

## ICAI in Media : Glimpses of December, 2020

# MumbaiMirror

## 'ICAI taking best possible steps for the safety of students'

By Satish Nandgaonkar / Updated: Dec 1, 2020, 23:51 IST



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) President Atul Kumar Gupta talks to Mumbai Mirror about the unique challenges of organising the CA exams at centres across India in the midst of the pandemic.

**The CA exams are on Day 11, and how challenging has it been for ICAI to organise an exam of this**

**scale across the country in the midst of a pandemic?**

It is true that organising of physical exams in the midst of pandemic and at the same time ensuring the safety and health of all is big challenge. The Institute has overcome it by doubling of the number of cities including examination centres so that due social distancing can be maintained and students have to travel minimum distance to undertake their examinations.

ICAI, being the sole regulator of accountancy profession in India, has always undertaken various initiatives keeping the interest of its students as topmost priority. This time, ICAI examinations started from 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020 at more than 1085 examination centres at global level.

ICAI has increased the examinations centres from 505 planned for May 2020 exam to 1085 for November 2020 examination covering additional 200 cities in the country. This was done to facilitate candidates to not travel beyond their district to the extent possible to reach the examination centre.

ICAI has also implemented adequate social distancing measures in current scenario of Covid-19 to ensure health and safety of our candidates. Adequate measures are being taken for the safety of all without compromising the high standards, sanctity and fairness in the conduct of the examination.

ICAI had verified the position from the concerned examination centres and was informed by the said examination centres that they are not falling in any containment zones. Also, clarification has been obtained from the concerned examination centres and none of them were declared as COVID-care facilities. Further, detailed guidelines have been issued for the various exam functionaries.

While understanding the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic, ICAI has already announced that a separate examination will also be conducted from January 21, 2021 besides May 2021 examination.

Examination centres have been empowered and provided financial support to make arrangements for sanitisation and ensure availability of additional masks, sanitisers, etc. We have also ensured deployment of police personnel, security guards to maintain social distancing.

**How has ICAI tweaked its logistics to facilitate this exam in the last 11 days and what kind of changes you had to make looking at on the ground impediments.**

For the first time for the benefit of students, the "Opt Out" option has been provided to the students who are suffering from COVID-19 or having symptoms of diseases from November 7, 2020, on self-declaration basis and this option shall continue in operation during the conduct of entire November 2020 examinations. The scheme shall also be applicable to Centres or place of residence of student, which turns out to be the containment zone during the exam dates. They

will be allowed to carry forward their candidature with due carry over of all benefits already available to students including fee paid and exemptions for next examination, that is May 2021 examination cycle.

**How has the response from students been? Has it reduced the initial apprehensions they expressed initially now?**

Based on the feedback received so far, students in general are very appreciative of the arrangements being made by the ICAI at the examination centres and on the first day itself whatever apprehensions they may be having due to negative campaign on social media have been removed. ICAI is undertaking all the best possible steps for the safety & security of the students as they are the future torchbearers of the profession.

**How has ICAI coped with different logistical problems in different states - curfew in Ahmedabad, Cyclone Nivar in Tamil Nadu and southern coastal states, restrictions in states like Delhi due to rising corona cases.**

As soon as curfew was imposed in Ahmedabad, we have approached government functionaries, which for the benefit of the students, allowed admit card issued by the ICAI as e-pass for travel of examination purposes.

Further, for the Cyclone Nivar in Tamil Nadu and southern coastal states, after assessing the situation and discussion with exam centres, we have postponed the exams and announced the next date of exam. Students were informed through mail, SMS and announcement hosted on website and social media.

**ICAI had given the Opt Out option to students apprehensive of their safety. What percentage of students have exercised the option?**

As we informed earlier, the Opt Out option will be continue in operation during the conduct of entire November 2020 Examinations. So it would not be appropriate to inform percentage of students as of now.

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ITAT president Justice PP Bhatt with vice-president G S Pannu, ICAI president Atul Kumar Gupta and others after inaugurating office in Srinagar.

Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT), who was the chief guest of the function. The occasion was also graced by G S Pannu (FCA), vice-president, ITAT, as guest of honour while CA Atul Kumar Gupta, president ICAI, was also present.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice P P Bhatt announced that the ITAT shall soon hold the Camp Bench from ICAI Office at Srinagar to help in bringing justice to the doorstep of the citizens of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

He said, "ICAI decision to grant of 75% waiver in the registration fee for the students pursuing CA course from J&K, Ladakh and North-Eastern States together with the office in these States will certainly provide wings to dreams of students desiring to pursue higher professional education".

In his address, G S Pannu,

dates at their doorstep and thus empower the youth through skill development."

CA Atul Kumar Gupta, president ICAI, while addressing the members, mentioned that ICAI since its very inception, has been immensely passionate about its purpose to propagate progress and has persistently recognized the developments. He said after opening office in Leh, ICAI's office in Srinagar is yet another step as social-economic catalyst for skill development and empowerment of youth."

Vice-president ICAI CA Nihar N Jambusaria, Central Council members of ICAI, CA Lalit Kumar Gupta, Chairman J&K Branch, along with other Managing Committee members, Kashmir CPE Chapter members and ICAI members of Union Territory were also present on the occasion.



## Sustainability an important decision-making factor in govt, corporate world: Piyush Goyal

Goyal further said the present situation provides a unique opportunity to redesign, reinvent and realign various practices and processes.

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Sustainable development will further enhance the scale and speed of growth in the years to come, the commerce and industry minister said. (PTI)

Sustainability has become an important element of decision-making both in the government and the corporate sector of the country, Union Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday. Sustainable development will further enhance the scale and speed of growth in the years to come, the commerce and industry minister said.

He was addressing a virtual international conference organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

Goyal further said the present situation provides a unique opportunity to redesign, reinvent and realign various practices and processes.

"While doing so, sustainability is the restraint that must guide our plans, decisions and actions for the future," Goyal emphasised.

Under the mission of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', India is progressing rapidly to become a hub of manufacturing and expand its role in the global economy, he said. This is not possible without strengthening the ecosystem of MSMEs, the minister noted.

"India is going through a series of radical reforms which is changing our mindset to alleviate our actions, ambition and aims," Goyal said.

Echoing the views, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's economic strategy of Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not only aimed at self-reliance but also sustainability across sectors."

In 2014, when the Modi government came to power for the first time, it inherited an economy which was part of the 'Fragile Five' global economies and foreign investors were pulling out funds from India, he said.

"However, in the last six years, we have consistently introduced reforms that have brought about significant change and now all indicators from inflation to fiscal deficit, from forex reserves to current account deficit, from GDP growth to financial inclusion, all point to very stable and sustainable economic position," Thakur added.

He further noted that a digital highway has been laid for growth of the banking and financial sector by taking up the task of connecting India's 6 lakh villages with optical fibre network.

"In the past three years, 1.5 lakh gram panchayats have already been connected and rest of the 1 lakh gram panchayats will be connected within next 12 months," Thakur said.

India can achieve double-digit growth through a healthy mix of digital services and manufacturing base expansion in the times ahead, he added.

### BusinessLine

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## India has converted Covid crisis into an opportunity: Piyush Goyal

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, December 17

Indian economy is seeing rapid recovery and with collective effort of 130 crore Indians will soon bounce back to normalcy, Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Railways, Food and Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, has said.

Addressing a virtual international conference organised by CA Institute on the theme "Accountancy Profession—Augmenting Economic Sustainability", Goyal said that India has converted the Covid-19 crisis into an opportunity and that he sees a bright future for the economy.

#### Urges CA fraternity

Stating that chartered accountants are in a unique position to guide corporates effi-



Piyush Goyal

to the attention of government and augment efforts for building self-reliant," Goyal said.

He highlighted that sustainability has become an important element of all decision making.

"Sustainable development does not mean we give up on pursuing economic growth. Sustainable development will spur growth and further enhance the scale and speed of growth in the years to come", he said.

International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) President Alan Johnson said that creation of new Sustainability Standards Board to sit along with the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) would meet the need for better information on sustainability.

ciently and effectively in post covid-19 world, Goyal urged the CA fraternity to move beyond their confines of financial advisory role to manage the triple bottomline of profit, people and planet for businesses to stay in business and succeed.

"India is progressing rapidly into a hub of manufacturing and expanding our growth in global economy. CAs have to guide the MSMEs and bring practical issues affecting them

## युवा . रोजगार . अवसर

दैनिक साप्ताहिक जयपुर, गुरुवार 24 दिसंबर 2020

### • कहीं भी डॉक्यूमेंट्स को एक्सेस कर सकेंगे आईसीआई ने मेंबर्स व छात्रों के लिए लॉन्च किया डिजी लॉकर

एजुकेशन रिपोर्टर | जयपुर

इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ चार्टर्ड अकाउंटेंट्स ऑफ इंडिया (आईसीआई) ने अपने मेंबर्स और छात्रों के लिए डिजी लॉकर को सुविधा शुरू की है। इस डिजिटल लॉकर के माध्यम से छात्र किसी भी स्थान से अपने डॉक्यूमेंट्स को एक्सेस कर सकेंगे। इंस्टीट्यूट के प्रिंसिपल सीए अतुल कुमार गुप्ता ने बताया कि डिजी लॉकर होने से छात्रों को फिजिकल डॉक्यूमेंट्स ले जाने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। फिजिकल डॉक्यूमेंट्स के खोने का डर भी खत्म हो जाएगा। डिजिटल लॉकर के दस्तावेज पूरी से वैधानिक होंगे। डिजी लॉकर के प्रोजेक्ट डैड मनु अग्रवाल ने बताया कि इससे डिजिटल दस्तावेजों को जारी करने की समस्या का भी समाधान हो जाएगा।



#### सीबीएसई भी शुरू कर चुका है वे सुविधा

सीबीएसई भी यह सुविधा शुरू कर चुका है। दरअसल, ऑरिजनल डॉक्यूमेंट्स के खो जाने के बाद उनको फिर से बनाने में लंबा समय लग जाता है। इस कारण छात्रों के कई जरूरी काम रुक जाते हैं। ऐसे में डिजी लॉकर से अपने दस्तावेजों को तुरंत हासिल किया जा सकता है। यह पूरी तरीके से वैध होते हैं। इसका चलन अब बढ़ता जा रहा है।