upheld this view in many Judgements.

Under Customs Law a Public Notice is an

administrative communication issued by the customs authority to inform trade and the public about procedural matters, operational instructions, or implementation of statutory or policy changes. Therefore, we can say that circular or public notice is not law but to clarify or facilitate trade in practical implementation of law.

Considering the above background, in the year 2020 there is one Public Notice No.05/2020 issued by the Commissioner of Customs, Cochin to allow an option to pay terminal handling charges and other

charges directly to terminal operators instead of paying through shipping lines. This measure is taken to mitigate the variances of charges collected and paid to terminal operators by shipping lines

The exact para of the public notice is reproduced as follows:

In order to bring transparency, augment "Ease of Doing Business" and to reduce the logistics costs, it is decided that the importers having AEO status or DPD facility for containerized cargo may be allowed the facility of paying terminal handling charges and other charges of the port directly to the terminal operators instead of paying through shipping lines.

However, commerce ministry has misinterpreted the above public notice and issued directions to shipping lines not to collect any charges from shipper/recipient of goods over and above the terminal handling charges which Indian port has prescribed in accordance with Major Port Trust Act, 1963. These communications were challenged by the Container Shipping Line Association (Petitioner) in the Court.

The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala [2025 (3) TMI 1151] held that communications/directions issued were to be legally flawed and contrary to Public Notice based on below analysis:

- * In the absence of regulatory power, traceable to the provisions of any statute or contract, Court is of the

view that such a power, that has the potential to interfere with the freedom of contract between parties, cannot be inferred from the terms of a Public Notice."

- * The Public Notice was not intended to alter or interfere with existing contracts but merely offered an option to importers regarding terminal handling charges.
- * **The Communications interpreting the public notice in a manner that interferes with private contracts is contrary and void and infringes the fundamental rights.**

To sum up, the Kerala High Court clarified that a Public Notice, being an administrative tool, cannot override legislation or alter private contracts unless specifically authorized by law. The purpose of Public Notice No.05/2020 was to give importers an additional direct payment choice for terminal handling charges, not to restrict or modify existing contractual terms or fundamental rights. As such, interpreting the notice as granting regulatory power or curbing contract freedom lacks legal foundation and cannot be upheld.

For any clarifications, reach out to leela@hnaindia.com

PROGRAM CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH

S.No	Date & Time	Topics
1	26/01/2026	77th Republic Day Celebrations

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

Seminar on Overview of New Income Tax Act, 2025 held on 6th December, 2025





ICAI MSME Clinic Launch held on 10th December, 2025

The banner at the top lists the following individuals:

- CA. Charanjot Singh Nanda, President, ICAI
- CA. Prasanna Kumar D, Vice President, ICAI
- CA. Gyan Chandra Misra, Chairman, Committee on MSME & Start-up
- CA. Arpit Kabra, Vice Chairman, Committee on MSME & Start-up

The banner also includes the ICAI logo and the text "An initiative of Committee on MSME & Start-up".

Below the banner is the FATHOM logo, which stands for Finance | Accounting | Tech Support | Human Resource | Operations | Marketing.

On the right side, there is a video call interface showing a meeting with participants CA. Shridhar Andhavar, CA. Arpit Kabra, CA. Arjun Bansal, and CA. Arpit Kabra.

Seminar on Financial reporting frame work with Ind AS (considering inventory, PPE, CFS) and Code of Ethics held on 17th December, 2025



Seminar on Income Tax 2025 : Insights on Business Profits & Cross-Border Taxation held on
20th December, 2025



Seminar on Preparation for Peer Review held on 24th December, 2025



Chairman met CA. Amarnath Das, Regional Head, Compliance, Risk and Due diligence, EMRO Region , W.H.O.



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