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The Chartered Accountant **STUDENT**

Your monthly guide to CA news, information and events

THE CA DREAM STARTS WITH YOU

*Big
Dreams
Bigger
Goals*

*Believe in Your Potential.
Build Your Future.*



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Everything comes to us that belongs to us if we create the capacity to receive it.

• Rabindranath Tagore •

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SWACHH BHARAT - A STEP TOWARDS CLEANLINESS



will provide additional opportunities for focused revision and doubt clarification. I encourage you to make full use of these initiatives and approach your examinations with confidence, discipline and determination.

WOFA 2026: Redefining Excellence through Technology, Trust and Transformation

While academic preparation lays the foundation for your professional journey, success in the evolving accountancy profession will require technological adaptability, ethical conduct and a commitment to continuous learning. The Institute will host the World Forum of Accountants (WOFA) 2026 from 16 to 18 December 2026 at Visakhapatnam, India. Under the theme **"Redefining Excellence: Technology | Trust | Transformation,"** the Forum will bring together global leaders, policymakers and professionals to deliberate on the changing landscape of the accountancy profession.

As artificial intelligence and digital innovation reshape the profession, future Chartered Accountants must combine technological proficiency with integrity, accountability and sound professional judgement. I encourage you to cultivate curiosity, strengthen your analytical abilities and remain adaptable to emerging developments. These qualities will help you navigate future challenges, uphold public trust and contribute to professional excellence and sustainable economic growth.

ICAI Commerce Olympiad 2026: Nurturing Young Talent

ICAI continues to promote commerce education and nurture young talent by creating awareness about diverse career opportunities in commerce, accounting and finance. The ICAI Commerce Olympiad 2026, an initiative of the Institute's Career Counselling Committee, is scheduled for Sunday, 29 November 2026. It provides students from Class VIII to graduation with an opportunity to test their knowledge, enhance their analytical and problem-solving skills and experience healthy academic competition.

With free participation and an online examination, the Olympiad makes learning and recognition accessible to aspiring young minds across the country. I encourage eligible students to participate enthusiastically, discover their potential and explore the opportunities offered by the commerce and Chartered Accountancy professions. For registration and further details, please visit <https://icaicommerceolympiad.in/>.

Mega Career Counselling Programme in Collaboration with Nagaland Board of School Education (NBSE)

Further strengthening its career counselling outreach, the Committee organised a Mega Career Counselling Programme in collaboration with the Nagaland Board of School Education (NBSE) on 26th October 2026 at Dimapur, Nagaland. The programme brought together approximately 1,500 students from various schools across the State. It marked a significant step towards expanding ICAI's outreach in the North-Eastern region, promoting meaningful engagement with educational institutions and inspiring young learners to explore Chartered Accountancy as a rewarding professional career.

Diwali Greetings: Illuminating the Path to Success

As we celebrate Diwali, I extend my warm wishes to you and your families. May the festival of lights illuminate your lives with happiness, wisdom, prosperity and new beginnings.

Dear Students, believe in your potential, remain steadfast in your efforts and let integrity guide your professional journey. Just as every lamp dispels darkness, let your knowledge, determination and dedication illuminate your path towards success. The CA dream begins with you. Take every step with confidence, purpose and a commitment to excellence.

With Best Wishes,

CA. PRASANNA KUMAR D
PRESIDENT, ICAI

My Dear Students,
Warm greetings to all of you!

At the outset, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all candidates who successfully cleared the CA Intermediate Examination, September 2026, marking an important milestone in the academic journey of our students. A total of 14,818 candidates cleared the examination, with pass percentages of 23.14% for Group I, 18.92% for Group II and 13.21% for candidates appearing in both groups. Your achievement reflects your dedication, discipline and sincere commitment to learning.

For students who could not achieve their desired results this time, I encourage you to remain positive and view this experience as an opportunity to reassess your preparation, strengthen your conceptual understanding and adopt a more focused strategy for your next attempt. Remember, a single examination result does not determine your potential or define your future. Learn from every experience, continue to work diligently and keep your aspirations alive.

The CA Dream Starts with You: Believe in Your Potential

Every great achievement begins with a dream, and for an aspiring Chartered Accountant, this dream represents much more than a professional qualification. It embodies the aspiration to acquire knowledge, achieve independence, uphold professional excellence and make a meaningful contribution to society. The journey from aspiration to achievement begins with self-belief and the determination to learn, improve and remain committed to one's goals. As you progress through the Chartered Accountancy course, remember that your present performance does not define the limits of your future. Every concept you master, every challenge you overcome and every effort you make to improve brings you closer to becoming the professional you aspire to be. Ultimately, success is built through self-belief, discipline, resilience and a commitment to continuous learning.

Strengthening Examination Readiness: ICAI's Academic Support Initiatives

To translate aspiration into achievement, a structured preparation strategy and access to effective learning resources are essential. The Board of Studies (Academic), ICAI, continues to support students through a range of academic initiatives designed to strengthen examination readiness and conceptual understanding.

The **Mock Test Papers for Intermediate students** will be conducted in two series: Series I from 19th to 30th November 2026 and Series II from 3rd to 14th December 2026. These tests will help students assess their preparation, familiarise themselves with the examination pattern, improve answer-writing skills and identify areas requiring further revision.

The **Intermediate Fortnight Programme**, scheduled from 26th October to 4th November 2026, offers virtual sessions covering important topics, examination strategies and subject-specific doubts across all eight papers. The Audit Insights: Bridging Theory with Practice series further helps students connect theoretical knowledge with practical auditing through sessions on audit planning, risk assessment, audit evidence, substantive testing, audit reporting and documentation.

For **Foundation students** appearing in January 2027, webinars on Accounting and Business Laws, commencing on 25th November 2026,



Dear Students,

Warm greetings to all of you!

Wishes for the November 2026 Exams

At the outset, I extend my best wishes to the students who are appearing for the CA Final November 2026 Examinations. You have put in the hard work and come a long way. This is the time to trust your preparation and approach each paper with confidence. Manage your time wisely, stay calm and do not let anxiety undermine your efforts. Believe in yourself, remain focused and give every opportunity your very best.

A Proud Milestone of Success – September 2026 CA Examinations

My sincere congratulations to all those who have cleared the September 2026 CA Examinations. Your success is the outcome of sustained effort, countless hours of preparation and the courage to persist all along. May you continue to achieve new milestones with confidence.

Pause, Reflect and Rise Stronger

To those whose results did not reflect their expectations this time, I would like to share a thought with you: ***“There is no failure, it's only unfinished success.”*** This famous quote suggests that hurdles are not the end of our journey but opportunities to learn, grow and improve. Success rarely comes instantly; it often requires patience, persistence and the resolution to begin again. What seems like failure today may become the foundation of tomorrow's success.

The CA Dream Starts with you

The journey to becoming a Chartered Accountant begins with a dream and progresses through discipline, dedication and determination. It is a path that tests knowledge, strengthens character and develops the resilience required for professional success. Every aspirant has the potential to achieve this goal through consistent preparation, a willingness to learn and the courage to face challenges. Teachers, mentors and well-wishers can guide and encourage you, but your commitment and effort remain central to your progress. Success requires not only academic excellence but also a commitment to continuous improvement. Your dream sets the direction; your dedication helps you move towards it.

Board of Studies (Academic) – Nurturing Knowledge, Shaping Futures

The Board of Studies (Academic) of ICAI continues to strengthen students' learning through quality academic resources designed to build conceptual understanding and support effective examination preparation.

Following the earlier release of the Value-Added Study Material for the Foundation and Intermediate levels, the Board has now also

released the Study Material for the Final level, applicable for the May 2027 and subsequent examinations.

To facilitate effective preparation for the January 2027 Examinations, the Board has released Revision Test Papers for the Foundation and Intermediate Courses and initiated the Fortnight Programme for CA Intermediate students, followed by Mock Test Papers. For Foundation students, subject-specific webinars for Papers 1 and 2 will commence on 25th November 2026, with Mock Test Papers to follow.

Further, Suggested Answers for the CA Intermediate September 2026 Examinations were uploaded immediately after the results. I encourage each of you to actively engage with these resources to maximise your learning outcomes and examination readiness.

Review of the Chartered Accountancy Scheme of Education and Training

Recognizing the importance of preparing future Chartered Accountants for an evolving professional landscape, ICAI is undertaking a comprehensive review of its Scheme of Education and Training. The objective is to develop a framework that reflects contemporary needs, adheres to global benchmarks, strengthens professional relevance and anticipates future challenges. In pursuit of this objective, the Committee for Review of Education and Training (CRET) of ICAI has organized Outreach Programmes for students and members throughout the country. These programmes encouraged meaningful stakeholder participation by inviting views, suggestions and feedback on the existing Scheme. The initiative has extended to around 60 cities across the country, reflecting ICAI's commitment to collaborative and forward-looking educational reform.

A Bright Diwali to All CA Students

Every hope begins with a spark, and every achievement begins with an effort. This Diwali, may the light of hope strengthen your aspirations and the warmth of encouragement inspire your efforts. May you conquer every barrier and transform your dream of becoming a Chartered Accountant into reality and shine bright!

Wishing you and your families a happy and bright Diwali!

A Thought to Take Forward

“You have to dream before your dreams can come true.” These words of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam remind us that every achievement begins with a vision. A clear dream gives you direction, while belief, determination and sustained effort help turn that vision into reality.

Acknowledge every achievement, learn from every experience and treat each milestone as a stepping stone towards greater success.

CA. MANGESH KINARE
VICE PRESIDENT, ICAI



Dear Students,

Congratulations on choosing chartered accountancy, a demanding profession with global opportunities.

Every Chartered Accountant's journey begins with a dream. Discipline gives that dream direction, perseverance keeps it going, and steady effort turns it into reality. Your CA journey is about more than examination results. It is shaped by the knowledge you build through study and practical training, the lessons you learn from difficult moments, and the values you live by.

This edition's theme, "**The CA Dream Starts with You — Believe in Your Potential, Build Your Future**" sums up this message.

"Your potential sets the direction; your perseverance determines how far you go." Believe in yourself and tell yourself, "Yes, I can." Don't let negativity around you distract you. Keep learning to develop your potential, keep going when things get hard, and make the most of it through professional excellence, integrity and service to society.

Every successful Chartered Accountant started small. They faced uncertainty and challenges, and with confidence and determination they found out what they were capable of. Where you are today does not decide where you will be tomorrow. What matters is that you are willing to learn, adapt and grow. Know your strengths, learn from every experience, and keep taking purposeful steps towards the professional you want to become.

September 2026 Results: Learn, improve and move forward

Congratulations to everyone who passed the September 2026 examinations. Your hard work has paid off. Keep up the same commitment as you move ahead.

If you did not get the result you hoped for this time, see it as a chance to grow. Look back honestly at your preparation, strengthen your weak areas and return with fresh determination. Many accomplished professionals reached their goals the same way, by learning and improving step by step. Move forward with confidence. Success will follow.

The **Suggested Answers for the September 2026 examinations** are now available. Refer to them to assess your performance, identify areas for improvement and enhance your answer-writing skills for future examinations.

Revised Final Course Study Material – Paper 4: Direct Tax Laws and International Taxation

The **revised Final Course Study Material for Paper 4 – Direct Tax Laws and International Taxation**, applicable for the May 2027 and November 2027 examinations, is available on the CDS Portal. It incorporates the latest legislative amendments and updates, including the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 2025, as amended by the Finance Act, 2026. Students are encouraged to refer to the revised material and approach the upcoming examinations with greater clarity and confidence.

Revision Test Papers for January 2027 Examinations

The **Revision Test Papers (RTPs) for the January 2027 Foundation and Intermediate** examinations have been released. After revising the concepts and provisions, attempt the questions independently and compare your answers with the suggested solutions to identify gaps, strengthen conceptual application and improve answer-writing skills. Use the RTPs to assess your preparation and approach the examinations with confidence.

Resources for Foundation and Intermediate January 2027 Examinations: Your Roadmap to Success

The Board of Studies (Academic) is undertaking a range of academic initiatives to help Foundation and Intermediate students strengthen their preparation for the January 2027 examinations.

For Intermediate students, the **Live Virtual Revisionary Classes (LVRC)**, which commenced on 12th October 2026, are underway, with recorded lectures available for revision and strengthening of key concepts. The Fortnight Programme, "**Unlock Success through Clarity, Strategy & Confidence**," commencing on 26th October 2026, will offer focused revision, interactive discussions and subject-specific guidance through virtual sessions taken by Guest faculty and BoS Faculty.

For Foundation students, **subject-specific webinars** for Papers 1 and 2 will commence on 25th November 2026. The "**Success at CA Exam**" programme by BoS Faculty, commencing on 10th December 2026 (Series I) and 22nd December 2026 (Series II), will further equip Foundation students with effective examination strategies, answer-writing techniques and insights into common mistakes to avoid.

Further, **Mock Test Series I and II**, scheduled for 19th November and 3rd December 2026 for Intermediate and 1st December and 14th December 2026 for Foundation, will help students practise under exam-like conditions, improve time management and build confidence. Students can take these tests physically through ICAI's Regional Councils and Branches or in self-assessment mode through the dedicated BoS Mock Test Registration Portal, allowing them to practise at their convenience.

Make the most of these initiatives to sharpen your preparation, build confidence and approach your examinations with clarity and a well-defined strategy.

CRET Outreach Programmes: Shaping the Future of CA Education

CA education must keep pace with the changing needs of the profession while maintaining its high standards, so that it continues to produce future-ready, globally competent professionals. To support this, ICAI is holding outreach programmes under the Committee for Review of Education and Training (CRET) at all its Regional Councils and 186 branches. These programmes bring together members, academicians, industry leaders and CA Final students, who are sharing suggestions on academics, practical training, examinations, IT and soft skills. Their input will help build a relevant and effective scheme of education and training.

As we celebrate Diwali and Guru Nanak Jayanti, may these festivals bring you hope and strengthen your resolve to pursue your dreams. Wishing you and your families a Happy Diwali and a blessed Guru Nanak Jayanti, filled with happiness, peace and prosperity.

With warm wishes for your success,

CA. BABU ABRAHAM KALLIVAYALIL
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF STUDIES (ACADEMIC)



Namaste CA Aspirants,

"राख नहीं, मैं वो चिंगारी हूँ जो हर तूफ़ान से टकराएगी। जीत की ज़िद है मेरे लहू में, मंज़िल खुद चलकर आएगी।"

To every aspirant who cleared the September 2026 Examinations: congratulations! Behind your result are late nights, quiet sacrifices and a family that believed in you even when you doubted yourself. You have made your parents proud, and you have made yourselves proud. Carry this moment with gratitude and humility, for the road ahead is longer still.

To those who could not make it this time, please hear this with an open heart. This is not a verdict on your ability. It is a step on your learning curve. Every successful Chartered Accountant has, at some point, turned a setback into a stepping stone. Take the lesson, add determination, keep your spirit cheerful, and your next attempt will bring you the result you deserve. Keep your mind agile, calm and strong.

As the festive season arrives, I wish you and your families a joyful Diwali, a blessed Govardhan Puja, a warm Bhai Dooj and a devout Chhath Puja 2026. May these festivals bring serenity to your minds, growth to your efforts and prosperity to your homes. May a smile of achievement always be your hallmark.

To all Final students appearing in November 2026 you have prepared, now trust your preparation. Let focus be your armour, discipline your sword and your parents' blessings your shield. Walk into the examination hall with a steady mind and a grateful heart. Your effort, your concentration and your gratitude towards those who stood by you will, I am confident, bring you well deserved and applaudable success. Best of luck!

The recently concluded NTH at Puri was a wonderful success. It reminded us that our students are not only learners but performers, thinkers and leaders. This is the finest platform to show your passion and interest, and to shine with your own light. It is an open-ended opportunity to showcase your talent at SAFA and at international conferences, in India and abroad. I encourage every student to step forward and take part.

I also invite you to be part of the CA International Conference "VishwaSetu", to be held at the Jio World Centre, BKC, Mumbai, on **5th and 6th December 2026**. It is a real arena to meet peers from different backgrounds, to be challenged by new learning experiences, and to gain a deeper understanding of where our profession is heading and how to adapt to its fast-changing landscape. It will present you as a professional with a global outlook and grounded judgment. It will make you more focused and determined and leave a lasting imprint on your resolutions while helping you balance your life goals.

I am happy to share the launch of **AURA 2.0** and the **SPARK** workshops on Group discussion, Speaker forum, Vocabulary Enrichment & Entrepreneurship by the POUs and Branches. They speak directly to the mind of a student your search for technical competence and your journey of personal growth. They will help you build clarity of concepts, confidence in expressing your views and a sound footing across different skill pillars. Join them with zeal, mindfulness and the belief that your opinion matters.

I also acknowledge, with appreciation, the wide acceptance of the **e-Diary** among students and Members. Maintaining your e-Diary is a vital part of your training. Not only does it serve as an official record of your practical experience, but it also allows you to track your growth, spot areas for improvement, and ensure you gain well-rounded industry exposure.

We encourage all students to complete their e-Diary entries diligently and consistently. If you need to make any corrections, please coordinate with your principals to select the 'Ask for Correction' option and submit the updates within the prescribed time frame.

"सफलता उन्हीं को मिलती है, जो गिरकर संभलना और रुककर फिर चलना जानते हैं।"

Pause now and then to look within. Ask yourself: What are my strengths that the world already sees? What potential lies hidden, waiting for me to discover it? Honest self-assessment is the first step towards growth. Know yourself, and you will know your direction.

Dear students, give your best and keep your heart humble. Always remember your parents' struggle and blessings and let them inspire you every day. Be as humane as you can be, for it is human values that make a professional truly great. With the grace of the Almighty and the blessings of your elders, keep your tempo of growth steady and your faith strong. We at ICAI stand with you at every step.

With warm regards and affection,

नमस्ते, शुभकामनाएँ

जय ICAI, जय हिंद।

Warm regards,

CA. RAJESH SHARMA

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF STUDIES (OPERATIONS)

THE CA DREAM STARTS WITH YOU

Believe in Your Potential. Build Your Future.



Your journey to becoming a Chartered Accountant begins not with the final examination, but with the belief that you can achieve it.

Every great achievement begins with a dream. For thousands of CA students, the dream of becoming a Chartered Accountant represents much more than earning a professional qualification. It is a dream of knowledge, independence, professional excellence and the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the world of business and finance. But every dream, no matter how ambitious, requires one essential ingredient to turn into reality—**belief in oneself**.

The journey to becoming a CA is demanding. It tests not only your knowledge and analytical abilities but also your patience, discipline, resilience and determination. There may be days when the syllabus seems endless, concepts appear difficult to understand, mock test scores fall short of expectations or progress feels slower than anticipated. At such moments, it is natural to question your abilities. However, a temporary setback does not define your potential, and a difficult phase does not determine your future. What matters is your willingness to learn, adapt and keep moving forward.

Your CA dream starts with you; with the decision to believe that you are capable of growing beyond your present limitations.

Believe in Your Potential: The Power of Self-Belief

Self-belief is not about assuming that everything will be easy or that success is guaranteed. It is about trusting your ability to learn, improve and overcome challenges through consistent effort. It means recognising that you may not know everything today, but you have the capacity to understand more tomorrow.

As a CA student, you are preparing for a profession that demands accuracy, integrity, analytical thinking and sound judgement. Developing these qualities is a gradual process. Every concept you understand, every practical problem you solve, every mistake you correct and every revision session you complete contributes to your growth.

Avoid measuring your potential solely through marks, ranks or the performance of others. Such comparisons can distract you from your own progress. Instead, compare your present self with the person you were yesterday. Are you understanding concepts better? Are you managing your time more effectively? Are you becoming more confident in applying what you have learned? These small improvements are meaningful indicators of progress.



Turn Your Dream into a Direction

A dream provides inspiration, but a clear plan provides direction. Simply aspiring to become a Chartered Accountant is not enough; you must translate that aspiration into achievable daily actions.

Begin by identifying your strengths, recognising areas that require improvement and setting realistic study targets. Break the syllabus into manageable portions, prepare a revision schedule and allocate sufficient time for practice and self-assessment. Rather than waiting for the perfect moment to begin, start with what you can accomplish today.

Consistency is often more powerful than occasional bursts of intense effort. Studying with concentration for a planned period, revising regularly and practising questions can produce better results than studying for long hours without a clear objective. Make use of the study material, revision resources, mock tests and learning opportunities available to you. Seek clarification whenever a concept is unclear, and do not hesitate to revisit topics that require additional attention.

Most importantly, learn to distinguish between being busy and making progress. A productive study session is not defined merely by the number of hours spent at your desk, but by the understanding and confidence you develop.

Your future is shaped not by one extraordinary day, but by the ordinary days on which you choose to remain committed to your goals.





Build Resilience: Learn from Every Setback

The CA journey may not always follow a straight path. Some students' clear examinations at their first attempt, while others need more time and repeated efforts. Each student's circumstances, learning pace and challenges are different. Therefore, there is no value in treating someone else's timeline as the standard for your own success.

If you encounter a setback, allow yourself to acknowledge the disappointment, but do not allow it to become your identity. Analyse what went wrong. Was your preparation insufficient? Did you struggle with time management? Were there conceptual gaps, examination anxiety or difficulties in presenting answers effectively? Honest reflection can help you identify the changes needed for your next attempt.

A setback becomes a learning opportunity when it leads to meaningful action. Revise your strategy, strengthen weak areas, practise under examination conditions and seek guidance when necessary. Do not repeat the same approach merely because it is familiar; be willing to change your methods when they are not producing the desired results.

Resilience does not mean never feeling discouraged. It means refusing to let discouragement have the final word. It is the ability to return to your books after a difficult day, attempt another question after getting the previous one wrong and continue working towards your goal despite uncertainty.



Success is not always about how quickly you reach your destination; it is also about how much you learn and how strongly you grow along the way.



Build Your Future Beyond the Examination Hall

Becoming a Chartered Accountant is a significant milestone, but professional success extends beyond clearing examinations. The future belongs to professionals who combine technical competence with sound judgement, ethical conduct, effective communication and a willingness to embrace change.

As you progress through your CA course, cultivate curiosity about the business world. Read about emerging industries, technological developments, regulatory changes and evolving business models. Understand how accounting, taxation, auditing, finance and strategic management influence organisational decisions. Try to connect theoretical concepts with real-world applications during your practical training.

Develop your communication and interpersonal skills alongside your technical knowledge. Learn to express ideas clearly, work collaboratively, listen carefully and approach problems with an open mind. Familiarise yourself with relevant digital tools and emerging technologies, while understanding the importance of professional judgement, confidentiality and accountability.

Above all, remember that professional competence must be accompanied by professional integrity. A Chartered Accountant is entrusted with responsibilities that influence businesses, investors, institutions and society. Honesty, objectivity, independence and ethical decision-making are not merely professional requirements; they are the foundations of lasting credibility.

Do not prepare only for the examination you are about to take. Prepare for the professional you aspire to become.



Protect Your Focus in a World of Distractions

Today's students have access to an abundance of learning resources, digital platforms and opportunities. Yet, the same environment can make sustained concentration increasingly difficult. Constant notifications, social media comparisons and the pressure to remain updated can consume time and mental energy.

Building your future requires learning to protect your attention. Establish a realistic daily routine, keep unnecessary distractions away during study sessions and use digital resources with a clear purpose. Take short breaks, maintain adequate sleep, engage in physical activity and make time for activities that help you refresh your mind.

Seeking support is equally important. Discuss academic difficulties with teachers, mentors, peers or family members when needed. Learning does not require you to navigate every challenge alone. Guidance can provide perspective, while constructive feedback can help you improve more quickly.

Give yourself permission to progress at a sustainable pace. Discipline is not about exhausting yourself; it is about creating habits that allow you to continue performing consistently over time.



Your Journey, Your Responsibility



The CA qualification can open doors to diverse professional opportunities in practice, industry, consulting, taxation, auditing, finance, entrepreneurship and leadership. However, the opportunities you eventually pursue will depend not only on the qualification you earn but also on the capabilities, values and interests you develop along the way.

Take ownership of your learning. Do not wait for motivation to appear before you begin working. Build routines that support your goals, even on days when motivation is low. Accept responsibility for your preparation, learn from feedback and remain open to new possibilities.

At the same time, understand that taking responsibility does not mean blaming yourself for every difficulty. Circumstances can be challenging, and progress may sometimes be affected by factors beyond your control. Focus on the actions within your reach and make the best use of the resources available to you.

You do not need to have your entire future figured out today. You need a clear sense of direction, the willingness to learn and the courage to take the next step.

The Future You Imagine Begins Today

Imagine the moment when you finally see the result you have worked so hard to achieve. Think about the confidence you will gain, the responsibilities you will undertake and the opportunities that may become available to you. Now look at the present. The distance between that future and today is bridged by the choices you make every day.

Every focused study session, every difficult concept mastered, every honest self-assessment and every attempt to improve brings you closer to becoming the professional you envision.

So, when the journey feels overwhelming, return to the reason you began. When self-doubt arises, remind yourself of the progress you have already made. When you encounter failure, treat it as feedback. When you achieve a milestone, celebrate it with gratitude and continue learning.

Your CA dream does not depend on being perfect. It depends on being willing to grow. It does not demand that you never stumble; it asks that you keep learning how to move forward.

SUCCESS

**Believe in your potential.
Build your future. Become
the professional you aspire
to be.**

Because the CA dream is not merely about the letters you hope to add after your name. It is about the knowledge you acquire, the character you build, the challenges you overcome and the contribution you make through your profession.

The journey begins with a dream. It gains strength through discipline. It moves forward through resilience. And it becomes meaningful through integrity and purpose.



The CA dream starts with you. Take the first step today, keep faith in your ability to grow, and build a future that reflects the best of your potential.



The Institute of Chartered
Accountants of India

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

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US GAAP vs. Ind AS: Why Accounting Rules Across the World Don't Talk the Same Language



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If you asked me a year ago what I thought about accounting standards, I would have probably told you that accounting is just math, and math works the same everywhere. $2 + 2 = 4$, whether you are sitting in a coffee shop in New York or typing away in an office in Mumbai.

Then I actually took financial reporting.

It turns out that while the math stays the same, the rules about how to write that math down on financial statements are wildly different depending on where you are on the map. In the United States, public companies follow US GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), which is set by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). Meanwhile, over in India, companies follow Ind AS (Indian Accounting Standards), which are converged with IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards) and overseen by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

On paper, both systems try to do the exact same thing: present a clear, honest picture of how a company is performing. But under the hood, they have completely different philosophies. US GAAP is famous for being rules-based, giving accountants thick rulebooks, specific percentage cutoffs, and exact steps to follow so nobody gets confused or sued. Ind AS, on the other hand, is principles-based. It gives you a broad framework and asks management to use their judgment to portray the “economic reality” of a transaction.

When you dig into the specifics, you find some absolutely bizarre, fascinating, and practical differences that make you realize accounting isn't just bookkeeping, it is a high-stakes strategy game. Here are the most interesting exceptions and differences between US GAAP and Ind AS that every business student and future accountant should know.

1. The LIFO Drama: Matching Costs vs. Physical Reality

Let's start with inventory, because this is usually the first big shock students run into when comparing standards.

When a company sells products, it needs a system to figure out which inventory got sold and which is still sitting on the shelf. There are two main ways to track this: FIFO (First-In, First-Out) and LIFO (Last-In, First-Out).

Under US GAAP, companies are allowed to use LIFO. This means a company can assume that the most recently produced or bought items, the ones that usually cost more because of inflation, are sold first. Why would a company want to do this? Simple: taxes. When inflation hits, using LIFO inflates your Cost of Goods Sold (COGS), which shrinks your reported net profit. Lower reported profit means paying less corporate income tax. In the US, there's even a tax law called the “LIFO Conformity Rule”, if you use LIFO for your tax returns, you must use it for your financial reporting under US GAAP.

Under Ind AS (Ind AS 2), LIFO is completely banned.

Why? Because from an international perspective, LIFO makes zero real-world sense. In what universe does a grocery store or a smartphone manufacturer sell its newest stock first and leave the old stock rotting in the back of the warehouse forever? Ind AS forces companies to use FIFO or Weighted Average Costing.

This creates a massive gap. A US manufacturing company experiencing 8% inflation might report drastically lower profits than an identical

Indian company just because of LIFO, even if their operations are 100% identical.

2. Property, Plant & Equipment: Can You Revalue Your Own Buildings?

Imagine a company bought a piece of land in downtown Mumbai or New York thirty years ago for \$100,000. Today, that land is easily worth \$10 million. How does that show up on the balance sheet?

If you are using US GAAP (ASC 360), you carry that land at historical cost. That land stays on the balance sheet at \$100,000 forever (unless its value drops below \$100,000, in which case you write it down). Under US GAAP, you are almost never allowed to write up the value of fixed assets to match their current market value. US regulators prefer conservatism and hard historical receipts over subjective valuations.

Under Ind AS (Ind AS 16), companies have a choice between the Cost Model and the Revaluation Model.

If a company chooses the Revaluation Model, it can hire an independent appraiser and adjust the carrying value of its Property, Plant, and Equipment (PPE) to fair market value on a regular basis. If that land went up to \$10 million, the company can reflect that on its balance sheet (crediting a “Revaluation Reserve” in equity).

This changes everything for financial ratios. A company under Ind AS can make its balance sheet look significantly stronger and less leveraged simply by revaluing its real estate, whereas a US GAAP company looks like it's holding onto “cheap” old assets.

3. R&D Costs: Expense Everything vs. Capitalizing Hope

Here's another big difference that directly impacts modern tech companies, pharmaceutical giants, and automakers: how you account for Research & Development (R&D).

Suppose a company spends \$50 million building a new software platform or developing a new medical device over five years.

Under US GAAP (ASC 350 / ASC 730), the baseline rule is brutal: expense all internal R&D costs immediately. As soon as you pay the engineers or scientists, that money goes straight to the income statement as an expense, driving down your net income for that year. (There are rare exceptions, like internal-use software development after technological feasibility is reached, but the general rule is to expense it).

Under Ind AS (Ind AS 38), accounting strictly splits R&D into two phases:

1. Research Phase: All costs must be expensed as incurred, because you don't know if the research will lead to anything real.
2. Development Phase: Once you cross into “development,” you must capitalize those costs as an intangible asset on the balance sheet, provided you can prove six specific criteria (like technical feasibility, intention to complete, and probable future economic benefits).

Think about what this means for a startup. An Indian company building a SaaS product can capitalize millions in developer salaries during the development phase and stretch that expense over 5 or 10 years via amortization. An American competitor doing the exact same thing takes the hit all at once on day one.

4. The Lease Model: Are All Leases Created Equal?

Lease accounting underwent a massive revolution globally a few years ago. Both FASB and the IASB/MCA wanted to get rid of “off-balance-sheet financing”, the sneaky trick where companies would lease airplanes, fleets of cars, or retail storefronts without showing those massive future payment obligations on their balance sheets.

Both standards brought leases onto the balance sheet as a Right-of-Use (ROU) Asset and a Lease Liability. But the way they handle the income statement afterward is totally different.

US GAAP (ASC 842) keeps a dual-classification model:

- **Finance Leases:** Act like you bought the asset with a loan (interest expense + depreciation expense).
- **Operating Leases:** Treated differently. Instead of showing interest and depreciation separately, you show a single, straight-line lease expense on your P&L every year. It keeps the income statement looking clean and traditional.

Ind AS (Ind AS 116) uses a single-classification model for lessees.

- All non-short-term leases are treated as finance leases. Every single lease gets split into depreciation on the ROU asset and interest expense on the lease liability.

Because interest expense is higher in the early years of a lease (when the principal liability is largest), Ind AS lease accounting causes a front-loaded expense profile. An Indian retailer opening 50 new store leases will report lower net profits in year one compared to a US retailer under an operating lease model, even if their rent cheques are identical!

5. Reversing Impairment: Can You Forgive and Forget?

Every now and then, things go wrong. A company builds a factory, but market demand collapses. Under both systems, if an asset's market value drops significantly below what's on the books, you have to run an impairment test and write the asset down, taking a loss on the P&L.

But what if the economy recovers two years later and that factory is suddenly worth millions again?

- **US GAAP:** "Too bad." Once an asset is written down due to impairment, reversal of the impairment loss is strictly prohibited. You are stuck with that lower cost basis forever.
- **Ind AS (Ind AS 36):** "Welcome back!" Companies are required to check every reporting period if there are indicators that a previous impairment loss no longer exists or has decreased. If the asset's value recovered, you can reverse the impairment up to what the asset's carrying amount would have been without the original impairment. (Note: Reversing impairment on Goodwill is banned under both standards).

This rule highlights the fundamental difference in mindset: US GAAP prioritizes conservatism (don't let managers artificially inflate profits by "reversing" old bad news), while Ind AS prioritizes relevant valuation (show the real value of the asset right now).

6. Defining Control: The Variable Interest Entity (VIE) Maze

Consolidation, deciding whether Subsidiary Company B should be merged into Parent Company A's financial statements, sounds straightforward. If you own more than 50% of the voting shares, you consolidate, right?

Not always.

US GAAP introduced the concept of Variable Interest Entities (VIEs) under ASC 810. This was designed to stop companies from hiding

debt in "special purpose entities" (think Enron). Under US GAAP, if an entity doesn't have enough equity to stand on its own feet or if investors lack traditional voting rights, you don't look at shares. Instead, you perform a complex quantitative test to see who absorbs the majority of the entity's expected losses or receives its expected residual returns.

Ind AS (Ind AS 110) doesn't use the quantitative VIE model. Instead, it uses a single, qualitative Control Model built on three pillars:

1. Power over the investee (the ability to direct relevant activities).
2. Exposure or rights to variable returns from its involvement.
3. The ability to use its power to affect the amount of its returns (the link between power and returns).

While both standards usually end up at the same consolidation result, the path they take is completely different. US GAAP gets deep into financial engineering mechanics, while Ind AS focuses on administrative power and decision-making authority.

7. Extraordinary Items: Are They Dead or Alive?

If an asteroid crashes into a warehouse, is that an "Extraordinary Item"?

In old accounting textbooks, unusual, once-in-a-lifetime events were listed separately at the very bottom of the income statement as "Extraordinary Items" so investors knew not to penalize management for bad luck.

- US GAAP officially eliminated the use of "Extraordinary Items" a few years ago to simplify financial reporting. While companies still disclose unusual or infrequent events in the notes, they are presented within continuing operations on the face of the P&L.
- Ind AS (Ind AS 1) goes a step further and explicitly prohibits presenting any item as an 'Extraordinary Item' on the face of the income statement or in the notes. Everything is just part of business operations, no matter how weird or rare the event was.

Why Does Any of This Matter?

When I first started studying this, I assumed these rules were just pedantic details that only auditors cared about. But the reality is that accounting standards actively shape corporate behavior and global markets.

If an Indian company wants to acquire a business in the US, or an American private equity firm wants to invest in an Indian tech giant, they can't just copy-paste the financial statements. An Indian company looks very different under US GAAP than it does under Ind AS. EBITDA changes, asset bases change, debt ratios shift, and net income fluctuates, all without a single real dollar, rupee, or customer changing hands.

Understanding these differences isn't just about passing an exam. It's about learning how to translate financial reality across borders. In a world where business is global, knowing how to read between the accounting lines is probably one of the biggest superpowers a business student can build.

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Paper 3A	Income-tax Law	28.10.2026 Wed
Paper 5	Auditing and Ethics	29.10.2026 Thu
Paper 4	Cost and Management Accounting	30.10.2026 Fri
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FEATURES

Date	Day	Topic
16-09-2026	Wednesday	Preliminary Engagement Activities
23-09-2026	Wednesday	Audit Strategy, Audit Planning and Audit Program
01-10-2026	Thursday	
07-10-2026	Wednesday	Risk Assessment and Internal Control Evaluation
14-10-2026		
21-10-2026	Wednesday	Audit Evidence
28-10-2026		

Date	Day	Topic
04-11-2026	Wednesday	Substantive Testing
18-11-2026		
25-11-2026		
30-11-2026	Monday	Completion & Review
02-12-2026	Wednesday	
07-12-2026	Monday	Audit Report
09-12-2026	Wednesday	
14-12-2026	Monday	Audit Documentation

- Importance of practical exposure alongside theoretical learning
- Role of auditing in ensuring reliability of financial information
- Linkage between Standards on Auditing (SAs) and Practical Exposure

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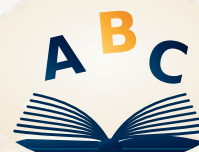
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CA FINAL - PAPER 2: ADVANCED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The subject "Advanced Financial Management" primarily involves the application of financial management theories and techniques in strategic decision-making. In this regard, an attempt has been made to convey the concepts of Advanced Financial Management to students in a clear and straightforward manner through capsules. While every effort has been made to simplify the concepts presented in capsule form, it should not be considered a replacement for the Study Material provided by ICAI. Therefore, students are advised to refer to the ICAI Study Material and other publications such as Revisionary Test Papers, Mock Test Papers, etc. This month's Journal features a capsule on the chapter Security Valuation, covering basic concepts and various aspects of equity valuation, including valuation models, free cash flow, and enterprise value; valuation of rights; and bond valuation, including its fundamentals, theorems, duration, yield curve, theories of term structure of interest rates, and refunding of old bonds. The capsule also covers the valuation of warrants and money market instruments.

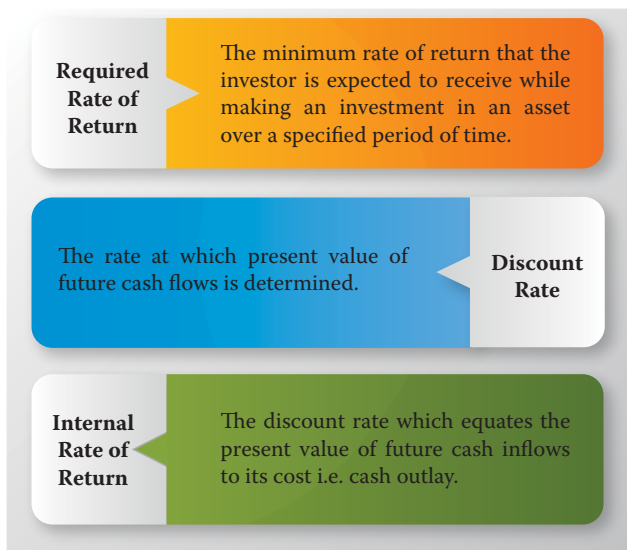
CHAPTER 5 – SECURITY VALUATION

Introduction

- Knowing what an asset is worth and what determines its value is a pre-requisite for making intelligent decisions while choosing investments for a portfolio or in deciding an appropriate price to pay or receive in a business takeover and in making investment, financing and dividend choices when running a business. While some assets are easier to value than others, for different assets, the details of valuation and the uncertainty associated with value estimates may vary. However, the core principles of valuation always remain the same.

Return Concepts

A sound investment decision depends on the correct use and evaluation of the Rate of Return. Some of the different concepts of return are given as below:



Equity Risk Premium

Equity risk premium is the excess return that investment in equity shares provides over a risk-free rate of return, such as return from tax free government bonds. This excess return compensates investors for taking on the relatively higher risk of investing in equity shares of a company.

Calculating the Equity Risk Premium

The Equity Risk Premium can be derived from Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), which is as follows:

$$R_x = R_f + \beta_x (R_m - R_f)$$

Where:

- R_x = Expected return on equity share of company X
- R_f = Risk-Free Rate of Return
- β_x = Beta of Company X i.e. Systematic Market Risk of the Company
- R_m = Expected Return of Market or Market Portfolio or Return from Market Index

The equity risk premium is basically excess of a Security's Return over Risk-Free Rate Return and accordingly the CAPM can be remodeled as follows:

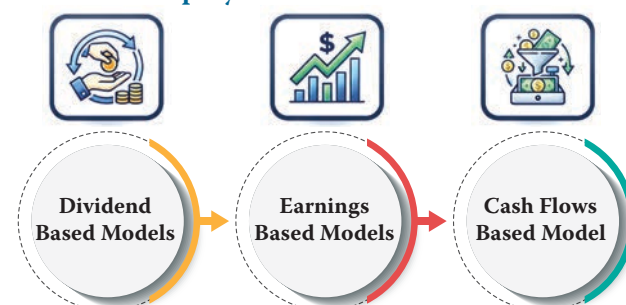
$$\text{Equity Risk Premium} = R_x - R_f = \beta_x (R_m - R_f)$$

The $(R_m - R_f)$ portion is called Market Risk Premium.

Discount Rate Selection in relation to Cash Flows

- Nominal Cash Flow and Real Cash Flow**
 - Nominal cash flow is the amount of future revenues the company expects to receive and expenses it expects to pay out, without any adjustments for inflation.
 - Real cash flow shows a company's cash flow with adjustments for inflation.
- Discount rate for Equity Valuation**
 - For nominal cash flow, Nominal Rate of Discount is used.
 - For real cash flow, real rate of discount is used.

Valuation of Equity Shares



Dividend Based Models

Valuation Based holding period of One Year: If an investor holds the share for one year then the value of equity share is computed as follows:

$$P_0 = \frac{D_1}{(1 + K_e)^1} + \frac{P_1}{(1 + K_e)^1}$$

Valuation Based on Multi Holding Period: In this type of holding following three types of dividend pattern can be analyzed.

- (i) **Zero Growth:** Also, called as No Growth Model, as dividend amount remains same over the years infinitely. The value of equity can be found as follows:

$$P_0 = \frac{D}{(K_e)}$$

- (ii) **Constant Growth:** Although assumption is quite unrealistic assumption but the value of equity shared can be found by using following formula:

$$P_0 = \frac{D_1}{K_e - g} \text{ or } \frac{D_0(1+g)}{(K_e - g)}$$

- (iii) **Variable Growth in Dividend - Two Stage Dividend Discount Model:** While simple two stage model assumes extraordinary growth (or supernormal growth) shall continue for finite number of years, the normal growth shall prevail for infinite period. Accordingly, the formula for computation of Share Price or equity value shall be as follows:

$$P_0 = \left[\frac{D_0(1+g_1)}{(1+K_e)^1} + \frac{D_0(1+g_1)^2}{(1+K_e)^2} + \dots + \frac{D_0(1+g_1)^n}{(1+K_e)^n} \right] + \frac{P_n}{(1+K_e)^n}$$

$$P_0 = \frac{D_0(1+g_1)^n (1+g_2)}{(K_e - g_2)}$$

- (iv) **Variable Growth in Dividend - Three Stage Dividend Discount Model:** As per one version there are three phases for valuations: extraordinary growth period, transition period and stable growth period.

The value of equity share for first two stages shall be computed, as in case of two stage growth model by adding discounted value of Dividends for two growth periods and finally discounted value of share price at the beginning of sustainable or stable growth period.

There is another version of three stage growth model called H Model. H Model is based on the assumption that before extraordinary growth rate reach to normal growth it declines lineally for period 2H.

The formula for computation of equity value shall be as follows:

$$P_0 = \frac{D_0(1+g_n)}{r - g_n} + \frac{D_0 H_1 (g_c + g_n)}{r - g_n}$$

Where g_n = Normal Growth Rate Long Run

g_c = Current Growth Rate i.e. initial short term growth rate

H_1 = Half of duration of the transition growth period

Earning Based Models

Gordon's Model:

Valuation as per this model shall be $\frac{EPS_1 (1-b)}{K_e - br}$

Where, r = Return on Retained Earnings

b = Retention Ratio

Walter's Approach:

As per this model, the value of equity share shall be:

$$\frac{D + (E-D) \frac{r}{K_e}}{K_e}$$

Price Earning Ratio or Multiplier Approach:

As per this approach the share price or value can simply be determined as follows:

Value = EPS X PE Ratio

This ratio can be estimated for a similar type of company or of industry after making suitable adjustment in light of specific features pertaining to the company under consideration.

Cash Flow Models

Free Cash Flow to Firm Model (FCFF) – In FCFF model, the value of equity is determined by first computing the value of firm, using FCFF and Cost of Capital i.e. WACC (K_0) and then deducting Debt from the same.

Free Cash Flow to Equity Model (FCFE) – In FCFE model, the value of equity is determined by using FCFE and Cost of Equity (K_e).

Calculation of Free Cash Flow to Firm (FCFF)

(a) Based on its Net Income:

FCFF = Net Income + Interest expense * (1-tax) + Depreciation -/+ Capital Expenditure -/+ Change in Net Non-Cash Working Capital

(b) Based on Operating Income or Earnings Before Interest and Tax (EBIT):

FCFF = EBIT * (1 - tax rate) + Depreciation -/+ Capital Expenditure -/+ Change in Net Non-Cash Working Capital

(c) Based on Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA):

FCFF = EBITDA * (1 - Tax) + Depreciation * (Tax Rate) -/+ Capital Expenditure -/+ Change in Net Non-Cash Working Capital

(d) Based on Free Cash Flow to Equity (FCFE):

FCFF = FCFE + Interest * (1-t) + Principal Prepaid - New Debt Issued + Preferred Dividend

(d) Based on Cash Flows:

FCFF = Cash Flow from Operations (CFO) + Interest (1-t) -/+ Capital Expenditure

Calculation of Free Cash Flow to Equity (FCFE)

Free Cash flow to equity is used for measuring the intrinsic value of the stock for equity shareholders.

Free Cash Flow to Equity (FCFE) = Net Income - Capital Expenditures + Depreciation +/- Change in Non-cash Working Capital + New Debt Issued - Debt Repayments + Net Issue of Preference Shares - Preference share Dividends

or

FCFE = Net Profit + depreciation - Δ NWC - CAPEX + New Debt - Debt Repayments + Net Issue of Preference Shares - Preference Share Dividends

Δ NWC = changes in Net Working Capital. CAPEX = Addition in fixed assets to sustain the basis.

FCFE can also be used to value share as per Multistage Growth Model Approach.

Dividend Discount Model versus Free Cash Flow to Equity Model

A stock's intrinsic value based on the Dividend Discount Model (DDM) may not always reflect its fair value, as dividends are distributed in the form of cash from profits. This model can lead to undervaluation, especially when a company maintains healthy cash reserves on its balance sheet but has low dividend payouts.

In contrast, the Free Cash Flow to Equity (FCFE) model values a stock based on the cash flow available to shareholders after accounting for all reinvestment needs, including capital expenditures (CAPEX) and incremental working capital. This provides a more comprehensive and realistic measure of value.

Enterprise Value

Enterprise Value is the true economic value of a company. It is calculated by adding market capitalization, Long term Debt, Minority Interest minus cash and cash equivalents. (Also Minus like Equity investments like affiliates, investment in any company and also Long term investments.). Since it considers both equity and debt it is more comprehensive and is least affected by its capital structure.

Enterprise Value is of three types:

TOTAL ENTERPRISE VALUE:

It is the value of all the business activities; it is the summation of market capitalization, Debt (Interest Bearing), Minority Interest "minus" cash.

OPERATING ENTERPRISE VALUE:

It is the value of all operating activities, and to get this we have to deduct market value of non-operating assets which includes Investments and shares (in associates) from the Total Enterprise Value.

CORE ENTERPRISE VALUE:

It is the value which does not include the value of operations which are not the part of core activities. To get this we deduct the value of non-core assets from the Operating Enterprise Value.

Valuation of Preference Shares

Preference shares, like debentures, are usually subject to fixed rate of dividend. In case of non-redeemable preference shares, their valuation is similar to perpetual bonds.

Valuation of Rights

Immediately after the right issue, the price of share is called Ex Right Price or Theoretical Ex-Right Price (TERP) which is computed as follows:

$$\frac{nP_0 + S}{n + n_1}$$

n = No. of existing equity shares

P₀ = Price of Share Pre-Right Issue

S = Subscription amount raised from Right Issue

n₁ = No. of new shares issued

However, theoretical value of right can be calculated as follows:

Ex- Right Price - Subscription Rate

$$\text{Value of per Share Holding} = \frac{\text{Ex Right Price} - \text{Subscription Price}}{\text{Existing Number of shares}}$$

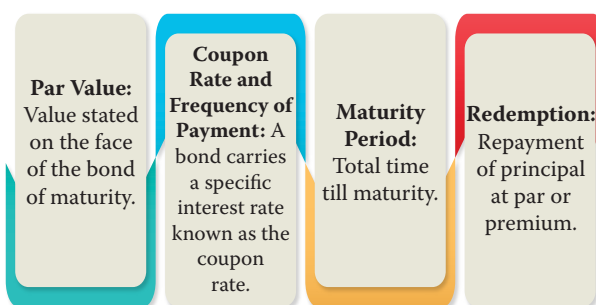
Formula for Valuation of Redeemable Preference Share

$$= \frac{\text{Dividend}_1}{(1+r)^1} + \frac{\text{Dividend}_2}{(1+r)^2} + \dots + \frac{(\text{Dividend}_n + \text{Maturity value})}{(1+r)^n}$$

Formula for Valuation of Irredeemable Preference Share

$$\text{Irredeemable Preference share value} = \frac{\text{Dividend}}{\text{Required return on Preference share}}$$

Basics of a Bond



Bond Valuation Model

The value of a bond is:

$$V = \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{I}{(1+k_d)^t} + \frac{F}{(1+k_d)^n}$$

$$V = I (PVIFA_{k_d, n}) + F (PVIF_{k_d, n})$$

Where,

- V = Value of the bond
- I = Annual interest payable on the bond
- F = Principal amount (par value) of the bond repayable at the time of maturity
- N = Maturity period of the bond.
- K_d = Yield to Maturity (YTM) or Required Rate of Return on the same type of bonds

Bond Value Theorems

CAUSE	EFFECT
YTM = Coupon Rate	Bond sells at Par
YTM > Coupon Rate	Bond sells at Discount
YTM < Coupon Rate	Bond sells at Premium
Longer the Maturity of Bond	Greater the bond price change with a given change in YTM

Yield to Maturity (YTM)

The discount rate (K_d) at which the Present Value of Future Cash flows from a Bond equals to its Market Price.

Bond Values with Semi-Annual Interest

The basic bond valuation equation thus becomes:

$$V = \sum_{t=1}^{2n} \frac{\frac{I}{2}}{\left[1 + \frac{k_d}{2}\right]^t} + \frac{F}{\left[1 + \frac{k_d}{2}\right]^{2n}}$$

$$= I/2(PVIFA_{kd/2, 2n}) + F(PVIF_{kd/2, 2n})$$

Price Yield Relationship

A basic property of a bond is that its price varies inversely with yield. The reason is simple. As the required yield increases, the present value of the cash flow decreases; hence the price decreases and vice versa.

Relationship between Bond Price and Time

If a bond is trading at premium, its price will decrease over time and if a bond is trading at a discount its price will increase over time.

Since the price of bond must equal to its Par Value at maturity (assuming that there is no risk of default), bond prices change with time and they approach to the Par Value of the Bond.

Duration of Bond

Duration is nothing but the average time taken by an investor to collect his/her investment. If an investor receives a part of his/her investment over the time on specific intervals before maturity, the investment will offer him the duration which would be lesser than the maturity of the instrument. Higher the coupon rate, lesser would be the duration and vice versa.

Bond duration is also a measure of interest rate risk. Factors that affect bond's duration are:

(i) **Time to Maturity** – The shorter maturity bond would have a lower duration and lower interest rate risk and vice versa.

(ii) **Coupon Rate** – Higher the coupon rate the lower is the duration and vice versa.

(iii) **YTM** – Higher YTM means lower duration and hence lower interest rate risk and vice versa.

(iv) **Payment frequency** – Higher the frequency of payment of coupon, lower will be the duration of bond.

(a) Macaulay Duration

$$\text{Macaulay Duration} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n \frac{t \cdot C}{(1+i)^t} + \frac{n \cdot M}{(1+i)^n}}{P}$$

Where

n = Time to Maturity

C = Cash flows (Coupon Amount)

i = Required yield

M = Maturity (par) value

P = Bond price

(b) Modified Duration

This is a modified version of Macaulay duration which takes into account the interest rate changes because the changes in interest rates affect duration as the yield gets affected each time the interest rate varies.

The formula for modified duration is as follows:

$$\text{Modified Duration} = \frac{\text{Macaulay Duration}}{\left(1 + \frac{\text{YTM}}{n}\right)}$$

Where

n = Number of compounding periods per year

YTM = Yield to Maturity

Immunization

The interest rate risk of a bond is subject to following two risk:

(a) Price Risk

(b) Reinvestment Risk

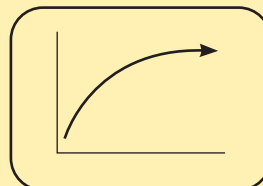
With change in interest rates these two risks move in opposite direction.

Through the process of immunization selection of bonds shall be in such manner that the effect of above two risks shall offset each other.

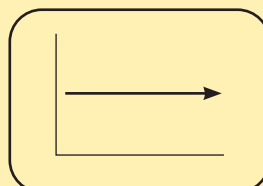
Yield Curve

The term structure of interest rates, also known as Yield Curve, shows how yield to maturity is related to term of maturity for bonds that are similar in all respects, except maturity. Four patterns are depicted as follows:

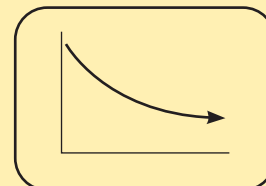
A. Upward Sloping



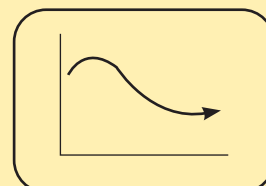
C. Flat



B. Downward Sloping



D. Humped



Term Structure Theories

Popularly known as Yield Curve, shows how yield to maturity is related to term to maturity for bonds that are similar in all respects, except maturity.

Expectation Theory

As per this theory the long-term interest rates can be used to forecast short-term interest rates in the future on the basis of rolling the sum invested for more than one period.

Liquidity Preference Theory

As per this theory forward rates reflect investors' expectations of future spot rates plus a liquidity premium to compensate them for exposure to Interest Rate Risk.

Preferred Habitat Theory

As per this theory the Premiums are related to supply and demand for funds for various maturities – not the term to maturity and hence this theory can be used to explain almost any yield curve shape.

Convexity Adjustment

Although, the duration is a good approximation of the percentage of price change for a small change in interest rate but the change cannot be estimated so accurately due to convexity effect. This estimation can be improved by adjustment on account of 'convexity'. The formula for convexity is as follows:

$$C^* \times (\Delta y)^2 \times 100$$

$$\Delta y = \text{Change in Yield}$$

$$C^* = \frac{V_+ + V_- - 2V_0}{2V_0(\Delta y)^2}$$

V_0 = Initial Price

V_+ = price of Bond if yield increases by Δy

V_- = price of Bond if yield decreases by Δy

Convertible Debentures

Convertible Debentures are those debentures which are converted in equity shares after certain period of time. The number of equity shares for each convertible debenture are called Conversion Ratio and price paid for the equity share is called 'Conversion Price'.

Further, conversion value of debenture is equal to Price per Equity Share x Converted No. of Shares per Debenture.

Valuation of Warrants

A warrant is a right that entitles a holder to subscribe equity shares during a specific period at a stated price. These are generally issued to sweeten the debenture issue. Theoretical value of warrant can be found as follows:

$$(MP - E) \times n$$

MP = Current Market Price of Share

E = Exercise Price of Warrant

n = No. of equity shares convertible with one warrant

Zero Coupon Bond

As name indicates these bonds do not pay interest during the life of the bonds. Instead, zero coupon bonds are issued at discounted price to their face value, which is the amount a bond will be worth when it matures or comes due. When a zero coupon bond matures, the investor will receive one lump sum (face value) equal to the initial investment plus interest that has been accrued on the investment made.

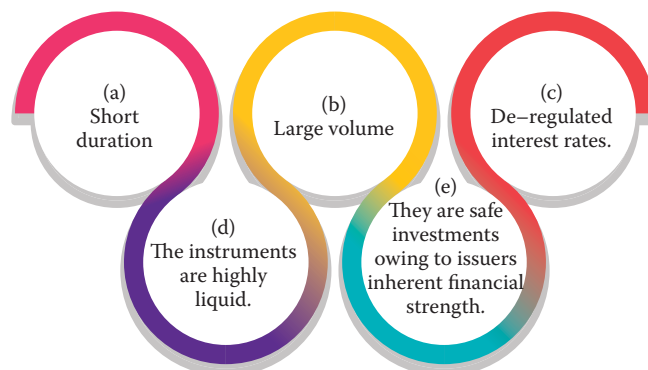
Refunding of Bonds

It is a type of strategic financial decision, and the Capital Budgeting method is used to evaluate the decision to refund the existing bonds and issuing new bonds of an equivalent amount. Generally, the Net Present Value (NPV) method is used to evaluate such types of Bond Refunding decisions.

If the Present Value of Cash Inflows (in form of net cash saving) exceeds the Present Value of cash outflow (call premium, interest during transition period etc.) then existing bonds can be refunded and new bonds carrying lower coupon interest rate can be issued resulting in overall saving of cash outflows.

Money Market Instruments

The instruments of money market are characterised by



Type of Money Market Instruments

Call/Notice money

Call money market, or inter-bank call money market, is a segment of the money market where scheduled commercial banks lend or borrow on call (i.e., overnight) or at short notice (i.e., for periods upto 14 days) to manage the day-to-day surpluses and deficits in their cash-flows.

Treasury Bills (TBs)

The TBs are short-term promissory notes issued by Government of India at a discount. Their yields can be calculated using the following formula:

$$Y = \left\{ \frac{F-P}{P} \right\} \times \frac{365}{M} \times 100$$

where
 Y = Yield,
 F = Face Value,
 P = Issue Price / purchase Price,
 M = Actual days to Maturity

Commercial Bills

A commercial bill is one which arises out of a genuine trade transaction, i.e. credit transaction. A bill of exchange contains a written order from the creditor to the debtor, to pay a certain sum, to a certain person, after a creation period. A bill of exchange is a 'self-liquidating' paper and negotiable; it is drawn always for a short period ranging between 3 months and 6 months.

Certificate of Deposit

The Certificate of Deposits (CDs) are negotiable term deposits accepted by commercial bank from bulk depositors at market related rates. CDs are usually issued in demat form or as a Usance Promissory Note.

Commercial Paper

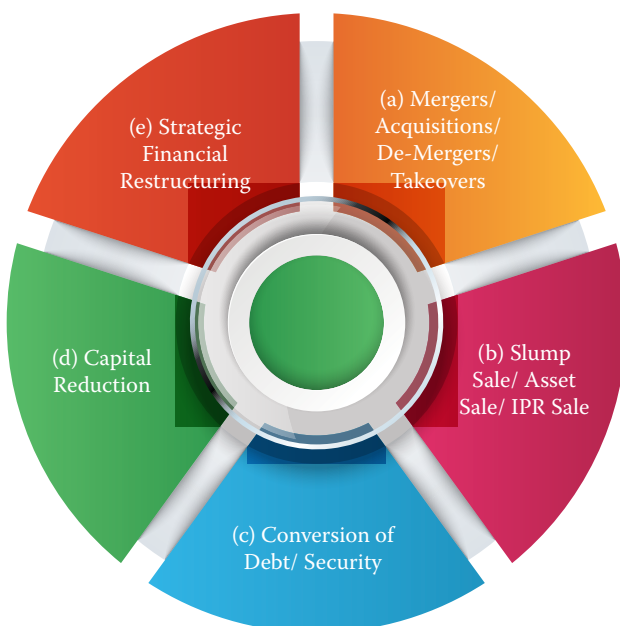
CPs are unsecured and negotiable promissory notes issued by high rated corporate entities to raise short-term funds for meeting working capital requirements directly from the market instead of borrowing from banks. Its period ranges from 7 days to 1 year. CP is issued at discount to face value

Repurchase Options and Reverse Repurchase Agreement

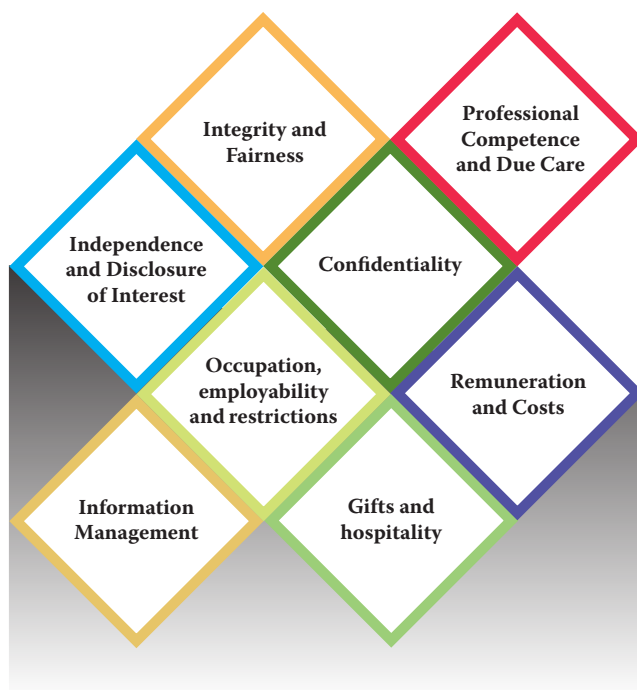
The term Repurchase Agreement (Repo) and Reverse Repurchase Agreement (Reverse Repo) refer to a type of transaction in which money market participant raises funds by selling securities and simultaneously agreeing to repurchase the same after a specified time generally at a specified price, which typically includes interest at an agreed upon rate.

Role and Responsibilities of Valuers

(1) Statutorily Role of Valuers



2. Responsibilities of Valuers



Precautions Need to be taken by a Valuer before Accepting any Valuation

A good valuation does not provide a precise estimate of value. A valuation by necessity involves many assumptions and is a professional estimate of value. The quality of a valuation will be directly proportional to the time spent in collecting the data and in understanding the firm being valued.

This concept is getting more and more critical in today's day and age where most emerging business are valued not on their historical performances captured in the financial statement but rather on a narrative driven factors like scalability, ease of replication, growth potential, cross sell opportunities etc.

More often than not, investors/users tend to focus on either numbers or the story without attempting to reach a middle ground. In both these cases, investors will fail to capture opportunities that could have been unlocked had they been willing to reach some middle ground between the two concepts.

While it is true that a robust intrinsic value calculation using financial statements data and an error-free model makes investing a more technical subject, in reality, emotions play a massive role in moving stocks higher or lower. Not accounting for this fact, therefore, could become an obstacle in consistently getting the valuation right.



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1 Advanced Accounting	19.11.2026 Thu	03.12.2026 Thu
2 Corporate and Other Laws	21.11.2026 Sat	05.12.2026 Sat
3 Taxation	23.11.2026 Mon	07.12.2026 Mon
4 Cost and Management Accounting	25.11.2026 Wed	09.12.2026 Wed
5 Auditing and Ethics	27.11.2026 Fri	11.12.2026 Fri
6 Financial Management & Strategic Management	30.11.2026 Mon	14.12.2026 Mon

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11.00 AM - 1.00 PM

PAPER 1 : ACCOUNTING

25 NOV, 2026 WED	Partnership Accounts CA. Saniket Shah
26 NOV, 2026 THU	Partnership Accounts CA. Saniket Shah
27 NOV, 2026 FRI	Accounts from Incomplete Records CA. Saniket Shah
28 NOV, 2026 SAT	Preparation of Final Accounts of Sole Proprietors CA. V.S. Hiranmai
29 NOV, 2026 SUN	Company Accounts CA. V.S. Hiranmai
30 NOV, 2026 MON	Company Accounts CA. V.S. Hiranmai

Paper 2 : Business Laws

2.00 PM - 4.00 PM

PAPER 2 : BUSINESS LAWS

25 NOV, 2026 WED	The Indian Contract Act, 1872 CA. Sudeep Kumar Jain
26 NOV, 2026 THU	The Indian Contract Act, 1872 CA. Sudeep Kumar Jain
27 NOV, 2026 FRI	The Sale of Goods Act, 1930 CA. Harleen Kaur
28 NOV, 2026 SAT	The Indian Partnership Act, 1932 CA. Divya Somani
29 NOV, 2026 SUN	The Companies Act, 2013 CA. Divya Somani
30 NOV, 2026 MON	The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881+ LLP Act, 2008 CA. Divya Somani

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- Build practical AI and technology skills with ethical judgment.
- Apply AI across Finance, Audit and Taxation with confidence.



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- From awareness to application in real world scenarios.
- From AI user to AI builder.



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CA INTERMEDIATE - PAPER 5: AUDITING AND ETHICS

This capsule on Chapter 3 – Risk Assessment and Internal Control provides a concise overview of selected key topics, particularly Audit Risk and Materiality, for quick revision. It is intended to supplement students' preparation and should not be regarded as a substitute for a comprehensive study of the subject. Students are advised to refer to the Study Material, Revision Test Papers (RTPs), Mock Test Papers (MTPs) and other relevant learning resources for a thorough understanding of the chapter.

CHAPTER 3 - RISK ASSESSMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROL

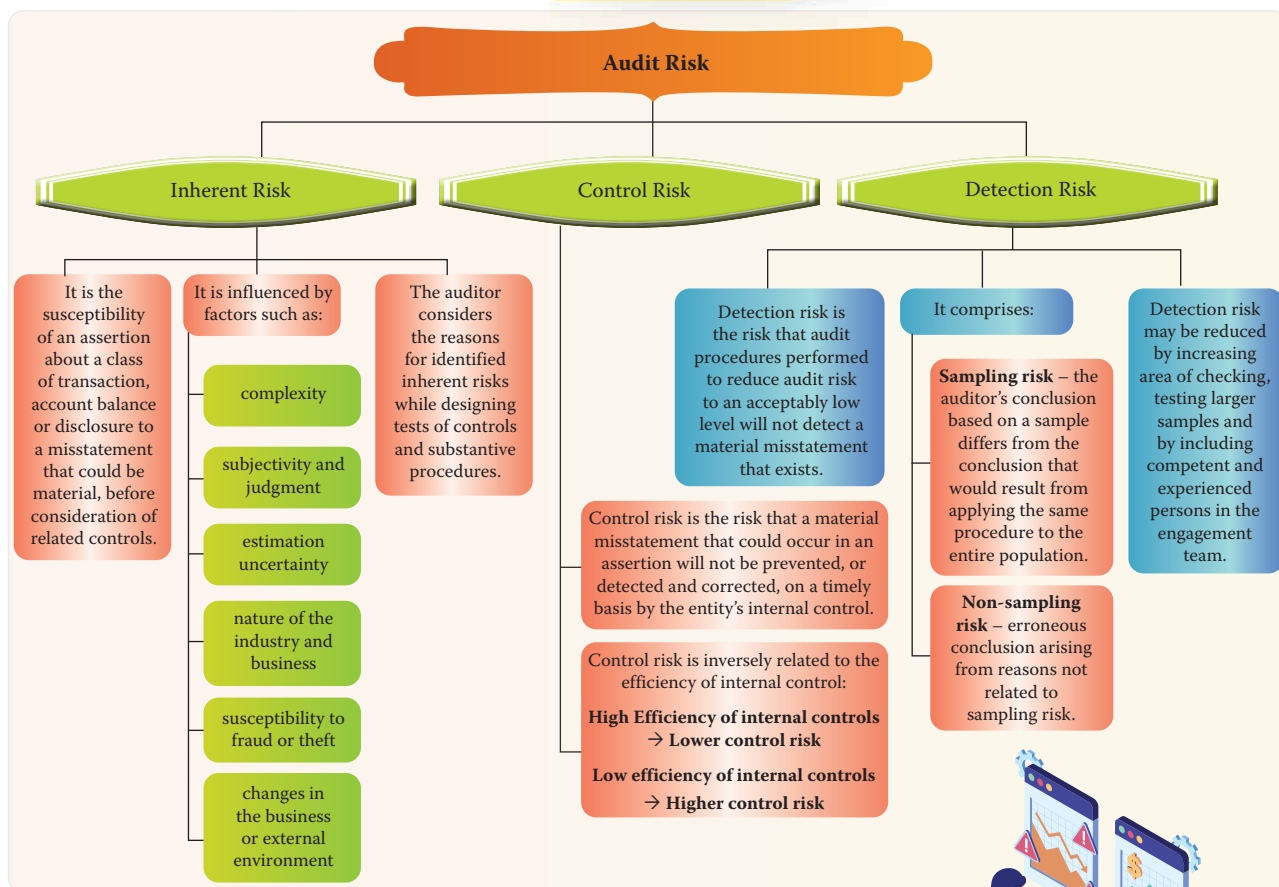
AUDIT RISK

Audit risk (AR) is the risk that the auditor gives an inappropriate audit opinion when the financial statements are materially misstated.

The auditor shall obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce audit risk to an acceptably low level.

AR = Risk of Material Misstatement × Detection Risk

AR = Inherent Risk × Control Risk × Detection Risk



Audit Risk Does Not Include

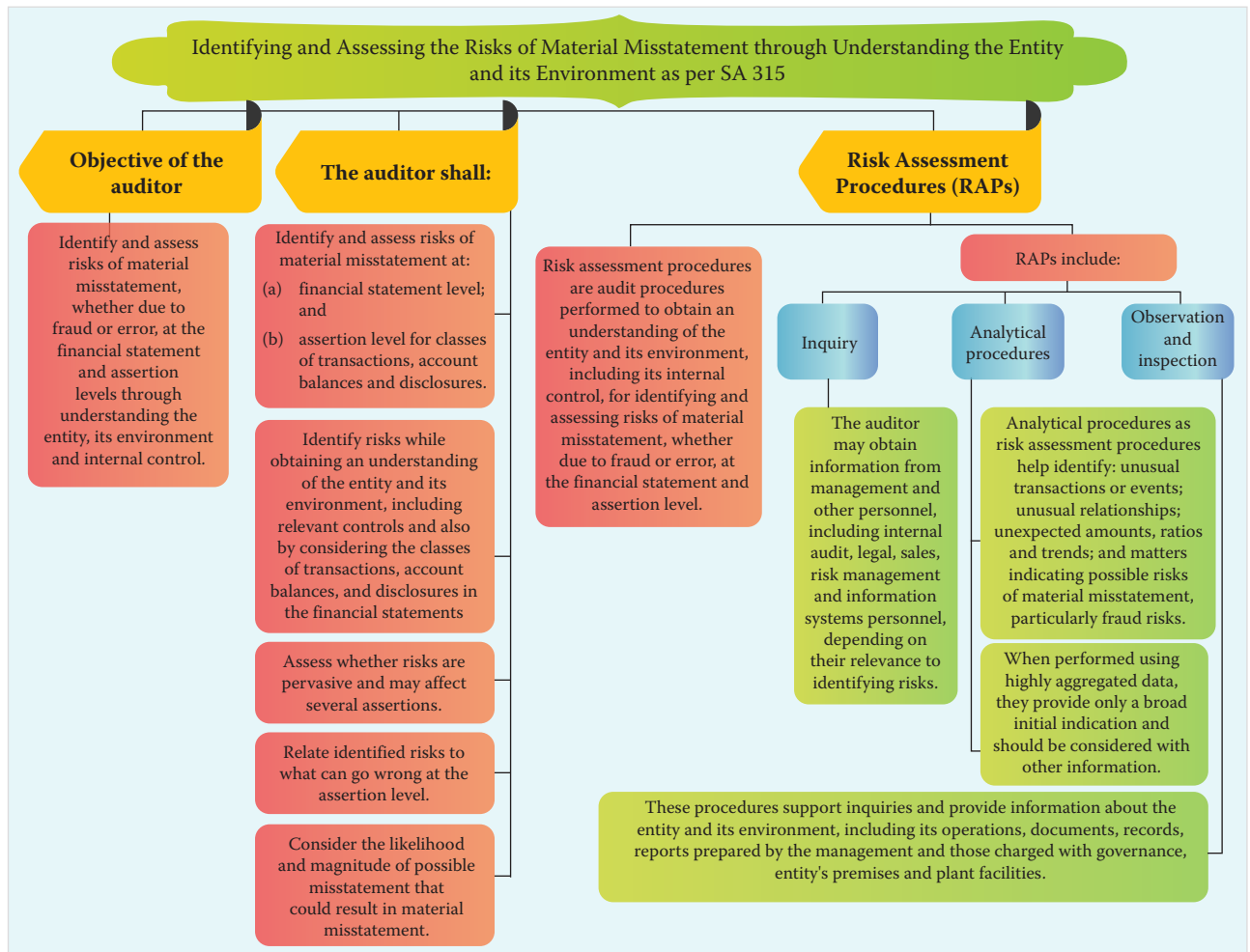
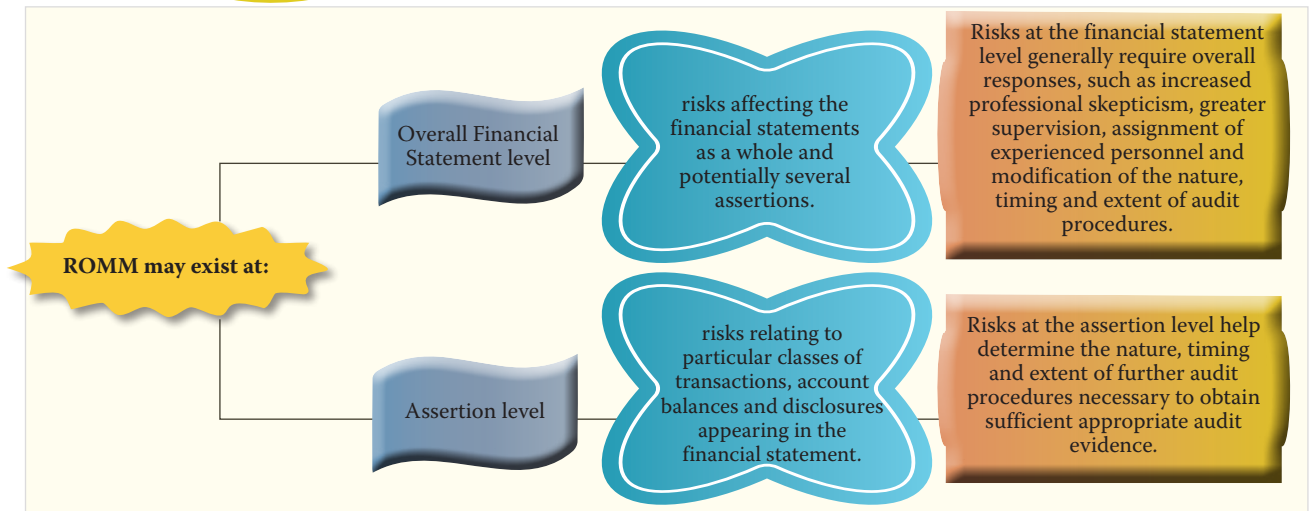
Auditor's business risks such as litigation or adverse publicity.

the risk that the auditor might express an opinion that the financial statements are materially misstated when they are not.



Risk of material misstatement (ROMM) is the risk that the financial statements are materially misstated prior to audit.

Misstatement means a difference between the amount, classification, presentation or disclosure of a reported financial statement item and that required by the applicable financial reporting framework. Misstatements may arise from fraud or error.



Materiality

What is meant by materiality?

SA 320 "Materiality in Planning and Performing an Audit" states that misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

The objective of an independent auditor is to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, enabling the auditor to express an opinion on whether the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

Materiality is not always a matter of relative size. The nature of a misstatement may also make it material, irrespective of its amount.

Materiality in Planning and performing an audit- Auditor's responsibility

The concept of materiality is applied by the auditor in planning and performing the audit, evaluating the effect of identified and uncorrected misstatements, and forming the opinion in the auditor's report. SA 320 deals with the auditor's responsibility to apply the concept of materiality in planning and performing an audit.

In planning the audit, judgments about materiality provide a basis for:

- ♣ Determining the nature, timing and extent of risk assessment procedures;
- ♣ Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement; and
- ♣ Determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures.

Determination of materiality- a matter of professional judgment

- The auditor's determination of materiality is a matter of professional judgment and is affected by the auditor's perception of the financial information needs of users.
- The auditor may reasonably assume that users:
 - ♣ Have reasonable knowledge of business, economic activities and accounting and are willing to study financial statements with reasonable diligence;
 - ♣ Understand that financial statements are prepared, presented and audited to levels of materiality;
 - ♣ Recognize the uncertainties inherent in the measurement of amounts based on the use of estimates, judgment and the consideration of future events; and
 - ♣ Make reasonable economic decisions on the basis of the information in the financial statements.

Performance Materiality

It is difficult for auditors to design tests to identify every individual material misstatement. Several individually immaterial misstatements may become material when aggregated. This gives rise to the concept of performance materiality.

Performance materiality means the amount or amounts set by the auditor at less than materiality for the financial statements as a whole to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds materiality for the financial statements as a whole.

Determining Materiality and Performance Materiality when Planning the Audit

When establishing the overall audit strategy, the auditor shall determine materiality for the financial statements as a whole.

If misstatements below the overall materiality could reasonably influence users' economic decisions for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, the auditor shall determine separate materiality level or levels for them.

Use of Benchmarks in Determining Materiality for the Financial Statements as a Whole

Factors that may affect the identification of an appropriate benchmark include:

- (a) The elements of the financial statements, such as assets, liabilities, equity, revenue and expenses.
- (b) Whether there are items on which users tend to focus, such as profit, revenue or net assets.
- (c) The nature of the entity, its stage in the life cycle, the industry and economic environment in which it operates, its ownership structure and the way it is financed.
- (d) The relative volatility of the benchmark.

Chosen Benchmark – Relevant financial data

In relation to the chosen benchmark, relevant financial data ordinarily includes:

Prior periods' financial results and financial positions;

Current period-to-date financial results and financial position;

Budgets or forecasts for the current period; and

Adjustments for significant changes in the circumstances of the entity and relevant changes of conditions in the industry or economic environment in which the entity operates.

Determining a percentage to be applied to a chosen benchmark involves the exercise of professional judgment.

There is a relationship between the percentage and the chosen benchmark. A percentage applied to profit before tax from continuing operations will normally be higher than a percentage applied to total revenue.

The appropriate percentage depends on the circumstances of the entity and the benchmark selected. Higher or lower percentages may be appropriate in different circumstances.

Materiality Level or Levels for Particular Classes of Transactions, Account Balances or Disclosures

Factors that may indicate the existence of one or more particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures for which lower materiality may be appropriate include:

- ♣ Whether law, regulations or the applicable financial reporting framework affect users' expectations regarding the measurement or disclosure of certain items, such as related party transactions and remuneration of management and those charged with governance.
- ♣ The key disclosures in relation to the industry in which the entity operates.
- ♣ Whether attention is focused on a particular aspect of the entity's business that is separately disclosed in the financial statements.

Revision in Materiality level as the Audit Progresses

Materiality for the financial statements as a whole, and where applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, may need to be revised as a result of:

- ♣ a change in circumstances that occurred during the audit;
- ♣ new information; or
- ♣ a change in the auditor's understanding of the entity and its operations as a result of performing further audit procedures.

If actual financial results are likely to be substantially different from the anticipated period-end financial results used initially to determine materiality, the auditor revises that materiality.

If the auditor concludes that a lower materiality is appropriate, the auditor shall determine whether it is necessary to revise performance materiality and whether the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures remain appropriate.

Documenting the Materiality

The audit documentation shall include:

- Materiality for the financial statements as a whole;
- If applicable, the materiality level or levels for particular classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures;
- Performance materiality; and
- Any revision of (a)–(c) as the audit progressed.

Materiality and Audit Risk are considered throughout the audit, in particular, when:

Identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement

Determining the nature, timing and extent of further audit procedures

Evaluating the effect of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements and in forming the opinion in the auditor's report





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Pune	West	28-29 November, 2026
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Thrissur	South	12-13 December 2026



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BRANCH	REGION	DATE OF EVENT
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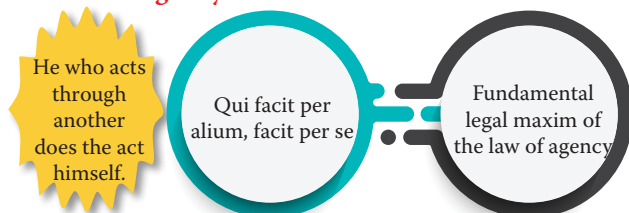
CA FOUNDATION - PAPER 2: BUSINESS LAWS

This Capsule covers the concepts of Agency (Unit 9) under Chapter 2 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, forming part of Paper 2: Business Laws of the Foundation Course. It explains the creation of agency, the authority of an agent, the rights and duties of agents and principals, and the various aspects of agency, including ratification, agency by estoppel and agency of necessity. Presented in a concise and easy-to-revise manner, this capsule is designed to help students quickly understand and recall important concepts for examination revision.

CHAPTER 2: THE INDIAN CONTRACT ACT, 1872

UNIT-9: AGENCY

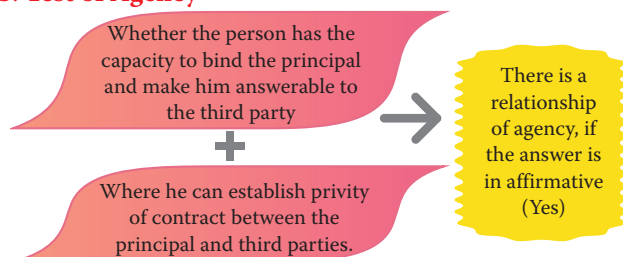
1. Rule of Agency



2. Relevant Terms

Agency	Not defined in the Act. It is used to describe the relationship between one person and another. The first mentioned person brings the second mentioned person into legal relation with others
Agent	A person employed to do any act for another or to represent another in dealing with the third persons [Section 182]
Principal	A person for whom such act is done or who is so represented [Section 182]

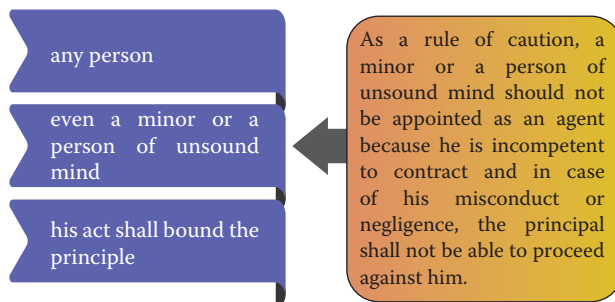
3. Test of Agency



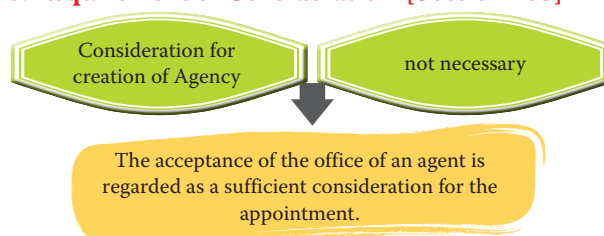
4. Who may employ an agent [Section 183]



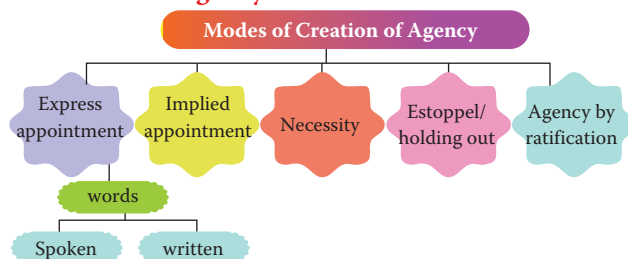
5. Who may be an agent [Section 184]



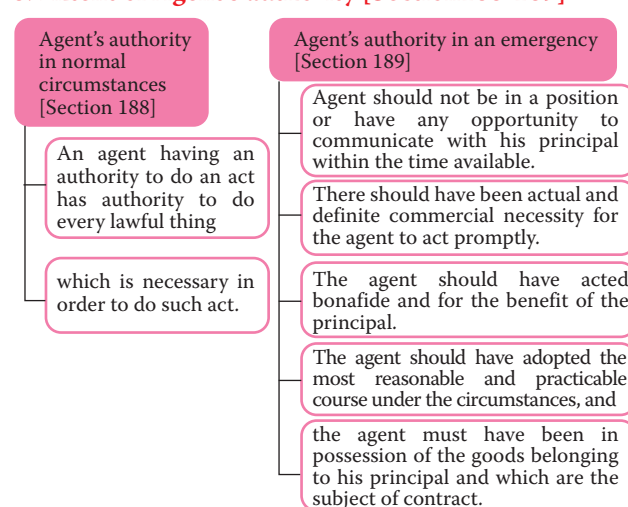
6. Requirement of Consideration [Section 185]



7. Creation of Agency



8. Extent of Agent's authority [Section 188-189]

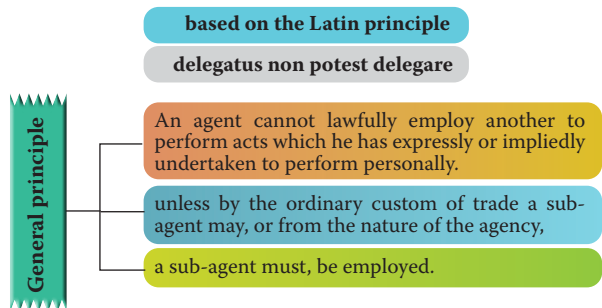


9. Provisions related to Sub- Agent [Section 190-193]

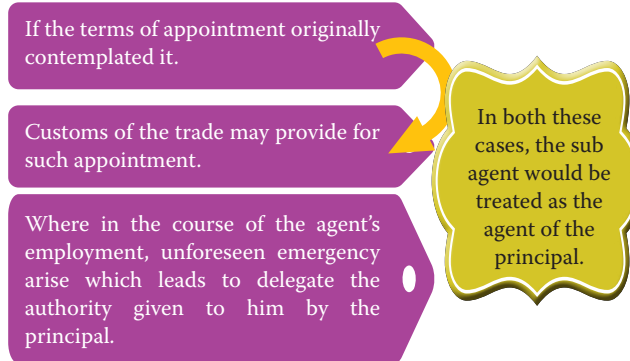
A. Sub-agent [Section 191]



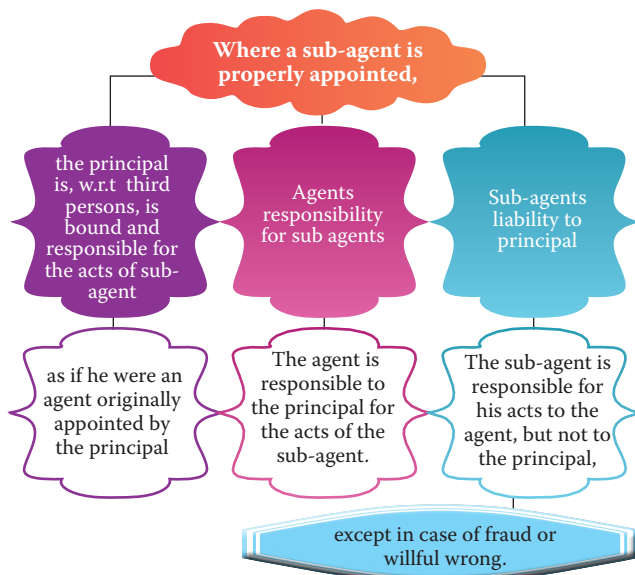
B. Appointment of Sub-agent



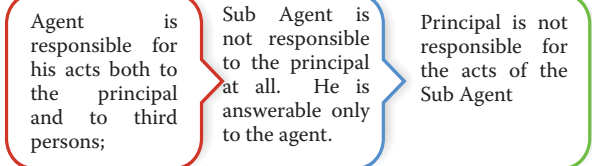
C. Exception where an agent can appoint Sub-agent



D. Representation of principal by sub-agent properly appointed [Section 192]

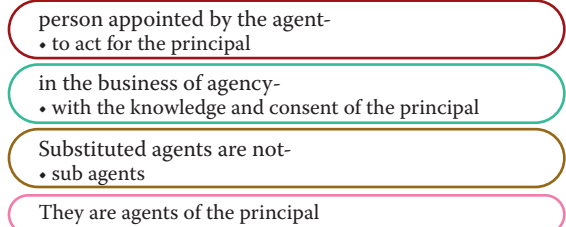


E. Agent's responsibility for sub-agent appointed without authority [Section 193]

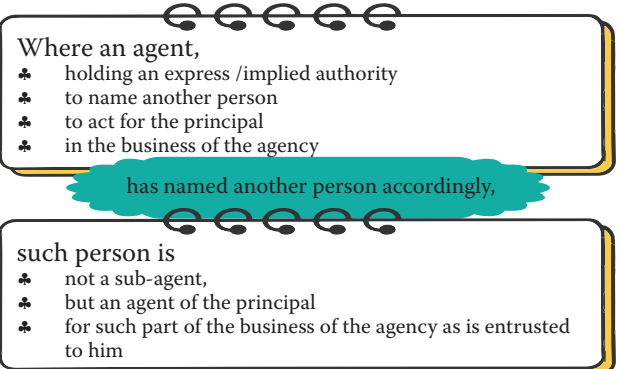


10. Provision related to Substituted Agents [Section 194-195]

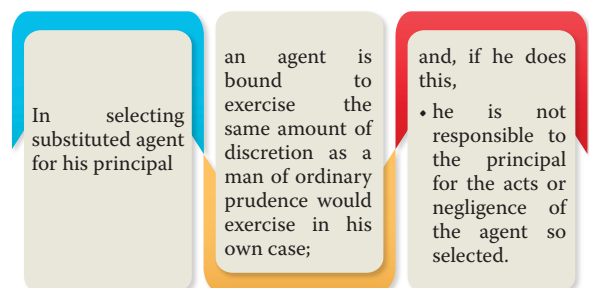
A. Substituted Agent



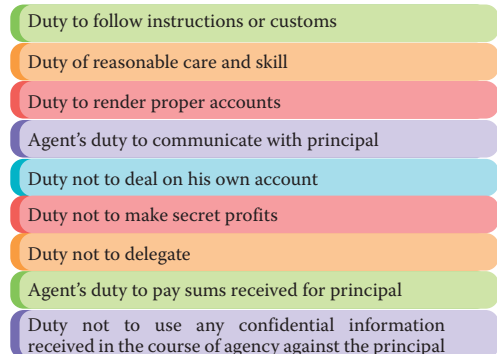
B. Relation between principal and person duly appointed by agent to act in business of agency:



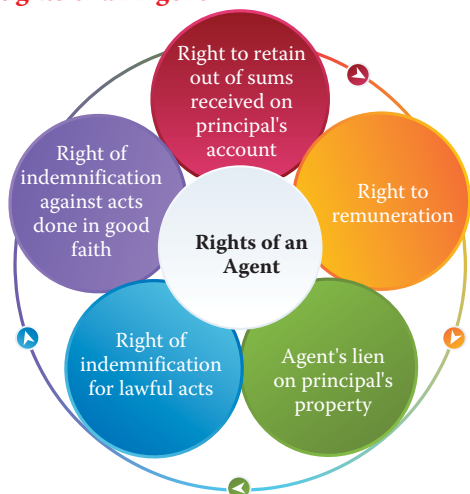
C. Agent's duty in naming such person



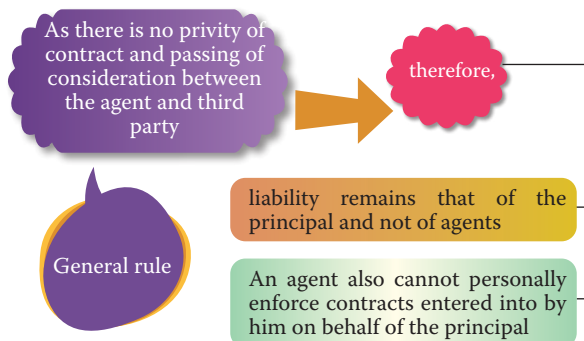
11. Duties and Obligations of an Agent



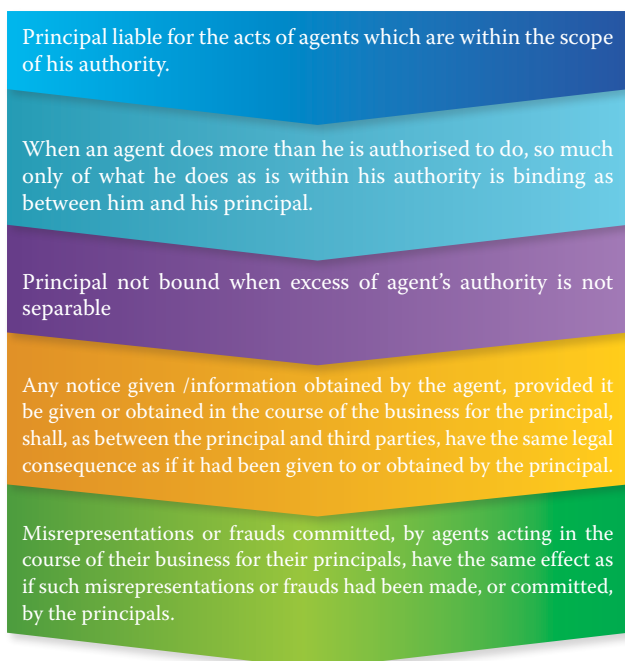
12. Rights of an Agent



13. Principal's Liability to Third Parties [Section 226-229]



14. Conditions when principal is liable for the acts of the agents



15. Personal liability of agent to third parties [Section 230]

A. General Rule:

In the absence of any contract to that effect

an agent cannot personally enforce contracts entered into by him on behalf of his principal, nor is he personally bound by them

B. Exceptions:

In the following cases, the agent is presumed to have agreed to be personally bound

Where the contract is made by an agent for the sale or purchase of goods for a merchant resident abroad/foreign principal

Where the agent does not disclose the name of his principal or undisclosed principal

Non-existent or incompetent principal

Pretended agent

When agent exceeds authority

16. Rights of third parties [Section 231-234]

- ❑ **Rights to a contract made by undisclosed agent**-the same right as he would have had as against the agent if the agent had been the principal.
- ❑ **Performance of contract with agent supposed to be principal**- When an agent acts without disclosing the agency, the principal may require performance of the contract, subject to the rights and obligations between the agent and the third party.
- ❑ **Option to Third Person- sue the Agent or the Principal-**
 - ♣ **Right of person dealing with agent personally liable**-a person dealing with him may hold either him or his principal, or both of them, liable.
 - ♣ **Consequence of inducing agent or principal to act on belief that principal or agent will be held exclusively liable**-agent or principal respectively cannot be held liable.

17. Termination of agency [Section 201]

Termination of agency -

putting an end to the legal relationship between principal and agent



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(Set up by an Act of Parliament)



ICAI E-DIARY

Clarity, Guidance, Governance
Insights for Principals and Members

Board of Studies - Operations

LOGIN PROCESS

1



Visit SSP Portal:
<https://services.icai.org>

2



Click on
E-Diary Redirect Link

3



Enter SSL
User ID & Password

4



Click Sign In

5



The Dashboard
opens automatically

PRINCIPAL LOGIN - REVIEW AND ACTION

A. Principal Dashboard

Displays

List of submitted
(default view) E-Diaries



SRN

Fortnight

Left Panel Filters:

Not Submitted

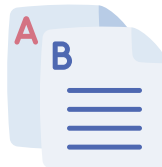
Approved

Ask for
Correction

B. Review Process

CLICK ACTION

- Date-wise entries
- Tasks performed
- Duration
- Stipend details



C. Available Actions

Approve

Comments mandatory
Click Confirm

Ask for Correction

Comments mandatory

Click Confirm

Principal Deadline: Principal is required to Approve/Ask for Correction trainee's E-Diary within duration of next 2 (two) fortnights.

*Scenario 1

Student 1:



January F1:
submitted by student
on 15th January
(End of the fortnight)

Member 1:

Can take action
till 15th February
(By the end of
two fortnights)

*Scenario 2

Student 2:



January F1:
Submitted by student
on 31st January
(End of the next
fortnight)

Member 2:

Can take action
till 15th
February
(By the end of
two fortnights)

Fortnight:

If no action is taken



System will Auto Approve
at the beginning of
the 3rd fortnight.

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Scan Here



Together, let's build a culture of transparency, responsibility & excellence.
Every Entry. Every Fortnight. Every Future.

For any queries



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ICAI E-DIARY

Students Advisory & Compliance Notes

Board of Studies - Operations



1 LOGIN PROCESS



Visit SSP Portal
<https://eservices.icai.org>



Click on
E-Diary Redirect Link



Enter SSP User
ID & Password



Click Sign In



The Dashboard opens
automatically

2 STUDENT LOGIN - DAILY & FORTNIGHTLY FILING

A DASHBOARD INFORMATION

After login, student dashboard displays:



- ✓ Name
- ✓ SRN
(Student Registration Number)
- ✓ Articleship Status
- ✓ Registration Date
- ✓ Termination Date (if applicable)

B DAILY ENTRY PROCESS



Select Date



Select Duration: ☐ Half Day ☐ Full Day



Select Task (from dropdown list)



Select Sub-Tasks
(Minimum 1, Maximum 5)



Add Other Task
(optional if task not listed)



Click Save

Entries can be Edited/Deleted before submission.

C STIPEND ENTRY (Only in F1 of Next Month)

Stipend details must be entered in F1 (1-15) of the following month. Fields to fill:



- Stipend Amount
- Received (Yes/No)
- Date of Payment
- Mode of Payment

Submit

D FORTNIGHT SYSTEM

Each month is divided into

1st to 15th

F1

F2

16th to
Last Day



Student must submit previous fortnight entries in the current fortnight.



Work done from 1st-15 Jan
Submit in 15-31 Jan.



Very Important:

Students are advised to record their E-Diary every day. Missed entries will be considered as leave.

For any queries

SCAN ME!



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Participants:
(CA Girls Students)

14-12-2026 to 10-01-2027



**CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE,
JAIPUR**

Participants:
(CA Boys Students)

14-12-2026 to 10-01-2027

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₹24,000/-*

**50%
DISCOUNTED
FEES***

CA BOYS STUDENTS

~~₹48,000/-~~

₹24,000/-*



SALIENT FEATURES

- **Waiver of Payment of Fees to top 10 Rank Holders of Intermediate Exam/both groups in first attempt.**
- **Eligible participants may avail the applicable MCS exemption, subject to the prescribed conditions.**



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **Communication**
- **Leadership**
- **Teamwork**
- **Interpersonal Negotiation Skills**
- **Personal and Professional Development.**

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

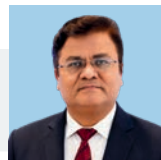
- **Eligibility:** Open only to eligible CA students under applicable AICITSS (MCS) guidelines.
- **ICAI Rights:** ICAI may amend schedules, guidelines or eligibility criteria as required.
- **Certificate:** Eligible participants completing the program with required attendance will receive a certificate.



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President, ICAI



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CA. Rajesh Sharma
Chairman, BoS-Operations, ICAI



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Vice Chairman, BoS-Operations, ICAI



**FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE,
PLEASE CONTACT**

01203045915, 01203045988

helpdesk@icai.in

helpdeskop@icai.in

FOR REGISTRATION, VISIT



<https://www.icai.org/post/fwrp-on-soft-skills-development>

SCAN TO REGISTER



***Registration is subject to eligibility and seat availability**

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CHANDAK SAKSHI

AIR 1 – CA INTERMEDIATE,
SEPTEMBER 2026 EXAMINATION

Congratulations on securing AIR 1! What inspired you to choose Chartered Accountancy and how did your family support you throughout your journey?

I chose Chartered Accountancy due to my interest in finance and its diverse career opportunities. The journey teaches patience, resilience and humility. My family's constant encouragement, unwavering faith and emotional support have been instrumental in overcoming challenges and achieving AIR 1.

When did you start your preparation for the CA Intermediate examination and how did you plan your overall study duration from the beginning phase until the final exam?

I began my CA Intermediate preparation in mid-July. I completed my classes over nine months, dedicating approximately 10 hours daily to classes and 5–6 hours to self-study. This left me with four months for focused revision before the examination.

How effectively did you use ICAI's Study Material, LVC classes, RTPs and MTPs? Which of these BoS resources played the most crucial role in your success?

I relied exclusively on ICAI's Study Material, PYQs, RTPs and MTPs. The Study Material provided conceptual clarity through detailed, structured explanations, while PYQs, RTPs and MTPs strengthened my application skills and helped me assess my preparation effectively.

Can you share your structured daily routine during the last two months before the examination—study hours, revision cycles, mock tests, sleep pattern and break management?

During the final two months, I followed a disciplined routine, waking up at 5 a.m. and sleeping at 11 p.m. I studied effectively for 12–14 hours, completed four revisions, and took mock tests after each revision, with extra tests for Tax and FMSM. Short breaks and 10-minute naps helped me stay refreshed.

How many revisions did you complete before the examination and what was your revision strategy for theory-based and practical subjects?

I completed four revisions. The first was detailed and took around 1.5 months, while the second and third took one month and 24 days, respectively. The final revision focused on topics difficult to cover during the 1.5-day leave. Full syllabus coverage, realistic scheduling and consistency were crucial.

How many Mock Test Papers did you attempt for each subject and how did analysing these papers help improve performance?

I attempted four mock tests each for Accounts, Law, Costing and Audit, and five each for Tax and FMSM. After every mock, I analysed my mistakes and recorded tricky adjustments in a separate notebook, helping me avoid repeating errors and improve my performance.

Was this your first attempt? If not, what changes did you incorporate in this attempt—especially with respect to the guidance and support available from the Board of Studies?

Yes, this was my first attempt. I referred to Strategic Management lectures on the ICAI BOS App, which enhanced my understanding. The study resources available on the app also played a crucial role in my preparation.

Did you attempt the full paper in each subject? What time-management and answer-presentation strategies did you adopt in the exam hall?

I attempted the full paper in all subjects except Tax. Regular mock tests helped me manage time effectively. I allocated time strategically, prioritising confident questions. For theory answers, I followed the Provision, Facts and Conclusion format. During reading time, I planned my sequence, while meditation before the examination helped me remain calm and focused.

What message would you like to convey to students appearing for the January 2027 CA Intermediate examination, especially regarding the effective use of BoS resources and maintaining consistency?

My message to students is to work hard, remain consistent and avoid backlogs. Rely on ICAI BOS Study Material, practise mock tests regularly, and maintain a notebook for mistakes, formulas and tricky points. Create a realistic revision schedule suited to your capabilities and follow it diligently. Believe in yourself!

TOPPERS OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION SEPTEMBER 2026

ALL INDIA TOPPER
FIRST RANK



NEEL RAJESH SHAH
MUMBAI

ALL INDIA TOPPER
FIRST RANK



CHANDAK SAKSHI
NASHIK

ALL INDIA TOPPER
SECOND RANK



SHRUTI V
CHENNAI

ALL INDIA TOPPER
THIRD RANK



PREM AGARWAL
SURAT

★ Congratulations ★

CROSSWORD - NOVEMBER 2026

1	2		3	4		5	6	7	8	9	
10			11		12		13				
14			15				16				17
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		32				33					34
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40				41				42	43		
44									45		

ACROSS

1. Anything (tangible or intangible) that can be used to produce positive economic value.
5. An official examination of the present state of something.
10. A master's degree awarded by universities in many countries.
11. A software company that provides enterprise resource planning software.
13. A law that regulates cross-border trade, foreign investments, and currency transactions.
14. A treatment that helps you improve your ability to perform daily tasks.
15. The pioneer of the mutual fund industry in India.
16. Earnings of a company before interest, tax, and amortization expenses are deducted.
18. A platform for patients to consume most authentic knowledge about Neurology and related disorders.
19. The total income a business receives from selling a specific quantity of its goods or services.
20. Time when a sum of money exists in multiple places simultaneously.
22. A multinational professional services network and one of the "Big Four" accounting firms
23. Abbre : Most Overlooked Business Risks.
25. A specialized, temporary unit of police officers and experts formed to investigate complex, sensitive, high-profile, or controversial crimes.
27. An order which lists down the matters on which an auditor is required to report as per Section 143(11) of Companies Act.
28. Apple's lineup of personal computers running macOS.
30. A unit of measurement that indicates the workload of an employed person (or student).
31. The historic instant messaging client formerly operated by AOL.
32. The standard international unit of mass used to measure the production, pricing, and export volumes of global commodities.

33. The money that one has to pay for something.

35. _____ is one of two types of collateral required to protect a party to a contract in the event of default.

37. A sum borrowed from a financial institution.

40. A single person or thing.

41. It was established in 1954 under the umbrella of the University of Delhi and is often cited as one of the best business schools in India.

42. A clever but dishonest plan for making money.

44. The amount of ownership of the business by the owners.

45. A premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions.

DOWNWARD

1. The cost of an intangible asset over a set period.
2. A standardized test widely used for college admissions in the United States.
3. The portion of an asset or business that remains after liabilities are deducted.
4. One of India's largest and oldest multinational conglomerates.
6. An American left-leaning nonprofit organization.
7. A legal entity that owes debt to another entity.
8. A secure, multilingual online tool that facilitates the Exchange of information between public authorities.
9. The time elapsed between the start of a process and its completion.
12. A unique, eight-digit identification number assigned by the Central Government of India.
17. A system used to cool an enclosed space.
20. A systematic estimate of future events or conditions based on the analysis of historical data.
21. The acquisition of a company using a high proportion of borrowed debt.

22. A prominent Indian financial daily.
23. The tax paid by all the companies that come under the indirect tax category.
24. The extra cost a business incurs when producing one additional unit of a good or service.
26. A tiny semiconductor block—usually made of silicon—that combines thousands to billions of electronic components.
27. The total movement of money in and out of a business over a specific period, differing from accrual-based net income.
28. A private research university located in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
29. transition of time from night to day.
34. A modelling and simulation development environment for building spatially explicit agent-based simulations.
36. An enterprise producing goods or delivering services in more than one country.
37. An oscillator that vibrates at a frequency too low for human hearing.
38. An electronic method that collects data by recognizing human-made marks.
39. A computer based test for admission in graduate management programs.
43. An American cable television channel.

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